



NEWSLETTER

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New Directory of Africanists in Britain

The first edition of *A Directory of Africanists in Britain* appeared in 1986. Further, revised editions were published in 1990 and 1996, in both cases with the financial backing of the Royal African Society. Although none of the volumes managed quite to include all those who were based in the United Kingdom and were carrying out some form of research related to the continent, around 550 individuals nevertheless appeared in the latest volume.

It is high time that a new, and technologically more modern, edition was produced. The ASAUK has agreed to fund a new *Directory*, to be kept electronically within its website. All active Africanists (“a person who is studying or researching on a topic directly related to the continent of Africa”) should be contacted within the next few months by Anne Merriman, who helped edit the earlier versions, with an on-line questionnaire. The data will be stored in such a way that members, including postgraduate members, will be able not only to look up specific individuals but also search for key words (country, say, or discipline) or a combination of words (Kenya plus economist). This is intended to help scholars working in similar or cognate fields to make contact with each other. It might also help review editors to find reviewers.

One great advantage of this new *Directory* will be the facility to keep it up-to-date easily and quickly. It will also be possible to add names at any time, as new people join the profession, or existing Africanists are ‘discovered’, or, even, well-known Africanists finally get round to filling the questionnaire in! I hope very much that those who receive the questionnaire by email will return it relatively quickly and inform us of Africanists they know who whom we might not have initially approached. The material from this survey will be used to fulfil part of the agreement recently made between the British Academy and the ASAUK. Some years ago, I prepared a Report for the Economic and Social Research Council on the state of area studies and this will be a partial update of that work, focusing exclusively on Africa.

Richard Hodder-Williams

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'Atlantic Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1760-1868', Institute for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies and the School of Modern Languages and Cultures University of Leeds, 12-14 December 2007. The purpose of this conference is to stimulate a discussion of the political processes of slavery, abolition and empire that at once shaped, and were shaped by, the Atlantic world.

The goal is to examine the articulations of the slavery, anti-slavery, and slave resistance with the politics of empire, anti-colonial nationalism, state formation, interstate relations and international law and their cumulative effects throughout the Atlantic world over a long historical period. By these means the organisers seek to promote a discussion of the political constitution of the Atlantic as an historical space in contrast to soliciting monographic contributions that are inserted in the Atlantic. Rather than simply a commemorative conference, it is intended to contextualise and reinterpret British anti-slavery and slave resistance throughout the Atlantic in terms of their Atlantic causes and consequences. Panel proposals and abstracts for papers by 20 September 2007 to Dr Manuel Barcia: m.barcia@leeds.ac.uk

'Imagining and Practicing Imperial and Colonial Medicine, 1870-1960', Green College, University of Oxford, 10-12 January 2008. This conference will bring together scholars and researchers working on the development and practice of medicine in the European and North American colonies. It will examine both contrasts and commonalities of imagining and practicing imperial and colonial medicine between European and North American imperialists, colonialists, settlers and local inhabitants in diverse contexts such as, but not limited to, Africa, South East Asia, Australia, the Americas and Europe.

The goal of the conference is to challenge the current boundaries that mark out what is, or is not 'imperial' and 'colonial' medicine, and seeking new ways of understanding old questions. By bringing together diverse histories, from fresh perspectives, this conference places together areas that are commonly separated, broadening the understanding of what is properly considered imperial and colonial medicine during this period.

Papers are sought in the following areas: nursing; missionaries and medical missionaries; psychology; military medicine; veterinary medicine; local practice and knowledge; race; technology; ethnopharmacology and ethnobotany; hospitals and dispensaries; education and training; climate and acclimatization; disease and illness; and public health and hygiene. For the latest details, check the website: <http://ipicmoxford2008.googlepages.com/home> 250-word abstracts by 1 September 2007 to Ryan Johnson: ryan.johnson@sant.ox.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL

'Borderlands and Frontiers in Africa', Leuven, Belgium, 22-24 November 2007.

