

IFRAO Report No. 9

MINUTES OF THE SECOND BUSINESS MEETING OF IFRAO

Cathedral Peak, Natal, South Africa

The Second Business Meeting of the International Federation of Rock Art Organisations (IFRAO) was held on 31 August 1991 at Cathedral Peak, South Africa. The meeting was called to order at 14.40 by Acting Chairperson, Neil Lee (SARARA).

PRESENT:

Dr Hugh Cairns, Australia (AURA); Mario Consens, Uruguay (CIARU); Mary Gorden, U.S.A. (ARARA); Maurice Lanteigne, Canada (RAAC); Shirley-Ann Pager, South Africa (SARARA); Professor Ben Swartz, U.S.A. (ACASPP).

1. **APOLOGIES:**

Japan Petrograph Society.

2. **MINUTES:**

Minutes of the 1988 IFRAO Meeting had been read by all attending members and were accepted.

3. **MATTERS ARISING:**

Additional matters arising from the 1988 Minutes are reported regularly in the journal Rock Art Research.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

4.1 **Motion tendered by M. Lanteigne:**

A motion was tendered by Maurice Lanteigne and seconded by Shirley-Ann Pager that international non-members of IFRAO attending the conference be allowed to participate as observers at this meeting. In the ensuing discussion surrounding this motion it became apparent that the lack of a formal constitution made it difficult to accommodate such contingencies as the motion proposed, since there were no guide-lines which could be followed in this or any other such matters which could arise in the course of such meetings. It was suggested that the motion be postponed for future discussion. However, this motion was subsequently re-tendered for consideration. The following discussion revealed that one of the primary aims of IFRAO was to encourage international co-operation among all rock art researchers, therefore closed sessions should be avoided. Since the east African members present had already indicated in informal discussion with S.-A. Pager that they wished to form either an East African Chapter of SARARA, as Namibian researchers had done, or to form the East African Rock Art Research Association, it was decided to grant these African members observer status, along with Namibia and the representative of CAR, Professor Lucas Smits. The motion was resolved and carried.

5. **CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS:**

5.1 **Motion tendered by H. Cairns, seconded by M. Lanteigne:**

Due to the difficulties experienced in the course of discussions concerning correct procedure, it was realised that IFRAO should have a formal constitution to provide guide-lines by which to conduct its activities and affairs. M. Gorden noted that Item 1 of the Minutes of the 1988 Meeting states '... unless the need for any such features or structures is perceived ...', and the meeting perceiving that there is a need for a formal structure recommends that a constitution be drawn up.

5.2 B. Swartz was nominated to draw up a draft constitution (presented below). He said he would go through the published Minutes of the first IFRAO Meeting, together with matters coming out of the present meeting to put together, in a formal structure, suggestions which would be sent out for comment. The motion was resolved and carried unanimously.

The meeting was recessed at 15.25 so that a formal invitation could be extended to the persons nominated to attend the meeting. The following members were introduced and welcomed:

Dr Yusuf Juwayeyi, Malawi; Dr Fidelis Masao, Tanzania; Professor Osaga Odak, Kenya; Gerdis Stadtherr, Namibia; Professor Lucas Smits, Holland (representing CAR).

6. REPORTS FROM INTERNAT. ORGANISATIONS:

6.1 SARARA (Southern African Rock Art Research Association)

S.-A. Pager advised that much time had been spent during the previous year organising the conference as well as pre- and post-conference field trips and she recorded her gratitude to N. Lee for his support in her endeavours. She thanked all participants in the conference and the IFRAO Representatives for their support. She expressed her regret that some people had chosen not to attend for various reasons.

SARARA holds meetings at regular intervals throughout each year, inviting different speakers to talk on various aspects of rock art. There are also field trips in which members participate. This year there was a visit to petroglyph sites in the Magaliesberg to assess damage through natural and unnatural causes, as well as to discover if there had been any unauthorised removals. Comments and suggestions were invited.

6.2 B. Swartz noted that S.-A. Pager was to be commended in organising SARARA in the first place, and having it develop into the thriving organisation that it is today. M. Lanteigne added that her assistant organisers had also done a superb job in assisting her with the organisation of the conference. H. Cairns commented that the field trips have been very, very important and absolutely superb. B. Swartz proposed a motion of the Executive Board to commend Pager and thank her for her efforts. The motion was carried unanimously.

