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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

This second issue of *RPA Notes* (Volume 2 Number 1, Summer 2001) begins with an article by Chuck Niquette (Cultural Resources Analysts, Inc.), who is the Register's representative to the European Association of Archaeologists, on European archaeopolitics. He focuses upon the question of whether the European Union considers archaeology to be a cultural/education concern or a commercial enterprise practiced by professionals.

In the first (Volume 1 Number 1, Fall 2000) issue of *RPA Notes*, Bill Lipe introduced the Register's field school certification program. In this issue, Mike Adler (Southern Methodist University) reviews this year's progress on the field school certification program. Toward this end, the RPA sponsored panel discussions on field school certification at this year's annual meetings of the AIA, SHA, SAA, and the Society for California Archaeology.

The willingness of archaeologists to abide by agreed upon ethics and rules of conduct in day to day practice is the most significant measure of professionalism. Not surprisingly, perhaps the most important purpose of any professional organization such as the Register is to provide a mechanism for self-policing. Past Grievance Coordinator Elton Prewitt's (Prewitt and Associates) article reviews the grievance procedures established and followed by the RPA for filing a complaint of unprofessional conduct.

This issue of *RPA Notes* also includes many other items of interest. As always, editor Linder-Linsley encourages RPAs to send commentary as well as articles on professionalism in archaeology to her.

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**CULTURAL EXCEPTIONS AND COMMERCIAL ARCHAEOLOGY:
ARCHAEO POLITICS IN EUROPE**

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Introduction

I recently returned from the Sixth Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists in Lisbon. The enormity of the European Union's impact on the archaeological community is nearly overwhelming in its complexity. On one hand, there is the issue of heritage management in urban and rural planning contexts as expressed by the Malta Convention. On the other, there are the expressed rights and privileges for professionals to practice their vocations throughout the nation states of the European Union (EU). Sitting squarely in the middle is a question that has yet to be answered with any sort of uniformity. Is archaeology a cultural/educational concern or is it a commercial enterprise practiced by professionals? The EU has only very limited powers in the field of education and culture, and the "cultural exception" in EU law may prevent international professional practice regulations from being applied in archaeology. This article explores the apparent inconsistency, the diversity that exists in European archaeology, and provides some suggestions for resolving the conflict before the courts are forced to consider the question, perhaps to the detriment of the resource and the archaeological profession.

The European Union

Participating countries in the European Union are on the verge of a huge change that has far reaching ramifications for nearly all aspects of life. As of January 1, 2001, state restrictions that inhibit free exchange of goods and services and the ability of individuals to move from one country to the next will vanish. Article 8a of the Treaty on European Union (Maastricht 1992) states "every citizen of the Union shall have the right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States, subject to the limitations and conditions laid down in this Treaty and by the measures adopted to give it effect" (see <http://www.ph.kcl.ac.uk/local/maas/contents.html>). In other words, citizens from EU countries must be considered with the same status as Nationals. This could imply that an archaeologist in France will be free to practice his/her trade in Ireland, Norway, or England, and vice versa.

Despite this new found freedom, the "cultural exception" in EU law may prevent it from being applied in archaeology. Article 128 of the Treaty on the European Union states:

1. The Community shall contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore.
2. Action by the Community shall be aimed at encouraging cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, supporting

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and supplementing their action in the following areas:

- improvement of the knowledge and dissemination of the culture and history of the European peoples
 - conservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage of European significance
 - non-commercial cultural exchanges
 - artistic and literary creation, including in the audiovisual sector
3. The Community and the Member States shall foster cooperation with third countries and the competent international organizations in the sphere of culture, in particular the Council of Europe
 4. The Community shall take cultural aspects into account in its action under other provisions of this Treaty
 5. In order to contribute to the achievement of the objectives referred to in this Article, the Council:
 - acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 189b and after consulting the Committee of the Regions, shall adopt incentive measures, excluding any harmonization of the laws and regulations of the Member States. The Council shall act unanimously throughout the procedure referred to in Article 189b;11
 - acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission, shall adopt recommendations.

This language reflects the EU's tacit support for cultural matters, including archaeology, but its very ambiguity — and other relevant portions of the Treaty — leaves considerable room for interpretation. As a result, its influence on archaeology may be quite limited.

The Treaty on the European Union only serves to support a Member State's actions. It excludes regulations and directives that would provide a common, expressly European, approach to the management of monuments and heritage resources, especially if the context for these lies in the realm of culture or education. Pan-European heritage management programs are possible under the Treaty, but are a very difficult and complicated proposition to achieve. Such programs must be approved, with unanimous consent, by representatives of the entire Council. For the EU, education and culture (including archaeological research programs) are areas specifically excluded from binding European Council legislation and regulation. These difficulties notwithstanding, European Council Directives (85/337/EEC and 97/11/EEC) require an environmental impact assessment on certain types of projects. The latter directive specifically includes archaeology as part of this process.

