

Society for Applied Anthropology

Newsletter

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SfAA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Society Assessment

by Thomas Greaves
Bucknell University

Over the past 21 months as SfAA president, I have had the opportunity to acquire some impressions regarding which of our common objectives the SfAA does well, and which still fall short of our aspirations. Since this is my last "President's Letter" I thought I would share some of my impressions.

What we are doing *well* is supporting the diverse profession of applied anthropology. Among the highlights of a longer list are these:

Our two periodicals, *Human Organization* and *Practicing Anthropology*, are central resources of our profession. Our fledgling newsletter is finding a valuable niche too. Past and present editors and their editorial boards are to be congratulated.

For a large number of our members, SfAA's annual spring meeting is probably the most significant professional gathering at the national level on the calendar. It is an important event for our profession. *Our program editors and staff support have made this happen.*

Increasingly, we are helpful to the academic departments offering academic degrees in applied anthropology, and to LPOs, and we are working hard to strengthen our utility to them.

Students constitute more than 20% of our membership—a most extraordinary fact. Our new, entirely student-based Student Committee is managing our effort to reciprocate that vote of confidence from some 450 students. Connected with this is another major development: the inauguration and permanent endowment of the Peter K. New Award. The first recipient will be announced in Charleston.

I think our relationships to NAPA are now becoming better defined, with resulting greater mutual effectiveness in serving our overlapping constituencies. In effect we are pursuing an "interlocking directorate," involving their officers with ours. That way, NAPA's leadership will be represented at the SfAA Executive Committee level and SfAA's leadership at NAPA's. Shirley Fiske is currently playing that role, with fine results, and Linda Bennett, NAPA's president-elect, will, I am sure, play that role in the future.

We are now in continuing contact with AAA leadership. Both organizations are finding that we have joint interests that are best served by collaborative efforts. We are only at an early stage here, but the prospects are encouraging.

Our work in the above areas, together with all our vital ongoing functions—membership, publications, meetings, ethics, etc.—give us reason to be pleased. Other areas, however, I think call us to new initiatives:

SfAA's international impact is still short of the mark. We understand ourselves to be an international association of professionals, but the SfAA has not succeeded in becoming a thoroughly international society. We have done some good things, of course—the overseas library program and the 1990 meeting at York have been real benchmarks—but we're still a long way from being fully international in membership, leadership, and other forms of involvement. This is why Noel Chrisman's work, as the member of the Executive Committee leading our international effort, is so important.

Largely for structural reasons, we remain too academically based. While we have a strong and active contingent of practitioners within the membership and in the leadership, both our meetings and our leadership continue to over represent the academic part of the house. It's not too hard to understand why. Those employed in private enterprise and government often find little or no support financially or in career advancement to participate in a distant annual meeting. Likewise, the time and resources

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MEETINGS

Columbus Quincentenary Conference Lands in Newport News

Christopher Newport College, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, and the Mariners Museum are sponsoring an international conference October 9–12, 1992, on the Columbus Quincentenary to be held at the College.

The Program Committee invites prospective participants to submit topics for original papers in the areas of Columbus and his world: 14th to 16th-century maritime issues (shipbuilding, navigation, daily life on board, etc.); Renaissance discovery (emphasizing North America); ethnography and ethnohistory of 16th-century North American Indians; early settlements of North America; changes in geographic thought and their effect on the European world view by 1600; Renaissance nations and their support of exploration; and consequences of the Columbian expedition for North America. Papers will be considered from the disciplines of Archaeology, Art History and Fine Arts, Ethnography, Ethnohistory, Geography, History, Literature, Philosophy, Political Science, Religion, and Science. The Conference welcomes submissions from senior and junior scholars. The Program Committee requests 100-200 word abstracts of suggested papers by October 1, 1991.

Please direct all correspondence to: Tim Morgan, Program Chairman, Columbus Quincentenary Conference, Christopher Newport College, Newport News, VA 23606-2998; Tel. (804/594-7158), FAX (804/594-7713).

