

ALA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Draft minutes of the ALA Executive Council Meeting, Columbus, Ohio,
March 15, 1995

Present: Abena Busia, Irene d'Almeida, Anthony Hurley, Huma Ibrahim, Edris Makward, Thelma Ravell-Pinto, Reinhard Sander, Janice Spleth, Louis Tremaine.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:25 p.m. by President Edris Makward.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended.

III. RATIFICATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes of the Executive Council meetings held at the November 1995 ASA meeting in Toronto were approved as amended.

IV. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

In response to a question about the project initiated under the presidency of Abena Busia to develop a campaign to raise funds for ALA, it was agreed that a committee be appointed to study the possibility of pursuing outside funding. The committee will include Abena Busia and Janice Spleth and will solicit additional volunteers. The committee's charge encompasses the task of exploring ways to expand the number of dues-paying ALA members.

V. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

A. Human Rights. Edris announced that he had written letters in the name of the ALA on behalf of both Sony Labou Tansi and Ken Saro-Wiwa to the Presidents of the Congo and Nigeria but has not received any direct responses so far.

B. ALA Annals. Edris detailed his correspondence with Hal Wylie and the Annual editors requesting updated reports. To increase the sale of the Annals, Edris asked Don Herdeck at Three Continents Press to send copies to Ohio State to be sold at a reduced rate. This has been done and the sales started briskly in the Conference Book Exhibition area. The Annals are sold at half the regular price.

C. Previous Conference Business. Several requests for refunds had been received from individuals unable to attend the Accra conference. It was decided that in the case of members who were prevented from attending because of a death in the family, the Executive Council would authorize the conference conveners to make complete reimbursement, including the non-refundable deposit.

VI. Election Results. Vice-President Irene d'Almeida reported on the 1995 elections. New members elected to the Executive Council were Odile Cazanave, Arlene Elder, and Fredric Michelman. Maureen Eke was elected Secretary, and Louis Tremaine was elected Treasurer. In the election for Vice-President, Kandoura Dramé and Arthur Drayton were tied. The Council decided to place the question of how to resolve the tie before the membership and to propose an amendment to the constitution for handling future ties.

VII. Adjournment. A motion for adjournment was moved, seconded and passed at 7:30 p.m.

ALA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of March 16, 1995, Columbus, Ohio

Present: Anne Adams, Stephen Arnold, Abena Busia, Irene d'Almeida, Kandoura Dramé, Phaneul Egejuru, Maureen Eke, Susan Gasser, Simon Gikandi, Kenneth Harrow, Anthony Hurley, Huma Ibrahim, Abiola Irele, Edris Makward, Thelma Ravell-Pinto, Sandra Richards, Aliko Songolo, Janice Spleth, Louis Tremaine, Hal Wylie.

I. CALL TO ORDER. President Edris Makward called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

II. RESEARCH IN AFRICAN LITERATURES

A. Special Subscription Rates For ALA Members. Abiola Irele, as *RAL* editor, reported that *RAL* would be willing to give ALA a special rate of \$28 if the option is made available to members when they renew their membership. The ALA Treasurer would receive payments for subscriptions and remit them to *RAL*. The Executive Council agreed to express ALA's appreciation to *RAL* for proposing the reduced rate.

B. Shipment of *RAL* to African Universities. *RAL* has previously sent 100 free subscriptions of the journal to African universities with the Smithsonian Institute paying the cost of shipment. Since the Smithsonian will no longer be able to take care of the shipment costs, it was agreed that Abiola would give us the figure for the cost of the postage and that the Treasurer would be authorized to pay the postage if the figure appeared to be reasonable given our resources.

III. UPDATE ON COLUMBUS CONFERENCE

A. Remission of Registration. Because the checks for conference registration were made out to ALA, Edris Makward agreed that the Association would return 85% of the monies collected to Ohio State University as stipulated in ALA guidelines related to conferences.

B. Fonlon-Nichols Award. Aliko Songolo has informed Sony Labou Tansi that he was to be the recipient of the Fonlon-Nichols Award, but his health had prevented his travelling. Stephen Arnold asked that future conference organizers set aside an appropriate sum, about \$3,000, to assure the financial arrangements for bringing the winners to the conference.

IV.

REPORT OF 1996 CONFERENCE CONVENER. Anthony Hurley brought copies of the "Call for Papers" and presented his arrangements to date for housing and the program for the 1996 ALA meeting at SUNY Stony Brook to be held March 27-31. Participants will be lodged at the Radisson Hotel Islandia at a rate of \$85 per night plus tax. The theme of the conference will be "Migrating Words and Worlds: Pan-Africanism Revisited." Conference presenters will include Kanau Brainwaite, Ama Ata Aidoo, and Sonia Sanchez. Other invites include Assia Djebar, Mantia Diawara, Haile Gerima. The deadline for submitting papers and panels is October 1, 1995. Edris thanked Anthony Hurley for his efforts. Stephen Arnold announced that guidelines were now available for conference conveners. In response to Anthony's query about the placement on the program of such events as the Women's Caucus luncheon and business meeting, Steve suggested that the guidelines be amended to state explicitly that those meetings be scheduled at a time when there are no competing events or activities.

V.

STATUS OF ALA ANNUALS. Edris confirmed that Donald Herdeck is still willing to opublish the Annals and invited the editors of the various volumes still outstanding to report on their progress.

