

# International Association for Obsidian Studies Bulletin

Number 18

Winter/Spring 1997

Business Address: Department of Anthropology, San Jose State  
University, San Jose, California, 95192-0113

Assembled and edited by B. Hamusek

---

## CONTENTS

- *News and Information* - 1
- *Short Reports and Reviews* - 3
- *Abstracts and Annotations* - 4
  - *Meetings and Events* - 6
  - *About the IAOS* - 7

---

## NEWS AND INFORMATION

### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

*by Dr. Thomas Jackson*

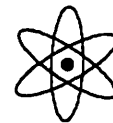
The IAOS continues in its unique role of providing a forum for the exchange of information and ideas relating specifically to obsidian studies. What is perhaps most striking about the IAOS Newsletters you have recently received is the clear evidence of the continued growth in interest in obsidian studies indicated by the number of abstracts and published papers. New methods and techniques of analysis are being developed regularly and the application of obsidian studies in archaeology is being refined. A new volume devoted exclusively to obsidian studies will be published by Plenum Press later this year.

In the face of this growing interest in obsidian studies, the IAOS faces some rather ironic challenges. First, although our membership has never been robust, the IAOS membership list includes far too many persons and organizations who have not paid dues in many years. Regrettably, the cost of producing the Newsletter is such that the IAOS will no longer be able to distribute the Newsletter to persons who are not current in their dues payment.

Secondly, because of the time and effort required to produce the IAOS Newsletter, it has been decided to publish three times annually rather than four times. The Newsletter will appear in Spring (prior to the Spring professional meetings, and hopefully, in time to list important meeting calendars); in Summer (capturing the array of abstracts and other developments from professional meetings); and in Winter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Blossom Hamusek for her diligent and excellent efforts in compiling and producing the Newsletter. I would also like to extend a special thanks to Pat Dunning for stepping in and taking over the role of Secretary-Treasurer. Pat will continue to serve in this role for another year.

Thirdly, the Newsletter needs your contributions. While the number of published professional papers and presentations at meetings regarding obsidian studies is climbing steadily, the Newsletter has not been able to share in this abundance. I would strongly encourage you to put your cursor to the screen and key in that bit of text that relates to your colleagues those pithy latest thoughts on some aspect of obsidian studies. While the IAOS Newsletter is a serious professional forum for discussion, it is also a more informal medium within which to develop ideas and seek the assistance of colleagues.

As you read this, I will be ending my term as President. Dr. Jon Ericson will receive the reins of power at the Society for American Archaeology meetings in Nashville in April. I thank you for the opportunity to represent the Society and wish Jon, and all IAOS members, the best of fortune.



## IAOS ANNUAL MEETING

The ninth annual meeting of the IAOS will be held at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee on Friday evening, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1997. The meeting will occur in conjunction with the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. Although room assignments have yet to be announced, the meeting is scheduled to take place from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. The room number will be posted on the information board at the SAA's. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

## TIME FOR A MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNTING?

*Commentary by Michael Rondeau*

Please pay your dues was the message. On December 2, 1996, Patricia Dunning, our Secretary-Treasurer, issued a reminder for payment of membership dues. Statistics provided in that letter stated that of 114 "members" only 43 were current through 1996. Fifty had not paid dues since 1994. A recent email from Patricia indicated to me that there are 53 "members" from California, but only 9 appeared to be current, having paid their membership dues for 1997.

There is a complication in clarifying the membership rolls. Even though I have paid 1997 dues I am probably not one of those registered as current. Patricia has inherited an interesting bookkeeping system. It is my understanding (which is limited) that if a person who, for example, dropped out in 1994 rejoins in 1997, having paid no dues in 1994 or later, the system will credit the 1997 payment as covering his or her 1994 dues. Automatic tracking of current membership does not appear to be inherent in the system.

What, if anything, should be done? Suggestions are hereby solicited for inclusion in this column.



