With Beauty Around:
Canyon del Muerto Rock Art Documentation Project

Evelyn Billo & Robert Mark           URARA, Hurricane UT, Sept. 28, 2019
contributions by Kelley Hays-Gilpin and Larry Loendorf
1999-2002 were challenging, beautiful years in all types of weather, and on all degrees of slope.
Canyon del Muerto:
150 sites documented with
36 Volunteers during
8 field sessions.
27,777 images.

Some of us had a hard time keeping up
with our ‘billy goat’ leader, Larry
Intrepid volunteers

CDM 123 Ear Cave
Canyon del Muerto (CDM 104)

Butterfly hair whorls

Mud from storage cist
Abutting shelter wall

(computer enhanced to bring out colors, R. Mark)
Radiocarbon date on organic material in mud over painting

CDM104: 1810±40BP

68.2% confidence
130AD (67.0%) 250AD
310AD (1.2%) 320AD
95.4% confidence
80AD (1.8%) 110AD
120AD (93.6%) 340AD

Calibrated date

Courtesy of Dr. Robert Mark and the National Park Service
Canyon de Chelly (CDC025)

computer enhanced to bring out colors, R. Mark
Poli’ ini: Butterfly Hair Whorls
NA8939
AD 785-837
Tree-ring dates.
Near Houck, Arizona
Various headdresses
Blue Bull Cave
Paintings and petroglyphs
Ancestral Puebloan to Historic Navajo
Figure 14. Using Adobe Photoshop 5.5, French archaeologist, Valerie Feruglio, isolated the superimposed elements from a small segment of Blue Bull Cave's Panel F. The individual frames show the progression of layers. The results of this study need to be confirmed by examining the painting more closely -- a task that will require scaffolding or some other method of elevating researchers to positions close to the painting.
Ron Teller said he drew these in the late 1940s.
We did not see it in the field either!

Figure 13. Horse pictographs and petroglyphs from Canyon del Muerto and Canyon de Chelly. Stylistic differences, primarily in the way the tails are depicted, allowed Brugge (1981) and James and Davidson (1976) to suggest the chronological sequence. Drawings by Terry Moody.
Unusual petroglyphs deserve additional study.
Thanks to Larry for the opportunity, NPS for funding, and volunteers for their time, talents, and photographs.
Thank you for listening

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