President’s Corner

William B. Lees

This is my last column as SHA President. It also marks my retirement from 13 years of service on the board of directors, which includes the past 10 years plus a prior stint of 3 years between 1992 and 1994. The past 10 years have included 2 terms as newsletter editor and the terms of president-elect and president. It has been the greatest honor of my career to serve you in this capacity and I am most appreciative for having had this opportunity.

In looking at SHA over the past decade or so, one of the most exciting changes has been the resurgence in the number of students participating in the society and in particular in the conference. This not only speaks to the health of historical archaeology as a relevant profession but also to the relevance of SHA and our conference to the emerging professionals of our discipline. Over the past year, the board has been interested in becoming more accessible to the membership and especially our students and young professionals. We want to know your opinions and we want you to become involved in society committees and governance. President-Elect Paul Mullins and I, along with other members of the board, will be holding “open office hours” in Baltimore in an attempt to make it easier for you to engage with the board in an informal setting. I hope this becomes standard at future conferences.

With the perspective of time, it is also clear that SHA is constantly facing challenges that are in many ways invisible to the general membership. They are invisible because of the excellent work and wisdom of the board, who address issues before they reach crisis level. The board works with the best interest of the membership in mind, and generally gets it right. As I leave office I am pleased to report that things are going smoothly due not only to the work of the board, but also to the dedication of committee chairs and members, as well as the dedicated work of SHA Executive Director Bill Scott and the staff of our headquarters office.

One challenge that is perennial comes from SHA’s awkward position as a moderate-to-small-sized organization. We are way too large to operate entirely as a volunteer organization. For this reason we have since 1978 retained a business office provider. At first, this was one of our own, Mike Rodeffer, who ran a one-person, part-time SHA business office. We have since moved to retain the services of professional association management firms such as our current provider, Management Solutions Plus.

Although we are too large to be an all-volunteer organization, we are way too small to be able to operate without substantial volunteer efforts. We could not provide the level of membership services and benefits that we do without, for example, a significant cadre of volunteer editors and editorial assistants and without a local conference committee. Without these volunteers we would either have to raise dues and conference fees (and I mean REALLY raise dues and conference fees) or we would have to cut back on our programs. Cutting back on programs would seriously diminish or destroy the value of membership and the contribution of SHA to the profession of archaeology; this is not an option. We will therefore continue to need member volunteers to help with our publications programs, conferences, and the broad and interesting work of our committees. For those of you already in the SHA volunteer ranks, thank

Continued on Page 2
Audrey Horning and appointed by the SHA board to fill a seat meeting was Amanda Evans, who has been also a past president of SHA. At this Jeff Altschul and Teresita Majewski (Terry president of the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA). I was of the board of directors of the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA). I was invited to participate in this process by RPA President Ian Burrow because of the participation. SOPA had similar goals, the transformation in addition to graduate degrees. Although become a standard professional credential standards can be addressed, and where censure or revocation of registration are potential outcomes. Although registration is voluntary, the goal is for registration to become a standard professional credential in addition to graduate degrees. Although SOPA had similar goals, the transformation from a membership organization to a professional registry, and sponsorship of this registry by the major archaeological organizations in North America, has resulted in RPA achieving a measured degree of success.

The work is not done, however, and by convening the board for strategic planning the goal was to identify actions to take RPA the rest of the way. The day-and-a-half planning session, facilitated by Terry Klein, executive director of the SRI Foundation and former SHA board member, resulted in the reaffirmation of the original goals of RPA. The actions identified during the Albuquerque planning session are true to the original goals of RPA. The details of the plan, which is couched in a five-year frame, will be announced in the near future by RPA, <www.rpanet.org>. When announced, I encourage currently registered archaeologists and those who are not to study the details. I believe you will see in this strategic plan an organization that is dedicated to moving RPA forward to serve the needs of the profession by addressing some issues that are held over from the formation of RPA and by aggressively pursuing goals that have held true from the start and that remain clearly essential today.

I know that by the time this newsletter reaches the membership the Baltimore conference will be over, and we will all be looking forward to the 2013 conference in Leicester, England. This conference presents a number of very exciting opportunities for collaborations between the Americas and Europe. I will be there for certain, and hope to see you there as well!

Results of the 2011 SHA Elections

The chair of the 2011 Nominations and Elections Committee, Lu Ann De Cunzo, has announced the results of the SHA and ACUA elections.

Elected for SHA are:  
President-Elect: Charles R. Ewen  
Secretary: Carol McDavid  
Treasurer: Sara F. Mascia  
Board of Directors: Christopher Fennell and Della Scott-Ireton

2012 Nominations and Elections Committee  
At-large members: Audrey Horning and LouAnn Wurst

Elected for ACUA are:  
Dave Ball, Amanda M. Evans, and Sarah Watkins-Kenney
Do you have photos of previous fieldwork (pre-1990s) stored in dusty albums or tucked away in old site reports? We want to publish them! The “Images of the Past” section of the SHA Newsletter seeks to highlight the history of historical archaeology by sharing photos and brief descriptions of past projects. We are especially interested in highlighting projects outside the continental United States. So, if you’d like to see your picture published in a future issue of the Newsletter, dust off those old photo albums and site reports and send us your images!

Please send your images to:

Benjamin Pykles
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Race and the Society for Historical Archaeology: Steps toward Claiming an Anti-Racist Institutional Identity

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In order to transform SHA into a truly diverse and welcoming organization, we must address the structural issues—unequal access to education, health care, transportation, childcare, etc.—that continue to maintain our organization’s white, male, heterosexual, and middle-class membership and values. The mission of seeking diversity involves all historical archaeologists and should be our collective goal as we work to transform our field and our organization in an effort to claim an anti-racist institutional identity (Barnes 2011).

Background
Since its inception, SHA has devoted more attention to gender diversity than to issues of racial inclusion. Considering the high percentage of women working in the field as opposed to the low numbers of minorities represented, this approach fulfilled the greater needs of the organization but raises a difficult question. How should our organization approach issues of racial diversity when there are so few minority voices and faces amongst us?

Women working in archaeology founded the Historical Archaeology Women’s Caucus in 1988 and organized the Committee on Gender Issues in 1991. The two groups reflected women’s attempts over the years to address issues related to gender equity in the field of historical archaeology. In January 1994 SHA President Betsy Reitz first expanded the focus of the renamed Gender and Minority Affairs Committee (GMAC), only to suggest disbanding it four months later, observing that it had fulfilled its mission, leaving the then-president with few ideas for other work to be done (Spencer-Wood 1994:222). Although the term “minority” had been added to the name of the committee, no substantive plan had been put in place to ensure that women and minorities were given due consideration in SHA (Barnes 2011). Over the years, gender-related issues stood at the forefront of the GMAC’s concerns. This article seeks to highlight structural issues related to race that contribute to the lack of diversity within our organization, SHA, and the field more broadly.

Archaeologists are well aware of the ways in which our personal and political lives influence our practice and vice versa. Since the 1980s archaeologists have paid increasing attention to the racialization of the past and how white privilege, white supremacy, and racial hierarchy structured the material world. Less attention has been paid to how these conditions structure and affect our practice. Since the discipline remains predominantly white, it follows that our profession supports and reproduces values, attitudes, conditions, and worldviews that privilege whiteness. This lack of diversity compromises our discipline and makes us intellectually and emotionally less whole; thus we should work toward an anti-racist institutional identity. What would an anti-racist, inclusive Society for Historical Archaeology look like and how can we move toward that goal?

Where Did We Come From? A Brief Timeline for Important Events Related to Race and SHA
The Society for Historical Archaeology was founded in 1967 at its inaugural meeting in Dallas, TX (Pilling 1967). Among those present were some of the legendary figures of the nascent discipline, including Stanley South, J. C. Harrington, John L. Cotter, Edward Jelks, and Arnold Pilling, among others—all but 1 of the 22 original fellows were white men from U.S. institutions. Carlos Margin was from Mexico. For much of our history we have debated the goals of our discipline. However, insofar as white men created SHA, it was structured to meet their needs as members of white society. Founded at a time before diversity mattered in America, our society reflected whiteness in its personnel; programs, products, and services; constituency; structure; and mission, particularly in the academy. During this time period, cultural resource management firms inherited most sites related to African American archaeology as part of the mitigation process, primarily in the South.

While archaeology was conducted in an unacknowledged racialized context throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, efforts to recognize and then examine the archaeology of racialized populations did not occur until early work on plantation slavery in the 1970s (see Orser 2007:15-40), spurred initially by the black activism of the time rather than by any internal impulse. John Otto (1975, 1984) proposed the idea that racial identification was used throughout American history to divide the population into two distinct groups, with implications for the archaeological record. It was this type of work that substantively began drawing African American archaeologists to the profession.

Two articles appeared in Historical Archaeology in 1990 that established race as a viable archaeological topic. David Babson (1990) posited that ethnicity did not account for the harmful social effects of racial ideology. Terrence Epperson (1990) encouraged the study of the historical construction of race and called attention to the fact that archaeology cannot remain shielded from present-day politics.

The discovery and excavation of the African Burial Ground (ABG) in Manhattan in 1991 triggered concerns over racial identity and the ways in which archaeology reproduced racial hierarchy (LaRoche and Blakey 1997). It also brought wider attention to the archaeological examination of slavery in the North and cast a glaring light on the racial dynamics of our profession. Descendant communities became involved and demonstrated how their role in the project can contribute to knowledge that both expands the discipline and reflects their interests and experience. Archaeology can be an emancipatory practice that exposes the connections between past and present. Historical archaeology began increasingly to embrace its ability to expose relations of class, gender, ethnicity, and race in subtle yet significant material signatures but remained largely unreflexive.

In 1994 SHA President Betsy Reitz expanded the Committee on Gender Issues into the Committee on Gender and Minority Issues (later to be known as the Gender and Minority Affairs Committee). This came six years after the SHA Women’s Caucus conducted a survey to document inequities, identify conditions that limited women’s access, and attempted to redress some of these issues by introducing childcare at the meetings. Because gender and minority issues are often collapsed, minority issues were less effectively addressed.

SHA hosted a provocative symposium
at their annual meeting in 1996 dedicated to questions surrounding the excavation of African American sites and its political dimension. The papers, subsequently published in Historical Archaeology (McDavid and Babson 1997), pushed the profession to examine itself for the first time.

Despite the early activity of the Gender and Minority Affairs Committee, it soon became relatively inactive at the end of the century. In the mid-1990s there was talk of disbanding the committee since “it had fulfilled its mission” (Spencer-Wood 1994:222). Since the work on the ABG there has been increasing attention paid to the archaeology of race and racialization (Epperson 2004; Fennell 2007; Franklin 1997a, 2001; Mullins 1999; Shackel 2011). Yet, there has been considerable less study of the way in which racism shapes archaeological practice, specifically the voluntary association we call SHA (cf. Battle-Baptiste 2011; Franklin 1997b; LaRoche and Blakey 1997).

The Premises that Inform This Initiative

As social archaeologists we are interested in the ways in which our racialized society influences our lives and by extension our archaeological practice. Our efforts to explore these influences on our discipline are informed by our work exploring ways of undoing racism in circles outside of SHA. Much of this work is founded on the following premises that if adopted can assist SHA in claiming an anti-racist institutional identity:

1. Racism is not of our making yet we reproduce it individually, institutionally, and culturally.
2. We all have been socialized in a racist society; as a result we carry attitudes of either internalized racial oppression or internalized racial superiority.
3. Our society is dominated by a notion of white supremacy in which whiteness is the norm.
4. The purpose of focusing on an analysis of racism and its place in our organization is not atonement for the past, but action for the future.

Steps toward Claiming an Anti-Racist Institutional Identity

In an effort to transform our practice, SHA hosted an invited and sponsored panel at their annual meeting in Austin, TX (2011) entitled: “Our Practice, Our Lives: What Would an Anti-Racist SHA Look Like?” Five panelists were asked to provide their perspectives on the following questions:

1. Is SHA welcoming and retaining diverse populations and perspectives? If not, why not, and do you see this as a problem?
2. Does institutional racism impact our practice? If so, how?
3. Do racial whites continue to set the historical agenda for archaeology? If so, how?
4. Should SHA adopt a formal position declaration on race (or do we prefer to remain racially neutral)? Do we want to bend the arc of archaeological practice towards justice?
5. How can we begin to effectively address the racial disparities in our profession?
6. How do we begin to claim and put into practice an anti-racist organizational identity?