6.3 ACASPP (American Committee to Advance the Study of Petroglyphs and Pictographs)

B. Swartz reported that there had been an international meeting back in 1984 at Little Rock, for which, he believed, money had been made available by the Arkansas Archaeological Survey. The Executive Secretary of ACASPP, Joseph Snyder, is editing a series of papers for publication. There are currently between 150 and 200 members. Comments, suggestions and queries were called for.

S.-A. Pager enquired about the proposed international meeting planned for Las Vegas in 1994. B. Swartz explained that ACASPP would be affiliated with ARARA for this meeting. ARARA had sent out the formal proposals for the organisation and the initial scheduling would be done by ARARA. However, he (Swartz) was on the planning committee. Referring to the enquiry about the Las Vegas venue, M. Gorden stated that the venue had not yet been established.

6.4 ARARA (American Rock Art Research Association)

M. Gorden informed the meeting that ARARA's thrust is in two areas - conservation and education. Because membership of ARARA is scattered throughout the U.S.A., ARARA has in the last year established a Co-Chairperson for both educational and conservation committees. There are also a regional Co-Chairperson and individual members of the committee. This assisted in co-ordinating efforts throughout the United States in both areas of interest. This had been quite an organisational task but currently there had been communication from most States in regard to both education and conservation. Particularly with education there was co-operation with the National Archaeological Society, which also has an education committee. A package was being put together for each State and then there are more breakdowns which will combine both the archaeology and the rock art.

It was proposed that ARARA's bid for an international conference and IFRAO Meeting should be moved to Item 9 on the agenda. This was agreed.

6.5 RAAC (Rock Art Association of Canada)

M. Lanteigne reported that the first general meeting of RAAC was held on 9 May 1990 in Whitehorse, Yukon. There are six officials, of which Lanteigne is President, Professor Jack Steinbring is First Vice President, Stan Copp is Second Vice President. A constitution was drawn up and passed. On 9 August 1990, RAAC was incorporated and has a non-profit status. In September, affiliation was requested with IFRAO and was subsequently ratified by members of RAAC in November 1990.

The Second Annual Business Meeting was held on 13 May 1992 at St Johns in Newfoundland. RAAC currently distributes its journal *Rock Art Quarterly* to all IFRAO members. RAAC has established three committees: education, conservation and Native relations. There is currently a major national dilemma in that there is no consistent national policy in Canada. M. Lanteigne requests the participation of international organisations similarly engaged in planning policy legislation standards in these areas.

6.6 CIARU (Centro de Investigación de Arte Rupestre del Uruguay)

M. Consens stated that in the last two years, principal efforts had been made in field research. The second priority lay in the location and specialisation of rock art research. The National Heritage Committee had obtained the declaration of rock art sites as National Monuments. Unfortunately some 20% of rock art sites have been destroyed or

severely damaged over the past five years due to industrial and commercial activities. M. Consens requests the assistance of IFRAO members to help combat the problem.

CIARU has three international projects that are being developed. The aims of the Centro are to develop closer ties with other centres in South America with the same concerns. CIARU also works in areas that have not yet developed their own centres and is very proud of the support it can give them.

6.7 AURA (Australian Rock Art Research Association)

H. Cairns reports that two national meetings were held since the First AURA Congress in 1988: in Sydney (1989) and in the Grampians mountains (1991). Both included a seminar and field trips. In general, there had been an emphasis on scholarship and research, with special attention given to the development of rock art dating techniques. The main emphasis was on the planning of the Cairns Congress which will be taking place at the end of August 1992. The venue would be the Hilton in Cairns. A summary was presented of the Congress, which would include the next IFRAO Business Meeting.

AURA produces the major scientific journal *Rock Art Research* (received by all IFRAO members), the AURA Newsletter, and a series of substantial occasional publications. Volume 4 of the latter appeared a few months ago, two more volumes will be published mid-1992. Nearly all of the proceedings of the First AURA Congress have appeared or are in print, totalling close to 200 research papers.

7. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION:

7.1 Australia: Standard scale for photography

The use of a standard colour scale for rock art research was presented in IFRAO Report No. 6 (in *Rock Art Research* 8: 78-9). The pros and cons for using a colour scale were discussed at length and it was thought that the availability of a standard colour scale for documentation purposes would be critical for future assessment of pigment deterioration, but no proposal was made. However, it was recommended that AURA prepare a guide-line for consideration at the IFRAO Business Meeting in Cairns.

