



Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's "Third Thursday Food for Thought" Series

Scientific Evidence for Tonto Basin Salado Polychrome Pottery Production and Exchange

Free Zoom Presentation
by Mary F. Ownby, PhD



Felsic Volcanic Grains

Plagioclase

Pyroxene

Mafic Volcanic Grain

0

1 mm

Photos courtesy of Mary Ownby:
Cliff Polychrome bowl (a Salado Polychrome type) and
thin section petrographic image in cross-polarized light

Thursday October 19, 2023

🌀 7 to 8:30 pm Arizona/Mountain Standard Time 🌀

(Same as Pacific Daylight Time)

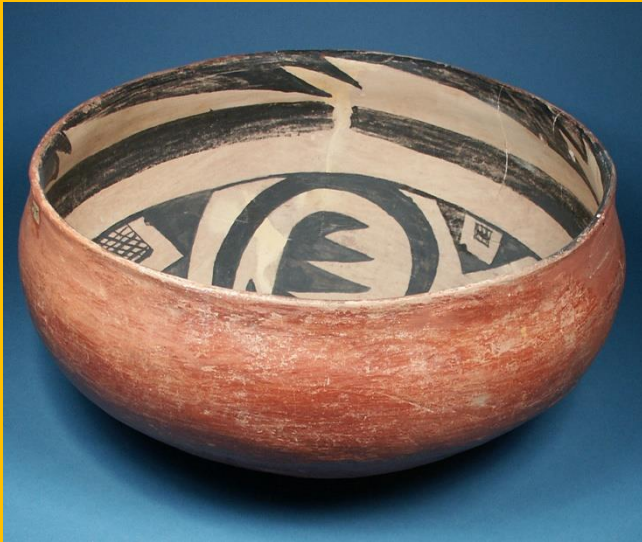
See next page.

To register for the Zoom program go to

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i3aLfJ0wTr2i-89axO3QCQ

For more information contact Old Pueblo at 520-798-1201 or info@oldpueblo.org.

Scientific Evidence for Tonto Basin Salado Polychrome Pottery Production and Exchange . . .



The study of Salado Polychrome pottery (AKA Roosevelt Red Ware) has become an important subject in southwestern archaeological research. Salado Polychrome's significance in reflecting fourteenth century Arizona population dynamics cannot be underestimated. The ware was clearly significant in the assimilation and adaptation of Ancestral Pueblo migrant groups into local populations in southern Arizona and New Mexico.

Arizona's Tonto Basin is an important area for understanding these social processes. Petrographic and chemical (neutron activation) analyses of both decorated and utility ware vessels from six Tonto Basin archaeological sites illustrate the complexity of Salado Polychrome production and consumption.

The results show there were multiple production locations – though one is clearly dominant – and significant exchange among sites. Such a pattern is reflective of the larger view of Salado Polychrome manufacture and distribution, where there was production at a number of sites and exchange among and between valleys.

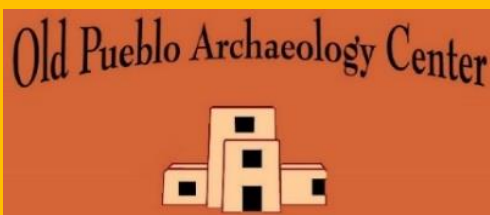
Of particular interest is the use of raw materials in Tonto Basin Salado pottery that are atypical of the Hohokam ceramic tradition that preceded the Puebloan migration into the basin. This may indicate the Salado ware was made by migrant potters. This is also a pattern noted for other areas of southern Arizona. Thus, Salado Polychrome pottery studies continue to clarify how migrant groups settled into their new homes and utilized pottery as a form of cultural connection amongst themselves and their local friends.

This month's Third Thursday presenter **Mary F. Ownby** utilizes petrographic and instrumental analysis of pottery (and other material types) to examine interregional contacts, identity dynamics, technological choice, and ceramic ecology. Her studies have been conducted throughout the U.S. Southwest and many other areas of the world.

Dr. Ownby has been an Associate Researcher at the University of Arizona and was the Research Petrographer at Desert Archaeology, Inc., from 2010 to 2023. She currently runs her own archaeological analytical services company, Ownby Analytical, LLC.



Dr. Ownby received her PhD in Archaeology from the University of Cambridge (U.K.) in 2010 with a research focus on scientific analysis of ceramics. She completed an MSc in Technology and Analysis of Archaeological Materials from University College London and a MA in Near Eastern Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. She has a BA in Anthropology from the University of Arizona.



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