



NEWSLETTER

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Professor J. D. Fage

John Fage, who died on 6 August, was one of the small number who in the early post-war years founded African Studies in British and other universities. He helped shift the emphasis of African historiography from the years of Western dominion to pre-colonial and remoter times. He was a prime mover in institutionalising African Studies, notably but not only at Birmingham University's Centre of West African Studies, of which he was founder and for nearly 20 years Director. He had the unusual distinction of having served both as Deputy Principal of a nascent African university (1957-9) and Vice Principal of a major British university (1981-4). He and Roland Oliver were founding editors of the *Journal of African History* and general editors of the *Cambridge History of Africa*. They also made African history accessible to non-specialists through their extraordinarily successful *Short History of Africa*, translated into many languages and seized by the authorities in Rhodesia.

John Fage was also first Honorary Secretary of the ASAUK, in whose foundation he played a prominent part. The Association was the outcome of a meeting in London in 1963, called by the Royal African Society at the instigation of those of its academic members who were attempting to reform it. But the RAS regarded this foster-child circumspectly. The reform had to wait, and not until 1982 was an interlocking membership of the two societies negotiated. An interim ASAUK council was formed in 1963 under the presidency of Margery Perham. Fage modestly attributed his appointment as Honorary Secretary to the availability at the CWAS of office space and secretarial support. He wrote a constitution on the model of the American ASA, and the British ASA was formalised at its first conference, held at Birmingham immediately before teaching began at the CWAS in 1964. Fage remained active in the affairs of the ASAUK until 1968/69, when he took his turn as President. The connection of the Association with the CWAS lasted for many more years. Occasionally the Centre would receive telephone calls from scholars in far-away places wishing to visit the ASAUK, in the belief that it was a large research institution, when in fact its tangible presence was a desk manned by Priscilla Naish, a part-time secretary. Fittingly, the Association last year named him as one of the first to receive its Distinguished Africanist award.

With the passing of John Fage, African Studies has lost a founding father, one might almost say an inventor of this field of enquiry. Shortly before his death, the CWAS published his memoirs, *To Africa and Back*, and though he could no longer read, he took pleasure from hearing extracts read to him. His passing will sadden, not least in Africa, the many who were his students and colleagues. (Douglas Rimmer)

Distinguished Africanist Award

The Distinguished Africanist Award was established by the ASUK as a way of paying tribute to people who have made exceptional contributions to African Studies – people who have in one way or another expanded and disseminated knowledge of Africa, and interest in Africa. The award recognises the lifetime achievements of African and UK scholars who have who have contributed greatly to African Studies in the UK, or who have strengthened links between African Studies here and in Africa itself. The recipients of the award for 2002 were announced on September 10 at a reception hosted by the Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham, during the ASUK Biennial Conference. They were as follows:

Professor Lionel Cliffe was Founder Editor of the *Review of African Political Economy*, the leading journal on radical political economy of Africa which for nearly thirty years has played a formative role in the discipline. Professor Cliffe's many collaborative projects including fourteen books have been influential in both academic and political debates on Africa. His work has spanned Eastern, Central, Southern and West Africa, and has ranged from agrarian reform to conflict, humanitarian assistance and democratisation. Several of his books have remained key reference points for all scholars working in the area: notably the two influential volumes *Socialism in Tanzania* (1972, 1973), co-edited with John Saul; *The Transition to Independence in Namibia* (with Ray Bush) and *Zimbabwe: Politics, Economics & Society* (with Colin Stoneman).

Professor Eldred Durosimi Jones and *Mrs Marjorie Jones* have together made an unparalleled contribution to the establishment of an Africanist literary criticism in Africa, Britain and worldwide. Eldred Jones was the author of *Othello's Countrymen* (1961), an innovative contribution to Shakespearean scholarship, and many other influential works of criticism. He was the founder and, with Marjorie Jones, the editor for 35 years of the annual journal *African Literature Today*, which has played a crucial role in the consolidation and dissemination of African literary studies. Eldred and Marjorie Jones sit together on a Presidential Committee of professional experts for the reconstruction of Sierra Leone. Both have been active in peace-making initiatives and have remained in Sierra Leone at great personal risk when they could have taken prestigious appointments in North American or British universities. Eldred Jones became blind early in his career and Marjorie Jones's contribution has been integral to his achievement.

