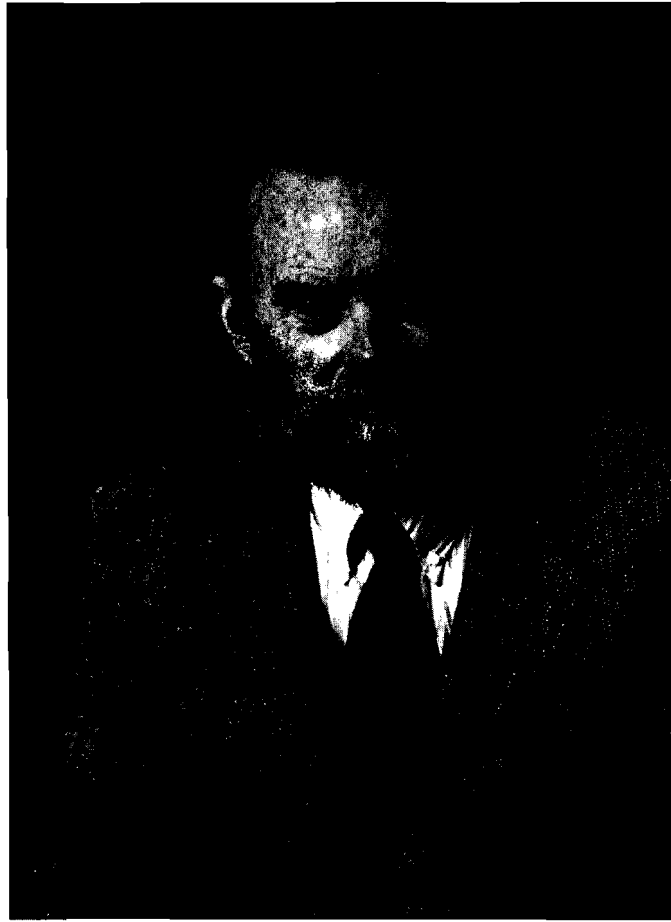


## Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award



Norman F. Barka 2001

Dr. Norman F. Barka was in attendance at the first annual meeting of The Society for Historical Archaeology when it was convened at the Williamsburg Lodge in January 1968 under the auspices of Colonial Williamsburg and its then Director of Archaeology, Ivor Noël Hume. That year Norm was beginning the sixth semester of his distinguished career as a faculty member in the Department of Anthropology at the College of William and Mary, a position he took up in the academic year immediately following the award of his Ph.D. in Anthropology by Harvard University in 1965. At William and Mary Norm has created one of the most important academic programs in historical archaeology anywhere in the world. Thirty-five years of extremely effective pedagogy later, Norm's students, undergraduate and graduate, are placed at all levels of our profession, including prominent positions in academe, the museum world, and government.

Norm's track record with undergraduates reaches back to the beginning of his appointment at William and Mary and in a very important way he has established a tradition much like that of Beloit College, where he did his own undergraduate training in anthropology, graduating in 1960.

Both Beloit and the College of William and Mary have produced an unusually large number of very successful professional anthropologists relative to the overall size of their student bodies and their faculties in anthropology. In the fall of 1979 Norm welcomed the first class of Master's degree students to the Department of Anthropology, at the College of William and Mary and began his more than twenty years as graduate director, a job that he has done with the greatest of skill and compassion. This month, Norm will be able to add his carefully considered opinions to the selection of the first group of Ph.D. students in Anthropology to be admitted to the graduate program at William and Mary. The new doctoral program, emphasizing historical archaeology, was brought into being through Norm's own distinctive brand of single-minded (and quiet) persistence, and it is one that will depend on his contributions through both new Ph.D. course offerings he is preparing and through his active summer program of fieldwork, now centered on the islands of Bermuda and Guana (British Virgin Islands).

It is not Norman F. Barka's outstanding record of field research and teaching, however, that is being recognized by the society with the 2001 Carol V. Ruppe Distinguished Service Award. It is Norm Barka's tireless advocacy of historical archaeology through dedicated service to The Society for Historical Archaeology. After a decade of participating in the annual meeting, Norm joined the society's Board as president-elect in 1979, beginning what is now over two decades of year-in and year-out work for the society. Norm has done many noteworthy things for the society, including serving as President in 1980, staging an extremely successful 1984 annual meeting at the same hotel where the first one took place, representing the SHA to the Society for Post Medieval Archaeology, and helping put on the joint thirtieth anniversary observance of the two organizations. Most noteworthy of all, however, is Norman Barka's willingness to produce the society's *Newsletter*, four times a year for the past nineteen years (76 issues with a total of nearly 4,000 pages and still counting), and it is this commitment that has earned him the society's award for distinguished service in the year 2001.

The *Newsletter* has always been one of the most important benefits of membership in The Society for Historical Archaeology and it has improved with every passing year, testimony to the talents and dedication of all of its editors. At that first meeting in Dallas, the society's founding fathers, a group that came to be known as the "Special Committee," were very concerned that an annual publication of some sort begin as soon as possible. After a motion was passed to that effect, committee member Charles Fairbanks suggested that the society also publish a newsletter modeled after the Council For British Archaeology Calendar, a newsletter that would be the yearly responsibility of the society's officers. Others saw this as too time-consuming but a consensus emerged among the assembled group that some kind of reporting on current research should be done on a yearly basis. No clear decision about a newsletter format emerged during the organizational meeting, but the first issue of *Historical Archaeology* does contain a summary of research activities for 1967. Shortly thereafter the first volume of the society's official *Newsletter* appeared, under the editorship of David Armour. With the second volume, the *Newsletter* moved to Canada, where it would remain for thirteen years. With the support of Parks Canada in Ottawa, the *Newsletter* was produced by a series of editors including, successively, Jervis Swannack, Karlis Karklins, Charles Lindsey, and Lester Ross.

