

## EDITORIAL

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all SHA members, past and present, for allowing me, for many years, to be their editor. Especially, I want to acknowledge how honored and appreciative I am to have received the Ruppé Distinguished Service award this past January at the annual meeting of the society in Atlanta. It was really special as it is an award given for something done for others not personal accomplishments. We all have considerable control over attaining personal goals, but a service award is given for what somebody has done for other than one's self. I'm thrilled that I've been able to give a part of me to historical archaeology that has been appreciated by many.

I concluded early in my professional career that I wasn't likely to make a substantial impact on the field through my research or writing. It didn't depress me when I arrived at this conclusion because few people ever make a deep mark on their profession. Then quite by accident I got involved in archaeological editing of state and regional publications and found that I enjoyed it and was reasonably good at it. Perhaps it was my German heritage, but I found that I could bring order from chaos and impose structure on the process which made editing relatively simple.

In 1978 when then SHA president Kathleen Gilmore and past president Jim Ayres, who was chairing the SHA editor search committee, invited me to become the SHA editor I was pleased but truly surprised. I was as much an outsider to SHA affairs as it was possible to be, only slightly knowing a single board member. I accepted the challenge and have never regretted doing so. I brought no magic with me, and what I've accomplished I couldn't have done without the help of a core of associate and department editors (Ron Carlisle, Donna Seifert,

Rick Sprague, Jim Ayres, Don Hardesty, Kathleen Gilmore, Dan Roberts, Bill Turnbaugh, Sarah Turnbaugh, Glenn Farris, Bonnie McEwan, Judy Tordoff, Vergil Noble, and Julie King), an encouraging and understanding staff at the long time SHA printing company, Braun-Brumfield, Inc., numerous authors who wanted their research published in the journal, and a mighty understanding and supportive family. It hasn't always been easy, and I'm certain that more than once most of you have had some choice thoughts for me when a new manuscript arrived, or I leaned on you to get me an edited paper when you truly had other pressing commitments, or when I asked you to do something which you thought was absurd, or when I called you early in the morning when you were asleep, or when your spouse or family was waiting to do something or go somewhere and I wouldn't let you conclude a telephone conversation. Thank you all! Together we've made it work.

Is this the end? I've been asked that question frequently in the short time since receiving the Ruppé award. Happily, in all instances I've been queried by a person with a worried or concerned look. No, I hope it isn't the end. I've attained many goals but have a few left to reach, including finally being able to publish some substantial theoretical papers in the journal. As long as the northern lights shine, there are new heights to reach, and the editing remains fun and a challenge I'm willing to do my best. When the SHA publication program becomes static, I'm done. We've gone from an annual publication, to a twice yearly journal, to a quarterly, and established some occasional publications, now it's time to again be creative.

Again, thank you all for allowing me to be your editor.

RONN MICHAEL  
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