



# NEWSLETTER

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## Meetings, Lectures and Events

12 April – 25 July: 'Princess Salme - Behind the Veil: The Life and Writings of Sayyida Salme, Writer and Teacher (1844 - 1924)', Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London.

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

### UNITED KINGDOM

12 May: 'Researching Africa', St Antony's College, Oxford. Postgraduate students discussing their recent research experiences in African countries. Contact: christopher.morton@prm.ox.ac.uk.

23-24 May: 'Africa's Young Majority: Meanings, Victims, Actors', The Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh Annual International Conference. FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DOCTORAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION AT THE CONFERENCE. The Centre of African Studies at Edinburgh has received funding from Royal African Society/African Studies Association of UK to enable selected doctoral students to attend this conference. If you wish to apply for modest funds to facilitate your attendance please send a paragraph on your area of interest, accompanied by a letter from your supervisor to: Dr. Paul Nugent, Centre of African Studies/History, William Robertson Building, George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9JY. Deadline: Thursday 26 April 2001.

9 June: 'Chieftaincy in Africa', St Antony's College, Oxford. Speakers include Erdmute Alber, Michael Twaddle, Jessica Schafer, Barbara Oomen, Jocelyn Alexander. Contact: insa.nolte@sant.ox.ac.uk.

16 June: Britain Zimbabwe Society Research Day, 'Developing Zimbabwe? Development practice, development critique, development theory', St Antony's College, Oxford, 10am to 5.30pm. Contact: Diana Jeater, History School, UWE, St Matthias Campus, Bristol, BS16 2JP, tel: +44 (0)117 937 4895, email diana.jeater@uwe.ac.uk.

**11-15 July:** The Fourth Biennial Conference on *Travel in Egypt and the Near East*, Pollock Halls, Edinburgh. Contact: Deborah Manley, 57 Plantation Road, Oxford OX2 6JE; fax: +44-(0)1865-310284.

**2-4 August:** International symposium and festival, *'Composition in Africa and the diaspora'*, Churchill College, University of Cambridge, organised by the Centre for Intercultural Music Arts. Contact: Akin Euba, Churchill College, University of Cambridge CB3 0DS; email: oae21@cam.ac.uk.

**14-16 September:** *'Human Rights in Africa in the new millennium'*, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, organised by the African Studies Unit, University of Central Lancashire in association with the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom (ASAUK), Lynne Rienner Publishers, Review of African Political Economy (ROAPE). The main purpose of this first ASA-UK conference on Human Rights is to examine the ways in which human rights are involved in a wide range of contemporary issues in African Studies.

As the millennium unfolds and as the process of democracy takes hold on African political and social institutions, the question of human rights defence and protection has become an important item on the democratic agenda. In the wake of the genocide in Rwanda, and the atrocities in Liberia and Sierra Leone, donors have now instituted human rights observance as an important condition, alongside democratic governance as a precondition for economic support. With the ravages of Eastern and Atlantic slave trades and the social and political atrophy of colonialism, it could be argued that human rights abuse has a long existence in Africa.

In this sense post colonial Africa with its replete of local despots and tyrants was simply a continuation of the status quo ante. However, the end of the Cold War and possibility of African despots playing off one super power against the other has impelled African activists to press for human rights observance. This conference aims to focus on the historical aspects of human rights in pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial Africa, in particular, the state of human rights observance in Africa at the dawn of the twenty first century.

The organisers will consider papers relating to: Philosophical Dimensions of Human Rights Policies in Africa; Human Rights Political Culture and Identity; Human Rights and Economic Development; Human Rights and the Environment; Social Rights & African Conditioning; Conflicts and Human Rights; Human Rights Violations; Human Rights and Social Citizenship; Human Rights and the African Diaspora; Case Studies. The deadline for the submission of papers is the 31 May.

The conference fee which includes all documentation, refreshments and lunches will be £85.00 plus VAT (£99.88 incl. VAT). There will also be a daily delegate rate of £50.00 plus VAT (£58.75 incl. VAT). Please note that accommodation is not included in the fee. Contact: Liz Kelly, Business Services, Livesey House, University of Central Lancashire, Preston PR1 2HE, UK; tel: +44 (0)1772 892256; fax: +44 (0)1772 892938; email: ejkelly@uclan.ac.uk; website: [http://www.uclan.ac.uk/business\\_services/conf/index.htm](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/business_services/conf/index.htm).

