1. Status, Activities and Accomplishments.

The Council for Museum Anthropology continued to be active this year, although in a somewhat more relaxed financial atmosphere than reported in 2007. Last year our publication, *Museum Anthropology*, was in jeopardy. Thanks to the generous support of our editor’s (Jason Baird Jackson) home institution (Indiana University), the new Wiley-Blackwell contract, and some income generated by downloads of our journal articles through AnthroSource, we are able to report that the journal is stable and continuing to publish first-rate materials. Editor Jackson, who will be reporting separately, continued to do an outstanding job, publishing 15 items (7 peer reviewed articles, plus essay reviews and other reviews) in Volume 31 for a total of 161 pages. The issues were on time and earned considerable praise from our member constituency as well as a wide range of others interested in museums. Jackson, who will be finishing his term as editor this year with volume 32, started *Museum Anthropology Review* in 2007 as an electronic outlet for additional high quality reviews and essay reviews that could not be accommodated within *Museum Anthropology*. The CMA supports his efforts as they can only serve to make more people aware of the significant work being done in the museum field. The Board in cooperation with the AAA Publications Office, also spent time this year advertising and recruiting for a new editor to begin with volume 32 (2010) and are very pleased to announce the appointment of Drs. Stephen Nash and Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science to the post. They already have begun what we are sure will be a smooth transition so that future issues of the journal will also be on time. They are planning some new format changes, with the help the Wiley-Blackwell and the AAA Publications Office, and some new features that should continue to please our readership. Otherwise, the Council and individual members of the Board worked on a variety of initiatives during the year that will be detailed below.

A. Membership. Our membership was stable in 2008 at 363 (277 regular, 86 student as of Sept. 2008), for an average over the past 26 months 368. This means that we are holding our own, but not growing. While it is nice to be stable, we would like to see membership grow appreciably, or certainly in line with the perceived interest in museums and museum issues (see Meeting Highlights, below). While interest in our publication seems to be growing, we also are somewhat fearful that its ready availability on line through AnthroSource might lead a decline in membership, especially in these economic times. We are in the process of revitalizing our website with the help of the AAA, and especially with some new member and student services, and we hope that this may help stimulate memberships. But we are also open to suggestions as to how to better market ourselves if other Sections have such. We are also an affiliate organization of the American Association of Museums, but are not perceiving a high degree of overlap in membership, perhaps because of the high rate of dues for two major organizations (AAM and AAA).

B. Financial Balances. Our Treasurer, Nancy Rosoff, who also will be reporting separately reported our revenues for 2008 as of Sept. 30, 2008 as $8,814.39, an increase of roughly $1,750 over last year. Given that our expenses for journal publication were basically nil this year, due to the subsidies from Indiana University and the new Wiley-Blackwell contract, we had as of September 30 $37,565.08 in our account. From that we will be deducting the expenses for our annual reception for members at the 2008 AAA meetings in San Francisco, some additional
travel expenses and phone, as well as office, editorial assistant, and some redesign expenses for Vol. 32 of the journal (losing the Indiana University subsidy; start-up costs at Denver Museum of Nature and Science). But we should have a healthy balance to be able to implement some additional activities this year, especially if we are cautious. However, our journal comes first, and we will continue to see to its publication before all else.

C. Meeting Highlights. The 2008 AAA meetings in San Francisco were again excellent in terms of the visibility of museum anthropology. Through our vice president, Alec Barker, we sponsored or otherwise reviewed six sessions, one of which was a Presidential Session (“Representation, Cultural heritage and the Construction of Identity,” Museum Anthropology: Collaboration and Engagement in Representing Culture and Knowledge,” “Ethnographic Collecting - The Stories Continue” and “After Collaboration: Indigenous Ontologies, Mediation and Museum Practice”). In addition, by key word count, museums were mentioned in the titles of over 130 presentations during the meetings overall. By titles and contents all reflected the central role that museums continue to play in wide ranging topics such as identity, representation and cultural heritage as well as collaborative practices. CMA also participated in an open forum sponsored by CoPAPIA (Committee on Practicing, Applied and Public Interest Anthropology) on issues facing museum anthropologists as practicing anthropologists. All were well attended, but, unfortunately, many time overlaps made it difficult to attend all of the sessions of interest. CMA sponsored our annual reception at the DeYoung Museum, followed by a private tour of their new African and New Guinea exhibitions, and a talk with curators. We also held our annual Board meeting and Membership Business meetings, and President Catherine Fowler, Jackson (with incoming editors Nash and Colwell-Chanthaphohn) and Rosoff (and incoming treasurer Gwyn Isaac) attended the Section Assembly, Editors meeting and Treasurers meeting, respectively. We welcomed incoming board members Josh Bell and Chip Colwell-Chanthaphohn, VP Barker and Treasurer Isaac and thanked outgoing officers and board members Rosoff and Miko Yamamoto and Peter Welch.

