

FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

MARRIOTT HOTEL, PHILADELPHIA, PA

November 11, 1999: 07:00 A.M.-09:00 A.M.

Present: Richard Priebe (President), Carole Boyce Davies (VP), Bob Cancel, Kapanga Kasongo, Abioseh Porter, Micheline Rice-Maximin, Ousseynou B. Traoré.

Remarks from the President. Richard Priebe called the meeting to order at 07:10 A.M. He set the framework (Robert's Rule) under which the meetings will be operating and also reiterated the need to continue with issues debated at the Fez, Morocco conference last March. He highlighted the need to ensure continuity in the running of the association. The following issues were debated in search for continuity.

1. The necessity to keep and maintain records. The association has grown into a larger entity, and yet it is too small to afford paid permanent staff to guarantee continuity and maintenance documents as the ASA, for instance.
2. Consistent policy to issue minutes in a timely fashion, revise and rebuild the handbook, and keep it to date on a regular basis.
3. Future of conferences. Institutions may not be able to continue supporting our conferences the way the association operates. There is pressing need to seek ways of paying our way as most organizations do. Although the ALA is in a sound fiscal situation, we do not have excess funds to spend on organizing conferences. Therefore, in anticipation of organizing conferences outside the United States, the association needs to initiate a plan of putting aside some funds.
4. There is a backlog of minutes from past meetings. The Executive Council recommends setting firm deadlines for the approval of minutes by the council before forwarding them to the Bulletin editor.
5. Priebe and the council emphasized the importance of continuity in all parts of the executive positions, allowing room and time for outgoing to mentor incoming officers, passing the material, to allow a smooth transition especially at the secretarial level. Talking up the

latter's responsibility, it was passed that minutes should be approved within three months. Bob Cancel moved and he was seconded by Rice-Maximin that he would come up with the proper wording to be adopted and incorporated in the *ALA Handbook*. In line with the issue of continuity, attendance of Executive meetings by members is an essential duty.

6. Priebe shared with the council the protest letter to be sent on behalf of the Burkinabe journalist, Zongo, murdered in Ouagadougou. He reiterated the procedure laid out to follow in cases of human rights violation protests. In essence, anyone approaching the association in similar cases should draft a letter, provide the necessary information, and give the addresses to send the letters to.

Old Business

- a. **ALA caucus draft proposal.** The council examined and amended the document. It discussed the aspects of the size, responsibility, liability and the rationale of the caucus. The adoption of the proposal was moved and passed with amendments pending to be acted upon by the General Assembly.
- b. The issue of the **national headquarters** will be debated at a meeting with Anne Adams attending.
- c. The connection between the **ALA and the Fonlon-Nichols** award fund was made clearer. Steve Arnold has informed us that George Lang will run the fund.

2000 Elections

The Vice-President, Carole Boyce Davies, informed the council that she has received letters of acceptance from Kandoura Dramé and Anthony Hurley to stand for the position of Vice-President. There are seven candidates for the Executive Council. Steve Arnold, seconded by Abioseh Porter, has nominated George Lang by petition. The slate of candidates for the executive council is thus made up: Naana Banywiwa-Horne, Joyce Hope-Scott, Gay Willentz, Helen Mugambi, Lydie Moudlieno, George Joseph, and George Lang.

The candidates will be asked to send out their statements and platforms to the election officer, Carole Boyce Davies, for incorporation in the ballot materials to go out by January 1, 2000. The nomination procedure of candidates by February 01, is far from reality. It ought to be altered and reflected in the *ALA Hand-*

book. Steve Arnold, who is updating the handbook, will work with the Vice-President.

2001 Elections

As a matter of expediency, names of candidates for the 2001 elections ought to be suggested and presented for votes and tabulation at the next ALA Executive Council meeting. This procedure will allow easier contacts by the election officer with possible candidates.

Auditors

Bob Cancel, the treasurer, informed the council he has the ledger for last year ready for anyone's perusal. Nominations for the appointment of auditors, non-executive council members, were sought for action in the near future. The membership is at about 650 individuals and 100 institutions.

Priebe adjourned the meeting at 9:00 A.M.

