



NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 Number 16

July 1999

ASAUK-SCUSA Merger Plans

ASAUK and SCUSA (the Standing Committee on University Studies of Africa) are planning a merger, in order to rationalise their efforts and pool resources so as better to be able to represent and defend African Studies in the UK. This will bring together the institutional representation of SCUSA with individual membership base of the ASAUK.

Discussions have been under way for over a year, and the proposals developed by a joint working party were put to the SCUSA representatives and discussed at its AGM on 10 May this year. With minor modifications, these were accepted by an overwhelming majority. Later the same day, the ASAUK Council fully endorsed these proposals, and the merger will therefore take effect in September if the Council's recommendations receive the approval of the ASAUK AGM.

Essentially, the institutional role of SCUSA will be continued by the Committee on University Studies of Africa (CUSA), as a distinct entity within ASAUK charged with responsibility for academic affairs. Its chair will be the ASAUK Vice-Chairperson, with the additional title of Academic Officer, who will be assisted by the CUSA Vice-Chair-cum-Secretary. This latter person will be chosen by the five regional representatives (see below). Thus institutional and academic affairs will henceforth receive the attention of a dedicated committee, with the Association's Vice-Chair at the helm.

In order to provide a more responsive, active and locally focused structure, CUSA is being reorganised on the basis of five geographical regions, each of which will have a subcommittee comprising all the university representatives in that region. Each regional subcommittee will elect a chair, who will also act as regional representative on the central CUSA. Regional subcommittees will meet at least once per annum in the flesh, and communicate more frequently by email or equivalent software. For political/institutional and practical reasons, the following five regions have been agreed: *Scotland; *Northern Ireland and the North of England; *The Midlands (incl. Oxford); *Wales and SW England; *London, East Anglia and SE England.

The current SCUSA office-bearers will oversee the transition until the new structure is established over the next few months. This system will undergo a two-year trial period, following which it may be re-evaluated if not felt to be performing in line with expectations. (*David Simon, Secretary, SCUSA, and co-opted ASAUK Council member*)

Obituaries

Michael Caine

The death of Sir Michael Caine, President of The Royal African Society, on 20 March is a sad blow. Sir Michael was elected a member of Council in 1982. He became Chairman in 1984 and held this office for twelve years before being elected President in 1996. He will be remembered for the strong support he gave to the Society's out-reach conferences in Cambridge, Oxford and SOAS, and perhaps especially for the one held in the year of the Africa 95 Festival which he did so much to promote, as well as for the wise guidance of the Society's affairs over many years.

The Royal African Society was only one of many organisations associated with Africa and the overseas world which enjoyed the benefit of Michael Caine's extensive network of contacts, or his reflective ability to transform otherwise dry proceedings, and of his humanity and capacity to enthuse. Organisations with which he was prominently involved included The Africa Centre, Commonwealth Scholarships Commission, UK Council for Overseas Student Affairs, Africa Emerging Markets Fund, Commonwealth Development Corporation and the Africa 95 Festival. With a number of other institutions, Michael used to say 'Use my name if it is helpful and I am always available for advice, but I won't come to meetings.'

All obituaries have paid tribute to Michael Caine's commitment to the Booker Prize for Commonwealth Fiction. Created in 1969, Michael chaired its management committee from 1972-95 and he had the satisfaction of seeing it become the pre-eminent English literary prize, with a wide public interest in the award. Shortly before his final illness Michael began working on the notion of a prize for African writing, modelled on the Booker Prize. This has been taken up by his widow, Baroness Nicholson, and a group of friends to set up the Caine Prize for African Writing. The first panel of judges, chaired by Ben Okri, will be making an award in June 2000 for a story or stories published in English over the past two years. The prize will commemorate Michael Caine's abiding love of literature and involvement with Africa in a surely very appropriate way. (*Sir Michael McWilliam*)

R.J. Harrison-Church

Professor Ronald James Harrison-Church (1915-1998) was a geographer and international authority on West Africa who wrote on the transition from colonialism to independence and, in an environmental context, on problems of economic and social development. His most important book, *West Africa: A Study of the Environment and Man's Use of It* (1957) was a wide-ranging and sympathetic treatment of the whole of West Africa. The first to cover the whole field, the book passed through eight editions. It exemplified Harrison-Church's great strength: his use of fieldwork to examine the problems of former French, Spanish and Portuguese as well as British colonies.

