

**Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Society of the Africanist Archaeologists
Calgary, 11.00 am 26th June 2006**

In Memoriam

The President, Peter Mitchell, took the floor and commemorated those colleagues who had passed away since the last Business Meeting: Fred Anozie, Omotosho Eluyemi, Greville Freeman-Grenville, Francis Geus, Zefe Kaufulu, Lech Krzyzaniak, Stuart Munro-Hay, Hamo Sassoon, Ari Siiriainen, Ron Singer, Téréba Togola, Frank Willett and John Wymer.

Nic David and Bernard Clist were invited to speak in memory of Michèle Delneuf, who sadly passed away at the conference on June 24th 2006. The Meeting unanimously approved the Board's suggestion to name the Prize for best student paper in her honour.

The President, Peter Mitchell, reported on the following items:

State of Membership

Eighty-four members were present at the 2006 Business Meeting. As of May 31st 2006, SAfA has 186 registered members, up from 136 in 2004 and 177 in 2005. These members come from 35 countries (United States: 32%; Africa: 28%; Europe, Asia, Australia: 28%; Canada: 12%). The number of student members increased over the same period (2004 to 2006) from 32 to 43. Free memberships have been provided to 78 African-based colleagues and 8 African institutions since the last SAfA meeting in Bergen.

Executive Board Actions 2004-2006

Institution of the SAfA listserv

Thanks to the efforts of Susan McIntosh, SAfA now has a fully functioning listserv, which makes transmission of information to and among members much more effective than hitherto.

Development of online individual subscriptions

Individual online subscriptions can now be made with the PayPal system. Although this is not wholly unproblematic, it has resulted in considerable savings on credit card-processing fees.

Development of online institutional subscriptions

In response to requests from some institutional libraries, the Board has decided to proceed with the creation of online subscriptions for institutions. The cost of these will be initially set at US\$ 90 per year. Their development will involve SAfA in an initial start-up cost of around US\$ 1200, followed by an annual maintenance charge of about US\$ 100. However, the Board felt that these costs, and the relatively small amount of time required of the Treasurer to keep such subscriptions up-to-date, were more than outweighed by the advantages of moving in the same direction as many other academic publications. Furthermore, online institutional subscription will provide access to all back numbers of *Nyame Akuma*, provide enhanced free access to African institutions and reduce printing costs.

Susan McIntosh undertook to clear with legal counsel at Rice wording to ensure that such subscriptions could not be abused.

Jeff Fleisher, Treasurer, recommended that the next Board, perhaps in conjunction with the Pan-African association for Prehistory, identify a list of African institutions that might wish to benefit from free online access to *Nyame Akuma*.

Marothodi Institute of Archaeology

The Marothodi Institute of Archaeology in South Africa has requested that SAfA endorse its activities. While welcoming the archaeological and development work undertaken by the Institute, the Board was disinclined to do this as no precedent exists for such an endorsement on the part of SAfA.

Liaison with WAAA and ASAPA

In order to further co-ordination between regional bodies in African archaeology and SAfA, the Board decided at its Calgary meeting that it would welcome the participation of one official observer from the West African Association of Archaeologists (WAAA) and another from the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) at future Board meetings.

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 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 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.

Development of non-profit status

The Treasurer, Jeff Fleisher, has successfully registered SAfA as a non-profit organisation in the United States, which is the country where SAfA's funds are held. The Meeting asked the next Board to explore the possibility of also registering SAfA as a non-profit organisation in other countries in order to encourage potential donors. In the event that SAfA is able to develop an endowment, it was the view of the Board that this be used primarily to facilitate access by African scholars to SAfA meetings and secondarily to provide research grants for African students.

Change of By-Laws: Report on vote

At the end of the Bergen Business Meeting a proposal was made to amend the By-Laws to provide for the inclusion of two Members-at-Large from Africa on the Executive Board. Members had been asked to vote electronically on this proposal, but while all responses received were in favour, too few had been received for the motion to be approved. The Board therefore asked the Meeting to deem the notice provided for this original vote sufficient for representing the proposal to the Calgary Business Meeting. This having been approved, the motion was carried unanimously.

SAfA Book Drive, JSTOR, Global Libraries Project, West African Archaeological Newsletter

The President thanked Cathy D'Andrea for having launched the idea of a book drive for African delegates. Over 50 books were distributed to African members attending the Calgary conference.

Ben Smith then announced that the Mellon Foundation had made funds available to extend JSTOR, an electronic journal archive, to African institutions. He invited members to submit possible journal titles through him.

