

Submitted By:

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- Helen Robbins (Member) - hrobbins@fieldmuseum.org
- Howard Morphy (Past President) - Howard.Morphy@anu.edu.au

Membership:

Provide the most recent membership numbers.

Number of Members: 296

List any factors you think may be increasing or decreasing your Section membership.

Our membership has decreased a bit in the last two years. This appears to be due, in part, to AAA's re-organizing of membership lists to eliminate duplicates and more efficiently remove members whose memberships lapse. AAA might want to consider adjusting the timing of annual dues payment to cover what appears to be a gap in renewals during the summer, and an increase in renewals during the months preceding the annual meeting. CMA seeks to encourage more student participation in the section, through reduced membership rates and the inclusion of a new student position on the CMA Board. We implemented lost-cost dues for student memberships in 2014, but have not yet realized significant increases in student participation.

Finances:

Provide the most recent financial balances for Section budgets (and publication sponsored budgets).

Financial Balance: 42,295.41

Publication Sponsored budgets.

budget for the publication of Museum Anthropology, \$10,700.

CMA finances have been generally stable over the last several years, with modest increases in our net assets each year. This has been due to favorable returns from publication royalties, and mindful expenditures. The creation of two quasi-endowments in 2014 allows us to provide annual awards with less concern about their impact on our annual budgets.

List any factors you think are affecting your Section's finances.

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Sessions:

List the titles of your Section's AAA meeting invited sessions, co-sponsored sessions, and any special events your Section sponsored or in which it participated.

Session Type: Special Events

Session: Business Meeting

Session Type: Special Events

Session: Board Meeting

Session Type: Special Events

Session: Reception, Denver Art Museum

Session Type: Invited

Session: CONTEMPORARY ART AND ANTHROPOLOGY MUSEUMS: AMPLIFIED PERCEPTIONS AND DE-NATURALIZED FRAMES

Session Type: Invited

Session: RECKONING WITH THE PAST: MATERIAL CULTURE, TEMPORAL BOUNDARIES, AND POLITICAL BELONGING

Session Type: Volunteered

Session: Museum as Field Site

Session Type: Volunteered

Session: HOW THE STRANGE BECOMES FAMILIAR AT NATIVE TRIBAL MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL CENTERS

Session Type: Volunteered

Session: WHY MUSEUM ANTHROPOLOGY MATTERS: MUSEUMS AND CONTEMPORARY THEORY IN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Session Type: Volunteered

Session: AFTERLIVES: INTERVENTIONS IN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS AND ETHNOGRAPHIC CONTEXTS

Awards

List awards presented this year on behalf of your Section.

Award: 2015 CMA Michael M. Ames Award Winner

Date: 11/20/2015

Recipient: Ethnographic Terminalia Fiona McDonald, Kate Henne

Affiliation: Ethnographic Terminalia

Project/Paper/Accomplishment: From nominator, Nicola Levell: "Michael Ames was unwavering in his commitment to 'de-school' the museum, to revolutionize ways of knowing and learning within and beyond the walls of the museum. His progressive stance was inspired by the radical pedagogy pioneered by Paulo Friere and Ivan Illich. For Ames, radical pedagogy, with its accent on learning rather than teaching, could be constructively and creatively extended beyond the formal educational institutions of society to the museum

and especially the museum as a key forum for public anthropology. From this perspective, the museum as a field of practices, rather than a bounded disciplinary institution, is re-imagined as central to the broader social processes of democratizing and decolonizing epistemologies and methodologies and of challenging the hegemonic or historical orders and disciplinary bounded-ness of institutional forms. I strongly believe that Ethnographic Terminalia is exemplary of Ames' idea of de-schooling the museum, destabilizing authoritative structures and creating a relational web of proactive and self-motivated individuals who, in this case, are pushing at the institutional and disciplinary boundaries of museums, art and anthropology. Over the past seven years, the Ethnographic Terminalia collective has consistently innovated and created a series of overlapping relational, digital and real exhibition spaces wherein "learning webs", implicating anthropologists, artists, curators, makers, publics, technologies, objects and others, have unfolded and offered radical new or alternative ways of thinking through things and representing different forms of knowledge and praxis."

