

Forward

AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the Steering Committee  
SUBJECT: Committee Meeting  
DATE: 28 February 1979

The first meeting of the steering committee will be held 3.00 pm Wednesday, March 28, in Room E328, David Myers Building, La Trobe University to discuss the organization of the association and our activities for 1979-80. In light of the discussion at the 1978 Conference, it is envisioned that only the Melbourne members of the committee will attend, though comments on the agenda items and news items for inclusion in the newsletter will be welcomed from corresponding members.

Items for the Agenda include:

- (1) Organization of an Association:
  - constitution (see notes enclosed)
  - name of association
  - membership and area (e.g. NZ and/or PNG?)
- (2) Activities for 1979-80:
  - fundraising
  - sponsorship of visitors
  - survey of Africanists and African Studies (programs, libraries, films, etc.) in Australia
- (3) 1979/80 Conference:
  - dates?
  - venue? (Canberra may not be available for 1979 conference as planned)
  - theme?
- (4) Newsletter (to be issued early in April):
  - collection of items for newsletter
  - vetting draft of first issue
- (5) Any other business.

Following the Committee meeting, we might also discuss activities for the Melbourne group for the year, including the seminar series and any other activities we wish to pursue.

There were few activities over the summer. I have corresponded with a number of overseas associations (ASA/UK, ASA/US, IAI) and Australian Outlook to publicize our association in their newsletters.

Could you please inform me (479 2037/2430; AH 439 3767) if you will be coming to the meeting or let me have your comments on the agenda items and news items as soon as possible.

La Trobe has parking controls, but if you show this at the main gate you will be directed to the free visitors carpark.

*Tom*

Tom Spear  
Secretary

c.c. Professor D. A. Low, ANU -  
Dr D. Dorward, La Trobe  
Dr C. Gertzel, Flinders  
Dr D. Goldsworthy, Monash  
Dr J. Pettman, Canberra CAE -  
Dr J. Polhemus, Deakin  
Dr G. Reeves, WAIT -  
Professor E. A. Wright, Melbourne

AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

NOTES FOR A DRAFT CONSTITUTION

- (1) Name: African Studies Association/Australia <sup>of</sup> ~~(ASA/A) (ASA/AUS)~~ ~~Australian African Studies Association (AASA)~~ ~~AFSAA~~ **AFSAA**

(Note: problem of acronym to avoid conflict with Asian Studies Association of Australia.)

- (2) Purposes:

to promote study, research, and teaching of African cultures, ~~economic,~~ <sup>with regard to</sup> ~~history, languages, literature, politics, and societies in~~ <sup>about</sup> Australia

to facilitate contact among scholars and students in the field through conferences, regional meetings, and publications

to coordinate African studies programs and acquisition of African materials by Australian libraries

to contribute towards an understanding of Africa in the community at large

to serve as the professional body representing Africanists' interests to governments and the community

to establish contact with African universities and scholars, other overseas scholars and African Studies associations, and to promote interchanges with them

- (4) Membership:

open to all people interested in African Studies

two categories: full and student

- (5) Officers:

President, Secretary, and Treasurer, normally elected from the host city for the next General Meeting and Conference

- (6) Executive Committee:

to conduct all business of the Association between General Meetings

to comprise Officers and not more than ten other paid-up members numbers to be decided at General Meeting

to be nominated and elected at General Meeting

To <sup>include</sup> ~~comprise~~ both.

~~two~~ categories: host members: from host city of next General Meeting and Conference

corresponding members: at least one from each state and/or area of Africanist interest <sup>where possible</sup>

quorum: normally to consist of <sup>if possible</sup> Officers and <sup>if possible</sup> Host Members of Executive Committee

3 paid up Members of Executive Committee, inc 1 officer

(7) General Meeting:

to discuss affairs of the Association, all resolutions to be binding on the Officers and Executive Committee of the Association

to be held at time of Conference

to set membership fees until next General Meeting

to set time and site of next General Meeting and Conference, normally held annually, but not less than biennially

to nominate and elect Officers and Executive Committee members to serve until next General Meeting and Conference

*all decisions by majority of members present.*

(8) Bank Account:

to be established

any Officer singly as signatory

books to be open for inspection at time of General Meeting

(9) Amendments:

by majority vote at General Meeting or by Postal Ballot

upon three weeks notice given to all members