

Annual Business Meeting Of The Association Of Social Anthropologists

Held at SOAS on March 6, 2002

Present

Mukulika Banerjee, Marcus Banks, Maureen Bloom, Susan Drucker Brown, Hilary Callan, Pat Caplan, John Eade, Roy Ellen, Richard Fardon, Ronnie Frankenberg, Sarah Green, Wendy James, Roger Just, Garry Marvin, David Mills, Gwen Nurse, J.D.Y Peel, Sarah Pink, Cris Shore, Jonathan Skinner, Veronica Strang, Bill Watson, Caroline White, David Zeitlyn

Apologies

Lynne Brydon, Sue Jennings, Stella Mascarenhas Keyes, Judith Okely, Alexander Schulenberg, Marilyn Strathern, Christina Toren, Ann Wee

Matters arising

2001 ABM Minutes: Item 7; Treasurer's report: an amendment was suggested to record the Association's appreciation that, when the accounts of the 2000 conference at SOAS were closed, a surplus in excess of £2,000 was made.

Members might like also to know that our administrator finds that subscriptions can be processed by Visa or Mastercard, not just the former as had seemed the case.

Item 8: Committee Reports: SCHAD: Richard Fardon reported that SCHAD had not been able to find anyone prepared to take over from John Gledhill, whose efforts as SCHAD representative had been prodigious. Cris Shore suggested that the job could be split up into different tasks and allocated to several HODs. Richard Fardon agreed to send Heads of Anthropology Departments another plea to find someone prepared to take over as SCHAD representative(s).

Item 8: Committee Reports: Publications: in response to Ralph Grillo's queries about ASA member discounts on the new Routledge Readers series, Wendy James noted that arrangements were still in hand (see below). However, members are eligible for discounts on other ASA/Routledge volumes.

Item 14: Caroline White's case: Caroline who was present at the ABM was appreciative of the support the ASA had endorsed in 2001. Richard Fardon had been in touch with Mike De Jong who was chairing the newly unified association for anthropologists working in South Africa, and Mike had sent an encouraging report. It was to be hoped that close ties between the associations would develop.

Announcements

A moment's silence was observed to think of Professor Abner Cohen, Professor Sir Raymond Firth, Lady Rosemary Firth and Professor Julian Pitt-Rivers who had died since our last ABM.

Honours – Professors Karin Barber and J.D.Y. Peel had been joint winners of the Herskovits Prize of the American African Studies Association, Professor Peel had also been awarded the Amaury Talbot Prize of the RAI. Professor Jonathan Parry had been elected a Fellow of the British Academy; Professor Marilyn Strathern had been created a Dame of the British Empire; in his hundredth year Professor Sir Raymond Firth had been made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, and at his hundredth birthday celebrations he had received the Rusiate Nayacakalou Medal of the Polynesian Society; he was due to receive the British Academy's first Leverhulme Medal.

Matters for report

Chair's report

The Report was tabled, and Richard Fardon introduced the new members of a Committee that had considerably changed in composition during the past year.

Firth Award: Roy Ellen suggested that the reference in the report to the first recipient of the 'Firth Award' might be amended to avoid confusion with an LSE award of which he had himself been the first recipient. Various alternative titles were suggested of which Firth (Family) Award seemed most closely to accord with Sir Raymond's wishes.

Richard Fardon underlined the link between the unpaid efforts that editors and authors put into ASA publications and the ensuing royalties that made possible the ASA's support, with the RAI, of the Radcliffe-Brown awards to postgraduate students. Each ASA monograph probably produced a typical £2,000 over its lifetime of funds that the ASA transferred to the Radcliffe-Brown Fund. The Association thanked Alan Barnard, Roy Ellen, Ruth Finnegan, Michael Fischer and Anthony Good who had made over to the ASA interests retained from past contracts on ASA royalties. It was hoped that other authors might feel able to make over their royalties in the same fashion a few (perhaps five) years after publication.

ASA/RAI Collaboration: exploratory talks with Blackwells concerning a joint ASA/RAI on-line membership database were continuing, while the ASA/RAI working party was also investigating the comparative costs of establishing an independent database. Issues of control, cost, and maintenance were complex, and the working party wanted to take adequate time to reach a well-informed decision on this weighty, and potentially costly question. The other priority identified by the working party was a joint membership for postgraduate students. The costs of any such scheme would fall more heavily on RAI than ASA (because of the journals received as a privilege of membership). Richard Fardon emphasised that ASA would probably be the net beneficiary of a joint membership, since its own provision for postgraduate students needed addressing. However, a joint membership scheme was in the interests of the discipline. Hilary Callan, Director of the RAI, reported that the RAI Council was in support of the working party's suggestions. Revision would have to be made to RAI's Junior Fellow category, although numbers in this category had been falling in recent years.