Future Action

At the close of the sponsored session in Austin, the panelists and audience participants suggested that a list of recommendations be brought to the board of directors for their action. The board subsequently referred these concerns back to the Gender and Minority Affairs Committee and the newly formed Ethics Committee.

1. SHA should develop an ethics statement regarding racial inclusion and diversity.
2. SHA leadership should participate in anti-racism training as a group in an effort to transform the institution and move it towards an anti-racist identity.
3. SHA should develop a grievance procedure for issues related to racial discrimination.
4. SHA should conduct a self-study that examines how it is structured to benefit white society and how white privilege is reflected in its personnel; programs, products, and services; constituency; structure; and mission.

At the SHA board meeting in June 2011 the board approved a motion in support of three initiatives aimed to encourage diversity in the SHA membership, including funding for anti-racism training for the board at next year’s mid-year meeting; a mentoring program; and one graduate student to attend the conference.

The Current Academic Climate in Archaeology and the Academy

1. The educational path to professional and academic standing in the field of archaeology is daunting.
2. For African Americans or other minorities whose aspirations may have been thwarted by tacit institutional policies, it is doubly difficult.
3. If African Americans or other underrepresented groups know about the discipline, they first must overcome cultural and familial resistance and lack of familiarity.
4. Once the person embraces the profession s/he must pass entrance examinations often designed with an inherent bias against her/him.
5. If the aspirant passes the test, s/he must be accepted into an institution.
6. If they are accepted, often there is no funding that ensures their attendance.
7. If there is funding, often there is no support to see the person through the rigors and demands of an advanced degree.
8. If there is support the person must still be able to graduate.
9. If the person graduates and makes it into the profession, s/he is often unable to get a tenure-track position in a major institution.
10. If s/he manages to get a tenure-track position, tenure may not be granted.
11. If they become tenured, the move from associate to full professor is elusive.
12. Since there is one African American who is a full professor in the field of archaeology that we know of, we can’t actually predict what the future holds. Perhaps distinguished professor/emeritus/emerita status will not be conferred.

In other words, the commitment to diversity does not end with the admission process. It must begin before that process is initiated and must continue long after we think it should end.

We must join together as a profession to eliminate this disparity—individual schools operating in isolation has not been an effective strategy. As a profession we have it within our power to unite as a consortium to create a different dynamic that can transform the racial realities of our discipline.

References

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The Legacy of Industrialization: Archaeology at Contaminated Sites with Potentially Hazardous Artifacts

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Introduction

Historical archaeologists frequently come in contact with contaminated soils, artifacts containing unknown substances, and other products of days before Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. What should archaeologists do when they encounter potentially hazardous artifacts in the field? How do we protect our health and still collect and curate important archaeological data? Fortunately, occupational safety and the identification of potentially hazardous artifacts are mandated by federal law. A basic protocol for encounters with potentially hazardous artifacts is not widely used by archaeologists in the United States currently, but can easily be added to existing health and safety rules for CRM companies and research institutions. The first step to establishing a protocol is to provide for the education of employees and testing of unknown substances and artifacts. Next, safety guidelines similar to those established by OSHA can be implemented. Ultimately, the resulting guidelines should be created through collaboration between archaeologists and curation facilities in order to provide safety in the field and for future researchers. Unknown and hazardous historical substances can offer a unique opportunity to understand items made and used in the past. Proper safety protocols allow archaeologists to access unique data contained in these items.

One of the unfortunate side effects of industrialization is the generation of hazardous chemicals and substances. The legacy of industrialization in the United States has left us with toxic substances and contaminated sediments that are frequently encountered by archaeologists. For instance, two hazardous substances often encountered in an archaeological context are asbestos and benzene. Asbestos was widely used for its fire-resistant properties and as an insulator from the 1800s until the 1970s. Now, asbestos is known to cause a form of lung cancer called mesothelioma. Asbestos can be encountered by archaeologists in old buildings and in the rubble of demolished structures. Benzene is a hydrocarbon byproduct of petrochemical combustion and has historically been used as a solvent and fragrance. Inhalation or consumption of elevated levels of benzene can cause cancer in the liver, kidneys, heart, and lungs. Benzene particles are so small that they have penetrated nearly every location on earth, including the polar ice caps. Archaeologists are often unaware of the risks resulting from encounters with hazardous materials in archaeological sites and it would be valuable to establish guidelines to minimize health risks.

Awareness is the best way to prevent health risks resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. I became interested in developing guidelines for handling potentially hazardous artifacts and contaminated sediments after the discovery of a small brown bottle at the Japanese Gulch site in Mukilteo, Washington. The Japanese Gulch site (45SN398) is associated with a Japanese workers’ community inhabited between 1904 and the 1930s. The brown bottle was discovered by Northwest Archaeological Associates, Inc. (NWAA) during archaeological investigations in 2007. The cork and contents were intact and the bottle was marked “POISON”. I disregarded the embossing because I believed any hazardous contents had long since leached out into the surrounding sediments. Because the bottle was complete, with contents and labeled as being poison, it was sealed separately in its own bag and brought back to NWAA facilities in Seattle.

Once the bottle was brought to the lab, strange things started to happen. The bottle was cleaned. The previously moist cork dried out in a few days and a mysterious...
white powder started to appear around the bottle’s lip and cork. The artifact was placed in a museum-quality curation bag, in the belief that the bag would prevent human contact with the bottle’s contents. Unfortunately, archaeologists working with the assemblage started to complain about feeling light-headed whenever they were around the small brown bottle. We were concerned that our symptoms were somehow related to the bottle contents so the question was eventually posed: what do we do with it?

If at all possible, we wanted to dispose of the contents without discarding the artifact. I first contacted the Washington State Toxicology Lab in Seattle. They had never encountered this sort of situation. The toxicology lab primarily focuses on items as part of criminal investigations. Therefore, unless the bottle was involved in a crime the state lab could not work with the sample. Had I convinced them to take the artifact it would simply be disposed of as hazardous waste with no analysis of the contents.

NWAA had previously worked with the University of Washington’s Department of Medicinal Chemistry to determine the contents of bottles excavated at another site. The Department of Medicinal Chemistry uses a mass spectrometer to profile chemical compounds of the unknown substances NWAA has dug up. Mass spectral data can be used to identify substances to determine if they are toxic. I contacted Dr. Bill Howald, director of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, and described our situation. Dr. Howald told me how to store the artifact to prevent further contamination of our lab and to safely transport it to the university. He said that he could examine the contents and safely dispose of them if it was necessary. I took the bottle to Dr. Howald and finally learned what was inside. The bottle contained mercury (II) chloride, or mercuric chloride, a very hazardous substance that causes irritation to the eyes, skin, and respiratory tract. It can also affect the kidneys and central nervous system. Mercuric chloride cannot be treated at a wastewater facility and will disperse into the environment if disposed of in a landfill. There are federal, state, and local regulations for disposing of mercuric chloride. Dr. Howald disposed of the contents properly and returned the bottle to NWAA.

Developing Guidelines
Some toxic substances can be tolerated at low levels. Due to industrialization, there are traces of carcinogens like benzene and mercuric chloride all around us. Problems primarily result when humans come in contact with these substances at concentrated levels or for long periods of time, such as during data recovery at certain historical archaeological sites. Archaeologists can minimize their risks if they are aware of the potential hazards. Archaeologists and cultural resource management companies need to have a site-specific plan in place to deal with hazards when they are encountered, as well as a plan to contain or discard polluted archaeological materials in order to ensure the safety of their employees.

I learned from the incident at Japanese Gulch that many of us archaeologists are not prepared to handle toxic artifacts or contaminated sediments. Until I had the encounter with the mercuric chloride bottle, I was unaware of the potential risks posed by contaminated artifacts. I also did not know what to do when this item was recovered. None of the archaeologists I personally knew and spoke with had any suggestions. Even the state toxicology lab did not know what to do. This document emphasizes unknown bottle contents but this information can be applied to any artifact or item with suspect contents from potentially contaminated contexts. Adequate preparation and accurate identification of potentially hazardous artifacts or contaminated sediments are the critical aspects to maintaining safety. Regulations developed for working with hazardous chemicals in other industries can help archaeologists identify and dispose of toxic artifacts.

I believe that the archaeological value of a site or an artifact is not diminished by pollution. The research value of potentially hazardous sites is not diminished by contamination and important information can be revealed without health risks if simple precautions are taken. Discovering the nature of contaminated artifacts can yield invaluable information that can provide insight into the substances used in historic-period households, businesses, and industries. A practical guideline for encounters with potentially hazardous artifacts should use existing regulations; provide for risk prevention and artifact analysis and curation; and should be inexpensive.

Regulatory Context
A regulatory framework for working with hazardous materials has already been developed in the United States. This framework operates on the national, state, and local level and was developed to protect employees in industries where they may be exposed to hazardous chemicals. In the United States, provisions have been made for the identification of unknown substances because employers are mandated to maintain a safe work environment for employees. Laws vary by state, but the OSHA Standards listed in 29 CFR 1910.1200 App E are an interpretation of federal regulations that spell out the obligations employers have towards their employees regarding toxic and hazardous substances. It states employers shall provide employees with information and training on hazardous chemicals at the time of their initial assignment and whenever a new physical or health hazard has been introduced into their work area. The OSHA Standards also state that studies can be used or may need to be conducted to determine health effects of exposure to chemicals. If potential hazards are discovered by contract archaeologists, the proponents of a project are responsible for conducting testing to determine adverse health effects. Basically, if archaeologists find a toxic substance the sponsors of the cultural resources investigation or archaeological dig can be held responsible for any additional analysis required by law. Also, it is against the law for archaeologists to dispose of an unknown substance. The only way to properly treat these artifacts is to conduct additional analysis to discover the identity of the substance. Several effective analysis techniques for the identification of unknown historical substances on artifacts have been reported in the archaeological literature, including gas chromatograph/mass spectrometry (GC/MS), x-ray fluorescence (XRF), and instrumental neutron activation analysis (INAA).

If analysis indicates the artifact is hazardous, other regulations may apply. Regulations regarding hazardous waste usually operate on a local level, but national guidelines exist as well under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) or the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA). These regulations are useful and necessary for the proper transport and disposal of hazardous substances. Archaeologists should be aware of regulations regarding working with hazardous artifacts in their state and municipality. Some of this information can be learned at a Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) course.

Preparation as Risk Prevention
Archaeologists must be prepared for encounters with potentially hazardous artifacts. This is important for maintaining safety in the workplace and determining what precautions to take while handling artifact assemblages. Background research about the land-use history of a given archaeological site or project area is important not only for the context it
provides, but also for the potential artifact classes that may be recovered and any potentially hazardous chemicals that may be found in sediments. Also, check for other environmental data that may be available for each project area. This information can also be used to assess prospective risks.

Certain types of sites, such as former industrial facilities, are more likely to contain polluted sediments and artifacts. However, domestic and rural sites can also harbor potentially hazardous substances because people were not careful with their disposal and use of household products in the past (Garman 2001:223). Also, many products used in the past have been proven hazardous today. One of the best sources of information is other archaeologists who may have had encounters like this before. If archaeologists are ready for the unplanned discovery of potentially hazardous artifacts, as they are for the accidental discovery of human remains, they will be better able to allocate time and money for additional analysis as well as prevent health risks.

An important point is that polluted sediments should be treated differently than bottles with unknown contents. Archaeology in hazardous sediments ushers in OSHA and liability concerns that must be treated differently than unknown bottle contents. If a site is suspected to be contaminated, it is best to notify the proponent of the project and steer away from the site until a site-specific health and safety plan is developed.

Another step towards preparation is the creation of a simple tool kit of hazardous waste equipment for use in the field and the training of crew members in its use. Since most archaeology field crews are not hazardous material technicians and would not be expected to work in extremely toxic environments, the necessary tool kit should be an extension of first aid equipment. An assortment of gloves and clean, sterile glass jars or curation-quality plastic bags to contain dubious artifacts is the minimum. Respirators may also be necessary depending upon the project. It is best if this tool kit is created by an archaeologist who has taken the HAZWOPER 40-hour training course (Garman 2001:229). Training in prevention can also be considered an extension of first aid education for the crew. Potential hazards can be communicated during a site meeting before a project begins.