High Plains Society Will Meet in April

The High Plains Society for Applied Anthropology will celebrate its 11th Annual Meeting April 19–21, 1991. All interested members of the anthropology and related communities are invited to participate by submitting papers/presentations or discussion topics for consideration for the meeting agenda. The theme for the meeting is "The Human Context in Applied Anthropology: Making Things Work at the Local Level." While all applied anthropology addresses itself to the human context of problems, specifically implied here is the idea of "human-scale," localized, micro-level research, application, and advocacy.

The High Plains meetings take place in the informal atmosphere of the Bethlehem Center, a small retreat in Northglenn, Colorado, just north of Denver and a short drive from Stapleton Airport.

The 1991 meetings will be enhanced by an opening address by Theodore Downing, University of Arizona, and a keynote address by John Van Willigen, University of Kentucky.

To submit a paper, presentation, or discussion topic for inclusion in this year's agenda, please write: High Plains 1991 Program Co-Chairs, Bitten Skartvedt and Lenora Bohren, 450 Hickory Street, Broomfield, CO 80020.

Li-Sci Conference Scheduled for October

The Society for Literature and Science invites proposals for papers to be presented at their Annual Conference to be held October 10–13, 1991, in Montreal. In keeping with the conference theme, "Science and Literature—Beyond Cultural Construction," possible topics for papers and sessions might include: *l'écriture de la connaissance et la connaissance de l'écriture*; the popular scientific essay; literature as technology; practices in professional life; texts and contexts; disciplinary and interdisciplinary language and values. Alternative formats—workshops, debates, poster sessions, roundtable discussions, and works-in-progress—will be welcomed enthusiastically. For further information and for submission guidelines, contact David Lux, Bryant College, 450 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI 02917; Bitnet: LDM116@URIACC.

March of Dimes Conference Targets Nutrition for Mothers and Infants at Risk

The March of Dimes annual conference, scheduled for April 29 and 30, 1991, will be held at the Holiday Inn Tampa International Airport at West Shore, 4500 W. Cypress Avenue, Tampa, Florida.

The theme of the 2-day conference is "Nutrition for Mothers and Infants at Risk." The program agenda is filled with a variety of interesting topics by speakers from all over the United States. Two of the speakers who will be presenting in workshop sessions are Carla McGill, WIC state office, on SSPUN; and Clara Lawhead, HRS Pasco County WIC Project, on "WIC as a Gateway." Dr. G. Mahan, State Health Officer, will also be speaking on public health issues. Continuing education units for nurses and registered dietitians are being requested.

For additional information about the conference, contact Mickey Chiarelli, March of Dimes, (813/287-2600).

Hunger Researchers Will Meet at Brown

The World Hunger Program at Brown University and InterAction, the American Council for Voluntary International Action, are pleased to announce that the Fourth Annual Hunger Research Briefing and Exchange will be held April 3–5, 1991, at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. The focus of the 1991 Briefing will be on the implementation of the *Bellagio Declaration*, an

international call for action to end half of the world's hunger before the year 2000.

The *Bellagio Declaration* stems from a unique meeting of 23 planners, practitioners, opinion leaders, and scientists from 14 countries at the Rockefeller Foundation Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy, in November, 1989. It identifies four *achievable* goals for overcoming hunger in the 1990s: 1) to eliminate deaths from famine; 2) to end hunger in half of the poorest households; 3) to cut malnutrition in half for mothers and small children; and, 4) to eradicate iodine and vitamin A deficiencies. To date more than 250 technical experts, advocates, practitioners, and opinion leaders from 33 countries have endorsed the Declaration, and efforts are under way to promote the adoption of the declaration goals by the U.N. system, national governments, and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

The 1991 Briefing will be a key step towards developing a consensus on *implementation strategies* for the Bellagio goals—how to link concretely the “top down” and “bottom up” approaches called for in the Declaration; how to find or reallocate the necessary financial and institutional resources; and how to build on the promising programs and policies that already work well. For each of the Bellagio goals, Briefing sessions will review and discuss current and anticipated progress in hunger reduction, proposals for new initiatives and programs, and the costs and other resources need to implement such proposals.

To enhance the two-way exchange of ideas and opinions on implementation strategies, participants will be provided with brief issue papers and other background materials on specific topics of interest in advance of the Briefing. Members of the Bellagio Steering Committee and other policy and opinion leaders will be in attendance to discuss possible directions and concrete steps towards implementation of the Declaration.