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE RED SWITCHBACK OBSIDIAN SOURCE, KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA

*by John Hitchcock,  
Goosenest Ranger District Archaeologist,  
Klamath National Forest*

The Red Switchback Obsidian source is just one of several obsidian source groups within the Medicine Lake Highlands. It is located on public lands managed by the Klamath National Forest, in Siskiyou County, California.

Archaeological work at this source by the Forest began in 1979 with attempts to describe and document its prehistoric utilization. Since moving to the Klamath Forest in 1989, I "inherited" not only the responsibilities associated with managing this resource, but the problems and results of the previous work done as well.

Instead of focusing all our efforts on issues regarding the prehistoric utilization of this glass, we began to concentrate on defining the boundaries of the source. In 1995 we have more or less completed this phase of our research (not without endless praise for our sometimes trusty GPS units).

Although there are some areas within the geological formation that appear to possess unusable material, overall the knapping quality of this glass is quite good. The internal and external appearances of the obsidian, however can and does frequently vary throughout the flow. Obsidian can be found exposed as blocky masses, angular boulders, "crazed" beds, tabular sheets, as well as sub-rounded, stream-smooth cobbles. Internally, the glass can be described as jet, banded, grey, "sugary", mahogany-spotted, or with inclusions.

As our boundary determinations developed, we found that we had not only enclosed the Red Switchback source, but the Callahah obsidian source as well. Richard Hughes (1986) in *Diachronic Variability in Obsidian Procurement Patterns in Northeastern California and Southcentral Oregon*, had previously assigned the Red Switchback source to the Grasshopper Flat/Lost Iron Wells geochemical group and the

Callahan source to the Callahan Flow geochemical group. Do we have an obsidian source with two geochemical "fingerprints"? Is there a geological boundary that is separating the Red Switchback and Callahan flows that cannot be detected on the surface of the ground?

The original geochemical source determinations were made from one collection at each site, separated by over a linear mile distance. We have submitted a collection of twenty additional geological specimens from across the areas in question in the hopes that we will begin to answer a few of our many questions regarding this source area. When the characterization work has been completed we will provide an update on our project.

John Hitchcock, Archaeologist  
Goosenest Ranger District  
37805 Highway 97  
Macdoel, California, 96058

---

## SHORT REPORTS & REVIEWS

Compiled by Mike Rondeau, Caltrans  
Environmental Program, 1120 N St.  
PO Box 942874 MS 27  
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001  
Voice: 916.653-0974; FAX: 916.653-6126;  
mrondeau@trmx3.dot.gov.ca

Short Reports & Reviews provides an archaeological context in which to report obsidian research and related information. Reviews of recent studies, research in progress, older findings, regional, site, and artifact specific summaries, as well as other reports, announcements, etc. of pertinent interest are encouraged. To submit contributions to Short Reports or for an outline of recommended archaeological/obsidian information for the Short Report format contact Mike Rondeau.

### Chemical Analysis of Mesopotamian Obsidian

#### *A Review*

*An Energy Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence Study of Some Near Eastern Obsidians* by Mark Hall and Steven Shackley presents a discussion of how x-ray fluorescence spectrometry works, the applied methods of this study, a description of the obsidian artifacts studied, the analytical

results, and an interpretive discussion of those findings.

The specimens came from three sites. Two tells were *Hamoukar* and *Hirbet Tueris* near the border with Iraq in the Habur River basin of northeastern Syria. The former is thought to be the capital of the Mitanni state of Wassukanni. Based on surface pottery, nearby *Hirbet Tueris* appears to have been occupied through the second millennium B.C. *Umm Dabighiyah* is a small tell located on the dry steppe of the Jazira in Iraq. It was occupied during the sixth millennium B.C.

The glass specimens from the first two sites were retouched blades ranging from 1.5 cm to 6.0 cm in length. The *Umm Dabighiyah* artifacts included two retouched flakes and a single debitage specimen. The chemical analysis is presented in tabular and graphic formats. The obsidian was found to have derived from sources in eastern Turkey; Nemrut Dat, Bingol, and one unknown source. It was noted that some obsidian artifacts at all three sites retained cortex. This suggested that nodules rather than flaked pieces were traded to sites. It was concluded that additional research in the region is needed to clearly characterize Near Eastern obsidian exchange systems.

