Trinidad Carnival: Notes From the Field
By David F. Lancy

Editor's Note: David Lancy wrote this report while holding a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of the West Indies.

I don't know that anyone has ever measured per capita expenditure on "play", but I'd guess the small island republic of Trinidad & Tobago would be near the top of the list. I'm sure most people are aware that Trinidad gave the world the steel band, but are they aware that the typical Trinidadian steel band has 60-80 musicians and that there are at least 20 orchestras of this size on Trinidad as well as another 30 or so smaller-sized bands on both islands? One of the centerpieces of Carnival is "panorama", a round-robin competition lasting over a month, to determine the best steel band in the country. To guage the dollar value of steelband activity, consider that the minimum concert fee charged to visiting cruise ship operators is approximately $US500.

Calypso originated here and performers like the Mighty Sparrow, David Rudder, and Chalkdust are world-renowned. But again, the scale of Calypso activity in Carnival is staggering. From the end of December until Ash Wednesday, five "tents" or assemblages of 15-20 calypsonians each, performing with live orchestra, can be visited nearly every night at one of several "venues" around the country. Admission is cheap ($2.50 to $6.00) but most people are not content unless they have seen at least a couple of shows and, of course, they must buy this year's albums by their favorite calypsonians.

Then there is masquerade. There are several types of mas: mud mas, night mas, old time mas, and so, but my interest was drawn to the main mas which takes place on Carnival Tuesday. For twelve hours literally thousands of costumed revellers, adherents of one of several dozen "bands", parade through the streets of the capitol, Port-of-Spain, and in front of the judges.
I had answered an ad in November for volunteers to serve as carnival judges. I duly filled in an application form and was called in for an interview. Needless to say, I did not fit the stereotype of the carnival judge which was middle-aged (OK, that fit), former leading figure in mas, e.g., a "player", designer, band leader, or craftsman. I won the selection panel over with my argument that, inasmuch as so many foreigners were now coming to play mas, there should be at least one foreigner among the judges. I also claimed to be trained as an anthropologist, but that carried no weight at all.

Our group of judges-to-be participated in a series of seminars which consisted mostly of the veteran judges cataloguing all the things that had gone wrong with previous carnivals. We were given elaborate guidance on how to fill in the multivariate evaluation, largely a wasted effort as there wasn't sufficient time to weigh all the criteria and most judges had strong opinions about what to look for and these didn't necessarily correspond to the forms. More informal discussion led to a rapid growth in my Creole vocabulary, viz., Wine: to simulate intercourse while jumping up (marching/dancing) in a band.

Other preparation consisted of visiting several mas "camps", houses which had been given over to the display of drawings of the various costumes that had been designed for this year's bands. Band titles reflect the overall theme of the design, e.g., Japanorama, Polynesia, War Dance. Prospective mas players place a deposit to reserve their costumes. Some bands offered rather skimpy (Brasilia) costumes at fees under $70, while others presented an incredible array of elaborate designs such as the orchids, hummingbirds, ginger and other flora from Tush in the Bush at figures approaching $125 per costume. In addition to these rather plebian costumes, a player with a real need for display could purchase one of the special costumes such as the king or queen of the band for upwards of $3000. These players are judged separately in a special show on Dimanche Gras. These one-off costumes border on being floats as they may expand outward 20-30 feet in all directions.

As a judge, it was my duty to not only "work" the main events but Old Time Carnival and Children's Carnival. This latter is a worthy miniature of the adult variety, scaled down only slightly in size and magnificence.

On the big day, Brasilia was the first band that crossed in front of the judges at 8am and crossed, and crossed, and crossed! It had over 4000 members in 15 named sections, each 2-3 sections accompanied by a flat-bed truck carrying the "DJ music" (sound system with huge speakers), a live band or a steel band. This is the standard arrangement for the bands which otherwise vary only in overall size. The last, Santimanitay, staggered by at 8pm. In between, a steady stream of gaudy, lyrical, drink, elegant, colorful, active people of all colors, ages, sizes, and degrees of (un)dress. To my immense disappointment, the two most elegantly/innovatively designed bands, Japan & Tush, did not end up as winners.

There are three categories: large (2000+ members), medium (500-2000), and small. Tush and Japan were registered in the large and medium-sized categories, respectively, but both were, in fact, among the smallest bands in their respective categories. Although not surprising given the cost of their relatively elaborate costumes, this lack of numerosity hurt their chances, according to several of my fellow judges.

