

# BULLETIN

## OF THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

VOLUME 1

DECEMBER 1983

NO. 5

### HISTORIC SHIPWRECK LEGISLATION UPDATE

The "Historic Shipwreck Preservation Act" (H.R. 3194 and S. 1504), which removes historic shipwrecks from the realm of admiralty and salvage law and places them under the protection of state laws, is being strongly opposed by sport divers and salvage operators. The mail on the Historic Shipwreck Bill is running against enactment, although Congressional staffs note that there is significant support for the law from archaeologists, the preservation community, and some states.

Right now the opposition does not appear strong enough to kill the legislation. But, likewise the support is by no means strong enough to ensure that the bill will pass.

Sport divers are highly organized and as one Congressional staffer put it, "much more energetic" than the supporters. At this point the future of this legislation is up in the air. Strong support or strong opposition between now and when Congress reconvenes in January could determine whether or not the bill is enacted and in what form.

Energetic support from the archaeological community can ensure passage of the Historic Shipwreck Bill. If you are concerned about this issue and wish to see this legislation enacted, write to your Representative and your Senator now.

For additional information on the Historic Shipwreck Preservation Act see *Bulletin* for September 1983, volume 1, number 4, page 3, columns 1, 2, and 3.

\* \* \*

*Significant historic and archaeological properties are protected by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 requires all agencies to consider the effects their undertakings (federal agency projects, projects assisted by or licensed by a federal agency) will have on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Section 106 also requires federal agencies to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a "reasonable opportunity" to comment on the potential effects of federal undertakings on National Register properties. The Council has been trying to revise its regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, which implement Section 106, since the 1980 elections in response to the President's commitment to simplify federal regulating processes. All revisions to rules must be approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB and the Council have had serious difficulty agreeing on revisions to Part 800. OMB recently submitted the proposed revisions to the Justice Department in the hope that the Justice Department could resolve the outstanding legal debate between OMB and the Council.*

*The Justice Department forwarded its opinion to the Council and OMB immediately prior to the Council's meeting on Monday, November 11, 1983. The substance and impact of that opinion are reported below.*

### ADVISORY COUNCIL REGULATIONS UNDER FIRE

The Justice Department recently issued an advisory opinion on the legality of the proposed revisions to the Council on Historic Preservation regulation, Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter IV,

Part 800 (36 CFR Part 800), which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Justice's opinion is that the Council's regulations significantly exceed the Congressional mandate, which is to advise federal agencies on historic preservation matters and commenting on federal undertakings that may affect historic (including archaeological) properties. Consequently, the Council cannot proceed with publication and implementation of the proposed revisions. The Justice Department's opinion applies equally to the Council's present regulations. The Justice Department's opinion is purely advisory. It does not set aside or revoke the existing regulations or any agreements or comments developed under them.

The Council disagrees with Justice's opinion, arguing that under both the current and proposed revised Part 800 regulations the Council's role remains strictly advisory. The Council maintains that its regulations are purely procedural in nature. Agencies always retain all decision-making authority. Nevertheless, the Council's Chairman, Alexander Aldrich, has decided that the Council will attempt to revise the proposed revisions to meet the Justice Department's objections. Aldrich believes that Justice's objections are not so substantial as to require changes in the regulations that would significantly diminish the Council's ability to provide federal agencies with relevant advice on how to treat historic properties that may be affected by their undertakings.

Until the Council publishes and adopts revised regulations, it will continue to operate under the existing regulations. All agencies must still seek the Council's comments, and all comments—including Memoranda of Agreement—obtained under the existing regulations are valid and remain in effect.

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Archaeologists have recently found themselves involved in several controversies with American Indians. These controversies result from conflicts between the archaeologist's perception of archaeological remains as scientific data, while many Indians regard those same materials as portions of their heritage. The controversy has been particularly heated when human remains are involved. An innovative approach was tried last summer in the State of Louisiana, which is reported here.