Identification of Unknowns
Once archaeologists are aware of the potential hazards associated with a project, they can plan to avoid them. For instance, archaeologists digging in an industrial zone should be aware of the potential petrochemicals and industrial solvents that may remain in the sediments. Aside from bottles with contents, organic artifacts like bone and wood can absorb toxic substances from the surrounding sediments. Additional analysis is often required for unknown substances or sediments that have not been proven to be contaminated. The identification and treatment of unknown historical substances is also useful for all who work with the resulting artifact assemblages. Archaeological field and laboratory technicians need to know what they are working with in order to reduce health risks. If an artifact is presumed toxic, testing should be conducted before any archaeologist can work on the assemblage. Additionally, archaeological repositories need to know what kinds of artifacts they are housing in their facilities. Once identified, safe-handling information can be learned from Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) downloaded from the Internet. This will guide future treatment of recovered artifacts. If an artifact is too polluted to be handled safely, it may be turned over to a hazardous waste facility for treatment following documentation.

Curation facilities become the stewards of archaeological assemblages in perpetuity and it is important for them to be aware of the context where archaeological materials were recovered. Bottles with contents are rarely recovered in an archaeological context. More frequently, curation facilities come in contact with artifacts removed from polluted sediments. While most bottle contents are relatively benign and can be safely stored for many years, it is still important to know if a repository is willing to store them and, if so, how they would like them packaged. It is also important to make sure they are aware that porous artifacts may have absorbed chemicals following deposition. Substances that are considered safe now may not be in the future. It is the responsibility of archaeologists to help repositories safely curate these collections.

Inexpensive Health and Safety Precautions
Perhaps the most important aspect of safety guidelines is funding. How can archaeologists pay for the additional analysis of artifacts and their disposal, if required? Unknown substances in a bottle buried for 100 years are not always hazardous to human health and additional analysis can be expensive and time-consuming. I suggest that a way to provide additional funding for analysis is to add a caveat to the contract or research design for any project that may encounter hazardous artifacts. This can be done similar to the way provisions are made for the inadvertent discovery of human remains.

Both human remains and potentially hazardous work conditions are covered by federal and sometimes state law, so clients can be held legally responsible in the event of their discovery. Being prepared for an unlikely encounter begins with allowing for additional processing in the original contract, excavation permit application, or research design.

The biggest cost to most archaeologists and cultural resource management companies is the training needed to gain awareness of potential hazards. HAZWOPER courses can be quite an investment for employees who may rarely work with contaminated sites or artifacts. Hazardous materials training can be focused on key personnel who are the most likely to encounter contamination or toxic substances. These individuals can pass on information to coworkers, participate in site-specific safety planning, or prepare safety tool kits for their company. Additionally, companies can use their experienced, highly trained personnel as a marketing tool to gain further work. A successful track record of handling contaminated archaeological sites and a crew of trained employees is highly marketable and may help win contracts.

Case Study: The Teager/Weimer Site
An example of using general guidelines to prepare for encounters with potentially hazardous artifacts is the archaeological excavations conducted by NWAA at the Teager/Weimer site in Arlington, Washington. The Teager/Weimer site was a turn-of-the-20th-century archaeological site that consisted of a sheet of domestic material culture and an intact privy feature. The site was going to be destroyed by the expansion of a nearby wastewater treatment facility. Following identification, the privy feature was considered the most important part of the site and was subjected to data recovery excavations in early 2008.

Included in the archaeological excavation permit was a clause stating that any potentially unknown substances would be subjected to mass spectrometry analysis for identification. Any hazardous materials encountered would be disposed of according to Washington State law. Because the data recovery excavations would be focused on the privy, field technicians were required to have tetanus and hepatitis immunizations before they could work at the site. Crew members were told about potential bacterial and chemical hazards and were required to wear nitrile and vinyl gloves while digging.

During excavation nine bottles were recovered with unknown contents. Because of my previous experiences at the Japanese
Gulch site, the bottles were stored on the roof of the NWAA building in separate bags. The bottles were prepared for analysis at the University of Washington and were photographed before they left our facility in case they never returned. Each bottle was triple bagged in curation-quality plastic bags and placed in sterile glass jars with metal caps before being transported to the Department of Medicinal Chemistry. I provided the university with a background of the contexts these bottles were recovered from and a mass spectrometry scan of the contents was conducted. Funding for the mass spectrometry analysis was provided for in the excavation permit and paid by the City of Arlington. Other potentially hazardous items like zinc-cored batteries were photographed, documented on archaeological excavation forms, and left at the site after notifying City of Arlington officials of their discovery.

In this case, none of the bottles were toxic or hazardous. All contents were common medicines used during the early 20th century and were made with natural oils and resins. Additional research indicated that the medicines could be used to treat a variety of ailments and contain effective ingredients still in use today. This provided insight into the type of ingredients used in medicines around the turn of the century and what illnesses they treated. We decided to keep the liquids inside the bottles for future research because the contents were nontoxic and were made from natural ingredients. In order to curate the bottles with their contents inside, I consulted with the collections manager at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture and the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Washington. The bottles were corked with black rubber stoppers and placed in curation boxes with cardboard supports that would keep them held upright. Each bottle with contents was placed in the box and the results of the mass spectrometry scan were given to the museum.

**Conclusion**

Archaeologists and cultural resources practitioners encounter a number of situations where activities conducted in the past have left behind hazardous wastes. Guidelines for encounters with potentially hazardous substances will become increasingly important as we continue to identify and work with contaminated sites in the future. Archaeologists should develop protocols for dealing with potential chemical hazards in order to provide for their own safety and the safety of their coworkers. Historic bottles with contents are a rare and important find. They have great research potential to provide essential data from a wide variety of analytical perspectives. Most archaeological assemblages are benign or, at most, mildly toxic, but sometimes hazardous substances are discovered. Archaeologists need to plan for these encounters. Fortunately, analyzing unknown substances is covered by federal and state law. This analysis is not only valuable for the resulting data, but for the safety of all who come in contact with potentially hazardous contents.

**Acknowledgments**

This work could not have been completed without selfless assistance from a few key individuals. I would like to thank Dr. Bill Howald and the University of Washington’s Department of Medicinal Chemistry for their work scanning each of my samples. Dr. Howald was particularly instrumental in providing insightful comments concerning what these mystery medicines might be and how to safely handle artifacts like these in the future. Dr. Terry Cook also deserves heartfelt thanks for urging me to use mass spectrometry on unknown bottle contents in the first place and helping me deduce some of the compounds in these bottles. I also owe my former NWAA supervisors Christian J. Miss and Lorelea Hudson a debt of gratitude for providing me with the opportunity to work at these sites and having the funding and insight to use mass spectrometry on bottle contents that were previously rinsed down the drain without a second thought.

**References and Recommended Reading**


Current Research

Please send summaries of your recent research to the appropriate geographical coordinator listed below. Photographs and other illustrations are encouraged. Please submit summaries as Word or text-only files. Submit illustrations as separate files (.jpeg preferred, 300 dpi or greater resolution).

AFRICA
Kenneth G. Kelly, University of South Carolina, <kenneth.kelly@sc.edu>

ASIA
Edward W. Gonzalez-Tennant, <gonzaleztennant.ed@gmail.com>

AUSTRALASIA AND ANTARCTICA
Susan Piddock, Flinders University, <spiddock@ozemail.com.au>

CANADA-ATLANTIC (New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island)
Amanda Crompton, Memorial University of Newfoundland, <ajcrompt@mun.ca>

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CANADA-ONTARIO
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CANADA-PRAIRIE (Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Nunavut)
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USA-MIDWEST (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin)
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USA-NORTHEAST (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont)
David Starbuck, <dstarbuck@frontiernet.net>

USA-NORTHERN PLAINS AND MOUNTAIN STATES (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming)
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USA-PACIFIC NORTHWEST (Idaho, Oregon, Washington)
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CURRENT RESEARCH BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE
Newfoundland and Labrador

Archaeology at Oderin Island, Newfoundland, Canada (submitted by Amanda Crompton, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Archaeology, Memorial University, Newfoundland): During July 2011, I directed a survey project on Oderin Island, Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, Canada. This project is an initial step in what is planned as a larger-scale investigation of the French resident fishery in Newfoundland. French fishing crews made yearly seasonal trips to Newfoundland’s waters to fish for cod, which they preserved by air-drying the fish on cobblestone beaches. At the end of the summer, these ships returned to French ports to market their catch. To help protect and encourage their Newfoundland fishery, the French settled an official colony in Plaisance (now Placentia) in 1662. Outside of the colony, small unofficial settlements grew up along the shores of Placentia Bay and along Newfoundland’s south coast. These settlements were small fishing plantations that were occupied year-round by individuals or families; the planters (or habitants) sold their catch to seasonal fishing crews at the end of each summer.

We know very little about the small residential fishing plantations that existed outside of the colony; they are poorly documented in the historic record, and have never been the target of an archaeological survey project. In many cases, the only information that is known about a particular settlement is from census documents, which record the name of the harbor and the number of habitants who lived there. Beyond that, we know little about the location of the plantation in the harbor area, or the layout.

Accordingly, we chose the best-documented plantation for our initial survey in 2011. The settlement that is referred to the most frequently in the documentary record was located somewhere on Oderin Island (known originally to the French as Audierne). Oderin Island is located in western Placentia Bay, about 9 km offshore from the Burin Peninsula, Newfoundland. The Lafosse family lived on Oderin Island from no later than 1704, and their plantation would have consisted of a house, fisheries outbuildings, and a small fortification (likely a simple battery) on a nearby island.

The Lafosse family appears more frequently in the historical record because of the trouble that enveloped Lafosse in 1711. Lafosse became entangled in debt, and left his family behind on Oderin to earn money elsewhere. Lafosse was later arrested by the French in Acadia, and was accused of having switched allegiance to the British. Lafosse was put on a ship bound for Plaisance to stand trial, but managed to escape (it seems with the collusion, or at least willful ignorance, of the ship’s captain). Lafosse was never heard from again. The governor of Plaisance was determined to send soldiers to Oderin and send Lafosse’s wife and children back to St. Malo in France. However, the next year brought the Treaty of Utrecht (1713), under the terms of which Plaisance and other French habitations in Newfoundland were given to the English, and the French were forced to evacuate Newfoundland.

In 1714, a British surveyor named William Taverner was engaged to take stock of the newly acquired territory in Newfoundland. Taverner visited Oderin Island, and noted that one ‘Madame La Force’ whose husband had left her was still living on the island. Taverner also noted that Madame La Utrecht (undoubtedly Lafosse’s wife) had a very fine plantation, a large beach for drying codfish on, a productive garden, and a strong fort built on a little island.

Thanks to a grant from the Provincial Archaeology Office of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, we were able to plan a survey of Oderin Island. Our survey targeted the northeastern shore of Oderin Island as the area most likely to have been the location of the Lafosse plantation. It has a large beach for processing codfish and an island offshore (suspiciously named Castle Island). This still left a large area to survey. What had initially appeared to be meadows on aerial photographs was actually very wet and boggy ground, which we quickly eliminated. Our shovel tests in dry ground uncovered a sample of French ceramics in one location only, on an elevated meadow above the beach (Figure 1). Unfortunately, the site has been disturbed by modern activity; enough material culture remains, however, to indicate a French presence in this meadow. Castle Island preserves the remains of the Lafosse fort, consisting of a small low stone wall with obvious earthworks extending perpendicularly off the stone wall. The 2011 Oderin excavations have suggested that French residential fishing plantations are likely to be found very near good large cobblestone beaches. The information that we learned about site location strategies from this plantation will hopefully inform further survey work on resident fishing plantations in future years.

