

# Ancestral Pueblo across Time and Space

**Documented differences** among Ancestral Pueblo groups relate to pottery styles, architectural styles, settlement patterns, spatial separateness on the landscape, historical trajectories, or various combinations of these. Distinctions among Ancestral Pueblo traditions led archaeologists to formulate the Pecos Classification in 1927. This scheme divided Ancestral Pueblo culture into periods based on material changes through time.

In this issue, authors allude to “early Pueblo,” which includes agrarian pithouse communities (Basketmaker III, A.D. 500–800/850) and pueblo farming villages of considerable size and complexity (Pueblo I, 800/850–1000). For the most part, authors in this issue focus on the Pueblo II (1000–1150) and III (1150–1300) eras, when Chaco reached its zenith (circa 1100), Mesa Verde boomed (circa 1150–1300), people established very large settlements and cliff dwellings, and communities intensified agricultural production. Pueblo IV (1300–1600) begins after emigration from the Four Corners, carries through a time when people were living in a few very large pueblos, and ends not long after Athabaskan peoples and Europeans arrived in the Southwest. Pueblo V continues to the present day.

Archaeologists refer to patterns and traditions in the Kayenta region in the decades leading up to the final exodus as the Tsegi (say-ghee) phase (1250–1300). Some of the most important evidence for understanding Kayenta, as discussed in this issue, dates to this time. ■

—Jeffrey S. Dean



The names archaeologists have given to patterns within the Ancestral Pueblo tradition are usually tied to geography. For example, Virgin Branch is named after Utah's Virgin River; Kayenta after a historic trading post in northern Arizona; Tusayan (two-say-yon) after the Spanish name for the Hopi region; Cibola (see-bow-la) after the Spanish name for the Zuni region; Mesa Verde after the eponymous mesa in southwestern Colorado; Chaco after Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico; and so on. In this issue, we distinguish Kayenta from eastern Ancestral Pueblo (specifically, Mesa Verde and Chaco) and from Tusayan. MAP: CATHERINE GILMAN