

**SOCIETY FOR THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF EUROPE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005**

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President (2004-06) of the SAE*

Summary:

The SAE has seen a slight decline in membership, and was running a small budgetary deficit even without factoring in the possible costs incurred by joining AnthroSource. To correct the budgetary shortfall, a modest dues increase was enacted. SAE offered a full program of events at the Washington meetings. Relations established between the AAA and the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) are expected to benefit the SAE. We are also establishing a relationship with the Europeanist network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA). SAE also considered establishing a formal connection with the Soyuz, the Post-communist Cultural Studies Interest Group, and with the independent journal *Anthropology of East Europe Review (AEER)*; however, considering the economic uncertainties caused by AnthroSource, and legal advantages to the independent *AEER* that could be lost were it to become affiliated with the SAE and thus AAA, it was decided not to pursue formal links. The SAE Executive Committee also considered several policy questions as advanced by the Section Assembly. The general sentiment was one of concern that the AAA Executive Board has damaged the financial health of the AAA and potentially of some sections by pursuing political goals not directly related to anthropology.

Membership:

As of October 1, 2005, the SAE had 497 paid members (337 regular, 161 student). This represented a slight decline from the year before, according to figures submitted by Tim Pilbrow, SAE Treasurer 2005-06.¹ Membership has shown a slight decline over the past five years, from 517 on January 1, 2001.

There is concern in the SAE, as in other sections, that AnthroSource might lead to a drop in membership, since members of any section will have free access to the publications of almost all other sections. We hope, however, that this is less likely to be a problem for the SAE, because the *Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe* has only recently become a benefit of membership. Anthropologists seem to join the SAE because of their specific interest in the anthropology of Europe and the benefits that they derive from the SAE as a network of scholars. At the same time, we

¹ There is an apparent discrepancy between the figures reported by current Treasurer Pilbrow and those contained in the annual report for 2004, by then-President David Kideckel. Kideckel reported membership on 1 October 2004 of 526, in which case the SAE lost 29 members; Pilbrow's figures show a much smaller loss, from 501 members on 1/1/05.

are aware that it would be beneficial to increase the services provided to SAE members. The establishment of ties with the AAASS and Europeanist network of EuASA are meant to increase the utility and thus attractiveness of the SAE to members.

Finances, General Fund and Operating Budget:

The financial situation of the SAE would be relatively sound, were it not for the uncertainties caused by AnthroSource. For convenience, this report will address the general financial situation, and then add comments on the potential problems we see with AnthroSource.

General financial situation:

If AnthroSource expenses are left out of the calculations, the SAE operating budget is running at a slight (\$500) shortfall. In order to remedy this situation, the Association decided at the 2005 Business Meeting to increase dues from \$25 (regular) and \$10 (student) to \$30 (regular) and \$12 (student). With our current membership, this increase should bring in approximately \$2000 in additional income.

The *fund balance* was \$12,022 on 1/1/05, a \$1300 increase over the year previously, but down by \$2800 from its level of 1/1/01. The increase in 2004 was an ironic benefit of the cancellation of all SAE program activities with the *de facto* cancellation of the 2004 annual meeting. Thus adding a small surplus from the dues increase will help restore the fund balance to its level of five years ago.

AnthroSource changes the situation, as the Section Dues Allocation Expense (\$4885 in 2005) leads us to anticipate a shortfall of up to \$2700.

AnthroSource Uncertainties:

The situation with AnthroSource is one of confusion, based largely on insufficient, uncertain and perhaps inaccurate data from AAA. The concerns with AnthroSource amongst the various AAA sections are widespread. In this report, I believe it appropriate to quote extensively from a memorandum to me by SAE Treasurer Pilbrow of 11/28/05, just before the annual meeting:

On the revenue side, we've been given inflated figures and/or no figures at all.

