# Society of Africanist Archaeologists Full Business Meeting Minutes SAfA 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting: Frankfurt, Germany September 11, 2008

There was a general thanks to the hard work of all student helpers at the conference.

A moment of silence was observed to recognize Africanist archaeologists who had died since the last SAfA meetings: Peter Shinnie, Canada (July 9, 2007) a SAfA founder and renowned Africanist, Richard B. Nunoo, Ghana (2007), the first African archaeologist of Africa, F. Clark Howell (USA) noted paleoanthropologist and Africanist (10 March 2007), David Keogu Mulinda, Bernard Mbebe, A. Mturi, and Peter Ucko.

# 1. President's Report

# i) State of membership:

The SAfA membership has more than doubled in the past 4 years. This increase in membership has also resulted in a demographic shift in the proportion of membership. There is now almost parity of North American and African membership but a greater proportion of membership now in Europe. SAfA has become a much larger organization. This has implications for future SAfA meetings which must have concurrent sessions. Future boards will have to think about how to elect officers and to communicate with one another between sessions. It was noted that there was some decline in the institutional memberships, but a tripling in student memberships since 2004 and an increase in life memberships.

#### ii) SAA/ASA session committee

In order to streamline SAfA- members on the SAA/ASA SAfA-sponsored session committee the president replaced some members and developed a clear process for submitting proposals for the sessions. Previously the criteria were determined at the Bergen conference and are now available on the website. It was decided that it was essential to invite a prominent non-Africanist discussant for these sessions in order to draw a broader audience. For the same reason sessions should also include theoretical papers. It was also noted that some of the earlier SAfA-sponsored sessions are going forward for publication.

The 2008 SAAs in Vancouver included a SAfA-sponsored reception with a cash bar. The cost was \$500 for the society and it was well attended and a good investment. Members who think that this might be worth while to do at other meetings (for example the European meetings) should let us know. Members should be encouraged to bring prominent non-Africanists to these sessions if possible to raise our profile.

iii) A SAfA sponsored travel fund committee was established in this board's cycle. Rather than supporting the upcoming conference, it was decided to provide \$5000 for graduate student travel. The same sum had been provided by the President and Treasurer to the Calgary conference committee. The travel fund committee 2008 solicited applications from graduate students via the website. There was a downloaded PDF

application and students had to verify enrolment with a scan/fax copy of their student card or a letter. The committee was made up of the President (Diane Gifford Gonzalez), Treasurer (Jeff Fleisher), Recording Secretary (Diane Lyons), Yusef Jwayeyi (Member at Large Africa), and the Student Representative (Per Frederickson). The committee evaluated the information by email and ranked the applications according to the following criteria:

- 1. students were presenting a poster/paper at the conference
- 2. students were based in Africa or were African students studying abroad.
- 3. non-African students who were coming from continents other than the continent on which the conference was taking place
- 4. Other students

The committee received requests for almost \$20,000 and was able to fund eight students with a total of \$7400. One student could not attend because of VISA problems at the last minute. The board suggests that SAfA continue providing \$5000 for student travel to future conferences as long as SAfA's treasury can afford to do so. It was noted that most of our current treasury is based on the success of the Cambridge and Calgary conferences.

#### Website

The minutes of this and the executive board meeting will be posted to the website. It was also agreed to develop a website link to post information on the treasury and information on procedures for decision making on the website. There was also a decision to create and archive to assist future executive board officers.

#### **Time Magazine:**

The president wrote to Time Magazine condemning their article that African antiquities were a good investment. Many other similar letters were sent from the SAA and the ASA. It was concluded that Time got the message and that this article was a misstep.

# 2. Treasurer's Report (see Appendix A: Treasurer's Report) Summary:

SAfA's financial status is the strongest that it has ever been (over \$20,000). This success is due to last 3 conferences running a surplus. Most of this came from the Calgary conference that produced \$17,000 in surplus. We do take a loss by offering extra journals. Our running cost per year is covered by membership fees (approx. \$3500)

SAfA has also saved money in the move from hard copy to online subscriptions of Nyame Akuma. Each year we take in \$3-4000 from institutional memberships. The membership was encouraged to get their universities to take up institutional memberships. The full archives of Nyame Akuma are available online to attract institutional libraries.

The treasurer noted that the payment system for SAfA is problematic. He has worked with a web designer for several months to develop a better system. The new system will be online in October. Payments will not be through pay pal but direct on the website and

an automatic receipt will be generated by the program. Members can update their own information and everything can be ordered online including journals. The treasurer asked that people be patient as their will be some initial glitches but that they should email Jeff Fleisher (treasurer) to alert him to any problems. The program incurs some initial expense but in the long-run it will save SAfA money.

Subscription rates for journals are still being negotiated. Our membership rates will likely stay the same for another year, but these rates are incredibly low. Nyame Akuma has only 2 institutions in Africa that subscribe. A request was made that for a member to contact African institutions to let them know that membership was free and to sign up

It was suggested by a member that we should consider opening a European account which would make European money transfers easier. The treasurer agreed to look into that possibility.

#### **Organizing Secretary Report**

The president thanked the Organizing Committee for the Frankfurt Conference. The conference has run very smoothly and the committee organized good venues for the hotels at a good cost.

Peter Breunig provided some brief preliminary statistics for the conference.

