

VI. Activities of Various Academic Gatherings Related to the History of Archaeology DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5334/bha.05212>

Paul Erickson sends word of an invited session - "Teaching the History of Anthropological Theory: Strategies for Success" that was held during the 1995 annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Washington D.C. Of interest to the readership of the BHA will be the papers given by a variety of scholars:

William R. Fowler (Vanderbilt University) - "A Dialogue with the Ancestors: A Strategy for Teaching The History of Archaeological Theory"

James Stanslaw (Illinois State University) - "You Mean Levi-Strauss Did More than Invent Bluejeans"

Karen L. Field (Washburn University)-Topeka, Kansas) - "Good Morning, I'm Dona Marina: Fostering Student Identification with a History of Theory Curriculum"

Bruce D. Roberts (University of Southern Mississippi) - "Competing Paradigms and Hungry Hippos: The Search for the Elusive Marble of Truth in Anthropological Theory"

Julia D. Harrison (Trent University) - "Trying to Beat 'One Dead Guy a Week,"

Paul A. Erickson (Saint Mary's University, Halifax) - "Teaching the History of Anthropological Theory: State of the Art"

Mark A. Moberg (University of South Alabama) - "Philosophy of Science in Anthropology: Overcoming Student Resistance to Disciplinary History"

Mary Helms (University of South Carolina-Greensboro) - "Anthropology as Natural History: From James Hutton to Levi-Strauss"

Jay K. Johnson (University of Mississippi) - "Fifteen Years of Teaching Anthropological Theory: An Evolving Strategy"

Franklin O. Loveland (Gettysburg College) - "The Rise or Demise of Anthropological Theory: Teaching Marvin Harris's Theory Book to Undergraduates"

On 3 June 1995, The British Society for the History of Science sponsored the session "Writing Scientific Biographies" which was held in the lecture theatre of King's College. This sessions were the last in a series of three which were held on the subject. At the end of the session there were opinions put forward that suggested that the theoretical debate, as the value of scientific biographies, "had advanced no further." But it was agreed that historians of science ignore to their detriment the large and diverse audience for such biographies. Four 2 paper sessions divided up the meeting. The opening session on the "Theory of Biography"

discussed the problems in writing scientific biographies. The second session was put forward under the rubric "The Readership of Biographies" which discussed the nature of the "wider audience" often cited by historians of science as a justification for the production of scientific biographies." The third session of the meeting put forward views on "Collective Biography" with discussion of the "changing role of biography in the history of colonial and postcolonial science." The final session of the meeting concerned "Biographical Case Studies" using a variety of biographical approaches. Readers of the BHA may find an excellent synopsis of this meeting in the October 1995 (No. 48:11-14) issue of the *BSHS* (British Society for the History of Science) *Newsletter*. The appreciation of the BHA is extended to Dr. Frank A.J.L. James of the Royal Institution Centre for the History of Science and Technology - The Royal Institution of Great Britain for correspondence and permission to paraphrase from the session's synopsis.

VII. Announcements/Sources Relating to the History of Archaeology

The Tozzer Library, Harvard University has released *Anthropological Literature on Disc* in CD-Rom format. The indices to the literature uses G.K. Hall's and Company's "CD Searcher" software and is fully networkable at no additional charge. The database is updated monthly. Each annual update includes all records from the previous disc plus an additional year's indexing. For further information about *Anthropological Literature on Disc*, please contact G.K. Hall and Company, 866 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

Pamela J. Smith and David Van Reybrouck have sent word of the death of Sir Grahame Clark (Cambridge University). A terrible loss to the archaeological world. Pamela Smith also sent word of a celebratory exhibition in the honor of the life of Professor Sir Grahame Clark ("Professor Sir Grahame Clark and the Fenland Research Committee") which is currently being held in the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge University, England. from 4 November 1995 on. The exhibition is a biographical tribute to the life of Clark and contains many photographs and documents relating to his archaeological career. Those interested in the exhibition should contact the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology for further information. The exhibition was made possible by Lady Clark, Pamela Jane Smith, Alison Gascoigne and Christopher Chippindale.

GETTY GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS A PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT TO
THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AND THE ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION
LABORATORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR EARTHEN
PLASTER STUDY AT MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

The Architectural Conservation Laboratory of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at the University of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce that the Getty Grant Program has awarded a matching \$42,350 Project Preparation Grant to the National Park Service to work with the Architectural Conservation Laboratory at Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, during 1995-96. The full funding of \$84,750 will be used to develop a conservation master plan for the survey, analysis, stabilization and interpretation of the prehistoric mud plasters of Mug House at Mesa Verde National Park. The 13th-century Anasazi cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde rank among the most famous and significant of native American prehistoric sites. They are one of the few North American properties to be listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site.

Mug House, a stone ruin on Wetherill Mesa in the Park, has been selected as the model site to carry out this project. The complex is an excellent example of the many cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde National Park and was carefully excavated and documented from 1960 to 1966. Furthermore, Mug House contains some of the most intact plain and painted prehistoric wall and floor plasters in the American southwest, including a kiva with decoratively painted plaster of exceptional quality.

Phase 1 of the work has been underway since the summer of 1994 with funding from the National Park Service through a cooperative agreement with the University of Pennsylvania. The initial phase has included the assembly of archival reports on past stabilization of the site and bibliographic research on North American prehistoric plasters and mural paintings. Selected sample plasters have been analyzed to determine their composition, properties, and sources of the components and finishes. The Getty Grant now funds Phase 2, which will develop and implement a model documentation and survey program for the existing conditions of the plaster and masonry. An environmental monitoring plan will also be established. A third phase will eventually implement a pilot conservation treatment program that will include stabilization and presentation of the plain and ornamented plasters.

The Mug House plaster stabilization project will involve the disciplines of archaeology, architecture, and conservation to preserve a unique cultural resource. The preservation of architectural ruins in prehistoric and historic sites presents difficulties related to the process of conservation *in situ* and the presentation and interpretation of a ruined site to the public. Despite earlier practices of complete or selective removal of architectural plasters and finishes from ruins and archaeological sites, the present preferred solution is conservation on site to enable preservation of the ruin as a whole. This project will be one of the first to develop comprehensive, long-range, conservation techniques for extant plasters in a ruined North American site using computer-aided