

ASA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 1996

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Editor: Chris Koch Associate Editor: Rainier Spencer

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E-mail address: africa@emory.edu

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Notice to Members: The United States Postal System does not forward periodicals. We must receive written notification from you at least five weeks in advance of any change of address. Failure to notify us of your correct mailing address will result in suspension of mailings until we receive such notification. We can make address changes only when current dues are paid. Reinstatement of membership mailings after suspension may be made by payment of a \$5.00 reinstatement fee.

FROM THE SECRETARIAT...

I am always amazed that here in North America so few people take advantage of the opportunity to choose their leaders each election year. So it should come as no surprise to me that the same degree of apathy occurs in the ASA. But, I am surprised. Having lived through my first Annual Meeting and listened to all nature of sometimes pleasant and sometimes acrimonious debate, one would think that people would be tripping over each other to vote and make their voice heard. Indeed, don't we study an area of the world where people give their very lives in pursuit of this right?

By now you must have realized that I am raving because this issue of ASA News carries the annual ballot for vice president and three new members of the Board of Directors. Last year a whopping 554 of you voted in the election. What is that, 20% of the membership? In the last issue of ASA News we printed a call for members to come forward and nominate themselves to serve on the Herskovits Award and Nominating Committees. I expected a flood of eager members, but no, only three CVs trickled in. Some time back ASA News called for letters to the editor, not one member responded.

Now, eight members with sterling credentials stand before you to ask for your vote. Do them the courtesy they deserve and participate in this year's election.

So we are an apathetic lot. What other group that you know of would throw away \$17, 457? That is what we are about to do by not meeting the National Endowment for the Humanities Endowment Challenge. In the last phase of our campaign; we have raised only \$7,543. July 31, 1996 is our deadline. Our time is running out, so we will appeal to you one last time. In a short while you will receive in the mail a direct appeal to help put us over the top. There will also be an incentive to contribute, but I'll wait and tell you about that in the mailing.

Norma, Rainier, and I have just returned from a flying visit to San Francisco to scope out the Annual Meeting site. The hotel is wonderful and perfect for our needs. The meeting rooms are plentiful as are the public spaces for gathering and chatting. The hotel is surrounded by a variety of eating establishments in all price ranges. The panels committee and the local arrangements people are right on track: in short, plans are underway for an awesome meeting.

On a different note: the big news here, besides the Olympics, it is that Emory University has decided not to continue hosting the Secretariat after the expiry, in 1997, of our current contract. The ASA has prospered and grown considerably with the help of Emory and I know that the membership is grateful for this. Now, though, it is time to look to the future and find a new home. A 'Call for Bids' to host the ASA is printed in this issue. Any institution which might be interested in becoming our host should contact the Secretariat for more detailed information.

WE WELCOME NEW ASA MEMBERS

(who joined between December 1, 1995 and February 29, 1996)

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WE THANK ASA ENDOWMENT DONORS

(who contributed between December 1, 1995 and February 29, 1996)

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Karen T Hansen

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Nancy J Schmidt

Janet Stanley

African Studies Review Thanks Reviewers

The assistance of the following scholars, each of whom has reviewed one or more manuscripts for the African Studies Review in the past year, is greatly appreciated.

-Mark W. Delancey, Editor

Herbert Adam Clement Adibe Joseph K. Adjaye Mulugeta Agaonafer Aron Aji lude Akudinobi Charles Ambler Kofi Amoateng Connie Anthony Helen Aspaas Ron Atkinson Yah Badu Jonathan Barker Robert Bates Simon Battestini Gretchen Bauer Kofi Beneto Geoff Bergen Jan Bernsten James Biedzynski Ben Blount Kwame Sarpong J Barron Boyd Patrick Boyle Richard Bradshaw Deborah Brautigan Johann Buis Michael Burayidi Leo Cefkin Andrew Clark Timothy Cleveland James Cobbe

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PROVISIONAL MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Friday November 3, 1995, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm The Orlando Hyatt, Orlando, Florida

Present: Directors Goran Hyden (Chair), Edward Alpers, Nancy Schmidt, Robert Bates, Jack Parson, Carolyn Brown, Isidore Okpewho, Rowland Abiodun, Marina Ottaway, Iris Berger, Carol Eastman (Treasurer), Chris Koch (Executive Director), Gwendolyn Mikell (Vice-President Elect), François Manchuelle (AASP representative).

1.0 Approval of Minutes

Spring Board of Directors Meeting minutes were approved as published in ASA News 28(3).

2.0 Report of the Executive Director (submitted by Koch)

Membership

Individual membership is slowly growing. As of November 1, we had 2,775 individual members paid for 1995 and beyond, this is an increase of 124 over this time last year. Institutional memberships stand at about 550, which represents a slight increase over last year despite shrinking library budgets.

Finances

Our auditors have reported a deficit for the 1994-95 fiscal year of \$4,800. The Board should be aware that we have changed the way our audit is reported; this will be elaborated in the Treasurer's report. We are trying to keep costs to a minimum in the Secretariat. The fact that paper costs have more than doubled in the last 18 months, coupled with increases in postage, requires that I ask the Board to consider ways to increase revenues. Particularly I am asking for a dues increase of \$10/year in the lowest category (income under \$15,000) and \$5.00/year in the next category (income between \$15,000 and \$30,000). I am also asking the Board to recommend methods which would increase our overall membership, particularly overseas. Towards this end we now have the ability to take charge cards and we are examining member surcharges for overseas airmail.

Development

The National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant Campaign continues. July 31, 1996, is our deadline and by that date we must raise an additional \$25,000 which will be matched by NEH. Gretchen Walsh and the Development Committee are preparing proposals for a number of foundations that she has identified. We need to encourage prominent members of the Board and the membership to donate and to tap other potential private donors.

Annual Meeting

This year we have exceeded the number of panels held at our 1994 Annual Meeting. There are 191 panels in the program; that is 9 more panels than in Toronto and 21 more than in Boston. We have also slightly increased the number of participants in the program. I recommend that the Board seek ways of

significantly increasing participation in next year's meeting. In addition to our Abiola lecturer, three African colleagues are attending the meetings as ASA International Visitors, and 28 African Fulbright scholars based in the US are expected. Also the USIA has brought a group of about a dozen African university administrators to join us. A group of 10 Nigerian scholars who are participants in a confernce at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, have also been sponsored by USIA.

Committees for panels and local arrangements have been formed and are moving ahead for our meetings in San Francisco, Columbus, and Chicago. Site selection for 1999 and 2000 is also moving ahead

Publications

ASA Press will publish at least four titles in this year. One from the African Historical Sources series: The Elusive Epic by Ralph Austin. Volume four of Janet Stanley's The Arts of Africa, which covers material published in 1990, has just come from the printer and volume five will be published early in the new year. Harvey Glickman's volume, Ethnic Conflict and Democratization in Africa arrived from the printer the day before I departed Atlanta. African Studies Review 38(2) is in the post and should reach the membership in days. The second 1995 number of Issue, which is a special edition on Rwanda, has reached the membership. We have not been so lucky with History in Africa and ASA News. Though these were printed on time, problems in fulfillment mean than these have not yet reached the membership. This is tragic in the case of ASA

For financial reasons as well as shortage of staff, we again did not prepare a membership directory this year. We might be able to provide one in the next fiscal year though we may have to charge members for it.

Staff

We have experienced a good deal of turnover this year, a normal phenomenon in an organization that is staffed in good part by persons working on graduate degrees. Over the summer Pat Roper joined us as our fulltime membership secretary while persons already on staff assumed new responsibilities.

2.1 It was noted that postage and paper costs have indeed increased substantially. It was agreed that the individual dues should be raised \$5.00 in each income category. It was also agreed that the Executive Director could set overseas airmail rates as an add-on to the dues.

2.2 By motion from the Chair the report was unanimously adopted.

3.0 Elections Committe Report (Koch)

Koch thanked Penelope Campbell, Lovett Elango, and Augustine Konneh for serving on the 1995 committee. The results are reported below, with those elected shown in bold. For Vice President, G. Mikell 278, I. Sundiata 267, blank or spoiled ballots 9. A total of 554 votes were cast for Vice President. For the Board of Directors, J. Nyang'oro 316, K. Atkins 242, C. Robertson 231, M. Arnoldi 219, J. Mittelman 154, W. Martin 138, C. Udry 137, C. Somerville 135, and blank or spoiled ballots 6. A total of 1,578 votes were cast for directors.

3.1 By motion from the Chair the report was unanimously adopted.

4.0 Finance Committee Report (submitted by Parson)

Audited Accounts: The committee noted a change in the presentation of endowment income as revenue to more accurately portray net surplus/deficit of revenue and expenses. In addition it was noted that \$36,000 was transferred to endowment funds from operating reserves, being funds that should have been in the endowment account from the beginning. The executive director, finally, was asked to look into the status of the "rainy day" fund.

Endowment investment: The committee noted that the return had been satisfactory for the year. There were lingering concerns about the investment advisor and as a temporary measure it was noted that the executive director had invested \$19,000 in a short-term certificate of deposit. It was life membership discovered that the endowment was invested in a separate passbook account returning only 2%. The executive director would determine if there were a particular reason why this should be separate from the main endowment and if not what steps should be taken to achieve a more reasonable rate of return. The finance committee also expressed concern that the Board had not approved a long-term strategy for the use of funds and reinvestment in the future of the endowment.

The committee recommended that the Board should devote a significant amount of the Spring meeting in Atlanta to a), the choice or confirmation of an investment counselor, b), a decision on folding life membership funds into the main endowment, and c), approval of a policy regarding the budgeting of endowment income as to the programs of the Association and reinvestment to retain the value of the endowment principle.

A review of the 1994–95 budget showed under-budgeting in the cost of the Board but also a lower deficit than originally projected because some costs were down and a dues increase had generated additional revenue. A review of the 1995–96 budget indicated under-budgeting of salaries/wages and Board meetings estimated at perhaps \$15,000.

4.1 It was agreed that substantial time be set aside at the Spring Board Meeting to review the Association's finances.

4.2 By motion from the Chair the report was unanimously adopted.

5.0 Development Committee Report (submitted by Walsh)

At the 1994 ASA meeting in Toronto, the Endowment campaign needed to raise \$25,000 to meet the NEH Challenge Grant. The 'Big Push' initiative at those meetings raised consciousness of the membership. About \$1,500 in cash and pledges were collected on the spot. Heightened awareness combined with the efforts on the part of Ned Alpers and Eddy Bay led to a successful grant proposal to the Trull Foundation, yielding \$10,000 (\$5,000/year for 1995 and 1996) to fund the Foundation, Children's Book Award. It has been difficult to identify foundations which will grant funds to support endowments. It is difficult to attract the interests of foundations, coming cold as an outsider. Personal contacts or affiliations, however, while important and perhaps essential, cannot salvage a proposal that does not meet the criteria of the foundation.

Analysis of unsuccessful attempts, such as the Sarah Scaife Foundation, New England Biolabs Foundation, and the International Bank of Japan Foundation, point out the need for attention to the details of the foundation's procedures and policies. Wishful thinking occasionally leads to proposals that doomed. Outside events unconnected with our efforts can also doom proposals. A promising possibility with the Paramount Foundation, based on a strong connection of ASA with one of its subsidiaries, Simon and Schuster, who are publishing the Encyclopedia of Sub-Saharan Africa, fell through because of corporate takeovers. Nevertheless, we are pursuing possibilities with the Kellogg and Hearst Foundations. Both are still in the letter-of-inquiry stage.

At this point we should direct our attention to the future, to the post-challenge grant phase. The substantial endowment that has been built over the past five years should continue to grow steadily, if at a more modest pace, from regular annual donations from members. Awareness of the endowment and the activities it funds must be a priority. Members must see what their donations are doing. Regular reports in ASA News and consistent mention of the endowment as making possible the Abiola Lecture, International Visitors Program, Book Donation Program, the Children's Book Award, etc., are necessary. At the same time we must be prepared to deal tactfully with unreasonable Transparency of policies, expectations. procedures, and fiscal reality will help prevent those expectations. Every effort must be made to ensure that the membership understands that it is the income from the endowment which is spent and not the endowment itself.

