

# UC Berkeley

## International Association of Obsidian Studies Bulletin

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# International Association for Obsidian Studies Bulletin

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*Bulletin* edited by William J. McFarlane

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## CONTENTS

*News and Information* – 1  
*Abstracts and Annotations* – 6  
*About the IAOS* – 8

## NEWS AND INFORMATION

### A Letter from the Editor

As many of you have no doubt noticed, the IAOS is beginning to awaken after a period of inactivity. Following on the success of the annual IAOS meeting, the next several months promise to be an exciting time for our organization. This issue will focus on the reorganization, revitalization, and general house-keeping of the Association.

I would like to take this opportunity to outline some new features of the *Bulletin*. Over the past two years, submissions to the *Bulletin* have rapidly declined. This may be due, in part, to the broad geographic, methodological, and theoretical subjects that interest IAOS members. To facilitate member submissions, a new contact system will be initiated for the U.S. West Coast, Europe, and South America. If you conduct your research in one of these areas you will now have the benefit of a local IAOS contact. Please see Barbara Vargo's and Gerard Poupeau's introductions on page 5. We are currently in need of a final contact for the Pacific. If you are interested in filling this position please contact me.

A second change is the creation of an IAOS Listserv. While the *Bulletin* is a tangible medium, perfect for abstracts and brief articles, it is not the quickest form of communication. With this in mind, a Listserv has been established to better facilitate rapid communication between all members. An initial message was sent to all members for whom we have a current email address. If you have not received a message from the IAOS Listserv and would like to subscribe, please contact me at [wjm1@acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:wjm1@acsu.buffalo.edu).

In conjunction with the IAOS Listserv, Craig Skinner has created a web-based Message Board in the members section of the IAOS website <http://www.peak.org/obsidian/members.html>. Both the Listserv and the Message Board should contribute to increased communication between all members.

Finally, a new "Forum" section will be added to upcoming issues of the *Bulletin*. We often find ourselves either new to the field or new to a particular analytical method and could use the advice from people who had previously dealt with these issues. If you are dealing with a new application in obsidian studies or are new to obsidian studies and would like an alternate perspective on your particular research issue please send me a brief (500 word) description of your research goals and the methodological or theoretical issues with which you are grappling. Initially, members with experience will be requested to comment. After it gets going comments on a particular topic should be sent directly to the editor or local contact.

As always, the *Bulletin* is open to new directions and ideas. If you have a contribution please do not hesitate to send it directly to me or one of the local IAOS contacts. During this period of revitalization it is my hope that we can find a way to engage our members and renew the utility of the *Bulletin* and the IAOS in general.

William McFarlane, Editor



# TIME TO REVITALIZE:

## Minutes from the IAOS Annual Meeting

By Michael Gottesman

The recent set of organizational problems and our pre-meeting email 'discussions' resulted in our best Annual Meeting in several years. There were over a dozen attendees: M. Glascock, M. Gottesman, S. Shackley, C. Dillian, J. Loyd, B. Vargo, G. Bondar, P. LaPorta, C. Sanchez, C. Beck, G. Braswell, R. Jackson, and W. McFarlane. This was a terrific mix of new and old members.

There were two aspects of the meeting. Part A of the meeting was essentially the Secretary-Treasurer's report. Financially, we ended the year with \$7586. This is \$188 less than last year but included \$500 given as a research stipend and \$292 spent for new addressing software. Cash flow out for Bulletins average \$170/issue. Dues collected were \$650 but dues are in arrears (counting only 1 year per member) totals \$940.

Memberships total 107- up from last year's 96. There are 59 regular members, 18 student members and 28 that are either life, institutional or comp members. Out of the 77 paying members, only 23 are current with their dues, 6 have not paid since 2001, 20 have not paid since 2000 and 29 since 1999 or earlier.

It was also decided that the Secy-Treasurer send out 'packages' of all old Bulletins so as to provide a reference set at various institutions. These are being sent to SUNY (G. Braswell), Univ of Missouri (M. Glascock), Sonoma State (T. Origer) and Univ of Calif-Berkeley (S. Shackley).

Finally, congratulations were offered to the Research Stipend recipient, Maria Diakamatsou. Details on the recipient and her ongoing research were provided in an open letter from Chris Stevenson (this issue, page 5).

