

EDITORIAL

The New Face of American Antiquity

This first issue of *American Antiquity* for 1995 presents a new look for the journal, as you no doubt remarked when it arrived. Presentation of the new cover design and the modified interior pages coincides with a long period of change within the Society for American Archaeology, beginning with our administrative separation from the American Anthropological Association in the early 1980s and ending with the recent establishment of an independent executive office in Washington, D.C. The position of managing editor is now placed within this office, and with publication of volume 60, we welcome Janet Walker as publications manager for SAA and managing editor for both *American Antiquity* and *Latin American Antiquity*. I look forward to working with Janet throughout the remainder of my tenure as editor of *American Antiquity*.

American Antiquity has undergone a number of design changes over the past 30 years. With the modifications implemented in this volume year, we hope to stabilize its appearance for some time to come. For most subscribers, the alterations on the cover will be the most immediately noticeable departure from past issues. We use new colors and include the SAA logo, corresponding to those employed in the executive office and by the officers of the society. We have also changed the typeface employed in the title and section heads.

The cover art we have used in this issue departs from previous illustrations: it is no longer derived from one of the papers published in the issue. Rather, we have chosen to develop artwork for the cover that represents some aspect of archaeological material from the New World. For this issue the cover art is of painted design styles found on White Mountain Redware ceramic bowls from the American Southwest. These styles were originally defined and illustrated by Carlson (1970). Currently, plans call for the cover of each quarterly issue of *American Antiquity* to showcase a different archaeological illustration in order to reach several objectives, and we may repeat the same cover for each quarter in subsequent years.

In the development and selection of this issue's cover art, those objectives have been achieved. First, we wanted an attractive and eye-catching cover, which would, at the same time, indicate something of the nature of our discipline. Here, the painted design styles not only highlight the artistic skills of ancient southwestern potters, but also are the basis for archaeological research in the area. Second, ceramic design styles reflect both analytical and theoretical dimensions of Americanist archaeology and are tied to substantive interpretations of prehistory. Symbolically, ceramic style, like archaeology itself, reflects the production of a commodity, the interactions between individuals, and the exchange of information. Finally, analyses of style have a long history in the discipline of archaeology and were among the first topics taken up by Americanist archaeologists in the Southwest and elsewhere in the New World.

Although the exterior of *American Antiquity* may have been transformed, inside this issue you will continue to find a series of papers on topics of archaeological interest. As

always, we have selected papers that contribute to the mission of the journal, advance our understanding of Americanist archaeology, and contribute generally to the development of method and theory. We have, however, altered the appearance of the papers in order to make them easier to read and to follow. Double columns and a larger typeface and better use of space should improve the readability of the journal. The use of double columns also gives us somewhat more flexibility in setting tables and illustrations.

A few additional changes will occur throughout the year in the journal. With the approval of the SAA Executive Board, fewer obituaries will be published in *American Antiquity*. The decision was reached, in part, because it was recognized that obituaries were consuming more and more space intended for works devoted to the scholarly purpose of the journal. Instead, shorter obituaries will be published in the *SAA Bulletin* and the careers of selected individuals will be profiled in the journal. In addition, this will be the last issue in which the society's business meeting will be published. In the future, the report of the business meeting and listing of award recipients (*American Antiquity* 59:597–605) will be detailed in the *SAA Bulletin*, where topics of this nature can be reported in a more timely manner.

As I enter the final half of my tenure as editor, I would like to express my thanks to the society members for the opportunity to guide *American Antiquity* during this rapid period of change.

Michael W. Graves
Editor

Reference Cited

- Carlson, R. L.
1970 White Mountain Redware: A Pottery Tradition of East-Central Arizona and Western New Mexico. *Anthropological Papers*, 19. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.