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Fragile Patterns: The Archaeology of Western Papageria

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Fragile Patterns is a collection of essays, brought together by Editors Jeffrey H. Altschul and Adrienne G. Rankin, about the indigenous people of southwestern Arizona and northwestern Sonora. Readers will not only learn about the environment and material culture of the peoples of the Western Papageria, but also about a wide range of topics including cultural dynamics, ritual landscapes, and the challenge of managing cultural resources.

This book discusses the history of archaeology and research in the region through the contributions of individuals such as Malcolm Rogers and Paul Ezell. Malcolm Rogers was a pioneer archaeologist who mapped an 80 mile trail from Palo Verde, Arizona to western Coachella Valley in southern California and studied the early cultures of the desert. Paul Ezell, a leading and respected archaeologist in the field of Papageria culture, conducted numerous surveys and excavations in the southwestern Arizona as well as contributed to the Pima and Maricopa Indians' land claims cases of the 1950s.

The chapter entitled *Edge Work* depicts the late prehistory of the Gila Bend site, AD 800-1200. Author David E. Doyel provides vast amounts

of information pertaining to the Hohokam at this site. Readers can also learn about how this site operated during the time that the Hohokam occupied it, to its current condition and how it is being excavated and preserved today.

Another topic discussed involved the European explorations of Spanish Generals Hernan Cortes and Antonio Mendoza. In this essay William Hartmann illustrates the separate journeys taken on by these generals in search of gold. The areas traveled as well as the allies and enemies the Spanish encountered on their expedition are discussed. This was important to the history of the indigenous people because, the expedition not only includes the physical geography of the regions, but the only eyewitness descriptions of the native peoples.

Overall this book is a great rendition on the indigenous people of the Western Papageria. It depicts the sense of culture and lifestyle endured by many during their tenure in the Southwest dating back hundreds of years. Furthermore, it is a great commemorative book highlighting the archaeologist and experts who have devoted their lives to the excavation and research of the past cultures of the region. The length of the book could be overwhelming, but it offers readers a vast knowledge of history, culture, religion and sense of living for the indigenous peoples of the area.

Fragile Patterns is available for purchase either through the Pueblo Grande Museum Store or from the publisher SRI press at www.sripress.com (ISBN 978-1-87944298-6).

