NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I am getting ready for my annual Spring WARA Board teleconference and my annual visit to Dakar and our WARC Center, during the closing hours of a highly stimulating conference on Islam and Africa, Global, Cultural and Historical Perspectives organized by Ali Mazrui at SUNY-Binghamton, one recent exchange of e-mail messages comes to mind, to convey my feeling about where we are at, at this juncture, with WARA and its Center in the West African region:

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Wendy Wilson-Fall

WARC/CROA DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Since our last report in the Fall 2000 WARA Newsletter, WARC/CROA has been very active, in many different areas. Two US students groups with formal UCAD ties participated in activities organized for them at the Center. The SIT (School for International Training, formerly Experiment in International Living) from Vermont, and Hobart-Smith Colleges from Geneva, NY.

There were also a number of visitors who gave very stimulating presentations at the Center. Visits from WARA members permit WARC to further achieve its goal of facilitating exchange between scholars from the United States and from West Africa. WARA Board member Linda Beck, presented a paper on her current UCAD research, Decentralization at Touba in January. In February, Fulbright Law professor Judith Scales-Trent presented a paper Racial Purity Laws in America and Nazi Germany: The Targeting Process. On the same day, former Fulbright scholar and WARA member Jennifer Yanco, gave a lecture on her current research, Les Blancs Contre le Racisme. In March, we continued the all day program format with Mimi Mortimer on Aminata Sow Fall: Douceurs du Bercal: Espace Utopique, Espace reel? and Robert Mortimer: Un Concert d'Afrique: Reflexions sur la diplomatie et la securite en Afrique. Robert Mortimer is a past

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David Robinson

Progress on Internet Connectivity at WARC/CROA (RED) and the African Digital Libraries for West African Sources (ADLWAS)

Thanks to a path-breaking $380,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, research teams based at Michigan State University, the West African Research Center (WARC) and the Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire (IFAN) in Dakar will work to narrow the "digital divide" by building an "African Digital Library for West African Sources (ADL-WAS)." IFAN will be assisted directly by almost $100,000 of funding from the Canadian aid organization, the International Development Research Council (IDRC). Over the next three years, the "African Digital Library for West African Sources" will develop a multi-media digital

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Oumar Ndongo

Summary of Hobart & Williams Smith College January 2001 Program in Senegal & Gambia.

This Senegal Study Abroad Program consisted of a group of twelve Hobart and William Smith students: 10 women and 2 men. Dr Oumar Ndongo served as the Academic director of the Program. The first week of the program, the students stayed in a guest house in order to familiarize themselves with their surroundings, before being completely submerged in Senegalese culture. Throughout this week, they had the opportunity of visiting the U.S. embassy and meeting the
FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Note: All these Announcements are being updated in our WARA Website and in the CAORC website. (CAORC URL: http://www.caorc.org and the WARA website: http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/afrst/wara.html)

- CAORC Fellowships for Regional Research 2001-2002

Open to U.S. doctoral and postdoctoral scholars proposing research in the fields of humanities, social sciences, or allied natural sciences. Research should have regional significance in the Middle East, sub-saharan Africa, and/or South Asia, and must be conducted in more than one country, at least one of which hosts a participating American overseas research center. CAORC member centers include the American Academy in Rome, W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, American Institute of Bangladesh Studies, American Institute of Indian Studies, the American Institute of Iranian Studies, American Institute for Maghrib Studies, American Institute of Pakistan Studies, American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies, American Institute for Yemeni Studies, American Research Center in Egypt, American Research Institute in Turkey, American School of Classical Study at Athens, Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute, and the West African Research Association. Fellowship tenure must be of at least three months' duration. Eight small grants of up to $6,000 will be awarded, each of which carries an additional $3,000 for travel expenses. Scholars may apply individually or in teams. Contact the Council or their web site for application forms and information.

THE COUNCIL OF AMERICAN OVERSEAS RESEARCH CENTERS

Regional Research Program
Smithsonian Institution
10th & Constitution St., NW NHB
Room CE-123, MRC 178
Washington, DC 20560-0178
E-mail: massaro.heidi@caorc.si.edu
URL: http://www.caorc.org

Attn: Ms. Jane Mitchell
Telephone: (202) 842-8636
Fax: (202) 786-2430
E-mail: Mitchell.jane@caorc.si.edu

Deadline: Dec. 31, 2001
• 2002 WARA/WARC Collaborative Scholars-in-Residence Fellowship Program

We are hereby announcing the 2002 Fellowship Competition with the hope that the information will reach a large number of potential candidates. The West African Research Center in Dakar, Senegal, is offering one (1) collaborative fellowship set, to support a pair of researchers (one researcher based in a West African institution and one based in a North American institution). The pair of researchers will spend 2-3 months at the Center as scholars-in-residence in order to collaborate on their joint project. Priority will be given to scholars who have already initiated collaborative projects and who require work time together in order to finish a manuscript such as a book, book chapter, or journal article.

Eligibility: Scholars must have a doctorate or an equivalent terminal degree (i.e. an MFA, etc.) and hold a permanent faculty or research position at a West African or a North American institution of higher education, and have a scholarly record in their field of collaborative research.

Terms and conditions: Each fellowship will cover round trip air fare from the scholars home institution to Dakar, a maintenance stipend for two to three months’ residency ($5,000 for each researcher) in Dakar, and a supplementary $500 stipend for materials (books, software, photocopies, etc.) for the two West African fellows. Fellows are required to be in residence at WARC where they will be given office space with adequate research equipment and Internet access for the duration of the fellowship. They will also be required to conduct scholarly seminars on their research projects at the Center and to be available for consultation with other scholars associated with the Center. The Center and the Fellowship Program must be acknowledged in any publication resulting from the collaborative project.

Applications: Joint proposals, of no more than ten (10) pages in length, written by both applicants, should be submitted to the WARA office in Madison, Wisconsin or the WARC/CROA office in Dakar, Senegal by the deadline date. Proposals should, in concrete terms, describe the history of the collaboration between the two scholars on the project at hand, summarize the significance of the research, the planned methodology, and the anticipated results. A curriculum vita and three (3) letters of recommendation for each applicant should be submitted to:

WARC/CROA
B.P. 5456 (Fann-Residence)
Rue E x Léon G. Damas
Dakar, Senegal
Telephone: 9-011-221-8-24-20-62
Fax: 9-011-221-8-24-20-58
email: atoure@mail.ucad.sn

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or

WARA
1414 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI 53706
Telephone: 608-263-3749
Fax: 608-265-4151
email: emakward@facstaff.wisc.edu
website: http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/afrst/wara.html

A detailed report, separate from the ultimate publication, must be submitted to WARA at the completion of the Project for publication in its newsletter.

Deadline for applications: January 31, 2002

Astou Touré leaving Chicago after ESL course at UW-Madison

• WARA Fellowship Competition, Spring/Summer 2002

(Please note that both pre-doctoral and post-doctoral applicants are now eligible to apply for these fellowships.)

Three (3) research fellowships are being offered for Spring/Summer of 2002 in West Africa with funding from the U.S. Department of Education. These fellowships are open to both pre-doctoral and post-doctoral candidates who wish to conduct research for a 10-12 week period in order: 1) to prepare a doctoral research proposal; 2) complete or elaborate upon earlier research; 3) enhance their understanding of a particular topic in order to improve teaching effectiveness or broaden course offerings.

The competition is open to U.S. citizens who teach or are enrolled in graduate programs at institutions of higher education in the United States.

Each fellowship will provide round trip travel to a West African country and a stipend of $5,000 to cover cost of living
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expenses. The West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, Senegal may assist with academic contacts and affiliations and recommendations for lodging in the country chosen by the fellow.

Candidates must submit an essay of no more than eight (8) pages describing the concept, methodology and significance of their research project to their academic field or teaching profession. Supporting materials must include three (3) letters of recommendation by professors (for pre-doctoral candidates) or established scholars in their field (for post-doctoral candidates); a curriculum vitae; and college transcripts (for pre-doctoral candidates).

Upon completion of their research, fellows are required to submit a detailed report of their work and findings. This report will subsequently be published in the WARA/WARC newsletters. Please direct inquiries and submit all relevant materials (one original and three copies) to:

WARA
1414 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI 53706
Telephone: 608-265-3749
Fax: 608-265-4151
email: emakward@facstaff.wisc.edu
website: http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/afrst/wara.html


- **WARA Minority Student Internships Competition, Spring/Summer 2002**

Three (3) Spring/Summer 2002 Minority Student Internships are being offered in West Africa in an effort to increase the active participation of minorities in international affairs (African-Americans, Eskimo or Aleut, Native American Indians, Mexican Americans, Native Pacific Islanders, Puerto Ricans). Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the competition is open to U.S. citizens who are enrolled in the M.A. program of an accredited college or university in the United States. We strongly encourage students from HBCU's and those without previous foreign travel experience to apply.

Each internship will provide round trip travel to the indicated West African country and a stipend to cover the cost of living for 6 to 8 weeks. The West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, Senegal may assist selected interns to locate lodgings, identify and establish in advance an appropriate internship affiliation with an agency, university or other suitable organization. Applicants, who have already established contacts with suitable agencies or institutions, should keep WARA well informed of their arrangements.

Applicants should submit a 4-6-page statement describing 1) the kind of internship they would like to carry out, including the field of activity (e.g., education, rural development, health, etc.); 2) the country they wish to work in; 3) the contribution such an experience would make to their academic and later professional career; 4) the academic, linguistic and/or other background they possess that prepares and qualifies them for this work; and 5) any previous international experience. In addition to this personal statement, each applicant must submit three (3) letters of recommendation from professors, a resume, and college transcript(s) with his/her application.

Upon completion of their internship, interns are required to submit a detailed report of their work experience. This report will be subsequently published in the WARA/WARC newsletter. Please direct inquiries and submit all relevant materials (one original and three copies) to:

WARA
1414 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Madison, WI 53706
Telephone: 608-265-3749
Fax: 608-265-4151
email: emakward@facstaff.wisc.edu
website: http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/afrst/wara.html

Deadline: January 31, 2002

- **WARC/CROA Travel Grant**

The West African Research Center is now offering six (6) travel bursaries of up to $2000 to West African scholars and graduate students working or enrolled in African institutions. These funds may be used to:
1) Attend and read papers at academic conferences relevant to the applicant's field of research in the US and elsewhere.
2) Visit libraries or archives that contain resources necessary to the applicant's current academic work.

Applications will consist of the following:
- a description (7 double-spaced pages maximum) of the applicant's research and how the proposed travel is relevant to this work. Please include relevant dates, venue, etc...
- CV with research and teaching record when applicable;
- an abstract of the paper to be read and a letter of acceptance to the conference (for those wishing to attend meetings);
- a description of the collections to be consulted and their significance to the applicant's research (for those wishing to travel to libraries or archives).

Graduate student applicants should, in addition, submit a letter of recommendation by the professor overseeing their research.
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- **Two Fellowship Awardees:**
  1. Susan Shepler, University of California, Berkeley: “Making and Unmaking child soldiers in Sierra Leone” (Sierra Leone)
  2. Shannon Marquez, University of Iowa: “Participatory Approaches to Environments Improvements for Control of Urban Malaria and Waterborne Diseases in The Gambia” (Gambia)

  **Alternates:**
  1. First alternate: Bjorn C. Westgard, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: “Postcolonial Treatments: Articulating Bodies, Knowledges, and Communities in Fatick, Senegal” (Senegal)

- **Two Internship Awardees:**
  1. Yazmine Watts, Western Michigan University: “Women’s Political Participation in Senegal’s Transition to Democracy” (Senegal)
  2. Flora Jennifer Jones, University of Virginia: “Political Factors influencing a Government’s response to the AIDS Epidemic in Senegal” (Senegal)

  **Alternates:**
  1. First Alternate: Shana O. Ntiri, Boston University: “International Collaborative Action Against HIV/AIDS in West Africa” (Ghana)

- **Two Scholars-in-Residence Fellowship Awardees:**
  Portia Cobb, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Ibrahima Seck, Lycee Blaise Diagne, Dakar: “The Roots of Blues Culture: A Video Documentary” (Senegal)

- **CAORC Multi-Country awardee going to West Africa**
  James F Walker, Comparative Literature Dept., University of Colorado, Boulder. He will conduct research in Italy and Senegal for his Ph D project, “Africa in Italy”, an interrogation of the relationships between Italy and Africa, through literature and the media, from the late 1800’s to today.

For deadlines, please check with WARC/CROA in Dakar. For 2001-2002 WARC/CROA will conduct 2 application reviews: one in October and one in March. This year we allocated 7 bursaries out of a pool of 26 applications. We hope to be able to increase the number of bursaries in the very near future.

Send your applications to the WARC/CROA office in Dakar.

WARC/CROA
B.P. 5456 (Fann-Residence)
Rue E x Léon G. Damas
Dakar, Senegal
Telephone: 9-011-221-8-24-20-62
Fax: 9-011-221-8-24-20-58
email: assist@ucad.sn

2001 WARF FELLOWSHIP AND INTERNSHIP AWARDS

We are happy to announce the following:

- **Travel Grant Awardees:**
  2. Ben K. Fred-Mensah, Ph. D., "Looking Up to the Victims: Land Scarcity and Women’s Role in Household Food Provisioning". To update research materials in Ghana.
  3. Ayoade Raufu Adepoju, University of Ibadan (* Special Case $1000). "Folklore in the works of Bernard Binlin Dadié". To visit Library Archives in Cote d’Ivoire.
Edris Makward - continued from page 1.
From: Judy Scales-Trent. Date: 3/27/01
To: WARA - Madison
Dear colleague:
I am sitting here in sunny Dakar (Fulbright professor at the law school, UCAD), with no idea if my membership has lapsed or not! Could you let me know?
Many thanks. Judy.

