
Anthuro News

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

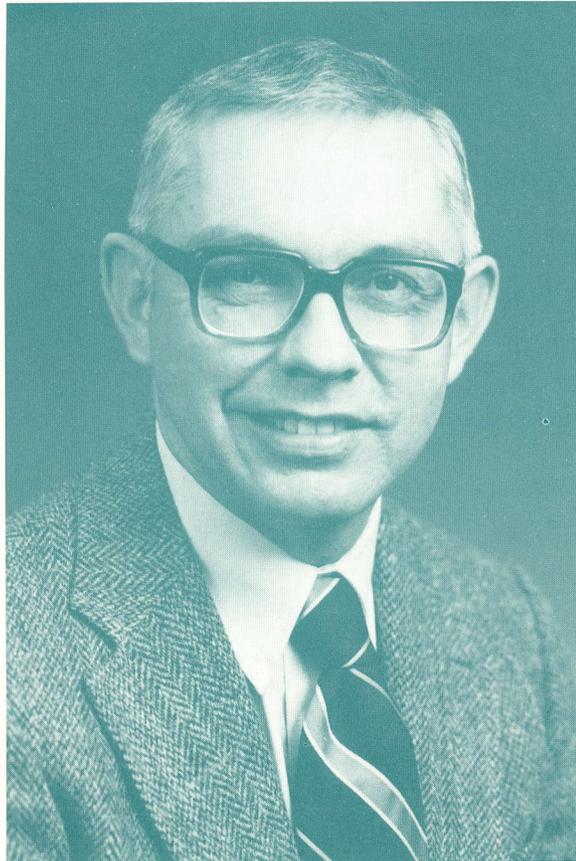
SPRING 1989

Wyckoff Directs Archaeology Research In Oklahoma

By 1973 **Don Wyckoff** appeared to have everything going his way. He had an M.S. in anthropology from the University of Oklahoma and had been trained by **Prof. Robert E. Bell**, the noted archaeologist of Caddoan and Southern Plains prehistory. In addition, Don had 11 years' experience directing archaeological research, numerous publications on his vita, and five years of service as Oklahoma's first state archaeologist.

Yet, despite his experience, status, and steady employment, Don had become unsatisfied with his ability to do archaeology. Impressed with the lithic technology and paleoenvironmental research being done at Washington State University, he and his family sold their home, packed their belongings, and moved 1,600 miles to Pullman in August 1973. "We didn't know what to expect," Don said. "The closest we had ever been to WSU was a vacation trip to Glacier National Park. Thanks to the hospitality of the Frank Leonhardy family, we located an apartment close to the schools our daughters would attend, and we got settled in."

After being out of school for 10 years and his own boss for five, the transition to being a student again was



Don Wyckoff

a little rough for Don; but he found his first courses—in palynology, soils, cultural ecology, and current anthropological literature—interesting and challenging.

Although Don intended just to take some interesting courses for a year or two, discussion with **Professors Leonhardy** and **Mehring** led to his decision to obtain a Ph.D. He focused on the Quaternary studies program and especially enjoyed the classes he had with **Peter Mehring**, **Carl Gustafson**, **Henry Smith**, and **Jim Goss**. He took his prelims in the spring of 1975 but did not finish his dissertation—"Caddoan Adaptive Strategies in the Arkansas Basin of Eastern Oklahoma"—until the spring of 1980. He defended his dissertation just five days before the St. Helen's eruption,

which he perceived as "a neat culmination to finishing his degree".

In June 1975 Don and his family returned to Norman, Oklahoma, where he resumed the position of state archaeologist. In 1981 the position was split, and Don became director of the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey, the state agency for archaeological research, resource management, and public education.

