

Proposed cuts in State Department Budget will do irreparable damage to Africa related Fulbright and Foreign Visitor Program. African Studies Association urges that these programs be maintained in difficult period of U.S.-Africa relations. Request your assistance in restoring support for Africa related ICA Program.

Donald Cosentino, Executive Secretary, ASA.

More News for Those Who Don't Send Forwarding Addresses:

Dear Don,

I noticed in the April/June 1981 NEWSLETTER (page 22) that Joseph J. Lauer claims that the sentence about "the post office not forwarding periodicals" is a "blatant error." Having spent eight years in this business, I can assure you that even if a member leaves a forwarding card with the post office, one of two things will happen: (1) the periodical will be destroyed; or (2) it will be returned to you for a rather hefty charge, leaving you with the chore of sending out a replacement copy by first class mail. I don't know where Mr. Lauer gets his information, but if his post office forwards periodicals, it's the only one in the country that does. (The Berkeley post office can't even manage to deliver materials that *don't* require forwarding!)

At any rate, having maintained the association's mailing list for five years, I should warn you that the failure of members to keep you informed of their correct mailing address adds substantially to your financial and emotional overhead. You may find a more diplomatic way of phrasing matters than Duffy did, but I hope you get the message across, because this issue can nickle and dime you to death. . . .

Regards,
John Hevelin
Berkeley, CA

"You are not dealing with TIME-LIFE" . . .

The following letter was sent to a member who cancelled her membership after receiving notice saying she was now a "regular", rather than a "sustaining" member:

Dear Professor:

We have received your letter of 14 September requesting the immediate return of your membership and your meeting registration monies.

I am sorry that you find the association's membership policies "unpalatably bureaucratic." The by-laws of the Association are very clear on the matter of membership categories. I include a copy for your information. I hasten to add that those by-laws are devised by the Board of Directors of the Association, and approved by the membership. The use of deadlines for the receipt of membership dues is simply a device to keep an academic association, which depends on membership dues for the main part of its income, solvent. There must be some kind of mutual obligation between the members and the secretariat, the latter to provide stipulated services at stipulated times, the members to support the association, also at stipulated times. This past year dues reminders were sent out in December, repeated in the Spring *News*, followed up by a May mailing, and repeated once again in the June registration packet. The last mailings represented an extension, by three months, of the stipulated time for the payment of Sustaining Membership dues.

A substantial proportion of ASA members are abroad at all times, conducting research or teaching at overseas universities. We would go under very quickly if we waited until everyone came home to read their mail. You must understand that you are not dealing with TIME-LIFE, you are dealing with an academic "mom and pop shop," just a few anxious hands getting out the publications, planning the meetings, following through on a few Board directed proposals. The response I am now typing is a luxury in terms of what a few people in an overworked office can provide for its members. Many routine aspects of operation must be carried out through forms or not be carried out at all.

You were told in the offending notice that you were not eligible for Sustaining Membership this year, since your dues were not paid on time, and since we had no evidence in the files sent from Brandeis University that you were a member last year. We then enrolled you as a Regular Member of the Association, with the option to renew a Sustaining Membership after 1 year, if you previously enjoyed that membership status, or after 3 years, if you were never a Sustaining Member. For the life of me, I can't figure out how we then become unpalatable bureaucrats? How are we supposed to sustain the ASA if we don't enforce its rules?

Yours sincerely,
Donald J. Cosentino
Executive Secretary

A Final Adieu from Felix Grubb?:

The attached pictorial memorial was received from F. Grubb who has been a steady, though cryptic, correspondent all year. When last we heard he was the social director at an Ashram in Piaute, Utah. We too wish him "Adieu," and also good-night Mr. Calabash, wherever you are——

