

SDAC QUARTERLY

THE OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER OF THE
SAN DIEGO ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTER

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Director's Message

On December 12, 2018, the Center lost a dear friend, Mrs. Doral Hurd. She would have been 89 years old this month. Doral began volunteering at the Center in September 2002. Her beloved husband had recently passed away and a friend brought Doral to the Center for a presentation. I remember her vividly, as she was so lively, quick to laugh and asked loads of questions. Doral had a thirst for knowledge that continued throughout her "career" at the Center. She would get so engrossed in an archaeology magazine that we had to remind her to go to lunch!



Doral also loved to meet people, she loved her job greeting visitors and showing them around. When we opened a new exhibit, we would take Doral around and answer questions so that she would be ready for questions from visitors. She loved sharing these little facts with them. Doral was not a big fan of rowdy kids and one look from her usually brought them back in line.

Doral was always willing to help with whatever she was asked to do, from arranging the gift shop, labelling artifact bags or folding newsletters. When we mailed newsletters, folding day was quite a task. My mum and dad always brought donuts. After my dad passed away, Doral admitted to me that she had a secret crush on him. I know he would have liked that.

Doral had a quick laugh and you just couldn't help yourself from joining in. We had lively conversations at the lunch table about politics, television and her favorite newspaper—the National Enquirer. We teased her about that and she admitted that "some" of the content might not have been true. Whilst she was quite conservative in her politics, Doral had a very open mind. We were surprised that she and her friend, Charlie, had gone to see Brokeback Mountain. I asked her what she thought about the romance between two men. Doral replies, "Love is love. I don't see anything wrong with it."

Doral's last day at the Center was in January 2015. She had developed signs of dementia and it was difficult for her to be active. We often visited her at home and she was always very gracious and enjoyed hearing about activities at the Center. Doral was the only person I ever knew whose favorite color was orange. It was a perfect fit because she was such a bright spot in our lives. We will miss you, Doral. Thank you for all you gave us.

View Upcoming Events Online



Center Spotlight: Brian Williams, M.M.A., RPA

Howdy. My name is Brian Williams and I am currently a Director with ASM Affiliates in San Diego and Vice President of the San Diego Archaeological Center Board of Trustees. I came out to San Diego to attend the University of SD and never left (sans a 10-month stint in Australia to get a graduate degree in Underwater Archaeology).

I first joined SDAC as a wee undergrad student/volunteer interested in learning about the local archaeological culture and immediately fell in love with the Center's staff and mission. When I was approached about joining the Board in 2015 my relationship with the Center had come full circle and I was offered the opportunity to give back a little of what the Center had given me when I was starting out. To me, the SDAC has always been a place where science and culture meet and inform each other on our great shared past. In the future I believe we can continue to carry that discussion to the public and bring awareness of our local history to a larger audience, who's current cultural norm has become digitized and technical.

The Center and I are currently working on several ventures that aim to do just that. First, we are looking to bring cutting edge 3-dimensional modeling technology to archaeology in San Diego so that a greater academic and public audience will have access to the past in a more immersive/hands-on way. We are also working with local experts (scientific/cultural) to fill out this year's tour series and continue reaching out to the public about the history right here in San Diego. Look for a complete tour list soon as we plan to explore both Land and Sea (literally!) in discussions that will expand upon the new exhibit opening at the Center. Click [here](#) for information on the San Diego's First Peoples Day Trip Series.

Can You Make a Biface?

by Stephanie Sandoval, Public Archaeology Director

There were many new participants in our annual flintknapping workshops this past November. Although the bandaid box was pulled out more than a few times, everyone seemed to enjoy the class and wanted more. So after multiple requests, we are excited to offer two new additional flintknapping workshops with James Bowden. **Advance Flintknapping** is open to experienced knappers who are already able to make stone tools such as projectile points. This advanced session will focus on overcoming participants' specific knapping challenges, and cover advanced topics such as: biface thinning, setting up platforms, improving percussion flaking, details on heat treatment of materials, and less-common knapping techniques. Each participant is required to bring examples of their work, especially pieces that illustrate their specific challenges.

Introduction to Flintknapping is the perfect way to start learning how to make stone tools. Participants will learn about the components that make up the Native American stone toolkit and practice basic flintknapping techniques. No experience is required, and the class is open to ages 12+ (minors must be accompanied by an adult).

Both workshops will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2019. More information on the [Introduction to Flintknapping](#)

and the [Advanced Flintknapping Workshop](#) can be found online. Click on the workshop titles to access the registration forms.