A detailed Briefing program and registration materials will be distributed in early 1991. To be sure that you receive this mailing, write: Briefing Coordinator, World Hunger Program, Box 1831, Brown University, Providence RI 02912, USA; (401/863-2700), Telex 952095; FAX (401/863-2192); E-mail Chen@brownvm.bitnet.

Java Man Celebrates 100+ Birthday

Hans Beijer, Secretary General of the Pithecanthropus Centennial, announces an International Scientific Congress and Exhibition in The Netherlands and Indonesia on the Environmental Context of Human Evolution, commemorating a century of scientific recognition of Eugene DuBois' discovery of the Java Man, to be held during July, 1993. For further information contact: Hans Beijer, Geological Survey of the Netherlands, P.O. Box 157, NL-2000 AD Haarlem, The Netherlands; Telefax: +31-23-351614.

BASAPP Gavel and Pen Go to Collins, Shore

The British Association for Social Anthropology in Policy and Practice announces the retirement of Sue Wright as convenor and Peter Floyd as editor of *BASAPP News*. Jean Collins is now convenor and Crispin Shore is the new editor. Communications should be addressed to: Jean Collins, 10 Mint Lane, Lower Kingswood, Surrey, KT20 7BH, England; and, Crispin Shore, Department of Anthropology, Goldsmith's College, New Cross, London, SE14 6NW, England.

[The “staff” of the SfAA Newsletter extends a welcome to the new BASAPP officers.—*JEBC and NC*]

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Environmental Planner Anthropologists Issue Call

The Committee of Anthropologists in Environmental Planning (CAEP) is interested in identifying anthropologists working on the following subjects: community impact studies; public participation and coordination of toxic, hazardous, or radioactive site clean-up. The group is particularly interested to know if there are any anthropologists working as staff members of the Environmental Protection Agency and who have community relations or social impact assessment roles. If there are sufficient people and interest, communication between such individuals is encouraged, as is a session on this subject at the 1991 AAA meeting in Chicago. Is there anyone with information or interest in participating in a session about this? Please contact Dick Lerner, Environmental Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 211 Main Street, San Francisco, CA 94105 (415/744-3340); FAX (415/744-3312).

Bringing Attention to Mercury Threat

by Arnold P. Wendroff, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mercury is used in countries throughout the Americas for various occult practices. Since the public is largely unaware of mercury's toxic nature, some of these occult practices result in the unintentional contamination of homes with mercury vapor (Wendroff 1990). Although

mercury has been put to such occult use for many years, a search of the literature failed to locate any reference to pathology resulting from such use. I suggest that this dearth of reported pathology is not an indication of the innocuous nature of these magical practices. Rather it is a reflection of the medical profession's unawareness of this newly reported practice, and the consequent failure to appreciate the subtle signs of chronic mercury intoxication in domestic, as opposed to industrial settings, where such toxicity has been long documented (Hardy and Finkel 1983:95).

These occult practices are related to, but not necessarily an integral part of, syncretic religions such as Santeria and Voodoo. In fact, it appears that the use of mercury lies more in the realm of folk magic than religion. Mercury is sold in shops called botanicas which stock herbal medicines as well as religious and occult articles (Murphy 1988). In the United States, Spanish speakers typically use the word *azogue*, rather than the more familiar *mercurio*, to describe elemental Hg used for occult purposes.

A telephone survey of 115 botanicas located in 13 cities across the continental United States and Puerto Rico, conducted by my assistant, D. Hernandez, found 99 of them selling mercury. A similar survey found mercury being sold by botanicas in Columbia, The Dominican Republic and Mexico. I have been informed that mercury is widely sold and used for occult practices in Haiti and Peru, and in most other Latin American and Caribbean nations.

Of 29 botanicas visited in New York City, the proprietors of 14 recommended that mercury be used in a manner likely to contaminate the user's home. The most common modality mentioned is to sprinkle mercury on the floor, followed by mixing it with soap and water used to mop the floor, or putting it into an open bowl and perhaps floating a magnet in it. All of these uses are for the purpose of driving away unwanted influences, such as malign spirits and sorcerers, and/or for attracting benign influences.

Botanica personnel suggested numerous other ways of using mercury, including mixing it with perfume or cologne, placing it in bathwater, mixing it with ammonia or camphor, or using it as a charm by carrying it about or hanging it on the wall to attract good and/or repel evil.

