

## NEWS and COMMENTS

### POETRY CORNER

Ethnobiology inspires poetic license: Anthropologists and other scholars have spilled gallons of ink to cover a topic that David Fraser's verse (*BioScience*, May 1985) captures in 20 lines.

#### TAXONOMY IN DEUTERONOMY by David Fraser

When God declared to Moses that the pig was out of season,  
It was not for trichinosis or some philanthropic reason.  
He'd simply had a second look at some of His creations,  
And found among them several taxonomic aberrations.

An ungulate must have a cloven hoof, the Lord pronounced,  
And chew its dinner twice before the next meal is announced,  
But should it have a simple hoof, or fail to chew its cud,  
It falls outside the narrow lines of ungulatic blood.

In likewise manner, said the Lord, the creatures of the air  
Should look on insects, fruit and seeds as their appointed fare,  
But those that feed on fish or flesh, they fall outside the system:  
All falcons, ospreys, crows and owls (and He went on to list them).

The creatures of the sea, He said, and neighbors thereabout  
Should all be clad in scales and fins to keep the dampness out,  
But crab and lobster, squid and snails, though they may look delicious,  
And others without fins and scales—are foul, and not fishes.

Now, Cain and Abel founded phenotypic variation,  
And Noah showed the wisdom of genetic preservation,  
But it was God himself who taught that taxonomic purity  
Depends on arbitrary groups and pentateuchal surety.

*David Fraser is an ethologist in Agriculture Canada's Animal Research Centre, Ottawa.*

While we are on the subject of foods, tabooed and otherwise, savor this literary hors d'oeuvre:

The parsnip, children, I repeat,  
is simply an anemic beet.  
Some folks claim the parsnip's edible;  
I myself find this claim incredible.

(I thank Ed Bakewell, a student in my Plants, Animals, and People class at the University of Washington, for calling this Ogden Nash gem to my attention.)

### NEWS ITEMS

**Chernobyl rain fatal to Lapp's reindeer harvest.** Two days after the 26 April 1986 nuclear disaster at Chernobyl heavy spring rains deposited a dangerous dose of radioactive iodine and cesium on the Baltic coastline north of Stockholm, raising local radiation levels to 80 times normal. As documented in the National Geographic's Explorer series presentation "The Day the Reindeer Died" (WTBS, Atlanta), up to 30,000 contaminated reindeer had to be slaughtered, then discarded, casting a pall over the Lapp's traditional annual reindeer harvest festivities. Other traditional Lapp foods such as wild berries and mushrooms were also too "hot" to be eaten. A reminder of our precarious global interdependence. (*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 17 October 1986).

**Goldenseal herb in demand among drug users.** Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*, Compositae), a wild herb native to eastern North America, is reported to be a fast-moving item at natural herb outlets in west coast ports. Navy crews are now subject to routine urinalysis to detect illicit drug use, and many sailors believe that goldenseal will help them pass their drug tests. Goldenseal is described in *Dr. Kurt Donsbach's Herbs, Revised* as "acting as a blood purifier so well that certain drugs are completely removed from the body within hours. . ." However, SYVA Co. of Palo Alto, Calif., which manufactures lab kits for drug testing, has evaluated these claims and discounts them, despite goldenseal's considerable diuretic potency. (*Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, 23 October 1986).

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### TENTH ANNUAL ETHNOBIOLOGY CONFERENCE GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

The Tenth Annual Ethnobiology Conference will be held 5-8 March 1987 at the Florida State Museum in Gainesville. An ethnic banquet and field trips to St. Augustine and the St. Johns River are planned. For the first time a special prize will be presented for the best student paper submitted for the conference. The award is given in honor of Barbara Lawrence, late curator of Mammals at the Museum of Comparative Zoology. To pre-register send a check (regular \$35, student \$25) by 10 February to: 10th Ethnobiology Conference, DOCE-UF, 1938 W. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32603.