## THE LOUISIANA INDIAN YOUTH AND ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

By

J. Richard Shenkel  
Kathleen Byrd  
Will V. Adger

Louisiana has had some celebrated Indian vs. archaeologist conflicts. The most publicized controversy relates to the "Tunica Treasure." The "treasure" is a large collection of 17th and early 18th century European and Indian artifacts that was buried in an early 18th century Tunica Indian cemetery. The graves were excavated by a "pot hunter" on land belonging to someone else. The Harvard Peabody Museum offered to buy the collection and, with the permission of the finder, removed the collection to the Peabody Museum for safekeeping until the sale could be arranged. Problems arose when the finder could not establish legal ownership, and later the State of Louisiana purchased the site and claimed the collection as part of that purchase. Both the "pot hunter" and the original property owner have claims, as do the Tunica themselves. After almost ten years, multiple law suits have still not resolved all of the claims. The Tunica, most of whom now live in Marksville, Louisiana, are angry about the whole affair.

Ernest Sickey, who was both the Chairman of the Coushatta Tribe of Elton, Louisiana, and the Chairman of the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Inc., was sensitive to and concerned about the relationships between Indians and archaeologists in Louisiana. In August 1981, Sickey contacted Mrs. Lawrence Fox, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, to suggest that a program be developed that would involve



Indian youths excavating a newly opened unit at the Marksville ossuary on the Big Oak Island Site, Louisiana

Indian youths in an archaeological project so as to improve the Indians' understanding of archaeology and the archaeologists' understanding of the feelings and concerns of Louisiana's Indians. Dr. Kathleen Byrd, the State Archaeologist, whose Division of Archaeology is a part of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, began work with Mr. Will Adger, Program Coordinator for the Inter-Tribal Council, to develop a project based on Sickey's suggestion. The project's objects were to provide the youth of Louisiana's Tribes with:

- 1) a working knowledge of professional archaeology, its goals and objectives,
- 2) an understanding of the code of behavior practiced by the ethical archaeologist, and
- 3) an idea of how information supplied through studies of artifacts can benefit Indians and non-Indians alike in understanding a past for which there is no recorded history.

They felt that this knowledge would help the teenagers of the Tribes to deal with professional archaeologists in years to come, in an intelligent and equally professional manner, on this very sensitive subject. This program design would also foster mutual understanding and appreciation, an understanding of archaeology by Tribe members and an appreciation of Indian feelings by the archaeological establishment.

Byrd and Adger then identified a site where the project could be carried out. The University of New Orleans (UNO) was having an archaeological field school during the summer of 1982. The focus of the UNO research was a large multi-component shell midden known as Big Oak Island, not far from the UNO campus and within the city limits of New Orleans. This National Register site is privately owned, but leased to the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park by New Orleans East, Tecon Realty Company.

The State Archaeologist contacted the UNO Project Director, J. Richard Shenkel, to determine whether the Big Oak project might be suitable for the Indian Youth Project. At first Shenkel was hesitant because one of the primary research goals of the 1982 season involved the excavation of a Marksville ossuary that had been found during a previous season. While this did lead to a particularly sensitive situation, it was decided that the exposure of burials in an academic atmosphere and with a well defined purpose might well achieve the goals of the Indian Youth Project better than anything else. So, Big Oak Island was selected as the site.

With site selection settled, the Division of Archaeology began to develop an agenda and the Inter-Tribal Council began to recruit participants, arrange housing and transportation, and find funds to support the project.

(continued on page 3)

# THE LOUISIANA INDIAN YOUTH AND ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

(continued from page 2)

Given the number of potential participants, it was decided to divide them into two groups to be given the same program sequentially over a three-day period. The agenda began with two afternoon introductory lectures and a guided tour of the site. After a dinner break, an evening session included a film and a discussion period. The following morning, the group would return to the site to participate in the excavations for half a day before returning home.

Partial funding for the Indian Youth Project came from New Orleans East, Tecon Realty Corporation, owners of the Big Oak site. They, in addition to supporting the UNO research, defrayed the costs of housing and meals while the Indian Youth were in New Orleans.

Housing was arranged on the UNO campus. The film and the lectures were given in a classroom adjacent to the Archaeology Laboratory. This classroom had been modified for the summer to serve as a teaching laboratory for the field school. This was convenient because materials that had already been excavated were spread around on tables in varying stages of cataloguing and analysis and were available for examination and as a focus for discussion.

