

Introduction

The Society's editor-in-chief Ronn Michael thought of putting together this underwater issue of *Historical Archaeology*. In the fall of 1989 he asked Arnold to guest edit what eventually developed into the present volume. Michael and Arnold had been discussing for some time what was perceived as a problem for the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) and the journal. Underwater archaeologists have an organizational home in the SHA, but few underwater archaeology articles were appearing in the journal. It was agreed, however, that this was not just a problem of reticence by underwater archaeologists. Land-based colleagues display the same symptoms. It was decided that one way to overcome this situation was a special issue of *Historical Archaeology* consisting of underwater articles.

A single theme for the collection of articles did not seem appropriate or achievable. Instead, Arnold thought of adopting a modified "advances" concept exemplified in the Academic Press series entitled *Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory*. A general invitation was sent to underwater archaeologists by letter and by word of mouth soliciting contributions. Some of the papers included herein were selected from the best of those presented at the SHA Conference on Historical and

Underwater Archaeology held in Richmond in 1991. Others have been written especially for this volume. Topics include major shipwreck investigations; cultural resource management; high technology applications; and ethical problems, conflicts, and tragedies relative to treasure hunting. Perhaps the most interesting and important contribution is the set of articles on replication and experimental archaeology, offered subsequently.

There was an extensive review process among the authors. Each author received a complete set of all the papers and was invited to comment on each manuscript. Each author was also assigned three papers to which he or she was to pay particular attention giving them an in-depth critique. In this way, each author received three thorough reviews of his or her draft paper. A bonus was a good number of germane comments by several other casual reviewers. The papers were then revised and submitted as a group for the publication review process. Ronn Michael selected Don Hardesty, associate editor, to shepherd the papers through the SHA's standard process of anonymous reviews. This two-stage review resulted in the product presented here.

It is very pleasing to have helped bring this project to fruition, and the volume editor greatly appreciates the assistance and participation of all those involved.

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