



African Studies Association of the UK

NEWSLETTER

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ASAUK 1998 Biennial Conference

The detailed planning of the programme for the next ASAUK Biennial Conference, to be held from 14-16 September 1998 at SOAS, is now under way. We will be following the usual format of having seven sessions between the afternoon of the first day and the morning of the third day, with three or four panels running concurrently, and two or three papers per panel. At the last Biennial in Bristol we had 25 panels and 62 papers in all. A vital role is thus played by the organizers of panels.

Council has already invited or received offers from people to organize panels on genocide in Africa, international relations, the emergence of Ghanaian modernity, the social history of East African towns, comparative knowledges of the environment, Kenyan studies and Sierra Leone/Liberian studies. We are seeking to set up others on the slave trade, human rights issues, charities and aid, conflict in natural resource management, African diasporas in Britain, land reform, changes among pastoralist peoples and so on. Many others remain so far unaddressed or underrepresented, of which Nigerian studies, South African issues, Francophone Africa, religion, education, art and literature. There is plenty of room for these and other topics to find their place at the conference—but we do critically depend on offers by people to organize panels, if the conference is to bring together the best and most exciting Africanist research being done in Britain today.

Particularly we want to attract papers from graduate students, who are the future of our discipline, so this 'call for panel organizers' is addressed above all to people who can set up panels in which they can present their work. Individual Africanists who are not based in a major centre of African studies, who might want to give a paper on a particular subject, are invited to let us know, since we may be able to fit them into a panel or build a panel around them.

The theme of the Conference, 'Comparisons and Transitions', is intended to encourage scholars of particular themes and regions to widen the temporal and spatial relevance of their work, to assert the value of Africa itself as a framework for making comparisons, and to stress the importance in pursuing our researches in the light of Africans' own sense of being-in-time. Any ideas and suggestions, particularly from potential organizers of panels, will be welcomed by the Conference Convenor, J.D.Y. Peel (c/o ASAUK, School of Oriental and African Studies, London WC1H 0XG; e-mail JP2@soas.ac.uk).

Audrey Richards Prize 1998: Advance Notice

All UK supervisors of Africanist PhD students in the human sciences (i.e., anthropology, arts, economics, history, law, literature, politics, sociology, social history of medicine, etc.) are reminded of the opportunity to nominate candidates for this biennial prize for a UK

PhD in African Studies. Eligibility for the next prize is limited to those whose dissertations have been APPROVED in the period 1st January 1996 to 31st December 1997. Each supervisor may nominate ONE candidate only. After intellectual distinction, originality and contribution to the field, an essential criterion is intelligibility to readers outside the discipline within which the dissertation is submitted. Supervisors should ensure that all entries are sent to Lindsay Allen, Secretary of the ASAU (School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq., London WC1H 0XG) by 30 June 1998. No late entries will be accepted.

Obituaries

Henry Muoria Mwaniki

Henry Muoria Mwaniki who died in north London, aged 82, on 27 January 1997, was one of the last survivors of that first generation of Kenyan nationalists who led the moderate Kenya African Union after the Second World War. Mwaniki was in effect Jomo Kenyatta's press officer from 1946 until the declaration of emergency in 1952.

Born near Kabete, just north of Nairobi, during the First World War, as a schoolboy in 1930 Mwaniki was persuaded by his Anglican headmaster, Canon Harry Leakey (father of Louis) to sign the *kirore* ('thumbprint') declaration against clitoridectomy that so divided Kikuyu opinion at the time. While a guard on the Kenya & Uganda railway in 1940 he read Kenyatta's *Facing Mount Kenya* and determined to become a journalist at the end of the war. He founded the vernacular monthly *Mumenyereri* (*Guardian*) early in 1945. At its peak it had a circulation of 11,000 and Mwaniki was able to buy his own press. He reported Kenyatta's speeches and other KAU activities, encouraged a lively correspondence column and kept his eye on overseas news, advising his readers when, for example, Argentina raised the issue of the Falkland Islands before the United Nations and wondering if that might be the way forward for Kikuyu in their search for the recovery of their 'stolen lands'.

