



NEWSLETTER

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Comment and Opinion

An appeal has been received from the Eritrean Development Foundation, 1111 14th Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20005, USA (tel: +1-202-408-6995; fax: +1-202-408-6997) concerning the plight of Eritreans displaced during the current war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. They have set up a web-site (<http://www.wvi.com/~johnr/eritrea/>) to highlight the plight of the refugees. The appeal reads:

'According to the *Los Angeles Times* (May 22, 1999) the UN Refugee Commission spent 11 times more in the Balkans than in the Horn of Africa, although there are more than twice as many refugees resulting from the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea. These are the "forgotten" quarter million refugees in Eritrea, living in dry creek beds, still bombed periodically by Ethiopian jet planes and helicopters. Regardless of how you view the senseless border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea, we cannot allow this suffering of innocent civilians to continue without international attention or intervention.

'A mechanism for providing direct assistance to Eritrean refugees has been established by the Eritrean Development Foundation in Washington, D.C.

'Bear in mind that (as usual) a small contribution will go a long way. Only \$2,473 is needed to equip a refugee camp of 3,500 women and children with a permanent source of clean water. Without these wells, water-borne diseases will claim the lives of hundreds, possibly thousands.'

Are British Embassies Refusing Visas to African Scholars?

There are worrying signs of a pattern of refusals by British embassies in African countries to grant visas to African academics on short-term visits to the UK. Last year one of the invited Kenyan speakers to the ASAUK biennial conference was unable to attend because his visa application was denied. This year two Ethiopian scholars were similarly denied a visa to attend a week-long conference in Oxford. This was all the more surprising because not only did both scholars have written invitations and exit and re-entry visas from their own government, but return tickets in hand. Only after last minute lobbying by the host-institution did the visa section in the Addis Ababa embassy relent.

Members of ASAUK who are aware of similar difficulties of inviting African scholars to attend UK conferences during the last twelve months are invited to send details of the cases to either the president of ASAUK (John Lonsdale, Trinity College, Cambridge), or the editor of the *ASAUK Newsletter*, so that a dossier can be compiled and, if need be, a protest lodged.

Obituary: Ranald H.M. Boyle, D.S.C.

Ranald Boyle (1921-1929) was to all outward appearances a pukka imperial administrator. Educated at Oxford, a gallant naval career during the war (in which he won the Distinguished Service Cross), post-war service in the Sudan, a keen sportsman, an accomplished linguist and, in retirement, a member of the Royal Company of Archers, the Queen's Bodyguard for Scotland, he also had an unorthodox mind and a keen sense of what was right which clashed with the expediency of policy.

After the war Boyle entered the Sudan Political Service via the Middle East Centre of Arabic Studies in 1946. Such a background should have equipped him for service in one of the Sudan's Muslim districts, but after his probationary year he was posted to the southern province of Bahr al-Ghazal, where he became district commissioner of Gogrial, one of the largest Dinka districts. It was there that he met the anthropologist Godfrey Lienhardt. Lienhardt used to say afterwards that the only reason he went to Gogrial was that Boyle was absent at the meeting of Dinka district commissioners convened to decide where the anthropologist from Cambridge should be sent (and while Boyle never confirmed the story, he never denied it either). Dissimilar in many ways the two men respected each other's knowledge of the Dinka and became life-long friends.

Boyle was an energetic district officer, and his programme of planting mango trees led to his Dinka name, Timatiep, 'the tree with cool shade'. In 1953 he was outraged at the terms of the new Anglo-Egyptian agreement, setting the terms for the Sudan's self-government and self-determination which utterly by-passed the southern Sudan and effectively handed it over as a colony to the Arab north. Many of his colleagues grumbled at the deal, but stayed on. Boyle protested and resigned. He never forgave those of his seniors who, he felt, had betrayed the South, and for the rest of his life he campaigned for the southern Sudan's right to self-determination.

After 1953 Boyle took up many jobs: journalism, a spell in the colonial service in Kenya (where Daniel Arap Moi was one of his charges), diplomacy in the foreign service (which brought him back to Khartoum), and then business in the City and the Middle East, retiring from his final job, as advisor to the Emir of Qatar, only in 1996, when he was seventy-five.

Despite his global commitments, Boyle continued to be active in the issue of the Sudan's current civil war. He was a frequent attendee of the North East Africa seminar in Oxford, and his flat in London was open to a stream of Dinka and other Sudanese visitors. When I first visited his old district as part of a relief assessment team in 1990, Boyle was one of two persons the paramount chief there asked after (the other was Godfrey Lienhardt). Boyle was delighted to hear that 'old Wek' was still alive and active.

