2005 Annual Meeting Report

2005 Northern Data-Sharing Meeting at San Francisco State, October 22, 2005

2005 Southern Data-Sharing Meeting at Maturango Museum, November 5-6, 2005
A quarterly newsletter of articles and information essential to California archaeology. Contributions are welcome. Lead articles should be 1,500-2,000 words. Longer articles may appear in installments. Send submissions as hard copy or on diskette to: SCA Newsletter, Department of Anthropology, CSU Chico, Chico CA 95929-0401 or as email attachment to:

<gwhite@csuchico.edu>

The SCA Executive Board encourages publication of a wide range of opinions on issues pertinent to California archaeology. Opinions, commentary, and editorials appearing in the Newsletter represent the views of the authors, and not necessarily those of the Board or Editor. Lead article authors should be aware that their articles may appear on the SCA web site, unless they request otherwise.

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The first month of my term as your President coincides with California Archaeology Month, and related activities have taken me to numerous counties in our state. I have listened to issues about noncompliance with CEQA guidelines, desecration of burial areas, lack of professional standards, the need for stronger curation guidelines and easements, demolition of hundred year-old buildings with their compromised archaeological deposits, and concerns about archaeologists conducting excavations of paleontological remains without proper qualifications. I have also heard what fabulous meetings we had in Sacramento, how much folks enjoyed reconnecting with their colleagues, attending the various sessions, and how good the food and wine were at the Silent Auction.

It has been a month of travel and interaction. All this is possible because your Past-President, Amy Gilreath, has volunteered to do three main things in her final year on the SCA Board: (1) continue working on the invoicing, financial stability, and the pecuniary aspects of the Society even down to balancing the checkbook; (2) final editing of the digital copy SCA’s Executive Board Manual that provides not only a protocol and procedures guidelines, but keeps an archive of award winners and members who have given service to the Society; and (3) revision of the SCA Strategic Plan that the Board will review at our two-day meeting in July.

Amy’s work on these three important tasks takes leave me more time to pursue legislative and outreach needs. I have established a CEQA Guidelines Task Force, still in its formation, that is intended to address some of the issues our members have with the implementation of CEQA. Tim Gross approached me about curation guidelines and will assist on the committee in that regard. Mark Sutton has also expressed a commitment to assisting me, as have several senior state agency archaeologists. Julia Costello has offered to work on easements. CEQA revisions are also a thrust of the 2005 Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan and a standing committee of the State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC). It may be that SCA can best interact within a larger body that includes the Office of Historic Preservation and the SHRC. If you have specific concerns and ideas about this topic please send them to me.

The newly revived Fund-raising Committee will be chaired by Deb Argel, who has taken on this task to support annual meeting fund-raising, explore granting opportunities for our programs, and assist with the long-term financial health of the Society. The committee will have its first meeting later this month when we will discuss how, where, and when fund-raising will occur. Stay tuned.

Since Breck Parkman resigned as Publicity Chair, some years ago, this position has been vacant. Just before the Sacramento meetings, Noelle Shaver stepped forward to take on this task. Again, the nature of her duties is being developed over the next month or two, and will be assisted by Patricia Welch who has created the Calendar in this month’s Newsletter. Contact them with your ideas and information.

Even as the successful Sacramento meetings were happening, the team for the Ventura Annual Meeting (29 March–1 April 2006) have begun to meet and think about the program. Applied Earthworks has taken on the roles of Program Chair (Clay Lebow) and Silent Auction (Barry Price), while Colleen Delaney-Rivera is admirably tackling Local Arrangements. (continued page 24)
Committee and Liaison Reports

Legislative Liaison Report

Stephen Bryne  
stephen_bryne@dot.ca.gov

Americans are notoriously bored by governmental process. If you want to lose readers, just start a story with, “House Bill 787 was passed out of subcommittee by a unanimous vote on Tuesday.—Molly Ivins

Federal Legislation

NHPA amendments alert. The draft legislation that was the subject of a hearing in April 21 has not been introduced. The historic preservation community is concerned with Section 4 of these amendments. The section would make what might seem like innocuous changes to the language of Section 106 of NHPA. The change is: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f) is amended by striking “or eligible for inclusion in” and inserting “, or determined by the Secretary to be eligible for inclusion in.” If enacted, this provision would seriously undermine the current benefits of Section 106 and be a major step toward the goal of restricting Section 106 to already-listed properties and gutting its protections.

It is important that your Representative hear from constituents who care about historic preservation. Members of Congress need to be reminded that Section 106 is a good law that doesn’t infringe on private property rights; offers private owners of historic properties some protection from federal projects that might harm their property; doesn’t stop or needlessly delay federal projects; balances preservation with needed development; and only works well if all historic places are considered, not just those that happen to be on the National Register.

California Representative Richard Pombo (R-11th Congressional District) is Chairman of the House Committee on Resources. He can be contacted at 2411 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515 TEL: (202) 225-1947 FAX: (202) 226-0861.

California Representative Elton Gallegly (R-24th Congressional District) is a member of the National Parks Subcommittee of the House Committee on Resources. SCA members living in Rep. Gallegly’s district, which includes parts of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, are encouraged to contact him regarding the proposed amendment to NHPA: Elton Gallegly, 2427 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C., 20515-0523 TEL: (202) 225-5811 FAX: (202) 225-1100.

When the bill is introduced, it is likely that the subcommittee will consider it in an expedited manner. It is not clear at this time when, or even if, it will be introduced. The Senate may consider a bill that will simply be a clean reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Fund, with no changes to the NHPA. That legislation has not been introduced yet, either.

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA) of 2005. S. 732 is the Senate’s version of the latest effort to
reauthorize the nation’s federal-aid surface transportation programs. The bill contains a provision, originally authored by Sen. Voinovich (R-OH) that would streamline procedures for protecting historic properties. Under the provision, if a project goes through a Section 106 review and consultation process and is determined to either affect no historic properties or have no adverse effect on historic properties, and the SHPO or THPO (along with the ACHP, if it is participating) agree to that finding in writing, then the project will be considered to have a “de minimis” impact, and a Section 4(f) review will not be necessary.

During debate on S. 732, Sen. Sessions (R-AL) offered an amendment that would have reduced funding for a number of programs, including the Surface Transportation Enhancements Program. Under this program, certain activities that enhance the cultural, environmental, and aesthetic qualities of transportation projects are reimbursed (up to 80 percent of the total cost) by the federal government through state DOTs. One of these activities is archaeological planning and research. After an intense opposition campaign by numerous historic preservation groups, the Sessions amendment was defeated 84 to 16.

The Native American Omnibus Act (S. 536), sponsored by Sen. McCain (R-AZ) was introduced on March 7 and was approved by the Indian Affairs Committee on March 9. S. 536 contains a provision that would amend the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) to change the definition of the term “Native American” for the purposes of that law. The provision is designed to resolve the controversy that arose from the finding of a federal district court that the remains known as “Kennewick Man” were not Native American for the purposes of NAGPRA. The provision would clarify that ancient remains such as Kennewick Man would be considered Native American under NAGPRA.

Federal funding for Angel Island Immigration Station restoration (S. 262), sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), was introduced on February 2. The funding would be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior for restoration in coordination with the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation and California State Parks. The bill also specifies funding will not be more than half the cost of restoration and specifies a limit of $15 million. A companion bill, HR 606, was introduced the same day by Representative Lynne Woolsey (D-CA). Both bills have been referred to their respective body’s Subcommittee on National Parks. On April 28, the National Park Service told senators that the administration opposes the bill because the Immigration Station is not a federal facility. Supporters say the site should be eligible for federal funds due to its national significance and the fact that it was a government-run facility.

A bill (H.R. 1492) that focuses on the preservation of Japanese Internment Sites has been introduced. Sponsored by Rep. Bill Thomas (CA-22nd), this bill authorizes $38 million and directs the National Park Service to offer these monies as grants to, and otherwise work with, local governments, private non-profit entities, and other interested parties to identify, restore, and/or protect the sites of internment camps to preserve them for future generations of Americans to visit and learn from them. The bill also includes a stipulation for the Secretary of the Interior to give grants to assist in carrying out these duties.

In 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the removal of over 120,000 Japanese-Americans, many of whom were U.S. citizens residing in California, to “assembly centers,” and then to internment camps, which were surrounded by barbed wire and patrolled by military police. When the camps closed in 1945 and 1946, the people being held in them were given little assistance in re-establishing their lives. Thirteen of the assembly centers were located in California: Fresno, Manzanar, Marysville, Merced, Pinedale, Pomona, Sacramento, Salinas, Santa Anita, Stockton, Tanforan, Tulare, and Turlock. In addition, two of the internment camps, Tule Lake and...
Manzanar, were located in California. Manzanar, which is in Owens Valley in Inyo County, was designated a National Historic Site in 1992 pursuant to a bill Thomas cosponsored. On May 18, the House Resources Committee approved H.R. 1492. The bill will next be considered by the full House of Representatives.

State Legislation

**S.B. No. 922, California Native American places: archaeological information**

**Author: Denise Moreno Ducheny (D-40th District)**

This bill would exempt from public disclosure under the Public Records Act information about Native American sacred sites in possession of the Native American Heritage Commission or any state or local agency acquired as a result of a consultation with a California Native American tribe. SB 18 (Burton), Chapter 905, Stats. of 2004, required cities and counties to notify and consult with California Native American tribes about proposed local land use planning decisions for the purpose of protecting traditional tribal cultural places, or sacred sites. Effective March 1, 2005, cities and counties must send their general plan proposals to those California Native American tribes that are on the Native American Heritage Commission’s (NAHC) contact list and have traditional lands located within the city or county’s jurisdiction. The cities and counties must consult with these tribes before adopting or amending their general plans.

Existing law provides an exception to public disclosure for records of Native American graves, cemeteries, and sacred places. This bill would expand the exception to public disclosure for Native American graves, cemeteries, and sacred places to include records of Native American places, features, and objects sought to be protected by the consultations required in Government Code Section 65352.

**S.B. No. 935, Topock site cleanup report**

**Author: Denise Moreno Ducheny (D-40th District)**

Existing law creates the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) with certain duties and responsibilities relating to the handling, treatment and cleanup of hazardous wastes. This bill: 1) Requires DTSC to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by July 1, 2006, regarding progress of groundwater site evaluation and cleanup at the Topock Compressor Station in San Bernardino County, and requires the report to address certain matters (e.g., test results or, if no testing has been done, an explanation of the reason why no testing was done and how the testing might be achieved; analysis and description of how the proposed expansion and location of operations might affect Native American lands, and a description of consultations on the expansion; description of proposed expansion alternatives).

