



African Studies Association of the UK

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Number 2

January 1996

ASAUK AGM Minutes and Annual Reports

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

School of Oriental and African Studies
Friday the 29th of September 1995

Present: President: Prof. Richard Hodder-Williams. Vice President: Prof. J.D.Y. Peel. Hon. Treasurer: Dr. Melissa Leach. Hon. Secretary: Dr. Nici Nelson. Caroline Dennis, David Killingray, Douglas Johnson, Robin Law, Melissa Leach, Martin Lynn, David Simon, A. Zack-Williams. *Apologies:* G. Austin, K. Barnes, C. Clapham.

1. *Minutes of the Thirty-First Annual General Meeting* held at Lancaster University on 7 September, 1994 were read and approved.

2. *Matters Arising:* There were no matters arising.

3. *Report of the Honorary Secretary:* see attached copy...

4. *Report of the Honorary Treasurer:* see attached copy...

5. *President's Report:* Richard Hodder Williams spoke briefly about the activities and events of the year. He thanked the out-going members of the Council for the work for the ASAUK.

6. *Election of Officers:* The following people were nominated and elected to Council:

Stephanie Newell of Stirling University
David Throup of the FCO Research Department.

7. *European Council of African Studies:* Robin Law was proposed, seconded and elected as the representative on ECAS for Great Britain.

8. *Finances of ASAUK:* A proposal was made by the Council to raise the ASAUK subvention (the amount of the subscription which accrues exclusively to ASAUK) by £2. This will raise the overall ordinary subscription to £25, the joint subscription to £29, and the associate subscription to £6. This was approved by the AGM.

9. *Resolutions:* The Council proposes the following Resolution as an amendment to the Association's Constitution: '*An Ordinary Member of Council shall hold office for a term of three years and shall not be immediately re-eligible to the same office*' to be replaced by: '*Ordinary Members of Council shall hold office for a term of three years and are eligible to serve no more than two terms consecutively*'. This resolution was approved.

10. *Any Other Business:* There was no other business

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1994-1995

This year the ASAUk had a full and interesting programme. Several of these offerings were carried out in conjunction with other institutions and organizations. The ASAUk Biennial Conference, 'The African Environment', at Lancaster University, attracted 120 participants. In May, we collaborated with the Cambridge African Studies Centre, for a one day symposium entitled 'Africa and the UN World Order'. In early September, we collaborated with the University of Central Lancashire on a 3 day conference, 'Transitions in West Africa'.

Unlike last year, we had a full complement of officers. Our lack of a treasurer was solved when Melissa Leach agreed to take the post. This has been a busy year for her...a couple of books, a new baby as well as agreeing to be our treasurer.

Last year, the Council agreed to start an ASAUk newsletter which would be inserted in each issue of *African Affairs*, in part to replace the old 'Notes and News' section of that journal but also to include other items of interest (such as information about Africanist activity generally in the UK). There were a few teething problems, some of which related to the status of the newsletter and the structure of the joint financing, but these have now been solved. Look for the first issue of the newsletter, if all goes well, in the October *African Affairs*! The Council is very grateful to Douglas Johnson for agreeing to launch the newsletter and to produce it.

Because of the shortage of time, we held an official presentation of the African Studies Dissertation prize, at a reception in May. The two recipients, the publishers and members of the Association were invited, though unfortunately, one of the recipients was overseas and unavailable. It was a pleasurable occasion at which everyone enjoyed a glass of wine and the speeches were short and everyone's smiles warm. The prize had been awarded jointly to Caroline Orwin for her thesis entitled 'Yodit' and to Stephen Devereux for his thesis entitled 'Household Responses to Food Security in Northeastern Ghana'. The prize, contributed by a number of publishers, was approximately £700 of books for each of the two recipients. The African Studies Association would like to repeat its appreciation for the generosity of the publishers.

The membership went up this year to 513. This is very good news and the first time in a number of years that the membership has gone over 500. We must continue to work, individually and as an Association, to maintain that level and even to continue to increase our membership. It is excellent news that we have stopped the downward slide which concerned us last year, but we mustn't rest on our laurels. The membership is reminded that there is a membership leaflet which I or Lindsay Allan will send upon demand. I must repeat my annual reminder to each one of you to make a concerted effort to recruit at least one member in the coming year, leafleting any new postgraduates or members of staff or any colleagues one knows is not a member.