On the latter point. For the budget submission process, I was sent a one-page spreadsheet This document gives 2003 and 2004 actual expenses/revenues for the journal before Anthrosource took over, then gives the 2005 budget amounts and projected 2006 budget amounts. All I had to add in here was \$500 to cover Lynn Maners' expenses to attend the meetings (line 51).

What is problematic in this document is line 15, "digital subscriptions". This gives a budgeted amount of \$97 for 2005. YTD we have earned \$5 according to the account statement dated September 30, 2005.... (We have, meanwhile, earned \$90 in print subscriptions, against a 2005 budget of \$497 -- which may or may not be worrisome, depending on how libraries pay their bills; we have also earned \$31 in miscellaneous print sales and permission fees).

For 2006, at the time of the budget submission, the AAA projected \$2091 in digital subscriptions. The next few months account statements left the "2006 budget" column blank. Finally, with the September statement, I find that they have now projected \$2704 in digital subscriptions for 2006. They have also increased/added expenditure items. The net effect of all this is a slightly lower projected cost to the SAE for 2006.

However, I remain suspicious of the seemingly inflated digital revenue figures, particularly since we see little or no activity for the current year. If they are confident in these projections ... then we'll do fine enough, though a dues increase is still advisable.

If, however, the AAA figures are overstated, then we could end up with a further shortfall of up to \$2700 dollars.

In short, while we recognize the value to the AAA of AnthroSource, we are concerned about the possible impact on our section of the financing of that resource.

Finances, General Fund and Operating Budget: Summary:

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|-------------------------|-----------|
| Fund balance 1/1/04: | \$10,783 |
| Fund balance 1/1/05: | 12,022 |
| 2005 activity | |
| Revenues to 9/30/05: | 8,983 |
| Expenses to 9/30/05 | 4,667 |
| Revenues over expenses: | 4,316 |
| Fund balance 9/30/05: | 16,338 |
| 2005 Budget: | |
| Revenue: | 10,335 |
| Expenditures | 12,385 |
| Projected loss: | (\$2,050) |

Finances: William A. Douglass Endowment

The Douglass endowment supports the annual William A. Douglass Award for Best Book in Europeanist Anthropology (\$500) and the annual William A. Douglass Distinguished Lecture at the AAA meetings (honorarium plus travel expenses). The low interest rates of recent years have led to expenditures being slightly greater than the investment income; the cancellation of the 2004 annual lecture did, however, save most of the money allocated for that event, permitting the endowment to increase over the course of the year.

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|---|----------|
| Douglass Endowment fund balance 1/1/05: | \$53,750 |
| Investment income as of 9/30/05: | 1,634 |
| Douglass endowment value 9/30/05: | \$55,384 |
| Budgeted expenses 2005: | |
| Book award: | \$500 |
| Distinguished lecture expenses: | \$2,000 |

(For comparison, the fund earned \$2184 in 2004)

Annual Meeting Activities:

Program Chair Mark Ingram and Chair-elect Sascha Goluboff had had the disheartening experience in 2004 of putting together a program, only to have it cancelled completely when the 2004 meetings in San Francisco were scrapped. The Executive Committee therefor extended their terms of office by one year, so that they could assemble the program for the 2005 Washington DC meetings.

The SAE program at the 2005 AAA meetings included 2 invited sessions, 6 sessions sponsored or co-sponsored, 19 individual papers and 2 poster sessions, plus several luncheon roundtables. The distinguished Russian anthropologist Valery Tishkov, who had been scheduled to deliver the 2004 Douglass distinguished lecture, was able to speak as the 2005 Douglass Distinguished Lecturer instead. Other activities included the Executive Committee meeting, the Business meeting, and the meetings of several of the smaller interest groups within the SAE.

Prizes:

The William A. Douglass Book Prize in Europeanist Anthropology was awarded to Professor Christopher Tilley (Oxford University) for his work in archeology, *The Materiality of Stone; Explorations in Landscape Phenomenology* (Berg, 2004).