James Bowden and participants from our November flintknapping workshops



As a supplement to the new *By Land and By Sea* exhibit, this field trip series will explore the physical locations and landscapes that the first people in the America's lived in. We will explore early survival strategies and ceremonial practices that archaeologists have uncovered in over 100 years of study in San Diego. We will also hear from the descendants of these First Peoples and their understanding of how they came to be in San Diego.

Dr. G. Timothy Gross will be your guide for Tour 1 - The View From San Diego's Coast (February 16, 2019). For registration and more information, visit <https://sandiegoarchaeology.org/san-diegos-first-peoples/>



South Coronado Island,
Baja California, Mexico
October 17-18, 2018

Notes from the Field: My Observations on Recent Excavations at South Coronado Island

by Captain Jim Bryant USN (Retired)

Antonio Porcayo of the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) of Mexico invited me to join this expedition sponsored by Dr. Todd Braje using funds from the California Academy of Sciences. I'm a volunteer at the San Diego Archeological Center and with the Colorado Desert Archeological Society supporting California State Parks. Joe McCain, who recently earned a MA in Archaeology from San Diego State University, was the Co-Principle Investigator of this expedition. McCain worked with Porcayo in 2016 doing surveys and surface collection of artifacts on the islands.

The 2018 expedition included excavation at caves on the east side of the North Island and South Island and on the ridge to the west of the Mexican Naval Station on the South Island, shown below. These islands have many mysteries, and this expedition discovered more. How did a large number of Kumeyaay live on the islands and how did they harvest the surrounding waters teeming with sea life?

We stayed at the Mexican Naval Station in the building on the far right. There were five Mexican Marines in the building at the end of the point on the far left (photo above).



Note fearless leader Joe McCain is still asleep in the corner



Accommodations are spartan, but the bathroom presented a special challenge.

I screened for artifacts and bone at the cave on an east facing cliff that is several hundred yards to the south of the Mexican Naval Station. A one by one-half meter unit was dug to 100-centimeter below datum inside the cave, and another on the apron in front of the cave to about 90 centimeters below datum. Bedrock was reached outside, but not inside the cave. The photo below shows, left to right, Raquel, a student of Porcayo, two drone operators turned archaeologists who had lost their drones the first day, McCain is in the cave, and I'm sitting on the right side of the picture shown below screening material. Notice we are wearing rattlesnake chaps as there are many on the island, although we didn't encounter any.

Contrary to what we experienced on the Coronados Islands, Dr. Tim Gross, who taught my "dig" and artifact analysis classes at San



One of the 2018 Excavation Area

Diego City College, found no bioturbation from borrowing rodents, leaving the strata perfectly intact on San Clemente Island. Coronados Islands have rodents that turn over earth, making historic artifacts like metal and glass show up deep in the cave deposit.

Damp soil appeared at the 90-100-centimeter level in the cave. There is no permanent water source on the surface. If damp soil could be found in October, many months since the last rain, is it possible there could be a reservoir of fresh water reachable by a deep hole somewhere on the island?



Sheepshead fish

We collected a large amount of fish bones and vertebrae; a large percentage were teeth and mandibles from a bottom fish called a California Sheepshead (*Semicossyphus pulcher*). The unique jaw and teeth shown on the left are easy to recognize. I was surprised by the small size of the Sheepshead they were eating. Sheepshead are not easily caught by nets as they live on rocky bottoms and eat shellfish and sea urchins, but we found no trace of hooks or their manufacture. We found Seal/Sea Lion bones and

and teeth, an Otter Skull and rib bones from large mammals. The 2016 expedition found bones on the surface identified as deer.



Smugglers Cove

Abalone shells are numerous from the surface to several levels below in and around the cave and the ridge above the cave on the South Island. Some very small Abalone shells about the size of your thumb were noticed. A similar excavation in the cave on the east side of the North Coronados Island found only limpet shells. I also found some small barnacles. Small abalones and barnacles could be used to make soup, which could suggest starvation conditions for the Kumeyaay hiding on the islands to avoid Spanish oppression. The previous trip to the islands in 2016 found some native pottery sherds on the surface in front of the cave on the South Island that could be from pots capable of making soup.

Since this cave is close to the Casino/Hotel that was on the island in the early 1930s it could have been looted, but we didn't find even broken fragments of points or hooks used to harvest sea mammals

and fish. The screened material was checked carefully to collect all the bones and a point fragment should have been detected. The Abalone shells I saw showed no signs of being modified in the process of making hooks.

In the pictures to the left and below, the foundation of the Casino/Hotel is shown, which is next to where small boats could land. These pictures were taken in Smugglers Cove also known as Puerto Cueva (Cave Port) that is below and north of the Mexican Naval Station. It is named for being a meeting point for "rum runners" during prohibition.



The lithics found were made from metavolcanic and quartz cobbles from deposits on the island. Examples shown below were found on the surface on various parts of the island.