The President then informed the Meeting that he had had discussions with Claire Smith, President of the World Archaeological Congress (WAC), about WAC's Global Libraries Project. This seeks to develop the collections of archaeological literature in libraries in developing countries through donations by WAC members, philanthropic organisations and members of the public. The

next Board was invited to submit further names of African libraries to WAC for inclusion in the programme.

Finally, the President reported that Graham Connah and Merrick Posnansky had generously agreed to make available to SAfA the complete run of the *West African Archaeological Newsletter*, which will be digitised and included on the SAfA website.

Venue for SAfA 2008

The Board had received one offer to host the next biennial conference, which came from Peter Breunig of the University of Frankfurt, Germany, on behalf of himself and colleagues from the Universities of Köln and Geneva. The assembly unanimously welcomed this invitation with a round of applause. The most likely date for the meeting will be in July/August 2008.

Thanks for SAfA 2006

The President thanked Diane Lyons, Nic David, their team and the University of Calgary for organizing the 2006 SAfA Meeting and the Meeting responded with a standing ovation. He also thanked all members of the Executive Board for their help and assistance during the past two years.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Jeff Fleisher, sent his apologies for being unable to attend the Meeting due to fieldwork commitments in Tanzania. His report, communicated by the President, shows SAfA to have a financially positive balance of US\$ 14,315.55. A growing number of individual subscriptions have become online memberships since this became possible in 2004.

Individual membership rates have remained the same since 2004. No increase in them is recommended at the present time. Institutional membership rates were raised from US\$ 60 to US\$ 80 in 2005. Subject to the development of online institutional subscriptions already mentioned, no increase in these rates is recommended at the present time.

Journals

The President reported that he had been informed by Fekri Hassan, editor of *African Archaeological Review*, that subscription to this journal by SAfA members will remain the same for students, but will increase from 2007 by US\$ 2 for regular members. He further explained that the long delays in the appearance of the journal's most recent issues was due to production difficulties with the publisher, Springer. He nonetheless promised that the September 2005 issue would appear in June 2006 and the March 2006 issue in July 2006. Springer apparently also envisages developing a new online facility that will allow papers to be viewed prior to their hard copy publication.

Sonia Magnavita had informed the Board that no increase was envisaged in the reduced subscription rate for SAfA members to the *Journal of African Archaeology*.

No response had been received by the President about his enquiry regarding future subscription rates to *Afrique: Archéologie et Arts*.

Nyame Akuma Editor's Report

Pamela Willoughby reported on *Nyame Akuma*. She apologised for the delay of the December 2005 issue, which is now available online. The June 2006 issue is currently in press. The Meeting thanked her for her excellent work on behalf of the Society.

Code of Ethics

Scott MacEachern, Chairman of SAfA's Ethics Committee summarised the evolution of the draft statement of ethics since 2004, when it had been presented to the Bergen Business Meeting.

This included the consideration of comments received by the Committee at and since Bergen, the circulation of a revised draft by e-mail to SAfA members and the circulation of the one comment received thereafter. A revised Code of Ethics was tabled at the Meeting and attention drawn to the existing provisions of the By-Laws (Article IV, Section 12(a)) regarding conduct that is contrary to the ideals, objectives and accepted standards of the Society. After brief discussion, the following motion was then unanimously approved: "SAfA hereby adopts for itself and its members the attached Draft Code of Ethics. SAfA membership forms shall henceforth include a statement to this effect."

The President thanked Scott and the other members of the Ethics Committee (Elena Garcea and Ibrahima Thiaw) for their hard work and the Committee was dissolved.

SAA/ASA Symposium Committee

SAA Puerto Rico, April 2006

The SAfA-sponsored session on *African Complex Societies in Transition: Transformation, Continuity and Process in the Later Second Millennium AD* at the 2006 Puerto Rico meeting of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) had been a great success. Thanks were expressed to Akin Ogundiran and Cameron Monroe for organising it, and to them and Jeff Fleisher, Chapurukha Kusimba, Sibel Barut Kusimba, Innocent Pikirayi, Renate Walicka-Zeh, Kevin MacDonald, Andrew Reid, Philip de Barros, F. Richard, N. Norman, M. Zacher, Adria LaViolette and Norman Yoffee for their individual contributions. This session and three further African sessions (on the Oldowan, organised by David Braun and Erella Hovers, the Middle Stone Age, organised by Tom Minichillo, and Behavioural Complexity in the Middle and Later Pleistocene in Africa, organised by Stan Ambrose and Veerle Rots) had been widely praised for the high quality of their papers and general interest.

The Board recommended that SAfA should promote similar sessions at future SAA meetings, beginning, if possible, with the 2007 SAA in Austin, Texas. Such sessions should focus on coherent themes of interest to non-Africanists, include at least one well-known non-Africanist discussant and perhaps have a linked reception. Possible topics include food production, art and ideology, technologies of production and heritage and society.