Although principally an administrator, Don contin-

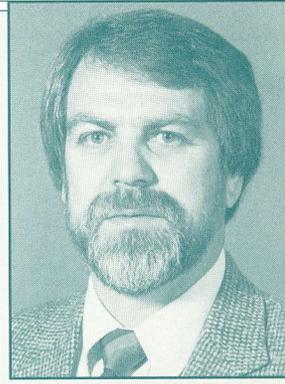
ues to be involved in basic research and public education. He is particularly proud to have helped get the Spiro mounds site opened as Oklahoma's first archaeological park and to have worked with the Caddo tribe and the Archaeological Conservancy to safeguard a beautifully preserved Caddoan ceremonial center in southeastern Oklahoma. He is also proud of the strong working relationship between the Archaeological Survey and the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, which was first organized by Prof. Bell in the early 1950s.

In 1985, after devoting most of his 23 years of research to studying Caddoan prehistory, Don decided to spend his remaining research career on questions about Paleoindians and their transition into Early Archaic foragers. This has resulted in renewed studies of the 9,800-year-old Packard site in northeastern Oklahoma, as well as large collections of Paleoindian artifacts found in different localities of eastern Oklahoma. This work has raised questions about the nature of Oklahoma during the late Pleistocene, when the first people came here. These questions stimulated paleoenvironmental research at the Hajny mammoth site and the Burnham site in northwestern Oklahoma.

Findings at the Burnham sites have been especially surprising. Initially thought to be simply a paleontological site of 20,000 to 30,000 years ago, the Burnham site yielded clues to the presence of humans and an initial radiocarbon date of 31,000 years ago. If the age and human associations can be substantiated, Burnham will comprise the best evidence we have north of Mexico of people being in North America before the maximum of Wisconsin glaciation.



Bison alleni skull being uncovered in October 1986. Flakes from resharpening biface and uniface tools were recovered in sediments around the skull. Aquatic snails from these sediments dated 31,000 years ago.



From the Chairman's Desk

*The past year has been exciting and productive for the Department of Anthropology. Our research efforts took our faculty and students from the Richey-Roberts Clovis Cache in Wenatchee, Washington, from which we have seen evidence of some of the first inhabitants in the region, to projects in the Southwest that are providing additional information about the Anasazi, to federal prison with **Mark Fleisher's** research on what things are really like there, and finally, to Nepal with **Linda Stone**, to see how people there view illness. **Robert Ackerman** and **Peter Mehringer** were invited to participate in a conference on paleolithic and neolithic sites held in Xian, China, and **Fekri Hassan** agreed to take a two-year post with the Egyptian Division of Antiquities.*

*A large number of our students and faculty presented papers at this year's American Anthropological Association meetings in Phoenix. A standing-room-only symposium was organized by **Grover Krantz** on hominid changes 40,000 years ago; a symposium on gender status in native North America was organized by **Lillian Ackerman**; and a symposium on the anthropology of deviance was organized by **Mark Fleisher**. In addition, several faculty published new books this year.*

Our recent efforts at overhauling the anthropology curriculum seem to have had a positive effect. For the past six semesters course enrollments have increased by an average of more than 20 percent. In fact, nearly twice as many students are enrolling in anthropology classes now than even two years ago. As a result, our classes are filled, and we are busy keeping up with crowded teaching schedules.

Thanks to the generosity of many of you, the Richard Daugherty Scholarship fund has grown to the point where we can make an award next year. I would like to see the fund continue to grow, and I hope many of you will contribute to this scholarship effort.

*The Museum of Anthropology is another area that needs assistance. As you can see from **Alice Gronski's** report, the museum is active and growing; but since there is no budget line for the museum, donations provide a major source of funding. Speaking of donations, we are in the final stages of selling some property contributed to the department. Proceeds from the sale will be used for archaeological research.*

Over the past year many of you have written and told us what is happening in your lives. It's great to hear from you, and we've taken the liberty of passing along some information about a few of you in this newsletter. In future issues I would like to see this section expanded. So please write. We're interested!

Geoffrey L. Gamble

Alumni News

D. Roger Nance (M.A. '66) published an article in *American Anthropology*, vol. 7, no. 2, entitled "Coosa and the Upper Creeks: A Case for Ecological Continuity."

Barbara A. Purdy (M.A. '67) published an article in *American Anthropologist*, September 1988, vol. 90, no. 3, entitled, "American Indians after AD 1492: A Case Study of Forced Culture Change."

William Bailey (M.A. '72) is human resources manager for the Southland Corporation in Austin, Texas.

Patrick McCoy (Ph.D. '73) is a self-employed archaeologist in Hawaii.

Ricky Hoff (B.A. '74) is an archaeologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Anchorage, Alaska.

J. Loring Haskell (Ph.D. '75) recently published a book with the Navajo Community College Press entitled, *Southern Athapaskan Migration, AD 200-1750*.

Douglas Reger (Ph.D. '81) is living in Anchorage, Alaska, where he is an archaeologist for the Office of History and Archaeology, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

Ricky Lightfoot (M.A. '83), current Ph.D. student, received a grant of \$7,200 from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research to help support his dissertation research in southwestern archaeology.

David G. Miller (M.A. '84) is a computer program analyst for the Nevada Department of Transportation, Carson City, Nevada.

Fran-Michelle Reichert (B.A. '85) will receive her law degree from the University of Puget Sound in May. She will begin work as a legal intern for the Seattle-King County public defender this summer.

Scott Urstad (B.A. '87) has returned to WSU for graduate work after spending a year at the Sichuan Foreign Languages Institute in Chongqing, Sichuan Province, Peoples Republic of China, where he taught English composition and conversation.

Karen Dohm (Ph.D. '88) holds a post-doctoral research fellowship in the Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Eric Blinman (Ph.D. '88) is a research archaeologist at the Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe.

Help Us Celebrate 100 Years of Excellence at WSU!

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY CENTENNIAL • MARCH 28, 1989 - MAY 12, 1990



Our WSU Call-A-Coug phonathon has been very successful this year, but we weren't able to reach everyone. If we didn't get in touch with you, please get in touch with us. Use the attached envelope to give us an update on the significant events in your life.

Consider including a gift . . .

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Dealing with Demons

Villagers in Nepal share their world with ghosts, demons, and witches, but it doesn't seem to bother them much.

When ghosts pester them by bringing on illnesses, the Nepalese consult a local exorcist or shaman as routinely as Westerners consult a doctor. Usually the ghost is simply hungry. A ceremonial plate of food may be all it takes to eliminate the problem.

Professor Linda Stone lived in a small village near Katmandu for two years to study Nepalese traditional medicine. Her recently published book, *Illness Beliefs and Feeding the Dead in Hindu Nepal*, describes the native beliefs about ghosts, demons, and witches. Over a period of seven years, Stone worked with several international development organizations, including the World Health Organization, on projects designed to introduce modern medicine to rural areas of Nepal.

Her most unexpected observation about life in Nepal was the matter-of-fact way people deal with the idea of ghosts and other spirits. Spirits are treated as commonplace nuisances, not as frightening apparitions. People who suffer sudden or violent deaths or who lived bad lives are likely to become troublesome ghosts. A deviation from prescribed funeral rituals might produce an unhappy ghost.

A Nepalese with an ailment goes to a *jhankri*, a practitioner in the art of dealing with spirits. The *jhankri* serves a long apprenticeship and is often as much psychiatrist as faith-healer. If the problem is spirit-caused, the *jhankri* may suggest that the patient's family prepare a plate of food and leave it at a crossroads near the village. The problem with an unsettled spirit is virtually always that it is hungry. Sometimes, especially when the spirit is not a mere ghost but a demon or witch, an exorcism is called for.

Stone observed one instance of possession by a demon. An elderly woman who had been ill for some time, coughing and vomiting, woke up one night screaming. As the family gathered around her bed, the woman seemed to be in a trance. A grandson spoke, not to the woman but to the spirit, demanding to know why the spirit was troubling the woman. In a strange rhythmic voice, the woman—who later insisted she remembered nothing of the incident—spoke for the spirit. It demanded to be fed; specifically, it wanted the sacrifice of a black goat. The family, with irritation rather than awe or fear, haggled over the demands and finally agreed to hold a ceremony to feed the demon.

