



NEWSLETTER

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January 2006

**Forty-second Annual General Meeting of the ASAUK,
Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham,
23 September 2005**

Present: Graham Furniss, Richard Hodder-Williams, David Maxwell, Jan-Georg Deutsch, Alfred Zack-Williams, Rita Abrahamsen, Simon Heap, Elsbeth Court, John Peel, Gavin Williams, Elisha Renne.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Gina Porter, Ola Uduku, Sara Rich Dorman, Tim Kelsall, JoAnn McGregor, Mark Leopold, Anne Griffiths, James Currey, Roy May

2. Minutes of 41st ASAUK Annual General Meeting

The minutes were signed by the President.

3. Matters arising

No matters arising.

4. Report by the Honorary Secretary (Dr Insa Nolte)

The report by the Hon Secretary was corrected on two counts. First, the most recent Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecture took place in July (not May) 2005, and second, council members who had served a first term were eligible (not invited) to stand for a second term.

5. Report by the Honorary Treasurer (Prof Richard Hodder-Williams)

Accounts were formally presented by the Hon Treasurer and accepted.

6. Subscriptions

The AGM agreed on the increase of membership subscription fees by £2 for next year, and a gradual increase by similar amounts for consecutive years.

7. President's Report (Prof Graham Furniss)

The President's report was formally presented and accepted.

8. Election of Officers and Council Members

The President thanked retiring council members Ola Uduku, Martin Hill and David Maxwell for their service.

Giles Mohan and Dimitri van den Bersselaar were nominated to serve a second term, and were duly elected. Chukwuemeka Chikezie, Kolawole Olaniyan, Camilla Toulmin, Harry West and James Currey (formerly a co-opted member) were elected as new council members.

Simon Heap and Tim Kelsall, in their capacities as editor of the *ASAUK Newsletter* and *African Affairs* respectively, were co-opted as council members.

To provide a forum for debate among centres of African Studies in the UK, the President will invite chairpersons of centres of African Studies in Cambridge, Edinburgh, Birmingham, London and Oxford to the next council meeting to discuss the funding of research in African social science by the ESRC with an invited ESRC representative.

9. Call for nominations for 2006 ASAUK awards (Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture, Distinguished Africanist Award)

It was agreed that 1 December 2005 would be the deadline for the proposition of the Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecturer 2006.

10. ASAUK Newsletter

Since the last AGM, four issues (1,200 copies each) of the newsletter at 12 pages each have reached ASAUK members. The next newsletter will contain 16 pages.

11. ASAUK Website

The website will be taken over by Rohan Jackson for two years at an estimated cost of £600 per annum, and Insa Nolte will retain editorial control.

12. Any other Business

No other business.

The AGM was followed by light refreshments. At 2:30 pm the Centre of West African Studies invited all ASAUK members to the discussion and launch of:

Christianity and Social Change in Africa: Essays in Honor of John Peel
(ed. T. Falola)

ASAUK Website: www.asauk.net

The Association's website has been given a makeover and increased functionality: apart from updated content and layout, newsletters are now available for download, and membership and sponsorship forms can now be submitted online. There is a section of the site which relates to the Biennial conference in Sept 2006. Panel information and the online registration form will go up here in early 2006. The site will continue to develop through 2006, including the addition of an online payment system (for conference and membership fees). Do take a look at the new site, by visiting: www.asauk.net

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

African Studies Association of the UK Biennial Conference, SOAS, University of London, 11-13 September 2006. ASAUK members are invited to convene a panel; the conference will be organised in six parallel thematic/subject areas:

Series A: history, politics, economics and urban studies – ‘economic forces and political change: past and present’

Series B: environment, development and human rights – ‘development intervention: experience and prospects’

Series C: natural and health sciences – ‘challenges to human, animal and plant health’

Series D: anthropology and religious studies – ‘dislocation, resilience and new social formations’

Series E: language, literature, film, and the visual arts – ‘eclecticism, dynamism and innovation’

Series F: education, books, and late-breaking news – ‘education, education, education!’

Panel convenors are invited to indicate the series in which they wish to convene a panel and to provide a preliminary title for their panel. Such information should be sent the conference organisers: ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG *or* conference@asauk.net *or* www.asauk.net/asauk06

‘Literature and Historical Imagination in Africa’, Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge, 4 March 2006. For details, contact Dr Derek Peterson: drp31@cam.ac.uk

7th Annual Researching Africa Day Workshop, African Studies Centre, University of Oxford, St. Antony’s College, Oxford, Saturday, 11 March 2006.