1. *Membership:*

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>
ASAUk Members (UK)	50	49
ASAUk Members (Overseas)	12	13
Joint Members (UK)	271	306

Joint Members (Overseas)	5	61
Student Members (Joint UK)	46	65
Student Members (Joint overseas)	6	8
Honorary Life Member	2	4
Corporate Members	0	0
Corporate Members (Overseas)	1	1
Associate Member	6	6
TOTAL	458	513

2. *The Council:*

Officers

President:	Prof. Richard Hodder-Williams
Vice President:	Prof. John Peel
Hon. Secretary:	Dr. Nici Nelson
Hon. Treasurer:	Dr. Melissa Leach

Members

Retiring in 1995:	Mr. James Currey*, Ms. Sally Healy, Dr. Douglas Johnson, Dr. David Killingray*, Prof. Robin Law*, Dr. Mpalive Msiska, Prof. Terry Ranger*
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*indicates co-opted members

Retiring in 1996	Dr. Graham Furniss, Dr. Keith Hart, Dr. Arnold Hughes, Dr. Martin Lynn, Dr. David Simon, Dr. David Turton
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Retiring in 1997	Ms. Judy el-Bushra, Dr. Caroline Dennis, Prof. Joan Kenworthy, Dr. Alfred Zack-Williams
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3. *Administration:*

As we have come to expect, administration has gone smoothly this year entirely due to the efficient work of Lindsay Allan. We realized how much the organization depends upon her reliable backup, when she had an operation this summer and was away on sick leave for six weeks. We are very glad to report that she has made a full recovery and we welcome her back warmly.

The Association continues to maintain close links with the Centre for African Studies, University of London which is developing academic links with various African Studies Institutes in Europe and the EU.

4. *Conferences and Symposia:*

5-7 Sept, 1994	<i>The African Environment</i> , the Biennial Conference of the Association, took place under the able convenorship of Christopher Clapham at Lancaster University. The undoubted success of the conference was also due to the work of Lindsay Allan in the London office as well as the able administration over the summer of 1994 of Rosaleen Duffy, the Conference Organiser. 120 participants attended. 24 panels (totalling 60 papers) made available a wide and stimulating variety of topics and disciplines to choose from, defining the African environment in the widest possible way. However, by having a number of interesting environmental topics addressed, the Association attracted new participants. Participants agreed that the standard of paper presentation and debate was excellent.
20 May, 1995	<i>Africa and the UN World Order</i> , in conjunction with the Centre for African Studies at Cambridge was convened by

1-3 Sept, 1995

Keith Hart. A distinguished panel of speakers was assembled, many directly involved in the UN. An exciting and stimulating day ensued which attracted nearly 40 participants.

Transitions in West Africa: 2000 and Beyond. Ably convened by Zack-Williams and his colleagues at the University of Central Lancashire with support from the ASUK, this proved an exciting conference for more than 75 participants featuring a wide variety of topics about and approaches to West Africa 2000.

5. Relations with other Professional Bodies:

Royal African Society. Relations between the two associations continue to be mutually supportive and cooperative. Each association has members on the other's Council. The Royal African Society has agreed to continue pay the subvention on behalf of the UK's membership in the European Council of African Studies.

Standing Conference on Library Materials in Africa. The Council has a co-opted member who is our representative on the SCOLMA council. This year, no SCOLMA representative sat on our Council, but we hope that this omission will be rectified in the coming year. However, there is still an exchange of information between the two organizations.

European Council of African Studies. The ASUK representative, Robin Law, has made progress communicating with the ECAS Council. As was reported to the membership in last year's Annual Report, ECAS accepted our offer of a flat payment of £200 a year instead of a £600 capitation fee on our members. In Agreement was reached with the RAS that they would meet this payment for two years. Robin Law now has broken the communication barrier. The Council is still less than convinced of the advantages of belonging to ECAS. After a couple glossy newsletters (the last of which arrived more than a year ago) there has been little sign of activity.

The Coordinating Council of Area Studies Associations. We are continuing our membership in this organization and our role in its work. The Association, under its president Dick Werbner, worked hard to convince HEFCE that there should be Area Studies specialists on the committees. To that end, we submitted a full list of names for both Area Studies Panels and Disciplinary Panels. There is some indication that the success of these efforts were limited.

