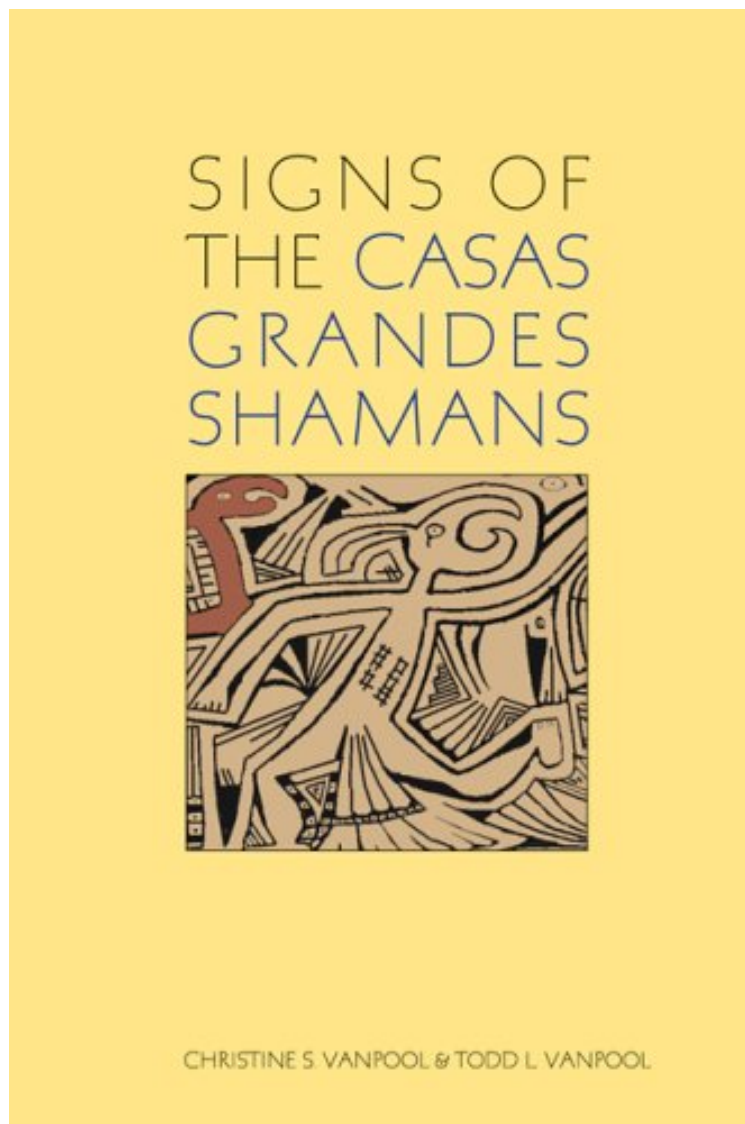


(Read now) Signs of the Casas Grandes Shamans

## Signs of the Casas Grandes Shamans

*Christine S VanPool, Todd L VanPool*  
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**Christine S VanPool, Todd L VanPool : Signs of the Casas Grandes Shamans** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Signs of the Casas Grandes Shamans:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended especially for anthropology and archaeology shelves.By Midwest Book ReviewAnthropology professors Christine S. Vanpool and Todd L. Vanpool present Signs of the Casas Grandes Shamans, a scholarly evaluation of artifacts of a religious system that flourished in what is now northern Mexico and the southern United States between AD 1200 and 1450. Casas Grandes, or Paquime, in northern

Chihuahua, Mexico was the home of this faith, expressed in stunning polychrome pots with black and red geometric and naturalistic designs, and a cream base. These exceptional pottery artifacts offer insight into Casas Grandes cosmology, revealing a shaman-centric religion. Shamans called to horned serpents to bring rain; dealt with snakes; and raised, sacrificed, and interred macaws as ritual offerings to perpetuate water and fertility. Black-and-white photographs of recovered artifacts and diagrams of ancient artworks illustrate this scholarly evaluation of protohistoric art, culture, symbolism, and faith. Highly recommended especially for anthropology and archaeology shelves.

Casas Grandes, or Paquim, in northern Chihuahua, Mexico, was home to a religious system that swept across northern Mexico and what is now the southern United States between AD 1200 and 1450. To commemorate this religion the people of Casas Grandes created striking polychrome pots with black and red geometric and naturalistic designs on a cream base. Their pottery provides a window to Casas Grandes cosmology. Looking through this window, authors Christine and Todd VanPool find a world centered on shamans who took spiritual journeys to consort with supernatural creatures. The shamans called upon horned serpents to bring rain, the lifeblood for farmers living in the Chihuahuan desert; dealt with snakes that held powers more potent than their bites; and raised, sacrificed, and buried macaws as ritual offerings to ensure water and fertility. These findings challenge long-held beliefs about Southwestern religion and force a reconsideration of the importance of shamanism in the development of social differentiation in societies around the world.

"It is increasingly clear that Paquim and its associated sites represent the only clear intrusion of Mesoamerican high culture into the Greater Southwest. The implications for understanding just about every aspect of protohistoric Southwestern culture are enormous."Carroll Riley, emeritus professor of anthropology, Southern Illinois University