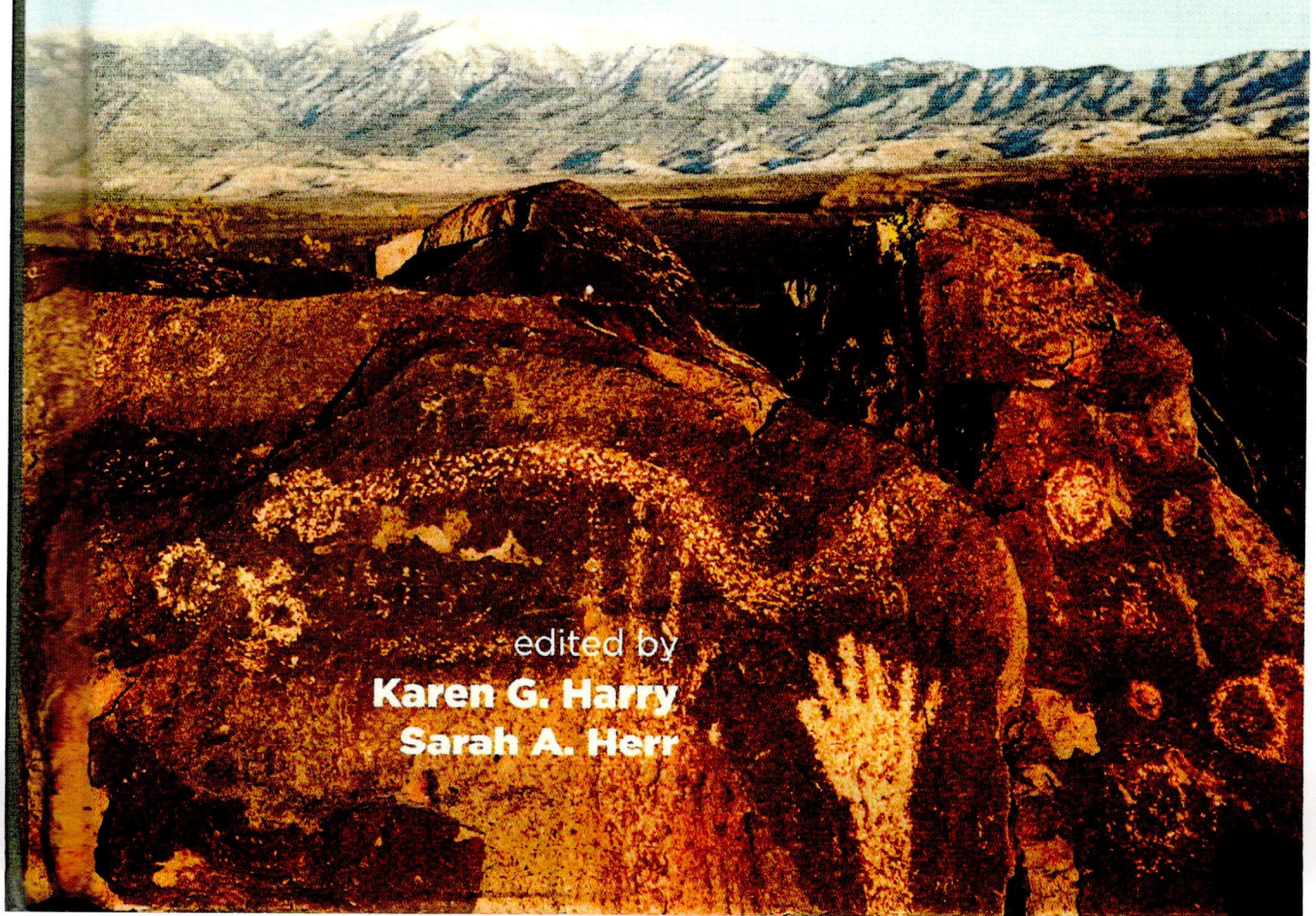


Life
beyond
the
BOUNDARIES

CONSTRUCTING
IDENTITY IN
EDGE REGIONS
OF THE NORTH
AMERICAN
SOUTHWEST

edited by
Karen G. Harry
Sarah A. Herr



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The Jornada Mogollon region of south-central New Mexico, Trans-Pecos Texas, and northern Chihuahua has long been considered a peripheral or hinterland region of the North American Southwest. Often marginalized or ignored in overviews of southwestern prehistory, the technological, social, and ideological developments of this region at the “edge” of the Southwest are thought to have derived from, been influenced by, or even been determined by those of adjacent cultural “core” regions such as the Mimbres Valley and Casas Grandes. This perspective overlooks the fact that inhabitants of the Jornada region maintained one of the more successful and stable societies in the prehistoric Southwest.

Studies of social identity in the prehistoric Southwest and of its manifestations through memory and landscapes, architecture, migration and ethnogenesis, boundary maintenance, and ritual tend to focus on settlements and localities during comparatively brief time intervals (i.e., brief in relation to the millennial span of Southwest prehistory) of less than one or two centuries and during even shorter intervals at individual settlements (Clark 2001; Duff 2002; Preucel 2002; Varien and Potter 2008). The Jornada region provides a broader temporal perspective on identity formation and maintenance. Over the span of a millennium or longer, Jornada social identity was expressed through agave fermentation and feasting, ceramic manufacturing technology and design, acts of ritual dedication

*A Millennium of
Identity Formation and
Maintenance in the
Jornada Mogollon Region*

MYLES R. MILLER

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