



NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 Number 27

April 2002

African Studies Association of the UK Minutes of the Thirty-Eighth Annual General Meeting

Held in the Greenbank Lecture Theatre, Greenbank Building, University of Central Lancashire, Saturday 15 September 2001 at 5pm.

Present

Douglas Rimmer, Insa Nolte, Martin Hill, Philippa Hall, Reg Cline-Cole, Carolyn Baylies, Tim Shaw, Kees Maxay, Carren Abongo, Nigel Eltringham, Peter Jones, Seidu Salifu, Karin Barber, Nici Nelson, Alfred Zack-Williams, Douglas Johnson.

Apologies

Richard Hodder-Williams, Angela Browne, Ola Uduku

1. Welcome

President welcomed all present to the annual meeting after which she introduced the Vice-President and the Honorary Secretary.

Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting held at Cambridge 11 September 2000 were accepted without amendments and were signed by the President.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Secretary's Annual Report

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

It seems only a few weeks ago since I took over from our long serving Honorary Secretary Nici Nelson. The year since the Cambridge conference has been a busy one for Council: winners of the Audrey Richard Prize for the best dissertation received their awards at a well attended ceremony at SOAS May 2001. Arrangements for the Distinguished Africanist Award were finalised during the year and the winners will be announced at a special reception during the Preston conference. The Newsletter continues to grow in stature as an important medium for reaching members and others interested in African affairs. Douglas Johnson,

the indefatigable editor continues to plea for ASUK members to pass on news of promotion and appointments, publications, conferences, symposia, workshops visiting scholars, fellowships dissertation completions and any news items worthy of academic hearing. Each issue of *African Affairs* now carries an issue of the *Newsletter*. Still on the theme of improving communication, a members' e-mail list is being set up for ASUK business. After two mailings to the membership requesting e-mail addresses, the list is 80% complete and more addresses are still coming in. We would like to thank all those who responded, and urge the others to get in touch soon. A working party is actively exploring the feasibility of a new ASUK Website that will carry information about the Association and its activities, including conferences, workshops and other events.

MEMBERSHIP

	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
ASUK Members (UK)	50	41	40
ASUK Members Overseas	11	9	9
Joint Members (UK)	305	324	336
Joint Members (Overseas)	67	74	75
Student Members (Joint UK)	43	21	42
Students Members (Joint Overseas)	5	0	11
Honorary Life Members (UK)	4	4	4
Corporate Members (UK)	0	0	0
Corporate Members (Overseas)	1	1	1
Associate Members	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
	491	478	518

This year membership has gone up by 40

THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2000-2001

Officers

President	Prof. Karin Barber
Vice President	Dr Nici Nelson
Hon. Secretary	Prof. Alfred B. Zack-Williams
Hon. Treasurer	Prof. Richard Hodder-Williams

Council Members

Retiring in 2001 Dr Mario Aguilar, Dr Angela Browne, Mr James Currey*, Dr Douglas Johnson*, Prof Richard Hodder-Williams*, Dr Stephanie Newell, Dr Ato Quayson, Prof David Killingray*, Prof David Simon*

*Indicates a co-opted member of Council

Retiring in 2002 Dr Martin Hill, Dr David Maxwell, Dr Helen Thomas, Dr Ola Uduku.

Retiring in 2003 Dr Charles Gore, Dr Tim Allen, Dr M. McNulty, Dr Elizabeth Watson, Dr Reginald Cline-Cole, Prof Graham Furniss, Prof Alfred Zack-Williams

ADMINISTRATION

Administration was smooth this year but for the virus caught on Lindsay's computer, which created serious problem and which has alerted us to the need

for a new computer. Council will like to convey its sincere gratitude to Lindsay for the wonderful work she continues to do on our behalf. The Association cherishes its close relationship with the Centre for African Studies University of London, Centre for African Studies, Edinburgh, Centre of West African Studies, Birmingham, and the various Centres and Units specialising in African Studies, such as Coventry, Leeds and Central Lancashire.