The increased activity of the ASA due to use of endowment income raises both expectations and energy for even more activity. Initiatives for new projects within the framework and scope of ASA's established goals and interests can be undertaken only with

additional grant funding. As we have learned in the endowment campaign, proposals for defined and finite projects are more likely to be attractive to funding agencies than appeals for an endowment. Such efforts should be encouraged, although encouragement should emphasize following ASA guidelines and procedures.

The use of endowment income and the encouragement of grant-seeking for ASA projects raises some important issues of the level and kind of support expected of and reasonably provided by the Secretariat staff. The recent example of the Children's Book Award is a case that illustrates unreasonable expectations. The Trull grant to the Endowment totaled \$10,000. ASA policy is to plough 50% of the earnings back into the endowment, so an optimistic 10% return would yield \$500 available to spend in future years. This provides for a prize with some left over, but does not cover the prize plus transportation, lodging and expenses for the winner, and certainly not the expenses of bringing the six member award committee together.

Beyond these expectations—which, once raised, inevitably cause some degree of ill will when they are dashed—is the matter of who takes care of the logistics, which in the case of the Children's Book Award involved contacting publishers, etc. The Musa Galal prize, as welcome as the donation was, presents the Board and Secretariat with considerable work in forming a committee, soliciting copies of the papers, etc.

The plans of some constituent organizations, for example ACASA, to build their own endowment funds and plans of others to make specific grant proposals, such as ALC's 40th anniversary conference prior to the 1997 ASA meeting, and ETG's seeking of funds to expand technological exhibits and demonstrations at the Annual Meetings, raise some additional concerns.

The end of the Challenge grant in July 1996 raises some issues concerning the function, composition, and leadership of the Development Committee. I do not think it is appropriate for a non-Board member to continue to chair the committee. (You will recall that I was asked to do so to provide continuity through the NEH Challenge.) Although my other commitments are making it increasingly difficult to attend meetings, I will be happy to see the work on preparation of the Kellogg, Hearst, and possible additional proposals through to completion.

5.1 It was reported that ACASA wanted to start an endowment campaign but did not want to compete with that of the ASA. It was agreed that sponsored groups could start campaigns on 1 August 1996.

5.2 It was noted that the current committee chair was no longer on the Board and wished to vacate this post at the end of the endowment drive. It was agreed that a board member be named as co-chair.

5.3 By motion from the Chair the report was unanimously adopted.

6.0 Publications Committee Report (Alpers)

Four titles will be published by the ASA Press this year: from the African Historical Sources series: The Elusive Epic by Ralph Austin; volume 4 of Janet Stanley's The Arts of Africa, covering material published in 1990 (volume 5 will be published early in 1996); and Harvey Glickman's Ethnic Conflict and Democratization in Africa.

The committee tabled a working document, Publications Policy and Procedures, and recommended that the Board give the matter further study. Also tabled was the current Publication agreement. It was recommended that efforts be strengthened to market ASA Press materials and that we investigate the possibility of on-line publication of the Annual Meeting papers. The possibility of a new pamphlet series was discussed. It was proposed that the Press publish a work by Guyer on the state of African Studies in the U.S.

6.1 It was agreed that the Publications Policies and Procedures document be accepted, that the current publication agreement be modified to remove sexist language, that press marketing be stepped up, that on-line Annual Meeting papers would not cover their production costs, that investigations continue on the pamphlet series, and that the press publish the Guyer work.

6.2 It was agreed to provide the editor of African Studies Review with up to \$500 annually to aid in editing manuscripts from Africa which must be retyped.

6.3 By motion from the Chair the report was unanimously adopted.

7.0 Annual Meetings Committe Report (Berger)

Plans for the 1996 meeting are well underway. National Panels Chair Falola has submitted the final theme statement and the local arrangements people, headed by Bischof and Saavedra, are making good headway. Plans for 1997 in Columbus have yet to be finalized and it is unclear as to who the panels and local arrangements chairs will be. Johnson-Odim has agreed to head up a local committee to act as panels chair for Chicago in 1998. Plans are moving ahead to book space in Philadelphia for the 1999 meeting and we are investigating Nashville for 2000.

7.1 It was agreed that the Board was pleased with the Association's arrangement with Conferon, however as this arrangement is new it should be reviewed at the Spring Board.

7.2 At the request of Joel Samoff, the Board re-visited the one appearance rule at the annual meetings and agreed that this should remain in place, with papers taking precedence over other participation. 7.3 The Board noted a motion passed by the ASA of South Africa, which calls for establishing and strengthening co-operative linkages, by proposing a joint meeting of Africanist scholars from both associations inside South Africa—either a special event between the ASA Annual Meeting and the ASASA Biennial meeting or one coinciding with the 1997 ASASA meeting. It was agreed that a joint annual meeting was beyond the Association's scope; however, the possibility of a regional meeting should be investigated.

7.4 At the request of Merrick Posnansky the Board was asked to consider a joint meeting between Japanese and American Africanists to take place in West Africa. It was agreed that the idea be further investigated by Hyden who would report in the spring.

7.5 It was noted that there had been problems with site selection for the annual meeting. It was agreed that Brown and Ottaway would recomend procedures at the Spring Board Meeting.

7.6 It was agreed that a call for nominations of National Panels Chairs be carried in ASA News.

7.7 By motion from the Chair the report was unanimously adopted.

8.0 Nominating Committee (Berger)

It was proposed that the Board candidates for 1996 would be: For Vice President: Sandra Greene (Cornell, History) and Joseph Inikori (U. Rochester, History). For Board of Directors: Judith Byfield (Dartmouth, History); Frank Holmquist (Hampshire C., Political Science); Biodun Jeyifo (Cornell, English); Alfred Kagan (U. Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Library Science); Ray Kea (U. California, Riverside, History); and Omofolabo A. Soyinka (U. Kansas, English and Literature).

- **8.1** It was agreed that a call for nominations to the committee be carried in the *ASA News*.
- **8.2** Unanimously adopted by motion from the Chair.

9.0 Committee Assignments (Berger)

The following committee assignments were made. Executive: Berger (Chair), Hyden, Mikell, Brown, Bates, Ottaway. Nominating: Mikell (Chair), Brown, Harms, Nyang'oro. Finance: Bates (Chair), Harms, Ottaway, Eastman (Treasurer). Publications: Hyden (Chair), Schmidt, Okpewho, Nyang'oro. Annual Meetings: Mikell (Chair), Schmidt, Robertson, Atkins. Development: Robertson Walsh (Co-Chairs), Atkins, Hyden, Okpewho, Ottaway.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Monday November 6, 1995, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

The Orlando Hyatt, Orlando, Florida

Present: Directors Iris Berger (Chair); Goran Hyden, Nancy Schmidt, Robert Bates, Carolyn Brown, Robert Harms, Isidore Okpewho, Marina Ottaway, Keletso Atkins, Julius Nyang'oro, Claire Robertson, Gwendolyn Mikell, Chris Koch (Executive Director), François Manchuelle (AASP Representative). Visitors: Phyllis Bischof, Joel D. Barkan, Martha Saavedra, and Catherine VerEeecke.

10.0. Annual Meeting Reports

10.1 Report from 1995 Local Arrangements Chair (submitted by VerEeecke)

VerEecke reported that overall the efforts of the local arrangements committee were successful due to the work of the committee members as well as the assistance of the staff of the Secretariat and of Conferon. She noted that this year the work of the committee was particularly challenging for the following reasons: 1) the committee was comprised primarily of faculty of state universities and HBCUs from all over north and central Florida and only a few from the University of Florida (UF) itself; conference was held in Orlando and not in Gainesville where the University of Florida is located; and 3) communication between the major conference organizers, namely the 'host' at UF, Conferon in Chicago and the secretariat in Atlanta, was at times difficult. Consequently, committee meetings and site visits to the Hyatt Orlando were accomplished only with great difficulty and was time consuming. Moreover, many non-UF committee members were not able to participate directly in the planning activities, such as writing the preliminary program, compiling the information packet, and providing students for registration. Most of this was done by the University of Florida. Assistance from the Secretariat in arranging the Outreach Workshop was extremely limited. The other Florida universities provided support mainly in kind, such as entertainment, which added to the southern flavor of the conference, but was also difficult to coordinate. Of the approximately \$13,000 raised by the host institutions, most went towards subsidiary activities and a rather costly reception, which were not entirely essential to the committee's activities or the conference. In short, other, future host institutions could carry out their basic functions with significantly less funding. Nevertheless, this joint effort was certainly important for strengthening ties between the institutions participating as hosts in the effort and particularly for involving HBCUs in the ASA

conference.

University of North Florida, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, and Florida State University were the state universities; Edward Waters College, Florida A&M University, and Bethune-Cookman College; and Stetson University is a private school from the Orlando area.

10.2 1995 Panels Chair Report (submitted by Barkan [edited by Koch]) New Procedure Followed

As a former board member whose term (1990-93) began in Baltimore, I suggested at the time that while the creation of separate committees for panels and local arrangements was a step in the right direction, the scheduling problems experienced at Baltimore and others could be reduced further if the panels committee was enlarged and the individual members of the committee each served as the chair of a section of panels that focused on a particular area of inquiry or topic on which he or she was a respected scholar. I argued at the time that there are at least five advantages of this procedure over merely appointing a single separate committee to organize the panels for the annual meeting: (1) The procedure would enable the Secretariat to schedule all panels of each "section" at different time periods, and thus avoid a frequent complaint by those who attended previous ASA meetings that two or more panels on the same topic were scheduled for the same time slot.(2) That a section format is more likely to accommodate the array of specialties and sub-specialties, both disciplinary and thematic, that are of interest to the membership. Under this system, almost everyone who submits a proposal would be evaluated by a section chair who shares their research interest. The establishment of thematic sections is also a mechanism that can be used by the panels chair and the panels committee to explicitly accommodate work in areas that have at times been neglected at previous meetings, to schedule panels on a single "hot" topic of the moment, etc. (3) The new system would better accommodate proposals for individual papers, because such proposals are more likely to be grouped with other such proposals on a similar theme as well as being considered along with proposals for complete panels to which they might be added. This in turn increases the coherency of each panel by reducing the possibility of "catch-all" or "orphan" panels created to accommodate individual proposals. (4) The procedure is more "user-friendly" to younger scholars who are yet to be included in the various networks of scholars which structure the academic community, and who are therefore less likely to be included in proposals for entire panels. (5) The use of an expanded committee of "section chairs" is also a more participatory approach to organizing the annual meeting simply because more members of the ASA are involved in the exercise and because the procedure requires that the panels chair delegate most of the

evaluative work and the configuration of specific panels to the section chairs.

Has the "Section Chair" Procedure Worked?

The anticipated benefits from organizing the meetings on a section by section format have all been realized to varying degrees. Two unanticipated but significant benefits were also realized: (6) The section chair system was significantly less expensive to implement than the previous system, and therefore less costly to the ASA. (7) The system was less taxing on the Secretariat and required substantially less work from individual members of the panels committee than the previous system. It does not, however, reduce the time requirements of whomever serves as the national panels chair.

One of the persistent concerns expressed by some individual members of the Board since it agreed to a section chair format for 1995 was whether the sections established by the panels chair would in fact accommodate the diverse range of submissions that usually emanates from the membership. The answer is an unequivocal "yes." Of the 823 proposals for papers or roundtable presentations received for the 38th annual meeting, roughly three fourths designated one or more of the sections established by the panels committee as an appropriate "home" for the proposal. Of the remaining proposals which contained no section designation, I was able to easily assign all but 74 (or 9 percent of the total) to one of the sections. Of these, two thirds were submitted as presentations for panels or roundtables while the rest clustered into four potential panels on education, the media, and child labor. Only 2 proposals for individual papers were truly "orphans" in so far as they could not be accommodated by any of the 22 sections or combined with papers on non-section themes to constitute a viable panel on the same subject.

