



African Studies Association of the UK

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Number 10

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ASAUK 1998 Biennial Conference: 'Transitions and Comparisons'

The December meeting of the ASAUK Council reviewed the progress made so far in drawing up the programme for the 1998 Biennial Conference, due to be held at SOAS from Monday 14 to Wednesday 16 September 1998. There is room in the programme for some 25 panels, and so far we have around 12 definite offers to organize panels. These include panels on Ghana, Kenya and Sierra Leone/Liberia; regional panels on socio-economic change in southern Africa and urban history in East Africa; more general thematic panels on genocide, international relations, science and the environment, and longitudinal studies in African social science; and a series of three or four panels on major transitions in African history. In addition, various members of Council are contacting individuals whom we think might organize panels on other topics which we think ought to be covered. So the state of play is that, while the programme is starting to fill up, there is still room for proposals to be entertained from ASAUK members who would like to see a panel on their subject of interest. Do let us hear from you soon! We are anxious that the programme expresses the current interests of British Africanists, and not least those of younger researchers. (ASAUK does have some funds to support the participation of Ph.D. students). A panel at the ASAUK Biennial Conference offers an ideal venue for groups of researchers to make their work known to the wider Africanist community. So, please, do let us know as soon as possible if you would like to organize a panel on a particular theme, since we have to have the draft programme in place by the end of May. Proposals should go to the Conference Convenor, J.D.Y. Peel (c/o ASAUK, School of Oriental and African Studies, London WC1H 0XG; email: JP2@soas.ac.uk).

Audrey Richards Prize 1998

This ASAUK Prize is awarded biennially to the best doctoral thesis in African studies in the human sciences (i.e., 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 1998 prize is limited to those whose dissertations have been approved in the period 1st January 1996 to 31st December 1997. 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 1998. No late entries will be accepted. The recommendation for the award will be made by a Prize Committee of three persons, appointed by the Council of the ASAUK, 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.

ASAUK AGM Minutes and Annual Reports

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at School of Oriental & African Studies Thursday 11 September 1997

Present: J D Y Peel (President), John Lonsdale (Vice President), Melissa Leach (Treasurer), Nici Nelson (Secretary), Tim Allen, Gareth Austin, David Brewin, James Curry, Deborah Gaitskell, Douglas H Johnson, David Killingray, Martin Lynn, Kenneth Robinson, Geoffrey Rockcliffe-King, Paul Twyman, Alfred Zack-Williams.
Apologies: H J B Allen, J Blumenfeld, J el-Bushra, J Kenworthy, H Naber

1. *Minutes of the Thirty-Third Annual General Meeting* held at the University of Bristol, 11 September, 1996, were read, approved and signed by the President.
2. *Matters Arising:* There were no Matters Arising not addressed in the Agenda.
3. *Report by the Honorary Secretary:* attached.
4. *Report by the Honorary Treasurer:* attached.
The Treasurer commented that we had a reasonably healthy balance despite the loss on the Bristol Conference. This was because of the relative success of the two Symposia in the past year. There was a discussion about why last year (not a Conference year) our income was down. This, it seems, has to do with a £1,200 donation the Association made to a conference at the University of Central Lancashire. A request was made by Alfred Zack Williams for £500 to fund of travel costs for one African scholar to attend the conference at Easter, 1998 at the University of Central Lancashire, 'Globalizing Africa: Toward the Millenium'. This was discussed and finally it was agreed that the AGM was, in principle, sympathetic to the request but that the actual decision should be made by the Council. It was agreed that Alfred Zack-Williams would present a case to the Council in December for this request for funding this conference accompanied by the name of a particular scholar to present.
5. *Report by President:* John Peel gave a brief and positive report. He agreed with the results of the two reports given by the Secretary and the Treasurer. He paid special attention of his work with CCASA. During the year there were two main foci of discussion. First was the ESRC meeting where Professor James Manor mounted a vigorous defense of new Research priorities, maintaining that Third World Studies were not disadvantaged by these. The second focus was the monitoring of the HEFCE criteria for funding post graduate research. Different disciplines were defined by two research classifications: library and laboratory research. Area studies in general and African studies in particular were classified as

being library research subjects. No recognition was given to field research. John Peel praised the Newsletter, as an extremely useful organ. There was an upward curve of awareness of the Newsletter and its role which will ensure that it will become even more useful. He spoke about the next Biennial 'Comparisons and Transitions'. We are in the low point of a 2 year cycle of activity between Conferences. We are now in the planning stages of the next Conference.

6. *New Council Members:* The following three members were proposed and seconded: (i) Alfred Zack-Williams: University of Central Lancashire; (ii) Tanya Bowyer-Bower: School of Oriental and African Studies; (iii) Louise de La Gorgendiere: University of Edinburgh.
7. *European Council of African Studies:* Richard Hodder Williams has been our representative this past year and has difficulty in making contact with the administration of the organization. There was a long discussion, led by the officers and members of the Council, the burden being that ASAUk and RAS had profited little from belonging to it. A proposal was put forward to withdraw from ECAS. Three years ago, the Association agreed that the Royal African Society would pay the subvention on behalf of the African studies Community in the UK for a period of three years, at which time, we would consider whether or not to continue membership. The three years were now elapsed and the consensus was that we would not renew our membership. Consequently it was agreed that the President would write a letter which would explain why the African Studies community of the UK, represented by the ASAUk and the RAS were resigning from the ECAS organization.
8. *ASAUk Newsletter:* Douglas Johnson, the editor of the Newsletter, gave a brief talk, explaining the purpose, the contents, and deadlines.
9. *Any Other Business:* Nici Nelson brought to the attention of the AGM the fact that the Association had been informed of the formation of a new campaign, the Zimbabwe Anti-Treason Campaign 2000. Anyone interested in the work of the organization could contact Nici Nelson or write directly to Arthur Molife, Campaign Co-ordinator, clo 322 Tokyngton Av., Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 6HH.