CONFERENCE AND SYMPOSIA

Council continued to work with funding bodies such as the AHRB and the ESRC to promote African Studies throughout the United Kingdom. Thanks to the continued generosity of the RAS, which again made £2000 available from its First Charitable Trust for the support of academic activities this year, Council was able to support a full range of lectures, conferences, symposia and workshops. We were particularly pleased to be able to support events organised by postgraduate students and young scholars whose work is so vital to the future of African Studies. Events supported include:

- The Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture awarded to Thokozani Xaba, of the Centre for Social development Studies, University of Natal Durban.
- Engaging with Law in Africa, SOAS, 9 March 2001.
- Africa's Young Majority, at CAS Edinburgh 4 May 2001.
- Researching Africa Day, St Antony's College, Oxford, 12 May 2001.
- Workshop on Chieftaincy in Africa, Oxford, 9 June 2001.
- Zimbabwe-Whose Development? St Antony's College, Oxford, 16 June 2001.
- Human Rights in Africa in the Millennium, Preston, 14-16 September 2001.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PROFESSIONAL BODIES

Royal African Society

Relationship between the two associations continues to be mutually supportive, co-operative and cordial. Council would like to recognise and express its gratitude to the Royal African Society for its financial support. The RAS has not only continued its generous support of conferences and workshops (see above), but also topped up the Audrey Richards Prize with a cash donation of £200, divided between the winner and two runners up. It was agreed that in view of our shared activities and interests, it would be appropriate for each association to always to have a representative on each other's Council; at present Graham Furniss has agreed to represent the RAS on our Council and Karin Barber represents us on the RAS.

Standing Committees on University Studies of Africa (CUSA). Discussion is ongoing as to the mode of incorporating CUSA into ASUK.

The Secretary presented annual Report

4. Treasurer Report

In the absence of the Treasurer due to unforeseeable circumstance, his report was presented by the President, who thanked Richard in abstentia for all his efforts and especially for making the long journey to Birmingham to explain the accounts to the President. The latter explained that there was no profit from the very successful Cambridge conference, and that we have now re-negotiated our relationship with the Royal African Society for the services of Lindsay Allen. It was pointed out that the association has been paying less for her services and as

such we have agreed to make a one-off payment as our affiliation fee. The President also pointed out that the association is now in a stronger financial position, thanks to a grant from the RAS of £2000 for conferences and other activities such as the setting up of a website for the association. The association hopes to expand its activities, though it seeks to avoid over-dependence on interests of its reserves by seeking ways of generating income.

5. President's Report

The President stressed the need for the association to recruit more members, especially young Africanists in the UK, she noted that their strong presence at the Cambridge conference vastly enriched the debate and discussion, and the association would like to strengthen this trend for the Birmingham conference, which will be held between 9-11 September 2002. The President issued a plea for members to start putting panels together as well as to start thinking about paper contributions. She asked members to pass on their email addresses to her and noted that the email system for members is going to be set up and that this will revolutionise communication. She spoke about the winners of the Audrey Richard Prize and urged supervisors to put forward the names of successful PhDs by June 2002, to be included in the next round. On the Distinguished Africanists Award she informed members that the three awards will be made this year, followed by three more at the next conference in Birmingham, and there after one at each biennial conference. She also urged people to send in their nominations by March 2002 for those who have contributed substantially in the subject areas of African Studies. Nomination should include: the person's CV and a statement about the value of the nominees work.

6. Retiring

Dr Ato Quayson, Dr Stephanie Newell, Dr Angela Browne, Dr Mario Aguilar

Both Mario and Angela had indicated their intention to continue as Council members, and they were re-nominated together with two other nominations, Dr Gina Porter, University of Durham, Dr Insa Nolte, University of Birmingham. All four were duly elected.

7. Newsletter

The newsletter as a medium for communication between members of the Africanist community was emphasised and plea made for members to send information, news on promotion, publication, PhD completion, forthcoming conferences, report on conferences and workshops, grants, etc. to the editor Douglas Johnson. The newsletter is included in each issue of *African Affairs*.

8. Announcement and Presentation of Distinguished Africanist Awards

The President spoke briefly about the awards, pointing out that it is the association's way of not just recognising, but also to pay tribute to people who have made distinguished contribution in the field mainly in the UK, but also in strengthening links between the UK and Africa. In considering nominations, Council had a difficult job the association is blessed with distinguished luminaries. Nonetheless, three people stood out, and these were:

1. Basil Davidson a pioneer in the field of African historiography with some 25 books to his name. Unfortunately, Basil was not well enough to attend the ceremony and arrangements will be made to present him with his award. The President extended her good wishes to Basil and wished him a speedy recovery.
2. Douglas Rimmer, a long-term student of African economies and past President of the ASA spoke about his knowledge of his two co-recipients and briefly about himself. He thanked council for the award and expressed his delight in receiving the prize, an ancient map of West Africa.
3. John Fage a founder of African studies and African historiography, who was also unable to attend but sent is appreciation for the honour bestowed upon him by the Council.