Organised by the Belgian Association of Africanists, this conference focuses on the many ways people deal with frontiers, borders and boundaries in Africa. Boundaries are created, maintained and unmade, but at the same time they also constitute a political, social, economic and historical reality. Moreover, despite the supposed rigidity of borders and boundaries, this reality is in continuous flux. Borders can be understood in many different ways. There are political boundaries, nation-states and their criterion of territoriality and sovereignty. In the Africa, one immediately thinks of the Berlin Conference, of the artificial – not arbitrary – boundaries it effected or the many border issues and conflicts that have arisen. These state borders can be visible or invisible, symbolical or 'real', laid down in passports and permits, and in the many procedures that make up the 'state effect'. One thing they have in common, however, is that each border also creates a borderland, a zone of transition where political systems or economic regimes despite or precisely because of the border cannot be sharply distinguished, where they literally crossover.

The presence of a boundary shapes the landscape; the landscape is an important factor in determining the border. Think of, for instance, so-called natural boundaries and the tendency to naturalize the state by referring to rivers or mountain chains. Think, again, of the Berlin Conference and the way it often situated the colonial boundaries between Europe's colonizing powers in arid, less populated 'No-Man's lands'. How do features of the border landscape (such as barbed wire fencing and guard posts) affect local interaction and power relationships? Here, the emphasis would be on daily life in Africa's border zones. Historically, partly as a result of marginalization and dispossession, the border zones in Africa are often inhabited by nomads and/or pastoralists. But also refugee camps, internally displaced persons and exiles are, for political reasons, often located near the border.

The Spanish enclaves of Melilla and Ceuta in Morocco witness not only the confrontation between two nations, cultures or even subcontinents, but also between hopes and harsh reality, rich and poor, illusion and exploitation. Borders and borderlands also divide civilisations, traditions, religions, ethnicities, and as such they cross-cut the borders between administrative divisions or, as it were, overlay the orthodox political map of Africa. What are the borders of the state; where does the state 'end'? Borders and frontiers also mark and divide cityscapes: the lay-out of colonial towns, or of cities such as Johannesburg, Kinshasa or Lagos. Think of the anonymous border spaces in and around urban centres, the transit zones such as streets and airports. Where is the boundary between public and private? Abstracts by 31 August 2007 to Steven Van Wolputte: steven.vanwolputte@soc.kuleuven.be

'Wars and Conflicts in Africa', University of Texas at Austin, USA, 28-30 March 2008. All through history, wars and conflicts have shaped human existence. They have influenced issues like state formation, boundary consolidation, cultural harmonization, identity definition and commercial relations. Indeed, though wars are normally seen as negative events, they can be seen as having some positive results, such as the emergence of alternative systems of profit and power to replace the breakdown of the ancien régime. In short, while they destroy, they can also create new forms of social capital.

Africa has had its own (some will say disproportionate) share of wars and conflicts. Although these conflicts have devastated the continent, cost millions of lives, and contributed significantly to retarding the socio-economic development of many countries, they have nonetheless shaped the historical evolution of the continent. Consequently, understanding the contents of their occurrence, the patterns of their prosecution, and methods of their resolution are crucial to advancing knowledge about Africa.

The conference aims to discuss how the following thematic issues have manifested themselves in the course of Africa's history: causes of wars and conflicts and how these have changed over time; strategies of prosecution; rules of engagement; weaponry; the role of 'sex' and plunder and other methods of providing incentives for combatants (sex as rape or "sexual slavery" as a way of abusing civilians, breaking-down resistance, humiliating people); concepts of 'enemy' or 'opponent' in the context of war and conflict; taboos in conflict; witchcraft and juju in the context of conflict; heroes and heroines in conflict; economics of conflict/war economy (also manpower, finance, technology, motives and consequences); gender dimensions of wars and conflicts; commerce in the course of wars and conflicts; strategies and mechanisms for conflict resolution: conquest, secession and power sharing, exile; managing the 'vulnerable' in the course of conflict; the concept of 'alliances' in the course of conflict; the complexities of 'external' involvement: arms trade, international underground markets (timber, gemstones, minerals, drugs), peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance; refugees and internal displacement; humanitarian aid; civil wars and post-war reconstruction; secessionist conflicts; military and politics; media and war; representation of wars and conflicts in fictions; cultural consequences of wars; and conflict in the strengthening or weakening of modern states and national consciousness. 250-word abstracts by 1 November 2007 to Professor Toyin Falola: toyin.falola@mail.utexas.edu