Professor Shula Marks has been described as 'without doubt the greatest living historian of South Africa'. Until recently Professor of History at SOAS, before that Director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London, Shula Marks has been at the forefront of research into South African history for three decades, her most important publications including *Reluctant Rebellion* (1970), *Ambiguities of Dependence* (1986), *Not Either an Experimental Doll* (1987) and *Divided Sisterhood* (1994). She has also edited the *Journal of Southern African Studies* and the *Journal of African History*. She supervised numerous postgraduates (many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers themselves), and organised for many years the foremost research seminar in South African history outside of South Africa. She has transformed the way the academic community and the broader public have viewed South Africa's past. Not only that, she has always been an engaged scholar, deeply involved in the struggle to understand South African society and to build a new society out of the past.

Audrey Richards Prize

The ASUK is pleased to note that since the first Audrey Richards Dissertation prize (1992) the numbers of dissertations submitted have increased year on year. In 1998 there were under ten. In 2000 there were fourteen. This year there were twenty-one. It is the task of the Vice President to choose the winner.

Judging the dissertations submitted for this prize was one of the more daunting tasks I have ever undertaken. Twenty-one dissertations were submitted, all of them excellent pieces of work on subjects as various as Maasai demography and Liberia serious conflict.

I would never have completed the task without the help of five generous academics. Tim Allen (LSE); Christopher Fife (retired, Univ. of Edinburgh); David Killingray (Goldsmiths College); Brian Morris (Goldsmiths College); Mpalive Msiska (Birkbeck College). I would like to acknowledge my debt to them and to thank them for giving up precious summer break time to assist me in my difficult job.

Winner

Helen Tilley, 'Africa as a Living Laboratory. The African Research Survey and the British Colonial Empire: Consolidating Environmental, Medical and Anthropological Debates', Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Oxford. Supervisor: Mark Harrison. A challenging and sophisticated piece of work examining the scientific history of the African Research survey and the establishment of applied science in Africa. It is original, revisionary, critiquing current views on the relationship between science and colonialism. 'Colonial science' is examined as a precursor of an increasingly international form of scientific endeavour.

Runners Up (in alphabetical order)

Monica Bungaro, 'New Cartographies in Recent African Fiction: Changing Patterns in the Representation of Female Characters', Centre for West African Studies, Birmingham. Supervisor: Stewart Brown. An excellent contribution to the study of gender ideology in African in the context of African literature. It enters into fertile debates about the relationship between reality and literary representation. It was original in its combination of Western and African/American feminist theory and courageously engages not only with much respected novels but also with recent literature.

Michael Taylor, 'Life, Land and Power: Contesting Development in Northern Botswana', Anthropology, Edinburgh. Supervisor: Alan Barnard. A lively and original combination of theory, and ethnography on a politically sensitive topic. It makes a significant contribution to the ethnography of a much-studied group the Khoe (also known as the Bushmen or the San). It skilfully combines contemporary theoretical debates with intensely practical issues of life (livelihood), land and power in the struggles with the state. It brings together two bodies of knowledge: the anthropological engagement with issues of identity and development anthropology

The thing which made it a difficult task also made it a very rewarding one. The high levels of scholarship, originality and writing characteristic of all the submissions was both heartening and exciting. I also feel that I learned a great deal, as well. If this is representative of the quality of the young graduates in African Studies, then the field is fortunate indeed. The prize will be awarded in a reception at SOAS in May 2003. At this time, all the publishers whose contributions make this award possible will be invited and their generosity gratefully acknowledged. (Nici Nelson)

Biennial Conference 2004

Did you enjoy this year Biennial at Birmingham, or are you sorry you couldn't make it? Then please note that we are giving you plenty of notice for the next one. The ASAUK is pleased to announce that the next Biennial Conference will take place at Goldsmiths College University of London on Monday-Wednesday 8-10 September, 2004.

Please make these red letter days in your 2004 diary and watch this space for further information. All offers of panels and papers to Dr. Nici Nelson, President of the ASAUK, Anthropology, Goldsmiths College, London SE14 6NW; email: n.nelson@gold.ac.uk

Meetings, Lectures and Events

29 & 30 October, 5, 6, 12 & 13 November: Evans-Pritchard Memorial Lectures, All Souls College, Oxford, Dave Anderson, 'Histories of the hanged: testimony from the Mau Mau rebellion', Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 5pm.

