

2002 MEDALS AND AWARDS

RIP RAPP ARCHAEOLOGICAL GEOLOGY AWARD

Presented to Paul Goldberg



Paul Goldberg

**Citation by Rolfe D. Mandel and
Vance T. Holliday**

It is a great pleasure and honor to introduce our friend and colleague, Paul Goldberg, for the presentation of the 2002 GSA Rip Rapp Award. Few merit such recognition, and Paul is one of them.

Paul's involvement in geoarchaeology spans more than 35 years. Throughout his academic career, Paul has practiced and promoted geoarchaeology on a full-time basis; it is not a secondary interest to him. He has been a key player in the discipline and undoubtedly will continue to have a strong influence on its direction.

Paul's most significant contribution to geoarchaeology, indeed to the broader field of archaeology, is his work on soil micromorphology as a tool in archaeological research. Paul is one of the world's leading experts on the subject, and he is certainly the most prolific and best-known practitioners in

micromorphology. An example of this work is the book *Soils and Micromorphology in Archaeology*, which Paul co-authored with his long-time collaborators Marie-Agnes Courty and Richard MacPhail. This book is the standard reference for the topic and will soon appear in a long-awaited second edition. Paul also published dozens of articles dealing with this topic, ranging from very focused, site-specific studies to review articles. He published papers in several of the proceedings volumes of the International Working Meeting on Soil Micromorphology, but more importantly (for the archaeological community), he published various overviews in volumes aimed at the archaeological audience, such as the 1995 volume on *Archaeological Sediments and Soils*. Hence, Paul has made a strong effort to develop a technological bridge between the geoscience and archaeological communities.

Paul is also one of the leading practitioners of geoarchaeology at the macromorphological level more familiar to most of us. He is widely known for his work on the stratigraphy and paleoenvironments of the Middle East at both site-specific and regional levels. He has been a principal figure in the investigation of some of the most important Pleistocene cave and rockshelter sites in the region, beginning with his work at Tabun and more recently with his involvement at Kebara and Hayonim. For example, his contributions to the dating and history of site formation processes at Kebara helped to establish the site as one of the most significant Upper Pleistocene localities in the Old World. His broader papers on regional paleoenvironments in the Middle East also establish him as one of the leading authorities on the subject.

Although many of Paul's publications focus on micromorphology and/or paleoenvironments, he has also been involved in works that are broad in scope. For example, he was the driv-

ing force behind the recently co-edited book *Earth Sciences and Archaeology*, a comprehensive volume that presents a wide array of subjects that are relevant to geoarchaeology. It is also noteworthy that Paul is currently writing a book (with R.I. MacPhail) entitled *Practical and Theoretical Geoarchaeology*. As indicated by the title, this book will transcend descriptive geoarchaeology, an approach that is sorely needed.

One of the more remarkable aspects of Paul's work is his global perspective. He has enthusiastically applied his methods and talents throughout the world, working on most continents. His research at major sites in North America, including Hell Gap, Meadowcroft, Wilson-Leonard, and many others, has helped expand the application of geoarchaeology and broaden the appreciation of the earth sciences among the archaeological community. And his current research at Zhoukoudian, China, is shedding new light on one of the most famous and significant archaeological and hominid sites in the world.

Paul has also gained great respect for his remarkable teaching skills and, moreover, his willingness to train others who are interested in applications of micromorphology. Despite his teaching and research load and many other commitments, Paul often devotes considerable time to students and professionals who travel to Boston University for the opportunity to sit down with him at the microscope. Few people are as generous with their time and effort as Paul!

Beyond his contributions in the realm of research, publication, and teaching, Paul performed a significant service to the geoarchaeological community during his tenure as Chair of the AG Division (2001), and as Editor-in-Chief of *Geoarchaeology: An International Journal*. In our view and that of many colleagues, he did an out-

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standing job of transforming *Geoarchaeology* by aggressively bringing in a more substantive and a broader topical and geographic array of papers. Paul is currently Co-Editor of *Geoarchaeology*, and he continues to play an important role in promoting the journal.

In sum, Paul Goldberg is an international scholar of the highest caliber known throughout the world's geoarchaeological community and much of its archaeological community for his considerable energy, talents, and contributions. We believe his efforts reflect the spirit and the standards of the award he is receiving, and that both the Geological Society of America and past award recipients should be proud to recognize him in this way.

Response by Paul Goldberg

It is a great honor to be chosen for this year's award, and I am sincerely appreciative to be chosen by the Society. As 60s product, I tend to take a holistic view of things, and inasmuch it is I who is receiving the award, I cannot admit to having earned it by myself. The knowledge or insights I have obtained during the 30+ years of doing archaeological geology has been possible only through interactions with archaeologists and geologists, some good, some bad. I would like to thank some of the good collaborators, although because of space limitations, I cannot thank them all.

One of the most influential persons during my graduate studies was Henry Wright at Michigan. In a reading course he pointed out that it would be wonderful if we could find the means to recognize individual surfaces in archaeological deposits and infer specific activities associated with them. This comment would plant the seeds for my enthusiasm for micromorphology that I would develop later.

I took a more geomorphological view of archaeological geology when I moved to the Institute of Archaeology, Hebrew University in the early 1970s. It is there that I was immersed in and surrounded by archaeology, geology, and a bunch of smart prehistorians. I spent many days in the field with Na'ama Goren, Nigel Goring-Morris, Anna Belfer-Cohen, Uri Baruch, and Tom Levy, and I came to appreciate the variety of sites, how they articulated with past landscapes and environments, and how my comrades thought about and excavated them. At this time fuzzy notions of micromorphology from graduate school were fleshed out, and I realized how important were microstratigraphy and micromorphology in figuring out how archaeological sites form.

In the mid 1980s my target began to shift from landscape to micromorphology, specifically aiming at Kebara Cave. There I got to work with French colleagues who not only elevated the level of my Franco-babble but who exposed me to different ways of thinking about and doing prehistory. Collaboration with the late geologist, Henri Laville was both inspiring and fun, and interaction with prehistorian Liliane Meignen has often forced me think more clearly. The same is true of more than a decade's interaction with Steve Weiner (Weizmann Institute). His rigorous approach has forced me to raise my geoarchaeological bar.

Back in the United States, I spent the 90s developing micromorphology with Marie-Agnès Courty and Rich Macphail who squeeze out palaeoclimates and human activities from stones and sediments. At the same time I expanded my interaction and horizons with North American sites and colleagues, and they exposed me to different kinds of geoarchaeological approaches. Vance Holliday, Rolfe Mandel, Reid Ferring, Boyce Driskell, and Mike Collins would all admit that I have

some weird viewpoints about how I approach things and I admire them for their tolerance, especially to my *Geoarchaeology* co-editor.

Finally, my colleague, pal and solid source of inspiration for thirty years has been my "older brother," Joe O'Brien, a.k.a., Ofer Bar-Yosef. From the time I arrived as a green Post-Doc at Hebrew University, to the ad hoc visits at Harvard, it's been energizing to hang out and, especially, to mumble and kvetch in Hebrew.

To all these (and uncited) friends and colleagues I am really grateful for your help in getting me here today, and I thank you.