# Frankfurt Conference SAfA 2008 Organizing Secretary Report

290 registrations260 participants

130 Europeans, 70 Africans, 50 N. Americans, 3 Australians, 1 Chinese 195 papers presented

# **Financial Support**

Conference fees collected: (30,000 Euros)

Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Africa (ZIAF) Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft: (25,000 Euros)

Wenner-Gren Foundation (14,500 USD)

## Funding for 25 Africans scholars and 5 others

Saalburg excursion: KFW Bank (7,000 Euros)

Poster Session Reception: Bremer Stiftung fuer Kultur- und Sozialanthropologie /

Cologne University (2000 Euros) Switzerland KPFE: (10000 Euros)

Faculty of Science, University of Geneva (10000 Euros)

SAfA Student Travel Grants (7,400 USD)

## 3. Report from new Editor of African Archaeological Review (Scott MacEachern)

The new editor is Adria Laviolette who was unable to stay for the business meeting. Scott is her representative. Contact information for the new version of the journal is in the conference program. Springer has renewed their commitment to the AAR. There is a new cover. The journal will publish 4 times each year with issues full of articles and

interviews. People were encouraged to submit articles to AAR, and the editor is committed to getting papers through the review process so that they will appear in 2009. The print quality will be significantly improved but not the journal's size format. But Springer is not opposed to enlarging the format once AAR has a consistent track record of submittals. Springer has a policy that they will not publish in French but they will publish extended abstracts in French. They will also publish an article in French if it is published in English at the same time. The editor will be asking people to act as reviewers. The submission process is online as is the review process. This is significantly faster and more efficient than the former process. An address will be put onto the website for book review submissions.

There is a website with information and other inquiries can be sent by email to Adria Laviolette and Scott MacEachern. It was noted that these changes to AAR were significant and welcome developments.

# 4. Report for Editor of Journal of African Archaeology (Peter Breunig)

The editor of JAA has spoken with the editor of AAA and they have agreed that 2.5 my of human history can support three African journals (including Azania). The JAA is running well: there is a constant flow of journals and the journal is appearing regularly. The journal has received an A rating from the Thomson index. The rating was requested by some members so that they would be able to publish in the journal. (The president noted at this time hat the AAR and Azania also have 'A' ratings). Half a year ago the JAA began a monograph series and there will be several upcoming volumes.

# **Afrique**

The treasurer announced that for those who had subscribed for the never produced 2007 issue, that the editor has promised a double issue for this November. He has not sent the journal any money so if the issue is not produced people will be reimbursed. The next board must consider if the wish to continue offering this journal to the membership.

#### Azania

Azania has been reconstituted and will be edited by Kevin MacDonald. Peter Mitchell, Peter Robertshaw and Bertram Mapunda. An information pack was made available at the conference. The journal will be published 3 times per year by Routledge. The issue will be available online including all back issues. Azania will be published in the same format as World Archaeology and will have the same quality. Articles of 8000 words will be accepted as well as shorter research reports and book reviews. The journal will cover all areas and periods of African archaeology. It will publish full articles in French. Azania is also seeking to become an official journal to SAfA with a discounted rate that is still being negotiated. An additional discount will also be offered to African SAfA members and Azania will be offered free online to African SAfA members. It was asked if the link between Azania and BIEA was severed, but the response was no as BIEA will offer its members Azania or *Journal of Eastern African Studies* but it was not known if BIEA would offer the same discount rate as SAfA. Negotiations are ongoing and the next board will need to deal with the status of Azania.

#### 5. Report from the editor of *Nyame Akuma* (Pamela Willoughby)

The editor noted that there were delays on the issues for December 2007, but the issue has now been printed and posted. The June 2008 issue is now at Rice for printing and posting. The editor also noted that *Nyame Akuma* was indexed by the European Reference Index for the Humanities and received a 'B' rating in a range of A-C ratings. This was encouraging as *Nyame Akuma* was compared with peer-reviewed journals, some of which received lower ratings.

Peter Breunig requested that conference participants provide their presentations as shrunk files to the conference committee and that these would be posted as an electronic proceeding on the SAfA website as was done with the Calgary conference papers.

Pam has served as NA editor for 14 years. Diane Lyons will be taking over as editor of the journal later this year. During the transition people should continue to submit articles to Pamela Willoughby. This will include abstracts from the conference that are usually published in the next issue (December 2008).

Tim Insoll asked for all those in favour to give a formal vote of thanks to Pam for being editor of Nyame Akuma for 14 long years (seconded by the audience) followed by full applause.

# 6. Report of SAA/ASA Symposium Committee

In order to build greater knowledge of African Archaeology within the broader archaeological and Africanist communities, SAfA is committed to promoting a more visible presence at the annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology and the African Studies Association. To meet this end, the SAA/ASA Symposium Committee was established in 2006 to assist in organizing and promoting SAfA sponsored sessions at the annual SAA and ASA meetings. The committee is charged with soliciting proposals and selected a maximum of two proposals per meeting for identification as SAfA-sponsored sessions. Selection will be based on the potential of each session:

\*to contribute new insights into the African past

In order to elicit broad interest in SAfA-sponsored sessions, we require the inclusion of prominent non-Africanists (SAA) or non-archaeologists (ASA) as participants in some capacity, normally as session discussants. For proposals to be considered for SAfA sponsorship at either the SAA or ASA annual meetings, proposals must be received by the Committee Chair two months in advance of the submission deadline which is posted on the respective meeting's website. Check the SAA and ASA websites annually for these dates. Please contact the Committee Chair directly if you have any questions regarding potential session submissions for either professional meeting, or the process of submitting your proposal for consideration.

Committee Members:

Chair: J. Cameron Monroe, Anthropology, UC Santa Cruz

<sup>\*</sup>to be published as an edited volume

<sup>\*</sup>to draw a diverse audience of non-Africanists / non-archaeologists.