Not surprisingly, some sections have attracted many more proposals than others. This pattern reflects both the "trendiness" of some topics and the composition of the ASA in terms of the academic disciplines of its membership. For example, the section on democratic transitions, a timely topic of interest to political scientists who constitute a quarter of the ASA membership, attracted nearly 10 percent of all proposals. The percentage of all proposals for individual papers by section were as follows:

Africa and Islam 4.2%; The Future of African Agriculture 2.9%; Changing Identities 7.5%; Performance and Ritual 4.3%; People and the Land 5.9%; Social Histories in the 20th Century 5.7%; Forced Migration 1.5%; Conflict and Change in the Horn 3.0%; Southern Africa 4.7%; Democratic Transitions 9.8%; Economic Reform in the 1990s 5.6%; Interpreting and Reconstructing Social Dynamics 6.7%; The African Urban Challenge 2.0%; Visual and Performing Arts 4.8%; African Literature in the 1990s 3.4%; Contemporary Issues in Pre-Colonial History 2.3%; Foreign Policy Towards African States 4.5%; Information

Through Electronic Technology 2.4%; Histories of Colonialism 4.7%; Gender and Development 1.8%; Population, Health and Infectious Disease 1.3%; Language Use, Policy and Power 1.5%; Unassigned to sections 9.0%; and Mean % per section 4.1.

Selection and Rejection

The panels committee was initially instructed by the Secretariat that it was responsible for organizing all panels excluding up to two panels which might be organized by each of the ASA's sponsored organizations. Assuming an average of four papers on a typical panel, this meant that approximately 640 papers or individual presentations would be accommodated at the 1995 annual meeting. At the spring board meeting, I informed the Board that based on the number of proposals to date, it would be necessary to reject up to 22% of those who had made submissions. This resulted in much unhappiness, and I was instructed to accommodate as many proposers as possible.

In accordance with these instructions, the panels committee was ultimately able to organize 190 panels involving 943 participants. This was the largest number of panels ever staged at an annual meeting. Of the 190 panels, 9 were submitted by sponsored organizations and thus accepted without review while 10 were submitted by affiliated groups or other organizations and accepted following a review by the committee. The final rejection rate was reduced to approximately 14 %, but approximately 130 individuals were still denied participation.

Rejection does not sit well with the membership, though at least half of the proposals that were rejected were extremely poor, incomplete, or late. Nevertheless, the Board needs to reflect on this situation at its Spring meeting. The most basic constraint on the number of panels that can be accommodated is the number of meeting rooms available. The basic number for the 1995 meeting was only 16 though this was raised to 18 by making use of halves of the large ballroom following the decision by the Board to increase the number of panels.

The Board must therefore decide both a philosophical and practical question of how large the annual meeting should be. Should the meetings try to accommodate all or the maximum feasible number of those who submit proposals on the grounds that the annual meeting should be an "inclusive baraza"? Or should the meetings be a welcoming forum that nonetheless requires some minimal standard of performance to participate? There are sound philosophic arguments for both options which are best left to the Board to discuss and decide. There are also practical considerations in so far as the annual meeting is a major source of revenue. Assuming we lost at least 100 participants from the 1995 meetings because of the need to reject over 130 proposals, then the association lost roughly \$6,000 in registration fees. If, moreover, the Board adopts a policy of "maximum inclusion" then it is absolutely essential that the Secretariat schedule future meetings in hotels with at least 18 to 20 available meeting rooms in order to accommodate up to 200 or 220 panels over an eleven session meeting.

Review Procedures and Logistics

The deadline for submitting proposals for the 1995 meetings was March 15, after which time I started to receive proposals from the Secretariat for assignment to an appropriate section and forwarding to the section chairs. These proposals came in bundles at roughly weekly intervals, after they had been received in Atlanta and logged into a master data registry created. To the extent possible, Rainier Spencer logged in the section(s) desired by the proposer, a small but extremely useful notation which both saved me and the Secretariat a considerable amount of time in implementing a section based program as the months wore on. The Secretariat also provided two copies of each proposal while retaining a backup copy. This also saved much time as I was able to quickly forward one copy to the appropriate section chair while retaining one copy. Put simply, the Secretariat made it easy for both itself and the national panels chair to always know where each proposal was located even though the panels committee operated by mail on a highly decentralized basis. While we misplaced roughly five proposals along the way, we quickly located them.

From late March until the end of April, my efforts were more or less to review proposals for which no section had been designated, making a section assignment whenever possible, and forwarding the proposal to the designated section chair. First, I grouped proposals for individual papers into potential panels to be considered with proposals for full panels. Second, a local review committee consisting of myself, Bill Dewey (art and art history), and Sandra Barkan (literature) met in late-June to rank order all such "non-section" proposals. I appointed this sub-committee following the advice of the Board. On the other hand, its membership was confined to the three members of the panels committee who resided in Iowa City as it was impossible, despite considerable effort on my part, to secure participation from other members of the committee. Most were out of the country for the summer or did not believe that it was worth their time to travel to the Midwest for a one day meeting to vet less than four dozen proposals. I agree.

The basic work for the 1995 annual meeting and by the members of the panels committee was thus completed by July 1st. However much to my surprise (and occasional discomfort) my work had only just begun. Recruitment and selection of discussants and panels chairs continued until mid-September. While most such recruitment was done by the chairs, it necessitated much section communication between myself and the chairs. Dealing with late proposals, some of which were quite worthy and supported by outside funding, also consumed much time as did dealing with a small number of rejectees who believed that they had been treated unfairly or

that participation at the annual meeting was an entitlement of membership in the ASA. Working with the Secretariat to schedule all panels on a section by section basis also took time, particularly our efforts to squeeze as many panels as possible on to the program. Put simply, I probably spent the better part of each morning during July and most of August, on "fine-tuning" the program, and that these efforts continued on and off until early October when the final program went to press.

Bottlenecks and Problems

Let me first say that the coordination of a committee of 24 people working in separate difficult, because all locations was not members of the committee were very cooperative and all but two used email. Part of this cooperation was also due to the fact that the time demands on section chairs was reasonable-probably no more than 30-35 hours. Support from the Secretariat was also excellent, especially during the final six months before the meetings. There were, however, some bottlenecks: (1) Because all proposals are submitted first to Atlanta, and because the Secretariat must create a basic computer record of all proposals, I had to wait until mid-April before I received most of the proposals. This was very late, and posed some problems as a number of committee members approaching the end of the academic year. Four reasons accounted for the delay: (i) The time required to log in all proposals onto the master computer file. (ii) A deadline date for submissions of March 15th. (iii) The fact that the staff member responsible for preparing the master computer file is a graduate student who was scheduled to take his comprehensive exams. As little can be done to reduce the time required for preparing the basic computer record of all proposals (and indeed, the current structure of this record is essential for the tracking of all proposals), future delays should be eliminated by moving the deadline for submissions to March 1st.

(2) The problem of insufficient space at the convention hotel, and how this fact had an undesirable impact on the meeting in at least two ways. (i) The proportion of proposals rejected was high. (ii) The ASA lost revenue. The solution is to book the convention into larger hotels. The only other option is to increase the number of panel sessions per day from three to four, an approach that has been tried in the past and was widely disliked by the membership. (3) The Friday through Monday schedule instead of the traditional Thursday through Sunday schedule drew more complaints from participants who taught on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule. These people were faced with the prospect of missing two days of classes instead of one, a situation which in turn made it more difficult to schedule participants. The panels involving such solution is to return to the Thursday-Sunday

(4) Enforcement of the 2 panel rule for ASA sponsored organizations resulted in some unhappiness among the members of one panel, because the sponsoring organization proposed four panels but ranked this panel last. After much correspondence, the panel was included, but the individuals remained unhappy and withdrew. Solution: in the original call for papers it should be clearly stated that sponsored organizations are entitled to only two panels which are not reviewed.

(5) Scheduling of special events must be done in such a way as to not conflict with other events. For example, the Curtin roundtable drew a large audience, partly because of the issue, but also because it had no competition. Conversely, the excellent presentation by David Gordon on Congress and U.S. Foreign Policy drew much praise from those who attended, but also a smaller audience than expected because it was scheduled at the same time as the Women's Caucus lunch. I take full responsibility for the conflict as I wrongly assumed that the potential audiences for the two events did not overlap.

(6) Finally, the computerized data base that Spencer has developed over the last 2-3 years for tracking all proposals is excellent, but he will soon obtain his doctorate and move on. I strongly recommend that before his departure, a brief handbook on the organization of the annual meeting be written.

Final Comments

I very much believe that the section approach proved its worth, and should continue. I received numerous (approximately 25 or more) unsolicited comments stating that they liked the thematic sections, that the 1995 meeting was more organized than in the past, that scheduling problems had been reduced, etc.

Does the approach have any downside costs; can it be improved? You bet. First, while the section chair approach reduces the burden of members of the panel committee, it did not reduce that of the chair. I spent from 10-12 hours per week on the program from June, 1994 through mid-October, 1995. The section chair approach requires the appointment of chairs well in advance of the call for papers which clearly lengthens the term of the exercise.

Second, I delegated virtually decision-making authority to the section chairs which meant that most proposals were evaluated by only one individual. Some people have questioned the wisdom of this practice, and I would be the last to argue that all members of the panels committee and myself were infallible. I do believe that most proposals got a closer and "fairer" reading as a result of their being reviewed by someone with the same specialty as the proposer than in previous years when several hundred proposals were read and evaluated at a single place in the short time frame of one weekend. Some thought might be given to creating a mechanism for re-evaluating all proposals rejected by section

When meeting with the 1996 panel committee, I heard the comment that "your sections did not allow for panels on theme x" or "you missed panels on theme y." Although it is true that several themes that might have constituted the basis for a section (i.e. Africa

and the Diaspora) were not the basis for sections in Orlando, this did not preclude members from submitting proposals--as many did--on other subjects. So long as it is clearly stated that members may submit proposals outside the section format, the problem of the neglected theme will be minimized. Moreover, the definition of the sections need not, indeed probably should not, be identical from year to year. Some topical areas are sure to be the basis of research over many years, while others are more fleeting, merit a section once every other year or less often. The section format will also permit future panels chairs to establish both a special theme or the annual meeting while accommodating work in other areas. In short, the beauty of the method is that it is flexible while providing a greater measure of organization to the meeting and to the work of the panels committee and the Secretariat.

Enough said, except to formally thank the Board and the Secretariat. Chris Koch and Rainier Spencer were very helpful colleagues with whom I became friends and relied on. May future panels chairs enjoy the same treatment.

10.3 1996 Local Arrangements Committee Report (submitted by Bischof)

Cultural Programming: a) A one act, two character play, Herbert III, by African American playwright Ted Shine, to be performed in hotel. Margaret Wilkerson, Director of Berkeley's Center for Theater Arts is supporting, and Visiting Professor Remi Omodele will direct this play. b) An exhibition arranged at the International has been Terminal of the San Francisco Airport. It will feature African furniture, and will be curated by Enid Schildkrout of the American Museum of Natural History. c) An exhibition of African Art focusing on a recently received gift collection will be featured at the De Young Museum; our members will be granted free admission. This museum also plans to offer a presentation at the Teacher's Workshop. d) A small show featuring the Bascom Collection will be shown at the Hearst Museum of Anthropology on the UC Berkeley campus. Videos: Cornelius Moore, of California Newsreel is coordinating planning. A Dance Reception is planned. Money Raised: a) UCB Dean has provided funding for student assistants. b) It is our understanding that ASA will cover in exchange for work waivers for students. Teacher's Workshop: Planning is underway with the cooperation of the World Affairs Council/BAGEP, SPICE and ORIAS.

Other

Percy Hintzen, Chair of African American Studies, may be able to bring one or two African scholars to the meeting under the auspices of a departmental grant.

10.4 Report from Panels Chair for 1996

No formal report was made due to the ill health of Toyin Falola. The Board did, however, meet with Rosalind Hackett, a member of the panels committee. She assured the Board that a broad-based committee had been formed and that it would have the theme statement ready on time. The Board urged Falola to take a co-chair in light of his health, to have a large committee to share the work, and to ensure that there is adequate diversity on the committee.

11.0 ASA Agreement with Emory University

The current agreement with Emory expires in December 1997, and it is Board policy to have a process of open bidding for a host institution every five or at the most ten years. Further it was noted that this policy is no reflection on current relations with Emory.

11.1 It was agreed that a call for bids to host the Secretariat be carried in *ASA News* in time for action at the Fall 1996 Board Meeting.

12.0 Spring Board Meeting

It was suggested that the Board return to its tradition of meeting in the city where the Secretariat is hosted.

12.1 It was agreed that the Spring Board Meeting take place April 19-21, 1996 in Atlanta.

13.0 Contacts with Colleagues in Africa

Alpers was requested to report, in writing, on the status of a joint meeting with CODESRIA in time for the Spring Board Meeting.