From: E. M. Date: 3/31/01
Dear Judy;
Lucky you! There is still talk of snow for this weekend here! Your WARA membership is paid up through 09/01. Be sure to let us know if you want your Spring 01 newsletter to a different address. Hope you are in touch with our WARC Center in Fann-Residence while in Senegal (Rue E x Leon G. Damas. Ph: 824 2062).
So long; Edris

From: Wendy Wilson Fall to E. M. Date: 4/2/01
HI Edris.
Judith gave a brilliant talk here during the month of February which I will mention in my forthcoming report. She is a regular visitor to the Center and a strong supporter as well.
Wendy.

From: Judy Scales-Trent – to E. M. Date: 4/3/01
Dear Edris:
...As for WARC, it has been a life-saver this year -- I go there to work on my class, or have lunch, because I run into so many interesting scholars there, learn a lot, make helpful connections. I had never even heard of WARA until my friend Papa Demba Fall (at IFAN) told me to join last year; and then he told me this Fall to get over to WARC to meet Wendy...and I'm so glad he did!

Judy.

Yes. I can say without any hesitation whatsoever that some people must be doing the right thing. Yes indeed: some people and not just one person! WARA/WARC is definitely a collective venture and the actors comprise, the staff in Dakar under the leadership of Wendy Wilson Fall as Center Director, Oumar Ndongo, indefatigable current AROA President and WARC Program Coordinator in addition to his responsibility as Thomson Prometric Director at WARC and the entire WARC/CROA. There are also, on this side of the Atlantic, the WARA Board and US Director Leigh Swigart and the entire membership (individual and institutional), and last but not least, the invaluable support and guidance of CAORC (Council of African Overseas Research Centers) and its Executive Director, Mary Ellen Lane, in Washington DC.

Which brings me to the main points of this Spring's timely Presidential remarks. For one, I feel confident that the reports in this issue by WARC Director Wendy Wilson Fall, by David Robinson on the MSU/WARC/IFAN New Technology involvement, by Mbye Cham on the NEH funded African Film Workshop for HBCU's instructors and by Leigh Swigart on the ALMA project, will be sufficient to convey the message to our readers that WARA/WARC is not dozing off on its laurels - far from it! And the very stimulating lecture series, Art Exhibits, Cultural Events at the Center throughout the year, continue to attract an evergrowing and diverse audience.

These Notes will therefore focus on the WARA transition - a two-pronged transition. I will begin by insisting that this transition is definitely not a sign of trouble or instability. I can say honestly and without any hesitation whatsoever that WARA/WARC is in very good health, but as founding father and current WARA Vice President David Robinson puts it: It's time for new blood!

So, after almost 6 years at the helm of our organization as President, and having retired from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in December 1999, it is time to pass on the torch. This decision to pass on the torch applies also to David Robinson as Vice President, but we both plan to remain connected with WARA/WARC and its multifaceted activities in Senegal and in the region.

Consequently, a very competent Nominating Committee was appointed at the Tuesday April 24 WARA Board Teleconference and we are confident that this Committee's report will result in very competent and committed candidates for WARA President and Vice President who will be willing to serve, if elected at our November Board meeting at ASA in Houston, TX, in accordance with WARA Bylaws.

The other component of the WARA transition is the search for new US/WARA headquarters. Leigh Swigart who has been serving as part time salaried WARA US Director since last
October, took the initiative of exploring with BU (Boston University), the feasibility of moving the WARA secretariat from Wisconsin to BU with Leigh Swigart as WARA US Director and Research fellow at the African Studies Center. This arrangement is now being actively pursued and I have communicated several times with Jim McCann, BU African Studies Center Director in recent weeks. The outcome of this effort could definitely end up being the ideal solution for WARA, with BU serving as our permanent or semi-permanent US home while the Presidency could rotate every three years or so. A Proposal for Agreement between the BU/ASC and WARA is now on the table.

We hope to be able to complete this WARA transition effort by the time of our Fall meetings at the ASA Nov. 15-18 Annual meetings in Houston, TX.

I will close these presidential notes with our invitation to all WARA friends and members to please not allow their membership to lapse, and to renew it now, i.e. as soon as they receive this Newsletter issue in the mail. I also wish to urge those members who can play the role of liaison with their institution to please do so and have the institutional membership fee be forwarded to us without further delay. In the eyes of funding agencies, it is indeed imperative that we continue to be a consortium of U.S. institutions and scholars committed to Research in Area Studies, and educational and cultural exchange.

I would like to point out that in view of the quality and number of Fellowship applications this year, we are planning on combining our two major funding sources - the USED Grant and the ECA-CAORC subgrant to increase the number of 2002 Fellowship and Internship grants to three. We are indeed aware of the importance of this particular service to our constituents and also as a central component of our mission to increase and develop the quality of postgraduate research in area studies and of educational and cultural exchange in the region.

One other important facet of our mission is to involve more regional scholars in collaborative work with US scholars, teachers and graduate students. We are thus very happy to be able to continue our Travel Award Program to West African Scholars and postgraduate students to attend and participate in international scholarly meetings in the US and elsewhere. This program is funded though our ECA/CAORC subgrant and we are pleased to have been able to award five (5) $2000 and two (2) $1000 grants out of a pool of 26 qualified applicants. We are hopeful to be in a position to increase this level as well as the level of our other fellowship programs through our sustained fundraising effort under the leadership of our US Director Dr. Leigh Swigart working closely with our WARC Director in Dakar, Dr. Wendy Wilson Fall and the Presidents of WARA (The West African Research Association) and AROA (l'Association de Recherche Ouest Africaine).

I am happy to highlight here our effort to include in each issue of our Newsletter, a contribution - a short article, an interview- by a distinguished Africanist scholar, WARA member and associate. We have featured in past issues, interviews of significant African figures and short articles by WARA members (a writer, a prominent businessman). In this issue, we have included a contribution by Harold Scheub of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a long time WARA member and supporter. His contribution is entitled: Telling Michael K's Story. In our Fall 2001 issue, we will carry Toward Constitutional Re-engineering: A Three-tier Democratic Federation as the Future of Nigeria by Godfrey Uzoigwe of Mississippi State University, who has now joined WARA. We plan to continue this practice of soliciting contributions regularly from the great pool of distinguished scholars that constitute our WARA and AROA memberships, for subsequent issues of our Newsletter.

Edris Makward

Edris Makward in the WARA office at UW-Madison

Wendy Wilson Fall - continued from page 1

WARC/CROA Director.

WARC had a full program of meetings with local researchers. In May, WARA member Rick Chain is scheduled to present a paper entitled "Primpin: Circulating Urban Images of Elegance in the Black Atlantic, 1940s - 1970s." Al Roberts plans to visit again in June, and will give a presentation describing his recent work with Mouride Art.

Also in March, Mark Chichester, Director of the Institute for International Public Policy, part of the Special Programs Corporation of the United Negro College Fund, paid WARC a visit. He was accompanied by Lisa Fanning, his assistant Tejan Muata, a consultant who specializes in the design and implementation of university educational tours abroad, and Dr. David Beckley, President of Rust College. The objective of the tour was to gather information for the future implementation of educational programs for students and teachers from historically black colleges and universities. Professor Oumar
Ndongo, President of AROA and WARC Programs Coordinator and I, held discussions with this group regarding the possibility of future cooperation. While in Senegal, the team also met with the Rector of Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD) and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cheikh Tidiane Gadio.

WARA US Director Leigh Swigart was at WARC in March for the start-up phase of her project, African Language Materials Archives, ALMA funded by UNESCO. Again, we thank Board Member Mary Ellen Lane for her support in the process of project development and funding.

The Michigan State University Digitization Project
(see also David Robinson's Progress Report)

So far, in response to recommendations from MSU, WARC has created a Contents Committee to oversee requests and a selection of samples, as well as a Technical Committee which will work closely with the former. Members of the Contents Committee are Oumar Ndongo, Wendy Wilson Fall, Moulaye Keita, Momar Koumba Diop, Aminata Diaw Cisse, and Boubacar Barry. On the technical committee Nene Ndiaye Diop, Abdoulaye Niang, Corey Brandt, Ismaila Ba of the Centre de Suivi Ecologique, and Iba Fallou Thiam of WARC.

Discussions centered around the immense resources of IFAN, its budget constraints, possible location for the team that will be working on the Digitization Project, and meetings with staff. Key actors on the IFAN team are Gora Dia, who is Project Coordinator and also Chief Librarian at IFAN, Nafisatou Bokoum, a staff member of the publications section of IFAN, and Ibrahima Sow, Director of the Publications Division which includes the Library.

The visit of David Robinson and Cheikh Babou from MSU was busy and eventful. WARC/CROA's own Abdoulaye Niang left in January for several weeks of training, first at MSU through support from the Digitization project, where he spent 10 days, and then on to Columbia University where he worked with the Chief of the Africana Library, Joseph Caruso through support from CAORC and its Library Digitization project. Laye has come back with much needed and much appreciated expertise in web development, training others in the use of computers, scanning, and digitization of images and word documents.

In addition to the tasks described above, Laye has been busy with the IFAN, CRDI and ENEAD collaboration with WARC for the MSU Digitization Project. He has already started training some WARC researchers on internet, website, and search engine use (Boubacar Barry and Moulaye Keita were among the first researchers to begin training). RED will soon be ready to begin training for AROA members (discount rate) and other independent researchers and students. WARC intends to eventually offer 24 hour access for AROA members who need to use the internet.

The Bookstore

The WARC Bookstore was finally installed in January of this year thanks to close collaboration between WARC and AROA. AROA generously contributed funds to assist with costs in setting up the bookstore (window frames, awning) and WARC covered the cost of wooden shelving. The Bookstore is stocked with CODESRIA publications thanks to an agreement between WARC and CODESRIA. The Bookstore gains 10% on each sale. In addition, the Bookstore also has T-shirts with the WARC insignia for sale, as well as some excellent pieces of African Art which are there on consignment thanks to contacts of Corey Brandt. WARC also gains 10% on sales of these items. Members and visitors all seem to be delighted with the new addition, and sales are brisk. We invite members to consider having WARC stock some of their publications in the bookstore. We would be delighted to make these publications available to AROA members and visiting students here. WARC staff Seydou Mana is responsible for managing the bookstore on a part-time basis.

The Library

The Library has seen some growth and development over the last few months, as well as a small change in the space it uses. Thanks to the awning which is now over the restaurant space, we are no longer using inside space for the restaurant, freeing up space for the new entrance to the library, which faces the buvette. This change has also added a new meeting room for other activities. The Librarian, Charles Sow, and our Library & Computer Education Advisor, Corey Brandt, are busy listing all holdings so that they can be sent in to Utah for digitization for the CAORC Library Digitization project. The WARC Library is switching from the Dewey Decimal System to the Library of Congress system. Two interns from Hobart & Smith Colleges are helping with the listing and verifying of all library holdings. On another front, three UCAD interns (library science students) will be helping in the cataloguing of recent acquisitions.

Profile of New Staff: Charles Sow, Head Librarian

Charles Sow, a well known short story writer, joined the staff last Fall. His work recently appeared in the volume "La Nouvelle Sénégalaise" edited by James Gaasch, a Fulbright professor who spent last winter here in Dakar, and was here a few weeks ago on a short visit. Sow is currently in a computer training program here at WARC, and guiding Corey Brandt through the WARC library resources. He is a Librarian by training, and worked in this capacity for the École Nationale d'Economie Appliquée from 1978 to 1983, and for the OMVS from 1983 to 1984. Charles Sow is Lauréat du Grand Prix de la Meilleure Nouvelle de Langue Française (1985) for his work "Rôle de Tyran" published by RFI-Hatier. His is also author of a collection of short stories, "Cycle de Sécheresse" (Hatier-Monde Noir, Paris, 1987), and won the Prix Jean Macé de la Ligue Française de l'Enseignement in 1987. Mr. Sow also has experience in the development sector, having worked with several NGOs and bilateral programs, including ENDA, F.I.D. Senegal, USAID, BIT (ILO) PECTA and World Vision International.
The Website

The Dakar based Website is soon to be completed. Nene Ndiaye Diop and I received in-house training in Web design from Corey Brandt during Abdoulaye Niang’s absence. Abdoulaye, Nene and Corey have primary responsibility for designing and installing the Website, as well as its maintenance. We ask all members to keep in touch and to write us with their suggestions and recommendations. The new site will include links to other related sites, such as the one housed at Wisconsin, the MSU Digitization project site, the IFAN site, the UCAD site, and the CAORC site. Charles Sow has the responsibility of reviewing Library acquisitions and determining what resources in the collection might be highlighted on the Web site.

Educational and Computer Advisor

We at WARC/CROA are very lucky this year, to be able to take advantage of the presence in Dakar of Corey Brandt for the academic year 2000/2001. Corey is in Senegal with his wife who holds a U. of Michigan Population Research Fellowship. He is a qualified Librarian (MA. U. of Michigan) and an expert computer handyman. Thanks to a very creative and swift financial arrangement with the office of Public Affairs in Dakar (Chris Datta, PAO) and CAORC in Washington, DC. (Mary Ellen Lane, Executive Director), we were able to hire his invaluable services for a very modest salary.

Corey Brandt is assisting in developing the CAORC digital library, including putting in place new cataloguing techniques. He is carrying out on-going training with Charles Sow, on the use of computers in library management, in revising the library listings to Library of Congress cataloguing techniques, and in redeploying the space used for the Library.

Corey is also assisting in the training sessions which have begun at RED.

The RED Center (Regional Electronic Database)

After unsuccessful efforts using the short-wave antennae approach, WARC and MSU agreed to use the specialized line provided by Sonatel until the University of Cheikh Anta Diop upgrades its own system. All computers on the premises, thanks to visiting MSU staff and Iba Thiam of WARC, are now wired into a local intra-net system and will soon be able to communicate with each other. Special thanks to Scott Pennington who really did a yeoman’s job, in spite of the cold he caught while he was here!!! Another person to be acknowledged is David Robinson, who reacted very quickly to some of the implementation problems we were having with Sonatel. Robinson adroitly included Cheikh Tidiane Seck of UCAD in a few meetings, which advanced the cause considerably. Without this input, it is sure that the installation would have been much slower. So, thanks also to Tidiane Seck.

