

and if possible a small cash award of a value equivalent at least to the Herskovits award. To establish such an award we would need an endowment of at least \$50,000 which could yield (depending on interest rates) a minimum of \$4-5000 p.a. to pay for the fare and accommodation of the recipient and spouse, the cost of the award, the publication of the booklet and the invitations to special guests to attend the dinner. If a sufficient endowment was secured the cash award could be made the equivalent of not more than 10% (or any percentage agreed by the Board) of the annual income of the endowment. Any excess funds could be used to provide bursaries to graduates to attend the A.S.A. meeting, such bursaries would bear the same name as the award and would themselves be of a competitive nature. All ex-recipients of the award would be invited to participate in the future selection process. I have in mind that the award ceremony would be an occasion for the Association to celebrate in the achievements of our greatest scholars. I feel that the presentation of the Herskovits award leaves much to be desired often taking place at a hurried and often poorly attended General meeting. I should like to think that the new award dinner ceremony and the address by the recipient and the recital of their exploits would be an inspiration to the young Africanists who are just beginning their exciting careers.

The above thoughts are only intended as suggestions, detailed in order to elicit discussion, for the Board to consider. If the idea has any merit I feel that it would be appropriate to launch the award scheme in the Jubilee year when we meet in the nation's capital and during which time an appeal to the interested public might meet with a kinder response.

Yours Sincerely,

Merrick Posnansky

Professor of History and Anthropology

Ed note: Professor Posnansky is a member of this year's Herskovits Committee, along with Professors Lindfors and Samoff (Chair)

OVERSEAS MAIL PROBLEMS

Dear Executive Secretary:

Your cancellation last August of my Sustaining Membership of A.S.A did not take into account the long weeks which it takes sea-mailed A.S.A. mail to reach me—an experience which I feel sure other members in this part of the world share. To illustrate, the final dues-payment reminder posted in April 1981 reached me in August, the cancellation notice arrived in October and copies of each A.S.A. periodical came to me several months after their publication; the December 1980 (Volume XXIII NO3) REVIEW reached my hands just last week!

It is important that A.S.A. members in this part of the world should receive all A.S.A. materials and mail promptly and I, for myself, am willing to pay a little more than the normal dues to help ensure this. Please let me have your reactions soonest. Meanwhile I enclose \$30 cheque for my 1982 due.

Yours Sincerely

Professor O. (A Member from Nigeria)

Dear Professor O:

Thank you very much for your prompt payment of your 1982 dues. Your sustaining membership is hereby reinstated.

Your comments concerning the shipment of ASA membership information by surface are well taken. We have tried to rectify that situation this year, as your renewal notice testifies. However, as to the shipment of membership journals, those will continue to be