Peter Minshall is the leading designer of Carnival and his bands and kings and queens are invariably in serious contention for prizes. Minshall's sterling reputation insures that his bands will be large even though the costumes are always elaborate and expensive. This year Santimanitay was second among the large bands and the king Lord of the Flies was judged the best. Minshall, noted for being an innovator, made what may be his most significant contribution yet to Carnival. He booked the national stadium and had his bands put on what turned out to be a spectacular "Theatrical" performance on Carnival Monday evening. Many of the band designers who saw their beautiful costumes in tattered disarray after hours of abuse on the streets of Port-of-Spain may have wished they had thought of the idea. I suspect that next year several of the "artistic" designers will be showing off their masqueraders in a more sober and carefully controlled arena before they let them loose in the streets.

For the student of play or for anyone who might enjoy the world's biggest party, Carnival in Trinidad is a must!
Sociodramatic Tutoring:
Manipulation or Liberation
By Jeffrey L. Dansky

Editor's Note: Jeff Dansky is Professor of Psychology at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

In the Fall 1988 TASP Newsletter Brian Sutton-Smith indicated his strong opposition to sociodramatic tutoring. He characterized proponents of such tutoring as well-meaning intruders who would "...manipulate children's play to fit their own preconceived purposes." He further characterized efforts to promote sociodramatic tutoring as an "...attempt to rationalize and control children's play...." In this same commentary, Brian also provided us with a laudable declaration of children's right to their own free play. ("Either children's play is their area of freedom as adult recreation is our area of freedom, or we are treating children as a lower caste....") I would like to second this proclamation of children's rights, but simultaneously suggest that sociodramatic tutoring can be far more liberating than limiting.

The considerable individual differences in the extent to which preschool-aged children engage in social interactive make believe have been well documented. Some children, most often disadvantaged children, display virtually no sociodramatic activity during free play -- even after they are fully acclimated to their daycare environments. There is inadequate normative data to estimate the proportion of children from various populations who engage in no sociodramatic play. There is also disagreement about whether these differences should be considered developmental deficits. However, what is known about this area convinces me that a strong case can be made in favor of (some) sociodramatic tutoring, even if these differences are not "deficits."

There is ample evidence that sociodramatic tutoring is relatively easy to do, that it requires little time, and that children enjoy it. For example, Dansky (1980) and Udwim (1983) report that ten 30-minute tutoring sessions distributed over three to five weeks resulted in significant increases in both frequency and imaginativeness of children's sociodramatic activity, and that these changes "persisted into the spontaneous play of the children a considerable period after the termination of the intervention programme, in situations far removed from the adult trainer" (Udwim, 1983). Thus, the cumulative "intrusion" into the lives of these children included fewer hours than most of them spend in a single day of daycare.

Furthermore, the children subsequently chose to include sociodramatic activity in their free-play activities, in the absence of specific suggestions that they do so, or other extrinsic sanctions of any kind. These findings are similar to those reported by most other researchers.

Because most readers are likely aware of the numerous positive consequences that have been attributed to sociodramatic tutoring, I will not enumerate them here. (See Rubin, Fein & Vandenberg (1983) for a review.) There is disagreement as to how many of the cognitive, affective and social benefits that have been reported will prove replicable. There is also disagreement as to whether these outcomes can all be attributed to the "play" involved in sociodramatic play tutoring, or whether other forms of direct skills training can achieve these same goals. These are questions of considerable theoretical and practical importance; however, their full resolution is not required to settle the issue at hand (i.e., whether sociodramatic tutoring is an intrusion into children's lives that is best avoided).

I share Brian's concern that too many children's lives are too heavily structured by (well-meaning) adults. I am for more recess and opposed to pre-kindergarten and the proliferation of lessons and adult-organized sports for young children. Children's play should be "their area of freedom." However, just as there are things that caring adults must do for children, there are some things we simply should do for them. I think that sociodramatic tutoring belongs in this latter category, although many children have no need for it and most children don't need much. As I've noted, it requires little time; children enjoy it; and, although it may not promote all of the positive developmental consequences that its strongest proponents suggest, it can be argued that it makes their play free. This is because it provides them with a medium within which they can play around with any combination of ideas, experiences or feelings that they choose to incorporate. Tutored children don't simply repeat the themes used during tutoring when they engage in spontaneous sociodrama; they use their own. And once we've provided them with a sense of how this medium might be used, they continue to be free not to use it.