Another method mentioned by several botanicas is to place mercury in a glass enclosed candle. It appeared as if this would result in the rapid vaporization of the mercury due to the heat of the flame. However, a simple experiment indicated that little mercury actually escapes into the atmosphere. In practice, the wax melts to a depth of one or two centimeters, and the mercury sinks to the solid-liquid interface. Thus it is not only removed from the flame, but covered with a layer of molten wax which is relatively impermeable to mercury vapor. However, more accurate measurements of mercury vapor release are needed before pronouncing on the safety of this potentially hazardous practice.

We did not question our informants in any detail, so it is likely that mercury is used in other ways, and for other purposes. One such use was described to me by an expert on Santeria, who stated that *azogue* is widely used as a kind of catalyst to enhance the powers of love potions designed to attract or repel members of the opposite sex. However according to her experience, such charms are invariably prepared in closed containers such as a coconut shell, and therefore less likely to emit mercury vapor than direct atmospheric exposure.

Botanicas typically dispense mercury in gelatin capsules, or occasionally in glass vials. The usual price is \$1.00 and both the modal and medial weights of 41 samples purchased in New York City are approximately 8 grams, ranging from 1.5 grams to 31.3 grams. One informant states that significantly greater amounts are dispensed in Peru, with perhaps as much as 20 ml (270 g) sprinkled on the floor at once. It is evident that the amount of mercury dispensed varies greatly.

A botanica shopkeeper, apologizing for being out of stock, suggested that we purchase a fever thermometer and break it open for its mercury content. An examination of four thermometers (two oral and two rectal) of three brands found their mercury content to range from .60 to .72 grams, or well under one-tenth the typical dose of mercury dispensed by a botanica.

One proposed limit for chronic exposure to mercury vapor is one microgram per cubic meter (Mills 1990). The amounts of mercury usually dispensed by botanicas are more than sufficient to exceed that limit when sprinkled on the floor of a typical room. Mercury vapor levels will be even higher when mercury is applied repeatedly, a practice recommended by several botanicas. The suggested intervals between applications ranged from three to seven days, to be continued until the desired results were obtained. Such practice would result in very high atmospheric levels of mercury vapor.

Interior mercury vapor concentrations are affected by a variety of factors, including type of house construction, height above floor level, type of floor surface, ambient temperature and ventilation characteristics, as well as the amount, frequency and method of application (Hardy and Finkel 1983:101; Curtis et al. 1987; Knight 1988).

Botanicas themselves are likely to be heavily contaminated, posing an occupational health hazard to employees (Wendroff 1990). On several occasions we observed spillage of mercury by shopkeepers as they filled vials or capsules for sale, but failed to carefully clean up the mercury on the floor. One proprietress stated that she intentionally scattered mercury about her botanica in order to "bring good things," and also added a bit to each prescription she dispensed.

Another way in which the public is unknowingly exposed to mercury is by means of second-hand exposure such as occurs when a tenant scatters mercury on the floor, and later vacates her apartment. The residual mercury trapped in cracks in the floor continues to evaporate, and the dwelling's new occupants are unknow-

ingly exposed to mercury vapor (*Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 1990). Clinicians engaged in case-finding are thus unable to ascertain by means of questioning whether such unknowingly exposed individuals are at risk. Alternative methods of case-finding, such as surveys making in-situ mercury vapor measurements, or random testing of urine samples are likely to be prohibitively expensive for most ministries of health. Furthermore, there is a poor correlation between urine mercury levels and pathology. This presents serious problems for public health authorities engaged in casefinding and treatment.

Individuals at greatest risk of mercury intoxication are small children and the fetus in utero. Both suffer proportionately greater damage from mercury vapor exposure than adults (Koos and Longo 1976; Sikorski et al. 1987), with sequelae more likely to be permanent (Curtis et al. 1987). Mercury vapor passes both the placental and blood-brain barriers (Battigelli 1983), and is excreted in breast milk (Knight 1988). Additionally, the vapor is heavy, so that infants and children sleeping, crawling or playing on the floor are exposed to the highest concentrations of vapor (Battigelli 1983:454).

