

# **Annual Business Meeting Of The Association Of Social Anthropologists**

**Held at SOAS on Tuesday April 4, 2000**

## **Present**

Jonathan Benthall, Nurit Bird-David, Ben Campbell, John Campbell, Pat Caplan, John Eade, Jeanette Edwards, Roy Ellen, Ronnie Frankeberg, Ralph Grillo, Wendy James, Aneesa Kassam, Stella Mascarenhas Keyes, John MacDonald, Chris McDonough, David Mills, Johan Pottier, Alan Rew, Paul Sillitoe, Jonathan Skinner, Paul Spencer, Veronica Strang, Richard Wilson

## **Announcements**

Pat Caplan announced the election of Wendy James as Fellow of the British Academy, the election of Hastings Donnan and Ronnie Frankenberg as Founder Academicians of the Academy of the Learned Societies for the Social Sciences and John Eade's promotion to a personal chair at the University of Surrey Roehampton.

## **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Sir Raymond and Rosemary Firth

**Minutes** of the 1999 ABM were read and approved.

## **Matters for Report**

### **Chair's Report**

One correction was required to point 6 where Wendy James should be described as a Fellow of the British Academy rather than the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Roy Ellen also noted that SCHAD should be included in the report given its redoubtable efforts on behalf of the discipline.

### **Secretary's Report**

It was noted that John Eade had been elected to the Committee of the Learned Societies reporting to the Council of the Academy of the Learned Societies for the Social Sciences.

### **Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts**

These were duly noted and Jonathan Skinner thanked for all his hard work.

### **Publication's Report**

Bill Watson reported that 500 CDs of the first ten volumes of the ASA conference series had been produced. Routledge had also issued a contract for the new Readers series.

### **Commonwealth links**

Wendy James reminded the meeting that at the last meeting she proposed that a form would be sent out to strengthen our contacts across the Commonwealth. This has generated a network of 70 people which could help those in regions where there was no strong institutional base for anthropology.

### **Conferences**

**2001** - Richard Wilson reported that publicity for the conference had been printed and would be sent out soon. At this conference we intended to celebrate our President's (Sir Raymond Firth) hundredth birthday and members will be hearing more about this in due course.

**2002** - Wendy James reminded the meeting that this conference will be held at Arusha in East Africa between 8-13 April. It will draw on local representatives from the Sudan to Zambia. Papers will not be restricted to papers on the region but will help regional dialogue to develop and will reestablish links with people in this area of the world and their research traditions. A flyer will be sent out in three months' time

**2003** - Jeanette Edwards reported that the conference would be held at Manchester where the university and departments were being very helpful. An Advisory Committee was going to be set up and advice would also be collected through virtual means. The conference would be held between 15-18 July and the general theme would be Anthropology and Science.

### **ALSISS**

Ronnie Frankenberg thanked the ASA for being nominated as a Founder Academician. He reported that he had been elected to the Committee of Academicians, the Nominations Committee and the Council. The Academy has considerable potential and it is good to have our own representation from the beginning. Another round of nominations is coming and one ASA member had already been nominated. John Eade reported that an email address list would be generated so that, in future, a wider range of consultation could be carried out.

### **Centre for Teaching and Learning**

David Mills spoke to this item. NNTL (the National Network for Teaching and Learning) invited non-competitive applications for funding workshops and projects. It was also reviewing its representativeness. Veronica Strang had also tabled a report on her involvement after replacing Fiona Bowie on the ASA Committee. A key question had emerged around teaching consultancy which would be discussed through a GAPP course to be held soon in Cambridge.

### **Postgraduate Liaison**

Neil Montgomery had been coopted as the postgraduate representative. There was a small travel fund for postgraduates to help them attend the ASA conference.

### **ESRC**

Pat Caplan reported on a meeting which she and John Eade held with Catrin Roberts. The suggestion had been made that ESRC might fund a workshop, which would discuss the funding of anthropology projects. This event would enable us to explain to non-anthropologists how we fund projects. Pat Caplan also reported that Jonathan Spencer had been nominated to the ESRC Research Training Board. Jonathan Benthall spoke about his concern that the RAE was deterring people from submitting articles to journals and directing them towards articles in edited volumes and single-authored books.

## **Matters for Discussion**

### **Membership regulations**

These were tabled. A question was raised about the status of M.Phil. students and Jeanette Edwards, who had produced the report, suggested that their status within the regulations could be covered by calling them research students and inserting the word 'normally'.

### **Elections**

a. New members: All the names nominated for ASA membership were agreed except for Dr. Doja.

**Action:** It was agreed that Committee be given a mandate to approve applications between the Annual Business Meetings and that the Chair be allowed to take Chair's action where necessary.

b. Committee members and office holders

Co-opted members needed to be properly elected to the Committee. The following were duly elected: David Mills (proposed by Johan Pottier and seconded by Chris McDonaugh), Neil

Montgomery (proposed by Jeanette Edwards and seconded by David Mills), Veronica Strang (proposed by Roy Ellen and seconded by Johan Pottier).

Jeanette Edwards was leaving a year early and she was thanked for all her efforts on behalf of the ASA. Sarah Green was elected to succeed her (proposed by Jeanette Edwards and seconded by Richard Wilson).

A new Committee post of conference liaison officer was proposed so that continuity was assured between the annual conferences. Paul Sillitoe proposed Alan Bicker. FUTURE ASA STRATEGY: Pat Caplan reported that the Committee was considering the ASA's future and would be looking at conferences, the website and publications in particular. Richard Wilson then spoke to his proposal to establish the Journal of Anthropological Theory as the in-house journal. Sage had offered us a very good deal and are a very professional organisation. A discussion then ensued which raised a number of points - the terms offered by Sage, the title of the journal, the appointment of the Editor and Editorial Board, its representation of the British anthropological tradition and its relationship to the Commonwealth, opting-out by members from the journal subscription - which Richard Wilson and the Committee needed to consider.

### **AOB**

Audrey Dougall was thanked for her sterling work as ASA Administrator. She had sorted out the ASA administrative affairs and put the Database on a firm footing, enabling us to see clearly and easily which members were in arrears.

Jonathan Benthall noted that the Annals were extremely useful but the Index needed tidying up as well as the numbering.

The meeting ended at 6 pm.