

SOCIETY OF AFRICANIST ARCHAEOLOGISTS (SAFA)

BUSINESS MEETING – 18 JULY, 2014, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Executive Members Present:

Elena Garcea, President

Matthew Pawlowicz, Treasurer

Scott MacEachern, Recording Secretary

Karim Sadr, Organizing Secretary

Susan McIntosh, Webmaster

Nancy Morongwa Mosothwane, Member at Large, Africa

Wendy Black, Student Representative, Africa

Sarita Louzolo, Student Representative, non-Africa

Diane Lyons, *Nyame Akuma* EditorOther representatives:Adria LaViolette, *African Archaeological Review* EditorSonja Magnavita, *Journal of African Archaeology* Editor

François-Xavier Fauvelle-Aymar, Representative of the SAfA 2016 Organising Committee

Akin Ogundiran, Member of the Editorial Board of the *Springer Briefs in African Archaeology*

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 pm. Seventy-nine SAfA members were present, forming a quorum for the meeting, given a total attendance of 140 SAfA members.

1. President's Report: Garcea noted that the two resolutions carried at the 2012 Business Meeting (on radiocarbon dating of archaeological materials for dealers and

private collectors, and on fieldwork in areas to be affected by Middle Nile dams) had been communicated to the relevant parties.

The third recommendation from the 2012 Business Meeting regarded the establishment of an *ad hoc* committee on SAfA conference locations. Garcea informed the assembly that she invited four past SAfA Presidents, two from the United States, Diane Gifford-Gonzalez and Susan McIntosh, and two from Europe, Paul Lane and Peter Mitchell to be members of the committee. She also asked Scott MacEachern to join in his capacity of Recording Secretary to act as Rapporteur. MacEachern presented the conclusions of the Ad Hoc Committee and discussed their recommendations concerning the cycling of SAfA conferences (see below).

Garcea updated the assembly on the process of obtaining American 401(c) status for SAfA which was almost completed. There was a vote on the adoption of a Conflict of Interest Policy and on the related amendment of our Bylaws.

She reported on the successful transition to the new treasurer (Matt Pawlowicz) which implied setting up bank accounts, changing online forms, managing membership rolls, and journal subscriptions purchased through SAfA.

She informed that three SAfA-sponsored sessions took place at the 2014 meetings of the Society for American Archaeology in Austin with over 40 papers on African archaeology, and that a new collaboration had been launched with the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA). For the first time in 2014 a SAfA-sponsored session is going to be organized at their annual meeting taking place in Istanbul, Turkey, in September.

While precise criteria to assign the SAfA Book Prize have been long established, SAfA seemed to be lacking a formal system for evaluating and assigning the SAfA Student Paper Prize and Poster Prize. Therefore, the President elaborated, with the helpful involvement of two former members of the Review Prize Committees, Jeff

Fleisher and Diane Lyons, standard templates to assist reviewers in making comparative evaluations of the papers and the posters to be awarded.

2. Recording Secretary's Report: MacEachern reported on the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of former SAfA Presidents. The ad hoc committee, after extensive deliberations, recommended that SAfA return to an alternation of biennial conferences in Europe and North America, without attempting to coordinate meetings every six years in Africa with the PAA.

3. Treasurer's Report: At this point, SAfA has approximately \$28,800 in the bank, and after some further expenses for *Nyame Akuma*, will have approximately \$9000 less available than after the last meetings. In a non-meeting year, the organisation is self-sustaining financially; in a year with meetings, with money spent on travel grants, this is not the case. Membership stands 381, almost exactly the same as last year; it spiked after the Dakar conference, but has since retreated slightly. In general, African membership is up, while that of Europe and North America has decreased slightly as a proportion of the total, but not significantly in actual numbers. There has been a significant increase in life memberships over the last two years, from 22 to 33. One priority will be to increase the African membership of SAfA, especially among students. Annual membership fees will increase slightly (to \$25, student and retired people to \$15), as will life memberships (to \$500).

Nyame Akuma print costs have been increasing slightly, probably in large part because of bigger issues, but have been in the range of \$4000-5000 over the last 5-6 years. Steven Brandt asked whether it was still necessary to produce print copies of *Nyame Akuma*; Pawlowicz replied that they are necessary for our institutional subscriptions, which make up 75-80% of *Nyame Akuma* income.

4. Webmaster's Report: McIntosh noted her concerns that the SAfA Commons site is not being frequently used. She has formed an ad hoc committee to consider further changes to the web site, along with a survey to get information about usage. She noted

that she would like to hand over this role to a new Webmaster within the next few years. Garcea thanked her for having spent 10 years in this role to this point.

5. Report of the *Nyame Akuma* Editor: Lyons discussed some general issues involved in editing the newsletter. There is wide variability in the condition of the papers as submitted, and some take a lot of work; she asked for papers that are camera-ready, or close to it. She noted the variation between issues during the year, with the December issue being considerably the largest. A style guide, in English and French, should be ready soon. Lyons encouraged students to submit papers, and noted that the newsletter is not peer-reviewed.

