EDITORIAL

The next Society of Africanist Archaeologists conference, focusing on the "Cultural Diversity of Africa's Past" will be held from September 8 to 11, 2008 in Frankfurt, Germany. It will be receded by a student day on September 7, 2008. More details can be obtained on the conference web site at http://www.safa2008.com.

Tim Insoll of the University of Manchester informed me earlier this year that the European Science Foundation has sponsored a European Reference Index for the Humanities. The stated goal is to identify excellence in humanities research (as widely defined). In the fall of 2007, they published a rating of archaeology journals on a scale of A to C. While major journals such as *American Antiquity*, *Antiquity*, *Cambridge Archaeology Journal*, and even our own regional journals, the *African Archaeological Review* and the *Journal of African Archaeology*, received the top score of A, *Nyame Akuma* received a B. This is quite an achievement for our bulletin, as many other well known publications scored lower than this. You can see the archaeology (and other subject lists) at http://www.esf.org/research-areas/humanities/research-infrastructures-including-erih/erih-initial-lists.html.

One bit of editorial advice. Most papers are now being submitted to me electronically. This is perfectly all right, but there are a few guidelines to follow. Send a text file with your article. Use the simplest of word processing commands. In other words, avoid special formatting codes especially in the bibliography (see a recent issue for bibliographic style). Reference sources in the text in brackets with author, year and page number. Only use formal footnotes when necessary, and do not use a footnoting program; just type out the footnote at the end of the paper, before the list of references cited. Include a list of figure captions at the end, as well as any tables. Then send me figures as individual graphics files with the author's name and figure number. Do not put figures or tables within the text; just mark where they should do.

Recently an issue about copyright and reprint rights came up. The SAfA executive decided that we should include a statement on the inside cover that copyright is retained by the author. You are free to reprint your own article for academic purposes, but mention where it was originally published.

While *Nyame Akuma* has occasionally published articles about African societies outside of Africa, it is good to hear from Christopher Fennell of the University of Illinois about the African Diaspora Archaeology Network and Newsletter. He states that "The African Diaspora Archaeology Network and Newsletter works to provide a focal point for archaeological and historical studies of African diasporas, with news, current research, information and links to other web resources related to the archaeology and history of descendants of African peoples. Through this engagement with African diasporas, the ADAN seeks to connect an intellectual community that considers the historical processes of racialization, gender, power, and culture operating within and upon African descendant communities". It is published quarterly and can be accessed on the web at http://www.diaspora.uiuc.edu/newsletter.html. Contact Christopher Fennell if you wish to submit anything at cfennell@uiuc.edu.

There are a variety of articles in this issue. Sheila Coulson asked for a chance to respond to the article by Robbins et al. in the last issue of *Nyame Akuma*. Beldados et al. re-examine archaeological collections from Agordat made by A. J. Arkell in the 1940s. Gijanto discusses how archaeology and historical research can help one to understand the impact of global trade on Gambian societies. Boachie-Ansah discusses a current case study in cultural resource management in Ghana. Paul Lane reports on pastoralist archaeology and ethnoarchaeology in the Samburu region of Kenya, while Magnavita et al. discuss a survey and excavation at Marandat in Niger. Nel presents a faunal analysis of the important Middle Stone Age site of Blombos Cave. Last of all, Biittner et al. discusses my own field project on the post-Acheulean archaeology in the Iringa Region of southern Tanzania. In 14 years of editing *Nyame Akuma*, I have never published anything about my own field work. By doing so in this issue, it gives my two PhD students a chance to discuss their research, as all three of us will do in Frankfurt.