

I would like to thank Jessica and Eric Huntley for helping give birth to the Trickster. My thanks to Toks Williams, who did an impassioned job of proof-reading, even pointing out to me over the phone where I had sought to make deletions, the undelated text was better: and she took the trouble to include all the changes I made in the proofs five months ago!

I thank Richard Lannoy, whose arm I twisted to design the cover. He is the author of the classic book on India, *The Speaking Tree*, and the husband of Violet Dias Lannoy, the Goan novelist who died before any of her work could appear in print. The first story of hers to be published was in the issue of the *Journal of South Asian Literature* on Goan literature I edited for Michigan State University in 1983. When I visited Richard in Bath for the first time in 1992, after the conference on Salkey's Score, he was painting triptych Tricksters. I received the message: I had to bring his energies to/through my text.

I was the only coloured person at the conference at Poland. If the heart of the battle is criticism, the heart of the heart is how we interpret *Heart of Darkness*. Colonial apologists say that the novella implies that Kurtz goes to Africa to civilize the Africans and is reduced to savagery by them. Being on the other side, I say that the novella is cunningly telling us that Kurtz is reduced to being a brute because of the real task he has to perform under the cover of bringing civilization to Africa, namely, having to grab as much ivory as he can to develop Europe. Conrad employs trickster techniques in the telling of his story because he was writing at the height of the empire. I begin my Trickster book referring to Conrad and end it showing how *Heart of Darkness* is a trickster text, thus claiming Conrad as one of us. I said this in Gdansk since they were renaming the municipal library Joseph Conrad Korzenowski. My interpretation of Conrad is possible after I have analyzed the trickster texts of the three Third World novelists. As Wilson Harris has shown us, meaning can be found through juxtaposition.

It is significant in the month of the U.S. invasion of Haiti that my book should be published by a press which takes it title from two Caribbean revolutionaries, one of whom led the Haitian revolution. Whatever you think of the invasion, what is important is that in his speech, President Clinton said that two hundred years ago, the Haitian people rose up against slavery, but their freedom was hijacked. I am putting his speech into my words: the point is that an American President steeped in popular culture, including African-American music, saw the Haitian revolution sympathetically. What has not yet been achieved by fighting on the battlefield has to be achieved in the field of words.

Once again, I would like to thank Jessica and Rick Huntley for their love in bringing out *In the Trickster Tradition: The Novels of Andrew Salkey, Francis Ebejer and Ismael Reed*.

I dedicate this launching to Francis Ebejer, who passed away in the crossroads country of Malta on June 6, 1993. His words will be heard.

Peter Nazareh
University of Iowa

ALA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Draft minutes of the ALA Executive Council Meeting, Toronto, November 3, 1994

(Corrections and Additions are Requested)

Present: Irene d'Almeida, Abena Busia, Simon Gikandi, Edris Makward, Reinhard Sander, Janice Spleth, Louis Tremaine, Sada Niang represented Samba Gadjigo.

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Edris Makward called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as amended.

III. RATIFICATION OF MINUTES

Minutes from the Executive Council meetings in Seattle, Pointe-à-Pitre, Boston, and Accra were adopted as amended.

IV. DISCUSSION ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

A. *ALA Panels at ASA*. Because of the earlier deadlines for submission of panels to ASA meetings, it was decided that council members would submit panel topics to the Vice-President, Irene d'Almeida, at ASA for publication in the next *ALA Bulletin*.

B. *ALA Status Within ASA*. In an attempt to clarify our status with ASA, Edris Makward proposed that he meet with Joel Barken, ASA Program Chair.

V. REPORT FROM 1996 CONFERENCE CONVENER

Reading from a letter from Anthony Hurley, Edris announced that the theme of the 1996 ALA conference to be held at SUNY Stony Brook would be "Migrating Words and Worlds: Pan-Africanism Updated."

In the letter, Anthony Hurley referred to a proposal made during the Accra business meeting to appoint a standing committee to advise conference conveners and to organize panels. He asked that he be able to handle the program at Stony Brook if such a committee could not be in place by December 1. Since the committee could not be in place by that time, the Council approved his request.

VII.

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE TO ADVISE CONVENERS

The Council determined that the standing committee proposed in Accra could be created without a constitutional amendment and agreed to place the proposal on the agenda at the business meeting in Columbus. To provide more experience on the committee, the membership was changed to include the Past President plus two past conference conveners and a representative from ALA Headquarters. The function of the committee would be to advise conference conveners, organize panels, and assist in the selection of venues.

VII.

FUTURE BIDS FOR CONFERENCE VENUES

A proposal from Mulhouse for 1997 by Astrid Starck was considered to have come too soon after our most recent international conference given that the organization has voted to space international meetings five years apart. Edris Makward agreed to contact Mbulelo Mzamane in order to explore the possibility of obtaining a firm bid from Fort Hare in 1999. He will also follow up on interest by Syracuse and Cornell.

VIII.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A. **Balance.** Louis Tremaine reported that we have \$39,121.62 in the treasury, \$24,605.32 in our bank account and \$14,416.30 in the investment fund.

B. **Books for Africa.** Donations for around a thousand dollars have been collected for sending books to Africa, but it has not been decided how the money will be spent, the original intention having been to build up the fund.

