EDITOR'S CORNER

t is both an honor and a daunting responsibility to assume the editorship of *American Antiquity*. I would like to express my gratitude to Tim Kohler and his Editorial Assistant, Stephanie VanBuskirk, for making the transition as smooth as possible by handing over a set of files and procedures that function like a well-oiled machine. Their generous assistance is greatly appreciated. I am also grateful to John Neikirk, Managing Editor for the SAA, for both his guidance and his tolerance of our beginners' efforts. Doug Bamforth deserves recognition for assuming the responsibilities of Book Reviews Editor on short notice and handling them with energy and skill. Finally, I want to thank Melissa Lambright, my Editorial Assistant here at UCSB, for her commitment and enthusiasm.

I have been in the profession long enough to see profound changes in the discipline, from the New to the Newer to the Newest archaeologies. There have been amazing developments in our techniques of data recovery and analysis and dramatic changes in the way we try to view the past. We have seen a shift in focus from the reconstruction of behavior to its *organization*. Sites once viewed in virtual isolation are now routinely examined within regions and are increasingly situated in *landscapes*. Attempts are now being made to disaggregate populations and to examine *agents* actively creating and contesting. *American Antiquity* has often been in the center of these developments.

In order for the journal to remain in this central position, I would like to issue a set of challenges to our readership:

- 1. In discussing our research, whatever its intrinsic value to regional prehistory, we should give greater attention to its value beyond our region's borders; we should consider more explicitly how it might be relevant in terms of method, theory, or approach to archaeologists working elsewhere.
- 2. Archaeologists working in the Old World surely have something to say that is relevant to the readership of *American Antiquity*; we should see more submissions on research conducted outside of the Americas.
- 3. In writing an abstract, we should strive not only to produce a succinct summary of the article, but also to write in terms suitable for a general audience; we might pretend that it is intended as a press release.
- 4. In embracing any of the newer theoretical approaches in the discipline, we should seek to produce studies that have a chance of convincing others of the utility of these approaches. This would entail both avoiding jargon borrowed from elsewhere and providing clear links between the interesting ideas and the archaeological record.

Archaeology today encompasses a wonderful variety of ideas and approaches, well illustrated by the present issue, and I look forward to exploring and enjoying the diversity of our discipline over the next three years.

—-MICHAEL JOCHIM

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