The Labrador Inuit-European Contact Experience: 2011 Excavations on Black Island, Labrador (submitted by Amelia Fay, Ph.D. Candidate, Memorial University, Newfoundland): Black Island is located approximately 32 km northeast of Nain, currently the most northern community along the Labrador coast. In 2010 I went to the Khernertok site on Black Island, a...
recorded contact-period Inuit habitation site containing two sod house foundations. These houses were recorded in a 1776 Moravian census, right around the time of intensive European contact in Nain in 1771. I spent the summer mapping and testing both houses to determine how long they were occupied for and get a sense of the architecture and artifactual evidence. From these test trenches I determined that House 1’s occupation extended well into the 19th century and included some structural modifications along the way, and House 2 seemed more typical of an 18th-century Inuit sod house.

This past summer I returned to Khermertok to completely excavate House 2. With a crew of 10 we opened 46 1 x 1 m units and 3 50 x 50 cm test pits to locate the midden. Structurally the house was quite typical of other 18th-century Labrador Inuit dwellings, with a long entrance tunnel leading to a cold trap and a series of benches lining the side and back walls of the oval-shaped dwelling. While they have not all been cataloged and counted, the majority of artifacts recovered are European items, such as ceramics, pipes, and beads. This predominance of European material culture suggests a family who wholly embraced trade. That being said, there is still evidence of traditional Inuit material culture as well, in the form of soapstone vessels and whalebone handles, though these are surprisingly underrepresented. Currently the artifacts are being cleaned, conserved, and cataloged at Memorial University where they will become part of my Ph.D. research on the Labrador Inuit–European contact experience.

**Prince Edward Island**

Stanhope Farmlands Archaeological Project, PEI National Park (submitted by Rob Ferguson, retired, Atlantic Service Centre, Parks Canada Agency): For the third year, Parks Canada and the Stanhope Historical Society (SHS) collaborated on a week-long excavation in a late-18th-century house on the north shore of Prince Edward Island. In 2008, SHS members requested an investigation of a large depression along the Farmlands Trail in PEI National Park. A team of volunteers organized through SHS, working with Parks Canada archaeologist Rob Ferguson, spent one week in 2008 and again in 2010 and 2011 testing the site. Artifacts indicate an occupation falling within the late 18th century and/or early 19th century. Creamwares and pearlwares dominate the ceramic assemblage, as well as agateware and black basaltic stoneware, verifying a post-Acadian time period. There are no artifacts to indicate a continued later-19th-century occupation.

The site is within the bounds of a former flax plantation established by James Montgomery, an absentee landlord who acquired rights to Lot 34 in 1767, after the deportation of the French population in 1758. David Lawson was sent over in 1770 as overseer for the plantation, together with about 50 Scottish settlers. Lawson was dismissed in 1788 over mishandling of funds. The farm was subsequently leased to the Bovyer family, Loyalists from Rhode Island who had recently arrived on the island. The Bovyers occupied Lawson’s house at least until 1802. It is possible that this is the Lawson/Bovyer residence, House when Mr. Lawson left it. It is now more convenient and in better repair than when they [the Bovyres] went to it; there is a pump well in the kitchen.

Excavations in 2008 and 2010 revealed a shallow midden deposit north of the cellar and provided a cross-section into the north side of the cellar. This year, excavations were focused on the cellar floor. An area 2.5 x 5 m was opened, exposing a chimney base and a thick deposit of charcoal and artifacts presumably dumped from the hearth above. Much of the cellar had been filled over the years with fieldstones removed from plowed fields adjacent to the Farmlands Trail. Artifacts within that stratum are small and scattered. Once below that, however, there are sizable pieces of ceramics, especially creamware plates. Apart from the kitchen-related items, there are few other artifacts relating to activities or to the house construction. Wrought-iron nails are limited, and there are only a couple of hinge fragments. Also, surprisingly there are very few tobacco pipe fragments, and faunal remains are scant.

The cellar floor west of the chimney has not yet been reached. It is hoped that excavations can continue in 2012, completing the work of 2011 and expanding into deeper parts of the cellar. Parks Canada is grateful to members of the Stanhope Historical Society, in particular John Palmer, who coordinated the long list of daily volunteers and sustained us with daily nourishment, and Harry Keilly who provided access through his property as well as insights into past land use. Tara McNally and staff from the PEI Field Unit of Parks Canada facilitated the logistics as well as volunteering on the dig. The site is located on a popular hiking trail, making it an exciting point of interpretation for the human history of our national park.

**Continental Europe**

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**Poland**

The Looted Landscape: Preservation of Stalag Luft III (submitted by Antoni Paris): Stalag Luft III, located south of Sagan (today...
in 1963, and has been the

FIGURE 1. A look at today's landscape: shown is the northern part of the camp where the Great Escape took place. (Photo by A. Paris, 2011.)

Zagań, Poland) and west of the existing camp Stalag VIII C, was a Nazi German POW camp for Allied pilots during World War Two. The camp was built on sandy soil to prevent the digging of tunnels by inmates and is located at a considerable distance from the city; it is surrounded by woodlands. The construction of the camp began in early 1942. The eastern sector of the camp was the first to be completed and opened on 21 March 1942. The first prisoners at Stalag Luft III were British RAF and Fleet Air Arm officers, arriving in April 1942. A second sector was opened on 11 April 1942. It was originally intended for British POWs, but by the end of 1942 American POWs were being held there. The northern part of the camp was opened on 29 March 1943 to hold British airmen. The southern part of the camp, intended for Americans, was opened in September 1943. USAAF prisoners began arriving at the camp in significant numbers the following month, and the West Compound was opened in July 1944 for U.S. officers.

Each sector of the camp had 15 single-story huts placed in 3 rows with 5 huts per row. The camp grew to approximately 60 acres (24 ha) in size and ultimately housed pilots from the Royal Air Force, U.S. Army Air Force, and officers from other Allied air forces, with a total of 10,949 inmates, including some support officers. The five camps' sectors were separated by two barbed wire fences, about 2.5 m in height. The fences were approximately 1.5 m apart, and the intervening space was covered with coiled barbed wire. The entire camp was bordered by a 10 m wide strip of cleared land. Machine gun fire by the guards, from both of the guard towers (about 100 m apart) and from the ground, could easily be directed at this strip. Due to this careful planning, Stalag Luft III was considered escape proof. However, on 24 March 1944 200 prisoners managed to escape through a tunnel which they had dubbed "Harry."

Despite the fact that the camp was made famous by the Hollywood movie The Great Escape in 1963, and has been the subject of numerous existing publications and documentary films, no preservation plans have been drawn up to protect this historically important site. The camp's condition deteriorated over the years due to vandalism and natural processes of decay. Since 2009 Adam Mickiewicz with the University in Poznan has been conducting research in order to assess cultural landscape changes at World War Two historical sites. Two examples of this work are the KL Stutthof Program and Stalag Luft III EIS project (see the summer 2011 issue of the SHA Newsletter). In July 2011, the author undertook preliminary research on the Stalag Luft III site. The initial study included detailed architectural recording, pedestrian survey, and geophysical probing. The results of this field study led to the preparation of a site assessment and inventory of historical and archaeological features. Looting after the camp was abandoned has left its mark on the cultural landscape. The camp infrastructure has vanished, leaving only remnants of the buildings in the form of washroom floors or wastewater drainage trenches (Figure 1).

Apparently all building materials, such as iron support beams, electrical wires, wooden construction frames, and terra-cotta were removed and recycled. All prisoners' huts, administration buildings, and fences are gone. Young fir trees have completely colonized the site of the camp. Relic hunting has disturbed the remnants of the camp pathways and buildings' layout, and has brutally impacted the archaeological context. The holes left by relic hunters cover virtually the whole camp (Figure 2). The looters are interested mainly in militaria; all other artifacts have been left on the surface and suffer from rust and decay. Tourists also contribute to the site's destruction by collecting materials, most notably Luftwaffe ceramics. The site needs protection from relic hunters, tourists, and natural forces. The site assessment therefore proposes a cultural landscape preservation and protection plan to be carried out by the state government and local community.

FIGURE 2. The majority of the trenches left by the looters are very often significant in their size. (Photo by A. Paris, 2011.)

Mexico, Central and South America

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Brazil

Maroon Archaeology at Vila Bela, Mato Grosso, Brazil: Under the supervision of Marta Heloísa Leuba Salum and funded by a grant from the Ford Foundation International Fellowships Program (IFF), Patrícia Marinho de Carvalho has been conducting fieldwork at a maroon site in Vila Bela da Santíssima Trindade in Mato do Grosso State in central Brazil. Vila Bela was a city inhabited by a mixed population until 1835, when the capital of the province was moved to Cuiabá and the white elites abandoned the town, so that Vila Bela was left to black and maroon settlers. The present-day local community at Boqueirão recognizes the archaeological site at the ruins of ancient Vila Bela as part of their own maroon heritage.

The fieldwork includes extensive ethnographic interaction with the maroon community at Boqueirão and uses landscape archaeology to interpret the archaeological record. The main theoretical orientation of the project is drawn from African diaspora archaeology. The interaction with the
local community enables archaeologists to interpret the material evidence with unique insights.

Underwater (Worldwide)

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Martin Klein Receives Arnold O. Beckman Founder Award at ISA’s Annual Gala Research Triangle Park, North Carolina: Martin Klein received the Arnold O. Beckman Founder Award at the ISA Honors and Awards Gala, held 17 October 2011 at the Renaissance Battle House Hotel & Spa, Mobile, Alabama. Klein was receiving recognition for the invention and development of the dual-channel side scan sonar instrumentation that has opened the world’s oceans for exploration, safe navigation, and underwater recovery. The Arnold O. Beckman Founder Award recognizes a significant technological contribution to the conception and implementation of a new principle of instrument design, development or application.

Klein is an inventor and developer of the first commercial side scan sonar utilized for detection and mapping of lake and river beds and the ocean floor to the full known (7 miles) depth of the sea. Klein began his work on side scan sonar instrumentation in 1961 while a student at MIT and in 1968 founded his own company, Klein Associates, Inc. The Klein side scan sonar technology has been utilized to find most of the significant shipwrecks and sunken aircraft in the world, including the Titanic, USS Monitor, and the Mary Rose, and remains of the Space Shuttle Challenger to name a few. Today, the side scan sonar instrumentation is used by the U.S. government, corporations, research institutions, and marine archaeologists around the world to map ocean floors and lake and river beds and to find objects of great interest and value.

Klein is the author of numerous publications and holds several marine technology patents. Klein is a Senior Life Member of ISA. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

ISA’s Honors and Awards Gala, now in its 49th year, is an annual event honoring individuals for the contributions to and advancement of automation across all industries.

Founded in 1945, the International Society of Automation (<www.isa.org>) is a leading, global, nonprofit organization that is setting the standard for automation by helping over 30,000 worldwide members and other professionals solve difficult technical problems, while enhancing their leadership and personal career capabilities. Based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, ISA develops standards, certifies industry professionals, provides education and training, publishes books and technical articles, and hosts conferences and exhibitions for automation professionals. ISA is the founding sponsor of the Automation Federation, <www.automationfederation.org>.

USA-Central Plains

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Missouri

The New Mississippi River Bridge Project: In 2008, the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), under the auspices of the Federal Highway Administration and in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Transportation, began an archaeological testing program in preparation for construction of a new bridge over the Mississippi River in St. Louis. After almost a decade of planning, archaeological testing began in June of that year. On the Missouri side of the project, direct impacts cover approximately 24 acres of the city in an area just north of the historic downtown. Similar urban archaeological projects have been undertaken in other regions of the country, but nothing on this scale has ever been attempted by MoDOT. Although not the oldest portion of St. Louis—which was originally platted in the 1760s—the project area was established as an industrial center during the first quarter of the 19th century. Rapid growth started in the 1840s, peaking during the later decades of the 19th century. Although predominately industrial, the project area also contained residences of both factory workers and owners; storefronts occupied by grocers, druggists, and jewelers; churches; schools; and civic properties such as parks and city bathhouses.