Harrison-Church's interest in African studies began during his undergraduate years at the LSE, where he was the only student in his year to choose Africa as an optional subject. Taking a first in 1936, he also won a postgraduate award from the French Government, and his year in Paris gave him a lasting insight into the work of French geographers. Later, in an effective book on *Modern Colonization* (1951), he was sharply to contrast the emphasis given in France and Belgium to the geographical study of colonial territories with its relative neglect in Britain.

His studies of the 'dry zone' of West Africa and of irrigation schemes in the French Sudan led to his appointment as consultant to the Economic Commission for Africa for a survey of the advantages and disadvantages of large-scale irrigation in tropical Africa. His report, delivered in 1963, argued for the training and involvement of local people and for social changes: every effort should be made, he argued, to speed the social evolution of women.

With his interest in the effects of the colonial phase on indigenous peoples and the relationships between newly independent countries, he was among the few who kept alive the subject of political geography. But he also enjoyed the adventure of being geographical director of the trans-African hovercraft expedition in 1969.

He retired early on health grounds in 1977, but after a successful operation he was able to resume work and travel. He was member of the council of the RAS from 1977 to 1998, and vice-president from 1978 until his death. (*Adapted from The Times, 29/12/98*)

Agenda for the 36th Annual General Meeting of ASAUk

To be held at the University of Coventry, 'Dimensions of Vulnerability' Symposium at 5pm on 16 September:

1. Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting held at SOAS, London, 16 September 1998
2. Matters arising

3. Report by Honorary Secretary
4. Report by Honorary Treasurer
5. President's Report
6. Election of Officers & Council Members (see Annex 1)
7. ASAUK Newsletter
8. New Relationship with the Standing Committee for University Studies in Africa
9. Any Other Business (please see Annex 1&2)

ANNEX 1

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS FOR ELECTION AS OFFICERS AND AS MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

Members are asked to bear in mind Standing Order no 1 (18 April 1966, amended 23 February 1979) reproduced below:

Standing Order No 1: Nomination of Members for Election to the Council

1. *Not less than three weeks in advance of the day of the Annual General Meeting, the Honorary Secretary shall invite nominations for Members for election to fill 11 the vacancies occurring on the Council at the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place.*

2. *For a nomination to be valid, it should be in writing, bear the signature of not less than two Members as nominators and also the signature of the Member nominated to confirm that he would be willing to serve if elected, and be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary before the start of the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place.*

3. *The Council shall have the duty, after considering the nominations submitted, to make such further nomination as may seem to it needful to secure a due balance of disciplinary and regional interests on the Council.*

In accordance with this Standing Order, the Honorary Secretary now invites nominations for election to the Council at the AGM to be held on Thursday 16 September 1999 at 5.00 pm at the University of Coventry

Members are asked to note the present composition of the Council as set out below. There are six vacancies for 1999-2000.

Officers & Council of the Association for the Coming Year (1999-2000)

<u>Officers:</u>	President:	Dr John Lonsdale
	Vice-President:	Dr Karin Barber
	Hon Secretary:	Dr Nici Nelson has agreed to stand again
	Hon Treasurer:	Dr Melissa Leach has agreed to stand again

Council Members:

Retiring in 1999: Dr Tim Allen, Dr Reginald Cline-Cole, Dr Richard Crook, Mr James Currey,* Dr Deborah Gaitskell, Prof Richard Hodder-Williams,* Dr Douglas Johnson,* Prof David Killingray,* Dr Martin Lynn, Dr David Simon,* Dr Ian Scoones

**indicates a co-opted member of Council*

Retiring in 2000: Dr Reginald Cline-Cole, Dr Louise de la Gorgendiere, Dr Alfred Zack-Williams

Retiring in 2001: Dr Mario Aguilar, Dr Angela Browne, Ms Stephanie Newell, Dr Ato Ouayson

NB Please note that at the 1995 Annual General Meeting it was resolved that Council Members were eligible to serve two terms consecutively.