14.0 Funding for African and International Studies (Pearl Robinson and Catherine Newbury were invited to join this discussion.)

It was noted that there continues to be an erosion of Area Studies and increasingly Global or International Studies (IS) are usurping their role. Directors of IS programs tend not to come from Area Studies and they are often 'commercially' oriented; generally they lack overseas research experience. Traditional sources of funding for Area Studies (Title VI moneys, USIA, and the Development Fund for Africa) are evaporating. One reason for these changes is the false equation that Area Studies were only necessary during the Cold War.

14.1 It was agreed that Goran Hyden would head a Task Force on the Future of Area Studies, that this group would take Jane Guyer's report on the state of African Studies in the US and go beyond it as well as to explore involving non-members.

15.0 Herskovits Award Procedures

Retiring member of the Herskovits Award Committee Karen Fields wrote to the Board with suggestions that would simplify committee work, minimize controversy, and ensure consideration of all eligible submissions. It was noted that all ASA awards may be experiencing the same growing pains. It was agreed that the Publications Committee look into the manner in which all ASA awards are handled and report to the Spring Board.

16.0 ASA Response to African Crisis

The Board noted the continuing deterioration of Human Rights in Rwanda, Nigeria, and Sudan as well as other countries.

16.1 The ASA was requested, by Cyrus Reed, to assist in putting together a project which would aid the University of Butare by providing short-term English-speaking faculty. It was agreed that the Association of African Studies Programs would be a more appropriate vehicle for this action and that Hyden would communicate this.

16.2 It was agreed that Amnesty International be allowed one-time at cost rental of the mailing list to promote a human rights campaign directed towards Nigeria and Kenya. It was further agreed that the President would write to President Clinton, President Abacha, and the President of Shell Oil, Mr. Carroll, regarding the situation in the Ogoni region of Nigeria and that the President would also write President al-Bashir of Sudan regarding human rights.

17.0. Any Other Business

17.1 ASA member Bertha Escoffey requested emergency action on behalf of Thafina Sheane, a visitor whose purse had been stolen while attending the Annual Meeting. It was agreed that the ASA contribute \$250.00.

17.2 Child care at the Annual Meeting was reported to have been under-utilized and preliminary indications are that the ASA will lose about \$1,300. It was agreed that child care be offered to members at the next Annual Meeting, however, it should be self-supporting.

17.3 The Association was approached by the Global Research on the Environmental and Agricultural Nexus (GREAN) and asked for an endorsement. It was agreed that concerns of GREAN, while important, were too narrowly focused to be endorsed by such a diverse group as the ASA.

17.4 It was noted that there are several groups which organize panels, roundtables, and hold meetings at the annual meeting. It was agreed that these groups be encouraged to formalize their relationship with the ASA.

17.5 It was reported that the Pan-African Caucus held its first meeting on November 4, 1995 and had about 150 people in attendance. The group has many goals, among them are an on-line discussion group, a newsletter, workshops, and the

identification and mentoring of promising African American students. The caucus was welcomed and invited to formalize its relationship with the ASA.

17.6 In light of concerns about the ASA Outreach program expressed at the meeting with chairs of Sponsored Organizations and the Board Town Meeting, it was agreed that an ad hoc committee, (consisting of Atkins, Brown, Nyang'oro, and Ottaway) look into outreach, media and the public, particularly African Americans.

17.7 It was noted in the Town Meeting that the ASA did not have sufficient statistics on the membership. It was agreed that at membership renewal time a concerted effort be made to collect data on discipline, gender, race, national origin, and topical interests. As well, the reason for collecting such data would be explained to the membership.

BUSINESS MEETING Friday, November 3, 1995. 5:15-6:00 pm The Hyatt Orlando

1. Installation of New President

Goran Hyden opened the meeting by introducing the new president, Iris Berger. Berger thanked Hyden and the retiring past president Ned Alpers, he also thanked the retiring members of the Board: Rowland Abiodun; Cheryl Johnson-Odim; and Jack Parson. Hyden also thanked the National Panels Chair, Joel Barkin and the Orlando Arrangments Chair, Catherine VerEecke for making this year's Annual Meeting a success. Hyden then handed over the Chair to Berger.

2. Report of the Executive Director

Refer to the report in the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of 3 November 1995, item 2.0.

3. Report of the Treasurer (Eastman)

The Endowment Fund investments have done very well this year which is attributable to the 'bull' market. A change in the way our audited accounts are calculated was made this year which more accurately reflects the financial standing of the ASA. This change involves crediting transfers of endowment income into the accounts before the balance (credit or deficit) is computed. These transfers cover the International Visitors Program, the Abiola Lecture, the Book Donation Program, the ASA Press, and Outreach. The deficits which we have run for the last three years are largely an artifact of not crediting endowment income prior to its calculation. The accounts show that this fiscal year we ran a small deficit of \$4,800. Tight budgeting and the reduction of expenditures kept the deficit considerably smaller than the projected deficit of about \$10,000.

Unfortunately, the Board has had to

approve an increase in the dues of \$5.00 per income category. This was necessary because of increase in paper costs and postage particularly.

4. Report of the Nominating Committee (Berger)

Board canidates for 1996 would be: For Vice President: Sandra Greene (Cornell, History) and Joseph Inikori (U. Rochester, History).

For Board of Directors: Judith Byfield (Dartmouth, History); Frank Holmquist (Hampshire C., Political Science); Biodun Jeyifo (Cornell, English); Alfred Kagan (U. Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Library Science); Ray Kea (U. California, Riverside, History); and Omofolabo A. Soyinka (U. Kansas, English and Literature).

5. Elections Committee (Koch)

The results of the 1995 election were as follow: For Vice President, G. Mikell 278, I. Sundiata 267, blank or spoiled ballots 9. A total of 554 votes were cast for Vice President. For the Board of Directors, J. Nyang'oro 316, K. Atkins 242, C. Robertson 231, M. Arnoldi 219, J. Mittelman 154, W. Martin 138, C. Udry 137, C. Somerville 135, and blank or spoiled ballots 6. A total of 1,578 votes were cast for directors. Members of the Election Committee were: Penelope Campbell, Lovett Elango, and Augustine Konneh, the committee was chaired by the Executive Director.

6. Development Committee

Refer to the report in the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of 3 November 1995, item 5.0.

7.0 Reports of Sponsored Groups

7.1 Africana Librarians Committee (submitted by Finnegan)

ASA's oldest specialized group continued to serve as the national forum for Africana librarians, in addition to providing a means of ensuring that all ASA members are made aware of developments regarding information resources for African Studies.

ALC has a long tradition of meeting twice a year, at the annual meeting and in the Spring at a member library. In so doing, we not only allow more time for ALC business and for ALC members to better know each other, but we also enable our members to become familiar with other collections and staffs. Also, and not least, the occasion of hosting ALC allows a rotation of Africana programs and faculties to become acquainted with the national network of information specialists and institutions. This past April we met at Northwestern University. One item of business for ALC in Evanston and Orlando has been planning for our 40th anniversary. We will mark the occasion with a major program coincident with annual meeting in Columbus in 1997, which will bring together African and other non-North American Africana librarians to consider several themes relating to Africana Librarianship in the 21st Century: "Treasuring the Past and Building the Future." We will be seeking outside support to bring speakers from overseas to the program. We have begun to work on outreach to publishers of reference tools, offering feedback from the specialists most versed in use of their resources. We are writing one publisher at present, offering constructive criticism of a major, but flawed, index.

ALC has also acted on its concerns that we have too often been the same familiar faces by making a special effort to contact and invite participation from the newer Title-VI centers, in particular those that are combination African/African-American Studies Centers. We are happy to report that this initiative is bearing fruit, that we have new participants, and hope to add others.

ALC does not receive, and has not had, any continuing funding of its own; we have no dues, and receive only indirect subsidy from ASA in the form of meeting rooms during, and the day preceding, the annual meeting. Our newsletter, Africana Libraries Newsletter, has been produced for over twenty years by member-editors who have been supported by their campus' African Studies Programs. Currently this is Michigan State University; in the past the University of Illinois, Indiana, and Boston Universities have funded ALN. This newsletter, the only US publication devoted to Africana libraries and information resources, is widely distributed in Africa as well as in the USA and other first-world countries. Sponsoring-institution subsidies cover printing and postage expenses; the ALC Strategic Planning Committee is exploring possibilities of electronic distribution outside Africa to cut expenses and labor. Besides ALN, ALC on its own, with local support, maintains an electronic-mail distribution list allowing easy communication among, currently, 75 members and associates. Finally, an annual paper directory of ALC members is produced from a database maintained by a member; the edition prepared for the Orlando meeting includes 88 people, including 4 retired ALC members and 7 book vendors or publishers who regularly attend our meetings; this is the active membership of ALC, not a comprehensive directory of all who might be interested. It is, however, a tribute to ALC that with that proviso, it remains the case that for the USA the vast majority of specialist librarians are active in ALC. The comparable group within the American Library Association, the Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Section of the divisional Association of College and Research Libraries, has no publication and only about 1/6 the members of ALC. And all its Africanist members are also active in ALC. ALC is 'where the action is' for Africana librarianship.

Besides considering how to streamline production and reduce expenses for ALN, the Strategic Planning Committee is developing a brochure to publicize ALC, and a manual for

internal use to expand our continuity of leadership and collective memory.

ALC is in regular contact, through overlapping membership, with the ETG, with whom we share concerns about promoting to ASA members both the increasing number of electronic information resources concerned with Africa and the equally-rapidly increasing means of electronic network access to such resources, not least in (and from) Africa. These affect members in research and teaching. And, while concerns about differential access to information technology are very valid, it is also true that electronic means make it at least possible to increase the information flow between African institutions and scholars and the rest of world.

As part of our intent that ALC both be a forum for internal business of the Africana librarian community and a means of making all ASA members aware of information resources, we continue to design programs for the annual meeting intended to appeal to both groups and goals. For the Orlando meetings, we sponsored at roundtable on "Video and Beyond," which addressed problems and potentials of non-print media in Africana libraries. Speakers addressed building collections of films and videos from Africa, and exciting projects underway to develop computer-based multi-media resources African art, history, and culture.

The ALC chair, in reporting to the board, raises the issue of the imposition of exhibitor fees on the internet booth. This venture, sponsored by ETG, but staffed by many members of ETG and ALC, is a means for each group to help educate our fellow members about the increasing (daily) range of networked resources for African studies. We feel we shouldn't be in the position of having to pay (or, as has been the case, finding 'program' support) for the privilege of volunteering our time for the benefit of our fellow Association members. Specific expenses like hookups could be budgeted with an appropriate lead-time, but treating ETG and ALC as though they were commercial vendors, whose booths generate financial return, is not appropriate. As with so many other services (Joe Lauer's long-running dissertation column in ASA NEWS being another), ALC as a group and as a collectivity of individual ASA members, has rendered (like editors and program committees) extensive service to the whole Association without being financially supported by it.

7.2 ACASA (submitted by Dewey)

The major event of this year was our Tenth Triennial Symposium on African Art, held from April 19-23 in New York City. ACASA collaborated with several area institutions—New York University, Brooklyn Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Studio Museum of Art, and the Museum for African Art—holding conference panels and other activities at these venues. Approximately 500 to 600 participants attended the conferences, 400 as paid registrants (NYU students and faculty, because

of their work with the conference, had free admission). ACASA awarded seven travel stipends to paper presenters from Brazil, Haiti, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Benin. The Triennial held panels on both African and Diaspora topics, and supplemented these with tours of artists' studios, studio and gallery open houses, several receptions and an awards banquet. Two honoraria were awarded, one to Frank Willett and another to Lois Mailou Jones. Willett and Robert Farris Thompson were presented the Distinguished Africanist awards, and Sarah Brett-Smith's The Making of Bamana Sculpture won the book prize. The triennial was supported by member registration and annual dues, as well as many institutional cash or in-kind contributions. An original ACASA T-shirt/sweatshirt, its artwork designed by Moyo Okediji, went on sale at the conference.

We now have 409 members (252 Regular, 19 132 Institutional. Special [students, unemployed, and retired], and 6 Lifetime); this substantial increase is likely due to the Triennial, which requires membership of participants. Bill Dewey was elected President to succeed Rowland Abiodun, and new board members Rosalind Wilcox, Eugenia Herbert, Jean Borgatti, Chris Mullen Kreamer, and Dele Jegede were also elected. They joined Janet Stanley (Newsletter Editor), Rowland Abiodun (Past President), Kathy Curnow (Secretary-Treasurer) and Nii Quarcopome. The next election will take place at the 1996 ASA meeting.