The SAE award for best paper by a graduate student was won by Petra Tjitske Kalshoven (McGill University) for her paper "Researching, Reliving, Reviving: Indian Hobbyism as a European Renaissance Project".

The SAE -Council for European Studies Pre-dissertation Fellowship in Anthropology was won by Narcis Tulbure (University of Pittsburgh).

Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe (JSAE)

Lynn Maners took over the editorship of the *JSAE* and has produced vol. 5, nos. 1 and 2. Dr. Maners now has the journal operating on schedule. Vo. 5 no. 2 (Winter 2005) will be the last print issue. Volume 6 no. 1 will be available only electronically on AnthroSource, although a few print copies will be made by Maners for libraries that insist upon getting them. Editor Maners has begun soliciting paid advertisements and offering to exchange advertisements with other publications or associations.

Lynn Maners has proposed giving advanced graduate students the opportunity to serve as “shadow editors” on a volume. These students would see all correspondence and editing steps involved in producing the journal but would not be involved in making editorial decisions. There was substantial interest among the members at the 2005 business meeting in this idea, and it is hoped that graduate students will take advantage of this training opportunity.

H-SAE:

The H-SAE list is a major tool of communication for the SAE. Tragically, Professor Anthony (Tony) Galt, moderator of H-SAE and webmaster for the SAE web page, became seriously ill in early November and died on December 8, 2005. Dr. Roland Moore has agreed to serve temporarily as web master and moderator of H-SAE, and we are very grateful to him for taking on this assignment on such short notice. However, in the circumstances, I have not asked him for the customary report on H-SAE subscriptions and usage figures for 2005.

The SAE/Berghahn Books European Anthropology in Translation Project

Chair for Special Projects and Publications Susan Mazur has worked effectively to initiate the new series “European Anthropology in Translation,” in partnership with Berghahn Books. These will be English translations of books by European anthropologists, based on research in Europe, and already published in the native language of the anthropologist. Out of a field of 20 complete submissions (and more inquiries), Dr. Mazur was able to narrow the field to seven finalists, which were sent out for review in May. Three have been accepted for publication, and the first will probably appear in 2007.

Other Activities:

Link with Europeanist Network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists:

In 2004, the newly formed Europeanist Network of EuASA initiated contacts with the SAE, and inquired about establishing a formal link between the two organizations. It seems that a number of EuASA members are also members of the AAA and SAE. The cancellation of the annual meeting program in 2004 prevented further discussion on the matter. However, I was able to meet with Professor Helena Wulff at the Washington

AAA meetings. She and I agreed that we would take the following proposal to the SAE Executive Committee and the Board of the Europeanist Network of EuASA: that each organization would name a member to serve *ex officio* on the Executive Committee or Board of the other organization. It is understood that the costs of attending the meetings of these boards will have to be borne by the member so named (or obtained by that person from other sources), as neither the SAE nor the Europeanist Network has the resources to cover them. Dr. Wulff has taken this proposal back to her colleagues for consideration, and I await their response.

AAA Representative on the Board of the AAASS

In mid-2005, long-time AAA and SAE member Professor Katherine Verdery, then serving as President of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS), contacted AAA President Blumfiel to propose that the AAA appoint a representative to the AAASS Board. (The AAASS is the primary area studies association in the USA that deals with central and eastern Europe and the formerly Soviet region). The AAASS Board has such members from other scholarly associations, and it was felt by Professor Verdery that it was overdue for there to be representation from the AAA. Professor Blumfiel agreed and asked Professor Verdery to nominate three candidates, with one to be chosen by the AAA Executive Board. Professor Verdery nominated three candidates, each a member of the AAA and of the AAASS; the AAA Executive Board named me as the first AAA representative on the AAASS Board, and I attended the AAASS Board meeting in that capacity in November 2005. By the AAASS's bylaws, a representative from a professional association serves for three years, subject to renewal for one additional three year term. While this matter is one that does not formally involve the SAE, we believe that the SAE must be informally involved in selecting future AAA representatives to the AAASS Board.