In 1994 Boyle re-visited his former district, this time doing a report for SCF-UK. In it Boyle made two observations. The first was that areas of relative prosperity in the southern Sudan could be used more effectively to support those worst hit by the war. The second was that there was a clash of perception between foreign relief personnel and the Dinka they were ostensibly sent to help. While relief workers were actively searching out the 'most vulnerable' to help as individuals, the Dinka were more concerned with the survival of the community as a whole. Thus relief agencies measured their success in the number of 'vulnerable' individuals who were being 'targeted', often overlooking the ways in which local communities could be supported and strengthened, and thereby becoming better able to look after the 'most vulnerable'. Had the UN Operation Lifeline Sudan organized their relief efforts

around these twin observations, it is arguable that the 1998 famine in Bahr al-Ghazal would never have been anything like as severe as it became.

It is one of the ironies of these 'post-colonial' times that Boyle's son, Fergus, was hired by a relief agency to work in Bahr al-Ghazal. After the government militia burned down his outpost, he set up camp beneath one of the spreading mango trees his father had planted nearly fifty years before. A fitting symbol of the enduring qualities of a remarkable man. (*Douglas H. Johnson*; additional information from the *Sudan Democratic Gazette*, October 1999)

Audrey Richards Prize 2000

This ASAUK Prize is awarded biennially to the best doctoral thesis in African studies in the human sciences (ie., anthropology, arts, economics, history, law, literature, politics, sociology, social history of medicine etc) which has been successfully examined in a UK institution of higher education in the two calendar years preceding each ASAUK biennial conference. Eligibility for the 2000 prize is limited to those whose dissertations have been approved in the period 1st January 1998 to 31st December 1999. Nominations must be made by supervisors (and through supervisors if by examiners), with the permission of the candidate. Each supervisor may nominate ONE candidate only. The letter of nomination must be accompanied by a copy of the thesis and, where possible, copies of the examiners' reports. Nominations must be received by Lindsay Allen, Hon. Secretary of the ASAUK, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, by 30 June 2000. No late entries will be accepted. The recommendation for the award will be made by a Prize Committee of up to three persons, appointed by the Council of the ASAUK on the nomination of the Vice-President, to reflect a range of academic interests in African studies. The committee may where necessary approach appropriate external assessors. The Council reserves the right not to award the prize in a particular year.

The successful thesis will be that which, in the committee's judgment, makes the greatest contribution to the understanding of Africa in the human sciences. After intellectual distinction, originality and contribution to the field, an essential criterion is intelligibility to scholars in disciplines other than that for which it was submitted.

The prize will consist of books of a value to be determined, to be selected from the lists of publishers who have kindly agreed to contribute, and an invitation to participate free of charge at the next biennial conference. A formal award of the prize will where possible be made at the conference.

Funding Support for UK African Studies Conferences and Workshops

1. Members of ASAUK are reminded of the Royal African Society's generous decision to provide £1000 per annum, for two years in the first instance, for the support of conferences and workshops etc in African studies, held in the UK. This sum is additional to the support that the ASAUK is able to give from time to time. Both funds are administered by the Council of the ASAUK, to which application may be made (to Lindsay Allen at SOAS) by conference organizers. The ASAUK hopes to be able to support two or more such meetings per annum, especially in years alternate to its Biennial Conference.
2. The main priorities in allocating RAS grants and/or ASAUK support will be to assist in the preparatory administration of the conference or workshop (etc) and in the travel and accommodation costs of participants from relevant African institutions.

3. The successful candidates for support will be those who most impress the ASAUK Council with:
 - a) the scholarly interest of their proposed proceedings;
 - b) their efforts to secure the participation of doctoral students and post-doctoral scholars;
 - c) their efforts to secure the participation of scholars from African universities or other appropriate research institutions and/or to share research projects and data with colleagues in Africa;
 - d) the prospects for publication in some form.
4. The deadlines for applications to the ASAUK will be 30 November and 15 April annually.
5. Proposals should be no longer than two sides of A4, inclusive of an outline budget that indicates, among other heads of expenditure, the sums estimated for the two priorities mentioned in paragraph 2. Other anticipated sources of revenue should be given.
6. Organisers of events supported by RAS grants and/or ASAUK funds will be required to render a brief account of their stewardship to the next succeeding ASAUK Council meeting (by letter to Lindsay Allen) and to make due acknowledgment in all circulated information material and in any subsequent publication.