ANNEX 2

Statute 6 of the Statutes of the Association: "Amendment of Statutes"

These Statutes may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the Members of the Association present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extra-ordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.

Any proposal for an amendment of the Statutes shall be in writing and shall either:

- (i) be submitted by the Council, or
- (ii) be supported by the signatures of at least 10 Members of the Association, and be submitted not less than 28 days before the date of the General Meeting at which it is sought to move the amendment.

Any such proposed amendment shall be circulated to Members not less than 14 days before the date of the General Meeting at which it is sought to move the amendment.

Meetings, Lectures and Events

22-24 September: The Centre of African Studies, SOAS, and the *Journal of Southern African Studies* are organizing a two and a half day graduate training workshop on 'Fertility in Southern Africa', to be held at SOAS. The object of the workshop is to address fertility in the social context rather than in technical demographic terms, and to explore the underlying reasons for fertility-related decisions and outcomes. Contact: Penelope Turnbull, c/o Centre of African Studies, Southern African Fertility Workshop, SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq., London WC1H 0XG; tel: +44-(0)171-323-6395; fax: +44-(0)171-323-6254; email: pt1@soas.ac.uk.

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

5-8 September: 4th SCUSA Inter-University Colloquium on 'Economic, social/political and environmental policy-making in sub-saharan Africa: constraints & priorities'. Contact Deryke Belshaw (Rural Development) or Ian Livingston (Development Economics) at the University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ (email: dev.general@uea.ac.uk).

16 September: The ASAUK Biennial Symposium will be hosted by the African Studies Centre, Coventry University, on the theme of 'Dimensions of vulnerability'. It will be held at the TechnoCentre, £45 for the day (£20 for students). Contact Angela Browne, School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, Coventry University, Priory St, Coventry CV1 5FB; email: a.browne@coventry.ac.uk.

21 September: The Centre of African Studies, SOAS, will be holding a one-day workshop on 'Church and state in the Great Lakes conflicts'. Among the speakers will be Father John Waliggo, of Uganda Martyrs University. Other participants will include representatives of the churches, of NGOs and humanitarian organisations, and journalists, as well as academics. Contact: Jackie Collis at the CAS office (jc7@soas.ac.uk). To cover basic costs there will be a registration fee of £8 (£5 for students and the unwaged).

25 September: Symposium on the Sudan hosted jointly by the Centre of African Studies, SOAS and the Sudan Studies Society of the UK. Contact SSSUK Secretary (tel: +44 (0)181-289-6958; email: richard@wusuk.org).

27 November: A one-day workshop on 'Mau Mau: revisionist histories of rebellion', at SOAS. Speakers will include John Lonsdale, David M. Anderson, Joanna Lewis, Caroline Elkin. Anyone wishing to offer a paper should contact David Anderson (da@soas.ac.uk). Registration is £8 (£5 for students and unwaged). Contact: Jackie Collis, Centre of African Studies, SOAS, Thornhaugh St, Russell Sq, London WC1H 0XG (tel: +44 (0)171-323-6254; fax: +44 (0)171-323-6254; email: jc7@soas.ac.uk); or download a registration form from <http://www.soas.ac.uk/cas/home.html>.

INTERNATIONAL

10-11 September: 'Switzerland - Africa: political and socio-economic aspects', Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH, Main Building, Ramistrasse 101, organised by the Center for International Studies (CIS), ETH Zurich, the Swiss Society of African Studies (SAG-SSEA), & the Swiss Foreign Policy Association (SGA-ASPE). Contact: Roger Pfister, Center for International Studies (CIS), Seilergraben 49, CH-8092 Zurich, Switzerland; tel: +41 1 632-67-59, fax +41 1 632-19-45; email: pfister@ir.rook.ethz.ch; homepage: <http://www.sagw.unine.ch/members2/sag-ssea/home.htm>.

