

Traditional Is Our Traditional History? The Case of Samuel Johnson and the Recording of Yoruba Oral Tradition. *Robin Law*. Drake's Fake: A Curiosity Concerning a Spurious Visit to Asante in 1839. *T. C. McCaskie*. Oral Historiography and the Shirazi of the East African Coast. *Randall L. Pouwels*. On the Methodology of Chronology: The Igala Core Dating Progression. *R. A. Sargent*. The Shirazi in Swahili Traditions, Culture, and History. *Thomas Spear*. English Bosman and Dutch Bosman: A Comparison of Texts—VIII. *Albert van Dantzig*. Through the Palace Gates, Chiefs and Chronology: Developing Reliable Dating Structures. *J. B. Webster*. Bio-Bibliographical Studies: Their Potential for Use by Africanists. *James A. Casada*. Commodities, Customs, and the Computer. *Marion Johnson*. Pasi ne (Down With) Class Struggle? The New History for Schools in Zimbabwe. *I. R. Phimister*. Mission Archives in Bremem. *Lynne Brydon*. Archival Materials on the Brandenburg African Company (1682–1721). *Adam Jones*. The Archives of the Missionnaires du Sacre-Coeur (M.S.C.) at Bamanya (Zaire). *Sam Nelson*. The Committee for the Publication of African Historical Sources. James G. Frazer's Correspondence With John Roscoe, 1907–1924. *Benjamin Ray*. Arms Proliferation: A Few More Serial Bibliographies of Interest to Africanist Historians. *David Henige*. Comparative Bibliography—1984.

History in Africa may be ordered from the Executive Secretary, African Studies Association, 255 Kinsey Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024. \$20.00 plus postage and handling (10% domestic, 20% foreign). Make checks in \$ payable to African Studies Association.

Papers Presented at the 26th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, Boston, MA, December 7–10, 1983.

The price per paper is \$4.00 for ASA members and \$5.00 for non-members. A complete set of papers, in photocopy or microfilm, is \$350.00. Catalogue on Annual Meeting paper collections from 1960 is available free of charge by writing Executive Secretary, African Studies Association.

LETTERS

Dear Dr. Cosentino,

I would appreciate it very much if you could announce the upcoming conference of the Africa Transpersonal Association (ATA) in one or more issues of your newsletter. Since the aim of the ATA and the conference is to create an awareness of those cultural aspects of Africa that the rest of the world is so unaware of, any assistance you could render, would, needless to say, be very much appreciated. Please feel free to edit the information about the conference to fit in with your publication and the space available.

The Africa Transpersonal Association announces its first International Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, during July 6–15, 1984.

AFRICA WITHIN

Part 1: The soul of the izangoma (witchdoctor)

Part 2: The feminine psyche

Part 3: Workshops, expeditions and safaris

Since so little is known about the creativity, spiritual dimension and realm of soul in sub-Saharan Africa, the conference intends to celebrate aspects of Africa's uniqueness and the potentially great gift it has to offer the larger world community.

Attention will be devoted to acknowledging the Africa within each of us, our connectedness to the darkness, the wilderness within, as well as our rootedness in mother earth, in soul, our relatedness to each other and the world of ancestral spirits.

Black and white women from the United States and South Africa, will discuss the feminine psyche from a cross-cultural and international perspective. Participants will deal with redefining the role of women, the connectedness of women to each other, to the self and to men, as well as female sexuality, childbirth, and the awesome responsibility of women to redirect the course of Western civilization by getting in touch with the earth nurturing qualities within them.

A large number of unique expeditions, safaris and workshops will be offered. Among the safaris are ones to game reserves, rock engraving and fertility sites. Workshops planned, include African and Western oriented programs. Some of these are: African dance and music, Zulu mythology, witchdoctor ceremonies, Sandplay, treatment of schizophrenia, rediscovering the feminine within, the masculine within, dream incubation, modern dance with African roots, and Tai Chi.

For further information on registration, workshops, safaris, low cost travel and accommodation, contact: Prof. Len Holdstock, School of Psychology, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2001.