Award: Council for Museum Anthropology Lifetime Achievement

Date: 11/20/2015

Recipient: Ruth Phillips

Affiliation: Carleton University, Canada Research Chair in Modern Culture and Prof

Project/Paper/Accomplishment: From nominators Laura Peers and Alan Corbiere: Ruth Phillips "has made extraordinary contributions to key literatures within museum anthropology, and has made even more important contributions through her vision and leadership in creating two web-accessible databases and their associated research networks, GRASAC and the MoA's Reciprocal Research Network, bringing key developments in digital and community collaboration together and taking the museum anthropology profession in new directions." Her exhibitions include Patterns of Power: Early Great Lakes Indian Art and the Jasper Grant Collections; The Spirit Sings; Across Borders: Beadwork in Iroquois Life. Publications include: Museum Pieces: Toward the Indigenization of Canadian Museums; Trading Identities: The Souvenir in Native North American Art from the Northeast, 1700-1900; Sensible Objects: Colonialism, Museums and Material Culture, and Unpacking Culture: Arts and Commodities in Colonial and Postcolonial worlds. She has been a member of the Task Force Report on Museums and First Peoples; Director of the Museum of Anthropology; active with the Otsego Institute, the Hearst, Peabody Harvard, Native American Art Studies Association. She was elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 2007.

Award: 2015 CMA Student Travel Award

Date: 11/20/2015

Recipient: Adrian Van Allen

Affiliation: University of California, Berkeley

Project/Paper/Accomplishment: Object Lessons: Dioramas, Genomes, and Shifting Concepts of Authenticity at the Smithsonian

Meetings

Did your section request a meeting registration waiver or community engagement grant?

No

If granted, who/what was it/they used for?

Incomplete

List spring meeting activities

Incomplete

Mentorship:

Mentorship efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to any of the following (e.g., special activities, funding, awards, guidance/advising on professional matters, etc.)

Undergraduate and/or graduate students.

CMA plays a significant role in linking the museum anthropology community together, nationally and internationally, by offering multiple opportunities for young scholars to connect with mentors and institutions. We have maintained close links with the Smithsonian Institute for Museum Anthropology, a National Science Foundation sponsored summer program for graduate students interested in researching museum collections.

The internship programs that these and other museums offer are a particularly good way of engaging young scholars in the discipline and opening up career possibilities.

We have a wide range of membership on the board, from young scholars to long-time museum professionals, and we actively encourage the participation of early career scholars in our programs. We actively encourage student members and have agreed to have an elected student board member. Each year, we offer two competitive CMA Student Travel Awards for graduate students to attend the annual meeting. We also offer a reduction in the CMA student membership fee.

For the annual meetings, we encourage our members to develop sessions that cover important topics for the museum profession in general. Sessions are regularly organized to include students who have undertaken the Smithsonian SIMA program for research students in museum anthropology. In planning our annual receptions, we make sure that we link in with the local museum community and, wherever possible, have a local museum co-sponsor the event.

Museum anthropology also attracts independent scholars who follow up personal interests through becoming involved in museums as volunteers which often allows them to pursue their scholarly interests.

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Early career scholars.

We have a relatively young board and actively encourage the participation of early career scholars in our programs.

Independent scholars.

Museum anthropology attracts independent scholars who follow up personal interests through becoming involved in museums as volunteers which often allows them to pursue their scholarly interests. This may be an area in which CMA could become more engaged.

Outreach:

Additional outreach efforts (at or beyond the AAA meetings) to other sections, interest groups, and scholarly societies, government agencies, public education/community engagement, and underrepresented minorities.