The presentation was followed by a reception for delegates hosted by Council. The meeting ended at 6:15

Audrey Richards Prize

The deadline for submission of theses for the Audrey Richards Prize is 30 June. Theses completed between 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2001 are eligible. Nominations should be made by the supervisor (normally not more than one nomination). A copy of the thesis, together with a covering letter from the supervisor, should be sent to Mrs Lindsay Allan, ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG.

Bird Watch

From Our Special Correspondent

With great fanfare on 13 February the Rhodes Trust announced a partnership with the Nelson Mandela Foundation in South Africa in the formation of a new 'Mandela-Rhodes Foundation'. Nelson Mandela and the Rhodes Trust are to be styled 'the Founders' of the new foundation, which will help to finance a variety of educational and sporting programmes already supported by the Nelson Mandela Foundation. The Warden of Rhodes House, John Rowett, who has begun to refer to himself as the Chief Executive of the Rhodes Trust, will be joint-Chief Executive Officer of the new foundation, and will have an office in Johannesburg as well as 'a permanent base in Rhodes House'. This, therefore, is the reason for the Trust's demands on the space formerly used by the Library: Rhodes House is to increasingly become the corporate headquarters of the Trust. A corporate 're-branding' is sure to follow: watch out for a change of name from Rhodes Trust to Rhodestrack.

The Trust is committed to raising £30 million for the new Mandela-Rhodes Foundation, and this effort will clearly take priority over any other undertakings. The Trust will now be using Nelson Mandela's name in its new fundraising effort. Yet the threat to the long-term future of Rhodes House Library has not been removed. The Chief Executive/Warden still insists that the Library is merely a guest of the Trust, with no long-term right of residence. The librarians have been moved out of their offices to make way for the new fund-raising effort,

and the Trust still reserves the right to use the Rosebury reading room for their own meetings and entertainment. To criticise a new initiative in South Africa bearing Mandela's name is akin to denouncing Motherhood, but in achieving new respectability by linking their name with that of the victor over apartheid, the Trust seems curiously unconcerned about the future of the archival collections of the opponents to apartheid currently held by the Bodleian and housed in Rhodes House, including the papers of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, Trevor Huddleston and Michael Scott. The Trust has tried to take the credit for moving the Anti-Apartheid Movement's papers from storage outside the Bodleian to Rhodes House, but the Chief Executive/Warden's desire to get rid of the Library seems to be common knowledge among the porters of Rhodes House itself. There is as yet no resolution to the crisis, though it is said that a new agreement between the Trust and the Bodleian is to be decided during Trinity Term.

The *ad hoc* Users of Rhodes House Library have responded to these developments by placing themselves on a more formal footing and have circulated a situation report, outlining the continuing threat to the Library. Maureen Malowany of the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 45-47 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PE (maureen.malowany@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk) has agreed to act as co-ordinator for the group, and Douglas H. Johnson (106155.3441@compuserve.com) has agreed to continue to serve as recording angel for the remainder of the academic year. Anyone wishing further updates on the Library may contact them.

Meetings, Lectures and Events

22 April: University of Oxford annual African Studies Lecture, Prof. Kwesi Botchwey (Harvard and former Minister of Finance, Ghana), *'The political economy of African development – issues for the new millennium'*, Nuffield College, Large Lecture Hall, 5 pm.

24 April: Leeds University Centre for African Studies annual lecture, Dr Abdulrazak Gurnah, *'An idea of the past'*, Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre, 5 pm, followed by a reception at the Economic & Social Studies Building, room 11:13, 6.15 pm.

29 June: *'Africa Festival 2002'* to be held in Camden, London. This event is being funded by the Kings Cross Partnership, Regional Arts Lottery Programme and the London Borough of Camden. They would like to have fresh and innovative ideas for additional projects running after or prior to the festival i.e. lectures, talks, traditional art workshops, visual arts, exhibitions etc. They hope to attract new 'partners' in this project and to share knowledge and skills with the wider community. Contact: Ibrahim Ameth Ndiaye (Project Manager, Community Access); email: IbrahimN@kings-cross.org.uk; tel: 020 7713 7959.