The AGM of ASAUK will be held at this conference.

#### INTERNATIONAL

**6-8 August:** *'Colonial and post-colonial cultures of the book'*, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa. This international conference will address a wide range of questions relating to 'the history of the book' in colonial and post-

colonial contexts. Contact: John Gouws, Department of English, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, 6140, South Africa; email: j.gouws@ru.ac.za.

29-31 March 2002: 'Nigeria in the twentieth century', Flawn Academic Center, The University of Texas at Austin. Contact: Toyin Falola, Department of History, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712, USA; email: toyin.falola@mail.utexas.edu.

### Websites

Columbia University Libraries' 'African Studies Internet Resources' website's new URL is: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/cuvl/>. Over the next month or so, the web page design will change again, but the new URL will remain the same. This change also includes a new URL for the 'International Directory of African Studies Scholars' which is: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/africa/cuvl/directory.html>.

'People of Africa' website, at <http://www.peopleofafrica.net>, is seeking autobiographical profiles of persons who have made a social contribution to Africa. Contact Martin Fiala at +27 11 624-0687 or +27 82 518 6025; email: martin@peopleofafrica.net.

### Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

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

Rupert P. Brown, 'Global computer networks and geographies of development in East Africa', PhD, Dept. of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London, 2000 (supervisors Prof. David Simon and Dr. David Gilbert).

Giacomo Macola, 'A political history of the Kingdom of Kazembe (Zambia)', Ph.D., History, SOAS, University of London, 2000 (supervised by Andrew Roberts).

### Recent and Forthcoming Publications

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

K. Baker, *Indigenous Land Management in West Africa: An Environmental Balancing Act* (Oxford: OUP) (2000).

Louis Brenner, *Controlling Knowledge: Religion, Power and Schooling in a West African Muslim Society* (London: C Hurst) (2000).

David Lewis & Tina Wallace, *New Roles and Relevance: Development NGOs and the Challenge of Change* (Oxford: World View) 272 pp. ISBN: 1-56549-120-3 (paper) £19.95; 1-56549-121-1 (cloth) \$45.00 (February 2001).

D. Potts, W. Beinart, J. McGregor, J. Beall, D. Simon (eds), *Environment in Southern Africa* (Special issue of *Journal of Southern African Studies*).

Ludwig Romer, *A Reliable Account of the Coast of Guinea*, translated and edited by Selena Axelrod Wisnes (Oxford: OUP for the British Academy). ISBN 0-19-726218-X.

Leif Svalesen, *The Slave Ship Fredensborg*, translated from the Norwegian by Pat Shaw and Salena Wisnes (Kingston: Ian Randle). ISBN 82-03-22330-3.

Michael Vickers, *Ethnicity and Sub-Nationalism in Nigeria: Movement for a Mid-West State*, (Oxford: World View) 410pp. ISBN: 1-872142-43-5 (cloth); 1-872142-44-3 (paper) (April 2001).

### Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

*University of Central Lancashire*: Alfred Zack-Williams, ASAUK's Secretary, has been awarded the first Chair in Sociology at the University of Central Lancashire.

### Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

*Amaury Talbot Prize for African Anthropology*: Joint winners for the 1999 Amaury Talbot Prize for African Anthropology, awarded by the Royal Anthropological Institute, are Don Donham, *Marxist Modern: An Ethnographic History of the Ethiopian Revolution* (University of California Press/James Currey Publishers), and Charles Piot, *Remotely Global: Village Modernity in West Africa* (University of Chicago Press).

*St Antony's College, Oxford*: Insa Nolte, who completed her doctoral thesis at the Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham in 1999, and was awarded the University's R.E. Bradbury Memorial Prize in 2000, is the Kirk-Greene Junior Research Fellow in Tropical African Studies for 2001.

#### 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, recently completed theses, 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)20 7898 4390; fax: +44 (0)20 7898 4389; email: asa@soas.ac.uk, or ras@soas.ac.uk).