The Malta Convention

The Malta Convention, more formally known as the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised), was drafted in Valletta in

January of 1992. The document formalized the goal of protecting the common heritage shared by the European community. Despite the fact that the Malta Convention has yet to be ratified by Italy, Greece, the Netherlands, Germany, Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Russia, Slovakia, San Marino, Spain, Macedonia, and Ukraine, it clearly defines heritage preservation in the context of urban and rural planning. The heart and soul of the document emphasizes agreement among the signatory nation that “European archaeological heritage...is seriously threatened with deterioration because of the increasing number of major planning schemes, natural risks, clandestine or unscientific excavations and insufficient public awareness.” The Malta Convention seeks to meet these threats by instituting appropriate administrative and scientific supervision procedures in town and country planning and cultural development policies. It recognizes that “responsibility for the protection of the archaeological heritage should rest not only with the State directly concerned but with all European countries.”

The major tenet of the Malta Convention is to preserve and protect the archaeological heritage of Europe. This includes “...all remains and objects and any other traces of mankind from past epochs ...the archaeological heritage shall include structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, moveable objects, monuments of other kinds as well as their context, whether situated on land or under water.” In order to meet this objective, the Convention signatories have agreed to create on a state-by-state basis, where no such framework exists, “...a legal system for the protection of the archaeological heritage.” The system(s) are to include an inventory of sites, creation of archaeological reserves, appropriate storage facilities, and “... the mandatory reporting to the competent authorities by a finder of the chance discovery of elements of the archaeological heritage and making them available for examination.”

The Malta Convention requires that signatory countries take steps “...to preserve the archaeological heritage and guarantee the scientific significance of archaeological research work.” The document suggests that this might be accomplished by establishing procedures “...for the authorization and supervision of excavation and other archaeological activities.” Significantly, Article 3 (ii) requires that archaeological excavation be carried out “by qualified, specially authorized persons.” While the document does not define what is meant by these words,

the Malta Convention does encourage the exchange of specialists in the preservation of the archaeological heritage, including those responsible for further training. (For more information see <<http://www.tufts.edu/departments/fletcher/multi/texts/valletta.txt>>). In the spirit of inter- and intra-national cooperation and promotion of public awareness, the Malta Convention includes language encouraging exchange of information between specialists, raising public awareness through education and outreach, and an emphasis on “...the value of the archaeological heritage for understanding the past and of the threats to this heritage.” It specifically directs member states to prevent illicit excavation and to “...ensure that archaeological excavations and prospecting are undertaken in a scientific manner.” Member states agree “...to restrict, as far as possible, by education, information, vigilance and cooperation, the transfer of elements of the archaeological heritage obtained from uncontrolled finds or illicit excavations or unlawfully from official excavations.”

Article 5 of the Convention is intended to “...ensure that environmental impact assessments and the resulting decisions involve full consideration of archaeological sites and their settings.” It speaks directly to an integrated conservation of the archaeological heritage. This means that the signatories will seek to “...reconcile and combine the respective requirements of archaeology and development plans by ensuring that archaeologists participate.” The document suggests that such participation will lead to an “...allocation of sufficient time and resources for an appropriate scientific study to be made of the site and for its findings to be published.”

The Malta Convention adheres to the “polluter pays” principle. In other words, those who are responsible for an undertaking that has the potential to damage or destroy significant resources are also responsible for the cost of identification, evaluation and, where appropriate, mitigation of project impacts — including “...the full publication and recording of the findings.” To facilitate the study of, and dissemination of knowledge about, archaeological discoveries, signatories to the Malta Convention agreed to maintain state site inventories and to publish a scientific summary report of each excavation.

The professional archaeological community is aware of the potential conflicts that exist between EU law, the Malta Convention, and national statutes, and is attempting to deal with them. While the Malta Convention does not state anything that is expressly

contradictory for engaging in private archaeological enterprise, this is up to the interpretation by national law and EU law. Potential conflicts mainly occur between national laws and EU law and between national laws and the Malta Convention. It is generally recognized that cooperation and communication between the various national archaeological communities is critical. To this end, the European Association of Archaeologists was created about six years ago. In addition to providing a forum for increased exchange of archaeological data and information pertaining to archaeological matters, this body is attempting to establish standards for conducting European archaeology.

Discussion

While the basic approach of the Malta Convention is familiar to most Americans, it is a huge step forward and rather innovative for the European archaeological community. Here in the United States we deal with a single set of national laws and regulations. Even with such uniformity, there is a wide variety of interpretation and implementation of these statutes (and regulations) from state to state and between federal agencies. In contrast, European custom, law and regulation changes from country to country. There is little agreement at almost every level.

To facilitate the reader's understanding of Europe's diverse approach to our discipline, consider the extremes between French archaeology and the way it is practiced in the United Kingdom (also see Niquette 1999). French archaeologists went out on strike in 1998. The strike took place because the government determined that French archaeology would be subject to free market economy. The archaeological community opposed this move because they felt this would lead to commercially driven archaeology that was not research. The government's decision was subsequently reversed. As a result, currently all compliance-related archaeology in France is completed by a state monopoly, Association pour les Fouilles Archéologiques Nationales (AFAN). French archaeologists assume that this will guarantee the research quality. In addition, they believe the so-called "cultural exception" in EU-law allows them to take this action. This may or may not be true; it has yet to be tested in the courts.

