

## **Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA) Business Meeting**

**Held from 16:00 to 18:30, June 23, 2012, Toronto, Canada**

The business meeting was held in Toronto, Canada at the conclusion of the biennial meeting of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists (SAfA). It was called to order at 4:05 pm.

1. In Memorium. A list of names of SAfA members who have passed away since the Frankfurt meeting in 2010 was read. It is composed of Philip Tobias, Peter Garlake, Hilary Deacon, Ekpo Eyo, John Vogel, Louis Matiyela, Remigius Chami and Yaw Bredwa-Mensah. A minute of silence in their honour followed.

2. Executive Board actions and issues – presented by Jeff Fleisher.

Jeff gave the thanks of the membership to the local Toronto organizing committee for their excellent conference.

The board proposes that there should be a committee to discuss the relationship between SAfA and the PAA. This committee will be selected from the list of former SAfA Presidents.

The board wants the next board to create a procedure for electing executive members.

SAfA passed an ethics statement at the Calgary meeting in 2006. We need some kind of procedure to take action, should this become necessary.

3. Treasurer's report – presented by Jeff Fleisher.

In 2012, there are 400 members from 37 countries. Of these, 129 are based in North America, 161 in Africa and 108 from Europe or Asia.

There is \$30,576.58 US in the bank account.

Eleven students received grants of between \$300 and \$2,200 in order to attend the meeting. A total of \$9,000 was given by SAfA for student travel.

There was a discussion about how SAfA funds students, and why only partial funding was given out to individuals.

It was stated that we need better communication between the SAfA Executive and the Organizing committee of the meeting, in relation to student funding.

4. Organizing Secretary's report – presented by Michael Chazan.

Michael Chazan thanked Jeff Fleisher for stepping in at the last moment with many e-mail messages to conference attendees before the meeting.

A total of 230 people were registered for the meeting.

Michael Chazan also wanted the membership to know that the organizing committee has no role in validating or presenting political statements and/or motions at the meeting.

5. Report of the *Nyame Akuma* editor – presented by Diane Lyons.

Diane Lyons reported that *Nyame Akuma* is going well. There are about 8 to 10 articles submitted per issue. Members are reminded that it is a non-refereed journal. There is a new copy editor, Diana Harlow who is also a SAfA member. There is a move to make the journal on line only, in order to save costs.

6. Webmaster's report – presented by Susan McIntosh.

Susan McIntosh reported that the new website is about to go online. Members will need new passwords for digital access to *Nyame Akuma*. There will be a page called SAfA Commons, for announcements, reviews and news. She is also looking for someone to help her with the website, with a view to taking over as webmaster in the future.

7. SAfA student meeting report – presented by Justin Pargeter and Adrienne Daggett.

There was a student pre-conference day, with a workshop on open-source GIS and another on grantsmanship. The new studentmembers of the executive were elected. They are Wendy Black (from the U of Cape Town) as the student representative for Africa and Sarita Louzolo (U of Helsinki), as student representative for non-Africa.

8A. Report about the *African Archaeological Review* – presented by Adria LaViolette.

There have been lots of strong submissions to the AAR, but more are needed. The number of article downloads is up and J-Stor has picked up the AAR.

8B. Report about the *Journal of African Archaeology* – presented by Sonja Magnavita.

JAA is doing well in its 10<sup>th</sup> year. The new book review editor is Katie Manning and the new copy editor is Sam Nixon.

8C. Report about *Azania* – presented by Peter Mitchell.

*Azania* now covers all of Africa, not just East Africa. It accepts articles in French or English. It has 4 issues per year, totally about 540 pages per year. The need for online access was brought up.

9. Report on new SAfA book series.

Ann Stahl will be the editor of the new *Springer Briefs in Archaeology: Contributions from Africa*. It is intended for concise, peer reviewed books, for a broad audience. These can be single authored or edited, and should be 50 to 125 pages long. They will be available electronically. Titles will cover the full range of time periods, and Ann Stahl is in the process of setting up an editorial board.

10. Report on SAfA book prize and student paper and poster prizes.

Peter Robertshaw reports on behalf of the book prize committee (himself, Alexandre Livinston-Smith and Simiyu Wandibba) that the winner for 2012 is Ann Mayor's *Tradition Ceramique dans la Boucle du Niger*, published in the monographic series of the Journal of African Archaeology.

There will be an e-mail call for students who presented papers at the meeting to submit their paper for the 2012 student paper prize.

A poster committee examined the student posters and will be making a decision about the poster prize winner in the near future.

11. 2014 and 2016 SAfA meeting venues.

The 2014 meeting will be held at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, sometime in the first two weeks of July, and will be held in conjunction with the meeting of the PAA.

Eric Huseycom proposed the 2016 meeting be held in Toulouse, as a joint proposal from the University of Toulouse, the African Museum in Brussels and the University of Geneva.

12. Elections of officers.

The following officers were elected for the period of 2012 to 2014.

Elena Garcea, President  
Matthew Pawlowicz, Treasurer  
Diane Lyons, Editor, *Nyame Akuma*  
Scott MacEachern, Recording Secretary  
Karim Sadr, Organizing Secretary  
Ben Kankpeyeng, Member at large for Africa  
Nancy Morongwa Mosothwane, Member at large for Africa  
Alexandre Livingston-Smith, Member at large for Europe  
Sarah Croucher, Member at large for North America  
Wendy Black, Student representative for Africa  
Sarita Louzolo, Student representative for non-Africa

13. Motions.

A. Proposed by Eric Huyscom: “With a view to limiting and in order to conserve the African cultural heritage, SAfA urges, for ethical reasons, that radiometric dating labs no longer run dates for dealers, auctioneers or private collectors, on archaeological materials or on ethnographic items of historical significance, or on samples taken from such materials”.

While this was originally meant for C-14 labs, it was mentioned that TL labs should also be included; therefore the term radiometric was used.

Peter Mitchell proposed that this statement should be transmitted to the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, to *Archaeometry* and to the July 2012 Radiocarbon conference.

It was mentioned that only certain C-14 labs do dating without destroying part of an object, and that these are the labs that are of most concern.

This motion passed.

B. Proposed by Peter Mitchell. “Reaffirming its commitment to an African archaeology that is both socially engaged and socially responsible, and mindful of its own code of ethics, SAfA calls on its members to refrain from participating in fieldwork in areas to be affected by the proposed dams on the Middle Nile (Sudan) or other countries until and unless those projects enjoy the support of the resident local population and have been the subject of independently conducted publically available Environmental Impact Assessments and asks the incoming SAfA executive to communicate this resolution to the PAA and the Presidents of SARS (the Sudan Archaeological Research Society, based at the British Museum) and ISNS (the International Society for Nubian Studies)”.

It was mentioned that the British Institute in Eastern Africa will not fund fieldwork here unless these conditions are met.

This motion passed.

#### 14. Announcements.

Thanks to the Toronto organizers.

The women's network held a meeting at this conference.

There will be a meeting of the new board when this meeting ends.

The West African Association of Archaeologists will meet in Abijan, Ivory Coast from November 26 to 30, 2012.

The annual African archaeology research day will be held at the U of Southampton from November 3 to 4, 2012.

Members will meet to celebrate the birthday of Peter Mitchell at the Pilot Bar this evening.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Elena Garcea was introduced as the new President of SAfA and she made some brief remarks. She pointed out that SAfA is still growing, and also thanked the Toronto organizing committee for their efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.