

Africa. John Metzler, Director of Outreach at Michigan State University, will receive assistance to review the Africa content of social studies and history textbooks for the middle and high school markets.

Even while we spend modest earnings from our growing ASA Endowment, we remind members that the Challenge Grant Campaign continues. Your tax-deductible donation will be matched on a three-for-one basis by a gift

from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Please give today.

If you are able, you can help yourself and the ASA by enrolling as a lifetime member of the Association. The \$1200 lifetime membership fee can be paid in three annual increments of \$400. Our accountant indicates that up to \$800 may be eligible for federal tax deduction.

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(contributing between March 1 and June 1)

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## OBITUARY

Alan Kent Smith, (November 21, 1940-April 22, 1993)

*A memorial service for Alan Kent Smith will be held during the 1993 ASA Annual Meeting in Boston.*

Exactly thirty years ago on a spring afternoon at the campus of the City College of New York, Alan Smith and I were introduced to each other by a history faculty member. Alan had graduated from CCNY in 1962 where his academic excellence had been matched by his athletic performance as a member of the college tennis team. He had put off his admission to the graduate program in African studies at UCLA for a year while teaching in three public schools. Thus, we would both arrive in Los Angeles that summer of 1963 to begin our studies and for me what has been my closest and most important friendship of the next thirty years.

During the 1970's, Alan would godfather my work and that of many others through the Maxwell School's conferences and publications programs and the editorship of the

ASR. Others can better attest to this unfailing assistance to his many graduate students, undergraduates and colleagues at Syracuse University, where he would work for over twenty years. It is the work of his students in the fields of history, administration and diplomacy that will stand as what I think Alan believed was his most important legacy.

Even before finishing graduate school his talents as a researcher and writer were bearing fruit. His gifts were first recognized by Professor Richard Gray of the University of London School of Oriental and African Studies and Alan would spend a year there before completing his doctorate on the history of southern Mozambique at UCLA. The recognition of his work by Professor Leonard Thompson at UCLA would lead to his attendance at a conference

in Zambia and the publication of his first article in a collection of essays on South African history. The influence of this seminal article on the rise of the Zulu state, written when Alan was still a graduate student, is still felt in the field. This was also a sign of things to come as Alan's essays in the history of Southern Africa and of Portuguese colonialism would place him among the leading scholars in those fields.

The decline of interest in African studies from the late 1970's and of support for the field at Syracuse and elsewhere would be met by Alan in his uniquely creative way. He would expand his teaching to include Latin America and world history and his scholarship by adopting a global approach. Challenged by the world systems analysis in vogue in the 1980's, Alan would devote a decade to the study of European economic expansion into the 'Third World'. Africa would never lose its centrality, but his restless intellectual curiosity would lead him into ever wider

pastures. The result would be the 1991 publication of *Creating a World Economy: Merchant Capital, Colonialism and World Trade, 1400-1825* by Westview Press. As if this impressive study of global economic history over four centuries were not ambitious enough, it was planned as the first of two volumes. Alan was busily and happily, even excitedly, at work on this second volume, when the recurrence of cancer in March, 1993, would bring his work and life to an untimely end.

To say that he will be missed or that he was dearly loved and greatly admired seems to me totally inadequate. But that is probably Alan continuing to urge me to avoid purple prose as well as my desire to emulate him in offering in modesty only the best effort that one can make.

Edward Steinhart  
Texas Tech University/Old Dominion University

## PROVISIONAL MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friday, April 30, 8:30-10 pm and  
Saturday, May 1, 9 am - 8 pm  
Holiday Inn, East Lansing, MI

*Present: Directors David Robinson (chair), Edward Alpers, Donald Crummey, Beverly Grier, Goran Hyden, Cheryl Johnson-Odim, Edmond Keller, Gwendolyn Mikell, Jack Parson, Gretchen Walsh, Edna Bay (Exec. Dir.), David Iyam (Assoc. Dir.), Joseph Miller (Treasurer), Sheridan Johns (AASP representative). Guests: Nancy Schmidt (Chair, Africana Librarians Council), David Newbury (Panels Chair, 1993), Jane Guyer (Panels Chair, 1994), and Bruce Berman (Panels Chair, 1994)*

### 1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November meeting were approved as published in *ASA News* (Jan/Mar 1993).

### 2. Report of the Executive Director

Bay discussed the following written remarks:

#### Membership

As of this week, 1900 individual ASA members had renewed for 1993. A third notice will be mailed early next month to the remaining members from 1992 who have not yet renewed. We expect at least another 500 renewals or new memberships as the year moves on. Institutional renewals have reached 484 with 100-110 additional renewals expected. Lifetime memberships now stand at 36.

#### Finances

Treasurer Joe Miller visited the ASA offices in February, meeting with our staff and accountant. A major subject of discussion was endowment income. We agreed that at the end of each fiscal year, we would calculate the amount of endowment earnings and set aside an appropriate amount

to be spent in the following year. That sum will become the budgeted figure for endowment expenditures.

The budget for fiscal 1993-94 will be reviewed by the Finance Committee and presented to the Board during this meeting. It is a deficit budget, which will be of concern to us all. Moreover, there is likely to be a major postal increase for non-profit mailings that could raise our membership mailing bills by 35-45 percent. I would ask the Finance Committee to consider means of increasing revenues.

Two possible areas of increase are dues and annual meeting registration. ASA member dues were last raised in 1992, so increasing them again in 1994 may be problematic. However, the ASA annual meeting registration fees are low. All four of the other area studies associations in this country have member preregistration fees that range from \$40 to \$52, in comparison to our \$30 fee.

Fund-raising continues for the ASA Endowment through the Challenge Grant Campaign. The Development Committee will be reviewing progress to date and reporting later in this meeting.