

**CONTRIBUTIONS
IN NEW WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY**
Volume 12

CONTRIBUTIONS

IN NEW WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY



Contributions in New World Archaeology (*ISSN 2080-8216*) is a semi-annual journal dealing with various aspects of North and South American archaeology, anthropology and ethnohistory. Its main aim is to publish results of archaeological excavations and surveys conducted in various parts of the New World as well as to present papers devoted to the studies of collections of archaeological artefacts discovered in either American continent. Moreover, the journal addresses such subjects as theory, methodology and practice in New World archaeology.

www.cnwajournal.org

E-mail: cnwajournal@gmail.com

EDITORIAL OFFICE:

Department of New World Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
Jagiellonian University
Golebia 11 Street
31-007 Krakow
Poland
Telephone: +48 126631595

EDITORS:

Janusz Krzysztof Kozłowski
Jarosław Żrałka
Radosław Palonka
Michał Wasilewski

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Robert H. Brunswig

Department of Anthropology, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, USA

Víctor González Fernandez

Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia, Bogotá, D.C., Colombia

Christophe Helmke

Institute of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Michał Kobusiewicz

Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Poznań Branch), Poland

Krzysztof Makowski

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima, Peru

Aleksander Posern-Zieliński

Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland

Mariusz S. Ziolkowski

Centre for Precolumbian Studies, University of Warsaw, Poland



JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY
IN KRAKÓW



POLISH ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY – INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

**CONTRIBUTIONS
IN NEW WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

Volume 12

To the memory of William I. Woods (1947-2015)

Kraków 2019

Cover image:

Front cover: Piedra del Palacio from Xochicalco, on display in the Museo Cuauhnahuac in Cuernavaca.
(drawing by Christophe Helmke, based on photographs by Christophe Helmke,

Leonardo López Luján and Rosa Covarrubias)

Back cover: Different representations of sea turtles from the rock art of Sonora (Mexico)

Linguistic editors:

English: Steve Jones (GB), BA in Modern Languages – English, Director of Distinction Language Centre, Gdańsk, Poland; Colleen Sunderland (USA), MA in Modern Languages – English, TOEFL tests evaluator, Bellingham, USA

Spanish: Ewa Palka (PL), Departamento de Filología Románica – Universidad Jaguelónica, Kraków, Polonia

Cover art design

Elżbieta Fidler-Żrałka

Graphics editing and DTP

Profil-Archeo Publishing House and Elżbieta Fidler-Żrałka

© Copyright by:

Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences and
Jagiellonian University – Institute of Archaeology
Kraków 2019

ISSN 2080-8216

DOI: 10.33547/cnwa

The print version of Contributions in New World Archaeology
is the primary, reference version of this journal

Publikacja finansowana przez Uniwersytet Jagielloński

Zwiększenie poziomu umiędzynarodowienia oraz poprawa dostępności czasopisma
Contributions in New World Archeology - zadanie finansowane w ramach umowy
nr 678/P-DUN/2019 ze środków Ministerstwa Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego przeznaczonych
na działalność upowszechniającą naukę”



Ministerstwo Nauki
i Szkolnictwa Wyższego

Indexed on  **BazHum**

Contents

- 7 Archaeological geology and geography – Professor William I. Woods’s adventure with the human past
Radosław Palonka
- 9 The lay of the land: a political geography of an ancient Maya kingdom in West-Central Belize
Christophe Helmke, Claire E. Ebert, Jaime J. Awe, and Julie A. Hoggarth
- 55 The origins and development of the cartographic tradition in the central Mexican highlands
Christophe Helmke, Jesper Nielsen, Ángel Iván Rivera Guzmán
- 101 The role of maize and the theoretical approaches of archaeology to the food resources in the ancient Maya culture
Michał Gilewski
- 119 La “personeidad” de la caguama: arte rupestre, paisaje y agencia en la costa central de Sonora, México
Silvina Vigliani
- 139 Athapaskan migration to the North American Southwest
Magdalena Lewandowska

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY – PROFESSOR WILLIAM I. WOODS’S ADVENTURE WITH THE HUMAN PAST

The current issue of the journal *Contributions in New World Archaeology* is dedicated to the memory of a former member of our Editorial Board, Professor William I. Woods. Bill Woods passed away on September 11, 2015, and a few years later we wanted to remind our readers at least a little about his figure and his connections with the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University, co-publisher of this journal.