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

21-2 May 2003: 'Remaking law in Africa: transnationalism, persons, and rights'. This interdisciplinary conference at the Centre of African Studies, Edinburgh University will examine the ways law is embedded in and shaped by processes that have an impact upon political, economic, and social development in Africa. In the tradition of the Centre, it is hoped that participants will be drawn from a number of academic disciplines including history, social anthropology, politics, economics and law, as well as from international agencies, state institutions, NGOs and development practitioners. Scholars have observed that law represented the cutting edge of colonialism in its attempts to control and govern its colonial subjects while bringing about their transformation and that of the societies in which they lived. Its role continued to have a powerful presence in the postcolonial period when many newly independent countries turned to law as a form of social-engineering within the nation state. In recent years, attention has focused on globalisation as a phenomenon and local communities' responses to it. This has led to a growing recognition of the importance of transnational forms of law and ordering derived from diverse sources, including the World Bank, the European Convention on Human Rights, the World Trade Organisation, the World Health Organisation, the International Monetary Fund, the African Union, and religious movements. The success or failure of polities and persons access to, and use of, law raise questions about the power and authority to construct meaning at multiple levels, including, local, regional, national and international domains that intersect with one another in a variety of ways. This conference aims to explore the ways in which law operates in different places at different levels and at different moments in the historical record, in order to gain a more informed view of the processes that underpin continuity, transformation, and change. For further discussion of conference themes, write to Dr. Anne Griffiths: at email: eusl18@srv0.law.ed.ac.uk, or write to Dr. Griffiths at Law/Social and Political Studies, Old College, University of

Edinburgh, South Bridge, Edinburgh EH8 9YL. For information about registration, costs, accommodation: email: African.Studies@ed.ac.uk or write to The Administrator, Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, 21 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD, Scotland, UK.

INTERNATIONAL

24-5 October: 'Putting the new Partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD) into practice. Which challenges for national and international policies?' *AfricAvenir*, Douala, Cameroun in Cooperation with Goethe Institute Yaoundé. Contact Julius Essoka, douala@afriavenir.org, or see <http://www.afriavenir.org/afriavenir/ConferenceNEPAD.pdf>.

18-20 November: 'Utilization of the internet for the advent of an African Renaissance, of a new partnership for Africa's development, for conflict prevention and resolution'. *AfricAvenir*, Douala, Cameroun in Cooperation with Institute of Political Science/Free University of Berlin. Contact Julius Essoka, douala@afriavenir.org, or see <http://www.afriavenir.org/afriavenir/ConferenceInternet.pdf>.

5-7 March 2003: 'German colonial past in Cameroon'. *AfricAvenir*, Douala, Cameroun in Cooperation with Goethe Institute Yaoundé. Contact Julius Essoka, douala@afriavenir.org, or see <http://www.afriavenir.org/afriavenir/PasseColonial.pdf>.

Voices from the Rocks: A Dance Drama

From our Drama Critic

On 13 and 14 September 2002 the Bulawayo-based dance theatre group, Sunduza, performed a musical version of Terry Ranger's, *Voices From the Rocks*, in a 'world premier' at the Merlin Theatre in Sheffield. This is the first time since Colin Turnbull's *The Ik* was turned into a play in the 1970s that a major work of Africanist scholarship has been dramatised. History was served up with the sweetener of wonderful a cappella singing and Ndebele dancing. It went down well – at least the audience gave it a huge ovation.

The back of the stage was filled throughout by slides of the Matopos – of cave paintings; of the rocks; of Rhodes's Grave. The play began with wild animal and insect noises: later there were lowing herds. The cast spoke texts from the book – mostly direct quotations from missionaries, native commissioners, chiefs, Mwali priests, freedom fighters, etc. It was astonishing to hear how quotes from a century ago made their impact.

A great deal of the complicated story was included. Rhodes's broken promises were highlighted – during the discussion after the performance, when the Zimbabwean adaptor was asked what the moral of the show was he replied 'Keep your promises'. There was a great moment after the National Park had been proclaimed, when two men in Ndebele dress came in. One of them peering out at the audience said to the other 'Look at all these terrorists'. 'Tourists is the word you want', said the other. 'Is there any difference?' came the reply.

