

Advances in Archaeological Practice

From the Editor

Christopher D. Dore, Editor

It is a rare occasion when the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) presents Volume 1, Number 1 of a journal. It has happened only three times in the past: in 1935 with *American Antiquity*, in 1990 with *Latin American Antiquity*, and in 2002 with *E-tiquity* (no longer published). Starting a new journal in this time of uncertainty for academic publishing was not taken lightly by SAA. The journal was conceptualized by the SAA Board in January of 2010 at a special strategic planning meeting. The Board acknowledged that SAA wasn't providing sufficient value to members who are applied archaeologists, SAA had not been successful in recruiting the many applied archaeologists who were not members, and SAA did not have a publication for archaeologists who want to publish short, methodologically oriented articles. The Board believed that a new peer-reviewed journal focusing on the practice of archaeology would help to resolve these issues and better meet the needs of archaeologists in academia, government, and private practice in a dynamic and changing discipline.

Since 2010, SAA has made a significant effort in planning and preparing for this first issue: the concept was refined through many iterations of Board debate, a series of financial models was created, a prototype issue was produced, a marketing study was commissioned, a search for an editor was conducted, an excellent Editorial Board was established, Editorial Manager and Metapress were configured, an editorial office was founded, and a call for manuscripts was made.

After more than three years of preparation, SAA is pleased to present the archaeological community with Volume 1, Number 1 of *Advances in Archaeological Practice: A Journal of the Society for American Archaeology*. I am honored to have been selected as the inaugural editor and for opportunity to serve the society, our members, the profession, and you, my colleagues, by helping to produce a journal that advances our science and helps in your day-to-day work as practicing archaeologists.

Archaeology is a young discipline when compared to other sciences. Even so, since the founding of SAA, it has taken 75 years of research about the past to move our discipline to the point where there is a need for a research journal focused on advances in archaeological practice. In times dominated by high

technology, electronic gadgets, and digital everything, it is easy to view archaeological practice through the lens of technology. Archaeological practice, though, is much more than technology. It has roots in the beginnings of archaeology as a scholarly pursuit and beyond even that to the philosophical underpinnings of science. How do we learn about the past? How do we practice archaeology?

This new journal will embrace the full range of topics about archaeological practice: from philosophy to technology. Topics may include, but are certainly not limited to, innovations in approach, technique, method, technology, business models, collaboration, compliance, process, ethics, public engagement, stewardship, and training. The journal will become the premier publication for scholarly work on how we learn about the past, convey our findings in the present, and manage resources for the future. Yes, there are other journals through which, for example, specialists in archaeological methods can present highly technical research to other specialists. There are few venues, however, where research on applying these techniques to advance general archaeological understanding can be published. This information is needed by practicing archaeologists in all employment sectors, and this is the forum provided by *Advances in Archaeological Practice*.

Not only does this new journal fill a gap in knowledge, it attempts to establish a new model for the publication of archaeological research articles. The journal is a full-color publication, has an interesting and easy-to-read magazine layout, and requires numerous illustrations. It will strive for the extremely fast review and publication of manuscripts to aid authors with intellectual property protection and those publishing in areas where innovations change rapidly. The journal is exclusively distributed electronically, which will allow rapid global dissemination, reduce publication costs for SAA, and allow a wider range of digital material to be included in articles.

This first issue of the journal showcases the format and presents a diverse set of excellent papers. Each of these papers presents an advancement in archaeological practice. There is an article on overcoming a challenge in the management of archaeological museum collections. There are two very different articles

that advance lithic analysis. There is an article that presents a mathematical solution to a problem in field survey design. There is an article that presents a significant advancement in the way Section 106 compliance has been implemented. Each of these articles is important, and they are all written and illustrated in ways that make them comprehensible to all practicing archaeologists (and students), regardless of their employment sector, cultural area, or area of specialty.

I extend an invitation to you to get involved with this new journal as an author or reviewer. Both the content and format allow the publication of new topics in new, exciting ways. I challenge you to think of ways to take advantage of these emphases to present your innovative research in creative ways. In preparing this issue and reading your submitted manuscripts, I already have learned

a lot about your highly interesting research on archaeological practice. During my three-year term as editor, I will be happy to discuss with you any ideas you may have for articles. In addition, I welcome your thoughts on any matter related to the journal and its operations.

Note for Archivists and Indexers: *Advances in Archaeological Practice: A Journal of the Society for American Archaeology* will be published as an annual volume with four numbered issues. Due to the mid-year start of the journal in 2013, the first issue (August) is Volume 1, Number 1, and the second issue (November) will be Volume 1, Number 2. Regular numbering will begin with Volume 2, Number 1 in 2014, and Volume 2 will have four issues.