According to the author, “The Topock Natural Gas Compressor Station near Needles, California, is an industrial facility owned by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), that had historically used hexavalent chromium (Chromium-6) in its activities, resulting in pollution of the groundwater around the facility. In the 41 years since PG&E ceased releasing the contamination directly into the environment, residual Chromium-6 in the groundwater has moved near the Colorado River.” The author notes that “DTSC ordered PG&E to engage in a series of interim remedial actions and activities to intercept the contaminated water from reaching the river. One of these activities is the construction of a water treatment system. Through the issuance of a Notice of Exemption (NOE), DTSC has declared, in effect, an emergency situation, and has reduced otherwise required review of PG&E’s activities under CEQA.”

The author also indicates that “The water treatment system is being constructed at the mouth of a Native American sacred place, the Mystic Maze. It is a site of great religious significance to the Ft. Mojave Indian Tribe, which resides nearby in Needles, and is important to the cosmology of the other Colorado tribes. The Mystic Maze is also recognized for its historic value, and is formally listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Due to the issuance of the NOE, there was no CEQA requirement that DTSC and other agencies consult with the Tribe about its proposed activities and the impacts the interim measures are having on this sacred place.”

In response to the above matters the author notes that SB 935 “requires DTSC to report to the legislature on the extent of contamination of the groundwater at the Topock Natural Gas Compressor Station, and how the state intends to engage in government-to-government consultation with the Native American tribes affected by actions to address the contamination.” The author believes the bill “is necessary to ensure direct interaction between the state and tribal governments, and timely distribution of information relating to clean-up activities to the Legislature.”

**Sources:**

California History Action 23(2), Spring, 2005.


Websites: http://www.leginfo.ca.gov and http://thomas.loc.gov

Archaeology Month 2005

**Laura Leach Palm**

Archaeology Month 2005 stands out as an illustration of how we can show California’s citizens what is fascinating and instructive about archaeology, and why it is important to protect that entirely irreplaceable resource.

Thirty-five organizations in 17 counties placed 50 events on the
The SCA holds an Awards Banquet at its Annual Meeting each year. A Keynote Speaker is invited to address the audience at the banquet, and we have been honored to host some of the world’s leading archaeologists who have spoken about their work and active research.

Since 1997, SCA member and former President, Breck Parkman has interviewed the Keynote Speakers. Breck was motivated to conduct these interviews when, as a member of the SCA Executive Board, he had dinner with Lewis Binford before Binford’s Awards Banquet address in 1996. Breck and the others at the table were awed by Binford’s stories of archaeological fieldwork. But equally impressive were his sense of humor and the stories he told about his personal life. He shared things that you would have never known about him from just reading his books or hearing his lectures. It reminded everyone at the table that every archaeologist, no matter how big and famous, is just a regular person when they are at home and away from the job. They all have families, pets, hobbies, likes, dislikes, and the various other traits that make them interesting. And by knowing some of that background about the archaeologists, their archaeology often becomes more relevant to us.

We regret that everyone wasn’t seated at the table with Dr. Binford that night in 1996. However, by way of these interviews, we feel that everyone does now have a seat at the table. Breck’s amazing interviews, full of the interviewees’ personal insights, amazing field stories, and the wisdom gained from long and varied experience, appear on SCAHome.org as a courtesy of the SCA and the Keynote Speakers.

Enjoy!

Watch for the 2005 interview with Scott Stine!
Archaeology Month calendar. What stands out is that there are some organizations (archaeological societies, parks, forest districts, museums, anthropology clubs, and city and county centers) that present one or a series of events, especially for Archaeology Month, every year, and always have exceptional attendance and response. Many thanks to those who make that continuing effort, and to everyone who put work into this year’s celebration.

This year SCA provided support by creating the Archaeology Month web page that includes the Archaeology Month Calendar of Events, an updated Resources Guide, and resources for teaching or talking about archaeology to audiences of all ages.

We plan to keep the web page up and keep the Calendar and the Guide current, adding entries as they come in. Please continue to send me information on events, and we will post them the to web at SCAHome.org. Any events—casual or formal, big or small. In addition, there are many on-going meetings or talks that would benefit by being posted on the Archaeology Month calendar. Also we would appreciate any corrections or additions for the Resource guide, and any suggestions you might have for promoting Archaeology Month (laura@farwestern.com).

In the future, we would like to have more than one Archaeology Month coordinator. If you’re available, let us know. Some additional resources that will be available for next year include:

• A list of small grants available for preservation or public outreach
• A newspaper article template for your local paper
• Some suggestions on what you can do to publicize your event

And if anyone asks you, tell them that archaeology is important because it

• Teaches us about our collective past, what we have in common; provides a sense of community, place, and history;
• Teaches us about our world, our place in the world, how the environment has been used in the past, how it has changed, the effects of that change, and provides clues on how we can avoid or promote change;
• Helps us recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have contributed to the history and heritage of this country and others;
• Helps us understand the relationship of our own community’s history to the broader themes that have shaped this country and this world;
• Provides an anchor to the past, one that is embedded in place, rather than biology, and helps individuals balance their modern life through reflection and comparison.
Archaeology is important because it inculcates respect for other cultures and other people.

The Finnish paleontologist Bjorn Kurten once wrote:

“None of the dead can rise up and answer our questions. But from all they have left behind, their imperishable or slowly dissolving gear, we may perhaps hear voices, which are only now able to whisper, when everything else has become silent.”

What’s Happening at the Info Centers?

Lynn Compas and Eric Alison

Sort Of New IC Coordinator

Co-coordinators John Thomas and Eric Alison have changed positions. John has moved on to new responsibilities at the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and Eric is now the only Information Center (IC) coordinator. However, the ICs still retain a grip on John as he is staying on to help wrap up the review and update of the ICs Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF).

MOU with CDF

The ICs have an MOU with CDF that governs how record searches for Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) are done and how THP reports and site records are accessioned. The MOU gets updated periodically as the Forest Practice Rules change. A revised MOU is currently being circulated for signature to the ICs, OHP, CDF and the Board of Forestry.

SB18

There is ongoing concern from local government regarding SB18. (continued page 11)
Southern California Data-Sharing: First Call

The Southern California Data-Sharing meeting will be held November 5 and 6, 2005, in Ridgecrest, California. The focus of the meeting is the archaeology of the California Deserts, and it will also include a tribute to Agnes Bierman Babcock and early archaeology in the Northern Mojave Desert. The meeting is hosted by the Maturango Museum (www.maturango.org) and by the Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake.

The data sharing meeting technical sessions will be held on November 5 in the Ridgecrest City Council chambers, and both Power Point and slide projectors will be available. Refreshments will be available for a nominal fee; participants will be on their own for lunch. Abstracts for 10-15 minute data-oriented papers should be sent to Andrew York, SCA Southern Vice-President (yorka@edaw.com).

A reception will be held on the evening of November 5 at the Maturango Museum, honoring Agnes Bierman Babcock and featuring photographs from her excavations on the China Lake South Range in 1947-1948. Agnes has indicated she will be present.

November 6 will feature a tour of the world-famous Coso petroglyph site in Lower Renegade Canyon, on the China Lake North Range. Since the site is located on an active military range, we will need to follow Navy safety and security regulations to visit them. Anyone wishing to go on the tour must send their name and SSN to Russell Kaldenberg, Base Archaeologist, prior to October 1, 2005, so that access arrangements can be made. Russell’s email address is russell.kaldenberg@navy.mil

Hotel room blocks have been arranged for November 4 and 5 for meeting participants at two hotels: Carriage Inn (760-446-7910), 25 rooms @ $65.00/night; Heritage Inn (800-843-0693), 25 rooms @ $65.00/night. Request code SCDS in making reservations; the reservation deadline is October 14, 2005.

Please contact Southern V-P Andrew York for more details:

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Tel: (619) 233-1454
e-mail: yorka@edaw.com
SCA Annual Meeting 2006

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
The 2006 Annual Meetings will be in Ventura, California, at the Marriott Ventura Beach, 29 March - 1 April (Wednesday - Saturday).

An excursion to Santa Cruz Island is also planned for either Wednesday or Sunday — please email your preference to SCA2006@hotmail.com

The ICs field many inquiries about this. As a result OHP has committed to assisting in the development of educational brochures for distribution at the ICs and to an online publication of a Technical Assistance Bulletin. No timeline has been set to complete this task as it is very new.


The CHRIS Info Center Rules of Operations Manual is still a work in progress. The ICs held a conference call in January to discuss the manual and comments received from those who reviewed the online version. At this time OHP is awaiting response from DPR’s legal staff on the manual and the ICs will be reconvening to consider revisions, any further review that might be desired and a timeline for final submittal to the State Historical Resources Commission. Last but not least, the ICs extend their thanks to everyone who reviewed the manual and gave constructive input.

State Historical Resources Commission Quarterly Meeting, 12 May 2005, Riverside, California

Shelly Davis-King

Board Members of the Society for California Archaeology are responsible for attending meetings of our sister organizations and commissions. The President-elect is responsible for attendance at the quarterly State Historical Resources Commission (SHRC) meetings. As President, I will continue to attend, and was at the most recent meeting held in Riverside, on 12 May 2005. This was the final meeting of SCA member and Commissioner Bill Hildebrandt, representing prehistoric archaeology. The vacancy for his position may be refilled soon, but in the interim, archaeology will be represented by SCA Past-President Mary Maniery, appointed as a historical archaeologist.

Wayne Donaldson, our State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and Steve Mikesell, Deputy SHPO made several announcements at the meeting that relate to the work we do. Too few National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations are prepared in California: California is 50th in the nation (last place) in the number of NRHP nominations prepared, but I would guess that we are first in the nation for the number of cultural resources we locate and record. OHP will be looking for ways to increase nominations, possibly through incentive programs, and will investigate reasons for the disjunction between documentation and nomination. There was some discussion about problems with the DPR 523 forms and the need to revisit them. It was suggested that reinstatement of a forms committee to discuss and modify the 523 to bring

Northern California Data-Sharing: First Call

The 2005 Society for California Archaeology Northern California Data-Sharing Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2005, at San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm. The room location is pending and will be announced in Newsletter 39(3) and on the web at SCAHome.org. The Data-Sharing meeting will have a regional theme “The Archaeology of San Francisco Bay Area and Delta.” If you are interested in making a presentation, wish to volunteer, or simply would like more information, please contact: Karin Anderson (707)464-6101 x 5210 or email: karin_anderson@nps.gov.

The Presidio, San Francisco is making a special offer to SCA Student Members. For $25.00/night you can stay at The Presidio, Building 41, dormitory style housing located on the Presidio plaza. In order to take advantage of this offer, you must contact Karin Anderson for reservations (707) 464-6101 x 5210, or e-mail karin_anderson@nps.gov. Spaces will be allotted on a first come—first served basis.
to the 21st century would be good. Stay posted.