Society Representatives:

John W. Arthur, Anthropology, University of South Florida

Catherine D'Andrea, Archaeology, Simon Fraser University

Paul Lane, Archaeology, York University

Briana Pobiner, Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History

All correspondences and submissions should be directed to the chair electronically at the following address:

jcmonroe@ucsc.edu

(Cameron Monroe is not in attendance so a report was presented by the president)

In order to encourage continuity, the chair will serve for 3 years to overlap 2 conferences and the other members for 2 years (serve one conference). The chair is responsible for replacing members. The SAfA sponsored sessions at Puerto Rico (2007), San Francisco (2007), and Vancouver 2008 were excellent. Due to a problem with the SAA's program our session at the Vancouver conference was not flagged as a SAfA session in the program but this can be fixed retroactively. The Vancouver conference was the biggest SAA conference ever. There were themed symposia where Africanists presented papers and on-africanist symposia where Africanists also were presenting papers on huntergatherers/flora, fuzzy data, iron working and other topics. In sum, Africanists were very visible at the Vancouver SAA meetings. This showed Africa's great contribution to archaeology and showcased Africa's great contribution to archaeology including in theory and method. The president encouraged the membership to bring Africanist research to the attention of the broader archaeological community. The next SAA meetings are in Atlanta and solicitations of Africanist papers have been made already and the committee will look at solicitations in the future. The SAA can have up to 2 SAfA sponsored sessions and 1 at the ASA (and we pay for the priviledge). At the 2007 ASA meetings in New York there were several meetings with Africanists presenting in the Eritrean session chaired by Peter Schmidt, and in Ann Stahl's symposium. Please let us know if these papers are published and submit abstract/proposals to us to put on the website.

# 7. Report of Regional Conferences Committee (Merrick Posnansky)

There has not been a committee since 2004. Merrick is contacting regional organizations in Africa to see if we can have more interaction between SAfA and the different regions of Africa. He met with the archaeological association at Porto Novo in 2004 and had some useful discussions. There are problems of raising funds for people to come from the West African association and attend SAfA meetings. He suggests that a SAfA representative should go to the West African Archaeological Association meetings. Merrick has done this once and he submitted notes that were published in Nyame Akuma. Members from all African countries could not attend these meetings including people from nearby countries who did not have the funds to attend.

The 2006 regional meeting of Ugandan archaeologists was very successful in financing their conference but there is a problem in organizing members on an East African level. Archaeologists from Kenya and Tanzania were linked to more outside organizations and

Central Africa. So there was not enough of a link between Uganda and other East African countries. Past president of the PAA attempted to do this but he died suddenly which is a great loss. It is hard to get people from West Africa to attend. There are about 100 members from West Africa (a large number come from Benin, Nigeria and Burkino Faso) but there is not enough funds for people to go to South Africa. For instance the cost for people to go from Burkino Faso to East Africa is more than the cost to Europe so few members attend.

#### (Ben Smith)

The South African Association of Africanist Archaeologists (SAAfA) has offered to fund someone from West Africa to come to the South African meetings. We could create something more formal in terms of a link between SAfA and SAAfA. The question for the board in the future is to examine how SAfA can support regional associations in West Africa. There is no one present who is connected with the East African associations, but there may be a meeting in Ethiopia next year. Paul Lane will pass information to the webmaster if more information comes along.

Merrick Posnansky suggested that if we have a surplus then it would be a good idea to give some money to an association to nominate someone to attend SAfA meetings. The president commented that this was a matter for the board and treasurer. We have made only tentative commitments to students for funding for SAfA in the future and we do not want to make promises that we cannot sustain. We have SAfA members who are members of these regional associations and an excellent website. Links can be made with other associations on the website which is currently underused.

## 8. Webmaster's Report (Susan McIntosh)

The website is a source of information that includes archives from meetings from the Bergen conference onwards, minutes of the business meetings and conference pictures are posted on the site, by-laws and amendments, and the history of SAfA. The first electronic proceedings began with the Calgary conference and we have heard that the Frankfurt committee will post the proceedings from this conference on the web as well. The organizing secretary (Peter Breunig) will organize this process. If there are nay difficulties in accessing the proceedings please let the webmaster know.

The June issue of Nyame Akume will be posted on the web when the webmaster returns from the conference. An error in a date linked to a Nyame Akuma posting has now been corrected. The West African Newsletter issues that were provided by Merrick Posnansky following the Calgary meetings have been scanned and put up on the website. If we receive any inquiries from groups in Africa that do not have the means of putting journals on line, we can post these journals for them on our website. If anyone knows of other such journals please let us know as well as if anyone knows of expired journals that are useful and that we can post following copyright clearance. The journals can be scanned and then put online.

The great dream of the website initially was to help out scholars everywhere by making resources available. We also rely on members for content and postings. Please send in

postings for jobs, field work opportunities, conferences, obituaries so that we can put these online.

Robert Vernet generates a newsletter of North Africa and Saharan archaeology that provides news of new articles, books, and websites, conferences, etc. The latest issue is always posted on the SAfA website. More content of this type for the rest of Africa would be most welcome. We also need to hear more from regional societies. The webmaster encouraged people chairing sessions for SAfA at the SAA and the ASA to send in the abstracts with contact information so that people can get more information from the presenters. The webmaster also wants to hear from people who want to provide information on their areas.

We have certain features on the website that if we want to change this is the time to do so. The discussion forum is least use feature on the website but it is a fabulous tool to tracks threads and it emails you if something of interest for you appears on the site. There is also the possibility of creating a blog and a wiki feature. The Webmaster asked if people wanted these extra features and several members put up their hands. Students said that the wiki tool of biographies would be helpful for students looking for jobs.

It was also confirmed that Susan McIntosh has agreed to stay on as webmaster.

# 9. Report from SAfA Student Meeting (Per Frederickson)

The student business meeting found that the GPS workshop for the student day was an excellent topic for the day. They had expected 18 students to attend the session but 22 attended. The organization of the student day was carried out with the help of Stefanie Kahlheber from the local committee. Axel Posluschny and Carl Peter Wendt agreed to help with the lecture. People stayed for the workshop for 3 to 4 hours. Every student received a free software CD and manual from Opensource. There was a session of young researchers presenting their work (Seke Katsamudanga and Dana Rosenstein). In the business meeting three points were made:

- 1. There should be 2 student representatives nominated so that if one is in the field then the other can take over. The student representatives should alternate between North American and European students because the students have been represented by a European student for 6 years. Dana Rosenstein and Dider NDah are both French speakers and were nominated as the student representatives.
- 2. The students' activity for the next SAfA student meeting was discussed.
- 3. How to increase activity on the student mailing list? Most of the activity has been generated by Per sending messages to students.