ACTIONS PENDING

1. The adoption of the ALA caucus draft proposal was moved and passed with amendments pending to be acted upon by the General Assembly.
2. The Vice-President, Carole Boyce Davies, will work with Steve Arnold to update the *ALA Handbook* on new dates for the submission of candidacies and nominations for elections.
3. Minutes should be approved within three months.
4. The wording for possible inclusion in the *ALA Handbook*:
Officers of the Executive Council are to be responsible for passing on the necessary knowledge and skills to their successors. In particular, this procedure would ensure institutional memory of relevant duties and responsibilities. Further, this institutional memory as it evolves, must be preserved by careful recording and publishing of Executive Council and General meetings minutes by the secretary. The secretary should submit these minutes of meetings in a timely fashion to the Executive for approval and to the ALA Bulletin editor for publishing. It is finally imperative that the secretary at the end of his or her tenure submit a dossier to the ALA Headquarters for inclusion in the ALA archives. The dossier must include all minutes and

correspondence as well as any other relevant documents pertaining to this secretary's tenure.

AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

MARRIOTT HOTEL, PHILADELPHIA, PA

November 12, 1999: 07:00 A.M.-09:00 A.M.

Present: Richard Priebe (President), Carole Boyce Davies (VP), Tuzyline Jita Allan, Kofi Anyidoho, Bob Cancel, Deborah Boyd, Sonia Lee, Kapanga Kasongo, John Conteh-Morgan, Oyekan Owomoyela (proxy for Pam Smith), Abioseh Porter, Ousseynou B. Traoré. [Fahmisha Brown, Arthur Drayton, Louis Tremaine]

Remarks from the President. Priebe called the meeting to order at 07:10 A.M. He started by reminding the necessity to follow the Roberts Rule to give a steady pace to our meetings. He reiterated the need for continuity in all the positions of the Executive Council. To that end, every member was encouraged that, in order to help Steve Arnold update the ALA Handbook, we looked at our specific position and area. At Carole Boyce Davies's recommendation, the council decided to set February 01 as the deadline by which suggestions could be forwarded to Steve Arnold or the Vice-President, Carole Boyce Davies.

Agenda: 1) Treasurer. 2) Conference conveners' presentations. 3) Future conferences in Africa. 4) Constitutional changes. 5) Search for a new Annual General Editor. 6) Headquarters. 7) Awards. 8) New business. new dues.

Treasurer

Bob Cancel told the council that the ALA endowment stands at about \$77,000; the current account stands at \$23,000. Priebe raised the issue of matters related to indemnity, liability for conference organization, and insurance coverage. This should be taken up by the council in the near future. Cancel and Priebe have agreed to explore the idea of getting insurance coverage for the association. Two auditors will be appointed to look at the ALA books in the coming days.

Future conferences in Africa

The council felt that we have not aggressively worked to obtain funds for organizing conferences outside the United States. Quite often the organizer is hard pressed to find funds abroad when financial structures are less favorable. It

is important that we find another model to favorably execute our projects. For example, the CIEF and the Association of Caribbean Women Writers work with onsite local committees to organize conferences. The five-year cycle to organize conferences in Africa was actually meant to ensure that it happened on a consistent basis.

Looking forward to our future, the ALA needs to become a self-sustained organization capable of paying its own way. The practice of seeking substantial funding from institutions will not last long. The practice of 15% going to the organization has been reduced to 5%. We could earmark this portion for future conferences. The question of grants from foundations was also raised and the association could profit from inputs from past experienced conveners such as Edris Makward and Kofi Anyidoho. According to the latter, the Accra conference had substantial backing from the Rockefeller Foundation. Such backing is most feasible when an application comes from a recognized organization. In the Ghana case, it was the teaming between the University of Ghana and Rutgers University United States. Organization of a conference takes a long-term planning. It is therefore vital to have a three-year plan. It was recommended that ALA set a consultative committee made up of past conveners such as Eileen Julien, Kofi Anyidoho, Edris Makward, and current Vice President Carole Boyce Davies who has experience from working with other international conferences.

2000 ALA Conference, Lawrence, Kansas

Arthur Drayton briefed the council on the ongoing preparation for the next ALA conference. He expressed his satisfaction with the help from past conveners (Fez, Stony Brook, East Lansing). All the necessary information will be on the website.

Venue: most of the activities will take place on campus till Saturday morning when they will take place at the Holiday. Transportation will be provided. The ballroom for the Executive Council meetings has been reserved starting Wednesday. Accommodation at Holiday is at the price of \$68, single or shared.