Conferences Future. . .

Conference listings may appear twice: one short and one long, the second notice appearing in the nearest quarterly number prior to the conference date. Organizers are invited to keep the Newsletter up-to-date with any changes or additions to earlier notices.

UNITED KINGDOM

11 May: *'Image and imagination: representing gender, race and empire'*, organised by the Bedford Centre for the History of Women, Royal Holloway, University of London, at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Russell Square, London. Drawing on historical, geographical and fictional sources the conference will explore how race and empire have been represented in popular cultural forms in Britain. Registration £20.00 (£10.00 for students). Contact: Suzette Starmer, bedford.centre@rhul.ac.uk

16-7 May: *'New research on Lusophone Africa'*, King's College, London, jointly organised and sponsored by the Department of Politics at the University of Dundee and by the Department of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies at King's College, London. The conference will raise important issues in the new historiography of Lusophone Africa, it is primarily designed to focus on regional and local studies in the five Portuguese-speaking African states: Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and São Tomé e Príncipe. This work will bring out important regional differences in the colonial and postcolonial developments which underlie the more generally understood national evolution of these countries. The conference will be an occasion to discuss the work done by a new generation of scholars working on Portuguese-speaking Africa and to bring together all those interested in the history of this often poorly understood part of the African continent. Contact: Professor M. Newitt, Department of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies, King's College, Strand, London WC2R 2LS; tel: +44 (0)20 7848 1827; email: mallyn.newitt@kcl.ac.uk.

22-3 May: The Edinburgh International Conference on African Studies 2002, Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, *'A new approach to African development? internal and external visions'*. Contact: P.King@ed.ac.uk; The Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, 21 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD, Scotland, UK; tel: +44 (0)131 650 3878; fax: +44 (0)131 6506535.

15 June: Britain Zimbabwe Society Research Day, St Antony's College, Oxford. The topic of the Research Day will be *'Zimbabwe futures'*. Emphasis will be on consideration of the future in the context of the past and present, rather than on policy formulation. Keynote speaker, Dr Josephine Nhongo, University of Zimbabwe History Department. Topics to be covered: gender, ethnicity, land and environment, urban life and planning, Zimbabwe in international/regional context. As usual, the Research Day will provide the opportunity for researchers from UK, Zimbabwe and elsewhere to meet, and to present their work in progress, and progress in work, both to each other and to a lay audience. All welcome. There is a small registration fee. For further information please contact Terence.Ranger@sant.ox.ac.uk or Diana.Jeater@uwe.ac.uk.

25-6 June: *'African research and documentation in the new millennium'*, a two day conference to mark the 40th anniversary of the Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa (SCOLMA), at Oxford University. Keynote speaker, Professor Colin Bundy, Director of SOAS, University of London. Conference fee: £90 for both days, £50 for one day (including coffee/tea, lunch and reception in the Divinity School of the Bodleian Library, which is celebrating its 400th anniversary in 2002), student rate: £30 for both days, £15 for one day. Contact: David Blake, Librarian, Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall

INTERNATIONAL

29 May–1 June: The Annual Conference of the Canadian Association of African Studies will be held at the University of Toronto, within the framework of the Social Sciences and Humanities Congress. It is planned to have the preliminary programme on the CAAS website by 15 April: www.caas.umontreal.ca. All conference participants must register for the Congress as well as for the CAAS conference. For further information, contact the CAAS Secretariat (Linda Theriault, Roxanne Welters) c/o CETASE University of Montreal, P.O. Box 6128, Succ. Centre-Ville, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. H3C 3J7; tel: +1 514 343-6569; fax: +1 514 343-7716; email: caas@cetase.umontreal.ca.

