



African Studies Association of the UK

NEWSLETTER

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New Address

Please note, the new address for the Editor of the *Newsletter*, effective 1 September, will be 73 Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0BS; fax: (0)1865-246454. Potential contributors should also note that deadlines for the *Newsletter* are published in 'Notes to Contributors' at the end of each issue.

Comment and Opinion

The following analysis of the Directory of Africanists in Britain was provided by John Theakstone.

Given the concern generally felt for some years about the state of African studies in the UK, I was interested enough to undertake an analysis of entries in the latest issue of the Directory of Africanists in Britain. It is somewhat salutary that 52% of all those on the register are aged 50 or more. Fewer than 10% were born in the 1960s. The pattern overall is as follows:

Birth date	pre-1920s	1920s	1930s	1940s	1950s	1960s	Total
% of total	0.7	13.5	22.5	35.3	18.7	9.3	100

Experience of full time work in Africa is of value to the person involved in teaching in the area of African studies in UK higher education. In my later years with the IUC and the British Council, I saw a major reduction in the opportunities for sponsored teaching by UK citizens in African universities through exchange programmes. Coupled with the increase in local citizens qualified to teach in African universities, this led to limited opportunities for younger persons from the UK to gain teaching experience in African universities. In fact—not very surprisingly—almost 80% of those with full time teaching experience in African universities, and more than 70% of those with any full-time paid work there, were born in the 1940s or earlier.

Younger Africanists are more likely to have a non-university working background in Africa; the reverse is true of the older ones.

Birth date	pre-1920s	1920s	1930s	1940s	1950s	1960s	Total
% university	0.5	13.2	24.2	41.2	13.7	7.1	99.9 [100]
% non-university	0.9	14.0	19.6	25.2	27.1	13.1	99.9 [100]

Obituaries

Irene Fatayi-Williams (1920-1995)

Irene Fatayi-Williams (née Lofts) died peacefully at her home in Lagos on 9 December 1995, after a long illness. Irene was born on 3 July 1920 in Ilford, Surrey, England. After leaving school she worked at the Ministry of Air Craft Production. When World War II broke out, Irene joined the RAF and trained as a radar technician. During the war, she maintained radar equipment on RAF aircraft.

Demobilised at the end of the war, Irene moved to Berlin and worked for a British welfare organization. In 1946, she returned to England and joined the British Council, where she met her future husband, Atanda Fatayi-Williams (now retired Chief Justice of the Nigerian Supreme Court), who had recently completed his degree at Cambridge University and was reading law in London. In June 1948 the couple married. Soon thereafter Fatayi returned to Lagos to begin practising law. Irene remained in London for six months to study Yoruba at the School of Oriental and African Studies.

In December 1948, while Nigeria was still firmly under British control, Irene began her long and remarkable life in the country. She and her husband lived initially in the home of his father, a prominent Muslim merchant. Irene presented a weekly radio programme ('This Week in Review') for the Nigerian Broadcasting Service, and soon she commenced working for the Public Relations Department of the Nigerian government, under Harold Cooper. When Fatayi-Williams moved to Ibadan in 1955, Irene took up an appointment as Confidential Secretary to the Western Region Public Service Commission. Later she worked at the University of Ibadan Teaching Hospital and Oxford University Press. In 1967, Irene founded Nigerian Book Suppliers, which for many years distributed Nigerian publications to libraries around the world. Two years later she moved back to Lagos with her husband, where she subsequently founded two other successful companies, the Bestseller Bookshops and Nigerian Cards Ltd., currently run by two of her sons.

Irene was an enthusiastic athlete throughout her life. While at school, she won the All-England Girls' Hurdling Championship. On arrival in Nigeria, she helped establish the Women's Amateur Athletics Association. In the 1970s, she served on the governing board of the Lagos State Sports Council; in 1987 she received a National Sports Award from the Nigerian National Sports council; and in 1995 she became Vice-Patron of the Nigerian Olympic Committee. Irene enjoyed swimming and tennis until a few years before her death.

When Nigeria became independent in 1960, Irene was the twelfth expatriate to become a Nigerian citizen. Beyond business and women's athletics, she served her church (Our Saviour's, Lagos) and numerous Nigerian charities, including the Home for Disabled Girls in Lagos. Irene gave generous hospitality, vital assistance, and warm friendship to numerous Africanist librarians and researchers who passed through Lagos and Ibadan. She was a loving mother to her three sons and a devoted wife to her husband as he pursued a distinguished legal career. A woman of great determination, character, and conviction, Irene continued until her death to have deep faith in her adopted country. All who knew her will sorely miss her.