Mwaniki was also an energetic pamphleteer. He published not only collections of Kenyatta's speeches but also his own long essays with such titles as 'What should we do for our own sake?', 'The Kikuyu spirit of patriotism', 'Life is war through deeds'—all of which stressed the honest virtues of thrift, hard work, education and open discussion at a time when increasing numbers of Kenyans, divided against each other and despairing of any political advance, were more and more convinced that the diligent pursuit of the colonial civilising mission would never receive its just deserts. These pamphlets were published, in English, as appendices to Mwaniki's autobiography, *I, the Gikuyu and the White Fury* (East African Educational Publishers, Nairobi, 1994), a work which deserves a wide readership for its authentic flavour of earnest patriotism.

Mwaniki was in Europe when the 'Mau Mau' emergency was declared in October 1952, having attended a Moral Rearmament conference in Switzerland. Since he was on the list of Mau Mau suspects to be detained he remained in London, earning his living as a guard on the London Underground and thereafter enjoying his London Transport pension in his five-bedroom house (he was proud of that) just off the Holloway Road. His wife Ruth Nuna joined Mwaniki in the 1950s and together they raised seven children, one of whom is a departmental secretary at SOAS. He continued writing works of autobiography and philosophy into his old age.

Many students of Kenya's history, myself included, remember with gratitude Henry's wisdom and Ruth Nuna's curries and the great courage and dignity of both. His funeral at the Emmanuel Church on the Hornsey Road was part London, part Kikuyu, part Pentecostal, part Anglican and wholly triumphant. He is buried where he was born, on his family's land. It is difficult to imagine that we will be able to listen to his like again, wise, funny, deeply knowledgeable and knowledgeably proud of a culture which is utterly foreign to young Kenyans today. (*John Lonsdale, Trinity College, Cambridge*)

Ladislav Holy

Ladislav Holy's premature death on 13 April robs British anthropology of a distinctive voice: not just on account of the Czech-accented stage whisper with which—one was never sure whether advertently—he communicated his private and not always flattering thoughts about ongoing seminars, but because of a set of concerns and ways of addressing them that were part of the native dialogue yet articulated in terms of passions and experiences different from those of the natives. The intellectual variety of British anthropology has depended for most of the century on assimilation of perspectives and emotional commitments transplanted from Empire or Commonwealth and from Central Europe. Ladislav Holy belonged in the distinguished company of the second stream. It is to this distinguished company that the discipline's avoidance of parochialism is in large measure due.

Ladislav's education and earlier career had been devoted largely, on his own account, to eluding the inanities of official versions under the marxist regimes of the 1950s and 1960s in the country where he had been born in 1933. The Czech culture in Ladislav remained deeply involved in resistance. As a non-native in Britain, Ladislav lived ethnographically all the time rather than on occasional fieldtrips; he also lived with a great appetite for the best in life. Making a fool of yourself as a field tool tickled Ladislav; 'pompous' was a word he normally conjoined with 'idiot'. Truth and humour were close companions.

Although capable of public gruffness, Ladislav was never authoritarian. His commitments were to scholarship, reasonably conducted personal relations, and a just modicum of effort seasoned with appropriate sociability. If idleness, boorishness and personal meanness were beyond the pale, he respected the goodwill, decency and effort of the least intellectually talented of his students. Probably in reaction to system thinking, he treated those who crossed his path with rapt attention to whatever he could discover that made them individual. In his 25 year British career in Northern Ireland and Scotland, he nurtured different stages of the careers of more anthropologists now practising than many peers who spent longer at historically more illustrious centres of anthropological learning.

For most of his career Ladislav Holy's substantive commitments were to Africa, and to the study of the interrelations between kinship, religion and economy. His enduring ethnographic attachment was to the Berti, among whom he began fieldwork in 1961 and 1965 before giving up his base in Czechoslovak academe as Head of the African Department of the Institute of Ethnography and Folklore of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and teacher of social anthropology at the Charles University in Prague. He published monographs on Berti social structure and their conceptions of Islam, as well as a variety of articles concerned with gender, age and Berti ecology under duress. Following Berti leads, he wrote a book-length analysis of the cultural rationales for parallel cousin marriage in the Middle East. Ladislav's second fieldwork site dated from his Directorship of the Livingstone Museum in Zambia (1968-1972), a period which also sealed his exile from Czechoslovakia, and resulted in his studies of change among the Toka, including another monograph. He was awarded the RAI's Rivers Memorial Medal for publications in 1992.

