

ALA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Draft minutes of the ALA Annual Business Meeting, Pointe-à-Pitre, April 20, 1993

(Corrections and Additions are Requested)

Present: Aliko Songolo, (presiding), Anne Adams, Irene d'Almeida, Susan Andrade, Kofi Anyidoho, Stephen Arnold, Bonnie Barthold, Carole Beane, Carole Boyce-Davies, Henri Boyi, Fatamsha Patricia Brown, Dennis Bruns, Odile Cazenave, John Darkey, Miriam Dow, Maureen N. Eke, Ute Fendler, Colin Gardner, Raoul Grandqvist, Ken Harrow, E. Anthony Hurley, Humna Ibrahim, Abiola Irele, Biodun Jeyifo, Eileen Julien, Sylvie K. Kandé, Ken Karrak, Yakini Kemp, Renée Larrier, Cheri Maiden, Edris Makward, Janis Mayes, Fred Michelman, Mimi Mortimer, Helen Nabasuta Mungambi, Jean-Claude Naba, Lee Nichols, Tejumola Olanyan, Thelma Ravell-Pinto, Sandra Richards, Michelle Rice-Maximin, Reinhard Sander, Ann Scarboro, Ulla Schild, Minneke Schipper, Janice Spleth, Lindy Stiebel, Charlie Sugraf, Sarah Talis, Karim Traore, Louis Tremaine, Natasha C. Vaubel, Barbara J. Webb, Clarisse Zimra, Opportune Zongo.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:25 P.M. after a quorum was established.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

III. RATIFICATION OF 1992 ABM MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were ratified unanimously.

IV. REPORTS

A. President's Report. Election results and motion to destroy ballots:

Abena Busia announced the following election results: Vice President, Edris Makward; Treasurer, Mildred Mortimer; Secretary, Janice Spleth; Executive Council, Ken Harrow, Sandra Richards and Reinhard Sander. Abena Busia thanked people who agreed to stand. A call for nominations were to be issued in the next *Bulletins*. Those who had suggestions were to give them to a member of the Executive Council before 7 A.M. the next morning. Only 117 ballots came in, a low return. The following resolution moved by Abiola Irele, seconded by Michelle Rice Maximin, and passed unanimously:

RESOLVED To destroy the ballots.

Any name with 6 signatures (including the person nominated) must be on the ballot. One can suggest a name to the executive before the slate is set.

B. Treasurer's Report and Auditors' Statement. As the Treasurer's term was coming to an end, she extended her appreciation to several people: Anne Adams and Henri Boyi at headquarters; Steve Arnold; the organizers of the conference, Susan Andrade, Michelle Rice-Maximin, Aliko Songolo, Eileen Julien, and other officers. She also extended her appreciation to members of ALA, especially for donations to books to Africa. The ALA had collected \$620. The Treasurer was also grateful for contributions sent with registration fees to help defray expenses for the conference. The Treasurer mentioned the orange membership cards, chosen for visibility. Since these cards are not recyclable, the association has changed to white or off-white cards. President Aliko Songolo thanked Sandra Barkan for her great work in office. The Treasurer's Report had not yet been audited but was to be by the end of the conference.

C. Annuals Series Editor Report: 1987, 1989, 1990 and 1992 Annuals are outstanding. The President observed that the Annuals are the Achilles heel of the Association. A special request for papers was made by Cecil Abrahams, editor of the 1992 Annual. Those interested in submitting papers for the Annuals should send 6 copies with a disk identifying the word processing package used, to Steve Arnold as soon as possible. Steve will forward them to the proper editors. The 1987 Annual was promised to be in Steve's hands by ASA in Boston. The 1989 editors needed to prepare a camera ready copy. The 1990 Annual was most problematic because the editor had not sent a report. The 1991 editors said that they will put their book out before the 1989 Annual. Outstanding annuals have to meet a deadline.

D. Committee Reports

Constitutional Reform. The Vice President reported that no issues had been raised in the previous year. The committee had not sat and had nothing to report.

Research and Teaching. Louis Tremaine standing in for Tuziyin Allan reported that the committee had been revived by Eileen Julien and had met the previous evening. It had sponsored its first teaching panels the previous afternoon. The purpose of the committee is to support the activities in both research and teaching by sponsoring panels and workshops. Louis Tremaine invited input in organizing panels for ALA and ASA (2 at each meeting). Several topics were proposed: the question of decolonizing the African classroom in Africa; gender and the academy in Africa; pedagogical approaches; teaching French African literature. The committee also suggested that members bring course syllabi to meetings to exchange. Subcommittee had been formed to mobilize members. Ken Harrow, Eileen Julien, T.A. Molar.