July: The French Institute for Research in Africa (Nairobi) and the British Institute in Eastern Africa will host a conference on *'Crime in eastern Africa: past and present perspectives'* to be held in Naivasha, Kenya, in July 2002 (dates to be confirmed). The core geographical focus will be on East Africa, although contributions on countries in the wider eastern African region (from Zimbabwe in the south to Sudan in the north) are also welcome. The rapid escalation of rates of crime over the second half of the twentieth century in Eastern Africa is a most disturbing historical trend, one which has significant consequences for the quality of life of ordinary Africans from all social strata. Illegitimate violence and predation are occurring with greater frequency at all levels of society. The aim of the Naivasha conference is to cover diverse aspects relating to contemporary and historical criminality in the region. The themes will include: interpretations of criminality; state and civic responses to crime; the criminalisation of politics. *The conference will include academics NGO workers, human rights activists, and representatives from the local and international media.* Contact: Dr. Hervé Maupeu at ifra2@iconnect.co.ke; IFRA, PO Box 58480, 0200 City Square, Nairobi; or Dr. Andrew Burton by email at arb@insightkenya.com; The British Institute in Eastern Africa, Box 30710, 00100 GPO, Nairobi, Kenya, by 28th March 2002. Conference registration fee: US\$ 50. Participants from Eastern Africa: 2,500 Ksh.

6–10 January 2003: The Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, in association with the African Studies Centre, University of Cambridge, is pleased to announce a conference on *'Chieftaincy in Africa: culture, governance and development'*. The conference will bring together invited Africanist scholars to explore the various dimensions of chieftaincy on the continent. Chieftaincy, which was once perceived by the early African nationalists as largely a conservative instrument at the service of colonialism, and by various scholars as doomed to wither away under the pressure of modernisation, has managed to not only survive but indeed to metamorphose into much more vibrant forms in the decades following independence. How is this peculiarly rich political and socio-cultural phenomenon to be understood in the light of globalisation and of the various crises affecting monarchies elsewhere? And what, finally, is to be understood by the transitions in rituals, religious emphases, and notions of authority and leadership that are obviously captured in the institution of chieftaincy all across the continent? The concerns of various researchers, stakeholders and commentators on chieftaincy will be a subject of discussion at the conference. It is proposed that all papers be pre-circulated for the conference. With this in view, we are proposing the following schedule: 30 May 2002:

Deadline for submission of 500-word abstracts. These abstracts will be put on the website of the Institute and on that of the African Studies Centre in Cambridge. 30 September, 2002: Deadline for submission of 5-6000 word essays for pre-circulation. 6-10 January, 2003. Chieftaincy conference in Accra (part of the conference will include a visit to a traditional court in Ghana to observe chieftaincy in action). Contact: asafo@ghana.com and laq10@cam.ac.uk.

... Conferences Past

A one day conference on *'The prospects of peace in Sudan'*, organized by Bona Malwal and Ahmad al-Shahi (both senior associate members of St Antony's College), and supported by the Middle East Studies Centre and the African Studies Programme at St Antony's College, was held in the Nissan Centre on 16 February. The conference was addressed by Sadiq al-Mahdi, former prime minister of the Sudan and leader of the Umma Party, and Peter Nyot Kok, former magistrate and lecturer in the law faculty of the University of Khartoum and currently legal adviser to the negotiating team of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (the head of the SPLM's negotiating team, commander Salva Kiir Mayardit, had been invited but could not be spared from his military duties during the dry season campaign). The speakers outlined two largely complementary positions of the Sudanese opposition. Sadiq al-Mahdi spoke in favour of the continued unity of the Sudan, replacing the current Islamic state with a governmental system based on equal citizenship rights. Peter Nyot Kok emphasised the importance of the process of self-determination for ending the war and addressing the issue of justice. The afternoon session was given over to questions and answers from an overspill audience of over two hundred participants, mainly Sudanese. The conference was the largest Africanist gathering in Oxford in recent years. As one Antonian later remarked, 'It's not often we have a conference where more than 95% of the participants come from the country under discussion.'

African Journals Online (AJOL)

INASP's African Journals Online assists all those who need access to research and information on Africa. Its long term aim is to provide a comprehensive coverage of all scholarly journals currently published in Africa. It offers free access to the Tables of Contents and abstracts of over 70 journals in all disciplines, together with links to full text where available and a document delivery service. New features added during 2001 include: journals from South Africa and Francophone Africa; links to journals about Africa but published elsewhere; pages in French as well as in English; instructions to authors; purchase of full text articles by credit card. Over 2,500 people have registered to use the service and the AJOL pages receive over 44,000 hits each month. If you have not yet used the service, why not register now? If you are already a user, why not look at the new features and wide range of new titles? Go to: <http://www.inasp.info/ajol/>. And if you know of a journal which is not yet included, please send details to Diana Rosenberg at INASP.drosenberg@inasp.info.