The SHPO announced that there had been a precedent-setting California Summit of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and the OHP on April 22 at Blue Lake Rancheria. There they discussed how tribal lands, including ancestral lands, are reviewed by OHP. OHP and John Nau, of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are working to create a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) regarding communication and oversight on non-trust ancestral lands, and to clarify their respective roles, review power, and relationship.

The SHRC will hold its August 4th and 5th meeting in Sacramento, and will focus their Thursday workshop on the proposed revisions to Section 106. I urge those of you who are interested in the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 revisions to attend this meeting and become more informed about the OHP position.

SCA makes a quarterly address to the SHRC, focusing on some timely issue. At Riverside, the two main issues were the discussion of Archaeology Month and the creation of a CEQA Guidelines Task Force (see President’s column). With May 2005 having been National and California Archaeology Month, it was timely for the SCA to present this year’s poster to each commissioner, describing the poster’s imagery and importance to the promotion of California Archaeology Month.

The second item addressed is the perceived need among SCA’s membership for modification to the CEQA Guidelines to clarify and quantify the procedures for local and state projects with respect to cultural resources. Daily we lose buildings, structures, and sites, or have the integrity of historic districts diminished because there are no certain procedures for agencies to follow as they prepare their compliance documents and no penalties for non-compliance. The CEQA Guidelines’ Task Force would initially investigate a few main issues:

- how to get some tooth into the CEQA guidelines, with some enforcement of the regulations.
- professional qualifications standards
- greater assistance to public officials in their CEQA analysis
- increased curation at appropriate facilities
- a closer look at mitigation measures, including site banking, off-site mitigation, conservation easements and other tax incentives, and
- greater assistance from and for the Office of Historic Preservation on CEQA policy and procedures

SCA is working with Michelle Messinger, CEQA Coordinator at OHP, and others to conduct research and develop ideas and solutions.

Proceedings Update

Sharon Waechter  
Sharon@farwestern.com

We had an excellent response for Proceedings 18 (papers from the 2004 Annual Meeting, plus a few from past years), with 42 submissions! All 2004 members in good standing should have a copy; if you don’t have yours, please contact the SCA Business Office. Those who were not paid members last year can obtain a copy for $25 from the Business Office. Thanks to Don Laylander, you can see an index for Proceedings 1 – 18 on the SCA web site at http://www.scahome.org/publications/proceedings.html.

So far, the response for Proceedings 19 has been less impressive. Each session chair was sent a sign-up list before the 2005 meeting, but only a few have returned their lists or let us know that their authors won’t be submitting. If your chairperson hasn’t contacted you about your intention to submit, please get in touch with him/her and inquire about it. You also can contact us directly regarding your own submission. Papers are due to the Business Office by July 15, 2005. The Proceedings Guideline for Authors is also available on the SCA web site.

Web Sites of Interest

Journey of Mankind: Peopling of the World  
http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/journey/

Research Issues In San Diego County Prehistory  
http://home.earthlink.net/~researchissues

Amistad International Reservoir Salvage Program, 1958-1969  
www.texasbeyondhistory.net/pecos/before.html

Newly Revised California Prehistory Web Site  
www.californiaprehistory.com

Minnesota Statewide Archaeology Predictive Model  
http://www.mimodel.dot.state.mn.us/index.html

Multiple Myloma Research Foundation Race for Research  
http://www.mmfrace.org/
Highlights from the 2005 SCA Annual Meeting in Sacramento

Amy Gilreath, (SCA Past President), Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc., Davis
Glenn Gmoser, Local Arrangements Chair, CALTRANS, Sacramento

The 39th Annual Meeting of the Society for California Archaeology was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Sacramento on April 21-24. With nearly 624 people registered over the course of the meetings, we approached our all-time high attendance. An oft-heard comment in the corridors was how much fun downtown Sac is compared to the outskirts.

Many dozens of members took advantage of the varied workshops offered on Thursday, and for that evening’s public lecture by Scott Stine, upwards of 200 people amassed. Attendees heard about many places in California where ca. 1000-year old tree stumps are now submerged, and came to better realize the implications of a multi-decadal drought on prehistoric peoples and its implications for our contemporary water-dependent society.

Friday morning began with the traditional Plenary session, this year featuring four prominent scholars who spoke on the topic of Native American influences on the structure and composition of prehistoric ecosystems. Charles Kay, using Lewis and Clark journals, reconstructed herd size and location relative to Native American population centers. William Hildebrandt considered archaeological evidence in reconstructing prehistoric distributions and exploitation patterns for pinnipeds along the California and southern Oregon coast. Turning away from game and toward plant resources, Kat Anderson provided a synthesis of acorn-grove maintenance and exploitation, and the positive feed-back between Native exploitation and improved plant productivity for certain bulbs, tubers, mushrooms, and sundry grasses, annuals, and perennials. Frank K. Lake considered the interplay between Native fire regimes and habitat improvement vis-à-vis desirable natural resources.

Regular, half-day sessions began Friday afternoon, and over the course of the next 48 hours, meeting attendees had their choice of 168 papers and 17 posters as part of the 14 symposia, five general sessions, and two poster sessions. The program, complete with abstracts of all presented papers, can be accessed at SCAhome.org.

Most sessions adhered to the typical 15-minute per-paper format; however, two sessions broke from the pattern, and both were very well-received. Terry Jones and Kathryn Klar’s “A Chumash-Polynesia Nexus?” symposium consisted of two presented papers maintaining prehistoric southern California-
The SCA Thanks Silent Auction Contributors!

The SCA and the Silent Auction Event Organizers (Rich Olson and John Sharp) would like to give special thanks and recognition to the following individuals and companies for their involvement and help. The event was a great success with slightly more than 400 party-goers dancing and drinking the evening away. Auction proceeds totaled around $5500, and ticket sales netted a similar amount.

- Albion Environmental Consulting, Inc.
- Bill Bloomer
- Bogles Vineyard
- CSU, Sacramento Archaeological Research Center
- Davis-King & Associates
- Foothill Resources, Ltd.
- Gold Country Brewers Association
- Hoppy Brewing Company
- Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc.
- Lodi Beer Company
- Richard Olson
- Pacific Legacy, Inc.
- Pyramid Brewery
- San Francisco Presidio Trust Archaeology Lab
- Statistical Research, Inc.

Polynesian contact, followed by point-counterpoint comments offered by a half-dozen invited discussants. Terry Joslin and Pat Mikkelsen’s “Concepts, Commentary, and Conversations on Central California Coast Cultures” symposium consisted of a sequence of thematically linked posters setup for open viewing, followed by a scheduled group discussion and debate. Many compliments have been heard concerning how conducive each of these formats was to interaction and discussion—things seldom achieved under the typical format.

Two additional sessions warrant special mention. A half-day roundtable review of SB 18, chaired by SCA Native American Program Chair Janet Eidsness, gave a baker’s dozen invited participants the opportunity to air their perspectives on what the implications are for this piece of legislation. And, continuing with the SCA’s goal of promoting cross-border interactions, a half-dozen INAH archaeologists attended the meeting, and contributed to the “Dynamics, Dimensions, and Diversity in Baja California Archaeology” symposium co-chaired by Eric Ritter and Julia Bendimez Patterson. Our visiting Mexico’s Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) dignitaries’ week was action-packed, thanks to folks at BLM, the Presidio Trust, National Parks Service, State Parks, and UC-Berkeley, who arranged tours at Fort Ross, the Presidio, and Mission Dolores.

The Silent Auction event was fabulously successful on all fronts – ask any one of the 400+ attendees. It featured a beautiful venue at the National Register-listed Masonic Temple, great eats, homegrown live music, and a great array of contributed items and services (no one left thirsty). Thanks to the highest bidders, the auction alone netted almost $5,500. A similar amount was raised from the ticket sales as well thanks to generous donations by members and firms and the unflagging efforts of Rich Olson, the “party chair.” The proceeds will help underwrite SCA programs throughout the remainder of the year.

The awards banquet Saturday night was attended by a crowd of 200. Banquet fare was well above the level of the infamous “rubber chickens.” The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to L. Mark Raab, the California Indian Heritage Award honored Patrick “Yana-Hea” Orozco, obsidian hydration pioneers Irving Friedman and Robert L. Smith received the Martin A. Baumhoff Special Achievement Award, and Allika Ruby received the Bennhoff Award. Over coffee and cake, we were all greatly entertained and informed by keynote speaker Paul Koch, paleontologist at UC-Santa Cruz, who brought us up to date on current thinking and data concerning late Pleistocene extinctions throughout the world.

This year’s honorees who were feted in other forums included Julia Bendimez Patterson, Director of INAH-Baja California, who was presented with the Mark R. Harrington award; the San Diego Archaeological Center, presented with the Helen C. Smith Award; and Shannon Tushingham who received the Outstanding Student Paper Award. Mike Pool, Director of the California Bureau of Land Management received a Special Achievement Award in recognition of BLM’s valued participation in SCA activities for many years now.

Thanks to everyone who attended and helped make this year’s meeting truly memorable. Let’s do it again! See you next year in Ventura.

2005 Lifetime Achievement Award: L. Mark Raab

This year’s Lifetime Achievement Award went to Dr. L. Mark Raab, Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Northridge Center for Public Archaeology at California State
University, Northridge (and recipient of the 1999 Outstanding Professor Award). Mark’s extensive archaeological experience began in the Southwest, where he received his Ph.D. from Arizona State University in 1976. Since joining the faculty at CSUN, Mark has conducted extensive archaeological research at the Channel Islands and at other California locations, particularly along the coast. His willingness to tackle major research topics (such as early coastal settlement and complex hunter-gatherers) in numerous peer-reviewed publications has helped keep California archaeology on the international stage. 

Mark is also active in Mexican archaeology conducting research at the famous Olmec site of La Venta, as well as examining hunter-gatherers in Baja. Although Mark has officially retired from CSUN, he will continue to conduct field research and publish books and articles from a base in the Kansas City area and with affiliations from universities in Kansas. Congratulations, Mark.

The SCA Thanks Underwriters and Annual Meeting Volunteers!

The SCA is very appreciative to the following companies, agencies and individuals, who generously helped underwrite the 39th Annual Meeting. The success of the meeting was due in large part to your generosity and involvement. We would like to single out CALTRANS and the many SCA Members who are CALTRANS employees for super-special recognition for their great work and support.

Agencies and Companies
- Affinis Environmental Services
- Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
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- Compass Rose Archaeological, Inc.
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- Sannie and Daniel Osborn
- Roger Robinson
- Kristina Roper
- Michelle St. Clair
- Kim Tanksley

2005 Martin A. Baumhoff Special Achievement Award: Irving Friedman and Robert L. Smith

Richard E. Hughes, Award Presenter

The Martin A. Baumhoff Special Achievement Award is made to acknowledge a distinct, noteworthy effort, or cumulative efforts, on topics such as specialized analyses or publications. It would be hard to imagine any more appropriate and deserving recipients of this award than the individuals we are honoring tonight.

