

SAS

Volume 7

Number 4

Spring 1984

NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

1984 SAS ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the recent balloting of SAS members for the Office of Vice President/President-elect and Assistant Secretary Treasurer/Secretary Treasurer-elect were officially certified during the annual SAS meeting in Washington, D.C. by an Elections (Teller) Committee appointed by the Secretary-Treasurer, Thomas J. Riley in accordance with the SAS By-laws.

The results of the balloting were as follows: elected to the Office of Vice President/President-elect was Joseph W. Michels (Pennsylvania State University). Elected to the Office of Assistant Secretary Treasurer/ Secretary Treasurer-elect was John Twilley (University of California, Riverside). This election was notable in the history of the SAS in that it involved both the largest number of SAS members participating in addition to the largest percentage participation.

The newly elected officers joined the following as 1984-1985 SAS officers and members of the Executive Board: President: Rainer Berger (University of California, Los Angeles); Past President: George Rapp (University of Minnesota, Duluth); Secretary-Treasurer: Barbara Luedtke (University of Massachusetts). Continuing as Consulars of the SAS are Curt Beck (Vassar), Foss Leach (University of Otago), Robert Maddin (Harvard University), and Daniel Wolfman (Arkansas Technical University). Other members of the 1984-1985 Executive Board include: General Secretary: R. E. Taylor (University of California, Riverside); Christine Prior (University of California, Riverside). See next item for additional information.

1984 SAS ANNUAL MEETING

In addition to the matters discussed above, other important items taken up at the SAS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. included the acceptance by the members of recommended changes in the By-Laws (the

text of which had been previously mailed to all members) as well as the reports and announcements of the officers and members of the Executive Board. The report of the Secretary-Treasurer for the previous year and the budget for the 1984 fiscal year was accepted by the membership. The General Secretary reported on the successful conclusion of negotiation with Radiocarbon Dates, Inc. for the SAS to lease on a long-term basis a computer compatible data base for radiocarbon dates. Data relating to about 40,000 radiocarbon determinations have been made available. A retrieval system (RADAR: Radiocarbon Dates Retrieval system) is being implemented and should be ready for initial use in late 1984. Members of the SAS will enjoy significantly reduced fees in the use of the RADAR data. Details of the operation of RADAR will appear in upcoming issues of the SAS Newsletter.

The SAS Executive Board adopted a working policy which provides a framework for the conduct of SAS business throughout the year. Among the directives contained in the Working Policy is the definition of the fiscal year (January to January) as well as the organizational year which is determined by the timing of the Annual Meeting which now runs from April/May to the following April/May. The General Secretary of the SAS has also been directed to send out each year a card to every SAS member to encourage them to subscribe to the *Journal of Archaeological Science* at the special SAS rate. Each year the General Secretary is directed to contact the subscription office of Academic Press to confirm this special SAS rate.

The Executive Board also set into place a policy of scheduling the SAS Annual Meetings. It determined that during the year which the International Archaeometry Conferences are held in the Western Hemisphere, the SAS will conduct only a business meeting at the site of the Archaeometry Conference. In those years in which the Conference is held outside the Western Hemisphere, the SAS will hold a meeting which will include a symposium and contributed reports in the form of poster presentations.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR CHANGES

After more than six years of service to the SAS, Suzanne De Atley (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) retired as Newsletter Editor at the 1984 SAS Annual Meeting. Her increasing professional responsibilities, particularly her upcoming foreign travel, required a change at this time.

Under Dr. De Atley's supervision, 23 issues of the Newsletter were published beginning with the summer 1978 issue (Vol. 2, no. 1). While the Executive Board accepted with regret her decision to step down, it noted that six years constitutes service above and beyond the call of duty. It expressed its great appreciation to Dr. De Atley for her dedication in serving in this demanding capacity over the last half-decade. It also expressed its appreciation to Karen Channey for her assistance as Production Manager of the Newsletter over the last two

years as well as to the Anthropology/Archaeology Program at M.I.T.

To succeed as Newsletter Editor, the Executive Board appointed retiring SAS President, George Rapp. Dr. Rapp will officially take over the responsibilities of the Newsletter Editor as of the Summer 1984 issue. His address is listed in the editorial box.

1985 ANNUAL MEETING: DENVER, COLORADO

The 1985 SAS Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Society for American Archaeology meeting at the Denver Hilton Hotel, Denver, Colorado, May 1 to May 4, 1985. The Organizing Committee has determined that the program will include a symposium of invited speakers on a single theme as well as contributed reports in the form of poster sessions. Additional details will be sent to SAS members.

NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

NSF ARCHAEOLOGY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Anthropology Program announces the inauguration of an annual Archaeometry competition to incorporate within a single framework anthropologically-oriented archaeometric projects. Such proposals which previously were submitted under the Program's regular research and Support for Radiocarbon Laboratories competitions will now be evaluated in this new context. Proposals will be reviewed by archaeologists to determine potential anthropological contribution and by physical scientists to assess technical feasibility.

The Program recognizes three broad classes of archaeometric proposals: 1) Requests to support laboratories which provide archaeometric services; 2) Projects to develop and refine archaeometric techniques; 3) Proposals to apply existing techniques to specific bodies of archaeological material. "Laboratory support"

(1) and "technique development" (2) projects will be included within the Archaeometry competition. "Technique application" (3) projects are best evaluated in a more strictly archaeological context and therefore will be considered in the general research competition.

The Radiocarbon Laboratory Support Competition initiated in 1982 will be broadened to include all U.S. laboratories involved in the anthropologically-relevant archaeometric research. Awards will provide a modest but long-term "core" of funding that will allow laboratories to increase analytical capacity through the addition of new and replacement of overage equipment and the retention of key personnel. The goal of the awards is to increase the contribution of these laboratories to anthropologically oriented archaeology. Proposals should contain:

1) A discussion of a laboratory's specific commitment to

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Published quarterly by the Society for Archaeological Sciences. Distributed to members of the Society with membership, \$7.50 per year, \$5.00 per year for students, \$10.00 institutional membership, \$150.00 life membership. ISSN 0739-0637. Editor: George Rapp, Jr., 108 Mathematics-Geology Building, University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN 55812 U.S.A.

SAS Executive Officers, 1984-1985

President: Rainer Berger

Past President: George Rapp, Jr.

Vice-Pres./Pres. Elect: Joseph W. Michels

Consulars: Curt Beck, Foss Leach, Robert Maddin, Daniel Wolfman

SAS Administration:

General Secretary: R. E. Taylor

Associate General Secretary: Christine Prior

Secretary-Treasurer: Barbara Luedtke

Asst. Sec.-Treas./Sec. Treas. Elect: John Twilley

For inquiries concerning change in addresses, information from membership records, and other business affairs, contact: Office of the General Secretary, SAS, Radiocarbon Laboratory, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Riverside, California 92521 U.S.A.

solving problems of recognized archaeological significance.

- 2) An explicit statement which describes how the laboratory will increase productivity measured in terms of reduced turnaround times and/or increase in the number of archaeological samples to be dated each year. The applicant should discuss the characteristics of the samples to be processed, the specific technical problems relating to these types of samples, and specific techniques utilized to deal with these problems.
- 3) An explanation of the laboratory's plan to ensure that it will attract samples of high archaeological interest and quality and a discussion of the criteria employed to select and assign priorities to samples.
- 4) A discussion of the current standards of accuracy and precision maintained by the laboratory and how these standards will be continued or augmented.
- 5) A statement of existing resources available to the laboratory including current institutional support and projected income, and a discussion of how Foundation support will be used in addition to (rather than in lieu of) presently available funds. Policies and practices with respect to fees for dating services should be described.
- 6) A justification of the budget for personnel and equipment needed to achieve these basic goals.

Awards are not intended to provide full operation support for the laboratory or to replace funding for ongoing laboratory personnel. Therefore, they will not include such items as the regular salary of a laboratory director or the cost of expendable supplies. Budget items may include: 12-month salary for a full-time professional laboratory associate at the postdoctoral level, funds for the acquisition of new laboratory equipment and up to 2 months of full time equivalent salary during the year for the laboratory director to support active collaboration with archaeologists. Laboratories which receive awards will also be permitted to submit "regular" research applications for the support of focused research projects. Total support for an investigator will be carefully reviewed.

The Foundation plans to fund up to six laboratories at about \$75,000 each per year. Applicants may request up to five years of support.

Applicants should prepare a standard research proposal. In addition to a description of the technique and methodology to be employed, the potential significance of the technique to anthropologically-oriented archaeological research should be specifically described.

