

[Qualification: In all the above, I advocate the replacement of national ideologies with a global ideology not unwittingly. It is for a specific end: integration and acceptance. Also, I believe in

the Whorf-Sapir hypothesis that language conditions thought. Thus the emphasis on de-nationalizing terms].

Gina L. Barnes

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Institute of Field Archaeologists

For many years, the absence of a professional body for archaeology in the United Kingdom was a source of surprise and incredulity to colleagues in other professions and disciplines. Who, they would ask, sets the standards? Who recognises the achievements of archaeologists? Who indeed? There was no such body and little overt enthusiasm for one. In the middle of the 1970s an attempt was made, through the CBA, to launch such a body, but it failed before it was ever open to the profession. The need for a professional body was one of those things that the new generation of field archaeologists, riding the crest of the wave of unit-based expansion would argue over endless pints.

It was left to a group of individuals to begin the process again at the end of the 1970s, and by 1979 we had an Association for the Promotion of an Institute of Field Archaeologists. By the end of 1982 the metamorphosis was complete, and on December 21st 1982 a Memorandum and Articles of Association was signed, bringing into existence the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The 341 members of APIFA elected 18 members as Council of the Institute, and they elected Peter Addyman as Chairperson, Brian Hobley as Treasurer and Martin Carver as Secretary.

The work of the APIFA had laid the foundations of what was to follow. The new Institute had its Memorandum and Articles of Association and its code of conduct, which clearly laid down its aims: "To

advance the practice of field archaeology and allied disciplines, to define and maintain proper standards and ethics in training and education in field archaeology, in the execution and supervision of work, and in the conservation of the archaeological heritage and to disseminate information about field archaeologists and their areas of interest".

The details of how this should be done covers three pages of the Memorandum of Association. They include publication, exhibition, the provision of a forum for the inter-change of information and the setting and promotion of the highest standards of competence and practice in field archaeology. These aims are, of course, more difficult to put into practice than to publish but the Institute is moving towards their achievement. Nothing can be done without a membership and by November 1984 this stood at 330 in the three categories of Member, Associate and Student. By far, the majority are Members, and the recruitment of Associate and Student members is now a high priority. The initial surge of applications is now slowing down, and we will soon be seeing the upgrading of Associates to Members, and Students to Associates, as individuals move through the profession.

Eligibility has been a source of confusion among potential members. If it is an Institute of Field Archaeologists, is it restricted to those who work in the field sensu stricto? The answer is most clearly and emphatically "no". In October 1983 Council agreed that "direct

involvement with the exercise of professional judgement affecting primary archaeological material should be considered an adequate criterion for appropriate experience in field archaeology". A wide definition indeed -- it covers all whose work involves the planning for, the practise, and the results of Field Archaeology. This is as it should be: field archaeology involves many more than the excavator with a trowel in the back pocket. If we are to serve field archaeology properly we must encompass those who find and survey the sites, those who excavate and record, those responsible for the resulting archives and finds both in the excavating institutions and the museums where the collections and archives finally come to rest, the aerial and underwater archaeologists, the environmentalists, the illustrators, the teachers and educators, the database and cultural resource managers. Once all these strands are brought together the Institute can speak properly for field archaeology and field archaeologists. There is still some residuum of feeling that the Institute is only the province of field workers, but this is now being dispelled.

The dissemination of information and the provision of a forum for discussion is now being fulfilled by 'The Field Archaeologist', our newsletter, and by conferences. So far three conferences have been held, and it is proposed that the Institute should hold a major conference each year.

Working parties have been set up to look into some of the actual and potential fields of operation for the Institute such as training, computer usage, the Professional Register, and contracts between sponsors and field units. A professional 'Grievance Procedure

Committee' has been established and is about to start considering cases of dispute involving members of the profession. A job information service exists and a computerised methodological bibliography now is being prepared at the Birmingham office, in the hands of the Assistant Secretary, who was appointed in 1984 to handle the day to day running of the institute and its services.

So the work of the Institute has begun, it has its membership, its working parties, its council and its officers. There are many involved in field archaeology who have still not joined and we urge them to do so, to add strength to the Institute and to allow it to represent them. In order to safeguard and advance field archaeology we need a voice: the Institute is that voice, and it can speak for excavators and conservators, for illustrators and museum archaeologists, for all involved in field archaeology. We may not see much return for our time and effort this year, but everything the Institute does is now an investment in the future, providing the foundation for a strong and respected profession in years to come.

Tony Gregory
Public Relations Officer

For further details contact:
The Assistant Secretary,
Stephen Walls,
Birmingham University
Archaeological Field Unit,
University of Birmingham,
PO Box 363,
Birmingham B15 2TT.

Or:
Public Relations Officer,
Tony Gregory,
Norfolk Archaeological Unit,
Union House, Gressenhall,
East Dereham, Norfolk.

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