Oxford 8 and 9

The International Society for Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture (ISAAC) invites proposals from academic groups wishing to host the 8th "Oxford" International Conference on Archaeoastronomy in 2007 or the 9th conference in 2010. Since Oxford 7 met in the United States, Oxford 8 will probably not be held in North America. Should scheduling conferences in these years appear impractical, we will consider proposals for Oxford 8 in 2008 or Oxford 9 in 2011. Proposals should be sent to the following address:

International Society for Archaeoastronomy
and Astronomy in Culture
c/o Prof. Stephen McCluskey
Department of History
West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV  26506-6303
USA

The proposal should discuss the factors listed below which the committee needs to consider in its decision. If you have any questions please contact one of the officers of the society: Clive Ruggles <rug@le.ac.uk>; Stephen McCluskey <scmcc@wvu.edu>; or Stanislaw Iwaniszewski <siwanisz@yahoo.com>.

1. **Theme of the Conference.** The theme should address important issues in the study of astronomy in culture, and should not be geographically or culturally restrictive.

2. **Time and Location.** Please be as specific as you can about the venue and dates, although we realize that minor changes may be necessary. Typically the conference has lasted for a period of one week, followed by an optional excursion to nearby sites of archaeoastronomical significance.

3. **Local Organizing Committee.** Provide a list of scholars who have expressed willingness to participate in the LOC and of those who will be asked to participate. Members of ISAAC and related International Societies, and scholars who have participated actively in past Oxford conferences, should play major roles on the local organizing committee. Other local scholars in related specialties, who can contribute valuable scholarly perspectives to the meeting, are also welcome. If available, provide a short (1 page) CV of the proposed members; otherwise list their addresses, institutional affiliations and professional status.

4. **Academic Program.** Discuss the system for reviewing the academic quality, significance, and originality of proposed presentations. It is often advisable to appoint a separate Program Committee to perform this task, reflecting the disciplinary and international diversity of ISAAC. Members of the Program Committee need not be specified in the Proposal; the ISAAC Council will be available to assist in recruiting members for the Program Committee.

5. **Institutional Sponsorship and Support.** Include letters from appropriate officers of those local institutions that will sponsor or support the conference. Commitments to provide support in services, staff, or monetary subsidies will be especially helpful. In addition to such support from the sponsors, discuss likely financial support from governmental and private granting agencies.
6. **Finances.** Provide a preliminary budget for the conference. The budget should include estimates for all major expenses and for all sources of income, including grants and fees from participants. Participant fees should separately treat registration, (including a copy of the proceedings), lodging and meals, and excursions. Discuss the availability of funds to provide grants to scholars who would not otherwise be able to attend. The conference is expected to be self supporting, although ISAAC maintains a small conference fund which can be used to provide a start-up loan and to meet special expenses.

7. **Facilities.** Discuss facilities for the scholarly sessions, lodging and meals, and other facilities. Will it be possible for all conference participants to reside and dine at the conference site as has been done at past Oxford meetings? Access to the internet, a bar or common room where participants can meet informally, and a space for committee meetings are especially desirable.

8. **Schedule.** Discuss the pre-conference and conference schedule. The pre-conference schedule should consider when announcements will be sent out, when abstracts will be due, when presenters will be notified of acceptance or rejection, when special speakers will be invited, etc. The conference schedule (normally one week) should provide a rough outline of planned conference activities, including scholarly sessions, public lecture(s), field trips, business meeting(s), social activities, etc.

9. **Local Sites of Archaeoastronomical Significance.** Discuss plans for excursion(s) to nearby museums or sites and their significance to the theme of the conference. Traditionally there has been a day trip to a nearby site in the middle of the conference, and a longer optional excursion following the conference.

10. **Accessibility.** Discuss transportation to the conference site, including availability and cost of air transport from major cities in various continents.

11. **Publication.** Discuss plans for publication of conference proceedings, including potential publishers and any influence members of the Local Organizing Committee may have in arranging for publication. The society's journal, *Archaeoastronomy*, will consider publication of the proceedings as a special volume of selected papers.