Museums are an important portal for community engagement and are effective in communicating anthropological knowledge broadly defined to various audiences and interest groups. We work closely with the Smithsonian and university museums in developing programs (including mentoring) and in many ways CMA provides a fulcrum for museum anthropology on a global basis, which means that it links in with the wider museum community. CMA has significant minority representation on its board and through its membership, but equally importantly engages with minorities through its programs. Our Journal fulfils a major role internationally. There are no equivalents.

Communications:

Status and use of Section internal communications such as a website, list serve, or newsletter (if applicable): Please list internal communication tools you use and what they are used for.

In 2014 and continuing in 2015, CMA formed a Communications Committee to improve communication with CMA members and outreach to students and the general public. The goals of CMA communication efforts are:

- 1) provide information about matters involving CMA and AAA business and news
- 2) draw attention to CMA-related opportunities, deadlines, and updates to the CMA website
- 3) acknowledge and promote members' news, achievements, events, press appearances, columns, etc.
- 4) draw attention to current issues and scholarly-professional resources and opportunities related to museum anthropology, heritage, cultural property, and related fields
- 5) promote articles in the Museum Anthropology journal
- 6) add a social dimension to communications

For private CMA membership communications, CMA makes use of the AAA-maintained membership listserv.

These sporadic announcements (called "email blasts") concern crucial CMA business (e.g., elections, voting procedures, changes to the by-laws, etc.).

CMA continues to submit periodic columns to the print and on-line versions of *Anthropology News*, but these have decreased in number. *Anthropology News* does offer web-based columns, but these have a short window of visibility on-line, and are difficult to find once they have been archived and the original link has been de-activated. Hence, CMA now communicates primarily through open-access on-line media. CMA has dramatically expanded its use of social media, using venues open to members and the general public.

CMA Website

The CMA Website includes updated addresses for CMA board members and officers. Pages have been added to highlight Annual Meeting Reports (full pdf files are available), a selection of photos from Museum Receptions, Awards, and By-Laws. The site was designed by former CMA Board member Daniel C. Swan, and has been maintained most recently by outgoing CMA Secretary Margaret Bruchac.

Incoming CMA Secretary Diana Marsh will be the new administrator of the site. New pages will be added this year, including a page that lists all past CMA award winners, with links to their award-winning projects (where available). Another new page will provide links to educational resources for museum anthropology (e.g., field schools, seminars). In addition, we have now received permission from the Editor of *Anthropology News* to upload some of the most relevant (and still timely) column articles from years past to the CMA website, so that these will be more readily accessible for use in museum anthropology teaching.

CMA Facebook Page

The new CMA Facebook page, managed and edited by Corinne Kratz, has been very successful, and we have more than 500 fans! This page allows us to reach out to members and to the general public immediately about current events, exhibits, award notices, and other matters. Corinne has been posting current exhibitions, job notices, awards, conferences, and a wide variety of relevant and fascinating news in the field.

Note from Corinne Kratz: “Our Facebook page now has over 760 followers (this is way more than our original goal). While some posts have relatively small reach, some of them reach 3-500 people. The post I did last week on the CMA reception had a reach of 969. I have no idea how they calculate that, but it was shared or liked 22 times, so my guess is that is how its reach extended so far. Other posts that get very high reach include ones that have to do with position openings, or ones that are funny (I sometimes cross- post from “When You Work At a Museum,” which can have some great commentaries). The other thing of note is that the Facebook page extends our communication internationally to a wide distribution. Please remember to “like” the page, to tell others to “like” the page, and check “receive notifications.”

CMA Twitter Feed

The CMA Twitter Feed, ably administered by Cara Krmpotich, has also been successful, with live tweets from museum exhibition openings, conferences, and other events. The Twitter feed is helping to increase CMA’s visibility and presence in ongoing events and conversations in museums and in the field.