Irene is survived by her husband the Hon. Justice Atanda Fatayi-Williams, her sons Babatunde, Alan, and Oladele, and her four grandchildren, all of Lagos. (*Kristin Mann, Emory University*)

Richard Leslie Hill (1901-1996)

A few years ago, just before he turned ninety, I attempted to persuade Richard Hill to agree to issuing a second edition of his *Egypt in the Sudan*. Knowing that he would be reluctant I canvassed the opinion of a number of international scholars, all of whom agreed to the

need of a reprint, and many of whom were enthusiastic in their endorsement. I presented Richard with these testimonials and suggested that only the minimum of updating would be necessary, preferably in the form of a new biographical essay discussing the main publications on the Turkiyya since 1959 in Turkish, Arabic and various European languages. As Richard himself had contributed significantly to this literature I assured him that it was a task he could do easily, and better than anyone else. He looked at me with genuine bewilderment. 'But I haven't read any Turkish', he protested, 'for at least—two years!'

This was typical of Richard. He was genuinely modest about the exceedingly high standards of scholarship he set and achieved. He did not consider himself a professional scholar (that was only his second career), and he held those who were in greater respect than they always deserved. Yet he brought scholarly interests and skills to his work in the Sudan from the very beginning, and few professional scholars acquired his range of languages or his knowledge of so wide a variety of archives. He learnt Osmanli Turkish from the chief Armenian merchant in Khartoum, in evening classes at 'Old Vanian's' shop, reading by the light of a pressure lamp manuscripts spread out among the refrigerators and electrical appliances. As an employee of the Sudan Railways he had a rail pass to Europe's railroads; thus enabling him to visit many distant archives to track down obscure manuscripts before the World War divided Europe in two and inhibited such wide-ranging international research.

Richard's respect for the knowledge of others and the courtesy with which he conducted his professional relations won him many genuine friends throughout the world, and a letter of introduction from Richard was invariably warmly received. I learned this on a visit to Cairo on my way to the Sudan within a few months of my first meeting Richard in Oxford. Over his long and active life Richard had the virtue of continuing to make new friends among younger researchers. We all of us depended on him for guidance and information, conscious that as far as the 19th century history of the Sudan was concerned many of us were building on aspects of Richard's work, but none of us had attempted to cover his range of sources.

In many respects Richard was irreplaceable, but that was not how he saw himself. When finally turning down my well-intentioned invitation to resurrect a book he had completed over thirty years earlier Richard disclaimed any lasting value to his own contribution. 'It is pretty well common experience that every political regime tends to vilify its immediate predecessor and, after a sufficient period, to admit that its predecessor was not devilish after all, but simply a step in human development', he explained. 'The Turkiyya was a case in point. The first edition of *Egypt in the Sudan* was primarily an attempt to exhibit the regime in working order with emphasis on government structure—what else could you expect of an author who was a civil servant and, but for God's decision, might well have been a *kashif*?'

Richard had strong views about linguistic style, whether English or 'post-Suez Canalese' transliterations of Egyptian Arabic. His language is precise, restrained and invariably sharp. Sitting at the back of a lecture theatre during the international Sudan conference at Durham, listening to a long and repetitive argument between two Sudanese academics, he leaned over to me and remarked, in some exasperation, 'They don't know how to compress'. This was the one writer's sin that he could rarely overlook. Richard's own publications were marvels of compression, and he maintained this quality right through his working life. At his ninetieth birthday celebrations there were many speeches of appreciation, but the best speech, for its wit, humour and clarity, was Richard's own reply.

It was a great satisfaction to Richard and his friends that he lived to complete and see the publication of his final book, on the Sudanese in Mexico. It is a disappointment to my wife and me that he did not live to see the forthcoming publication of the Hakluyt Society's *Juan Maria Schuver's Travels in North East Africa*, a manuscript which he much enjoyed

in its earlier stages when he gave us useful advice, and which is dedicated to him. He appreciated the compliment, but thought the honour unmerited. We received the proofs shortly after he died and decided to leave the dedication as we originally wrote it and showed to him—dedicated to him personally, not to his memory. His intellectual presence is still very much alive, and our memories of him are very fond indeed. (D.H. Johnson. *Adapted from SSSUK Newsletter*)

Exhibitions

Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford (Balfour Building, 60 Banbury Road): 'Stories from South Africa', a series of displays by the museum's graduate students (until September).