In closing, I should note that Brian and I discussed some of these issues at one of the many successful symposia at the 1989 TASP meetings in Philadelphia. In fact, some of these issues spilled over into a symposium held the next morning. However, because the debate was as spirited as our time was limited, I'm not quite certain whether we finally agreed or agreed to disagree.
References


Playfully Yours
By Brian Sutton-Smith

March 18th and 19th I attended a colloquium in Paris celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Federation Francaise D'Education Physique et de Gymnastic Volontaire. The French, Italian and Portuguese speakers mostly dealt with the shift that occurred about 100 years ago from a conception of children's health dominated by physical exercises towards a conception dominated by games and sports. In general the British were lauded for their efforts and the Germans and Swedes were, by implication, not so well regarded. The World War II to the earlier gymnastic forms. Pressures for such a shift were first brought on medical grounds (to prevent the stress of overwork and to make students more supple, etc.) and then later, following the Olympic advocacy of Coutbertin, and the British advocacy of rugby football, they were promulgated on elitist and militaristic grounds. Interspersed with these lectures the British historians present busily lamented these very same developments. British school involvement in team sports so wasted British talents and monies on the playing fields throughout England, they said, that monies that should have been spent on science and laboratories were not there. The Oxbridge elite of the country likewise wasted their intellectual growth on this "package of virtue," the circumscribed hedonism of sports. Further, the definition of recreation in these terms as a male hegemony made even clearer than before, they said, that females were non-players. There was, however, a taste of social class "bitterness" and joyful anti-Thatcherism in this putting down of this favored story of British game leadership. I must admit to feeling both amused and sorry that "play up and play the game" was being made to bite so much dust.

But then I thought of all the other stories one could tell about rugby football, all the ways in which, world wide, innumerable players (in the fashion of C.L.R. James) have gone "Beyond the Boundaries" of these interpretations, as in the contemporary women's teams at the University of Pennsylvania, the Kangaroo versions of football in New South Wales, and in the constant victory for most of the century of the Welsh miners, the South African Boers, and the New Zealand All Blacks over their reputed English social superiors. The tale of rugby football is as much the story of such colonial revolt as it is the story of Oxbridge's mastery over the British political and social ideology. And again, today, it is quite the different story, like all of Professional Sports, of international political ambition and media economics. And yet even during all of that the game itself represented a childhood form of autonomy, an arena of skill and success, of mud and grotesque realism that offered an ever increasing emotional return in an age of ever increasing schooling and refinement. In New Zealand we used the word "Stoweh" for that incessant and unrelenting pursuit of the ball and the opponents regardless of fatigue until ball and player were ground into the mud. Nothing in the rest of our lives permitted us such an excess at such little real cost to the prevailing system of manners.

All I am intending by these few examples is to show how difficult it is "in play" to tell a good story which is also a sufficient explanation. It seems that many forms of play are sufficiently malleable that they can become absorbed into innumerable ideologies and advocacies. But it also seems true that these "good" forms have a certain autonomy of form which may often be pursued regardless of, rather than because of, one particular circumjacent hegemonial ideology. Play is simply too undisciplined for academic confinement. Academics are conceptual jailers, and players make poor prisoners.
1990 Meeting Preview

President Andy Miracle has recently completed arrangements for the 1990 TASP annual meetings. They will be held in Las Vegas, beginning the afternoon of Sunday, April 8 and concluding on Wednesday, April 11. In addition to regular paper sessions and symposia, several special events are now in the planning stage.

Starting the meetings on Sunday is not traditional for TASP, but it allowed for unusually low room rates at the Tropicana Hotel, which will serve as the conference site. The Tropicana and Las Vegas as a whole offer quality rooms and conference facilities, inexpensive food and drink, and a variety of leisure and sport opportunities. In such a setting, the TASP meetings promise to be very exciting.

Anyone who would like to organize a symposium is encouraged to do so. It is suggested that organized symposia consist of 4 to 7 papers, plus a designated discussant. Volunteered papers are also welcomed. Anyone who wishes to organize a special event, such as a panel discussion, should contact the program organizers (see the call for papers attached to this issue of the Newsletter).