Hall, Mark E., and M. Steven Shackley  
1994 *An Energy Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence Study of Some Near Eastern Obsidians*. *Al-Rafidan* XV:25-32. The Institute for Cultural Studies of Ancient Iraq, Kokushikan University, Tokyo.

---

### Research in Progress on Melanesian Obsidian

#### *Reported by Michael Hanship*

This research mainly covers obsidian recovered from the Melanesian islands of New Britain, New Ireland, Buka, Nissan, Ambitle, Watom, Reef Islands and Santa Cruz. The two main glass sources for the region were the Admiralty Islands and the Talasea peninsula on New Britain. There were also three minor sources in the region that prehistorically contributed only single digit percentage amounts to the obsidian assemblages of the region.

Glass use in Melanesia dates back at least to 12,000 B.P. when the New Britain glass found its way to New Ireland. This involved a water crossing of some tens of kilometers. By 5000 B.P. more obsidian was being moved, but this was not over significantly greater distances. With the arrival of Lapita pottery ca. 3500 B.P. the appearance of obsidian transport over extremely long distances becomes apparent in the archaeological record. However, in the Post-Lapita phase, which varies in time with location (ca. 2500 B.P. in the west and probably post 2000 B.P. in the east), there was a change to much more local toolstone sources of lesser quality and various raw material types.

The focus of the current research is on the long distance movement of volcanic glass which began around ca. 3500 B.P. Much of the dating for this research has been by association with either pottery or volcanic ash strata. Even so, substantial amounts of obsidian hydration analysis has been done by Wal Ambrose.

It appears that the obsidian was moved about in a variety of forms. There is evidence for *in situ* reduction and for "tool" movement. It is suggested that the obsidian moved around in a wide range of forms from relatively large sized "bricks" weighing several kilograms to core sized pieces down to flakes of a few grams.

---

### Early Holocene Obsidian Dating in the Mojave Desert, California

#### *A Review*

*Obsidian Hydration Dating of Early-Holocene Assemblages in the Mojave Desert* by Mark Basgall compared the results of studies on hundreds of Coso obsidian artifacts with radiometric data and early projectile point typologies in the region. The problem of adequate chronometrics in the Desert West of North America due to a dearth of radiocarbon dates was noted. The need for alternative dating techniques was recognized. Recent proposals for Pinto points being earlier than previously thought and the implications that such a reassignment might have for the temporal

placement of Great Basin Stemmed Series points were discussed.

The presented data came from artifacts of Coso glass from Early and Middle Holocene assemblages. These were recovered from seven sites on Ft. Irwin in the north-central Mojave Desert, eight sites in the northern Mojave Desert, and the Stahl site at Little Lake. It was found that for Elko, Gypsum, and Humboldt series points of the Gypsum period (ca. 4000 - 1500 B.P.) the mean measurements for those samples ranged from 6.0 to 8.1 microns Coso. Earlier point types included "shouldered, indented-base (cf. Pinto), Great Basin Stemmed (Stemmed [cf. Lake Mohave, Silver Lake]), and Great Basin Concave-Base (cf. Fluted) point forms' (1995:57). The mean measurements for samples from those assemblages ranged from 11.6 to 15.7 microns Coso.

Site specific data was provided regarding C<sup>14</sup> determinations, obsidian hydration profiles, projectile point typologies, and context considerations. It was found that the early assemblages clustered into two modes with large percentages of the obsidian band widths either above or below 13.5 microns Coso. Even so, several comparative anomalies in the data were noted. Although Pinto assemblages produced older band width readings than anticipated, it was concluded that the Pinto forms were attributable to the Mid-Holocene and that Stemmed series points represented the Early Holocene. Some limited overlap of these two point series, perhaps on the order of one millennium, was suggested. Silver Lake points were seen as the Stemmed series type most likely involved in any overlap. The limited morphological differences between Silver Lake and Pinto points were noted as potentially supporting the temporal overlap interpretation.

