

SAN FRANCISCO STATE NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL COLLECTIONS: TIMELINE 1948-2008

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1948-1949

Adan Treganza founded the SFSU Department of Anthropology. The SFSU campus was located at Buchanan and Waller. The first SFSU excavations were conducted in 1949 at Ca-Ala-328 in Newark. Field classes at Ca-Ala-328 continued until 1967.

1953

The SFSU Anthropology Department moved to Lake Merced campus. Treganza started the SFSU Archaeological Survey and Anthropology Museum. The museum began to acquire materials from around the US and the world. Anthropology and Classics collections were housed in the HLL (later HSS) basement-“steamroom.” Collections included the Egyptian mummies from Sutro Baths.

Late 1950s

Treganza began archaeological work at dams and reservoirs for government agencies. This work by Treganza and others presaged the cultural resource management archaeology (CRM) of the modern era. SFSU became a principal repository in central California for archaeological materials. Often collections had been stored at various locations including private homes, universities, and government agencies prior to being received at SFSU.

1968

Treganza dies. The Treganza Anthropology Museum (TAM) was named after him. TAM managers in succeeding years included James Dotta, Robert Schenk, Robin Wells, and finally Miko Yamamoto in 1988.

1969-1978

Michael J. Moratto was hired as archaeology professor to replace Treganza. Archaeology at SFSU moved towards environmental impact work with passage of CRM (Cultural Resource Management) laws (e.g., National Environmental Protection Act 1970). Moratto and Tom King conducted major CRM projects in California.

1978

Gary Pahl was hired to replace Moratto. Pahl conducted SFSU field classes in California until 1996.

1980-1982

The Anthropology Department moved to Science Building. Collections were divided between HLL basement and Treganza Museum rooms. Pahl built an archaeology facility at RTC Bldg 36. Pahl moved most collections from HLL “steamroom” to RTC.

1992

A landslide at RTC Building 36 destroyed an unknown number of collections. Pahl was then evicted from Building 36 by College of Science. Pahl got a grant from Marin Foundation to salvage remainder. The remaining collections were moved to RTC Building 50 and to SFSU Science Room 2. Between 1992-1996, a portion of Science Room 2 collections (300 boxes) were moved to Lakeview Center basement. SFSU continued as collections facility for region.

1996

The SFSU NAGPRA Program began with Julie London as NAGPRA Coordinator. Jeff Fentress became Coordinator in 1999. The NAGPRA office was established in Science 115 where the Sutro Egyptian collection had been stored. In 1996, SFSU Native American collections were located in Science rooms 2, 271, 273, 391, 395, HSS (HLL) basement, RTC Building 50, and Lakeview Center basement. The HSS (HLL) basement collections were all moved to Science 115.

1996-1998

Administrative responsibility for Treganza Museum collections was divided between the Treganza and the NAGPRA program during this time. Native American collections which originated from Native American cultural sites were placed under the aegis of the NAGPRA Program. The reason was that the majority of NAGPRA compliance work at SFSU involved human remains and funerary objects which had been excavated during archaeological projects. The Treganza Museum retained responsibility for collections of Native American objects such as baskets and pottery. Most of the museum items had been donated to SFSU. The NAGPRA Program became responsible for maintaining NAGPRA compliance for both sets of materials.

2005

RTC Building 50 storage rooms were painted, roof and windows patched, and lead paint remediated.

2007

Lakeview Center was scheduled for destruction. Science 115 underwent renovation for 6 months in order to house existing collections plus Lakeview materials. Science 115 collections and office were moved to Hensill Hall rooftop greenhouse. Lakeview Center collections were moved to Science 212. After Science 115 renovations were complete, collections at Hensill Hall and Science 212 were all moved to Science 115.

2008

By 2008, SFSU archaeological collections were consolidated in Science 115, Science 2, RTC Building 50. RTC Building 50 underwent minor renovation.