The workshop provides postgraduates with an opportunity to meet with fellow researchers, exchange information and experiences and discuss research strategies. The day is structured around brief presentations made by those who have recently engaged in research on or fieldwork in Africa, followed by discussion. Sessions will focus largely on the following themes: Africans in a global context: neglected concepts and issues; Africa and globalization: researching Africa outside Africa – methods and sources; preparing for fieldwork: establishing networks and gaining access; and in the field: methods, problems and experiences. Limited funding is available for presenters travelling from outside Oxford. 200-word abstracts by 15 February to Genevieve Klein: genevieve.klein@sant.ox.ac.uk

‘Ethno-history and the Construction of Identity in Twentieth Century Africa’, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities and Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge, 31 March-1 April 2006. Drawing inspiration from a growing body of specialist literature, the workshop provides an opportunity for new and ongoing research on the intellectual roots and

enduring vitality of local African historiography: the genre's changing political dimensions and contributions to the construction of local and ethnic identities, the social profiles and biographies of the genre's practitioners and their relationships with academic historians. Contact Dr Derek Peterson: drp31@cam.ac.uk or Professor Megan Vaughan: mav26@cam.ac.uk

'African Cities: Competing Claims on Urban Space: an AEGIS Thematic Conference', Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, 15-16 June 2006. The major African cities have grown with unprecedented speed over the past few decades creating genuine metropolises. Cities like Nairobi, Lagos and Johannesburg reflect the makeup of the country at large, and indeed are often taken to stand as a symbol for the nation united. However, the reality of many African urban centres is more complicated than that would suggest. Many are built on top of, or around, older settlements whose inhabitants claim to own the very land on which the city is built. Also, many cities contain immigrant communities who have come from much further afield and who may be considered as strangers even when they have lived in the city for generations. Such has been the position of Ethiopians in Asmara and of Eritreans in Addis Ababa. In South African cities, the visible presence of Nigerians, Angolans and Congolese over the past decade has been much commented upon because it is something new. Some cities like Brazzaville have become residentially segregated according to notional regional or ethnic affiliation. In that sense, the city may be less of a melting pot and more of an ethnic cauldron. The workshop is primarily intended for AEGIS members, although other submissions will be considered. Half-page abstracts by 31 January 2006 to Professor Paul Nugent: Paul.Nugent@ed.ac.uk or Dr Francesca Locatelli: F.Locatelli@ed.ac.uk

'Re-assessing Suez Fifty Years On', Maritime Historical Studies Centre, University of Hull, 26 July 2006. The nationalization of the Suez Canal in 1956 triggered one of the gravest international crises since the Second World War. The fiftieth anniversary of the Suez crisis presents an opportunity to re-assess this seminal episode in post-war history. Papers are welcome on all aspects of the Suez crisis, its causes and consequences. Of special interest are contributions on the international context and repercussions of Suez, but domestic perspectives are also encouraged. Abstracts by 28 February to: Dr Simon Smith, Department of History, University of Hull, Hull, HU6 7RX or s.c.smith@hull.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL

"Recapricorning" the Atlantic: Luso-Brazilian and Luso-African Perspectives on the Atlantic World', University of Michigan and Michigan State University, USA, 11-13 May 2006. The conference will be a forum for discussing new research on the history of the Lusophone South Atlantic. The conference aims to generate discussion on how this research modifies, challenges, or confirms major trends in the scholarship on Atlantic History, which has focused primarily on the

North Atlantic and the Caribbean. Abstracts and short CV by 31 January 2006 to Lindsey Gish: atlantic@msu.edu

'Disunited Empires – Interdisciplinary Conference on Britain and the United States: Imperialism in Africa, the Caribbean, Central America, and the Middle East', Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, 15-18 May 2006. This conference invites paper and panel proposals on any aspect of British and/or American imperialism. Contributions that compare and contrast British and American policies, practices, and legacies are particularly welcome. Areas of interest include issues of formal and informal modes of imperialism and colonization; environment and resource exploitation; war, genocide, and humanitarian intervention; corporations and the movements of national and global capital; mapping and borders; labour and class relations; public memory (archives, monuments, museums); religion; writing and narrative; political/cultural relations between Britain and USA; and anti-colonial resistance and revolution. Abstracts by 31 January 2006 to: empire@post.queensu.ca