Events: the Teachers' Workshop on African literature will be finalized in two weeks. There will be need for two or three ALA participants. Planned cultural events include: a production of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* followed by a discussion (as in Fez) organized by Giséle Anatole (Penn State). There will be an African art exhibit. The ALA Annual will be achieved within a year by a committee of four: Arthur Drayton, Omofolobo Ajayi-Soyinka, Oyekan Owomoyela, and Peter Ukpokodu.

Speakers include Wole Soyinka, Derek Walcott, Aminatta Saw Fall (WOCALIA), Emmanuel Obichina (in residence as the Langston Hughes Professor). The English

department has sponsored Simon Gikandi. Possible speakers: Buchi Emecheta (in residence at Wisconsin-Madison), Ezekiel Mphahlele, Cyprian Ekwensi.

Deadlines: Because the group mailing from Cornell is relatively late at this period of festivities, the deadline for abstracts has been extended to January 18. Other deadlines: Preregistration, March 01; Hotel reservation, April, 01. We need to highlight that dues are to be paid.

Following the presentation, questions about the ALA Annual editorship were raised. This is another issue that need reworking and inclusion into the ALA Handbook. Sonia Lee announced that there will be a Round Table on the teaching of African cinema. On behalf of the Francophone caucus, she will enter into contact with Drayton. Assia Djebar is on the target list of the caucus. Anyidoho suggested that we also make an effort to invite younger talents and a list of possible candidates can be obtained from the US AID and/or the Fulbright offices.

2001 ALA Conference, Richmond, Virginia

Louis Tremaine briefed the council on the preparations of the conference co-sponsored by the University of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University. The two institutions have earmarked sufficient funding. Dates: April 04-08, 2001. They are in the process of forming committees. The council's advice was sought for the two options concerning the site of the conference. A downtown hotel: centralized and self-contained with many sights within walking distance. Virginia Commonwealth Campus: hotels will be within walking distance, not centralized, campus atmosphere, and buses would shuttle conference attendees. Sonia Lee expressed her preference for the centralized (hotel) option and the council seemed to lean in that direction if all other factors are indeed equal. The council recognized that the choice must be worked out between Priebe and Tremaine.

Program: the theme will be *translation and African literature*. The organizers have not yet formally contacted anyone. But possible speakers include Nadine Gordimer, Assia Djebar, and N. Farah. A suggestion was made that we look beyond established writers to include those of the new generation. As a matter of policy, we could identify and try to bring a young writer at every meeting. This could be confined in the ALA Handbook under the convenor's duties.

Priebe adjourned the meeting at 9:00 A.M.

ACTIONS PENDING

1. Cancel and Priebe have agreed to explore the idea of getting insurance coverage for the association.
2. The ALA set a consultative committee made up of past conveners such as Eileen Julien, Kofi Anyidoho, Edris Makward... and current Vice President Carole Boyce Davies who has experience working with other international conferences to study possibilities of organizing conferences abroad.
3. Every member of the executive is encouraged that, in order to help Steve Arnold update the ALA Handbook, to look at his or her position and area and come up with suggestions. On Carole Boyce Davies's recommendation, the council decided to set February, 01 as the deadline by which suggestions could be forwarded to Steve Arnold or to her.

**AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

DREXEL UNIVERSITY, PHILADELPHIA, PA

November 12, 1999: 12:30 P.M.-02:30 P.M.

Present: Richard Priebe (President), Carole Boyce Davies (VP), Tuzylime Jita Allan, Kofi Anyidoho, Bob Cancel, Deborah Boyd, Arthur Drayton, Sonia Lee, Kapanga Kasongo, John Conteh-Morgan, Oyekan Owomoyela (proxy for Pam Smith), Abioseh Porter, Ousseynou B. Traoré. [Anne Adams, JoAnn Cornwall]

Agenda: 1) Headquarters. 2) Search for a new Annual General Editor. 3) 2002 conference and beyond. 4)

National Office or Headquarters

We need to have a place to house documents and thus ensure continuity with as much minimal strain on the individual in charge as possible. Anne Adams has been in charge of the headquarters for the past 10 years. She is frustrated by the fact that she lacked adequate support from her institution and that there are turnover periods where she works with minimal or untrained help. Beyond archiving, the ALA needs a place where activities can be generated.