The exorcism was neither somber nor eerie, as Stone expected it would be. The hired *jhankri* drew a large circle with flour on the front porch and filled it with magical designs drawn in colored rice flour. In the circle he placed knives, cups, mustard oil, burning candle wicks, magic weeds, and other items. This he followed with two hours of chanting and drumming on a tin plate. The *jhankri* announced periodically when a spirit entered his body.

During the ceremony the family joked and laughed. Stone did not interpret this behavior as lack of belief; rather, Stone sees it as indicative of the Nepalese view of spirits as everyday nuisances that must be tended to, but not necessarily feared.

Stone's plans for the future include studying ways to use shamans in modern medical programs in Asia.

Circum-Pacific Prehistory Conference Planned

In celebration of the centennial observances of both the state of Washington and WSU, the anthropology department is organizing an international conference on the cultural relationships throughout the Pacific basin.

The conference is drawing outstanding presenters from nations around the Pacific Rim. Typical is a symposium, "Routes to the New World" being organized by Robert Ackerman. It has 17 presenters committed from the Soviet Union, Japan, Mexico, Colombia, Canada, and the United States. Participants will present data on early sites in the Soviet far east, northeastern Siberia, Japan, and the Pacific coast region of the Americas from Alaska to Chile.

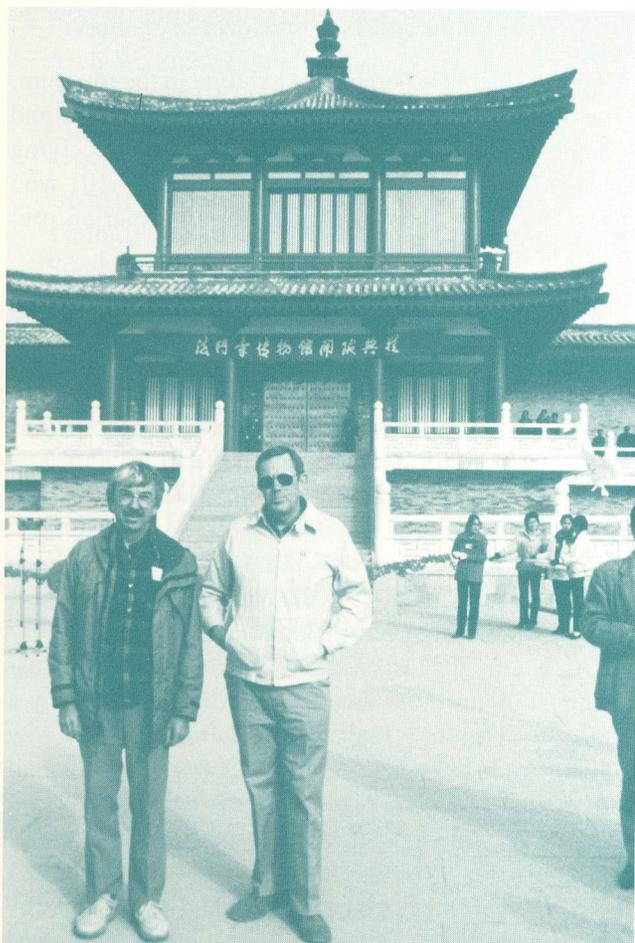
Among the topics to be discussed are human evolution in the Pacific region, occupation of Pacific continents and islands, development of complex maritime societies, rescue archaeology in Pacific development, historical linguistic evidence for Pacific heritage, indigenous people's perspective of Pacific heritage, mitochondrial DNA variation in Pacific populations, trans-Pacific contacts, and more.