...Conferences Past

CAS (Edinburgh) Conference 2007: *The Power of Water: Landscape, Water and the State in Southern Africa*. After the introductions, Joann McGregor opened the conference with her keynote address on how the multiple, and complex

meanings and practises associated with the Zambezi river – as a frontier, an international boundary and marker of different identities, as a ‘home’ complete with autochthons and sacred places, or as a conduit and a crossing point – have interacted at specific historical moments. This set the tone for the first session which was a particularly productive in the way that the papers – Manyanga’s archaeological focus on water resources and settlement patterns in the Shashe-Limpopo basin, Mujere’s focus on the Marumbi Cult, gender and the politics of rainmaking, and Mazarire’s discussion of the contested ‘ownership’ of water and landscape in Chishanga – which all focused on Zimbabwe, both spoke to each other and the wider themes of the conference. In the following discussions questions of rainmaking, the ‘qualities’ of water, autochthony and the grounded politics of landscape, gender and sacred places were put into a broader comparative and regional framework. The next session opened up a diversity of subjects: water, environment and landscape in white colonial literature by David Hughes; urban water politics in colonial Bulawayo was the focus of Mucha Musemwa’s paper; and fishing and the re-imagining of Lake Malawi’s by Setsuko Nakayama. Under the excellent chairmanship of John McCracken, the overlapping concerns of these papers were brought to the foreground in the critically engaging discussions that followed. Lyn Schumaker’s excellent keynote address, which was the last session of the first day, brilliantly linked many of themes – imaginations of urban and rural landscapes, gardens, snakes and sacred rivers and the realisation of city planning – and brought into the debate, the further dimensions of health, malaria control, sanitation, and industry.

David Mosse’s keynote address, first thing on the second day, presented a thorough and engaging summary of his well-received book *The Rule of Water*. It provoked fruitful discussion on the question of whether the politics of water is or is not profoundly different in African and Indian contexts – a question which remained appropriately unresolved, given that it was clear that, in empirical terms, the contrast itself can be useful. Theoretically, the implications of Mosse’s emphasis on the complexity of the inter-relationships of ecology, society and the ‘state’ formed a central theme of all the papers of the conference. Appropriately, the next session looked at irrigation planning and rural water provision in an eastern African context. It was excellently chaired by Rebecca Marsland, who outlined, in her comments, how each of the papers – Ertzen on the Mwea irrigation scheme in Kenya, Bender on the development of a system of water pipes for domestic provision on Kilimanjaro during the *Ujamaa* period, and Struck and Bradley on how land tenure affects access to water in ongoing government efforts to settle pastoralists in Uganda – highlighted how ‘modern’ formal water planning programmes can ignore, deny or marginalise existing ways through which African peoples organise access to water, and conversely how societal relations, meanings and practises are often structured around mechanisms for accessing water. As Ranger pointed out at the end of the conference, this session seemed to mark a disjuncture with the earlier sessions in

which African perspectives on and practises of water, rivers and rain-making predominated. Here 'high modernist' water schemes strive to ignore, denigrate and supersede existing practices, yet fail precisely because of this. Bender's paper, particularly, demonstrated that water in its multiple African forms, practises and meanings not only pre-exists but co-exists with 'high modernist' schemes. Complex practices and understandings of the material qualities of different waters and its suitability for different domestic, productive and political purposes – irrigation, beer and rain making, perhaps even 'state-making' – emerge out of, confront and nudge alongside the often two dimensional and imposed schemes of planners. As John McCracken gave a well judged warning against over-simplistic, blanket criticisms of colonial science, the rebounding consensus among delegates seemed to be that inevitably, the angular edges of the rigid schemes of planners are of course rounded and 'naturalised' by their very real situation within and alongside continuing yet dynamic African approaches, perspectives and practises of water.