A series of informal workshops on how to play in Las Vegas is being organized. These sessions, led by knowledgeable TASP members, will provide neophyte information on rules and strategies of the various gaming opportunities in Las Vegas. Those who have (or think they have) some expertise (one does not have to prove one has actually won money playing the game) are urged to teach others (who, being deprived, haven't yet learned enough to lose a lot). If you would like to volunteer to serve as an instructor for one of these "Lady Luck Sessions," please contact Andy Miracle.

There are indications that there will be a large turnout for what promises to be an exciting meeting. Encourage your associates, students, friends and creditors to attend. Early room reservations are advised and early registration will be appreciated by the program organizers. More program details and information on special events will be available in the October issue of the Newsletter.

Sport/Exercise Interorganizational Liaison

In September 1988 representatives of ten organizations involved in the study of exercise and sport met in Washington, DC to further explore the possibility of creating a network. Representatives produced a statement of purpose, which states: "The purpose of the Exercise/Sport Network is to enhance the communication among and about constituent organizations involved in research and scholarship in exercise and sport. For example, communication may be facilitated by exchanging newsletters, disseminating conference/membership information, and identifying grant sources. A future issue to be addressed is the promotion of exercise/sport scholarship with a concern for development of funding sources."

TASP President Ann Marie Guilmette represented TASP at the conference and prepared a statement on the future of TASP indicating that children at play, pre-schoolers at play, adolescents at play, adults at play, and play as therapeutic intervention would continue to be major emphases of TASP's membership.

The Network has scheduled a meeting in 1990 in San Diego, and the TASP Council has designated Don Lyle to attend the meeting on behalf of TASP.

Thusfar, TASP has received newsletters from two of the participating organizations -- The Association for the Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology and the National Association for Physical Education in Higher Education. The TASP Newsletter will be sent to the newsletter editors of all participating organizations as soon as a mailing list can be established.

Candidates for Election

Enclosed in the Newsletter is a ballot by which each TASP member is asked to vote for: (1) approval or disapproval of the constitutional revisions detailed above, (2) a candidate for President-Elect, and (3) a candidate for Member-at-Large. Brief vitae and statements of the candidates are provided below.
President - Elect

George Eisen says of himself:

I was born in Budapest in 1943. I am the product of three educational systems: Hungarian, Israeli, and American. I received an MS from the University of Massachusetts in Anthropology-History and Sport Studies; my PhD from the University of Maryland is in History-Sociology of Sport. I am presently professor at the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. In addition to being an avid collector of Olympic memorabilia and speaking five languages, I have received awards for scholarly contributions to the study of play and sport. I became a member of TASP in 1975; the affiliation was furthered as much by my interest in the study of play as by the interdisciplinary nature of the organization itself. The conferences have provided me with not only a forum for scholarly presentations but also important human-scholarly interaction. Through the years I have served TASP as a Fellow, Member-at-Large, and Publicity Coordinator.

Selected Publications


Robert Lavenda is Professor of Anthropology at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota. He is the author of several articles on festivals in Caracas, Venezuela and Minnesota. He is also co-author of an introductory cultural anthropology text, the first to take play seriously and to feature it prominently. His present research concerns community festivals in Minnesota, and he is at work on a monograph about them. A member of TASP since 1977, Lavenda was a member of the Council in 1982-84 and again in 1987-89.

Rob states: Since I joined TASP in 1977, it has been the most consistently stimulating and entertaining professional association I know. We now seem well-launched into a new stage, with a new name and journal. As President, I will work to help ensure that we continue both the vigorous intellectual (at least!) excitement and the hospitable support for a wide range of play scholarship that have always been part of TASP.

Selected Publications


1990 LAS VEGAS
1991 MINNESOTA
1992 EUROPE
Member - at - Large

Victoria Paraschak is Assistant Professor, Faculty of Human Kinetics, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario. She states:

I first attended TASP in 1987 because my area of research is native people, and I understood that TASP was a forum for such research. That was the first year that "A" (Anthropological) was dropped from the Association's title. While I have learned a lot about play in the last few years, and have interacted meaningfully with many people who have carried out field research in native communities, I have found that the conference has increasingly served as a forum for native research. I agreed to stand for this position because I believe that TASP is perhaps the only organization which has a historical link with the examination of physical activity in relation to native people.


