



African Studies Association of the UK

NEWSLETTER

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ASAUK 1998 Biennial Conference: 'Comparisons and Transitions'

This is the last call that I can place in the *Newsletter* for proposals for panels and papers for September's Biennial Conference, since we need to have a provisional programme drawn up by mid-May.

So far, we have upwards of twenty panels which look fairly definite, and several more which look distinctly possible. As we have space for around 25-30, it is fair to say that while the programme is closing up fast, there is still (as I write) room for a few more. Though we have to group papers in panels, I am still prepared to receive proposals for individual papers, particularly from Ph.D. students or young scholars, who want to present their work but are not able to organize a panel themselves. If this is your situation, please let me know as soon as possible, and I will try to build a number of panels on themes to incorporate your interests. We very much want the ASAUK Conference to be an occasion where the Africanist community has a chance to learn about the liveliest up-and-coming work.

We have an adequate regional spread of papers, though thinner on Ethiopia and the Horn, on non-anglophone Africa and on Muslim countries than elsewhere. As in previous years, the coverage of politics, development issues and colonial and post-colonial history is especially strong, and we also have some interesting panels on social and urban history. Culture, arts and literature still seem under-represented, so we would especially like suggestions for papers or panels there. Any further proposals to 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).

Hans Zell Website

Hans Zell Publishing Consultants has just established its own website at <http://www.hanszell.co.uk>. With over 400 links and Internet resources it not only connects to Hans Zell mailing list services, books and journals published by Hans Zell, and various organizations and institutions involved in Africa and African studies, it offers 'The Electronic African Bookworm: A Web Navigator', allowing direct access to the websites of other publishers (both African and non-African) of Africanist material. There are also links to some of the best general reference and Internet directories, and to some of the major Internet tools and search engines.

African Books Collective

Many of us have faced this problem when we are out of Africa: how to obtain copies of the many important books on our special subject or country, which are published by

African publishers and often only available locally? It is a fallacy to suppose that the only important publishing on Africa is done exclusively outside Africa, but the problem for both African publishers and their potential international readership has been distribution. The African Books Collective (ABC) was founded in 1990 to overcome this problem.

The ABC, based in Oxford, is wholly owned by a collective of seventeen founding African publishers. It was established to do their overseas marketing for them, selling their books, for hard currency, to audiences in Europe, North America and Commonwealth countries outside of Africa. Hans Zell acted as the first senior consultant to ABC, and distribution has been done through the Hans Zell Publishers mailing lists. Mary Jay (formerly of Hans Zell Publishers) is the current senior consultant.

Over the years ABC has taken on new members from among the growing African-based, African-owned publishing industry, and now represents fifty-seven different publishers from fourteen countries, producing academic, educational and technical publications in addition to literature and children's books. The collective promotes and disseminates information about African writers, publishers and writing, and provides marketing information feedback to African publishers. It currently stocks over 1700 individual titles and regularly issues general catalogues and subject catalogues on politics, economics & development, women's studies & African women writers, anthropology & sociology, medicine & health sciences, history & archaeology, religion, theology & philosophy, African law, language & literature, and last year for the first time, a children's catalogue. Catalogues list prices in both pounds sterling and US dollars.

The books are good value. They sell for higher prices abroad than they do in their home countries, but they compare very favourably to the prices European and American publishers charge for their books. A book on the influence of Arabic on Kiswahili, with a trilingual Swahili-Arabic-English dictionary, for instance, sells for only £11.95.

The ABC aims to make a profit for its members, but it is a non-profit organization in the UK, retaining only a third of its net proceeds for overheads, and meeting the remainder of its operating costs from grants from a variety of sources (including SIDA, NORAD, DANIDA, the Arts Council of England, Ford, UNESCO and the Commonwealth Foundation). Its long term aim is to become wholly self-supporting.

ABC has standing order and blanket order plans for libraries, but recent cut-backs in funding for library sales in the UK have reduced what was formerly a regular market. Libraries affected who have had to drastically cutback or halt their purchases of African books from the ABC include Rhodes House, the SOAS library, and the British Library.

Those who want more information on this unique source of African materials should contact the African Books Collective Ltd, The Jam Factory, 27 Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1HU, UK (tel: +44-(0)1865-726686; fax: +44-(0)1865-793298; email: abc@dial.pipex.com). The complete ABC stocklist can be found on four different websites: http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/Publications/ABC_Menu.html; http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/Publications/Books/book_menu.html; <http://wsi.cso.uiuc.edu/CAS>; and the new Hans Zell website. ABC titles can be ordered through the Oxford based Internet Bookshop (<http://www.bookshop.co.uk>). ABC also publishes the *African Publishers Networking Directory*.