Their work together began more than 50 years ago at the U.S. Geological Survey, and it resulted in the development of a new method for chronological ordering of archaeological artifacts and assemblages. This method was grounded in the discovery that perlite was formed from obsidian by absorption of meteoric (or surface) water, leading to the conclusion that a
chemical and physical change—called hydration—takes place on naturally formed volcanic glass surfaces following eruption, forming a water-rich “rim” which can be seen and measured using an optical microscope. Although the hydration process was identified, it was unclear initially whether hydration was a continuous, comparatively rapid diffusion process, or whether water was taken in only during the cooling phase of the glass. So to investigate this, a large number of obsidian artifacts of “known” ages were analyzed from sites throughout the world and it was soon determined that the hydrated layer (“rim”) thickened rapidly enough with time to make the method useful for placing archaeological artifacts, and assemblages, in relative chronological sequence. The research, and the new dating method, was reported to the archaeological community exactly 45 years ago this month, when it appeared as a major article in American Antiquity (Vol. 25, No. 4). This research was the result of collaboration between Irving Friedman and Robert L. Smith.

In the years following their seminal American Antiquity article, Friedman has continued collaborative research and experiments on the variable effects of temperature, chemistry and relative humidity on obsidian hydration rates, and has presented the results in numerous important publications (e.g. in Science [1976], Scientific American [1978] and American Antiquity [1983]) that continue to influence the directions of contemporary research. Smith’s more recent work has focused on obsidian geochemistry and the evolving chemical nature of magma chambers. His research on the factors that influence how magma chambers are constituted chemically, how their chemistry may change through time as well as the post-eruptive processes which influence obsidian chemistry have added vital geologic perspective and sophistication to obsidian sourcing research in archaeology.

Although the variables affecting the rates and conditions under which obsidians hydrate continue to be actively investigated, there can be little doubt that the discovery of obsidian hydration and the development of the obsidian hydration dating method revolutionized archaeology, and that it has opened up entirely new dimensions of archaeological research that might otherwise have remained inaccessible. Particularly in western North America where shallow sites are common and organic datable material is notoriously hard to come by, obsidian hydration dating of samples separated by obsidian source has proven invaluable as an independent means of identifying temporal patterning in assemblages lacking typologically distinctive, time-sensitive artifacts. It also has been a crucial prerequisite to studies of prehistoric obsidian conveyance over vast areas of the American West. Without Friedman and Smith’s pioneering research, their subsequent refinements to the method, and their investigation of the geological and geochemical influences on hydration phenomena, we would certainly know much less today about California and Great Basin prehistory.

Given the recent “coming of age” of obsidian hydration dating, it is now clear that the words of Clifford Evans and Betty Meggers, published more than 45 years ago, were prophetic. Although they frankly admitted then, as we do today, that there still are problems to be overcome, Evans and Meggers (in American Antiquity Vol. 25, p. 537) predicted that:

“the names of Irving Friedman and Robert L. Smith will join the ranks of outstanding benefactors to archaeology, such as A.E. Douglass, the astronomer who pioneered the study of dendrochronology, and Willard F. Libby, the chemist who devised the radiocarbon dating method”.

I have been extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to work with both Irving and Bob, and am particularly pleased that the Society chose to recognize these two distinguished scholars for their unique, special contribution to our discipline. The Society for California Archaeology is proud to present the 2005 Martin A. Baumhoff Special Achievement Award to Irving Friedman and Robert L. Smith for the discovery and development of the obsidian hydration dating method.

2005 California Indian Heritage Preservation Award:
Patrick Orozco, Headman, Pajaro Valley Indian Council, Watsonville

Those who attended the Awards Banquet were privileged to learn much about Patrick Orozco’s lifelong efforts to protect valued sites, satisfy his personal desires to learn of his people’s past, and cultivate broad interest and respect for Indian rights and sites. When the award presenter, Rob Edwards, asked for a show of those who have worked with or been greatly influenced by Patrick, more than 50 attendees took their feet. Patrick has immersed himself in his people’s culture and traditions for the last thirty years, providing all with a better understanding of the people who once lived on California’s Central Coast. The SCA is pleased to honor Patrick Orozco for his lifetime of battling to preserve his heritage.

It was in 1974, following advice from his great-grandfather, when Patrick first became an activist “to protect and defend the cemeteries.” At this time, he partnered with other Indian groups to protect a graveyard at Lee Road in Watsonville, California. To stop the destruction of the graveyard, the situation called for Patrick and his people to put their own lives on the line. As a result of their diligence and dedication, ultimately half of the graveyard was returned to his people. Patrick has since continued to protect these graves as well as those in other areas. Due to his persistence, local people are much more respectful of Indian rights, and unearthed burial remains are now more likely to be properly respected and replaced.

His work with archaeologists began in 1975 at the Holiday Inn Site in San Jose. He has filled the roles of monitor, a heritage consultant and most-likely-descendant. Among his special achievements, he and his people went to...
San Bruno Mountain hearings repeatedly to protect sites from disappearing under the weight of proposed office towers. Working with local archaeologists and environmentalists, he was instrumental in prompting a project redesign, leaving two huge shell mounds to retain the imprint of Indian people.

In presenting the award, the SCA also recognizes Patrick’s excellent, continuous, and long-term efforts to educate the public about his heritage. He has expanded his knowledge of his people and shared it with uncountable students from elementary to university levels. Over the years, hundreds have taken plant walks with Patrick, and benefited from his familial information about local plant use. So that this information is even more widely available, he has collated it, and he continues working with the Department of Forestry to procure cultural materials such as feathers, animal bones and food products. He has participated in “Ohlone Days” at Cowell State Parks for many years, participated and performed at the “Ohlone Gathering of the Elders” at Coyote Hills Regional Park in Fremont, and served as a valued Advisory Board member to the Cabrillo College Archaeological Technology Program since its inception in 1992.

In addition, Patrick has narrated a series of interpretive videos about the life of an Indian in the Mission Period, for Santa Cruz State Historic Park. He collaborated on the CD telling the story of his people in the Pajaro Valley, “First People of the Pajaro.” His quest to know his origins and identity has been published in the *Journal of Great Basin and California Anthropology* in the article “I’m an Indian, but Who Am I?”. He has provided information about his people and historical anecdotes in the publication “A Gathering of Voices.” He is often interviewed by local newspapers, the magazine *El Andar*, and other press, and in 2001 PBS station KQED(San Francisco) honored him as *Indian of the Year*.

**2005 Mark Raymond Harrington Award for Conservation Archaeology: Mary Julita Bendimez**

The Mark Raymond Harrington Award for Conservation Archaeology, established in 1979, recognizes an individual’s contributions to site preservation and public archaeology. This year’s award acknowledges the Society’s dedication to research, understanding, interpretation, and conservation of California’s rich cultural heritage, not simply that represented within the current political boundary of Alta California, but extending to the vibrant, multi-layered, and collective heritage that unites us geographically, historically, and culturally with our sister states of Baja California and Baja California Sur.

This year’s recipient is Mary Julita Bendimez (Julia), daughter of a prominent Mexican doctor, a proud mother, and a family, which included four sisters and a brother. Julia completed her primary and secondary courses of education in Mexicali, and during these formative years, she developed an interest in science and languages. By the early 1970s she was teaching both English and French at the Center for Languages at the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California. In 1972, she began a two year stint of study at Imperial Valley College, before she temporarily moved to southern France, where at the American University Center of Provence, she continued studies in French and International Relations at the American University Center of Provence. Upon her return to the western hemisphere, she attended San Diego State University, completing her undergraduate studies, and continuing to earn her Master’s degree, both with an emphasis in Archaeology. This well-rounded, multinational, and multilingual education has come to serve her well in her ensuing professional career.
This year marks Julia’s 20th anniversary as director of the Centro Baja California for INAH, where she has held that prominent post through two decades of political change in Mexico. Working with resources in budget, staff size, and legal mandate that few north of the border would consider lavish, she has developed a vigorous, multifaceted program that has done much to preserve her rapidly growing region’s archaeological and cultural sites. Under her direction, INAH has encouraged and come to welcome important research contributions by a range of international scholars, including SCA members, local Baja Californian, and other Mexican archaeologists.

Julia has been instrumental in developing museums throughout Baja California to inform and sensitize local residents and visitors to the region’s rich prehistoric and historic past. She was among the initiators who created the Museo Hombre Cultura y Naturaleza (now the University Museum) in Mexicali in 1977, and served as one of its founding professional staff members. In 1987, INAH’s Centro Baja California assumed responsibility for managing the important rock art site, El Vallecito, as an open-air archaeological zone. Under her direction, INAH has established a network of regional and local museums, including the Community Museum “El Asalto de las Tierras” in Mexicali Valley (1989), the Cocopa Community Museum “Juan García Aldama” in El Mayor (1990), the Historical Museum of Guadalupe Valley (1991), the Community Museum “Altagracia A. de Arauz” in San Vicente (1991), the “Wa-Kuatay” Local Museum in Rosarito (1992), and the Ensenada Regional Historical Museum (1993).

One of Julia’s important recent initiatives has involved the Mexico-U.S. corridor, the Camino Real Misionero (CAREM), founded in 1996 to integrate the protection, study, and interpretation of historic sites, particularly Jesuit, Dominican, and Franciscan missions in the three states of Baja California Sur, Baja California, and Alta California. California’s Department of Parks and Recreation is an important partner in this project, along with the private Fundación CAREM, of which she also served as director. The CAREM program works to protect and enhance mission sites in Baja California, in part through involving the local community in their oversight. It encourages scientific studies at selected sites, such as San Vicente, and promotes public awareness through the journal, Camino Real Misionero de las Californias, along with brochures, a website, and tourist facilities.

Another laudable initiative, begun in 2000, is “Balances y Perspectivas,” the annual, binational symposium which brings together researchers from Mexico, the US, and Canada to discuss the region’s archaeology, history, and Native peoples. For three years, the SCA has been among the sponsors of this noteworthy event, — one that year after year, strengthens our trans-border friendships, intellectual growth, and the development of productive research.

INAH’s Centro Baja California has also begun efforts to train local residents to monitor the condition of and impacts to archaeological sites. This fledgling program has in part been modeled on SCA’s own successful site stewardship program (CASSP). As is true for cultural resources managers elsewhere, Julia diligently works-on day-to-day crises concerning site protection and archaeological salvage. In addition to her important administrative responsibilities at INAH, she conducts her own scholarly research, publishing archaeological and ethnographic studies, as well as editing several publications by other contributors. These include articles on indigenous communities, archaeology, and rock art of Baja California; the historic corridor Camino Real de las Californias; and most recently, a volume on the Missions of Baja California.