'Transcultural Modernities: Narrating Africa in Europe', European Network for Euro-African Studies Project 2006, University of Frankfurt, Germany, 1-3 June 2006. In recent years the creative output of Africans living in Europe has received increasing interest from the media, but in academia little critical attention has been paid to the manner in which the narrative modes in these Euro-African works give expression to, or are an expression of, their creators' transcultural realities. This conference responds to this need for reflection by scrutinizing how creative work explores issues such as home, migration, and diaspora, and how these explorations in turn contribute to the emergence of specific modern realities. There are three themes: tracing Euro-African modernities – of asylum seekers and cosmopolitans; modes of narrating Africa in Europe, and postcolonial and transcultural studies: framing a Euro-African future. Abstracts by 31 January 2006 to Daniela Merolla: D.Merolla@let.leidenuniv.nl

'Forging the Local and the Global: Textual Translation and Migration', Stellenbosch University, South Africa, 9-12 July 2006. The conference seeks to conceptualise the role of literature and the visual arts in tracing and mapping the cartographies, movements and fault lines of past imperialisms and of contemporary empire with its new forms of sovereignty. The conference invokes location, this place and elsewhere, and movement, journeys from one location to another, from homeland to foreign land. It raises issues of identity and of agency, and gestures towards the body as locus of inscriptions that are both culturally specific and, increasingly, transcultural. Themes include global apartheid, perpetual war: bodies and biopolitics; migrations of texts: crossing borders in literature and visual arts; the challenges of translation, transculturalism, tricontinentalism; travel-writing, trade-routes and slave-routes; and international reading publics and the creation of a South African Canon. Abstracts by 28 February 2006 to Karlien van der Schyff: global@sun.ac.za

'The Maritime Heritage and Cultures of the Western Indian Ocean in Comparative Perspective', British Institute in Eastern Africa (BIEA), British Museum and Zanzibar Department of Archives, Museums and Antiquities Maritime Heritage Conference 2006, Stone Town, Zanzibar, 11-13 July 2006. The conference examines the maritime heritage, cultural traditions and historical trajectory of the various populations bordering the Western Indian Ocean, and including the various offshore islands – and to compare and contrast these with other maritime regions and cultures, including those of other sections of the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf, and Western Atlantic fringe. Themes include the history and ethnography of boat-building; maritime societies as cultural brokers; the militarization of the sea and its social and material consequences; the historical ecology of island communities; evidence for sea level change and its impacts on human populations; piracy and trade in the Indian Ocean; the poetics of maritime culture; challenges facing the preservation of maritime cultures and heritage; fishing; and slavery and slave trading in the Indian Ocean. Abstracts and enquiries (including possible financial support) by 1 March 2006 to: Dr Stephanie Wynne-Jones, Assistant Director, BIEA: swj@africaonline.co.ke Website: www.britac.ac.uk/institutes/eafrica/

'Gendering Transformations: Gender, Globalization, and State Transformation in Africa and the African Diaspora', Alvan Ikoku College of Education, Owerri, Nigeria, 28-30 July 2006. The Second Trans-Atlantic Research Group conference, in association with Echeruo Centre for Public Policy, brings together scholars and policy-makers interested in exploring historical, policy, and development phenomena and their intersection with gender. The organisers encourage submissions on a wide range of themes relating gender to globalization, democratization, and state transformation in Africa and the African diaspora: gender and social transformation; transformation of gender roles; gender and language in Africa; gender and economic transformation; gender, crime, law, and justice; gender, war and peace-making; trans-Atlantic encounters and transformation; children and migration experience; and trans-Atlantic relations policy implications of gender and globalization. 300-word abstracts by 31 January 2006 to Dr Chima J. Korieh: korieh@rowan.edu

'Going up to the South: Africa, Latin America and Asia: Centres for Global Development', 12th International Conference of Latin American Association for Asian and African Studies, Universidad Externado de Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia, 10-13 October 2006. Abstracts by 31 August 2006 to Jerónimo Delgado: africa@uexternado.edu.co

'Africa's Indigenous Science and Knowledge Systems', Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria, 24-27 October 2006. The University's History Department, in conjunction with the Global Africa Foundation, USA, announce its second international conference on Africa's indigenous science and knowledge systems. Focus areas include conceptual issues related to science and indigenous

knowledge systems; Intellectual Property Rights, compensation for resource persons and experts; principles for knowledge management; indigenous knowledge systems and the curriculum; and case studies from the disciplines. The organisers also welcome papers on the interconnections between science and religion in a specific area; indigenous mathematical systems in particular ethnic, linguistic or cultural regions across the continent; the medical, therapeutic value of traditional health care; the scientific basis of traditional remedies; challenges in traditional health care; indigenous practitioners; HIV/AIDS; and triumphs and constraints in indigenous technologies such as cloth-making, beer and soap. Abstracts by 28 April 2006 to Adoyi Onoja: conferenceoctober@yahoo.com