Obituary: Robert Steel

Professor Robert Steel, CBE (1915-1997), geographer, died on 29 December 1997, aged 82. He was a member of the Royal African Society council from 1967 and was

elected vice-president of the Society in 1977. A major figure in academic British geography for half a century, Robert Steel was closely linked with Africa. After graduating from Oxford in 1983 on a Draper's Research Scholarship, he went to Sierra Leone and began a lifelong association with the African continent. His style of geographical research was in the best traditions of personal involvement, field investigation and analysis. His concerns were always with the problems of people in undeveloped parts of Africa, their use of land and the population pressures on them. In his presidential address to the Geographical Association in 1974, he urged his audience not to forget or under-estimate the problems of the 'have-nots'. His message conveyed a sense of urgency, a commitment to do something about these problems, not simply study them.

Robert Steel was John Rankin Professor of Geography at Liverpool (1957-74), principal of the University College of Swansea (1974-82) and vice-chancellor of the University of Wales (1979-82). In addition to his involvement with the RAS he was editor of the Institute of British Geographers *Transactions* (1951-60) and the institute's president (1968), president of the Geographical Association (1973), and active in the British Council, the Universities Council for Adult Education, the councils of the universities of Lesotho and Swaziland, and founder president of the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau.

His strong religious beliefs were put into practice in all that he did. He was a gentleman and a scholar, always prepared to give time and encouragement to anyone who needed it. (reproduced and adapted by kind permission of *The Times*).

Meetings, Lectures and Events

Tuesdays at 5.00 pm starting 28 April: *The Africana Forum*, theme: 'What and Where is African Art-Traditional or Contemporary?' Speakers include: Dennis Duerden, John Picton, Tanya Tribe and Cesare Poppi. Venue: The Committee Room, Faculty of Social & Political Science, Free School Lane, Cambridge. All are welcome. Further details on the African Studies Centre's webpage: <http://www.african.cam.ac.uk/>.

8 May: David Martin MEP will be giving the joint Royal African Society Scotland and CAS lecture at 5.30 pm, Faculty Room South, David Hume Tower, George Square, Edinburgh. Topic: 'Lome: fair trade versus globalisation'. Tel: 0131-650-3878 for further information.

13 May: Peter Manning (Namibia, economics) on 'Who gets the fish cake? The real beneficiaries of Namibia's fishing industry', at 4.00 pm, George Shepperson Room, Adam Ferguson Building, 40 George Square, Edinburgh.

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

13 May: The Royal Geographical Society and the Institute of British Geographers will hold a one-day meeting on 'The Sahel: 25 years after the great drought' at the Royal Geographical Society in London. The organisers are Andrew Warren at UCL and Simon Batterbury at Brunel University. This open meeting is targeted towards students, development agencies, NGOs, and others concerned with this region. It will address two sets of questions: first, whether the most important issues have been addressed by the research and policy community; and second, will new research

methods and paradigms be more effective? The last date for registration is Friday 8 May. Contact: Alison Glazebrook, RGS-IBG, 1 Kensington Gore London SW7 2AR (tel: +44 (0)171-591-3006; fax: +44 (0)171-591-3001; email: a.glazebrook@rgs.org; website: www.colorado.edu/geography/projects/rgs98.html).

26-27 May: Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh, annual international conference, *'Enterprise in Africa: between poverty & growth'*. The debate about poverty and growth as competing and complementary foci of both national and donor policies towards development in Africa recently has entered into a new phase of activity. Whilst seeking to avoid a polarisation between poverty and growth concerns, this conference will seek to use these two notions as a way into a fresh reading of a range of substantive and methodological issues at the heart of current African economic realities. This conference brings together researchers, policy makers, business people and NGO workers to discuss recent evidence on African development from the perspectives of economics, small enterprise development and education/training. In so doing, it seeks to stress the cross cutting nature of many current concerns and the challenges of engaging in trans-disciplinary activities. Speakers include: Wangari Maathai (Greenbelt), Chris Aleke Dondo (K-REP), Don Mead (Michigan State), Jacques Charnes (ORSTOM), George Manu (ILO), Susan Joeke (IDS, Sussex), Christian Rogerson (Wits), Lawrence Honny (Cape Coast), Dorothy McCormick (IDS, Nairobi), Abigail Barr (Oxford), Wanjala Kerre (Moi), Catherine Masinde (DFID), Hans Haan (TOOL), Andrew Barnett (ITDG), Susanna Adam (Bremen). Full: £50.00; student: £20.00; conference dinner: £15.00. For more information, contact: Mrs. A. Fernon, CSCNWW, University of Edinburgh, New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2LX (tel: +44 (0)131-650-8952; email: fernona@div.ed.ac.uk; website: <http://www.ed.ac.uk/~centas/cas.htm>).