Part B of the meeting was the heart of the matter. Each of the central issues were discussed at length:

The IAOS Bulletin will go to 2 per year. Bill McFarlane will remain editor but Barbara Vargo will assist from the west coast and Gérard Poupeau has volunteered to serve as the contact person for Europe and South America. A 'contact' person for articles from the Pacific will also be sought. We may try an on-line website issue, but this is a future consideration.

We will also be pushing for the publication of our articles in other Newsletters (e.g. CSA, SAS, ASMOSIA) and to solicit article from them.

Membership affairs are sorely in need of attention and C. Dillian will chair a committee (with B. Vargo, W. McFarlane, J. Loyd, J. Wolf and M. Gottesman). Purposes are to attempt to 'clean up' our membership rolls and to simultaneously push for new members. A budget of \$500 is planned for this set of activities, primarily by having representation at regional conferences. Membership categories and fee schedules stay the same except that members living in Latin America or any country that is not: Australia, Bahrain, Bermuda, Brunei, Canada, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Libya, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United States, or Western Europe, are to be offered free membership-and others that have difficulty issuing a check against a US bank (as processing fees do not make it worthwhile).

All current officers will remain in place for the next several months. Janine Loyd (possibly with the assistance of Pat Dunning) will come up with a new slate of officers later this summer. We will then have a 'special elections' issue of the IAOS Bulletin.

A workshop for the 2002 SAA meetings in Denver is planned. Barbara Vargo will be spearheading this effort, working with Robert Jackson - one of our founding members who is now in charge of the SAA Workshops Program.

We have decided to continue and expand our research and session awards and are now budgeting \$1000 for two \$500 stipends to support research, assist in publication or to support a Symposia at the 2002 SAA's. G. Braswell will be the contact point with award decisions by the Executive Committee.

For more details on the new  
IAOS Awards see the flyer on page



## Upcoming Election Update & Candidate's Statement

Janine Loyd

I would like to thank the folks I contacted regarding running for office in the IAOS. In particular, I'd like to thank people who considered running and declined, realizing that they would be taking on a commitment they couldn't participate in wholeheartedly.

The candidates below are all prepared to put in the time and energy to make the IAOS an organization we can all be glad to be a part of. I hope you will all review the position statements and cast your votes.

### President

Carolyn Dillian, University of California, Berkeley

The IAOS is positioned to fill a much-needed role in archaeology, as the worldwide organization for obsidian research and lithic studies. However, we currently lack membership, international recognition, and a coherent plan for the future. I am running for office in order to help remedy these issues. As Chair of the newly formed Membership Committee, I am already working to formulate procedures aimed at expanding our membership and recognition. In addition, I foresee new goals for the future of IAOS, including an active role in coordinating, disseminating, and publishing obsidian research. One way to accomplish these goals is through increasing membership and newsletter contributions by graduate students and Cultural Resource Managers, who are actively involved in obsidian and lithic analyses, yet rarely publish in widely read journals. In order to grow, the IAOS must offer continued incentives to maintain old members and attract new ones, and I suggest that the way to do this is through an intense focus on support for and publication of cutting-edge obsidian and lithic research. I want to help the IAOS achieve its potential as the international organization for obsidian research and lithic studies.

I am a PhD candidate at the University of California, Berkeley, and am conducting my dissertation research on the Glass Mountain obsidian quarry in Siskiyou County, California. My experience covers the entire spectrum of CRM, academic, and government archaeology. In addition, I have worked as a Graduate Student Researcher in the X-Ray Fluorescence laboratory at UC Berkeley, and have conducted obsidian hydration analyses of Northern

## *International Association for Obsidian Studies* 2000 - 2001

President	J. Michael Elam
Vice President	Geoffrey Braswell
Secretary-Treasurer	Michael A. Gottesman
<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	William J. McFarlane
Webmaster	Craig E. Skinner
IAOS Board of Advisors	Irving Friedman Roger Green

web site: <http://www.peak.org/obsidian>

California archaeological material. I hope that my wide range of experience can serve as a bridge between IAOS members from a variety of backgrounds.

### Secretary - Treasurer

Ted Jones, Tom Origer & Associates

I recently completed an MA in CRM from Sonoma State University and plan to continue my research in experimentally developed obsidian hydration rates, in addition to my work with Tom Origer and Associates. It is important to me that the IAOS is a thriving international organization, providing a forum for the exchange of research results and new ideas. To support that objective, we need people willing to provide the time and energy to administer the society. With the demands of school behind me, I am willing to offer my time to that effort.

