

# AKAN STUDIES COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 2  
Spring 1990

### CO-CHAIRS' STATEMENT

by  
Raymond A. Silverman  
and Judith Timyan

The November 3, 1989 Business Meeting, held at the 32nd Annual ASA Meeting in Atlanta, was rather poorly attended. Only 13 members were present. We specifically scheduled our business meeting so that it would not conflict with any panels--it was held during a two-hour lunch break. We know that many of our members were present at the ASA Meeting but chose not to attend the ASC Meeting. Our success as an organization depends upon the active participation of its membership. We ask that if you are participating in the next ASA Meeting that you attend the ASC Business Meeting.

We have included copies of a questionnaire that we would like *all* members, both old and new to complete. If you have been receiving the ASC Newsletter but have not yet returned a questionnaire this will be the last time you will receive the Newsletter unless you submit a completed questionnaire before distribution of the next issue of the Newsletter. We ask that you distribute copies of the questionnaire to colleagues who might not be on our mailing list. We continue to have problems with incomplete and partially illegible citations. We do not have time to check the accuracy of the information you send us so *please* make sure that the citations are as complete as possible. A suggestion: You might simply send us the page from a current C.V. that includes your recent publications.

As you will read in the minutes to our November 1989 Business Meeting, we are going to attempt producing two Newsletters a year, a brief issue in the Spring and a lengthier issue in the Fall. The state-of-the-field section of the next (Fall) Newsletter will be dedicated to archaeology.

Last year's request for dues (\$5) from our North American members met with minimal success. Only sixteen of fifty-six members responded. We have an impressive balance of \$80 in our account! We apologize to those who did send in dues for having taken so long to deposit their checks. Since we are an unofficial non-profit organization it was impossible to open a bank account. We finally worked out an arrangement with the African Studies Center at Michigan State University to utilize one of their accounts. Since Peter Shinnie is still duplicating and distributing the Newsletter we will continue to ask only our North American members to contribute the nominal \$5 dues for 1990. Would *all* North American members please send us a check for \$5 made payable to Michigan State University. Thanks.

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**ASC Newsletter**

editors: Ray Silverman & Judith Timyan  
production: African Studies Center, MSU  
distribution: Peter Shinnie  
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**MINUTES**  
**Business Meeting**  
**November 3, 1989**

Present: Roger Gocking, Beverly Grier, Dolly Maier, Robert Handloff, Gracia Clark, Larry Yarak, Sandra Greene, Harvey Feinberg, René Baesjou, Ray Dumett, Dan McCall, Ellen Suthers, Susan Vogel, Ray Silverman.

Ray Silverman, in the absence of co-chair Judith Timyan, presided and provided the following agenda:

- Newsletter
- Akan Council governing body
- New initiatives for the Council
- Other business

Newsletter

Ray Silverman on behalf of the membership thanked Peter Shinnie who has absorbed and apparently will continue to absorb the cost for distributing the Newsletter.

[Reminder: There is a \$5.00 Akan Council membership fee for North American members.]

In order to reduce expenses, only those scholars residing in North America and Europe who have verified and substantiated their membership by filling out a questionnaire will receive future issues of the Newsletter. For time being, colleagues on the ASC mailing list who are residing in Africa but have not completed a questionnaire will continue to receive ASC communiques, though they are urged to participate in this important process. *All ASC members should keep the Newsletter editor--and thus the larger community--abreast of current publications, papers, activities, etc.*

Having received an unsolicited book from a publisher seeking a review, Ray Silverman asked if the Newsletter should contain book reviews. After some discussion, members present agreed that instead of a review, the Newsletter should print a one-paragraph descriptive notice for books with Akan content.

It was decided that the next "state-of-the-field" survey will be devoted to archaeology. David Owusu-Ansah volunteered to oversee the "state-of-the-field" section of the Newsletter.

After some discussion, members agreed that the Newsletter should appear twice yearly,

one issue before the U.S. ASA Meeting and the second six months later.

