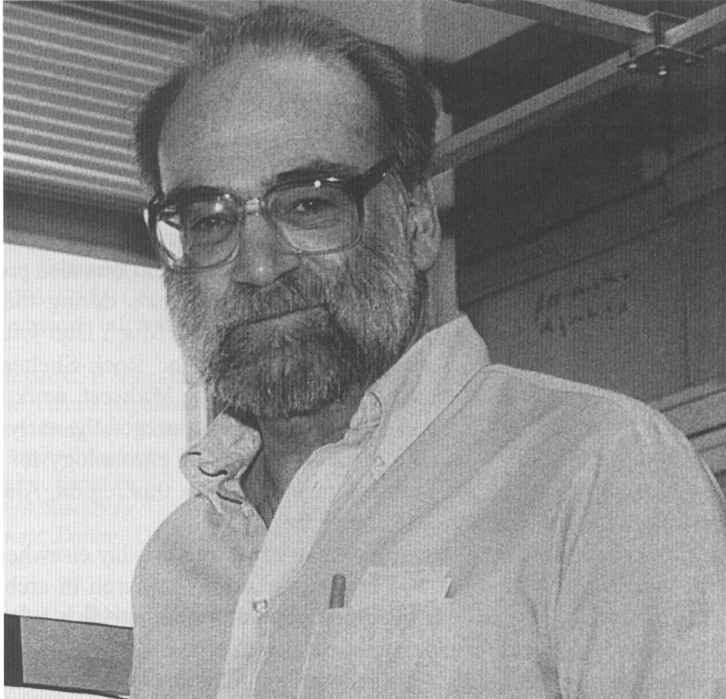


DANIEL WOLFMAN

1939–1994



American archaeologists lost a respected colleague when Daniel Wolfman passed away unexpectedly in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on November 25, 1994, due to heart complications. A pioneer in the field of chronometrics, his contributions to dating methods in archaeology in general and archaeomagnetism in particular have substantially advanced this specialized field, so basic to reconstructing the past.

Born February 8, 1939, in New York City, Wolfman received a bachelor's in mathematics with distinction from the University of Rochester in 1959, which he followed with graduate work in mathematics at the University of Chicago as a Woodrow Wilson scholar. At Chicago he was attracted to archaeology. This new interest led to his 1960 participation as a Summer Training Fellow in a field school in Oaxaca under John Paddock at Mexico City College. His experience in Mexico initiated a lifelong preoccupation with the archaeology of Latin America.

Back in the United States in 1961, he did salvage excavations for a short time with his good friend Dave Fredrickson in California. In the summer of that year he came to the Southwest. He worked on the Wetherill Mesa project at Mesa Verde and later on the Navajo Reservoir project with the Laboratory of

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Anthropology, Museum of New Mexico. In 1962 Dan was employed by Herbert Dick of Alamosa State College in Colorado as field director on the Picuris Pueblo project in New Mexico, sponsored by the Fort Burgwin Research Center in Taos. He remained in this position until the project terminated in early 1966. Dan was a major contributor to the two basic studies (Dick 1965; Dick et al. 1966) that emerged from this important project, probably the largest ever conducted in a living pueblo. The 1966 manuscript is now being revised, edited, and prepared for publication by Michael Adler of Southern Methodist University. During this time he also completed his master's in anthropology at the University of Colorado in 1963. After leaving the Picuris project, Dan, with his wife, Marianne, and daughter, Lauren, returned to Mexico City where he became assistant professor of anthropology at the University of the Americas from 1966 to 1968; in 1968 he was also director of the University of Americas archaeological field school.

Following this period in Mexico, he again returned to the United States. In 1969 he worked briefly on an archaeological survey with Richard and Sheila Brooks out of Warm Springs, Nevada. In 1970 he moved to the University of Oklahoma at Norman where he was already a research associate at the Archaeomagnetism Laboratory. Here he began his work on archaeomagnetism with Robert Dubois. This encounter with dating techniques and the "hard sciences," as Dan would have said, was a turning point in his career. Archaeomagnetic research was integrated into his doctoral dissertation on Mesoamerican dating, completed at the University of Colorado in 1973.

In 1973 Dan with his family moved to Russellville, Arkansas, remaining until 1988. He worked with the Arkansas Archeological Survey at Arkansas Technical University and was also professor of anthropology at the University of Arkansas. Among his many achievements during these years was his archaeological inventory of the Buffalo National River in Arkansas. Much later with Melvin Fowler, he obtained archaeomagnetic results from Archaic levels in Modoc Rock Shelter in southwestern Illinois and expanded the range of archaeomagnetic dating into the Midwest, work that now is being prepared for publication by Fowler. During these years he also encouraged the early career of his student David W. Stahle, who eventually went on to develop a tree-ring chronology for Arkansas and the Southeast that has major ramifications for archaeological dating in this region. Also with Stahle, he demonstrated that Alpha-Recoil track dating was unreliable.

While his years in Arkansas were productive, Wolfman's real interests lay elsewhere. Fortunately he was the recipient of several grants that allowed him to extend his research in archaeomagnetism to Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru. He liked nothing better than to ride a horse into the jungles of Honduras or Guatemala to collect archaeomagnetic samples at remote sites. His preferred mode of travel to Mexico and Central America was in his beat-up, but reliable (a vehicle that he claimed never let him down), 1968 Ford van, his home on the road. Dan and his van were inseparable until his death. Once outside Oaxaca, Mexico, he was held up at gun point and kidnapped with his van by "officials" who claimed to be police. In the end, he, and the van, were released, but without his money and the curious archaeomagnetic cubes that were confiscated.

In 1988 Dan and van returned to New Mexico where he was employed by the Museum of New Mexico, Office of Archaeological Studies, with the goal of establishing a full-time archaeomagnetic dating laboratory. Shortly thereafter the University of Arizona Press published what were to be among his most significant contributions to the field—his several papers in *Archaeomagnetic Dating* (Eighmy and Sternberg 1990). At the Office of Archaeological Studies, while compiling grant applications, working hard to raise private donations, and dating samples with the help of the Rock Magnetism Laboratory at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Dan also took on responsibility as director of field projects until the archaeomagnetic laboratory could be opened. Despite the many tasks, Dan successfully opened the lab on a fully operational basis in early 1993. After the lab was functioning, requests for Dan's services began to skyrocket. He worked with researchers in Senegal, Peru, Bolivia, and Mexico, as well as the southwestern United States. In this context he was developing an archaeomagnetic curve for Peru and expanding the ranges of the curves for the Southwest and Mesoamerica. He was also working on archaeomagnetic curves for California and Hawaii.

At the time of his death, Dan was involved with a project coordinated by the Museum of New Mexico

and the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH), Chihuahua, Mexico, dating village sites in northern Chihuahua and training INAH archaeologists in the techniques of archaeomagnetic dating. He was entertaining plans as well to return to Senegal and Bolivia and to make an initial archaeological foray into China with Richard MacNeish of the Andover Foundation for Archaeological Research.

As he worked with and trained archaeologists throughout the Americas, many came to know Dan as a strong advocate of archaeomagnetism, steadfastly dedicated to the exploration of precise dating techniques. He trained students across the globe and gave countless tours of the laboratory to a worldwide array of visitors. Dan's substantial contributions to dating methods in archaeology will be carried on by others. The archaeometric laboratory at the Museum of New Mexico serves as a reminder of the important legacy left by Dan Wolfman.

POLLY SCHAAFSMA AND CURTIS SCHAAFSMA

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