



History of Anthropology Newsletter

Volume 4
Issue 2 *Winter 1977*

Article 2

1-1-1977

Prospects and Problems

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HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

IV:2

winter 1977

PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS: VIII

Although our readership has been drawn from both history and anthropology, the research impulse that has until now sustained HAN has been predominantly from the former field. But in recent months there have been a number of signs that the history of anthropology may be entering a new phase in which anthropologists will play a more active role in primary research. Quite apart from the recent spate of general histories of anthropological ideas by senior anthropologists, a number of younger scholars and doctoral candidates are planning to undertake research of an historical character. Although these initiatives are not yet represented in our research in progress reports, the editorial secretary has become aware of about two dozen projects in the last several months.

While the creeping imperialism of historical scholarship is perhaps sufficient explanation for the entrance of younger historians into the history of anthropology, the current interest of anthropologists is a more complex phenomenon. It seems likely that it reflects a phase in the history of the discipline--a turning inward as the traditional external field of anthropological research becomes increasingly inhospitable and certain assumptions that have underwritten a century of ethnographic fieldwork are increasingly called into question. How much "booming" our relatively small territory can fruitfully absorb is perhaps a moot point; but it seems clear that the need for HAN as a medium of communication among interested scholars, whether historians or anthropologists, will be greater than ever in the near future.

We hope to rise to the occasion, and have plans for various improvements, including a revision of our format starting with the next number. But it is clear that any changes will require more money than our present very low subscription rate provides. Newsletters of comparable quality usually cost at least \$5.00 a year for individual subscriptions. Over the long run, an improved format and the removal of current hidden subsidies (in the form of unpaid labor at every stage of the production process) may force us to approximate the prevailing rates. For the present, however, we prefer simply to raise our rates by \$1.00 in each subscription category. The prices listed in the present number reflect this increase. Renewals at this rate will be accepted for one year only.

The History of Anthropology Newsletter

Subscription Rates for Volume Five (1978)

Individual subscribers (U.S. & Canada)	\$3.00
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