With such contributions and commitment to the profession and to the public, Julia consistently demonstrates her far-reaching dedication to conserving and preserving the cultural resources of our collective California. The SCA is proud to recognize the most deserving Julia Bendimez Patterson as our first binational recipient of the Mark R. Harrington Award for Conservation Archaeology.
The Repatriation of Pleistocene Californians

Robert L. Bettinger
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Phillip L. Walker
Department of Anthropology
University of California-Santa Barbara

Michael J. Moratto
Department of Geography
California State University – Fresno

The California Department of Parks and Recreation recently published in the Federal Register a statement of intent to repatriate a series of remains to different Yokuts groups. Several of the proposed affiliations are problematic, none more so than some that are said to be older than 10,000 years. California Department of Parks and Recreation (hereinafter CDPR) states that the antiquity of these particular remains precludes the possibility of affiliating them, but then proceeds, non sequitur, to affiliate them with the Southern Valley Yokuts, on the grounds that group occupied the area prehistorically. The part of their statement concerning these ancient remains is quoted verbatim below.

“At an unknown date, highly fragmented human remains representing a minimum of three individuals were removed from an unknown locality (most likely close to CA-KIN-32, also known as the Witt site) on the southwest shore of former Tulare Lake, 12 miles southeast of Kettleman City, Kings County, CA. The remains were collected by Leonard “Red” Van Den Enden, a private citizen, of Corcoran, CA. After Mr. Van Den Enden’s death, his heirs donated the human remains to the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 1982. No known individuals were identified. No associated funerary objects are present. While the human remains have no exact provenance, two human cranial fragments date to 15,696 years B.P. (+/-370 years) and 11,379 B.P. (+/-71 years). This is consistent with dates generated from CA-KIN-32/Witt site. The California Department of Parks and Recreation Committee on Repatriation determined that site CA-KIN-32 cannot be clearly identified as Southern Valley Yokuts due to its antiquity. However, it determined that the prehistoric occupation of the same site by direct ancestors of the historic Southern Valley Yokuts (Tachi, Wowol, and Chunut Yokuts Tribes) was sufficient to culturally affiliate this site with the groups that are the present-day descendants of the Southern Valley Yokuts. Present-day descendants of the Southern Valley Yokuts are the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians of California; Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria, California (also known as the Tachi Yokut Tribe); Table Mountain Rancheria of California; and Tule River Indian Tribe of the Tule River Reservation, California. “(Federal Register Vol. 70, No. 104, Wednesday, June 1, 2005; Notices, p. 31515)

As anthropologists interested in the prehistory of California, and fully committed to the NAGPRA process, we find this troubling. The remains are problematic under NAGPRA, and at the same time of immense scientific importance, assuming they are as old as CDPR thinks.

The CDPR decision to affiliate these remains is all the more remarkable given the recent decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, upholding of the Federal District Court decision in the Kennewick case, where the issues are virtually identical to those here. California is within the Ninth Circuit; the decision is binding here.

“The age of Kennewick Man’s remains, given the limited studies to date, makes it almost impossible to establish any relationship between the remains and presently existing American Indians. At least no significant relationship has yet been shown. We cannot give credence to an interpretation of NAGPRA advanced by the government and the Tribal Claimants that would apply its provisions to remains that have at most a tenuous, unknown, and unproven connection, asserted solely because of the geographical location of the find. (Bonnichsen, 357 F.3d 962; 9th Cir. Feb. 4, 2004, p. 1603).

Note that the Kennewick remains are believed to be between 8340 and 9200 years old, and that their provenience is exactly known. CDPR is acting on evidence that these remains are between about 15,696 and 11,379 years old, with no provenience.

All this makes it unclear whether the CDPR is faithfully executing its responsibilities under NAGPRA. NAGPRA affiliation requires that there be 1) an identifiable Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with standing under NAGPRA, 2) evidence of an earlier identifiable group, and 3) evidence of the existence of a shared group identity that can reasonably be traced between the present-day Indian tribe or
Native Hawaiian organization and the earlier group. 
Evidence to support the last (3),

“...must establish that a present-day Indian tribe or
Native Hawaiian organization has been identified
from prehistori or historic times to the present as
descending from the earlier group.” (Native American
 Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Regulations;
43 CFR §10.14, c, 3).

The relationship of descent that CDPR uses to establish
affiliation is between the Southern Valley Yokuts and the
more recent prehistoric occupants of CA-KIN-32. This is an
important connection, but not the one in question. Under
NAGPRA, to affiliate the Pleistocene remains thought to be
from CA-KIN-32 with the Southern Valley Yokuts, requires
evidence of a direct connection between the Southern Valley
Yokuts and the Pleistocene component of CA-KIN-32; not
between the Southern Valley Yokuts and more recent
components of CA-KIN-32.

In conceding they cannot establish this Pleistocene
relationship, CDPR has, in effect, defined the remains in
question as “culturally unidentifiable.” NAGPRA is very
specific about the disposition of such remains.

“Museums or Federal agencies must retain possession
of such [culturally unidentifiable] human remains
pending promulgation of Sec. 10.11 unless legally
required to do otherwise, or recommended to do
otherwise by the Secretary. Recommendations
regarding the disposition of culturally unidentifiable
human remains may be requested prior to final
promulgation of Sec. 10.11.” (43 CFR §Sec. 10.9, e, 6)

Repatriation of culturally unidentifiable remains without the
special dispensations noted in this section is a clear violation
of NAGPRA. CDPR seems headed down this road.

What NAGPRA Means

We strongly support the key goal of NAGPRA, which is to
ensure that culturally affiliated Native American groups are
allowed to make decisions regarding the disposition of their
ancestral remains. Using NAGPRA as an excuse to give
human remains to unaffiliated groups undermines the ethical
justification for the statute. NAGPRA was not crafted with the
idea that the holding of skeletal remains was inherently
repugnant, or that all skeletal remains should be affiliated and
repatriated. Nor was it designed to shield museum trustees
holding such views from the legal liabilities they expose
to themselves to when they abrogate their fiduciary
responsibilities regarding museum collections. The Society
for American Archaeology (which we served in various
capacities in connection with NAGPRA) would never have
co-sponsored NAGPRA, nor worked so hard and effectively
for its passage, had that been its purpose. The Ninth Circuit
Court decision underscores this.

“The exhumation, study, and display of ancient human
remains that are unrelated to modern American Indians
was not a target of Congress’s aim, nor was it precluded by
NAGPRA.” (Bonnichsen, 357 F.3d 962; 9th Cir. Feb. 4, 2004, p. 1598).

“Congress enacted NAGPRA to give American
Indians control over the remains of their genetic and
cultural forbears, not over the remains of people
bearing no special and significant genetic or cultural
relationship to some presently existing indigenous
tribe, people, or culture.” (Bonnichsen, 357 F.3d 962;

Most of all, NAGPRA does not countenance the position
taken by some that affiliation is established merely by
assertion, or by others that any evidence will suffice. On this,
the statute is quite specific:

“Cultural affiliation of a present-day tribe or Native
Hawaiian organization to human remains, funerary
objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony
must be established by a preponderance of evidence”
(43 CFR §Sec. 10.14, f).

The Ninth Circuit Court Kennewick decision clarifies that
the standard here is a body of evidence that would convince a
reasonable jury, the court citing

“Allentown Mack Sales & Serv., Inc. v. NLRB, 522
U.S. 359, 366-67 (1998) (holding that under the
substantial evidence standard the reviewing court
“must decide whether on this record it would have
been possible for a reasonable jury to reach the
[agency’s] conclusion.”).” (Bonnichsen, 357 F.3d 962;

There is a deeper issue at stake here. In the last analysis,
NAGPRA was a deliberate effort of compromise between
parties holding fundamentally different views. Its passage
legally obligated Native Americans, museums, and
archaeologists to engage in a process that sought to balance
their many and diverse interests. No one would ever get all
they wanted—that was exactly the point. By collaborating in
the crafting and passage of NAGPRA, Native Americans,
museums, and archaeologists in effect agreed that they could
work together despite their deep differences, that working
together was better than constantly doing battle. Thus, when
the NAGPRA process is subverted to serve any special
interest, the problem is not really that the law is being
flouted, it is the implication that crafters of NAGPRA were
wrong, that Native Americans, museums, and archaeologists
cannot get along. Knowingly or not, in deciding to repatriate
the Pleistocene remains thought to be from CA-KIN-32
without evidence of affiliation, the California Department of
Parks and Recreation has effectively taken exactly that
position.
Mummies From The British Museum
Opens April 17, 2005 at Bowers Museum

Mummies: Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt features the largest collection of mummies and coffins to ever leave British Museum and illustrates the fascinating story of how Egyptians prepared and sent the dead into the afterlife.

This exhibition features 140 objects and focuses on embalming, coffins, sarcophagi, shabti figures, magic and ritual, amulets, papyri, as well as the process of mummification. The exhibition illustrates in depth the story of the fascinating Egyptian ritual of preparing and sending the dead to the afterlife, complete with furnishings created specifically for an individual’s coffin, such as spectacular gold jewelry and a wooden boat to transport the dead into the underworld.

According to one of the exhibition curators, Assistant Keeper of Antiquities at the British Museum Dr. John Taylor, the Egyptian mummies and coffins in this exhibition are of the highest quality and have not been exhibited for many years. “This exhibition will provide the ultimate look into the world of mummification,” Dr. Taylor said.

Mummies: Death and the Afterlife in Ancient Egypt is divided into seven sections: The Gods, Beliefs about the Afterlife, Mummification, Trappings of the Mummies, Cult of the Dead, Furnishings of the Tomb, and Shabtis: Servants for the Afterlife. Mummification features two of the exhibition’s most spectacular pieces: a child mummy from the Greco Roman period with a lifelike portrait, and a gilded cartonnage mummy mask dating from the Greco-Roman Period (late 1st century BC-early 1st century AD).

A lecture and film series will accompany the exhibition, which will run until April 2007.

The Bowers Museum is located at 2002 N. Main St. Santa Ana, California. For tickets and information go to www.bowers.org or call 714-567-3600.

The society has been directing its efforts to fund-raising to complete the building. The facility, which will house three indoor exhibits, the Southeast Information Center, and include a nature trail and picnic area, is scheduled to open to the public early in 2006. Under a cooperative agreement the Imperial Valley Desert Community College will staff and operate the museum once it is completed. The Imperial Valley College Desert Museum is located adjacent to Interstate 8 at the S2 exit in Ocotillo, California. For more information call: (760) 358-7016 or e-mail: ivcdm@imperial.edu.

