

Annual Report of the Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness to the American Anthropological Association - 1999

1999 witnessed many changes in SAC, in terms of both personnel and visibility.

At the Chicago meetings of the AAA, John Baker assumed the presidency of SAC, succeeding Mira Zussman. Four new (some returning) members of the Executive Board also began their terms. During the summer, Walter Randolph Adams, citing personal reasons, resigned as Secretary-Treasurer. Jeff MacDonald agreed to serve as Interim Secretary-Treasurer until the next election.

The current officers of SAC (and their edresses) are:

President:	John Baker (momoy@juno.com)
Past-President:	Mira Zussman (miraz@sirius.com)
Secretary-Treasurer:	Jeff MacDonald (jeffmacdonald@juno.com)
Executive Committee Members-at-Large:	Dan Moonhawk Alford (Dalford@haywire.csuhayward.edu) Tina Rae Fields (tfields8@yahoo.com) Geri-Ann Galanti (ggalanti@mediaone.com) Shirish Jain (jain@qal.berkeley.edu) Larry G. Peters (lpshaman@aol.com) Janet LeValley (drjanet@levalley.net) Michael J. Winkelman (Michael.Winkelman@asu.edu)

The Nineteenth Annual Spring Meeting of SAC was held at The Faculty Club of the University of California at Berkeley from March 24-28, 1999. Some sixty papers, organized in sixteen sessions, were presented during the conference. The spring conference is designed so that there are no parallel sessions, enabling exchanges between scholars and practitioners from a wide variety of perspectives. The keynote address on "The Varieties of Dissociative Experience" was given by Stanley Krippner. Over 100 persons attended all or parts of the conference, making this one of the most successful spring meetings to date.

At the AAA meetings, SAC sponsored three sessions: "Blood, Power, and the Sacred"; "UFOs and Religion"; and "Healers, Homelessness, and the Versatility of Self". These sessions were organized by Stephen Glazier, and were very well attended.

One of SAC's ongoing concerns is our financial status. As a small organization, we must frequently find novel ways to ensure continued operations, especially the production of our journal, *Anthropology of Consciousness*. One way has been the sale of t-shirts and carry bags during the spring meeting. This year's motif was Medusa, whose face was featured prominently on the items for sale. The illustration was so compelling and so popular that it was adopted as SAC's logo at the business meeting at Chicago.

Financial considerations also led to the Executive Board's decision to raise our dues. Discussion on this topic was shaped by the recent increases in dues for the AAA, as some

members of the Board feared that some of our members might be squeezed out of renewing their membership. We will see whether this fear proves groundless.

Our long-standing goal of having a reliable and attractive web presence was achieved in 1999. Although we had previously had a web site, it was hosted by a university whose policies did not allow our Webmaster to readily access and update files. Our new site host is Moorpark College, where our web master (John Baker), is employed. This arrangement led to the (re)birth of our site (www.sacaaa.org) in October. Among other features, this site includes the abstracts of articles published in the *Anthropology of Consciousness* during its ten-year history. An updated version of the site is already in the works and will be published in the near future.

The Twentieth Annual Spring Meeting of SAC will be held in Tucson, Arizona from April 5-8, 2000. This year's theme is "The Anthropology of Consciousness: A 20 Year Retrospective". The meeting will be held immediately prior to the Science of Consciousness IV Meetings, sponsored by the Consciousness Center of the University of Arizona. In this way, we hope to attract interest for SAC and to facilitate the incorporation of anthropological perspectives into the study of consciousness.

The members of SAC are enthusiastic about the immediate future of our organization and its place within the AAA. Our spring meetings continue to attract new members, and the presentations are of a very high caliber. Our sessions at the AAA meetings are very well attended, often with people sitting on the floor or listening from outside the doors. Our journal has been warmly praised in recent years, and the quality of its papers and the scope of its topics continue to grow. The only cloud on this rosy horizon is our financial status, and the officers and members of SAC are taking active steps to alleviate these concerns.

Respectfully submitted (a little bit late) by

John Baker
President
Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness