

The Society for the *American Journal of Archaeology*, 1989–1994

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Exactly five years ago I took pleasure in reporting in these pages on the successful launching of the Society for the *American Journal of Archaeology*.¹ The Society had been formed late in 1989 to raise sorely needed funds for the AIA's official journal, both to erase what otherwise would have been a deficit in the annual operating budget and to begin to build the *Journal's* restricted endowment to insure the long-term fiscal health of *AJA*. The hope was that the infusion of new funds would permit *AJA's* editors to expand the scope of the *Journal* and enable all articles accepted for publication to appear within a year of their submission. In short, we sought to enhance the present while securing the future of what is probably the world's most widely read scholarly journal of archaeology.

The first list of members of the *AJA* Society comprised 69 names, almost all universities and foundations. Five years later the number of Society members has more than tripled, to 246, with the addition primarily of scores of individuals, who now outnumber the institutional members by a ratio of almost 2:1, although universities and foundations continue to be our largest source of funds. As a result, *AJA* currently enjoys previously unimagined fiscal stability, in spite of the fact that the amount of money necessary to maintain the size and quality of *AJA* grows every year. Successful annual fund-raising drives are more imperative in 1995 and beyond than in 1989.

The need for the Society for the *AJA* can be dramatically illustrated by some numbers that have long been in the public domain. For the fiscal year ending 30 June 1985, total expenses for *AJA* were \$147,091, up from \$130,108 in the year ending 30 June 1984.² The 1985 volume of *AJA* comprised 800 pages, of which 84 were plates. The very next year, however, severe budgetary constraints necessitated a drastic

reduction in the size of the 1986 volume (the first for which I was responsible) to 540 pages, including just 34 plates. Only recently has the fiscal health of *AJA* improved to the point where it has been possible to restore the *Journal* to the size it was in 1985. The cost of publishing 800-page volumes has, however, more than doubled in the intervening decade. In the fiscal year ending 30 June 1994, *AJA* expenses were \$280,284 (vs. \$130,108 in 1984), that is, \$350 *per page*. To meet the 1994 expenses, combined income of \$62,938 from the *Journal's* endowment and new contributions to the Society for the *AJA* was required. The budget for the 1995 fiscal year calls for approximately \$62,000 in contributions and investment income in addition to income from subscriptions and sales of back issues of \$223,500 to balance anticipated expenses of more than \$285,000.

To provide for the future we will need each year to raise far more than the minimum amount required for immediate expenditures. The only alternative would be to return to the days of smaller volumes and publication delays, a situation that all concerned with producing the AIA's journal find unacceptable. My colleagues, therefore, join me in expressing our sincere thanks to all those listed below who have helped to put *AJA* on a sound financial footing and who have made this fifth anniversary of the founding of the Society for the *American Journal of Archaeology* truly a cause for celebration. With the continued support of our members and a further increase in the ranks of the Society in the years ahead, the future of *AJA* will be bright indeed.

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¹ *AJA* 94 (1990) 1–2.

² *AIA Bull* 76 (1985) 59.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY
1989–1994

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