In the final session, Mufema's paper on water legislation was presented, in his absence, by Gerald Mazarire. The paper's focus on changes to water legislation in Zimbabwe brought in a new dimension which was complemented by Swatuk's spirited presentation that focused on the macro economic dimensions of water resource use and indeed degradation, in Botswana. Swatuk's paper reminded delegates of the inter-disciplinary nature of the issues at stake, grounding the academic discussions in an implicit acknowledgement that whatever the problems of water schemes, water is a resource that does indeed need to be managed. In his summing up, Ranger brought out some of the recurring themes and omissions that had been central to the papers and discussions of the conference. Time and different forms of sacred/spiritual engagement with water was one aspect focused on here, as Ranger asked about the history of the 'enchantment of water' that was so pre-dominant during the first day of the conference, querying whether current spiritual practices of water are an anomaly, or a revival, or a survival of underlying processes. Ranger also pointed to the serious omission of the sea in any of the discussions or papers, stating in particular there was little that had been said about African imaginings of the sea. The enthused variety of keen responses from different papers gives about how the sea, whether 'real' or imagined, did indeed feature in their research (however understated it may have been in their papers) indicates the importance of Ranger's point.

All in all, the conference was a great success. The way that the different papers spoke to similar issues and processes relating to the 'power of water' defied commonplace distinctions: such as between white and black Africans understandings of water; between urban and rural land/waterscapes; state planning and indigenous approaches to water provision; and on a more theoretical level, between imaginations and practices of water; between water's

symbolic roles and its material qualities; between state and society, landscape and ecology. This matched perfectly with the larger theoretical aims of the conference, and the overlapping interests of the delegates and speakers.

ASAUK granted £500 to the conference organisers to assist with costs of travel arrangements for speakers from institutions in Southern Africa.

Dr Joost Fontein: j.fontein@ed.ac.uk

'Reconceptualising diaspora and African hometown associations', Department of Geography, University of Leicester, 8-9 May 2007. Nearly thirty people attended this workshop at which nine papers were presented by scholars from a range of disciplines. The papers focused on different conceptual aspects of African diasporas and the hometown associations, both inside and outside of Africa, into which they commonly organise themselves. Diasporic activities including mutual welfare support, development of the hometown, political lobbying and engagement with social and cultural practices were examined.

The workshop began with an exposition by Peter Geschiere (University of Amsterdam) of the rise in autochthony discourse in Africa, expressed through a growing 'politics of belonging', which he placed in its global context and traced back to ideas expressed in ancient Greece. This was followed by a paper by Ben Page (University College London) and Claire Mercer (University of Leicester) presenting conclusions from recent research conducted on hometown associations in Cameroon and Tanzania and among these countries' diasporas in the UK. Their claim that hometown associations could form the locus for a 'progressive politics of place' contrasted with Geschiere's view – this point of contention continued to fuel debate for the rest of the workshop. Dmitri van den Bersselaar followed with a historical account that traced continuities between the roles of contemporary associations among Igbo in the international diaspora and those of their predecessors in colonial Nigeria. The first day ended with complementary papers by Sam Hickey (University of Manchester) and Nuhu Salihu (Village AiD) on the developmental activities and political meanings of an association for Fulani pastoralists in North West Cameroon.

Stanley Okafor (University of Ibadan) opened the second day with an account of hometown associations in Nigeria, analysing the conditions that have fostered their emergence both historically and in the present day. Giles Mohan (Open University) followed this with a discussion of the political influence at home of associations among the Ghanaian international diaspora. Rachel Reynolds (Drexel University) then presented a paper analysing the complex dynamics of associations among the Igbo diaspora in the United States. The workshop concluded with a paper by Ola Uduku (Edinburgh College of Art), who identified the diverse layers of identity among first and subsequent generations of diasporas with different origins and in different destinations in the UK.

The workshop was organised as part of the three-year ESRC-funded project 'Development through the diaspora: hometown associations in Africa and Britain' (award reference RES-000-23-0757) with an additional grant kindly provided by ASAUK to fund Professor Okafor's attendance. A journal special edition or edited collection of the workshop papers is planned.