Janine Loyd, Sonoma State University

I am excited about the "new lease on life" that has been discussed for the IAOS. I am currently a volunteer on the newly formed membership committee, and have been a contributor to the newsletter in years past. I have over ten years experience in bookkeeping for a small business, and I have been the assistant to the Treasurer for the Society for California Archaeology for the past two years, so I have a good understanding of the record keeping of a non-profit organization. I look forward to serving the IAOS as Secretary - Treasurer.



# IAOS Funding Available!!

For Research,  
Publication Assistance,  
or  
Sponsored Sessions at the  
2002 Meeting of the SAA

Application deadline: August 15

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Two \$500 stipends are now available on a competitive basis to IAOS members. Funds may be used to defray the costs associated with obsidian related research, publication, or symposia. Members seeking funds for research should outline the goals, methodology, budget, and relevance of their project in a two page proposal. Members seeking funds to defray publication costs should compile an abstract and table of contents with a brief statement of relevance to obsidian studies (also a two page maximum). Sponsored session proposals should consist of a session abstract and list of presenters and titles. Each proposal should be sent to Geoffrey Braswell at SUNY-Buffalo, Department of Anthropology, 380 MFAC, Ellicott Complex, Buffalo, NY 14261 by August 15. The executive committee will make all award decisions.

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## A Note on the 2000 Recipient of the IAOS Research Stipend

From Chris Stevenson

Maroulitsa (Maria) Diakamatsou was so very happy to receive your letter and the check. In front of her professor, Ioannis Liritzis, I read the letter and then awarded her the funds. Lots of smiles all around. The check was deposited a couple days ago and will take about a month to clear.

Maria is a very sincere woman, about 34, unmarried, lives at home with her mother and sister, is quite bright and intensely motivated to achieve. She was also awarded a stipend from the City of Rhodes to help her with tuition, insurance etc. over a three year period as she does her graduate work. Our funds will give that extra umph to get beyond just the basics.

We talked extensively about her thesis. She wants to look at two problems. The first problem is to test the Arrhenius Equation and to determine the linearity of the extrapolation procedures from high temperature (180°C) to ambient conditions. This will be done with induced hydration and SIMS. The second research objective is to look at the diffusion of water in the hydration layer as a mass transport problem. The objective is to develop a new equation based on empirical evidence that will replace the model put forth by Fick's Law. Being a chemical engineer she has a good background in this type of problem.

So, in a nutshell, I was very impressed by her performance. She and her professor will be good contacts for those interested in obsidian studies in the E. Mediterranean and an entry point into the nearly impenetrable field of Greek archaeology where territoriality and empire building reign.

## New Contact Information

Barbara Vargo, West Coast U.S.

Hello everyone! As your newly appointed west coast editorial contact for our IAOS Bulletin, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know about the changes that were recently made to the editorial staff.

During the IAOS meeting held in New Orleans this past April, we decided that dividing the workload between two editors might reduce the amount of time between publications and enable more authors to submit articles.

This might seem like a redundant position since we already have an outstanding editor – William McFarlane, but our primary motivation in making this change was to provide our members with current information about ongoing projects and new lines of research in a timely manner.

By expanding the editorial base, we can incorporate a larger number of articles, create new topical areas and provide more up to date information about future projects, conferences and membership concerns.

If you have any questions or concerns please e-mail me - I look forward to working with many of you during the upcoming year.

My contact information:

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Olympia, WA. 98501

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E-mail: [vargoba@home.com](mailto:vargoba@home.com)

Gerard Poupeau, Europe & S. America

Although a few months ago I left my former lab to take direction of an Archaeometry Centre in Bourdeaux, I am continuing to work on obsidian provenance in two areas. First, in the "Old World", with various (European, Japanese, and U.S.) archaeologists with studies mostly in the Western Mediterranean and Middle East. Second, in South America, essentially in Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru but with projects in Chile and Argentina.