7.2 Bolivia: Assistance for specific research and conservation/protection for rock art projects

SIARB (Sociedad de Investigación del Arte Rupestre de Bolivia, not represented at the meeting) stated its urgent need for international participation in research projects focused on the conservation/protection of their rock art sites. It was obvious that such funding is outside the capabilities of IFRAO and it is suggested that Bolivia seek assistance from UNESCO. B. Swartz notes the statement in the Minutes of the 1988 IFRAO Meeting: 'It is believed that an international federation can approach funding agencies far more effectively than national or regional organisations and it is envisaged that a major function of the Federation will be to endorse projects supported by member organisations'. There was a general reluctance to support the wording that we would be willing to 'endorse' projects supported by member organisations. Swartz proposed a motion to amend the wording '... that will be to endorse projects ...' to '... will be supported by member organisations.' This motion was seconded by M. Gorden. After further discussion it was decided to use the word 'encourage' rather than 'support'. The proposal was amended to read as follows: 'A major function of the Federation will be to encourage projects supported by member organisations.' B. Swartz accepted this alternative wording and it was again seconded by M. Gorden. It was unanimously carried.

7.3 Canada: Development of a decentralised data-sharing international archival network

This matter was discussed at the 1988 IFRAO Meeting. Various other suggestions have since been put forward. However, there are problems involved which need to be resolved before any archival network system can be achieved. M. Lanteigne proposed a motion that IFRAO be informed of individual members, their capacities and capabilities for supporting an archival network system. This was seconded by H. Cairns.

7.4 Canada: Journal exchange network, status of network, protocol for use of non-copyright material, editor's reports on respective publications, circulation, membership, DTP publishing

It was noted that one of the main contributions that IFRAO could make is by assisting in the establishment and upgrading of international publication standards in rock art research. It was recommended that IFRAO prepare a preliminary report on the current journal exchange network.

7.5 India: Pefology, a proposed new name for rock art studies

A name was proposed for the discipline, as defining the internal relationship of humans and their environment, cognitive development and the process of humanisation through the study of petroglyphs, petrographs, engraving on any surface, figurines and ornamental objects produced by humans at different stages. The proposal was put forward by O. Odak. It was proposed by M. Gorden that IFRAO circulate this as a document to all member organisations for consideration at the next IFRAO Meeting, and seconded by M. Consens.

7.6 Italy: International project for the standardisation of keywords for rock art publications
Professor Dario Seglie of CeSMAP (Centro Studi e Museo d'Arte Preistorica) has developed a system of keywords which it has been recommended that all member organisations follow. This was acknowledged by all present but no comments or discussion ensued.

7.7 South Africa: Rubbings and tracings - do they accelerate the deterioration process?
It was reported by the delegate representing the South African National Monuments Council in the course of the conference proceedings that the South African government is presently considering legitimising the techniques of rubbing and tracing as acceptable recording standards for rock art. It is also intending to give permits to professional researchers who regularly carry out these techniques as a means of recording the rock art. Rubbing and tracing are widely used, and some researchers still use the latex casting of petroglyphs, disregarding the proven damage caused by such practices. In the opinion of member organisations present, a statement condemning these practices should be submitted for inclusion in the proposed 'code of ethics' to be drafted by IFRAO.

7.8 Uruguay: An appeal to IFRAO for support for action against rock art destruction
It was reported by M. Consens that of the fifty known sites in his research area, fifteen have been destroyed or have suffered severe damage over the last five years due to industrial or commercial activity. It was unanimously agreed that IFRAO should prepare a statement declaring its support for CIARU, to be submitted to the appropriate government department responsible for heritage management in Uruguay.

8. THE CAIRNS CONGRESS:

In 1988, AURA gave notice of its intent to host an IFRAO Business Meeting in conjunction with the Second AURA Congress. This request was unanimously accepted by postal ballot in 1989. The ensuing discussion brought out that there should be an agreed frequency for IFRAO Executive Meetings. A general agreement was that one every four years would be appropriate. Section 9 of the Minutes of the 1988 IFRAO Meeting explicitly states that one of the aims of IFRAO Meetings is to increase the international attendance of the host events. The proposed rock art exhibition, which was planned for the 1992 Cairns Congress, has been postponed.

9. VENUES FOR FURTHER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES:

M. Gorden confirmed the request that ARARA host an IFRAO Executive Meeting at the proposed international congress in 1994. It was proposed that a letter of intent be submitted to all members not attending this meeting so that they may have the opportunity of ratifying this proposal. The proposed letter was subsequently sent out to all member organisations by SARARA's President, S.-A. Pager. The letter stated that no replies would be taken as acceptances. No notifications of dissent were received, therefore it was taken as being unanimously accepted (cf. Rock Art Research 8: 155).