Ladislav and his first wife Alice, fellow students at the Charles University in Prague who married in 1956, lived and carried out fieldwork in Africa, shared their criminalization *in absentia* by the Czechoslovak government with good humour, and created a home in the East Fife village of Kingsbarns: one with its doors always open in welcome to visitors. Alice's death in 1990 shattered this life. Ladislav was lucky to find renewed happiness with his second wife Kate, who cared for him through a distressing and prolonged final illness. Their marriage was celebrated a few months before his death.

Ladislav Holy was an outstanding anthropologist and ethnographer, but he will be remembered by his many friends and ex-students as much for his great-hearted qualities of

intellectual enthusiasm, personal loyalty and infectious humour which he shared along with his time, his ideas and the hospitality of his home. (Richard Fardon, *SOAS*, adapted and abbreviated, with the author's permission, from *Anthropology Today*, 13/3, June 1997).

Meetings, Lectures and Events

29 October: Justice Albie Sachs, South African Constitutional Court, will present a lecture entitled '*Going home*', sponsored by the Centre of African Studies and the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning. The lecture will take place at 6.30pm in the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS.

25 November: The Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa (SCOLMA) will sponsor an occasional seminar by Mandy Banton on '*Africa at the Public Record Office*', at 1.00-2.00 pm, room 116, SOAS. Contact Diana Guthrie (tel: (0)171-612-6087; fax: (0)171-612-6093; e-mail: d.guthrie@ioc.ac.uk; web-site: <http://www.brad.ac.uk/acad/dppc/dppclib/scolma.html>).

The North Atlantic Missiology Project studies the missionary encounter of the Protestant West with the non-West between 1740 and 1968. A regular seminar series is convened in London, Edinburgh and Cambridge. A number of the seminars address specifically African topics, and others general topics relevant to African studies. The Cambridge Seminar is convened by John Casson and meets in the Divinity Faculty at 2.15 pm on Thursdays. The Edinburgh Seminar is convened by Professor Andrew Walls, at the Centre for the Study of Christianity in the non-Western World, New College, Edinburgh. The London seminar meets at 5 pm on Mondays in the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London, and is convened by Professor Andrew Porter. For a full list of seminars contact John Casson, NAMP Project Office, Westminster College, Cambridge CB3 0AA (tel: +44 (0)1223 741090; fax: +44 (0)1223 359416; e-mail: jdc16@cam.ac.uk; website: <http://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/carts/namp>).

October-December: October Gallery (24 Old Gloucester St., London WC1) will be holding a season of exhibitions by Yoruba artists in Britain, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, Nigeria, Trinidad and the USA.

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. Organisers are invited to keep the Newsletter up-to-date with any changes or additions to earlier notices.

UNITED KINGDOM

6 November: '*Yoruba identities and diasporas*', organised by the Centre of African Studies, SOAS. Contact John Picton, Akin Oyètádé or William Rea at SOAS (tel: (0)171-637-2388).

18 November: The Overseas Development Institute's annual conference will focus on '*Trade and finance for the least developed*'. Full programme details can be had from the ODI, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5DP (tel: (0)171-393-1600; fax: (0)171-393-1699; e-mail: propsects@odi.org.uk).

28-29 November: The Association for the Study of Caribbean and African Literature in French will hold its 10th annual conference on '*Translation, rewriting and intertextuality: Francophonie and the Commonwealth*', co-sponsored by the Institut Français du Royaume-Uni and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Contact Denise Ganderton, Flat 7, 35 Anson Road, London N7 0RB (e-mail: 106676.1146@compuserve.com), or

Anna Ridehalgh, School of Modern Languages, University of Southampton, Southampton SO17 1BJ (fax: (0)1703-593288; e-mail: amr@lang.soton.ac.uk).