CAORC’s Library Digitization Project

Abdoulaye Niang is now the main technical resource for WARC as it prepares for the upload of all its catalogues to join the catalogues of the other CAORC’s participating in this project. Also through this project, WARC has been able to purchase an additional computer and scanner for its library.

Art Exhibition

Elimane Fall, one of the Senegalese artists who is featured in colleague Al Robert’s traveling exhibit on Mouride Art, exhibited here at WARC during the month of February. The exhibit, which included mostly mixed media paintings, was very well received. Fall works with oil paint, contrasting mostly earth tones with collages which include cowrie shells and sometimes paper cut-outs. In many cases the paintings themselves are on cut-out canvases, sometimes stretched into unconventional shapes, like his series of V shaped works, or free from frames altogether, they hang from a single wooden dowel. Fall has agreed to allow WARC to exhibit a few of his paintings beyond the closing of the exhibit, which we greatly appreciate.

The WARC Open House

As part of our February African-American History Month, activities, WARC hosted a day of activities related to Blues Music, organized by the WARC Diaspora Working Group. Ibrahima Seck and Sarita Henry put together an impressive program which began with lectures and video films for local high school students and other visitors in the WARC conference room. Later that afternoon, Vieux MacFaye and Suleyman Faye, two Giants of Senegalese and African Diaspora music, charmed a crowd of more than fifty people who attended. This activity was also an occasion to bring attention to the evolving program of the international blues festival that is being organized by the Diaspora Group, the Bouki Blues Festival, scheduled to take place in January, 2002, in St Louis. (Please check website: http://www.homestead.com/bokit bluesfestival)

WARC Film Institute Begins This Summer

Congratulations to Mbye Cham, for the Film Institute Grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and to Mary Ellen Lane who collaborated with Cham in the planning and preparation of the proposal. Cham came through Dakar in February. He was here to tie down a few details of his upcoming June program, which he hopes will be the first of an annual program on West African Film and Filmmakers. Cham, an Associate Professor at Howard University and a former WARA Board Member, will focus this first program on Senegalese and Gambian filmmakers. The program is scheduled for the second week in June, and will include as participants, lecturers from various colleges and universities in the States. (See Cham report in this issue).

The WARA International Symposium for 2002

During her stay in Senegal and Gambia in March for her work on the UNESCO sponsored ALMA (African Language Materials Archives) project, Leigh Swigart, worked also actively with fellow co-conveners Oumar Ndongo and Wendy Wilson Fall on the final Symposium 2002 dates (June 12-15) and Call for Papers (See separate announcement) in this Newsletter issue.
Staff training
Astou Toure Gaye spent 5 weeks in Wisconsin this winter in order to benefit from training in English and in accounting. Most WARA members who have visited our Center, have come to know Astou well. She has been our Administrative Assistant since before our important move to our current permanent premises in Fann Residence in 1977. Astou's US training (ESL at UW-Madison and some accounting and bookkeeping tutorials at CAORC in Washington, DC.) was made possible through our WARA USED grant and also thanks to the generous understanding of Dr. Sandra Arfa, Director of the ESL Program at UW-Madison who allowed her to take the course with a waiver of the normal $3000 semester tuition. This was a great opportunity for Mme Toure to improve her skills and she has expressed genuine satisfaction with the whole experience in spite of the bitter cold, snow and ice!

Other Staff News
Formerly working as a janitor/guard at WARC, Mr. Mbacké Ndiaye is now the receptionist and upgrading his word processing skills. Nene Ndiaye Diop, formerly the receptionist, is now Assistant to the Director. She is also an active member of the Technical Committee for the MSU Digitization project, having become increasingly competent in web design and scanning operations. Abdoulaye Niang, formerly head of the Library, has now transferred over to the RED Center.

With the departure of Madiama Fall, Mariama Barry joined the staff as Assistant to Oumar Ndongo in the English Testing Center, now managed by the Thomson Prometric Company.

Also working with the Thomson Prometric is Mr. Abdoulaye Samba. Charles Sow came on as the new head of the Library (see above), and Seydou Mana, a Burkinabe, divides his time between the Bookstore (Monday, Wednesday and Fridays) and the work that Ndiaye was formerly doing. Iba Thiam, the Doyen of WARC, continues as the Center's right hand man in logistics and procurement, and was trained in computer cable installation during the MSU visit. Cheikh Thiam, Assistant Librarian is receiving in-house training from Corey Brandt on cataloguing. Brandt has received an additional three month's support in salary from USIS (now Office of Public Diplomacy or OPD). With CAORC support, this brings Corey up to nine months at WARC. We all at WARA/WARC are very grateful to CAORC and OPD for their generous support.

Other Activities
Historian Boubacar Barry and I were invited to be filmed in a Michael Palin segment of "The Wonderful World" for BBC. Palin is well known for his role as part of the Monty Python Crew. We accompanied the film team as it traveled to Thies on the train, getting a chance to ride in the Presidential car, although the filming was done in the café car. I had been contacted for this by friends of photographer Carole Beckwith who were on the team. The segment, which features a discussion between Barry, Palin and me about the region, will be part of a larger segment on the Sahara and the Sahel. The team continued on to Timbuktu, and the Thies segment was done as though we were also with the team on the way to that historic Malian city.

Wendy Wilson Fall

Oumar Ndongo- continued from page 1
Ambassador, Gorée Island and the Pink Lake. A city tour was also provided as well as an introduction to Dakar's main source of transportation "les car rapides". At the end of the first week, the students were introduced to their host families and began their family experiences.

The first month of the program consisted of intensive Wolof and lectures delivered by a variety of professors. The lectures were part of a Senegalese History and Culture course that continued throughout the duration of the program. Their subject matter ranged from the effect the French had on Senegal and the slave trade, to Islam, social class structures and the place of women in present society. After the first month, French and West African literature were added to the schedule. The literature course primarily focused on Senegalese literature as being representative of West African literature as a whole. In addition to taking courses, students went on excursions such as St. Louis, Joal, Fatick, Toubia, Djouj, Keur Moussa Monastery and even had the opportunity to cross the border into Mauritania. They were also able to visit the Gambia.

Some students learned how to dance and play traditional African musical instruments at the Conservatoire National de Musique et de Danse. The instruments consisted of the balafon, the tam-tam and djembe drums, and the kora. A recital occurred after only a few lessons in which the students performed exceptionally well. Students also learned traditional African dances at Yoff village. They were initiated to Gumbe and Ndawrabine and presented what they learned by recently participating in a Tanebeer (popular nocturnal dance ceremony) held at Yoff. Another element of the program was a community service project. As a group, students aided in providing children in Thiayore with a new basketball court, painted a mosque as well as CODIS, a community development center. The group was also very useful in helping the WARC library re-code its numerous books. The program concluded with an intensive evaluation of possible improvements to be made in future programs. A cultural evening on April 12, 2001 was organized to thank all those who contributed to the success of the program. This program was initiated by Prof. George Joseph of Hobart & William Smith Colleges and a current WARA Board member.

David Robinson- continued from page 1
library of West African sources in multiple languages that includes sound, text and image content from multiple countries. These materials will be made freely accessible over the Internet in the United States, West Africa, and throughout the world - many of them for the first time. For scholars and students
conducting research and teaching about West Africa as well as teachers and students of Africa and African languages in both the United States and West Africa, the potential impact of this project is of great significance.

From March 4 to 13, a Michigan State University team visited Dakar to work with WARC and IFAN on the project. The members of the MSU team were Mark Kornbluh, Executive Director of MATRIX/H-Net, Scott Pennington, a technician and trainer from MATRIX, David Robinson, Professor of History who has conducted research and publication on Senegal over the last 30 years, and Cheikh Babou, a history doctoral student who has worked closely with the project since its inception in 1998.

The goals of the trip were two-fold. First, we wanted to do everything possible to get WARC’s electronic network up and running. MSU had supplied a server and computer stations in November 1999, on the expectation that they would function with a radio wave connection with the University Cheikh Anta Diop. That connection did not materialize WARC consequently contracted with SONATEL in late 2000 for a direct cable connection which has yet to be completed. Naturally, Wendy Wilson Fall, director of WARC, has always been eager to have all of the computers at WARC connected, and to this end, the MSU team brought in a heavy box of cables, patch boxes, and other equipment.

Pennington’s goal of connecting intra-WARC was achieved under his leadership and with some timely assistance from other quarters. Scott, working with WARC staff, was able to eliminate the viruses that had accumulated on the equipment and then to connect all of the computers by drilling, running lines and relay boxes across the full extent of the sprawling WARC building. He also was able to put in place a Norton system to check for viruses and clean up any floppy or CD-ROM disks that are put into the machines.

The goal of connecting to the Sonatel cable and to the Internet was finally achieved thanks to the assistance of Tidiane Seck, the director of computing at the university and an electrical engineer. He diagnosed the problem, the need for a particular router and cable, called the appropriate people at Sonatel, and got them out to WARC on March 12. Sonatel has now loaned a 1605-R router and V36 cable to WARC. Abdoulaye Niang, the director of computing at WARC, was back in Dakar by March 12, after over a month of training and work at MSU and Columbia University, and was able to identify each computer station for the router. Niang is already at work, training researchers at WARC. The long awaited RED (Regional Electronic Database) is now functioning under him (See Wendy Wilson Fall’s report).

The second goal of the trip was to launch the collaboration between MSU, WARC and IFAN on the project ADL-WAS. This involved Alioune Camara, the program officer for Senegal at IDRC, and Cheikh Aw, the director of INEADE, the pedagogical institute associated with the project, as well as the team from IFAN (coordinated by Gora Dia, documentalist) and staff from WARC. We had a number of meetings, in most of which Wendy Wilson Fall was involved, with various university administrators: Oumar Sarr, the Director of International Relations for UCAD, Henri Sene, the head of the UCAD library, Djibril Samb, the Director of IFAN, Massamba Lam, the director of the IFAN Museum of Culture downtown, and Tidiane Seck (mentioned above) and other computer-related people at the university.

Mark and Scott made PowerPoint presentations to the key staff at WARC and IFAN and to the general public at a WARC meeting about the ADL-WAS project and showed testbeds prepared at Michigan State in February (one on Bonduku, Côte d’Ivoire mosque images, supplied by Ray Silverman of the Art Department at MSU, and one on tapes in Pulaar and translations in French from the collection of David Robinson of the History Department). This presentation, translated into French by Cheikh and the subject of much animated discussion on 4 separate occasions, was designed to show both the possibilities and challenges of digitization and creating a digital library or archive. We emphasized the goals of access, preservation, education, and visibility. We also emphasized a work plan in which together we would create protocols and standards for digitizing, the metadata or cataloguing forms to make the material searchable, storage at IFAN, WARC and MSU, and delivery of materials to users (researchers, teachers, students, etc.). Regarding content, we agreed that we would be looking for materials of interest for research, for education in a variety of schools, and materials in sound, image and text formats. In addition to putting content on the interlocking web pages of IFAN, WARC and MSU, we see the project as making important contributions to the rapidly evolving area of digital libraries, standards for digitizing in different formats, providing access and safeguarding intellectual property.

On the last day, Babou, Wilson Fall and I met with the IFAN team in the company of Camara and Aw to discuss the launching of the work at IFAN. We were able to see a sampling of the rich IFAN collections, for example in the Phototéque. IFAN established a working team, to be coordinated by Gora Dia, that would meet in 7-10 days and map out the locale, equipment needs and timetable for beginning the work. Camara and the MSU group hope that a system for scanning can be installed in a suitable, air conditioned room at IFAN in the very near future and that we can envision a training program on that equipment during summer 2001.

We had a number of meetings and conversations during the stay with Chris Datta, the Public Affairs Officer, Steve Taylor, the Cultural Affairs Officer, and Paul Herman, their assistant. They have been extremely interested in and committed to WARC and the MSU initiated projects, and were very helpful at every point.

Cheikh Babou stayed in Senegal until March 28 and was able to have a number of other meetings and conversations with WARC and IFAN teams. He was able to confirm the
considerable momentum of the project. We now have a timetable for purchasing the IFAN equipment with the IDRC money, establishing the computer laboratory there and the modalities of collaboration with the laboratory at WARC, as well as scheduling training sessions for the staff who will be involved in the digitization. We hope to send out a trainer by July of 2001.

David Robinson

OTHER REPORTS

NEH Funded African Film Workshop

Context and Significance of West African Film: A Curriculum Workshop For HBCU Teachers

June 17 - 27, 2001
Dakar, Senegal

The workshop is targeted at junior and middle level faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) currently teaching or planning to teach humanities courses with significant African content and focus. It is designed to reinforce and expand a humanistic approach to African Studies by providing HBCU faculty with a site-based program on the context and significance of West African film and its applications to HBCU curricula. The workshop, directed by Howard University film scholar, Mbye Cham, will include lectures on the history of film in Africa, its relationship to literature and oral tradition, and the significance of film in African human and social development. It will also include sessions with Senegal-based scholars (Boubakar Barry, Wendy Wilson) and West African filmmakers (Moussa Sene Absa, Fatou Kande, Ben Diogaye Beye, etc.) who will screen, interpret, and discuss their films. Residence in Dakar and visits to places of historic importance in the surrounding area will give participants the particularistic experience necessary to incorporate West African films into a broadened understanding of West African culture and life. Each participant will be responsible for contributing a curriculum plan which will be discussed and evaluated in the closing days of the workshop.

