

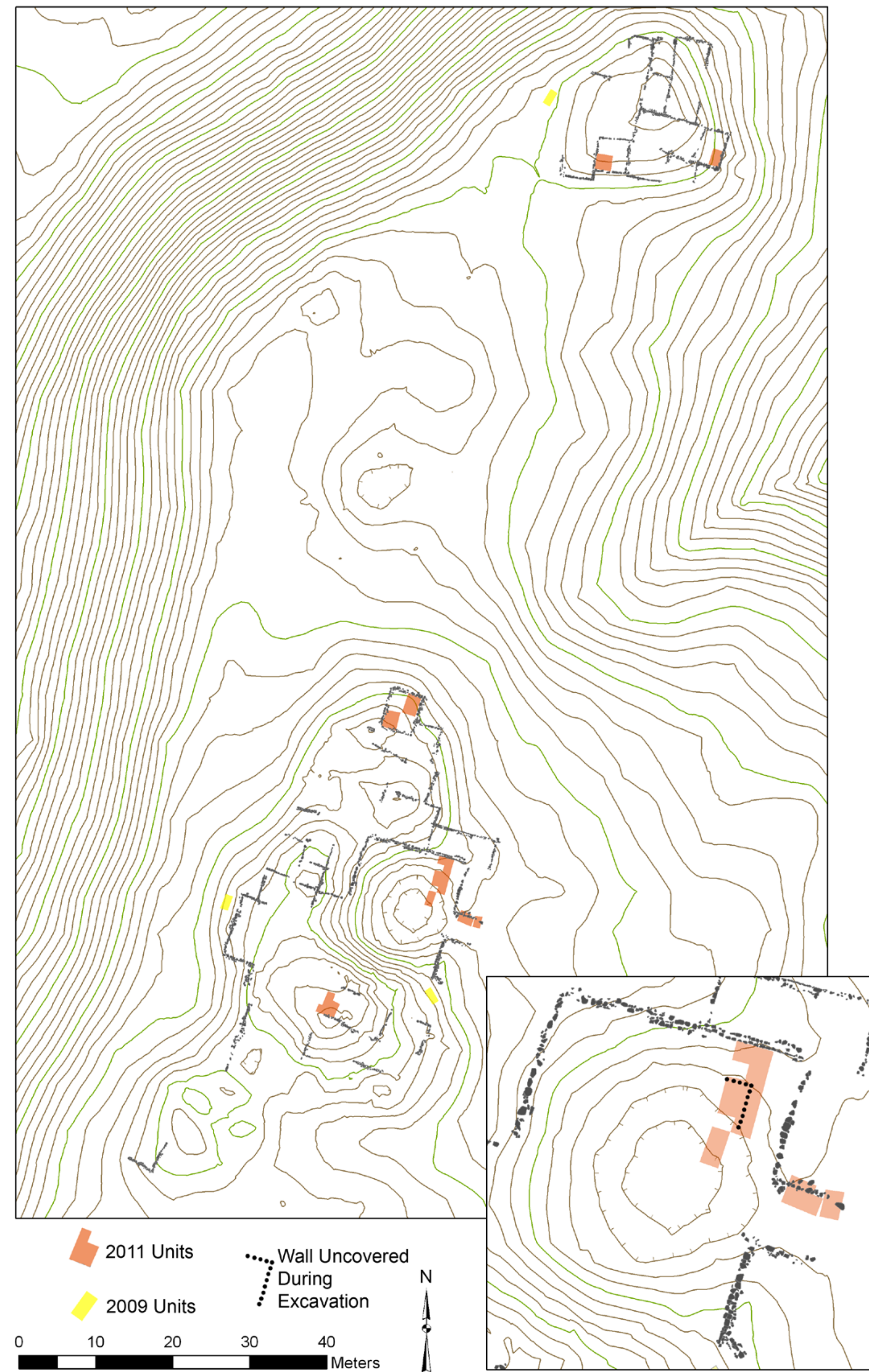
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I. The Fornholt Site

The Tularosa Phase occupation of the Fornholt Site (LA164471), located in Mule Creek, NM, consists of two room blocks that together contain about 60 rooms. Ceramics recovered from excavation at the site suggest that this occupation dates to sometime between A.D. 1200 and 1325. The larger, southern room block is built around a large depression which appears to be the remains of a great kiva. Archaeology Southwest (formerly the Center for Desert Archaeology) carried out limited testing and mapping at the site in 2009 and 2010. In 2011, in cooperation with the University of Arizona School of Anthropology, we conducted targeted excavation within four rooms and the great kiva.



Aerial view of Fornholt's southern room block showing the outline of the great kiva after wall clearing in 2010.



