

LETTERS

April 25, 1988

Edna G. Bay
Executive Secretary

Dear Ms. Bay:

On behalf of CODE, I am writing to thank the African Studies Association for the materials on Africa that were made available to our book programme for distribution to select recipients in Africa.

These materials were a wonderful contribution to our program and I am now able to provide you with more detailed information on the recipients. In West Africa, they were sent to the University of Ghana; the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana; the University of Cape Coast, Ghana; Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone; the University of Liberia; and the Bibliothèque Publique, Guinea-Bissau. In East and Central Africa, selections were sent to Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, and Malawi. There is a small amount remaining and these will soon be earmarked for some of our other recipients.

I would appreciate your assistance in identifying other Universities with African Studies Departments who could contribute to our program.

Sincerely,
Gloria Reinbergs
Books Programme Coordinator

For further information about CODE programs, see p. 34. Ed.

June 14, 1988

Dr. Nzongola-Ntalaja
President, ASA Board of Directors

Dear Dr. Nzongola-Ntalaja,

I am writing both to offer and to request information. Having discovered in the past few days that the National Science Foundation funding for Sub-Saharan Africa in the International Programs Division has been discontinued, I am wondering whether the Association has any mechanism for expressing concern or offering opinion on such policies. According to the NSF staff person with whom I discussed it, the decision has so far elicited no institutional response at all. In case this is true, I would suggest that we develop some means of keeping tabs on developments in the public funding of research. It seems quite problematic for the ASA to allow one of the few programs for supporting African and collaborative research to disappear without comment.

From the discretely phrased outline given to me on the phone, I understood that a decision was taken in September of 1985 that the budget in the International Programs which support collaborative scholarship would be cut, especially in relation to developing countries which were judged to generate less benefit than collaboration with scientists in industrialised countries. In 1986 the Africa program resources were reduced from \$500,000 to \$100,000 and then eliminated altogether, although the current NSF guide still lists the program as if it were operative. Apparently it is the *only* International Program to be completely cut. Funds are still provided for collaborative research with Latin American, Asian and North African countries. In fact, the situation is rather worse than this since the International Program provides all the support for the Science in Developing Countries Program as well as for its own activities. Since these funds no longer exist for Sub-Saharan Africa there is nothing with which to support the African applications to this program either, even though African countries are still listed as eligible.

If we have responded to this situation already I would be very interested to know what happened. If not, I suppose it is "water under the bridge" in terms of either counter-arguments or symbolic protest. But it should perhaps provoke us to develop on-going means of addressing research policies which come as close to our collective interests as this one does. I would be interested in any thoughts people may have and willing to contribute as seems appropriate.

Yours Sincerely,
Jane I. Guyer
Boston University
Department of Anthropology

ASA President Nzongola-Ntalaja has written a letter of protest on behalf of the Association. Individual and institutional members who wish to express their views may write independently to NSF or contact the House of Representatives' committee which is responsible for NSF funding. Write the Honorable Robert A. Roe (NJ), Chair, Committee on Science, Space and Technology, 2321 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-6301.

ASA Members:

Ruth Schachter Morgenthau is running for Congress. Many of you know Ruth as a distinguished Africanist. Her writings, her work as deputy to Andrew Young representing the United States at the United Nations, and the help she has given to many Africans and Americans that has improved understanding of Africa make her membership in the United States Congress an extremely attractive prospect. As people who care about Africa and who have examined her record and that of her opponent in Rhode Island's 2nd district, we heartily support Ruth and have sent her financial contributions. Anyone interested in supporting Ruth may

write: Committee to Elect Ruth S. Morgenthau, P.O. Box 360, Saunderstown, Rhode Island, 02874.

Lucy Creevey, University of Connecticut
 Harvey Glickman, Haverford College
 John Harbeson, CCNY of CUNY
 Raymond Hopkins, Swarthmore College
 Edmond Keller, Santa Barbara (in Chancellor's Office, UCLA)
 Michael Lofchie, UCLA
 Sayre Schatz, Temple University
 Ernest Wilson III, University of Michigan

RECENT SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

The Fourth Satterthwaite Colloquium on African Religion and Ritual was held in the village of Satterthwaite, in England's Lake District, from April 19 to 22, 1988.

The Colloquium came into existence through the initiative of Dr. Richard Werbner of the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Manchester. The aim was to bring together a small group of anthropologists (including each year two to three invited guests and a few guests from related disciplines) who are engaged in the research and analysis of African systems of religion and ritual. Past visitors have included Professors James Fernandez, Wyatt MacGaffey, Ivan Karp, Sandra Barnes, Igor Kopytoff, and Drs. Rene Devisch, Wim van Binsbergen, Michelle Gilbert. Since its inception, participants have presented and discussed papers on a broad range of topics. In addition to papers, the 1988 Colloquium included two video films from northern Ghana on masking and royal funerary rites.

Werbner plans to publish a collection of papers from the meetings in a special edition of *The Journal of Religion in Africa*.

A three-day **Conference on Law in Colonial Africa** took place April 7-9, 1988, at the Humanities Center, Stanford University, jointly sponsored by the Social Science Research Council, the Ford Foundation, Emory University, and Stanford University. Twenty historians, anthropologists, and legal scholars from the United States, Africa, England, and Australia met to discuss such issues as colonial legal systems; sources and methods for the study of law in Africa; law, social conflict and traditional authority; and law, productive relations and the colonial political economy. The conference focused on uncovering what the study of legal records and questions reveals not only about law and social change in Africa, but also about the lived experience of Africans