Five fellows selected for the workshop are:

Daniel Boyd
Communications Department
West Virginia State College
Institute, West Virginia
Yvonne McIntosh
Department of Foreign Languages
Florida A&M University
Tallahassee, Florida

Conchita Ndege
Mattye Reed African Heritage Center
North Carolina A&T University
Greensboro, North Carolina

Derek Williams
Department of Visual Arts, Humanities and Theatre
Florida A&M University
Tallahassee, Florida

Virginia Tyler
Africana Studies
St. Augustine's College
Raleigh, North Carolina

Mbye Cham
Department of African Studies
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Washington, DC 20059
(202)238-2355 tel
(202)238-2326 fax
mcham@howard.edu

Mbye Cham, Howard U.

Brigitte Gnoumou at work in WARA office in UW Madison

The African Language Material Archive (ALMA) Background

In October 2000, UNESCO made a grant to the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) for the feasibility phase of the Senegambian portion of the African Language Material Archive (ALMA). The West African Research Association, which originally conceptualized ALMA, was subcontracted to facilitate the necessary work. ALMA is an initiative that aims to increase dissemination of, and access to materials published in indigenous African languages, thereby aiding the retention of vernacular literacy in Africa. The
creation of ALMA involves the identification, collection, and digitization of published materials and their subsequent production in both CD-ROM and web formats. The technical phase of the initiative will be carried out at the West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar. Senegal and Gambia were chosen for the ALMA pilot since they share several prominent languages, Wolof, Pulaar, and Mandinka, in which publication has been plentiful. The proximity of publication sources to WARC will also allow for the efficient transfer of selected Senegalese and Gambian materials to the ALMA processing site. ALMA is part of the CAORC-sponsored American Overseas Digital Library, which aims to make inaccessible material available in electronic form to all audiences.

I visited Senegal and Gambia from March 7-19 in order to meet with the authors/publishers/editors of various kinds of materials published in Wolof, Pulaar, and Mandinka. These sources had been identified with the assistance of ALMA’s consultants, Mr. Matar Baldeh in Gambia (a literacy specialist at Catholic Relief Services) and Dr. Amadou Hamady Diop in Senegal (a sociolinguist at the Centre de Linguistique Appliquée de Dakar). Many of the materials are also cited in the Répertoire des Manuels d’Education de Base Non Formelle (1999-2000 Version), a publication prepared by the Senegalese Direction de l’Alphabétisation et de l’Éducation de Base. In the company of the ALMA consultants, I met with several dozen individual authors and directors of NGO’s specializing in literacy activities to explain in detail the initiative and to ask for permission to include some of their materials on the ALMA CD-ROM and website.

Materials collected
After an initial reticence on the part of some authors/publishers about releasing rights to the materials for inclusion in ALMA, most sources agreed to contribute a few of their more important publications in return for:

- a short write-up of their organization, or a profile of an individual author, which would be attached to the contributed items;
- inclusion of a list of additional publications with contact information;
- a link to their own organization’s website if one already exists.

The consultants and I consider that these conditions will aid in the dissemination of both African language materials and information on the providers of these materials.

The materials that have been contributed so far to ALMA represent a wide range of genres and subject matter. They include: post-literacy materials (e.g. booklets on small enterprise activities, health, human rights, etc.); newspapers intended for, and sometimes edited by, the newly literate; religious materials (e.g. Koranic and Biblical texts); poetry; information on AIDS and its prevention; folktales and epics; African language translations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and articles on oral history and culture. These materials have been contributed by NGO’s and academic institutions as well as by individuals who publish in Senegambian languages. We believe that once ALMA has a “product” on a CD-ROM and website, it is very likely that other sources will come forward to contribute their own materials.

Intended Audience
During our discussions on ALMA, we generally met with great enthusiasm on the part of literary specialists once they understood the potential impact of ALMA on the promotion of a literate environment in their countries. While computers are as of yet unavailable to the overwhelming majority of the Senegalese and Gambian population, the advance of information technology in both Senegal and Gambia over the last few years has been enormous. Both Dakar and Banjul are full of cyber-cafes that are in high demand, mostly by high school and university students. But the importance of the internet has not escaped the notice of those in literacy classes although they have had little exposure to it. Many of the literacy people we spoke with seemed to feel that the creation of an African language archive now is important so that it is in place when computers become commonplace even in remote areas.

The Association pour le Développement de l’Éducation en Afrique (ADEF) has gone the farthest in its exploration of the use of information technology for post-literacy purposes. In 2000, with the support of IDRC (Acacia Program) and the Direction de l’Alphabétisation et de l’Éducation de Base in Senegal, ADEF carried out an experimental program in which neo-literates in the Dakar area were trained to use computers and to access information through both the web and CD-ROM’s. The materials they accessed were mostly summaries of African language materials that had been collected on CD-ROM. ADEF Director Aloume Danfa was delighted with the idea that such a program could be repeated with students accessing entire texts via the computer. The results of this experimental program were presented during the 25th National Literacy Week in Senegal at UNESCO-BREDAN, Dakar.

It is also clear that the secondary audience for ALMA, non-African students and scholars of African languages, will greatly benefit by the existence of a centralized source of materials. The teachers of African languages that I have spoken to in the United States and France have been very enthusiastic about the curriculum development that such an archive would make possible.

Methods of Dissemination
All organizations and authors who have contributed materials to ALMA will receive several copies of the ALMA CD-ROM. They will also be made available upon request by others in the field of literacy, post-literacy, or education more generally in Africa, or by neo-literates themselves. This will be done through the West African Research Center. Preparing a
press release and contacting Senegalese and Gambian journalists about the DC-ROM and website would be an effective way of informing the public about the existence of ALMA. Organizations and individuals outside of Africa who wish to obtain the CD-ROM will be able to purchase it at a small cost from WARC which will cover postage.

Next Steps
UNESCO has accepted our feasibility study and given its consent for the second phase of the project. Contributed materials will be scanned and then organized according to language, country, and subject matter (e.g. health, environment, folk tales, poetry, Koranic text, Biblical text, etc.). A brief summary of each item will be written in both English and French and three or four keywords will be indicated (language, country, subject matter, etc.). The texts themselves will be scanned as images since this is the easiest way to solve problems of “unconventional” characters. The summaries and keywords will be scanned as text, however, and will thus be searchable.

We anticipate that by the end of Summer 2001, the ALMA website will be functioning and we will be able to transfer the information on this website to UNESCO for production in CD-ROM form.

Leigh Swigart, ALMA Director

MEMBERS’ ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS

- Simon Battestini’s book, African Writing and Text, is now available in English translation.

This work presents the conclusions of more than three decades of research in Africa. The author posits that the history of the relationship between Africa and the rest of the world is still impeded by a misunderstanding about the definition of writing. He examines numerous texts and points out their limitations and ideological conditionings. He refutes the stereotype of an Africa without writing, literature, history, or culture, dominated by oral traditions — a myth created to justify the colonial enterprise, which unfortunately still remains with us against evidence and logic. Collected data and its analysis, in fact, show that both oral tradition and writing coexist everywhere in Africa.

By bringing African data into the sciences of writing and text, definitions, categories and reasoning about the writing-text relationship are transformed, thus leading to the proposal of a new grammatology perceiving the text as a product of writing.

Simon Battestini’s interdisciplinary approach to a whole continent of text and writing opens many new fields of African studies and builds the foundation of a truly universal grammatology integrating all writing systems.

Translated by Professor Henri Evans from the French text published in May 1997: Ecriture et texte, Contribution Africaine. Les Presses de l’Université Laval (Saint Nicolas, Québec, Canada) and Présence Africaine (Paris, France).

Contents
Foreword by the author; Preface by Professor Guy Spielmann (Georgetown University). Chapter 1. Visible Speech, Seized Thought: Defining Concepts: Writing and Thought and / or Speech; Chapter 2. Africa and Writing: Introducing a Continent of Writing Systems and Texts as a Critique of Current Writing Studies; Chapter 3. History: About the Relationship of History and Writing Studies; Chapter 4. Society: Of the Life of Signs within African Societies; Chapter 5. Art: Art as Text and Art Context; Chapter 6. Paroles: From Spoken Words to Thought-Writing; Chapter 7. Knowledge: Of the Necessity to Evaluate Knowledge Through Its Perceivable Symptoms; Chapter 8. Text: From Written Text to Culture; Chapter 9. Literature: Effects of African Writings on Other Cultures; Conclusion: Towards a Theory of Writing and Text; Bibliography (800 references); Index (200 entries). 472 pages.

The author
A Georgetown University Professor of French and African Studies, Simon Battestini, trained as a linguist and semiotician in Dakar (Senegal), conducted research and taught in Africa (1951-1983) and in America (1983-1998). All of his publications are inspired by discourse analysis. Now retired in France, he is preparing, with a team of scholars, the Encyclopedic Dictionary of African Writing and Text.
E-mail: simon.battestini@wanadoo.fr

African Writing and Text may be obtained from:
Legas Press, P.O. Box 040328, Brooklyn, New York, USA 11204. $39.95. Legas Press, 68, Kamloops Ave, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1V 7C9. Legas Press, 2908, Dufferin Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6B 3S8. Or by e-mail to sbrocchi@uottawa.ca or by fax to Professor Leonard Sbrocchi, fax (613) 562 5138.

Ecriture et texte, contribution africaine is to be ordered from:
Les Presses de l’Université Laval, Distribution Univers, 845, rue Marie-Victorin, Saint-Nicolas, Québec, Canada G7A 3S8. Tel. (418) 831-7474 or I 800 859-7474. Fax (418) 831 4021. $37.45. Add within Canada $3.50 or from outside Canada $7.20 for postage.
Or Présence Africaine, 25 bis rue des Ecoles, 75005 Paris, France. Tel. 01 43 54 13 74. Fax. 01 43 25 96 67. French Francs 220.

- William Zartman held annual African Days Conference at SAIS — Johns Hopkins University on IDRC / IBI / USAID sponsored project on the impact of research on policy. The
project was put together by Lucy Phillips and Djeri Seck, who expressed interest in holding a rerun of this Conference before policy-makers in Dakar.

WARA will explore actively holding such an event at WARC / CROA, planned tentatively for October 2001.


The chapter focuses on educational developments during the 1990s and 2000 in Senegal and Gabon in the fields of formal and non-formal education. The chapter explores educational development in terms of gender differences, and it focuses particular attention on innovatory approaches to educational research and development being spearheaded in Senegal.

- Linda Beck, Bernard College, Columbia University, and WARA Board member, gave a public lecture at WARC / CROA Wednesday January 3, 2001 on La Décéntralisation à Touba. Linda was conducting field work on her new research project, in Senegal.

- On 30 January 2001, Guy Martin (Government & Foreign Affairs, University of Virginia) was interviewed by host Walter Turner on the national radio program ‘Africa Today’ on KPFA Radio/Berkeley, CA on recent political developments in Cote d’Ivoire. Guy has now moved to the Atlanta area (Decatur, GA)

- Scheub, Harold. University of Wisconsin-Madison. A dictionary of African mythology: the mythmaker as storyteller. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. 368p bibli index afp ISBN 0195124561, $30.00. Outstanding Academic Book Winner. Reviewed in 2000 June CHOICE. These narratives, in alphabetical order by mythological figure or hero, have been gleaned by the author from written documentation of African oral traditions he collected over many years, published in African Oral Narratives, Proverbs, Riddles, Poetry and Song (1977), to which he adds material collected since that time. The book also contains some stories he collected and published in The Tongue Is Fire (CHOICE, Jun, 1997). It is an extraordinarily rich compilation of origin tales, heroic quests, accounts of benevolent and vengeful gods, and variations on the continent-wide story of the slow chameleon who inadvertently let death into the world. From time to time, the author intervenes to invest insight into the nature of mythmakers and their audience. He finishes with the “grand myth,” an Africa-wide archetype that fits surprisingly well. The book is well documented; names of mythological figures are linked to a section on sources, which leads to a large bibliography—important, since many of the stories are pieces of larger works or confluences of several sources. Indexes by country and culture/language group are included along with a general index. Highly recommended.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

An Article By Harold Scheub

TELLING MICHAEL K’S STORY

“He is like a stone, a pebble...”

In 1996, considering “the century’s great writers,” a number of prominent critics and authors could think of no world writer beyond the 1950s to add to their number. Was anyone today as good a writer as Proust, Joyce, Kafka, Musil, Faulkner, and Beckett? “Perhaps John Coetzee,” offered the poet Joseph Brodsky. “A South African. He is the only one who has a right to write prose after Beckett,” and he referred to Life & Times of Michael K to underscore his point.

There is nothing complex or novel about the structure of Coetzee’s story: it follows a basic storytelling pattern. It is a spare account of the movement of a heroic figure, a shadowy shape in this telling. The power of the story is in the creation of the heroic figure and the irony and knowing manipulation of the novel’s rhythmical design—the movement of a character from one state or place to another and, because of that experience, a return in a changed form. The movement by itself is not very complex nor is it in and of itself especially notable. What is significant is the patterned working into that essential form of a mosaic of images, so that the mythic spine of the story becomes elaborated, embroidered, thereby intensified, given a gradation of hues and tones, so that the potent emotions are given complex and subtle shapes. The art of the storyteller involves most importantly the mastery of rhythm—the eliciting of cardinal emotions by means of effectively evoked images and the rhythmical organization of those images. The story occurs within a historical context. There is a war in South Africa. It is blurred, unclear: who is fighting whom? There are racial divisions. The war, purposely opaque, is the ultimate act of a bureaucracy. But it seems to be a civil war, a racial war.

And an odyssey occurs.

With the war as a backdrop and as a motivator, the journey of Michael K is from Sea Point to Prince Albert and back to Sea Point. This is the movement of the hero. It is Michael K’s story: he is an unlikely hero, a deceptively simple person. "Born with a harelip, K grows up a physical and spiritual oddity, making no demands of others, and vaguely believing..."
that none will be made of him." The color of his skin is kept intentionally indeterminate. His life story is also deliberately made obscure.