10. OTHER BUSINESS:

10.1 National and international Native organisations: the need to establish formal consultative networks
The meeting was advised by H. Cairns that Australia has a Cultural Heritage Rights Bill which recognises site usage as an indigenous right. AURA supports the right of indigenous peoples to control access to rock art sites and works with the Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies on these issues. M. Lanteigne stated that he would like IFRAO to acknowledge the implicit inalienable rights of indigenous peoples to have access to and control over their cultural heritage, which would include rock art sites.

It was decided that a general statement of intent of purpose go into the proposed constitution of IFRAO, which will indicate to the world at large that IFRAO recognises that part of the cultural heritage is vested in the indigenous peoples and it must be protected. B. Swartz agreed to insert a clause into the draft constitution that would deal specifically with this matter.

10.2 Standardised conservation and protection advisory strategies

It was agreed that this item should be combined with Section 11 of these Minutes, which also encompasses Section 7.7.

11. CODE OF ETHICS:

Standards for: (a) Recording, and (b) sample removal for dating and geoenvironmental or pigment analyses

R. G. Bednarik initiated the proposal for drafting the code of ethics for sample removal (Rock Art Research 8: 79-90). It was resolved that both items be considered when drafting the proposed code of ethics for the carrying out of scientific research of rock art.

12. GENERAL:

In the course of this meeting it became apparent that the variety and complexity of the subject matter on the agenda was such that future meetings should perhaps be conducted over several hours per day throughout the duration of the conference. This would allow for more detailed information on the various subjects and allow more in-depth discussion on the various matters raised. Some members felt that some of the proposals discussed could have been handled through correspondence. Others agreed that direct and personal contact has greater impact and is important in establishing and maintaining international unity of purpose and motivation.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting of the International Federation of Rock Art Organisations was adjourned at 23.35.
Shirley-Ann Pager
President, SARARA
RAR 9-000

In accordance with Minute 5.2 above, Professor Ben Swartz (ACASPP) has drawn up a draft constitution for IFRAO, which is presented here for comment. Readers are reminded that IFRAO is not an organisation of individuals, so individual suggestions and criticisms should be submitted preferably through the executive of the national or regional rock art organisation the author is a member of. Proposals submitted by IFRAO Representatives to the Convener will be circulated among member organisations for consideration.

IFRAO DRAFT CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the entity shall be the International Federation of Rock Art Organisations (IFRAO).

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES

IFRAO shall:

- Section 1 - provide guide-lines for standards of rock art conservation, recording and inventorying (documenting and assessing);
- Section 2 - serve as a clearing house for the dissemination of rock art data;
- Section 3 - encourage intellectual and monetary support of rock art projects endorsed by IFRAO;
- Section 4 - promote high scholarly standards of rock art research and publication;
- Section 5 - undertake educational programs with the public to help ensure maximal appreciation and protection of rock art resources;
- Section 6 - promote the inalienable rights of indigenous peoples to have access to, and control over, their rock art heritage; and
- Section 7 - promulgate the values expressed by IFRAO's Code of Ethics [or Statement of Principles; this document to be drafted after the Cairns AURA Congress, and might also include Sections 5 and 6 above].

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Members of IFRAO are organisations, not individuals. Application for membership will be by written request of the organisation's head to the IFRAO Convener.
- Section 2. Organisations applying for membership should have professional standing and be corporate entities or have official recognition of their country's cultural authority.
- Section 3. An organisation will be admitted into IFRAO by a majority vote of existing affiliated organisations conducted by the Convener. The vote may be cast at an authorised IFRAO meeting or by mail.

ARTICLE IV: PUBLICATIONS

- Section 1. Exchange of information and copyright options of IFRAO periodicals shall be encouraged within an integrated network unless it infringes upon individual producers.
- Section 2. Information about rock art-related subjects, such as deontology and rock art conservation, will be regularly issued.
- Section 3. Reports and bulletins announcing recent discoveries, current news and other developments of concern or interest to the discipline shall be released on a regular basis by IFRAO.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

- Section 1. IFRAO shall be administered by a Convener or caretaker organiser elected by a majority of votes of the organisational representatives. Term of office is indefinite.