In the United Kingdom (UK), there are no criteria for determining who are, and who are not, qualified archaeologists. There, County Archaeologists (or those with similar titles)

review permit applications for proposed construction projects and advise locally elected "planning committees" as to whether archaeology might be required in advance. If the planning committee agrees with a positive recommendation, the County Archaeologist prepares a "brief" (scope of work) to be used by the developer in securing the assistance of an archaeologist. Contract archaeologists in the UK respond to briefs with a "tender" (proposal and cost estimate). Such contract archaeology is relatively new in the UK having only become widespread since 1990. At that time, the government issued clear guidance for England and Wales that archaeology "is a material consideration in the planning process" (Department of the Environment, Planning Policy Guidance 16: "Archaeology and Planning"). This message was reinforced subsequently in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Private businesses whose entrepreneurial area of expertise lies squarely on the study of the past exist in Portugal, Ireland, the UK, the Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe. In these countries, local, national, and international laws and regulations include archaeology as part of the more general environmental impact assessment process. There can be little argument that the entities engaged in this historic preservation work are businesses providing services, but are they performed by professionals?

How does one distinguish professional from non-professional services? There are four commonly used criteria used in other professions:

- a) the activity requires either a state or national license;
- b) the level of education required for the activity be at least a Graduate Degree;
- c) there are well established and recognized standards of performance that are enforced by the licensing agency or a disciplinary body under the authority of the licensing agency; and,
- d) there are well-established continuing education requirements to continue holding the license.

While most of the firms engaged in providing historic preservation services within an environmental impact or planning context would perceive themselves as professionals, the fact of the matter is that they would not meet all four of the criteria outlined above (also see Niquette 2000). Moreover, there is as yet no case law promulgated by the European Council that would serve to illuminate the answer to a basic question: is

archaeology a cultural activity subject to EU exclusions or is it a business that provides services?

Conclusions

In most European countries, the majority of archaeologists do not occupy academic positions. Instead, they are working in some form of government-sponsored heritage management. This being the case, European archaeologists, particularly those engaged in commercial archaeology in an environmental planning context, would be well advised to act quickly and decisively to define themselves as professionals.

The most convenient way to do this would be to create organizations (institutes?) on a state-by-state basis, or perhaps on a pan-European scale, to define, control and regulate the behavior of its members. To do this effectively, it is especially desirable that there be created a national (or international?) licensing board and a licensing requirement necessary for professionals to provide historic preservation services — perhaps one modeled after the Austrian example.

While minimum levels of required education and experience may be established by employers or by the Member State governments, there currently is no widely accepted tradition of a licensing body to enforce standards of performance. The organization which most closely hits this target is the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) (<http://www.archaeologists.net/>). It is the largest organization of its kind in Europe, has a code of ethics and a grievance procedure, and “registers” both individuals and institutions. This group appears to be taking the lead for setting standards in European archaeology. Despite this, voluntary organizations like the IFA are of little assistance in their current make up but could be modified for this purpose. Employers may require that employees become registered, but the archaeological community cannot claim to be professionals in the same sense as architects, lawyers and doctors until the state government requires a person to become registered in order to perform historic preservation services.

True professional organizations do not exist in a vacuum. It is critical to the archaeological profession that clearly stated Codes and Ethics and Standards for Research Performance be developed or adopted where such guidelines do not exist. Excellent examples of both do exist within the IFA as well as with its USA counterpart, the Register of Professional Archaeologists (<http://www.rpanet.org>). To be effective, national or international

archaeological associations must establish the conditions under which one might gain admittance, provide for the continuing education of qualified members, promote advocacy for the resource and the profession, and represent the profession in public policy matters. Above all of this, the archaeological community must work together to gain recognition by the state as a valid profession and seek a meaningful licensing procedure for practitioners who work in the public sector. True professionals, no matter what discipline might be considered, have the following in common: they are trained, they have demonstrated competence, they follow a code of ethics, and they continue to learn. The next step for archaeology is to codify these through official procedures.

The future of European archaeology depends upon close cooperation and communication between archaeologists in each of the EU's member states. As the general importance of archaeology is recognized in environmental and heritage management contexts, it is critical that archaeology is clearly defined as a professional concern and that archaeologists be held accountable for their actions. We must create processes for quality control at all steps in identification, evaluation and data recovery procedures, for ensuring that analyses of materials recovered are completed, and to ensure that the information is disseminated to colleagues and to the public. The archaeological community is best suited to regulate its own members. We cannot hope to influence public policy unless we are willing to band together for our common good, for the benefit of present and future generations, and for the resources we seek to study and preserve.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Willem Willems, Pete Hinton, Andrew Bradbury, Tom Wheaton, and Gerhard Ermischer for their comments and constructive criticism. Each contributed valuable perspectives that served to strengthen not only the paper but my understanding of archaeopolitics in Europe. I alone am responsible for any errors of omission or commission.