Basgall, Mark E.

1995 *Obsidian Hydration Dating of Early-Holocene Assemblages in the Mojave Desert. Current Research in the Pleistocene* 12:57-60.

## ABSTRACTS AND ANNOTATIONS OF REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

The volume of so-called "gray literature" in archaeology is staggering, making it difficult for researchers who are not "plugged-in" to contract or research archaeology of a certain region or to hear of and gain access to reports. In addition, the proliferation and number of journals, and the interdisciplinary nature of obsidian and glass studies make it difficult to keep abreast of all relevant current literature. The IAOS Bulletin will alert readers to some of this information by reproducing abstracts and summarizing literature that may be of particular interest to IAOS members.

**Cauvin, M. C. , N. Balkan, Y. Besnus, and F. Saroglu**

1994 The Obsidian in the Sinjar (*L'Obsidienne dans le Sinjar*). *Paléorient* 12(2):89-97

### Abstract

The problem of origin of the obsidian found in Neolithic sites of North-East Iraq, in the Sinjar region, is addressed in four papers. These villages sites have been excavated by a team of Russian archaeologists (R. Munchaev, N. Merpert and N. Bader). Obsidian artifacts were found, in great number in the first times of occupation, then in decreasing number during the 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> millennia. Obsidian, however, is not found near the sites. The nearest sources are located to the northwest, in the Anatolian Taurus mountains, at a distance of more than 400 km. Some technological and typological criteria (pressure debitage, so called "Çayönü" tools), original in the Sinjar, are found with the same characteristics in older or contemporaneous sites in the Taurus. Following a sample of obsidian sources of south-eastern Turkey, already analyzed and published in this journal, chemical analyses using different methods were undertaken in order to establish the source of the raw material used in the Sinjar. The results of these analyses raise the problem of the differentiation of two sources which could have been used by the Neolithic people (C. Chataiger). X-ray fluorescence analyses were made in Rome (V. Francaviglia) and neutronic activation analyses at Orleans (B. Gratuze). The

study of an archaeological problem, i.e., the diffusion of obsidian in the Neolithic Near East and the intersite relations which it implies leads to another problem, of a geochemical and geological nature, that is the characterization of obsidian sources.

**Gilreath, A. J., and W. R. Hildebrandt**  
1996 Archaeological Investigations Within the Coso Volcanic Field. *Society for California Archaeology Newsletter* 30(3):3-5.

### Annotation

This article provides an overview of past and recent investigations conducted within the Coso Volcanic Field of southwestern California. Analysis of obsidian hydration rim readings from a variety of projectile point types indicate that the fields were exploited as early as 5500 B.P. up until 200 B. P. The authors observe that obsidian production and distribution appears to have changed over time with use of the volcanic field during the Early (pre - 5500 B.P.) and Little Lake (5500 - 1500 B.P.) periods was largely limited to short term use of the secondary or lag deposits and were embedded within the subsistence-settlement system. Slightly later in time (3500 - 2300 B.P.) the use of off-quarry biface production areas show a significant increase in use. This trend away from the use of lag quarries reaches a peak during the late Newberry period (2300 B.P. - 1275 B. P.) where stone-working activities appear to have focused on the highest quality seams. Off-quarry sites were commonplace during this time and consisted almost entirely of biface production areas. Increased predictability of settlement locations during the annual subsistence-settlement cycle is thought to have allowed for the development of regularized exchange relationships. Use of the field appears to have dropped off significantly during the Haiwee period (1275 B. P. - 650 B. P. ) and where decreased mobility, accompanied by increased population density and territoriality, may have altered the flow of obsidian by increasing the number of exchanges per unit of distance traveled.

