

I N T H I S I S S U E

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FOR AFRICAN STUDIES  
ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

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Notice to Members: The United States Postal System does not forward periodicals. We must receive written notification from you at least five weeks in advance of any change of address. Failure to notify us of your correct mailing address will result in suspension of mailings until we receive such notification. We can make address changes only when current dues are paid. Reinstatement of membership mailings after suspension may be made by payment of a \$5.00 reinstatement fee.

**FROM THE SECRETARIAT...**

The new academic year has begun and the great universities are going into overdrive. Scores of students are lost in the hallways and we remember that some of our colleagues are indeed absent minded. You have started your teaching, and, oh yes, those committees have to meet. Winter is coming on and the car needs to go in the shop, how long is it until your next sabbatical? You need respite. The founders of the ASA in their infinite wisdom foretold your plight and that is why the Annual Meeting is set in November. Join us this year in Orlando and refresh your intellect.

As you might imagine this is also a rather busy time of the year for the Secretariat. We have been deluged the last few days with mountains of mail as forgetful members realize that it is the deadline for Orlando pre-registration. Its comical at times when the same courier dashes through our door three times in the same day. I wish the ASA had all the money that tardy members spend on express mail and courier services. The final program is about to be laid to rest with the printer and if I might say so, its impressive. Joel Barkan and the National Panels Committee have set a new record this year by pushing the number of panels to 190. That means there are 9 more panels than in Toronto and 21 more than in Boston. Catherine VerEecke and the Orlando Arrangements Committee have served up a host of special events which include much music and dancing as well as two art exhibits, plus films and videos. In the middle of the din created by these two groups sits Rainier Spencer, the ASA program coordinator. Cool, calm, and collected he is the vital link between Joel, Catherine, and me. We have harassed Rainier so much that at times I wished he had three ears, though I am sure he wishes he had none.

While preparing for Orlando we have been advancing on other fronts as well. You will shortly receive the latest issue of *African Studies Review* and, if you are wise enough to subscribe, the latest *History in Africa*. Three new ASA Press publications will make their debut in Orlando: *Ethnic Conflict and Democratization in Africa*, edited by Harvey Glickman; *Arts in Africa Vol. 4*, compiled by Janet Stanley; and *The Elusive Epic: Text and History in the Oral Narrative of Jeki, La Njambe* by Ralph Austin. All this just when you thought Karen Rader was my imaginary friend! Drop by the ASA Combined Book Exhibit and meet Jean de Silva and Ashanti Hosiier. They will happily help you choose fine ASA Press books for your holiday gift-giving. Speaking of books, just wait until you get to the exhibition hall in Orlando. Norma Miller has filled it with publishers who will be showing off their latest scholarly offerings. Also present will be sellers of Africana, cloth, and works of art. Turn Norma loose and you never know what will happen, this year she has added a lounge with a cash bar to the exhibition hall.

This Annual Meeting has so much to offer that you will quickly forget that the hotel is a mere 2 miles from the Disney World main gate. Come listen, learn, and participate. Who knows, you might even get to dance with Catherine or Joel. See you in Orlando.