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CERTIFYING YOUR ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL

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Each of us remembers our first field school experience. If your introduction to field archaeology was anything like my own, your field school was a supervised excavation populated by eager students, most of whom joined you in having no idea what they'd gotten into. You were away from home, in a new place, and you knew you were going to get the opportunity to explore past cultures.

This is how most of our students continue to be introduced to archaeology and I believe it is an appropriate and essential experience. No matter how long you've been in archaeology, you will remember coming face to face with the archaeological record for the first time. I also believe, however, that as a profession we can enhance these early archaeological experiences for our students. Today's field school needs to represent today's archaeology, instilling knowledge of new cultural properties regulations, international antiquities laws, increasing the inclusion of descendant aboriginal populations in our research, and applying the many recent technological advances in the realms of remote sensing, preservation, and computerization of many field tasks.

As part of its mission to enhance archaeological professional standards, the Register of Professional Archaeology (The Register) has recently initiated a program to certify archaeological field schools. A similar program was established by the Society of Professional Archeologists (SOPA) not long before the transition to the Register took place, and the same procedures have been carried forward from those of SOPA. The overall goals of the Register's program are to establish basic standards for archaeological field schools, and to recognize academic field schools that meet these standards by awarding them RPA field school certification.

RPA President Don Hardesty has appointed a Committee on Field School Certification. The goals of the committee are to review applications from programs seeking certification, assess the existing standards for field schools, and make recommendations for modifications to the field school certification standards. Members of the Committee include Michael Adler, Chair (Southern Methodist University), William Lipe (Washington State

University), Elizabeth Pena (SUNY-Buffalo), and John Doershuk (Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa). Even though the Register's Field School Certification program is just beginning to be publicized, several applications have been received, reviewed and certified since early April 2000.

Goals of The Field School Certification Program

The field school certification program has set several goals. First, the certification program will create a context for disseminating information on the current professional standards for archaeological field schools. Even if field school directors decide to forego certification, and we hope you don't, the program will acquaint directors with SAA and the Register's field school standards. Second, certification will, we hope, encourage improvements in existing field school programs. The Register is not interested in reducing the number of field schools in existence, but instead seeks to foster improvements and innovations. Field schools remain the single most common context for the professional training of our next generation of archaeologists and we need to treat this training seriously. Third, students and prospective employers will benefit from the certification program because the process will establish a listing of those field programs that meet established professional standards. There are already several sources that advertise field schools, including the AIA Fieldwork Opportunities Bulletin and the Fieldwork Opportunities web site (<http://www.cincpac.com/afos-cgi-bin/show-opps.pl>). These and other field school information sources have agreed to signify those programs with the field school certification in their books and web sites, and the Register will also list certified programs in its literature and web site. Finally, certification will include peer-review of research designs and field methodologies, increasing the exchange of information and suggestions regarding field school research and methods within the archaeological community.

Is My Field School Certifiable? An Informal Survey of the Modern Field School

Overwhelmingly, the answer would be "yes." Over the

past few months I gathered a range of information on archaeological field schools to better understand the variability in the offerings that are available to students. The primary objective was to (roughly) measure modern field schools against the Register's standards to see, in fact, how many current field schools that offer university credits are potentially certifiable. The data collection methods were not a study in methodological rigor. Data were collected from a sample of fifty uncertified field school programs from field school flyers, past AIA publications, and web pages dedicated to individual field school programs. Information was collected on field school location, duration, research focus, field experiences, costs, and ratios of students to supervisors. The 50 field schools were relegated primarily to North America, Mexico, and Central America, with only 7 Old World field schools. Even so, the Old World field schools did not differ appreciably in scope or intentions from their New World counterparts.

The current standards cover five areas: 1) personnel, 2) operational procedures, 3) field procedures, 4) sponsorship, and 5) purpose. The full text of the standards and application form can be found at http://rpanet.org/members/field_school_application.pdf and is also available from the Register. There is insufficient room to discuss all of the standards here, but let me begin with field school personnel. My primary question here was "do field school supervisory personnel meet the minimal requirements for being RPA's?" This is important because applicants to the field school certification program must be an RPA or in the process of gaining RPA registration. Within this sample only three programs mention personnel with RPA status. For the remaining 47 programs nearly all of the supervisors listed would have, or already did have, the professional credentials required for RPA certification. For example, 44 programs listed Primary Investigators, all but two of whom had a doctorate in anthropology or archaeology.

In the area of "Operational Procedure" which covers instructional contexts, introductory lectures, and other vehicles for field education, I estimate that 75-85% of the field schools easily meet or exceed basic RPA criteria. This percentage would be higher if more program details were available. Under the rubrics of "Field Procedures" and "Structures" the Register recommends that students be instructed in a wide range of field operations, including all aspects of excavation, note-taking, laboratory analysis, mapping, and use of appropriate technologies. It also outlines the basic facilities that should be available to field school students to enhance living and working conditions.

Again, the descriptions of the field schools indicate that at 70-80% of the field schools meet these standards if we take the field school advertisements and literature at face value.