Since 2008, MoDOT archaeologists have investigated portions of 14 city blocks, studied approximately 180 distinct properties, mapped 355 features, and excavated 48 “hollow” features such as cisterns, wells, and privies. Most importantly, however, the project has allowed MoDOT archaeologists to study a wide variety of mid- to late-19th-century property types. As of November 2011, excavations have been completed on two industrial sites (the John C. Kuperle Foundry and the Gestring Wagon Factory); numerous residences—single-family homes, apartments, and tenements—and storefronts; an 1870s women’s shelter; a turn-of-the-century city park; and the remnants of a large sinkhole. The sinkhole was probably used in the early years of the 19th century as a recreational pond—local histories refer to it as Mulannya Lakes— but like similar features in the region, it was eventually filled by the 1850s. A nearby and more notorious sinkhole—disparagingly named “Kaysers Pond” after the city engineer—became choked with sewage and was considered a major health hazard, leading directly to the construction of the first municipal sewers in the 1860s. Archaeological evidence suggests that Mulannya Lakes had a similar history.

In addition to the historical properties, the project also passes through the presumed location of Mound 27 (also known as Big Mound) of the St. Louis Mound Group. Although its destruction was well documented in 1869, efforts were made during the archaeological testing to identify evidence of prehistoric occupation of the area. Other than a few prehistoric artifacts recovered from disturbed contexts, no evidence was found.

Arguably, the most unique property identified has been the Worthy Woman’s Aid and Hospital. Founded in the mid-1870s, the Aid was a home institution established and run by women for women. Although the Aid moved location several times, being associated with at least 5 different addresses in 10 years according to city directories, one feature within the site contained stratified deposits of the appropriate period (i.e., 1870–1880). The types of artifacts recovered are a reflection of the women and children who lived there: porcelain dolls and “Frozen Charlottes,” marbles, lotto game pieces, poker chips, syringes, and medicines to treat “female diseases.”

The final stage of fieldwork will focus on a third industrial site (the Kingsland and Ferguson Iron Foundry), including adjacent residences and businesses. Following the conclusion of field excavation, efforts will focus on processing and analyzing the artifact collection and reporting results. Additional information regarding the project can be found at <http://www.modot.mo.gov/ehp/sites/NewMissRiverProject.htm>, and comments can be addressed to <Michael.Meyer@modot.mo.gov>.
USA-Gulf Coast

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Texas

Alamo Acequia (submitted by Steve A. Tomka, Principal Investigator, and Kristi M. Ulrich, Project Archaeologist, University of Texas at San Antonio-Center for Archaeological Research): The mission and the presidio

were two key elements of the Spanish colonization of the borderlands (Wade 2008). The broad expansive floodplain of the upper San Antonio River basin contributed yet another key ingredient to the success of colonization efforts. The slowly meandering river, combined with the Spanish knowledge of irrigation and the Indian labor force (Glick 1972), made it possible to produce large quantities of agricultural surplus particularly in corn, a staple of the native diet in the missions. In conjunction with the large cattle herds, the surplus yielded by the irrigated lands of each mission contributed to relative prosperity for all five of the missions strung along a 19 km stretch of the river. While numerous historic maps have recorded portions of the irrigation system through the City of San Antonio (Cox 2005) and a short segment is still in use today, few portions have been excavated and extensively studied. Such is the case with the Acequia Madre, which served Mission San Antonio de Valero.

This mission, later known as The Alamo, was established near the headwaters of the San Antonio River in the spring of 1718 by the governor of Texas, Martín de Alarcón. A year later, the mission residents already were hard at work building the Acequia Madre and its diversion dam to irrigate the croplands of the mission. The acequia began on the east bank of the river, ran past the mission, and re-entered the river about a mile and a half south of the mission. The original main branch was roughly 5.6 km long, but as new agricultural land became available the acequia was expanded and was eventually nearly 16 km in length (Cox 2005:22). Several side branches and returns, or desagues, diverted water to individual parcels and helped to control water flow along its length. It is likely that the engineer of the early acequias in San Antonio was Captain Álvarez Barreiro, a member of the Royal Corps of Engineers who accompanied Governor Alarcón to San Antonio (Cox 2005:17).

By the 1890s, opposition to the acequia was mounting both on the grounds that it posed a health hazard and that it was too narrow to serve as a proper drainage ditch during storms. In 1901, arguing that it cost too much to maintain, the City Council called for the closure of the ditch (CCM). The ditch was reopened two years later after the effects of seasonal floods were exacerbated by the lack of sufficient drainage. In 1905, however, the Acequia Madre was ordered closed once more due in part to a lack of upkeep by the citizenry. The ditch was filled with street sweepings (Cox 2005) and lay forgotten until recently.

In 2010, the Center for Archaeological Research of The University of Texas at San Antonio was contracted by Ford, Powell and Carson Architects and Planners, Inc. to search for and rediscover the location of the Acequia Madre and dam. Sponsored by the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), the project’s goal was to locate the ditch and dam, uncover portions of these features, and document their condition.

One of the earliest, relatively detailed maps showing the acequia was drawn by City Surveyor François Giraud in 1875 (Figure 1). It depicts the northernmost portion of the dam in relation to the meander of the river. The acequia begins immediately east of the dam as a narrow channel. A later map, dated to 1879, by City Engineer Louis Giraud provides even more detail on the location of the dam and acequia (Figure 2).

Having determined from the historical record that 2–4 m of fill may have been introduced across portions of the project area, the search for the location of the acequia and dam focused on the excavation of a series of backhoe trenches on the east bank of the meander.

Large limestone rocks stacked one atop the other were discovered at a depth of approximately 90 cm below the surface (Figure 3) in one of the trenches placed at the edge of the bank. The upstream face of the stack of rocks was steep, while the downstream face sloped gradually over approximately 7 m.

The tops of the stones barely reached 25–30 cm above the waterline, but it is believed originally the dam would have been considerably taller. It appears that the top of the dam was sheared off during grade alterations in the area in the 1930s. The base of the stacked stones was not reached because water flooded the trench as excavations continued below the current waterline.

The Acequia Madre was discovered in a 5.5 m long and 3.7 m deep trench 32 m from the dam. Beneath the 30 cm thick topsoil there were four distinct layers of fill that extended the entire length of the profile (Figure 4; Zones 2–5). A thick layer of silty loam with gravels and small amounts of

FIGURE 1. François Giraud’s 1875 map of dam and acequia.

FIGURE 2. Louis Giraud’s 1879 map of dam and acequia with greater detail.
broken bottle glass (Zone 16) was noted in the eastern half of the trench. This fill lens is consistent with the street sweepings used to fill the ditch in 1905. In the profile, two features, which represent the original Acequia Madre and the 1905 canal (which was poorly maintained), respectively, were evident below the fill.

The original Acequia Madre on the left is a narrow trench cut into clay and the natural caliche at the base of the backhoe trench. The posthole of a possible light pole intrudes into the ditch, almost to the base of the acequia trench (Zone 15). The acequia ditch originated above a brown clay layer and has been dug through several depositional layers, including a silty-loam zone containing cemented gravels (Zone 11). Material (Zone 6) from this silty-loam layer is found atop the brown clay zone (Zone 7) from which the trench was excavated. The top of the trench appears approximately 1.2 m below the current surface. Extrapolating the width of the trench, it appears to have been approximately 3 m wide near the top and roughly 150 cm deep. Because Feature 3 cuts into Feature 2, the latter pre-dates Feature 3. The lack of stratified sediments in the bottom of the trench is consistent with the systematic and repeated cleaning of the ditch as was regulated over the years to ensure that the acequia remained in working condition. The Spanish Colonial Period and the early Statehood Period were marked by meticulous upkeep of the acequias.

The second ditch is visible to the right of the Acequia Madre channel. It appears to cut into the older ditch. This later ditch measures approximately 3.5–4.0 m in width and is roughly 130 cm in depth. It has a flat bottom that terminates in a second layer of cemented gravels in a silty-loam zone. The ditch contains at least seven distinct depositional lenses that appear to be low-energy silt deposits. These lenses may have accumulated as a result of the lack of maintenance that was associated with the late-19th-century use of the acequia when annual cleaning of the ditches was not the rule. City Council records do mention the increased problems the City was facing as a result of the unwillingness of the inhabitants to take part in the regular cleaning of the ditch by the early 20th century (CCM). The 1.2 m worth of sediment that was noted within the ditch could have accumulated over the short time the acequia was reopened between 1903 and 1905.

**References Cited**

CCM (City of San Antonio City Council Minutes). Copies on file at the Witte Museum.


**USA-Mid-Atlantic**

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**Maryland**

Archaeology in Annapolis: The Archaeology in Annapolis program based at the University of Maryland completed a successful season of summer archaeological field school excavations in June and July of 2011 in the Historic District of Annapolis and at Wye House Plantation on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Excavations in Annapolis took place at the James Holliday House and at a house on Pinkney Street.

This was the second season of excavation at the James Holliday House, a brick townhome just off of State Circle, where James Holliday and his descendants have lived since 1850. Holliday was born a slave in 1809 and freed in 1819, and by 1845 had become one of the first African Americans to work at the U.S. Naval Academy. Holliday worked at the USNA for almost 40 years and served as a courier to the first 8 superintendents of the Naval Academy. The deep, intact stratigraphy has led to the recovery of tens of thousands of artifacts. Kathryn Deeley has used evidence from the past two seasons of excavations at the site to show that the Holliday family and their descendants adopted a middle-class lifestyle, but also demonstrated a uniquely African American identity. The Holliday family appears to have conformed to the Victorian conventions of purchasing stylish, up-to-date dishes, but not in the matching sets that were marketed to white consumers, and instead consciously chose to purchase a few pieces at a time, a trend seen among African Americans in Annapolis. Through the future exploration of this property, we plan to interpret how the Holliday family fit into the larger community of Annapolitan African Americans and whether there were distinct class differences within the consumption patterns of this community.

In order to extend the research being done at the James Holliday House on African American and Filipino communities in Annapolis, excavations were also conducted...
this summer on Pinkney Street. This site consisted of two 19th-century rowhouses, which were converted into a single-family home in the mid-20th century. The original lot was purchased in 1867 by William H. Butler, one of the wealthiest African Americans in Annapolis during the mid- to late 19th century, who owned and rented several properties throughout the city. Late-nineteenth-century insurance maps describe the property on Pinkney Street as a "Tenement House," and between the late 19th and early 20th century occupants included African American laundresses and servants, white U.S. Naval Academy employees, and Filipino waiters in the U.S. Navy. Through this site, we are hoping to determine how the site was used, how its uses changed over time, if these changing uses reflect its different occupants’ identities, and how this site compares to the James Holliday House and other African American properties excavated by Archaeology in Annapolis over the last 20 years. Of particular interest is whether the Filipino occupation of the house is represented in a distinctive form or pattern of material culture at the site. The large number of artifacts recovered and the numerous, distinctive layers of strata have us optimistic about the potential of this site to yield new information about this understudied population in Annapolis.

In addition to the excavations in downtown Annapolis, we completed our seventh field season at Wye House in Talbot County, Maryland. Prior field seasons have focused on an area of the plantation described by Frederick Douglass as the Long Green. Several structures have been identified archaeologically along the Long Green; however, a pair of structures identified on a tracing of a historic map as the “Br[ick] Row Quarter” and the “2-Story Quarter” have eluded researchers. Benjamin Skolnik combined this historic map with several other spatial datasets in a GIS to identify potential locations for these quarters. These datasets included an historic aerial photograph, modern aerial photography, and a LiDAR-derived elevation model. Each of these layers is georeferenced and superimposed on each other. Using the LiDAR data, the topography of suspected locations can be examined and minute variations left by the archaeological remains can be identified. The GIS database allowed researchers to identify the potential locations for these quarters and the LiDAR data tied these archaeological remains to specific topographic landforms. This methodology has the potential to locate the archaeological remains of quarters on plantations throughout the Chesapeake.

Shovel testing confirmed the presence of a building at each of the two locations and served as the basis for the 2011 field season at Wye House. The initial levels of the excavation units were filled with whole bricks and brick fragments and subsequent levels uncovered the brick-pier foundation of the 2-Story Quarter and what is left of the foundation of the Brick Row Quarter. Preliminary analysis suggests that both of these structures were built in the late 18th or early 19th century when the plantation was reoriented and the Long Green was created and were still standing into the early 20th century. Of greatest importance, these excavations also unearthed larger quantities of domestic materials than had previously been found on the Long Green. Also, during this field season soil samples were collected from each strata and feature associated with these new slave quarters, which will allow fossilized pollen to be separated and identified and will be used to study gardening on the plantation. Two additional field seasons are planned at Wye House to further investigate these structures.