27 June: 5th Annual Conference of the African Society of International and Comparative Law (United Kingdom branch), hosted by the International and European Law Unit, Faculty of Law, University of Liverpool, on the theme of *'Africa and International Law: Towards the 21st Century'*. The conference will focus on the practical relevance and utility of public international law to Africa at the dawn of the 21st century. Topics to be covered include: the International Court of Justice, regional integration, the activities of the Commonwealth, self-determination, *uti-possidetis*, etc., as they relate to, or have implications for, Africa. Further details and a registration form can be obtained from the conference convenor: Dr Amazu A Asouzu, International and European Law Unit, Faculty of Law, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX (tel: +44-(0)151-794 3089; fax: +44-(0)151-794 2884; email: amazuaa@liv.ac.uk).

12-14 April 1999: The Public Administration and Development Jubilee Conference will be on *'The last 50 years and the next 50 years: a century of public administration and development'*. It will review the state of public administration and development, and it will investigate scenarios and opportunities emerging in the state, market and civil society by identifying (locally, nationally, and internationally) key development aspirations, modes of governance and possible new forms of inter-sectoral synergy. Please register interest by post, fax or email by 30 June 1998 to: The Editor, *PAD Journal*, MTSD, Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX (fax: +44-(0)171-747-6335; email: cf.walters@commonwealth.int).

INTERNATIONAL

21-23 May: The 14th biennial conference of the *Society of Africanist Archaeologists* will be hosted by Syracuse University, NY. Contact: Christopher DeCorse, SAFA Secretary and Conference Organizer, Department of Anthropology, Syracuse University, 209 Maxwell Hall, Syracuse, NY 13244, USA (tel: +1-315-443-4647; fax: +1-315-443-4860; email: crdecors@maxwell.syr.edu).

4-5 June: 'Lecturing in African history: approaches and problems', Centre 'African History', Institute of Asian & African Studies, Moscow State University. For information contact Professor Alexander Balesin, Centre 'African History', Institute of Asian and African Studies, Moscow State University, Mokhovaya 11, 103009 Moscow, Russia (tel: +7-095-203 2741; fax: +7-095-203 2647; email: spfc@iaas.msu.su).

11-14 June: Nordic Africa Institute is convening a conference on 'Financial institutions in the political economy: case studies from pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial Africa', at Rosendal, Norway. Contact: Endre Stiansen, Nordic Africa Institute, PO Box 1703, Uppsala, Sweden (tel: +46-18-562211; fax: +46-18-695629; email: endre.stiansen@nai.uu.se).

25-27 June: the Department of Technology and Development Studies of the Eindhoven University of Technology is organizing an international conference on 'The industrial performance of Tanzania: a case study of African industrialisation'. The aim of this conference is to provide an in depth analysis of Tanzanian industrial experience at sectoral and aggregate levels since 1962 and to inquire what lessons can be derived from these experiences both for Tanzania and other economies in sub-Saharan Africa. Contact: Ms L. van Kollenburg (CICA), Eindhoven University of Technology, P.O. Box 513, 5600 MB, Eindhoven, the Netherlands (tel: +31-40-2474589; fax: +31-40-2449171; email: L.G.v.Kollenburg@tm.tue.nl).

26-29 June: The annual conference of the African Studies Association of Australia and the Pacific will be held at La Trobe University, Australia. Contact: Dr David Dorward, Director, African Research Institute, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria 3083, Australia (email: d.dorward@latrobe.edu.au)

1-8 August: The 1998 Zimbabwe International Book Fair will be held 1-8 August in Harare, Zimbabwe; theme: children; country focus: Kenya. The University of Zimbabwe are hosting a pre-Book Fair academic workshop on 'Children in Africa', 30-31 July. Other events relating to the African Scholarship at ZIBF initiative include a workshop on 'Book and peer review'. For more information visit the ZIBF website at <http://www.mediazw.com/zibf/>.

3-5 August: The library of the University of South Africa is organising a conference on 'Rethinking the South African War 1899-1902'. Contact: Mary-Lynn Suttie, UNISA Library, PO Box 392, Pretoria 0003, South Africa (fax: +27-12-429-2925; email: suttim@alpha.unisa.ac.za).

31 August-2 September: 28th Colloquium on African languages and linguistics. Papers and research reports on any topic concerning African languages and linguistics are invited. For a registration form and further details please contact Gerrit J Dimmendaal, Department of African Linguistics, Leiden University, PO Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, Netherlands (tel: +31-71-527 2245; fax: +31-71-527 2615; email: gjdimmendaal@rulcri.leidenuniv.nl).

1-5 September: The Fifth Luso-Afro-Brazilian Social Sciences Congress will be held at the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Maputo, from 1-5 September 1998. The Congress aims to promote debate on themes and problems of common interest to Portuguese speaking countries and to create strategies and mechanisms of co-operation between these countries. Contact V Congresso Luso-Afro-Brasileiro de Ciencias Sociais, a/c Centro de Estudos Africanos, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Caixa Postal 1993, Maputo, Mozambique (tel: +258-1-490828, fax: +258-1-491896, email: vcafro@zebra.uem.mz).

22-27 October: 2nd International Conference on Women in Africa & the African Diaspora (WAAD), on the theme of 'Women in Africa & the African Diaspora: Health & Human Rights' will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, during that city's year-long

'Africa Celebration '98'. The presentations at the WAAD conference will include recent trends in morbidity and mortality in women of African descent, sociocultural factors which impact on the health of women of African descent, and the impact of changing focus of medical research. Discussions will also focus on how health issues are imagined in the arts or how dramatic changes in climatic conditions with resultant dislocations and food shortages, changes in economic and social policies and the escalation of ethnic politics and armed conflicts impact the health and human rights of women of African descent. Contact: Obioma Nnaemeka, Convenor, Women's Studies Program, Indiana University, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202, USA (tel: +1-317-278-2038 or +1-317-274-0062 (messages); fax: +1-317-274-2347; e-mail: nnaemeka@iupui.edu).

26-28 November: A conference on '*Décentralisation, pouvoir locaux et réseaux sociaux*' will be held in Cotonou, Benin. Contact: Roch Mongbo, CEBEDES, BP 06-2564, Cotonou, Benin (tel: +229-330296; fax: +229-300376; email: rmongbo@mintel.refer.org); or Nassirou Bako Arifari, Universität Hohenheim, Institut f. Agrar-und Sozialökonomie in den Tropen und Subtropen (tel: +49-711-459-3630; fax: +49-711-459-3864; email: bakoarif@uni-hohenheim.de).

Association of African Women Scholars (AAWS)

Membership of the organization (which is established to promote excellence in scholarship, networking and activism) is open to African women and men (academicians, independent scholars, activists, students, and policy makers) everywhere committed to engendering and promoting scholarship in all disciplines in African Women's Studies. Individuals who are not of African descent can join the organization as associate members. Dues at the associate membership level will be assessed at a reduced rate.

Aims and objectives are: (1) to promote and encourage scholarship on African women in African Studies; (2) to forge intellectual links and network with scholars, activists, and policy makers inside and outside Africa; and (3) to participate actively in continental and global debate on issues specifically relevant or related to African women. The functions of the organization are: (1) organize and sponsor conferences and other forms of scholarly interchange; (2) encourage and undertake consortial/collaborative projects; (3) institute a refereed journal—*Journal of African Women's Studies (JAWS)*—to promote and disseminate scholarly research on African women; (4) facilitate faculty and student exchanges; (5) create a communications network via cyberspace for the pooling and dissemination of resource information, including but not limited to works in progress, dissertations, new studies, research updates, pedagogy; (6) create, establish, and/or carry out any other functions and activities which may from time to time arise and are considered to be incidental and conducive to the realization of the above objectives; and (7) establish a Research and Documentation Unit which will produce an African Women's Bibliography Series on a biennial basis.

