

Spring 2004 Newsletter

Comments from the President

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the meetings in Atlanta (not to mention looking forward to spring weather there). Rick Wilk has put together a wonderful program, with many exciting papers and the distinguished lecture by Sidney Mintz. This is also a good time to start thinking about themes and locations for future meetings, to discuss them with colleagues, and to present ideas to the Board. Details about the program, travel details, and registration information are in this Newsletter.

And we can also begin to look forward to the 2005 meeting, being organized by Lisa Cliggett and Chris Pool. It will focus on "Economies and the Transformation of Landscape" and should be an excellent opportunity to bring together cultural anthropologists, archaeologists, and others interested in this topic.

Lillian Trager, President, Society for Economic Anthropology

SEA Book Prize

The first book prize of the Society for Economic Anthropology (SEA) was awarded during the organization's business meeting at the 2003 convention of the American Anthropological Association in Chicago. The winner was Karen Tranberg Hansen (Northwestern University) for *Salaula: The World of Secondhand Clothing and Zambia* (University of Chicago Press, 2000). *Salaula* is a theoretically original, ethnographically rich examination of how discarded clothing from Western countries is marketed, transported, disaggregated, and transformed in its movements along a complex commodity chain. Emphasis is placed on both the economics of the wholesale and retail trade and the ways in which the consumption of used clothing in Zambia is influenced by culturally significant ideas about fashion.

The SEA prize committee considered more than 20 books that were nominated for the award. The diversity and excellence of these books suggest that economic anthropology is thriving. *Salaula* and four other books were selected as finalists. The finalists other than *Salaula* were (in alphabetical order) Rudi Colloredo Mansfeld (University of Iowa) for *The Native Leisure Class: Consumption and Cultural Creativity in the Andes* (University of Chicago Press, 1999), Marc Edelman (City University of New York – Hunter College) for *Peasants Against Globalization: Rural Social Movements in Costa Rica* (Stanford University Press, 1999), William Fisher (College of William and Mary) for *Rain Forest Exchanges: Industry and Commerce on an Amazonian Frontier* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 2000), and Carla Freeman (Emory University) for *High Tech and High Heels in the Global Economy: Women, Work and Pink Collar Identity in the Caribbean* (Duke University Press, 2000).

The prize committee considered books in economic anthropology (broadly defined) published in 1999-2002. Subsequent awards will be made every two years.

AAA Panel: Urban Issues and Neoliberalism

At the 2004 AAA, a panel will focus on the impact of neoliberalism on urban communities. The city is socially produced. Global economic structures, corporate power, and public policy contribute to the production of urban landscapes. These processes have concrete material consequences for urban communities. Specifically, the spatial organization of cities often reflects and reproduces existing social relations and structures of power. The purpose of the session is to investigate the impact of neoliberalism (free market economics, deregulation, and privatization on a global scale) on urban communities.

Scientifically oriented papers are invited that illuminate the relationship between global political economic forces and the everyday lives of people in urban communities. Among other topics, papers could address the impact of neoliberalism on: 1) urban poverty and opportunity structures; 2) migration patterns; 3) class and race/ethnic relations within cities; 4) health, education, or criminal justice in urban communities; 5) political participation and control of public services; 6) informal/formal market systems. There is a possibility of getting some of these papers published in the forthcoming issue of "Research in Economic Anthropology." Scholars to participate in the panel in the capacity of a discussant are also invited. Please email an abstract (200-250 words) of your paper and a brief resume to Jayant Anand at jayant@tamu.edu before March 7, 2003.

2003 Schneider Prize Winners

Kyle B. Lamb (Northwestern University) was awarded the Undergraduate Prize for his paper entitled, *Original, Authentic and Uniquely Japanese: Understanding the Consumption of Imported Secondhand and English Language Clothing in Japan*. Kyle Lamb's Faculty sponsor was Dr. Karen Tranberg Hansen.

Jonah Bea-Taylor (Emory College) was awarded the Undergraduate Honorable Mention for the paper, *Japan and Rice Importation Issues: An Historical Inquiry*. Jonah Bea-Taylor's faculty sponsor was Dr. Peggy F. Barlett.

Nashieli Cecilia Rangel Loera (CIESAS) was awarded the Graduate Prize for her paper, *Cotija Cheese and Its New Realities*. Nashieli's faculty sponsor was Dr. Guadalupe Rodriguez Gomez (Center for Advanced Studies and Research in Social Anthropology, Guadalajara, Mexico).

Congratulations and welcome to the SEA!