**Kilikoglou, V., Y. Bassiakos, A.P. Grimanis, K. Souvatzis, A. Pilali-Papasteriou, and A. Papanthimou-Papaefthimiou**  
1996 Carpathian Obsidian in Macedonia, Greece. *Journal of Archaeological Science* 23:343-349.

*Abstract*

The excavations at Mandalo in Macedonia, Greece, have produced a remarkably high number of obsidian objects dated to the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age. Eleven of these samples were analyzed by instrumental neutron activation for 10 minor and trace elements, in order to determine their provenance. It was found that all Neolithic and one Bronze Age sample came from the Carpathian 1 source, while another Early Bronze Age sample came from the Demenegaki source in Melos. The overlap between Carpathian and Melian obsidian distributions is evidence for interactions of ancient Macedonia with central Europe and the Aegean. Also, according to this finding, the Carpathian distribution pattern has now been extended for another 400 km to the south, from Vinca to Mandalo.

**Pastrana, A., and T. H. Charlton**  
1997 Early Colonial Obsidian Exploitation at Sierra de Las Navajas Source, Mexico. Paper presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for Society for Historical Archaeology, Corpus Cristi, Texas.

*Abstract*

In central Mexico during the first decades of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the exploitation of obsidian and the distribution of obsidian tools played an essential role in the basic productive processes of the economy of the Triple Alliance. Beginning with the Spanish conquest, European extraction, production, and distribution processes were implemented in the fields of agriculture and cattle raising and in gold and silver mining. The indigenous population along with their obsidian tools were integrated with technological and organizational changes into these new processes of production. This stage of technological and economic transition lasted until the 17<sup>th</sup> century, in the colonization on land tract patternization in Texas from the *empresarios* of the Mexican and Texas Republic governments, to the ranching and railroad era of the late 1800s.

**Poupeau, G., L. Bellot-Gurlet, O. Dorighel, T. Calligaro, J. Dran, and J. Salomon**  
1996 Obsidian Circulation in Prehispanic Times in Colombia and Ecuador: A Coupled PIXE/Fission Track Dating Approach. *Academie des Sciences*, 323 (2A):443-450.

*Abstract*

We analyzed by PIXE the chemical composition of 50 obsidian artifacts from Colombian and Ecuadorian archaeological coastal sites of the prehispanic period, and 21 samples from natural outcrops and dated 16 of these samples by the fission track method. Geochemical/age characterization of obsidian artifacts show they come from five sources, of which three are unknown. The combination of PIXE and fission track dating can refine the grouping of samples into homogeneous clans for sourcing studies.

**Ridings, R.**  
1996 Where in the World Does Obsidian Hydration Dating Work? *American Antiquity* 61(1):136-148.

*Abstract*

Results of a field study at Pot Creek Pueblo indicate that when effective hydration temperatures varies significantly with depth, errors in obsidian hydration age estimates can occur if hydration rate constants are extrapolated to depth-specific effective hydration temperatures. This problem will be particularly severe in continental climates, but will have some effect anywhere the amplitude of the annual surface temperature wave exceeds 2 -3° Centigrade.

---

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

1997

March 26-30. Society for California Archaeology Annual Meetings. Red Lion Inn. Rohnert Park, California, USA.

April 2-6. The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

April 11-13, 1997. Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology

Conference, University of Birmingham (UK). For information: P. Martijn van Leusen, CAA97 Organizing Committee University of Birmingham Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, Phone: +44 121 414 5513; Fax: +44 121 414 5516; or email: caa97@bham.ac.uk

May 7-11. Canadian Archaeological Association Meeting, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. For information: Urve Linnamae or Bruce Low, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Saskatchewan, 9 Campus Dr., Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 5A5, Canada. Phone: (306) 966-4177 or 966-4189; FAX (306) 966-5640.

### ABOUT THE IAOS

The IAOS was established to:

- (1) develop standards for analytic procedures and ensure inter-laboratory comparability;
- (2) develop standards for recording and reporting obsidian hydration and characterization results;
- (3) provide technical support in the form of training and workshops for those wanting to develop their expertise in the field, and;
- (4) provide a central source of information regarding the advances in obsidian studies and the analytic capabilities of various laboratories and institutions.