Announcement: James Currey Publishers

James Currey Publishers will be moving to Oxford, as from 16 July 1996. Their Islington basement will close on 5 July and all correspondence should be addressed to 73 Botley Road, Oxford, OX2 0BS (tel: +44 (0)1865-244111; fax: + 44 (0)1865-246454) after that date. James Currey, Clare Currey, Keith Sambrook and Lynn Taylor will be joined by Douglas H. Johnson (editor of the *ASAUK Newsletter*) as Editorial Director. The relocation to Oxford will enable James Currey Publishers to consolidate and expand its growing list of African and Caribbean titles and its working associations with African and American co-publishers.

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

30-31 August: The Open University Post-Colonial Literatures Group is hosting a conference on 'South African theatre as/and intervention', at the Centre for English Studies, Senate House, Malet St., London WC1E 7HU. The conference expects to focus on theoretical, theatrical, and/or societal issues. It hopes to examine strategies of intervention among stage, audience, theatrical forms, critical methodologies, canonical and new texts, well-established and fledgling playwrights, new identities, with a special interest in the body as a site of race, gender, class, and sexual difference. Registration fees are £60 for two days, £25 for students and unwaged, and £40 for day registration. Contact Marcia Blumberg, Literature Department, Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA (tel: (0)1908-652092; fax: (0)1908-653750; email: M.Blumberg@open.ac.uk).

9-11 September: ASAUK Biennial conference at the University of Bristol. Panel topics include: boundary changes, HIV/AIDS; the media; African speech genre; gender identity; conflict resolution; film; economic adjustments & political transitions; Bristol & the slave trade; urban issues; the ethno-botany of trees; the African diaspora; intellectual history; local development; pre-colonial West African history; research challenges; literature; and religion. Queries should be addressed directly to Professor Richard Hodder-Williams, Department of Politics, 12 Priory Road, Bristol BS8 1TU (tel: (0)117-928-7898; fax: (0)117-973-2133; email: Richard.Hodder-Williams@bris.ac.uk). For details and a booking form contact Lindsay Allen, ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq., London WC1H 0XG (tel: (0)171-323-6253; fax: (0)171-436-3844).

28 September: The Sudan Studies Society of the UK will be holding its annual symposium at Friends' House, Euston Road, London. All welcome. Details from the Hon Sec., Simon Bush, at P.O. Box 3916, London, NW8 8EW (email: Simon.Bush@britcoun.org).

19 October: The Forum against Ethnic Violence, in co-operation with the Centre of African Studies, SOAS, will hold a one-day workshop on *'Trust and accountability'* at SOAS. Topics will include: law and the creation of trust, new forms of democratic accountability, and accounting for violence. Enquiries should be addressed to Murray Last and Michael Rowlands, Department of Anthropology, University College London, Gower St., London WC1E 6BT (departmental secretary: (0)171-387-7050, ext. 2455).

5-6 December: The Institute of Commonwealth Studies will hold a two-day conference on *'Ethnicities and governmentalities in sub-saharan Africa'*. For details contact the seminar secretary, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 28 Russell Sq., London WC1B 5DS (tel: (0)171-580-5876; fax: (0)171-255-2160).

16-17 December: Coventry University will hold a two-day conference on *'The marginalisation of Africa'*. For further information contact R May (tel: (0)1203-838256).

INTERNATIONAL

23-24 August: The Ekonomikum, Lund University, Sweden, will be organising a symposium on *'Post-apartheid southern Africa—economic challenges and policies for the future'*. Contact Lennart Petersson, Department of Economics, Lund University, P.O. Box 7082, S-22007 Lund, Sweden (tel: +46-46-222-9604; email: lennart.petersson@nek.lu.se).

3-6 September: The 13th Biennial Conference of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists, on the topic of *'The impact of past human activities upon Africa's natural environments'* will take place in Poznan, Poland. Contact Lech Krzyzaniak, Poznan Archaeological Museum, Ul. Wodna 27, 61-781 Posnan, Poland (tel: +48-61-526430; fax: +48-61-525306).

6-12 November: The First Ghana International Book Fair will be held in Accra. Contact P.C.T. Quarcoo, Exhibition Director, P.O. Box 111, Trade Fair Centre, Accra, Ghana.