ASA San Francisco, November 2006

The forthcoming ASA meeting will include a special theme "Rethinking the African Past", organised by Peter Mitchell, which will include two sessions focusing on relations between the Swahili coast and the East African interior. Papers in these sessions and elsewhere at the ASA conference will provide some archaeological input into the meeting.

The Board recommended that Stan Ambrose, John Arthur, Adria LaViolette, Akin Ogundiran, Paul Lane and Cameron Monroe be invited to serve on this Committee for 2006-08.

WAC VI, Jamaica 2007

The President reported that he had discussed with Claire Smith, President of WAC, the possibility of SAfA sponsoring themes (symposia) or sessions at the forthcoming WAC Congress, scheduled for Kingston, Jamaica, in May 2007. Mitchell encouraged those SAfA members involved with WAC (such as Caleb Adebayo Folorunso, Elena Garcea, Alinah Segobye, Diane Gifford-Gonzalez and Peter Smith) to identify topics of general interest to bring to WAC's attention.

Regional Conferences Committee

Merrick Posnansky reported on his attendance at meetings of WAAA and urged SAfA to invest more heavily in such regional meetings, the next one of which is scheduled for Ougadougou

in November 2006. Following his recommendation, the Board had agreed that SAfA should be officially represented at this and future meetings of the WAAA and had asked him to undertake this role. As previously reported, the Board had also agreed to recommend the inclusion of observers from WAAA, ASAPA and the new East African Association for Prehistory and Archaeology at future Board meetings.

Merrick Posnansky kindly agreed to continue to serve as Chairman of the Committee.

East African Association for Prehistory and African Archaeology

Alison Brooks reported on the existence of this new association and the President thanked her for this communication.

Webmaster's Report

Susan McIntosh reported on the development of the SAfA website. She encouraged all members to provide their contribution by posting announcements on it. A new system will allow links to be made to embedded online papers.

New members of the Website Committee are: Robert Vernet (North Africa); Caleb Folorunso (anglophone West Africa); Anne Mayor and Eric Huysecom (francophone West Africa); Bernard Clist (Central Africa); Peter Mitchell (East Africa); Kathy Weedman (Horn of Africa); Sven Ouzman (Southern Africa); Susan McIntosh (Webmaster).

Student Business Meeting and Prizes

Menno Welling was invited to report on the first SAfA Student Meeting, which had taken place on Thursday June 22nd. He reported that a student listserve had been successfully developed and that the Meeting had been attended by 14 students, a quarter of those registered for the conference. It had been preceded by a roundtable discussion with John Yellen, Peter Mitchell and Susan McIntosh on funding possibilities, postdoctoral employment, dissertation writing and research proposal writing. The Meeting recommended that a similar event be held at the beginning of the next SAfA conference, but that it should not be scheduled to coincide with any pre-conference excursion. An account of the roundtable will be written up for *Nyame Akuma* and suggestions for funding included on the SAfA website. Students would welcome becoming more actively involved in future bookdrives for African institutions.

The Michèle Delneuf Prize for Best Student Paper was then presented to Bienvenu Gouem Gouem.

The Award for Best Student Poster went to Sébastien Perret.

SAfA Book Prize 2006

Elena Garcea, member of the committee for the SAfA Book Prize, took the Meeting through the criteria employed to select the winning book and reported on the results of the Book Prize Committee's deliberation. She announced that the SAfA Book Prize for 2006 was awarded to Ann Stahl for editing *African Archaeology: A Critical Introduction*, published in Oxford by Blackwells.

Announcements

Publication of proceedings

Nic David announced that extended abstracts of the papers presented at the Calgary conference will be published online, including illustrations, which may be taken from PowerPoint presentations. Details are to be circulated electronically after the conference ends.

Election of Officers

The following members were elected to the various statutory positions:

President: Diane Gifford-Gonzalez

Recording Secretary: Diane Lyons

Treasurer: Jeff Fleisher

Organizing Secretary: Peter Breunig

Member at Large, North America: Matt Curtis

Member at Large, Europe: Anne Haour

Members at Large, Africa: Yusuf Juwayeyi and Pamela Eze-Uzomaka

Student member: Per Frederiksen

Susan McIntosh kindly agreed to continue to serve as Webmaster and Pamela Willoughby as Editor of *Nyame Akuma*.

The elections having been concluded, Peter Mitchell passed the presidency of SAfA to Diane Gifford-Gonzalez, who adjourned the Business Meeting at 1.00 pm.