### Membership

The IAOS needs membership to ensure success of the organization. To be included as a member and receive all of the benefits thereof, you may apply for membership in one of the following categories:

- Regular member \$20.00/year
- Institutional member \$50.00
- Life-Time Member \$200.00

Regular members are individuals or institutions who are interested in obsidian studies, and wish to support the goals of the IAOS. Regular members will receive any general mailings; announcements of meetings, conferences, and symposia; bulletins; and papers distributed by

the IAOS during the year. Regular members are entitled to attend and vote in Annual Meetings.

Institutional members are those individuals, facilities, and institutions who are active in obsidian studies and wish to participate in inter-laboratory comparisons and standardization. If an institution joins, all members of that institution are listed as IAOS members, although they will receive only one mailing per institution. Institutional members will receive assistance from, or be able to collaborate with, other institutional members. Institutional members are automatically on the Executive Board, and as such have greater influence on the goals and activities of the IAOS.

\*Membership fee may be reduced and/or waived in cases of financial hardship or difficulty in paying in foreign currency. Please complete the form and return to the Secretary with a short explanation regarding lack of payment.

\*\*Because membership fees are very low, the IAOS asks that all payments be made in US dollars in international money orders or checks payable on a bank with a US branch. If you do not do so, much of your dues are spent in currency exchange. If you wish to join us, mail a check or money order to the IAOS:

Pat Dunning, Secretary-Treasurer  
Department of Anthropology  
One Washington Square  
San Jose State University  
San Jose, California 95121-0113  
408.997-9183

---

**CALL FOR ARTICLES AND  
INFORMATION**

Submissions for articles, short reports, abstracts, or announcements for inclusion in the newsletter are accepted at any time. We accept electronic media on IBM compatible 3.5" or 5.25" diskettes in a variety of word processing formats, but Wordperfect (5.n) or Word for Windows 95 is preferred. A hard copy of the text and any figures should accompany diskettes.

Deadline for submission for the Summer Bulletin is June 1, 1997. Send to:

Blossom Hamusek,  
PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.,  
P.O. Box 160756, Sacramento, CA 95816-  
0756, USA. Voice: 916.739-8356; FAX:  
916.739-0626

***NEW MEMBERS:***

*Jeff Altschul*  
*Joseph Moore*



**I**nternational  
**A**ssociation for  
**O**bsidian  
**S**tudies

**Business Address:**  
IAOS  
Department of Anthropology  
San Jose State University  
San Jose, CA 95192-0113  
(408) 997-9183

---

March 6, 1997

Dear Member,

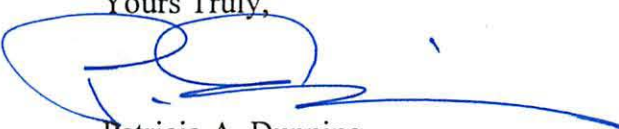
Thank you for your nominations for President-elect and for the Excellence in Obsidian Studies Award. A ballot for President-elect and the candidates' statements are attached. Ballots for U.S. members are stamped; to return, you need only fold and staple. **Please mail immediately, so your ballot will be received in San Jose by April 1, 1997.** Because of the short turn-around time, international members *only* may vote either by FAXing their ballot to (US) 408-924-5348 or via e-mail to padng@aol.com. The results of the election will be announced at the IAOS Annual Meeting, to be held Friday, April 4 at 5:30 PM, in conjunction with the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology.

We solicited nominations for Secretary-treasurer for a 1997-1999 term. However, no-one received the requisite two nominations. As a result, Pat Dunning will continue in office for another year; the Secretary-treasurer position will be on the ballot in 1998 for the 1998-2000 term.