11-20 November: The Center for Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, is holding its 1996 International Workshop on the theme *'Transformations of power and culture in Africa'*. Contact 1996 International Workshop, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, 200 West Engineering Building, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1092, USA (tel: +1-313-764-5513; fax: +1-313-763-0543; email: caasinformation@umich.edu).

23-26 November: The 1996 annual meeting of the African Studies Association will be held at the Hyatt Hotel in San Francisco, California. The selection of panels, on the conference theme of *'The challenges of renewal in Africa'* will be announced in July. For further details contact The African Studies Association, Emory University, Credit Union Building, Atlanta, GA 30322, USA (tel: +1-404-329-6410; fax: 1-404-329-6433; email: africa@emory.edu).

28-30 November: A colloquium on *'ONG et développement: du nord aux suds (Afrique, Amérique latine, Asie)'*, is being organised by UMR REGARDS (CNRS-OSTROM) in Bordeaux. It is planned to address the themes of the sociogenesis of NGOs, present realities of NGOs, NGOs as the object of sociological study, NGOs and the economy of development, the political dimension of NGOs. Contact Jean-Paul Deler, Yves-André Fauré, Alain Piveteau, or Pierre-Jean Roca at UMR REGARDS, BP 200, Talence cedex 33405, France (tel: +33-56-846852; fax: +33-56-846855; email: roca@regards.cnrs.fr, or pao@regards.cnrs.fr).

12-14 June, 1997: The Fourth International Sudan Studies conference will be held at the American University in Cairo, hosted jointly by the Sudan Studies Association (USA), the

Sudan Studies Society of the UK, and the Institute of African and Asian Studies, University of Khartoum. Details can be obtained from CREED@auc-ac.s.eun.eg.

...Conferences Past

The ICS, London, in association with the Royal African Society, hosted a one-day conference on 'Rwanda—background to crisis' on 12 December 1995. It was designed to bring together students of Zaïre, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda with a wide range of persons involved professionally with relief work and assistance to refugees in those countries. Gérard Prunier, author of *The Rwandan Crisis: History of a Genocide* (Hurst, 1995), outlined the argument set out in his book that a major preconditioning factor behind the events of 1994 had been the brutally opposed social identities of 'Tutsi' and 'Hutu' manufactured by Belgian colonial administrators, European missionaries and newly-literate Rwandan intellectuals earlier in the twentieth century. Two Christian pastors—Roger Bowen, general secretary of the Anglican Mid-Africa Ministry, and Peter Morgan, Roman Catholic parish priest in the Toxteth area of Liverpool—spoke, one on the failure on the failure of Protestant pietism to counteract social conflict in Rwanda, the other on the trauma of Rwandan parents grieving for child victims of the genocide. Godfrey Byaruhanga (Amnesty International) presented evidence of the current Rwandan Patriotic Front government's attacks on moderate Hutu leaders and their followers, who had remained neutral or even supported the RPF in the early 1990s. Johan Pottier (SOAS) summarised his researches in refugee camps in both Tanzania and Zaïre in a paper which appears in the July number of *African Affairs*.

The African Studies Unit and the Centre for Development Studies, Leeds University, hosted a special seminar on 7 February, 1996, on 'Transcending the African debt crisis', given by Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, former executive director of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and founder and head of the Africa Centre for Development & Strategic Studies in Nigeria. More than 100 persons attended.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

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

Ray Bush, Simon Bromley, Mohamad Abou Mandour, *The Political Economy of Reform in Egypt: The World Bank, Agriculture and the Peasantry* (translated into Arabic by Hassan Abou Bakr & Abdul Reheim el Magdy, as *Al Iktisaad al Siyaasi lil-Isfah fi Misr: El Bank el Dowly wa-el-Zira'a wa el-Fallahin*, Cairo, al Mahrousa Publishing House, 216 pp, 1996).

Patrick Chabal (with Moema Parente Augel, David Brookshaw, Ana Mafalda Leite and Caroline Shaw), *The Postcolonial Literature of Lusophone Africa*, London, Hurst & Co., 314 pp, paper 1-85065-251-1 (£14.95), cased 1-85065-250-3 (1 April 1996)

Louise de la Gorgendièrre, Kenneth King, Sarah Vaughan (eds), *Ethnicity in Africa. Roots, Meanings and Implications*, 360 pp, Edinburgh, Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, ISBN 0-9527917-0-6 (May 1996).

