

inated may be of any nationality though the preponderance of grants will be awarded to Africans. In addition to a fair representation of disciplines and geographical areas, the selection committee will be concerned to include an appropriate representation of women scholars. Priority will be given to scholars who have not recently attended ASA meetings and to those with definite plans to undertake other professional activities during their visit.

DISTINGUISHED AFRICANIST AWARD

The African Studies Association offers a Distinguished Africanist Award in recognition of lifetime distinguished contributions to African Studies.

Any member of the Association is eligible to propose a candidate. The nomination must include a *vitae* of the nominee, a detailed letter of nomination justifying the candidature, in terms of the criteria for the Award, and three similar letters from ASA members seconding the nomination. At least two of the latter must be affiliated with institutions other than that of the nominee. The complete dossier of the candidate must be submitted to the secretariat of the Association by December 31 for consideration the following year.

Criteria for the Award are the distinction of contribution to Africanist scholarship, as measured by a lifetime of accomplishment and service in the field of African studies. Contribution to scholarship within and without the academic community will be considered.

The Award is presented at the Annual Banquet of the Association, and consists of a Certificate of Lifetime Membership in the African Studies Association.

The selection committee for the Award is composed of the Past President, the President, the Vice President, and two ASA members designated by the Executive Committee of the ASA Board of Directors. Neither of the two latter members shall be affiliated with the same institution as any of the nominees. The recommendation of the selection committee will be presented to the Board of Directors at its spring meeting, and the final choice will be made by the Board.

OBITUARY

Ibrahima Ly, the Malian novelist and political activist, died on February 1, 1989.

Ly had been active in political and cultural life for almost 40 years. During the 1950s, he had been president of the Federation of African Students in France, then a major nationalist force. He returned to Mali to take a position teaching mathematics at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Mali's most prestigious academic institution. He was also active in the ruling Union Soudanaise. In 1968, when a group of junior officers overthrew the Union Soudanaise regime of Modibo Keita, the Ecole Normale Supérieure went out on strike. The new rulers asked for a meeting at the school to explain the coup. After their explanations, Ly rose and gave a speech that is still discussed by those who were there. He conceded that the regime had made mistakes, but ended with the state-

ment that history would rehabilitate Modibo Keita.

In 1974, when the military regime finally proposed a constitution for public approval, Ly was a member of the Regroupement des Patriotes Maliens, which opposed the constitution. They distributed a short tract, about 15 lines long, which opposed the constitution and attacked corruption of the military regime, in particular, the “chateaus de la sécheresse” built with famine relief funds. About a dozen of them were arrested. They were held at the Paratroopers camp in Bamako and were tortured. Ly then did a stint at the infamous death camp of Taoudeni in the Sahara before being released in 1978. His friends say that during his first months out of prison, his nightmares were so bad that he could not sleep. His health was never restored.

In 1981, he was allowed to leave Mali to take up a position teaching mathematics at the University of Dakar. There, he produced three novels. The first, *Toiles d'Arraignée*, vividly describes prison life and torture with a detail most of us would prefer to avoid. It was awarded the Senghor prize in 1985. The second, *Les Noctuelles vivent de larmes* deals with the efforts of ex-prisoners to put their lives back together. The third was almost finished when he died.

Ly is survived by his wife, historian Medina Tall Ly.

—Martin A. Klein

AWARDS PRESENTED

The **Arnold Rubin Outstanding Publication Award** of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association was presented for the first time this June to honor a book published in the field of African arts. Publishers were asked to nominate titles for the award, and a selection committee was formed consisting of Frederick Lamp, Janet Stanley, and Jean Borgatti.

The award will be offered triennially to a work of original scholarship and excellence in visual presentation which marks a significant contribution to the understanding of the arts and material culture of Africa and the African diaspora.

The following selections for “The Arnold Rubin Outstanding Publication Award” were announced during the awards banquet at the Eighth Triennial Symposium on African Arts at the Smithsonian Institution on June 16, 1989:

First Place:

Suzanne Preston Blier. *The Anatomy of Architecture: Ontology and Metaphor in Batamliba Architectural Expression*, Cambridge University Press, New York, 1987.

Honorable Mentions:

Christraud M. Geary. *Images from Bamum: German Colonial Photography at the Court of King Njoya, Cameroon, West Africa*, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, 1988.

John W. Nunley. *Moving with the Face of the Devil: Art and Politics in Urban West*