In keeping with my multi-disciplinary focus, I regularly attend conferences concerned with the history, sociology, and anthropology of sport. I have found that each area of study assists me in developing a broader, more accurate understanding of native people "playing" within their own and/or the larger North American society. I will bring this commitment toward multi-disciplinary research to the Council as an elected Member at Large.

Frank Salamone teaches in the Department of Anthropology, SUNY Purchase. He is a long-time and active member of TASP. No statement was available from Frank, as he is currently doing field work in Africa.

Joan Weatherly is Professor, Department of English, Memphis State University. A native of Mississippi, she received her PhD from the University of Alabama. A member of TASP since 1983, she has participated herself (or with her husband Jim Weatherly) in each meeting, except one, since. Their joint article "Perversions of the Play Impulse" appears in the 1984 TAASP Proceedings edited by Barney Mergen. She has published articles on W. B. Yeats, Flannery O'Connor, Orwell, linguistics (esp. on metaphor), and an article in Teaching Environmental Literature (1985) published by the Modern Language Association. She has read papers at MLA, Conference on College Composition and Communication, regional linguistics and nineteenth century associations (Secol and Sensca), among others, and served as an officer in three organizations (CCCC, Secol, and Sensca). The theme of the 1986 Sensca conference for which she served as Program Chair and host was "The Nineteenth Century at Play."

PLAY PRINT: Books and Materials for Play Scholars

State University of New York Press announces a new book series Children's Play in Society dealing with play and its role in human development and encompassing the fields of education, psychology, anthropology, sociology, linguistics and pediatrics. The series editor is Anthony D. Pellegrini. Several TASPians serve as advisors to the series. Inquiries and proposals should be directed to Priscilla C. Ross, Editor, SUNY Press, State University Plaza, Albany, NY 12246-0001.

Diana Kelly-Byrne's new book A Child's Play Life: An Ethnographic Study is due out shortly from Teachers College Press, Columbia University. The book is based upon a year of interaction between the author and a seven year old child in play situations. It may be ordered from Teachers College Press, 1234 Amsterdam Ave., New York, NY 10027.
PLAY THINGS: Professional Activities in Play Study

Meetings, Meetings, Meetings...

The Canadian Parks/Recreation Association annual conference will be held August 14-17, 1989 in Hamilton, Ontario. For information contact David Ng (416) 688-5550, ext. 3386 or Robert Sugden (416) 526-2700.

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, Brock University presents a conference entitled "Movement Education for a New Age", October 20-22, 1989. Keynote speakers are Kate R. Barrett, Vera Maletic and Valerie Preston-Dunlop. For more information contact the School of Physical Education and Recreation, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2S 3A1 or phone (416) 688-5550, ext. 3713.


Exhibits, Exhibits...

The Please Touch Museum, which hosted a visit by TASP members during our most recent annual meeting in Philadelphia is sponsoring an educational symposium Children and Television: The Kid - Vid Movement. What Can a Parent and Teacher Do? The symposium will be held at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania on Saturday, October 14 from 9 am to 3:15 pm, with a reception for parents and children at the Museum from 3:45 to 5:00 pm. The Museum is located at 210 North 21st Street in Philadelphia, just south of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. For more information contact Capucine Jackson-Grimes at (215) 963-9964.

Ernst Lurkers, whom many TASPians may remember from the Phillie meetings, is planning a major museum exhibition on Play Art which would be the first of its kind. He conceives of a selection of about 100 pieces to be produced as a travelling exhibition in North America and perhaps in Europe. Anyone with an interest in this project should contact Ernst at 300 East 34th Street, New York, NY 10016, phone (212) 532-6861. Ernst feels this is a three year project and promises to keep us up-to-date on its development.

Student Essay Contest...

TDR sponsors a student essay contest with a first prize of $500 and two second prizes of $250 each. Essays should be 15 to 30 double-spaced typewritten pages and may be on any subject related to performance. Winning essays will be published in TDR. Deadline for submissions is December 1, 1989; winners will be announced in March 1990. Send essays or inquiries to: TDR Essay Contest, New York University, 721 Broadway, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10003.

Council Recommends Constitutional Revisions

Editor's Note: The document below was prepared by Jay Mechling on behalf of the TASP Council.

Members of TASP:

The Officers and Councillors of TASP present for your examination and vote a proposed revision of the constitution of the organization.