The first group of Indian youths arrived late on the morning of July 7, 1982. After settling into the dormitory and a quick lunch, the group met at the teaching lab. Dr. Byrd acted as master of ceremonies. Dr. Shenkel gave the first talk, an explanation of the Big Oak Island Project. Shenkel's talk included an abbreviated account of the prehistory of Louisiana and a history of Louisiana archaeology. The results of the earlier seasons' work at the Big Oak site were explained in detail to introduce the goals and objectives of the current season's research. Emphasis was placed on how archaeologists learn things about ancient peoples (social organization, cultural ecology, cultural-historical relationships, etc.) by different kinds of data analysis. The cultural and physical anthropological importance of burials was discussed.

Professor Malcomb Webb, also of UNO, gave the next talk entitled "Why we dig." This was a broad brush explanation of the science of archaeology and its place in anthropology. Webb discussed aspects of method, theory, and ethics at length. Webb noted that archaeologists all over the world are exhuming the remains of their ancestors. Were

he in England, he would be digging up old Englishmen; since he is in America, he digs up old Americans. As an example of the universality of this aspect of archaeology, Webb mentioned the "Search for Alexander" exhibit that was currently on display at the New Orleans Museum of Art. In this case, Greeks excavated the tombs of ancient Greek (Macedonian) kings. The Tut exhibit, which had been on display a few years before, was also mentioned. These examples struck a responsive chord with the young audience.

After the talks, everyone loaded into vans and proceeded to the Big Oak Island site, about 20 minutes from campus. Once there, Shenkel pointed out the various features that he had discussed previously. The field school had already been excavating for four weeks, so there was quite a bit to see. Several units had been completed with good profiles showing various stratigraphic features. These were used to illustrate excavation procedures and stratigraphic interpretation. A portion of the Marksville ossuary was exposed with an incredible jumble of broken bones akimbo (all, or portions of, at least 25 individuals within one 40 cm deep, 3m x 3m unit). This provided a good example of the use of coordinate mapping of complex features and again emphasized the care involved in excavation and recording of data.

The group left the site about 5:00 p.m. for a dinner break. At 7:00 p.m. it reconvened at the teaching laboratory for a viewing of the Shell Oil Company film, "The Early Americans." This was followed by about an hour discussion, questions, and answers directed to Byrd, Shenkel and Webb.

The next morning all traveled again to the site. Several special excavation units had been previously established for the Project. The group was divided into teams of four and placed under the direction of the UNO field school crew. This gave Shenkel the additional benefit of seeing how well his students could communicate what they had learned over the previous four weeks. It also let the Indian teenagers work with people closer to their own age.

Due to the nature of the site, most of the excavation consisted of trowelling and screening with little use of the shovel. By the end of the morning, everyone had moved some dirt, learned to recognize artifacts. Some significant discoveries were made including the first cross-hatched rim and the first sandstone bead recovered from the Big Oak Island site. Also, since southern Louisiana in July is not particularly known for its

balmy climate or pest-free environment, the youths were sufficiently sweaty, dirty, and "chigger-bit" to realize that the "romance of archaeology" is often overdone. Serious archaeology is hard work.

Just before noon the first group was returned to the dormitory to clean up and depart for home and the second group arrived. They participated in an identical program.

In all, 40 Indian teenagers participated in the Project. They included members of the United Houma Nation of Dulac, Harvey, and Golden Meadow, Louisiana; the Jena Band of Choctaw of Jena, Louisiana; the Coushatta Tribe of Elton, Louisiana; and the Chitimacha Tribe of Charenton, Louisiana. Two members of the Chickasaw Tribe of Oklahoma who currently live in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, also participated. One member tribe of the Inter-Tribal Council chose not to participate, the Tunica/Biloxi of Marksville. This was unfortunate, but understandable, given the situation with the "Tunica Treasure."

Was the Indian Youth Archaeology Project a success? In the short run, it definitely was. In the abundance of letters that followed the project between all of the participating agencies, thanking each other for their cooperation and assistance, a persistent theme is evident. Everyone involved--the lecturers, organizers, chaperons, UNO students, and most importantly, the Indian youths--had a good time. Mr. Sickey, the originator of the whole idea called the project "...an enormous success."

In the longer view, only time will tell. Perhaps this project has planted the seeds for future understanding and appreciation by the Indian community of archaeology. As the original goals stated, this program was conceived as an investment in the future.