14-16 October: First International Conference on Slave Narratives, entitled 'Chronicling our present, remembering our past, predicting our future', sponsored by the Humanities Department, Wilberforce University, Wilberforce Ohio. Contact Dr Muriel Wright Brailey, Department of Humanities, Wilberforce University, 1055 N Bickett Road, Wilberforce, Ohio 45384 USA; fax: +1-937-376-5793; email: mbrailey@payne.wilberforce.edu; or Dr Olabisi Gwamna at the same address, email: ogwamna@payne.wilberforce.edu.

21-23 October: University of Ghent conference on 'Belgium's Africa'. Contact: conference secretariat, Dept. of African Languages & Cultures, University of Ghent, Rozier 44, 9000 Ghent, Belgium (tel: +32 9-2643842; fax: +32 9-2644180; email: belgiumsafrica@africana.rug.ac.be; website: www.africana.rug.ac.be/belgiumsafrica).

26-28 November: 22nd Annual & International Conference of the African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific (AFSAAP '99), 'New African perspectives: Africa, Australasia & the wider world at the end of the twentieth century'. Taking place at the end of the 20th century, 'The Age of Extremes', this international conference offers an excellent opportunity to look critically at the African encounter with the twentieth century and with the wider world. Occurring when the nature of African studies is itself under review, it is also a suitable time to take stock of the past and present study of Africa, and its future prospects. The conference will be held at St. George's College, University of Western Australia (UWA), Perth. Contact: Professor Cherry Gertzel, School of Social Sciences and Asian Languages, Curtin University of Technology, GPO Box U1987, Perth, W.A. 6845, Australia; tel (h) +61 08-9299-7418; email: gertzel@spectrum.curtin.edu.au; or Dr. Peter Limb, Reid Library, University of Western Australia, Nedlands, W.A. 6907, Australia; tel: +61-(0)8-9380-2348; fax: +61-(0)8-9380-1012; email: plimb@library.uwa.edu.au

10-13 February 2000: 'War and violence in Africa: recent approaches in anthropology' is being organized and hosted by the 'Special Research Project: Arid Climate, Adpatation and Cultural Innovation in Africa', University of Cologne, Germany. The conference will take place in the abbey of Michaelsberg in Siegburg. Contact: S. Heuser, Sonderforschungsbereich 389 ACACIA, Institute für Africanistik, Universität zu Köln, Meister-Ekkehart-Str. 7, D-60937 Köln, Germany; tel: +49-221-470-2708; fax: +49-221-470-5158.

30 March-1 April 2000: The German Society of Africanists (Vereinigung von Afrikanisten in Deutschland) will be holding its biennial conference, 'Afrika 2000' at the University of Leipzig. Contact the organizers: Robert Kappel and Adam Jones at the Institut für Afrikanistik, Universität Leipzig, Burgstrasse 21, D-04109 Leipzig, Germany; tel: +49-(0)341-9737037; fax: +49-(0)341-9737048; email: kappel@rz.uni-leipzig.de, and jones@rz.uni-leipzig.de.

...Conferences Past

'African Readerships', 15 May 1999, Robinson College, Cambridge: Seventy-three people attended the 'African Readerships' conference. Delegates arrived from British universities and from international locations, including South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana and Italy.

As the programme unfolded, a diversity of approaches to the conference theme emerged. The production of writings by people of African descent was of central importance to speakers such as Vincent Carretta (Maryland) and Helen Thomas (London), both of whom focussed upon the eighteenth century and offered challenging reappraisals of Olaudah Equiano's *Interesting Narrative*. For T. Akachi Ezeigbo (Lagos) and Andrew Smith (Glasgow), the imperative was to undertake sociological research into reader responses, to study what Africans prefer to read, and to discuss with readers their responses to particular texts. Other speakers, including Sarah Nuttall (Stellenbosch) and Caroline Rooney (Kent), offered detailed theoretical insights into reading and literature in Africa. Such a diversity of positions and approaches fulfilled the simple premise which motivated the conference, that there are multiple groups of readers both inside and outside of Africa. Delegates thus illustrated the necessity for discussions of African readerships to include more than two homogenised groups of consumers, one located in 'the West' and the other in 'Africa'.