At the Philadelphia meeting, the Council decided unanimously that the Association now requires the planning of meetings two years in advance, and that the best way to provide such long-range planning is to create First and Second Vice-Presidents in place of the current President-Elect. In returning to the Constitution in order to draft the proposed revision, the Council discovered a great many ways in which the Constitution mandates structures and procedures that seem to the Council unnecessarily complex and inappropriate to an organization our size. The present constitution was adopted in 1975 and last revised in January of 1977, so the Council believes it time to consider a streamlining of the document to fit better the reorganization's practices and needs.
Of special note are the following proposed changes:
--the structure of the Officers is changed to create an additional officer, Second Vice President, in the succession. This permits us to plan our meetings two years in advance, providing that the Second Vice President serve as the program chair for the more distant meeting.
--the membership category of Fellow has been redefined as an honorary designation for members who have achieved special scholarly distinction.
--the Newsletter editor and journal editor have been added to the Council as voting members, ex officio.
--the Council positions of Publicity Coordinator and Publications Coordinator have been eliminated.
--some standing committees have been eliminated.

After thoughtful review, the Officers and Council have approved unanimously the proposed revisions and recommend them to you.

The Council also presents at this time the nominating committee's slate of candidates, in accord with the existing Constitution. The Council has voted unanimously to consider first the voting results of the Constitutional revision, then the voting results of the election. If the Constitutional revision passes by the required number of votes (two-thirds), the Council shall consider the candidate for President-elect with the most number of votes to have been elected First Vice-President, and the candidate with the second most votes to have been elected Second Vice-President, as defined in the revised Constitution.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution. Words with strike-out are those to be deleted from the present Constitution, and words in bold are those to be added.

CONSTITUTION OF
THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY OF PLAY

ARTICLE I: Name
Section 1: The name of this association shall be The Association for the Anthropological Study of Play.

ARTICLE II: Purpose
Section 1: The purposes of the Association shall be to promote, stimulate and encourage the anthropological interdisciplinary study of play; to support and cooperate with local, national, and international organizations having the same purposes; to organize and arrange meetings; and to issue publications concerning the purpose of the association.
Section 2: The Association shall conduct its activities solely for scholarly purposes.

ARTICLE III: Membership
Section 1: There shall be three classes of members: Members, Fellows, and Constituent Members.
Section 2: Members are those individuals who maintain professional interests in and support of the anthropological study of play. Members may be designated as Contributing or Sustaining Members by the payment of additional dues, as established in accordance with Article VII.
Section 3: Fellows of the Association are those members who are actively engaged in furthering the body of knowledge in the anthropology of play as evidenced by the current scholarly research have achieved special distinction in the scholarly study of play and who have been elected to the status of Fellow by the Council of the Association.
Section 4: New members of the Association will be enrolled as Members. Members who may be nominated by three other members to become Fellows must apply in writing to the Council. Election to a Fellowship will be the result of a majority vote of the Council at each annual meeting. The application nomination submitted should include evidence of the Member's qualification for a Fellowship, as stipulated in Article III, Section 3.
Section 5: Any organization, such as a society, club, institute, or library, which encourages or supports the purposes of the Association, shall be eligible for membership as a Constituent Member upon application to the Membership Committee. Each Constituent Member may choose one delegate to attend the annual meeting of the Members, who, on the occasion, shall have the same voting privileges as Members.
Section 6: Membership shall not become effective until the Treasurer has received the year's dues, such dues establishing membership for each fiscal year.

ARTICLE IV: Officers
Section 1: The officers of the Association shall be a President, President-Elect, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Immediate Past-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. Membership Secretary, and Publications Editor, all of whom shall be Fellows of the Association. The President-Elect and Second Vice-President shall be elected by the Members of the Association by mail ballot prior to an annual meeting (see ARTICLE X) for a one-year term, following completion of which he/she shall succeed to the office of First Vice-President for one year, President for one year and then to the office of Immediate Past-President for one year. The Offices of Secretary-Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Publications Editor shall be filled by a qualified person nominated by the President and confirmed appointed by consensus majority of the Executive Council (see ARTICLE V). A person appointed to any of these offices shall serve until a) he/she, for whatever reason, decides that he/she can no longer satisfactorily carry out the duties of the office, in which case he/she shall submit, to the President and in writing, a statement of intent to resign, resignation to become
Section 2: The Council shall consist of the officers of the Association, and six members-at-large, all of whom shall be Fellows of the Association, the Newsletter editor ex officio, and the editor of Association Journal, Play & Culture, ex officio. The President shall act as Chairman of the Council. Six members shall constitute a quorum of the Council.