21 April 1998: a conference on 'African studies in the United Kingdom', will be held at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London. Contact the Seminar and Conference Secretary, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, 8 Russell Sq., London WC1B 5DS (tel: (0)171-580-5876; fax: (0)171-255-2160; e-mail: s.jansen@sas.ac.uk).

INTERNATIONAL

1-5 December: The Southern African Universities Social Science Conference (SAUSSC) is holding a conference on 'Democratic governance, ethical behaviour, public accountability, and the control of corruption in Africa', to be hosted by the University of Zambia in Lusaka. Contact Kwame Frimpong, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Botswana, Private Bag 0022, Gaborone, Botswana (tel: +267-355-2339; fax: +267-356591; e-mail: frimpong@noka.ub.bw).

22-25 May 1998: The School of African Awareness, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, will be holding its Second International African People's Conference on the theme of 'Reclaiming African pride and self-esteem; resurrecting African self-knowledge and identity through African awareness'. For full details contact Sabelo Sibanda, School of African Awareness, P.O. Box 3710, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe (tel/fax: +263-9-540997; e-mail advskms@byo.zol.co.zw).

...Conferences Past

Society of South African Geographers' Biennial Conference, 'Environment and development in Africa: an agenda for the 21st century', ESKOM Conference Centre Midrand, South Africa, 29 June—3 July 1. This conference was held in association with the International Geographical Union and the African Association of Geographers—through whose auspices several Francophone African geographers participated, adding a valuable comparative dimension to the main South African and Anglophone fare.

Apart from the obvious reasons for attending, I was particularly keen to sense how the Society of South African Geographers (SoSAG) was progressing, following its merger in 1994 and rather fraught inaugural conference the following year. Previously there had been separate English- and Afrikaans-speaking associations with some cross-membership but a high degree of apartheid, a situation in which many staff at HDIs (historically disadvantaged—i.e. black—institutions) felt marginalised or excluded.

On this score I was pleasantly surprised—even impressed—by the level of attendance from all South African universities, and the positive atmosphere. There was little obvious legacy from 1995, and the SoSAG Council now has a far more representative composition. Delegates were invariably looking forwards rather than backwards. In some ways, the neutral venue probably helped, although the high costs thereby incurred certainly excluded or deterred some potential participants.

The range of papers was broad, their quality very varied. Unfortunately, and rather like many such national 'showcases', only a relative minority of papers addressed the conference theme directly. Most simply reflected what their presenters were currently researching. Some were very specific, empirical and even empiricist, but others were of good quality. The session on urban studies (Meshak Khosa—CART, Durban; Sue Parnell—Wits/UCT; Richard Tomlinson—Wits; Roddy Fox—Rhodes; Brij Maharaj—UDW) stood out on this score. There was also a poster session, utilised mainly by postgraduates and junior staff who are doing, or have recently completed, research degrees. Several people gave plenary addresses; the broadest in scope were by Piers Blaikie, on 'Paradigms for environment and development: the calling out of development

studies' and my own on 'Development reconsidered; new developments in development thinking'. Inevitably, too, the social networking over excellent food and drink was one of the features of this enjoyable meeting. (David Simon, Royal Holloway, University of London)

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Gibreab Barnabas, 'Local Government, Equity and Primary Health Care in Postwar Ethiopia', PhD, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 1997.

Peris Jones, 'Mmabatho: "Mother of the People": Identity and Development in an Independent Bantustan, Bophutatswana, 1975-1994', PhD, Geography, Loughborough University.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

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

Karin Barber (ed.), *Readings in African Popular Culture*, Oxford, James Currey in association with the International African Institute, September 1997, 192pp, ISBN 0-85255-236-X, £12.95.

Karin Barber, John Collins & Alain Ricard, *West African Popular Theatre*, Oxford, James Currey, September 1997, 320pp, ISBN 0-85255-245-9 (cloth), £40.00, 0-85255-244-0 (paper), £14.95.

