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## In Memoriam

Johanna Agthe  
Emmanuel Arinze

Yves Benot  
Donald Ekong

Roger McGuire  
Claude Meillassoux

Phaswane Mpe  
Carl Schlettwein

Kay Williamson

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### **In Memoriam: Robert W. July**

(1918-2004)

Robert W. July was an astute and prolific contributor to historical scholarship in African studies. Although his methods were mainly traditional, emphasizing archival sources, his masterpiece, *The Origins of Modern African Thought*, published in 1967 and republished by Africa World Press in 2004, identified early African pioneers of the “new history” that emerged in the mid-twentieth century. July’s lucid contributions to the intellectual, cultural, economic and political history of Africa were widely admired. In 1982 he was a candidate for vice president and president-elect of the African Studies Association.

July lived and taught in Nigeria and Kenya from 1963 to 1968, serving as professor of history at the universities of Ibadan and Nairobi. At Ibadan, he explored a field of letters that had been largely neglected by scholars: the retrievable ideas of West African intellectuals who wrote in response to the impact of European imperialism, colonial rule, and their consequences. Twenty years after publication of *The Origins*, July’s dedication to the study of cultural history reached fruition in publication of *An African Voice*, devoted to the contributions of West African artists, artistic performers, dramatists, educators, musicians and litterateurs to the movement for cultural, as well as political,

independence. Two other ambitious works encompassed the entire continent. *Precolonial Africa* (1975) helped pioneer the study of economic life for ordinary people before the European occupation. *A History of the African People*, originally published in 1970, is a felicitously written and widely praised text, currently in its fifth edition.

After his retirement as Professor of History at Hunter College and the Graduate School of the City University of New York, July taught American history at Hunter College for fifteen years without remuneration. He personified the ideal of combined scholarship and teaching as an intrinsically valued way of life. Shortly after his death, on November 6, 2004, Bob’s life was fittingly memorialized at the Schoenberg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Richard L. Sklar

Please visit [www.africanstudies.org](http://www.africanstudies.org) and click on the "ASA ONLINE" link to access the online system to update your personal information, including your password, change your address, and pre-register for the Annual Meeting, and to make subscription payments or endowment or other contributions. Please complete the personal information as fully as possible, not only to enable the ASA to understand its own membership profile and hence how best to develop programs and services, but also to assist with fundraising efforts, particularly in the context of the approaching 50th Anniversaries of the founding of the ASA in 1957, and of the first annual meeting, which took place in 1958. Many potential donors are interested in such data as the percentage of members who are in the humanities, the Association's demographic make-up, and members' professional career paths, geographic areas of interest, and language abilities. While you are online, check out the ASA's new logo, which was launched in conjunction with the 50th Anniversaries Fundraising Drive during the 2004 Annual Meeting.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to offer congratulations and appreciation to the Program Co-Chairs and the Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chairs who made the 2004 joint Annual Meeting with the Canadian Association of African Studies an unqualified success for the 1712 individuals who participated in a record 313 scheduled panels and roundtables: Dennis D. Cordell, Southern Methodist University and Philip Zachernuk, Dalhousie University and Donna A. Patterson, Dillard University and Jacqueline Woodfork, Loyola University New Orleans, respectively.

Please continue to support the membership drive, and thus the Association's financial viability. Display the "Top Ten Reasons to Become an ASA Member" that is available on the ASA website prominently and encourage colleagues to join. Membership dues are for the calendar year, January 1-December 31, with a membership renewal deadline of March 15 to ensure that individuals receive the maximum membership benefits possible.

Current ASA members should watch for the 2005 election ballot package in the coming weeks. Until supplies last, ballots will continue to be mailed to individuals who renew their membership on or before August 15. The completed ballots are due at the Secretariat on or before September 1, 2005. Don't delay - vote today!

Watch the website for updates about the 2005 Annual Meeting, "Health, Knowledge, and the Body/Politic in Africa and the African Diaspora" November 17-20, in Washington, DC at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. Prospective Annual Meeting participants may check the ASA website beginning in July for the status of their proposal after it has been reviewed by the Program Committee. The meeting dates overlap with the Middle East Studies Association annual meeting on November 19 and 20 and joint initiatives are being planned to take maximum advantage of the coincidence.

## 2004 Election Results

**For Vice President:**

**Joseph C. Miller** (History, University of Virginia)

**For the Board of Directors:**

**Toyin Falola** (History, University of Texas at Austin)

**Alcinda Honwana** (Social Science Research Council)

**Kathleen Sheldon** (Independent historian, Research scholar at the University of California, Los Angeles)

The ASA Board of Directors congratulates the new officer and the new board members and extends its sincere appreciation to all the candidates for their commitment to serving the Association.