Oxford African Studies Bulletin Website

Beginning in Hilary Term 2002 the University of Oxford African Studies Bulletin is available on the web at: <http://nehemiah.eng.ox.ac.uk/africanstudies>.

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

The Newsletter depends on supervisors and successful candidates to supply us with details of new theses.

Neil Ford, 'Lines upon a map: an analysis of the imposition of the western concept of dividing political space in Tanganyika, 1884-1961' (Edinburgh University, December 2001).

Niki Jazdowska, 'Will They Ever Learn? Worker Representation in Zimbabwe's Manufacturing Industry 1980-1998', PhD, African Studies Centre, Coventry University (Supervised by Prof. Roy May and Dr Alex Thomson).

Elsbeth Robson 'Gender, Space and Empowerment in Rural Hausaland, Northern Nigeria' D.Phil. University of Oxford (February 2002).

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Listings of recently published or forthcoming books by ASUK/RAS members. Members are invited to send in details, including number of pages, ISBN numbers, price and publication date (where known).

John Ainley, *Pink Stripes & Obedient Servants: An Agriculturalist in Tanganyika* (Driffield: J.M. Ainley/Ridings Publishing Co.), 250pp. ISBN 0-9540944-0-9 [available from the author, 4, Station Road, Cranswick, Driffield, E. Yorks YO25 9QZ; correction to notice in the January Newsletter where the extent was given as 25pp].

P Chabal with D Birmingham, J Forrest, M Newitt, G Seiberet and E Silva, *Lusophone Africa Since Independence: A History* (London/Indianapolis: Hurst/Indiana University Press, 2002).

Oliver Furley and Roy May (eds), *African Interventionist States*, Ashgate: Aldershot (2001), ISBN 1 84014 989 2.

John McCracken, Timothy J. Lovering and Fiona Johnson Chalamanda (eds), *Twentieth Century Malawi: Perspectives on History and Culture*, Centre of Commonwealth Studies, University of Stirling, Occasional Paper Number 7. 118pp. ISBN 1857691474. [available from the Centre of Commonwealth Studies, University of Stirling, £10.00].

David Maxwell & Ingrid Lawrie (eds), *Christianity and the African Imagination: Essays in Honour of Adrian Hastings* (Leiden: Brill), 256pp. ISBN 90 04 116680 (cloth), \$87 or EUR 75.

David Simon, *Dilemmas of Development and the Environment in a Globalising World: Theory, Policy and Praxis* (Royal Holloway, Inaugural Lecture Series, 2001).

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

International Slavery Commission: The International Commission on Slavery in the Sudan, established as part of the US Danforth peace initiative, is to include two British Africanists. John Ryle, foreign editor for the *TLS*, documentary film maker, and director of the Rift Valley Institute has been appointed to the 'Eminent Persons Group' (on whom the US, UK, Norway, France and Italy are represented), the reporting body of the commission. Mark Bradbury, development anthropologist, has been appointed to the technical team carrying out the investigations and reporting back to the Eminent Persons Group.

University of Asmara, Eritrea: Sara Rich-Dorman, who completed her doctorate at the University of Oxford in February, has taken up a lecturership in politics at the University of Asmara.

Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports (of around 2-300 words) on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, and contact address), announcements of the awarding of grants, fellowships and prizes, news of appointments and visiting fellowships, recently completed theses, publication announcements of books by members, and brief articles or notices on matters of importance to Africanists in the UK. All items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* should be sent to Douglas H. Johnson, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, James Currey Publishers, 73 Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0BS (fax: (+44) (0)1865-246454), or e-mail: 106155.3441@compuserve.com (please send as text, not as attachments). Deadlines are 31 December (for the January Newsletter), 25 March (for April), 25 June (for July), and 30 September (for October). Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.

For all matters relating to membership of either the ASAUK or RAS contact Lindsay Allan, RAS/ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq, London WC1H 0XG; tel: +44 (0)20 7898 4390; fax: +44 (0)20 7898 4389; email: asa@soas.ac.uk, or ras@soas.ac.uk.