Other continuing ACASA activities include a successful book distribution program, in which African Arts journal and selected titles are sent to about 125 institutions in Africa and the Caribbean. The ACASA newsletter is mailed to about 350 of our colleagues resident in Africa as part of a complimentary membership program. ACASA sponsored a panel at the 1995 College Art Association meeting (we are affiliated with this organization) on the issue of Non-Western representation in art history survey texts. An ACASA-sponsored panel has also been accepted for the 1996 CAA meeting. We will be presenting two sponsored panels at the 1996 ASA meeting as well, and will request that the ASA gives us representation on the Program Committee and permission to begin fundraising.

7.3 Current Issues Council (submitted by West)

The Council this year continues its efforts to increase discussion of issues that are not always widely and openly discussed within the ASA and in Africanist circles generally. These include the present state of African Studies—a long standing gap which shows little sign of closing—between the production of knowledge by Africanists in the North and scholars based on the African continent, and the status of black US-based scholars in the study of Africa.

Members of the Council have been actively involved in the ongoing debate on the state of

African Studies in the United States. Toward this end, two of our members (Bill Martin and Michael West) guest-edited a special number of ISSUE in which a number of leading scholars, approaching the subject from a variety of geographical and intellectual locations, discuss the past, present, and future prospects of the study of Africa in the United States.

Our attempt to call attention to the gulf in the production of knowledge between Africa and the North this year results in the organization of a panel entitled, "The Noma Prize and Publishing in Africa: The Case of Tiyambe Zeleza's Economic History of Africa." The objective here is twofold. We seek to spotlight publishing as well as intellectual production in Africa, especially as they are being organized in research institutes such as the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (Codesria), which both funded Zeleza's research and published the final product, the first of a projected two-volume study of Africa's economic history in the 19th and 20th centuries. We also seek to spotlight the Noma Prize itself, awarded annually to a book in any of three categories-scholarly or academic, children's, or literature and creative writing-deemed to be the best published in Africa. In 1994 the award went to Zeleza's A Modern Economic History of Africa: The Nineteenth Century, Vol.1. lt is to be hoped that such efforts, modest though they may be, might help generate greater and more sustained interest in transatlantic intellectual interchanges.

A second panel, a roundtable on "Ghettoizing African Studies?: The Question of Representation in the Study of Africa," highlights the issue of the status of black scholars in the study of Africa. The immediate impetus for this particular project is, of course, Philip Curtin's op-ed piece, "Ghettoizing African History," which appeared in the March 3, 1995 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education. Curtin's intervention sparked heated debate within and outside Africanist circles. Nor was the debate confined to the United States. The Curtin piece, along with a response to it by fifty black historians that appeared in the Chronicle on April 7, have been reprinted in the Harare-based Southern African Political and Economic Monthly (June 1995). The Council has further been given to understand that Codesria Bulletin also intends to reprint the Curtin piece and the black historians' response.

While virtually unanimous in its condemnation of the article, the Council is of the view that Professor Curtin has stumbled on to an important issue, one that deserves a thorough public airing in a serious and constructive manner. (A number of Council members joined the black historians' reply to Curtin; Bill Martin wrote a separate response that also appeared in the *Chronicle* on April 7, 1995). The question of representation—whether based on gender, generation, ideology, national origin or race—is surely among the most pressing in African Studies today, and it is too hoped that the

roundtable will mark the beginning of an honest conversation within the ASA.

7.3 Electronic Technology Group (ETG) (submitted by Chowning)

In this the second year as a sponsored group the ETG has moved into new areas of service to the ASA membership and African studies in general. Various members have conducted seminars and workshops in the United States and in several African nations.

The University of Pennsylvania's African Studies World Wide Web collection continues to be the leader in archiving important texts and providing menus that point and connect to information around the world. Ali Dinar has done an excellent job in his first year as director of Outreach and the responsible person for the Web Site. In the month of October of this year one quarter of a million documents were downloaded from that web site.

As a service to the ASA membership a web page that includes all necessary information about the ASA membership, By Laws, the Annual Program, and ETG panels and papers, are now available in the Internet for Africans and Africanists worldwide. We are very grateful to Dr. Chris Koch for his cooperation in supporting the idea of putting information about the ASA on-line.

Karen Fung, Hoover Institute at Stanford, has developed, for the ETG, an excellent interactive guide to Africa South of the Sahara: Selected Internet Resources. This is a very useful tool for ASA members who desire to communicate and conduct research concerning Africa.

Two scholarly African Internet lists were initiated through the facilitation of the ETG this year. The Africa Labor forum was set up for ASA Board member, Carolyn Brown of Rutgers

University, who is the listowner. It is the only electronic discussion group in the world dedicated solely to the topic of African labor. It is a very active. Africa Literature Forum was set up for the discussion of fiction written by African authors. It is the only list on the Internet concerning this topic. Patricia Kuntz continues to be the list owner of Swahili-L, the only African language discussion group on the Internet.

Another ETG achievement is the Internet booth, which was accomplished by a generous grant from the ASA, and cooperation from U of Central Florida, U of Pennsylvania, Abilene Christian University, and Stanford University. The ETG is also thankful to MagicNet, an Orlando internet provider, who supplied the ETG with "free" internet accounts to their computing system at Kissimmee. Besides on-line demonstrations of African resources, ASA members were able to check their E-mail, without charge. The ETG has also conducted an on-site internet lecture that was attended by many and was well received.

Richard Chowning initiated a collection of documents which are a resource concerning CD-ROMs produced in or about Africa. There are four interactive bibliographies which contain annotations, reviews, and electronic

connections to publishers.

Moussa Fall, from Dakar, Senegal, was given a grant under the International Visitors Program to be with us on a panel and available to assist ASA members who have interests in setting up electronic communication nodes in Africa. We thank the ASA for awarding Mr. Fall this grant. Brian Murphy, Univ. of Mass., has agreed to revive African Studies online which will be an electronic newsletter concerning technology issues in Africa and African Studies.

7.4 Women's Caucus (submitted by Byfield)

Byfield's term as co-convener ends this year, she will be replaced by Lidwien Kapteijns (Wellesley). The Caucus published three issues of our newsletter. Postage costs increased substantially over the year and forced us to prune our mailing list of non-active members. Nonetheless, we continued our practice of sending the newsletter free of cost to colleagues in Africa. Our total expenditure on the newsletter was \$774.47. Dartmouth College contributed \$600, so that the Caucus was responsible for only \$174.47. In order to further reduce costs, we will explore the option of sending the newsletter by e-mail.

Beverly Hawk organized a second issue of the Mentor Directory. The Directory was sent free of cost to contributors and to colleagues in Africa. The University of Alabama-Birmingham fully supported the first issue, but this issue was only partially funded. The Caucus contributed \$800 to its production and distribution, although we were able to recoup \$300. The directory is for sale - \$10 for non-Caucus members and \$8 for members. Anyone interested in buying a copy should contact our treasurer, Margot Lovett. We are at a cross-roads with the Directory because Beverly cannot continue to oversee the project, and we are losing UAB's financial support. We will miss Beverly's enthusiasm and hard work, but we hope to identify a new coordinator and funding source in the near future. In order to keep costs to a minimum, we will explore the possibility of putting the directory on the internet.

Our luncheon keynote speaker this year was Dr. Ayesha Imam. A sociologist by training, Dr. Imam currently is Gender Coordinator of the Institute for Development and Economic Planning in Dakar, Senegal. Her visit was sponsored by the International Visitor Program, and we would like to thank the members of the selection committee.

We tried to organize a special issue of the African Studies Review. We made repeated requests for articles at the business meeting and in the newsletter, but the response was very limited. We will send the articles we received to ASR, and we hope to revisit the idea of a special issue in the future.

The issue of child care came up repeatedly in the last few years, and we would like to thank the Board for securing child care this year. We hope this will continue.

8. Any Other Business

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:05.

BOARD TOWN MEETING Saturday, November 4, 1995, 1:15-2:45 pm The Hyatt Orlando

President Berger opened the meeting by welcoming members and noting that the Town Meeting was a new tradition instituted by the Board to give the membership a greater voice in the ASA's activities.

Sandra Greene took the floor and formally presented a petition which was submitted to the Board in draft on 12 April 1995. She noted that on 1 May 1995, Goran Hyden responded indicating that the Board had begun to address the issues of concern. He noted that the election procedures have been made public and that child care and a Town Meeting, to provide a public forum, were organized for this Annual Meeting [see Hyden's letter in the front of the Manual of Policies and Procedures.]. Greene expressed her appreciation to the Board for its prompt response, but stated that she believed a number of concerns remained unaddressed. It was for this reason that she now formally submitted the petition, which is signed by 34 members of the ASA.

Greene said that our purpose is to go on record encouraging the Board to take seriously the issues raised, so that the ASA can remain strong by being as inclusive and responsive to its membership as possible.

Michael West commented that perhaps we needed to re-examine how we define Africa in light of the changing face of African Studies.

Berger responded to Greene by saying that the Board, in a sprit of openness and transparency had published and distributed to the membership the Manual of Policies and Procedures (this document is also available on the ASA web page) and that the Board was working hard to ensure fair representation. She pointed out that of the Board and elected officers over half were women and that just under 40% were African or African American. She also drew attention to the fact that the Board strives to diversity on Board-appointed committees. She said that in the future the ASA News would carry 'calls for nominations' for such important positions as National Panels Chair and non-Board of the Nominating members Distingushed Africanist Committees.

Discussion turned to the need to know more about the diversity of the membership. Koch reported that the information we do have is volunteered by the members when they join or renew and that many members do not answer such questions as to what sex (35%) and ethnic group (80%) they belong. It was agreed that the Board would investigate ways to collect these data better and that the Board should consider asking Sponsored Organizations to provide similar data.

20 October 1995 PETITION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ASA

We the undersigned, as former Presidents, Board Members, and general members of the African Studies Association (ASA) believe that a number of troubling problems exist within the ASA and that these problems demand immediate recognition, discussion by the entire membership, and resolution according to the wishes of that membership.

The need to address the issues discussed in this document has to do with our belief that the African Studies Association is not presently in a position to mobilize US-based scholars of Africa to confront the challenges posed by today's on-going national and global restructuring. These challenges include continuing and new threats to area studies, attacks on efforts to address racial and gender inequality in the nation and in the academy, and the threats launched by the Gingrich-led Congressional machine to destroy the nation's social safety network and to undermine Africans' efforts to improve their own situations

Today, more than ever, the ASA must work to create a forum through which all US scholars of Africa, in close collaboration with their African colleagues, can work to help the US public and the government to understand the potentially tragic consequences posed by these challenges.

Yet, the ASA's internal institutions no longer seem adequate to unite its growing and varied membership and constituencies in the constructive participatory process required to enable them to meet the challenges noted. The ASA's informal, sometimes obscure procedures may have seemed sufficient when, almost half a century ago, those who initially formed the organization consisted of a few closely-knit Euro-American scholars in historically white institutions. Today, however, the ASA has grown to nationalities, located in dozens of institutions scattered across the country, indeed, the world. Far from viewing the ASA as helping them deal with these challenges, many members believe that as it presently functions, the African Studies Association: 1. Lacks transparency, accountability and democratic structures. 2. Has not adequately addressed inequalities based on race and gender within the organization and between the US and Africa with respect to the production of knowledge, institutional representation and power, and support for the training of the next generation of scholars of Africa. 3. Lacks a coherent policy dedicated to outreach, especially in relation to groups, communities, and institutions located outside major research and policy-making institutions.

These beliefs are based on the following disturbing facts: 1. The ASA has been unable to present to its members clear and unequivocal statements regarding electoral, administrative, and financial procedures. This was most recently illustrated at the last ASA (Toronto 1994) meeting, when the membership heard brief, discursive reports on unattributed allegations of improprieties in these areas. These reports reveal the need for guiding procedures that ensure, on a regular basis, openness on the part of the Association and its representatives as well as clear measures to address alleged irregularities. Lacking these the reputation of the Association and its representatives may be unfairly impugned. 2. The ASA has failed to establish and support policies and committees to address the need to overcome historic inequalities based on gender and race. At the moment we do not even have a survey of the Association's membership or African Studies programs in order to be able to assess under-represented groups. national academic associations by contrast have long charted such inequalities and formulated programs to address them. 3. While the study of Africa is under financial attack, there has been a remarkable upsurge in interest in Africa among the people of African descent. This is evident in cities and towns across the country as well as on our campuses. Yet ASA has neither assessed this situation nor seized the opportunities it offers.