Grants

The James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation: www.fitchfoundation.org

Mary Dierickx, Chair

The James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation will award up to $25,000 for a research grant to mid-career professionals who have an advanced or professional degree and at least 10 years’ experience in architectural preservation or related fields, including historic preservation, architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, environmental planning, archaeology, architectural history, and the decorative arts. Other smaller grants are made at the discretion of the Trustees. The grants are intended to support projects of innovative original research or creative design that advance the practice of historic preservation in the U.S. The mid-career grant is made possible by the generosity of the Kress Foundation. The deadline is September 8, 2005 (postmarked).

Fulbright Scholar Awards in Anthropology and Archaeology 2006-2007

The Fulbright Scholar Program is pleased to announce the following awards in Anthropology and Archaeology and related fields, available in Southeastern Europe and the Caucasus.

- Georgia Award # 6188
- Greece Award # 6251
- Turkey Award # 6392
- Turkey Award # 6393
- Turkey Award # 6398

The deadline for submission of applications is August 1, 2005. For additional information about the awards and the application process, please consult the Fulbright Program Web Site at www.fulbright.org or contact Cynthia Crow, Senior Program Officer, Europe/Eurasia at 202.686.7872 or ccrow@cies.iie.org.

Publications

U.S. Geological Survey Photographic Archive Historic Photo Website

The on-line system of the United States Geological Survey Photographic Archive provides access to over 25,100 photographs dating from 1868 through 1992. To access the photographic archive go to: http://libraryphoto.er.usgs.gov. These photos are not copyrighted and may be viewed and downloaded free of charge. All photos are available in 100, 700 and 1400 dots per inch resolution. The collection consists of over 25,100 photos ranging in age from 1868 through 1992 with emphasis on Geology, Earthquake Damage, National Parks and Monuments, Pioneer Photographers such as W.H. Jackson, J.K. Hillers, T.H. O’Sullivan, A.T. Russell and others, Mount St. Helens Volcanic Eruption of 1980, and Mines, Mills and Quarries.

The system may be searched using a free-form string search engine which allows the user freedom to more exactly find the photo and caption of interest.

This site is currently “under construction” and will change over the next several months. Photographs will be continually added. Captions are currently being edited for punctuation errors, misspellings, and accuracy. Many captions are vague and will remain so, as this is the only information the long-deceased geologist/photographer provided. The syntax of the late 1800’s and early 1900’s will be preserved and changed only to allow for clarity.

If you see discrepancies in photographer or geologist credit, have clarifying information, or wish to discuss the project, please contact Tommie Ann Gard at 303-236-1004 or e-mail tagard@usgs.gov.

SF-80 Bayshore Project

Mary Praetzellis and Thad M. Van Bueren

Archaeological studies have recently been completed for the SF-80 Bayshore Freeway Project in San Francisco. The work was carried out by the Anthropological Studies Center (ASC) at Sonoma State University under contract with Caltrans District 4. The archaeological project was necessary to achieve compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A Treatment Plan was prepared and implemented for the seismic retrofit of columns and footings supporting the elevated structure of Interstate 80 on 10 city blocks covering the area from Fourth Street between Harrison and Bryant to the viaduct’s junction with SF-101.

Fieldwork took place intermittently between 19 May 1999 and 11 December 2001. ASC archaeologists monitored
footing excavation at selected bents and directed the mechanical excavation of soil in sensitive areas. The predictive model developed for the project was found to be accurate: intact historic ground surfaces—a prerequisite for the occurrence of important remains—were located in the majority of footings monitored. Archaeological deposits that met the research design criteria were excavated stratigraphically, by hand, using rapid-recovery methods. A geoarchaeological soil coring program also was implemented to help identify potential prehistoric deposits associated with buried soil horizons impacted by the new piles. The work resulted in the discovery of eight artifact-rich, historic-era privy deposits. No prehistoric sites were found. By applying the criteria specified in the research design, one of the historic-era features (Privy 7) was evaluated as ineligible to the California Register of Historical Resources due to limited materials and poor focus. The remaining seven features were determined eligible and subject to in depth analysis. A report and web site were completed by the ASC to present the results of the investigation to the public and professionals.

The technical report was edited by Mary Praetzellis and is entitled SF-80 Bayshore Viaduct Seismic Retrofit Projects Report on Construction Monitoring, Geoarchaeology, and Technical and Interpretive Studies for Historical Archaeology (June 2004). It is organized in five parts. Part I introduces the archaeological studies—where the work took place, how it was envisioned, how it developed. The results of the geoarchaeology program are reported by Jack Meyer in Part II. Through this coring program, an important stratigraphic sequence was defined that has since been used to refine the predictive modeling for prehistoric deposits in San Francisco. The program explains the absence of prehistoric sites in the area of direct impact by the timing and extent of landscape changes that buried virtually all formerly stable prehistoric land surfaces. Part III describes the methods and findings of the archaeological monitoring program, including evaluations of significance.

Data describing the seven eligible collections are presented by Michael Meyer in Block Technical Reports in Part IV for ease of comparison with the Cypress Project collections from West Oakland. The collections are associated with a variety of households from the family of wealthy Charles Duisenberg, a merchant and former German Consul, on Block 3, to the Irish household of the William Noonan family and their numerous lodgers, many of whom were unemployed and illiterate, on Block 6. Families associated with features from Block 4 included those of Irish widow Anne Mills, Irish laborer Anthony Dean, German express man John Wendt, Irish glass cutter Thomas O’Neil, and Irish liquor-store porter Andrew Buckley.

Finally, in Part V the seven collections are used to address the project research design. Erica Gibson focuses on consumer behavior, while Jack Mc Ilroy and Annita Waghorn tackle the Irish, given the predominance of households of that nationality within the neighborhood. The The Bayshore findings are compared with assemblages from the nearby San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge West Approach Project (an investigation still in progress) and West Oakland Cypress Freeway Replacement Project—an analysis made possible by the use of consistent methods of recovery, lab analysis, and reporting among those investigations. Statistical comparisons were carried out by Bruce Owen. Patterns were revealed at the household, street, neighborhood, and city levels and consistencies and contrasts between San Francisco and West Oakland are presented. In a concluding discussion, Adrian Praetzellis reflects on the implications of the Bayshore results for urban archaeological research. The collections from this project are permanently curated at the ASC Collection Facility.

As part of Caltrans public outreach efforts, Annita Waghorn and Kristin Meyer developed a web page for the project geared toward the general public. This page is hosted at: http://www.sonoma.edu/asc. The report is available in hard copy ($40) or as a CD readable with Acrobat 6.0 ($7). To obtain hard copies or CDs write the Caltrans Publications Unit at 1900 Royal Oaks, Sacramento, CA 95815, call (916) 445-3520, or check their web site at http://caltrans-opac.ca.gov/publicat.htm for on-line ordering. The listed costs include taxes and shipping.

Conferences

1st Three Corners Archaeological Conference, October 15, 2005

The 1st Three Corners Archaeological Conference will be held at the campus of UNLV. This conference seeks to promote interaction between regional researchers and to present recent interpretation of archaeological data within southern Nevada, southeastern California, and western Arizona. Presentations on any research domain and time period within this region are welcome. For more information, visit the conference website at http://nvarch.org/3corners/ or contact Mark C. Slaughter or Laurie Perry at the Bureau of Reclamation, LC2600, P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, NV, 89006; tel (702) 293-8143; e-mail: threecornersconference@yahoo.com.
Where and When:

The conference will be held on October 15th, 2005, at the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV).

Conference Abstract:

Archaeology in the tri-state area has grown in scale and the orientation of archaeological research has shifted over the last decade. Due to the increase in the number and types of archaeological sites discovered, and their interpretation, there is a need for the regional researchers to present and discuss findings among professionals to promote the development of regional theory, methodologies, and management goals.

Presentations:

Oral presentations will be 12 minutes. Presentations may be on any research domain and time period within the region. Papers should cover topics and research themes within southern Nevada, southeastern California, southwestern Utah, and extreme western Arizona.

Deadline for abstracts is September 6, 2005.

PowerPoint or slide presentations are highly encouraged.

Proceedings of the conference will be published. A copy–ready document will be submitted to organizers after the conference. We anticipate publishing papers within two months of the presentations.

Organizers:

UNLV, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Las Vegas Springs Preserve, Lost City Museum, Bureau of Land Management, National Forest Service

SAA 2006 Session on the Archaeology of California

John Killeen
john@frenchpark.com

We are seeking papers on California archaeology for presentation at the Society for American Archaeology 2006 Annual Meeting. Papers can be in any discipline that relates to the better understanding of archaeology in California (e.g., geoarchaeology, GIS, zooarchaeology, paleoethnobotany, lithic source analysis, etc.). A main objective of this session is to cover as many periods and locations in California as possible. All points of view should be represented, the theme of this session is California archaeology, not any particular period, method or theory. Paper topics can be on, for instance, issues in CRM or SHPO that relate to the archaeology of California. You do not have to present new field work. In fact, we all know that, while necessary to present, papers on single sites can be the least interesting. The main objective is to disseminate the archaeology of California. Please participate.

Send a rough abstract including period of material being presented ASAP. Please have your application package to me (not SAA) by August 15th. The deadline for the session proposal is September 7th. I will need the final abstracts and paper titles to complete the session application. When you reply to this message (and I hope you do), please reply to all so that everyone knows who is participating.

Session title: “Diggin’ the Golden State: recent studies in the prehistoric and historic archaeology of California.”

President’s Message (cont’d from page 3)

We had our first on-site meeting at the newly refurbished Ventura Marriott that sits right on the beach. SCA will occupy most of the hotel, so almost every face you see at next year’s meeting will be an archaeologist. A trip to the Channel Islands is proposed either before or after the meetings (see separate notice herein). No fooling’, on April 14th, a mere 272 days from when I write, Frank Bayham will take over as your new President.

The fabulous “CAAMPers,” the Committee for Advanced Annual Meeting Planning, have insured that we have our meeting locales and dates established well in advance. SCA tries to avoid conflict with the SAA meetings, and so we schedule our meeting dates only so far ahead as SAA has scheduled. Already contracted are 2006 as mentioned, 2007 in San Jose (22-25 March), and 2008 in Burbank (17-20 April). CAAMP is now looking for our 2009 and 2010 venues.