Human Rights. Mineke Schipper reported that people she met expressed their wish that international action should be launched more often and drawn to individual cases. ALA members who travel to Africa from time to time should see it as their personal responsibility to find out if there are cases of human rights violations. They should contact Amnesty International before they go and bring back precious information for cases under consideration. Members should try to make a network with people in country. *Index of Censorship* needs support. Mineke Schipper read a letter from Nakashama Nkandu drawing attention to the house arrest of Williams Sassine in Guinea. She read the draft of a letter to the President of Guinea and issued a plea to members to write. A resolution to send a letter to the president of Guinea moved by Aliko Songolo, seconded by Ann Scarborough, passed unanimously. Lee Nichols said that he would send a copy of the letter to Voice of America.

Conveners of coming ALA Conference, Ghana, March 25-31. Kofi Anyidoho reported that travel packages for people who want to stay for another week would be available at a slightly reduced airfare. A travel agent had not yet been selected. Abena Busia would be a co-convenor. John Darkey and Anne Adams would help coordinate. Funding sources were still uncertain. Rutgers had given a lot of below the line support — no cash, but teaching leave-time, technical support for programming, office space and work study time. A contingent of South African writers was projected to come. Because Rutgers was supporting the Ghana conference it had been agreed that Rutgers would host an after-Accra conference. Kofi Anyidoho said that he would notify the Ghanaian Embassy that the conference would happen. Kofi Anyidoho issued a plea for members to send in their reservations on time so that he could have something in place to receive people.

Bids for future ALA conferences: Louvain, Ohio State and University of Iowa had all expressed interest but not submitted concrete bids. South Africa also remained a possibility, but it was decided that the ALA should meet in the U.S. for two years after Ghana. Since there were no concrete bids at the time of the Business meeting, Cecil Abraham moved, Theima Ravell-Pinto seconded a resolution empowering the Executive to entertain and accept bids from institutions in the U.S. before December. The motion passed unanimously.

Women's Caucus. The Women's Caucus had met the previous day. It discussed maintaining and building the caucus and considered programs and speakers it could bring to ALA. The Women's Caucus also expressed concern that there be at least 50% women on the RAL editorial board if RAL is the ALA's official organ. Caucus dues were announced at \$10 to be sent to Humna Ibrahim and forwarded to Rachida Abu Bakr. Men could send donations but not be members of caucus. Abena Busia said the relations with RAL were in some sense determined by a contract between Ohio State and the journal's owner, Indiana University, and had to be worked out. The possibility of reconstituting the

editorial advisory board was discussed. Passed: a resolution moved by Carole Boyce-Davies and seconded by Theima Ravell-Pinto that the ALA supports the Women's caucus request for 50% representation on RAL advisory board. The need to constitute a committee to work on the relationship between RAL and ALA was voiced.

1993 Convener's Report

Eileen Julien gave the conveners' report. She expressed her gratitude to the Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles, the Conseil Général, the Conseil Régional, the conference hotels, the local employees of American Airlines, the Préfecture de Police, the immigration service. She also acknowledged staff workers Chris Olsen, Ahmed Bougarche, Rachel Label, Maura Volkmer, Natasha Bauble, Pamela Bogart, as well as Henri Boyi and ALA members Sandy Barkan, Mbye Charn, Steve Arnold, Ken Harrow and Mineke Schipper. Forms were distributed for those who had travel problems to fill out. Biodun Jeyifo issued a call to thank the conveners.

NEW BUSINESS

Guadeloupe Annual Selected Papers: Micheline Rice-Maximin, Susan Andrade, Eileen Julien and Aliko Songolo were unanimously accepted as co-editors. 6 copies of papers submitted should be sent to Steve Arnold at the *Bulletin* office. The desirability of organizing the annual around a theme was expressed.

OTHER BUSINESS

President's closing Remarks: The President thanked the Executive and reported that the main achievement of the year was the recovery of the institutional memory of the association. Steve Arnold had drafted a 40-page Executive Handbook outlining duties and timetables. The new president thanked the outgoing committee very much for the work that they had done.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 P.M.