

2000 Annual Report of the Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness to the American Anthropological Association

In 2000, the Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness (SAC) made significant strides towards strengthening our financial status and increasing our visibility to the outside world.

The Twentieth Annual Spring Meeting of SAC was held in Tucson, Arizona from April 5-9, 2000. Over fifty papers, organized in ten sessions, were presented during the conference. The keynote address, on "Possible Perceptual Consciousness in Grey Parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*)", was given by Irene Pepperberg (MIT). Although SAC makes an effort to present topics from all of the four fields of anthropology, topics with a cultural focus tend to dominate. To our delight, this marks the first time that a keynote address at a Spring conference has had animal consciousness as its focus.

The Spring meetings were held immediately prior to the "Science of Consciousness IV" conference, which is held in Tucson on a biannual basis and is sponsored by the Consciousness Center of the University of Arizona. This arrangement allowed several members of SAC to attend the Science of Consciousness meeting, and also help attract non-anthropologists to the SAC meeting. Several new memberships in SAC resulted.

SAC's financial status improved significantly during 2000. Income from the Spring meeting exceeded our expectations, with the result that SAC's fund balance has been restored to a viable level. The production and printing costs of our journal, *Anthropology of Consciousness*, continue to demand the lion's share of our funds, and several strategies are being pursued to address this situation. Most important was our decision to publish two double issues this year (instead of four single issues), thereby saving on production costs. The issue of journal costs was also brought up at the Spring AAA Section Assembly in Arlington, VA. There, it was determined that other sections (particularly the smaller ones) have similar concerns. The AAA has indicated a willingness to address these issues, and it is hoped that an upcoming meeting of the editors of section journals in early 2001 will result in improvements in this regard.

At the 2000 AAA meeting in San Francisco, SAC sponsored four sessions: "The Anthropology of Conversion", "Knowing, Truth, and Religious Conversion", "Faces of Marginalization and Violence: Drug Use, Gang Activity in Brazil, Haiti, and the United States", and "Burning Man and Public Consciousness". These sessions were organized by SAC President-Elect Stephen Glazier, and were well attended. As at past AAA meetings, SAC members continued to raise questions about the manners in which rooms are assigned for the Annual meeting. Many sessions are held in cavernous rooms and attract few attendees, while others are assigned to rooms that are so small that attendees must attempt to follow the proceedings from the hallways (this is often the case with SAC-sponsored sections). These problems appear to confront all AAA sections, and need to be addressed by the AAA leadership.

SAC and several of its members were honored by being invited to present papers at the conference "Wanderers Between the Worlds: Shamanism in the New Millennium". Held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany from October 24-29, 2000, the conference brought together some two dozen shamans and oracles from different traditions and also featured several academic presentations. Six representatives of SAC discussed their research and ideas on Wednesday, October 25 in front of a largely lay audience of over 1200 persons. The papers, which have already appeared in print (*curare* Vol. 22(2), 1999 – the year of the edition is correct), were well received, and SAC was able to generate considerable publicity as a result. SAC's presence was the result of the fact that our President is also the North American representative of the German Society for Ethnomedicine, one of the co-sponsors of the conference. Other international cooperative projects are under consideration.

The SAC web site (www.sacaaa.org) was revamped slightly in 2000, and our Webmaster has fielded a steady stream of email queries about the organization. The site includes the abstracts of articles published in the *Anthropology of Consciousness* as well as a growing list of links to other sites devoted to consciousness studies. In the near future, a new "Papers on Consciousness" section will be added to the site.

The Twenty-First Annual Spring Meeting of SAC will be held at Bastyr University (near Seattle) from April 5-8, 2001. This year's theme is "Breath, Sound, Trance". This meeting will be held in a retreat type of setting, allowing for more intimate exchanges among the attendees than was possible at the Tucson meetings.

To date, no site has been designated for the 2002 SAC Spring meeting.

In 2001, SAC will continue to make efforts to secure our membership base and to find new ways to fund our activities. These will likely include a more highly visible web presence.

The leadership of SAC hopes that the AAA will make good on its commitments to develop a more unified Internet presence for all of its sections and to pursue changes which will ease the financial burdens of journal publishing on its individual sections.

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

President:	John Baker (johnbaker@vcccd.net)
President-Elect:	Stephen D. Glazier (Sglaz1234@aol.com)
Secretary-Treasurer:	Jeff MacDonald (jeffmacdonald@juno.com)
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	Michael J. Winkelman (Michael.Winkelman@asu.edu)
	vacant (due to election of Jeff MacDonald to Sec.-Treas.)

Respectfully submitted on January 16, 2000 by

John R. Baker
President
Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness