



## EDITORIAL

This issue of *Nyame Akuma* includes the program and paper abstracts from the 14th Biennial meeting which was held in Syracuse, New York from May 20 to 24, 1998. A wide range of topics are included, ranging from the earliest archaeology to historic periods and the African diaspora. This range reflects the different interests of SAfA members; sometimes it appears as if the continent is the only thing we have in common. But since it is the continent with the longest record of human occupation, African research is vital if we are to understand human adaptation and history, regardless of which period attracts us the most.

As I write, plans are underway for the next SAfA meeting which will be held at Cambridge University from July 12 to 15, 2000. More details are given in the announcement submitted by David Phillipson in the news section. Abstract and registration forms should be available in the next month or so.

This issue also includes some research reports including a discussion of the ethnoarchaeol-

ogy of pottery manufacture in Cameroon (Wallaert), Aksum research by Kathryn Bard and Rodolfo Fattovich and their colleagues, new fieldwork in Namibia (Vogelsang) and continuing work by Peter Mitchell and Ruth Charles in Lesotho.

The African fossil hominid and archaeological record has been in the news a lot in the past few weeks. Ron Clarke of the University of Witwatersrand (and soon of the University of Frankfurt) announced the discovery of an almost complete hominid skeleton from Member 2 at Sterkfontein in December 1998. Its age is estimated at 3.6 million years old, and it appears to be the skeleton associated with the four foot bones which were described in 1995 ("Little Foot"). Not to be outdone, Tim White has reported (in the press) the discovery of more hominid remains from the Awash region in Ethiopia; both *Ardipithecus* and later material is represented, but no further details are given. Trying to keep up with all of this is a challenge for those of us who teach African prehistory and hominid evolution.