Per thanked students for making the meeting enjoyable and he also thanked the president and the executive for their collaboration and support.

The President asked that we affirm by applause the 2 student nominees for this position, and then thanked Per for his full participation on the board and for the wonderful job that he had done as student representative.

#### 10. SAfA Book Prize and SAfA Michèle Delneuf Student Paper and Poster Prizes

The committee for the SAfA Book Prize was staffed by Graham Connah and Akin Ogundiran. There were 3 submittals this year to the book prize committee. Akime thanked the committee for reviewing the books. All 3 books were excellent. He then read the criteria for the book prize:

In recognition of the growing wealth of African archaeology book titles and in the hope of strengthening publishers' interests in the field of African archaeology, the SAfA Executive is proud to announce the institution of the SAfA Book Prize in African Archaeology for the best contribution made in this field by a work published in the years 2006 and 2007. The first award was made at the 2006 SAfA Meeting in Calgary, Canada, to Ann B. Stahl's *African Archaeology: A Critical Introduction*.

The SAfA Book Prize is open to books and monographs, including site reports, in all fields of African archaeology, including ethnoarchaeology and the African diaspora, from the beginnings of the archaeological record to the present. Single author, multi-author and edited works are all eligible. There is no restriction as to language.

The award will be made to that book which makes an exceptional contribution within one of the following areas or a significant contribution in a number of them:

- 1) an important theoretical advance in African archaeology;
- 2) an important methodological advance in African archaeology;
- 3) a major advance in our knowledge of the African past;
- 4) success in taking African Archaeology to a world audience;
- 5) success in breaking down disciplinary divisions in African archaeology, be they temporal, geographic, linguistic or other;
- 6) success in championing the value of African Archaeology within an African nation or community;
- 7) success in championing the protection and preservation of Africa's archaeological heritage

The SAfA Book Award in African Archaeology for 2008 is made to *The Archaeology of Ancient Eritrea*, edited by Peter Schmidt, Matthew Curtis and Zelalem Teka. This decision was taken because of the major advance in our knowledge of the African past that the book represents. It is also due to the book's success in championing the value of African archaeology within an African nation and its success in championing the protection and preservation of Africa's archaeological heritage. While hese are the three main criteria on which the award is determined, the book also measures up very well in the other four criteria.

The president congratulated the winners and thanked the other authors for their submissions. The membership was encouraged to look on the website early in the year for submissions for the next conference book prize.

Student Paper Prize (Michèle Delneuf Memorial Award)

The executive board members marked the student papers presented at the conference based on the presentation of original research, and the quality of the presentation. Each category was ranked on a scale of 1-5. Two people scored a perfect 10. The student prize is awarded to both of these presenters:

Wazi Apoh, Binghamton University: German colonial residues and legacies in Ghana: archaeological insight into Kpando-Todzi site (Volta region of Ghana)
Thomas Fenn, University of Arizona, (co-authored with Abdoulaye Maga, Oumarou Ide, David Killick, John Chesley and Joaquin Ruiz): Technology and trans-Saharan commerce: medieval metals trade in the middle Sahel zone, sub-Saharan West Africa.

#### Student Poster Prize

The poster prize was awarded **Sylvain Ozainne** (Départment d'Anthropologie et d'Écologie, Université de Genève): *Defining the Late Neolithic in Dogon country* (Mali): a chrono-cultural, spatial and methodological appraisal.

The president remarked upon the excellent quality of the student presentations overall and thanked the students for an excellent job.

# 11. Discussion of the Next Meeting Timing and Location

The president noted the problem of determining a time for meeting based on the academic calendars provided by members of the executive for North America and Europe. There is obviously a problem as the only time that there is an opening is July and August which is inconvenient as this period is used for field work. It is impossible to make everyone happy with the timing. There is also the problem of tourism with the host city and attempts should be made to keep costs low. So everyone should be aware of the problems of trying to set a time for the meetings.

#### Matter of Venue for next SAfA

The president presented a read statement regarding the next SAfA venue (**see Appendix B**).

The president concluded that we need to need to support the previous executive board's decision or we risk undermining the society as a whole. We have made a commitment to Dakar. It is an experiment. If this fails then the future executive board can evaluate the situation and may chose to return to the normal rota. The president then opened the floor to discussion but encouraged members to be creative and not divisive

**David Phillipson:** noted that 10 years ago at one of the SAfA business meetings the membership took policy decisions in which they indicated that SAfA would never act in competition with the PAC as it was called then. He generally assumed that this meant that SAfA would not organize a conference in a year when PAC was meeting and neither would it arrange to generate any competition in attendance at these meetings. The second point was that SAfA would meet in North America or Europe but it would not meet in Africa, that being the prerogative of the PAC, the society on that continent. He was not present at Calgary and is unclear if it is proposed to have a joint meeting in Dakar or if

SAfA is holding a SAfA meeting separate from the PAA at Dakar. He has no problem with the latter e.g. SAfA has its full meeting as long as PAA agrees. He is not in favour of a joint meeting unless we receive a formal request from the PAA that this should be the case. Any resolution to accept this invitation should take into account that this goes against a policy decision of SAfA from10 years ago.

The President: Thanked David for his comments and noted an appreciation of his institutional memory and the reason that we need an archive. The board had consulted with others. SAfA will have an executive and business meeting in Dakar. One thing proposed is that not all of the sessions will be mixed but that we will have a separate SAfA day and a student day that is distinct. There is a lot of overlap in the membership of SAfA and the PAA. We are not prescribing this particular option but we are trying to find a way to make this work. We need to consider in future executives that if there are not going to be that many SAfA members in attendance, then it is prudent to have our next election 2010-2012 done electronically. This is a break with past practice. However, the scale of these meetings has increased and the intimate conversations about business that we have done in the past is gone. An ad hoc method of recruiting officers no longer works and the next executive needs to consider this issue. This will be a problem if we don't have the full business meeting in Dakar.