- Section 2. The Convener may appoint his/her successor, subject to a confirmation vote of two-thirds of the member organisations.
- Section 3. The Convener serves at the pleasure of former IFRAO Conveners, authorised IFRAO Conference Chairpersons, and member organisation's present and past IFRAO Representatives.
- Section 4. The business of IFRAO will be conducted at meetings presided over by the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall be the host organisation's representative at an authorised international meeting.
- Section 5. If the Convener cannot attend an authorised IFRAO meeting he/she may delegate the Chairperson to act on his/her behalf.
- Section 6. If the Chairperson cannot conduct a meeting he/she may delegate responsibilities to an official IFRAO Representative in attendance, subject to the unanimous approval of the delegates present.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

- Section 1. An authorised meeting of IFRAO representatives shall be convened no later than four years from the previous meeting.
- Section 2. A majority of votes of organisational Representatives of IFRAO is required to sanction an upcoming meeting.
- Section 3. A year's notice must be given to convene an authorised meeting.
- Section 4. Each organisation of IFRAO is allowed representation by one voting delegate.
- Section 5. A delegate may represent more than one IFRAO organisation and may cast votes for each organisation the delegate represents.
- Section 6. Each organisation may select a delegate to participate at an authorised IFRAO meeting by whatever internal process it chooses. The name of the delegate is then sent to the Chairperson with a copy to the Convener. If the organisation does not notify the Chairperson prior to the meeting of the identity of its authorised delegate, the head of that affiliated organisation may serve as its Representative. If the head is not present, the chief executive officer of the organisation may serve as its Representative. If neither are present, an officer of the organisation or a trustee of the organisation's board of directors may serve as the organisation's Representative.
- Section 7. Agenda items to be considered at an authorised IFRAO meeting are to be submitted to the Chairperson with a copy to the Convener.
- Section 8. The invitation of observers at an authorised IFRAO Business Meeting must be by prior mutual consent of official Representatives.
- Section 9. The preparation and distribution of the minutes of an authorised IFRAO meeting is the responsibility of the Chairperson. Minutes will be mailed to all member organisations of IFRAO no later than one year from termination of the meeting.

ARTICLE VII: PROCEDURES

Any questions of procedure not covered within this constitution shall be controlled by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VIII: OFFICE

The office of IFRAO shall be the current address of the Convener.

ARTICLE IX: STATUS

IFRAO shall be unincorporated. It is not a financial entity and shall not deal with corporate funds nor make a profit.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended, repealed or expanded by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of representatives from constituent affiliated organisations of IFRAO at an authorised meeting. Written proposals for such changes must be submitted by mail to all constituent organisations and must bear a postmark at least forty-five days prior to the first announced day of the meeting. Editorial revisions and clerical alterations of submitted proposed changes can be considered and approved at the meeting.

Draft by Ben Swartz, Jr
President, ACASPP
RAR 9-000

IFRAO BUSINESS MEETING 1992

This meeting was held in September 1992, during the Second AURA Congress in Cairns, Australia. A report and the minutes of this meeting will appear in the next issue of RAR.

IFRAO BUSINESS MEETING 1993

The proposal by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts and the Rock Art Society of India, to nominate the following conference as an authorised IFRAO meeting has been accepted by the IFRAO Representatives in Cairns. In view of the incomplete coverage of the substantial agenda at Cairns, it is proposed that all uncompleted business from the Cairns meeting be attended to at the 1993 meeting in New Delhi. The host event will be the Global Specialists Conference on Rock Art.

Global Specialists Conference on Rock Art
November 1993, New Delhi, India

The rock art scholars of the world are invited to attend this international conference, to be held in New Delhi under the aegis of UNESCO. The actual dates will be announced shortly.

The Conference aims to: create an awareness of the intrinsic value of palaeoart as the cultural heritage of humanity; evolve strategies of rock art site management, conservation and computerised documentation; re-formulate methods of cross-cultural comparison and standardise rock art terminology; develop specialist systems in rock art studies; and finalise the conceptual plan of the IGNC World Galleries of Rock Art.

The sessions of the Conference will be based on pre-circulated papers, so that the five days of meetings in New Delhi may be devoted to discussion. The major themes of the Conference will be:

1. Understanding rock art in a universal frame.
2. Rock art site management, conservation and documentation.
3. Cross-cultural comparison and standardisation in rock art terminology.
4. Artificial intelligence and rock art research.
5. World galleries of rock art.

