

LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT

In this column of the Newsletter, the President of the ASA will henceforth enter into dialogue with the members. First of all, I must thank each one of you for your continued support of our Association. I am pleased to report that Loree Jones, who has just completed her first year as Executive Director, has put together a remarkable staff who is eager to serve the members in a most professional manner. Under her leadership, the ASA is becoming once again a well run and efficient organization committed to the growth of African studies, the promotion of Africa's image in this country, and the collaboration with African-American institutions here in the U.S., and Africa-based scholarly associations and scholars. Our goals are clear, our intentions praiseworthy, but the road remains difficult and our means limited.

I would like to express a word of gratitude to all who have served the ASA in various capacities in the past, to the current members of the Board, as well as to those who have just stood for election or have accepted to perform major responsibilities. To survive, the ASA needs the involvement

of all its members in its various organisms, their support in the forms of dues, registration fees and gifts, and their participation in the elections. To do its job and be what it should be, an open and inclusive association must rely on the will and wisdom of its membership. Hence, the Annual Meeting must be well attended and must represent our academic diversity. Because we all benefit from the dialogues among the disciplines that make African studies, our Annual Meeting is different from those of our respective discipline-based associations. I look forward to meeting old colleagues and making new friends in Nashville in November.

Finally, despite the crisis that continues to plague African states, I will conclude with words of hope. You know that Africa is not cursed. Our mission as scholars of the African experience relies on our trust of the resilience of the will of African peoples to respond to the challenge of history and to build a meaningful future. The revitalization of African institutions and productive forces has already begun in the villages, the NGOs, the civil society, the youth and women's organizations. The ASA is dedicated to this ideal.

Lansiné Kaba
President

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

The African Studies Association wishes to thank the 99 members whose commitment to the Association led them to become lifetime members. These members avoid the inconvenience of renewing their membership annually, and many spend less money on total membership dues over time. A portion of their dues supports the ASA endowment. There is a list of these dedicated lifetime members on page 3. Lifetime membership is the most economical membership the Association offers. A lifetime membership is only \$1,200, payable in three installments of \$400. In 2001, the rate will increase to \$1,500. Join by *December 31, 2000*, and save \$300. More importantly, your commitment will serve to strengthen the finances and hence services of the Association. Membership forms are available at the ASA website: www.africanstudies.org.

The ASA is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. Memberships and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

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African Studies Association
Douglass Campus
132 George Street
New Brunswick, NJ 80901-1400

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