I am truly amazed with the volunteering dedication of our membership folks who continue to be involved in committees, in the annual meeting, in planning. It is your participation that makes SCA successful. I would like to single out a few volunteers who have particularly impressed me as I become more knowledgeable about the inner workings of the Society: the principals and staff at Far Western, Inc. and at Tom Origer and Associates; the Bureau of Land Management, particularly State Archaeologist Ken Wilson and former State Archaeologist Russ Kaldenberg; Greg White as Editor, and Webmaster; the Padens and Discovery Works; Janet Eidsness; Myra Herrmann; the principals at Foothill Resources Ltd.; and Caltrans archaeologists and managers, but especially this year’s contributions by Glenn Gmoser, Rich Olsen, and John Sharp. The Society has also benefited from the contributions of our outgoing Board Members Elena Nilsson, Stacy Schneyder, and Terry Jones. They will all be missed, but will be replaced by President-elect Frank Bayham, Southern Vice President, Andy York, and our new Treasurer, Ted Jones.

A report on California Archaeology Month can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter, and Laura Leach-Palm has agreed to chair this committee again. Work has begun on the 2006 poster, while the artist for the 2007 poster has been contacted. Archaeology Month is an excellent time for you to
reach out to your community and involve them in the work we do. Events have included public lectures, tours for schoolchildren, hikes, displays and presentations of artifacts and more. In my home county of Tuolumne, late in April each year, a presentation about California Archaeology Month is made to our county Board of Supervisors and a formal resolution declaring May California Archaeology Month in Tuolumne County is adopted by them. They are presented with an SCA poster that is displayed in the Board Room and on the local cable television, and discuss some aspect of historic preservation in our community. Think now of what you might organize for California Archaeology Month 2006. Speaking of posters, if you did not get yours at the meetings, then come get one at the date sharing meetings in the fall, or send $5.00 to Laura Leach-Palm (at Far Western) for her to mail one to you.

We are missing several committee and liaison positions that need to be filled. The chair and committee of the Nominations Committee are vacant. These folks would recruit candidates for election next year for a President-Elect, Northern California Vice President, and Secretary. The Federal Agency News and Stage Agency News contributing editor positions are vacant and should be filled by a federal or state agency archaeologist respectively who are current on Washington DC or Sacramento issues as they pertain to the profession. We are also missing a reporter for Avocational and Educational News, and desperately need help on the Membership Committee. If something speaks to you here in this list, please come forward and help. We truly do need all we can get!

Legislation is an important focus of the Society. We continue to monitor the NHPA Section 106 situation in Washington by communicating with the Legislative Affairs Committees of SAA and SHA, and staff of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We receive emails forwarded from the National Council of SHPOs, NPS Personnel, ACRA, and SCA’s Legislative Affairs Liaison, Stephen Bryne, keeps us posted. The State Historical Resources Commission will have a session at its August meeting in Sacramento that focuses on Section 106 revisions, and I encourage you to attend to have a better understanding of how this aspect of government works.

SCA members were sent a Newsflash the week before our Annual Meetings that briefed them on the Section 106 situation, and encouraged contact of your California Representatives. SCA President (Amy Gilreath), on behalf of the Board, submitted a letter to the half dozen or so relevant legislators, making our position clear. There has been no real news since the 21 April hearing (see link to the testimony before the Committee on Resources from April 21, 2005: http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/archives/109/nprpl/042105.htm) and draft House legislation has not been introduced. We are not certain when it will be, if at all, or what form it will take. It is our understanding that the Senate will consider a bill that will simply be a clean reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Fund, with no changes to the NHPA. That legislation has not yet been introduced either. We encourage SCA members to let your position be known to their legislators. As a nonprofit organization it is appropriate that SCA monitor issues that are near and dear to us and our mission, and that we make members aware of proposed legislation, but we must be very careful not to cross the line into lobbying to effect legislative outcomes. We count on individual members to take the cause forward. If you are not receiving Newsflashes, and would like to be included, please contact the Business Office at SCAOffice@esuchico.edu.

Mark your calendars for the Data-Sharing meetings this fall. The Northern California meeting will be held at San Francisco State University on Saturday 22 October. The Executive Board will meet the day before, plan to attend that as well to learn about how the Society functions. The Southern California Data Sharing meeting will be held 5 November at Ridgecrest, followed by a tour of the Coso Petroglyphs the following day. Northern VP Karin Anderson and Southern VP Andrew York will be glad to schedule your papers or answer any questions you might have. Hope to see you there.

I am honored to have been elected your President, and will work hard at my duties and obligations. I will continue our good relationship with Wayne Donaldson and staff of the Office of Historic Preservation to communicate the issues of importance to California archaeology, and am heartened by the commitment of State Parks, BLM, and other agencies to our programs. Feel free to contact the Executive Board about your needs, suggestions, and complaints (but, as Past-President, Tom Origer, said, “please only one complaint to a customer”).

— Shelly Davis-King
Literature Review

Environment or Organization?: California’s Upper Archaic Large Game Spike

Greg White

Evidence and ideas concerning dramatic fluctuations in prehistoric large game harvest in Northern California’s Upper Archaic (2800-1100 BP) to Emergent (1100-180 BP) periods have appeared in several national publications, but important background information has gone unnoticed because it is bound up in CRM reports or local publications more difficult to access. I assembled this brief review in order to familiarize the SCA membership with the range of evidence and ideas put forth to date. In assembling this material, I have not cited the basic articles from general theory but rather the California examples and derivations. However, basic theories and models grounded in a wealth of published literature are cited in italics and readers seeking additional detail should have success querying these terms at the library or on the internet. Further, because I am in the habit of using Fredrickson’s (1974) California Period and Stage classification per modifications argued elsewhere (White ed. 2002:41-52), in some cases another author’s “Middle Archaic” falls into my “Upper Archaic,” but the dates are the same.

The Theory

Archaeologists attempt to measure change over time in the rate of prehistoric large game harvest by inventorizing faunal remains—bone, antler, shell, and other residues—recovered from archaeological sites dating to different time periods. They then measure change over time in the proportion of large game (e.g., deer, elk, marine mammals, bears, game fish) relative to small game (e.g., most fish, rabbits and hares, squirls, and birds). Researchers have found that the rate of large game harvest is very important to understanding the past because it is closely linked to prehistoric human demographic and adaptive variation. The prevailing explanatory theory, known as behavioral ecology uses a set of optimality models which assume that human diet and technology was conditioned by the fundamental goal of optimizing energy efficiency, that is, spending the least labor to acquire the greatest possible gain. The literature cited below assumes that large game was high-ranked, producing a big payoff for relatively little effort, and therefore, when it was common it was the preferred (optimal) resource. Optimality models predict that prehistoric subsistence adaptations were based on the relative availability of large game, and dependent to such a degree that many basic adaptive changes—like the onset of diets reliant on low-ranked small game and vegetal food—were forced by a decline in the availability of the highest-ranked resources.

Human overharvest seems to have had the most significant impact on large game availability, even in the prehistoric past. Despite the popular perception of hunter-gatherers living in harmony with nature, archaeological research has shown time and again that hunter-gatherers depleted high-ranked game species, with ensuing resource depression leading to declining foraging efficiency, intensified diet, and technological change. According to this body of theory, resource depression was a deleterious and immediate product of human population pressure (aka, demographic forcing), and it led to a vortex of less profitable adaptations marked by the harvest of less and less efficient foods requiring more and more elaborate technologies, and was also manifest in phenomena related to intergroup competition, such as trade, warfare, integrative ceremonies, and interpersonal violence. Thus, this theory argues that California’s distinctive ethnographic economies heavy on high-cost vegetal foods like the acorn were not so much enabled by the State’s biotic diversity as forced by population pressure (Cohen 1981; Basgall 1987; Beaton 1991; Jones 1991).

Human demography and ecological productivity are so tightly linked in this body of theory that many modern researchers perceive the large game curve as proxy evidence of culture change, and some have even used the term “resource depression” interchangeably with “intensification” to the confusion of those of us who would prefer to separate the ecological consequences from the human organizational dynamic.

Thus, considerable excitement has been generated by the recent publication of widespread counter-intuitive evidence: a number of new studies document a rise in the rate of large game harvest late in the prehistoric record. These new excavations and syntheses show a sharp increase in the proportion of large game relative to small game over time, especially after 2500 BP when other parts of the archaeological puzzle clearly indicate that the rate of culture change was on the increase and intensification phenomena were increasingly pronounced. Was foraging efficiency somehow on the rise? Have the theoreticians missed something? Where are these sites, and how have they been interpreted, so far?

The Artiodactyl Spike

Perhaps the earliest discussion of an Upper Archaic “artiodactyl spike” appears in Bayham and Johnson (1990), who (with then CSU-Chico student Jack Broughton as contributor) assembled information on faunal assemblages from five Chico-area sites, including four sites along the Sacramento River (Gle-101, Gle-105, But-12, and But-288), and one east of Chico (But-7). The sites spanned from the Upper Archaic to the Emergent, 2500-200 BP. Bayham and Johnson found significant differences between the subsistence economy of river versus foothill environmental zones, indicating that environment was the primary factor determining spatial variation. Bayham and Johnson then refocused attention to the most robust faunal record, from But-288, on the Sacramento River floodplains northwest of Chico. Excavated by Makoto Kowta, Deal’s (1987) thorough MA thesis documented the site, identifying two distinct
occupations, an Upper Archaic component (1100-2500 BP) at a depth of 8-16 ft (2.7-5.3 m) below surface and an Emergent component (1100 BP to contact) at a depth of 0-8 ft (0-2.4 m) below surface.

Bayham and Johnson (1990) acknowledged the prevailing theory of declining foraging efficiency in Central California, and found one of the theory’s predictions supported by the But-288 record: there was an increase in the diversity of species harvested over time, with many small bodied animals (especially fish and birds) added to the diet after 1,100 BP. However, another, more important prediction was not supported: the But-288 data showed an overall decline in the intensity of small game harvest relative to large game harvest, especially deer. By implication, foraging efficiency actually increased over time, reaching its zenith after 1,100 BP when most researchers would expect foraging efficiency to have been at its lowest ebb. They offered no explanation, but did indicate that some unexpected results might be found locally while an overall pattern of declining foraging efficiency should characterize the region at large (see also Broughton 1988).

It should be noted that the distinctive pattern at But-288 was lost in Broughton’s subsequent publication on Sacramento Valley foraging efficiency (Broughton 1994). Despite clear stratigraphic evidence and Bayham’s and Johnson’s (1990) demonstration that the Archaic faunal assemblage was significantly different from the Emergent assemblage, Broughton (1994) lumps the entire But-288 faunal record and assigns an average date of 1,650 BP to the melange.

**Buffer Zone Harvest Hypothesis**

Holanda (2000) analyzed faunal assemblages collected from the combined Alturas Intermic and Tuscarora Pipeline corridor projects in the northwest Great Basin and Northeastern California. Addressing expectations from foraging theory and California intensification models, Holanda calculates vertebrate efficiency measurements for assemblages spanning from the Lower Archaic to Upper Emergent periods, identifying decreased efficiency beginning around 2300 BP, contemporaneous with increased reliance on seed crops and use of residential base camps. However, Holanda found a resurgence in foraging efficiency marked by a spike in artiodactyl harvest in assemblages dating 1900-1500 BP, which she correlates with “improvements in accuracy, range, and opportunity afforded by [the introduction of] bow and arrow technology” (Holanda 2000:289).