#### LAWRENCE AWARD OFFERED

The Society of Ethnobiology will offer an award in honor of Barbara Lawrence for the best paper submitted by a student for presentation at the annual meeting. Papers in any subject within the realm of ethnobiology are eligible for the competition. The prize will be a significant honor for the recipient and comes with a substantial monetary award.

The prize honors Barbara Lawrence who was curator of Mammals at the Museum of Comparative Zoology. She was one of the first to recognize the potential of collections of animal remains associated with human habitation sites and was on the forefront of advocating analysis of these assemblages. Her work on aboriginal dogs and her studies of faunal remains excavated from sites in Turkey are particularly well known.

The high standards held by Barbara Lawrence will be the guiding principle in choosing the award winning paper. The competition is open to any member who is a

student (held the PhD degree less than one year). Papers submitted for this competition can be presented in an oral or a poster session.

Manuscripts submitted for this competition must be single authored; joint efforts will not be considered. Manuscripts are judged solely on quality, originality, and presentation of research. They should follow the Journal of Ethnobiology format and should be sufficiently precise and documented to enable the reviewing committee to judge their merits. Manuscripts are limited to eight double-spaced, typed pages, including a required abstract but excluding copies of figures, tables and references.

Papers submitted for this competition should be accompanied by a cover letter indicating that you are a Society member and meet the criteria listed above. The deadline for receipt of your paper is the 5th of January 1987. Please send it to the 10th Ethnobiology Conference, DOCE-UF, 1938 W. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32603.

The Society must raise \$5000 to endow this prize. Contributions are tax deductible. Address your checks to the Society of Ethnobiology: Lawrence Fund and mail them to Elizabeth S. Wing, Curator of Zooarchaeology, Florida State Museum, Gainesville, FL 32611.

### **ARIZONA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT RESEARCH, INC.**

This non-profit institution maintains an extensive library of books, reports, photos, and monographs on cacti and succulents. They operate a botanical garden near Bisbee, Arizona, where shade frames and greenhouses foster thousands of plants of 650 varieties, including threatened and endangered species. One goal of the organization is to restock these fragile wild populations. Volunteers are available to provide free tours and presentations at the garden. A slide presentation and lecture entitled "Indian Use of Desert Plants" is available. For more information contact Arizona Cactus and Succulent Research, Inc., R. R. 1, Box 8, Mulberry Lane, Bisbee, Arizona 85603, or call (602) 432-7040.

### **SCHOOL OF AMERICAN RESEARCH**

The School of American Research has granted a one-year research residency fellowship to Thomas Killion, Ph.D. candidate at the University of New Mexico, for the preparation of a monograph on the practice of horticulture by tropical agriculturalists. For more information on this project or details on the School of American Research Weatherhead Foundation fellowships, write P.O. Box 2188, 660 Garcia Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501, or call (505) 982-3583.

### **THE JACOBS RESEARCH FUNDS**

WHATCOM MUSEUM SOCIETY  
121 Prospect St., Bellingham, WA 98225

**SCOPE OF RESEARCH SUPPORT:** Grants are awarded for research in the field of social and cultural anthropology among living American native peoples. The primary focus is on the Pacific Northwest, but other regions of North America will be considered. Field studies which address cultural expressive systems, such as music, language, dance, mythology, world view, plastic and graphic arts, intellectual life, and religion, including ones which propose comparative psychological analysis, are appropriate. (Projects in archaeology, physical anthropology, applied anthropology, and applied linguistics are not eligible, nor is archival research supported.)

**SIZE AND DURATION OF GRANTS:** Grants will not ordinarily exceed \$1200. They are made to individuals for a maximum period of one year and can be renewed only on the basis of a new application. Applications due by February 15th.

### **ETHNOZOOLOGY SPECIALIST GROUP FORMED**

The Ethnzoology Specialist Group of the Survival Species Commission of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was established early in 1986 and issued its first newsletter last March. Bertrand des Clers will chair the Ethnzoology Specialist Group. In his capacity as director of the International Foundation for the Conservation of Game (IGF) he attended meetings last year sponsored by the FAO African Forestry and Wildlife Commission in Bamako, Mali, of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) in Manaus, Brazil, and of the World Conservation Strategy Conference in Ottawa, Canada. The IUCN is preparing a program on traditional knowledge under the direction of Mr. Jeffrey McNeely of the Program and Policy Division of IUCN. For more information or to join this group reply to Bertrand des Clers, Chairman, ETZ/SSC, 16/18 Avenue Rachel, 75018, Paris, France.