These issues and concerns are not new to the ASA. They emerged first in 1969, and led to serious splits in the Association. Tensions within the ASA are high once again because of perceived election and administrative irregularities, and inequities based on race, gender and ethnicity that have been reinforced by recent attacks on the intellectual worth of black scholars and on affirmative action by a leading Africanist in the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Both external threats and the seeming inadequacy of internal procedures underscore the necessity for action by the ASA Board of Directors, in consultation with ASA members, to strengthen the organization. In particular, the Board must create procedures that ensure the transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in decision-making that are necessary to facilitate membership participation in all aspects of developing the ASA's program to meet the challenge of the 21st century.

Therefore, we strongly urge the ASA Board to do the following: 1. Establish, and make public, procedures regarding the election process. 2. Address issues of inequity in the Association by gathering information about the characteristics (age, gender, race, citizenship, institutional affiliation, etc.) of organization's membership, its leadership, and its committees. This information should then be used to ensure that the characteristics of the organization are reflected in the ASA Board and its committees. 3. Organize a series of community meetings to address: A. The goal of establishing an on-going and well-supported outreach

program that extends to communities and youth with resurgent interests and agendas related to Africa; B. The creation of a vision statement of "Africa" scholarship. This information should then be used to establish a policy with regard to Diaspora Studies, including the publication of works in this area and their eligibility for the Herskovits and other awards. C. The question of whether or not the ASA should, as an organization, take on political, economic, social, environmental issues not directly related to issues of scholarship. D. Existing priorities for financial allocations and set new priorities based on the views of the membership, including how and at what level the ASA funds visitors from Africa (especially women and younger scholars). 4. Organize child care at the ASA's annual meetings. 5. Host the ASA annual meeting in an African country by the year 2000. 6. Establish on-going institutional and programmatic linkages with academic, interdisciplinary organizations that focus on Africa and the African Diaspora. 7. Establish a peer review system representative of the ASA membership for all ASA-supported scholarly publications. 8. Codify the rules that govern the way in which members are assigned to ASA committees. 9. Establish mechanisms that: A. Ensure better communication between the President and his or her Executive Committee, B. Ensure better communication between the Executive Committee and the Board. C. Enhance communication and transparency in the relationship between the Board of the ASA and the membership.

Ali Mazrui, Emmanuel Wallerstein, Cheryl Johnson-Odim, Beverly Grier, Ibrahim Sundiata, Lansine Kaba, Lidwien Kapteins, Micere Mugo, Locksley Edmondson, Ibrahim Abdullah, Anne Seidman, Sandra E. Greene, Carolyn Brown, Sulayman Nyang, Kelesto Atkins, Al Kegan, Jean Allman, Michael West, Gloria Waite, Ray A. Kea, Augustine Konneh, Magbailey Fyle, Abdul Nanji, Joyce Kirk, Ed Ferguson, Salah Hassan, David Johnson, Anne Adams, Merle Bowan, David Owusu-Ansah, Al Green, Said Samatar, William Martin

General discussion of the sad state of civil rights in Nigeria and in particular the case of Saro-Wiwa and his colleagues ensued.

The following resolution was offered and seconded from the floor.

Be it resolved that: The ASA condemns the illegitimate death sentence passed on Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other colleagues by a tribunal that violates the basic judicial safeguards required by a number of international covenants that Nigeria is a signatory of (e.g., The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights). The ASA demands that the Nigerian government rescind the death sentences and release Mr. Saro-Wiwa and his colleagues. We urge our members not to provide tangible support and legitimacy for the Nigerian government until these demands are met. We also urge our members to write

letters of protest to the Nigerian Ambassador to the United States and to the President of Royal Dutch Shell.

The resolution was passed unanimously. Many members expressed concern about the outreach activities of the ASA. There was discussion and the few present agreed that new efforts had to be made in this area. Particularly to reach out to new constituencies and to African Americans. A former Peace Corps volunteer pointed out that returning Peace Corps people were a natural constituency for the ASA. There was also the feeling expressed that members did not know much about the activities of the ASA. It was, however, pointed out that it is the responsibility of the membership to attend the Business and Town Meetings. It was agreed that the Board should look into the possibility of forming a task force on

David Wiley spoke vehemently about the changes in federal policy and funding that endanger African Studies. He pointed out the importance of the Joint Committee on African Studies of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies. He urged members to attend a roundtable and a panel sponsored by the Joint Committee.

It was disappointing to see that at no

CALL FOR BIDS TO HOST ASA SECRETARIAT

The Executive Committee of the African Studies Association Board of Directors would like to solicit bids to host the ASA Secretariat for the five-year period, 1998–2002. Proposals should include information regarding space, moving expenses, and institutional support for both the Executive Director and the Secretariat Inquiries may be directed to the Executive Director of the ASA.

Institutions interested in submitting a proposal should give notice by July 31, 1996. Correspondence should be addressed to the Executive Committee of the ASA Board of Directors, African Studies Association, Emory University, Credit Union Building, Atlanta, GA 30322. Final bids should be submitted by October 15, 1996.

1996 ASA ELECTIONS

The following persons have been nominated to stand for election as officers and members of the ASA Board of Directors. Return envelopes and a ballot for the election have been inserted in copies of this newsletter sent to 1996 individual members. Ballots must be mailed to the Secretariat offices no later than July 1, 1995.

If your newsletter did not contain a ballot, it means that we had not received your membership renewal prior to April 1, 1996. Once you have paid your 1996 membership dues, you are entitled to vote. If you wish to participate in the 1996 elections, please include a self-addressed, stamped, business envelope with your membership renewal, and our staff will forward a ballot to you.

Joseph E. Inikori Statement of Candidacy

The African Studies Association is currently facing serious challenges. The political and economic crisis on the African continent poses both academic and practical challenges for the Association. Added to that, the political and business leaders of the Western world have virtually turned their backs on the continent and its people, a phenomenon which has had adverse effects on the status of African Studies as an area of intellectual concern on Western educational institutions and among the Western populace. In these trying moments, internal division within the Association is also becoming a self-imposed affliction. The Association must respond imaginatively to these challenges. The leadership must helpdevise new ways of doing things. Business as usual will not be enough in the next several years.

I am a candidate for the ASA Vice-Presidency because I believe my career and life experience will serve me well in dealing with the challenges facing the Association. Over the years, I have effectively combined the pursuit of academic excellence and the building of institutions for the production of knowledge. I have also worked to connect the world of ideas with that of policy.

My academic interests, training, and research are multi-disciplinary and geographically wide-ranging. For my Ph. D. I studied at Ibadan and at the London School of Economics, focusing on the impact of foreign trade on the English economy in the decades leading to the Industrial revolution, with special emphasis on trade with Africa. That research exposed me to a host of issues concerning the economic history of the Atlantic basin. It soon became

clear to me that the economies and societies in the Atlantic basin-western Europe, western Africa, and the Americas-went through an interconnected process of development between 1500 and 1850. This process produced an Atlantic economic order in the nineteenth century which became the nucleus of our contemporary world economic order. This fascinating discovery has been the driving force behind my research and teaching since the 1970s—alternately examining the factors behind the growth of Atlantic commerce between 1500 and 1850, and analyzing the impact of Atlantic commerce on the development process in England, western Africa, and the Americas.

This research has been published in almost every important journal in the field: Journal of African History, Cahiers d'Études Africaines, Journal of the Historical Society of Nigeria, Journal of Economic History, Explorations in Economic History, Research in Economic History, Journal of Interdisciplinary History, Social Science History, Canadian Journal of African Studies, Indian Historical Review, African Economic History, and American Economic Review. My publications include many book chapters, and The Chaining of a Continent: Export Demand for Captives and the History of Africa South of the Sahara, 1450-1870 (1992); The Atlantic Slave Trade: Effects on Economies, Societies, and Peoples in Africa, the Americas, and Europe (with Stanley Engerman, 1992), and Forced Migration: The Impact of the Export Slave Trade on African Societies (1982). My ongoing work is focused on the economics of slavery and the British Industrial Revolution, and on analysis of the changing structure of imports into Western Africa as a window on time change in the economies of the region in precolonial times. The guiding focus of my research remains the process of interconnected economic change in the Atlantic basin between 1500

My career has also had the same kind of spread. I started teaching at the University of Ibadan. After two years I moved to Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria, where I helped to develop the History Department which became a leader in economic history. I became professor and chairman of the department before I moved to the United States to take up appointment as Professor of History, Department of History; and Associate Director, Frederick Douglass Institute, University of Rochester, In addition, I have had fellowships at the London School of Economics and at the University of Birmingham, as well as serving as external examiner in African history for the three campuses of the University of the West Indies for six years. I have handled several projects for UNESCO

since the 1970s, and served on the International Scientific Committee for the drafting of a UNESCO General History of the Caribbean.

In the world of public policy, in 1979 I was a member of the Directing Staff which helped the Obasanjo administration in Nigeria in setting up the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, designed to bring together to brainstorm for six months at a time top military officers, top civil servants, and chief executives in the private sector for purposes of shaping national policy on a long-term basis. In 1987, I also served the Federal Government of Nigeria as the Chairman of the Presidential Panel appointed to study and recommend policy measures for dealing with the national problems of a multi-ethnic and multi-religious federation.

I hope to bring to the ASA the experience of building bridges across disciplines and between scholarship and the world of policy. In particular, efforts will be made to get international and governmental agencies to do more in helping to sustain teaching and research in African Studies in the institutions on the continent. The Association must also work harder to help promote interest in African Studies among all groups in the Unite States, from the general populace, policy makers, and corporate America to teacher sand students in the educational institutions. To the latter end, the Association has to show more interest in diaspora studies. These are just some of the many things that should form part of our new ways of doing business if the Association is to respond effectively to the challenges of the 21st century.

Sandra E. Greene Statement of Candidacy

The African Studies Association is currently confronting a number of daunting and seemingly long-term challenges. The federal government has made substantial cuts in the programs that have supported efforts to bring African scholars to the U.S. to lecture, to participate in the annual meeting, and to exchange perspectives with scholars of Africa in the United States. Private foundations have begun to question the validity of area studies. Policy makers are reacting to issues affecting the African continent with indifference. universities continue to languish under long-term difficult economic conditions. Outreach to American communities—as supported by the federal government Title Six program—is increasingly endangered at the very time when more extensive efforts are needed to garner support for the continued study of Africa among those groups that have traditionally had an interest in the continent, especially African-Americans. Differences of opinion about such controversial issues as affirmative action threaten to polarize members of the association at the very time when we all need to work together to safeguard and push forward the study of Africa.

As ASA Vice-President, I will seek to confront these challenges by developing new mechanisms to strengthen our ties to African scholars in Africa, and African universities while also forging stronger bonds among the various constituencies within the ASA and between the ASA and the American public. Only by accomplishing these goals, can we effectively mobilize our collective energies to have a more positive, visible and influential role in shaping the study of Africa in the US, American policy on Africa, and the image of Africa that so deeply influences the way the American public views Africa and peoples of African descent.

As a candidate for the ASA presidency, I bring extensive administrative skills, an active engagement as a scholar in African Studies and the African Studies Association, and a commitment to develop new strategies so that the organization can handle with creative energy the current challenges that it faces on the local, national, and international levels. During my eight years at Kalamazoo College (1983-91)—the oldest undergraduate Africa program in the United States-I served as the Director of African Studies and Associate Provost. During this same period, I served on the Board of the African Studies Association and chaired the committee that developed the guidelines for coordinate organizations associated with the ASA. Since moving to Cornell University in 1992 as Associate Professor of African History, I have initiated the first Cornell University Africa study abroad program, served as a founding member of the Pan African Caucus (an interest group within the ASA), and Director of the Cornell University Program on Gender and Global Change. My publications include numerous articles in edited books and in such journals as Africa: The Journal of the International African Institute, The Journal of Religion in Africa, and History in Africa. My book, Gender, Ethnicity and Social Change on the Upper Slave Coast, will be available from Heinemann's Social History in Africa series in early 1996. I am currently completing another book-length manuscript entitled "Religion, History, and the Meaning of Place: Essays on the Anlo-Ewe." I have received grants from the Fulbright Program, the Ford Foundation, the Lounsberry Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, and Stanford University.