It is evident that a concerted effort is necessary to assess the extent of this newly recognized health problem. Sociological research is required to ascertain the beliefs associated with mercury use, as well as the extent of such use. The development of an effective health education campaign is contingent on such social science research. Epidemiological investigations are needed to assess the levels of mercury vapor in dwellings and mercury burdens of individuals, and their pathological effects. The implementation of such programs, perhaps coupled with restrictive legislation on the sale of mercury to the lay public, should be considered by health authorities throughout the hemisphere.

Battigelli, M.C.

1983 *Mercury, in Environmental and Occupational Medicine*, W. N. Rom, ed. Boston: Little, Brown, pp. 449-463.

Curtis, H.A., S.D. Ferguson, R.L. Kell, and A.H. Samuel

1987 Mercury as a Health Hazard, *Archives of Disease in Childhood* 62:3:294.

Hardy, H.L. and A.J. Finkel

1983 *Hamilton and Hardy's Occupational Toxicology, 4th Edition*. Boston: Wright.

Knight, A.L.

1988 Mercury and its Compounds, in *Occupational Medicine: Principles and Practical Applications*, Carl Zenz, ed. Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers.

Koos, B.J. and L.D. Longo

1976 Mercury Toxicity in the Pregnant Woman,

Fetus, and Newborn Infant. A Review, *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* 126:3:390-409.

Mills, A.

1990 Mercury and Crematorium Chimneys, *Nature* 346: 615.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

1990 Elemental Mercury Poisoning in a Household—Ohio, 1989. 39:25:424-425.

Murphy, J.M.

1988 *Santeria: An African Religion in America*. Boston: Beacon.

Schrog, S.D., and R.L. Dixon

1985 Reproductive Effects of Chemical Agents, in *Reproductive Toxicology*, R.L. Dixon, ed. New York: Raven Press.

Sikorski, R., T. Juszewics, T. Paszowski, and T. Szprengier-Juszkiewicz

1987 Women in Dental Surgeries: Reproductive Hazards in Occupational Exposure to Metallic Mercury, *International Archives in Occupational and Environmental Health* 59: 551-557.

Wendroff, A.

1990 Domestic Mercury Pollution, *Nature* 347: 623.

PA Will Target Tourism in '92

Practicing Anthropology plans an early 1992 issue devoted to Tourism for which articles are being solicited. Topics suitable for the issue might describe projects involving mitigation of physical and cultural impacts induced by tourism; the use of tourism in economic development; training in tourism, in schools as well as for professionals; etc. The focus is on applied anthropology and research "beyond the University." Length should be appropriate to the topic.

Coordinating editor for this issue is Valene Smith, Department of Anthropology, California State University, Chico, Chico CA 95929-0400: (916/898-6192); FAX 916/898-6824; E-mail: EEFA06N@calstate.bitnet. Abstracts with estimated length of finished paper should be forwarded immediately. Completed papers must be received by September 1, 1991.

Sanctuary and Agencies Combine Forces to Prosecute Looters

A Department of Commerce Administrative Law Judge has fined seven Los Angeles-area scuba divers a total of \$132,000 for removing artifacts from two historic shipwrecks in the Channel Islands National Park and the

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Penalties in the civil prosecution ranged from \$1,000 to \$100,000. The judge's 34-page decision, dated October 17, 1990, concludes a joint enforcement effort between the Department of Interior's National Park Service (NPS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce involving the prosecution of 20 individuals for unlawfully taking shipwreck artifacts during a scuba diving trip off the Channel Islands. The investigation also led to successful criminal prosecutions that were recently concluded in state court. In those proceedings, all but one defendant pleaded either guilty or no contest and received sentences ranging from \$750 fines to community service or jail sentences of up to 30 days.

Channel Islands National Park Superintendent C. Mack Shaver stated, "The substantial penalties indicate the judicial system is willing to cooperate in the protection of these valuable historic resources. The notoriety the case has generated over the last three years helps us let people know what we are doing to preserve archaeological sites that belong to all of the American public."

Lieutenant Commander Stephen C. Jameson, Manager of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary agreed, saying, "The Federal civil prosecutions and the State criminal actions will go a long way in deterring future looting of our national cultural and historic treasures."