The CCASA is currently discussing its future. It is clear that with no administrative back-up, good ideas for promoting Area Studies could not be acted upon. One suggestion has been to request each of the 11 organizations in the Association to pay an annual subvention, which would provide funds to hire a part-time coordinator. There is also the possible of seeking a small grant from Nuffield for the same purpose. These ideas are still under consideration by the Association and its constituent members. What is clear is the association cannot continue as it is at the moment.

Standing Committee on University Studies of Africa. It was decided last year to invite Prof. Ranger to our meetings as representative of SCUSA to forge a link between the two associations.

The International African Institute. We remain an institutional member of the Institute.

Nici Nelson

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1994

1. The attached accounts have been prepared by Messrs. Uppal and Warr, from our books. This year the accounts were also audited, in line with the usual practice of auditing every three years. The auditor was satisfied with the accounts, although

did feel that receipts from the conference could have been logged even more carefully (in particular, the precise origins of £140 of conference income could not be traced).

2. To summarise the major figures for the last two years:

	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>
Gross Income	2,751	4,028
Expenditure	864	1,449
NET INCOME	£1,887	£2,579
Current Assets	20,396	24,370
Current Liabilities	596	1,941
NET CURRENT ASSETS	£19,800	£22,429

3. As the figures indicate, the finances of the ASUK are in a healthy state. The high income and expenditure levels for 1994 as compared with 1993 reflect the contribution of the biennial conference at Lancaster. Net income from the conference is recorded in the accounts as £958; a satisfactory figure as compared with previous years (the 1992 conference produced a recorded net income of £784). However certain conference postage and stationery costs were unable to be included in conference expenditure (see point 4 below), suggesting that real net income was actually slightly lower. Conference income derives not only from fees, but also—and significantly—from the sale of papers.

4. The high expenditure on printing, postage and stationery in 1994 reflects (a) the cost of producing and mailing a new set of membership leaflets, and (b) sundry postage expenses linked to the conference. Ease of administration and pressures on Lindsay Allan's time dictate that all general postage is recorded under one heading; it would not be feasible for all conference-related items to be recorded separately.

5. As this was a conference year, ASUK did not directly organise or financially support any symposia or workshops. Those that did take place (e.g. on the South African Elections, and on Gender and the Politics of Environmental Sustainability) were administered by the universities concerned.

6. *African Scholars Trust Fund*. This was initiated in 1994 following a donation of £50 to the ASUK by Ronald Keymer, and is intended to be used to help fund the participation of African scholars in the biennial conference. Only this initial £50 appears in the 1994 accounts. Thanks to the generosity of ASUK members, however, the fund has continued to grow, with donations in 1995 already amounting to approximately £500. Council also took the decision to transfer income from the sale of conference papers, and £300 is to be added from the Lancaster conference. Currently, then, we can estimate that the fund contains more than £800.

7. Interest received increased to £1,112, from a low figure of £755 in 1993. This partly reflects the movement of deposit funds in 1994 to a Charities Deposit Account with the Charities Official Investment Fund in London, which gives us a fixed interest rate of 6 % (considerably better than the 3.2% previously obtained from Bristol and West).

8. The relatively high level of bank charges in 1994 as compared with 1993 again reflects the additional processing of conference income and expenditure. The Barclays current account which we have used to date charges on all receipts and debits; thus a conference year, incurring a large number of extra receipts, incurs high charges accordingly. Given the nature of ASUK cashflow, it seems more sensible to use an account type which charges only on debits, which are rather few in number; hence from November 1995 onwards, we have switched to a Community account.

9. Regarding income from membership subscriptions, 1994 showed a continuation of the downward trend which we had been seeing over the previous few years.

While the accounts stop at the end of 1994, however, the Honorary Secretary's report indicates that membership (and incomes) have risen again in 1995.

10. Finally—but crucially—very many thanks are due to Mrs. Lindsay Allan for her hard work in the financial administration of the Association. Her efficiency has made my job as Treasurer extremely easy, while my absence on maternity leave for a large part of the last year made her help and passing-on of information particularly invaluable.

Melissa Leach
16 November 1995

Africa Online

A new service is available 'on the net'. *Africa Online* supplies an African news source to internet users, offering daily issues of some Anglophone newspapers. Contact internet address <http://www.africaonline.com/> for further information.