The criteria for Institutional Sponsor suggests that field schools be sponsored by credit-granting institutions, and only one of the fifty field schools surveyed did not meet this criterion. The single exception was field school run by a non-profit educational organization, but the same program was supervised by personnel with teaching positions at universities in England and Canada. In other words, 100% of the programs reviewed meet the sponsor standards set by the Register. There are many non-university archaeology field schools, but in most cases these are field research offerings that are not set up as credit-granting field programs. The realm of non-credit archaeological education needs to be addressed in our ongoing review of certification criteria since there are very good institutional field schools that are not sponsored by university programs.

Before addressing "Purpose," a few words about the duration of field school programs. The Register does not presently have a minimum duration criterion for field schools, but certification committee members feel that it is an important consideration for future revisions of the standards. One question I ask you to consider, then, would be whether to require a minimum duration of planned field and laboratory work for certified field schools. Within this sample the average duration of field schools was 5.5 weeks (standard deviation: 1.6 weeks), one week being five days of field or laboratory work. If we used a six-week minimum, 45% of surveyed field schools would not qualify. Dropping the minimum to five weeks would exclude 36% from certification.

One option that is presently being considered would be to recognize more than one level of field school certification. In other words, certification would not be an either/or proposition, but a graduated scale. As an example, shorter field schools running three weeks or less could apply for a level 1 certification, while programs offering the equivalent of four to five weeks might apply for a level 2 certification, and so on. We would appreciate feedback on this and other criteria.

Now onto the topic of PURPOSE, the realm in which I think we have the most room for improvement in current field schools. Assuming there is a relatively strong correlation between what is described in the course

— (continued on page 11)

NEWS FROM THE REGISTER OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS

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The grievance process is the part of the Register that allows a variety of potential problems to be resolved. As my predecessors in SOPA consistently reported, the biggest job of the Grievance Coordinator is to be a good listener and dispute mediator. Fully, 90% of all potential grievances are resolved by listening to the aggrieved person and letting them tell their story to someone who is impartial and has no stake in the outcome of whatever conflict they may perceive. By the time they have finished telling their story, they have talked themselves out of the problems and there is nothing more for the Grievance Coordinator to pursue.

There are also inquiries about individuals who are not Registered. In many instances, the preliminary information provided indicates there may be a real problem involved, but the Register cannot assume responsibility for non-Registered archaeologists. Inquiries of this type have ranged from two disputing professors to Native Americans unhappy with treatment of sites by contract archaeologists. The Register politely declines to mediate any disputes that do not involve its participants.

There are a few instances where a real problem exists and individuals have violated one or more provisions of the Register's Code of Conduct and/or Standards of Research Performance. These are investigated in detail as specified in the Disciplinary Procedures. These are the ones that take time and care to resolve satisfactorily. They also involve the inclusion of individuals other than the Grievance Coordinator in the process.

It is important to remember that confidentiality is a major concern. The Register goes to great lengths to protect its participants who are wrongfully accused so that reputations are not unjustly sullied. At the same time, it is difficult to conduct an investigation without disclosing some of the basic facts. However, Grievance Coordinators do their best to ensure that their materials are gathered in confidence to avoid unfairly damaging someone's good reputation.

Who can bring a grievance against an RPA? Anyone. There is no requirement that the aggrieved person or entity must be Registered. The only requirement is that the person against whom the grievance is filed must be an RPA, or was an RPA

at the time the incident that caused the grievance occurred.

How does one file a grievance? Usually, the first step is a telephone call to the Grievance Coordinator. After listening to the story, and agreeing that an investigation may be warranted, the aggrieved person is asked to submit the details of the complaint in writing with supporting documents (if available). Sources of additional information are also requested, and the Grievance Coordinator seeks out relevant details to support or refute the allegations. In some instances, the investigation ends at this stage because it is found that the additional information does not support the complaint.

Should the complaint appear valid to the Grievance Coordinator, a committee of two persons is appointed to assist in the investigation. The committee reviews the material in hand, and develops new information as needed to produce a report on the incident. The committee may recommend one of three things: dismissal of the charges, admonishment or censure, or filing a formal complaint with the Standards Board. If admonishment or censure is recommended and the accused individual refuses to accept that punishment, then a formal complaint must be filed with the Standards Board.

Should a formal complaint become necessary, the Grievance Coordinator presents the committee's findings and recommendations to the Standards Board in a hearing with the accused present. Legal counsel for the accused and the Register may be present as well. The Standards Board determines whether or not to sustain the complaint. If sustained, then it is the responsibility of the Grievance Coordinator to ensure that notice of the punishment is posted in an appropriate public place as determined by the Register Board.

How does one contact the Grievance Coordinator? By telephone at 480-785-8279, email at vcanouts@gilariver.com, or by U.S. mail Veletta Canouts, 1100 North Priest Drive #1160, Suite 200, Chandler, AZ 85226. Please recall that, a new Grievance Coordinator began her 2-year term on 1 January 2001 and the contact information presented here is for 2001-2002. Check the RPA web site for additional contact information.

This article first appeared in the SAA Bulletin, November 2000, Volume 18, Number 5, page 16 and is reprinted here with permission.

