

TRANS-RIO BRAVO/RIO GRANDE
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION SYMPOSIUM
and PANEL DISCUSSION

2015 Texas Archeological Society 86th Annual Meeting

Omni Westside Hotel, Houston Texas, October 24, 2015

Organized and sponsored by the *Journal of Texas Archeology and History.org*

Greetings! The *Journal of Texas Archeology and History.org* is pleased to organize and sponsor the ***“Trans-Rio Bravo/Rio Grande International Research Collaboration Symposium and Panel Discussion”***. The symposium is designed to explore the dearth of archeological research collaboration between two seemingly isolated groups of researchers who are geographically separated only by a thin channel of water that happens to be an international border. There is precious little direct involvement between researchers in Mexico and Texas. This is astounding considering we share a border that is 1,254 miles long!

We hope this event will promote goodwill between the two isolated groups of researchers: Texans and Mexicans. Four guest researchers have been invited to travel from their homes and work in Mexico to participate in this symposium and to engage with us during the TAS Annual Meeting.

Arguably, there is a critical lack of cooperation and collaboration between researchers in Texas and Mexico who are studying archeology and history of the region. Our objectives are threefold: to create a starting point for discussion of the subject; to act as a spring-board toward greater and more meaningful research collaboration in the future; and to open new channels of communication between the two groups.

Through this symposium and panel discussion, we propose to: Facilitate a dialogue regarding issues challenging current and future archeological research collaboration with perspectives presented by participants from both sides of the international border; and to throw a spotlight on recent archeological research along the international boundary region shared by Texas and Mexico where there has either been benefit from successful collaboration or where a project could be enhanced by "trans-Rio Bravo collaboration". Our goals are to: promote an open dialogue between two isolated groups of researchers; to hold a discussion of the limiting factors in open forum; to explore ways to address or overcome the hurdles faced by modern researchers of archeology in the region; and to promote future collaborative efforts.

The Panel Discussion will follow the final paper and will cover topics relevant to collaboration between researchers across the international boundary line between Texas and Mexico. These topics

may include, but are not limited to: language barrier, logistics, safety, publication, funding, access, travel, information sharing, communications, politics, etc.

Discussion will be co-directed by Dr. Todd Ahlman, Director of CAS and Sr. Gustavo Ramirez Castilla, Tamaulipas State Archeologist for INAH. Discussants will include: Tom Hester, Moises Valadez, Victoria L. Munoz, Breen Murray, Mary Jo Galindo and Martin Salinas. Dr. Jean Clottes will be included if he is available for the discussion. A generous grant from the Summerlee Foundation has made this symposium possible.

SATURDAY, October 24, 2015

1:30 PM – 1:50 PM THOMAS R. HESTER

“50 Years Along the Rio Grande: Reflections on a Variety of Archaeological Research Projects on the Border.”

For 50 years, I have taken part in numerous of archaeological studies along the middle and upper Rio Grande. I briefly review a number of these here, with emphasis on those that have involved participation of colleagues in Mexico. These activities began, unfortunately, with digging into Rio Grande rockshelters while in high school! After enrolling at UT-Austin, the focus of fieldwork shifted. In 1967, I was involved in the salvage of Mexican War dead, a saga that continued many years and involved the public and the Mexican government. In the 1970s, I helped conduct extensive excavations at the Spanish missions at Guerrero, Mexico. Later, students and I recorded a rock art site rare on the middle Rio Grande. In the 1970s-1990s, I worked with collectors and avocationalists on both sides of the border to document and help them



publish important finds. During this period and up to today, I conducted obsidian sourcing studies involving the lower Rio Grande. In 1995, I was part of a large team recording the damage to Falcon Reservoir sites during a serious drought. Also in the 1990s, I worked on a project involving the illegal importation of Mexican artifacts, culminating in a major conference and exhibit in Laredo. Through these projects, I have learned much about the border and interaction with colleagues on both sides of the Rio Grande.

Dr. Thomas R. Hester (Professor of Anthropology, emeritus; The University of Texas at Austin) received his BA from UT-Austin, 1969 and his Ph.D., UC-Berkeley, 1972. For more than 30 years, he taught at UT-San Antonio and UT-Austin, and was director of the UTSA Center for Archaeological Research and the UT-Austin Texas Archeological Research Laboratory. He has done extensive fieldwork and publication in Texas; Belize, Spanish Colonial studies in Mexico and Texas, and has worked in Egypt,

California, and Montana. Nearly 700 publications have resulted. He received the SAA's Award for Excellence in Lithic Studies, and Lifetime Achievement Awards from both the Southern Texas Archaeological Association and the Texas Archeological Society.

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1:55 PM – 2:15 PM MOISES VALADEZ MORENO

“On the Other Side of the Rio Grande: the Few Binational Studies on Nuevo Leon, Mexico.”

Unlike other areas such as Chihuahua, Sonora or Baja California, the northeastern region of Mexico has been characterized by the scarcity and little interest from U.S. researchers for the development of archaeological studies. This situation is explained by the lack of communication and binational agreements that facilitate the participation of fellow Texans in the INAH projects, as well as the access of Mexican archaeologists to projects being developed in Texas.

This presentation will review the archaeological survey and excavation projects that have been undertaken during the past 25 years in Nuevo Leon, showing the type of sites and material remains characteristic of this region. The talk will conclude with a discussion of possible agreements and binational projects that could be performed on both sides of the Rio Grande.



Dr. Moises Valadez Moreno is the Profesor Investigador del Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia en Nuevo León (INAH Nuevo León).

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2:20 PM - 2:40 PM VICTORIA L. MUNOZ

“¿Dónde está la frontera?”

Shumla Archaeological Research and Education Center is working with Mexican historians, archaeologists and iconographers to design a set of procedures and techniques suitable for the documentation, classification, analysis, and interpretation of rock art on both sides of the border. This multi-year collaborative project is funded by Mexico’s National Council of Science and Technology, as well as grants received by Shumla. It engages over 20 individuals from both countries, including accomplished researchers and students. Through this partnership, we hope to bridge the gap not only

between Mexico and Texas, but also between comparable data sets from our two countries to better understand the hunter-gatherers of this vast region. It's clear that the Rio Grande did not serve as an impenetrable boundary in prehistory and we are limiting ourselves by formulating hypotheses with only a fraction of the data. Shumla will be providing on-site technical training on rock art documentation both in Mexico and in the Lower Pecos. Our Mexican colleagues will be disseminating project results through a permanent seminar, an annual conference, and specialized publications.

Victoria (Vicky) L. Muñoz graduated in 2013 from Texas State University with a B.S. in Anthropology and a minor in Biology. She has worked for Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center since her graduation, first as an intern and now as a Staff Archaeologist. Vicky serves as Lab Manager, in charge of the day-to-day lab activities. She is also the Database Administrator managing the terabytes of data that Shumla collects and organizing Shumla's ever-growing rock art database. This includes maintenance and IT management of all interfaces used in the lab and field. Vicky's interests in archaeology include the use of digital technologies in the field, GIS, hunter-gatherers, and basketry and weaving technology, to name a few. She is thrilled to live in the "metropolis" of Comstock, Texas and have the opportunity to work with Shumla on the cutting-edge of high-tech rock art research.



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2:45 PM – 3:05 PM WILLIAM BREEN MURRAY

"Connections: Rock Art Across the River of Two Names"

The river with two names (the Rio Grande/Río Bravo) is a formidable north/south political barrier today but in prehistory it seems to have been a significant east-west connection between the continental interior and the Northeast Mexican corridor of the Sierra Madre Oriental and adjoining Gulf Coastal Plain. This paper will explore connections between Texas rock art sites and that found in the Mexican states of Coahuila and Nuevo León, indicating shared motifs and similarities in site contexts.



