

THE SAHARAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

A Saharan Studies Association has been set up as a body of scholars with common interests, associated with the African Studies Association of the United States. The Association produces a *Newsletter* that will be published twice a year and is designed to be a forum for the exchange of news about publications, projects and scholarly debates in our chosen area. The second issue was published in November 1993.

The Association was formed at the ASA's annual meeting in Seattle in November 1992, following a panel entitled 'The Missing Link: the Sahara and African Studies'. In the discussion it was agreed that the way in which research tends to be regionally compartmentalized—Middle East, North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa—is essentially a legacy of colonialism with little scholarly justification. Such a division effectively excludes the Sahara and provides little opportunity for pursuing interregional connections. While the focus of the Association is to be the Saharan region, it is intended that the association will provide a forum for linking the West African Sahel (from the Atlantic to Lake Chad) with North-West Africa, Libya and Egypt. We deliberately excluded the Nilotic Sudan from our purview since there already exists an active Sudan Studies Association. We hope, however, to establish fruitful dialog and exchange of information and ideas with the latter body.

Broadly speaking, then, the aim of the Association is to foster collaboration and exchange of information between interested scholars in a variety of disciplines ranging through the arts, the humanities, the social sciences and the natural sciences, as they encounter new research materials, engage with local fieldwork problems and seek avenues for bringing the results of their research to a wider circle of colleagues.

Membership in the Saharan Studies Association is open to all interested persons. The annual dues of US\$10 (or Sponsoring Membership of US\$25) entitle members to receive the *Newsletter* and any other occasional publications, and to present papers at

panels sponsored by the Saharan Studies Association at annual meetings of the African Studies Association. As of August 1993 membership totalled 30, from the USA, Canada, Great Britain, France, Norway, Spain, Morocco, Japan and Cameroun.

The Association may be contacted through one of the following persons:

Ann McDougall, Department of History, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2H4 (fax: +1-403 492-9125, email: amcdouga@vm.ucs.ualberta.ca), or

John O. Hunwick, Department of History, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60208, USA (fax: +1-708 467-1393, email: jhunwick@casbah.acns.nwu.edu).

Membership dues should be sent to Priscilla Starratt, Humanities, Box 43, 23 Bridge Street, New England College, Henniker, NH 03242, USA.