'The Locations of Power', The First Emory – University of Cape Town International Symposium on Southern Africa, Emory University, Atlanta, USA, 10-12 November 2006. The symposium has five themes. The problem of authority and power: centralised authority and the legacies of colonial decision-making structures, and the role of 'informal authority' in terms of chiefs and traditional healers. State formation and capacity, such as the history of state formation and nation-building; issues of state capacity in terms of service delivery; and the democratization project and the underlying socio-structures that might delimit such efforts such as poverty, crime and lack of skills in the public sector. The sociology and anthropology of tyranny, such as the issue of non-democratic decision-making in the region despite heavy international pressures for good governance. Democratization in a globalizing world, such as what are the global factors encouraging democratization emanating to the local and what are delimiting factors? Violence and memory: in the aftermath of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee how do we understand memories and the production of histories around violence? Abstract and CV by 7 April 2006 to Clifton Crais: ccrais@emory.edu *and* Thomas Koelble: tkoelble@gsb.uct.ac.za

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

James G. Aldigé (2005) 'Public Interest or Private Gain?: Reinterpretation of the Slave Trade Regulation Act of 1788', M.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Jane Humphries.

Kumwenda LindaJoy Beer (2005) 'Medical Training and the Health Service in Colonial Zambia', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Dr David Anderson.

Dina Berenstein (2004) 'Educational Reform in Post-apartheid South Africa: Teacher Perceptions and Experiences of Curriculum Policy Implementation', M.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor Stephen Castles.

Lawrence Dritsas (2005) 'The Zambesi Expedition, 1858-1864: African Nature in the British Scientific Metropolis, Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Professors Charles Withers, Paul Nugent and Kenneth King.

Rachel Flanary (2005) 'Gender and Embodied Mobility: Learning in Tarsaw, Northern Ghana', Ph.D thesis, University of Durham. Supervisors: Dr Gina Porter and Dr Janet Townsend.

Nicholas Graham (2005) 'Informal Settlement Upgrading in Cape Town: Challenges, Constraints and Contradictions within Local Government', M.Litt. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Tony Lemon.

Justine Johnstone (2005) 'Knowledge, Development and Technology: Internet Use among Voluntary AIDS-related Organisations in KwaZulu-Natal', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Shirin Madon.

Nontaporn Laobooncharoen (2004) 'IMF Conditionality: Imposition or Ownership?: the Case of Egypt', Ph.D thesis, University of Durham. Supervisor: Dr Emma Murphy.

Cherry Leonari (2005) 'Knowing Authority: Colonial Governance and Local Community in Equatoria Province, Sudan, 1900-1956', Ph.D thesis, University of Durham. Supervisor: Dr Justin Willis.

Pedro Alberto da Silva Rupino Machado (2005) 'Indian Merchant Capital in Mozambique, c.1750-1830', Ph.D thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Professor Gervase Clarence-Smith.

Kim Brereton Mathiesen (2003) 'Language in Education Policy and the Politics of Change in Post-apartheid South Africa', M.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Ann Childs.

Thomas S. J. Molony (2005) 'Food, Carvings and Shelter: the Adoption and Appropriation of Information and Communication Technologies in Tanzanian Micro and Small Enterprises', Ph.D thesis, University of Edinburgh. Supervisors: Professor Kenneth King and Dr James Stewart; available at Edinburgh Research Archive: www.era.lib.ac.uk/handle/1842/853

Ebenezer Obadare (2005) 'The Theory and Practice of Civil Society in Nigeria', Ph.D thesis, LSE, University of London. Supervisor: Dr David Lewis.

Darko Kwabena Opoku (2005) 'Human Development in Ghana in the Era of Structural Adjustment', M.Phil thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Richard Jeffries.

Matteo Rizzo (2005) 'Development Discourse and Practice in Tanzania, 1945-2000', M.Phil thesis, SOAS, University of London. Supervisor: Dr David Anderson.

Eugenia Onwu Ukpo (2005) 'Learner Support in Distance Education: A Mixed Method Evaluation of the National Teachers' Institute (NTI) Nigeria Student Support System', Ed.D thesis, University of Bristol. Supervisor: Dr Roger Garrett.

Abdurrazag M. Ali Ushah (2004) 'Static Problems due to Sand Dunes in NC151, Western Libya', Ph.D thesis, University of Durham. Supervisor: Professor Neil Goulty.

Yingqin Zheng (2005) 'Information Culture and Development: ICT for Healthcare in South Africa and China', Ph.D thesis, Judge Institute of Management Studies, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Geoff Walsham.