**EDITORIAL POLICY: THE REGISTER OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS
(APPROVED BY THE RPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS — APRIL 2001)**

Perspective

The Register of Professional Archaeologists (The Register) should take full advantage of both *RPA Notes* and the newsletters of the sponsoring societies as outlets for communication among registered professional archaeologists (RPAs), and between The Register board and all archaeologists (registered and unregistered). Furthermore, both outlets, but especially the society newsletters, should serve as vehicles for conveying and exemplifying the goals of the Register to all archaeologists. Overlap in content of articles published in *RPA Notes* and the society newsletters is expected, but articles in society newsletters typically will be more general and broader in scope than those in *RPA Notes*, and some articles in *RPA Notes* may concern topics of interest only to RPAs.

RPA Notes

General

RPA Notes should concentrate on information that is of interest specifically to RPAs and articles too detailed or too long for society newsletters. Each sponsoring society newsletter has a different maximum length or amount of space that can be allocated to The Register. *RPA Notes* is the vehicle by which full content will be made available to all archaeologists.

Topics Covered

1. Notices to registered archaeologists concerning topics specific to The Register such as dues and elections.
2. Minutes of board meetings, perhaps abbreviated to some extent from the official minutes.
3. Details of committee activities.
4. Details of Grievance Coordinator activities and concluded cases.
5. Expanded versions of articles concerning archaeological ethics and professional conduct when details would be of particular interest to RPAs.
6. Notices of Register-sponsored events, particularly those at upcoming professional meetings.

Topics Not Covered

1. No paid advertising.
2. No field school announcements but an article on a registered field school may be published if it concerns a covered topic above.
3. No employment announcements but an article about an RPA's work may be published if it concerns a covered topic above.

Distribution and Frequency

RPA Notes will be published one or more times per year as deemed appropriate by The Register Board for communication with RPAs. *RPA Notes* will be distributed in Adobe PDF format via an on-line web site that can be accessed through The Register's main home page. Notification of new editions of *RPA Notes* will be announced to RPAs by e-mail to those who are on the RPANEWS electronic discussion list. Guidelines for the RPANEWS electronic discussion list were published in *RPA Notes* Volume 1 Number 1.

Editorship

The managing editor of *RPA Notes* shall be appointed by The Register's president.

Sponsoring Society Newsletters

General

Contributions to society newsletters should concern general issues of ethics and professionalism and should provide summary information about The Register's activities. The Register should make an effort to submit material for every issue of the sponsoring societies newsletters. The amount of material submitted would depend to some extent on space available. When articles in a society newsletters and *RPA Notes* have overlapping content, the society newsletter article may refer to the expanded coverage in *RPA Notes*.

Topics Covered

1. Promotion of registration.
2. Articles concerning archaeological ethics and professional conduct.

3. Summaries of board and committee activities, with an emphasis on topics concerning The Register's articulation with the respective societies.
4. Summaries of Grievance Coordinator's concluded cases, with an emphasis on the issues confronted.
5. Notices of Register-sponsored events at upcoming professional meetings.
6. Notice of expanded information available on-line in *RPA Notes*.

Editorship

The Directors appointed by the sponsoring societies shall serve as editors of the contributions to their respective societies' newsletters. They may partly or wholly delegate editorial responsibilities, but they remain responsible for ensuring that contributions regularly are submitted.

— (continued from page 8)

literature and syllabi and the actual fieldwork, nearly every field school surveyed would meet Register standards for field education. The simple explanation for this is that our field schools are meeting our stated methodological standards, but bear in mind that those standards were adopted over 25 years ago. As I remarked above, our discipline could benefit from revisions to our educational standards. My own bias is that our archaeological field schools need more emphasis on research design, ethics, publication, and the process of scientific inquiry. These are topics that will be considered as our committee reviews standards over this next year of certification.

Concluding Comments

Based on this informal survey, at least three of every four field schools meet and exceed the current SAA and Register standards for field schools. This is encouraging, but we do have room for improving the field education opportunities available to tomorrow's professional archaeologists. Over the next several months the committee will be soliciting information on the certification standards, application procedures, and related topics. The Register sponsored a round table on the topic of certification at the SAA meetings in New Orleans on Friday morning, April 20, 2001. We encourage everyone to apply for certification, and to submit their ideas, criticism, and encouragement to field school certification committee members.

This article first appeared in the SAA Archaeological Record, March 2001, Volume 1, Number 2, pages 15-16. It has been edited for consistency with Register standards and is reprinted here with permission.

RPA Display & Recruitment Information

Available for Regional
Meetings and Events

For Information Contact:

Robert Clouse, Recruitment Committee Chair

Minnesota Historical Society

Ft. Snelling History Center

St. Paul, MN 55111

612-970-2843; fax 612-725-2429

[<robert.clouse@mnhs.org>](mailto:robert.clouse@mnhs.org)

ACTIVITY REPORT FROM THE RPA BUSINESS OFFICE

The following information was generated April 16, 2001 prior to the RPA Board meeting in New Orleans. There were 1255 Registered Professional Archaeologists. This total includes 59 new individuals with a loss of 108 from non-renewals (these are still coming in). Three new applications came in on April 16 — many more were recieved during the meetings but are not accounted for here. Two new RPAs were waiting for their certificates. The business office was also waiting for registration fees from four applicants and for the long application form from another four individuals. Two field school applications were being reviewed.

