Visit the Barona Museum Store!
Barona Museum Store always has unique gift ideas. Check out our new inventory as well as the wide array of fine basketry, pottery, and traditional tools, and our large selection of books. Visit today and take home that special, one-of-a-kind gift!

Barona Inter-Tribal Dictionary
Now Available for Purchase!
Quantities Limited!

This comprehensive dictionary of the Tipay Aa and Tipay Aa dialects published by Barona Museum Press features contributions from native speakers of several Kumeyaay/Diegueño tribes. A special thanks to past and present Barona Tribal Council Members and Barona Tribal Members for the compilation, publication, and distribution of this tribute to the native Kumeyaay/Diegueño language. Call the Museum Store for details on how to purchase a copy!

“The Conejo Olla” Comes Home

This story begins with a friendly email from a lady named Ellen living in Hawaii in April 2013 to the Museum’s Director, Laurie Egan-Hedley. Ellen was planning a trip to southern California with her mother for the early summer and wanted to stop by Barona Museum to share a story with Laurie. Laurie was excited to meet with Ellen and her mother but she did not hear back from Ellen and summertime came and went.

In August of 2014, Ellen emailed to say that she and her mother never made their summer trip but were planning to visit in September and they had something special for the Museum:

Aloha Laurie,

Actually, our plan is to bring back an olla my father found in 1950 while on a fire in the Cleveland National Forest. He found it after the area burned in a place called Pine Valley where the old CCC camp was located. I have a copy of my dad’s story of finding it. He was a Fire Control Officer with the San Bernardino National Forest and was called to the 1950 fire, which I believe is referred to as the Conejo Fire, as a supervisor.

My father passed away in July 2013, which is why my mother and I could not take the trip to southern California until now. It is our wish that the olla be returned for the benefit of the native people and others who can enjoy it in a museum setting.

Let me know if the donation of the olla is of interest to you for your museum’s collection.

Mahalo,
Ellen

Ellen and her mother, Phyllis Kemble arrived at the Museum with a beautiful ceramic cache pot that Phyllis’s late husband protected from the 1950 Conejo Fire. We carefully unpacked the pot from the box and found that Phyllis and her husband, Gene, designed a custom-made mount for the pot. Since it had a rounded base, the pot could not sit upright on its own. Phyllis shared with us a 1976 Forest Service map where her husband marked the location of where the pot was found.

Continued on Page 8
Unique Features of the Squier Collection Online Catalogue

The Squier Collection has gone live! A small portion of the 3,000 objects from the founding collection donated by Don and Kelly Speer is now available for research online, with more to be added in the upcoming months. View the catalogue at: http://barona.pastperfect-online.com

When you look through the catalogue, you will notice we have included some unique features. Our description contains three aspects: Physical Description, Our Tradition, and History of Use.

Physical Description gives details that include measurements, Munsell color, technology, and material. Local archaeologists, historians, and geologists viewed the objects and assisted with the accuracy of the descriptions.

Our Tradition includes Tribal members as unique resources—in their own words, they recount memories of the use of the objects or remember family activities related to its use and discussion on what the object is named and how that name is pronounced;

History of Use includes the input of Barona and other Kumeyaay Tribal members; how the people used the object, or how the object has inspired new information on the related activity, such as hunting and food preparation. With input from archaeologists and historians, as well as new digital photography methods, we can also give scientific detail to objects.

Also unique to our online catalogue are the names of objects in 'Iipay Aa. In an audio feature, our language teacher, Pat Curo pronounces those words in the Barona Indian language.

With the recent acquisition of a new photographic microscope, we have recorded fine details on the surface of some objects, including a spearpoint that is among our oldest artifacts, with a possible date of 10,000 years ago. These microscopic photographs provide close-ups such as flake scars, tool edges and use wear. We hope to hone in on the history of the objects to see how they are constructed, if they were reused, or altered for a new use. We include 360-degree video recording on some objects to make them especially useful for researchers or for those who appreciate beautiful artistry.

