

The Society for Archaeological Sciences - The First 25 Years (More or Less)
Rob Sternberg, SAS General Secretary
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The SAS is somewhere in the vicinity of the 25th anniversary of its founding. During the International Symposium on Archaeometry and Archaeological Prospection in 1977 at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, five members of the acting executive board met to lay the groundwork for the formal organization and development of the SAS. The first issue of the *Newsletter* of the Society for Archaeological Sciences was issued in the summer of 1977. The Articles of Incorporation for the Society for Archaeological Sciences were filed with the Secretary of State of the State of California on 29 March 1979. The initial goal was to develop a consensus as to the issues confronting those actively involved in the pursuit of archaeometric research in the 1970s and beyond.

"The original idea for the SAS came about as the result of a consideration of the contrast between the support for archaeological science/archaeometry in England and Europe as opposed to the United States... The actual idea was developed in conversations between Rainer Berger and myself and we coined the name Society for Archaeological Sciences (plural, "sciences"). I then contacted various individuals around the country to sound them out. There was support by a number and they became the first Acting Executive Board" (R.E. Taylor, personal communication).

"Both SAS and the Geological Society of America Division were founded as part of a broad effort to get archaeological science and archaeological geology able to function better – you need professional societies, university grad programs to train the next generation, journals, newsletters, meetings, etc. Both have been successful in 'leading the way' and both fields are doing well" (Rip Rapp, personal communication).

SAS had 100 charter members. Membership cost \$5 per year. The first meeting was held on April 25, 1979, at the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) meeting in Vancouver. A questionnaire in Fall, 1979, showed SAA to be the most popular venue for SAS meetings. This has continued, with the exception that SAS business meetings have been held at the International Archaeometry Symposium when that meeting is in North America. The SAS has sponsored archaeological science sessions at the SAA meeting since 1982 (*SAS Newsletter*, 5:2). Membership for the past decade has hovered between 300 and 400. SAS currently has 294 members (2003 renewals are still dribbling in), of which 214 are in the United States, 16 in the United Kingdom, 14 in Canada, and 50 from other countries. By membership category, there are 181 regular members, 72 lifetime members, 20 student/retired members, and 21 institutional members. There are 145 members taking advantage of special SAS subscription rates to the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, and 55 subscribing to *Archaeometry*.

The founding SAS Acting Executive Board in 1977 consisted of Rainer Berger, Karl Butzer, James B. Griffin, P. Edgar Hare, Richard L. Hay, Vance Haynes, Robert Maddin, George Rapp, Jr., Max Saltzman, and R.E. Taylor. R.E. Taylor served as both the

Newsletter editor and the Acting Secretary. Subsequent elections brought those listed below into the offices of President and Secretary-Treasurer. The Editor of the *Newsletter/Bulletin* has been selected by the Board. Elections switched from annual to biannual in 1991.

<u>Year</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Secretary-Treasurer</u>	<u>Editor</u>
1979	Karl Butzer	Rainer Berger	Suzanne De Atley
1980	R.E. Taylor	Matthew Hall	Suzanne De Atley
1981	Jonathan Ericson	David Weide	Suzanne De Atley
1982	John Weymouth	Elizabeth Coughlin	Suzanne De Atley
1983	George Rapp, Jr.	Thomas J. Riley	Suzanne De Atley
1984	Rainer Berger	Barbara Luedtke	George Rapp, Jr.
1985	Joseph Michels	John Twilley	George Rapp, Jr.
1986	Joseph Lambert	Prudence Rice	Pat Martin
1987	Jeffrey Dean	Irwin Rovner	Pat Martin
1988	Garman Harbottle	Patricia Crown	Pat Martin
1989	Doug Price	Patricia Crown	Pat Martin
1990	Suzanne DeAtley	Rob Sternberg	Rob Sternberg
1991	James Burton	Chris Prior	Rob Sternberg
1993	Erv Garrison	Chris Prior	Rob Sternberg
1995	Pat Martin	Chris Prior	Chris Nagle
1997	Rob Sternberg	Felicia Beardsley	Rob Tykot
1999	Chris Prior	Felicia Beardsley	Rob Tykot
2001	Arleyn Simon	Felicia Beardsley	Rob Tykot
2003	Greg Hodgins	Colleen Stapleton	Rob Tykot

Vice Presidents appointed by the Executive Board have included Steve Shackley, Elizabeth Lawlor, Foss Leach, Arleyn Simon, Jim Burton, and Christian Wells. Foss Leach, Curt Beck, Robert Maddin, Daniel Wolfman served as consulars. Chris Prior began many years of official and unofficial service to the SAS in 1980.