Jo Ann Cornwall, Director of the Africana Center for Cultural Literacy and

Research at San Diego State University for the past four years, has a long-term interest in the ALA headquarters. She has momentum on her side:

- a. Her new president is open to internationalization
- b. Growing African immigration in the area
- c. She has initiated contacts with her administration
- d. The institution could provide long-term commitment, staff, and resources.
- e. There is enthusiasm for such a project.

Priebe responded that the association would help her in presenting the case to her administration. There are intersecting interests that could enhance the school's objectives of internationalization. What the ALA seeks is a close relationship with the institution. In case her institution is retained, the ALA will provide funds for moving expenses. Porter suggested that the association send a letter specifying its needs.

At Cornell's request, the council spelt out the ALA's basic needs:

- a. In theory, an ongoing secretariat site with a specialist in African literature and a good part-time secretarial help who is ideally fluent in English and French (TAship, Graduate student)
- b. Provide continuity, the association's collective memory
- c. Office and storage space

Anne Adams warned that relying on graduate students is very disruptive because it involves constant training and absence during exams periods and holidays, a time of acute need for various functions such as mass mailing of materials. She also informed Cornell that she gets roughly \$1000 in support from her department and coverage (roughly \$4000) from the ALA for mailing of renewal notices, conference pre-registration forms, and ballots.

The question of time frame was raised in general terms as to the duration an institution can house the ALA headquarters. The council believes that five years could be a minimum and ten years more convenient. Within the term of office, the council would like to have ideally annual or triennial reviews. Carole Boyce Davies thought also that the national office could house the permanent ALA website. In fact, it could become a proactive branch, giving the leads for wider institutions such as getting out grant proposals. Priebe will draft a letter to San Diego describing the needs, the demands, and the advantages of housing the

headquarters. He will likewise approach Eileen Julien (Indiana University) and Kandjoura Dramé (University of Virginia) to inquire if their institutions have any interest in becoming the site of the national office.

New General Editor

Hal Wylie has expressed the desire to step down as General Editor of the ALA Annals. Members were encouraged to nominate candidates with editorial skills and tap into informal networking. Competent candidates should submit their CVs. However, we should not abandon the formal channel. To that effect, Hal Wylie will be requested to write a description that will be announced in the *ALA Bulletin*. At Carole Boyce Davies's suggestion, the council set the deadline for application submissions to March 15, 2000 to allow action at the Lawrence, Kansas meeting, and the final decision by July 01, 2000. The council feels that we should give equal emphasis to both the formal and the informal processes.

2002 Venue and Beyond

San Diego is a strong possibility and Bob Cancel announced that he was pursuing the matter. He will have a firm decision by the ALA conference in Lawrence, Kansas. The venue will be at a downtown hotel where most activities will take place with two or three on campus. A South African writer has just moved to San Diego and could be involved in some capacity. Besides San Diego, the ALA is still looking at outside venues and stands open to inquiries such as one from a Tennessee institution. Priebe reiterated the need to have venues set three years in advance.

Ideas about future venues outside the United States were solicited. In Europe, Wangui will be at Cambridge, UK, and could prepare the ground for 2003; Germany (Beyreuth), France (Marseilles, Montpellier); Africa (Maputo, South Africa, Cameroon); West Indies (Trinidad); Brazil. Mbuelo Mzamane floated the idea of a consortium of South African universities hosting the conference.

Membership Dues

The council believes that the membership dues are too low. There is urgent need to revisit the structure to propose a new one at the Lawrence, Kansas meeting. Conteh-Morgan asked if Ariel could be reinstated as part of membership dues, but it was felt that such an action would have an adverse effect on members.

Petition Drive

At the request of the Fez meeting about human rights abuse in Sierra Leone and Burkina Fasso, Priebe reiterated the procedure. Proposals for petition should be accompanied with a model, addresses, and the rationale of the action. He pointed

out the example provided by Christopher Wise on the Burkinabe journalist, Zongo, who was murdered in December, 1998.

Priebe adjourned the meeting at 02:20 P.M.

