

SAS

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 1 SUMMER 1981

NEWSLETTER

SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

ARCHAEOASTRONOMY

The University of Maryland's Center for Archaeoastronomy, now in its third year, has developed an interdisciplinary program of research and education that focuses on the anthropological study of indigenous astronomical systems, sky lore, and cosmologies of both ancient and contemporary cultures. The *Bulletin* of the Center has expanded to become the quarterly journal *Archaeoastronomy* which serves uniquely as a medium for scholarly exchange in the field. All back issues for the first three volumes of the journal are still available at \$10 per volume for individuals and \$15 for libraries and institutions. Beginning with volume IV (1981), an annual subscription will be \$12 for individuals and \$18 for institutions. Outside the U.S., please add \$3 per order to cover postage and handling. For further information, contact the Director, John B. Carlson, Anthropology Department, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20747 (301) 454-4460.

PIXE FACILITY AT UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

The Proton-induced X-ray Emission Facility at the NSF-Arizona Regional Accelerator Facility, University of Arizona, is dedicated to research in scientific and practical problems that require non-destructive qualitative or quantitative elemental analysis. Sample may be as small as a few micrograms and spatial resolution may be a few millimeters or less. The facility is interested in cooperative research involving long or short term projects, and proposals are evaluated by a committee on the basis of scientific merit and the aims of the ARAF. Particular interest is in the development of new research areas and applications. Participants are advised on the methods of preparing samples and interpretation of results. Samples provided will be run or users may be assisted in operating the equipment. Each user is charged a nominal fee for partial recovery of operations costs. Within six months after completing a set of analyses, the participant must submit a brief one-page report to ARAF, describing the results of the experiment and including references to expected publications. Research results not published by the user within one year of initiating a project may be published by ARAF personnel with acknowledgement of the participant's contribution.

For further information, write or telephone: PIXE Project, NSF-Arizona Regional Accelerator Facility, PAS (Bldg. 81), University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721. Telephone: Dr. J.O. Stoner, Jr. (602) 626-1918.

MSc IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The Department of Archaeology at the University of Southampton, England, offers an MSc in Archaeological Sciences. The purpose of the program is to give instruction in the technical methods of research widely used in archaeology today. This includes either artifact analysis (especially petrological study and trace element analysis) or environmental archaeology (particularly faunal analysis). The course also includes instruction in quantitative techniques and computer handling of archaeological data and in European archaeology. The latter should be useful for students with a non-archaeological background and for those from non-European universities. The program involves lectures and course work from October to May when written examinations are taken. After successful completion of the examination, the student engages in a full-time supervised individual project. The results of the project are submitted as a thesis the following September.

For information and an application form, write: The Academic Registrar, the University Southampton S09 5NH, England.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

THIRD ANNUAL SAS MEETING

A brief report of the Third Annual Meeting in San Diego and the election results were presented in the last issue of the Newsletter. Eighty-one SAS members attended the sessions which included five symposia. We are proud to report that the joint SAS/SAA Symposium on Early Man in the New World organized by Richard Shutler, Jr. drew the largest attendance of *any* session with between 225 and 275 attending. The SAS gained 35 new members during the three day period of the meeting. The current membership of the SAS stands at 602.

Highlights of the Annual Business Meeting included the confirmation by the membership of a recommendation of the Executive Board that an Office of the General Secretary for the SAS be established and be housed at the Radiocarbon Laboratory, University of California, Riverside. This action formalizes an arrangement inaugurated when the SAS was organized in 1977. All business affairs including the maintenance of the computer-based membership files and legal records will be maintained at the Office of the General Secretary. The officers and Executive Board of the SAS, which as a normal course, change from year to year, will set general policy for the SAS. The Office of the General Secretary will provide administrative continuity in the organization of the SAS.

Other important business conducted during the Annual Session was the report of the SAS Secretary-Treasurer, Mathew Hall that the Society continues to maintain increasing membership and a positive bank balance. Total expenditures during the last fiscal year was \$2491.64. An internal audit conducted by the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, David Weide, reported that he had examined the financial reports and found that the expenditures were appropriate and accurately reflect the funds expended in each of the budget categories. A proposed budget for the 1981 fiscal year in the amount of \$3700 was adopted by the membership.

Other action by the membership was the formation of a Ad-hoc Committee in association with the Society for American Archaeology to prepare a position paper on the issue of "Scientific Creationism." Details of the committee activities will be presented in forthcoming issues of the Newsletter.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

This is SAS's third year during which it has grown to almost 600 members. Fortunately, the name of our Society fulfills the diversity of its membership. At the recent Archaeometry Symposium at Brookhaven National Laboratory a discussion set forth some of the basic definitions involving archaeological science. Archaeological science is seen as a general cover term for all branches of science applied or under development for use in archaeology or on archaeological materials. Archaeometry, on the other hand, is inclusive of the fields of chemistry, physics, dating techniques, material science and geology (in part), whereas, environmental archaeology includes geology (in part) and biology. Fortunately, the name of our Society is accurate as it does combine archaeometry and environmental archaeology.

As the incumbent President, I write this as an open letter to the membership and would like your comments which can be sent to me. (Professor J.E. Ericson, CARD, Peabody Museum, Cambridge, MA 02138.) During my term I am most interested to implement the plan to extend our membership to our international colleagues.

