

ALL POINTS BULLETIN



Make friends with... ..the past, through the....

Colorado Archaeological Society - Denver Chapter

"...in the future, as in the past, the gathering of information will depend to a great extent on cooperation between avocational and professional archaeologists." (H.M. Wormington, 1978)

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Baubles among the Booze By Cashel McGloin



Saloons were dark and disgusting, filled with the smell of stale beer and fetid body odor; where men surrendered to their baser instincts while their desperate families waited at home. This is the view popularized by prohibitionists; it is not necessarily the whole picture. Undoubtedly there were such dens of vice, but archaeological excavations of the Corner Saloon in Lake City, Colorado, reveal a place with decorations that would have created a warm, homey atmosphere as well. Lake City is the county seat of Hinsdale County in the San Juan Mountains. The archaeological investigation of the Corner Saloon took place in the summer of 1977. The artifact collection was later sent to Colorado State University for analysis.

Lake City first rose to prominence in the 1870s as a mining town for silver and throughout the following decades alternated between booms and busts--mostly busts. Because of this, Lake City never developed into a mature city like most mining cities of the region and never diversified out of mining. The town is most famous for hosting the trial of Alfred "Alferd" Packer, the Colorado cannibal, which briefly shined the national spotlight on the little town. The Corner Saloon was a bank converted into a drinking establishment that burnt to the ground in 1912. The assemblage of the Corner Saloon was quite large and my subset was fine pieces of glass and ceramic. These pieces were far more than utilitarian, although many did have some practical function. Included within this subset are punch bowls and punch cups, teapots and tea cups, and a high quality vase.

The punch bowl and punch cups are largely complete and represent one large bowl and at least eight punch cups of two different styles. They were likely still out from Christmas at the time the saloon burned. They were almost certainly laid out for Tom & Jerry's, a popular family drink for the holidays. A Tom and Jerry is an alcoholic eggnog that became extremely popular during the 1820s and remained so into the 20th century.

The punch bowl itself is a large ironware piece with a chinoiserie transferware pattern in many colors. It does not match any of the punch cups in design or material. There is a maker's mark on the bottom that says "Ridgway" with the numbers 10, 5,8,8, and the word "Ming" with a floral branch and birds. The only major company named

Ridgway at the time was a high end ceramic maker in Stokes-on-the-Trent, England. The pattern on the bowl is not as delicate as Ridgway wares. There is no country name on the bottom as required on imported pottery after 1890, so it is almost certainly American made. More likely, given its slightly cruder design, the bowl was produced in Ridgway, Colorado, which was in neighboring Ouray County.



One set of punch cups are porcelain with grapes and have "remember me" painted in gold. The bottoms have a maker's mark of a castle and the words "Leuchtenburg Germany". The company that made these, Lehmann & Sohn, only used this pattern from 1885-1895 when they were ceramic painters, not fabricators. The date of creation can be further narrowed to likely after 1890 when the McKinley Tariff Act passed, which required the country of origin to be printed on ceramics.



The other set of cups are of a slightly harder design, but still fairly delicate. They are also porcelain, but thicker with a more robust build. They are fairly simple compared to the other type, and have stripes and the words "Tom & Jerry" written in gothic letters, all of it gilt. The maker's mark is too faded to be distinguishable, but in the fall 1895 Sears & Roebuck catalog, similar cups with a matching punch bowl were available for \$5. This style remained popular for a very long time, from the 1830s until the present, so it is possible that the cups were either produced much earlier or later than this date.

The collection also includes two partial teapots and three tea cups. Only the spout remains from the first teapot, which indicates the pot would likely have been fairly small; it was painted brown and then entirely gilded. The second is white porcelain with delicate roses transfer-printed on the side. The first tea cup is white porcelain and handpainted, with a teal color and a sandy texture. Despite the roughness of the painting, the cup is thin and delicate with a very small handle. The second cup is also a thin porcelain with blue spots and pink and yellow flowers, all transfer printed. The third cup is white porcelain with a large pink stripe and delicate gilt design.





In addition to fine ceramics, there were also the remains of a very elegant glass vase. The vase would have been quite tall, at least 200cm. It is spangle glass, made in the Vasa Murrhina style. The interior layer is a medium blue covered in a thin layer of white, red and pink glass pieces with mica and a clear glass top layer. This method was used by only a few glass companies of the period, mainly in the United States and Britain. The vase has no mark to identify who created it, but it was likely made by Sowerby Glass of England. It is unusual to have a colored interior in Vasa Murrhina and Sowerby's appear to be the only company who consistently used a blue interior. In fact, the interior blue appears to be "blue nugget", one of the most popular colors patented by Sowerby's. Blue nugget was created in 1883, so the vase must date from after this time.

For men with little or nothing to call their own within their residences, these little touches made the saloon something greater and, through their participation in it, made them something greater as well. Overall, the saloon was a place of amity for those who entered its doors. To create this ambiance, décor that reflected warmth and wealth became important. In the case of the Corner Saloon, this manifested as beautiful drinking accoutrements and ornamental trifles used to enhance the drinking experience. From German toasting cups to English vases, the excavations of the Corner Saloon in Lake City reveal not all saloons were questionable establishments as painted by abolitionists.