The artifacts recovered from the excavations at the James Holliday House, the house on Pinkney Street, and Wye House are currently being processed and cataloged in the Archaeology in Annapolis Laboratory in College Park, Maryland. The data from these excavations will be written up by Kathryn Deeley, Benjamin Skolnik,
and Beth Pruitt, all doctoral students in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Maryland, College Park. The summer excavations also received press coverage through two newspaper articles, one published in the Washington Post:


And one in the Baltimore Sun:


This summer’s research has extended our knowledge of 19th-century African American life in Annapolis and contributed new understandings of plantation life on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

The progress of the field excavations and the subsequent laboratory analyses are being described in the Archaeology in Annapolis blog, <http://blog.umd.edu/alp>, designed and maintained by doctoral student Beth Pruitt. The blog acts as a way to disseminate our process and findings to other archaeologists, students, and the general public. The content is provided by the researchers and the field school students, who each described their experiences throughout the summer and added their perspectives. Readers are able to post comments and questions, to which our researchers respond in this public forum.

Contact: Kathryn Deeley, Beth Pruitt, and/or Benjamin Skolnik, Laboratory Directors, Archaeology in Annapolis, Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland, College Park, 1111 Woods Hall, College Park, MD 20742; emails: <kdeeley@umd.edu>, <epruitt@umd.edu>, <bskolnik@umd.edu>; phone: 301.405.1429.

Virginia

Current and Recent Projects at the College of William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (submitted by Stephanie Bergman): The William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (WMCAR) staff have been involved in a number of interesting projects over the course of the past year. Especially significant is the recent discovery of otherwise-undocumented brick building foundations that were hidden for centuries beneath William and Mary’s historic campus (Figure 1). It is very likely that this structure was an outbuilding or dependency of the Wren Building, the oldest college building in the United States, constructed between 1695 and 1700. The newly discovered foundations represent a substantial brick building that dates to the early to mid-18th century, and likely functioned as some kind of service building or perhaps housing associated with the enslaved individuals who lived and worked at the College (Figure 1).

The foundations, extending 20 ft. east-west by more than 16 ft. north-south, were discovered during archaeological testing in advance of proposed brick sidewalk repairs (which have now been postponed indefinitely in the interest of avoiding effects on the significant archaeological resources).

Despite a long history of building, destruction, reconstruction, renovation, utility work, landscaping, and multiple episodes of prior archaeological investigation, all of which have contributed to a very complicated history of site formation in this portion of the campus, the archaeological integrity and research potential of the locus where the foundations were discovered are quite remarkable. The foundations are relatively well preserved and are 1.5 courses wide, suggesting that the building was relatively substantial and perhaps multistoried. Given its location in close proximity to and alignment with the Wren Building, it is speculated that this structure served as a function-specific building, such as a kitchen, laundry, and/or possibly quarters.

The intentionally limited archaeological testing (intended to gather diagnostic information on the nature, time period of use, integrity, and research potential of the resources) resulted in the recovery of hundreds of artifacts and documentation of the precise location of the foundations and approximate extent of the preserved remains. Subsequently, the test excavations were backfilled to protect the archaeological resources.

The discovery has generated considerable interest among College researchers, scholars, and the wider community, particularly given its potential relevance to the College’s Lemon Project. The Lemon Project was initiated by the Board of Visitors in 2009 to explore the College’s relationship with slavery through excavations at the Anthony Baecher Earthenware site (44FK0550), Frederick County, Virginia during an archaeological valuation conducted with the support of the Virginia Department of Transportation in association with the proposed Route 655 improvement project.
an interdisciplinary program of focused research and outreach. By virtue of this institutional focus and interest, it is possible that more-comprehensive archaeological investigations can be planned at the focus of the brick foundations with the goal of documenting and analyzing the material remains of otherwise poorly understood yet fundamental activities and occupation on the College campus by servants and enslaved individuals who worked in support of the academic institution during the colonial period and until Emancipation.

Archaeological evaluation was also completed at the Anthony Beacher Earthenware pottery site (44FK0550) and home site (44FK0678), in Frederick County, Virginia, with the support of the Virginia Department of Transportation and in association with proposed improvements to Route 655. These sites represent the remains of a farmstead associated historically with Anthony Beacher, the proprietor of an earthenware pottery (Figure 2). The site consists of the remains of the stone foundation of a dwelling, a stone-lined well, the ruinous remains of a barn, an outhouse, a semisubterranean stone-foundation structure, a rectangular concrete pad adjacent to the dwelling, and postholes that may represent an enclosure to the north of the dwelling. The concentration of brick in the center of the dwelling suggests that the house had a central chimney, an architectural design that is common to German-American dwellings in the Shenandoah Valley. In addition to site integrity, the richness of the artifact assemblage suggests that questions beyond the occupational level may be addressed regarding 19th-century farmstead site structure, access to markets, family life, consumer choices, adaptive strategies, and industrial activities at a domestic farmstead complex during the Reconstruction and Growth eras in the Valley of Virginia.

WMCAR completed intensive historical research and cartographic analysis of the City Point waterfront of Hopewell, Virginia. WMCAR conducted these investigations under the sponsorship of the City of Hopewell. This intensive study of archival records focused on the historical development of onshore port facilities and wharves, and the potential for associated, significant archaeological resources that may be extant along the waterfront. These efforts are intended to offer the City and other interested parties important management planning information with respect to archaeological sensitivity and research potential, not limited to but especially focused on Civil War resources associated with City Point, given interest in the Civil War Sesquicentennial and potential commemorative events and activities. The research especially focused on the period of most intense use as a Union Army supply depot and headquarters for the siege of Petersburg in 1864-1865. GIS analysis of selected 19th-century maps was augmented with historical information from written descriptions, photographs, and artistic depictions so as to georeference historic buildings, wharves, and topographic features to the modern landscape.

USA-Midwest

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Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference (submitted by Sean Dunham): The 2011 Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference was held Saturday, 17 September at Michigan State University in East Lansing. The theme of the conference was “Digitizing the Archaeology of the Midwest” and included invited presentations by five archaeological scholars working on digital archaeology and archaeological databases, including Dr. Frank McManamon, Dr. Eric Kansa, Dr. Shawn Graham, Dr. Christine Szuter, and Dr. Ethan Watrall. Their presentations addressed the need for digital recording of data, digital repositories (an important factor in federal grants), digital publishing, and the value of archaeological serious games. The titles of the presentations and information about the speakers are posted on the Web: <http://campusarch.msu.edu/MWHAC/?page_id=5>

The invited presentations were followed by a “Pecha Kucha” session that included a series of rapid-fire, 5-minute, graduate research presentations addressing such diverse topics as fox hunting in northern Ohio, urban archaeology in Detroit, and compositional analysis of trade beads. This format worked well to provide a quick introduction to the research and encourage discussion between the presenter and interested participants. The lunch that was served in a new cafeteria on MSU’s campus may change the way we think about college cafeterias—and was worth noting in this narrative. Following lunch was a student poster session and a tour of Michigan State’s historic campus, including some of the projects undertaken by the MSU Campus Archaeology Program (CAP).

The conference concluded with an “unconference” that permitted a series of participant-driven sessions centered on topics of mutual interest to the conference participants. Conference attendees suggested topics and then broke up into smaller groups for detailed discussion. Topics included the accessibility of gray literature, GIS applications in historical archaeology, public outreach, and cemetery studies to name a few. The format worked remarkably well for information sharing, networking, and potential collaboration in future endeavors.

While the invited presentations were not directly geared towards Midwestern historical archaeology in a traditional sense, the speakers did a good job highlighting the importance of being and/or understanding “digital” today and what some of the potentials and realities of the future might be. Dr. Lynne Goldstein and Michigan State University should be heartily thanked for hosting and organizing this thought-provoking session of the Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference.

Additional information is available at: <http://campusarch.msu.edu/MWHAC/>.

Michigan

Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project (submitted by Erica A. D’Elia): This past summer the ninth season of investigations was conducted at Fort St. Joseph, a mission, garrison, and trading post established by the French in the 1680s in southwest Michigan. A diverse, multietnic community of French fur traders, priests, militia, Native women, and their Métis children inhabited the fort for nearly a century. The fort played a major role in the 18th-century fur trade, serving as a local distribution center where goods such as cloth, guns, metal tools, and kettles were exchanged with the local Potawatomi and Miami groups. It eventually fell into the hands of the British and in turn the Spanish before its abandonment in 1781.

The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project was established in 1998 and works in conjunction with Western Michigan University’s annual archaeological field school, the City of Niles, and the Fort St. Joseph Museum in order to excavate and interpret the remains of the fort, as well as educate and engage the public about its place within the context of French colonialism and the history of the western Great Lakes. Since 2002 public outreach has been a major goal of the project. Project Director Dr. Michael Nassaney of Western Michigan University led the 2011 archaeological field school students in the excavation of artifacts and features associated with the 18th-century fort. Ongoing investigation and research focuses on how social identities were actively created and negotiated and how the process of colonialism impacted
discovered associated with ash and charcoal and excavations were expanded on an iron cache discovered in 2010 to better understand its function. One of the most exciting finds of the season was a lead seal. It was remarkably well preserved with “B” followed by a fleur-de-lis and “ORAINE DE LILLE” still visible on the front (Figure 2). This has been interpreted as “Bureau Foraine de Lille,” which was a taxing authority in 18th-century France. Other excavation units yielded artifacts relating to subsistence, architecture, adornment, and religious activities that complement the previous collection and add to the ongoing analysis of cultural continuity and change on the colonial frontier.

Public outreach and education efforts serve to disseminate information about the project and site history to the public and to involve them in the excavations. Middle school students, adults, and educators were invited to participate in the program through week-long summer camps geared towards learning about French colonialism, Fort St. Joseph, excavation techniques, and material culture (Figure 3). These programs were widely successful, enrolling over 35 students during the field season. Building on the success of previous years, a four-part lecture series was held at the Niles District Library, which brought together historians and archaeologists to present talks centered on the year’s theme of the fur trade. The season culminated in a two-day Open House event, held on site in Niles, also focused on the fur trade, which drew nearly 2,000 visitors. The event consisted of presentations, historical interpreters, historians, and archaeologists who gathered together to share their knowledge of Fort St. Joseph and the fur trade with visitors from the Niles community and beyond. The event also gave the public the opportunity to speak with student archaeologists, who were eager to answer questions and share what they had learned about the fort through the summer’s excavation (Figure 4). The event continues to be a huge success and draws first-time as well as returning visitors. The 2012 Open House will be held 11–12 August and will examine the military at Fort St. Joseph.

In February, the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project entered the Archaeological Institute of America’s worldwide Online Excavation Outreach Contest. Fort St. Joseph took first place with over 3,000 votes, beating similar outreach projects in the Mediterranean, South America, and the United States. The project’s vast network of community support undoubtedly helped cement its victory. The 2011 season saw the inception of an online blog in which the student archaeologists shared their experiences with people around the world. Over 3,500 visitors have viewed the site, <www.
Synagogue and Creamery Site, measuring 1.77 acres, is in the Village of Chesterfield, Town of Montville, in Eastern Connecticut’s New London County. This land was purchased in 1892 by the Society Agudas Achim (founded in 1890) and the NEHFES, its successor organization. With the financial assistance of the Baron de Hirsch Fund, the recently arrived Jewish farmers and residents of the Chesterfield community constructed a synagogue and creamery on the property. By the 1910s, the women of the congregation had raised funds to construct a mikvah, or ritual bathhouse, on the property, which was located in the basement of a small building whose upper floors at times also housed a ritual butcher hired by the community. Other features on the site include stone wells, a barn foundation, and retaining walls. The Chesterfield community continued to hold periodic services in the synagogue until 1953. The Creamery, built in 1892, operated only until 1909 and was foreclosed upon in 1912 by the Baron de Hirsch Fund. It was sold several years later, and remained a functioning inn and residence until it burned in 1950.

NEHFES has been reactivated as a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation by descendants of the founding families. Members of the organization have been active in preserving and commemorating the historic site. In 1986, a commemorative monument was dedicated next to the synagogue foundation remains. The NEHFES site has been listed in the State Register of Historic Places. The NEHFES was declared a State Archaeological Preserve (Preserve) in 2007, a program established by the Connecticut Legislature as a mechanism to protect significant archaeological sites.