There is an AAWS discussion group on the Internet open to anyone who is interested in discussing African women's issues. Requests to join can be made on the Internet through LISTSERV@LISTSERV.IUPUI.EDU by sending the following message: `SUBSCRIBE AFWOSCHO`. For more information contact Obioma Nnaemeka, President, Association of African Women Scholars (AAWS), Women's Studies Program, Cavanaugh Hall 001C, Indiana University, 425 University Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46202, USA (tel: +1-317-278-2038, or +1-317-274-0062 (messages); fax: +1-317-274-2347; e-mail: nnaemeka@iupui.edu).

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

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

Ondine Barrow, 'Charity, relief and development: Christian Aid in Ethiopia 1960s-1990s', history, SOAS, 1998 (supervisor Dave Anderson).

Simon Dagut, 'Racial attitudes among British settlers in South Africa c. 1850 to c. 1895', history, Cambridge University, 1997 (supervisor John Lonsdale).

Reverend Gideon Githiga, 'The church as the bulwark against extremism: development of church and state relations in Kenya 1963-1992', Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, 1997.

Katya Leney, 'British and French higher education policies in the Gold Coast and French West Africa from 1945 to independence', history, Cambridge University, 1998 (supervisor John Lonsdale).

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).

David W. Throup & Charles Hornsby, *Multi-Party Politics in Kenya: the Kenyatta & Moi States & the Triumph of the System in the 1992 Election* (Oxford: James Currey; Nairobi: EAEP; Athens OH: Ohio University Press), 672pp, January 1998. ISBN: 0-85255-806-0 (cloth), £50; 0-85255-8040X (paper), £19.95.

Holger Hansen & Michael Twaddle (eds), *Developing Uganda* (Oxford: James Currey; Kampala: Fountain Publishers; Athens OH: Ohio University Press), 304pp, July 1998. ISBN: 0-85255-396-X (cloth) £40; 0-85255-395-1 (paper) £16.95.

Paul Richards, *Fighting for the Rain Forest: War, Youth & Resources in Sierra Leone* (Oxford: James Currey, in association with the International African Institute; Portsmouth NH: Heinemann), 224pp (with a new postscript), March 1998. ISBN: 0-85255-397-8 (paper) £9.95.

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford University: Paul Collier, director of the Centre, has been appointed director of the Research Department of the World Bank for two years from April 1998.

Commonwealth East African Visiting Scholarship Scheme: Kineene wa Mutiso (Department of Linguistics and African Languages, University of Nairobi), is at the Centre of African Studies, SOAS, working on a literary analysis of Swahili riddles. Hamza Mustafa Njozi (Department of Literature, University of Dar es Salaam) is also at the Centre, working on design in Kiswahili poetry.

Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London: Dr Sola Akinrinade, of the department of History, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, is a Chapman Fellow at the ICS, completing a study on 'Africa and the Commonwealth: a political and diplomatic history', and conducting research on 'Democracy and security in Africa'. He can be contacted through the following numbers: tel: 0171-955 7828 (w); 0181-677 7758 (h); email: O.Akinrinade@lse.ac.uk.

Oppenheimer Academic Fellow: Mbulungeni Madiba, of the Department of African Languages, University of South Africa, is the fourteenth Oppenheimer Fellow at the Centre of African Studies, SOAS. He is doing research on strategies in the modernization of African languages in South Africa (Venda in particular).

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Amaury Talbot Prize for African Anthropology: The 1997 Amaury Talbot Prize has been awarded jointly to James Fairhead & Melissa Leach, *Misreading the African Landscape: Society and Ecology in a Forest-Savannah Mosaic* (CUP), and Sharon Hutchinson, *Nuer Dilemmas: Coping with Money, War, and the State* (University of California Press). Honourable mention was made of Johannes Fabian, *Remembering the Present: Painting and Popular History in Zaire* (University of California Press).

IDS, Sussex: Dr Karin Hyde, undertaking research on education in Africa, began a visiting fellowship on 16 March.

St Antony's College, Oxford: Katya Leney is the new Kirk-Greene Junior Research Fellow in Tropical African Studies. She is preparing a book on the foundation of the first universities in Anglophone and Francophone West Africa.

Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports (of around 2-300 words) on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, and contact address), announcements of the awarding of grants, fellowships and prizes, news of appointments and visiting fellowships, publication announcements of books by members, and brief articles or notices on matters of importance to Africanists in the UK. All items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* should be sent to Douglas H. Johnson, Editor, ASUK Newsletter, James 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 ASUK.