Given the good feelings generated, all involved said that the project should be repeated, perhaps on a biennial basis. The only change in project format that has been suggested is increasing the time spent actually working in the field. The teenagers to whom the program was directed, were attentive during lectures and proved to be enthusiastic during excavations. The only complaints voiced were objections raised at having to leave the excavations to go home.

## Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Mr. Ernest Sickey, Chairman of both the Coushatta tribe and the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Inc., for having the idea that got the project underway. We would also like to express gratitude to New Orleans East, Tecon Realty Company, for their financial assistance to the

(continued on page 4)

THE LOUISIANA INDIAN YOUTH  
AND ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT  
(continued from page 3)

archaeology of Big Oak Island and to the Indian Youth Archaeology Project. We also wish to thank Dr. Malcolm C. Webb for his participation in the project. Our work throughout the project was aided by our staffs, Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana, Inc., Louisiana Division of Archaeology, and the archaeology students of the University of New Orleans. It was they who did most of the actual work. The success of the project is primarily due to their efforts. Finally, we note with appreciation the administrators of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and the University of New Orleans for their support of this project and willingness to do a little something extra, even in a year of budget cutbacks.

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WHAT TO DO ABOUT  
MAILING LIST PROBLEMS

SAA Executive Director, Jerry Miller, reports that some members are still experiencing difficulty in receiving journals, etc., mailed to their proper address. The SAA Executive Office now has the membership list up and running and they have debugged it as far as they can. Miller asks that members experiencing problems with receiving the *American Antiquity* or the *Bulletin* or any other membership problem contact his office so that they can be corrected. The Executive Officer's address is:

Society for American Archaeology  
1511 K Street, NW, Suite 716  
Washington, D.C. 20005

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COAL PMOA UPDATE

At least partially as a result of the Justice Department's advisory opinion on the legal issues surrounding the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations (*Bulletin*, page 1, column 2) the Office of Surface Mining (OSM), the Interior Department agency responsible for regulating surface mining for coal, has decided that the controversial "Coal PMOA" is a dead issue. OSM sources report that the PMOA will not be signed by the Secretary of the Interior. They note, however, that OSM currently plans to use

the PMOA as the basis for a "program document," an internal guideline to be used by OSM in reviewing proposed coal mining permits in areas where historic and archaeological properties may be affected by mining and mine-related activities.

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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As you are all aware, the September issue of the *Bulletin* was delivered quite late. The tardiness of that issue was due to numerous problems encountered at every step in the production process. This issue of the *Bulletin* is being produced in Washington by the SAA's Executive Office. The shift in production responsibilities should ensure that the difficulties encountered with the September issue will not be repeated. In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to all of the members of the SAA, and to those who contributed to the September issue, or relied upon it to circulate timely information.

Alan Downer  
Editor

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SALE ON BACK AMERICAN ANTIQUITY  
ISSUES ANNOUNCED

The SAA Executive Committee announced that back issues of *American Antiquity* published in 1978 or earlier (Volumes 43 and older), as available, will be offered at the sale price of \$5.00 per issue until June 30, 1984. Order blanks will be enclosed with the Annual Meeting Registration packet and will be available at the Annual Meeting.

On July 1, 1984, back issue prices will be raised to \$12.50 each for members and \$15.00 each for non-members.

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OF FOOTBALLS AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Editor's Column  
Alan S. Downer

Every fall, when college football season is upon us, I spend my fair share of time in front of my T.V. set taking in the gridiron classics. The NCAA intersperses

short video blurbs during dead spots. Most of these blurbs relate to the academic roles of our great universities. Normally, these are devoted to white lab-coated molecular nuclear chemists surrounded by banks of instruments and experimental apparatus and shots of plant and animal husbandry research. Sometimes they are reserved for simple nostalgic shorts featuring ivory covered halls, students walking across campus, or studying in classroom rooms. In addition, each of the colleges featured on the game gets 30-second spots to run video blurbs on their campus. These usually feature the same sort of footage

But one weekend I noticed a very striking thing. On the first game of the doubleheader there was a spot on the University of Tennessee. The entire piece was taken up by an archaeological project being run by the University of Tennessee Anthropology Department. The second game of the doubleheader featured the University of Texas vs. SMU. And SMU's spot at the half time was devoted entirely to an archaeological project run by the SMU anthropology department's Archaeological Research Program.

Now this seems to me to be particularly significant. It is not significant that millions of college football fans were exposed to archaeology one Saturday--they got a dose of perhaps 60 seconds in the midst of four to six hours of football, although who knows how far reaching an effect that 60 seconds might have had. (We can live in hope!) But what does strike me as important is the two major universities think that archaeology is interesting and that it is important enough that they are engaged in archaeological research to devote their entire P.R. allotment on a football game to archaeological projects. I don't mean to suggest that we've achieved parity with the ag schools or the more glamorous and esoteric sciences that are the favorites of the people who produce these little features.

But the presence of these archaeological short subjects does suggest that, even in times of cutbacks and pressure on anthropology departments on many a campus, archaeology fills a favored position. And I find that heartening. Administrations (well at least two administrations) see archaeology not only as something interesting but also as something that reflects very positively on their institutions.

I'm not so isolated from the academy as to think the Deans are going to admit this very often or so naive as to think that these little shorts are going to change anyone's mind. But it does show that we deal with a subject that is marketable. It will take hard

(continued on page 5)



work and a commitment to archaeology quite different from the research orientation we've been trained in. Nevertheless, it can be done--it has been done. The entire discipline can benefit. This is not just a matter of "pumping up" a program here and there, or improving archaeology's image with the public. In these hard times, it is a matter that cuts to the heart of the very survival of archaeology as it has evolved over the last fifteen years.

It is time to move beyond talking about communicating with the public. Some archaeologists have bothered, they've been pretty successful. We've got a marketable product--but as any salesman will tell you, nothing sells itself. The NCAA and the universities have told us that we have something of interest to the general public. But it is up to us, not the NCAA, to reach out to that public.

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#### BULLETIN BOARD

The University of California Research Expeditions Program is currently recruiting members for archaeological teams slated to document ancient Southwest Indian rock art and geoforms. Fieldwork will include mapping sites and recording the rock carvings and stone alignments through photography, tracings, and rubbings. No special academic or field experience is necessary for participation in the expedition which will take place in three 11-day sessions beginning December 28th. People interested in obtaining a free catalog describing this and other archaeological field expeditions for the coming year should contact the University Research Expeditions Program, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720 or call (415) 642-6586.

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#### M.I.T. SUMMER INSTITUTE

##### Materials in Ancient Societies: Ceramics

The Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology (CMRAE) announces its third annual Summer Institute course. This one-month intensive investigation of ancient ceramic technology and production will be held June 4-29, 1984, at M.I.T. It will be taught by Suzanne DeAtley, Assistant Professor of Archaeology, M.I.T., and Director of the CMRAE Summer Institute; and William Melson, Curator, Division of Petrology, Department of Mineral Sciences, Smithsonian Institution. The purpose of the course is to develop the analytical skills that enable students to reconstruct and interpret technological systems used by ancient and non-industrial societies in the production of ceramics. The course will be valuable to students of archaeology, anthropology, art history, conservation of cultural materials, and other related disciplines.

Morning lectures will discuss the stages of production common to most ceramic objects, focusing on the materials science aspects involved: e.g., mineralogical and chemical variability in raw materials; physical properties and microstructure of ceramics; firing transformations. In addition, technologies of ceramic production will be related to the socio-cultural settings in which the activities occurred. Afternoon laboratories will involve examination of prepared ceramic standards and excavated artifacts, with emphasis on low power and petrographic microscopy. Additional mineralogical and chemical techniques (e.g., x-ray diffraction, x-ray fluorescence, neutron activation, electron microprobe, scanning electron microscopy) will be covered as well.

The course is limited to 15 participants and is open to graduate students and faculty or post-doctoral staff. Credit must be arranged at the student's home institution. The cost is \$500.00 which covers registration and course materials. Lodging in the M.I.T. dorms can be arranged for an additional cost of approximately \$700.00. Financial assistance is available.

For further information and application forms, write to:

Professor Suzanne DeAtley  
Director, CMRAE Summer Institute  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Room 8-138  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

The deadline for receiving applications is February 15, 1984.