Enquiries should be directed to:
Professor B. N. Saraswati
Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
Janpath, New Delhi 110 001
India

IFRAO BUSINESS MEETING 1994

International Rock Art Congress
Flagstaff, U.S.A., 30 May - 4 June 1994

Preparations for this major event are in full progress, with some changes to the committee. La Pintura (Fall 1992) reports the details of a Planning Committee meeting held in Flagstaff on 10 October 1992. The Call for Papers is imminent, and further details should be available soon.

The meetings will be held on the campus of Northern Arizona University in the DuBois Conference Center. Flagstaff is situated in Arizona, an area of abundant and spectacular rock art and archaeology. There will be five days of academic sessions, covering a wide range of topics relevant to all aspects of rock art research. Informal sessions with rock art films and videos are planned. Space will also be available for research abstracts to be presented in poster format. All papers suitable for publication will appear in post-congress volumes.

Preliminary estimates of registration fees are US\$125.00 for early registration (prior to 1 May 1994), US\$150.00 full registration fee. Lodging rates begin around US\$30.00/night for single accommodation and range upward. Field trips ranging from one day trips to week-long expeditions will be offered.

This is an advance announcement and further details will become available in the course of 1993. However, further information may also be obtained from:

ARARA
P.O. Box 65
San Miguel, CA 93451
U.S.A.

IFRAO BUSINESS MEETING 1995

Professor Dario Seglie, IFRAO Representative of CeSMAP (Centro Studi e Museo d'Arte Preistorica) has proposed that the following event be considered as the venue of an authorised IFRAO meeting in 1995:

International Rock Art Congress in Italy
Pinerolo-Torino, August/September 1995

The proposal nominates five days of academic sessions comprising ten to twelve symposia, debates, films and displays, exhibition (Alpine rock art, Saharan rock art), cocktail party and farewell dinner. Field trips will cover rock art of post-Palaeolithic sites in the western Alps, and there will be tours also to various prehistoric, ethnographic and historic destinations in Italy. The following provisional symposium titles are announced:

- A - Rock art studies: a new approach
- B - Rock art: semiotics, signs and symbols
- C - Rock art: recording and computer science
- D - Rock art and the mass media
- E - Rock art and the Mediterranean Sea
- F - Rock art of the Sahara
- G - Rock art of the Arctic circle
- H - Rock art and museology-museography
- I - Rock art and archaeological excavation
- J - The ethics of rock art research
- K - Preservation and management of rock art

FURTHER IFRAO BUSINESS MEETINGS

The following further proposals are at hand for nomination of planned international events as IFRAO meetings:

- 1996: The Third AURA Congress, either in Sydney or in Adelaide, Australia, in August/September.
- 1997: IVth International SIARB Symposium, planned for Sucre, Bolivia.
- 1998: RASI Conference, to be held in India.

If these proposals are accepted there will be an IFRAO meeting every year from 1991 to 1998, and these events will be well spread over the continents: Africa (1991), Australia (1992, 1996), Asia (1993, 1998), North America (1994), Europe (1995), South America (1997). Once bids for IFRAO meetings are accepted, IFRAO members are asked to refrain from organising competing major conferences, and to plan their own internal event calendars to avoid clashes with these major international events. It is a significant benefit of having an international federation that planning of this type can be conducted in an orderly, sensible fashion, evenly distributing the workload of conducting conferences, while at the same time spreading the benefits that are certainly conferred on organisations willing to tackle such engrossing projects.

TWO NEW MEMBERS OF IFRAO

The East African Rock Art Research Association (EARARA) has been recently incorporated in Dar Es Salam. Its principal office holders, Dr Fidelis T. Masao and Professor Osaga Odak, had announced their intentions to form either a chapter of SARARA, or to form a new rock art organisation covering east Africa, at the SARARA rock art conference, Cathedral Peak, Natal, in August 1991. The intention to seek affiliation with IFRAO was later conveyed to the IFRAO Convener, and soon after incorporation Professor Odak attended the Cairns IFRAO meeting as the nominated delegate of SARARA. He presented the request of EARARA to the IFRAO Business Meeting and the Representatives confirmed EARARA's acceptance as the twentieth member of IFRAO.

The new member fits well into the existing IFRAO membership, being modelled on existing members in terms of objectives, organisational structure and research orientation. It intends to cover the region of east Africa, essentially north of the region served by SARARA, as far north as Kenya. This region includes several rock art regions, some of which have been the subject of scientific publications in the international literature of recent years. The office of EARARA will be at the University of Dar Es Salam.