C. **The Annuals Series.** Much of our balance will be needed to pay for the seven issues of the annuals that have not yet been published. The delay in publication has created problems for Three Continents Press since a number of libraries have cancelled their standing orders. He has proposed changing ALA storage on the inventory and would consider selling them to us at a discounted rate. He appears to be will to continue publishing the series if editors can deliver manuscripts. Edris requested that the secretary supply him with a list of editors for outstanding annuals in view of providing an update on their progress at the Columbus meeting.

D. **IRS Status.** Louis reported that we had requested non-profit status for the organization and that he would pursue confirmation from the IRS.

E. **Membership Privileges.** Decisions relating to membership privileges are now being made at ALA Headquarters in Cornell.

IX.

ELECTIONS

Irène d'Almeida reported on the nomination process and additional names were proposed for the ballot. Irène was asked to confirm those individuals' willingness to run and to report back at our next meeting.

X.

ADJOURNMENT

President Edris Makward adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

ALA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Draft minutes of the ALA Executive Council Meeting, Toronto, November 5, 1994

(Corrections and Additions are Requested)

Present: Anne Adams, Irène d'Almeida, Kofi Anyidoho, Abena Busia, Kandjoura Dramé, Maureen Eke, Simon Gikandi, Abiola Irele, Edris Makward, Sada Niang, Reinhard Sander, Janice Spleth, Louis Tremaine, Anne Adams represented Stephen Arnold, and Sada Niang represented Samba Gadjiogo.

I.

CALL TO ORDER

President Edris Makward called the meeting to order at 6:10.

II.

UPDATE ON ACCRA

Kofi Anyidoho reported on the ALA Conference in Accra. He announced that the event was well received in Ghana. The conference attracted approximately 300 participants, including 200 from the USA, fifty to sixty from Ghana, and approximately forty from other countries in Africa. The conveners are in the process of determining what is to be returned to the ALA and dealing with funds.

Kofi noted that Rockefeller funding stipulated that publishing a volume from the conference should involve an African publisher or co-publisher. Of the approximately \$6000 available for the purpose, Kofi proposed that half might go to Three Continents Press and half to an African publisher. Copies might be sold in Africa at a lower price. He reminded us that the money must be encumbered by December. Kofi was authorized by the Executive Council to enter into a business arrangement with a Ghanaian press, preferably Ghana University Press, as well as with Three Continents. Papers from the After Accra conference at Rutgers would be considered for the volume.

III.

REPORT ON THE 1995 ALA CONFERENCE IN COLUMBUS

Abiola Irele reported that the conference hotel had been confirmed and Anne Adams announced that registration materials would go out the following week with the next issue of the *Bulletin*. Confirmed speakers include Zoé Wicomb, who was invited by the Women's Caucus, and Tijjani-Serpos from Benin. Expenses for both are being paid by Ohio State University.

IV.

RESEARCH IN AFRICAN LITERATURES

As editor of *RAL*, Abiola Irele presented a proposal from the publishers for a subscription to the journal to be included in the membership and distributed to all members. In exchange, the publishers would take over the process of collecting dues. Council members recalled that *RAL* had not been accepted as the official organ of the ALA and expressed concern over control of the funds and the contingency that a member might not wish to subscribe. Some interest was indicated in the possibility of a lower subscription rate for ALA members. It was agreed that a proposal be presented at the next business meeting to list subscription to *RAL* at a reduced rate as an option with membership renewals. The membership renewal procedure would continue under the direction of the ALA Treasurer.

V.

BIDS FOR FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Kenneth Harrow announced that he would be interested in having the conference at Michigan State University in 1997 with the hope of focusing on African Cinema.

VI.

ELECTIONS

Irene d'Almeida announced the slate for the upcoming elections. Kandjioura Dramé and Arthur Drayton will be candidates for Vice President. Candidates for the Executive Council are Fahamisha Patricia Brown, Odile Cazenave, Arlene Elder, Francesca Kazan, and Fred Michelman. Maureen Eke has been nominated for Secretary, Louis Tremaine for Treasurer, and Mineke Schipper as Liaison with the APELA.

VII.

AUDITORS

It was agreed that the previous Past-President should serve as one of the two auditors required by the ALA Constitution. In keeping with this resolution, Aliko Songolo was elected as one of the auditors. The second auditor will be Sandra Barkan.

VIII.

ALA ANNUALS UPDATE

IX.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING EDITOR FOR ALA BULLETIN

At the request of Stephen Arnold who has been suffering some health problems, the Council named Abioseh Porter as Acting and Associate Editor under the terms of the ALA Constitution.

X.

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

The Council received requests for intervention on behalf of Ken Soro-Wiwa and Sony Labou Tansi. Concern was expressed for the situation of Ambroise Kom. It was decided to send appropriate letters and to publish information on the three writers in the *ALA Bulletin*.

XI.

FONLON-NICHOLS PRIZE

Sony Labou Tansi was nominated for the Fonlon-Nichols Award. Ken agreed to send the nomination with supporting documentation to the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

XII.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Abena Busia called our attention to the death of Abioseh Nicol.
- B. Abena announced that a committee including Maureen Eke, Sandra Richards, and Janice Spleth would continue to explore the idea of an endowment campaign similar to the ASA effort. Sada Niang expressed an interest in pursuing possible funding in Canada.
- C. As one of the editors of the 1987 Annual, Anne Adams reported on the state of her volume.
- D. Anne Adams announced that she had \$1500 available for sending books to Africa. Edris agreed to investigate the cost of buying sets of the annuals for this purpose.