Conferences Future...

The Department of History/Centre of Commonwealth Studies, University of Stirling, will be holding a symposium on '*Source material for studying the slave trade and the African diaspora*' on 13-14 April. The symposium will consider the possibilities and limitations of the various categories of source material available for the study of the slave trade, and of various approaches to their evaluation and interpretation. It is conceived primarily as a working conference of active specialist participants, bringing together established academic staff and postgraduate students, though participation of interested non-specialists is welcome. The symposium is one of a series within the programme of 'The development of an African Diaspora: the slave trade of the Nigerian Hinterland, 1650-1900' organized by Robin Law (U. of Stirling) and Paul Lovejoy (York University, Canada), and associated with the UNESCO 'Slave route' project (see ASUK Newsletter #1). Further information may be obtained from Robin Law, Dept. of History, University of Stirling, Stirling, Scotland FK9 4LA (fax: (0)1786-467581, e-mail: r.c.c.law@stir.ac.uk).

The third SCUSA Colloquium, on '*The meaning of the local in African studies*', being organized by Terry Ranger (Oxford), Richard Werbner (Manchester) and Kenneth King (Edinburgh), and originally scheduled for May, has been postponed until next year.

The Centre of African Studies, Edinburgh University's annual international conference will be held on 22-23 May, on the topic of '*Rethinking African history: interdisciplinary perspectives*'. It will seek to highlight some of the most recent currents within the study of African history by focusing on the emerging points of contact between history and other disciplines. A major Royal African Society in Scotland lecture will take place as part of the proceedings. The organizing committee for the conference consists of Angus Calder (Literature, Open University), Iain Duffield (History, Edinburgh), Jack Thompson (Divinity, New College), Robin Law (History, Stirling), Paul Nugent (History, Edinburgh), Polly Rewt (Open University and CAS), Kenneth King (CAS), Simon McGrath (Education and CAS), and Andrew Walls (New College). For further information and registration contact Anne Fernon (conference secretary), the Centre for the Study of Christianity in the Non-Western World, the University of Edinburgh, New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh, Scotland EH1 2LX (fax: (0)131-6506579, e-mail: [<FERNONA@srv0.div.ed.ac.uk>](mailto:FERNONA@srv0.div.ed.ac.uk)).

The Centre of African Studies, SOAS, University of London, announces a conference on '*Africa's Urban Past*' to be held on 19-21 June. 89 papers, presented in

21 panels and 3 plenary lectures, are scheduled. For further information contact the conference convenors, Richard Rathbone and David Anderson, at the History Dept., SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq., London WC1H 0XG (tel: (0)171-637-2388, fax: (0)171-436-3844); or the conference secretary, Anna Debska, Centre of African Studies, SOAS (tel/fax: (0)171-323-6254, e-mail: ad4@soas.ac.uk).

An international colloquium on *'The work of Cheikh Anta Diop: Africa's renaissance on the threshold of the third millennium'* will be held in Dakar from 26 February to 2 March, in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of Professor Cheikh Anta Diop's death. Full details on the colloquium are available from Ibnou Diagne, Department of History, Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal (tel: 221-252960, fax: 221-242379, e-mail: thioune@bucad.univ-darkar.sn).

The Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University, is planning an international conference to commemorate the centenary of *the Battle of Adwa* on 2 March. It is hoped that an exhibition of documents and other memorabilia pertaining to the battle will also be mounted.

The Department of Africana Studies, Binghamton University, will be holding a conference on *'The African diaspora: African origins and new world self-fashioning'* on 11-13 April. Further details may be obtained from Dr Isidore Okpewho, Chair, Department of Africana Studies, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY 13902, USA (tel: 1-607-777 2636, fax: 1-607-777 2280).

...Conferences Past

The Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh hosted a conference and a workshop on 24-26 May, 1995. The main conference, *'Ethnicity in Africa'*, was attended by 110 registered participants from Africa, Western Europe, Russia, China and North America. Sixteen papers were delivered by participants from the UK, Italy, the Netherlands, Greece, Germany, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and the USA. Sessions were held on the 'invention' of ethnic identities, diasporas and minorities, the moral economy of ethnicity, and language and national questions in contemporary Africa. A further fifteen papers were presented at the workshop on *'Ethnicity in Ghana'*, which followed the conference. The main conference papers will be published as a separate volume by the Centre of African studies in early 1996. An external publisher is being sought for the Ghana papers, which will be edited by Dr. Paul Nugent (University of Edinburgh) and Dr. Carola Lentz (Free University of Berlin).

