

The development of the web site makes it imperative that as many contributions as possible to the BHA will be submitted in electronic format - preferably MS WORD, but other mainstream word processing programs are acceptable. Images should be submitted in standard jpeg format. I will be circulating precise instructions in due course which, if followed, will assist the production to go smoothly.

One way subscribers can be of immediate assistance is by sending their e-mail addresses to me as soon as possible. Although the records of the BHA are in excellent shape we do need to update our electronic address archive.

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In closing I would like to acknowledge the great contribution Doug Givens has made to the history of archaeology through his founding and editing the BHA. I will do my best to help both the field and the *Bulletin* grow and prosper.

Sincerely,

Tim Murray

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## **II. Discourse on the History of Archaeology**

### **A Short History of the *Bulletin of the History of Archaeology***

by

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As my tenure as Editor of the *Bulletin of the History of Archaeology* (BHA) draws to a close (31 December 2002), I think it useful to the readership that I provide a very brief history of the BHA covering its inception, early years, and my aspirations for its future.

The BHA was just a passing idea in my mind in 1990 when I organized an Advanced Seminar held at the School of American Search (SAR) in Santa Fe, New Mexico (14-18 July 1990), concerning the then current state of writing the history of archaeology for the Society for American Archaeology's Committee on the History of Archaeology. To a great degree the SAR advanced seminar grew out of a seminal gathering (Visitor Scholar's Conference) that Andrew Christenson had put together in 1987 at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Illinois - a gathering of those working in the history of archaeology.

Among some of the participants at the SAR gathering were Andrew Christenson, Christian Downum, Edwin Lyon, and Donald McVicker. We casually discussed off and on the need to have a publication that would address the interests of those engaged in writing the history of archaeology as well as to serve as an informal source of information for those interested in the history of archaeology. As I remember, none of us thought of a history of archaeology anywhere else beside in the United States! After all, George Stocking's *History of Anthropology Newsletter* was interested mainly in the conduct of cultural anthropology and Gordon Willey and Jeremy Sabloff had provided then the only well-known voice for the rise of Americanist archaeology. The idea of some informal published newsletter, appearing irregularly, continued to incubate in the back of my mind during the SAR meetings but was not resurrected until later.

During that meeting, Donald McVicker and I discussed the need to get together to continue the idea of creating a voice or voices for those interested in the history of archaeology. So it was agreed that we should meet most likely at Don's Naperville, Illinois location at North Central College where he was Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at in 1990. Letters and telephone calls flew back and forth with a suggestion by Don that Alice Kehoe be included in our discussions. This is where I first met Alice, now a life long friend.

Alice joined our small group at Don's home in Naperville, Illinois before leaving for Don's office. With Don driving and Alice sitting in the "suicide seat" and with Doug Givens in the back seat we took off for Don's office at North Central College. While in transit, we three discussed the ideas of putting together an informal newsletter to serve as a forum to exchange ideas in regard to the history of archaeology as well as a volume series of book length manuscripts totally devoted to the history of archaeology. Alice Kehoe took the lead with the book series on the history of archaeology and I volunteered to get an informal newsletter up and running which would be totally devoted to the exchange of ideas and research sources. Don agreed to serve as a member of the newsletter's editorial board. The idea of the BHA was actually hatched then in the backseat of Don's car so the discussions to be held at Don's office at North Central College were mainly devoted, as I remember, to the book series mentioned above.

Shortly after the meeting, I called Andrew Christenson to ask that he become a member of the BHA's editorial board. Andy has been a constant source of help to me over the years as the BHA initially got off the ground and grew and matured in time. It was Andy who suggested the name *Bulletin of the History of Archaeology* rather than the *History of Archaeology Newsletter* that I had called for. Usage of the term "bulletin" in the publication's title, Andy reasoned, would be better as libraries would be more likely to archive publications using this term in deference to term "newsletter".

The first issue of the BHA (1:1) was published in May of 1991. The editorial board members reflected a wide variety of interests in the history of archaeology worldwide. I had always favored the BHA being a voice for all those interested in the history of archaeology, not just Americanists. Slowly, the BHA has collected and published contributions to the history of archaeology outside the United States with many foreign institutions and scholars among its subscribers.

As I look back on the BHA's development over time, I must mention the aid and friendship of Richard and Nathalie Woodbury to the BHA's continued health. Many a time either by telephone, letter or sitting in their living room in Amherst, Massachusetts, I benefitted from their wise counsel and suggestions. From Dick and Nat I gained a sense of urgency about the need to collect and preserve the history of archaeological practice, both here and abroad, before it is gone forever. They are so right!

The existence of the BHA was not generally known to the archaeological community for many years. The BHA appeared well before the advent of the World Wide Web so the chance to widely disseminate knowledge of the publication's existence has dampened. Therefore, the growth the BHA has been slow yet steady with its existence still being communicated by word of mouth.

From 1991 through 2002, the BHA has been a small but effective contributor to the ever growing interest in the history of archaeology. Possibly this has to do with the interests of its editor but I mainly think the usefulness of the BHA is due to its readership. The readership keeps suggesting newer means to know the history of archaeology.

On 31 December 2002, I relinquish the reins to the BHA to Tim Murray, one of the most capable and far-thinking individuals that I know. His boundless energy as scholar and organizer will take the BHA to newer heights than I could ever envision. With his careful management, the BHA may someday become the central forum that I had originally envisioned for the exchange of information and ideas related to the writing of the history of archaeology. To Tim, I say good luck and keep going!