His story is so shapeless that it is being fabricated by others. He has no story; others are the heroes and adventurers. What story he has is everyone's story; he is primal, of the earth. Stories are constructed about him: "Michaels is an arsonist," goes one such story. "He is also an escapee from a labor camp. He was running a flourishing garden on an abandoned farm and feeding the local guerrilla populations when he was captured. That is the story of Michaels."

Later, the white liberal doctor, as he determinedly attempts to give Michael K a story, observes in his journal, "With Michaels it always seemed to me that someone had scuffed together a handful of dust, spat on it, and patted it into the shape of a rudimentary man, making one or two mistakes (the mouth, and without a doubt the contents of the head), omitting one or two details (the sex), but coming up nevertheless in the end with a genuine little man of earth, the kind of little man you see in peasant art emerging into the world from between the squat thighs of its mother-host with fingers ready hooked and back ready for a life of burrowing, a creature that spends its waking life stooped over the soil, that when at last its time comes digs its own grave and slips quietly in and draws the heavy earth over its head like a blanket and cracks a last smile and turns over and descends into sleep, home at last, while unnoticed as ever somewhere far away the grinding of the wheels of history continues." And so the identity of Michael K becomes a concern: his very name is cryptic. In the journal of the doctor, an attempt is made to identify him, but Michael K's past remains clouded. People, therefore, are in the process of inventing him. Michael K is a man standing against what passes for civilization and is vilified by those who are a part of and therefore have a vested interest in that civilization. Anyone who protests against such a realm must surely be guileless.

Gardening becomes a central theme: it is his trade. Michael K learns that vocation in Cape Town, then later grows a garden on his mother's ashes. Much time is spent on the loving development of that garden, which is then destroyed, first by rebels, and then by soldiers. "He thought of himself not as something heavy that left tracks behind it, but if anything as a speck upon the surface of the earth too deeply asleep to notice the scratch of ant-feet, the rasp of butterfly teeth, the tumbling of dust."

Michael K lives his life in a bureaucratic bramble; "...he finds it difficult to float through life unnoticed and untouched. He agrees to his mother's dying wish to be taken back to her birthplace, a small farm deep in the Karoo, even though the country is in the throes of civil war and he lacks the required permits." Earlier, when authorities will not give him railway tickets, he carries his mother in a cart. He escapes from a railway crew, he escapes from a Visagie youth, he escapes from Jakkalsdrift, he escapes from a hospital, then on the Sea Point beach he escapes from a roving band of merry-makers.

He has few relationships: Michael K knows no woman, he has difficulty with his mother, he will have little to do with Robert at Jakkalsdrift, with the Visagie youth. And the sexual relationship at the end is only dimly experienced by him. About his mother, the doctor says, "There is nothing we can do here to rehabilitate you from the venegful mother with flaming hair who comes to you in your dreams." His odyssey moves through bureaucracy, war, human relationships, institutions. Yet, Michael K eschews bureaucracy, ignores war, avoids human relationships, scorns institutions. He takes his mother's ashes and begins his journey to her place of birth. Along the way, he has a variety of meetings with travelers, soldiers, bureaucrats, and is forced to work on the railroad, told that "There's nothing special about you. There's nothing special about any of us." He finally escapes from a camp, and, arriving at the place where his mother was born, he plants a garden.

Michael K is a survivor, a creator. He is walking the earth as if for the first time. He is planting seed, the future, in his mother's ashes, the past. It is an unbroken generational linkage, with the mother before him, and her mother before her, and so back in time; he is eternal, what he stands for is ageless. Michael K is among the survivors; they live close to the earth, in the earth. And there are millions like him. Wars come and go, bureaucracies cause people to wait in line or make people die in wars or attempt to define people, as the doctor does, but the Michael K's go on. It is a story of endurance, and in that sense it is a triumph of the common person. It is much more than that. Michael K, in his own way, stands against the institutions and structures of his world. He will not be shaped, will not be formed, will not be educated to become a part of this world. This is because he "has a fundamental comprehension of the meaning of freedom that has been lost to most people."

Is it a story about apartheid? The war could be any war, the country any country, the bureaucracy any bureaucracy, and through it all is Michael K, the frail hare-lipped man of thirty, nondescript, mute, not betraying his past, for he has no past...except the most echoing past of them all: he is tied to the unbroken continuity of humanity. Michael K observes, "I am not in the war." He is not allowed to forget the apartheid past. At the farm of his mother's childhood, the grandson of the white farmer returns, a deserter from the army who seeks to make Michael K his servant. But Michael K escapes and lives in a cave. He and the deserter are the flotsam and jetsam of a world that has fallen asunder, and they now, no longer in a master-servant relationship, begin a primal struggle for the farm, ostensibly owned by the whites but originally taken from the blacks. Michael K is once more forced to live in a work camp, but he once more escapes, and returns to the farm where he works on his garden. And he is again captured, again taken to a camp, again escapes.

It is an affirmation of humanity, crawling out of the dust of
ruin, and re-creating the earth, making the earth grow and fructify. The earth is destroyed, a man is incarcerated, but he will return. And life will go on. "In a vast country across whose face hundreds of thousands of people were daily following their cockroach pilgrimages in flight from the war..." he was "...a wild man all skin and bones and rags rising up out of the earth at the hour of battflight..." It is a story of seeds; he regularly returns to his mother, his origins, whether the ashes or "sitting against the wall before his mother's old door..." in Sea Point at the end. "So what is it, he thought, that binds me to this spot of earth as if to a home I cannot leave? We must all leave home, after all, we must all leave our mothers. Or am I such a child, such a child from such a line of children, that none of us can leave, but have to come back to die here with our heads upon our mother's laps...generation upon generation?"

He scatters his mother's ashes on the land on the farm in Prince Albert, and so initiates "his life as a cultivator." He plants the seeds, and remembers that his mother "was the one whose ashes I brought back... and my father was Huis Norenous. My father was the list of rules on the door of the dormitory.... They were my father, and my mother is buried and not yet risen." So here is Michael K's story—on the one hand, his father, "the list of rules," the bureaucracy; on the other hand, his mother, the ashes, and she has "not yet risen." The reality and the hope of Michael K, his father...and his mother—"...with our heads upon our mother's laps, I upon hers, she upon her mother's, and so back and back, generation upon generation...." He is peculiarly in tune with the world, with the earth (he can hear the dust tumbling), with his body (he can hear "the sound of the blood running in his veins or the thoughts running through his head...").

A new world grows from the ashes, a new Michael K rises from the ashes of his mother. The ashes of his mother will replenish the exhausted earth, and so the earth survives, the ashes of the earth tended by Michael K, the gardener—"because that is my nature." And so he sows the seeds of hope. "At first he could work only on moonlit nights: in the dense blackness when there was no moon he would stand rooted, stretching out his hands, fearful of the looming shapes he imagined about him."

The story assumes a mythic pace: "In the shed there remained a last handful of pumpkin and melon seeds. On the fourth day of his return, K set about planting these..." And "Now two pale green melons were growing on the far side of the field. It seemed to him that he loved these two, which he thought of as two sisters, even more than the pumpkins, which he thought of as a band of brothers. Under the melons he placed pads of grass so that their skins should not bruise." He has discovered his relationship with the earth, and he revels in the fruits of his labors. "I am becoming a different kind of man," he says. He is vulnerable, because the world that he has moved to is at odds with the civilization around him. And he is also troubled: Why can he not leave? What is it that holds him here, holds him to the land, ties him to his mother's ashes? Why can he not join the guerrillas? The "different kind of man" he is becoming is a man who understands his origins, who knows his world, and who now knows the road that he must take—his mythic route will keep him in touch with his roots, will not allow him to taint his earthly origins. When he has a new sense of what he is to do, how he is to live, there is no road map: his uniqueness, the singularity of his struggle, his movement, his sense of life is peculiar to him, and no one can comprehend him. Their story will not fit him, try as they might to fit him into a story. He is in a struggle: "Always, when he tried to explain himself, there remained a gap, a hole, a darkness before which his understanding balked, into which it was useless to pour words. The words were eaten up, the gap remained. His was always a story with a hole in it: a wrong story, always wrong."

Nadine Gordimer wondered, "...is there an idea of survival that can be realized entirely outside a political doctrine? Is there a space that lies between camps?" For Michael K, there is only one answer, an affirmative answer. His struggle is over when he understands, here at the nadir—or pinnacle—of his odyssey, what he must do, how he must act, what his life will be. And as he was the guardian of his mother in his earlier life, so he will become her guardian forever. The seeds have been planted: they are as natural as life and the earth, without all the civilized layerings and social facades. He is a man without papers, but he is a man with a certain sense of destiny.

"From the seed of freedom," observes Cynthia Ozick, "Michael K has raised up a metaphysics. It is not the coarse dogma of a killer-rebel or a terrorist; he does not join the guerrillas. He sees vulnerable children on all sides—the runaway who wants to be taken care of, the careless insurgents who are like 'young men come off the field after a hard game,' even the young camp guard with diabetes, callous and threatening, yet willing to share his food, who will end up as a prisoner himself. She writes, 'But behind the gate Michael K cannot eat, cannot swallow, cannot get nourishment... Repression wastes. Tyranny makes skeletons. Injustice will be vomited up. 'Maybe he only eats the bread of freedom,' says a doctor in the camp for 'rehabilitation' where Michael K is incarcerated. His body is 'crying to be fed its own food, and only that.'"

In his journal, the white doctor writes about "Michaels."

"He won't even take baby food. Maybe he only eats the bread of freedom." He writes, "He is like a stone, a pebble that, having lain around quietly minding its own business since the dawn of time, is now suddenly picked up and tossed randomly from hand to hand." And he asserts, "You are no soldier, Michaels, you are a figure of fun, a clown, a wooden man." But he concludes, "You are precious, Michaels, in your way; you are the last of your kind, a creature left over from an earlier age, like the coelacanth or the last man to speak Yagul." Dorothy Wickenden writes, "Coetzee gently mocks the medical officer's need to impose meanings on K that apply more to his
own life than to his patient's (he does not even have K's name right). And in doing so, he is implicitly mocking his own quest for meanings, which is, after all, not so different from the gropings of the magistrate and the doctor.6 The absurdity of the doctor is revealed in his journal: "You should have hidden, Michaels. You were too careless of yourself. You should have crept away in the darkest reach of the deepest hole and possessed yourself in patience till the troubles were over. Did you think you were a spirit invisible, a visitor on our planet, a creature beyond the reach of the laws of nations? Well, the laws of nations have you in their grip now...." His psychoanalytical comments about Michael K and his mother never provide an adequate explanation of the relationship.

Is Michael K a hero? The doctor says, "You were not a hero and did not pretend to be, not even a hero of fasting." Where is the truth? There are the stories of bravado, the made-up stories. "The mistake I made, he thought, going back in time, was not to have had plenty of seeds, a different packet of seeds for each pocket...." Michael K seems more acted upon than acting. He will do what he is told to do, as long as his body will do it. But his spirit forces him to flee the company of others, especially the military, bureaucracy, and the police, which are confining, and servitude (the Visagie grandson), shadow of the apartheid past. He is of the earth, he farms and loves it—loves seeds, the growth of things. He is in his element here. And he is protective, fiercely so, of his mother—she bore him, he cares for her. The doctor misses the point completely when he sees the mother as a killer of Michael K. Is he retarded? Does he belong in a "madhouse"? Can he survive in a South Africa at war with itself? It is not that he is a free spirit cut off from his world. He is a part of his world—his mother, the land. But he is a free spirit in the sense that he has a need to be free, a need not to be dominated by others, a need to be free of mind-control.

His heroism is affirmed not because of the end that he achieves; it is affirmed in his struggle, his battle—the only war worth fighting. Though he is tempted to join the band of those who are fighting the entrenched government, he sees weaknesses there, too. In the end, he opts for the only freedom, the man who is without walls, without papers, without orders and offices and factories and camps and railroads and captains and police. His world is the earth, his essential relationship is that with his mother who is the earth. Anything else is facade, an empty and barren layering over the essential relationship. "He emerged into sunlight and took the track across the veld to the dam and the field where once he had scattered his mother's ashes. Every stone, every bush along the way he recognized.... I want to live here, he thought: I want to live here forever, where my mother and my grandmother lived. It is as simple as that. What a pity that to live in times like these a man must be ready to live like a beast. A man who wants to live cannot live in a house with lights in the window. He must live in a hole and hide by day. A man must live so that he leaves no trace of his living. That is what it has come to."

Some might assume that Michael K is simple-minded.7 This mistaking of a simple life for a simple-minded person is illustrative of the very world that Coetzee is here assail ing. The simple-minded ones, we learn, are not the Michael K's, but those who would confine him... and those who would seek to explain him--the doctor, for example, who observed that Michael K was merely "the shape of a rudimentary man" with mistakes built in, "a genuine little man of earth" who is nevertheless out of tune with "the grinding of the wheels of history"; he is of course quite incorrect when he concludes that this "rudimentary man" is so simple. The truth is, Michael K is enormously complex—he understands freedom, he refuses to participate in the falsities and spuriousness of the world of the others, in the world that they so quickly elevate by giving it history. In that world, Coetzee argues, is a pattern of abuse and struggle, of life lived in the most humiliating of circumstances. Michael K stoically, heroically refuses to be a part of that world. He endures and, in the end, by dint of his very survival, he triumphs. Seeds, gardens, are opposed to the ruin and barrenness of war; seeds are eternal, like his mother, and as his body grew from his mother, so seeds grow from the mother's ashes.