Sources:

Hajdamach, Charles. 1993 British Glass 1800-1914. Antique Collectors Club Dist A/C, London.

Lake City Times (LCT) [Lake City, Colorado]. 1912 article summarizing the Corner saloon fire. January 2. Lake City, Colorado.

Powers, Madelon. 1998 Faces along the bar: lore and order in the workingman's saloon, 1870-1920. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

April General Meeting: Monday, April 13th at DMNS in Ricketson Auditorium at 7 PM. Enter through the Security entrance. The West entrance is closed.

Speaker: Benjamin Perlmutter

Title: The Kinney Spring Site (5LR144) and the Late Prehistoric Stage in Northern Colorado

Abstract: The Kinney Spring Site was excavated by Colorado State University in the 1980's but results were never written up or published. The site contains Middle Archaic through Middle Ceramic occupations. The most intensive use of the site occurred during the Early Ceramic period. Ben will discuss the Early Ceramic component at the site, which features an unusual style of architectural feature. Ben will also discuss the site in the context of the Early Ceramic period in northern Colorado, and how the site fits in with the many changes we see during this time.

Bio: Ben got a taste for Colorado archaeology during a field school in South Park nearly 10 years ago. Since then he has worked on a mix of historic and prehistoric sites, both on the east coast and in Colorado. Ben is finishing up his Master's degree and thesis research at Colorado State University. Ben's research focuses on hunter-gatherer archaeology of the High Plains and Rocky Mountains in general, and on the Kinney Spring Site and the Early Ceramic period specifically. Concurrently, Ben works as a project archaeologist for Centennial Archaeology in Fort Collins.

LECTURE

Past and Present in the Western Andean Foothills: From Pre-Inka to Modern Community Archaeology in Perú

Dr. Jonathan Kent, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Sunday, April 19, 2015, 2:00 PM, Room 453, Sturm Hall, University of Denver, 2000 East Asbury, Denver, CO.

Meeting of the Denver Chapter, Archaeological Institute of America. AIA lectures are free and open to the public.

(Visitor parking west across S. Race Street, \$0.75 per half hour.)

The state societies that developed along the Pacific coast and western Andean foothills were made up of extremely powerful elites deriving their authority from sound economic political economies and the support of even more powerful gods. When power shifts occurred among these local societies, an opportunity was created for a new and possibly even more powerful society to begin to dominate the local groups: the Inka. The means by which the Inkas came to control local economies and politics is the focus of a ten-year archaeological project in portions of the urban site of Huaycán de Pariachi. The results of our field work at the site are described, and subsequent plans for the next few seasons are discussed. Moreover, because archaeological investigations do not take place in a vacuum, we will also describe how local politics and social interactions are invested in our archaeological work in various ways, and how this involvement is helping to shape the research and make it relevant to members of the modern urban community.

About Dr. Kent: Dr. Jonathan Kent is Professor of Anthropology at Metropolitan State College of Denver, where he has taught since 1986. He has archaeological field projects in Colorado and Peru and directed a new Peru field school in the summer of 2014. He curates the MSCD Seed Collection, the Comparative Osteology Collection, and the Ashton Ethnographic Collection. He is the Founder and Co-Director of the Laboratory of Anthropology. He was the Founder and first faculty advisor of the student anthropology club, ALPACA. He is a three-time awardee of Fulbright-Hays Fellowships. He has been named Outstanding Faculty Researcher by Golden Key Honor Society, has been named as the President's Outstanding Teacher, and has won the college's Distinguished Service Award. He teaches courses in Archaeology, World Prehistory, Human-Animal Relationships, Ancient American Civilizations and South American Archaeology.

DC/CAS

February, 2015 Financial Report

Prepared by Preston Niesen, Treasurer

Assets

	January	February
Key Bank checking	\$ 3,260.93	\$ 5,118.97
TD 182 day to 07/03/14 @0.15%	\$ 5,689.52	\$ 5,689.52
TD 182 day to 10/23/13 @0.15%	\$ 4,804.57	\$ 4,804.57
TD 1 year to 5/14/14 @ 0.15%	\$ 4,990.09	\$ 4,991.03
Total checking/savings	\$ 18,745.11	\$20,604.09

Liabilities & Equity

Current Liabilities	January	February
AH Scholarship Fund payable		\$ 220.00
State CAS Dues payable		
Funds		
Scientific Applications	\$ 4,861.81	\$ 4,959.81
Swallow Report Project	\$ 262.81	\$ 2,646.81
D Bucknam Memorial Speaker Fund	\$ 1,747.10	\$ 1,747.10
Blackfoot Cave	\$ -	\$ 70.00
Library	\$ 302.45	\$ 302.45
Education	\$ 182.00	\$ 182.00
Field Trips/Social	\$ 483.01	\$ 483.01
Student Membership	\$ 47.50	\$ 47.50
Speakers Meal Fund	\$ 768.62	\$ 768.62
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Total Liabilities & Funds	\$ 8,655.30	\$ 11,427.30
General Fund	\$ 10,089.81	\$ 9,176.79
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Total L E F's	\$ 18,745.11	\$ 20,604.09

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