## NINTH ANNUAL MEETING SOCIETY OF ETHNOBIOLOGY

20-23 MARCH 1986

University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

### LOCAL COMMITTEE:

Mollie Toll and Karen Clary (Co-chairpersons);  
K. Carnean; M. Caffey; B. Crowder; A. Cully; P. Knight.

### ***ABRIDGED MINUTES of MEETING of EDITORIAL BOARD***

This year's meeting was attended by President Steve Weber, Secretary/Treasurer Steve Emslie, Editor Willard Van Asdall, Associate Editor Karen Adams, Eugene Hunn, Charles Miksicek, Brent Berlin, Robert A. Bye, Jr., Richard Ford, Harriet Kuhnlein, Jan Timbrook, Amadeo Rea, Elizabeth Wing, Mollie Toll, and Karen Clary. The meeting took place on 22 March between 1930 and 2200 h.

The meeting was called to order at 1930 by Pres. Steve Weber. Steve Emslie began with the Treasurer's report for the period 7 April 1985-20 March 1986. The Society membership consists of 198 individual members and 96 institutions. Fund raising at the ninth conference added an additional 19 members to the Society, and \$453.50 from sales of Society T-shirts. The printing of these shirts cost \$109.75. The outstanding 1986 conference was attended by 148 paid and 24 gratis registrants for an official attendance of 172.

Richard Ford raised the question of how to increase the institutional membership of the Society. Board members agreed that individuals must be persuaded to request their institutional libraries to subscribe to the *Journal of Ethnobiology* if they do not do so already. Willard Van Asdall agreed to design a circular to mail to individuals and institutions that will help promote the Society. Board members agreed to cooperate in obtaining mailing lists from other Societies and by sending these lists to Willard. Robert Bye will contact the editor of *Current Contents* to have the journal listed in this publication.

The next subject of discussion concerned the journal. Willard stated that more papers need to be submitted to create a backlog. This will avoid future delays in publication. Vol. 5 No. 2 is now in press and will be released shortly. This issue will include the journal's first complete index of all previous issues. Reprints of this index will also be available and will be sold at \$2.00 each.

Vol. 6 No. 1 will be the Society's first special issue consisting of a series of solicited papers on "New Directions in Ethnobiology". At least nine papers will be in this issue. Five other papers are now under review for Vol. 6 No. 2. Charles Miksicek reports several book reviews are completed for the next issue, but is resigning as book review editor and a replacement is needed.

Eugene Hunn reports that more information is needed for the News and Comments section of the journal. Suggestions for expanding this section included the addition of notices of work in progress by ethnobiologists, and a listing of recently published papers related to ethnobiology.

Amadeo Rea suggested that a 'Notes' section be added to the journal for brief articles. The board agreed that this is needed and that these notes will also be reviewed similar to other articles submitted to the journal. This section will be initiated in the next issue possible; board members were invited to submit brief articles for review.

The next area of discussion concerned the conferences. Mollie Toll and Karen Clary will communicate suggestions and advisement to Elizabeth Wing, chairperson for the

tenth conference to be held in Gainesville, Florida, 5-8 March 1987. Robert Bye will host the eleventh conference in Mexico City. The twelfth conference is tentatively planned for Riverside, California, and the thirteenth for Washington, D.C. (Smithsonian Institution). Jan Timbrook will communicate with M. Toll regarding suggested changes to the conference handbook.