Following a precipitous decline in artiodactyl harvest dating 1500-400 BP, Holanda notes a second rebound in artiodactyl harvest after 400 BP to Contact. She proposes two possible explanations, environmental amelioration and buffer zone harvest. With respect to environmental amelioration, she notes that cool/moist climatic conditions after 400 BP may have resulted in enhanced primary productivity and greater deer recruitment, however, she notes, more significant environmental change earlier in the record was not tracked by similar changes in artiodactyl harvest. Thus, the environmental explanation was fairly weak. The second explanation, buffer zone harvest, was based on a notion first described by Bayham and Holanda (1997) in a paper delivered at the Annual Meetings of the Society for American Archaeology.

Holanda (2000) notes evidence of an overall increase in the frequency of residential sites after 2300 BP in northeastern California, and argued that this would generally indicate that people were increasingly in competition for scarce high-ranked resources. How might competition result in an increase in the rate of artiodactyl harvest? According to their argument, assuming that territory constitutes a defense of space for the benefit of the holder, then territorial behavior can also be understood with reference to behavioral ecology (Bayham and Holanda 1997).

Central place foraging models argue that a forager will use and deplete available resources until such time that the costs of travel are offset by the benefit of foraging farther. Thus, a forager will exhaust resources in the immediate radius before deciding to incur the costs of travel to the second radius, and so on. Bayham’s and Holanda’s (1997) contribution is to recognize that, as distance from a central place increases, so too should the abundance of high ranked prey items. Two or more adjoining central places should therefore be buffered by zones containing the highest abundances of high ranked resources (Figure 1). This has important implications for understanding territoriality and competition, with foragers from one central place likely to compete with foragers from another over the relatively more abundant high ranked resources found in contested buffer-zones. High levels of intergroup competition in these buffer-zones may have rendered them economically untenable for habitation. However, the high costs of foraging should have been offset by the benefits of high encounter rate, thus allowing a pattern of increasing investment in logistical procurement activity, even in the face of increasing costs of defense. Thus, Bayham and Holanda argue that the artiodactyl spike is a predictable outcome of regional intensification (Bayham and Holanda 1997).

**Distant Patch Hypothesis**

Broughton (1999) reviews archaeological evidence from the Emeryville Shellmound on the Eastbay shore of San Francisco Bay, where fluctuations in the rate of large game harvest were also observed. Like Bayham and Hollanda, Broughton seeks an explanation in changing territorial strategies, using an approach which couples the central place model to a prey choice model to derive an entirely new perspective. While central place models predict distance-decay in the profitability of harvest, prey choice argues that high-ranked prey items will always be taken when encountered while low-ranked items will be taken depending on the abundance of higher ranked items. Thus, a central place forager will deplete nearby high-ranked and then nearby low-ranked prey. According to Broughton’s distant
**patch hypothesis**, the central place forager should then travel farther in pursuit of high-ranked prey, thus producing fluctuate ratios between large and small game in a central place archaeological record (Broughton 1999).

**Mass Capture Hypothesis**

White found a similar pattern of increased artiodactyl harvest in the Clear Lake basin archaeological record dating 2300-1200 BP (White 2002). Not only were deer bones much more frequent during this period, representing more than one-half of all identifiable bones, but there was also a striking singularity and conformity in the handling of deer carcasses, with heavy cannon bones used to make basketry awls representing 70 percent of all identifiable bones returned to the village site, indicating that deer harvest and “toolbone” collection was coordinated to productive needs at the residential base. He notes that the Clear Lake artiodactyl spike was contemporaneous with other archaeological evidence for the development of social differentiation, arguing that the power to command labor was increasingly vested in authority roles, and that this authority was exercised in coordinated harvest and redistribution. He argued that intensification in California was best understood as a product of technology and organization enabling mass capture via coordinated group harvest or employing technologies designed and built via capital. Thus, increased artiodactyl harvest might best be understood as “deer intensification” marking the Upper Archaic development of coordinated hunts including deer fences and drives similar to those described in the Pomo ethnographic record (White 2002).

White (2003) promotes a similar theory in the examination of faunal assemblages from excavation of series of prehistoric village sites located along the Sacramento River in Colusa County. The Colusa Basin results run entirely counter to prevailing optimality models, with small game dominant in the Middle Archaic and large game more important later in time (Figure 2).

**Costly Signaling Hypothesis**

Hildebrandt and McGuire (2002) invoke costly-signaling theory to explain the pattern, arguing that “the taking and sharing of large game may confer upon its male practitioners individual fitness benefits quite apart from its more familiar role in family provisioning” (2002:250). In their model, males seeking reproductive and economic advantage garnered prestige and other useful benefits by practicing energetically inefficient (costly) hunting behaviors that signaled authority and achievement. The authors draw attention to a variety of elaborate material culture traditions that developed contemporaneous with the large game harvest—ranging from hunting imagery in rock art to large ceremonial display bifaces—indicative of symbolic systems used to convey and communicate power in the system.

**Productivity Hypothesis**

Broughton and Bayham (2003) challenge Hildebrandt and McGuire (2002), arguing that the artiodactyl spike is actually predicted by existing optimality models. They argue that new paleoclimate evidence shows climate change led to increased environmental productivity at the end of the mid-Holocene, and that this change best accounts for an increase in artiodactyl abundance and increased encounter rates, reversing a long-term harvest decline. In support, recent articles show that increased artiodactyl abundance in the Great Basin archaeological record closely mirrors the onset of late Holocene climatic conditions (Byers and Broughton 2004; Byers et al. 2005).
Closing Thoughts

Can the issue really be reduced to environment versus organization? Probably not. In California, adaptations prevailing prior to the large game spike were based on intensified technologies and we see no reversals in the archaeological record. In other words, increased large game harvest did not release Upper Archaic groups from intensified adaptations. Thus, the large game spike was, of the first order, an expression of intensified adaptations. Indeed, I am concerned that artiodactyl productivity was actually directly promoted by an intensified human technology, fire management. Fire management was probably on the rise during California’s Upper Archaic when other intensified technologies were also engaged.

However, accepting environment versus organization as a productive if weak grounds for debate, we still find ourselves at three evidentiary crossroads: (1) What was the regional variation in environmental change and its consequences to productivity in California; (2) What was the species variation and regional temporal variation in California large game harvest; and; (3) Does environment explain all this variation? Obviously, we need better and more fine-grained paleoenvironmental evidence.

However, to my mind the likely outcome is obvious. The large game spike is regionally variable, and at first blush more closely geared to local population trajectories than local environmental change. Other recent literature indicates that on the north and central California coasts elk, large fish, dolphins, and marine mammals were also harvested with increasing frequency in the Upper Archaic through Emergent Periods, also requiring ramped-up investment in technology and organization implemented under authority. Environmental change is not likely to have affected all these species equally, however, demographic forcing and intensification was widespread and has been argued to be at play in each case. For example, Northwest Coast marine mammal hunting relied on oceangoing canoes whose construction and operation embodied a social system driven by prestige (Hildebrandt 1981). Animal ceremonialism was also on the rise throughout the Upper Archaic to Emergent periods in Central California, with some critters buried in ceremonial regalia (e.g., Heizer and Hewes 1940). While these examples arguably constitute evidence for prestige hunting, they also challenge the notion that hunting was fundamentally at issue, and suggest that some currency other than direct subsistence profit was at issue.

Perhaps optimality models provide another way to think about this currency: that elites pursued prestige-enhancing behaviors to the extent that they did not depress the overall profitability (or stability) of the adaptation. Thus, elite strategies might have included recruitment of a subsistence underclass, pursuit of prestige game, and conversion of mass capture surplus to other commodities. The faunal assemblages produced by each of these strategies might feature large game. However, to understand the implications of these faunal records we must consult the full record of material culture and human organization and not just the faunal records. Clearly, the consumers of Upper Archaic and Emergent Central California did not wake up each morning to individual diet choices geared to simple seasonal and spatial encounter rate variation, but to a social system within which labor and harvest choices, especially those involving prestige items and foods captured in mass, were structured by social rank and conveyed in the pattern of obligations and potentials posed by all other consumers.

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White G. (editor)


New! SCAHome.org Publications Page:
http://www.scahome.org/publications/index.html

The site has a central reference for the annual Proceedings, with information for authors and symposia chairs, editorial guidelines, and an Index of Proceedings articles and abstracts searchable by author, county, and issue, assembled by Proceedings editor Don Laylander.

The Publications site also contains a synopsis of SCA Special Publications, SCA Occasional Papers, and a lovely gallery of Archaeology Month posters with instructions for downloading—now you can have your favorite poster as desktop wallpaper!
Cotsen Institute of Archaeology
New from CIOA Publications

Foundations of Chumash Complexity
Jeanne E. Arnold, Ed.

The latest research on the foundations of sociopolitical complexity in coastal California. The Chumash are increasingly recognized as complex hunter-gatherers with ascribed chiefly leadership, a strong maritime economy based on oceangoing canoes, an integrative ceremonial system, and intensive and specialized craft production. Authors present analyses of household and village organization, ceremonial specialists, craft specializations and settlement data, cultural transmission processes, bead manufacturing practices, watercraft, and the acquisition of prized marine species.

$24, paper

Archaeological Research on the Islands of the Sun and Moon, Lake Titicaca, Bolivia: Final Results from the Proyecto Tiksi Kjarka
Charles Stanish and Brian S. Bauer, Eds.

Provides the final results of work on one of the most important locations in the circum-Titicaca Basin, with detailed survey and excavation data indispensable for Andeanists and other scholars interested in the development of complex political, economic, and ritual systems in prehistory.

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Calendar of Events

July 8-9, 2005. SCA Executive Board Meeting, Chico

August 4-5, 2005. State Historical Resources Commission Meeting, Sacramento, California.


August 28-31, 2005. The 5th International Bone Diagenesis meeting, University of Cape Town, South Africa. Forum for discussion of topics related to the preservation of bone and teeth in the archaeological and palaeontological records. Speaker - Dr. C. K. Brain, author of “The Hunters or the Hunter? An Introduction to African Cave Taphonomy”. For more information contact the committee chair: Julia Lee-Thorp, E-mail: jleethorpe@yahoo.com.

October 21, 2005. SCA Executive Board Meeting, Presidio, San Francisco.


November 3-4, 2005. State Historical Resources Commission Meeting, Fresno, California.


March 29-April 1, 2006. SCA Annual Meeting, Ventura Marriott.


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