Many thanks to François-Xavier Fauvelle and his team for their excellent work in hosting the 23rd SAfA meetings in June in Toulouse, France. The program of presentations and events was superb. The next SAfA meetings will convene at Stony Brook University in New York State in June 2018 and will be organized by Elizabeth Hildebrand.

The SAfA business meeting also ushered in changes for *Nyame Akuma*. The SAfA executive proposed and passed a new Editorial Policy and copies of the English and French versions follow the editorial in this issue. The policy defines the types of papers that will be accepted for publication in NA, lengths of papers and bibliographies and basic submission requirements. Please read the policy carefully. Beginning with the December 2016 issue only reports on recent field work in Africanist archaeology and ethnoarchaeology and news of people will be accepted for publication. Authors should consider submitting longer reports, fuller discussions of long-term projects and theoretical or methodological work to *Azania, African Archaeological Review* or the *Journal of African Archaeology*. Students should note that *Azania* publishes theses abstracts. An abridged version of the editorial policy is published on the inside cover of this and all future issues and the full editorial policy will be posted on the SAfA website. NA now has a Style Guide (English and French versions) that will be available on the SAfA website and should be used by authors prior to submitting their work.

It is also time to say goodbye. It has been my great honour to have served as editor of *NA* for the past eight years. I now pass this privilege to two new editors: M. Dores Cruz (mdores.cruz@gmail.com), who will edit the English submissions, and Els Cornelissen (els.cornelissen@africanmuseum.be), who will edit the French submissions, beginning with the December 2016 issue. Thank you for your support of *NA* and my best wishes to the new editors.

*Nyame Akuma* 85 has 13 papers covering a range of topics and time periods. Four of these papers deal with the topic of the Swahili and/or Indian Ocean trade. Wolfgang Alders contributes a discussion of the landscape history of Gede, Kenya, particularly in regard to how the stone town was integrated with the broader rural landscape. Alders presents results of his survey and contributes to the broader discussion of Swahili urban-rural relationships. Jorge de Torres Rodríguez, Marisa Ruiz-Gálvez Priego, Víctor Manuel Fernández Martínez, Hílario Madiquida and Cezar Mahumane report on new research in the Quirimbas Islands in northeastern Mozambique that aims to determine the role of the region in the Swahili world and in international trade. The study demonstrates that the islands had well-established Swahili occupations prior to the arrival of the Portuguese, but planned future excavation and ceramic analysis will better establish chronologies and the nature of these sites. Stéphane Pradines, Hélène Renel, Danael Veyssier and Bing Zhao describe results of recent excavations at Ironi Be (Dembeni, Mayotte). They have discovered that Dembeni was an important port in international maritime trade in the 9th century AD with later development of Swahili culture in the 11th to 12th centuries. Human burials indicate that at least some of the population had converted to Islam by the 12th century before the town was abandoned in the 13th century. Dembeni’s wealth was based in its role as a distribution point for rock crystal from Madagascar. Ann Haour, Annalisa Christie and Shiura Jaufar present results of survey and site excavations on the Maldives. It is widely assumed that cowries were collected in the Maldives and imported into West Africa. The study focuses on the lesser known early period of cowrie importation during the medieval Islamic period.

Two contributions look at under-researched areas of archaeology: one of Christian sites in Sudan, and the other of Islamic sites in Ethiopia. Abdelrahman Ibrahim Said and Yahia Fadl Tahir report on a complex of Christian sites including a church in the El-Ga’ab Basin in the Western Dongola
Reach, Sudan. Evidence indicates that this may have been a wine manufacturing locale. The study contributes to the archaeology of medieval Nubia and makes suggestions for site conservation. Timothy Insoll, Rachel MacLean and Blade Engda conducted survey and test excavations at Sofi burial mound near Harar, and at Harlaa in the Harari Regional State, Ethiopia. Although the relationship between the two sites is not yet established, Harlaa (dated to the 12th to 14th centuries AD), likely predates Harar. Despite similarities in ceramic assemblages, Harlaa differs from Harar in having a greater concentration of imported objects further suggesting that it was an important trade centre for goods coming from Arabia, the Red Sea region, India and China.

Four papers provide new information from surveys in neglected areas. Alejandro Terrazas and Antonio Rosas conducted a survey of MSA sites from Continental Equatorial Guinea in the Niefang region in the Uoro Rift. The researchers discovered eight new sites with MSA materials including some previously unreported MSA artifacts for this area, including tools similar to those of the Central African Sangoan-Lupemban tradition. The study indicates promising future research of the MSA in this region. Mohammed Alfatih Hayati discusses new discoveries of mesolithic sites in Gazira Reach in Central Sudan. This area has been neglected by archaeologists but attention is urgent as the sites are being impacted by natural and human actions. Siaw Appiah-Adu presents results of preliminary GPS and TS survey of Hambuikong in Komaland, Ghana. This is the first survey undertaken since limited survey of Komaland was conducted in the 1980s, and it expands the limited mapping of mounds, stone circles and house mounds in the region. The goal of the survey was to determine the spatial distribution of these sites and their relationship with other natural features. Some social interpretations based on mound distributions are offered. Yannick Fouda, while not reporting on recent survey, suggests that predictive modelling may be a useful application to analyze past human locations in Cameroon’s Central Province.

Two papers address the results of recent excavations. Peter Coutros provides us with initial results of the first of three phases of the Diallowali Archaeological Research Expedition (DARE), which investigates long-term human-environment interaction in the Middle Senegal Valley. The first phase concentrated on excavations of sites at the Diallowali site complex, consisting of 14 mounds interspersed with archaeological sites. Materials from the excavations revealed intense occupation of the complex between BC 1100 to 300 during a period of heightened aridity. This is one of the few sites of the first millennium BC to be systematically investigated. Emubosa Orijemie and Joanne Ogiogwa investigate potsherd pavements in Ope-Odu, Ibadan to determine if the pavement phenomenon is an indigenous or imported practice in this region. Using analyses of clays and palynomorphs found in the ceramic tiles and pots, the researchers conclude that the ceramics were made locally, but the stylistic similarity between the Ope-Odu pavement and that found in Ile-Ife indicate that the religious significance of the pavements was brought from Ile-Ife to Ope-Odu.

The last paper in this issue is a detailed account of preservation and conservation practices in the National Museum in Lagos, submitted by Biodun Oyinloye. While conservators do their best, Oyinlowe calls for more modern equipment to improve artefact preservation.

I thank the authors for their excellent contributions.

Dr. Diane Lyons
Editor