The office of the General Secretary was established in 1981, with R.E. Taylor assuming the post. This office was intended to provide administrative continuity to the organization. All business affairs including the maintenance of the membership files and legal records are to be maintained by the General Secretary. Records were computerized in 1981. Erv Taylor held this position for more than 20 years until it was taken over by Rob Sternberg in the summer of 2002. Chris Prior, Elizabeth Stilwell, and Donna Kirner have served as Associate Secretaries-general.

The official organ of the SAS has been its *Newsletter*, changing its name to the *Bulletin* with volume 12. It is currently in its annual volume 26. Newsletters were quarterly from the start. The length was 4-6 pages through volume 5. The first 10-page issue was 10:1, with subsequent page length records increasing to 16 pages in 10:3, 24 pages in 15:1, 28 pages in 20:1/2, and 32 pages in 21:1/2. After several years with occasional combined issues, the *Bulletin* has returned to coming out on a quarterly basis. Some other milestones: the first stapled issue was 7:1, and 8:3 thereafter. Bitnet email

addresses first appeared in 10:1, with more than half of the officers and editorial staff showing email addresses by 12:1. The cover went glossy with 24:1. A CD-ROM of pdf files for the first 25 volumes of the *Newsletter/Bulletin* is currently under preparation by the General-Secretary's office.

An Editorial Staff for the Newsletter was first listed in 11:1, with associate editors at that time in archaeological chemistry, archaeometallurgy, environmental archaeology, geoarchaeology, geology, remote sensing. The archaeometallurgy column, started in 1985 by Martha Goodway, continues to this day, the longest run of any of our associate editors. Book reviews became regular with a new associate editor in 12:3. The list of associate editors has included: Joseph Lambert, Martha Goodway, David Yesner, Julie Stein, James Ebert, Rob Sternberg, Prudence Rice, Sue Mulholland, Rob Tykot, Delwen Samuel, Mark Nesbitt, Robin Burgess, Charles Kolb, Carl Heron, David Landon, Richard Evershed, Michael Glascock, Donna Kirner, Apostolos Sarris, Jack Rink, Michael Waters, Linda Scott Cummings, Michael Richards, Mark Hall, Nora Reber, Frederic Pearl, and Colleen Stapleton. Judy Holz and Jody Dalton also served as assistants to the *Bulletin* editors.

The *Journal of Archaeological Science* was floated as a potential journal for SAS in 3:1 in a message from President Butzer. Special subscription rates for SAS members became available in 1979. The cover of JAS has stated since 2000 that it is "published in association with the Society of Archaeological Sciences." One of the JAS editors informally sits on the Executive Board of SAS, as does an editor of *Archaeometry*. SAS also selects one of the managing editors of *Archaeometry*. A less formal discount subscription rate agreement also exists for SAS members for the journal *Archaeological Prospection*.

Gar Harbottle developed the first SAS poster in 1980 (4:2). A later poster was produced under the guidance of Erv Taylor. The current SAS logo was developed by Betsy Lawlor in 1994 (17:3). A fancier membership brochure came out in 1994 (17:4). And you may have seen our portable membership display at meetings around the globe.

The first international endeavor of SAS was at the Pacific Science Congress, Dunedin, New Zealand, 1983 (4:2). Foss Leach and R.E. Taylor served as co-conveners of the symposium "Archaeological Science in the Pacific Region." Informal relations with the International Symposium on Archaeometry remain strong. Sarah Wisseman serves as the SAS Representative on the ISA's Standing Committee. The recently named R.E. Taylor student poster award is given by SAS to the outstanding student poster at the International Symposium on Archaeometry, and to the outstanding student archaeometry poster at the SAA.

Foss Leach got SAS online, starting with the electronic bulletin board ArchSci in 1991 (14:1). This morphed into the listserv SAS-Net and the ftp site SAS-Depot later in 1991 (14:4). Jim Burton is now responsible for the listserv, and also got our web site up in 1997, which can now be found at the domain name www.socarchsci.org. A number of back issues of the *Bulletin* are available as pdf files from the web site.

Plenum Press and now Kluwer Publishers, in cooperation with the SAS, has issued five volumes in the book series *Advances in Archaeological And Museum Science*. The editorial board for this series has included Martin J. Aitken, Edward V. Sayre, R.E. Taylor, and Robert H. Tykot. Volumes to date are: *Phytolith Systematics*, Susan C. Mulholland, and George Rapp Jr. (eds.), 1992; *Chronometric Dating in Archeology*, R.E. Taylor and Martin J. Aitken (eds.), 1997; *Archaeological Obsidian Studies*, M. Steven Shackley (ed.); 1998; *Science and Technology in Historic Preservation*, Ray A. Williamson and Paul R. Nickens (eds.), 2000; *Biogeochemical Approaches to Paleodietary Analysis*, Stanley H. Ambrose, and M. Anne Katzenberg (eds.), 2001.

We look forward to the next 25 years. We anticipate continuing our successes of the past, but improving upon these with new ideas and new energy from you, our members. Let us know what you think!