In 1999, the Register gained 470 new RPAs and in 2000, the Register gained 224 new RPAs. Sponsoring societies are represented as follows: 130 RPAs are also AIA members, 457 RPAs are also SHA members, and 867 RPAs are also SAA members.

The opportunity to fill out the short application form at the SAA meetings and recieve a discount on the application fee was well recieved. These new members will be reflected in the next Register report.

We encourage all RPAs to remind new graduates that the Register application fee is waived for the first six months after their degree is awarded (i.e., application is **FREE**).

RPA WEB SITE TRAFFIC REPORT 2000-2001

<<http://www.rpanet.org>>

Sue E. Linder-Linsley, RPA
Communications Committee, Member
Department of Anthropology
Southern Methodist University

Access to tools by which we can communicate and obtain current information is important to the growth of our profession and to all Registered Professional Archaeologists. During the past year the Register has facilitated information exchange through the rpanews list server, the publication and distribution of the first issue of *RPA Notes* <<http://www.rpanet.org/members/rpanotes1-01.pdf>>, the rpa discussion list (which actually has had very few messages distributed) <http://www.rpanet.org/members/rpa_electronic_communication_overview.pdf> and though the RPA web site <<http://www.rpanet.org/>>. There are 1254 RPAs on the "rpanews" list serve and 83 on the "rpa" discussion list serve.

The RPA web site is the primary source of information about the Register. The web site is frequently updated with new information. We encourage every archaeologist to bookmark the site in their web browser. During the time period from April 2000 through April 2001 the RPA web site had 494,990 successful hits (pages viewed) taking place during 28906 visitor sessions. Figure 1 shows that the web site received about 35,000 hits a month for most of the year with a dip in December which can be attributed to the Christmas holidays. However, since January of this year traffic on the web site has steadily increased. This may be due to the fact that the Society for American Archaeology meetings are in April. If so, the increase is due to individuals looking for information on the Register or individual RPA's and will show a decline back to the 35,000 hit level in the months to come. In the more optimistic view the trend is due to an increased awareness in the Register. A continued increase could indicate that the Register is starting to have an established position as "the professional" organization

for archaeologists and we anticipate higher traffic levels each month.

During the time period April 2000 through April 2001 the average number of visitor sessions per day and the number of visitors who visited the site more than once stayed relatively constant and only showed a small increase in March and April 2001. Throughout the entire period the average session length for visitors remains constant at about 3 minutes. The only real differences are in the number of unique visitors and the daily average number of hits (pages viewed) the web site receives. There was an increase in the total number of unique visitors and the number of pages individuals were viewing during the months of January, February, March and April, 2001. See Figure 2 for a graphic representation of various web trends for the past year.

Most visitors came directly to the RPA web site. But of those who were referred (came from a link on another web site) the top referring site was the SAA web site, followed by the old SOPA web site, several search engines (yahoo, google, msn) and then the SHA web site.

The home page was by far the most viewed page and many visitors did not look at anything else. The Online directory and Code of Conduct and Standards of Research were the most frequently used pages followed by the Registration Forms. The Members Only page was one of the least requested pages and may indicate that most visitors were not RPA's or that RPA's mainly visit the site for the Online Directory. You can learn more about the RPA Server Statistics by visiting <<http://www.rpanet.org/activity/>> and viewing the webtrend traffic analysis.