Several of the above thesis titles came from the *Theses Register of Research in Commonwealth Studies* at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Students should submit information to them: commonwealth.register@sas.ac.uk

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

The African Studies Companion: A Guide to Information Sources [print and online]. New 4th edition, March 2006. 832 pages; ISBN: 0-9541029-2-4; £148. Lochcarron: Hans Zell. To order: www.africanstudiescompanion.com or telephone: 01520-722951 or hanszell@hanszell.co.uk

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

The Hon. Professor Douglas Rimmer Collection. The personal library of the late Professor Douglas Rimmer of the University of Birmingham [obituary, *Newsletter* 10(38), January 2005] has been kept together and put to good use helping students in Ghana. In late September 2005, about 1,000 of Douglas's academic books and journals were packed in thirty boxes and shipped as a gift to the new University for Development Studies at Tamale in Northern Ghana. The library was enhanced by the addition of books from Professor Willie Henderson (Lifelong Learning), who retired recently. Two staff from the Universities of Ghana Overseas Office had earlier visited Birmingham, saw the books and told Douglas's widow, Joyce, that she could not imagine how badly they are needed in Ghana. The Office arranged the packing and transit. The collection will be located in the Post-Graduate Centre and named "The Hon. Professor Douglas Rimmer Collection".

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Financial support to UK events related to African Studies. The ASAUK administers funds made available by the Royal African Society Scholars Trust Fund to support conference and workshops convened on African Studies themes in the UK. Depending on number of applications in any year, small amounts, up to £500, are normally made available. Applications, with details of the conference/workshop (dates, venue, theme, invited speakers) and the specific purpose for which the funding is required, to: Lindsay Allan, Royal African Society, SOAS Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG

Macarthur Foundation Research and Grant Winners. Dr Ebenezer Obadare, Ford Foundation International Fellow and Lord Dahrendorf (Ph.D) Scholar in the Centre for Civil Society, Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics and Political Science, is the recipient of the prestigious and highly competitive Macarthur Foundation 'Research and Writing' Grants for Round 27 of the Program on Global Security and Sustainability. The \$100,000 fellowship is shared with **Dr Wale Adebani**, Bill and Melinda Gates Scholar in the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge. The Foundation's Selection Committee expressed its confidence that the project "can contribute to understandings of the challenges to peace, security, and human dignity in the contemporary world". Ebenezer and Wale's proposal was selected from 492 applications, out of which only 26 received funding. The project, *Between The State and 'Western Union': Migration, Transnational Resource Flow and the Paradoxes of Citizenship in Nigeria*, will consider both the short- and long-term impacts of transnational resource flow, specifically migrants' remittances, on civic-ness and citizenship in Nigeria, amid evidence of dependence on them by a substantial and increasing number of the local population. Ebenezer recently completed his doctorate and is a Visiting Fellow at the Centre of Civil Society until August 2006. Ebenezer and Wale's e-mails are: E.Obadare@lse.ac.uk and ana27@cam.ac.uk

Werewere-Liking wins 25th Noma Prize. The Noma Award for Publishing in Africa announces that *La mémoire amputée* by Werewere-Liking, the Cameroonian writer, has won the 2005 prize of \$10,000. The prize, under the auspices of UNESCO, will be presented at the First Cape Town Book Fair (a joint venture by the Publishers Association of South Africa), 17-20 June 2006. For further information contact Mary Jay, Secretary to the Noma Award for Publishing in Africa: maryljay@aol.com

Bibliographic Prize. *The Mazruiana Collection Revisited. Ali A. Mazrui Debating the African Condition. An Annotated and Select Bibliography, 1962-2003* by Abdul Samed Bemath [newsletter 10(39), April 2005] has been awarded the Best Bibliography, 2004-05 by the Association of Southern African Indexers and Bibliographers. Available from: sterlingdis@yahoo.co.uk

Audrey Richards Prize 2006 for the best doctoral thesis on Africa. This award recognises the best thesis passed at a British institution of Higher Education in 2004 and 2005. It is announced at the next Biennial Conference and the award is presented at the Royal African Society's AGM the following May. It is something which will enhance any graduate's CV and is accompanied by an attractive package of book and journal vouchers depending on the generosity of our publisher donors (in the past this has come to the approximate value of £200 for the winner and two runners up), a year's membership of ASAUK/RAS and a small cash award. When the quality of submissions is particularly high, one or two runners up can also be chosen. Supervisors must nominate candidates; each supervisor is asked to nominate only one candidate. A copy of the thesis (which

will be returned in September 2006, after the winner is announced), accompanied by a short nomination letter from the supervisor, to be sent by 15 June 2006 to Lindsay Allan, ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh St, Russell Sq, London, WC1H 0XG.