William Irving Woods was born on March 5, 1947 in the state of Wisconsin. He defended his undergraduate thesis in the field of anthropology in 1970, and his Master’s thesis (concerning geography) in 1973. That same year, he also studied at the Goethe-Institut in Brilon, Germany. From this moment, anthropology, archaeology and geography intertwined in his research and his scientific career.

In 1976 he began working at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), at first in the Department of Anthropology, and later (from 1985 to 2004) in the Department of Geography. There, in 1986, he defended his doctoral dissertation titled “Prehistoric Settlement and Subsistence in the Upland Cahokia Creek Drainage,” and from that moment a large part of his research work aimed at the study of this area, one of the largest pre-Columbian settlements of North America – the Cahokia Mounds in the present state of Illinois – in analogy to certain environmental and geographical changes in the Amazon. During his work at SIUE he was engaged in, among other things, the activity of the Environmental Studies Program, and taught courses on anthropology, archaeology and archaeological field schools, cultural geography and landscape, physical geography, soils, as well as interdisciplinary concepts of environmental analysis and problems focusing on US East/Midwest and Latin America. For several years he was also the director of the Contract Archaeology Program.

From 2005 to 2014 (when he retired) he worked in the Department of Geography at the



University of Kansas (KU). He taught courses dedicated to, among other things, human geography, global environment and civilization, soils, anthrosols, the Amazon, cultural landscape, sustainability and unsustainability. He also served as director of the Environmental Studies Program and as a faculty member of the Latin American Studies Program and the Center for Global and International Studies.

In the course of his scientific career he directed archaeological and geological investigations in the United States, Mesoamerica, South America, and Europe, serving as principal investigator on more than 110 projects. He is also the author of numerous books and articles in prestigious journals and appeared in programs of popular science. He was distinguished with many honors and awards and was often invited to different conferences, seminars and symposia around the world which confirms his strong scientific position (among others, in 2010 he conducted several classes and seminars at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland).

Most likely, his best known work was on Monks Mound and general in the Cahokia Mounds (Illinois), an UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as research in the Amazon on *terra preta* (black earth) soils, also known as Amazonian Dark Earths (ADE). For this last work, he was honored in 2012 with a doctorate honoris causa by Uppsala University in Sweden. Also of great importance were his innovative findings and development of techniques for examining soils at archaeological sites, especially the quantitative analysis of soil phosphate. Moreover, in recent years he was also a member of an international research group analyzing climate change and soil degradation under the influence of human activities over the span of the last millennium.

At this moment, I will allow myself a brief, personal reminiscence about the professor. I met him for the first time at a conference in Göttingen, Germany in 2001, when I was still a student, after our prior e-mail correspondence and his consent for me to come to the excavations he was conducting in Cahokia. I knew that Bill would be in Göttingen, and I wanted to show him how important these excavations were to me (at that time, there still were not many opportunities for students and scientific exchanges and trips abroad from Poland), so I set out from Kraków by train with my fiancée (currently my wife Adriana), but due to a lack of funds, we hitch-hiked from Dresden to Göttingen and on our whole return trip to Poland. We were very well received by Bill, and the next year I flew to Bill for my first excavation and field school at Cahokia, which was the beginning of my adventure with North American archaeology. Later, in 2010, after defending my doctorate, I managed to invite Bill as a guest lecturer to the Institute of Archaeology of the Jagiellonian University, which also resulted in his contribution of a lot of literature for our library, cooperation with our students and doctoral candidates, as well as his work as a member of our journal's Editorial Board.

Bill was always happy to help both students, as well as researchers and colleagues. He had many acquaintances and friends in the world, mainly from his research and conference visits. In recent years, he also made a three-week pilgrimage on foot to Santiago de Compostela which, as I learned from him, changed and caused him to reevaluate a lot in his life. He shared his enthusiasm and very good mood with everyone, which in combination with his professionalism and scientific knowledge, made him in the eyes of others both a great scientist who did not create unnecessary distance, as well as a colleague and friend.

Radosław Palonka