

CALL FOR 1993 ALA PAPERS

The Editors of the 1993 ALA Selected Conference Papers are Susan Andrade, Eileen Julien, Micheline Rice-Maximin and Aliko Songolo. They will be working with Series Editor Hal Wylie. The following schedule has been established for production of the Annual.

November 1, 1993: Deadline for receipt of submissions.

January 15, 1994: Notification of acceptance or rejection mailed to those who have submitted papers. Editorial comments and proposed revisions mailed to contributors.

March 15, 1994: Deadline for receipt of revised papers: HARD COPY and DISKETTE.

ASA Meeting, Fall, 1994: Expected date of publication.

Submissions should be sent (six hard copies plus, when possible, diskette) to the Editor of the *ALA Bulletin*, who will distribute them to Editors and Headquarters. (Editor's address is on back cover of all *ALA Bulletins*).

[By the time *ALAB* 19.2 was mailed in August, 1993, the deadlines for submission of 1993 ALA (Guadeloupe) Conference papers had passed. Apparently the *Bulletin*, which was sent to the printer in June, was held up until an outstanding bill was paid. The deadlines for receipt of 1993 papers has therefore been extended to October 15, 1993. By mid-August, about 15 papers had come in to the *Bulletin* Editor's office in spite of botched deadlines announced in *ALAB* 19.2. — ED.]

ALA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Draft of the Fall Meeting at African Studies Association Conference, Seattle WA, November 21-23, 1992

Present: Susan Andrade, Steve Arnold, Sandy Barkan, Henri Boyi, Abena P.A. Busia, Mbaye Cham, Maureen Eke, Ken Harrow, Abiola Irele, George Joseph, Eileen Julien, Keni Karak, Janis Mayes, Mimi Mortimer, Micheline Rice-Maximin, and Gerald Moser. The Executive Council met in four sessions over the three day period. As a sudden family illness prevented the attendance of Aliko Songolo, President, all sessions were chaired by Vice-President Abena Busia.

Session I: November 21, 7:45-8:45 a.m.

This session exclusively dealt with the progress report from the Guadeloupe organizers, and finalizing the plans for the meeting including establishing a fee schedule, and agreeing on scheduling plans for special events including the Women's Caucus business meeting and luncheon.

Session II: November 22, 7:45-9:50 a.m.

1. Conferences

a) 1994, Accra. Abena Busia gave an update on the Accra Conference, reporting that Rutgers University had agreed to co-sponsor the event. To this end her department had agreed to give her a one-course load for the Spring semester. The Centre for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture had agreed to provide secretarial and office support for the preparation of the program, travel arrangements, and other such business best dealt with in the United States rather than Accra. As well, Livingston College would try to provide a work study student to assist the US based organizing committee. In addition Busia reported on an "After Accra" conference being organized by herself and Mbulelo Mzamanu, to take place at Rutgers University two weeks later, and asked for, and received by warm acclamation, ALA endorsement for that conference.

b) 1995, and beyond. The situation concerning conferences after Accra was of some concern, and still no firm bids from any institutions. The Executive welcomed again by acclamation, the idea of a bid from Ohio State University, and hoped it would have a firm offer by the Guadeloupe conference. It was agreed that until a firm offer was made and accepted, bids for 1995 and beyond had to be considered open to all interested parties.

c) In the interests of clarifying and expediting procedures for bids, a decision was taken to find and update the existing guidelines and make them more readily available. A motion was passed unanimously requesting all conveners to submit a dossier of their procedures to Headquarters for reference by other conference conveners.

2. Matters Arising from Brock Minutes

a) The minutes of the Brock Executive Council Meetings were approved as amended.
b) It was agreed that more diligence is needed on the part of Headquarters to notify councillors and officers of their election, and to inform them of obligations and absence.
c) There was much discussion on the question of the publication of Executive Council minutes and the procedures governing ratification and publication. The issue was

maintaining a balance between a policy of open meetings, which must be continued, and maintaining confidentiality for a time concerning sensitive discussions and delicate decisions. The following resolution was moved and passed unanimously.