I should note that while anthropologists were under-represented in the AAASS for decades, the number of anthropologists in the organization has increased from fewer than ten in the mid-1990s to over 150 in 2005, and the AAA representative to the AAASS Board actually joined two other anthropologists already serving on that body. Professor Verdery's election as President of the AAASS is also noteworthy. In recognition on the increasing prominence of anthropologists in the organization, the AAASS has taken care to ensure that their annual meeting does not conflict with that of the AAA, since such conflicts had happened frequently in the past. Unfortunately, the AAA's re-scheduling of the 2006 annual meeting means that the two meetings once again conflict in dates, and on opposite sides of the country.

Possible links with the Soyuz, the Post-communist Cultural Studies Interest Group, and with the independent journal Anthropology of East Europe Review (AEER):

The Soyuz network is a rapidly growing association of mainly younger scholars, working on issues of post-communism, primarily in Europe, and is an interest group in

the AAA. The *AEER* is a well established independent journal in the field, dating back to the days before the founding of the SAE, when the East European Anthropology Group was an informal interest group in the AAA and established the journal. SAE Treasurer Pilbrow and I met with the Soyuz convenor and the editors of the *AEER* to discuss possibly establishing formal ties with the SAE. However, it is clear that were they to do so, Soyuz and the *AEER* would lose their financial independence, and the journal would risk losing the tax-exempt status it has long enjoyed. Especially in light of the uncertainties surrounding the costs of AnthroSource, it was felt advisable by all parties to not consider further making any formal affiliations between the SAE and Soyuz and the *AEER*, at least for the immediate future.

Policy Questions:

Section Assembly convenor Dan Segal had referred a couple of policy questions to the SA, which I passed along to the Executive Committee of the SAE. I regret to report that the sentiments of the SAE Executive Committee seemed to be at almost total variance with the actions of the AAA Executive Board.

First, there is a carry-over of frustration from the debacle of the 2004 annual meeting. There is also a feeling that the EB has not been transparent in reporting on the full financial costs to the AAA of supporting a hotel union in San Francisco that is not related to the AAA and to which few if any anthropologists belong. At a time when section finances are questionable because of AnthroSource, it seems very unwise for the AAA EB to have spent down the endowment so heavily on non-anthropological matters.

Second, I referred to the SAE EC the question about whether sections should be bound by the strictures on meeting locations that are in force for the AAA. Opinion in the SAE was unanimous that in so far as following such restrictions would be economically harmful to a section, or would prevent a section from engaging in legitimate scholarly exchange (e.g. by co-sponsoring a meeting with another, non-AAA professional association in, say Chicago), the section should be free to act in accordance with its own interests. This position seems to have lot widely in the SA; we in the SAE still believe it to be true.

Dan Segal also referred to the SA questions about AAA governance, and about relations with the US intelligence community.

The SAE EC was of the opinion that the governance structure of the AAA needs to be changed but there were no concrete proposals for doing so. It was felt, however, that power has been concentrated at the level of the AAA EB, and one east Europeanist on the SAE EC struck a parallel with the structures of so-called "democratic centralism" of the Leninist state (he was not really joking, either).

In regard to relations with the “U.S. Intelligence Community,” it is clear that SAE EC members do not wish to see clandestine intelligence gathering under the guise of scholarship, but they are also aware that the “intelligence community” is complex and that most of it is concerned with gathering open source data, not clandestine operations. Some SAE EC members also acknowledged that many students regard careers in government service, including careers in the Intelligence Community, as legitimate and even honorable, and that there are profound questions about the appropriateness of educators trying to limit the career choice of students on political grounds. In fact, there was strong sentiment in the SAE EC against the AAA seeming to impose political positions on members.

Officers of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe, 2006

(Term ending date follows each name)

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