Thirteen short presentations were included in the programme, which involved postgraduate researchers alongside eminent academics from Africa, the USA and Britain.

African storytellers were integral to the conference, and several of the delegates were also well-known creative writers. In an animated, thought-provoking presentation, the novelist Buchi Emecheta described the discomfort her views have caused to power-holding elites in Britain, be they publishers or 'white sisters' in the academy: African story-tellers often uncover troubling political truths, she argued, and her own narratives continue that tradition from a gender perspective. The emphasis upon story-telling continued beyond the formal close of the conference as Ephson Ngadya, the Zimbabwean entertainer, wove animal stories into his dance routine and openly invited audience participation.

The conference was sponsored by ASAUk, the African Studies Centre (University of Cambridge), the British Academy, the Faculty of English at the University of Kent, the Judith E. Wilson Fund (Faculty of English, University of Cambridge), Robinson College in Cambridge, the Royal African Society and the Smuts Memorial Fund. The organisers are grateful to these sponsors for their generous financial support which made possible the packed, stimulating programme and the wide range of international speakers. (*Stephanie Newell & Lyn Innes, conference organisers*)

New Websites

VISIONS-AFR! is a space for people and organizations within West Africa and outside to come together, discuss, and work on issues of gender, reproductive health and rights within the region. *VISIONS-AFR!* is a bilingual forum, in French and English, to discuss problems and solutions to the task of gender equality. To subscribe, send an e-mail to : majordomo@hsphsun2.harvard.edu. In the body of the e-mail write : subscribe visions-af. Do not put anything in the subject header of the e-mail, simply leave it blank.

Francophone Africa Web Page at the University of Portsmouth is now to be found at: <http://www.hum.port.ac.uk/slas/web.HTM>, then click 'Francophone Africa'; or directly at <http://www.hum.port.ac.uk/slas/francophone/frac-in0.htm>.

The Electronic African Bookworm: A Web Navigator has been launched in a 'new and improved' form. It can be found at <http://www.hanszell.co.uk/navtitle.htm> and includes almost 1200 links and a number of new features. For comments on the new website, or to submit a new entry send an email to hzell@dial.pipex.com.

The International Society for Oral Literature in Africa

The International Society for Oral Literature in Africa (ISOLA) was established on 23 October 1998 to celebrate, study and promote the oral arts of Africa. The Society pursues these aims by circulating information on scholarly research and by organising regular international meetings of scholars, oral artists and other interested persons.

ISOLA was formed at a conference in Cape Town, the third in a series of conferences commencing with a meeting in London in 1991, and continuing with a second conference, held at the University of Ghana in Legon in 1995. The fourth conference will be held in either Kenya or Uganda in 2001; Japan has been accepted as the location for the fifth conference.

At the inaugural general meeting in Cape Town, a Council was elected, subsequently expanded by co-option. The Council consists of: President, Graham Furniss (SOAS); Administrative Secretary, Jeff Opland (Charterhouse, UK); Austin Bukonya (Makerere), Anne-Marie Dauphin-Tinturier (LLACAN, Paris), Paul Eguchi (National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka), Ruth Finnegan (Open University), Russell Kaschula (University of Cape Town), Olabiyi Yai (UNESCO).

In order to promote communication and the exchange of ideas, and to distribute invitations to membership, the Council has accepted as its initial task the compilation of a database of persons interested in African oral literature. No membership fee has been established as yet, though the Council reserves the right to levy a fee if necessary. The Council also plans to circulate a newsletter and was asked at the general meeting to frame a draft code of ethics for fieldworkers in African oral literature.

Those interested in becoming members of ISOLA should send their name, title, institutional affiliation, contact address, e-mail address, area of interest (in 20 words or less) to Jeff Opland either at Brooke Hall, Charterhouse, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2ED, United Kingdom, e-mail jeffopland@compuserve.com, or c/o The International African Institute, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, United Kingdom. Please indicate if you have any objections to the above information being distributed to other members.