Dr Martin Evans: mne5@le.ac.uk

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Nicholas Cheeseman (2007) 'The Rise and Fall of Civil-Authoritarianism in Africa: Patronage, Participation and Political Parties in Kenya and Zambia', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor David Anderson.

Stephanie Constantine (2006) 'Locating Danger and Negotiating Risk on Manjaco Terrain for Bayu, the Children of Caió, Guinea Bissau', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Mariane Ferme.

Emmanuel Kwabena Frimpong (2005) 'Mark and Spirit Possession in an African Context', Ph.D thesis, University of Glasgow.

Kirtsen Havemann (2006) 'Participation and Action Competence in a Kenyan Health Development: A Study of the Effectiveness of Using Participatory Action Orientated Interventions', Ph.D thesis, University of London. Supervisor: Dr Pat Pridmore.

Lyn Haynes (2006) 'Perceptions and Understandings of 15 Year Olds in England and South Africa about Cloning and Other Selected Medical Biotechnologies', Ph.D thesis, University of London. Supervisor: Reverend Professor Michael Reiss.

Patrick Joseph Peter Lenta (2006) 'Democracy, National Unity and Difference: Transformative Jurisprudence in the South African Constitutional Court', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor T. R. S. Allan.

Anna Lindley (2007) 'The Dynamics and Effects of Remittances in Insecure Settings: A Somali Case Study', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor David Anderson and Dr Nicholas Van Hear.

Mark Mathuray (2006) 'Old Gods and New Worlds: On the Sacred in Anglophone African Literature', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Ato Quayson.

Mwinyikione Mwinyihija (2005) 'Ecotoxicological Impact of the Tanning Industry: Case Study of a Tannery Site in Central Kenya', Ph.D thesis, University of Aberdeen.

Ta-Mbi Nkongho (2006) 'Explaining the State Crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Analysis of the Transformation of the Cameroonian State through Privatisation', D.Phil. thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisor: Dr Julian Saurin.

Ricardo Miguel Santos Soares De Oliveira (2006) 'Petroleum and Politics in the Gulf of Guinea', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge.

Isabelle Parsons (2007) 'Later Stone Age Socio-economic Variability during the Last 2,000 years in the Northern Cape, South Africa', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor David Phillipson.

Edgar Pieterse (2006) 'Recasting Urban Development in South Africa from a Poverty Eradication Perspective', Ph.D thesis, University of London.

Joelien Pretorius (2006) 'Defending the Post-apartheid State: How the Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) is Informing the South African Security Imaginary', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Charles Jones.

Katherine Rogers (2006) 'Manufacturing Consensus from Within: Civil Society's Role in the Liberalisation of the Kenyan Political Economy, 1990-2002', D.Phil thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Professor David Anderson.

Robert A. Scott (2006) 'Investigations of Environmental and Genetic Influences on East African Distance Running Success', Ph.D thesis, University of Glasgow. Supervisor: Dr Yannis Pitsiladis.

Matthew Stern (2006) 'The Determinants of Trade in Services and the Implications for South Africa of Multilateral Services Liberalisation', D.Phil. thesis, University of Sussex. Supervisor: Dr Christopher Stevens.

Suki Sian (2006) 'The Professional Project: The Case of Accountancy in Kenya', Ph.D thesis, University of Aberdeen. Supervisor: Professor Clare Roberts.

Wynet V. Smith (2006) 'From Chainsaw to Chain Stores: Regulating Timber Commodity Chains in Cameroon', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Bill Adams.

Jason Sumich (2006) 'Elites and Modernity in Mozambique', Ph.D thesis, University of London. Supervisors: Dr Deborah James and Professor Henrietta Moore.

Andrew Robert Tucker (2006) 'Male Homosexual Identities in Cape Town, South Africa: Visibility and the Appropriation of Space', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Dr Gerry Kearns.

Kifle Wansamo (2007) 'Towards Building Stability in a Multinational Society: Conflicts in Sidaamaland in Ethiopia', Ph.D thesis, Lancaster University. Supervisor: Professor Christopher Clapham.

