



African Studies Association of the UK

NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 Number 3

April 1996

Survey of African Seminars in the UK

The *ASAUK Newsletter* intends to publish in its October number a list of regular African seminars convened at academic departments, institutes and centres throughout the UK. Information to be listed will include the host institution, title of the seminar, time, place and academic term of convening, and address of organizer or convenor: e.g. Oxford University, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, 'North East Africa Research Seminar', Fridays (each term), 2.15 pm, ISCA Annex at 61 Banbury Rd., contact Dr Wendy James (Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, 51 Banbury Rd., Oxford OX2 6PE). We want the list to be as comprehensive as possible and soon will be circulating a questionnaire to relevant departments and institutions, but *don't wait to be asked*, send details of your seminars to the Editor today!

Anti-Apartheid Archives

The archives of the Anti-Apartheid Movement are to be donated to Rhodes House Library, Oxford University. This collection, the largest to come to the Library in recent years, covers the history of the AAM from its formation in 1959 to its dissolution in 1995. The collection is currently contained in 300 large boxes, occupying 14 cubic metres of space. In addition to press cuttings, photographs, videos, posters, banners, and audio cassettes, there are papers referring to events in Namibia, Angola, Mozambique, Rhodesia, as well as South Africa. The Library will be hiring a full-time archivist to sort and catalogue the collection over the next three years, thanks to a donation of £80,000 made through the newly-formed South African Friends of the Bodleian. Rhodes House also holds the archives of the Anti-Slavery Society, the Africa Bureau and the Fabian Colonial Bureau. The Librarian, John Pinfold is quoted as saying, 'I am delighted that the archive will come to Rhodes House. This will mean that the archives of all the major British-based campaigning organisations relating to Africa will be held together under one roof, something which will clearly be of great benefit to scholars' (*Source: Oxford University Gazette*, no. 4392).

Meetings, Lectures and Events

24 April: The 2nd Annual African Studies Lecture, African Studies Unit, University of Leeds: Femi Osofisan, 'Warriors of a failed Utopia: West African writers since the 1970s', 5.30 pm, Rupert Beckett Lecture Theatre.

27 April: ASAUK 'Urban poverty symposium', SOAS. Contact J.D.Y. Peel (SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq., London WC1H 0XG) for details.

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

24-25 May: *'Integrating environmental assessment and socio-economic appraisal in the development process'*, will be held at the Development and Project Planning Centre, University of Bradford. Conference fees are £125 (including accommodation and meals), £80 (excluding accommodation), and £40 (excluding accommodation and meals). For further information contact Colin Kirkpatrick, Development and Project Planning Centre, University of Bradford, Bradford BD7 1DP (tel: (0)1274-383-980; fax: (0)1274-385-280; e-mail: C.H.Kirkpatrick@bradford.ac.uk).

24-26 October: *'Boundaries and identities'*, a conference to celebrate fifty years of social anthropology at the University of Edinburgh. Further information can be obtained from the administrative secretary, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Edinburgh, Adam Ferguson Building, George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LL (tel: (0)131-650-3945; e-mail: Moira.Young@afb1.ssc.ed.ac.uk).

16-17 December: *'The marginalisation of Africa?'*, a conference at the African Studies Centre of Coventry University. The conference will be focusing upon the situation of Africa as we approach the millennium by concentrating upon the themes of aid and debt, sustainable development/environment, trade, human rights and the role of South Africa. There will be a number of keynote speakers, session papers and working sessions. Agreed contributors so far include Ali Mazrui, Jack Spence and Christopher Clapham. There will also be participants from African Universities and organisations (African Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, Banjul). Further information can be obtained from Roy May (tel: (0)1203-838-679; fax: (0)1203-838-679) or Angela Browne (tel: (0)1203-838-444; e-mail: apx 090 @ cov.ac.uk).

INTERNATIONAL

10-12 May: The 15th annual meeting of the Sudan Studies Association will be held at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, 901 North Fairfax St., Alexandria VA 22314, USA (just outside Washington DC). Proposals for papers should be sent to Nelson Kasfir, 6108 Silsby Hall, Hanover, NH 03755, USA (fax: 603-646-2152; e-mail: <nelson.kasfir@dartmouth.edu>). For information concerning conference registration contact Malik Balla, c/o African Studies Center, 100 Center for International Programs, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1035, USA (tel: 517-432-3569; e-mail: balla@pilot.msu.edu).

27-29 September: The 1996 *Australian African Studies Conference* is to be held at St Mark's College, University of Adelaide. For more information or proposals for papers/panels contact Pal Ahluwalia, Politics Dept., University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia 5005, Australia (tel: +61-8-303-5570).

The Centre d'études d'Afrique noire is planning to hold a two-day session on *'Conflits coloniaux et post-coloniaux dans l'ex-empire portugais'*, either at Paris or Bordeaux in the first semester of 1996. For further information contact Michel Cahen, Centre d'étude d'Afrique Noire, BP 101, 33405 Talence cedex, France (tel: +33-56 84 42 84; fax: +33-56 84 43 24; e-mail: mcahen@cean.u-bordeaux.fr).