Dr. William Breen Murray is Professor Emeritus, Department of Social Sciences, University of Monterrey. Born in Chicago, Illinois (USA). B.A., Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota (1962); Master's degree (1973) and Ph.d. (1982), Department of Anthropology, McGill University, Montreal, PQ, Canada. Latin American Teaching Fellow, Universidad de Monterrey (1973-1975), Professor of Plant (1976-2006), Department Head of Social Sciences (1978-1992). Rock art Northeastern researcher since 1977 with over 40 articles on the topic published in Mexico, United States, England, Germany, France, Poland, Bulgaria, Chile, Bolivia and China. Compiler of Rock Art of the Northeast (2007), co-editor in Rock Art and Sacred Landscapes (2013); Member of the Board, American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) (2004-2008); Editor in painting (official organ of ARARA) since 2005.

3:10 PM – 3:30 PM MARY JO GALINDO

“Con un pie en cada lado: Nuevo Santander Ranching Communities”

Before the Río Grande valley became a contested border between the United States and Mexico, and between predominantly Latino and Anglo- American societies, it was the northern frontier of Spanish Nuevo Santander and a border between Spanish Mexico and indigenous societies to the north. Between 1748 and 1755, the civilian colonists of Nuevo Santander established 23 communities, including 6 along the banks of the Río Grande. The pobladores, or colonists, and their descendants had to adapt constantly to the changing



political, economic, and social environment, as people in borderlands always do. These pobladores received porciones, or land grants, on both banks of the river, and they and their descendants literally lived con un pie en cada lado, with a foot on each side of the Río Grande. Thus, these ranches were among the first of their kind in present-day Texas, representing a unique form of civilian colonization based on the relocation of entire families, and without major emphasis on missions or presidios. Descendants of these colonists in the Lower Rio Grande Valley still maintain connections to the land and artifacts from their ranches have been used in recent years to teach school-age children about the local history.

Dr. Mary Jo Galindo is a senior principal investigator and project manager in Atkins' Austin office with extensive knowledge of the important historic and archaeological resources of Texas and the border region of southern Texas and northeastern Mexico. She has more than 18 years of experience conducting archaeological surveys, testing, data recovery, and traditional cultural property projects to assure compliance with local, state, and federal laws. She has worked throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mexico, and Belize. Before joining Atkins, Dr. Galindo served as a regional archaeologist for the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. She is currently

President of the Texas Archeological Society and Chair of the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission.

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3:35 PM – 3:55 PM MARTIN SALINAS RIVERA

“Archival Resources for Ethnohistorical Studies of northeastern Mexico and Texas”

The ethnohistorical knowledge of the Native American populations in the geographic area that now includes the states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila and Texas comes from disseminated archives in the Americas and Europe. Part of their existence lingers from episodes of exploration and colonization of this vast territory that was slowly occupied by the European and novohispanic sociopolitical structure, since the first half of the sixteenth century. Knowledge of the Native Americans in the Coastal Plain and neighboring areas was sporadically recorded. The archival resources are essential to rebuilding their historical presence, adaptations, and cultural changes during colonization, as well as their social decline. This work presents the available archival resources that might be of interest to communities and academics from a variety of disciplines such as cultural anthropology, history, Native American studies, archaeology, ecology, linguistics, and other related disciplines.



Dr. Martin Salinas Rivera is the official historian for the city of Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico, and author of *Indians of the Rio Grande Delta: Their Role in the History of Southern Texas and Northeastern Mexico*, a seminal work based on innumerable primary documents in various Texan and Mexican archives. Dr. Salinas has compiled data on more than six dozen named groups that inhabited the area in the sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries. Depending on available information, he reconstructs something of their history, geographical range and migrations, demography, language, and culture. He also offers general information on various unnamed groups of Indians, on the lifeways of the indigenous peoples, and on the relations between the Indian groups and the colonial Spanish missions in the region.

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<http://www.reynosa.gob.mx/archivo-municipal/index.html>

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM **PANEL DISCUSSION**

An outstanding panel of researchers working along both sides of the Rio Bravo/Rio Grande will assemble to explore the challenges and prospects of archeological research along our 1,254 mile international border.

