



This issue of the *Journal* takes us from the lab to the field and from Mexico to New Guinea. The geographical and topical diversity of these offerings are matched by the diversity of backgrounds of the authors—the five articles for this issue are one reflection of the breadth of on-going research in ethnobiology.

We begin in the lab with experimental research on charring maize. It is noteworthy that this research, which will have wide application in paleoethnobotany, was conducted by undergraduates under the direction of Christine Hastorf and Sissel Johannessen. The next three articles each echo, in varying degrees, the theme of sustainable use of natural resources: what can be learned from peoples living in traditional relationships with the natural world? The first takes us to the Sierra de Manantlan, Mexico, and a report of long-term, collaborative research into mestizo plant use by Bruce Benz and colleagues. George Estabrook then presents the implications of fuel choice on maintaining biodiversity in Portugal. Christopher Healey's paper comparing patterns of exploitation of birds in Borneo and New Guinea brings out the importance of understanding the wider social and political contexts of human-animal interrelationships. We end with a paper by Steven Goodman and Joseph Hobbs on the ethnozoology of reptiles in Egypt; this original research contributes much to knowledge of the distribution and classification of this often understudied group.

To facilitate finding reviews of books in which you are interested, beginning with this issue we are listing book reviews by title, author, and reviewer (rather than just page number). Note also that there is a change in how back issues of the *Journal* are distributed: in a moment of weakness Cecil Brown volunteered to store and send these out. Write him at the Department of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115-2854 (Ph. 815-753-0246) to inquire about the availability and price of issues you may be missing.

Finally, I would like to welcome H. Sorayya Carr and Gayle J. Fritz to the Editorial Board of the *Journal*. These new board members represent an expansion of the board, to insure that manuscript flow in any one research area does not overwhelm an individual board member. Let me take this opportunity to thank all Board Members for their hard work, and especially their efforts to speed up the manuscript review process. It still takes longer than we'd like to get manuscripts through the complete review process; I thank our contributors for their patience—everyone involved with reviewing, editing, and compiling the *Journal* are volunteers who squeeze the *Journal* into already busy schedules.