Later the Fifth Brigade came bursting on to stage, whipping the writhing women. And it all ended with an ex-combatant announcing to great applause from the audience that he had now liberated the land, but then adding: 'Now meet my cousin, the Minister'. The audience rose to greet the Minister and to shout 'pamberi' and 'pasi' with great relish, only to fall uneasily silent as the Minister spoke about 'enforcing' democracy.

A large part of the audience stayed behind for a discussion with the cast after the second performance. It became clear that they were readier to condemn Rhodes and imperialism than they were to understand the bad time the Ndebele

had had from their own government. One man said: 'I enjoyed all the anti-imperialism. But I missed the economic dimension. There should have been a song about the imbalance of world trade'.

Sunduzu are planning to develop the production and put on performances in Zimbabwe. If funding is available they also hope to put on further performances in the UK.

Bird Watch

From Our Special Correspondent

An agreement has been reached between the Rhodes Trust and the Bodleian Library concerning Rhodes House Library and is soon to be gazetted. The area within Rhodes House occupied by the library is now defined to include the Rosebery reading room and the Grey Gallery, but excludes any offices for librarians (who were moved out last September). The Trust insists on the right to use the Rosebery room for its own meetings outside library hours. As of writing no special arrangements for the security of the reading room after hours had been agreed. The name of the library is to be changed to the Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House. The current agreement is to run for five years, but the Trust and the Bodleian each have the right to terminate it on two years' notice. Under the new library sub-committee system there is no longer a University committee that has oversight over Rhodes House Library. The new Rhodes House Library Sub-committee of the Committee for Library Provision in Area Studies has, at most, an advisory role. The Warden of Rhodes House has indicated that he is unlikely to attend future meetings of the sub-committee. The enforcement of the agreement therefore depends on the good will of the Rhodes Trust and the vigilance of the Bodleian curators, both of which have been notably lacking so far.

The situation in which Oxford University now finds itself is that within seven years at most the Trust could give notice that the library should quit Rhodes House, with no alternate provision available to keep the collection together. It will be dispersed throughout the Bodleian, including, no doubt, to the warehouses in distant Nunham Courtney, from which the Anti-Apartheid Movement archives were moved on the transfer of the American collection to the Rothermere Centre. The Bodleian is currently strapped for cash and for space (its latest attempt to raise money by turning the Duke Humphrey's reading room into a visitor centre was turned down by Oxford City Council).

The Commonwealth and African collection remains under threat of dismemberment and dispersal. The University, the Bodleian and the Rhodes Trust must now be asked what their commitment is to maintaining such a collection intact, before the Trust precipitates another crisis by serving an eviction notice when it decides to convert Rhodes House into a venue for corporate hospitality. In the absence of such a commitment, potential donors of Commonwealth and African materials to the Bodleian would be advised to seek other repositories for their gifts.

Photography Website

Anyone interested in African photography focusing on culture, diversity, environment, travel and humanity may be interested in this new non-commercial site – www.africanaperture.com – bringing together photographers who focus on Africa.

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

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

Jose Arturo Saavedra Casco, 'Swahili poetry as a historical source: Utenzi, war poems, and the German conquest of East Africa, 1888-1910' (SOAS, 2002: supervisors David M. Anderson & Farouk Topan)

Abby James 'Democratic discourse and the oral practices of griots', PhD, University of Essex (Ernesto Laclau supervisor, Graham Furniss adviser, July 2002).

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

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

David M. Anderson, *Eroding the Commons: The Politics of Ecology in Baringo, Kenya 1890s-1963* (Oxford: James Currey, 2002), 352pp. ISBNs: 0-85255-469-9 (cloth) £45.00, 0-85255-468-0 (paper) £16.95

Jan-Georg Deutsch, Heike Schmidt & Peter Probst (eds), *African Modernities: Entangled Meanings in Current Debates* (Oxford: James Currey, 2002), 192pp. ISBNs: 0-85255-793-0 (cloth) £40.00, 0-85255-792-2 (paper) £14.95

