

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

We have reviewed past issues of the *ASA Newsletter*, this lifeline of information for the seasoned and aspiring Africanist, and decided that we have outgrown our name. We report too much diverse information for such a mechanical title. Surely, what we are producing is the *ASA NEWS*, and so we have decided to re-title ourselves. We have also decided, for both efficiency and economy, to produce the *ASA NEWS* quarterly.

In putting together this first *ASA NEWS* from the new home of the Association in Los Angeles, we were guided by the most venerable of scholarly Africanist themes: Continuity and Change. We look upon the *NEWS* as our first line of service to the membership: the source of research and employment information, the billboard for Africanist announcements and the archive for our own Association's activities. But we would also like to see the *NEWS* become something more. We hope to see it become a forum for the wares of our constituencies and for the sounds shaping contemporary African Studies. There have been several suggestions on making the *ASA* more current and feisty, including the reformation of *ISSUE* into a true journal of diverse opinions. While we consider these suggestions, we would also like to see the "Letters to the Editor" become an *ASA* op ed page, and urge our readers to address their opinions to other Africanists through the *ASA NEWS*.

The business of re-establishing the *ASA* in Los Angeles is proceeding about as well as we expected. So much of the identity of an Association of this sort is given to it by its locale, which we hope won't give pause to L.A.'s many observers. We are aware that the relocation of the Association accompanies a transformation of the times, certainly for America as much as for Africa. We are sure that the Association we inherit will not be the Association we hand on.

Finally, we know that we count for no more than the interest and support of the *ASA* membership. For those who have already paid their 1981 dues, our thanks. For those whose membership dues are yet to be paid, a reminder is going out in a few days time, announcing an extension of the Sustaining Membership deadline commensurate with our own delays in publication and notification deadlines. Please continue your support. We believe the Annual Meeting being planned for Bloomington will be excellent, and we think that the journals of the Association will show a new vigor and relevance. And we believe that the decisions the *ASA* makes this year will mark the development of the Association for the next decade. We hope you'll be part of all that's going on with the *ASA* in the 80s.

The Editors