#### David Killick

If we have a commitment –that is end of matter. Any objections from North American members on cost is overwhelming.

*Diane Gifford-Gonzalez:* responds that the airfare cost is still a lot for North Americans to bear and should not be discounted. We do understand the cost for Africans but this should not be discounted. She has heard the concerns of North American members who have few Africanist colleagues and look forward to coming to SAfA and to brining their students to SAfA. But the platform for doing that is at the SAAs in venues where people will hire for academic positions in the US. In the US we don't get hired by Africanists. She will donate time for the next executive to make sure that there is a time and place for Africanists to interact in North America.

#### Alison Brooks

In reference to David Phillipson's question: are we officially invited by the PAA? If the answer is no and we have raised that as an official problem. Will the PAA have to help us to find a place for the SAfA meeting?

PAA executive responded: We are really pleased to coordinate the PAA and SAfA meeting. We heard about this in Calgary and we are very pleased. It will be a SAfA conference and not just a PAA conference. So it will be a full SAfA conference---it is your organization.

*Moustapha Sall*: added that they have all of the facilities for the conference and local companies to sponsorships at least 2 Africans from each African country to attend. They

have just proposed the date (November 1-7) because it is the cheapest time to come to Senegal. There are hotels near the university – 5 minutes away from all of the facilities.

*Diane Gifford-Gonzalez* asked the committee if it is possible to get an official written invitation for the next president of SAfA– just an official detail.

**PAA:** responded that they will be do so.

#### Steve Brandt:

I am still unclear of our role in this initiative are we joint organizers, having joint session...

**Diane Gifford-Gonzalez:** we will be SAfA there with a board meeting and business meeting with a SAfA student day and SAfA days to maintain a separate identity. These will not just be a merged set of sessions.

*Nic David:* as a former program chair for the SAfA conference in Calgary there are 2 things:

- a) No single paper title can be given in more than one of either of the conference sessions
- b) it is a complicated business organizing a conference and requires time to encourage students/colleagues to help to develop a better abstracts. There is the added complexity of 2 organizers: how do we do this: does a SAfA person organize SAfA sessions? We have a SAfA member (Ibrahima Thaw) who will serve as the Organizing Secretary in Senegal for SAfA.

## Laurel Phillipson

I am a bit doubtful that when we get to Dakar that we can attend the PAA sessions and the SAfA sessions etc. It is up to the next board to clarify how this will work: some members belong to both organizations, so do we register twice and if we don't have our own registration fees then where do we get surplus for future ventures? This shouldn't prevent us from going to Dakar, but it urges the incoming board to consider these practicalities.

#### Dana Rosenstein (Student Representative)

She took a poll of the North American students and from their perspective it may be unfeasible to go to Dakar, but because there are so many North American societies that meet every year then there are many opportunities for us to meet with African mentors/professors. With the website, announcements and SAfA-based presentations etc., we don't think that we will be at a disadvantage if there is no SAfA meeting in North America until 2012.

#### Ben Smith

The South African Society of Africanist Archaeologists was going to have their meeting in 2010, but they had to move their conference to 2011 to accommodate the PAAs.

Laurel Phillipson ratified that we support this decision to go to Dakar. The motion carried but was not unanimous.

#### 11. Announcements from the floor

*Steve Brandt:* There are a couple of new venues for publishing Africanist research. A new Journal of Ethnoarchaeology and Experimental Research edited by Lisa Frink and Kateryn Weedman Arthur published by Left Coast Press is now taking articles.

A flyer was made available at the conference of a new book series that Steve Brandt and Peter Schmidt are editing: Explorations in African Archaeology – a series dedicated to monographs. This is another venue to publish major monographs etc.

**Peter Schmidt:** The goal is to provide an outlet for monographs, tightly edited volumes with a price set to sell and formatted to be full accessible for illustrations. There is no limit to line drawings or photographs. The *Archaeology of Ancient Eritrea* is in this format. You have complete creative control over the material.

They will submit information to the list serve via the webmaster.

#### Scott MacEachern

There is a network for CRM in Africa. This will involve the dissemination of information on projects that require CRM with a directory of archeologists available for these projects for funding and control agencies. The network will provide some codes and examples of best practice on the continent. This information will be made available on the website.

#### Nicholas David

Peter Shinnie relied on Ama Shinnie in the early days of publishing Nyame Akuma. Ama was fundamentally important in publication of NA and we think that it is appropriate to appoint Ama Shinnie an honourary life member of SAfA.

The request was passed.

#### Carlos Magnavita

Please inform African colleagues about the book distribution tomorrow for those not present.

**Paul Lane:** Announces a meeting of the African Archaeology Research Group of scholars in the UK who meet at the University of York on November 29, 2008. If you are passing through please come and visit. We will also make abstracts available to the SAfA website.

Paul is also now on the Wenner Gren advisory committee. The WG gave a grant to this year's conference and we want to keep this open as a possibility in the future. He encouraged people to apply to the WG for all types of grants. WG is trying to be very international and they will support high quality research to anybody anywhere in the

world, not just North American scholars. There are 2 programs that are useful for all of us. One is an international collaboration grant in for US\$30,000. The grant stresses elements of training between North-South partnerships. This is one avenue.

The foundation's assets have improved and they have introduced a new program. The international development grant is for 5 years of funding that is open to university departments. This grant is intended for departments where anthropology (any of the 4 fields) is underdeveloped as a pursuit in terms of staff, equipment and library resources. Awards for this year's applications will be announced soon. They are actually making 2 awards of \$25,000 over 4 years. The 2009 deadline is Nov 1, 2008 but check the website. He encouraged African colleagues to apply.