Other WSU faculty and alumni organizing symposia for the conference are Grover Krantz, Dave Munsell, Astrida Blukis Onat '80, Dave Rice, Dick Ross, and Lawr Salo. Other WSU participants are Ken Ames, Michael G. Avey '70, James C. Chatters '71, Dale Croes, John Draper, Keith Dunker, Steven Hackenberger '84, Jim Haggarty, C.K. Ho, Bennie Keel '79, Ruth Ann Knudson '73, and Ken Reid.

The conference will be held August 2 through 6 at the Seattle Center in Seattle. Readers of *Anthro News* are invited to attend. For registration and program information, write Circum-Pacific Prehistory Conference, Professor Dale Croes, 1001 4th Avenue Plaza, Seattle, Washington 98154-1001, or call 206-464-6580.

Faculty Field Notes

Robert A. Ackerman and **Peter Mehringer** traveled to China as guests of the Shaanxi Archaeological Institute in Xian. Mehringer chaired a session and delivered two papers at meetings and lectured at the Archaeological Institutes of Shanxi (Taiyuan), Gansu (Lanshou), and Qinghai (Xining) provinces. Ackerman's paper, "The Late Paleolithic-Neolithic Microblade Industries of Northeastern Asia and Northwestern North America," will probably be published in the 30th anniversary volume of the Shaanxi Archaeology Institute—probably in Chinese!



Robert Ackerman (left) and Peter Mehringer at the dedication of the Famen Si Temple in China. The building in the background was recently constructed to house gifts to Buddha brought to the Shrine by devotees.

During the conference Mehringer and Ackerman visited the burial pit filled with terra-cotta warriors and horses associated with the tomb of emperor Qin Shi Huang (Qin dynasty, 221-206 BC); the museum at Ban Po, which covers part of a Neolithic-age village; the site

of Zhouyuan, where a horde of bronze vessels was recovered; the Hua Qing hot springs, where archeologists are excavating a Tang dynasty (AD 618-907) palace; and the opening of an exhibit of burial goods and sacred relics of Buddha (four bones) recovered from the burial crypt at Famen Si. The latter was attended by Buddhist priests and thousands of Chinese who came to observe from a distance the opening of this sacred reliquary. The opening was accompanied by cannons, firecrackers, drums, and chimes.

John H. Bodley attended the Fifth International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies, held in Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, and took the opportunity to visit important Aboriginal areas in the Kakadu Park and central Australia. The conference provided new material for a third edition of *Victims of Progress*, his book about human rights issues of indigenous peoples throughout the world. Bodley was recently appointed to the scientific advisory body of a West German action anthropology and ecology organization, INFOE (*Institut für Ökologie und angewandte Ethnologie*), and continues to serve as a member of WSU's World Civilization faculty committee, which is working to internationalize the undergraduate curriculum with a major new core course.

Mark Fleisher has added several new courses, including one for business majors, to his regular teaching load. His book on prison discipline and violence, *Warehousing Violence*, has been published by Sage Publications, Newbury Park, California. He has begun a new book, *Easy Time*, a study of white collar criminals serving sentences at the Federal Prison Camp at Lompoc. Fleisher is also proceeding with a study of minority street criminals for the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Geoff Gamble has been primarily occupied this year with his duties as chair of the anthropology department and with other administrative duties, including a review of the graduate programs in anthropology by the Graduate School. Gamble found brief opportunities to work on his linguistic research and read a paper, "Imperative and Demonstrative Pronouns in Yokuts," at this year's American Anthropological Association meetings. He presented a paper at the University of California, Berkeley, on the origin of a Yokuts myth and has been working on a collection of Yokuts texts for publication.

Timothy A. Kohler is involved in full-time research on the prehistory of Bandelier National Monument in north central New Mexico. In addition to finishing a

report on the pilot season in Bandelier in summer 1988, Kohler is preparing for a WSU field school there in summer 1989, to be supported in part by grants from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, the Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, the Skaggs Foundation, and the Friends of Bandelier. Recent articles in *American Antiquity* and *Journal of Anthropological Research* (the latter co-authored with alumnus **Eric Blinman '78**) report on his research with the Dolores Archaeological Program in Southwest Colorado.