My contact information:

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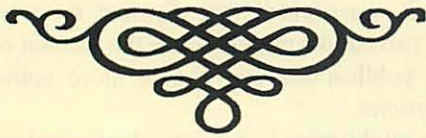


**ABSTRACTS AND ANNOTATIONS**

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Papers Presented at the  
35<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the  
Society for California Archaeology  
Modesto, California

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Couch, Jeffrey

2001 *Technological Analysis and Reassessment of Northern Channel Islands Microblade Industries.*

Recent technological analyses of microblade industries located on the northern Channel Islands, California have revealed a far more complex technology than previously understood. The earlier "trapezoidal" blade industry is shown to be technologically complex, metrically uniform, and material conservative technology, while the later "triangular" blade industry is not concerned with uniformity, rather, its concerns focus within mass production. Previous assessments of these industries focused on standardization of intended products successful blade removal ratios, and blade preparation techniques. Previous findings utilizing these analyses were found to be in error due to the misidentification of blade and debitage types, and technological attributes.

Dillian, Carolyn

2001 *The Multiple Facets of Lithic Production: Querying the Quarry.*

Quarries are important pieces of the archaeological puzzle, yet much of the research conducted on prehistoric quarries has been focused on questions

of procurement, production, and consumption. Such economic questions neglect many cultural aspects of raw material sources. We must turn our focus from questions of "what they made and where it came from" to how lithic material connects people, places and behavior. As an example, recent research as part of the Glass Mountain Archaeological Project suggests that the role of this obsidian source and objects made from it may have been linked to issues of cultural value.

Macko, Michael, Jeffrey Couch and Henry Koeper  
2001 *Two Ceremonial Biface Caches from CA-ORA-64.*

Excavations at the Irvine site (CA-ORA-64) yielded two unusual biface cache features, each containing a pair of large ceremonial spear points, but one cache also contained a charmstone and an unusual globular "bead". One biface was knapped of Buck Mountain obsidian, a northeastern California resource over 1100 km distance from ORA-64. Two bifaces were fashioned of dull gray glassy materials exotic to coastal southern California, and the fourth "projectile" was of Monterey chert. These large ritual bifaces and other unusual artifacts, "ball stones", indicate middle Holocene cultural connections between the northwest Great Basin and Orange County.

Stevens, Nathan

2001 *A Minor Source at Major Elevation: Fish Springs on the Sierra Crest.*

In order to compare high elevation sites in the southern Sierra Nevada to sites in the Owens Valley, a simple elevation correction to the Fish Springs hydration rate was constructed using known projectile point ranges plotted against elevation. Recent hydration and sourcing results on projectile points from Taboose Pass (elevation 11,500 feet) lend support to the method. Similar corrections using temperature data may increase the accuracy of this method, allowing temporal comparisons to be made between assemblages from a diversity of environmental settings. This may contribute to the ability of archaeologists to understand regional changes in subsistence-settlement systems.



Russia Far East Book  
Offer to IAOS Members

We are proud to inform you that our book, *Volcanic Glasses of the Russian Far East: Geological and Archaeological Aspects*, edited by Yaroslav V. Kuzmin and Vladimir K. Popov, is recently published by the Geological Institute, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, at Vladivostok, Russia.

This book is a first systematic attempt to reveal the sources of archaeological obsidian in the Russian Far East, Primorye (Maritime) Province and the Sakhalin Island, on the basis of instrumental geochemical analyses (INAA, XRF). There is an extended English Summary describing the results, and Figures have both Russian and English captions. All the primary data (geochemical composition of volcanic glass, etc.) are presented as Tables and Supplements in Russian and English.

The studies summarized in the book were conducted during 1992-2000 by the group of scholars from Russia, USA, and Japan. Among the authors, there are Yaroslav V. Kuzmin (Vladivostok, Russia), Vladimir K. Popov (Vladivostok), Michael D. Glascock (Columbia, MO, USA), M. Steven Shackley (Berkeley, CA, USA), Andrei V. Tabarev (Novosibirsk, Russia), Sergei V. Gorbunov (Tymovsky, Sakhalin District, Russia), Aleksander A. Vasilevsky (Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk), and Hiroyuki Sato (Tokyo, Japan). Four of them (Kuzmin, Glascock, Shackley, and Tabarev) are IAOS members!

We should emphasize that this book became possible only with the help of our reliable, friendly, and faithful colleagues, Dr. Michael D. Glascock and Dr. M. Steven Shackley. We are very pleased for their support, which has continued for over a decade!