As a candidate for the presidency, as an

ASA member deeply committed to the continued vitality of the Association, as a former Board member, and as a scholar of Africa, I believe that the organization must expand its role in outreach, in policy debates, and in the production, exchange, and dissemination of knowledge about Africa by working with as wide a range of individuals and groups as possible. Only by reaching out and working together through debate and dialogue on a common set of goals can we successfully confront the challenges currently facing the ASA, Africa, and peoples of African descent.

Ray A. Kea Biographical Information

Since 1991 I have been at the University of California at Riverside, where I am Professor of History. I have taught in secondary schools in Ghana and at The Johns Hopkins University and Carleton and St. Olaf Colleges where I held a joint teaching appointment for eleven years. Each campus had its African/African-American Studies program and I served as the head of each one for a number of years. Currently, I am a research fellow at the James S. Coleman African Studies Center, UCLA, and an External Assessor for the Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ghana. I have been a member of the ASA since the mid-1970s. I received my MA in African History from the University of Ghana (Institute of African Studies), and my Ph.D. from the University of London (School of Oriental and African Studies). My research interest has been on the social and cultural history of the Gold Coast (southern Ghana), particularly the pre-1800 period. This interest resulted in a book, Settlement, Trade, and Polities in the Seventeenth Century Gold Coast (1982), and a number of articles. While my research continues to focus on the Gold Coast (and neighboring territories), it now includes the "Black Atlantic", specifically the African Diaspora in the West Indies and Europe in the eighteenth century.

Statement of Candidacy

In this post-Cold War, politically regressive period the ASA needs to (re-)define its purpose, objectives, and constituencies. Two questions form part of the agenda that should be addressed by the ASA leadership and membership. What are the ASA's relations to Africa and Africans in the context of a neo-colonized, "structural adjustment" world? In the face of recent anti-affirmative action anti-immigration) legislation how can the ASA become more inclusive in its membership? Current political developments in the US are far from encouraging and are certain to become worse in the ensuing years. This means that funding for African-centered

projects/programs will continue to dry up; that African nations will cease to be of any import in US foreign policy decisions and foreign aid programs; that degrading and caricatured images of Africa, Africans, and the African Diaspora will continue to flourish in US popular culture; and that women and "minorities" will increasingly be excluded from access to educational and other national resources. There are no easy answers, but in order to confront these mounting problems with some effect it will be necessary for the ASA to establish regular links with other concerned organizations, associations, and institutions in the US and abroad, and to "open up" its decision-making apparatus to members' input. advocate of African affairs the ASA must maintain a more visible and active relationship with relevant government agencies. Above all, the ASA needs to further strengthen and deepen its ties with and its relationship to Africa.

In the present political climate this is a challenging time for the ASA leadership and membership. There is an urgent need for the organization to formulate an agenda appropriate for a post-Cold War reality.

Alfred Kagan Biographical Information

Positions: African Studies Bibliographer and Professor of Library Administration, University of Illinois Library, 1992-; Reference Librarian/Africana Selector, Babbidge Library, University of Connecticut, 1984-92. Qualifications: Teaches course on "Bibliography of Africa South of the Sahara;" experience in information technology, development, collection Internet development, reference service, bibliographic instruction, specialization in east and southern Africa, experience in international librarianship including organizing conferences and panels in African and other countries, and research in appropriate information technology. Education: MLS, Africana Bibliography Assistantship, Indiana University, 1982; MA, International Relations, San Francisco State University, Thesis on East Africa, 1972; BA, Political Science, Boston University 1970. Selected Recent Publications: Co-compiler of "Africa," Section in Guide to Reference Sources, American Library Association, forthcoming 1996; Editor for African countries in Guide to Official Publications of Foreign Countries, 2nd ed., Congressional Information Service, forthcoming 1996; "Guidelines for Librarians and Publishers Interacting with South Africa: the Imperative for Action," in Summary of Proceedings of the 1990 Annual Conference of the American Theological Library Association; co-editor of American and Canadian Doctoral Dissertations and Master's Theses on Africa, 1974-1987, Crossroads Press,

1989 and 1886-1974, ASA, 1976; "Africa" section in Magazines for Libraries, 6th ed., Bowker, 1989. Selected Offices and Committees in Professional Societies: ASA Africana Librarians Council. Vice-Chair/Chair 1992/93 and Executive Committee 1989-95; Association Concerned Africa Scholars; International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, Government Information and Official Publications Section, Immediate Past-Chair and Secretary 1989-93; American Library Association, International Relations Committee and Africa Sub-committee, Action Council of the ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table.

Statement of Candidacy

Both the 1969 and 1995 ASA Annual Meetings have illustrated our challenge to inclusive open, forward-looking. The ASA is more diverse than in 1969 and we have made progress in being more open. The procedures manual has recently been distributed to all members, and we now have a "Town Meeting" and major debates in no-conflict time slots (the Curtin panel). We have made progress, but there is much more to be done. We are challenged to transform our structures to be most relevant to our new constituencies. This need is not only appropriately ethical but also the way to build solidarity for maintenance of resources. How can we create an environment open and welcoming to African and African-American scholars? How can we create an exciting intellectual community that meets the needs of and is a benefit to African peoples? How can we better relate to and support new research initiatives on the African continent? And how can we move past the division shown by the Curtin debate? Black scholars intend to centrally locate themselves in the study of Africa. We must see these efforts as an opportunity to enrich the ASA, provide vital new approaches, and increase our possibilities for building our profession. Attacks on affirmative action and the rise of the National Security Education Program (NSEP) are two sides of the same coin. We must support young black scholars and oppose military intrusion into our profession. We must be open, transparent, accessible, and democratic, and we must work for these ends in our local institutions everyday as well as in the ASA. We must also act in support of women and families, including the right to subsidized day-care at ASA meetings. In the past, we were engaged in the struggle against apartheid. Now we must address other affronts to humanity. It is the right time, for example, to boycott Shell and impose sanctions on Nigeria. As a librarian, I am working to increase links with African librarians and to foster appropriate electronic technology for

research. Merging these links with new technologies should help provide resources for all in North America and in the rest of the world. We can invent our own empowerment.

Biodun Jeyifo Biographical Information

Education: BA, University of Ibadan, 1970; MA, New York University, 1973; Ph. New York University, Employment: Professor of English, Cornell University. Articles in Dissent, Transition, Research in African Literatures, Stanford Literary Review, Callaloo, Kunapipi, Literary Half-Yearly, Odu: Journal of West African Studies, and Matatu. Books and anthologies: The Yoruba Traveling Theatre of Nigeria (1984), The Truthful Lie (1985), Nigerian Literature: A Contemporary Retrospective and Prospective Exploration (1987), Art Dialogue and Outrage: Wole Soyinka's Essays on Literature and Culture (1993), and Wole Soyinka (forthcoming). Editorial Board Membership: Transition, Diacritics.

Statement of Candidacy

How will the ASA reposition and reinvent itself to effectively engage the problems and challenges facing Africanist scholarship in North America in the last decade of the century? And how will this redound on the crises of higher education and intellectual production on the African continent at the present time? These are the questions around which I have organized my thoughts in seeking election to the Board of Directors of the ASA. We all both conscious and unwitting products of history: I did not resign my senior teaching position at the University of Ife in Nigeria in 1987 in a fit of absent-mindedness; but neither did I expect, throughout the first decade of my professional academic career, that I would spend the middle decade(s) of my professional life away from Africa. I shall not seek to represent exclusively the growing ranks of "emigre" African scholars among the ASA membership, but in working with others to consolidate the association's viability and resilience in these troubled times, I shall bring the perspectives of this displaced, inchoate sub-community to bear on our efforts and objectives.

Frank W. Holmquist Biographical Information

I received a BA from Lawrence University in 1963, a Ph. D. in political science from Indiana University in 1975, and I am currently Professor of Politics at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. I have received two Fulbright grants for research in East Africa (Kenya, 1967–69; Kenya and Tanzania,

1983). I began by addressing issues in rural political economy and development, and more recently shifted my research focus to national politics and questions regarding the cause and consequence of political liberalization. I have spent about nine years on the continent including research undertaken at Makerere University (1969-71) and teaching politics at the University of Dar es Salaam (1973-75). I have returned to East Africa for research on a regular basis, including every year for the past five years. For the ASA I was chair of the Herskovits Committee in 1986 and a committee person the prior year. I have been on the Board of the Association of Concerned Africa Scholars for several years. I have contributed to several collections and published articles in journals such as African Studies Review, Africa, Africa Today, Canadian Journal of African Studies, Current History, Journal of Developing Areas, and World Politics.

Statement of Candidacy

African studies and Africa face related challenges. The challenges on the continent are well known and are exacerbated by declining commitment in policy arenas in this country. At the same time, and for related reasons, African studies confronts problems of funding and uncertain interest on our campuses and even in the wider scholarly world. On the continent, however, despite malaise in many quarters, the vibrancy of debate and sustaining energy is palpable. Parallels can be seen in this country where there are pockets of strong interest in Africa, often among young people, and especially African-Americans. We must build upon all the energy available to meet the challenges ahead.

The ASA is first and foremost an association of scholars with a mission to encourage excellent scholarship. mission requires debate and the cultivation of close relations with Africa. It also requires adequate funding and efforts to construct an aggressive and compelling case for the continuing utility of area studies as we compete with attractive new themes and enthusiasms for funder attention. The need for sophisticated interdisciplinary studies of Africa is as strong now as ever before. While we all agree that studies of a range of comparative themes and global forces are worthy, they will only bear fruit to the extent that generalizations are firmly grounded in empirical reality. At its best area studies nurtures an informed discourse about Africa while it implicitly acts as a vehicle for deflating uninformed generalizations. One must know Africa first.

Second, nurturing the highest quality scholarship also requires facilitating a

scholarly climate in Africa. This directs our attention to matters of academic freedom and civil liberties as much as it does to the health of universities, their libraries, African journals, publications, and scholarly associations, as well as exchange and visitation programs.

Third, a major ASA task is to host annual meetings that are accessible to as many scholars and interested parties as possible. A large proportion of undergraduate teaching about Africa goes on at small colleges, and it is provided by faculty with minimal support from colleagues and institutions. As a result, the annual meeting and ASA publications loom large in their teaching and scholarly lives.

Fourth, we need to influence opinion. We must attend to the fact that in some circles of power Africa is becoming more invisible even as problems grow. We need to sustain a dialogue with policy-makers and opinion-shapers to give Africa a high and worthy profile. We also need to think about ways to use the media—and especially the electronic media—to better inform a wider audience about the significance of the scholarship we do, the issues we address, and the debates we engage in.

Fifth, as African Studies quietly reconstitutes itself in a post-Cold War world the Association must expand efforts to involve greater numbers of African and African-American scholars, develop relations with historically African-American colleges and universities, provide greater recognition to diaspora studies, encourage regional conferences and local and workshops on Africa, facilitate outreach activity in communities and in schools, and help us share experiences of successfully engaging undergraduates in the study of Africa.

Judith A. Byfield Biographical Information:

Since college, I have been nurturing and expanding my interest in African history, women's history, and Caribbean history. I completed my Ph.D. in African History from Columbia University, and currently I am an assistant professor of History at Dartmouth College. At Dartmouth, I teach both African and Caribbean history courses. I have been very involved in efforts to expand and deepen the College's commitment to area studies. I am associated with the African and African-American Studies Program and the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program. I am equally committed expanding research and instruction on women and gender. Toward that end, I have served on the steering committees Dartmouth's Institute for Research on Women and Gender, and the Women's Studies Program. In addition, I served as

co-convener of the ASA Women's Caucus from 1993-1995.

My current research focuses on women's social and economic history in western Nigeria. I am completing a manuscript on women indigo dyers in Abeokuta. My publications include "Pawns and Politics: The Pawnship Debate in Western Nigeria" in Toyin Falola and Paul Lovejoy, eds. Pawnship in Africa: Debt Bondage in Historical Perspective (Westview Press, 1993); "Innovation and Conflict: Cloth Dyers and the Inter-war Depression in Western Nigeria," Journal of African "Women, History (forthcoming); and Marriage, Divorce and the Emerging Colonial State in Abeokuta" Canadian Journal of African Studies (forthcoming).