Kempe Ronald Hope, Sr. (ed.), *Structural Adjustment, Reconstruction and Development in Africa*, Aldershot, Ashgate, August 1997, 206pp, ISBN 1-84014-127-1, £37.50.

Ann O'Hear, *Power Relations in Nigeria: Ilorin Slaves and their Successors*, Rochester NY: University of Rochester Press, August 1997, 352pp, ISBN: 1-878822-86-1, \$59.95.

David M. Throup & Charles Hornsby, *Multi-Party Politics in Kenya. The Kenyatta & Moi States & the Triumph of the System in the 1992 Election*, Oxford, James Currey, January 1998, 672pp, ISBN 0-5255-809-0 (cloth), £50.00, 0-85255-804-X (paper) £19.95.

African Affairs

Stephen Ellis, Centre of African Studies, University of Leiden, will become the new joint editor of *African Affairs*, with David Killingray, as from January 1998 on the retirement of Peter Woodward, who has edited the journal over the last ten years.

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

African Studies Centre, Cambridge: Ato Quayson is the acting director during Keith Hart's sabbatical in the 1997-98 academic year, becoming the first African director of the African Studies Centre.

Centre of African Studies, SOAS: Two British Council/East African Visiting Scholars will be at the Centre this year: Genevieve Enid Kyarimpa (Makerere University), doing work on development in gender politics, and Maria Mwikali Kioko (Egerton University, Kenya), doing research on gender specific issues in urban poverty. Samuel Radithalo (Dept of English, University of the North, South Africa) joins the Centre as its 13th Oppenheimer Fellow, from 12 September to 29 November, and will be researching the

construction of identity in twentieth century South African autobiographical writings. The Ernest Oppenheimer Memorial Trust has generously extended its sponsorship of the Academic Fellowship Scheme for the years 1998-2000 inclusive. Two Leventis Fellows will be at the Centre from 16 September to 13 December: Aliyu Bunza (Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto), researching supernatural forces in Hausa traditional medicine, and Muhammadu Mustapha Gwadabe (Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria), researching the colonial history of the Kano emirate.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Alfred Zack-Williams (University of Central Lancashire) has received a British Academy Small Grant Section grant to continue his work on 'Child soldiers in Sierra Leone and Liberia'.

Oxford University: Gilbert Oteyo, of the British Institute in Eastern Africa (Nairobi) has been awarded a one year ORISHA grant to study an MSt in Archaeology.

1997 Noma Award for Publishing in Africa

The Noma Award was established in 1979 by the late Shoichi Noma, formerly President of Kodansha Ltd, the major Japanese publishing house. It is an annual prize for an outstanding new book from Africa, open to any author who is indigenous to Africa, and the work must be published by an indigenous African publisher. The value of the Award is US \$10,000. This year's award went to A. Adu Boahen's *Mfantsipim and the Making of Ghana: a Centenary History, 1976-1976*, published in 1996 by the author's own recently founded publishing company, Sankofa Educational Publishers Ltd., Accra, Ghana. Also awarded a 'Special Commendation' was *Guia Bibliográfica para o Estudante de História de Moçambique* by Amélia Neves de Souto, published in 1996 by the Centro de Estudos Africanos, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique. Three further books were singled out for 'Honourable Mention': Ken Barris, *The Jailer's Book* (Groote Schuur, South Africa: Kagiso Publishers, 1996), Ivan Vladislavic, *Propaganda by Mounuments and Other Stories* (Cape Town: David Philip Publishers, 1995), and Dan Wylie, *The Road Out* (Plumstead, South Africa: Snailpress, 1996).

Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports (of around 2-300 words) on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, and contact address), announcements of the awarding of grants, fellowships and prizes, news of appointments and visiting fellowships, publication announcements of books by members, and brief articles or notices on matters of importance to Africanists in the UK. All items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* should be sent to Douglas H. Johnson, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, James Currey Publishers, 73 Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0BS (fax: (+44) (0)1865-246454), or e-mail: 106155.3441@compuserve.com. *Deadlines* are 31 December (for the January Newsletter), 25 March (for April), 25 June (for July), and 30 September (for October). Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.