The large number of lithic artifacts found on the surface, the presence of hearths that went down several feet, and the areas of anthropogenic loam suggest there was a large Kumeyaay presence on these islands. Excavations unearthed thick layers of shells, bones (mostly fish), but also mammals, including seals/sea lions/otters. The Kumeyaay harvested fish and sea mammals, but since we found no points, fish hooks, harpoons or fishnet weights



there is a mystery on how it was done. Another mystery is there is abundant evidence of long term, and at least seasonal habitation by the Kumeyaay, but no year-round source of water to support it.

To hear more about this project, please join the San Diego Archaeological Center on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 1 PM for a presentation by Joseph McCain, [Archaeological Investigations and Reconnaissance of the Coronados Islands, Baja California, Mexico.](#)





Ground stone metate fragments photographed during inventory. A metate is a tool that was used for processing grains and seeds.

Collections Inventory

by Jessica McPheters, Collections Manager

As the new Collections Manager at the Center, one of my first big projects is to complete an inventory of the SDAC collections vaults. A collections inventory is a great way for me to familiarize myself with San Diego archaeology and get to know our vast and diverse collections. This task may sound daunting, but inventories are important when considering proper collections stewardship and long-term artifact preservation. Ideally, collecting institutions will complete a full inventory every 1-10 years, depending on the institution's size, type, and resources available. Additionally, spot inventories are recommended annually. By completing an inventory of the vaults, the Center will have a more in-depth and complete picture of the amount and types of artifacts that the repository cares for. It is a great time to photograph, report on artifact condition, and correct any errors without being repeatedly obtrusive to the artifacts over time.

After researching and developing a plan that works best for the Center, I began by starting with the first shelving unit in collections storage; pulling artifacts from their shelves to physically inspect them. Artifacts are counted, weighed, and photographed. While conducting this inventory, I am making sure that artifact boxes and labels meet the Center's curation standards. The locations of the artifacts, condition report, new information, and any problems or discrepancies are also

recorded during this process. The collections database is then updated with any new information for each artifact. Digital and paper files are also gone through, and reconciled as necessary.

The project will take time, but the San Diego Archaeological Center has an advantage over some older institutions. Opening only 25 years ago, the SDAC repository and vaults are in incredibly good and very well organized. A main problem I have encountered at past institutions while conducting collections inventories is disorganization related to the age of the institution. Older institutions have many different methods, policies, and procedures that were put in place over the years. Collecting practices have changed many times since museums were created. Artifacts may have multiple catalog numbers, have gone missing or are not in their recorded location, provenance can easily become lost or dislocated from the artifact if it was never properly documented, or artifacts were never fully curated to begin with – the older the institution, the more problems there can be. Since the Center adheres to California State, National Park Service, and Federal curation standards, I have encountered very few discrepancies or errors during my inventory thus far. It may not sound like progress, but I have successfully inventoried one row of shelving units in the SDAC vaults. (In contrast, at the Chicago History Museum, it took two colleagues and me over two years to complete one row of shelving due to the hundreds of discrepancies we found). All of the oversized artifacts in the collections vaults have been inventoried and photographed, and I have even managed to find a few artifacts in their proper homes, that had previously been noted as missing when they came into the Center for curation. I look forward to continuing this exciting and necessary project!



From the Stacks

by Suzanne Moramarco,
Collections & Library Specialist

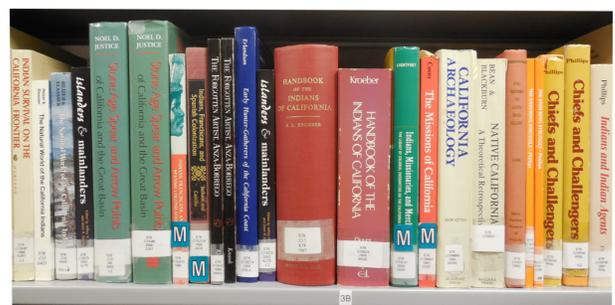
From A to Z: The SDAC Library uses the Library of Congress Classification system as do most research and academic libraries in the U.S. The first book in the Center's library is *Exhibit Labels: An Interpretive Approach* by Beverly Serrell (Am157 .S46 1996 SERR) and the last book is *Sources of Information in the Social Sciences* by Carl M. White (Z7161 .W49 WHIT). There are five other sections of books in the SDAC Library—rare books (books with copyright dates before 1950), young reader books, IMLS bookshelf (books on collections care), repair shelves, and pamphlets (books that are thin or small and kept in a box to prevent them from being lost or damaged). There are over 3,200 titles in the SDAC Library.