I have received several awards including a New Hampshire College and University Council Faculty Incentive Grant (1995); a Mellon Fellowship (1991-1993), and a Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship (1995-1996) from the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan.

Statement of Candidacy

In our current political and economic climate, it is even more important that the ASA become a strong voice both in domestic and foreign policy. There are several critical areas where the ASA can and must help to make a difference. We must work more closely with teachers and policy makers to broaden and expand African studies in the elementary, secondary, and college curricula. As an organization, and in our individual institutions, we must students of color, encourage more especially African American students, to pursue graduate degrees and to enter African studies. In order to ensure that college remains an option for all students, we must work with other organizations to protest the cuts in student loans and grants that are proposed at both the national and state levels.

It is also imperative that we work with African scholars to revitalize African universities and foster networks for collaborative research and curricular projects. In addition, we must strengthen outlets for the publication and distribution of works by African scholars. The ASA has an important role to play in nurturing graduate students and young scholars in African universities. We need to work with foundations and other organizations to develop funding programs that will allow a greater number of young African scholars to attend our annual meeting and present their work. The tasks ahead of us are great, but as educators with a special interest in Africa, we must be at the forefront of advocacy to protect access to education and support for the creation of knowledge in

Africa and America.

Omofolabo Ajayi-Soyinka Biographical Information

I came to the US in 1988 after completing my Ph. D. in Literature in English at the University of Ife, Nigeria, where I had been teaching for some years and where I also received my BA (French). I obtained my MA in Theatre Arts from Leeds University, England. After two years of Visiting Professorship at Cornell University, I moved to the University of Kansas in 1990. I am currently Associate Professor in the Dep't of Theatre & Film, and Women's Studies Program.

My research and teaching are centered on African and African Diaspora literature, theatre, critical theory, and feminist perspectives. I have publications in the Journals of Dramatic Theory & Criticism, American Semiotics, and CORD; chapters in books and a forthcoming book on the semiotics of Yoruba performance. I am a member of the ACAS.

Statement of Candidacy

In just another 4 years, it will be the year 2, 000. This is a right time to ponder on the readiness and role of ASA as it prepares to enter the new century of continued global shrinking and increased multicultural consciousness. It becomes even more pertinent in view of the controversial debate over the ghettoization of, or continuing imperialism in, African Studies. The debate reifies the boundaries of power and marginalization for many members. Closely related to this is the gender politics within the organization. For example, issues raised by the Women's caucus but which directly or indirectly affect ALL members have often been marginalized and treated as women's affairs only. The child care problem during conventions is a case in

On the eve of the 21st century, there is need to review and strengthen the internal structure of ASA, improve qualitatively and quantitatively this historic Association's mission with the target of its intellectual focus, Africa. As a Board member of ASA, I will ensure that ASA continues to fulfill its mission and remains effectively relevant in promoting knowledge about Africa, her people, and relationship with the rest of the world through excellent scholarship and bring my diverse activism. Ī will experience in scholarship and multicultural knowledge to see that, among other things, the ASA:

breaks down the barriers of imperialism and prejudice and raises awareness among members with common goals in improving and increasing access to the study and understanding of Africa

takes concerted action on women's

caucus issues along with other mainstream issues

improves outreach efforts about Africa to our students, the general public, and agencies in charge of making policies pertaining to Africa

increases the visibility of African-based Africanists by fostering cross-fertilization between African Studies in Africa and in the United States

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ASA 1995 ANNUAL MEETING PAPERS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

African Policy Studies Journal Debut

■ Passages: A Journal of Transnational and Transcultural Studies is a new interdisciplinary journal concerned with the burgeoning literature on transnational phenomena and cross-cultural encounters. For information contact Mohammed A. Bamyeh, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts,, Lowell, MA 01854. Tel: (508) 934-4305, fax: (508) 934-3023, e-mail: bamyeh@woods.uml.edu.

New Ph. D. Program in Atlantic Civilization

■ The Department of History at Florida International University announces a new doctoral program in Atlantic Civilization. For information contact Joseph F. Patrouch, Director of Graduate Studies, Department of History, Florida International University, University Park, Miami, Florida 33199. Tel: (305) 348-2328, fax: (305) 348-3561, e-mail:

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■ The Journal of Asian and African Studies is seeking to expand its list of book reviewers. If you would like to review books for JAAS, contact Stephen N. Ndegwa, Journal of Asian and African Studies, Government Department, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA.

E-mail: snned@facstaff.wm.edu.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

January 15, 1996-Religion

◆ Applications for senior and post-doctoral fellowships from the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis in Varieties of Religious Experience for 1996–97. Contact Phyllis Mack, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, Rutgers University, 88 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

PAPER CALENDAR

May 1, 1996-Benin

◆ Proposals on any topic relating to Benin, its past, present, and future for possible inclusion in an international symposium during the Great Benin Centenary Celebration, Benin City, Nigeria, in February 1997. Contact the Secretary, Symposium Committee, Great Benin Centenary Organizing Committee, c/o Benin Traditional Council, P.M.B. 1025, Benin City, Nigeria; or FLora Kaplan, 19 University Place, Suite 308, New York, NY 10003-4556. Tel: (212) 998-8080, fax: (212) 995-4185, e-mail: edouwaye@nyu.edu.

May 1, 1996-Images and Empire

◆ Proposals on images in Africa that bear the mark of empire for possible presentation at a conference to be held at Yale University in mid-February, 1997. Contact Paul S. Landau, Dep't of History, PO Box 208324, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06520. E-mail: plandau@minerva.cis.yale.edu.

Land Tenure and Administration

◆ Proposals for an International Conference on Land Tenure and Administration hosted by the University of Florida (Gainesville) from November 13–15, 1996 To submit abstracts, or for further information about the conference, contact: Grenville Barnes, Surveying and Mapping Program, Department of Civil Engineering, 345 Weil Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 32611. Tel: (352) 392-4998, fax: (352) 392-4957, e-mail: gbarn@ce.ufl.edu.

Theatre Studies

◆ Proposals on the theme "New Approaches to Theatre Studies and Performance Analysis" for possible presentation at a conference sponsored jointly by the University of Bristol Drama Department and the Colston Research Society from March 21–23, 1997. Contact Günther Berghaus, Department of Drama, University of Bristol, Cantocks Close, Woodland Road, Bristol, BS8 1UP, UK. Tel: 0117/928 78 33, fax: 0117/928 82 51,

e-mail: mark.sinfield@bris.ac.uk.

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MEETING CALENDAR

May 1-5, 1996—Canadian Association of African Studies

▲ Annual meeting of the Canadian Association of African Studies,in Montreal. Theme: "Africa 1996 Afrique: Crisis and Renaissance et Crise."Contact Loy Denis, CAAS Secretariat, Centre d'Etudes de l'Asie de l'Est, Universite de Montreal, C.P. 6128, Succ. Centre Ville, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3J7, Canada. Tel: (514) 343-6569, fax: (514) 343-7716, E-Mail: denm@ere.umontreal.ca.

June 24-August 16, 1996—Social Science

▲ Center for Afroamerican and African Studies of the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor 1996 Summer Institute on Social Science Methods and African Studies. Contact 1996 Summer Institute, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, 200 West Engineering Building, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1092. Tel: (313) 764-5513, fax: (313) 763-0543, e-mail: cassinformation@umich.edu.

September 3-6, 1996—Archaeology

▲ 13th Biennial Conference of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists, in Poland. Themes: "The Archaeological Heritage of Africa: Management and Challenges," and "The Impact of Past Human Activities Upon Africa's Natural Environments." Contact Lech Krzyzaniak, Poznan Archaeological Museum, ul. Wodna 27, 61-781 Poznan, Poland. Tel: 48/61/52.64.30, fax: 48/61/52.53.06.

October 30-November 2, 1996—Ethnomusicology

▲ 41st Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology. Joint meeting with the Canadian Society for Traditional Music. Contact Beverly Diamond, Music Department, York University, 4700 Keele St., North York, Ontario, Canada, M3J 1P3. E-mail: bdiamond@yorku.ca

November 11–20, 1996—Power and Culture ▲ Center for Afroamerican and African Studies of the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor 1996 International Workshop. Theme: "Transformations of Power and Culture in Africa." Contact 1996 International Workshop, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, 200 West Engineering Building, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1092. Tel: (313) 764-5513, fax: (313) 763-0543, e-mail: caasinformation@umich.edu.

November 13–15, 1996—Land Tenure and Administration

▲ University of Florida (Gainesville) International Conference on Land Tenure and Administration. Contact: Grenville Barnes, Surveying and Mapping Program, Department of Civil Engineering, 345 Weil Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, 32611. Tel: (352) 392-4998, fax: (352) 392-4957, e-mail: gbarn@ce.ufl.edu.

November 15-17, 1996-Religion and Art

▲ International symposium on "Art and Rituals of Divination in Central and West Africa," hosted by the Department of Religion, Amherst College. Contact John Pemberton III, Department of Religion, Amherst College, Amherst, MA 01002. Tel: (413) 542-2211, fax: (413) 542-2727.

November 23-26, 1996—African Studies

▲ 39th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, in San Francisco, CA. Theme: "The Challenges of Renewal in Africa." Contact the Secretariat, ASA, Emory University, Credit Union Building, Atlanta, GA 30322.

January 2-5, 1997-History

▲ Annual meeting of the American Historical Association, in New York City. Theme: "Human Rights." Contact Margaret Strobel, Women's Studies Program, Office of Social Science Research, B-110 BSB, 1007 W. Harrison, University of Illinois at Chicago, IL 60607-7136.

Mid-February, 1997-Images and Empire

▲ Conference to be held at Yale University. Theme: "Images in Africa that Bear the Mark of Empire." Contact Paul S. Landau, Dep't of History, PO Box 208324, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06520. E-mail: plandau@minerva.cis.yale.edu.

March 21-23, 1997—Theatre Studies

▲ Conference sponsored jointly by the University of Bristol Drama Department and the Colston Research Society. Theme: "New Approaches to Theatre Studies and Performance Analysis." Contact Günther Berghaus, Department of Drama, University of Bristol, Cantocks Close, Woodland Road, Bristol, BS8 1UP, UK. Tel: 0117/928 78 33, fax: 0117/928 82 51, e-mail: mark.sinfield@bris.ac.uk.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

African Studies Program Director

* Indiana University invites applications for the position of Director, African Studies Program, to begin August, 1996. Contact Ruth M. Stone, Chair, African Studies Search Committee, Indiana University, Woodburn Hall 221, Bloomington, IN 47405. Tel: (812) 855-6825/8284, fax: (812) 855-6734.

African/African American Studies

- * The University of Arizona, African American Studies Program invites applications for the following positions, beginning August 1, 1996:
 - Art Historian, African/Diaspora Art
 - African American Studies—Religion
 - African American Studies—Sociology

Contact M. S. Omari, Director, African American Studies Program, University of Arizona, MLK Building 305, Tucson, AZ 85721-0067.

Education Specialist

* The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign seeks a Specialist in Education who will coordinate the Center for African Studies Outreach Program. Contact Center for African Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 201 International Studies Building, 910 S. Fifth Street, Champaign, IL 61820. Tel: (217) 333-6335, fax: (217) 244-2429.

West Africa Regional Representative

* Lutheran World Relief seeks a Regional Representative for its West Africa office located in Niamey, Niger. Contact Ann Fries, Human Resources Manager, Lutheran World Relief, 390 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. Fax: (212) 213-6081. Interviews will be conducted beginning May 1.

SUMMER RESEARCH

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Compiled by Joseph J. Lauer (Michigan State University) and Daniel Britz (Northwestern University)

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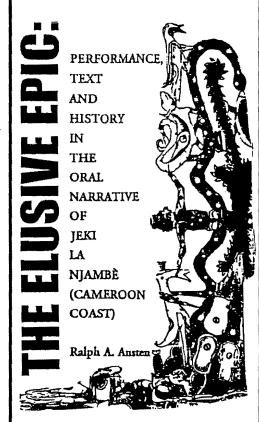
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