David Groff suggested that Italy be added as another region (in addition to Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, North America, Great Britain, France, and the Netherlands) and that we ask Vinigi L. Grottanelli, Curator at the Museo Luigi Picorini (Rome) to serve as the Italian ASC representative.

Governing Body of the Akan Council

Ray Silverman recommended that, at least for the foreseeable future, governance remain small and unencumbered. Everyone present concurred.

New Initiatives for the Council

Ghanaian and Ivoirian members: In so far as the Council exists to further the interests of Akan scholarship, Ray Silverman sought ways that the Council might attract participation of Ivoirian and Ghanaian scholars, especially those residing in Africa. Suggestions included personal invitations to individual scholars, broader distribution of the Newsletter in Europe, North America, and especially in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. The observation was made that it is likely that as the ASC realizes some of its objectives regarding the facilitation of scholarly exchange among *all* scholars of Akan society and culture, African scholars might be more willing to lend their support.

Council sponsored meetings, sessions, panels, etc.: Ray Silverman suggested that in the future the Council might sponsor such enterprises as the joint Ivoirian-Ghanaian meetings which were held in the mid-1970s in Bondoukou and Kumasi (after first discovering why the governments of the two countries allowed the tradition to lapse). Other suggestions included inviting Ivoirian and Ghanaian scholars--mature and productive as well as young and promising--to the U.S. and sponsoring sessions at the annual U.S. ASA Meeting, the Canadian ASA Meeting, and similar fora. It was suggested that visits by our African colleagues could be arranged through the U.S. ASA's International Visitors Program or be tied to the Fulbright program, and that the visit might include chairing a panel, perhaps a panel that would deal with issues raised in the most recent state-of-the-field contribution. Gracia Clark, David Groff, and Ray Dumett

volunteered to serve on a committee to explore these and other possibilities.

Journal: As still another means of disseminating information, Ray Silverman related a suggestion made by David Henige (who was unable to attend the meeting) that the ASC consider publishing a journal devoted to Akan studies. Given the limited resources of the Council, members present felt that discussion of such a journal was premature; though the publication of such journal is definitely a goal worth pursuing. It was proposed that for the time being, in lieu of a journal, we might either use the Newsletter or attempt to commandeer a special issue of a cross-disciplinary journal that could be dedicated to articles devoted to Akan studies.

#### Other Business

No one presented any other business for consideration. Submitted by Robert Handloff, Library of Congress.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Would anyone know of a publisher who might be interested in publishing the English translation of *Les Jouets des Enfants Baoulé* by Chantal M. Lombard. If so please contact the author at Little Stockings House, Little Berkhamsted, Hertford SG13 8LW.

The Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, invites papers for a symposium on *The City of Kumasi: Past and Present* to be held in December, 1990. The object of the symposium is to examine the cultural, economic, social and political developments of Kumasi from its foundation in the seventeenth century to the present day. Submit inquiries to Professor Kwame Arhin, Director, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, P.O. Box 73, Legon, Ghana.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Citations Received: 11/01/89 to 05/01/90

Anyimadu, Amos. "Traditional' Techniques of Social Mobilization and Food Production in Ghana." Paper presented at the University of Ghana / Ministry of Agriculture Seminar

on Harmonizing Traditional Technologies for Increased Food Production, 7-8 June, 1989, Accra. To be published in the conference proceedings series of the Kellogg Foundation's Food Systems Research Program.

Clark, Gracia, ed. *Traders versus the State*. Boulder: Westview, 1988.

Clark, Gracia. "Kumasi Market Traders' Response to 1979 Price Control of Local Foodstuffs in Ghana," in *Traders versus the State* ed. Gracia Clark. Boulder: Westview, 1988.

----- "Money, Sex and Cooking: Manipulation of the Paid/Unpaid Boundary by Asante Market Women," in *The Social Economy of Consumption* eds. Ben Orlove and Henry Rutz. Lanham: University Press of America. Society for Economic Anthropology Monography #6, 1989.