RESOLVED

1. That the minutes, like Executive Council Meetings themselves, must remain open.
2. That discussions need not be recorded in their entirety, but all decisions must be.
3. That the President or presiding officer should prepare an executive summary of the meetings for publication in the *Bulletin*.
4. That complete minutes will still be available from Headquarters once ratified.

3. Treasurers Report

Sandra Barkan presented the Treasurer's report which was accepted by the Executive.

Session III: November 22, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

1. Elections

Nominations were made for the positions of Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and members of the Executive Council. After much discussion Aberna Busia (as Vice-President and elections officer), was empowered by the Council to ensure the broadcast of the call for nominations with a January 15th deadline, and to contact the suggested people and prepare the final slate.

2. Annals

The current state of our annals is a matter of grave concern. There was discussion on the outstanding editions (Cornell 87, Dakar 89, Madison 90, New Orleans 91, Brook 92), but in some cases no update could be given because there had been inadequate communication from the editors. Steve Arnold raised the concern about the impact, financially and professionally of cancelled library subscriptions to the series because of our inefficient delivery record. He was asked by the Council to come up with a plan for us to reconsider our commitment to the annals. At the meeting the following day, the question of the annals was revisited, and the following resolution was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That future annals must complete their work within two years. Past annals have a one-year deadline or will be re-assigned to another editor. It is understood that the following deadlines will be observed: the first ranking and choice of papers given at the ALA convention will be completed by the following ASA meeting; by the following ALA meeting the editors will have edited the papers, sent suggestions to the authors, and the authors will have returned them; by September of that year the Introduction or Preface will have been written, and the manuscript sent to the publishers.

3. Relationships with Publishers

There was wide ranging discussion for different reasons, concerning the relationship of the ALA to Three Continents Press and *Research in African Literatures*. With respect to Three Continents, the concern was regarding the status/ownership of past annals should the press be dissolved or sold. It was resolved that Steve Arnold, after verifying what had been discussed between Three Continents and Headquarters, be authorized to negotiate for the President's consideration an agreement with Donald Herdeck to the effect that ALA pay 5% of the list price for its books in stock in the event of such a dissolution.

With respect to *RAL*, the situation was more uncertain as no contractual relationship exists between ALA and *RAL*. (Those relationships are between Indiana University Press, Ohio State University and *RAL*.) Nonetheless, the relationship exists as *RAL* describes itself as an official publication of the ALA; the ALA has paid for *RAL* to be donated to African Universities; and, in order to encourage more subscriptions, Indiana U Press will offer 15% discounts to ALA members, and solicit membership of ALA on its subscription notices. No conclusion was reached in this discussion, except the consensus that the President of ALA be on the *RAL* advisory editorial board.

Session IV: November 23, 7:00-9:00 a.m.

The main burden of discussions in this final session concerned our own administrative organization, and our relationships with organizations with similar interests, such as the ASA. Concern was expressed regarding the status of our Headquarters at Cornell in the absence of Anne Adams. Steps were taken to contact Cornell administration to the end of protecting Henri Boyi and ensuring his ability to continue ALA work with the adequate promised support.

The Calendar committee (Aliko Songolo, Steve Arnold, Sandra Barkan, Henri Boyi) agreed to continue the work being done on creating a Handbook for officers by finding all previous materials such as the guideline for conveners previously mentioned, and a flow chart of presidential duties developed by Eileen Julien under her tenure, and collating and organizing them into a Handbook that could be updated periodically.

The discussion of our relationship with ASA centered around our need to make literature and film more visible at ASA conferences. It was decided that Aberna Busia and Mbaye Chan would work on ways of building co-operative relationships with ASA to promote the visibility of African writers at ASA conferences, and of generally formalizing the negotiations between the two organizations regarding the organization and visibility of literature events at ASA meetings. There was a desire to also work more closely with APELA, and Abiola Irele agreed to serve as a liaison. On the other hand it was decided to keep the relationship with the MLA on the informal position it is now.

