

THE CURATOR

Official E-newsletter of the San Diego Archaeological Center

Director's Message

BY CINDY STANKOWSKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I love a good mystery. It's an opportunity to learn something new as well as to stretch your mental boundaries. In the field of archaeology, we are often faced with mysteries. Who made this? How did they make it? What was it used for? Humans are great innovators and are eager to solve problems with technology.

I especially like mysteries in historic period collections. Often times, these mystery artifacts are used to overcome the lack of things we take for granted today: electricity, running water, plastic and electronic gizmos.



Using the internet, I recently figured out that a chunk of purple glass was a pavement light. These were set into sidewalks to provide light for underground storage spaces. This was a very clever option before electric lighting was readily available.

However, the internet can only take you so far. Sometimes that spark has to come from another person's experience. I'm asking you to be that other person. Please visit the Center's [Facebook page](#) and help us identify some of the mystery objects we have in the collections. No idea is too crazy to post.



Just to tempt you, have a look at this disk. It was found in a trash dump from a site dating from the 1880s. It appears to be made of clay and was fired. There are no signs of wear to indicate what it might have been used for. It's 5 ¼ inches wide and ¾ of an inch thick. I'm stumped. Any ideas? Please let me know at cstankowski@sandiegoarchaeology.org.

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Kids Dig: Breaking News in Archaeology

BY STEPHANIE SANDOVAL,
PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY DIRECTOR

Welcome to Kids Dig, where our youngest community members can discover the latest news in archaeology. And what better way to kick off this new year than with Sulawesi warty pigs!

Now you may wonder what warty pigs have to do with archaeology - well, just this month a new study found that a warty pig is the oldest known animal drawing in the world. Found in Leang Tedongnge Cave in Sulawesi, Indonesia, researchers determined the age of the painting by dating minerals that had formed on top of it. Archaeologists think this drawing is around 45,500 years old!

Drawn with ochre about 65 feet above the cave floor, the warty pig measures about 4.5 x 1.8 feet and is the largest drawing in this cave. Ochre is a naturally occurring red pigment. Can you spot the two human handprints near the back of the pig?



Image credit: Brumm et al., doi: 10.1126/sciadv.abd4648



The Sulawesi warty pig, *Sus celebensis*, still lives on the island today. Both male and female pigs have three pairs of facial warts, but they are much more noticeable in males. Archaeological evidence discovered on the island suggests that its early people hunted and perhaps even tamed wild pigs.

For more information on this fascinating discovery, check out this [article](#) from Live Science.

Learn more about rock art with Dr. Arty Fax's Archy Facts blog on our [website](#).

Virtual K-12 Programs

A promotional graphic for a virtual program. It features a green banner at the top with the text "- VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS -". Below this is a large white box with the text "BOOK NOW!" in bold blue letters, followed by "FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR" in green. Below the text are four small images: a pyramid, a pair of yellow gloves, Stonehenge, and a rock fragment. At the bottom, it says "No Cost Virtual Program for San Diego Schools and Students ALL ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGY" and "For more information on our free and other programs, email education@sandiegoarchaeology.org".

Introduce your students to the fascinating field of archaeology and learn how we study the past here and all over the world! This program includes a live presentation followed by student Q&A.

Virtual Events

A promotional graphic for a virtual event. It features a dark background with a photograph of a cave interior. The text "COMMUNING WITH EARTH & ANCESTORS" is at the top in orange, followed by "Ancient Maya Cave Rituals" in white. Below this is "DR. JON SPENARD" in white and "Thursday, February 18 | 6:30 PM" in orange. The background image shows a person standing in a cave, looking towards a large opening.

From the Stacks: Collections and Library

BY SUZANNE MORAMARCO,
COLLECTIONS AND LIBRARY SPECIALIST

Though the Center is closed to visitors during these uncertain times, the staff is still working: programs have gone virtual, and collections are still being curated. Along with bringing back a previous exhibit series, New Acquisitions, in virtual form, we are starting a new one, Now Curating. See page 4 for a preview of New Acquisitions.



Ostrea lurida from the PL 04 collection



Chiton from the PL 04 collection

I am currently curating PL 04, a collection from site CA-SDI-48 on the Naval Submarine Base, Point Loma. I have inventoried the artifacts and am in the process of labeling their bags. As a majority of the collection consists of unmodified shell (ten of the thirteen boxes are all shell), the virtual exhibit will talk about what can be learned about past people's food choices and living patterns from the refuse they left behind. Shown here are two of the shell species that were most prevalent at the site, Chiton (shown are three of the eight plates that make up a Chiton) and Ostrea lurida.



Library Note: The Center is still receiving donations of library materials. Those items that are duplicates or out of the scope of our Research Library go to the Recycled Knowledge section of our gift shop. The current donation being processed is from my brother Bill and consists mostly of books on birds, birding, and nature. Also available are three sets of binoculars and a Pentax camera with various lens. If you are interested in seeing a list of these books and items, contact me at library@sandiegoarchaeology.org.

Plans are in the works for an online gift shop. Lists of available Recycled Knowledge titles, including Museum of Man publications and Rock Art Papers, will be included.