----- "Pooling and Sharing Inside and Across Household Boundaries," in *The Household Economy* ed. Richard Wilks. Boulder: Westview, 1989.

Duah, Francis Boakye. *Akan-Asante Culture as Reflected in their Oral Literature*.

----- *The Significance of the Asante Cultural Centre* (in press).

Dumett, Ray and Marion Johnson. "Britain and the Suppression of Slavery in the Gold Coast, Asante and the Northern Territories," in *The End of Slavery in Africa* eds. S. Miers and R. Roberts. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1988.

Dumett, Ray. "Sources for Mining Company History in Africa: The History of the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation," *Business History Review* 62 (3) 1989: 502-15.

Feinberg, Harvey M. *Africans and Europeans in West Africa: Elminans and Dutchmen on the Gold Coast during the 18th Century*. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1990.

Fynn, John Kofi. *The Fante of Ghana, ca. 1600-1874*. Ghana Universities Press, in press.

----- "The Political System of the Fante of Ghana during the Pre-Colonial Period," *Universitas* 9 Nov. 1987.

Gastellu, Jean-Marc. "Matrilineages, Economic Groups and Differentiation in West Africa: A

- Note," *Development and Change* 18 1987: 271-80.
- Presentation. In *Farming Systems in Tropical Africa. Cahiers des Sciences Humaines* 23 (3-4) 1987: 343-52.
- *Riches paysans de Côte d'Ivoire*. Paris: L'Harmattan, 1989.
- Handloff, Robert and Judith Timyan. "The Economy," in *Côte d'Ivoire: A Country Study* ed. Robert Handloff. Washington, DC: Library of Congress, forthcoming (1989).
- Handloff, Robert, ed. *Côte d'Ivoire: A Country Study*. Washington, DC: Library of Congress, forthcoming (1989).
- Handloff, Robert. "Government and Politics," in *Côte d'Ivoire: A Country Study* ed. Robert Handloff. Washington, DC: Library of Congress, forthcoming (1989).
- Killingray, David. "Controlling the Extending Frontiers: Policing the Gold Coast 1870-1912," in *Policing the Empire: Government, Authority and Control, 1780-1940* eds. D. Anderson and D. Killingray. Manchester: Manchester University Press, forthcoming.
- "The Role of Black Evangelists and the Spread of Christianity in the Gold Coast, 1830-1900," *Christianity and History Newsletter* (Leicester) July 1989.
- Kropp Dakubu, M.E., ed. *The Languages of Ghana*. London: Kegan Paul International, 1988.
- Kropp Dakubu, M.E. "Genetic Classification," *Oxford International Encyclopaedia of Historical Linguistics*. In press.
- "The Multilingual Environment in the Ada District," *Research Review* (Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana) NS 4 (1) 1988: 35-44
- Owusu-Sarpong, Albert. "Aimé Césaire et les Indépendances africaines: Vers une politisation de l'esthétique dramatique," *Journal of UST*, October 1988.
- Owusu-Sarpong, Christine. "Les Proverbes Twi, Une Expression de l'Universel." M.A. thesis, Sorbonne (Paris), 1988.
- Platvoet, J.G. "'Renewal' by Retrospection: The Asante Anokye Traditions," in *Religion, Tradition and Renewal* eds. A. Geertz and J. Sinding Jensen. In press.
- Silverman, Raymond A. "Gold and Power: Art and Politics of the Asante." In *Art as Technology: The Arts of Africa, Oceania, Native America Southern California*, ed. A. Rubin and Z. Pearlstone, pp. 133-38. Beverly Hills: Hillcrest Press, 1989.
- "'All That's Gold Does Not Glitter': A Review of the Barbier-Mueller Museum's *Gold of Africa*," *African Arts*, 23 (2) 1990, 71-80, 103-04.
- Stabler, Louise Jeanine. "Asante Residence: Options and Obligations." M.A. thesis, University of Calgary, 1989.
- Wilks, Ivor. "Asante: Human Sacrifice or Capital Punishment? A Rejoinder," *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 21 (3) 1988: 443-52.
- *Asante in the Nineteenth Century: The Structure and Evolution of a Political Order*. Revised edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.
- *Wa and the Wala: Islam and Polity in Northwestern Ghana*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.
- Yeboa-Dankwa, J. *An Introduction to the Study of Twi*. New Haven: Yale University Center for African Studies and Program of African Languages, 1988.
- "Storytelling of the Akan and Guan of Ghana," in *Ghanaian Literatures* ed. Richard K. Priebe. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1988.