Thomas Gresham Yarrow (2006) 'Creating Context: Knowledge, Ideology and Relations amongst NGOs and Development Organisations in Ghana', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Marilyn Strathern.

Charles Amo Yartey (2006) 'Stock Market Development, Corporate Finance, and Economic Growth in Africa: The Case of Ghana', Ph.D thesis, University of Cambridge. Supervisor: Professor Ajit Singh.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Ray Bush (2007) *Poverty and Neoliberalism: Persistence and Reproduction in the Global South*. London: Pluto Press. 237pp ISBN: 978-0-74531-960-5, £19.99.

Basil Davidson (2007) *Black Star: A View of the Life and Times of Kwame Nkrumah*. Oxford: James Currey. New edition with a Foreword by Emmanuel Kwaku Akyeampong, 225pp. ISBN 978-1-84701-010-0, £14.95.

William Wolmer (2007) *From Wilderness Vision to Farm Invasions: Conservation and Development in Zimbabwe's South-east Lowveld*, Oxford: James Currey. 256pp. ISBN 978-0-85255-436-4, £17.95.

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

New Electronic Catalogue for Archives and Manuscripts. The University of London Research Library Services (ULRLS), of which the Institute of Commonwealth Studies Library is a part, has spent the past 18 months developing an electronic catalogue for archives and manuscripts. Our new ADLIB database complements the descriptions of printed books and periodicals on the library Innopac catalogue and makes descriptions of more than 2,000 unique collections searchable online in one place for the first time. The range of material listed on the catalogue is extraordinarily diverse, covering many different aspects of world history over more than 1,000 years, with former British colonies in Africa and elsewhere well represented. Many collections contain material concerning the apartheid era in South Africa, much of it produced by or about people active in the anti-apartheid movement, including papers of Ruth First (ref: ICS117), Josie Palmer (ref: ICS57) and Nelson Mandela (ref: ICS52 and elsewhere). Other collections, including our archives of political ephemera, address the political issues surrounding decolonization, the Rhodesian regime in the 1960s-1970s, and the challenges faced by newly-independent states throughout southern Africa. Some archive material relevant to African studies is also held by other libraries within ULRLS. The ULRLS archives and manuscripts catalogue: <http://archives.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/>

African Development Information Services. AfDevInfo is a new service tracking the mechanics of political and economic development in Sub-Saharan Africa. The download site, www.afdevinfo.com – a new approach to information delivery – has recently been launched. At the heart of AfDevInfo's delivery capability is a suite of integrated databases tracking and linking people, organisations, places, projects, meetings, disputes, financial transactions, documents, news and statistics. AfDevInfo merges cutting edge data capture, processing and distribution technologies with pragmatic politico-economic research. They aim to transform the high volume of unstructured, low quality electronic data now available into accessible, structured, high quality information. AfDevInfo is a commercial, not-for-profit enterprise committed to harnessing information to strengthen and improve government in Africa.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

ASAUK Travel Fund for African-based colleagues to participate in UK events relating to Africa. The ASAUK administers an annual fund of between £4,000 and £5,000 generously given by the Royal African Society. It provides for travel grants of up to £650 towards the cost of economy fare air tickets for African-based individuals to participate in UK events. So far this year, for example, the ASAUK has awarded grants to allow African academics to attend the Centre of African Studies Annual Conference, *The Power of Water* (March); the University of Leicester's workshop, *Reconceptualising Diaspora and African Hometown Associations* (May); and the Britain-Zimbabwe Society Annual Conference in Oxford (July). There is neither a fixed application form nor a formal deadline, but it is asked that the proposal should include sufficient information for the ASAUK Council to decide the merit of the request for funding. Proposals received by 3 September 2007 will be considered at the next ASAUK Council meeting on 13 September 2007. Applications after 3 September will be decided by the ASAUK Council on an ongoing basis. Grantees are asked to provide a short report of their event for the ASAUK newsletter.

The Martin Lynn Scholarship. Busani Mpofo, an Edinburgh University Southern African Scholarship student registered for a doctorate in History, was the first recipient of the Martin Lynn Scholarship offered by the Royal Historical Society. Every year the Society will make an award of up to £1,000 to assist an historian pursuing postgraduate research on a topic in African history.