Kempe Ronald Hope, Sr., *Development in the Third World: From Policy Failure to Policy Reform*, M.E. Sharpe, 201 pp, paper 1-56324-733-X (US \$ 21.95), cased 1-56324-732-1 (\$62.95) (January 1996).

Wendy James, Gerd Baumann, Douglas H. Johnson (eds), *Juan Maria Schuver's Travels in North East Africa, 1881-1883*, London, The Hakluyt Society, cvii + 378 pp, ISBN 0-904180-45-X (September 1996).

Paul Nugent, *Big Men, Small Boys and Politics in Ghana: Power, Ideology and the Burden of History, 1982-1986*, Francis Pinter, 306 pp, ISBN 1-85567-373-8 (£49.50) (January 1996) (Ghana edition to be published by Asempa publishers, July 1996).

Paul Nugent and A.I. Asiwaju (eds), *African Boundaries: Barriers, Conduits and Opportunities*, Francis Pinter, ISBN 1-85567-372-X (£47.50) (March 1996).

Richard Werbner and Terence Ranger (eds), *Postcolonial Identities in Africa*, Zed Books.

New Series on Cameroon Studies

Berghahn Books Ltd. (Bush House, Merewood Avenue, Oxford OX3 8EF) is launching a new series on Cameroon Studies, under the general editorship of E.M. Chilver, Shirley Ardener and Ian Fowler of Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford. This new series features historical and anthropological works on Cameroon—Africa in microcosm. Its linguistic, cultural and ecological diversity, and its historical experience of the different German, French and British regimes, provide material pertinent to the wider continent. The aim is to pool in one series the best of new works of contemporary scholars and selected reissues of classic ethnographic texts and translations of early German exploration and missiological literature. The first two volumes in the series are: Edwin Ardener, *Kingdom on Mount Cameroon. Studies in the History of the Cameroon Coast, 1500-1970*, edited and with an introduction by Shirley Ardener, 400 pp, ISBN 1-57181-929-0 (\$59.95/£40.00) (June 1996); and Ian Fowler & David Zeitlyn (eds), *African Crossroads. Intersections between History and Anthropology in Cameroon*, 208 pp, paper 1-57181-926-6 (\$14.95/£10.95), cased 1-57181-859-6 (\$29.95/£20) (June 1996).

Internet Journal of African Studies

A new *Internet Journal of African Studies* began in April. It is published at the Department of Social and Economic Studies, University of Bradford, and can be accessed at <http://www.brad.ac.uk/research/ijas/>. Issue no. 2 (August 1996) will contain papers from the 1995 Leeds African Studies Unit conference on 'Environment & development in Africa: challenging the orthodoxies'. For further information contact Garry Littlejohn (email: G.Littlejohn@Bradford.ac.uk), or Ray Bush (email: R.C.Bush@Leeds.ac.uk).

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

The Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex: Sunday Ifah, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Maiduguri, will be a visiting fellow for three months from September, researching Nigerian urban poor women in the informal sector; Amos Kwame Anyimadu, Dept. of Political Science, University of Ghana, will be a research fellow for six months, scheduled to begin in October, researching state and development in Ghana; Nagat El-Mulathum, of the Dept. of Agricultural Economics, University of Gezira, Sudan, who was originally scheduled to arrive in June to do research on food security from a development perspective, is now expected to arrive in July.

The Open University, Literature Department: Fatima ('Fats') Dike, multilingual poet, actress and playwright from Cape Town is Arts Council Writer in Residence from the end

of April to the end of August, 1996. Marcia Blumberg, Research Fellow in South African Theatre from January to the end of September 1996, is completing a book entitled 'Engendering interventions in contemporary South African theatre', and is editing an anthology of plays by women South African playwrights. Both visitors may be contacted through Dennis Walder, Literature Department, Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA (tel: (0)1908-653500; fax: (0)1908-653750; email: djwalder@open.ac.uk).

Oxford University: Francis Wilson, of the University of Cape Town, spent Trinity Term at All Souls College, researching an economic history of southern Africa, 1834-1994.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Oxford University: The Degree of Doctor of Civil Law by Diploma was conferred upon Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa at Buckingham Palace on 10 July. The *Oxford University Gazette* announced in advance that admission was to be by invitation only, and 'it is regretted that, because of the very limited number of places, no further invitations can be extended'.

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, 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, ASUK Newsletter, James Curry Publishers, 73 Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0BS (fax: (0)1865-246454). *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.