

SUPPORT THE AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD

Dear Friend of Africa,

I am writing to enlist your support for the ASA Children's Book Award. The award was launched in 1991 by the African Studies Association to encourage the publication and use of accurate, balanced children's materials on Africa. The award focuses specifically on books published about Africa in the United States. Since 1991, our committee has awarded more than eighteen awards to outstanding authors and illustrators.

To increase public awareness about the award, we would like to develop a book seal and a website. The seal would be affixed to the covers of winning books, and the website would provide information about the award and award winning titles.

To launch and complete these worthy projects we need your financial support. As you are no doubt aware, most US school and public libraries have extremely poor materials on Africa. A book seal and a website will help educators, students and parents to quickly identify good materials and build better collections. If you care about the quality of children's collections on Africa, make a generous donation today. Collectively, we have the power to change the way America's children view Africa. Make your check payable to the ASA, and note "Children's Book Award Fund Donation" in the memo section. Please send donations to the ASA Executive Office, Rutgers University, 132 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1400. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Brenda Randolph, Chairperson
Children's Book Award Committee
brendar@umd5.umd.edu

NEWS FROM THE EDITORS OF THE *AFRICAN STUDIES*

More than two years ago, we took over from Mark Delancey as editors of the ASR, and while we have done a lot of work on the journal, there's not much in subscribers' hands to show for it. We want to tell you what's been happening.

So far, volume 42, numbers 1 (April 1998) and 2 (September 1998) and volume 42, number 3 (December 1998) have been printed and mailed to ASA members. All three numbers for volume 42 have been edited and are now in the hands of our production editor. After he completes formatting them, he will send them to the printer in Michigan, who sends each number directly to members. Our expectation is that members will have all three numbers of volume 42 mailed to them before the end of 1999. Then we will be caught up.

What's been the hold up?

When Mark Delancey edited the ASR, he sent his manuscripts to the ASA headquarters at Emory University, where the ASA staff completed the editing and formatting of each issue before it was sent to the printer. We became editors just at the time when the ASA Executive Office moved to Rutgers, and out of that move we were asked to take on the editing, formatting, and production for each number from volume 41 forward on our own. It took a while for us to assemble the know-how and the resources to meet these new expectations.

We sent a mailing to all ASA members, inviting respondents to identify how they could assist us in reviewing books and manuscripts. We heard from nearly half of the ASA members and created a reviewer database, which we and Book Review Editor Eugenia Herbert have been using successfully now for 15 months. After the ASA meetings of 1998, the ASA Executive Board and Executive Office resolved all the outstanding production issues for us, and we have since then put together four numbers of the ASR. While the delays have been painful for you and us, we consider the wait almost worth it, especially in terms of how the ASR now looks, both in its cover design and the internal formatting of the contents.

Why does it take so long to get a manuscript in print?

Our biggest challenge right now is to shorten the time from submission to decision and on to printing, and the critical elements are finally in place to accomplish that. Here's