Robert Littlewood, who is spending the year as acting director of the School of Music and Theatre Arts, has been sending out weak signals from time to time in the direction of the anthropology department. Our cryptographers have determined, to the best of their ability, that he is 1) enjoying free concerts and plays, 2) engaging in hit-and-run intellectual abuse of anthro students, and 3) intending to re-run his infamous "symbolism" seminar this spring. Some years ago he stumbled upon the French intellectual tradition and can be seen regularly at Rico's in tight Edwardian pants, a floppy black-bow tie, and a broad-brimmed boater hat, sipping period—waiting, we suspect, to be discovered.

Peter J. Mehringer led a volunteer team of WSU faculty, staff, and students, along with national and regional specialists, on a week-long test of an apparent cache of Clovis tools in an apple orchard near East Wenatchee, Washington. An account of the events of that week, and photographs of some of the artifacts, can be found in his articles in the October 1988 issue of *National Geographic* and in the winter 1989 issue of the WSU Graduate School magazine, *Universe*. Mehringer's summer research centered on the stratigraphy and chronology of dune sites in the Fort Rock and Catlow valleys of eastern Oregon, where he also taught a field class at the Malheur Field Station. Over the Christmas break he traveled to Mexico City, Oaxaca, Chiapas, and the Yucatan Peninsula to study and photograph archaeological sites.

Museum Happenings

Alice Gronski, curator of the Museum of Anthropology, recently received two new collections on long-term loan from the University of Idaho Department of Anthropology. The first is a splendid collection of carved wooden masks from UI alumnus **A. Harvey Schreter**.

The finely crafted masks were collected by Schreter in the 1950's from the west African countries of Mali, Liberia, and the Ivory Coast.

The second acquisition is an excellent collection of Arab household items and articles of clothing from countries throughout the Arab world, which were gathered for a large Arabian exhibit held in the early 1970's in Washington, D.C. At the close of the exhibit, the University of Idaho, along with two major museums, received portions of the collection as an unrestricted donation from the Middle East Exhibits and Training Corporation.

Both collections are being prepared for exhibit in the museum, which is located on the first floor of College Hall.

Two of the more permanent exhibits in the museum, "The Anatomical Record of Human Evolution" and "The Fossil Record of Human Evolution," are receiving a steady flow of students from Anthropology 101 who have class assignments utilizing the information presented in the exhibits.

Additional exhibits on display include the following: "Eskimo Cultural Ecology," showing how Eskimos adapted their lives to the cold, snow, ice, and low biotic productivity of arctic regions.

"Basketry of Western North America," demonstrating major basket-making techniques and uses of baskets, drawn from areas in Washington, California, and the American Southwest.

"Islam," focusing on one of the five major religions of the world and illustrating the contribution to science, art, and culture of several Islamic countries.

"Archaeological Excavation at Green Lizard," illustrating an archaeological project being excavated by a team of WSU archaeologists in affiliation with the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Colorado. The small 13th century Anasazi pueblo hamlet of Green Lizard will help provide insight into the vanished cultures of the Southwest.

"Women in Development: A Movement and a Goal," expressing the growing movement to increase the participation of women in the international development process. The exhibit focuses on women and their special problems in third world settings, especially in the areas of health, nutrition, family planning, education, politics, and business.

"The Calispell Archaeological Project," still in the planning stages, will highlight the potential significance of the prehistory of the Calispell Valley.

The Department of Anthropology Honor Roll of Donors

We are proud to report the names of the following individuals who contributed to the Department of Anthropology and the College of Sciences and Arts last year. Their generosity enables us to build programs of

distinction and provides direct support to our students and faculty. We extend our warmest thanks to our donors and we encourage others to join them.