The contact address of EARARA is:

East African Rock Art Research Association

Dr Fidelis T. Masao (Chairperson)

Archaeology Unit

University of Dar Es Salam

P.O. Box 35050

Dar Es Salam

Tanzania

The Comité de Investigación del Arte Rupestre de la Sociedad Argentina de Antropología (CIAR-SAA) was recently created within the Argentine Anthropological Society. This Committee brings together researchers interested in developing and promoting studies in rock art.

The Society is a non-profit scientific organisation, has no restrictive membership rules, and is governed by an elected executive. Its main aim is to 'encourage anthropological investigation within the country and to co-ordinate the work done by those who today study that subject'. It has some 200 members, and publishes a scientific magazine, *Relaciones*. It was within this institutional framework that, in March 1992, a group of investigators saw a need of forming a specific committee to study rock art, reflecting (1) the characteristics of this particular archaeological heritage, which requires the development of specific methods in order to study it; (2) the special protection and conservation requirements, given the nature of its exposure; (3) the need to promote the inclusion of rock art study in archaeological projects and investigation as a whole; (4) the need to support efforts aimed at giving value to those national cultural assets, by informing the public about them. The general objectives of CIAR-SAA are:

1. To promote scientific research of rock art applying specific methods.
2. To promote the documentation of rock art sites.
3. To encourage the protection and conservation of rock art sites.
4. To develop ways of publishing and disseminating research findings.
5. To lobby for creating legislation according to these aims.

Specific objectives are:

1. To promote the inclusion of rock art as a subject in archaeology in seminars and courses at university level.
2. To promote close ties with both national and international institutions.
3. To organise academic and public events on this subject (conferences, courses, study tours etc.).
4. To facilitate the availability of professional advice on the subject, to researchers, institutions and other interested parties.
5. To publish a newsletter on the CIAR-SAA activities.
6. To promote the exchange of specialists and encourage a first-rate professional extracurricular organisation.

The Executive Committee of the CIAR-SAA consists of: Carlos J. Gradin (President), María Mercedes Podest (Secretary), Juan Schobinger, Carlos A. Aschero, María Isabel Hernandez Llosas (Committee Members).

M. M. Podest represented SIARB at the Cairns IFRAO meeting (she is SIARB's official Argentine representative), at which opportunity she placed the CIAR-SAA request before the business meeting. The nomination was unanimously accepted by the IFRAO Representatives, and CIAR-SAA thus becomes the Federation's twenty-first member.

The contact address of the new member is:

Comité de Investigación del Arte Rupestre de la Sociedad Argentina de Antropología

Lic. María Mercedes Podest (Secretary)

Av. Santa Fe 983, 4 piso A

1059 Buenos Aires

Argentina

RARAC FORGES AHEAD IN CHINA

Until 1984, the rock art specialists of Western countries were not only unaware that rock art research was being conducted in China, they did not even know of the existence of rock art there. Yet the beginnings of rock art studies date back much further in China than in any other country, as noted by Bednarik and Li in 1991 (Rock art dating in China. The Artefact 14: 25). There have been several improvements in the field of rock art studies in China. Sites of rock art are found throughout the country and information about it is available in archaeological journals, newspapers and magazines, and several rock art books have been published recently. Meetings have taken place from time to time. The Rock Art Research Association of China was formed on 12 March 1991, and in the same year held an international conference in Yinchuan, north-west China. This was the first international conference on rock art which was held in China. Its main objective was to establish a world-wide awareness of the significance of Chinese rock art.

As a scientific discipline, rock art research is still new in China, and there are many things to be done. As the Chinese 'open policy' proceeds, the government and the scholars of China welcome co-operation with foreign organisations, especially with IFRAO.

The agenda of rock art research in China affords priority to education, to the training of rock art researchers, managers and conservators, and to public awareness as well. There has never been any formal training in rock art before in China. It is planned to conduct a rock art course in the Central Institute for Nationalities in Beijing, and RARAC requests the co-operation of IFRAO with this project. We hope that IFRAO members can provide one or two teachers for the course, who will be accommodated while in China.

In order to promote the communication between Chinese scholars and their foreign colleagues, a newsletter is necessary. It will be published in two languages, Chinese and English. Subject to the availability of funds, the establishment of a rock art study centre would also be of significant benefit.