## SUMMARIES OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS

*Cocoa and Change in Ghana* by Gwendolyn Mikell. New York: Paragon House, 1989. ISBN: 0-943852-39-0. Cloth. \$29.95.

This book addresses the grand sweep of Ghana's history from neolithic hunters to mobisquads, centering on Brong peoples and interests but examining their articulation with Ashanti, adjoining regions and the world system. Mikell traces the processes of stratification and class formation, particularly the continuing role of the youngmen, with consistent attention to local agency and macro-micro linkages. Her own

research in Sunyani area cocoa farming communities and on Ghanaian family dynamics is set here rather modestly within a comprehensive and sometimes provocative historical discussion of the national political economy in relation to cocoa. The material on lineage and conjugal relations in farm management, income and inheritance, of the integration of Northern migrants and mobsquads into local farming systems, and of changes in Akan *abusua*, chiefly and marital relations with the rise and fall of cocoa is especially valuable. She effectively and insightfully pulls together major pre- and post-colonial political and economic transitions in terms of their effect on Brong farmers. **Gracia Clark, University of Michigan.**

### NEW MEMBERS

Professor Amos Anyimadu  
Department of Political Science  
University of Ghana  
P.O. Box 64  
Legon [GHANA]  
office phone:  
**discipline:** Political Science  
**research interests:** The roots of authoritarianism in Ghana. Techniques of social mobilization across space and time in Ghana.

Mr. Francis Boakye Duah  
Ghana Museums and Monuments Board  
P.O. Box 3343  
Accra [GHANA]  
office phone: 662047  
**discipline:** Ethnography  
**research interests:** Cultural history of the Akan peoples as reflected in their material cultural heritage; chiefly regalia of Asante people; socio-economic life of the people within the river basins of the western region of Ghana.

Dr. Harvey M. Feinberg  
Department of History  
Southern Connecticut State University  
New Haven, CT 06515 [USA]  
office phone: 203-397-4473/4536  
**discipline:** History

**research interests:** History of Elmina, with emphasis on the 18th century.

Professor John Kofi Fynn  
Department of History  
University of Ghana  
P.O. Box 12  
Legon [GHANA]  
office phone:  
**discipline:** History  
**research interests:** The rise and development of the Fante peoples. The history of the Akan peoples of Ghana.

M. Jean-Marc Gastellu  
ORSTOM  
213, rue la Fayette  
75480 Paris CEDEX 10 [FRANCE]  
office phone: 51-14-22-47-19  
**discipline:** Economics  
**research interests:** Wealthy farmers among the Agni in southeastern Côte d'Ivoire.

Dr. Robert Handloff  
Federal Research Division  
Library of Congress  
Washington, DC 20540 [USA]  
office phone: 202-245-5222  
**discipline:** History  
**research interests:** History, economics, political economy.

Dr. David Henige  
Memorial Library  
University of Wisconsin  
728 State Street  
Madison, WI 53706 [USA]  
office phone: 608-262-6397  
**discipline:** History  
**research interests:** Historiography, geneology, oral tradition, historical demography.

Dr. David Killingray  
Department of Historical and Cultural Studies  
Goldsmith's College  
University of London  
London SE14 6NW [GREAT BRITAIN]  
office phone: 01-692-7171 ext. 2251  
**discipline:** History

**research interests:** Christian missions, military and police, Ghana from 1940s-50s, First and Second World Wars, West Africans overseas in UK and Europe.

