

Contributors

Brenda Farnell is an assistant professor in the anthropology department at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign). She earned her Ph.D. in socio-cultural anthropology at Indiana University (Bloomington). Born in England, she also holds a teaching diploma from I.M. Marsh College of Physical Education (Liverpool University), a diploma in dance and dance education (Laban Centre for Movement and Dance, London University) and an M.A. in the Anthropology of Human Movement (New York University). Her research interests include ethnopoetics and performance in Plains Indian Sign Language, dances of the Northern Plains, the integration of speech and action, deixis, and embodiment and social theory. She is the author of *Do You See What I Mean: Plains Indian Sign Talk and the Embodiment of Action* and an interactive multimedia CD ROM disc, *WIYUTA: Assiniboine Storytelling with Signs* (1995, University of Texas Press). She edited the collection, *Human Action Signs in Cultural Context: The Visible and the Invisible in Movement and Dance* (1995, Scarecrow Press).

Marjorie A. Franken was born in Kansas, and has taught at Arkansas State University and several colleges and universities in California, including University of California at Riverside and Whittier College. Her interest in dances and anthropology is long-standing. She became acquainted with the Swahili people while she was a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya in 1974, when she learned the Swahili language. She returned to Kenya in 1983 to study the history and forms of Swahili dances, completing her Ph.D. in anthropology at University of California, Riverside, in 1986. Her current research projects focus upon the formation of nationalism, post-colonial national culture and gender roles through the study of dancing in Egypt. A major article, 'Egyptian Cinema and Television: Dancing and the Female Image' appears in *Visual Anthropology* [Vol. 8(2/4): 267-286, 1996] and she is currently working toward completion of a book on Egyptian dancing.

Frank Adrian Hall completed a Ph.D. dissertation on competitive Irish dancing for the Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington, in 1995. Before becoming a sociocultural anthropologist, he was a folk musician and the artistic director of Rhythm in Shoes (a performing Dance Ensemble) with whom he continues to work as dancer/musician. In addition to his anthropological interest in the dance, he has developed undergraduate courses in the anthropology of racism and American ethnic diversity. His most recent major publication is entitled 'Posture in Irish Dancing' in *Visual Anthropology*, 8(2/4):251-266, 1996. Dr. Hall is also the Review Editor for *JASHM*.

William Stokoe completed his Ph.D. in Germanic and Classical philology at Cornell University in 1946. He taught English at Cornell, and at Wells College from 1946 to 1955. He left to become Department Chairman and Professor of English at Gallaudet College for the deaf (now Gallaudet University). A sabbatical in 1953-54 allowed him time to read linguistics and prepared him to recognize the unique language and culture in the signs he was learning and the people with whom he was interacting at Gallaudet. A Summer LSA Institute at Buffalo in 1957 put him in touch with Trager and Smith, and *Sign Language Structure* (1960) ensued, followed by *A Dictionary of American Sign Language on Linguistic Principles*, co-edited with Croneberg and Casterline, in 1965. Dr. Stokoe was the founding editor of the journal *Sign Language Studies* and he retains that position today. His most recent book is *Gesture and the Nature of Language*, co-authored with Armstrong & Wilcox (1995, Cambridge University Press).

Drid Williams presently lives and works as a free-lance writer and lecturer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She completed Diploma, B.Litt. and D.Phil. degrees in social anthropology from St. Hughes College, Oxford, U.K. in 1976, and an MLS in Library Science from the School of Library and Information Science, Indiana University, Bloomington, in 1985. She presently teaches adjunct courses in Dance History for the Dance Program in the Theater Arts Department at the University of Minnesota. She is also editing two series of books for Scarecrow Press, *The Signs of Human Action* and *Readings in Anthropology of Human Movement and the Dance*. A current recently published paper is *Ceci n'est pas un "Wallaby"*. This essay examines the relationship between action-signs and their objects in written movement texts for a special issue of *Visual Anthropology* (Vol. 8, Nos. 2/4: 197-219, 1996), for which Williams was Guest Editor.