Reminder: ASAUK Biennial Conference, 11th-13th September 2000

The ASAUK's next Biennial Conference, entitled '*Africa: past, present and future*', will be held at Trinity College, Cambridge. The ASAUK Council calls on all who wish to organise discussion panels to contact either Nici Nelson on n.nelson@gold.ac.uk or John Lonsdale on jml1001@cam.ac.uk.

Meetings, Lectures and Events

5 Oct-23 February: Cultural events at the Centre for West African Studies, University of Birmingham, 1st floor, 52 Pritchatts Road (tel: 0121-414-5128), at 5.30 pm on Tuesday evenings this term, from 5 October through 7 December, will include the following authors reading from their works: E.A. Markham, Ifeoma Okoye, Kwame Dawes, Stuart Brown, Cy Grant and David Dabydeen. The usual academic seminars will take place on Tuesday 19 October at 5.15 pm, and on Wednesdays 27 October, 24 November, 26 January and 23 February at 5 pm.

11 Oct-29 November: The University of Cambridge, African Studies Centre research seminar series will be on the topic 'New Research in African Studies'. The seminars will be held on Mondays, 5 pm, at the Committee Room, Social & Political Sciences Faculty, New Museums Site, Free School Lane, Cambridge. Details can be obtained from Casey Syngé, cs218@cus.cam.ac.uk. All are welcome.

16 Nov-1 Dec: Akira Okazaki will be giving the first Evans-Pritchard Lectures at the Old Library, All Souls College, Oxford. His subject is entitled '*Recapturing the shadow: dream consciousness and power in the borderland between north and south of Sudan*', on 16, 17, 23, 24 November and 1 December.

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

27 November: A one-day workshop on 'Mau Mau: revisionist histories of rebellion', at SOAS. 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>.

6 December: The Centre of Commonwealth Studies at Stirling will be putting on a one-day symposium on Malawi, aimed mainly at research students. The CCS may be able to provide assistance with accommodation and possibly with travel. Contact John McCracken at k.j.mccracken@stir.ac.uk.

18-21 August 2000: 'Africa 2000', a joint venture between Africanists at The University of Liverpool, University of Central Lancashire, Liverpool John Moores University, Edge Hill College and Liverpool Charles Wootton College announce the forthcoming event to mark the Millennium. This is the first call for papers, abstracts, and suggestion for panels to reach the Organising Committee, c/o Dr Ola Uduku, Dept of Architecture, Liverpool University, Abercromby Square, Liverpool, Merseyside, L69.

INTERNATIONAL

4-29 October: '2nd international electronic symposium: Africa in view of the 3rd millennium'. This symposium is sponsored by the Centro de Información de las Naciones Unidas para Argentina y Uruguay (United Nations Information Center), the Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales (CARI) and the Centro de Estudios en Relaciones Internacionales de Rosario (CERIR). This symposium is an event made through electronic mail. Papers, communications, opinions and commentaries on the subject will be presented by participants through the electronic mail during the weeks this symposium will be held. It is offered to professors, researchers and students, universities or studies centers members, officials, diplomatic and NGO members. The official languages used will be Spanish, Portuguese and English. Topics to be discussed are: 'Africa today: social, economics and politics affairs' (4-8 Oct); 'New commercial horizons for Africa in the 21st century' (11-15 Oct); 'Worldwide challenges for Africa' (18-22 Oct); 'Conclusions' (24-29 Oct). Contact: Centro de Estudios Internacionales para el Desarrollo (CEID); jreyes@feedback.net.ar.

18-20 November: 'Africa 10 years after: re-examining the post cold war period and the challenges, achievements and failures of the OAU', Pada Foundation, the Netherlands. Website: <http://home.wxs.nl/~pada.foundation>; email: pada.foundation@wxs.nl.

2-4 February 2000: 'Ethiopia: a biodiversity challenge', an international conference in Addis Ababa jointly organized by the Linnean Society of London and the Biological Society of Ethiopia. Contact: Marquita Baird, the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0LQ (tel: +44-(0)171-434-4479; fax: +44-(0)171-287-9364; e-mail: marquita@linnean.demon.co.uk).

...Conferences Past

The annual Edinburgh Centre of African Studies conference took place on 26-27 May. Convened around the theme 'Africa, Islam & Development', it attracted over 100 participants from around the world (including Japan). There were over fifteen conference presentations over a day and a half by speakers representing twelve different nationalities. The main speakers were Ali Mazrui (who gave the RAS Scotland address), Egyptian political activist Sherif Hetata, and his novelist wife, Nawal El-Saadawi, whose new book, *Daughter of Isis* (Zed 1999) was launched at the conference. The high point of the conference was an impromptu debate between Nawal El-Saadawi and Ali Mazrui on the final day. The conference was made possible through grants from ASAUk, the British Council and the FCO, and JICA from Japan.