#### 12. Election of Officers

The following officers were elected by the membership:

**President:** Paul Lane, University of York

Recording Secretary: Pam Willoughby, University of Alberta

Treasure: Jeffrey Fleisher, Rice University
Organizing Secretary: Ibrahima Thaw, Senegal
Member at Large, NA- Genevieve Dewar, U. Toronto

Member at Large: Europe

Eric Huysecom

Member at large, Africa 1:

Pamela Eze-Uzomaka, University of Nigeria, offers to serve (elected)

Member at Large, Africa 2:

Shadreck Chirikure, University of Cape Town (elected)

Steve Brandt moved that we go to an electronic voting system for the next round: The members advise that the incoming executive board consider elections of the executive offices adopt an electronic ballot.

The rest of the nominations were passed by applause.

Paul Lane was given the new parasol of office!

## Diane Gifford Gonzalez made concluding remarks.

We are looking forward to making a success of the PAA and SAfA conferences in Dakar and collectively we can make it work. She thanked the members for the vote of confidence in the conference in Dakar. She thanked the Organizing Secretary (Peter Breunig) for the conference in Frankfurt and thanked the outgoing and ongoing board members for their support and work through the past two years.

As I step down from the SAfA presidency, I would like to look ahead to the short- and long-term prospects for SAfA. We are archaeologists, after all, and we should be taking the long view of our own future as an organization.

We face the impact of rising petrochemical prices on our ability to attend SAfA meetings, as well as the impacts of neoliberal economic policies on academic research institutions and academic researchers, not only in the South but also in the North. There may come a time, if there is no swift breakthrough in clean energy sources that the world so deserves, when *most*, not part, of our membership will not be able to afford air travel to SAfA.

I believe we can survive such a crisis by being creative with new technologies and generous with one another in a time of struggle. Our student members are already considering having Student Day sessions transmitted via video conference to students who cannot attend their meeting. If present trends continue, we *all* may have to resort to the wonders of geostationary satellites to "be together" as a scholarly group.

While most of us would regret the loss of the person-to-person contact that makes our SAfA meetings special, we *can* and *will* survive as a scholarly community through a period of crisis, if we wish to do so. We will do this as humans have always done, through the resourceful use of technology.

But this will happen only if we hold together with creativity and good will for one another. So, in my valediction, I simply want to remind us all of the higher good that unites us, even as forces beyond our control may physically divide us: our love of Africa, its peoples, and its past – and our mutual respect for one another's endeavors and struggles.

Thank you.

Diane Gifford-Gonzalez and Paul Lane formally adjourned the meeting.

# **Appendix A: Treasurer's Report**

# Society of Africanist Archaeologists Treasurer's Report Prepared by Jeffrey Fleisher, SAfA Treasurer September 11, 2008 Biennial General Meeting Frankfurt, Germany

# Membership

Society membership continues to increase dramatically, year over year. As to be expected, membership surges during conference years, but the Society has been able to not only maintain, but increase, membership in off years.

Year	Members, total	Increase, year/year
2004	136	
2005	177	30%
2006	186	5%
2007	209	12%
2008	292	40%

Membership has increased 57% from the previous conference year, in Calgary. The composition of the Society's membership has changed somewhat since the last conference, with increases in African and European members, and a significant reduction in the representation of members from North America. Again, this is likely related to the 2008 conference location.

Region	2006	2008
Africa	52 (28%)	93 (32%)
North America	82 (44%)	88 (30%)
Europe/Asia	52 (28%)	111 (38%)

Student memberships have remained somewhat constant: currently, students comprise 20% of the membership while in 2006 they were 23%. There are currently thirteen life members.

#### **Finances**

The Society has healthy finances, and is currently enjoying its best financial position to date. We currently have approximately \$27,225 in reserves, as compared to . A large portion of the current surplus is due to the more than \$17,000 generated by the Calgary meetings. Institutional memberships continue to generate a healthy amount of funds each year (\$3440 in 2007; \$2880 in 2008)

For the first time, SAfA has awarded directly Graduate Student Travel Funds. In the past, SAfA contributed \$5000 to the conference organizers, who distributed travel

funds. This year, an Executive Board committee solicited applications from students, and awarded eight students grants, totally \$7,450.

For the first time, SAfA hosted a cash bar reception at the 2008 Society for American Archaeology Meetings, which were held in Vancouver, Canada. The reception cost \$538.00. Finally, \$700 was spent on travel assistance for Executive Board members to come to the Frankfurt meetings.

# Changes since 2006

New Online Payment system

Since March, the Treasurer has been working with web designers on a new, integrated online payment page. This page will be contained within the SAfA website, and will allow new and renewing members to join the society, subscribe to journals, and pay online. This will streamline the online payment process, which currently utilizes a free web hosting service (Tripod) and Paypal. Thankfully, we'll be leaving Paypal and the other, more expensive credit card processing system behind, and consolidate all credit card payments at Rice University. This will save the Society a significant amount of money, as the manual credit card processing fees are quite expensive. The new online system will also automatically generate email receipts for all transactions, and allow members to set their own passwords, update their membership information online, and join the society for multiple years. For a number of years, members have requested the option of paying for two or more years of membership. With the new system, members will have the option to join for 1, 2, 4, or 6 years. Unfortunately, members will still need to renew their journal subscriptions yearly.

Most payments in 2007 and '08 were made online, through the Paypal system. And a growing number of members are opting for access to Nyame Akuma online, rather than receive hard copies.

#### Outreach

As I have mentioned in past years, there is a need for more outreach efforts, especially in regards to gratis subscriptions of Nyame Akuma for African institutions and libraries. Currently, we are only funding two such subscriptions.

# **Nonprofit Status**

The Treasurer continues to move forward to establish SAfA as a non-profit organization in the United States of America. The process has taken longer than expected, due mostly to the need for a period of documented finances, which had never been a priority for the Society. Now that we have a number of well documented years of the Societies finances, the process should move forward rapidly.