**Dues for 1996 and 1997 are now due.** Our records show that you last paid dues in 1995. Prompt payment would be appreciated. Please remember that we are a small organization and depend on your dues to continue in operation. Please fill out the membership renewal application included in this *Bulletin*—the phone number(s) and e-mail address we have for you are probably obsolete. If you believe that our records are in error, and that you paid dues in 1996, please let me know.

Thank you for your support of the IAOS. If there is anything I can do to help, please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours Truly,



Patricia A. Dunning  
Secretary-treasurer, IAOS

## David Fredrickson

David Fredrickson, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology, Sonoma State University. He established the Cultural Resources Management program at Sonoma State University and initiated and directed (until his retirement) its Anthropological Studies Center and Obsidian Hydration Laboratory. Dave has been involved in obsidian studies for more than 35 years and is a charter member of the IAOS. While his own work focuses on the application of obsidian analysis to archaeological questions, he has encouraged research in obsidian geochemistry and a better understanding of the hydration process.

Dave writes “As an archaeologist who has encouraged the study of obsidian in terms of both its geophysical properties and the application of findings about these properties in archaeological contexts, I have become increasingly aware of the complex factors that affect archaeological applications. Although these factors quite properly prompt caution in application studies, experience has demonstrated that productive results may be achieved by working within these constraints. (The use of hydration analysis to examine scavenging and reuse of artifacts is once such example.)

I believe obsidian analysis can achieve its potential only through better communication between those who study obsidian’s geochemical properties (including both the factors which affect the hydration process and the analysis of trace elements) and those who apply these results to answer archaeological questions—especially those questions which go beyond “What source did it come from?” and “How old is it?”

I am an advocate of obsidian studies and the use of obsidian analysis in archaeology. If elected IAOS President-elect, my focus will be on improving communication—the exchange of ideas, methods, and techniques—across the membership, using the *Bulletin*, the Web site, and personal contact to affect this result.”