Society organization was discussed last. Brent Berlin suggested the implementation of the Society by-laws. A complete revision of the by-laws will be produced jointly by Steve Weber and Brent Berlin and sent to all board members for approval. Richard Ford suggested a re-organization of the Society into two bodies: (1) a Society Board of Directors composed of a President, Secretary/Treasurer, and three Board members to be elected by the Society membership, and (2) an Editorial Board consisting of an Editor appointed by the Board of Directors, and an editorial board appointed by the Editor and approved by the Board of Directors. A nominating committee was formed to determine whose names will be placed on the ballot for the Board of Directors. Steve Emslie, Steve Weber, and Charles Miksicek agreed to serve on this committee which will meet once to determine the ballot. All Society members will be mailed a ballot in the fall, 1986, with the results of the election to be announced at the tenth conference. The newly elected Board of Directors will begin their 2-year term at the tenth conference. Finally, Robert Bye motioned to extend a vote of confidence and appreciation to Willard Van Asdall for his excellent job with the journal. The board unanimously approved the motion.

The only new business to be discussed concerned the offer by Westview Press to publish a monograph series for the Society. The board accepted this offer and Richard Ford and Paul Minnis agreed to prepare a detailed proposal with Westview Press to be circulated to the board.

The meeting was adjourned by Pres. Steve Weber at 2200 h.

**SOCIETY OF ETHNOBIOLOGY**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT 20 MARCH 1986**  
 DATE OF LAST REPORT: 7 April 1985  
 FUNDS IN ACCOUNT AT LAST REPORT: \$634.97

**INCOME SINCE LAST REPORT:**

**Sale of Backissues:**

Vol. 1 .....	\$323.75
Vol. 2 .....	352.00
Vol. 3 .....	309.00
Vol. 4 .....	337.50

**Subscriptions:**

Vol. 5 .....	4,931.44
Vol. 6 .....	3,035.00

**Author's Reprints:**

Vol. 4 .....	170.00
Vol. 5 .....	550.00

Sale of T-shirts ..... 126.00

1985 Conference Registration ..... 552.50

Interest ..... 161.51

**TOTAL INCOME THIS REPORT: \$10,848.70**

**TOTAL INCOME + PREVIOUS FUNDS IN ACCOUNT: \$11,483.67**

EXPENSES SINCE LAST REPORT:

	Vol. 5 No. 1	Vol. 5 No. 2
Typesetting .....	\$1131.00	\$1300.00
Printing .....	\$2639.75	\$1800.00 (not complete)
Postage .....	243.59	150.00 (not complete)
TOTAL .....	\$4014.34	\$3250.00

OTHER EXPENSES:

Postage and Petty Cash .....	197.00
Corporation Fee .....	10.00
Advertising .....	43.18
Overpayment refunds .....	293.00

TOTAL EXPENSES SINCE LAST REPORT: \$7807.52

TOTAL INCOME IN ACCOUNT—TOTAL EXPENSES: \$11,483.67-7807.52 = \$3676.15

TOTAL FUNDS IN ACCOUNT AS OF 20 MARCH 1986: \$3694.46

CIRCULATION	Last Report	This Report
INDIVIDUALS	206	198
INSTITUTIONS	91	96

## **BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY OF ETHNOBIOLOGY**

### **ARTICLE I, Name.**

The name of this organization shall be the Society of Ethnobiology, hereinafter referred to as the Society.

### **ARTICLE II, Objectives.**

The objectives of this organization shall be to establish and maintain an organization of scientists of high standing with a common interest in ethnobiology, to promote the discussion and communication of knowledge devoted to the interdisciplinary study of anthropology and biology, and to stimulate and disseminate research advances concerning ethnobiology by sponsoring scientific and professional publications.

### **ARTICLE III, Office.**

The registered office of the society shall be located in the STATE OF ARIZONA at such place as may be fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors upon filing of such notices as may be required by law, and the registered agent shall have a business office identical with such registered office.

### **ARTICLE IV, Membership.**

The membership of the Society shall consist of any person, firm, unincorporated association or corporation that has paid its membership fee.

### **ARTICLE V, Dues.**

All members will be required to pay annual dues. Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE VI, Rights and Prerogatives of Members.**

The rights and prerogatives of members are those customary to the members of any organization, including participation in meetings, discussion, committee membership, and the right to vote or hold elective office.