Southern African Students Fund, St Antony's College, University of Oxford Scholarship, 2006-07. The scholarship is available only to a student from Southern Africa (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe) for the study on the M.Sc in African Studies in the academic year 2006-07. The scholarship will cover university fees, college fees, and a stipend. Shortlisted applicants will be required to apply for Overseas Research Studentships and all applicants are encouraged to find supplementary sources of funding. Applicants can apply for University of Oxford Oppenheimer and ORISHA scholarships. Application for admission to the University is a separate process. Scholarship applicants should also apply for the M.Sc in African Studies and St Antony's should be named as college of first choice in the University application. CV and 500-word research proposal, and ask two referees to send letters of support, by 28 February 2006 to: African.studies@sant.ox.ac.uk

African Studies Masters Scholarship, University of Oxford, 2006-07. The African Studies Centre offers a full scholarship for study on the M.Sc in African Studies course. Details of the degree are on: www.africanstudies.ox.ac.uk or by email: african.studies@sant.ox.ac.uk The scholarship will cover university fees, college fees, and a stipend. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply simultaneously for other scholarships and financial assistance, such as AHRC scholarships for home students. Overseas students will be required to apply for Overseas Research Studentships. Application for admission to the University is a separate process – graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk – and must be done by 15 February 2006. Scholarship applicants should send their CV and 500-word research proposal, and ask two referees to send letters of support by 28 February 2006 to African.studies@sant.ox.ac.uk

Trapnell Fellowship in African Terrestrial Ecology, Environmental Change Institute in the Oxford University Centre for the Environment (OUCE). The fellowship will be awarded for three years from 1 October 2006 in the first instance, with the possibility of renewal for two further years. The salary is Academic Research Staff Grade 1A: £20,044-£30,002. Additional travel and research support grants will be available. The successful candidate may be offered a Research Fellowship by Linacre College. It is expected that the successful candidate will undertake and promote research on the terrestrial ecology of Africa, help to coordinate the African Environments Programme, and will be expert in one or more of the following fields: plant ecology, animal ecology, soil science and geomorphology. Application forms can be obtained from the HR Officer on Tel. 01865-285079 or administrator@eci.ox.ac.uk Closing date for completed applications is 26 April 2006.

Leventis Nigerian Post-Doctoral Fellowship in London (previously Leventis Research Co-operation Programme). The Leventis Foundation supports collaborative research between the Centre of African Studies (SOAS) and colleagues in Nigerian universities. Successful applicants will be attached to CAS for a period of three months. Applications should include a complete curriculum vitae, a 1,000 word statement of current research interests and aims to be achieved during the research period in London. This scheme might be particularly appropriate for scholars working up a Ph.D thesis into publishable form. Applications by 1 May 2006 to: cas@soas.ac.uk

British Institute in Eastern Africa Research Grants, 2006. The Institute awards grants of up to £1,000 to assist scholars based either in the UK or Eastern Africa undertaking original research in Eastern Africa broadly defined, in any field of the humanities and social sciences with some emphasis on archaeology, African history, anthropology and related subjects. The Institute intends to give priority to research in relevant fields which focuses on at least one of the following themes: *Histories of Environmental Change; Colonial Encounters; Sacred Space in Eastern Africa; Maritime Heritage of the Western Indian Ocean; or Migrations in Cultural and Historical Perspective.* Application forms from: London Secretary, BIEA, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH or biea@britac.ac.uk or Dr Paul Lane, The Director, BIEA, PO Box 30710, GPO, Nairobi, Kenya; pjlane@africaonline.co.ke Applications must reach the Director by 30 May 2006.

The Institute is also currently supporting archaeological, historical and related research on *Sudanic States of East and West Africa in Comparative Perspective*, for which larger grants to cover fieldwork expenses may be available. For more information contact the Director.

Obituaries

Professor Richard Gray (7 July 1929 – 7 August 2005) was one of the earliest and most gifted pioneers of African history as a subject worthy of academic study, and one which should be pursued in the interests both of the emerging universities of colonial Africa and of an outside world which was beginning to foresee the end of colonial rule in that continent. During his later career his interests became increasingly concentrated on the religious history of Africa and the contemporary problems of relations between church and state in politically independent African countries.