The Fornholt Site, LA164471, showing units excavated by Archaeology Southwest crews. Walls were mapped after low impact wall clearing in 2010. Contour interval is 20 cm.

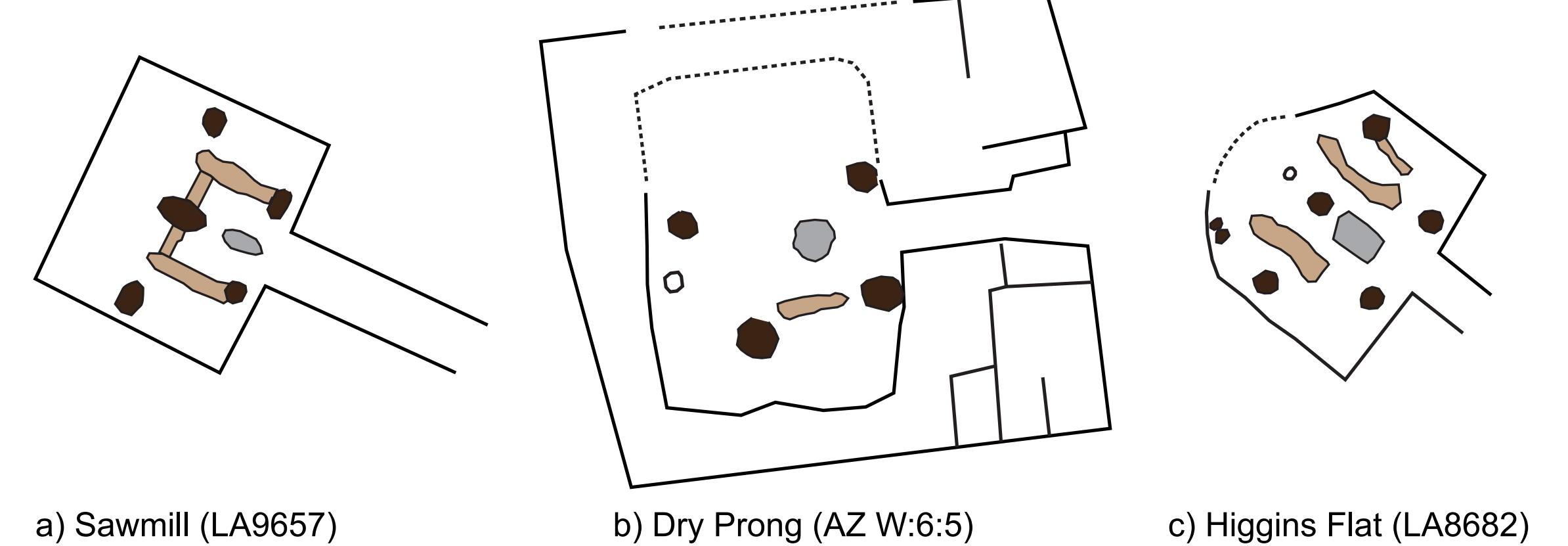
II. The Fornholt Great Kiva

Based on exterior walls mapped after low impact wall clearing, the Fornholt great kiva measures roughly 15 m N-S and 13.5 m E-W, with an entryway in the east wall. The structure is oriented slightly south of east. Excavations in the northeast portion of the great kiva uncovered the corner of an interior wall, standing less than a meter in height, paralleling the structure's outer walls. The fill between the outer and inner walls contains a large number of small cobbles and may represent a redeposited mix of sterile and cultural fill. Currently, we believe that the best interpretation of this interior wall is as the edge of a bench. A surface, often poorly preserved, appeared in units inside the kiva area, but no unambiguous floor features were found.



View facing east of the corner of the interior wall uncovered in the great kiva area during the 2012 field season. This corner parallels the outer walls visible on the ground surface at a distance of about 2 m.