Major grant award to study Lower Omo Valley, Ethiopia. Professor David Anderson and Dr David Turton of Oxford University have been awarded a major research grant of over £504,000 from the ARHC (Arts and Humanities Research Council) programme on 'Environment and Landscape'. The project commenced in June 2007, and runs until 2010.

The lower Omo Valley in southwestern Ethiopia is one of the biologically and culturally most diverse regions of East Africa. Over the last one hundred years, it has undergone large-scale physical changes due to reduced rainfall over the Omo catchment and a consequent fall in ground water levels. Since the 1960s, two national parks and a state farm have been established and there is a growing tourist industry centred not only on wildlife but also on the local cultures. This is an ideal location for an interdisciplinary study of the interaction between people and the environment and of the culturally specific ways in which landscape is described, imagined and 'constructed'. Two post-doctoral research assistants, one trained in the techniques of palaeoecology, will be recruited in early 2008 to join Anderson (an historian) and Turton (who has thirty years experience of anthropological research in the lower Omo).

The project has a local focus but global implications. The aim will be to reach a detailed understanding of the sequence of environmental changes and vegetation history over the past two hundred years; the way these changes have influenced and been influenced by the land-use practices, migratory and seasonal movements, social institutions and cultural values of the human population; and the impact of incorporation into wider political and economic processes on local understandings of landscape, locality, territory and belonging. The results will be targeted at historians, anthropologists and geographers working on African environmental history; at conservation scientists, environmentalists and policy-makers, including government and international bodies, concerned with the role of human activity in environmental degradation and biodiversity loss and with the links between conservation, poverty reduction and development; and at academics from a range of disciplines interested in the social construction of landscape, locality and belonging. Contact Professor Anderson for possible collaboration: david.anderson@sant.ox.ac.uk

African Visiting Fellows, Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge, 2007-08. The Centre of African Studies is happy to announce the election of six African scholars as Visiting Fellows to Cambridge University for the academic year 2007-08. They are:

- Marja Hinfellar, National Archives of Zambia;
- Nicholas Kamau, Literature, Egerton University, Kenya;
- Fulata Moyo, Religious Studies, Chancellor College, Malawi;
- Michael Okyerefo, Sociology, University of Ghana;
- Damaris Parsitau, History, Egerton University, Kenya; and,
- Kenneth Simala, Languages and Literature, Maseno University, Kenya.

These six scholars will spend six months in Cambridge, pursuing research on the theme 'Religion and public culture in Africa'. Their particular projects vary widely: Kenneth Simala, for example, will pursue research on representations of Islam in Kenya's contemporary Swahili-language newspapers, while Michael

Okyerefo will investigate the religious dispositions of undergraduate students in Ghana's universities. They will together participate in a seminar series on the fellowship theme, convened during October and November 2007.

In March 2008 the Centre will organize an international conference in Cambridge on 'Religion and public culture in Africa', at which the Visiting Fellows will present the results of their work to the academic community in the UK. Later in 2008, the Centre will organize a conference with the Department of Religious Studies in Chancellor College, Malawi, where the Visiting Fellows, together with a group of Cambridge academics, will discuss their scholarship.

The Cambridge/Africa Collaborative Research programme is funded by the Ford Foundation, the Isaac Newton Trust, the Leventis Corporation, and by a new grant from the Leverhulme Trust.