Dr. M. Esther Kropp Dakubu  
Language Centre  
University of Ghana  
P.O. Box 119  
Legon [GHANA]

office phone:

**discipline:** Linguistics

**research interests:** History of culture contact as revealed in results of language contact. Historical socio-linguistics of Ghana.

Fr. Kofi Ron Lange  
Catholic Church  
P.O. Box 9  
Yendi [GHANA]

office phone:

**discipline:** Oral tradition

**research interests:** Twi proverbs, dilemma tales, folktales, anansesem.

Ms. Chantal M. Lomard  
Little Stockings House  
Little Berkhamsted  
Hertford SG13 8LW [GREAT BRITAIN]

office phone:

**discipline:** Anthropology

**research interests:** Education, culture, anthropology.

Professor Daniel McCall  
7 Wigglesworth Street  
Boston, MA 02120 [USA]

office phone:

**discipline:** History, anthropology, art history

**research interests:** Emergence of the Akan kingdoms.

Professor Albert Owusu-Sarpong  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Department of Languages  
University of Science and Technology  
Kumasi, Ashanti [GHANA]

office phone: 5351 ext. 238

**discipline:** French Literature; African Literature in French

**research interests:** Genesis of Negro-African writings in French. Negritude poetry and drama, politics and poetics of Aimé Césaire. African history and Egyptology, Asante history.

Mrs. Christine Owusu-Sarpong  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Department of Languages  
University of Science and Technology  
Kumasi, Ashanti [GHANA]

office phone:

**discipline:** Anthropology and semiotics; oral literature

**research interests:** Study of the Twi language (semantics and etymology); Akan oral literature; Asante history.

Dr. Sharon F. Patton  
The Studio Museum in Harlem  
144 West 125th Street  
New York, NY 10027 [USA]

office phone: 212-864-4500

**discipline:** Art History

**research interests:** Asante art and culture; Akan art and culture in the context of the African Diaspora.

Dr. J.G. Platvoet  
Katholieke Theologische Universiteit Utrecht  
Heidelberglaan 2

Utrecht 3584 CS [NETHERLANDS]

office phone: 030-533595

**discipline:** History of Religions

**research interests:** Akan traditional religion in the 19th and 20th centuries. History and methodology of the study of African traditional religions. History and methodology of the study of religions.

Ms. Louise Jeanine (de la Gorgendière) Stabler  
Clare Hall  
Cambridge University

Herschel Road  
Cambridge CB3 9AL [GREAT BRITAIN]

office phone: (0223) 334599

**discipline:** Social Anthropology

**research interests:** Asante residence practices; women, education and development in Ghana.

Professor Ivor Wilks

Department of History  
Harris Hall  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, IL 60208 [USA]  
office phone: 312-491-7412  
**discipline:** History  
**research interests:** Akan history with particular  
reference to Asante. History of Islam in the  
Voltaic region.

Mr. J. Yeboa-Dankwa  
Language Centre  
University of Ghana  
Legon [GHANA]  
office phone:  
**discipline:** Folklore  
**research interests:** Oral and written literature  
and traditional and customary practices of the  
Akan and Guan of Ghana.

#### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Dr. Christopher DeCorse  
127 Monroe Street  
Grove City, PA 16127 [USA]

Dr. Monica Blackmun Visonà  
Department of Art  
Metropolitan State College  
1006 11th Street  
Denver, CO 80204 [USA]

AKAN STUDIES COUNCIL QUESTIONNAIRE

To be completed by all members

Please type or print clearly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: office \_\_\_\_\_ home \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline: \_\_\_\_\_

Research interests: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please provide the full citations for your recent publications (you may attach a list of publications from your current *curriculum vitae*. \_\_\_\_\_

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Please describe the research projects in which you are currently engaged:

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PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:

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