Is he a visionary? Yes, and his vision is of a world in which he is not contained, but which allows him unimpeded access to the world. He is not cut off from the world, but neither will he be a part of a world in which he is dominated. "He is not of our world! He lives in a world all his own." But is that a fact? No, he lives in our world, not a world all his own, and that is the point. Michael K avoids all entanglements—the military, job, camp, servitude, sex, women and friends. His only tie is to his past, his mother—a long line of children. And growth, the growth of the earth. What does this have to do with apartheid? There is the struggle, the war, in the background: this is the apartheid struggle, but it becomes so universalized, so generalized, that it could be any human struggle. But through it all, through the war and bureaucracy, the self-consuming greed, mankind survives. And though war is on every hand, with devastation and aridity, life begins again, life is recreated. The earth is rediscovered, and so we grow out of our past; our mother's ashes become our new world. This is the only important thing. It is a new Eden, a new paradise: we are born anew, and then we are enslaved again. There are many kinds of enslavement here, not just racial, and so Michael K is, in the parlance of apartheid, "colored," both white and black. He is a gardener, toiling in the ashes of his mother's body. He creates—or re-creates—the earth, and then it is destroyed in fire.

Then he recreates again as the story comes to an end, planting seeds, the sperm of the earth (not the sperm that is wasted during the oral sexual experience on the beach).

The novel becomes an indictment of the self-deceptions of human stupidity. Michael K is a man whose only sustenance, "the bread of freedom," in the end cannot be found. The novel is a lament "for the sadness of a South Africa that has made
dependents and parasites and prisoners of its own children, black and white.4

The art of the storyteller is to build the tale around a broadly conceived form, and then to fine tune and to develop, to make complex the weave itself. The simplicity of Coetzee's novel is deceptive: the bare bones of the structure is so clear to see—the mythic movement, the austerity of the character who ventures into the unknown. Here, paradoxically, the complexity is in the very simplicity. A war is going on, and we meet a number of the soldiers and bureaucrats who are running the war, fighting the war, fleeing the war, made captive by the war, being forced to labor to support the war, and the doctors who mend those bloodied by the war. In the midst of the war is an oasis, and this is the end of the mythic journey—the Visagie farm, the garden, the pumpkins and the melons, the tiny womb-like burrow, the mother-earth, where a man finds himself, where he can be himself, one with the world around him, in harmony with his world, eating no processed foods, fighting in no processed wars, following no processed instructions by faceless bureaucracies. Is Michael K a hero? Without question. He stands against an enormous force, the ultimate force—civilization itself, and all of its minions and discontents. And he not only survives, he prevails. His is the love of this harmony with his world, not the love occasioned by a chance transitory meeting. His sexual activity is with the earth, his sperm is the seed, not the emptiness of an oral sexual encounter one night on the beach at Sea Point. It is a story of barrenness and fertility, of emptiness and promise, and of a young man who moves from the one to the other.

In the end, Michael K spurns those who would create his story, and so tells his own story, his own odyssey.

Odysseus's journey achieves no more than that.

Notes


3. Wickenden, 35.


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6. Wickenden, 37.

7. See, for example, D. J. Enright, "The Thing Itself," Times Literary Supplement (September 30, 1983): 1037. "So the world is only safe for a rare species of simpleton?"

8. Ozick, 27

Announcing for our next WARA Newsletter (Fall 2001) a contribution by another outstanding Africanist: Dr. G. N. Uzoigwe of Mississippi State University: Toward Constitutional Re-engineering: A Three-tier Democratic Federation as the Future of Nigeria

- Guidelines of the African Studies Association for Ethical Conduct in Research and Projects in Africa

The African Studies Association Board of Directors has developed and, on April 9, 2000, unanimously adopted the following as Guidelines for its members who conduct research and projects in Africa.

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These guidelines for ethical conduct in research are designed as a framework for orienting members to the issues involved in research across cultures and nations and especially where there is highly unequal access to the means for conducting research. These guidelines of the ASA will be superseded in many cases by the requirements, guidelines, or codes of federal and local governments, universities, funding agencies, professional organizations, and other bodies with supervisory responsibility.

The African Studies Association represents a diverse group of people interested in Africa and its people. The Association has a long history of commitment to fostering the study of Africa, to supporting research by Africans, and of promoting collaboration among students of Africa. No guidelines for conduct can presume to be comprehensive nor universally applicable because the range of activities conducted by our members is vast and the contexts in which they conduct research and project work change constantly. Nonetheless, several enduring principles are foundations for ethical conduct of research across cultures, international boundaries, and among those with uneven access to financial and professional resources. These principles are not separate, but form a reasonable framework for responsible conduct of research.

1. Do No Harm

When conducting research or pursuing professional activities in Africa, members of the Association shall seek to be
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conscious and to minimize the potential risks in the present and future which their research may pose for those who participate or are being studied. Responsible conduct necessitates that the researcher be well-informed about the wider political, cultural, economic, religious, and social contexts of the research in order to ensure that the research will not put collaborators, research subjects, students, or assistants at risk of any kind.

Researchers should respect the integrity, morality, and traditions of the people they study. Researchers should commit themselves to the most ethical practices in the conduct of responsible research and, as far as possible, to respect prevailing local practices of hiring, training, and using assistants and subjects. Researchers also commit themselves to pursue non-discriminatory practices whenever possible.

2. Open and Full Disclosure of Objectives, Sources of Funding, Methods, and Anticipated Outcomes

Members of the Association are committed to open and full disclosure of the research to all cooperating African colleagues and institutions, all graduate and field assistants, and the subjects we study. Each of these should have full access to the objectives of the research, the sources of funding, the methods to be employed, and the anticipated outcomes of the research.

Because the findings of our research or recommendations drawn from it may affect the interests of the peoples and communities we study, members of the Association should be conscious of the potential uses and abuses of the research data, the interests of the sponsors and funders of the research, as well as any third parties who may have access to the findings or data.

When we engage in research in Africa, we shall notify our African colleagues of the sponsors, funders, and potential uses intended for the information to be collected. We shall not engage in any research which we know or believe to be funded secretly, is likely to be used for covert purposes, or to have potentially negative consequences for our colleagues. We shall make every effort to keep all of our research, instructional, and service activities free of sponsorship, direct funding, or secret uses by military and intelligence agencies of all governments. We shall not knowingly engage or participate in projects which could be reasonably construed as sustaining or strengthening the powers of political leaders or states guilty of violations of human rights. Furthermore, we are committed to keeping in the public domain all research and publications completed under sponsorship of any government.

3. Informed Consent and Confidentiality

We shall seek to obtain the fully voluntary and informed consent of all the people participating in our research before any research is undertaken. Researchers should develop instruments of informed consent that are appropriate to the cultural context of the research. Such instruments should not only inform the subjects of the nature of the research and its potential risks, but also should provide guarantee to subjects that if they wish, their confidentiality will be fully respected. Researchers should be cognizant of the real difficulties of securing informed consent in contexts of uneven power relations and should develop strategies or techniques for ensuring fully informed consent.

4. Reciprocity and Equity

Members of the Association have a responsibility to support and encourage the professional activities of African collaborators and colleagues and, when appropriate, to build collaborative research and programs with them. Our research should build the capacity of our collaborators and their institutions of research and higher education through programs of training and professional development.

All researchers engaged in collaborative research should explain fully the nature of such collaboration, including issues of authorship, access to data collected, intellectual property rights, rights to inventions and copyrights with African colleagues, professionals, and graduate students.

5. Deposition of Data and Publications

Researchers should return the results of scholarly activities to the communities and the country in which the research was conducted, including preliminary reports, papers, dissertations, and all forms of publication. Copies of all findings and publications should be provided to African colleagues and institutions with whom they have cooperated or established affiliations. The communities studied or engaged in the research should receive at least a summary of the research and its findings in a form and language they can understand. Eventually and to the extent feasible, the researcher also should return copies of primary data sets and relevant notes to a responsible archive or depository in the country of research so that the data and materials can be made available to indigenous researchers. In both the research reports and the data sets, the identities of the persons who provided information should be kept confidential and disguised unless they have given permission for their identities and the information offered to be revealed. When scholars publish their data, they should make every effort to see that their publications are not exploited for inordinate profit and that they are made available to scholars, libraries, and higher education institutions in Africa at charges that are reasonable in that country.

  Kirsten Margaret Marshall is a Senior in general and African Studies at the University of Washington-Seattle. She won a Nelson Mandela/Graca Machel Scholarship to work on
an independent project in Africa. She chose Senegal and a study of the "Art and life of contemporary griots in Senegal".

I am reprinting below an excerpt from her correspondence with WARA/WARC which I thought would be of interest to some of our readers who may find themselves advising students interested in similar experiences in West Africa, or planning to organize programs in Senegal and West Africa.

I am glad to point out that Kirsten did heed our advice not to elect to reside in Pikine, a crowded and sprawling suburb of Dakar, during her time in Senegal.

Sandra Chait asked that I e-mail you my proposal for a study abroad trip to Senegal, West Africa funded by the Nelson Mandela / Graca Machel Scholarship.

I am going into the field of multicultural education and developing two projects for elementary and middle school curricula. I am interested in developing a resource book for teachers with the goal of helping them integrate aspects of African culture into lesson plans, as opposed to a separate unit approach. I am starting with the lesson plan focused on "Griots, Storytellers of West Africa", incorporating history, music, art, drama, and literature. The second project would be a Senegal / Seattle Pen Pal project where students are matched up with children of their age in Senegal to correspond via mail, which would be good practice for reading and writing skills. I tutor students at Martin Luther King Elementary School here in Seattle and there are teachers in this school interested in doing this project, as well as schools such as Hamilton Middle School. Getting the project off the ground would be much more efficient if I could physically visit the schools in Dakar with pictures and information of the students here in Seattle.

Sandra Chait, Associate Director of the Program on Africa, has agreed to be my faculty sponsor for this project. I do not qualify for financial aid since I receive some support from my parents, yet I am in no position to fund such a trip. When I studied in Ghana I had to take off 1½ years of school in order to work two jobs to save up enough money to pay for the study abroad tuition and expenses. Below is a breakdown of estimated expenses for this proposal.

$1,500.00 - roundtrip ticket from Seattle to Dakar, Senegal.
$1,000.00 - $20.00/day (approx.) for 50 days to pay to Diop family for lodging & 3 meals a day.
$500.00 - incidental expenses
$ 50.00 - medical shots for travel to Senegal
$1,000.00 - UW tuition for part - time student

My parents will help me pay for everything not covered by the scholarship.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Marshall

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Conference Announcement
NIGERIA IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
March 29-31, 2002

VENUE: Flawn Academic Center
The University of Texas at Austin

CONVENER: Toyin Falola
Department of History
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, TX 78712

OBJECTIVES
The conference will cover a wide array of subjects on Nigeria during the twentieth century. This is the first scholarly conference to review the entire history and society of Nigeria during the twentieth century. It will lay the foundation for a follow-up conference on Nigeria in the 21st century. Scholars from all disciplines are invited.

Papers and panels will be divided by disciplines (e.g., History, Literature) as well as by subjects (e.g., "The Development of Nigerian Literature"). As much as possible, papers will be assigned to particular panels based on similarities in theme or location. After the conference, prominent scholars will be asked to introduce and edit the leading papers in different volumes that will reflect the range of themes and disciplines.

This is a call for proposals including papers, panels, and roundtables. A theme can be discussed from a variety of perspectives in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences.

ABSTRACT
Please, supply your information (name, address, telephone, email) and send all abstract by email to Toyin Falola (toyin.falola@mail.utexas.edu) or by regular mail to:
Toyin Falola
Department of History
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Tx 78712

MANDATORY PRE-REGISTRATION
Pre-registration is required. A non-refundable registration fee of $50 must be paid immediately after an abstract is accepted. This registration fee is to cover administrative expenses. Please, make check payable to The University of Texas at Austin. In the memo column, write "Conference on Nigeria".
Participants will cover all their travel and hotel expenses. All efforts will be made to arrange for the cheapest hotels.

For details please contact David Conrad. MANSA President at History Dept. SUNY-Osmego, NY 13126. Fax: (315) 341-5444; email: dconrad@oswego.edu


Call For Papers

The West African Research Association (WARA) is inviting you to An Interdisciplinary Symposium on FIELDWORK IN AFRICA in Dakar, Senegal 12-15 June, 2002

The West African Research Association (WARA) seeks to bring together scholars and practitioners for an interdisciplinary symposium on fieldwork in Africa in June 2002, at the West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, Senegal. Fieldwork has constituted a key element in the production of knowledge about Africa, and doing fieldwork has long been a rite of passage for Africanists in many disciplines. While anthropologists, for example, have engaged in intense reflection on the nature and meaning of fieldwork, for scholars in disciplines such as literature and philosophy, the place of fieldwork may be less obvious and it may have met with less scrutiny. Those working in fields such as health and education may also carry out fieldwork in order to develop and assess programs but have fewer opportunities to question the research process. The goal of the symposium is to stimulate interdisciplinary dialogue on the nature and implications of fieldwork in Africa, across the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, as well as with practitioners and others who work in the field.

Papers, panels, roundtables and workshops are invited on all theoretical, scholarly, ethical and practical aspects of fieldwork. We especially welcome papers by African scholars and practitioners, and others who have been involved in the fieldwork process in diverse ways, such as research assistants and research associates. Possible topics include but are not limited to the production of knowledge, the ethics of fieldwork in Africa, economic disparity in fieldwork, intellectual property, the languages of fieldwork, the role of the research assistant, doing fieldwork in one's own community, the dissemination of research results in Africa, the fieldworker's responsibility to a community, the literature of field accounts. We believe this will be an intellectually rewarding exchange, with the potential to have a positive impact on the study of Africa and the execution of research projects in Africa. We expect to make our debates available to a wider public by publishing subsequently a selection of conference proceedings.

This, our second WARA International Symposium, thus aims to open a fruitful dialogue between scholars-from philosophy, literature and the arts to history, ecology and political science - and a range of practitioners working in diverse fields-from education and health to food production and labor. We are seeking funding to allow us to bring to the Symposium, individuals and organizations who might otherwise be unable to attend.