'Peacebuilding and Transitional Governance', African Studies Visiting Research Fellowships Scheme, University of Cambridge, 2008-09. The Centre of African Studies invites applications for Visiting Research Fellowships around the theme of Peacebuilding and Transitional Governance in Africa. The recent establishment of institutions such as the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission provide renewed hope that the challenges aggravated by conflict in Africa will be addressed through new ideas and approaches. A range of issues can be addressed under this theme, for instance transitional justice and accountability; institutions and the nature of the state; gendered peacebuilding practices; contests over citizenship in post-conflict environments; the impetus and effects of economic reforms; the role of 'indigenous' institutions; religion and peacebuilding; and tensions underlying democratisation. Projects that question the concept of 'transition', and that explore the nature of 'peace' as well as the relationship between international programmes and ideas and local practices are welcome. Projects that analyse alternative approaches to peacebuilding are also strongly encouraged. Applications from scholars working in NGOs, research institutes, academia, libraries, and museums are all welcome. Applicants from non-English speaking African countries are also encouraged, provided candidates can demonstrate competency in English. The appointments will take place from October 2008 to March 2009 and are non-renewable. Fellows will be affiliated to Wolfson College, Cambridge. Each award is worth a total of £10,000; out of which travel, accommodation, maintenance costs and medical insurance will be paid by the Centre on behalf of the fellow. Application packs (with a closing date of 1 October 2007) can be obtained from Dorian Addison: da211@cam.ac.uk

Obituaries

Christopher Hurst (24 December 1929 – 20 April 2007), who died after a long battle with prostate cancer, was an ‘independent publisher’ of marked independence. The founder of his own publishing house, C. Hurst & Co., he first entered publishing in the early 1950s through the unusual avenue of the Architectural Press, on the recommendation of John Betjeman. After a detour into the publicity department of Rolls-Royce, he joined the firm of Barrie and Rockliff as advertising manager and through them the Pall Mall Press, where he first met Colin Legum, one of their authors. Of Pall Mall’s founder, John MacCallum Scott, he later wrote, ‘I knew that with all his good qualities – kindness, generosity, political astuteness and inability to hurt anyone – he was amateurish in his approach to business. But his publishing *idea* at once slotted into concerns of mine...’ This *idea*, which Christopher would later develop with such flair, included international affairs and what ultimately became Area Studies. Area Studies took off in Pall Mall Press after it was acquired by Frederick Praeger of New York.

It was while at Pall Mall that Christopher began his long association with Africa, starting with a three month tour of English-speaking markets there in 1964. At that time he knew so little about the continent that on arrival at his first stop, Khartoum, he realised that he didn’t even know the name of the Sudan’s head of state and had to ask a fellow passenger on the bus into town (three months later the head of state was overthrown and exchanged for a new one). His time at Pall Mall/Praeger introduced him to numerous scholars, authors and publishers with whom he would work more closely in future years, and laid the foundation for his own speciality of publishing about unorthodox parts of the world.

Founding his own publishing house in 1967, Christopher demonstrated his highly personal and independent approach to publishing, finding ways and means to publish those books he liked, rather than choosing only those titles he thought a guaranteed sell. Realizing that he could not afford to hire a translator for Jean Suret-Canale’s Marxist history of the French colonial empire, he translated it himself while on holiday in Sri Lanka (though it took some more years to edit and publish). He also took on Humphrey Fisher’s four volume translation of the German traveller Natchigal’s *Sahara und Sudan*, having to find four different US co-publishers for each volume, as one after another they pulled out when sales did not meet expectations. But other choices proved to be astute investments. Sean O’Fahey’s history of the Darfur sultanate might have looked esoteric in 1979, when it first came out, but it gave C. Hurst & Co. the edge over other publishers in the current Darfur crisis, and Hurst’s is still the strongest list of titles on Darfur. Christopher took a delight in publishing unknown and little known authors from Africa, as well as the colonial memoirs of exalted pro-

consuls such as Sir James Robertson, last civil secretary of the Sudan and governor-general of Nigeria.

In his self-published autobiography, *The View from King Street*, Christopher wrote that to his father's generation, publishing as an occupation was only slightly better than being sent to the colonies. 'But publishing chose me rather than the other way round', and we can only be glad that it did.

Douglas H. Johnson

Dame Mary Douglas (25 March 1921 – 16 May 2007)

Only available in the printed newsletter.

Richard Fardon

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Timothy Francis Garrard (28 April 1943 – 17 May 2007)

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Tom Phillip

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Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, themes, abstract deadline 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 items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, c/o Plan International, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK; email: simon.heap@plan-international.org **Deadline for the next newsletter is 15 September 2007.** Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.

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