### **ARTICLE VII, Meeting of Members.**

- 1) An annual meeting of the members shall be held at a time and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors.
- 2) The annual conference is a scientific program, arranged to reflect the broad interests of Society members in the field of ethnobiology. The annual meeting should provide opportunities for members and others attending to hear reports of recent research in ethnobiology, exchange material of mutual interest, and to discuss matters of policy relating to the Society. Issues relating to business or policy should be freely discussed

among all members present in one session of the Society's annual conference at an annual business meeting. Persons considering membership in the Society shall be permitted to attend and participants in the program shall be encouraged to join the Society.

- 3) A Board Meeting shall be held at each annual conference.

#### **ARTICLE VIII, Organizational Structure and Procedures.**

- 1) The affairs of the Society shall be managed by its Board of Directors. Directors need not be residents of the STATE OF ARIZONA but must be members of the Society.
- 2) The Directors with voting power shall consist of 6 elected officers, a President, a Vice-President/President-Elect, a Secretary/Treasurer, and 3 Board Members. There shall be one appointed officer, the editor of the Journal of Ethnobiology, who shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Board. The elected officers of the Society, and the editor of the Journal, and past Presidents, shall constitute the Board of Directors. Past Presidents' and editors' participation is in an advisory capacity only and they will have no voting power. Past Presidents shall retain the right to be heard and to participate at all Board and Committee meetings, whether open to the public or not.
- 3) Terms. The editor of the Journal of Ethnobiology serves an unspecified term on a voluntary basis. The Secretary/Treasurer serves two consecutive years and may be re-elected. The Vice-President/President-Elect shall be elected for a two-year term as Vice-President and then succeed to the office of President for two more years and may not be re-elected. The 3 Directors-at-large shall be elected for a 3-year term and may be re-elected for no more than 2 terms. Directors-at-large shall be elected each year with the purpose of ensuring that no one 3-year term overlaps with another. The organizational year is from annual meeting to annual meeting. If, for any reason, an annual conference does take place, the organizational year shall run temporarily from January through December.
- 4) Elections. Annual elections are held by written ballot. All individual members in good standing may vote in the election.
- 5) Nominations. The President appoints and serves as Chair of a nominating committee consisting of a total of 3 persons. This committee shall solicit members in good standing willing and able to serve as officers and Board Members for the forthcoming year (beginning at the following conference). The resulting report will appear as a ballot no later than 3 months before the end of the current year and will be sent to all members.
- 6) Officers. Duties of all officers will be those customarily associated with their titles or as listed in Robert's Rules of Order, or by action of the Board of Directors. The President shall be responsible for coordinating organizational activities, including an annual meeting, and for making decisions regarding other organizational business in consultation with other members of the Board of Directors. A consensus of the Board as a group will decide final recommendations in all such instances. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for receiving dues, managing the Society's funds, and disbursing same. This person shall be authorized to sign checks for the organization. The Secretary/Treasurer shall further be responsible for reporting to the

Membership and/or Board of Directors current and projected financial situations of the Society. The Vice-President/President-Elect shall be responsible for assisting the President and for taking a major role in the organization of the annual meeting. The editor of the Journal of Ethnobiology shall oversee the running of the Journal as well as the appointment of the members of its editorial board. The editor may act independently of the Society Board of Directors in matters concerning the Journal.

**ARTICLE IX, Finance.**

- 1) The monies of the Society shall be deposited in the name of the corporation in such bank or banks, or trust company or trust companies, as the Board of Directors shall designate, and shall be drawn out only by checks signed by person or persons designated by resolution of the Board of Directors.
- 2) The Society shall continue to act in good faith towards debts and obligations incurred by the Society to past and present officers of the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE X, Books and Records.**

The Society shall keep correct and complete books and records of accounts and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of Board meetings of the Directors and committees having any of the authority of Board of Directors' Meetings.

**ARTICLE XI, Amendments.**

Upon recommendation by the Board of Directors or by not less than one third of the members, these by-laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new by-laws may be adopted by a majority vote at a regular annual meeting.