The Federal civil prosecutions brought by the NOAA Office of General Counsel were based on violations of NOAA regulations for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary which prohibit the damaging or removal of historical artifacts from the Sanctuary or the excavation of the seabed. The regulations are enforced jointly by the National Park Service and by the National Marine Fisheries Service of NOAA. Most of the shipwrecks known to exist around the Channel Islands are located in both the Park and the Sanctuary.

Of the 20 original individuals that NOAA charged in the civil action, 13 settled while seven others contested the charges at the hearing. The cases were also referred to the District Attorneys' Offices of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, where criminal charges under state law were filed. In all, 52 counts charging civil and criminal violations of Federal and State laws were brought against the various individuals, including both the owner and the captain of the charter dive boat.

According to Jack Fitzgerald, Chief Ranger of Channel Islands National Park, "This is the largest archaeological protection case in U.S. history in terms of number of defendants successfully prosecuted at one time with criminal and civil charges. It also lasted an unusually long time because of the complexity in jurisdiction and laws involved."

The recent findings conclude all criminal and civil proceedings initiated by the government resulting from an undercover investigation by two National Park Service

ranger who were aboard a charter scuba diving boat out of Santa Barbara. The defendants removed hundreds of artifacts from the shipwrecks of the WINFIELD SCOTT, a Gold Rush-era vessel which wrecked off Anacapa Island in 1853, and the GOLDENHORN, which grounded off Santa Rosa Island in 1892. Many of the artifacts that were recovered by federal agents have been turned over to the National Park Service for inclusion into its collection of cultural and historic resources from the Channel Islands.

The WINFIELD SCOTT was carrying passengers and mail from San Francisco to Panama when it ran full-steam into Anacapa Island in a dense fog. Its wreck prompted the installation of the Anacapa light house. The WINFIELD SCOTT is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Coal from Newcastle, Australia, bound for the port of San Pedro to provide energy for a developing California was the cargo of the GOLDENHORN. The wreck has been nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Park Service and National Marine Sanctuary Program preserve and protect these and other site around the country that tell stories of our nation's past.

The National Historic Landmarks Program Theme Study and Preservation Planning Literature Available

Abstracted from a report by Robert. S. Grumet
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service

Technical Brief No. 10 from the Archeological Assistance Program (November 1990) describes how National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Survey theme studies can be combined with basic elements of historic preservation planning to create a comprehensive framework for identification, evaluation, designation, and treatment of nationally significant archeological properties. One NHL theme study—"Historic Contact Period in the Northeast United States"—is used as an example of this process.

This theme study is an interdisciplinary project and requires the cooperation of a wide range of specialists. This includes the assistance of skilled governmental personnel familiar with regulatory and administrative procedures associated with cultural resources programs. Input from the people who are the object of study also is essential. Recognizing the complexity of such an undertaking, National Park Service Mid-Atlantic Regional Office (MARO) Preservation Planning Branch staff has worked closely with other federal agencies and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) personnel, Indian community representatives, and members of the professional and vocational preservation community in the Northeast throughout all phases of this project.

The MARO Preservation Planning Branch staff identified the need to develop a planning document for the management of Historic Contact Period cultural resources in the Northeast in a series of meetings and discussions with Federal, State, and academic archeologists and planners in 1987 and 1988. In 1989, the First Joint Archeological Congress was held in Baltimore, Maryland. Discussions at the Congress, and later, centered around the scope and purpose of the project. Strong support was indicated for development of a planning document that could easily be adapted to statewide historic preservation planning requirements. Members of the preservation community further expressed strong interest in development of far-reaching significance statements under which large numbers of properties could be identified, evaluated, and designated at all levels of significance.

The recent explosion of scholarly activity associated with Historic Contact Period studies in the Northeast contributed to the identification of the hundreds of properties listed in the theme study document. Individual archeologists presently are supporting the initiative by voluntarily collating basic, available information associated with identified properties. Following acceptance of resource boundaries and affirmation of owner consent by the NPS History Division, archeologists will be asked to provide pertinent data or references to key citations. Finally, they will review products prepared by project personnel and comment upon all theme study drafts.