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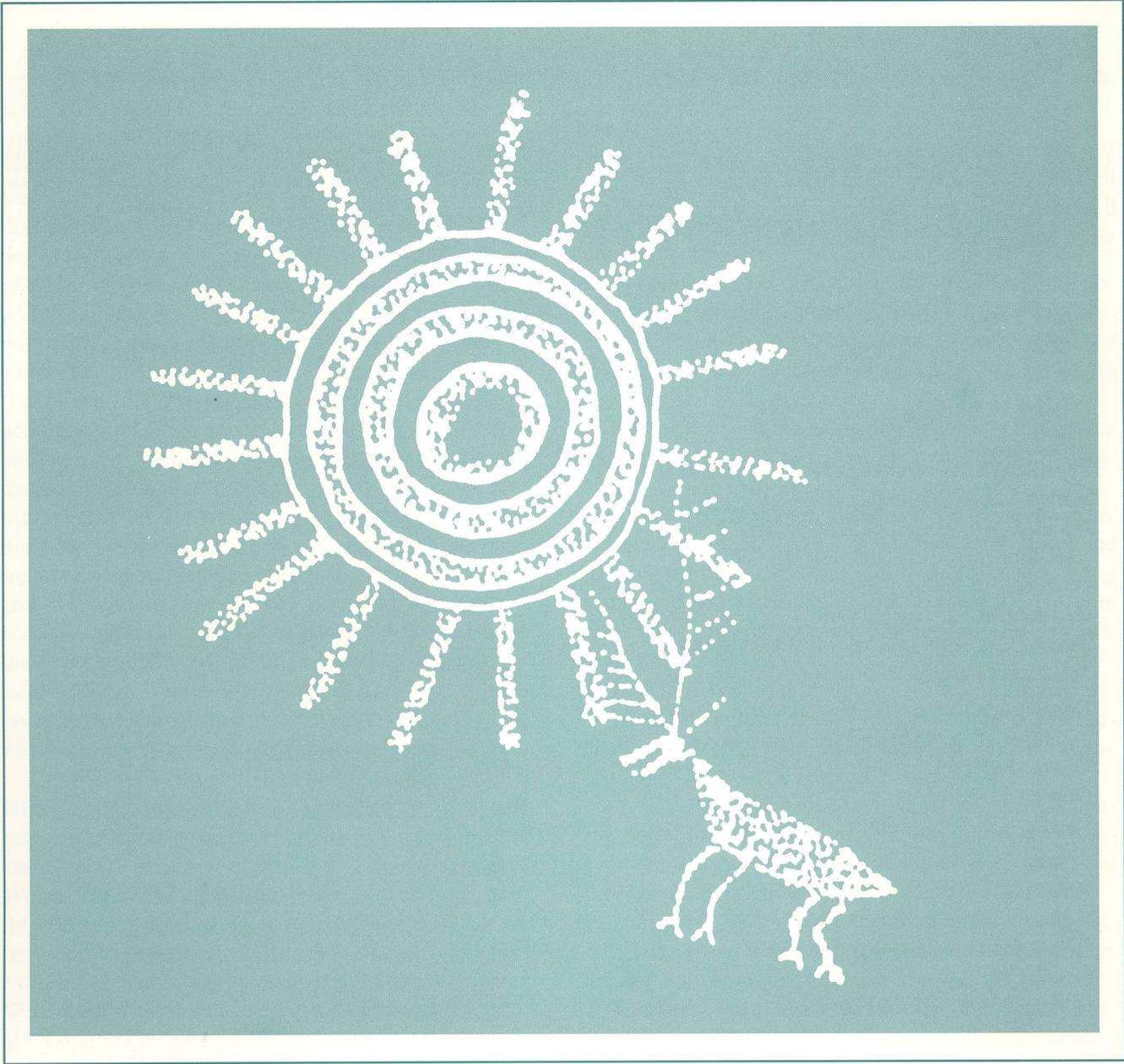
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