SOUTHWESTERN DATED RUINS. VII.

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A long established policy of the Bulletin has been the publication of tree-ring dates obtained from archaeological specimens. A special series of articles designed to present dates from Southwestern ruins was inaugurated in 1937, a series which was continued intermittently through 1951. Since that time, however, only one paper on dated Southwestern archaeological samples has appeared in these pages (Schulman 1952), although two summaries of dates have been published elsewhere. These are: a list of all Southwestern dates either checked or derived by the staff of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research (Smiley 1951) and a compilation of dates from the Rio Grande area of New Mexico (Smiley, Stubbs, and Bannister 1953). In order to complete the record of work accomplished since the release of the two summaries, the Bulletin resumes and plans to continue the Southwestern Dated Ruins series.

CHACO CANYON, NEW MEXICO*

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COMMENTS

Bc 59. A small masonry pueblo on the south side of Chaco Canyon within one-half mile of Pueblo Bonito, this excavated ruin contains at least 16 rooms and five kivas representing a long, but not necessarily continuous, period of occupation. The dated specimens, all of which yielded cutting dates, were originally used in the construction of the sub-floor ventilator shaft of the upper distinct level of Kiva 2 (see Vivian 1959:69). No report of the excavation is presently available.

Casa Chiquita. One of the relatively small, multi-storied pueblos strung along the north side of the Chaco River, Casa Chiquita is located about one mile downstream from Pueblo Bonito. Although the ruin is still unexcavated, the dated sample was collected from a first story viga. The "+" symbol used with this date (a cutting date) indicates that the outer rings on the specimen are very crowded and that possibly some rings are absent.

Chetro Ketl. This ruin, along with neighboring Pueblo Bonito which is one-half mile further downstream, is one of the largest and most famous of all Chaco Canyon structures. It has been the scene of numerous excavations (see Brand, Hawley, Hibben, et al. 1937:25-7), and has been the subject of a comprehensive archaeological-dendrochronological analysis (Hawley 1934). In 1947 a flash flood did considerable damage to the rear (north) wall of the ruin, and in the salvage work that followed, the

*The dates reported in this article have been extracted from Tree-Ring Dating of Archaeological Sites in the Chaco Canyon Region, New Mexico (Bannister 1959) where more detailed information on sites, proveniences, and individual dates is to be found. Unless otherwise noted, all specimens were submitted by Gordon Vivian of the National Park Service. The dating work was carried out by the author and all dates were checked by members of the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research staff.
National Park Service collected the specimens reported herein. Hitherto unpublished, the 201 dates represent construction timbers from the block of rooms numbered 43 through 65, and all but five of the dates are believed to be cutting dates.

The given range of dates does not do justice to the actual concentrations involved. There are, for example, 89 dates in the 1036-40 interval and 48 dates in the 1043-47 interval. Minor clusters occur at 1020-21, 1028-29, and 1050-51. Only 12 dates precede 1020 and only one date falls after 1051. In the overwhelming majority of cases, the pre-1036 beams were found associated with greater numbers of pieces that dated later and, consequently, the earlier specimens probably represent reused timbers.

Hungo Pavi. Generally classed as a medium-sized Chaco Canyon pueblo, Hungo Pavi is situated about two miles upstream from Pueblo Bonito on the north side of the canyon. There has been no reported excavation undertaken at the ruin, although a number of tree-ring samples have been collected from exposed beams. Of the four dates listed, the two earliest ones are derived from logs which may have been worked on by A. E. Douglass and previously reported by Douglass (1935:51) and Peterson (1935:24). All four dates are cutting dates of construction beams; the first three listed are from first story vigas and the last from a second story timber.

Kin Kletso. Another small multi-storied pueblo containing at least 55 ground floor rooms and five circular kivas, Kin Kletso (Yellow House) lies roughly half-way between Pueblo Bonito and Casa Chiquita. The site has been thoroughly excavated and a complete report by Gordon Vivian and Tom W. Mathews is currently in preparation. Four specimens originally collected and dated by Florence M. Hawley—one date published in Hawley (1934, Plate I)—have been incorporated into the CKK series. Nine of the Kin Kletso dates are from construction timbers. Only seven of these, however, are identified by provenience. Of these seven, four are from three first-story rooms with the cutting dates 1059, 1076, and 1076, and three are from three second-story rooms with the cutting dates 1123, 1124, and 1124. The two construction specimens of unknown provenience date 1063 (not a cutting date) and 1124. In addition there are eight non-construction dates obtained from charcoal found in fill, firepits, and ash lenses in four different rooms. Six of these dates range from 1088 to 1128, and two other specimens date at 1171 and 1178. Since the latter two are the latest ones from any of the Chaco Canyon pueblos and therefore of special significance (see Vivian 1959:26,69), they were doubly checked by A. E. Douglass and T. L. Smiley. A detailed account of the 17 Kin Kletso dates is presented in Bannister (1953).

Pueblo Bonito. Pueblo Bonito, the major attraction in the Chaco Canyon National Monument, has been amply described in both popular and scientific literature (see Judd 1954 for bibliography). The lone specimen cited here was found as float material, although it probably came from the north wall of the ruin at the third story level. The date is not a cutting date.

Ackerly House (Pueblo Bonito). The three dated specimens from Ackerly House are an excellent example of reused timbers. Although the logs were believed to have first been incorporated into Pueblo Bonito, the actual collection site was the original Richard Wetherill residence and trading post constructed in the late 1890’s a few feet west of the southwest corner of Pueblo Bonito. The structure eventually became known as Ackerly House and was recently demolished by the National Park Service. All three dates are cutting dates.
Tri-Wall Unit (Pueblo del Arroyo). Attached to the west and south sides of Pueblo del Arroyo, a large Chaco Canyon pueblo located one-fourth mile west of Pueblo Bonito, is a small cluster of rooms and kivas dominated by an unusual three-walled circular building. This excavated complex has been well documented by Judd (1959:96-119) and Vivian (1959:61-70). The single cutting date comes from a pole stub embedded in the east wall of Room 1 (Pueblo del Arroyo room numbering series) and has been previously published by Vivian (1959:68).

Bannister, Bryant
1959 Tree-Ring Dating of Archaeological Sites in the Chaco Canyon Region, New Mexico. MS, doctoral dissertation, University of Arizona, Tucson.


Douglas, A. E.

Hawley, F. M.

Judd, N. M.

Peterson, Alfred

Schulman, Edmund

Smiley, T. L.

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