11th - 12th c. Great Kivas

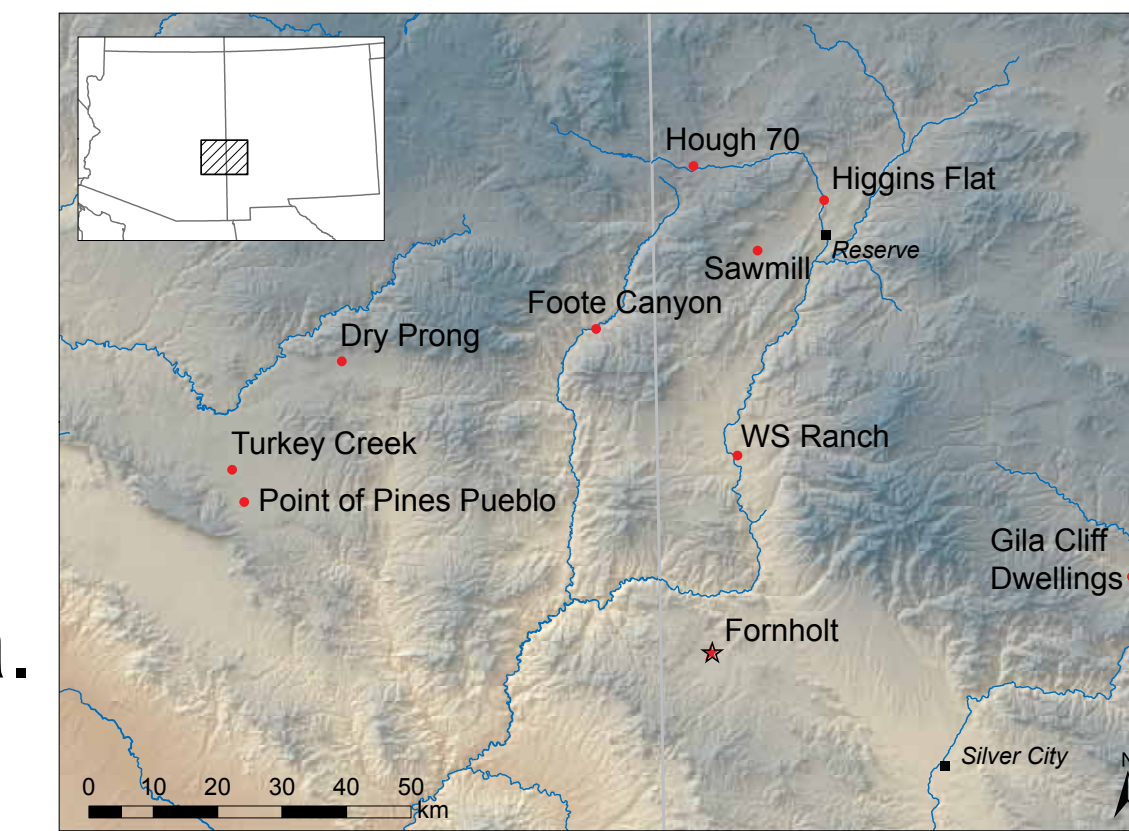


Dashed lines represent unexcavated areas. Some features have been simplified. References: a) Bluhm 1957; b) Olson 1960; c) Martin et al. 1957.

III. Great Kivas in the Mogollon Highlands

Great kivas have been recorded throughout the Mogollon Highlands. The excavated structures used in this comparison date to the 11th through 14th centuries in the Blue, San Francisco, and Tularosa River drainages and the Point of Pines area. Excavated structures range in size from roughly 9 to 12 m on a side and usually share a common set of floor features including floor grooves or foot drums flanking a basin shaped hearth. Most are oriented toward the southeast.

Benches seem to be rare among kivas in this region. One exception is the great kiva at Dry Prong, a Reserve Phase (c. A.D. 1000 to 1200) site in the Point of Pines area. The remodeling of the great kiva at Higgins Flat appears to have left the edges of the earlier structure intact, producing a somewhat bench-like offset, and it seems possible that the minimally investigated "room block" mound surrounding the kiva at WS Ranch may in fact be a bench.



Sites with great kivas illustrated or referenced here.

Most great kivas in the area are set slightly apart from contemporary room blocks. However, the great kiva at Turkey Creek (Lowell 1991, not shown) is enclosed by the site's room blocks, and there is a large roofed space within a room block at Foote Canyon. The great kiva at Point of Pines Pueblo, the latest structure included here, is integrated into the body of the pueblo (similar late kivas can be seen farther afield at Grasshopper Pueblo and Kinishba, see Riggs 2001.)

IV. Comparison and Upcoming Research

The position of the Fornholt great kiva within a room block and the presence of a bench are both somewhat unusual compared to other great kivas in the region and may suggest a connection with the Point of Pines area. Assuming that the bench continues around the entire structure, the area inside the bench would be consistent with the size of other kivas in the region. Finally, it should be noted that the Fornholt site itself is unusual – along with the Gila Cliff Dwellings (Anderson et al. 1986) it is at the southernmost edge of the distribution of Tularosa Phase sites. Our final field season at Fornholt will focus on clarifying the role of the probable bench and locating floor features. We will also test the large depression between the site's two room blocks. While no masonry remains are visible in this area, the central position of this depression suggests it may be related to the Tularosa Phase occupation.

13th - 14th c. Great Kivas



Some features have been simplified. References: a) Martin et al. 1957; b) Oakes and Zamora 1999; c) Tomka 1988; d) Rinaldo 1959; e) Gerald 1957.

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