ACTIONS PENDING

1. Priebe will draft a letter to San Diego describing the needs, the demands, and the advantages of housing of the headquarters.
2. Hal Wylie will be requested to write a job description of his editorial position. We will place this in the *ALA Bulletin*. The council set the deadline for application submissions for the General Editor position to March 15, 2000 to allow action at the Lawrence, Kansas meeting, and the final decision by July 01, 2000. (Hal Wylie has decided to stay on for a few more years. We still need to think of setting up a search mechanism so that we may be able to replace him when he retires).

AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

MARRIOTT HOTEL, PHILADELPHIA, PA

November 13, 1999: 07:00 A. M.-09:00 A. M.

Present: Richard Priebe (President), Carole Boyce Davies (VP), Tuzyline Jita Allan, Kofi Anyidoho, Bob Cancel, Deborah S. Boyd, Sonia Lee, Kapanga Kasongo, John Conteh-Morgan, Oyekan Owomoyela (proxy for Pam Smith), Abioseh Porter, Micheline Rice-Maximin, Ousseynou B. Traoré. [Marian Frank Wilson, Indiana University Librarian]

Priebe called the meeting to order at 07:15 A. M.

Agenda: 1) Slates of candidates for upcoming elections. 2) Venues for future conferences. 3) Constitutional changes. 4) Awards. 5) ALA dues. 6) Standing committees.

Elections

The election officer and Vice-President, Carole Boyce Davies, will get the platforms from candidates. Information will go out initially in the *Bulletin*, then materials will be mailed to the members thereafter. Once returned, ballots will be sealed and opened in the presence of two non-executive ALA members (two

trusted colleagues in the election officer's department is an acceptable alternative). There should be a deadline by which ballots will not count. Bob Cancel, Abioseh Porter, and Carole Boyce Davies will consult on announcements and the mailing of the election materials. Looking to the 2001 elections, we need a slate of six candidates for the executive council and two for the vice-president position. Members were asked to think about possible nominations for these positions so that we can discuss and select as the first item of our meeting in Kansas. Carole Boyce Davies will oversee the process.

Future Venues

The council went over the future venue possibilities to hold conferences outside the United States.

Constitutional Changes

The Vice-President, whose responsibilities also include matters of the constitution, will work with Steve Arnold to update it. The ALA officers will work on specific areas related to their position and suggest changes. It is a matter of putting the association's actions in line with the constitution and vice-versa.

Awards

Awards are about the continuity of our organization. In the past, a Travel Grant was set up to allow a needy graduate student to present a paper. Since its inception, the grant decision has proved unworkable due to the absence of a mechanism to identify such a candidate. Therefore suggested changes included setting up an award for the best piece of scholarship, one by a senior member and another one by a student. In addition, the association could also start an award for service. Priebe's proposal that the council set up an award committee and define types of awards (scholarship-student, senior member, service). The council acted on this matter and other thereafter by motion, discussion, and vote format. It was moved and seconded that an award committee be set up. The motion passed unanimously and the members of the committee are Tuzlyline Allan, Deborah S. Boyd, and Sonia Lee. The committee will present its proposal at the Lawrence, Kansas meeting, and will consider candidates to honor.

In view of the Lawrence, Kansas meeting, the convener has raised the prospect of a service award to celebrate the millennium. Anyidoho expressed the necessity to widen the proposal to include members who have had ten or more years of significant contributions to the association. Proposal to honor them will be more than appropriate. The council agreed that nominations should be sent to the award committee by the end of January with one or two lines of justification. The committee will consult with Sandra Barkan who has experience in this matter.

Membership Dues

There was consensus on the need to increase dues by \$20 and push up the Sponsor category from \$80 to \$100. Bob Cancel moved that we raise the dues and reform the structure thereafter; Conteh-Morgan seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. During the discussion, the council felt that we should provide a justification for the raise. First, the need to be in line with inflation. Secondly, we need funds to support projects. Thirdly and most importantly, there is an urgent need for the organization to become independent in the sponsoring of our annual conferences. The new suggested structure will be as follows: the categories up to \$35,000 would remain unchanged; \$35,000-50,000 would go up to \$60.00; the sponsor category would go up to \$100 (with verbal encouragement that those making over 50,000 join the sponsor category); and life membership will remain unchanged or \$1000. The second motion to accept the new structure was passed unanimously.

Standing Committees

The council expressed the need to gather information on all the standing committees for the Lawrence, Kansas meeting.

New Business

Marian Frank Wilson, new librarian at Indiana University came to the meeting. Priebe raised the idea that Indiana University could become the ALA headquarters.

