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Preliminary program and Announcements

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THE SOUTHERN ANTHROPOLOGIST



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LETTER

Dear SAS Member:

The 1986 Preliminary Program is printed in this issue of The Southern Anthropologist and so is the second half of Jean Allan's witchcraft paper. Please note the correct spelling of Jean's name: ALLAN. If you would like a complete copy of the spring program and abstracts and are unable to attend the meetings, copies will be available after the April meetings. Write or phone and I shall be happy to mail you a copy.

Patricia B. Lerch, Editor

CONVENTION NOTES

A brief meeting update was mailed to all convention participants in February. Please note that on Saturday evening, April 26th, a "shrimparoo" will be sponsored by the SAS-AES-SMA for meeting participants and guests. The cost will be \$20.67 per adult and \$8.50 per child. The menu features steamed clams, shrimp, crabs, fried oysters, hush puppies, potatoe salad, corn on the cob, green beans, a fresh fruit salad, and tea or coffee. If you wish to reserve a place for this buffet supper, please send a check for the total amount by April 17th to P.B. Lerch, Dept of Soc/Anthro, UNCW, Wilmington, N.C. 28403. Checks should be made payable to The Southern Anthropological Society.

As a special event, the UNCW Black Gospel Choir, an all student organization, will perform on Thursday evening at the Blockade Runner Hotel. There is no admission for this event. On Friday evening, Professor Rodney Needham (Oxford Univ) will present the keynote address on a topic relating to features of human thought.

Hotel reservation information was published in the Fall issue (1985, Volume 13) of The Southern Anthropologist.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

**Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society
held in conjunction with the
106th Annual Meeting of the American Ethnological Society
and the Society for Medical Anthropology
April 24th-27th**

Thursday Morning April 24th

1. Prehistoric Coastal Archaeology (SAS Invited Session)
2. Symbolism and Symbolic Systems (SAS Volunteered Papers)
3. Social Science and Coastal Resource Management: the Fisheries of North Carolina (SAS Invited Session)
4. Contested Domains of Reproduction, Sexuality, Family, and Gender in America (AES Invited Session)
5. Health Programs and Policies for Prenatal Care, Childbirth, and Family Planning (AES)

Thursday Afternoon, April 24th

6. Kin and Nonkin Networks (SAS Volunteered Papers)
7. Anthropological Theory (SAS Volunteered Papers)
8. Social Science and Coastal Resource Management: the Fisheries of North Carolina II (SAS Invited Session)
9. Knowledge and Power in the Management of Reproduction (SMA Invited Session)
10. Strategies for Reproductive Success in Human Societies (AES)

Thursday Evening April 24th

UNCW Black Gospel Choir

Friday Morning April 25th

11. Cultural Adaptations on the Southern Coastal Plain (SAS Key Symposium) I
12. Medical Anthropology (SAS Volunteered Papers)
13. Subcultural Groups in the South (SAS Volunteered Papers)
14. Applying Cultural Analysis to the Political Dynamics of Reproduction (AES Invited Session)
15. Questioning the Natural: Lila Liebowitz's Contribution to a Unified Bio-social Anthropology (Memorial Session for Lila Liebowitz)

**SAS BOARD MEETING LUNCH MEETING

Friday Afternoon April 25th

16. Cultural Adaptations on the Southern Coastal Plain (SAS Key Symposium) II
17. Doing Anthropology in Non-traditional Settings (SAS Organized Session)
18. Anthropology and Business (SAS Volunteered Papers)
19. La Operacion (Film-AES)
20. Race, Class, Ethnicity and Reproduction in Urban America (AES Invited Session)
21. Ideologies of Reproduction (AES)

Friday Evening April 25th

AES BOARD OF DIRECTORS (6:00 - 8:00)

Keynote Address: Professor Rodney Needham (8:00)

Saturday Morning April 26th

22. Contemporary Southeastern Indians (SAS Invited Session) I
23. Folklore of the South and of Coastal Environments (SAS Invited Session)
24. Family Planning Policies and Programs and the Third World (SMA Invited Session)
25. Issues in the Control of the Reproductive Cycle (AES)
26. Reproduction: A Challenge for Feminist Analysis (AES)

Saturday Afternoon April 26th

27. Contemporary Southeastern Indians (SAS Invited Session) II
28. Ethnographic Methods (SAS Volunteered Papers)
29. Rehabilitative Medicine in the USSR
30. ROUNDTABLE--FIELD SCHOOLS
31. The Politics of Reproduction: Case Studies Reflecting on the Work of Mary O'Brien (AES Invited Session)
32. Folklore of the Procreative Process (SMA Invited Session)

Saturday Evening April 26th

Shrimparoo

Sunday Morning April 27th

33. Life Histories and Cultural Models (SAS Organized Session)
34. VIDEOTAPE SESSION
35. Fertility and Its Context: Biology, Culture, Economy (SMA Invited Session)
36. Reproduction, Social Organization and Economy (AES)

1985 WINNER OF STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

CHOCTAW WITCHCRAFT:
A SYNTHESIS OF THE ETHNOHISTORIC ACCOUNTS II
Jean Allan
University of Alabama
Paper Submitted for Student Paper Competition
Southern Anthropological Society Meetings
Fayetteville, Arkansas
April 10-13, 1985

Abstract

"Belief in witches, which seems to have been an overshadowing horror to so many people, was equally rampant among the Choctaw" (Swanton 1931:129). Although there is little doubt of the existence of witch beliefs and their persistence within this Southeastern Indian group, documentation of the subject is severely limited. This paper reviews available sources with a consideration of their restrictions. As with most groups who conceive of witches, there is the logical assumption that witchcraft is involved only in events that cannot be accounted for through obvious explanations.