The book is available upon request; there is no book fee but Western Scholars are kindly requested to pay the airmail fee (\$6.00). Books are limited and preference will be given to those who contact us first. Please communicate on this matter with Dr. Vladimir K. Popov, Geological Institute, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 1000-Letiya Vladivostoku Ave. 159, Vladivostok 690022, Russia; email [vladpov@hotmail.com](mailto:vladpov@hotmail.com); [vladpov@mail.ru](mailto:vladpov@mail.ru).

Yaroslav V. Kuzim and  
Vladimir K. Popov  
April 2, 2001

Proposed IAOS Workshop  
for the Denver SAAs  
From Barbara Vargo

While I have to assume that we will only have half a day, I would like to work out a plan for a full day workshop just in case. The three major areas that I feel should be covered are:

1) Sourcing and Identification

A survey of world wide sources and their characteristics would provide an excellent introduction to the workshop. This topic should also include a discussion of types of identification, including: visual, geochemical, and hydration.

2) Technology and Production

This area is of interest to a wider audience and should include presentations of basic lithic production methods, the construction of typologies and uses in cultural identification, and a connection between source and provenience (i.e. trade networks, etc.).

3) Analytical Methodologies

In essence, our final area is a critical assessment of the state of obsidian studies. We should address which methodologies work, need adjustments, or should be discarded. Topics should range from the use of obsidian as a cultural marker to dating methods and chronological implications. The final section will include examples of recent work, both archaeological and geochemical.

If we have a full day, these areas could be expanded, but if we only have a morning or an afternoon session to work with then these topics would have to be compressed. I still would like to have some 'show and tell' for visual identification and tool production, and a lot of basic information could be consolidated into handouts. I want this workshop to be geared to a broad audience (no preaching to the choir please) so we want the subject matter to attract students as well as professional archaeologists.



## ABOUT THE IAOS

The IAOS was established to:

1. Develop standards for analytic procedures and ensure inter-laboratory comparability;
2. Develop standards for recording and reporting obsidian hydration and characterization results;
3. Provide technical support in the form of training and workshops for those wanting to develop their expertise in the field, and;
4. Provide a central source of information regarding the advances in obsidian studies and the analytic capabilities of various laboratories and institutions.

## Membership

The IAOS needs membership to ensure success of the organization. To be included as a member and receive all of the benefits thereof, you may apply for membership in one of the following categories:

- Regular member \$20.00/year
- Institutional member \$50.00
- Student member \$10.00/year or free with submission of paper to newsletter and copy of current student identification
- Life-Time Member \$200.00

Regular members are individuals or institutions who are interested in obsidian studies, and wish to support the goals of the IAOS. Regular members will receive any general mailings; announcements of meetings, conferences, and symposia; bulletins; and papers distributed by the IAOS during the year. Regular members are entitled to attend and vote in Annual Meetings.

Institutional members are those individuals, facilities, and institutions who are active in obsidian studies and wish to participate in inter-laboratory comparisons and standardization. If an institution joins, all members of that institution are listed as IAOS members, although they will receive only one mailing per institution. Institutional members will receive assistance from, or be able to collaborate with, other institutional members. Institutional members are automatically on the Executive Board, and as such have greater influence on the goals and activities of the IAOS.

IAOS Bulletin NO. 27, Summer 2001 - 8

## CALL FOR ARTICLES AND INFORMATION

Submissions of articles, short reports, abstracts, or announcements for inclusion in the newsletter are always welcome. We accept electronic media on IBM-compatible diskettes in a variety of word-processing formats, but Word Perfect (up to 9.0) or Word is preferred. A hard copy of the text and any figures should accompany diskettes.

**Deadline for Issue 28 is August 30, 2001**

Send Submissions to -

William J. McFarlane  
SUNY - Buffalo  
Department of Anthropology  
380 MFAC, Ellicott Complex  
Buffalo, NY 14261

To send announcements, short contributions, discuss article ideas, or make suggestions, please get in touch by e-mail:  
[wjml@acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:wjml@acsu.buffalo.edu)

\*Membership fee may be reduced and/or waived in cases of financial hardship or difficulty in paying in foreign currency. Please complete the form and return to the Secretary-Treasurer with a short explanation regarding lack of payment.

\*\*Because membership fees are very low, the IAOS asks that all payments be made in US dollars in international money orders or checks payable on a bank with a US branch. If you do not do so, much of your dues are spent in currency exchange. If you wish to join us, mail a check or money order to the IAOS:

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