Books for Fort Hare

From Shula Marks (email sm10@soas.ac.uk): I have been approached by Denis Goldberg of Community HEART about the parlous state of libraries in the formerly 'Bantustan' universities. Apparently before 1990 they were extremely restricted in the kinds of books they were allowed to acquire, and are currently trying desperately to make up. They have therefore appealed to Community HEART in this country to help them get academic books on history, politics, sociology etc - I imagine the biggest deficit is for books on Africa but general works in the social sciences and humanities as well as runs of journals would also be much appreciated. Colleagues who wish to help can either get in touch directly with Denis Goldberg at Community HEART (0171-359-3163 or email community-heart@pop2.poptel.org.uk) or if they have only one or two books leave them at the School for me.

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).

Mario I. Aguilar, *Being Oromo in Kenya* (Trenton, N.J.: Africa World Press), 273pp. ISBN: 0-86543-568-5 (1998).

Mario I. Aguilar, *The Rwanda Genocide and the Call to Deepen Christianity in Africa* (Eldoret, Kenya: Gaba), 1998, 101pp. ISBN: 9966-836-22-5 (1998).

Mario I. Aguilar (ed.), *The Politics of Age and Gerontocracy in Africa: Ethnographies of the Past & Memories of the Present* (Lawrenceville, N.J.: Africa World Press), 302pp (1998).

Andreas Eckert, *Grundbesitz, Landkonflikte und kolonialer Wandel. Douala 1880-1960* (Stuttgart: Steiner), 504pp. ISBN 3-515-06777-9 DM 144 (February 1999).

Kempe Ronald Hope, Sr (ed.), *AIDS and Development in Africa: A Social Science Perspective* (Binghamton NY & London: Haworth Press), 224pp. ISBN 0-7890-0638-3 (cloth) \$39.95 (Spring 1999).

Kempe Ronald Hope, Sr & Bornwell C. Chikulo (eds), *Corruption and Development in Africa: Lessons from Country Case-Studies* (London & New York: Macmillan/St. Martin's Press), 314pp. ISBN 0-333-77089-7 (cloth) (July 1999).

Carola Lentz and Paul Nugent (eds), *Ethnicity in Ghana: The Limits of Invention*, (Houndmills & New York: Macmillan & St. Martin's Press). ISBN 0-333-73323-1 (cloth) £45 (October 1999).

David Maxwell, *Christians and Chiefs in Zimbabwe: A Social History of the Hwesa People c.1870s-1990s* (Edinburgh & Westport CN: Edinburgh University Press/IAI & Praeger). ISBN 0-7486-1129-0 (cloth) £29.95; 0-7486-1130-4 (paper) £14.95 (1999).

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Centre of African Studies, SOAS: Linda Waldman (lecturer, Department of Social Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand, will be an Oppenheimer Fellow at the Centre from September to December, doing research on 'The Griqua conundrum: politics in traditional leadership and identity in the Northern Cape, South Africa'.

J.M. Koponen (senior lecturer, Institute of Development Studies, University of Helsinki) will be carrying out research at the Centre on 'Studies in colonial development and population history, with particular reference to Tanzania', beginning in September.

Institute of Development Studies, Sussex: Ian Scoones and Melissa Leach have been appointed Directors of the ESRC's Global Environmental Change Programme.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford University: Wendy James has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy.

Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports (of around 2-300 words) on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, and contact address), announcements of the awarding of grants, fellowships and prizes, news of appointments and visiting fellowships, publication announcements of books by members, and brief articles or notices on matters of importance to Africanists in the UK. All items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* should be sent to Douglas H. Johnson, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, James Currey Publishers, 73 Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0BS (fax: (+44) (0)1865-246454), or e-mail: 106155.3441@compuserve.com (please send as text, not as attachments). *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. For all matters relating to membership of either the ASAUK or RAS contact Lindsay Allan, RAS/ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq, London WC1H 0XG (tel: +44-(0)171-323-6253; fax: +44-(0)171-436-3844; email: ras@soas.ac.uk).