A long overdue inventory of the library holdings has begun. For this project, a report was exported from the library catalog into Excel. Then separate spreadsheets were created for each resource type: books, journals/magazines, monographs, and archaeological reports. Volunteer Bianca Belmonte has started inventorying the books. Each book has a barcode number that is checked off on the spreadsheet to make sure its entry appears in the catalog. Then the book's condition is evaluated; those that need repairs go in one stack; if it has excessive highlighting and/or writing on its pages it goes in another stack. The titles in good condition get dusted and put back on the shelf in proper order.

Volunteers are needed to repair books, and to help with inventory. A couple of hours once a week, or even one morning or afternoon a month would be a big help in accomplishing this project. And you will learn about depth of history contained on those shelves!

Progress has been made on the local cities/towns map with associated library resources for the Library's webpage and should be available in the next few months.

In the meantime, you can search the online catalog from the Library's webpage, or contact Center Library Specialist Suzanne Moramarco at library@sandiegoarchaeology.org or 760-291-0370.



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For questions about the Membership Program, contact Development & Marketing Coordinator Danté Farenga via email: dfarenga@sandiegoarchaeology.org

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You may also visit www.sandiegoarchaeology.org to join the Center!

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Thank you for your support!

**During the Center's anniversary year, we are reducing prices in the Friends Circle category.*



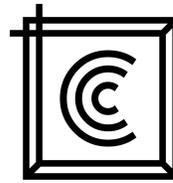
From Stone Tools to Digital Tools, Center Enhances the Visitor Experience

by Cherryl Castro-Lector,
Development & Marketing Manager

Archaeology and technology come together as the San Diego Archaeological Center introduces their partnership with Cuseum, a museum engagement platform that will enhance the visitor experience. This is one of the projects that has come to fruition, thanks to the generosity of those who donated to our 2018 #GivingTuesday Technology Campaign.

The Center will launch the web app along with a new exhibit, *By Land & By Sea*, in February 2019 with a preview event for members on February 2 and the public on February 9. Self-guided walking tours will allow visitors to access unique content, such as, interviews and demonstrations. Visitors will also have the convenience of making a donation or becoming a Center member directly on the web app.

Prepare for your next visit to the Center by downloading the web app. Simply type in the following web address on your mobile phone, tablet, or even your desktop: sandiegoarchaeology.org/app. You will be redirected to the Center’s Cuseum web app and you’ll be free to explore the Center’s new exhibits anytime!



CUSEUM



Center Debuts New Website

We are thrilled to announce the debut of our new website.



The website is completely revamped, with streamlined features and navigation. The website has an events calendar, programs information, easy-to-use membership, donation, and event ticketing forms, and blogs that contain exciting behind-the-scenes information. Visitors are encouraged to explore the website and [sign up](#) for the Center’s email list. The Center’s [web app](#) is also linked to the website.

We would like to thank our spectacular volunteer, Kathy Collins of Cake Webification, for working with the staff in a diligent and timely manner. Thanks, Kathy, for creating a website that best represents the San Diego Archaeological Center!

Membership to the San Diego Archaeological Center

Are you a SDAC member? Need to renew your membership? There are just a few days left before we end our 25th anniversary pricing! Don’t wait, this sale will end on February 2. Join by this date and you’ll be invited to attend the Members Only event and preview our new exhibits on February 9!

To purchase or renew your membership, visit our [Membership page](#), call the Center at 760-291-0370, or email development@sandiegoarchaeology.org.

San Diego Museum Month begins February 1!

Visit your local library to receive your Museum Month pass. You’ll enjoy half price admission to over 40 institutions in San Diego County. Visit the [SDMC website](#) for more information.



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We are grateful for the time and talents, membership, donations and in-kind support we received from 10/1/18 - 12/31/18.

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is an easy and convenient way of supporting the many important projects at the Center. You may determine the amount to donate per month and the specific campaign, project or program to fund.

Become a Center Member! Remember, some levels are as low as \$25, but only until February 2nd! Don't want to use our online form? We've provided a membership form for your convenience on page 8.

In-kind gifts are contributions of goods or services to the organization. If you would like to make this type of donation, please **contact us** with your information.

Shopping on Amazon via smile.amazon.com will guarantee a 0.5% donation to the Center. What an easy and quick way to give back!

C.A.R.S. (Charitable Adult Rides & Services) is a vehicle donation program that will take your old vehicle, provide pick up, manage the sale, and handle all the tax deduction receipts and forms. Just tell them that your charity of choice is the San Diego Archaeological Center!

For information on how to make your important donation, or become a member, please contact the Development & Marketing Department at development@sandiegoarchaeology.org.

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this e-newsletter. For corrections, please contact the editor, Cherryl Castro-Lector, at ccastro@sandiegoarchaeology.org.

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