



EDITORIAL

On behalf of the members of SAfA, I would like to thank David Phillipson for organizing the 15th biennial meeting of our organization at Peterhouse College, Cambridge University. For those of you who could not attend, the program and abstracts are included in this issue. I would also like to thank the outgoing members of the executive for their service over the last two or more years: David Phillipson (Secretary), Scott MacEachern (Treasurer), Nic David (President), members at large Sally McBrearty, Innocent Pikirayi, Olivier Gosselain as well as Darla Dale, our student representative. A special word of thanks for Amy Lawson and Jeff Fleisher who organized a graduate student research session at the meetings.

At the SAfA business meeting which was held at Cambridge on July 15, 2000, Charles Bollong presented an invitation on behalf of himself and David Killick to host the next SAfA meeting at the University of Arizona in Tucson in 2002, probably in May. This was accepted with thanks.

The following were elected to the new executive: Randi Haaland (President), David Killick (Secretary) and Joanna Casey (Treasurer). Three members at large were also elected: Bertram Mapunda, Diane Gifford-Gonzalez and Els Cornelissen, as well as a student representative, Jeffrey Fleischer. Ex officio members of the executive are Pamela Willoughby as editor of *Nyame Akuma*, Fekri Hassan as editor of the *African Archaeological Review*, and Detlef Gronenborn, who is the webmaster of the SAfA website (http://www.rz.uni-frankfurt.de/~bornu_safa_safa.htm). Our web presence has grown in the last year, and a number of members have their own web sites, including

myself (<http://www.ualberta.ca/~pwilloug>), which includes a link to the SAfA home page. The SAfA home page also includes information about the next PanAfrican Congress in Bamako, Mali (February 7-12, 2001).

With this issue, Joanna Casey takes over as Treasurer. This means that all correspondence concerning membership in SAfA, and subscriptions to *Nyame Akuma* and the *African Archaeological Review* should be directed to her at the address given inside the front cover. Thanks to Joanna for taking on this important task and to Scott MacEachern for his valiant service.

Occasionally, I receive books for review in *Nyame Akuma*. Recently, a remarkable work appeared in the mail. For those who like to read about the seamier side of palaeoanthropology, Jon Kalb has just written *Adventures in the Bone Trade: The race to discover human ancestors in Ethiopia's Afar Depression* (Copernicus Books, 2001; \$29 US). Kalb was a geologist living in Ethiopia who initiated field work in the Afar Triangle and Middle Awash regions, localities which became major centers for the discovery of early hominids. This book describes the beginnings and ultimately collapse of his research, his interactions with palaeoanthropologists and other geologists, and subsequent conflicts with the US National Science Foundation. Among other things, it provides a detailed recent history of Ethiopia, and a sympathetic discussion of its peoples and cultures. It is an intensely personal account, and leaves no one unnamed or unscathed. It certainly resurrects the "bone wars" reputation of African hominid origins research, a field with all too human participants and no heroes. Be warned.