A. 1987. Anne Adams announced that the 1987 volume had advanced to the stage of being photo-ready.

B. 1989. Edris Makward and Aliko Songolo reported that the manuscript was complete and that camera-ready copy was being prepared. About two-thirds of the volume has already been finished.

C. 1990. No report on the 1990 volume.

D. 1991. Phannuel Egejura reported that problems with this volume were related to computer difficulties encountered in the process of preparing photo-ready copy. Hal Wylie, the series editor, offered to provide assistance.

E. 1992. Susan Gassler described delays and noted that there had been few submissions. Hal suggested that the 1991 and 1992 volumes be combined.

F. 1993. Sandra, on behalf of Susan Andragde reported that the Guadeloupe volume was ready except for the introduction and the editors expected to be able to submit it by the end of the summer.

VI.

G. 1994. Abena said that a few papers were still being evaluated by the editors. The volume is being funded by the conference grant from Rockefeller.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

A. Financial Statement. Louis Tremaine reported that the books had been audited in January by Sada Niang and Sandra Barkan. His financial statement listed a current balance of \$25,940.89 plus holdings in the endowment fund with a current market value of \$15,840.49. He recommended that the size of the balance be considered in light of anticipated expenses for outstanding volumes of the Annals series.

B. Membership. Prior to the conference, the membership included 265 members, 8 sponsors, and 5 lifetime members. Louis noted that this represented a decline. It was suggested that a reminder notice be sent to inactive members. Edris agreed to inform those present at the business meeting that only active members would be allowed to vote. Louis announced that the next directory would include telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.

C. International Members. Because of fees charged by American banks for cashing checks in foreign currency, dues to ALA must now be paid in U.S. dollars by postal money order or through a check that has a corresponding American branch. This is the procedure followed by the African Studies Association. Louis also announced that international members would not be charged an additional fee for air mail costs. Any members who have paid such a fee for this current year will be refunded in the form of a voucher to be used towards next year's membership.

D. Distribution of RAL. It was suggested that African universities who receive complimentary volumes of *RAL* be asked to acknowledge receipt of the orders. Because the Smithsonian has discontinued paying postage for *RAL*, the shipment of volume 23 has apparently been lost.

E. IRS Status. Louis has written for confirmation of our situation with respect to IRS, but he has been informed that ALA need not file an income tax return as long as the association has no employees. The organization is not officially tax exempt, but it is not obliged to file a return.

VII.

ADJOURNMENT. A motion for adjournment was move, seconded, and passed at 9:15 p.m.

ALA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting of March 17, 1995, Columbus, Ohio

Present: Anne Adams, Apena Busia, Irene d'Almeida, Kandoura Dramé, Maureen Eke, Kenneth Harrow, Huma Ibrahim, Edris Makward, Theima Ravell-Pinto, Sandra Richards, Reinhard Sander, Janice Spleth, Louis Tremaine, Hal Wylie.

I. CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Edris Makward.

II. CORRESPONDENCE WITH THREE CONTINENTS PRESS.

Edris reported that 675 volumes of *Annals* had been charged to us for sale at the conference at cost. It was suggested that the *Annals* be advertised in the *ALA Bulletin* and that the organization continue making them available at future ALA and ASA meetings. Edris agreed to talk to Herdeck about the possibility of buying out the remainder of the volumes in storage.

III. HUMAN RIGHTS. In accordance with the resolution passed at the Ghana business meeting, Kenneth Harrow reported that a resolution concerning the situation of writers in Africa would be prepared and presented at the business meeting.

IV. BIDS FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES.

A. Two bids for 1997 were received, one from Muthouse, France (Université de Haute-Alsace) and one from Michigan State. The Executive Council agreed to recommend the bid from Michigan State because of the cost to members involved in another international meeting so soon after Ghana.

B. A bid from Bernth Lindfors for the University of Texas in 1998 will be submitted to the membership for discussion. Janis Mayes had also expressed an interest in hosting the 1998 conference at Syracuse and had requested a copy of conference guidelines.

C. Edris expressed his disappointment at receiving no further news on the possibility of a conference at Fort Hare, South Africa in 1999 after Mbulelo Mzamané's strong indication at the Accra business meeting that a bid would be forthcoming. Edris has written three times to Mbulelo but has not received any answer. If a bid is not forthcoming, Edris plans to prepare a bid for a conference in Morocco co-sponsored by the University of Wisconsin.

V. ADJOURNMENT. After establishing the agenda for the annual business meeting, Edris adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

NEW ALA ANNUALS POLICY

At the meeting of the ALA Executive Committee held in Orlando at the ASA meeting in November, the committee decided to change the policy governing choice of Editors for the *annals*. Instead of more or less automatically having the Convenor of the annual conference serve as Editor, with other Editors being chosen either by the Executive Committee or the Annual Business meeting, it was decided to request that those who would like to serve as Editors send an application to Hal Wylie, the series editor, with a brief statement spelling out their qualifications, including previous editorial experience, their interest, and the time they would be able to devote to the task. Time is a critical factor, since many of our volumes have been delayed in a critical way because of lack of time on the part of the editors. The applications will be considered by the Executive Committee so that nominations will be ready in hand even before an annual conference begins. If the Convenor wishes to be considered, he or she will be given special consideration, other factors being equal. The nominations will still be voted on at the Annual Business meeting.

So we now call upon you to submit your applications and statements, keeping the above criteria in mind. Obviously, serving as an editor of one of our *annals* would be an important item for CV's.