The languages of the symposium will be English and French. Proposals for papers, workshops, roundtables or panels are due January 31, 2002. Please submit abstracts - in either French or English - or make further inquiries to:

In Africa: Wendy Wilson Fall, Director West African Research Center Rue E x Leon G. Damas Fann Residence, BP 5456 Dakar, Senegal Phone: (221) 8-24-20-62 Fax: (221) 8-24-20-58 E-mail: assist@ucad.sn

In the USA: Leigh Swigart, US Director West African Research Association African Studies Center Boston University 270 Bay State Road Boston MA, USA Phone: 617-353-3673 Fax: 617-353-4975 E-mail: leighswigart@hotmail.com

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION:
Our next announcement will include updated information on transportation, accommodation, banquet, excursions and a continuing website address for WARA and further WARA Symposium information.
Appel à Communications

L’Association de Recherche Ouest Africaine (AROA) vous invite à:

Un Symposium interdisciplinaire sur

LA RECHERCHE SUR LE TERRAIN EN AFRIQUE

à Dakar, Sénégal

Du 12 au 15 juin 2002

L’Association de Recherche Ouest Africaine vise à rapprocher les spécialistes et les praticiens dans le cadre d’un symposium interdisciplinaire sur la recherche sur le terrain en Afrique, en juin 2002, au Centre de Recherche Ouest Africain (CROA) à Dakar, au Sénégal.

La recherche sur le terrain a été un élément clé dans la production du savoir sur l’Afrique, et l’exercice de cette activité a été pendant longtemps un rite de passage pour les africanistes dans des disciplines variées. Tandis que les anthropologues, par exemple, s’engageaient dans une profonde réflexion sur la nature et le sens qu’il faudrait donner à la recherche sur le terrain, la place de cette dernière a pu paraître moins évidente et n’a peut-être pas fait l’objet d’un examen aussi minutieux de la part des spécialistes dans les domaines de la philosophie et de la littérature. Ceux qui travaillent dans des secteurs tels que la santé et l’éducation peuvent aussi mener des études sur le terrain pour le lancement et l’évaluation de leurs programmes mais disposent de peu d’opportunités pour remettre en question le processus de la recherche. Le but du symposium est de stimuler le dialogue interdisciplinaire sur la nature et les implications de la recherche sur le terrain en Afrique, à travers les sciences humaines, naturelles et sociales, ainsi que le dialogue avec les praticiens et les autres experts qui travaillent sur le terrain.

Nous vous invitons à proposer des communications, des panels, tables rondes et ateliers sur tous les aspects théoriques, académiques, éthiques et pratiques de la recherche sur le terrain. Nous espérons recevoir, en particulier, des contributions provenant d’universitaires africains et aussi de praticiens qui travaillent dans la recherche sur le terrain à des niveaux divers, tels les assistants de recherche et les chercheurs associés. Les thèmes à envisager seraient, entre autres, la production du savoir, l’éthique de la recherche sur le terrain en Afrique, les disparités dans la mobilisation des moyens dans la recherche sur le terrain, la propriété intellectuelle, les langues dans la recherche sur le terrain, le rôle de l’assistant de recherche, faire de la recherche sur le terrain dans son propre espace communautaire, la dissémination des résultats de cette recherche en Afrique, la responsabilité du chercheur envers une communauté donnée, la littérature des comptes-rendus de recherche. Nous sommes sûrs que cette rencontre constituera un échange fructueux sur le plan intellectuel, un échange capable d’avoir un impact sur l’étude de l’Afrique et sur l’exécution de projets de recherche sur le continent. Nous espérons pouvoir rendre nos débats accessibles à un public plus large par la publication d’une sélection des actes du symposium.

Ce symposium international, le deuxième pour la WARAO/AROA, vise à ouvrir le dialogue entre universitaires - allant de la philosophie, la littérature et les arts à l’histoire, l’écologie et les sciences politiques- et un groupe élargi de praticiens dans divers secteurs - allant de la pédagogie et la santé à la production alimentaire et le domaine du travail. Nous tâchons d’obtenir un financement extérieur qui nous permettra de faire venir au symposium, des participants et des organisations qui seraient autrement dans l’impossibilité d’assister à nos travaux.

Les langues du symposium seront l’anglais et le français. Les propositions de communications, d’ateliers, de tables rondes ou de panels seront reçues jusqu’au 31 janvier 2002. Veuillez adresser vos résumés de communication – dans l’une ou l’autre langue - ou vos questions à :

Afrique :
Wendy Wilson Fall,
Directrice du Centre de Recherche Ouest Africain
Rue E x Léon Gontran Damas
B.P. 5456, Dakar Fann,
Dakar, SENEGAL
Téléphone : 221 824 20 62 ;
Fax : 221 824 20 58
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Etats Unis
Leigh Swigart
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INFORMATION TRANSPORT ET LOGEMENT:
Notre prochaine annonce comprendra également des renseignements sur le transport, le logement, le banquet, les
excursions et une adresse internet pour tous renseignements ultérieurs concernant WARA et le Symposium WARA.

• SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

The United States Institute of Peace invites applications for the 2002-2003 Senior Fellowship competition in the Jennings Randolph Program for International Peace. The United States Institute of Peace is an independent, nonpartisan institution created by Congress to strengthen the nation's capacity to promote the peaceful resolution of international conflict. Fellowships are awarded annually to scholars and practitioners from a variety of professions, including college and university faculty, journalists, diplomats, writers, educators, military officers, international negotiators and lawyers. The Institute funds projects related to preventive diplomacy, ethnic and regional conflicts, peacekeeping and peace operations, peace settlements, post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation, democratization and the rule of law, cross-cultural negotiations, nonviolent social movements, U.S. foreign policy in the 21st century, and related topics. Fellows reside at the Institute for a period of up to ten months to conduct research on their projects, consult with staff, and contribute to the ongoing work of the Institute. Projects which demonstrate relevance to current policy debates will be highly competitive.

The fellowship award includes a stipend, an office with computer and voicemail, and a part-time research assistant. The competition is open to citizens of all nations. Women and members of minority groups are especially encouraged to apply. All application materials must be received in our offices by September 17, 2001. For more information and an application form, please visit the Institute’s website at “www.usip.org”, or contact the Jennings Randolph Program, U.S. Institute of Peace, 1200 17th Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036-3011, USA, phone: 202.429.3886, fax: 202.429.6063, e-mail: jrprogram@usip.org.

• DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

The United States Institute of Peace invites applications for the 2002-2003 Peace Scholar dissertation fellowship competition of the Jennings Randolph Program for International Peace. The United States Institute of Peace is an independent, nonpartisan institution created by Congress to strengthen the nation's capacity to promote the peaceful resolution of international conflict. The Peace Scholar program supports doctoral dissertations that explore the sources and nature of international conflict, and strategies to prevent or end conflict and to sustain peace. Dissertations from a broad range of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields are eligible. Peace Scholars work at their universities or appropriate field research sites. Priority will be given to projects that contribute knowledge relevant to the formulation of policy on international peace and conflict issues. Citizens of all countries are eligible, but must be enrolled in an accredited college or university in the United States. Applicants must have completed all requirements for the degree except the dissertation by the commencement of the award (September 1, 2002). The dissertation fellowship award is $17,000 for one year and may be used to support writing or field research. All application materials must be received in our offices by November 1, 2001.

For more information and an application form, please visit the Institute's website at “www.usip.org”, or contact the Jennings Randolph Program, U.S. Institute of Peace, 1200 17th Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20036-3011, USA, phone: 202.429.3886, fax: 202.429.6063, e-mail: jrprogram@usip.org.

Minutes of the Nashville WARA Meetings. Nov. 2000

WARA Board Meeting
November 17, 2000
Nashville Convention Center


Absent: Bill Zartman, Toyin Falola, John Franklin, Mbye Cham.

The meeting was called to order at about 8:35 a.m.

Edris welcomed Board members and apologized for the mistake made on the time for the Board meeting in the e-mail message he sent out about the symposium to Board members. He introduced Brigitte Gnoumou as the new WARA Assistant and invited Board members to introduce themselves. Edris suggested also that questions regarding the membership list be discussed at the end of the meeting.

I. Regarding institutional membership, questions arose about the consortium status of U Penn, Swarthmore, Haverford, and Bryn Mawr Colleges. Members agreed that even though only a single membership was paid, each institution involved in the consortium agreement should receive a set of mailings (Newsletter, brochures, etc). The need to have more institutional affiliation overseas was expressed and members agreed to start making contacts.

Eileen explained how some institutions do not have the means to pay for their dues in view of financial constraints. She used the case of Indiana University as an example. Edris suggested that consortium arrangements may be the answer for such institutions. Wendy suggested that WARA should follow the example of AORC Yemen. Wendy explained how
Americans were approached at the Dakar Center. The Center sells its services; with a fee of 5000 CFA one can become a member of the Center and can use its facilities (computers, primarily).

Baum suggested that we could also help people on getting research grants such as Fulbright. Wendy added the idea of advertising.

Edris suggested that another time during ASA should be identified to continue the meeting in order to cover all the items on the agenda. Members present at the meeting agreed to meet at 12:45 p.m. in Edris’ room.

Jim moved for the minutes from the annual meeting of last year to be adopted. It was seconded by Vera. Eileen noted that few spots needed to be filled and that anybody having some additions to the minutes, could see her. The minutes were accepted.

II. Edris introduced the discussion about the need for the election of three Board members whose terms expire after the Nashville meetings. He indicated that new officers including the President should be elected as stipulated in WARA Bylaws # 300 and 301. The Vice President, David Robinson expressed his readiness to step down also. Edris explained the election process and suggested that nominations be made for two new Board members to be elected by the Board as it is not practical to follow the letter of the Bylaws and have the institutional members elect or designate them. Baum asked why seats must be given to institutions that have not paid their membership fees. Eileen suggested that institutional members be on the Board on a clear rotational basis. Edris agreed to cross Toyin’s name from the Board because he was just standing in for Bernth who was on leave for the last year of his term. Jim suggested that nominations be made from the floor at the business meeting. Edris indicated that Catherine Boone would be a good candidate for treasurer; however, several members suggested that all three new Board members be elected at the Saturday WARA Business Meeting and that all the nominations be made there. This was agreed to, but Edris insisted that in accordance with the Bylaws (301 d which he read to the board members with only 4 copies of the by-laws being circulated at the meeting), WARA officers are elected by the Board and not by the membership. Edris said that following the earlier meeting he had on Thursday with David Robinson, Leigh Swigart, Wendy Wilson-Fall and Brigitte Gnoumou (Eileen was not able to join them in the end, due to her ASA Board commitments) that he must insist on the fact that WARA Bylaws cannot be changed on a whim, at this or at any other meeting; naturally, if the Board felt that changes, alterations or rewriting were necessary, someone should move that a committee be appointed to study the matter and come up with a report to the Board. As there were only 4 copies of the WARA Bylaws in circulation, Edris offered to have Brigitte send another copy of the Bylaws to all Board members from Madison. Eileen then, volunteered to read her new copy of the

WARA Bylaws and discuss the matter on e-mail with other members.

Leigh was asked to explain the role of the treasurer: she signs checks for authorized expenditures; her major role is to make sure that the money is being used for what it was planned for. She has been helping the President with WARA fundraising. Now as a paid part-time US Director, she will be able to put more of her time in searching for grants, but she would also continue with her work helping with the essential task of liaison between WARA in the US and WARC/CROA in Dakar and West Africa.

The eligibility of WARA Board members to apply for WARA grants was discussed at length and members agreed that Board members are not eligible for WARA grants. However, WARA Board members can apply for CAORC grants since WARA is not involved in their selection process.

Jim asked about the US Director salary, the amount and its origin. Edris explained that the US director will work closely with the President and the Treasurer to search for more grant money for WARA. Her salary was budgeted and accepted under the USED grant ($ 10,000 for FY00) but it is hoped that as WARA resources increase, her salary will also be adjusted to reflect the amount of work performed.

Edris suggested that Board members should vote for officers including the treasurer as Leigh cannot cumulate the function of paid US Director with that of WARA treasurer.

David Robinson explained that the changes in the Board members are welcome at this point, but suggested that Edris stay as President for the next 3 years, since the USED grant has just been renewed for another 3 year cycle with headquarters at UW-Madison. Edris indicated that he could stay for one year but not three. Jim brought up the point of the settling process of the USED grant at UW-Madison; he explained that it could still be managed from Madison even if the President is in another university for the rest of the grant cycle. Eileen and other members insisted that Edris stay on the Board for at least a year and she volunteered also to stay for the next 3 years as secretary, and a more active one at that, now that she has retired from the ASA Executive Board.

Eileen discussed the need to conform WARA Bylaws with its practices. The role of the secretary for example should be described clearly in the bylaws. Edris explained that as a US Director, Leigh Swigart becomes an employee of WARA not a Board member. Eileen suggested to read the bylaws and discuss it over the internet with Board members to have a concordance between what we are doing and the bylaws. This was unanimously agreed upon.

Potential nominations for treasurer were aired. Bill Zarzman and Catherine Boone’s names were mentioned. Edris said he would contact them. Eileen mentioned that the Vice President should not be elected from the membership. Suggestions will be asked from the membership for officers to serve on the Board and the Board members will make the final
decision. There was an apparent consensus of the Board to have a new treasurer for three years, to continue with Edris and Dave as President and Vice President respectively, for just another year, and Eileen as a more active Secretary for another three years. Active search and discussion for the replacement of Edris and Dave will be conducted in the course of the coming months.

III. Edris explained the budget preparation process. He handed out copies of the WARA/WARC budget and the budget suggestions from Dakar. He explained that Thomson Prometric (new name for Sylvan Prometric) is the main money generating source for WARC/CROA in Dakar. Other sources would be the overhead costs from programs subcontracted with the Center. Edris explained some of the budget items. Wendy completed with the explanation of the fringe benefit line items which are set to have WARC employees under current worker regulation requirements in Senegal. Edris also indicated that WARA/WARC does not have enough money to cover all the items as specified in the budget, but he is hoping that WARA will generate enough money to cover these expenses, through our redoubled fundraising efforts and also through WARA/WARC subcontracted programs.