This theme study has built on the tradition of considering a range of potential NHL nominees by using the National Register of Historic Places criteria to preliminarily determine the significance of all inventoried properties associated with the Historic Contact Period. By combining NHL and National Register significance levels and evaluation criteria, this theme study provides government agencies, Indian communities, and others involved in preservation activities with the widest possible framework for the evaluation of nationally significant historic contact resources.

This report and further information on the theme study initiative may be obtained by writing to: Preservation Planning Branch, Cultural Resources Management, Mid-Atlantic Region, NPS, 143 South Third Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

New Releases from the Division of Educational Research, National Research Institute, PNG, Accessible

The following reprints of reports on educational research in Papua New Guinea may be obtained by writing: National Research Institute, Box 5854 Boroko, NCD, Papua New Guinea, Phone 260300, FAX 260213.

Research Report 63—*Science Achievement of Grade 12*

Students: The Papua New Guinea Perspective by Michael Wilson, 192 pp., foreword by Angus Ross.

This study is a report on the evaluation of the Grade 12 science program taught in Papua New Guinea's four national high schools. It was carried out as part of the 26 national Second International Science Study (SISS). Grade 12 Science achievement and the factors that influence this achievement are analyzed in a comparative context. Science test results are presented in detail. This study is important to all science educators in Papua New Guinea and to others interested in educational standards and development.

Research Report 64—*Improving Education in Western Province* by Margaret Gibson and Sheldon Weeks. 194 pp., including photographs and index.

This report focuses on strategies that might be employed to improve the quality of community schools and high schools in Western Province. It is based on field work carried out by the authors and others in 1988 and 1989 in Western Province. The report includes the recommendations from the 1989 Kiunga Education Seminar. The findings of this study merit serious consideration by all people concerned with education in Papua New Guinea.

Reprint: Research Report 52—*Papua New Guinea National Inventory of Educational Innovations* by Sheldon Weeks. 148 pp., including photographs and a Preface to the 1990 Edition.

This report was first issued in 1985. It contains evaluations of 31 innovations in education in Papua New Guinea by 18 contributors. All but three of these innovations have evolved since independence. What has happened with some of these key innovations between 1985 and 1990 is reviewed in the preface to the 1990 edition. This report will be of value to anyone interested in educational change in Papua New Guinea.

(President's Letter from page 1)

(e.g. copying, telephone, postage) needed for the duties of leadership are more often found in academic settings. In partnership with NAPA, the SfAA needs to invent new ways to involve our practitioner colleagues, and to draw upon their talents. Assisting the regional meetings of LPOs and widening electronic communications might be things to try.

Since the SfAA is not only an organization that serves the profession, but also one that wishes to act on behalf of the peoples among whom we work, we have sought ways to make a positive impact on decisions made in government and elsewhere. While many difficult factors have to be dealt with—being factually informed, ethical considerations, and identifying positions of broad consensus

stemming from applied anthropology—a more intractable problem has been how to orchestrate our involvement effectively without spending a lot of money. Over the past year Hal Vreeland, Charles Cheney, and Miki Crespi have put together a process and communicational network that is justly termed a “break-through” for SfAA effectiveness. We need to build on their success.

On March 15 at the SfAA Council of Fellows meeting in Charleston, I will hand over the president’s gavel to Carole Hill, your president-elect. I will do so with great pleasure, not only because of responsibilities being lifted, but more so due to the excitement with which I view her presidency. Over the past year I have had the great pleasure of welcoming Carole into the president’s sphere and have increasingly relied on her to carry key leadership initiatives. In the process I have become excited about her priorities, values and sense of mission for the Society. They have enriched and extended my own objectives for the Society. Count on it: the coming two years will be singularly important ones for our Society.
—TG

The SfAA Newsletter is published by The Society for Applied Anthropology and is a benefit of membership in the Society, or it may be purchased through subscription: \$10 for U.S. residents and \$15 for non-U.S. residents. Checks or money orders may be made payable to The Society for Applied Anthropology.

Copy should be sent to: Judith Beeber Chrisman, Editor, 4133 42nd Avenue N.E., Seattle, WA 98105 (206/525-8125). All materials should include phone numbers where senders can be reached; and, affiliations for all persons mentioned in copy should be given.

Changes of address and subscription requests should be directed to: SfAA Business Office, P.O. Box 24083, Oklahoma City, OK 73124 (405/232-4902).

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