



Vapaki

Ancestral O'Odham Platform Mounds of the Sonoran Desert

Edited by Glen E. Rice, Arleyn W. Simon, and Chris Loendorf

“An exceptional collection of essays relating to the origin, spread, function, purpose, and demise of these prominent architectural features at villages across the larger Hohokam cultural area or sphere of influence in the later thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.”
—T. Kathleen Henderson, *Desert Archaeology*

“This volume makes a significant contribution by successfully uniting a diverse mix of works under the umbrella of understanding Hohokam area platform mounds. Although the only thing that unites some of these chapters is the topic of platform mounds, that approach works well here; there ought to be something in this volume for everyone.”

—Karen Schollmeyer, *Archaeology Southwest*

New applications for and reassessments of Hohokam platform mounds

This volume presents a far-ranging conversation on the topic of Hohokam platform mounds in the history of the southern Arizona desert, exploring why they were built, how they were used, and what they meant in the lives of the farmers who built them. *Vapaki* brings together diverse theoretical approaches, a mix of big-picture and tightly focused perspectives, coverage of the variation in mounds that provides depth for specialists, breadth for those working in other areas and on other topics, and a rich corpus of research ideas and theoretical perspectives. Contributors grapple with questions about platform mounds, including the social, political, ideological, symbolic, and adaptive factors that contributed to their development, spread, and eventual cessation.

The differing perspectives presented here about what motivated Ancestral O'Odham populations of the Hohokam Period to build these monuments, whether as displays of status, identity, political ability, membership in regional networks, and as architectural models of the cosmological order, offer insights to researchers studying monumental architecture in other contexts. O'Odham knowledge of the history and uses of mounds is combined with archaeological data to understand the place of platform mounds in the lives of the Ancestors and as a continuing presence among their modern descendants.

Glen E. Rice is a professor emeritus, School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. He is the author of *Sending the Spirits Home: The Archaeology of Hohokam Mortuary Practices*, and co-editor of *Deadly Landscapes; Case Studies in Prehistoric Southwestern Warfare*.

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