Formal proposals should be prepared in accordance with relevant instructions in Grants for Scientific and Engineering Research (NSF 83-57). Twenty copies are required and the descriptive portion of the proposal should not exceed 15 single-spaced pages. Proposals should be submitted by November 30, 1984 for anticipated awards in the late spring 1985.

Prospective applicants are advised to contact the Program Director, Dr. John E. Yellen, Anthropology Program, National Science Foundation, Washington, DC 20550, (202/357-7804) before submitting a proposal.

MacARTHUR PRIZE

A MacArthur Prize has been awarded to Professor Heather N. Lechtman of MIT. Professor Lechtman is Professor of Archaeology and Ancient Technology with a joint appointment in the Anthropology-Archaeology Program in the Department of Humanities and in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. She is also Director of the Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology.

Professor Lechtman was among 22 new MacArthur Prize Fellows named recently by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. She will receive \$236,000 over a five year period. Her current research focuses on the prehistoric systems of technology that were important in the development of the Andean zone of the New World.

1984 SAA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The 1984 Society for American Archaeology Distinguished Service Award was presented to James B. Griffin, Professor Emeritus at the University of Michigan. Dr. Griffin was a Past-President of the SAA and was one of the founding members of the Society for Archaeological Sciences serving on the Acting Executive Board during the period of the organization of the SAS. The text of the citation notes that James B. Griffin "stands out as a truly great leader in the development of North American archaeology. In his long, productive, and highly distinguished career, which spans more than five decades, he has played a pivotal role in transforming American archaeology into a fully scientific discipline." It notes his early involvement with physicist H. R. Crane to establish a radiocarbon dating facility at the University of Michigan. He also recognized the potential of trace element studies and, with chemist Adon Gordus, pioneered the use of neutron activation analysis for sourcing obsidian. The Fryxell Award was not given by the SAA in 1984.

SARCAR: AN ARCHAEOOMETRIC RESOURCE IN THE MAKING

SARCAR, the Smithsonian Archaeometric Research Collection And Records facility, has been recently established within the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation Analytical Laboratory. It is one response to the widely recognized need to preserve for the future the painstakingly obtained archaeometric date. SARCAR's objectives include (1) providing a centralized facility with continued institutional support for the bringing together and preservation of archaeometric data; (2) space and personnel for the accession, reference and duration of analyzed reference materials; (3) and the implementation of computerized data banking facilities to provide data and object management as well as retrieval and statistical processing of analytical data within an active research environment. Such research utilization is not limited to Smithsonian scholars and Fellows but is available for those researchers who wish to take advantage of

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**SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES
OFFICE OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

We would like to encourage your contribution to the SAS Newsletter. Please duplicate this page and use it to notify us of information you would like included in upcoming issues.

Please return to: Dr. George Rapp, Jr., 108 Mathematics-Geology Building, University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN 55812 U.S.A.

Name _____

Affiliation _____ Phone No. () _____

Current Research:

Recent Publications:

Request for Cooperation:

Upcoming Meetings:

**Information, Announcements
Other/ or Comments:**

expanding research opportunities with the Smithsonian Institution to work with the databank. Distribution of data sets and loan of reference materials constitute a future SARCAR objective. In addition, there is an evolving commitment to the reference of data or analyzed objects not physically held by SARCAR.

Presently, neutron activation data from Brookhaven National Laboratory and its accompanying descriptive information are being added to that generated by the Department of Archaeometry at the Smithsonian Institution. The trace element data are being normalized relative to a given reference standard by a derived set of conversion factors. Over 20,000 trace element analyses are being entered, dealing with pottery, obsidian, jade, turquoise, native copper, bronze and glass. Areal, the data are now numerically biased toward the Near East, Mesoamerica, and Central America, reflecting the

interest of the previous researchers. Other kinds of data to be included in the immediate future are: emission spectographic, atomic absorption, stable isotopes, x-ray diffraction and petrographic examination.

To a considerable extent, the success of any centralized data bank facility depends on its outside supporters. We encourage the archaeometric community to provide us with analytical data, documentation, and — when possible — actual analyzed reference specimens. For our part, we will seek to provide a cooperative archaeometric facility from which previous endeavors may be built upon.

Please address any comment or questions to: Ronald L. Bishop, SARCAR Coordinator, Conservation Analytical Laboratory, Museum Support Center, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A., (202) 287-3715.

