



EDITORIAL

The 16th biennial conference of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists will be held at the University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona from May 18 to 21, 2002. The organizers are David Killick and Charles Bollong. The call for papers is included with this issue of *Nyame Akuma*, and the deadline to submit abstracts is September 15, 2001.

This issue is composed of a number of papers dealing with MSA, LSA and more recent cultural developments. Fattovich et al. report on their latest field season at Axum, Ethiopia. Neil Finneran shows that, while most people equate Graham Clark's (*World Prehistory*, 3rd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977) mode 4 technology with the European or North African Upper Palaeolithic, it is also present in the early Holocene occupation at Axum.

Philip Kiberd introduces the new site at Bundu Pan in the northern Cape of South Africa. Like Florisbad, this spring was a focus of stone age settlement in a region where little research has been conducted. Francis Korkor writes about the

Kintampo in Ghana, the culture which, among other things, includes *nyame akuma* or ground stone axes (or God's thunder stones), the namesake of this bulletin. Hawkins et al. report on new work on stone age prehistory of Kharga Oasis, Egypt, an area made famous by the pioneering work of Gertrude Caton-Thompson.

Murphy et al. report on the recent prehistory at White Paintings Rockshelter in Botswana, a site with a long history of stone age occupation. Amy Lawson describes prehistoric research in the Gambia. Like its neighbor, Senegal, Gambia has a number of megalithic monuments which have long intrigued archaeologists. The monuments have been the research focus in the past, not the settlements with which they are associated. The Lake Chad basin has seen much archaeological research. Magnavita and Magnavita report on their latest work on the Nigerian side, discussing the transition from the LSA to Iron Age around 800 BC, as well as on the nature of Iron Age settlement here.