Donald L. Donham & Wendy James (eds), *The Southern Marches of Imperial Ethiopia: Essays in History & Social Anthropology*, paperback edition (Oxford: James Currey, 2002), 320pp. ISBN 0-85255-794-9, £16.95

Wendy James, Donald L. Donham, Eisei Kurimoto & Alessandro Triulzi (eds), *Remapping Ethiopia: Socialism & After* (Oxford: James Currey, 2002), 320pp. ISBNs: 0-85255-456-7 (cloth) £40.00, 0-85255-455-9 (paper) £14.95

Douglas Johnson, *The Root Causes of Sudan's Civil Wars* (Oxford: James Currey, 2002), 256pp. ISBNs: 0-85255-391-9 (cloth) £40.00, 0-85255-392-7 (paper) £12.95

I.M. Lewis, *A Modern History of the Somali*, 4th ed (Oxford: James Currey, 2002), 352pp. ISBN 0-85255-483-4 (paper) £14.95

Paul Nugent, *Smugglers, Secessionists & Loyal Citizens on the Ghana-Togo Frontier: The Lie of the Borderlands since 1914* (Oxford: James Currey, 2002), 320pp. ISBNs: 0-85255-473-7 (cloth) £45.00, 0-85255-472-9 (paper) £16.95

Stefano Ponte, *Farmers & Markets in Tanzania: How Policy Reforms Affect Rural Livelihoods in Africa* (Oxford: James Currey, 2002), 224pp. ISBNs: 0-85255-169-X (cloth) £40.00, 0-85255-168-1 (paper) £17.95.

Richard Reid, *Political Power in Pre-Colonial Buganda: Economy, Society & Warfare in the 19th Century* (Oxford: James Currey, 2002), 288pp. ISBNs: 0-85255-451-6 (cloth) £45.00, 0-85255-450-8 (paper) £16.95

Ian Scoones & William Wolmer, *Pathways of Change in Africa: Crops, Livestock & Livelihoods in Mali, Ethiopia & Zimbabwe* (Oxford: James Currey, 2002), 256pp. ISBNs: 0-85255-423-0 (cloth) £45.00, 0-85255-422-2 (paper) £16.95

Justin Willis, *Potent Brews: A Social History of Alcohol in East Africa 1850-1999* (Oxford: James Currey), 320pp. ISBNs: 0-85255-471-0 (cloth) £45.00, 0-85255-470-2 (paper) £16.95

Chief Emeka Anyaoku Chair in Commonwealth Studies

*at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study,
University of London*

Applications are being considered for this prestigious new Chair, funded through a successful external appeal. The initial appointment will be for up to

five years and salary level will reflect experience. The successful candidate will bring a dynamic research agenda exploring current issues of civil society, democratisation, good governance and development in a Commonwealth context. An ability to design and implement externally funded projects is a requirement. He or she will be expected to attract doctoral students, and play a leading role in the teaching and oversight of a new Masters degree in Globalization & Development: Commonwealth Perspectives on Human Development and Security. A degree of specialization in African affairs is preferable, allied to an engagement with the wider Commonwealth. Applications on a secondment basis will not be excluded. The deadline for applications was early September. But further particulars can still be obtained from: Mrs. Denise Elliott, Registrar/Administrative Secretary, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 28 Russell, London WC1B 5DS, or email Denise.Elliott@sas.ac.uk. For more information visit: www.sas.ac.uk/commonwealthstudies.

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Cambridge University: Megan Vaughan, formerly of Nuffield College, Oxford, has been appointed to the Smuts Chair in Commonwealth History.

Durham University: Richard Reid, formerly of the University of Asmara, has been appointed to a lectureship in history.

Oxford University: Dave Anderson, formerly of SOAS, has been appointed Lecturer in African Studies and Research Fellow at St Antony's College.

Dan Brockington has been appointed to a lectureship at the School of Geography and the Environment.

Jan-Georg Deutsch has been appointed Lecturer in Commonwealth Studies at Queen Elizabeth House, with a fellowship at St Cross College.

SOAS: Joanna Lewis, formerly of Durham University, has been appointed to a lectureship in history.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

British Academy: David Philipson and Megan Vaughan have been elected Fellows of the British Academy.

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). **NEW deadlines are 15 December (for the January Newsletter), 15 March (for April), 15 June (for July), and 15 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.