Destruction, obliteration and fading of rock art proceed everywhere, at various rates. Such deterioration often takes place before proper documentation of the images has been possible. Therefore an urgent item on our agenda is also to prevent the destruction of rock art sites.

Professor Chen Zhao Fu
President, RARAC
RAR 9-000

RASI ROCK ART FESTIVAL IN INDIA

In order to improve public awareness of Indian rock art, the Rock Art Society of India (RASI) conducted the Dr V. S. Wakankar Smriti Purakala Samaroh in Agra on 30 November and 1 December 1992. It was attended by thirty delegates and an audience of nearly 220. The program consisted of three basic components: the RASI exhibition Rock art and us people; a workshop on public awareness of the Indian rock art heritage; and a series of three lectures, given by R. K. Pancholi, V. S. Srivastava and Giriraj Kumar. Professor B. P. Kamboj from Lalitkala Academy and Mrs Lakshmi Wakankar were special guests of the event.

As a public event, the rock art festival received good attention in the electronic and printed media. All India Radio recorded the entire proceedings and broadcast a special 20-minutes program.

The principal subjects emphasised in the proceedings were the inclusion of rock art in teaching curricula, and the launching of public awareness programs. The establishment of an autonomous national centre for palaeoart and culture was discussed and advocated, and it was suggested that the Rock Art Institute of Ujjain could play its role initially. Methods and strategies of improving public awareness were discussed, particularly the means of encouraging interest in young people.

Dr Giriraj Kumar
Secretary, RASI
RAR 9-000

SIARB EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

The Sociedad de Investigación del Arte Rupestre de Bolivia (SIARB) is making good progress with its educational program. It has just printed 15 000 copies of a brochure aimed at children which will be distributed through the schools of the Department of Cochabamba. We are attempting to secure institutional sponsors for another edition of this publication which is to be distributed in the La Paz region. In addition, the text has been translated into the two major indigenous languages of Bolivia, Aymara and Quechua, and SIARB intends to initiate a campaign among the rural population of the country.

During 1992, SIARB has published the third volume of its monograph series, *Contribuciones al Estudio del Arte Rupestre Sudamericano*. Consisting of 230 pages, this volume deals with the rock art of the recent periods of Bolivia and neighbouring countries, the Colonial and the Republican Periods. The volume was edited by SIARB President Roy Querejazu Lewis and is entitled *Arte rupestre Colonial y Republicano de Bolivia y países vecinos*.
Matthias Strecker
Secretary, SIARB
RAR 9-000

BUSY YEAR FOR AURA

1992 has been a busy year for the Australian Rock Art Research Association (AURA). The Second AURA Congress has been a major factor in this, and much of my time during the first half of this year was occupied with organising the full or partial subsidisation of the participation costs of 52 congress delegates. Significant aspects of the Congress were the participation of a large number of indigenous people, especially Australian Aborigines, and an equally impressive high participation of public and academic luminaries of the highest rank. Media participation, too, was excellent and productive, including during the lead-up period. The drawcard of the Congress, however, was without doubt its high academic profile. Its 171 papers and lectures introduced the best work that has been produced in the discipline in recent years.

During this year, AURA has also produced the remaining two volumes of the Darwin proceedings we had undertaken to publish, besides the Cairns congress handbook and the usual issues of the journal *Rock Art Research* and the AURA Newsletter. In all, AURA has published close to 600 000 words in the course of 1992.

Robert G. Bednarik
Secretary, AURA
RAR 9-000

THE FOUNDING OF IFRAO

This composite photograph consists of two of the only three photographs taken at the founding meeting of IFRAO in Darwin. They were all taken by Jack Steinbring on 3 September 1988, in the boardroom of the Beaufort Convention Centre in Darwin, Australia.

The founders of IFRAO are, from left: Professor Chen Zhao Fu, China (later President of RARAC); Robert G. Bednarik, Australia (Secretary of AURA); Dr Donald E. Weaver, U.S.A. (then Vice President of ARARA); Professor Ben K. Swartz, U.S.A. (President of ACASPP); Dr S. K. Pandey, India (later President of IRA); Roy Querejazu Lewis, Bolivia (President of SIARB); Shirley-Ann Pager, South Africa (President of SARARA); Ken Hedges, U.S.A. (then Immediate Past President of ARARA); and Dr Michel Lorblanchet, France (President of the Groupe de réflexion sur les méthodes de l'art pariétal,olithique). The photographs were taken by Professor Jack Steinbring, Canada (President of RAAM).