The significance of the NEHFES site reaches beyond the local and state level, reflecting national immigration patterns, demonstrating the vibrancy of community evolution, and representing the impact of the Baron Maurice de Hirsch Fund program. Archaeological investigations of the Synagogue/Mikvah parcel, designed to address the archaeological potential of the site and to provide contextual data for a National Register nomination, were completed by Historical Perspectives Inc. (HPI) in June 2011. The field testing, under the direction of Faline Schneiderman-Fox, revealed the presence of artifacts related to use of the buildings during the time they were active, as well as materials that appeared to date to the demolition of the structures.

The National Register of Historic Places nomination, prepared by Julie Abell Horn and Faline Schneiderman-Fox of HPI, concluded that the NEHFES Synagogue and Creamery Site is significant for both its historical and archaeological value, under Criteria A and D, respectively. It is a religious site, containing the remains of a synagogue and mikvah built and used by an Orthodox Jewish congregation. The families who established themselves in Chesterfield were recent Russian immigrant pioneers, who created an insular ethnic enclave based on the model of the shtetl they had experienced in Eastern Europe, with cooperative associations and interdependence on fellow residents as a strong focus of their heritage. The creamery that was built to spur local industry was a prime example of this type of community template. Today, the buildings and structures on the site exist only as archaeological remains, which provide an additional level of significance for this already historic site. The National Register nomination is currently under agency review.

Massachusetts

Third Annual Wakefield Summer Archaeological Institute, Milton (submitted by Alexander Keim, Boston University): This June and July the Wakefield Summer Archaeological Institute undertook a third season of excavation at the Wakefield Estate in Milton, Massachusetts. Sponsored by the Mary B. Wakefield Charitable Trust, this ongoing program provides an opportunity for high school students from the Boston area and around the country to learn the fundamentals of archaeological investigation and gain hands-on excavation experience. The mission of the Trust is to use the land and resources of the 34-acre estate to encourage lifelong participatory learning through community outreach and education. In addition to multiple extant 18th- and 19th-century buildings, the rich archaeological record contains information about over 300 years of continuous occupation. Previous research goals of the Institute have included groundtruthing, a 2008 ground-penetrating radar survey, and investigating the alteration of the Estate’s historic stone walls.

This season’s excavation was focused on locating and assessing the condition of any archaeological or depositional remains related to the construction, use, and demolition of a two-story wooden carriage barn that stood near the estate’s 1794 Georgian mansion house during the first half of the 19th century. The former location of this structure is indicated by several historical maps and photographs of the Wakefield Estate. Over two-week sessions, and under the direction of Boston University Ph.D candidates Jenny Wildt, Sara Belkin, and Alexander Keim,
students at the Institute learned about archaeological theory, methods, and ethics. The students also conducted a shovel test survey designed to locate architectural or depositional features related to the carriage barn. The results of the excavation indicate that the area indicated by the documentary sources as the likely location for the barn was used extensively during the first half of the 19th century. While architectural features related to the barn were not located, excavation in this area is ongoing.

The ongoing and generous support of the Wakefield Charitable Trust has resulted in a program that has produced quality research and has received very positive feedback from students and parents. Anyone interested in learning more about this unique experience is encouraged to contact Wakefield Estate Program Director Mark Smith at <mark@dogwoodlanefarm.org>.

71-73 Joy Street, Boston (submitted by Alexander Keim, Boston University): Over three days in the fall of 2010, and again on 9-10 September of this year, a team of volunteer archaeologists conducted exploratory salvage excavations in the rear courtyard of 71-73 Joy St., located in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Boston, Massachusetts. The property is located down the street from Boston’s historic African Meeting House, in the part of Beacon Hill that was home to Boston’s free African American community during the 19th century. 71-73 Joy St. was first explored archaeologically in 2006 by a team led by Dr. Mary C. Beaudry, professor of Archaeology at Boston University, and Ellen Berkland, at the time the Boston City Archaeologist and now an archaeologist working for the Massachusetts DCR. The 2006 excavations were conducted prior to an extensive remodeling and foundation repair to a 19th-century ell attached to the rear of the structure, and uncovered archaeological deposits, including a 19th-century privy feature.

Aware of the historical importance and archaeological potential of their property, the owners of 71-73 Joy St. contacted Dr. Beaudry in 2010 and 2011 to ensure that archaeological testing was conducted in the courtyard prior to extensive construction-related excavations. In the fall of 2010 the team of Travis Parno, Jade Luiz, Eliza Wallace, Jeff Cheng, and Alexander Keim, all Ph.D candidates in Archaeology at Boston University, excavated two test units in the courtyard and recovered a series of occupation and fill contexts beginning in the 20th century and stretching back to the early 19th century. At a depth of approximately 2 meters below surface, excavators encountered preserved, waterlogged plank flooring. Historical research on the property indicates that it was once part of an extensive 18th-century distillery complex that was demolished in the early 19th century. It is possible that this flooring was originally part of the distillery complex. The 2011 excavations were conducted by Sara Belkin and Alexander Keim, Ph.D candidates at Boston University, and Danielle Cathcart and Nikki Marie, enrolled in the M.A. program in Historical Archaeology at UMASS Boston. This excavation consisted of one test unit located in a different area of the courtyard, and uncovered more 19th-century contexts before terminating at sterile marine-clay subsoil at approximately 80 cm below surface. All the materials from the 2006, 2010, and 2011 excavations are currently being analyzed by Danielle Cathcart as part of her master’s thesis.

New York

The Seneca Village Archaeological Excavations, Summer 2011 (submitted by Diana diZerega Wall, City College/CUNY, and Nan A. Rothschild, Barnard/Columbia University, The Institute for the Exploration of Seneca Village History): This summer, the Institute for the Exploration of Seneca Village History conducted archaeological excavations at Seneca Village, the 19th-century community located in today’s Central Park. Founded in the 1820s by African Americans, by 1855 the village was a thriving community with a population of over 260, three churches, and a school. Approximately two-thirds of those who lived there were of African descent, mostly middle class, while the remainder were Europeans, mostly Irish. In the 1850s, the City decided to construct Central Park in an area that included Seneca Village; it took the land through the right of eminent domain, evicted the residents, and razed their homes for the creation of the Park. Although landowners were compensated for their loss, many felt the compensation was inadequate, and renters of course received nothing at all.

This project has been a long time in the making. Preliminary research on the site began over a decade ago, and included a study of historical maps (which showed us where village houses had been located), a soil study (conducted by geoarchaeologist Suanna Selby and which identified areas where 19th-century soils were still intact), and a GPR study (conducted by geophysicist Lawrence Conyers). These studies allowed us to pinpoint locations where it seemed likely that archaeological traces of the village had survived. All in all, there were six such areas. Once we had gathered this information, it took us more than five years to get permission to excavate, a negotiation which was ultimately successful only because of the skill and dedication of some of our Advisory Board members.

When we began fieldwork, our research questions focused on several different levels of inquiry. We wanted to ‘ground truth’ the radar and see whether the GPR had been successful in identifying archaeological remains. If in fact we found archaeological remains related to Seneca Village, we would determine their extent and excavate a sample of them so we could explore the material lives of the people who lived there. Finally, assuming we recovered enough material, we were interested in exploring what it meant to be a member of the black middle class in New York in the 19th century. We looked forward to comparing our finds with those from other contemporary middle-class African American communities throughout the United States as well as with middle-class European American sites in New York.

We received an REU grant from the National Science Foundation (#1062796), which supported the interns who worked with us throughout the field and preliminary laboratory phases of the project. We also received support from National Geographic, the Durst Foundation, the Friends of Cornell Edwards, and the Gilder Foundation.

Our eight-week field program started in early June. We proceeded systematically, from area to area, evaluating whether the features that the GPR had identified were relevant to the history of Seneca Village. The excavations were extremely successful. Although as expected some of the features pinpointed did not relate to the Village, we discovered two that were very important. One was the foundation walls and associated deposits of the home of William Godfrey Wilson, a porter and sexton of one of the village churches, and his wife, Charlotte, and their eight children. These deposits contain both architectural and domestic materials, which will allow us to explore the lives of the Wilson family. Particularly evocative finds included a child’s shoe, a roasting pan, and a tea kettle. The other feature was made up of 19th-century soils still intact. When we began fieldwork, our research
19th-Century Scow Schooner Discovered near Candlestick Park, San Francisco (submitted by R. Scott Baxter, ESA): In early 2011, Past Forward, Inc. and Far Western Anthropological Research Group worked on a storm sewer replacement project for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission near Candlestick Park in San Francisco County. While implementing this project, archaeologists discovered two vessels. The first was encountered approximately 12 feet below the current ground surface. The vessel is a scow schooner, a common ship on the waters of San Francisco Bay during the 19th century. Preliminary interpretations are that the vessel was constructed during the latter half of the 19th century. Prior to 1915, the ship was beached and much of it salvaged or recycled, leaving only the lower portions of the hull. Archaeological investigation also encountered the remains of a barge adjacent to the scow schooner. Both vessels were excavated through a combination of hand and mechanical excavation, and extensively documented prior to installation of the new sewer line. The research design for this project also emphasized the study of land creation in San Francisco. Past Forward, Inc. merged with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) in July 2011. ESA is continuing to work with Far Western in the analysis and write-up of this project. Results of this excavation will be completed later this year.

National Park Service’s 2012 Archaeological Prospection Workshop

The National Park Service’s 2012 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques, “Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century,” will be held May 7–11, 2012, at the Cedar Point Biological Station near Ogallala, Nebraska. Lodging will be at the Cedar Point Biological Station near Ogallala, Nebraska. The field exercises will take place at the site of Alkali Station near Paxton, Nebraska. Alkali Station was a major trail facility used by travelers on the Oregon and California trails, the Pony Express, the transcontinental telegraph, and the frontier army. Cosponsors for the workshop include the National Park Service’s Midwest Archeological Center, the Lute family, and the University of Nebraska’s Cedar Point Biological Station. This will be the 22nd year of the workshop dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation, and protection of archaeological resources across this nation. The workshop will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation with hands-on use of the equipment in the field. There is a registration charge of $475.00. Application forms are available on the Midwest Archeological Center’s web page at <http://www.nps.gov/history/mwac/>. For further information, please contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873; phone: 402.437.5392 x 141; fax: 402.437.5098; email: <steve_de_vore@nps.gov>.
Constitution of The Society for Historical Archaeology
Amended 15 July 2011

ARTICLE I - NAME
The name of this organization shall be The Society for Historical Archaeology.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE
The Society for Historical Archaeology [an educational not-for-profit organization] advocates for a global perspective in the study and protection of historical and underwater cultural resources by educating the public and policy makers and providing a valued resource for knowledge exchange, professional development, and the maintenance of high ethical standards.

ARTICLE III - POWERS
The society shall have the power to receive, administer, and disburse dues and other grants to further its ends; to acquire, to hold absolutely or in trust for the purposes of the society; and to convey property, real and personal; to publish reports, newsletters, bulletins, journals, and monographs; to affiliate with other organizations in the pursuit of common aims, and to appoint delegates or representatives to such organizations; and to engage in such other activities as are in keeping with the purpose of the society.

ARTICLE IV - PUBLICATIONS
The society shall issue an official publication, entitled Historical Archaeology, and such other publications for which the bylaws shall provide.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP
Section 1. There shall be three categories of membership: individual, institutional, and adjunct, within which there may be one or more types. The types of membership and the privileges of each shall be determined by the board of directors.

Section 2. Membership in the society is open to all persons or institutions in any way concerned with historical archaeology research upon payment of such dues as may be assessed.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS
The society shall hold an annual meeting and an annual business meeting as provided in the bylaws. The members of the society present at an annual business meeting shall constitute a quorum, but in no event shall a quorum consist of less than fifty (50) members whose dues are current and who otherwise are in good standing.

ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Section 1. The board of directors shall consist of four (4) officers (president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer), six (6) directors, an editor representing research programs, an editor representing communications programs, and the chair of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA), an affiliated organization, who shall duly represent the interests of the ACUA.