The Méga-Tchad colloquium on *'L'homme et l'animal dans le bassin du lac Tchad'* will be taking place in 1996, at a time and venue still to be finalised. Papers are invited on the multi-disciplinary themes of archaeo-history and the diffusion of domestic animals, the operation and evolution of breeding systems, representations and symbolism of the animal world, environmental and development challenges. For further information contact Jean Boutrais, Méga-Tchad, Orstom-Latah, 72 route d'Aulnay, 93143 Bondy cedex, France (tel: +33-48 02 56 44; fax: +33-48 47 30 88)

...Conferences Past

The African Studies Unit Conference (Leeds University), on '*Environment and Development in Africa: Challenging the Orthodoxies*' was held on 14-16 September 1995. 100 persons attended, 36 papers were presented, 18 by African scholars (10 of whom came from the continent especially for the meeting). Funding was provided by the Ford Foundation (Cairo) and Oxfam (UK). The conference went beyond the characterisation of Africa's environmental crisis by western government and non-governmental organizations to examine the ways in which environmental crises are understood by participants in Africa. It also focused on the varied responses to crisis from African agencies as well as by indigenous political movements and non-government agencies. A list of papers presented has been published in the *Leeds African Studies Bulletin*, Number 60, 1995. Abstracts are available for £2 (inc. postage), and papers are available for consultation in the African Studies Unit (University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT).

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Beginning this issue we are offering a new service by listing details of recently published or forthcoming books by ASAUK/RAS members. Please send in details, including ISBN numbers, price and publication date (where known) of your own publications. Listings will be confined to books by ASAUK/RAS members only. In order to be as comprehensive as possible, we will accept entries of books published since January 1996.

Tim Allen (ed.), *In Search of Cool Ground. Displacement and Homecoming in Northeast Africa*, James Currey (in association with UNRISD), 320pp, paper 0-85255-224-6 (£12.95), cloth 0-85255-229-7 (£35) (publication date 28 March 1996).

Stephen Ellis (ed.), *Africa Now. People, Polices & Institutions*, James Currey (in association with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs), 320pp, paper 0-85255-231-9 (£12.95), cloth 0-85255-232-7 (£35) (publication date January 1996).

Graham Furniss, *Poetry, Prose and Popular Culture in Hausa*, Edinburgh University Press for the I.A.I., 368pp, paper 0-7486-0786-2 (£16.95) (publication date March 1996).

Kenneth King, *Jua Kali Kenya: The African Artisan and the Informal Sector Revisited*, James Currey, 256pp, paper 0-85255-239-4 (£12.95), cloth 0-85255-240-8 (£35) (publication date 28 March 1996).

C.A. Willis, *The Upper Nile Province Handbook. A Report on Peoples and Government in the Southern Sudan, 1931*, edited by Douglas H. Johnson, Oxford University Press for the British Academy, 476pp, cloth 0-19-726146-9 (£50) (publication date 29 February 1996).

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford University: David Parkin, Professor of African Anthropology at SOAS, has been appointed Professor of Social Anthropology at Oxford University, with effect from 1 October. He succeeds John Davis, who left last year to become Warden of All Souls College.

Rhodes Fellowship: Heather Bell of St. Hilda's College, Oxford, has been awarded a three year post-doctoral Rhodes fellowship. She is currently completing a doctoral thesis on public health in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, under the supervision of Megan Vaughan.

Centre of African Studies, SOAS: Albert Roca, of the Centre d'Estudis Africans, Barcelona, will be spending a second year at the centre, following research on power

relations in East Africa, with special reference to traditional conceptions of power and the issue of violence. Alfred Bosch, president of the Centre d'Estudis Africans, Barcelona, will be at the centre from January to April on his project of 'Research perspectives on ethnicity and federalism in contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa'. Peter Merrington, of the Dept. of English, University of the Western Cape, is the tenth Oppenheimer Fellow at the Centre (for January—April), and is pursuing doctoral research on Dorothea Fairbridge, South African novelist, travel writer and historian.

Institute of Development Studies, Sussex: Francis Chirunga from Harare, Ben Osuga from Uganda, and Namwiinga Babala Mumbi from the Dept. of Social Development Studies, UNZA, Lusaka will be at the centre for six-nine weeks beginning 15 April, reflecting on PRA; Nagat El-Mulathum, of the Dept. of Agricultural Economics, University of Gezira, Sudan, will be an individual study fellow at the IDS for the month of June, doing research on food security from a development perspective.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Godfrey Lienhardt Memorial Fund: a fund has been established at Wolfson College, Oxford, in memory of the Social Anthropologist Godfrey Lienhardt, 'for the promotion of Social and Cultural Anthropology of Africa south of the Sahara desert but excluding the Republic of South Africa'. Current graduate students at Oxford University, as well as those admitted for the coming academic year, whose research falls within the specified terms of the fund are encouraged to apply. The fund will currently be distributed in one major award of £1500 and smaller grants of up to £250.

Editor's Apologies

Apologies are due for this abbreviated *Newsletter*. The Editor had to leave on a six week consultancy in Sudan and Kenya before the normal deadline and was therefore unable to institute his usual last minute whip-round for entries. Full service will be resumed for the July number (*for deadlines, see below*).

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, 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, ASUK Newsletter, St Antony's College, Oxford OX2 6UW (Fax: (0)1865-54465). *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 ASUK.