

Awards. General guidelines, developed by the Publications Committee, for all book awards were discussed and adopted. The Executive Director will send them to the book award committee chairs.

13.1 It was agreed that in the future the Distinguished Africanist Committee will be chaired by the Past President and that it will meet at the Annual Meeting so that its recommendations may be presented to the Spring Board Meeting.

13.2 It was agreed that in the future all Board members are to receive Book Donation Project applications from the Secretariat.

13.3 It was agreed to return to the matter of procedures for nominations and awards at the next Fall Board Meeting.

#### 14.0 Any Other Business

14.1 It was agreed that Thandike Mkandawire, the Executive Secretary of CODESRIA, be nominated for the 50th Anniversary Distinguished Fulbright Fellowship.

14.2 Richard Chowning requested that the Electronic Technology Group be funded to provide a booth at the Annual Meeting to educate members in the use of information technology in African Studies. It was agreed to provide a one-time award of \$800 and to urge the ETG to seek outside funding in the future.

14.3 It was agreed that Sponsored Organizations should tell the Board what they wanted to accomplish and how they can work with the ASA. The Executive Director will write to each group and enclose a copy of the ASA mission statement when making this request.

14.4 It was agreed that membership census data would be supplied to the chair of the Nomination Committee prior to the Annual Meeting.

14.5 The ASA's need for a contract with Conferon was discussed. It was agreed that a one-page information sheet be prepared for the Board detailing the Association's relationship with Conferon.

14.6 It was agreed that inclusion of individuals from small institutions on ASA committees be discussed at the Fall meeting of the board.

## Letters:

To the Editor:

You've asked for letters, and this subject has been on my mind for a while: Is ASA only for academics? I joined ASA about ten years ago because of my scholarly and practical interest in Africa. I never intended to go into academia. I remain self-employed, mostly vending, but doing some consulting and technical assistance. Part of my value to some clients is my experience and knowledge in my area of specialization—Southern African Development Community.

Hans Panofsky has always been very supportive, but I get very little support from those in academia. Do you ever ask yourselves, "How many of my students will go on to become academic Africanists?" ASA members have elitist attitudes. I've had Africanists tell me I couldn't be an Africanist or an Anthropologist because I am not connected to an institution. Really! Is it any wonder interest in African and Anthropology are not growing?

I cherish my African experiences, my African friends, and Africa as much as any academic does. I've contributed to development in African communities, where I've been told by many Africans that you and your students did your research and left nothing, not even copies of your finished papers. If our mission is to "extend the body of knowledge on Africa," we must modernize our thoughts and the marketing of ASA. Returned Peace Corps volunteers and business people (particularly tour operators and importers) are very interested in the history, politics, cultures, economics, and social dynamics of African communities. Are we going to snub them because of their (my) lack of ongoing research, or are we going to continue the ridiculous practice of presenting papers to each other?

The pragmatic question academia must ask is, "What more can we do to spread the word that Africa is not the jungle, and people there had developed cultures before Europeans were bathing regularly?"

Robyn Michaels  
Chicago, IL

## AFRICAN STUDIES REVIEW CALL FOR EDITOR(S)

The editorship of the *African Studies Review*, the journal of the African Studies Association, will become vacant at the end of 1997. The Board of Directors of the ASA solicits proposals from ASA members who wish to be considered. Proposals may take one of three forms: 1) Editor, in charge of both the scholarly articles and the book reviews; 2) Editor, in charge of only the scholarly articles; and 3) Book Review Editor, in charge of only the book reviews. The length of term is negotiable, however three to five years is envisaged. Information on the nature of support which the prospective editor could expect from their home institution should be included.

The ASR offers an important opportunity for the editor to shape the direction of scholarly debate on African topics and to promote the interdisciplinary quality of African studies research. The ASA Board would welcome creative ideas on how the journal might be used to:

- 1) communicate the excitement and significance of recent research in one discipline to scholars in other disciplines;
- 2) explore particular themes from different disciplinary perspectives, showing how they either complement each other or foster debate; and
- 3) discuss emerging themes, issues, and methodologies in the field.

Members interested in making proposals should contact the ASA Secretariat, Emory University, Credit Union Building, Atlanta GA 30322, Tel: (404) 329-64108.5

### WE NEVER CLOSE

Need information about the ASA, want to send membership information to a friend? Check us out on the World Wide Web:

[http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African\\_Studies/Home\\_Page/ASA\\_Menu.html](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/Home_Page/ASA_Menu.html)