Born in 1929 in Weymouth, the son of a captain in the Royal Navy, Gray was educated at Charterhouse and Downing College, Cambridge. In 1951 he moved to the School of Oriental and African Studies in London University, where he researched for a Ph.D in the company of the first generation of graduate students from the recently founded African university colleges. His 1957 doctoral thesis, later published as *A History of the Southern Sudan, 1839-1889* (1961), soon became

a standard work, and pointed the way to his first academic post at the University of Khartoum.

Meantime, he spent two years of research and travel in collaboration with Philip Mason on a three-volume study of the history of race relations in the Rhodesias and Nyasaland, his own part in the project covering the colonial period. *The Two Nations* (1960) was admired for its incisive, yet calm, assessment of the gathering crisis. There followed the three years spent between Khartoum and Rome which gave him his first experience of university teaching and access to the Vatican archives, as well as the beginnings of a lifelong concern with the relations between the Muslim north and the Christian or Animist south of that much-disturbed country.

In 1961 Gray returned to SOAS, where he served successively as Lecturer, Reader and finally Professor of African History until his retirement in 1989. There, one of his earliest scholarly preoccupations was the planning, recruitment and editing of the fourth volume of *The Cambridge History of Africa*, which dealt with the entire continent during the 17th and 18th centuries. It is well known that large collaborative works proceed at the pace of the slowest contributor, but Gray's volume, published in 1975, was the first of eight to reach completion. More importantly, it took him back into a period of African history which he had not yet explored, and which was to inspire some of the best of his later research.

Both as teacher and colleague, Richard Gray had a singular quality of gentleness and charm. His life and work were deeply affected by his marriage in 1957 to Gabriella Cattaneo, the daughter of a well-known Catholic family in Bergamo, whose members had been the personal friends of Pope John XXIII, whose family home was in the neighbourhood. Gray himself had converted to the Roman Church in 1955, while maintaining a broadly ecumenical outlook in ecclesiastical affairs. As the summer months were spent in Italy and family life was fully bilingual, it was only natural that he began to seek out the Italian sources for African history, which meant, first and foremost, the libraries and archives of the Vatican and those of the missionary orders and congregations based in Rome. In 1965 he was co-author, with David Chambers, of the guide *Materials for West African History in Italian Archives*.

Gray was Editor of the *Journal of African History*, 1968-71 and Chairman of the Africa Centre, Covent Garden, 1967-72. During the early 1970s he took the lead in organising a series of research seminars and conferences held at universities and ecumenical centres in Africa, Europe and the United States to examine the likely effects of political independence on the future of the Christian religion in Africa. These culminated in 1975, when nearly a hundred academics and churchmen met at Jos in Nigeria. The leading papers were edited by Gray and others and published as *Christianity in Independent Africa* (1978).

Gray was Chairman of the Britain-Zimbabwe Society, 1981-84. In 1982 he became a member of the Pontifical Committee of Historical Sciences, which greatly eased his access to the Roman archives, and he took somewhat early retirement from SOAS in the hope that this might enable him to produce a comprehensive study of the papacy and Africa, but declining health prevented it. His last books were *Black Christians and White Missionaries* (1990) and, edited with Yusuf Fadi Hasan, *Religion and Conflict in Sudan* (2002), the papers of a 1999 conference at Yale.

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Polly Hill (10 June 1914 – 21 August 2005) was the pre-eminent economic anthropologist in the classic British fieldwork tradition. She was born in 1914 into one of Cambridge's most distinguished academic families. Her father was A.V. Hill, a Nobel prize-winning physiologist, and her mother's brother was J.M. Keynes. She graduated from Newnham College, Cambridge in 1936 with a degree in Economics, but her academic career did not begin until 1954 when she took up a post as a Research Fellow in the University of Ghana. This was the beginning of her distinguished career as a "field economist," as she liked to describe herself. Over the next 30 years she published nine books and over 50 articles, including the classic study that established her reputation, *The Migrant Cocoa-Farmers of Southern Ghana* (1963).

Hill's economics has little in common with that of her celebrated uncle: she was more of a "specific empiricist" than a "general theorist"; and more concerned with inequality and poverty in the developing countries than unemployment in the developed countries. What she did have in common with her uncle was a concern to question conventional wisdom.

Her questioning was grounded in the countryside of West Africa and southern India; her views were based on some 13 years' fieldwork and she had little time for those development economists who based their analyses and policy conclusions on, in her considered opinion, worthless official statistics and false assumptions about the economic motivations of farmers. Her approach to development is best summed up by a favourite saying of hers: "We are so ignorant of the conditions of poverty in the developing world that we do not know how ignorant we are." This belief informed her field research and her critiques of those whose theories were, in her opinion, founded on ignorance.