James Currey Website

James Currey Publishers will launch their website at the end of October. For details of books from the backlist, new and forthcoming titles, news and special offers go to <http://www.jamescurrey.co.uk>. Individual orders can be placed through the website via a direct link to Pymbridge distributors.

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

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

Anthony A. Costa, 'Segregation, customary law and the governance of Africans in South Africa, c. 1910-1929', PhD, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge (Easter 1999).

Elissa Jobson, 'Commonwealth Africa, Britain and Rhodesian UDI, 1964-66', MPhil in Historical Studies, University of Cambridge (June 1999).

Laurence E. Piper, 'The politics of Zuluness in the transition to a democratic South Africa', PhD, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Cambridge (January 1999).

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 M. Anderson & Vigdis Broch-Due (eds), *'The Poor are Not Us': Poverty & Pastoralism in Eastern Africa* (Oxford: James Currey). ISBN 0-85255-266-1 (cloth) £40.00; 0-85255-265-3 (paper) £14.95 (November).

David M. Anderson & Richard Rathbone (eds), *Africa's Urban Past* (Oxford: James Currey). ISBN 0-85255-760-4 (cloth) £40.00; 0-85255-761-2 (paper) £14.95 (January).

Heather Bell, *Frontiers of Medicine in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1899-1940* (Oxford: Oxford University Press). ISBN 0-19-820749-2 (cloth) (June).

Christopher Fyfe, 'The emergence and evolution of African studies in the United Kingdom', in William G. Martin & Michael O. West, *Out of One, Many Africas* (Urbana & Chicago: University of Illinois Press). ISBN 0-252-06780-0.

James Gibbs & Jack Mapanje (eds), *The African Writers' Handbook* (Oxford: African Books Collective, in association with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation), £24.95.

Wendy James, *The Listening Ebony: Moral Knowledge, Religion & Power among the Uduk of Sudan*, paperback edition with new preface (Oxford: Clarendon Paperbacks). ISBN 0-19-823416-3, £18.99.

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Birkbeck College: Ruth Watson has begun an appointment teaching in the history department.

Bristol University: Jocelyn Alexander begins her appointment as Lecturer in the Department of History in October.

Cambridge University: Elizabeth Watson begins a three year Assistant Lectureship at the Department of Geography and Newnham College in October.

Centre of African Studies, SOAS: Three new visiting scholars will be based at the Centre on the Leventis Research Co-operation Programme from September through December. H.A. Alahira (History Department, Ahmadu Bello University) will be doing research on the role of women in the colonial economy on the Jos Plateau, 1900-1960; Magaji Tsoho (Department of Nigerian & African Languages, Ahmadu Bello University) will be doing research on the transformation of the Hausa Court song from 1850 to date; Dalha Waziri (Department of History, Bayero University) will be researching the history of the Gumel Emirate. The Ernest Oppenheimer visiting scholar is Linda Waldman (Department of Social Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand) whose research project is 'The Griqua Conundrum: politics of traditional leadership and identity in the Northern Cape'.

Durham University: Joanna Lewis takes up an appointment as Lecturer in Britain and the Wider World on 1 October. Justin Willis also takes up an appointment as Research & Development Associate in the Department of History, and has been assigned the task of developing research projects out of the university's archival holdings on colonial administration in the Sudan and elsewhere.

Jesus College, Oxford: Patricia Daly has been appointed admissions tutor for Jesus College.

Leeds University: Mark Duffield takes up the Chair in Politics (Development, Democratisation and Conflict) at the newly created Institute for Politics and International Relations, University of Leeds, on 1 October.

Sheffield University: Graham Harrison begins a lectureship at the Department of Politics, Sheffield University.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Amaury Talbot Prize for African Anthropology: The Royal Anthropological Institute's 1998 Amaury Talbot Prize, for the best book in African anthropology, has been awarded to Eric Silla, *People are not the Same: Leprosy & Identity in 20th Century Mali* (Heinemann & James Currey).

Bayard Rustin Humanitarian Award: Bona Malwal, UK-based editor of *The Sudan Democratic Gazette*, was presented with the Bayard Rustin Humanitarian Award by the A. Philip Randolph Institute at their annual awards ceremony in New Orleans on 21 August. The A. Philip Randolph Institute was co-founded by Bayard Rustin in 1965 as an organization of Black trade unionists to fight for racial equality and economic justice. Bona Malwal was this year's recipient, in recognition for his part in the struggle for democracy and justice for all the peoples of the Sudan.

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).