

AAMES

NEWSLETTER

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Message from the Chair

Asia, Africa, and the Middle East

There are 192 countries in the world at present and 101 countries in the list are from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. More than four billion people live in these countries which are about 75 percent of the total population of the world. These countries occupy more than 50 percent of the land on this earth. Asia is the largest continent and it includes China and India, two great ancient civilizations and the most populated countries in the present world. Asia occupies 30 percent of the earth's land with a 17,212,000 square mile area. Africa is the second largest continent in the world with an area of 11,608,000 square miles, and a population of 807,419,000. It occupies 20.2 percent of the land of this world. The Middle East is where Africa, Asia and Europe meet. It is in fact West Asia, but this area has been known as the Middle East since the Second World War. It has an area of 4,197,300 square miles and a population of 326,000,000. It is known as the cradle of ancient civilization.

Asia, Africa, and the Middle East have a rich history and have contributed to the development of the world including libraries. No one can forget that the human civilization first started in Africa. No one can forget the famous Alexandrian Library of the ancient Egypt, and University libraries of Taxila and Nalanda in India. No one can forget contributions of the late Dr. S.R. Ranganathan of India, to the world librarianship including his 'Five Laws of Librarianship'. No one will forget that Ms. Kay Raseroka of Botswana, Africa, is the first African and the first woman of color elected as President of IFLA in 2003.

In spite of these achievements, the Asian, African, and the Middle Eastern Section (AAMES) is one of the smallest sections of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). AAMES has a major responsibility to contribute to the development of not only the area studies libraries, but other libraries also. We should all work hard to increase the membership of the section, and become a more active group in ACRL.

As your Chair, I have appointed many hard-working librarians as members of various committees. A much needed new 'Publications Committee' has been created to communicate with all members and keep them informed about the activities of the Section. The Committee, under the able leadership of Dr. Rajwant Chilana, has worked hard to publish the first issue of the AAMES Newsletter. The Area Representatives for Asia, Africa, and the Middle East will help the Publications Committee in the preparation of the newsletter and keep us posted on the developments in the field. I am honored to write the first chair's message for the AAMES Newsletter. The Publications Committee has also prepared a brochure for the Section. It lists all activities of AAMES. It will help us to attract more members to the Section.

AAMES List Serve has been created to have discussions on many important issues of area studies librarianship. Therefore, please join the list serve and share your ideas and suggestions with your col-

leagues. The web page of AAMES, prepared by Cynthia Tysick, is also very attractive. You can access the web page for more information on AAMES. I have also appointed a Special Multi-Lingual Thesauri Task Force to develop guidelines for a thesaurus to provide equivalent terms across a number of different languages.

The Program Committee, under the leadership of Anjana Bhatt, is working very hard to prepare an excellent program for the annual conference to be held in Orlando, Florida. Please join us with your colleagues and friends on Saturday, June 26, 2004, from 2:00-4:00 PM, to hear four distinguished and internationally known speakers, Ms. Kay Raseroka, President of IFLA, Dr. C.C. Chen of Simmons College, Dr. Mohammed Aman of the University of Wisconsin, and Dr. James Natsis of West Virginia State College, on the "Impact of Technology on Asian, African, and Middle Eastern Collections." I am confident that you will enjoy our well-planned program.

All members of AAMES and others are invited to an important meeting of the AAMES Executive Committee on Saturday, January 10, 2004, at San Diego, California, during the ALA Mid-Winter Conference. I urge you to be active in AAMES and encourage your friends to join the Section. As a good team, we can turn many of our dreams into reality and achieve many of our goals. I sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading the first issue of the AAMES Newsletter. Please do send me your suggestions to further improve AAMES and its activities.

R.N. Sharma
Chair, AAMES

Committee Reports

Executive Committee members of AAMES met on Saturday, 21 June 2003 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, at the Sheraton Centre Toronto, Gingersnap during the ALA-CLA joint conference. Yurong Jade Atwill (Pennsylvania State University), Sarah Su-erh Elman (Yale University), Majed Khader (Marshall University), Patricia A. Kreitz (Stanford University), Mary Jane Petrowski (Associate Director, ACRL), Jung-ran Park (Indiana State University) [Chair], and Dr. R.N. Sharma (West Virginia State College) [Vice-Chair/Chair Elect] attended this meeting. Chair Jung-ran Park called the meeting to order. After approving the agenda, the draft minutes of 24 January 2003 Midwinter meeting distributed beforehand were reviewed and approved. Chairs of various committees presented their activity reports. Dr. R. N. Sharma reported that AAMES currently counted about 400 members with 60-70 new members joining in the last few months. In order to increase the numbers of membership, Sharma would like to contact individuals from various professional groups, such as, APALA, CALA and MELA.