In the near future, we will add more items as we finish our research and complete the catalogue records. We also hope to include a feature that will allow Tribal members, the public and researchers to comment online through social media about the items and offer more information and insight into this work. The great opportunity provided through online research is the dialogue that furthers everyone’s knowledge of Kumeyaay/Diegueño history.
Barona Museum enjoyed an adventurous year: we joined the online research community and will be making available to the public a collection that numbers over 3,000 pieces; we moved the archival collection to be nearer the library to increase accessibility to researchers; we went on a record number of outreaches; we partnered with San Diego State's Elymash Yuuchaap native student group; staff development and training continued; we coordinated and participated in San Diego Museum Council's outreach efforts to underserved communities; we attended the Lakeside Chamber of Commerce Business Expo; we set up a booth at the Gaslamp’s Fallback Festival; we participated in the Tribe’s annual traditional Gathering and the annual Powwow; held interesting classes; taught culture classes to the Barona Indian Charter School students; and participated in numerous other programs to fulfill our mission—to educate the public about San Diego’s first inhabitants.

We look forward to another amazing year! Please check out our Ancient Spirits Speak slate of classes and we hope to see you at our upcoming lecture by Dr. Leonora Robbins about the geology of the Peoples’ traditional homeland.

If you are interested in volunteering or setting up an internship, please call us. We are looking for assistance in the Education and Collections, Library, and Archives departments. No prior experience is needed.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Laurie Egan-Hedley
Director/Curator
Barona Online Catalogue: The Ben L. Squier Collection, A Gift of Don and Kelly Speer

The Ben L. Squier Collection Online Catalogue is an in-depth analysis of the Museum’s largest and oldest collection. This detailed catalogue is being produced for immediate access to Tribal Members, the public, and outside researchers through this online portal. In our mission as a Tribal Museum, we are uniquely situated to bring the Tribal voice into the story of this collection. The catalogue includes interviews of Tribal members elders and experts about the objects and their uses, as well as object names in Tiipay Aa (the language for Barona.) In addition, commentary in video, audio, and still images accompany our analysis of the objects. Unique visuals of the objects include videos showing the object in 360-degree view and photographs using our microscope camera of details such as incised designs, flake scars, and use wear in the artifacts. We combine these important perspectives with those of local scientists in archaeology, geology, ecology, and history. We have developed our approach to be of relevance and use to anyone interested in the local history of San Diego including teachers, students of all ages, researchers, historians and Tribal members—a rare and close-up look at the Founding Collection of Barona Museum.

The Ben L. Squier Collection Online Catalogue is an in-depth analysis of the Museum’s largest and oldest collection. This detailed catalogue is being produced for immediate access to Tribal Members, the public, and outside researchers through this online portal. In our mission as a Tribal Museum, we are uniquely situated to bring the Tribal voice into the story of this collection. The catalogue includes interviews of Tribal members elders and experts about the objects and their uses, as well as object names in Tiipay Aa (the language for Barona.) In addition, commentary in video, audio, and still images accompany our analysis of the objects. Unique visuals of the objects include videos showing the object in 360-degree view and photographs using our microscope camera of details such as incised designs, flake scars, and use wear in the artifacts. We combine these important perspectives with those of local scientists in archaeology, geology, ecology, and history. We have developed our approach to be of relevance and use to anyone interested in the local history of San Diego including teachers, students of all ages, researchers, historians and Tribal members—a rare and close-up look at the Founding Collection of Barona Museum.

Remembering Adolph Thing

We are saddened by the passing of our friend and colleague, Adolph Thing. Adolph, who spoke Tiipay Aa fluently, was a primary contributor to the Barona Inter-Tribal Dictionary and an integral member of the Barona Language Preservation Committee. He will be remembered fondly for his endless knowledge of the language, for the jokes and stories with which he enlivened linguistic work, and for his unwavering commitment to documenting the language for the sake of future generations. His contributions to the Dictionary and to the translation of archival language material will be valued by Kumeyaay/Diegueño people for generations to come.