Section 3: Council Members-at-large shall be elected to a two-year term of office, except for the first set of Members-at-large, who shall serve a one-year term.

Section 4: The Council shall hold an annual meeting not more than one week preceding the annual meeting of the Association at a time and place designated by the President. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or by any five members of the Council upon at least two weeks written notice to each member of the Council.

Section 5: In the event that members of the Council cannot attend the annual meeting or special meeting which may be called, they may appoint a proxy to cast votes in their name. A proxy must be in writing and must be delivered to the President of the Association.

Section 6: The Council may decide to submit specific questions by mail ballot, to insure that each member (present at the annual meeting or not present) can cast his vote. Such ballots shall be distributed by the Secretary-Treasurer to members of the Council, and shall include a clear statement of the questions and a summary of the arguments presented for and against the question.

Section 7: In the event that an elected member of the Council cannot fill his term of office, that Councilor shall present his or her resignation to the President in writing. Upon the acceptance of such a resignation the President shall appoint a Fellow Member to fill the vacant position on the Council.

Section 8: Except as otherwise provided by law and these By-laws, decisions of the Council shall be by majority vote of those members of the Council present and voting.

ARTICLE VI: Meetings

Section 1: There shall be an annual meeting of the members of the Association after which time officers and Council Members-at-large shall assume the offices to which they were elected. Prior to, or during the annual meeting of the members, the Council shall hold its annual business meeting as required under ARTICLE V. The president, in conjunction with the appropriate officers of the Association, shall designate the time and place of both meetings. The President shall arrange the order of business at these meetings.

Section 2: The Secretary-Treasurer shall mail notices of the annual meeting of the members and the annual business meeting to the Members of the Association not less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to those meetings. Such notifications shall state the time, place and general purposes of the meetings. The notification of meetings may be included in the ballot containing nominations for elected officials or Council Members-at-large, as stipulated in

ARTICLE V: Council

Section 1: Except as otherwise provided by these By-laws, the management of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Directors which shall be known as the Council.
ARTICLE X.

Section 3: The Council of the Association shall present at the annual meeting of the members a report dated as of the close of the last complete fiscal year, verified by the President and Secretary-Treasurer, or by a majority of the members of the Council. This report shall also show the names and addresses of the persons and organizations who have been admitted to membership during such year. This report shall be filed with the records of the Association and an abstract thereof entered in the minutes of the annual meeting of the members at which the report is presented. The President shall appoint an individual or a firm, who shall not be a member of the Council, to act as an auditor, and who shall examine the annual report referred to in this section prior to the annual meeting of the members, and shall express an opinion thereon in writing at the annual meeting of the members.

Section 4: The Council may sponsor or sanction other meetings or symposia which contribute to the purposes of the Association.

ARTICLE VII: Dues and Finances

Section 1: The amount of the annual dues for all classes of membership shall be determined by vote of the Council.

Section 2: The Council shall set a date for the annual payment of dues.

Section 3: The Council of the Association shall set the dates of the fiscal year.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 1: There shall be a Newsletter published on a regular basis, such basis to be determined by the Council. The editor of the Newsletter shall be appointed by the President of the Association and confirmed by a majority vote of the Council.

Section 2: There shall be an annual Proceedings published.

Section 2: There shall be a scholarly journal, Play and Culture, published on a schedule to be determined by the Council. The editor of the journal shall be appointed by the President of the Association and confirmed by a majority vote of the Council.

Section 3: Other Publications may ensue as determined to be desirable by the Council.

Section 4: All members shall receive regular subscriptions to the Association's journal and to the Newsletter and other official publications of the Association, subject to the current financial status of the Association.

ARTICLE IX: Committees

Section 1: Standing Committees: There shall be two standing committees of the Association, as follows:

Section 1A: Membership Committee: The President shall appoint annually a membership Committee consisting of three members, the Chairman of which must be a member of the Council. The membership committee shall review all membership applications and refer qualified applicants to fellow status to the Council at the annual business meeting.