Sincerely,

Len Holdstock, PhD
Reader in Neuropsychology
University of Witwatersrand
Johannesburg, South Africa

Dear Professor Holdstock:

We are not in the habit of querying announcements sent to us, and generally reprint them with the dedication of Voltaire, and in the spirit of allowing one hundred flowers to bloom. But saying that, I must admit that the language of the announcement of Africa Transpersonal Association's International Conference on "Africa Within" (Feb. 11, 1984) did give me pause. "Connectedness to the darkness . . . wilderness within . . . rootedness in mother earth"—these are cliches on "darkest Africa" which I'm familiar with from our own southern California images of Africa at Disneyland or Lion Country Safari, but how can they be used to promote a scientific conference at Witwatersrand University? And then, "witchdoctor ceremonies", is that how your school of psychology categorizes traditional medicine? And finally, "the awesome responsibility of women to redirect the course of Western civilization by getting in touch with the earth nurturing qualities within them"; need one be Gloria Steinem to query the limiting of that awesome responsibility to people with wombs, let alone Western people with wombs (don't Lithuanian or Burmese people, with or without wombs, also share in the responsibility)?

I don't mean to indulge in irony for its own sake, but in consternation over what such a conference at such a university might mean. Perhaps announcements are just glitz and hype anyways, but in the year 1984, in a society already sliced by language and category imposition, by objectification and historical distortion, greater care should be taken to distance science from such bizarre stereotypes. What comes to mind is the passage from Mrs. Gordimer's Occasion for Loving when the protagonist wanders into the loo of the beach house in Natal, and sees a sign claiming the toilet for the great Lord Chaka. Was it for this the Zulu empire was created? Or the izangoma learns his arts?

With apologies for preaching, that is my reaction when I read your announcement. And with collegial good will, I ask that you consider the implications of what it is you offer.

Where, really, does such a safari lead?

*Sincerely,
Donald Cosentino
Executive Secretary*

MINUTES

Association of African Studies Programs Summary of Fall 1983 Meeting in Boston

Twenty-three persons attended the AASP breakfast meeting in Boston on December 7, held in conjunction with the ASA Annual Meeting. Those attending were: Bob J. Walter (AID/W); John Harris (Boston); Ralph Austen (Chicago); Elizabeth Widenmann (Columbia); Hunt Davis, Della McMillan (Florida); Robert J. Cummings (Howard); Charles Stewart, Don Crummey (Illinois); Patrick O'Meara, Judith Wilkinson (Indiana); Sandra Greene (Kalamazoo); David Wiley, Zinta Konrad, James McCann (MSU); Ann Biersteker (NIU); John Paden (Northwestern); Gifford Doxsee (Ohio); Tom Hale (Penn State); Robert Gregory (Syracuse); Mike Lofchie (UCLA); Paul Beckett (Wisconsin); Ivan Dihoff (Yale).

The first item for discussion was a report by Ann Biersteker (NIU) and Ivan Dihoff (Yale) on the Swahili Group Projects Abroad, taken to Kenya in the Summer of 1983. Both agreed that the trip was most successful. Out of the sixteen students who participated, only one failed to achieve fluency in the language. They made three major recommendations: 1. that funding for eight weeks be sought; 2. that two principal leaders be available for the entire in-country stay, one concentrating on logistics and the other on course content; and 3. that the travel budget reflect local travel circumstances. In the discussion following their report, the question of selection criteria arose. The consensus was that, given our purpose of language training for graduate students, the major goal should be achieving fluency and not cultural experience (although they are obviously related). The most important criterion should then be a minimum level of language study. Two years had been the standard.

The second discussion item was the proposal for a Group Projects Abroad for the Summer of 1984. This year, because of the lateness of the ASA meeting and of the November 1 deadline for GPA, the proposal had to be submitted in advance of our meeting. In accordance with our discussion at the Spring 1983 meeting, Will Leben (Stanford) submitted a proposal for Hausa. On behalf of Will, John Paden (Northwestern) discussed the proposal and distributed an announcement which has been distributed in advance of the decision on the proposal. The application deadline is February 15, 1984. Again, selection criteria were discussed as well as the procedure for selection. The Chair appointed a selection committee of Stanford, UCLA, Wisconsin, Yale and Northwestern.

Mike Lofchie (UCLA) gave an update on the DIA initiative and the Ward-Beal proposal. For the present, the proposal is stalled, although it may not be finished. Mike will continue to monitor the situation. For additional information, see *ASA News*, Volume XVI, No. 4 (Oct/Dec, 1983), pp. 9-11. Should change occur, the item will be on the Spring Meeting agenda.

The annual spring meeting, held each year in Washington, D.C., is scheduled for April 5 & 6, 1984.