R P A N O T E S

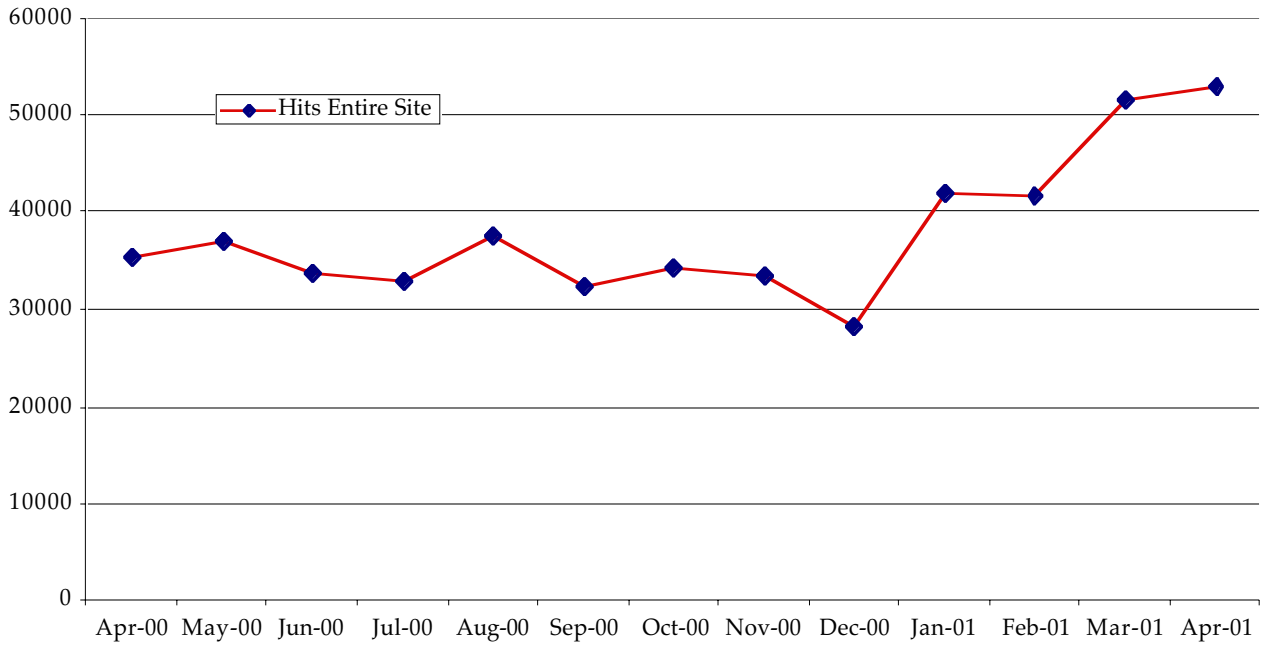


Figure 1. Total Monthly RPA Web Site Activity, 2000-2001

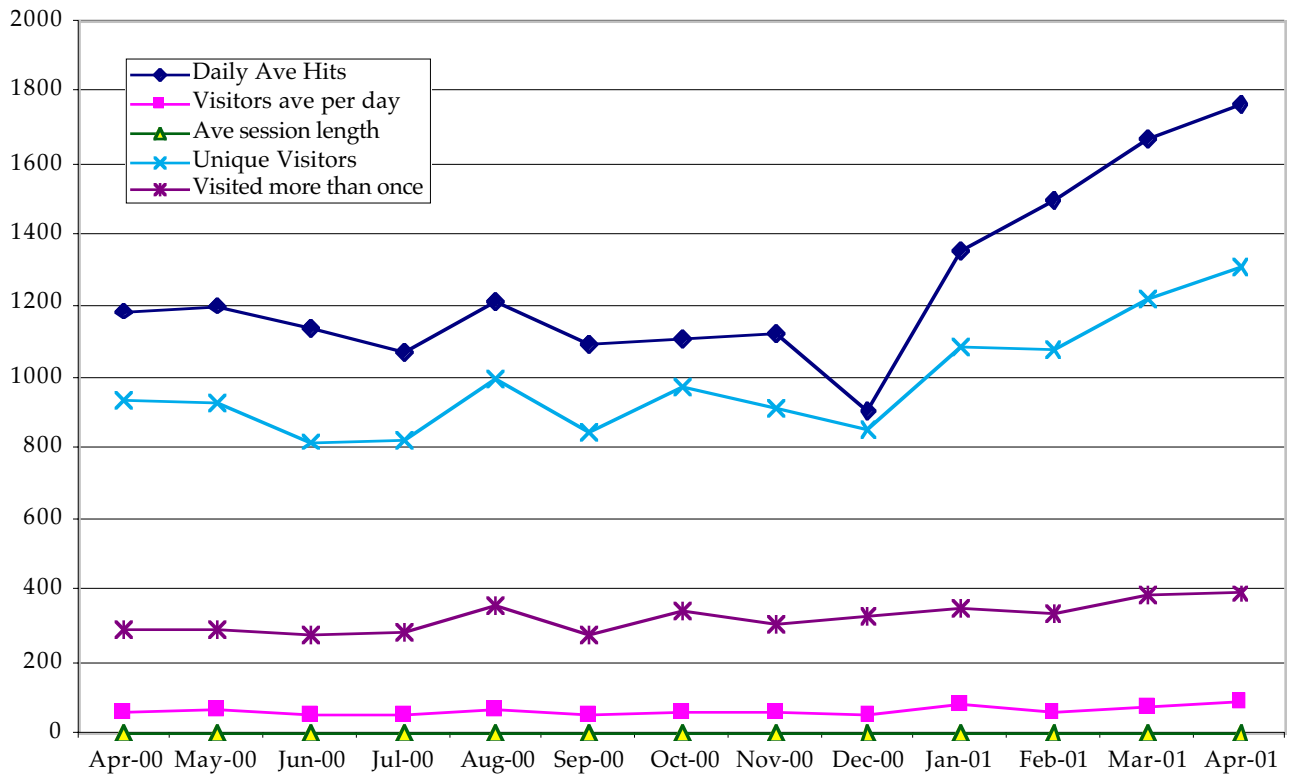


Figure 2. Various RPA Web Site Trends, 2000-2001



NOTES

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RPA NOTES©

is a publication of the Register of Professional Archaeologists. Our fundamental goal is to advance professionalism in archaeology by the establishment and acceptance of universal standards.

The purpose of RPA Notes is to provide members with the latest information on the organization's activities.

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Note: Please send any address or email changes to the RPA business office, to the address listed at the right.

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