D. Spring Meeting. In the past we have had a reception and an informal meeting at the annual AAM meetings, but these were canceled this year due to lack of funds, and may be in the future as well. Past President MariLyn Salvador and Vice President Alec Barker represented CMA at the meeting, however.

E. Mentorship Efforts. Board member Candace Greene received planning and implementation grants in 2008 to prepare a proposal for a program to train graduate students in the use of anthropological (especially ethnographic) collections for research. This will be a six-week institute devoted to developing student skills in finding innovative research questions that can be answered at least in part through collections, and then providing them with the skills to develop data bases from the collections and ancillary documents that will answer them. The Council backed the proposal, and members will be participating in the sessions at the Smithsonian Institution (NMNH) that will train 12 students/year for the next 3 years (2009-11). The CMA board has also begun discussions as to ways to encourage more student participation in the annual meetings and other activities. Our annual reception seems to attract them, and they and the members enjoy discussing issues in this informal atmosphere.

F. Additional Outreach Activities. CMA successfully cooperated with the Archaeology Division on revision requests for NAGPRA, and in urging the AAA to join the United States Committee of the Blue Shield for archaeological resources protection. Also, additional lobbying efforts with the AD and the AAM and Association of Art Museum Directors resulted in the joint
approval for the U.S. to move forward in signing of the 1970 Unesco Conventions involving international trafficking in antiquities. CMA participated in the CoPAPIA discussion and session at the AAA, and continues to be represented there—by the President and a board member (Colwell-Chanthaphonh)—who will participate in the 2009 AAA meeting session. There are several issues for CMA members that are shared with other practicing anthropologists and these will be the focus of discussions. As noted above, AAM activities have been somewhat reduced, but we hope to maintain a presence with that organization as well.

G. Awards. None given but see Future Plans below.

H. Internal Communication. Dan Swan, our Webmaster, aided by Kimberly Christian, both Board members, have begun the redesign of our website with the help of the AAA. We look forward to being able to use it for internal communication with members as well as a device for attracting new members. Our listserv (museum-anth-council@willamette.edu) which is maintained by Rebecca Dobkins, is still used to get mailings to the members of important events, job postings, etc. Our Secretary, Joyce Herold, produced nine columns this year for AnthroNews.

I. Changes in Bylaws/Governance Structure. After a review of the bylaws, we are in the process now of making changes that hopefully will go to the membership for vote in 2009.

2. Future Plans or Activities (3-5 years)

A. Broadening Membership. We are hopeful that the newly designed website will help with this, as well the Smithsonian’s training initiative. We are also discussing and will likely offer this year a named prize for Excellence in Museum Practice. We hope to continue our association with the AAM, and to try to attract additional persons from other fields interested in the role of museums in public education to affiliate with us and read our publications and other materials. President Fowler also volunteered to work with the SA initiative on membership to get new ideas.

B. New Forms of Scholarly Communication. We offered a prize for a student poster presented at the AAA, but with the de-emphasis of posters at the AAA, we have let that lapse. We might revisit the issue, however. Our editor, Jackson, runs a museum blog at Indiana University.

C. Section Projects. The student training project cited above is one that has been going forward for the past two years and now is coming to fruition. Another is developing criteria for promotion/tenure for practicing museum anthropologists, especially in academic settings, where administrators are often at a loss as to how to evaluate museum work. We plan to issue some guidelines in this direction. We also will be looking at our long-range plan this year.

D. Collaboration with other Sections. As already noted, we work with the Archaeology Division and CoPAPIA. Fowler also will be working with the SA in 2009 on guidelines for archiving section records.

3. Chief Concerns

Most of our concerns are being raised, including equitable distribution of AnthroSource revenues, careful attention to publications and cooperation between the AAA and section publication editors and the primary contractor, representation of sections and section voices in the EB. The AAA staff on the whole does an excellent job and we are well satisfied.