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The Register to the Papers of Neil Merton Judd, by James R. Glenn, and a Register to the Papers of Frank Harold Hanna Roberts, Jr., by Janette Saquet have been published by the National Anthropological Archives. Both sets of papers largely concern the fieldwork and research of Smithsonian archaeologists focusing on the American Southwest. Copies of the registers can be obtained without charge from the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.

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The Engineering and Groundwater Committee of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists is sponsoring a session including technical papers on the application of remote sensing and high-resolution ground geophysical methods in mapping and evaluating human cultural resources at the Fall 1984 S.E.G. Annual Meeting in Atlanta on "Archaeology and Geophysics." A 1,000-2,000 word extended abstract will be required by May 1, 1984, by those interested in participating.

Additional information is available from:

Dr. Jeffrey D. Wynn  
U.S. Geological Survey  
913 National Center  
Reston, Virginia 22092  
(703) 860-6564

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(continued on page 6)

The BULLETIN of the Society for American Archaeology is a bimonthly publication of the Society for American Archaeology. Alan S. Downer, Editor. The BULLETIN is distributed free to all U.S. members of the SAA and all U.S. institutional subscribers to AMERICAN ANTIQUITY. Correspondence relating to subscriptions, address changes, claims for lost issues should be addressed to the Society for American Archaeology, 1511 K Street, NW, Suite 716, Washington, D.C. 20005. Information for inclusion in the BULLETIN, articles for publication, letters to the editor should be sent to SAA BULLETIN, 6889 Quay Street, Arvada, Colorado 80003.

BULLETIN BOARD  
(continued from page 5)

1984 MIDWEST  
MESOAMERICA CONFERENCE

The 7th Annual Midwest Meso-america Conference will be held March 24 and 25, 1984, at Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois. This is a meeting with informal talks and presentations. We require no abstracts and participants are discouraged from reading formal written papers. The emphasis has traditionally been on archaeology, but other presentations focusing on Mesoamerica (art history, ethnology, etc.) are welcome.

For more information contact: Michael E. Smith, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Loyola University, 6525 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, Illinois 60626.

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INDEX VOLUME 1, 1983

AUTHOR INDEX

- Adams, R. E. W.  
1983 A Bulletin for the Society,  
1(1&2):1. 1983\*
- Adams, R. E. W. and George C. Frison  
1983 The Society and its  
Administration: New  
Directions. 1(1&2):1.\*
- Anon  
1983 Moss-Bennett Act (P.L.  
93-291). 1(1&2):5\*
- Anon  
1983 National Park Service  
Reorganized--Again!!  
1(3):5,6.
- Anon  
1983 Programmatic Memorandum of  
Agreement for the Federal  
Coal Management Program  
to be Discussed in Pitts-  
burgh. 1(1&2):10\*
- Anon  
1983 Transportation Considering  
Asking Changes in National  
Register Criteria.  
1(1&2):5\*
- Arundale, Wendy  
1983 Executive Committee  
Nominees Sought. 1(4):3&4.
- DeCieco, Gabriel  
1983 Scientific Evolutionism  
Symposium Scheduled.  
1(4):4.

- Downer, Alan S.  
1983 American Antiquity Soli-  
citing Manuscripts.  
1(1&2):8.\*
- Downer, Alan S.  
1983 Editor's Introduction.  
1(1&2):5\*
- Downer, Alan S.  
1983 Editor's Note (Response  
to Precourt). 1(3):8.
- Downer, Alan S.  
1983 Federal Coal Program-  
matic Memorandum of  
Agreement Update 1(3):7.
- Early, Ann M.  
1983 Information Package on  
Creationism Available.  
1(3):6.
- Editor<sup>+</sup>  
1983 Editorial Offices Moved.  
1(4):3.
- Editor  
1983 Election Results Announced.  
1(3):1.
- Executive Committee  
1983 TENNECO Helps Underwrite  
the Bulletin. 1(3):1.
- Fowler, Don D.  
1983 Platform Statement:  
Candidate for President-  
Elect. 1(1&2):2.\*
- Frison, George  
1983 Executive Committee Slates  
Dues Increase. 1(4):4.
- Green, Dee F. and Don D. Fowler  
1983 Change in SAA Management  
Announced. 1(4):1&2.
- Judge, W. James  
1983 Platform Statement:  
Candidate for President-  
Elect. 1(1&2):3.\*
- Precourt, Prudence S.  
1983 Letter to the Editor.  
1(3):7&8.
- Spesser, Philip  
1983 Cultural Property Imple-  
mentation Act Passes.  
1(1&2):3.\*
- Spesser, Philip  
1983 Suggestions for Telephoning  
a Member of Congress.  
1(1&2):10.\*
- Spesser, Philip  
1983 Suggestions for Visiting  
a Member of Congress.  
1(1&2):10.\*
- Spesser, Philip  
1983 Suggestions for Writing  
a Member of Congress.  
1(1&2):9.\*

- Spesser, Philip  
1983 Washington Report - M  
1(1&2):8.\*
- Spesser, Philip  
1983 Washington Report - M  
1(3):3-5.
- Spesser, Philip  
1983 Washington Report - S  
1(4):3.
- Speth, John  
1983 Distinguished Service  
Award Nominees Solici-  
1(4):4.
- Wendorf, Fred  
1983 New Efforts to Preser-  
Historic Shipwrecks.  
1(3):6.
- Wildesen, Leslie E.  
1983 A Capital Perspective  
1(3):1-3.
- Williams, J. Raymond  
1983 SOPA Annual Meeting N  
1(4):2&3.
- Woodbury, Nathalie  
1983 Death Notices. 1(4):
- Woodbury, Nathalie and Richard  
B. Woodbury  
1983 Archival Material Sou-  
1(4):5.
- \*Due to the nature of layout  
volume 1, nos. 1 and 2, page  
numbers denote only the place  
where an article begins.
- <sup>+</sup>Articles attributed to the E  
were merely compiled by the E  
rather than authored by him.
- TITLE INDEX
- A Bulletin for the Society by  
R. E. W. Adams. 1(1&2):1,  
1983.
- A Capital Perspective by Lesli  
Wildesen. 1(3):1-3, 1983.
- American Antiquity Soliciting  
Manuscripts by Alan S. Downe  
1(1&2):8, 1983.\*
- Archival Material Sought by  
Nathalie and Richard B. Wood  
1(4):5, 1983.
- Change in SAA Management Annou-  
by Dee F. Green and Don D. F  
1(4):1&2, 1983.
- Cultural Property Implementati-  
Act Passes by Philip Spesser  
1(1&2):8, 1983.\*

(continued on page 7)

INDEX VOLUME 1, 1983

TITLE INDEX

(continued from page 6)

Death Notices by Nathalie Woodbury.  
1(4):5, 1983.

Distinguished Service Award  
Nominees Solicited by John Speth.  
1(4):4, 1983.

Editor's Introduction by Alan S.  
Downer. 1(1&2):5, 1983.

Editor's Note (Response to  
Precourt) by Alan S. Downer.  
1(3):8, 1983.

Editorial Offices Moved. ED.  
1(4):3, 1983.

Executive Committee Nominees  
Sought by Wendy Arundale.  
1(4):3&4, 1983.

Executive Committee Slates Dues  
Increase by George Frison.  
1(4):4, 1983.

Election Results Announced. ED.  
1(3):1, 1983.

Federal Coal Programmatic  
Memorandum of Agreement Update.  
1(3):7, 1983.

Information Package on Creationism  
Available by Ann M. Early.  
1(3):6, 1983.

Letter to the Editor by Prudence  
S. Precourt. 1(3):7&8, 1983.

Moss-Bennett Act (P.L. 93-291).  
Anon. 1(1&2):5, 1983.\*

National Park Service Reorganized-  
Again! Anon. 1(3):5&6, 1983.

New Efforts to Preserve Historic  
Shipwrecks by Fred Wendorf.  
1(3):6, 1983.

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\* \* \* \* \*

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

VACANCY NOTICE

The ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION will soon begin  
recruiting to fill the position  
of Chief, Western Division of  
Project Review, located in Denver,  
Colorado. The position will be  
filled at a GS 11/12 level. For  
further information contact:

Dr. Thomas King, Director  
Office of Cultural Resource  
Protection  
Advisory Council on Historic  
Preservation  
The Old Post Office Building  
1100 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Suite #809  
Washington, D.C. 20004