Anyidoho suggested that a letter send a letter of appreciation to outgoing executive members.

Sonia Lee asked about the ALA Executive Council's mandate on human rights. Priebe said we have never followed the existing guidelines. The petitioner needs to bring three things: the draft of a statement, addresses, and rationale. Concerning human rights issues raised in Fez, the meeting was caught up in the issue of South Africa and the right issues were not dealt with adequately. All this was complicated by us not having complete minutes. Still, Priebe pointed to the fact that Christopher Wise has acted for us on the Zongo case and has provided us with a document. The copies were distributed to the Executive Council members.

Porter suggested that we always have a section "Actions Pending" at the end of our minutes indicating actions to be taken and by whom.

Priebe adjourned the meeting at 08:50 A.M.

ACTIONS PENDING

1. The council set the deadline for application submissions for the General Editor position to March 15, 2000 to allow action at the Lawrence, Kansas meeting, and the final decision by July 01, 2000.
2. Bob Cancel, Abioseh Porter, and Carole Boyce Davies will consult on announcements and the mailing of the election materials.
3. The award committee (Tuzyline Allan, Deborah S. Boyd, and Sonia Lee) The committee will present its proposal at the Lawrence, Kansas meeting, and will consider candidates to honor.
4. Members should gather information on all the standing committees for the Lawrence, Kansas meeting.

Applications and Nominations Invited: ALA General Editor

Hal Wylie, our current general editor for the annuals has informed the Executive Council that he intends to retire from his position as ALA general editor in the next few years. At the request of the Executive Council, Professor Wylie prepared the following job description for the position. Please direct all inquiries to ALA President Priebe or Vice President Boyce Davies: (AMP)

The "General Editor" of the African Literature Association is responsible for the publication of the Annual Series of Selected Papers from the Conferences. He stands between the Editors for particular volumes and the Publisher, which is currently Africa World Press, receiving the articles as edited on diskette from the volume editors, reformatting and organizing them into volume form, printing them out with a laser printer then sending the printouts to the publisher.

First of all the General Editor is a coordinator, working with editors, the publisher, authors, the ALA Executive Council, etc. So he or she should be someone who is tactful and good at communicating with others.

The most important work of the General Editor is formatting the volumes, since the publisher requires that they be delivered to him in "camera-ready" laser printout format. So the General Editor should have some feel for the creative and aesthetic use of type and typography. The General Editor must work with headers, headlines, table of contents, footnotes, etc.

The General Editor is also the basic proof-reader for the final version of the volumes, so should obviously have a good mastery of English grammar, spelling

and punctuation. Since many articles are published in French, the General Editor should probably also have a good mastery of that language.

A special skill that has been added to the repertoire of skills needed by working with Africa World Press is the ability to create an index for each volume. This index has been primarily a name index to date. I have found it easier to formulate the index by hand, without using the index feature of MSWord.

The General Editor is in effect the type setter for the volumes, so knowledge of MSWord (or some other basic word processor that can be used to set type with a laser printer) is necessary. Feeling at home with a computer is pretty basic for this job. One special skill that is necessary is the ability to convert files from Mac to PC (if working in PC) and from various word processing programs into MSWord, or the chosen program for the volume.

The General Editor years ago was responsible for finding a publisher who would agree to publish the ALA annuals and who would be acceptable to the organization. Hopefully our arrangement with AWP will continue indefinitely, but the time might come when some knowledge about publishing houses was useful in continuing the series.

The General Editor has also been saddled with the responsibility of seeing that authors and editors receive their complimentary copy of the volume to which they contributed.

The General Editor may recommend editors for upcoming volumes and work with them even before their conference has taken place.

On Presenting Resolutions, Statements, etc. to the General Membership and Non-ALA Audiences: Some Guidelines

Acting upon a decision made at the November Executive Council meetings in Philadelphia, ALA president, Richard Priebe, would like to announce the following procedures for members who wish to present formal ALA-related resolutions, statements, protests, and other such information to the ALA membership at large or to non-ALA audiences (including heads of government, the UN and its agencies, university officials).

1. Any member who wishes to present a resolution, get the ALA to write a letter or issue a statement for a particular cause, should get a draft of the particular document to the ALA Human Rights Committee whose members, together with the author, will coordinate the presentation of the document.