# Society of Africanist Archaeologists Membership Statistics

**Members by Location** 

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Membership	132	177	186	209	292
Der Countrie					
By Country Australia	2	1	2	2	2
	4	3	5	3	7
Belgium	1		2	3	
Benin	1	4	0	2	2
Botswana Brussels	0	0	0		
	3	2	6	5	0
Cameroon Canada	11	17	21	15	
Chad	11	0	1	0	20
					0 2
Ethiopia	0	0	1	1	2
Finland	0	0	3	0	
France	2	4		4	10
Germany	7	9	10	9	23
Ghana	3	5	4	4	6
Israel	0	0	0	0	1
Italy	3	4	2	3	8
Ivory Coast	1	0	1	1	1
Jamaica	1	1	1	0	0
Japan	1	2	2	2	2
Kenya	2	1	2	2	8
Mali	0	1	0	1	1
Morocco	0	1	1	1	1
Namibia	0	0	0	0	1
Netherlands	2	1	1	1	1
New Zealand	0	1	0	1	0
Niger	0	0	0	1	0
Nigeria	0	11	8	13	14
Norway	3	2	3	3	6
Scotland	2	1	0	0	0
Senegal	2	1	1	2	3
Slovakia	0	0	1	0	0
South Africa	8	14	21	27	37
Sudan	1	1	0	2	0
Sweden	4	5	3	3	2
Switzerland	4	5	3	3	4
Tanzania	1	1	1	1	2
Tunisia	0	0	0	1	0

Uganda	0	4	0	2	2
United Kingdom	10	13	14	19	39
USA	48	55	60	64	68
Zambia	0	1	2	0	0
Zimbabwe	3	1	2	2	4
Unknown	0	1	1	3	2

**Membership by Type** 

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Full	97	126	121	151	206
Student	21	32	43	35	60
Retired	15	16	13	13	13
Life Membership	0	4	6	10	13
Institutional	n/a	46	41		

**Nyame Akuma Subscriptions** 

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Online	72	108	130	158	235
Hard Copy	60	70	57	51	57
Institutional	n/a	39	42	43	36
Free Institutional	n/a	6	2	3	2
Free Individual	n/a	37	41	57	72

**Journal Subscriptions** 

0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
AAR	94	65	66	58	60
JAA	n/a	37	41	45	59
Afrique	n/a	17	16	16	19

# **Society of Africanist Archaeologists**

As of	nce Sheet September 11, 2008 		
Curre	nt Assets		
Bank	Balances Checking, PA Savings, PA	\$5,104.38 28,117.75	
Total			
Net T	otal Assets		\$33,222.13
Curre	nt Liabilities (estimated through 2006)		
Accou	Ints Payable Typeset for NA 69/70 Printing Costs NA 69/70 New Safa payment site, web design	\$1,000.00 2,700.00 2,300.00	
Total	\$6,000.00		
Net T	otal Liabilities		\$6,000.00

#### Appendix B: President's Statement on the Next SAfA Conference in Dakar

# SAfA General Business Meeting Information: On the matter of the venue of SAfA's next meeting.

The present Executive Board recognizes that a number of members have voiced deep concern about the change in the SAfA rotation, to include a co-meeting with the Panafrican Archaeological Association in Dakar, Senegal, in 2010. The President heard from some members, as early as late March, 2008, about their concerns.

This has emerged as a "hot issue" at these meetings, with some strong feelings against this initiative, which in point of fact was proposed and approved during the last Executive Board's term, and also some strong reactions against those who are voicing their concerns about the meeting.

Because of this, we deliberately allocated an extra half-hour of meeting time to the General Business Meeting to discuss this matter. We also want the General Membership to know that this was the subject of the better part of a 5-1/2 hour Executive Board meeting on Sunday, 7 September, and an additional, 3-hour meeting with representatives of the PAA and the Senegalese organizing committee on Monday night, 8 Septembers. Thus, we have been giving this matter our deep consideration for some time.

To begin the discussion, the Board wishes to review some of the history on this initiative, second, to lay out the complexities of the matter, as we see it, third, to explain our central concerns as the Executive Board and the context for our considered decision. Fourth and finally, we wish to open the floor for discussion on this matter.

#### (1) History of the Initiative

The minutes from both of the 2006 Executive Board Meeting and the General Business Meeting, both in Calgary in June, 2006, are online at the SAfA Website. We have consulted both sets of minutes closely in seeking to reconstruct the history of this matter and quote from these below. We have also learned a deeper history on the matter of SAfA-PAA coordination from those members of PAA who were in Gaborone at the last PAA meeting. At that point in time, it became clear that the 5-year cycle of the PAA would coincide with the 2-year cycle of SAfA in 2010, somewhat in the same fashion as the ancient Mayan solar and lunar calendars.

Members of both organizations voiced a concern that holding both meetings on the same year, or even on successive years, would jeopardize funding applications for each, and also force members of both groups to choose one meeting or the other because of the expense of travel to either.

In the 2006 Calgary Executive Board Meeting, PAA President Alinah Segobye and PAA Council member Ben Smith formally raised this concern and requested that the SAfA Executive agree to coordinate with PAA organizers to avoid the possibility of competing claims on funding and member attendance. Quoted below is the section of the document 2006 Calgary Executive Board Meeting Minutes that speaks to this issue:

Co-ordination of SAfA meetings with those of the Pan-African Association for Prehistory (PAA)

Alinah Segobye and Ben Smith of the PAA Council had indicated the latter's wish to develop a co-ordinated schedule of meetings between the PAA and SAfA in order to minimise conflicts in timing and attendance at conferences. It was felt that this might also help support the PAA in maintaining a regular, consistent pattern of meetings on African soil. Subject to it being possible to hold a SAfA Business Meeting and Board Meeting during the next PAA conference and to the latter taking place in 2010, it was agreed to recommend this proposal to the Business Meeting. The planned schedule of meetings will thus be: SAfA in Europe 2008; SAfA at PAA 2010; SAfA in North America 2012.

(*Minutes of the SAfA Executive Board Meeting*, Calgary, 6:60 pm, June 22, 2006, pp 1-2.)

On 26 June 2006, at the General Business Meeting, President Peter Mitchell reported on a series of Executive Board actions, 2004-2006, including this same coordination.