Revision of Bylaw: Sarah Elman reported the revisions of AAMES bylaws. The main revisions are - Article 6: Committees - Change caption to "Executive Committee". Add Article 7: Other Committees, with 2 sections.

[Original] Article 7: General Provisions - Change numbering to "Article 8".

[Original] Article 8: Vacancies - Change numbering to "Article 9".

Mary Petrowski informed the procedure regarding passing bylaws revisions: First, it has to be approved by AAMES executive committee; secondly, send to ACRL Standards and Bylaw Committee, to be approved; and finally ACRL (Petrowski) will put out the revised bylaws to be voted by AAMES members. Jung-ran Park called for motion to pass

the revised bylaws. The executive members of AAMES present voted to pass. Park asked Elman to send the revised bylaw to ACRL Standards and Bylaw Committee for their final approval.

Funding questions: Dr. Sharma enquired the general procedure of funding application and the possibility of obtaining additional funds from ACRL for bringing international speakers, e.g., from Africa. Petrowski reported that the vice president of ACRL, Tyrone Cannon, is in charge of approving funding. ACRL board deals with policy issues. Budget, which depends on the AAMES membership numbers by August 31st, will be announced in October. The \$500 base money can be used for travel or food reimbursement for non-ALA member. Fund raising is one of the choices that may help for supporting international speaker, however, it has to be conducted by ALA policy and procedures.

Program Planning Committee: Anjana H. Bhatt, Chair, Program Planning Committee, AAMES has reported that the committee has completed initial requirements for presenting its program at the ALA 2004 conference in Orlando, Florida. The program is scheduled for Saturday, June 26, 2004 from 2:00-4:00pm on the topic "Impact of Technology on Asian African and the Middle Eastern Collection". Several distinguished speakers have been invited to deliberate during this program. Dr. Mohammed M. Aman, Professor, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Dr. C.C. Chen, Professor, Library Science, Simmons College, Dr. James J. Natsis, Coordinator of International Studies & Head, International Programs, West Virginia State College, and Kay Raseroka, President, IFLA, University Library of Botswana, Africa will make presentations. It is hoped that all these speakers will enlighten attendees with their knowledge and experience that is required to incorporate digital books/e-resources into the collections. In addition

to learning about innovative and practical solutions for improving collections in digital format, it is expected that the speakers will provide positive input to the subject of this program. Efforts are being made to get sponsorships of CALA, APALA, MELA, Black Caucus and other minority associations belonging to ALA. The ACRL Board has allocated \$500 to this program under its meeting number - 282366. On January 10th, there will be a meeting of all committees from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Westin Plaza, Presidio. Please plan to attend this meeting if you are attending the ALA Midwinter meeting.

Nomination Committee: John A. Eilts, Chair - AAMES Nominating Committee, reported that the Committee members conducted business via email in order to meet the ALA deadline for ballots. After much difficulty in finding members who were able and willing to run for office, the committee was finally able to appeal to the loyalty of a few members to run for offices beginning after annual conference in 2004. The candidates are: Vice-chair/Chair-elect - Cynthia Tysick; Secretary - Doris Seeley; Members-at-Large - Kristen Kern and Lokman I. Meho.

Publication Committee: A new brochure on the AAMES activities was prepared by the Publication Committee that was sent to the ACRL office for printing. The committee also made efforts to bring out the first issue of the AAMES Newsletter. It is decided that the publication of this Newsletter will be continued twice a year.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee: Sarah S. Elman, Chair of the committee has informed that the AAMES Constitution & Bylaws Committee was formed before ALA 2003 with the following members: Sarah Su-erh Elman (Chair), Louise W. Greenfield, Joanne Y. Kim, and Jian Wang. The Committee Chair submitted an AAMES bylaws revision proposal, which was approved by the Executive Committee at ALA 2003