

**EDITORIAL**

The 14th biennial meeting of SAfA will be held at Syracuse University May 21-24, 1998, and is organized by Chris de Corse. The next meeting will be held sometime in the summer of 2000 at Cambridge University, hosted by David Phillipson. Information about the meetings can be found at SAfA's web site. The address is <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sbrandt/index.htm>. While SAfA historically has traditionally been a North American group, we have met outside North America once (our last meeting in Poznan, Poland). There are few enough opportunities for Africanist archaeologists to meet, so we should try to accommodate our growing numbers of overseas colleagues.

This issue deals with a variety of topics. Iron production, both prehistoric and modern, is a focus of a couple of papers (Vignati-Pagis and Jensen). Felix Chami reports on excavations at the coast in Tanzania, and E.T. Kessey on a survey of the same region. Joanna Casey reports on the discovery of a Middle Stone Age site, and the destruction of an extensive Kintampo site in Ghana. Well preserved stone age sites are rare in West Africa, especially quite ancient ones. But information like this shows

that the archaeological record here does parallel that in other parts of Africa. A number of preliminary survey and excavations reports are also included, as well as an ethnoarchaeological report on material from Northern Cameroon. In the conference section, John Sutton discusses the archaeological heritage of Eastern Africa, and Katharine Neumann describes the state of archaeobotanic research in North Africa.

Speaking about conferences, South Africa has become the focus of a lot of attention recently. The International Association for the study of Human Palaeontology and the International Association of Human Biologists will have a joint "Dual Congress" at Sun City at the end of June 1998. The World Archaeological Congress (WAC) will meet in Cape Town in January 1999 and the International Quaternary Association (INQUA) the year after. Most or all of these conferences will have excursions, so that attendees can sample the wealth of natural and human history in this country. Given that WAC owes its origins to pro-active policies about apartheid and academic research in South Africa, it is interesting that they have chosen to meet there next year.