Lyons estimated that she spends approximately six weeks/year preparing issues of *Nyame Akuma*, and Garcea expressed the Executive's appreciation that she has been engaged in this task for six years to this point.

6. Report of the *African Archaeological Review* Editor: LaViolette noted that the journal was doing well, and that she is seeking to emphasise special issues and be responsive to people who want to edit special issues. The original goal when she took up the editorship was three articles/issue or 12/year; the journal is now producing about 25/year, and may begin planning for a larger format. At this point, three special issues are in preparation: (1) Africa and cultural contact with the Indian Ocean; (2) palaeoclimates; and (3) Wonderwork Cave. It takes about a year to prepare a new special issue. At this point there are about 300 individual subscribers, but about 9000 institutional subscribers; in 2013, there were about 18,000 individual downloads of papers. She will continue as editor until 2018.

7. Report of the *Journal of African Archaeology* Editor: Magnavita noted that this summer issue of Volume 12 was now out, and that in general things were going well. The number of submitted papers is increasing, and thus the editors are also rejecting more papers. In terms of ranking, according to Scopus, JAA is now ranked number two of more than 90 journals in art and archaeology, and it has been in the top five for the last

few years. In the book series, Volume 10 was expected coming out shortly; of the Reports Series, Number 4 will be appearing soon. Magnavita has been the editor for 12 years to this point.

8. Report of the SpringerBriefs Editor: Stahl could not attend the meeting, and so Akin Ogundiran reported for her. The series will begin with Shadreck Chirikure's *Metals in African societies*, and another volume is nearly completed. Stahl is also in communication with other four or five other colleagues about prospective volumes. Ogundiran encouraged prospective authors to contact Stahl or other members of the Editorial Board.

9. Report from the student meeting: Black noted that one of the student representatives priorities was increasing SAfA student membership, as well as its visibility to students; a new website and a Facebook page for SAfA students would be set up. Louzolo noted plans for a bylaw motion to increase the number of student representatives to three, one each from Africa, Europe and the Americas; this motion will be submitted before the 2016 meetings, and voted upon there.

10. Vote on Conflict of Interest Policy and amendment to the Society Bylaws: The proposed amendment introduced changes to the Bylaws and related policies to allow the Society to claim 401(c) status in the United States. The proposed amendment was passed unanimously.

11. Resolution on SAfA-PAA collaboration: There was discussion over whether SAfA should pass a resolution placing a PAA representative on the SAfA Executive, in parallel with the initiative undertaken by the PAA in their preceding 2016 Business Meeting. It was pointed out that, according to the SAfA Bylaws, this could not be voted on at the Business Meeting, as the resolution had not been placed before the membership at least six weeks earlier. It was decided that such a resolution would be placed before the membership before the 2016 Toulouse meetings, to be voted upon at that meeting. Laurel

Phillipson suggested that a minute in support of cooperation with the PAA be proposed, and this was approved.

12. Presentation of the venue for the 2016 SAfA Meetings: François-Xavier Fauvelle-Aymar presented the details of the 2016 SAfA meetings in Toulouse. The conference will be supported by three organisations: the Université de Toulouse, the Tervuren Museum and the Université de Genève. Tentative dates for the conference are 27/6-2/7/2016. Some funding should be available from the city of Toulouse, as well as from other sources. The conference planning is predicated upon approximately 300 presentations and 100 posters.

Garcea reaffirmed that presenters at the conference will be required to be SAfA members.

13. Announcements: Anne Haour noted that the 15th European Conference on African Studies will be held in Paris, with a theme of conflict and resistance. She noted that this was quite a high-profile conference, and that it would be useful to have an archaeology panel proposed, in order to raise the visibility of the discipline. Scott MacEachern will propose an archaeological panel for the conference. Steve Brandt noted that conferences in Poznan and Modena (23 – 26 June 2015) will take place at approximately the same time.

Anne Haour noted that the next African Archaeology Research Day (AARD) will take place in Bristol on 21-22 November, 2014.

14. 2014-2016 SAfA Executive: There were single nominations for the different SAfA Executive positions, and thus no elections were called. The 2014-2016 SAfA Executive is as follows:

President: Scott MacEachern

Treasurer: Matthew Pawlowicz

Recording Secretary: Lisa Hildebrand

Organizing Secretary: François-Xavier Fauvelle-Aymar

Member at Large, Europe: Laura Basell

Member at Large, North America: Amanda Logan

Member at Large, Africa: Wendy Black

Member at Large, Africa: Albino Jopela

Student Representative, Africa: Victoria Aryee

Student Representative, non-Africa: Nicolas Nikis

Webmaster: Susan McIntosh (non-voting)

Nyame Akuma Editor: Diane Lyons (non-voting)

The meeting ended at 4.45 pm.

Respectfully,

Scott MacEachern