2. Authors of such resolutions should make sure that the documents are as specific with the basic information as they can possibly be: precise names and addresses of recipients, etc. To this end, it is **strongly recommended that members wishing to present resolutions at the upcoming Lawrence, KS meetings should coordinate their activities with Ken Harrow, chair of the ALA human rights committee.**

3. At the moment there are at least three members on that committee but ALA members perhaps should be reminded that the committee is open to any and all volunteers for as long as they wish to serve.

The intent of these procedures is to help ensure consistency and efficiency in the manner in which we present such official statements from our organization.

NEWS OF PUBLICATIONS

Editor's Note: We do not have the facilities or the type of assistance that would enable us to check all information on materials printed here. Consequently, on occasion, information may not be complete due to the sources, which vary.

Periodicals

Africa

Vol. 69, No. 3, 1999

Reviews include: *Autobiografie africaine*, by Irma Taddia and *Lettere tigrine* by Uoldemul Chelati Ghirar et als (eds). Reviewed by Alessandro Triluzi/*The African Novel in English*, by M. Keith Booker and *Strategic Transformations in African Writing* by Ato Quayson. Reviewed by Ode Ogede/*The Marabout and the Muse*, by Kenneth W. Harrow (ed). Reviewed by Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias/*Black Paris*, by Bennetta Jules-Rosette. Reviewed by Aline Cook/*Kush, the Jewel of Nubia*, by Miriam Ma'at-ka-re Monges. Reviewed by Timothy Kendall/*Culture and the Commonplace*, Patrick McAllister (ed). Reviewed by Adam Kuper/*Whose Reality Counts?* by Robert Chambers. Reviewed by Julika Rollin/*The Encyclopedia Africana Dictionary of African Biography III*. Reviewed by Kevin Shillington.

Africa Today

Vol. 46, No. 2, Spring 1999

Kwesi Yankah, "African Folk and the Challenges of a Global Lore," 9/
Birgit Meyer, "Popular Ghanaian Cinema and 'African Heritage,'" 93/

Solimar Otero, "Iku and Cuban Nationhood: Yoruba Mythology in the Film *Guantanamo*," 117.

Reviews include: *I Spit on Their Graves (Book Two of the Past Tense...)* *Testimony Reluctant to the Democratization Struggle in Cameroon*, by Rotcod Gobata and *Wading the Tide*, by Emmanuel Fru Doh. Reviewed by Robert Ness, 133/*The African Studies Companion: A Resource Guide and Directory*, by Hans M. Zell and Cecile Lomer. Reviewed by Hans Panofsky, 148.

African Studies

Vol. 57, No. 1 July 1998

Phaswane Mpe, "Orality, Mediation and Subversion in Sol Plaatje's *Mhudi*," 79.

Vol. 57, No. 2 December 1998

Leslie Marx, "Slouching Toward Bethlehem: *Ubu and the Truth Commission*," 209

Vol. 58, No. 1 July 1999

Phaswane Mpe, "The Role of the Heinemann African Writers Series in the Development and Promotion of African Literature," 105.

African Studies Review

Vol. 42, No. 1, April 1999

Josef Gugler, "African Writing Projected onto the Screen: *Sambizanga, Xala, and Kongi's Harvest*," 79. Review Essays include: "South Africa Rediscovered its Past," by Harvey Glickman, dealing with the following works: *The Ghost of Equality: The Public Lives of D. D. T. Jabavu of South Africa, 1885-1959*, by Catherine Higgs, *Freedom in our Lifetime: The Collected Writings of Anton Muziwake Lembede*, by Robert R. Edgar and Luyanda ka Mzama (eds), *Sol Plaatje: Selected Writings*, by Brian Willan (ed), *Gandhi and South Africa: Principles and Politics*, by Judith M. Brown and Martin Prozesky (eds), 125/"White Men's (and Women's) Burden: Literature After Apartheid," by Michael Chapman, dealing with the following: *Writing South Africa: Literature, Apartheid, and Democracy, 1970-1995*, by Derek Attridge and Rosemary Jolly (eds), *Colonisation, Violence, and Narration in White South African Writing: André Brink, Breyten Breytenbach, and J. M. Coetzee*, by Rosemary Jane Jolly, *A Morbid Fascination: White Prose and Politics in Apartheid South Africa*, by Richard Peck, 130.