A one day conference on *'Mobility in Africa'*, organized jointly by the ASUK and the Developing Areas Research Group of the RGS/Institute of British Geographers (convenors David Simon, Royal Holloway, London and Nici Nelson, Goldsmith's College, London), was held at SOAS on 16 December, 1995. It was a conscious effort to promote interaction between learned societies with overlapping interests. The morning session was devoted to involuntary migration with Richard Carver (RSP, Oxford) on 'Rights and protection of refugees', and John Kirkby (ETC UK and U. of Northumbria) on 'The complex emergency in Somalia: UNHCR's cross border and cross mandate operation, 1991-3'. The second session addressed gender and migration, with Charles Omondo (U. of Liverpool) on 'The interrelationship between fertility and mobility in Kenya', and Kavita Datta (U. of Swansea) on 'Historical observations on the impact of gender in labour migration in Botswana'. The final session highlighted environmental issues with Alex Mengue Mbom (U. of Louvain) with a case study of the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon, 'Voluntary migration: one aspect of risk minimising strategies in Sudano-Sahelian population in the Cameroons', and Ian Scoones (IDS, Sussex) on 'Mobility, pastoralism: ecological and economic issues'.

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

African Studies Centre, SOAS: Three visiting fellows will be coming to the centre during the Spring term: Lawrence Olufemi Adewole (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria) will be working on Yoruba linguistics and dialectology; Bellow Daudun Bada (Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Nigeria) will be working on Hausa proverbs; and Chikelue Ofuebe (University of Nigeria) will be working on state-peasant relations and land acquisition. May Christine Sengendo (Dept. of Women's Studies, Makerere University), will be an East African Visiting Scholar (on a scholarship funded by the British Council, Uganda) during the Spring term, working on the impact of the social economic status of households on women's savings and credit mobilisation in Uganda.

Edinburgh University: Edinburgh University runs link programmes with the University of Western Cape, South Africa, and Kenyatta University, Kenya. Glenda Kruss (UWC) will be at the Centre of African Studies for three weeks in January-February 1996, Nelleka Bak (UWC) will be there for one week in February, and Kibet A Ngetich (KU) will be at the centre from 6 January to 24 March. George Thomson (EU) will be at UWC for three weeks in March-April.

Institute of Development Studies, Sussex: The following visiting and individual study fellows will be at the IDS during the coming term: Seth Afikorah-Danquah (U. of Ghana), and Thembele Kepe (U. of W. Cape), for three months beginning in January, researching the institutional dynamics of environmental change; Sylvanus Ikhide (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria), for three months beginning February, researching financial sector reforms and monetary policy in Nigeria; Frank Matose (Forest Research Centre, Harare, Zimbabwe), for six-eight weeks from March, researching local people and reserved forests in Zimbabwe; and Meera Shah (development consultant), for two months from Feb/March, writing on participatory methods in Zambia and Malawi.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

African Studies Association (USA): Three UK resident scholars received the ASA's prizes for scholarly publications at this year's convention in Orlando, Florida. Henrietta Moore (LSE) and Megan Vaughan (Nuffield College) won the Herskovits Award for *Cutting Down Trees: Gender, Nutrition and Agricultural Change in the Northern Province of Zambia, 1890-1990* (Heinemann/James Currey/University of Zambia Press, 1994). Douglas H. Johnson (St Antony's College) won the biennial ASA Text prize for his edition of Percy Coriat, *Governing the Nuer: Documents in Nuer History and Ethnography, 1922-1931*, JASO Occasional Papers No. 9 (JASO, 1993).

Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports (of around 2-300 words) on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, and contact address), announcements of the awarding of grants, fellowships and prizes, news of appointments and visiting fellowships, and brief articles or notices on matters of importance to Africanists in the UK. All items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* should be sent to Douglas H Johnson, Editor, ASUK Newsletter, St Antony's College, Oxford OX2 6UW (Fax: 01865-54465). Deadlines are 31 December (for the January Newsletter), 25 March (for April), 25 June (for July), and 30 September (for October). Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASUK.