



**Society for Historical Archaeology
Annual Conference on
Historical and Underwater
Archaeology**



The Annual SHA Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology will be held at the Hilton Austin Hotel, in downtown Austin. Located in the heart of Texas, Austin is an exciting and dynamic city. It is made up of a diverse blend of cultures that can be experienced through everything from music and dining to architecture, art, and history. This is all in keeping with the conference theme for 2011, *Boundaries and Crossroads in Action: Global Perspectives in Historical Archaeology*. Additional details on the conference are available online at <http://www.sha.org/about/conferences/2011.cfm>.

The annual forum of the **African Diaspora Archaeology Network** (ADAN) will be convened on Friday, Jan. 7, 2011, from 9am to 12pm in Grand Ballroom F of the Hilton Austin conference center, and is entitled *African Histories and Diasporas: A Conversation with Robert Farris Thompson*.



Bob Thompson is Col. John Trumbull Professor of History of Art at Yale University. For over 50 years, he has studied aspects of African diasporas through field research on both sides of the Atlantic. A sampling of his work includes; *Black Gods and Kings*; *African Art in Motion*; *Face of the Gods*; and *Tango: The Art History of Love*. His foundational reader, *Flash of the Spirit*, discusses West African influences on contemporary Afro-Caribbean populations, as manifested in material culture, philosophies, and performance. Thompson's contributions to the historical analysis African heritage have enabled our field to investigate the dynamic nature of the archaeological record as it pertains to the many strands of African diasporas. His work has challenged once widely held beliefs of simple forms of acculturation experienced by people of African descent, resulting in an expanding discourse within archaeology on processes of transcultural innovation, creolization, hybridity, and syncretism.

Prof. Thompson's keynote presentation will be followed in the second hour of our three-hour forum with comments by several lead discussants, including Leland Ferguson, Maria Franklin, Grey Gundaker, Jill Koverman, Akin Ogundiran, and Kenneth L. Brown. The third part of this three-hour forum is reserved for open group discussions among all attendees as to the forum theme and any other topics, news, questions, and announcements.

The ADAN extends sincere thanks to individuals and organizations who have provided sponsor support for this annual forum event, including Andrew Agha, Grey Gundaker, Mark Hauser, Nicole Isenbarger, J.W. Joseph, John McCarthy, New South Associates, the John L. Warfield Center for African & African American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin,

the Department of Africana Studies at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Additional events related to African diaspora archaeology include the following tours, workshops, panels, and symposia (among others) --

Awards Banquet

Friday, Jan. 7, 2011

Dr. Cheryl J. LaRoche will receive the *John L. Cotter Award* for her outstanding scholarly and public engagement achievements in interdisciplinary development of historical archaeology approaches to studying and conserving aspects of African American histories and cultures. Akin Ogundiran, Professor and Chair of the Africana Studies Department, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, will present the award. (7:30pm to 9:30pm)

Tours

Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011

East Austin Heritage Tour, which has been historically been home to the city's African American and Latino communities. Although facing gentrification as the city expands, these communities have established homes and businesses in the area and remain a vital part of the city's social, political, and cultural landscape. (8am to 12pm)

Workshops

Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011

BaKongo cosmograms, Christian crosses, or something else? A workshop on the interpretation of religion and spirituality in African Diaspora contexts (9am to 1pm)

Forum Panels

Thursday, Jan. 6

Archaeologists as Activists: Moving Forward on a Practice of Activist Archaeology (9am to 12pm)

Friday, Jan. 7

Where Do We Go From Here? Gender and Minority Affairs at the Crossroads (1pm to 4pm)

Teaching Historical Archaeology, A Panel Discussion (4pm to 6pm)

Saturday, Jan. 8

Our Practice, Our Lives: What Would an Anti-Racist SHA Look Like? (9am to 11am)

Symposium and General Sessions

Wednesday, Jan. 5

Plenary session includes a talk entitled At the Intersection of Tradition and Innovation (6pm to 8pm)

Thursday, Jan. 6

Heritage Sites and Community Outreach: Preservation, Education, and Engagement Agendas (9am to 11:30am)

Chesapeake Archaeology I: Jamestown: Crossroad of Empires (1pm to 2:15pm)

Chesapeake Archaeology II: Interpreting the Landscapes of the Early Chesapeake (2:30pm to 5pm)

From Demarcation to Differentiation: Archaeology and Variable Ontologies (3pm to 5pm)

Diamonds, Whaling and Mercantilism: Atlantic World Case Studies and Crossroads in Namibia and Carolina (3:15pm to 5pm)

Friday, Jan. 7

The Urbanization of Archaeology and Modern Cities (9am to 12pm)

New Perspectives on Carolina Ceramic Traditions (1pm to 5pm)

Bridging Landscapes: Geographic Approaches to the Archaeologies of Landscape (1pm to 4pm)

Saturday, Jan. 8

African Diaspora Archaeology Across Space and Time (1pm to 4pm)

Theorizing Social Identity (Parts I/II) (1pm to 3:45pm)

Material Boundaries and Outreach in Religious Innovation and Conversion (3:30pm to 6pm)

Ceramics in the African Atlantic: New Perspectives on Social, Economic, Political, and Other Everyday Interactions (4pm to 6pm)

We regret any inadvertent omissions of other related events from the list above.

Please consult the conference program for additional information, available online at <http://www.sha.org/about/conferences/2011.cfm>.

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<http://www.diaspora.uiuc.edu/news1210/news1210.html>