Secretary's report

The report was tabled. With respect to the Academy of the Learned Societies in the Social Sciences (ALSISS), Ronnie Frankenberg reported that he had attended a number of meetings and that the Academy's organisation had been much improved by the appointment of an Executive Secretary. He would be stepping down from the ALSISS Council in April and hoped that another anthropologist might replace him. He believed that the ASA should take the opportunity to nominate members to ALSISS so that anthropologists' influence can be felt in a body where few people knew about the discipline. John Eade was thanked for his efforts on behalf of the ASA between 1998 and 2002.

Treasurer's report

The report was tabled. Jonathan Skinner noted that the Firth Centenary Fund and the GAPP account were the main reasons for an increase in the ASA's earnings, despite expenditure on the Annals and other activities. Jonathan was commended for all his efforts as Treasurer.

Conferences

2002 - Wendy James reported that the British Academy was to pay the major part of travel expenses for sixteen delegates travelling from the United Kingdom to Arusha in Tanzania. The Ford Foundation was supporting forty conferees from within Africa. Approximately 100 to 110 people were expected to attend with representatives from several regional anthropology organizations. The majority of

delegates were presenting papers. Paper-givers were not exclusively Africanists. As well as anthropologists, archaeologists and historians would be coming together with a representative from the British Institute of East Africa in Nairobi.

2003 - Decennial conference in Manchester on Anthropology and Science: Sarah Green reported that the call for panels remained open and arrangements were progressing.

2004 – the Committee approved a bid last year for a conference on ‘Locating the Field’ to be held in Durham.

2005 – bids for the 2005 conference should be made by the next ABM.

Postgraduates

Mukulika Banerjee reported that on the morning of the ABM she had met a group of Postgraduate representatives from 12 departments together with Hilary Callan and David Mills. The main issues to emerge from the meeting were (i) the very limited knowledge of the ASA and RAI among postgraduates, (ii) their limited knowledge about *Anthropology Today*, the *JRAI* and *Annals* and (iii) their desire to be involved in some way combined with their sense of being out on a limb. It was decided that more should be done to encourage postgraduate participation on conference panels (the Decennial being the next occasion on which this might be done), and that joint membership of the ASA and RAI should be pursued urgently. Students said that they were not interested in free copies of journals, and that the ASA needed to inform itself better about postgraduate interests generally.

C-SAP

David Mills reported that C-SAP was supporting almost 20 projects and more money was available. Nearly every anthropology department had set up a project of some sort.

Readers

Bill Watson reported that the series had been held up by the change of Routledge Anthropology Editor. 8 volumes had been agreed; and one of these was ready and others were being rapidly assembled. He estimated that by the 2003 ABM four titles would have been agreed. At the next ABM we can discuss the issue of a price reduction for ASA members which had been raised at the 2001 ABM.

Matters for discussion

- a. ASA/RAI Collaboration: this had already been discussed.
- b. Firth Fund: already discussed.
- c. Election of new Officer: Hon. Sec. – Richard Fardon noted that the job had changed with the introduction of a paid Administrator. He proposed that Veronica Strang be appointed, partly in recognition of her efforts on behalf of the ASA *Annals*. Agreed.
- d. Mukulika Banerjee’s appointment to the Committee needed to be formally agreed. Proposed by Pat Caplan and seconded by Wendy James – agreed.
- e. Election of New Members: Pat Caplan enquired whether the applicants had been scrutinised by the ASA Committee, and Richard Fardon replied that they had. All the applicants proposed by the Committee were agreed. Allen Abramson, Margaret Elizabeth Bolton, Cecilia Jane Busby, Christopher Davies, Mariane Ferme, Alexandra Greene, Thomas Blom Hansen, Liv Haram, Mark Harris, Serena Heckler, Elisabeth Hsu, Deborah James, Pamela Kea, Justin Kenrick, Murray Last, Trevor Marchand, Gillian Munro, Valentina Napolitano, Noor Azlan Mohd Noor, Caroline Osella, Filippo Osella, Barbara Placido, John Postill, Camilla Power, Trevor Stack, Wolde Gossa Tadesse, Dimitri Tsintjilonis, Nancy Wachowich, Matthew Wood.
- f. Conferment of Honorary Membership: The following names were proposed and agreed by ABM – Michael Banton, Ruth Finnegan, Ioan Lewis, Peter Lloyd, Peter Riviere, Malcolm Ruel,

Elizabeth Tonkin, Roy Willis. Richard Fardon explained that there was no formal nomination procedure but that Honorary Membership recognized a contribution to both the discipline and the ASA. ASA Members were invited to propose Honorary Members through the Chair.

AOB

The next ABM would be held in Manchester.