CO-MODERATORS: Dr. Todd M. Ahlman
Sr. Gustavo Ramirez Castilla

PANELISTS: Dr. Thomas R. Hester
Dr. Moises Valadez Moreno
Victoria L. Munoz
Dr. William Breen Murray
Dr. Mary Jo Galindo
Dr. Martin Salinas Rivera

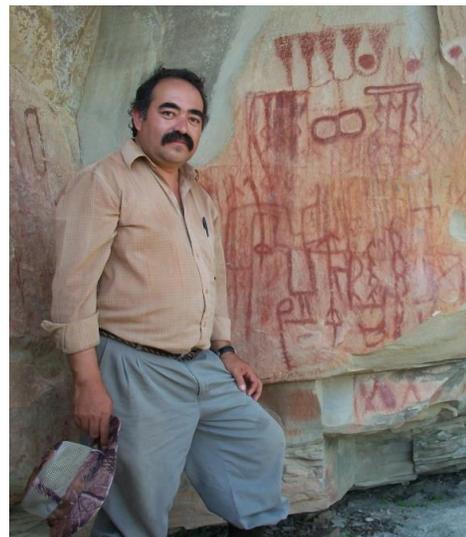
SPECIAL PANELIST: Dr. Jean Clottes

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM **PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION**

After the panel discussion, the panelists will join the "President's Reception" in the hotel lobby where our guest discussants and co-moderator from Mexico will be honored. They will be available to take your questions and continue the discussion.

PANEL DISCUSSION CO-MODERATORS

Gustavo A. Ramirez Castilla (M.A. Restoration of Monuments (ENCRyM), Anthropologist with a Major in Archaeology (University of Veracruz), is a researcher with the National Institute of Anthropology and History of Mexico (INAH) at the State of Tamaulipas. In 2009, he founded the Mexican Network of Archaeology or RMA (<http://remarq.ning.com/>), an organization devoted to the free exchange of information between professional archaeologists and related disciplines with over 4000 worldwide members. For over 27 seven years, Gustavo has worked in salvage



archaeology in Mexico on restoration projects in Mitla, Chichen Itza, Las Flores and Tammapul. Mr. Ramirez has conducted research regarding technology, site typology, rock art and mummies of the hunter-gatherer peoples of northeastern Mexico. He has also specialized on the Huastec Culture, conducting many surveys and excavations in that region. Over the last nine years he has directed the excavation of Chak Pet, a Pre-classic Huastecan Coastal Village in Altamira, circa 900 B.C – 200 A.D. In 2003, he led the team who created the Museum of Huastec Culture at Tampico city (<http://www.inah.gob.mx/boletines/264-red-de-museos/5830-museo-de-la-cultura-huasteca>). Mr. Ramirez has written many popular articles and books about archaeology of Tamaulipas, including Conservation and Cultural Policies (<http://gustavoramirez.blogspot.mx/p/trayectoria.html>) and is member of the scientific board of the International Colloquium on Northeastern Mexico and Texas and the International Meeting on Rock Art at Tamaulipas.

Dr. Todd M. Ahlman (Ph.D. University of Tennessee) is the Director of the Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) at Texas State University. He is an anthropological archaeologist who has over 25 years of experience working on projects across the United States and Caribbean. His experience includes projects in Texas as well as the Northwestern, Plains, Midwestern and Southeastern United States that involve historic and prehistoric archaeological survey, evaluation, and data recovery, and laboratory analyses of prehistoric and historical artifacts. As CAS Director he manages compliance-related and research projects and involves students and recent graduates on these projects to prepare them for successful careers in the public and private sectors. Dr. Ahlman is currently leading a multi-year study archaeological study of the Spring Lake Site in Hays County, Texas that is examining the intact Middle Archaic Calf Creek occupation with future plans to investigate the Paleoindian and Early Archaic occupations.