Section 2. The president shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The president-elect shall serve for a term of two (2) years before assuming the office of president. A previous president may be nominated for the office of president-elect. The secretary, treasurer, and directors shall serve for terms of three (3) years and shall be eligible for re-election. The president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer, and directors shall be elected by the members in good standing through official ballots distributed and tabulated as provided in the bylaws.

Section 3. One editor representing research programs shall be elected by the members in good standing from the board appointed research editors and one editor representing communication programs from the board appointed communications editors. Voting shall be through official ballots distributed and tabulated as provided in the bylaws. These board positions shall be for a period of three (3) years with terms staggered so as to conclude at different times.

Section 4. The new members of the board of directors shall assume their positions at the close of the annual business meeting and shall hold office until their successors are installed.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS
Section 1. The board of directors or ten (10) percent of the members of the society in good standing may propose that the constitution and/or bylaws be amended, repealed, or altered in whole or in part. Such changes may be effected by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by either electronic or mail ballot to be returned within thirty (30) days of notification.

Section 2. The board of directors may adopt additional standing rules in harmony herewith, but shall not alter the constitution or any bylaws adopted by the members of the society.

ARTICLE IX - DISSOLUTION
In the event of dissolution of this society, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the members of the society shall not be entitled to any of the assets, but the same shall be delivered or paid to one or more not-for-profit educational organizations with objectives similar to those of The Society for Historical Archaeology. The recipients shall be determined by the board of directors. Any provision herein notwithstanding, distribution of such assets shall be subject to the control and approval of the appropriate court of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Bylaws of The Society for Historical Archaeology
Amended 15 July 2011

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP
Section 1. Each individual member shall be entitled to vote, hold office, receive entitled publications, and in all other ways enjoy the privileges of full membership. Adjunct members shall be entitled to the same privileges as individual members except publications. An adjunct member is defined as a spouse of any individual member who has elected to pay dues, as established by the board of directors, for membership privileges. Institutional members shall only receive entitled publications.

Section 2. The annual dues for membership shall be determined by the board of directors.

Section 3. Membership shall be for the calendar year.

ARTICLE II - MEETINGS
Section 1. The annual business meeting shall coincide with the annual meeting of the members which shall be held at a time and place to be fixed by the board of directors. Written notice of the time and place of such
meeting shall be sent to each member of the society at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date fixed for such meeting.

Section 2. All meetings of the society shall be conducted according to Robert’s Rules of Order, except where the bylaws of the society supersede them.

Section 3. Presentations at the annual meeting shall be consistent with the society’s purpose as stated in Article II of the constitution.

ARTICLE III - BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Section 1. The board of directors shall consist of four (4) officers (president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer), six (6) directors, an editor representing research programs, an editor representing communications programs, and the chair of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA), an affiliated organization, who shall duly represent the interests of the ACUA.

Section 2. The management and control of the property and affairs of the society shall be entrusted to the board of directors.

Section 3. Two (2) regular meetings of the board of directors shall be held, one at the time of the annual meeting of the society and another at midyear between the annual meetings of the membership.

Section 4. A special meeting of the board of directors may be called at any time by the president or upon written request of any three (3) directors. The secretary shall give at least thirty (30) days’ written notice of the time, place, and purpose of such meeting.

Section 5. When a majority of the members of the board of directors shall consent in writing to any action submitted to all directors by the president, such action shall be valid corporate action.

Section 6. The board of directors shall have the authority to make interim appointments in the event of a vacancy and shall perform other duties as specified in the bylaws.

Section 7. Duties of the Officers.
(a) The president shall be the chief executive officer of the society and as such presides over all meetings of the board of directors or members. The president shall make certain that all orders and resolutions of the board of directors are implemented. The president shall have all other such powers not inconsistent herewith as shall from time to time be conferred by the board of directors. (b) The president-elect, as acting president, shall perform the duties of the president in the event of the president’s temporary inability to perform that office through absence or incapacity. The president shall notify the president-elect and secretary of the reason for, and duration of, this appointment as acting president. Should the president be unable to provide such notification, the president-elect will become acting president upon notification by the secretary following agreement by the board of directors. In the event of the president’s death, resignation, or removal from office, the president-elect shall become president, filling the remainder of that term and the usual elected term.

(c) The secretary shall attend to the ordinary correspondence of the society; keep minutes of the meetings of the board of directors, the annual business meeting, and such special meetings that from time-to-time may be held; and see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. The secretary shall archive the official papers of the society.

(d) The treasurer shall have custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the society; receive and give receipts for monies due and payable to the society from any source whatsoever, and deposit such monies in the name of the society in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be designated in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws. The treasurer shall submit a report of the financial condition of the society at its annual business meeting, and arrange for an annual review of the society’s books by a certified public accountant. If required by the board of directors, the treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of the treasurer’s duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the board of directors shall determine.

(e) The officers shall perform such other duties not inconsistent herewith as required by the board of directors.

Section 8. Directors.
(a) Directors shall represent the broad interests of the society.
(b) Two (2) directors shall be elected annually by ballot to serve terms of three (3) years or until their respective successors shall be installed. If a vacancy occurs for any reason, the board of directors shall appoint a person from the society’s membership to fill the unexpired term.

Section 9. Two editors shall be elected to represent the publications programs of the society. One shall be elected by the members in good standing from the board appointed research editors and one from the board appointed communications editors. Voting shall be through official ballots distributed and tabulated as provided in the bylaws. These directors shall serve for a period of three (3) years with terms staggered so as to conclude at different times.

Section 10. Resignation by any member of the board of directors shall be accomplished through written notice to the board of directors. No action by the board of directors is required.

Section 11. A member of the board of directors shall be removed from office for just cause after a hearing before the board of directors. Any member of the board of directors may begin removal proceedings. If at least three-fourths (75 percent) of the members of the board of directors concur, that director shall be removed from office and the vacancy filled as provided in the bylaws. Grounds for removal shall be such offenses as malfeasance or nonfeasance of office, or violation, whether actual or apparent, of the society’s ethical principles.

ARTICLE IV - COMMITTEES/EDITORS
Section 1. The standing committees of the society shall be the Budget Committee, Nomination and Elections Committee, Research Editors’ Advisory Committee, Communications Editors’ Advisory Committee, Executive Committee, Ethics Committee, and Conference Committee. Committee selection may be delegated by the president to the chairs of the committees. The president may establish other special committees as needed.

Section 2. The board shall appoint editors as warranted. The duties of the editors are to represent the interests of the society’s various publications, including developing management strategies, reporting to the board on the editor’s activities and accomplishments, and overseeing the implementation of the society’s publication program. The editors shall be responsible for carrying out the publications program of the society, in accordance with the publication policy established by the board of directors. The editors shall be responsible for producing *Historical Archaeology* and other publications of the society.

Section 3. The Budget Committee shall annually recommend a budget for the
society. The chair of the committee shall be the treasurer.

Section 4. The Nomination and Elections Committee shall offer a slate for each elective office. The two annual directors’ vacancies shall be filled by the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes by mail or electronic ballot. All members in good standing of the society shall be notified of this slate on or before 15 September, and shall be offered an opportunity to make additional nominations. Such additional nominations shall be supported by fifty (50) voting members. At least thirty (30) days after the initial notice of nominations has been sent to all members, ballots shall be sent to all members in good standing with indication of the date by which these ballots must be returned to be valid. This date shall be no more than thirty (30) days nor less than fifteen (15) days after the ballots were sent. All nominees shall be notified of the results of the election by 1 December. The chair of the committee shall be the immediate past president of the society.

Section 5. The Research Editors’ Advisory Committee and the Communications Editors’ Advisory Committee shall assist and advise the editors. The chair of each committee will be an editor within the respective publication program, and will be appointed by the president.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall consist of the president, president-elect, secretary, and treasurer. This committee shall advise and act on behalf of the board of directors in time-sensitive situations when the full board cannot convene. The president shall chair this committee.

Section 7. The Conference Committee shall be responsible for the development and oversight of the society’s annual meeting in accordance with policies established by the board of directors. The chair of the committee shall be the conference coordinator who is the primary point of contact between the board of directors and internal and external parties related to the annual meeting of members.

Section 8. The Ethics Committee shall consist of the president-elect, the SHA representative to the Register of Professional Archaeologists, and other members as appointed by the board of directors. The committee shall ensure that the ethics policies of the society reflect the position of the society and will provide guidance to the board of directors and membership on ethics issues as they arise. The chair of the committee shall be the president-elect.

Section 9. Each committee may adopt rules for its own government not inconsistent with these bylaws or with rules adopted by the board of directors, provided, however, that no committee may represent itself as speaking for the board or the society without authorization of the board of directors.

ARTICLE V - FINANCES AND CONVEYANCING

Section 1. The fiscal year of the society shall correspond to the calendar year.

Section 2. The funds of the society shall be deposited in the name of the society in such bank or trust company as the board of directors shall designate and shall be drawn by checks, draft, or other orders for the payment of money signed by the treasurer or by such person or persons as shall be designated by the board of directors.

Section 3. All deeds, mortgages, releases, conveyances, contracts, or other instruments of the society authorized by the board of directors shall be executed on behalf of the society by the treasurer or such person or persons designated by the board of directors. The treasurer or such person or persons designated by the board of directors shall be authorized to accept gifts of money or kind on behalf of the society and to deposit these with the funds of the society or hold them in trust pending instructions by the board of directors. Any provision herein notwithstanding, such transactions shall be subject to the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Section 4. No financial obligations in excess of funds available in the treasury shall be assumed by the board of directors or by any officer on behalf of the society, provided that for this section, estimated receipts from annual dues and other accounts receivable for the current year may be considered as available funds.

ARTICLE VI - ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

Section 1. All members of The Society for Historical Archaeology shall subscribe and adhere to the society’s ethical principles as reviewed by the general membership and approved by the board of directors.

CALL FOR PAPERS:

That Was Then, This Is Now: Contemporary Archaeology in Australia
February 16–17, 2012   University of Sydney

This two-day workshop explores the role of contemporary archaeology and the state of research in Australia. It is aimed at exploring the methods, theories, and subjects currently informing this nascent field of study. What role might Australian scholars play in advancing this area of research?

This workshop is intended to be a platform for open conversation and discussion of ideas. Students, scholars, and professionals are welcome to offer presentations of 15 or 30 minutes.

Topics may include but are not limited to: auto-ethnography, late-20th- and 21st-century technologies, space archaeology, contemporary graffiti, urban landscapes, mobilities, new methods of archaeological practice (social media, art, performance, reenactment), the post-human, archaeologies of protest, anarchy, internment, migration and the Cold War, the body, affect and the narrative turn, the materialities of contemporary life.

Please send 100-word abstracts to the convenors by the deadline: January 31, 2012.
Convenors’ emails: <Ursula.Frederick@anu.edu.au> and <Annie.Clarke@sydney.edu.au>
ARCHAIA Praha, o. p. s.
cordially invites you
to the conference

FORUM ARCHAEOLOGIAE POST-MEDIAEVALIS

Social status and its manifestations in the material culture of the modern period

Prague
April 3–4, 2012

Program:

Tuesday, April 3
10:00 – 10:15 a.m. opening of the conference
10:15 a.m. – 1 p.m. papers and discussions (main topic)
1 – 2:30 lunch
2:30 – 6:30 papers and discussions (main topic, others)
7:00 dinner

Wednesday, April 4
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. papers and discussions
2:00 lunch

Working languages: Czech/Slovak, English.

For a copy of the registration for, please write or email to:

Archaia Praha, o. p. s.
Jaromir Zegklitz
Truhlářská 20
110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic

e-mail: <zegklitz@archaia.cz>

All the necessary information will be sent after the registration acceptance deadline.

Yours sincerely,
Vojtèch Kašpar
Jaromir Zegklitz
SHA 2013
LEICESTER, ENGLAND

THE SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY NEWSLETTER
Please note the deadlines for submissions of news
for UPCOMING ISSUES of the SHA Newsletter

Spring 2012 . . . . 1 February 2012
Summer 2012 . . . . 1 May 2012
Fall 2012 . . . . 1 August 2012
Winter 2012 . . . . 1 November 2012

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