True to the vision of the society's original Special Committee, whose members agreed during their 1967 deliberations that an annual review of fieldwork was essential, the *Newsletter* served mainly a vehicle for communicating what society members were doing in the field. Organized by region from the beginning, the *Newsletter* became, for all of us, the main way to learn about what sites were being excavated, where, and by whom. From the *Newsletter* sent to society members in August 1971, for example, we learned that Dr. Barka had begun work on the excavation of the Poor Potter's site, arguably the best excavated and studied colonial pottery production site on record anywhere. The *Newsletter* of June 1973 identified Dr. Barka as the discoverer of the first enclosed settlement associated with an early 17th-century Virginia community known as a "Hundred," in this case, Flowerdew Hundred. It would be another several years before the better known (in the popular mind) Wolstenholme Town at Martin's Hundred was found. Frequent entries in the

*Newsletter* describe results of what has been the most sustained single research project in the historical archaeology of the Caribbean, when in 1981 Dr. Barka began fieldwork in St. Eustatius, a very small island still part of the Netherlands Antilles, that derives much of its historical significance from its status as a true free port during the colonial period. Subsequent issues report on his work on Bermuda, where along with colleague Edward Harris of the Bermuda Maritime Museum, Norm has excavated several of the earliest English colonial fortifications in the New World, as well as what may fairly be described as the oldest standing house built by English colonists to the New World, the Captain's House at King's Castle, a fort built in 1612.

These later references are in issues of the *Newsletter* produced under Norm Barka's editorship, but he has never used the office of *Newsletter* Editor to blow his own horn. These references are included simply to remind readers of the journal that despite the many hours that Norm has spent making sure that the rest of us have had a chance to report on our discoveries in the field or have our say on other professional and scholarly matters, he has managed to conduct his own annual research program, thereby exposing hundreds of students to his exacting standards of archaeological fieldwork.

Dr. Barka has had plenty of need to call upon the *Newsletter* to report his active field research. His effort has resulted in the discovery and recording of many of the most important archaeological sites excavated within the Chesapeake, the Caribbean, and Bermuda over the past three decades. Norm has been doing archaeology in the field since the mid 1950s, having had six full seasons of experience behind him before entering graduate school, including several stints with the River Basin Surveys, college semesters in Mexico, and two seasons with Bill Ritchie unraveling Owasco-Iroquois sites in upstate New York. At Harvard Norm became a Canadian specialist, working first in Saskatchewan, and subsequently in New Brunswick and Quebec. His dissertation at Harvard is concerned with materials he recovered from an early French fort and later loyalist trading post located in what he describes as a "slum neighborhood covered with derelict cars, drunken homeless people who slept in the cars, and bootleggers who were regularly raided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as we dug at the site." Perhaps this early experience with one kind of urban archaeology in St. John, New Brunswick explains Dr. Barka's more recent interests in places like Bermuda and the privately owned island of Guana, where he is researching the fascinating story of refugee Quakers who made their living growing sugar with slave labor.

In remaining true to his own calling as an academic historical archaeologist who believes in the importance instructing students within the context of careful and sustained field work, Norm has also had the foresight and energy to ensure that The Society for Historical Archaeology's *Newsletter* kept pace with the many changes that the profession has undergone since 1982. Twice, in 1988 and again in 1997, Norm has overseen substantial changes in the format of the *Newsletter*. Every year of his editorship he has added at least one, and usually two new features, ranging from columns and forums, to greatly expanded illustrations. In his nomination of Dr. Norman F. Barka for the Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award, Robert Schuyler observed that because of Norm Barka's ability to keep up with the changing times and anticipate features that would be of interest to the readership "the SHA *Newsletter* is without question the most impressive research summation outlet and one of the most recognized newsletters in world."

When asked to reflect on why he became an archaeologist, Norm Barka responded, "Its what I always wanted to be." He observed at last year's SHA meeting in Quebec City "In the end, historical archaeology is fun, an enjoyable way of life. I have been very fortunate in feeling that my job is really not a job. It is just something I do and think about for 24 hours a day." Among the things that Norm has done during his 24-hour days is put thousands of hours of his own time into making sure that all of us have the most up-to-date *Newsletter* we can have, four times a year, every year. It should also be noted that despite his already busy schedule, one made all the more hectic by the production of his first edition of the *Newsletter*, Norm Barka found the time to welcome me to Williamsburg in February, 1982. These nineteen years of SHA *Newsletters* later, he is still willing to find the time, and without his support and friendship I would never have been able to make any kind of success out of my position at Colonial Williamsburg.

Many of us who are members of The Society for Historical Archaeology are every bit as fortunate as Dr. Barka in that we also view our jobs as that which we think about and do 24 hours a day. Norm, however, unlike most of us, has made The Society for Historical Archaeology a substantial and integral part of his professional life. Putting out The Society for Historical Archaeology *Newsletter* on a quarterly basis is a major task. Upon even a moment's reflection, we all realize how much work is must really be and thus we stand in awe of Dr. Barka's accomplishment and congratulate him on the occasion of his recognition by The Society for Historical Archaeology as this year's recipient of the Carol V. Ruppé Distinguished Service Award.

MARLEY R. BROWN III