

Newsletter Rollercoaster, and Other Important Business

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It looked for a while as though the Newsletter's hard times were about over. Since its inception, we have managed to put it together, issue by issue, with production help and finances from such sources as the ACLS, Slavic Press and various units of the University of Michigan. In recent years, however, aid in the form of both dollars and clerical help has been critically cut back. We were looking for help and relief.

Sam Beck seemed to have the assistance that was needed. At the EEAG meeting in December, 1985, Sam informed the group he was willing to serve as the *Newsletter's* editor and that Eugene Lang College of the New School for Social Research (where Sam serves as an Assistant Dean) would generously cover full production and editorial costs of the *Newsletter*. This would have allowed us to continue wholesale distribution of the *Newsletter* without charge. After some discussion, the assembled members of EEAG agreed to accept the offer subject to a referendum vote to be held in this issue of the *Newsletter*.

Since the December meeting, however, because of the development of unforeseen circumstances at Eugene Lang College, Sam has withdrawn his offer.

So the situation returns to what it was before the December meeting. I will continue to serve as editor and production manager. Providing that I continue to receive the assistance I now get from the University of Michigan, providing that we cut back production and distribution costs by enforcing our subscription fees, and providing that we get a few more members than we now have, we should be able to maintain publication.

We currently have 67 paid members of EEAG. Figuring that each issue of the *NewsLetter* now costs about \$150.00 to publish and distribute, 67 members is just about what we need to be self-sustaining. However, there are other expenses. Since we are not a formal affiliate of AAA, we must pay a rental fee (\$50.00 this last year) for the room in which to hold our annual meeting. Occasionally, other minor expenses arise. A steady membership of 75-80 should provide enough for all our bills (though just barely). We are, thus, very close. There are thirteen members who sent checks for 1984-85 but did not renew for the current year; they alone would push us over the break-even mark. We urge them to pay up, and for those others who have never contributed to do so.

The following have paid their dues for 1985-86: ACLS, Allen, Anderson, Banks, Bartel, Basa, Beck, Beissinger, Bennett, Browne, Bruhn, Brunvand, Carlton, Conrad, Creed, Degh, Dubisch, Dunin, Dunn, Edes, Ellis, Ellison, Eminor, Forry, Friedl, Gal, Halpern, Hammel, Hann, Harvard University, Horowitz, Howell, Huseby-Darvas, Jakubowska, Kerr, Kideckel, Kligman, Komorowski, Krader, Kubik, Markotic, McClain, McConochie, Minnich, Mitchell, New School of Social Research, Ohio State University, Ostor, Padgett, Parmalee, Rasson, Ribic, Rylko-Baner, Schuchat, Simic, Simonelli, Skomal, Smollett, Tringham, University of Pittsburgh, Verdery, Weber, Westerlind, Winner, Whitaker, Young, Zimmerman. If your name is not on this list, this is the last issue of the *Newsletter* that you will receive until your dues are paid.

Only our East European colleagues are exempt. One of the primary functions of EEAG is to promote mutual understanding and to provide a channel of communication between American anthropologists who work in Eastern Europe and our East Europe colleagues. I know of no better way to accomplish this than to send the *Newsletter* to English-reading ethnologists in Eastern Europe and to elicit their contributions to our on-going dialogues. Due to currency restrictions, they cannot pay subscription fees but we will continue to distribute the *Newsletter* in Eastern Europe as long as we are financially able. You can assist in this endeavor, either by, subscribing in an East European colleague's name as well as your own or, if you have no one specific in mind, make a general contribution to the cause.

Further action was taken by those attending the meeting in Washington to establish a formal Board of Directors of EEAG. Board members will assume the duties of organizing the annual meeting, overseeing the *Newsletter*, and whatever other EEAG affairs may arise. These functions have been fulfilled up to now, in the absence of any formal organization, by co-founders and co-coordinators Bill Lockwood and Mitchell Ratner, both of whom feel the time has come (or perhaps long past) to share the responsibilities. Although there was consensus at the December meeting not to affiliate with AAA as an Interest Group (bureaucratic and financial costs seem to outweigh the advantages) the need was expressed for more formal organization of EEAG than has been the case up to now. The decision was made to elect three Board Members. The regular term of office will be three years, but in order to initiate staggered terms on this first slate, that candidate receiving the most votes will serve three years, that with the second highest total will serve two years, and that with the third highest will serve one year. Thus, in each

succeeding year, we will elect one new board member. Those who have served their term of office will be eligible for reelection.

Four candidates have come (or, been dragged) forward for your consideration. The ballot is located on the last page of this *Newsletter*. Please return to the East European Anthropology Group, c/o Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, by March 30, 1986. Only those who have paid their dues are eligible to vote; therefore, if your name does not appear on the list above, please enclose a check with your ballot. Dues are still only \$5.00.

There is one other way in which you can actively participate in EEAG affairs. Send in more material for publication in the *Newsletter*: new and forthcoming publications; notices of grants received or proffered; reviews of books or films; requests for assistance; course syllabi and bibliographies; offers to organize symposia; short articles concerning relevant institutions; public announcements of births, deaths, marriages, promotions, or job changes; criticism; suggestions; or what have you. Send them to the Editor at the address given above. The deadline for Volume 5, Number 2, is March 30, but immediately is not too soon.

The Assistant Editors for this issue are Mitchell Ratner, Eva Huseby Darvas, and Yvonne Lockwood.