The meeting was adjourned at about 10:40 to allow members to get to their panels; a second meeting was scheduled to continue at 12:45 p.m. in Edris's Room (with sandwiches ordered for lunch).

Respectfully submitted by B.G.

Edris called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.


Absent: Bill Zartman, Robert Baum, Toyin Falola, John Franklin, Mbye Cham.

Edris Invited the Board to continue the discussion on Dave Robinson's NSF Collaborative International Digital Library Project. Eileen asked about the total amount of funds and of services that this $380,000 grant whose principal recipient is MSU, would bring to WARC/CROA. The answer was that apart from possibly one computer, not much in cash to supplement the WARC annual budget (Edris. Confirmed by Wendy) would materialize.

Leigh noted that the University of Pennsylvania is applying for SSRF funds for a project involving US graduate students coming to Dakar for a summer seminar. She suggested that WARC plan to get involved in this project. The subject was discussed for a while but no precise plan of action was agreed upon. Hopefully, Leigh who seemed to be the most informed person about the U Penn project and the closest, will find out more about it in due course and will advise the Board and Wendy at WARC for a definite plan of action, as well as on the nature and implications of WARA/WARC participation in such a program. Wendy noted that with the CAORC Internet Library Project, WARC is now associated to 4 or 5 internal Internet Projects which open up very promising prospects for WARC; however, she also pointed out that none of these projects have so far translated into any significant addition or improvement to WARC's electronic infrastructure or budgetary capacity. Leigh pointed out that while WARC's needs for additional financial resources are obvious, the CAORC Internet Library Project will be providing an additional computer, scanner and printer as well as funding for Abdoulaye Niang's intensive training course this winter, at Columbia University.

Wendy pointed out that the WARC website, which is now connected to MSU, will have to be divided into two links. Edris pointed out that while Madiam M'Baye should be commended for his initial effort in starting a WARC/CROA website, it is now imperative to find someone at WARC who could improve the current presentation which has serious problems of legibility and presentation. Wendy admitted to those weaknesses and indicated that efforts will be applied soon towards improving and updating the WARC website.

Leigh then submitted her financial report for Oct. 99- Sept. 00 and Oct. 98-Sept. 99 and insisted that in view of the limited public funds now available to WARA/WARC, the bottom line was without doubt, the search for more private funds i.e. membership fees, in particular institutional membership fees. After Leigh finished her presentation (see attached documents), Edris presented the projected 2000/01 WARA/WARC budgets and insisted on bringing to the attention of the Board the important fact that this was the first time since the opening of our Center in Dakar that the annual WARC budget was prepared at the US WARA Secretariat with written advance budget projections from Dakar (See attached documents). Edris insisted on the importance of this fact by bringing to the attention of Board members those amounts on page 2 of the WARC budget marked **. Those 3 amounts total $11,300 and are over and above the total amount of $7,700 budgeted primarily through the USED grant for telecommunications, electricity and library improvement and preparation for the installation of the RED equipment. This substantial discrepancy of $11,300 between the amount requested to cover the actual Center needs for these essential items (total: $19,000) and the amount budgeted on the basis of our actual resources ($7,500 USED and $200 ECA/CAORC) should be seen according to Edris, as a disturbing yet a very realistic illustration of the urgent need for additional resources, if the Center is to continue to move in the right direction. The bottom line is clearly more funds, both private and public. Edris insisted and several Board members agreed - that it is imperative that WARA itself initiate applications for its own long term and short term programs with
substantial overhead amounts that would be of more effective help for WARC/CROA. Well prepared and well budgeted summer programs contracted with WARC/CROA should also contribute substantial additional funds.

IV. WARA 2nd International Symposium.

After a long discussion, there seemed to be a consensus on the following title, sub-title and dates:
"An Interdisciplinary Symposium on Fieldwork in Africa: Dialogues and Applications."

It was agreed that the symposium statement based on Fiona’s well thought out suggestions and forwarded by Edris to all Board members just before the Nashville meetings needed still some editing. Eileen volunteered to read an edited version at the business meeting of Saturday, Nov. 18 and send us all very soon, a final version which would be used for the publicized announcement of the Symposium (See Eileen’s Jan 2, 2001 e-mail to Board members).

The dates chosen would be the week of June 16-23, 2002. The specific 3 days of the actual symposium will be decided upon after consultation with travel agents about suitable flight schedule from the US.

It was agreed that we should avoid too many plenary sessions apart from a formal opening and that we should limit ourselves to 4 concurrent sessions. This would translate into the need for only 4 or 5 meeting rooms which would in turn make it more feasible to hold the whole symposium, except maybe, the opening plenary session in one downtown Dakar hotel, say the Teranga, or the Novotel.

The question of translation and interpretation was discussed. It was agreed that sign-up sheets for various symposium sub-committees would be circulated during the Saturday evening business meeting to solicit volunteers from the WARA membership. (See minutes of the Nashville Business meeting).

Edris mentioned Laye Thiam of Timbuktu tours with whom he has worked many times for programs, conferences, for our 1997 First WARA Symposium, etc. with satisfaction. However, in view of the current problems that Air-Afrique seems to be experiencing, Edris pointed out that it might be advisable to look also for other alternatives.

The Symposium committees and sub-committees suggested for discussion at this Board meeting are:
-Co-conveners: Leigh Swigart, Wendy Wilson-Fall and Oumar Ndongo.

In response to Leigh’s question regarding what the exact function of a co-convenor was, Edris summarized briefly the work done by Leigh herself, Oumar and the then WARC staff from the Dakar end, and by Edris himself working with highly dedicated panel coordinators, David Conrad, Sheila Walker, Robert Fatton from the US end for the 1997 First WARA International Symposium.

Eileen indicated that on the basis of her experience as an

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ALA (Guadeloupe) Annual Conference co-convenor, more than three co-conveners may just complicate further an already very complex task. The other sub-committees are as follows:
-Fund raising Sub-committee: Leigh S., Edris M., Bill Z. and Dana R.
-Panels co-chairs & committee: no names suggested
-African Delegates Committee: no names suggested
It was agreed that separate sheets for each of these committees would be circulated at the business meeting of Saturday Nov. 18 for volunteer sign-ups (see attached).

V. Other Business: Edris confirmed that the WARC/CROA Administrative Assistant Astou Toure who has been with the Center since before it moved from the cramped Avenue de la Republique temporary location to our spacious Fann Residence premises in 1997, will be coming to the University of Wisconsin-Madison for an 8 to 10 week intensive English course and some accounting and computer workshop training in Jan-March 2001.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by E.M.
January 11, 2001

WARA General Business Meeting
Nashville, TN
Friday November 17, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.


I. Minutes of the meeting of November 12, 1999 (Philadelphia) were approved.

II. Reports
A. President’s Report

President Edris Makward recalled the history of WARA, introduced the officers of the association, reminded those in attendance of the association’s mission to maintain a regional center in Dakar (WARC), announced WARC’s new status as a funded member of the Council of American Overseas Research
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Centers (CAORC), now under the ECA/CAORC funding umbrella (since September 1999), and made special mention of our fellowship programs meant to encourage collaborative research and to provide travel funds to advanced African graduate students and academics for attendance at international meetings in the U.S. and elsewhere. Six travel grants will be awarded this year. Among the awardees this year are: Mansah Frah from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana and Charles Katy from the University Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) in Dakar, and Ibrahima Seck of Lycee Blaise Diagne in Dakar. A collaborative research grant was awarded to Prof. Stephen Golup from Swarthmore College and Prof. Ahmadou Aly Mbaye (UCAD) for a joint economics project. WARC also hosted summer institutes and exchange programs and students.

B. Director's Report

Wendy Wilson Fall, director of WARC, described resources and activities at the Center. The West African branch of WARA (AROA) has 289 members. Their names and research interests will be listed on WARC's website. WARC is applying to the Foundation for African Development to help AROA in a membership drive and outreach.

Travel grants have been awarded this year to AROA members from Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal. WARC is participating in a maternal languages project and has a number of "working groups" on education, diaspora, and expects soon to have another on the environment. The Center is hosting D.C. public school teachers in July and will be arranging lectures, lodging, etc. WARC likewise envisions the possibility of language training. For further information on these, members may email WARC at <assist@mail.ucad.sn>.

The Center has a fee schedule: Internet facilities are available at reduced prices for members; many other services are free.

C. Sylvan Coordinator's Report

Edris summarized the report from Oumar Ndongo, the Sylvan coordinator. Sylvan has changed its name to Thomson Prometric. Ndongo commented on issues of the coordinator's salary, the status of an assistant and the income generated for WARC. The University of Chicago is thinking of creating a one semester exchange program at WARC with local UCAD instructors.

D. Treasurer's Report

Edris announced that Leigh Swigart would no longer serve as Treasurer but as "U.S. Director" of WARA/WARC and would work especially on Fundraising and liaison with our center in Dakar. Edris then offered a summary of WARA resources and expenditures, emphasizing the fact that WARA has been granted its third USED grant ($85,600 this year). The grant is administered by the University of Wisconsin. 80% of the funds go to WARC. He pointed out that the $50,000 ECA/CAORC annual grant is primarily designated for programming as an American Overseas Research Center (AORC), while center salaries are, for the most part, paid through USED funds supplemented with membership fees, the overhead from various programs and contracted activities that take place at the Center.

As outgoing Treasurer, Leigh made a pitch to the membership to get their institutions to join WARA, to pay up on time. She announced that our books were available to institutions who were considering joining. In applications for Title VI funds, such institutions would be referred to as "sponsors."

III. Election of new board members

Nominations were taken from the floor to replace three board members--John Franklin, Berth Lindfors (replaced by Toyin Falola in 1999-2000) and Mbye Cham retiring in 2000. Nominees were Mohamed Mbodj, Martha Saveedra, Linda Beck, Kalala Ngalamulume, and Amadou Janneh. They spoke briefly about their work and its relationship to WARA's mission. Ballots were distributed, collected and then counted by Brigitte Gnooumou. Newly elected members were Mbodj, Saveedra, and Beck.

Edris announced that the Board would appoint a new Treasurer and called for nominations from the membership. None were forthcoming.

IV. Plans for a second international WARA symposium, to take place in June 2002, were announced. A draft of the theme statement on "fieldwork" was read by Eileen. (See Appendix A.) There was a brief discussion and a call for volunteers for various tasks and committees (panels, fundraising, African delegates, etc.) related to the symposium. Co-conveners are Leigh Swigart, Wendy Wilson Fall, and Oumar Ndongo.

V. Other business

In response to a question about researchers' responsibility towards host communities, Eileen Julien suggested the ASA guidelines on ethics in research be placed in the WARA Newsletter for the information of WARA members. (See Appendix B.)

David Robinson presented Dean Rehberger of Michigan State University, who is a director of the African Digital Library for African Sources project that has been funded by NFS. Rehberger gave an instructive presentation on the challenges and promise of digitizing materials for research on Africa. He stressed the importance of adequate metadata, which would facilitate future entries and use of materials. Wolof and Poular language learning programs will be emphasized in the first phase through 2003. The Library will not be just an archive but a resource for activities. Rehberger's email: rehberger@msu.edu and web page: matrix.msu.edu should be included in the next WARA Newsletter so that
interested parties may send suggestions and queries.

VI. The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Julien, Secretary

- Forthcoming WARA/ WARC program for US Institutions


A class on African Politics (8 sessions at 2 hours each, perhaps Mondays and Wednesdays generally (but Friday of the first week (January 4). A class on Culture and Society (8 sessions at 2 hours each, perhaps Tuesdays adn Thursdays) 15 to 20 hours of Wolof (I would like to combine French/Wolof instruction if possible). Day trips to Goree, Thies, Pink Lake, Touba (is this correct? I remember Touba taking a lot more travel time than the others; so please tell me if a day trip is feasible). The trip to the Pink Lake can certainly be half a day, after class. The trip to Saint Louis should be preferably January 11-13, so we could intersect with the Diaspora conference scheduled for that time.

Housing costs in Saint Louis?

Approximately 16 days of lunch meals at WARC for 10 students. Housing December 29-January 27 (I am in the process of trying to personally arrange homestays Jan. 14-20 but that is still up in the air.) My big question is: have students from other programs been able to do any type of research paper (a capstone) if their French is limited? Transportation costs (I guess this will be included in the excursion costs? Will WARC be able to provide transportation for the group to and from the airport?)

Inquiring about feasibility of asking students to write research papers if their French is limited. Inquiring about airport transportation cost and excursion costs. Also, I used your article on Mobility of Wives in my Women in Africa Seminar and it went pretty well. I would like to send a copy of my dissertation to the center for the library. I will work on getting that to you.

Wendy Wilson Fall has now provided Dr. Toliver with a detailed budget for the programs he delineated above. We can now look forward to a stimulating WARC/Bard College collaboration.
JOIN WARAJ
OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2000-2001

With your membership you become eligible to participate in the activities of the West African Research Association (WARA), receive first-hand information about grants and fellowships sponsored by WARA, and gain access to the facilities of the West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, Senegal. In addition, you will receive the WARA newsletter. The WARA membership year extends from October 1 through September 30. Please type or print clearly and return this form with your check payable to the West African Research Association.

WEST AFRICAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
Memberships
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1414 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
Ph: 608/263-3749; Fax: 608/262-4151
email: emakward@facstaff.wisc.edu
website: http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/afrst/wara.html

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________________

Position/Title: _________________________________________________________

Institution: _________________________________________________________________________________________

Office telephone: __________________________ Fax: __________________________ email: ____________________________

Area of specialization/interest: ____________________________________________

How did you hear about WARA? __________________________________________

Are you a member of the African Studies Association? _____ Yes _____ No

Enclosed is a check or money order for (check all that apply):

   Individuals
   _____ $25 regular
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West African Research Association
1414 Van Hise Hall
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