Adolph Regenald Thing was born on March 25, 1925 in Barrett, California to Isabel Chavez Thing (Jamul Tribal Member) and Ambrosio Thing (Jamul Tribal Heritage). He grew up speaking Tiipay Aa, and he traveled widely in Kumeyaay country, acquiring extensive knowledge of numerous dialects of the Kumeyaay language. He also spoke English, Spanish, and some German. He attended school in Barreto, and then joined the Navy in 1943, serving in an Aviation Repair Unit in Guam. He was discharged in 1946, and almost immediately joined the Army, serving in the occupation forces in Germany. He then saw action in the Korean War and was discharged in 1954. He later worked as a mechanic in the San Diego area, and he served on the Jamul Village Executive Tribal Council.

Adolph is survived by Maria, his wife of more than fifty years, children, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Along with his sister Jand Thing Dumas, who passed away earlier this year, Adolph made extraordinary contributions to the preservation of the traditional language and culture of the Kumeyaay/Diegueño people. We thank him from our hearts. ‘Iipay Aa.
Phyllis also shared with us the following type-written account her husband wrote about the provenance of the piece since finding it in 1950.

The Conejo Olla
By Gene Kemble
June 7, 1995

In the summer of 1950 I was dispatched to a fire in Cleveland National Forest in California as a crew member and boss of a Sector Team. The Sector Boss in charge of my team was Francis Newcombe who was a Fire Control Officer from the Defense Branch on the San Bernardino National Forest. There are three crew boxes on a sector team and one was Joe Austin, myself, and the other I don’t remember. I will refer to Francis Newcombe as Newc.

We all rode in Newc’s pickup to the fire which was east of San Diego and Alpine on what is now Interstate 8. The fire camp we worked out of was at the old Pine Valley CCC Camp. When we arrived, the fire was already about 25,000 acres and the Forest Service had already exhausted their usual supply of inmates, Army, and trained Forest Service fire crews. Because of this and the need for more manpower they had dispatched trucks and buses to recruit everyone down in Tijuana where they conscripted all the winos and street people from the area to bring them to the fire to make fire crews to help out.

The job of making fire crews out of these men fell to my sector team. It was just getting dark when we arrived at the fire camp and got our assignment to train these men. In all these years, I’ve lost track of the time but I know we stayed for three hours in the use of shovels, axes, brush hooks, etc., in fire line construction. We emphasized safety, including staying out of the unburned brush and keeping together as a group.

When we had given them as much training and safety procedures as they could or would absorb, we took them up and walked from fire camp at Pine Valley to the fire line. It took about 6 hours to get three of our three crew boxes about twenty men under our supervision.

Things went well for a few hours until one or two in the morning and then individuals started disappearing out into the unburned brush and shutting off their headlights to the crew boxes couldn’t find them. This was very dangerous for them and we had to figure out a plan to keep the crews together and out of the brush.

Joe Austin and I discussed what to do and decided Joe would climb up on a rock outcropping where he would have a better view of the entire area and then when he thought a man was alone he would call them and ask if he would sell it to me. Neither of us had any idea of its value, and I had to mail them in, but I offered them $200 for it and he said that I would never sell it and Phyllis and I would pass it on to our daughter, Ellen. Later on at the party, he told me he couldn’t sell it and I sold it and Phyllis and I would pass it on to our daughter, Ellen. Later on at the party, he told me he couldn’t sell it and I sold it for $200.

He said he came across a cave that was a part of the rock outcropping, crawled into the cave, and found three ollas, two of which were full and the third which was empty. He was able to get them both and then we decided to leave the third one in the cave and try to protect the other two.

Dr. Eleanora (Norrie) Robbins is a geologist, retired from the U.S. Geological Survey in the Washington, DC area, and presently adjunct faculty in the Department of Geological Sciences at San Diego State University. The presence of fault-related springs is probably the most important reason that people have been living in southern California deserts for at least 10,000 years. Living along the southern segments of the major transform faults, Kumeyaay, Luiseno, Cahuilla, Cahuilla, Kamin, Quechan, Cocopah, and Pai P. people have personal stories about the fault-related hot springs, volcanoes, and water sources. In 1984, one of these fault-related springs along the Cero Prieto fault was incorporated into Creation Stories and legends. Obsidian from Obsidian Butte was traded for this important source on the San Andreas fault.

Energy resources in the region that are important to development include oil and gas, geothermal, and solar, and geothermal production; these resources have large footprints that impinge on the sacred and cultural sites of the original people whose descendants are present and are working diligently to protect their technologically-useful and spiritual lands.

John’s favorite experience working at Barona Cultural Center & Museum was contributing to the annual Gathering;

"I feel truly blessed that I was able to be a part of a traditional event like this. It involved going down to Captain and cutting willows, and building the roundhouse. Not many people get to participate in these kinds of events, and it’s definitely not something many collections managers get to do!"

John said his departure is bittersweet. While working for the National Museum of the American Indian is a great opportunity for his career he will greatly miss Barona.

"Barona has been my life for the past six years. It’s been more than a job for me. My kids grew up here! Barona Indian Charter School, Inter-Tribal Sports, and all of the great community gatherings have been a huge part of our lives. I will miss the people the most. To the people at Barona, I’ve made lifelong friends here, and I am sad to go. Thank you for the opportunity I’ve been given."

Thank you, John, for your hard work and we wish you well!

SAVE THE DATE!
Wednesday, March 4th - 6pm-8pm
Barona Community Center (adjacent to the Museum), open to the public

Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Hot Springs, and Environmental Issues in Indian Country
-- a lecture by Norrie Robbins, PhD

Dr. Norrie Robbins is a geologist, retired from the U.S. Geological Survey in the Washington, DC area, and presently adjunct faculty in the Department of Geological Sciences at San Diego State University. As a retired pensioner she teaches Science Exploration Club on reservations throughout the area, hoping to attract youngsters to study the sciences that benefit their people and their land.
Education at the Barona Cultural Center & Museum

Barona Tribal youth, Makaela Thompson shows off the beautiful pinch pot she created during the Pottery-Making class.

Barona Tribal youth, Caynah Milligan and Jade Thompson, learn to make dolls from Eva Salazar (Kumeyaay) at the Museum’s Doll-Making class in September.

Pine Needle Basket instructor Yvonne LaChusa Trottier (Mesa Grande) helps class participant Tracy Sockett to prepare the beginning of her basket.

Director Emeritus/Curator of Collections Cheryl Hinton takes Tribal youth on a nature walk during Culture Camp.

Grace Lloyd (Barona) carefully selects flowers for the wreath she is making during the Museum’s Wreath-Making class.

Barona Tribal members take the time to clean and repair the gravesites of their loved ones and decorate the graves each year for a Candlelighting Ceremony held on All Souls Day. Barona Museum holds an annual Wreath-Making class for Tribal members of all ages—just look at their beautiful creations!

Museum Director Laurie Egan-Hedley and Museum Educator O’Jay Vanegas play ‘Simon Says’ with Tribal Youth at Culture Camp.

Instructor Tony Soares shows class participant Christina Whipple how to grind clay...he makes it look so easy!

Success! The Pine Needle Basket class proudly displays their creations.

Barona Tribal youth, Madeleine C. Horner shows off the beautiful pinch pot she created during the Pottery-Making class.

Success! The Pine Needle Basket class proudly displays their creations.

Renowned southern California style pottery maker, Tony Soares, demonstrates the traditional technique of adding coils to construct a pot during the Pottery-Making class in October.

Museum Director Laurie Egan-Hedley, Eva Salazar (Kumeyaay) and Tribal youth at Culture Camp.

Wreath-Making class participant, Caroline Mendoza (Barona) creates a wreath for the Candlelighting Ceremony.