

SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Don D. Fowler (University of Nevada, Reno) reports that, in response to a petition of those attending the history of archeology symposium at Carbondale last May, the Society for American Antiquity has formed a committee to investigate the problem of getting materials relating to the history of New World archeology archived and made accessible. The members of the committee include Fowler (chair), Jeremy Sabloff (Pittsburgh, ex officio as SAA president-elect), Curtis Hinsley, Jr. (Colgate, as advisor), Susan Bender (Skidmore), Douglas Givens (St. Louis Community College), Edwin Lyon (Corps of Engineers), David Meltzer (Southern Methodist), and Jonathan Reyman (Northern Illinois). The charge of the committee is to inventory existing archives of personal papers, as well as field notes, maps and photographs relating to the history of New World archeology; to work with archival depositories in identifying, collecting and inventorying other collections of materials; ultimately to produce a "union catalogue" of these materials. The committee will be seeking grants to carry out this work.

FOOTNOTES FOR THE HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Margaret Mead, Franz Boas, and the Ogburns of Science:
The Statistical and the Clinical Models in the Presentation of
Mead's Samoan Ethnography

(G.W.S.)

One of the central paradoxes of the career of Margaret Mead relates to the problem of ethnographic method. Constantly experimenting with new methodologies, frequently reflecting in print on problems of method, she was perhaps more self-consciously and consistently concerned with methodological matters than any anthropologist of her generation (e.g., Mead 1933). At the same time, many of the criticisms that have been directed against her work have focussed on methodological issues. This has been especially the case in the recent controversy surrounding her early Samoan research. One of the focal topics of that debate has been the role of quantitative evidence in ethnographic argument. Basing his critique in part on arguments about the numerical rates of certain behaviors, Derek Freeman has attacked the evidential basis for Mead's generalizations concerning adolescence. In contrast, defenders of Mead have questioned the utility of simple quantitative measures in the interpretation of ethnographic phenomena. Furthermore, it has been suggested by some that her alleged ethnographic failures must be understood in relation to the state of ethnographic method in the 1920s, and the advances that may have taken place since that time. In this context, it is of considerable historical interest to note that there is evidence in the Mead