Note from Cara Krmpotich: “We currently have 333 Followers on Twitter, and I've posted 757 tweets. Our followers (and who we follow) include a range of institutions, university departments, students, scholars, community initiatives, presses, professional organizations,

and academic organizations. Canada, USA, United Kingdom are most prominently represented, but also Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Italy, South Africa, and other locales. Interdisciplinarity has been both a strategy and focus, to try to extend the reach of CMA broadly in the museum sphere. My goal is to tweet once a day! I am usually successful. Tweets cover current events, job postings, CMA news, member achievements, the occasional personal opinion, and also re-posts of things broadly interesting to museums and anthropology. The tweets are modeled after the LSE's guide for academic tweeters. (Yes - this is a real thing.)”

CMA Anthropology News Column, Print and On-line

The Council for Museum Anthropology publishes a regular column in *Anthropology News*, the

bi-monthly newsletter of the American Anthropological Association. *Anthropology News* prints six issues per year, and Section News appears in only 4 issues per year. The available slots for *AN* Section News in-print are: March/April (deadline January 1); May/June (deadline March 1); July/August (deadline May 1); and November/December (deadline September 1). It would be very helpful for future planning if CMA board members could prepare statements in advance of the publication deadlines noted above.

All of CMA’s past print columns are archived on-line at *AnthroSource*, which is accessible only to AAA members. However, open source access is now being provided by the new *Anthropology News* website, which was redesigned to call attention to cutting-edge research and interesting engagements with anthropological issues across all sections of AAA. As a result of this redesign, select CMA columns are now available to the general public as well. Links to those columns are provided on the CMA website.

As always, the Secretary invites CMA members to consider contributing columns and information on topics of interest to the CMA membership. All *Anthropology News* Section columns are limited to 1000 words each. Photographs are especially encouraged. Please send your column ideas to the incoming CMA Secretary: Diana Marsh <dmarsh@amphilsoc.org>.

Governance:

Changes in bylaws or governance structure.

The CMA Board voted to change the by-laws in order to extend the term of board members from two to three years (to ensure better continuity), and to elect a student member as follows:

ARTICLE VI. Officers and Board of Directors

1. The Officers shall be elected by the membership and shall include a President, President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer. Each shall serve two year terms and shall be ex officio voting members of the Board of Directors. Six additional members of the Board of Directors will be elected to serve three year staggered-terms, with two members being elected each year. In addition a student Board member will be elected biennially to serve a two year term. Incoming Officers and Board Members will begin their respective terms immediately following the Council’s Annual Meeting which is held at the time of the annual

meeting of the American Anthropological Association.

Additional Board Positions open in 2016:

CMA is now soliciting nominations for three positions to be elected in 2016: President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Secretary Margaret Bruchac stepped down and Diana Marsh was appointed acting Secretary according to the by-laws for the remainder of the term (Fall 2015) until the next election cycle.

Initiatives:

What Initiatives does your Section have underway or planned for the coming year: membership, publication annual meeting, mentorship, other?

Museum anthropologists are playing a crucial role in the reengagement of peoples with their material heritage, and are beginning to develop a more nuanced understanding of the motivations of those who helped to create the major ethnographic collections. Experiences in Africa, Australia, Europe, Canada and increasingly the USA are beginning to show a very different kind of engagement between museum anthropology and indigenous communities. Museum collections and archives are increasingly seen, not just as repositories of the Indigenous past, but as major resources for cultural reclamation, language recovery, digital repatriation, and other projects that are of immediate use to Indigenous communities in the present. CMA needs to be part of that movement as a portal for the positive engagement of indigenous communities with the resources from anthropology's past. That should be one of our greatest strengths.

We see the meetings at Denver as an opportunity to foreground the importance of museums as a portal for anthropology, highlighting the significance of museum collections and archives in generating an historically informed and indigenously engaged anthropology. We intend to use the myriad opportunities presented by museum exhibitions to increase public awareness of the importance of anthropological knowledge in enhancing cross cultural understanding.

Ask AAA:

Please tell us what your chief concerns and issues are, especially if they are not previously noted.

What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the Section Assembly Executive Committee (SAEC)? Please be specific.

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What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Executive Board? Please be specific.

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What issues would you like raised or recommendations would you like to make to the AAA Staff? Please be specific.

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