New Acquisitions

BY JESSICA MCPHETERS, COLLECTIONS MANAGER

And just like that, a new year has arrived! 2020 was certainly a year of many firsts and presented unique challenges for the Center. We have had to reinvent and imagine new ways in which we can connect with our community from home. It has presented us with new opportunities to bring you in for a closer look at San Diego archaeological collections with digital content like social media, virtual programming, and educational blogs.

We remain hopeful for the coming year, and I am excited to share with you a new virtual exhibit that we have been working on for 2021!

New Acquisitions is a virtual exhibit where we will share a little bit about new incoming collections. The exhibit will be featured on the SDAC website and will be updated as new collections are acquired and brought into the Center for curation. Let's take a peek!

The SDAC houses many prehistoric and historic collections from the San Diego County and adjacent regions. The Center is equipped with over 5000 square feet of vault space that allow us to provide long-term curation and care for a wide range of archaeological materials, including artifacts, ecofacts, maps, photographs, and site records. Partnering with local colleges and universities provides a setting for volunteers and students interested in archaeology to gain hands-on experience working with archaeological collections.

Most of the collections that are curated at the SDAC come to us from Cultural Resource Management (CRM) firms. These CRM firms work with developers around the county to make sure that construction is done using ethical methods and that archaeological sites are protected and documented. Once their work is complete, CRM firms curate collections at the SDAC for long-term preservation and care.

New collections delivered to the Center have many pieces. Each collection must contain a site report, master catalog of curated objects, information about inadvertent discoveries, and other supplemental documentation such as field notes, maps, and photographs.



Catalog Number: CA-SDI-18428-2019-1013

Material Class: Chipped Stone

Object Type: Debitage

Material: Fine-grained Metavolcanic

Quantity: 1 Weight: 103.58 grams

SDAC 738 Delivered August 27th, 2020

Project Name: Avion Project

Site(s): CA-SDI-18428; -18429

USGS Quad Location: Poway 7.5'

Year of Excavation: 2019

Three hundred sixty-one cultural resources were recovered from the test excavations at CA-SDI-18428: 359 flakes (pieces of stone removed from a core) and two tools. Archaeologists on the project were able to conclude that the limited range of materials recovered indicates that tool production was not taking place on-site but rather it was a place where final shaping and re-sharpening happened.

Thirteen cultural resources were recovered at CA-SDI-18429, alldebitage (waste or byproduct of stone tool production). The material recovered was predominantly fine-grained metavolcanic. No tools, cores, or milling implements were found.

Archaeologists concluded that this site was most probably used as a single use episode of locally available material produced for core preparation or tool re-sharpening.

Museum Memories

BY DANTÉ FARENGA,
DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING DIRECTOR

Traditionally, we would hold our annual member only event next month. Since in-person events are temporarily on hold, we will be sharing some of our favorite Museum Memories from previous years on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) throughout the month of February.

Our Annual BBQ brings together the many individuals involved in protecting the cultural heritage of San Diego County. Local cultural resource management professionals, academic archaeologists, loyal Center members, hardworking volunteers, and students attend this event to support the Center's efforts in curation, educational programs, and exhibits.



Our annual Members Only appreciation event recognizes the contributions of our members. Past themes have included Mysteries at the Museum, 25th Anniversary, and By Land and By Sea preview.



Missing our in-person events? Join us for our virtual Living Room Lecture series from the comfort of your couch. See page 2 for upcoming events.

Our K-12 programs use archaeological inquiry to foster understanding of past and present cultures, improve science education, and enhance citizenship education to help preserve our archaeological legacy. Look at those junior archaeologists!



Looking for lessons? Our Virtual Connections program offers a live presentation introduces the fascinating world of archaeology. This program is available at no cost for San Diego area schools and students. See page 2 for more information.

Do you have a favorite Museum Memory at the Center? Tag us in your post, tweet, or story with [#SDACMuseumMemory](#), or email your Museum Memory to dfarenga@sandiegoarchaeology.org. We look forward to seeing your favorite moments with us.

A Special Thank You

The Staff and Board of Trustees of the San Diego Archaeological Center would like to thank Capt. and Mrs. Jim and Monica Bryant for their especially generous gift to the Center. Your kindness is a tremendous help in these challenging and unpredictable times. Thank you!

Shop and Support the SDAC

Are you practicing social distancing by shopping online instead? You can support the Center by shopping on [AmazonSmile](#). What an easy way to give back!

IN APPRECIATION

We are grateful for the time and talents, membership, donations, and in-kind support we received from 10/1/20 to 12/31/20.