Her first job on leaving university was as an editorial assistant with *The Economic Journal*. She held this position for two years (1936-38) and then took a position with the Fabian Society where she wrote her first book, *The Unemployment Services* (1940). This book was concerned to expose the inefficiency and inhumanity of the system of unemployment relief and to advance policy conclusions to overcome these deficiencies.

With the outbreak of the Second World War she was obliged to become a civil servant and worked successively in the Treasury, the Board of Trade and the Colonial Office. In 1953 she married K.A.C. Humphreys, registrar of the West African Examinations Council, and went to live in Ghana. Susannah, her only child, was born in 1956. The marriage was short-lived but the experience of living in Africa was a turning point in her career.

From 1954 until 1965, Hill was employed as a Research Fellow at the University of Ghana when, as she put it, she became a pupil of the migrant cocoa farmers of Ghana. Thus began her work as "field economist", a term that best describes the unique fieldwork methods she pioneered. She began her research using the standard questionnaire method and wrote up the result of this research in her second book, *The Gold Coast Cocoa Farmer: a preliminary survey* (1956).

When she subsequently realised that this method had led her to accept uncritically some false, conventional assumptions about the backgrounds of these farmers, she abandoned the method in favour of one that would enable her to make empirical discoveries. Her new method combined the methods of an economic historian, human geographer and economic anthropologist. She made intensive studies of villages, conducted extensive archival work, and situated her findings in the relevant comparative and historical context. All her subsequent works were based on original data that she collected using her rigorous scholarly methods.

Her next book, *The Migrant Cocoa-Farmers of Southern Ghana* (1963), the product of many years of painstaking research, demonstrated the fruitfulness of her approach and established her reputation as a scholar of renown. Her carefully documented findings on the behavioural patterns of the cocoa-farmers turned conventional orthodoxy on its head. She charted the economic aspects of the migratory process over the years 1894-1930 and mapped the geographical dimensions of it. She also demonstrated that the matrilineal farmers adopted an entirely different mode of migration from patrilineal farmers. The book caught the attention of geographers, historians and anthropologists and its informal status as a "classic" was officially recognised in 1997 when the International African Institute reissued the book in its Anthropological Classics series.

Her subsequent fieldwork in Ghana covered almost every domain of economic activity: she studied trade, traders and marketing, farmers, fisherpeople and pastoralists. In 1966 she began work in rural Hausaland, northern Nigeria, financed by the Institute of Social and Economic Research at Lagos. The following year she returned to Hausaland and spent six months at Batagarawa, near Katsina City. In 1970-71 she did a further 15 months fieldwork in a very densely populated rural area near Kano City. She also consulted the Nigerian National Archives and did some original work on the history of rural farm slavery. Numerous articles and books followed.

In 1972 Hill was appointed Smuts Reader in Commonwealth Studies at Cambridge University, a position with a fixed term of six years. She was also appointed as a permanent Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge. In 1975 she returned to rural Fanteland in southern Ghana for three months work. Indefatigable, she decided, at the age of 63, to undertake fieldwork in rural Karnataka in southern India when immigration restrictions prevented her from returning to Nigeria.

She was 67 when she went on her last overseas trip and she would have continued doing fieldwork in the tropics had her health allowed it. For her, the end of her ability to do fieldwork marked the end of her career as an economic anthropologist so she changed intellectual direction. In 1990 she privately published *The History of the Isleham Fen* in the 1930s. She also edited, with R. Keynes, *Lydia and Maynard: letters between Lydia Lopokova and John Maynard Keynes* (1989). In her eighties she worked on the history of early Cambridge women students but, to her great disappointment, was unable to find a publisher.

Another passion she developed late in life was poetry and she compiled collections of her work which she distributed privately to friends. She had a life-long love of the arts – sculpture, painting, and literature in particular – and had many artist friends. She lived for a period during the war in Henry Moore's studio in London; and later she moved to Lawn Road Flats in Hampstead. One of her oldest friends was the artist Elisabeth Vellacott; for many years they lived in neighbouring villages. Hill collected West African art and also bought a lot of work by local Cambridge artists.

In her final years, Polly Hill lived in the home of her daughter, Susannah, who cared for her with the help of her husband and children, William, Matilda and Florence.

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Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports (of around 200-400 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.

Send all items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, Plan International, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey GU21 6JG, UK or simon.heap@plan-international.org **Deadlines are 17 March 2006 (for April 2006 Newsletter), 16 June (for July), 15 September (for October) and 15 December (for January).** Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.

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