Co-ordination of SAfA and PAA meetings

The Pan-African Association for Prehistory (PAA) had informed the Board that it would like to see a closer collaboration develop between it and SAfA. A particular concern was to reduce conflicts in the scheduling of meetings, thereby facilitating access by African and non-African archaeologists alike to the conferences of both organisations. The Board therefore recommended that while the next SAfA conference would take place in Europe in 2008, the following SAfA Board and Business Meetings should be held parallel with the next PAA conference in 2010. SAfA would then meet again in North America in 2012. After ample discussion, the assembly agreed that a strategic partnership between the two associations is a priority and that the inclusion of the PAA congress in the rotation of the SAfA venues can only encourage participation by African students and strengthen the visibility of SAfA in Africa. The proposal was thus unanimously approved.

(Minutes of the SAfA General Business Meeting, Calgary, 11 am, June 26, 2006, p 1.)

Thus, this recommendation was made with a certain amount of due caution in the Executive Meeting regarding the need for holding a Board and Business Meeting during the PAA conference. A somewhat less conditional version of the same proposal for holding Business and Executive Meetings in parallel with the 2010 PAA was proposed, and the general membership, as is recorded voted in the affirmative.

The former Executive took this decision "by the book," in bringing decision made under the Executive's plenary powers to the general membership for discussion and a kind of ratification. However, the present Executive would like us to walk around this decision a bit and bring you up to date on how matters have unfolded since this consensus decision was taken in Calgary.

Let us remind ourselves that precisely are the plenary powers vested in the Executive by SAfA Bylaws:

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Thus, it is clear to this Executive that the former Executive Board acted entirely within their delegated powers in making their decision, and that they brought this for discussion to the General Membership.

However, we urge us all to note that the original decision taken in the Calgary Executive Board Meeting did stipulate some basic conditions that need to be met, that is, the ability to convene Executive Board and General Business Meetings.

## (2) Developments since 2006

In 2006-2007 new SAfA Executive Board, especially the president, several times attempted to bring itself up to date regarding PAA planning, and to develop a method of consultation, by contacting the PAA President, Alinah Segobye by email. Perhaps due to some serious health problems over this time, Dr. Segobye did not respond to our emails. What we know now, after our consultation with PAA local organizers, is that an organising committee of experienced scholars and conference organizers were consulting with Dr. Segobye, as well as representatives of the UISPP and the European Archaeological Association (Nathan Schlanger, France) regarding the funding and organization of the Dakar PAA, including reduced airfares for African delegates by Air France, Air Maroc, *et al.* In fact, scientific, patronage, and organizing committees are either formed and functioning or close to it.

However, it was the case that both PAA Council members and SAfA Executive knew nothing about these arrangements until three days ago, beginning Sunday 7 September. Moreover, although the PAA local organizers had assumed SAfA participation, there was perhaps a lack of clarity about SAfA's usual method of organising meetings, our fundraising methods, our extremely modest treasury, and our lack of ready access to national-level funding. These matters were clarified in our 3-hour meeting Monday

evening, 8 September, in which PAA Council and local organizers participated with the Executive.

The Senegalese PAA organizing committee representatives stated that they welcome SAfA's participation and have nominated one of their members, a longtime SAfA member, Ibrahima Thiaw, as Organising Secretary to work closely with SAfA Executive to develop funding and an effective plan for holding a Business and Executive Meeting.

At this point, this Executive wishes to convey several points that were made clear to the PAA in our discussions.

- First and foremost, SAfA's participation in a rotation to a PAA meeting in Africa is *an experiment*, to determine whether or not this can be accomplished while protecting SAfA's long-term fiscal health, membership participation, and scholarly profile. If this experiment is not successful, all concerned agreed that it would not be repeated.
  - o It should be the priority of the next Executive Board to devise measures for the relative success of this initiative.
- Second, the Student Members have wholeheartedly embraced the opportunity to share a SAfA Student Day with African students in the PAA, where no such independent forum yet exists.
- Third, among the ideas this Executive raised was a SAfA-sponsored day or days of sessions on Africanist archaeology, as stand-alone sessions.
- Fourth, it will be incumbent upon the next Executive Board to see to it that a majority of their members can get to Dakar.
  - o In this connection, the Executive stressed that, while we have no doubt that fundraising for the overall PAA meetings is proceeding in an excellent fashion, it is perhaps not widely know that North American scholars, both students and PhDs, are severely under-funded for travel to overseas meetings. We argued that, in addition to funding travel by African scholars, it will be important to stress this need to funding agencies.

Finally, before opening discussion, this Executive Board wishes to acknowledge the unease with which some members contemplate this change to an African rotation. We understand several things:

- Finances for international travel are very tight or even nonexistent for many North American Africanists, even those with permanent jobs.
- The six-year rotation will disadvantage young Africanist graduate students in North America who might not be able to obtain travel funds and hence not enter into SAfA rotations.
- A lack of frequent interaction among members may make intellectual exchange and job-hunting more difficult for some.

The Board itself contains a range of opinion about whether this experiment is likely to succeed, and whether the benefits will outweigh the costs, in this age of rising airfares and diminishing academic support in North America.

However - and this is why this Executive continues to support the decision taken in Calgary by the previous Executive, and supported by the membership at the Calgary General Business Meeting – the Executive has plenary powers in the matter of fixing a time and place for our regular meetings.

We believe it would set a terrible precedent for this Executive to summarily reverse a previous Board's decisions – especially one ratified unanimously by the members in a General Business Meeting. Our reading of the by-laws, our sense of the expectations and abilities of the PAA local organizers, and our sense that this experiment should be conducted in a serious and systematic fashion, all lead the 2006-2008 Executive to support the prior Executive's and General Business Meeting's decision. We hope that the spirit of this discussion will both honor our common love of Africa and its past, as well as, raising creative rather than divisive solutions to problems not entirely within our control

The floor was then opened for discussion.