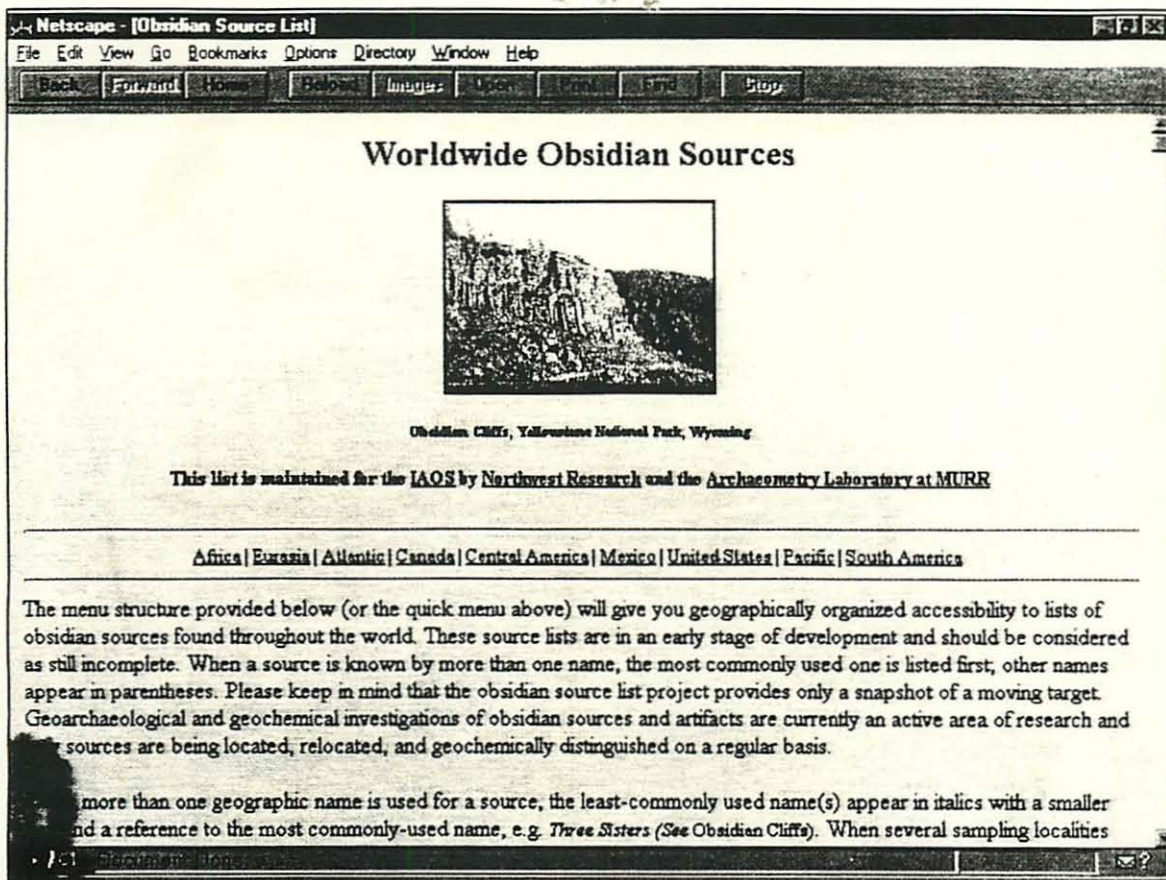
## Robert Jackson

Robert Jackson (no relation to Tom Jackson), has had a long-term interest in obsidian studies and started the IAOS, with a few other people, in 1989. Unfortunately, business demands have prevented his active involvement for about five years.

Rob has been involved with the establishment of several obsidian hydration labs, including: the Sonoma State lab with Tom Origer, under the leadership and guidance of Dave Fredrickson; the U.C. Davis Lab; and as owner and operator of Lithichron, Inc.; the BioSystems Analysis Lab; and currently the Pacific Legacy Lab, along with Tom Jackson.

Rob writes “My perspectives on obsidian studies were initially formed under Dave Fredrickson’s teachings, and his perspectives on the use of hydration data still form the basis of my current direction and applications. I’m actively involved in obsidian studies on individual archaeological projects, and I have developed approaches to hydration analysis principally for understanding site formation, structure, and assemblage reconstruction. I am not an adherent of its use for absolute dating, although I applaud continued research into affective variables. Similarly, I believe source analyses can (and should) be varied according to research need and demonstrated capabilities (including visual sourcing in certain geographic/cultural contexts). Absolute quantitative methods are great when you need them, but may not always be necessary. If inexpensive, “low-tech” approaches produce reliable results, they should be carefully used, with savings allocated to other research (which may or may not involve obsidian).

I fully support the IAOS and its goals and would serve if elected. I appreciate the nomination for this office and I look forward to more active participation in future years.”



IAOS obsidian source listing starting page [www\_sour.pcx]

-----Cut-Out (or Copy)-----

Yes, I'd like to renew my membership. A check or money order for the annual membership fee is enclosed (see below).

Yes, I'd like to become a member of IAOS. A check or money order for the annual membership fee is enclosed (see below). Please send my first issue of the IAOS Bulletin and a copy of the diskette-based (IBM PC-compatible) IAOS Obsidian Bibliography. Please check disk format required:  5 1/4 360 KB or  3 1/2 740 KB.

Not convinced, but want to know more?

Please send me a complimentary issue of the latest IAOS Bulletin.

Please send me a copy of the IAOS Obsidian Bibliography ( 5 1/4 or  3 1/2) and a complimentary copy of the IAOS Bulletin. My check or money order for \$10 (refundable if I join IAOS this calendar year) is enclosed.

Name

Title

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Country

Affiliation

Work Phone  FAX #

Home Phone (optional)

E-Mail Address(es)

My check or money order is enclosed for the following amount (please check one):

\$20 Regular Member

\$50 Institutional Member

\$200 Lifetime Member

Please return this form to : IAOS ♦ Department of Anthropology ♦ San Jose State University ♦ San Jose, CA 95192-0113.