Postcard History

Navajo Weavers of the American Southwest

Beginning in the late 1800s, amateur and professional photographers documented Diné (Navajo) weavers and their artwork. The images they captured tell stories of the artists, their homes, and the materials, techniques, and designs they used. Many postcards illustrate their publishers’ efforts at popularizing travel in the American Southwest and promoting Navajo weaving, and relate to the economic, social, and political realities that influenced the region’s most iconic craft.

In this richly illustrated talk, Ann Hedlund discusses how she and her co-authors interpreted over 150 postcards dating from the 1880s to 1980s as historic documents. She describes these cards as important time capsules that shed new light on traditional weaving practices and on the tourist trade.

Tuesday, March 5, 2019
FREE! 7:00 p.m. @ CESL 103
Reception, book signing follow program

This is a presentation of the Arnold and Doris Roland Distinguished Speaker Series, made possible by the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. Roland. Reception underwritten by the ASM Director’s Council.

Ann Lane Hedlund, PhD, is a retired ASM curator of ethnology and UA professor of anthropology. She also directed the Gloria F. Ross Center for Tapestry Studies. As a cultural anthropologist, she has interest in worldwide textile producers and has conducted fieldwork among Navajo weavers and other artists since the mid-1970s. The author of many publications, Dr. Hedlund has curated museum exhibitions throughout the country and continues to lecture extensively. She currently resides in Silver City, New Mexico.