Section 1B: Budget and Fiscal Committee: The President shall appoint a budget and fiscal Committee of three members, the Chairman of which shall be the Secretary-Treasurer. An annual report shall be given at the annual meeting of the members of the Association. The Budget and Fiscal Committee is responsible for the collection and disbursement of Association funds.

Section 1C A: Program Committee: The President shall appoint a Program Committee of three members, the Chairman of which shall be the President-elect First Vice-President. The Program Committee is responsible for the organization of the program for any subsequent Association meeting.

Section 1D: Time and Site Committee: The President shall appoint a Time and Site Committee of three members, the Chairman of which shall be a member of the Council, to make the necessary local arrangements for the annual meeting of the Association, exclusive of the program for the meetings.

Section 1E B: Nominating Committee: At each annual meeting of the Association the President shall appoint, subject to the confirmation by the Council, a Nominating Committee consisting of three Fellows.

Members of the Association, none of whom shall be members of the Council, who shall continue in office for one year. The Nominating Committee is responsible for the preparation of a list of nominees for the elected offices of the Association, in accordance with ARTICLE IV, Section 1, ARTICLE V, Section 3, and ARTICLE X.

Section 2: Special Committees: Special Committees shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Council from time to time as the occasion demands. These committees shall be limited in activities to the purpose for which they were appointed and shall have no power to act unless such is specifically conferred by action of the Council.

ARTICLE X: Nominations and Elections

Section 1: The Nominating Committee shall present a list of nominations for officers and Council Members-at-large, in the appropriate years, to the Secretary-Treasurer for the elections to be held prior to any annual meeting, not less than six (6) four (4) months before such meetings. The Secretary-Treasurer shall mail a ballot to each eligible member, containing the list of nominees and one hundred twenty (120) sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting of the members at which time newly elected officers would take office. Additional nominations may be made in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer by any five members of the Association at any reasonable time prior to the distribution of the list of nominations, provided that the candidate's written permission is available.

Section 2: The voting in all elections for officers and Council Members-at-large shall be accomplished by mail. The ballot
distributed by the Secretary-Treasurer (see ARTICLE X, Section 1) shall be used for these elections. The ballot shall include, but not be limited to: (A) a list of candidates for each office or Council Member-at-large position, and (B) a brief statement by each candidate expressing his or her qualifications for the office, a summary of his or her publications, and a report of his or her professional activities, and may include other pertinent information on candidates and offices, as long as the additions are the same for each candidate for each office.

ARTICLE XI: Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to the constitution or By-laws of the Association shall be accomplished by two-thirds majority of the Members of the Association voting on such changes.

Section 2: Voting must be accomplished by mail ballot to insure that each Member has an equal opportunity to voice his opinion.

Section 3: Amendments may be proposed by: (A) a majority of the Council, (B) a majority of members present at an annual meeting of the Members, or (C) by any 10 members of the Association, when presented in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 4: Ballots shall be distributed to all Members of the Association who are in good standing by the Secretary-Treasurer. Ballots shall include a summary of the arguments in favor of or opposed to the changes in question.

ARTICLE XII: Parliamentary Authority

Section 1: The rules of procedures contained in Roberts Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern meetings of the members of the Association so far as they are applicable and when not inconsistent with these By-laws.

ARTICLE XIII: Seal

Section 1: The seal of the Association shall be that adopted by the Council and shall be used on all official transactions and publications. The seal must include at least (A) identification of the Association, (B) the date of the origin of the Association, and (C) a symbol depicting the purpose of the Association.

Revised, January, 1977

---

Dear Dan:

October 1988

Please announce in the newsletter that Brian Sutton-Smith could not get a replacement for the October TASP meeting.

Dr. Play's Quiz 95

The letter above just arrived at the office of Newsletter editor, Dan Hilliard. If you held it in front of a strong light, as Dan did before he opened it, the message comes through. What is it? Who wrote it? and how is the letter folded? For extra credit: From where was it sent and why did it arrive late? (There are several possible explanations - virtual and otherwise - for this.)

Dear Fellow Taspian:

I want to ask a favor of you. If you have any ideas for puzzles, problems, or playful mind teasers you'd like to share with other TASP Newsletter readers then send them to me. This is a way to learn more of your interests and incorporate your suggestions into the Newsletter.

Send your comments, ideas (even if in vague, 'outliner' form) or puzzles to Don Lylle (since my nom de plume has been revealed).

8 Sunland Drive
Chico, CA 95926