Since our Society through our *Newsletter* acts as an important information source, it is within our goals and purposes to extend our membership to the international community. This would create a much greater information pool. The *Newsletter* has been extremely important in providing useful information. I need the names of foreign colleagues in archaeological science who will be willing to promote our Society in their country. In turn, I will send them a packet of information on the Society. Already, we have interested some colleagues to join in Japan, Sweden, and India. Please send the names to me at the above address. In the next issue of the Newsletter, I want to suggest some means by which we can close the "gap" between the archaeological scientist and the practicing archaeologist.

SAS AT THE PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS IN 1983

We want to remind all SAS members again of the upcoming Pacific Science Congress scheduled for February 1-11, 1983 at Dunedin, New Zealand. Those interested in participating in the symposium on "Archaeological Science in the Pacific Region" should contact either Dr. Foss Leach (University of Otago, Dunedin) or Dr. R. E. Taylor (Department of Anthropology, UC Riverside) for further details.

REQUESTS FOR COOPERATION

A number of SAS members have suggested that it would be useful to have a cooperation section included in the Newsletter. Responses on our recent information form have made it possible to initiate the section with this issue. If you need information, samples, analyses, or any other form of assistance from your colleagues, please let the Newsletter Editor know and we will include your requests for cooperation in the next issue.

Remote Sensing: As chair of the American Society of Photogrammetry Committee on Archaeology and Anthropology, James J. Ebert (Remote Sensing Division, National Park Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107) would like to ask all archaeologists/ethnologists using remote sensing in their research activities to send him a brief note describing such applications. The ASP actively supports the efforts of members and those scientists employing remote sensing of photogrammetry might consider joining.

Pedoturbation: Donald Lee Johnson (Department of Geography, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801) needs examples of pedoturbation for inclusion in a book he is writing on soil, geology and archaeological mixing.

Uranium series Dating: Henry P. Schwartz (Department of Geology, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada) writes "scientists and archaeologists working on prehistoric sites containing travertine and which are too old to date by C-14, might consider uranium series dating. Other materials which could be dated with less confidence include molluscs, bone, and calcrete."

Geoarchaeology of Southern California Lithics: Clay Singer (Northridge Archaeological Research Center, Department of Anthropology, CSUN, 1811 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330) urges colleagues interested in doing geochemical analysis of southern California rocks on a now-and-then basis, sometimes for money, to contact NARC. He feels that the fused shale from the Grimes Canyon area has great potential as a traceable material.

PANDA: NEW PACIFIC NEWSLETTER FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

As an outgrowth of the Archaeometry Conference held in Christchurch, New Zealand on August 27-28, 1980, a new newsletter devoted to the exchange of information on archaeometric topics in the Oceanic region has begun publication. PANDA (Pacific Newsletter of Development in Archaeometry) ~~exists to provide a forum for those involved~~ in biological, chemical, mathematical, and physical science applications in archaeology. Interdisciplinary collaboration between archaeologists and scientists working in the Pacific areas is one of the principal aims of the newsletter.

The production of PANDA is being undertaken as a cooperative effort of Foss Leach (University of Otago), John Dennison (University of Otago) and Graeme Ward (Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Canberra). Members of the SAS who are interested in receiving PANDA can contact Dr. Leach at the Department of Anthropology, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand.

FRYXELL AWARD TO KARL BUTZER

The recipient of the 1981 Fryxell Award of the Society for American Archaeology is Dr. Karl W. Butzer, Henry Schultz Professor of Environmental Archaeology at the University of Chicago. The award is given annually by the SAA to those individuals who have made the most significant contribution to interdisciplinary studies in the archaeology of the Americas. As all SAS members know, Professor Butzer was the founding president of the SAS and North American editor of the JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE. Previous recipients of the Fryxell Award have been Peter Mehringer, Vance Haynes, and James Griffin.

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EDITOR: S.P. De Atley, Conservation Analytical Laboratory, HTB AB070, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560

SAS

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: David Mc Junkin, Christine Prior

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, CA 92521.

MEETING NOTES

FIRST AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE ON ARCHAEOOMETRY

The First Australian Conference on Archaeometry will be held February 15 to 18, 1982 at the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales. The preliminary program includes sessions on analysis and source characterization, geoarchaeological techniques, radiocarbon and thermoluminescent dating, paleomagnetism, and conservation. The guest lecturer will be Dr. Stuart Fleming, Scientific Director, Museum Applied Center for Archaeology, University Museum, University of Pennsylvania. Further details can be obtained by writing to the conference secretary, Dr. Peter Duerden, AAECRE, Sutherland, NSW 2232, Australia.

SEVENTH SYMPOSIUM ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY

The Seventh Symposium on Archaeological Chemistry will meet September 14-15, 1982 in conjunction with the 184th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Kansas City, Missouri. Papers are solicited on all areas of chemistry that are concerned with archaeology. These may include analysis, dating, or prospection. The papers will be published in the ACS symposium series. Intention to give a paper should be expressed by March 1, 1982. Abstracts must be submitted on the ACS form by May 1, 1982. For information or abstract forms, write to Professor Joseph B. Lambert, Department of Chemistry, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois 80201.

SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Radiocarbon Laboratory, Department of Anthropology
University of California, Riverside, California 92521