Finally, a commitment was made to organize an "affirmative action" program on literatures in African languages, and Portuguese, to make a special effort to target interested communities and to give more visibility at annual conferences, such as plenary sessions and roundtable discussions.

The remaining agenda items were postponed for discussion at the Guadeloupe Executive Council meetings.

Summary of the Executive Council Meeting, Annual Conference, Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, April 21, 1993

Present: Abena P.A. Busia (President), Aliko Songolo (Past President), Anne Adams, Susan Andrade, Stephen Arnold, Sandy Barkan, Kandjoura Drame, Eileen Julien, Ken Katrak, Mimi Mortimer, Sandra L. Richards, Reinhard Sander, Janice Spleth.

The Executive Council met for two sessions: 7:30-10:00 a.m., and 12:30-2:00 p.m.

1. After the call to order and welcoming of new members (Sandra Richards and Reinhard Sander were present, Ken Harrow and Vice-President Edris Makward were excused because they had papers to deliver), the agenda was adopted and minutes of the earlier executive meeting ratified.
2. The first major item was a discussion of the election slate for 1994. The Vice President, as elections officer, was charged with contacting the candidates nominated after much discussion, and receiving the at large nominations until a full slate is obtained for timely elections.
3. We then moved to matters arising from the Annual Business Meeting of the previous day. Major decisions taken were:
 - a) To establish a committee, chaired by Past-President Aliko Songolo, to act on behalf of the Association to discuss issues of governance and editorial policy with the leadership of *RAL*.
 - b) To establish a second *information gathering* committee to investigate the desirability and feasibility of ALA relations with other relevant publications, as well as an independent ALA owned and governed journal to report to the Executive and membership at large.
 - c) That letters should be written by the President and Past President to those institutions which have expressed an interest in hosting the ALA conference for 1995 indicating that the Association would be receptive to a firm bid as soon as possible.
 - d) That the letter protesting the detention of Guinean writer, Williams Sassine, be dated April 20, and signed by Past President Aliko Songolo.
4. That a second Council meeting be held in the afternoon for finalizing comments on the Executive Handbook to have it ready for distribution by the end of the summer to all Council members and prospective conference conveners, and to try to finalize the distribution of duties arising out of Council and business meeting decisions.
5. That the President would charge the constitutional reform committee, chaired, according to constitution, by the Vice President, to re-consider the question of the annual review of the *ALA Bulletin* Editor and to frame an amendment to be forwarded to the *ALA Bulletin* for publication in a timely fashion.
6. Two resolutions put forward by Steve Arnold were passed unanimously by the board:
 - a) That the Foulton-Nichols Prize awarded by the Research Institute for Comparative Literature of the University of Alberta be conferred regularly at ALA annual meetings.

b) That Stephen Arnold be allowed to use the *ALA Bulletin* to provide instalments of a dictionary of literary terms for readers of African Literature as a part of an ongoing *African Aesthetics Project* which would eventually be published separately as a book.

7. That two announcements be placed in the *Bulletin*, both of which aim to encourage long-range planning in ALA affairs. One is a call for venues for ALA conferences, to encourage more aggressively a list of potential conference sponsors, and the second, regarding the institutional support necessary to house the *ALA Bulletin*, to the end of soliciting enquiries that those who make bids may work more clearly and efficiently with the Executive in their planning or preparation for running for office.

8. On behalf of the Executive, Abena Busia received the statement of audit signed by Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi and Ann Armstrong Scarborough, that they had inspected the financial accounts prepared by the out-going Treasurer, Sandra Barkan, and found them to be in order.

The composition of all committees mentioned was discussed and the appropriate officers charged with contacting suggested members for their participation. The membership and final charges to the committee will be published after ratification at the Fall Executive Council meeting.