



THE SECRETS OF SAN LAZARO PUEBLO

FORREST FENN

SPECIAL POTTERY SECTION BY FRANCIS HARLOW AND DWIGHT LANMON

PREFACE

Although the preparation of this book was assisted by a host of competent and dedicated professional archaeologists, our targeted readers are those who possess only a casual knowledge of ancient sites and visit the museums of the world mostly because they love to look at objects. If we had our way, you would be able to touch any ancient artifact in any museum. To see an Anasazi bowl in a glass display case may bring a few rewards, but to hold that vessel, to feel its weight, to smell its smells, or to study the wear on its bottom would evoke a whole new spectrum of knowledge and understanding. So, even though we may not be able to hand you a pottery bowl, we hope to bring you much closer to it than you have been before.



A sparse few will berate this effort for its lack of metric measurements, footnotes, references, bibliography, computer graphics, and the bewilderment of archaeospeak. In fact, this book was written mostly just for the fun of doing it and to experience the exhilaration that comes from speaking about a subject we love in a simple, main-street prose. We lack any ambition to be technically dull, nor do we crave the accolades of those who will surely find fault with our processes. We believe the greater part of knowledge is knowing those things not worthy of knowing.

Because we believe that archaeology is not quite an exclusive science, we promote a contrary claim that its real value is in the vast reservoir of human interest stories that the earth divulges through those like us who cut the roots, lift the rocks, and screen the dirt.

My partner in this project is Charmay Allred, who is largely devoid of the major flaws that plague even the best of humankind, and who, instead, is blessed with a vast array of social graces and wonderment for

editing, wordsmithing, and conjuring up the ideas that have made this labor feasible. She relishes her additional duty of being docent for the diverse collection of artifacts in our lab, where she encourages all visitors to pick up and examine anything that strikes their curious minds. At San Lazaro Pueblo, Charmay has been the tour director for hundreds of would-have-been archaeologists and historians who are eager to see and learn from someone who knows most of the plants, the rocks, and the artifacts by name. Together we share the little One Horse Land and Cattle Company, which has published this volume. Call it a vanity book, and you will have it figured out.

We have decided to say what we wish in a conversational tone as we look at the objects from San Lazaro and consider the mysteries and secrets that surround them. So, if you have an open mind and a romantic bent, please pull up a cushioned chair and come in a little closer. We will try to hand you something.



Barton Wright