MEETING NOTES

ARCHAEOMETALLURGY AT THE AAAS MEETING

A symposium on "Science, Culture, and Ancient Technology in the Study of Archaeometallurgy," arranged by Vincent C. Pigott (MASCA), was held at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in New York on May 28, 1984. Five papers were scheduled for presentation including: John F. Merkel (MASCA) "Reconstructing Ancient Copper Production"; Michael R. Notis (Lehigh University) "Tapping the 'Memory' in Archaeological Metal"; Stuart J. Fleming (MASCA) "Potential and Pitfalls in the Elemental Analysis of Archaeological Material"; James D. Muhly, "Ancient Textual Evidence Relevant to Metalworking and Ore Sources" (University of Pennsylvania), and Tamara Stech, "The Cultural Implications of Archaeometallurgical Research."

MICROBEAM ANALYSIS SOCIETY

A full day session on "Microanalytical Techniques Applied to the Study of Microstructure Development and Phase Analysis in Archaeological Materials" will be held on July 19, 1984 at Lehigh University. The fourteen papers scheduled for presentation will cover the following emphasis areas: metals and ceramics (copper, bronze, iron, gold, slag inclusions), corrosion products (patination, gilding and coatings, brazing, and joining techniques) and paleobiology and palaeoenvironmental studies including tool technology. For a list of the papers and further information concerning the published papers, contact Professor Michael R. Notis, Lehigh University, Whitaker Laboratory #5, Bethlehem, PA 18015.

BONE MODIFICATION CONFERENCE

The First International Conference and Workshop on Human Vs. Natural Bone Modification will be held in Carson City, Nevada on August 17 to 19, 1984. The central concern is whether bones modified by humans can be distinguished from products created by natural processes. The conference is being organized by Robson Bonnicksen and Jim I. Mead of the Center for the Study of Early Man, University of Maine at Orono. Interested specialists and non-specialists are welcome to attend these presentations. The conference will conclude with a closed session in which invited participants will consider ways to further scientific knowledge in this area. Advance registration materials can be obtained from Donald R. Tuohy, Nevada State Museum Capitol City Complex, Carson City, Nevada 89701. Information for this announcement supplied from the *Mammoth Trumpet*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Winter 1984.

MAN AND THE MID-HOLOCENE CLIMATIC OPTIMUM

There will be an interdisciplinary conference entitled "Man and the Mid-Holocene Climatic Optimum" at the 17th Annual Chacmool Conference, University of Calgary Archaeological Association, November 10-12, 1984. For inquiries contact, Richard A. Fox, Jr., Chacmool Programme Committee, Department of Archaeology, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, T2N 1N4, Canada.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LITHIC RAW MATERIALS

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Hungarian National Museum, and the Hungarian Geological Institute are planning to organize an International Conference on Lithic Raw Materials Used in Prehistory to be held in May 1986 in Budapest, Hungary. The theme of the conference will be on lithic raw materials used in

prehistory, their geology, exploitation, utilization, characterization, and different archaeological analyses. The main object of the Conference would be the study of the Carpathian Basin, but lithic raw materials research and prehistoric mining may attract wider attention so experts from other countries would be equally welcome. Further details on the program can be obtained from Dr. Fulop Jozsef, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Archaeological Chemistry III, J. B. Lambert, editor, 1984, 487 pages, published by the American Chemical Society, Advances in Chemistry Series, No. 205. Twenty-two papers from the Seventh Symposium on Archaeological Chemistry, held in September 1982. Subjects include soapstone, obsidian, archaeological soils, stained glass, majolica, Maya ceramics, Egyptian blue, medieval pigments, dating of manuscript inks, native copper, Roman coins, radiocarbon dating by particle accelerators, plant gums, Oriental lacquer, textile fabric pseudomorphism, and discussions concerning the chemical analysis of the Shroud of Turin. Contact Dr. Joseph B. Lambert, Department of Chemistry, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois 60201 for further information.

HUNGARIAN NEWSLETTER FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND ARCHAEOOMETRY

A Hungarian language newsletter with the title which might be interpreted in English as *Newsletter for Industrial Archaeology and Archaeometry* is being published in Hungary. This Newsletter is likely to reflect the recent developments and achievements of archaeometric research in Hungary. Anyone interested in receiving additional information concerning this Newsletter can contact Catherine T. Biro, Hungarian Geological Institute, H-1143, Budapest Nepstadion u. 14, Hungary.

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