Welcome New Members

Alexandria Aguilar
Steffi Bokser
Hector Galvez
Andrea Relopez
Joyce Wycoff

Thank You to Our Purveyors of the Past

Susie Arter
Karen Crawford
Kathy Dickey
James Eighmey
Susan Gilliland
Marty Rosen
Cindy Stankowski
Maureen Steiner
Jim Royle

Thank You to Our Volunteers and Interns

Vanessa Chappins
Kathy Dickey
Neah Johnson
Melanie Parker
Jim Royle

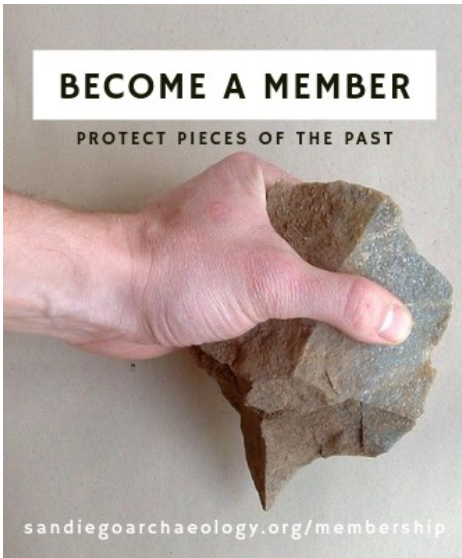
Thank You for Your In-Kind Donations

Jeanne & James Bonk III
Jim Royle
Sheryl Miller
Cindy Stankowski

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sandiegoarchaeology.org/membership

The Center is the only local organization dedicated to the collection, study, curation and exhibition of San Diego County's archaeological artifacts. Your membership helps save our history and heritage. **Membership** can be purchased [online](#), over the phone, or by mail.

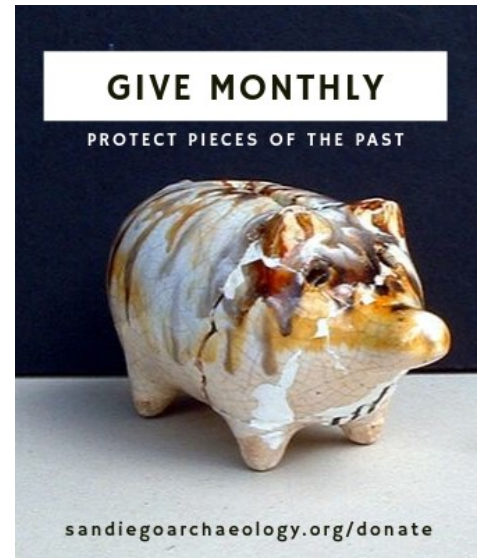


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Cash donations may be made to the Center by visiting our [website](#), or with a check made to the San Diego Archaeological Center. **In-kind gifts** are contributions of goods or services to our organization. Please [contact us](#) if you would like to make this type of donation.

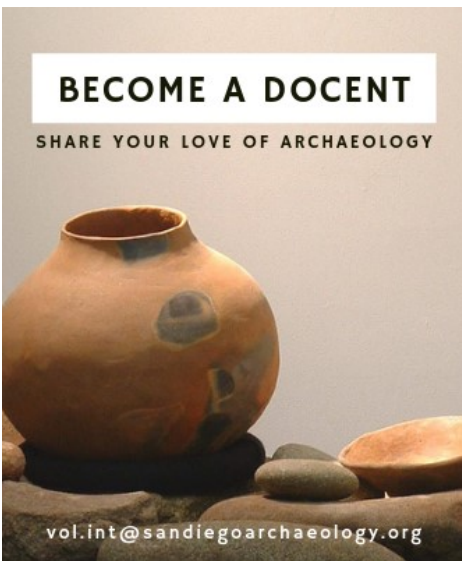


GIVE MONTHLY

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Purveyors of the Past Monthly Donation Program 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. Please [contact us](#) for more information.



BECOME A DOCENT

SHARE YOUR LOVE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

vol.int@sandiegoarchaeology.org

Docents welcome visitors and answer general questions regarding the Center and exhibits. Hours are flexible. To apply for a volunteer position for next year or for more information, please email vol.intern@sandiegoarchaeology.org.

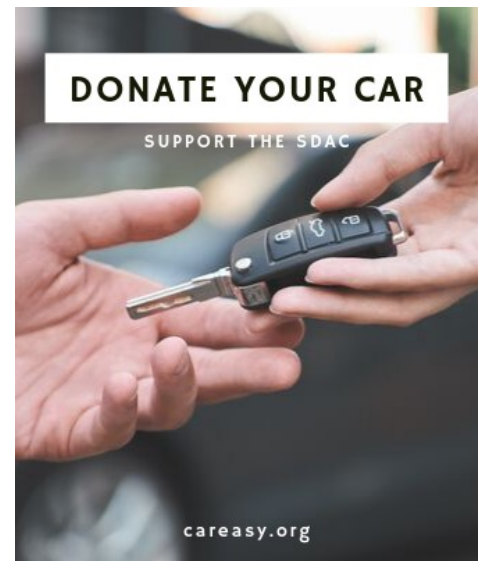


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careasy.org

Purchasing a new car or truck this year? **Donate your old vehicle** to benefit the Center through the [C.A.R.S](#) program. Your generous gift is tax-deductible and will support the Center's exhibitions, programs, and curatorial efforts.



San Diego Archaeological Center

MUSEUM • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

CONTACT US

16666 San Pasqual Road
Escondido, CA 92027
760-291-0370
sandiegoarchaeology.org

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MARKETING

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this e-newsletter. For corrections, please contact the editor, Danté Farenga, at dfarenga@sandiegoarchaeology.org.

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