



PEABODY MUSEUM
of ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

Harvard University, 11 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138-2019

PRESS RELEASE

Remembering Awatovi

The Story of an Archaeological Expedition in Northern Arizona, 1935-1939

What: New Exhibition

Exhibit Dates: September 25, 2008 – March 30, 2009

Opening Reception: September 25, 2008
5-7 Exhibition Opening, Reception, and book signing
Free and Open to the Public

Where: Peabody Museum and Tozzer Library, Harvard University, 11 and 21 Divinity Ave. Cambridge.
Harvard Square T stop, #1 Bus, handicapped accessible. Information: 617-496-1027

(Cambridge, 17 September 2008) The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology and Tozzer Library, Harvard University present a new exhibition that goes behind the scenes of the last archaeological expedition of its kind in the American Southwest. The exhibition opens September 25, 2008 and will remain on view through March 30, 2009.

Part history of archaeology and part social history, the exhibit reveals what the archaeologists found in the ancient village of

Awatovi on the Hopi Reservation, with its beautiful kiva murals and Spanish mission church, and how the archaeologists lived in “New Awatovi,” the camp they built for themselves beside the dig. The written and photographic records of “New Awatovi” add a new dimension to the discoveries of the dig itself.



Excavations in the Western Mound, 1936.
Photo by J.O. Brew. PM 2004.1.123.1.9
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Awatovi's Significance

Awatovi is one of the first villages of the Hopi mesas in northeastern Arizona. Occupied early by a variety of puebloan peoples, the site was a Hopi village by the early 1500s. By the 1600s, Spanish missionaries had brought new religion, regulations, and tactics of coercion and control. The Hopi response was mixed, and even as they blended new ways with old, some maintained the old traditions in secrecy and at great personal risk. In the fall of 1700, some Hopi chose to burn Awatovi; in a way, this act symbolically killed the village so that its people might move forward in a new place.

Exploring the lives of the puebloan peoples from the sixth through eighteenth centuries was an irresistible opportunity to the scholars. Despite the troubles of the Great Depression, a Harvard-led group of archaeologists, photographers, geologists, cooks, surveyors, and pottery, stone, plant and faunal specialists, along with several local Hopi field crew, worked to learn more about the site. The team excavated 20 sites in addition to Awatovi, totaling about 1300 rooms and 25 ceremonial, subterranean rooms called kivas. There, the explorers found murals, potsherds, vessels, and artifacts of bone, stone, wood, and textiles dating from the earliest settlement to the Spanish missions.

“New Awatovi”



High spirits in the plaza at New Awatovi in 1939. Photo by Hattie Cosgrove. PM 2004.1.123.1.45. ©President and Fellows of Harvard College

By the start of the second season, while archaeologists were excavating and recording at Awatovi, a lively camp life centered on the beloved kitchen shack, along with wooden-floored tents which served as residences, an archaeology lab, mess hall and storeroom. Hundreds of schoolchildren, scholars, journalists and others learned about the site history and enjoyed camp

hospitality during the expedition's five-year run. The excavation bound the participants together with memories for a lifetime. Their most durable recollections were often of celebrations, such as visits to Hopi First and Second Mesas to share in dance ceremonies, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and *the* event of the

1939 season -- the marriage of the Peabody Museum's Jo Brew, expedition director, to Evelyn Nimmo, Museum secretary.

Inspired by the new book [Remembering Awatovi: The Story of an Archaeological Expedition in Northern Arizona, 1935-1939](#) by archaeologist Hester Davis, the exhibit brings camp society to life. As archaeologist Brian Fagan notes in the book's Forward, "Life in our camps is often lively, sometimes great fun, and sometimes, unfortunately, downright miserable. All the ingredients for human drama are there, but surprisingly, archaeologists rarely write about their field camps."

Related Publication

[Remembering Awatovi: The Story of an Archaeological Expedition in Northern Arizona, 1935-1939](#). To be published September 2008 by Peabody Museum Press. 240 pages with 165 black and white photographs.

To explore Awatovi further, visit the Peabody Museum's ***Storied Walls: Murals of the Americas*** exhibit, open through December 31, 2009.

About the Peabody Museum

The Peabody Museum's collection includes such diverse and exceptional treasures as Mayan gold, Sitting Bull's saddle and more than 30,000 spears from around the world. The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world with one of the finest collections of human cultural history found anywhere. The Museum holds superb materials from Africa, ancient Europe, North America, Mesoamerica, Oceania, and South America in particular. In addition to its archaeological and ethnographic holdings, the Museum's photographic archives, one of the largest of its kind, hold more than 500,000 historical photographs, dating from the mid-19th century to the present and chronicling anthropology, archaeology, and world culture.

Location: *The Peabody Museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge. Tozzer Library Gallery is next door at 21 Divinity Avenue. They are a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station.*

Tozzer Gallery Hours: are 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday, with some evening and weekend hours which vary with the academic schedule. Consult <http://hcl.harvard.edu/libraries/#tozzer> or call 617-496-1027.

Peabody Museum Hours: 9 AM to 5 PM, 7 days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission is \$9.00 for adults, \$7.00 for students

and seniors, \$6.00 for children, 3-18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The museum is free to Massachusetts residents Sundays, 9 AM to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 PM to 5 PM (September to May). Admission includes admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. For more information call (617)496-1027 or go online to: www.peabody.harvard.edu.

Media Contact: Faith Sutter, Communications Coordinator
Peabody Museum
11 Divinity Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138
Tel: (617)495-3397; Fax: (617)495-7535, sutter@fas.harvard.edu
Additional images available on request.