There being no other business the meeting was drawn to a close.

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1995-1996

1. *Summary of the Year*

The year that has passed has been, as always, an active one for the Association. In September, 1996 there was a vibrant Biennial Conference at Bristol. During the year members of the Association organized two symposia: '*Social and economic dimensions and discourses of African urban poverty*' on the 7 of December, 1996 and '*NGOs and academics: African studies in theory and practice*'. In addition the Council has been involved in the advance planning for the next biennial conference, to be held at SOAS in 1998 (provisional date 14-16 of September). The theme the Council has settled on is '*Comparisons and transitions*'.

On the 27th of May, the Association held a presentation of the Audrey Richards (ASAUk Dissertation) Prize. It hosted the winners, the representatives of the publishers and members at a reception held after the RAS AGM lecture at SOAS. This is the second time that this has been done and the timing and the venue have proved most successful. It had originally been conceived that the presentation would be done at the Biennial Conference. However, late submission of dissertations delayed the Awards Committee's decisions, making it impossible to ensure the presence of the

winners at the Conference. In the end only one of the named winners, David Maxwell (the outright winner) could attend the ceremony. The runners-up, Andrew Bank, Paul Clough and John Parker, unfortunately could not attend. A fair representation of publishers attended and it was a pleasant event for all involved.

The Council is seriously investigating the advantages, difficulties and possibilities of electronic communication (e-mail communication and posting the newsletter on a web site). Until Lindsay Allan is networked, this will have to remain hypothetical.

As Secretary I am concerned with the continued downward trend in the membership. As can be seen below, the membership has dropped below 500 once again. In 1995 the membership reached a high of 513, from which it has slipped ever since. Last year it was 508, while this year the membership stands at 497. While these are not major drops in numbers, the trend is a matter of concern. It is noticeable that the greatest drop has been in student memberships. All members of the Association must dedicate themselves to recruiting new members in the academic departments of the UK Universities. This will go some way to encourage and support an emerging generation of people interested in studying and working in Africa.

Another way in which the Association could work to increase membership (the continued strength of which could be seen to correlate positively with a perceived relevance of its work) would be to identify and address areas relevant to those working outside the strictly and formally defined boundaries of academia. One of the messages which came out of the 'Academics and NGO' symposium (see below) was that if the Association devoted more time to issues relevant to the development constituency, there would be more interest amongst development workers in the Association. The Council is sensitive to this issue, and many of our future events will continue to expand the boundaries of discussion and study.

2. Membership

	1996	1997
ASAUK Members (UK)	49	49
ASAUK Members (Overseas)	13	14
Joint Members (UK)	301	304
Joint Members (Overseas)	68	61
Student members (Joint UK)	56	50
Student Members (Joint Overseas)	6	8
Honorary Life members	6	4
Corporate Members (UK)	0	0
Corporate Members (Overseas)	1	1
Associate Members	6	6
TOTAL	508	497

3. The Council for the Coming Year (1997-1998)

Officers

President	Prof. J D Y Peel
Vice-President	Dr. John Lonsdale
Hon. Secretary	Dr. Nici Nelson has agreed to stand again
Hon. Treasurer	Dr. Melissa Leach has agreed to stand again

Council Members

Retiring in 1997:	Mr. James Currey*, Dr. Carolyn Dennis, Mrs. Judy El-Bushra, Prof. Richard Hodder-Williams*, Dr. Douglas H Johnson*
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Prof. Joan Kenworthy, Dr. David Simon*, Dr. Alfred Zack-Williams

*indicates a co-opted member of Council

Retiring in 1998: Dr. Graham Furniss, Ms. Stephanie Newell, Dr. David Throup
Retiring in 1999: Dr. Tim Allen, Dr. Reginald Cline-Cole, Dr. Richard Crook, Dr. Martin Lynn

NB. The 1996 Annual General Meeting resolved that Council Members were eligible to serve two terms consecutively.

4. Administration

Administration ran its usual smooth course this year. Lindsay Allan, is to be thanked for accomplishing the day to day running of the office so effortlessly and ever-cheerfully. Her work load has increased in the last few years with the institutionalization of a biennial RAS conference in the years between the ASAUK Biennial conferences. This means, effectively she has to run a large conference every year. In addition there are increasing numbers of evening events which, thanks to Lindsay's efficiency, always include the opportunity for a drink beforehand. The Council of the ASAUK would like to acknowledge the central role played by Lindsay Allan in the effective running of the ASAUK and the RAS.

5. Conferences and Symposia

*Biennial Conference 9-11 September, 1996, University of Bristol, convened by Richard Hodder Williams. The Conference was an intellectual and organizational success. 139 people attended. There were 55 papers presented in 23 separate sessions which ranged widely on many issues pertinent to trends and events in Africa and the academic realm of African Studies. (To give an example, conference members were offered the choice between 'The Rhetoric of Everyday Life', 'Local Development' and 'Issues of Governance'). We were pleased that a significant number of post graduate students attended and we were pleased, that with RAS assistance, we were able to give travel bursaries and a lower fee. The Association's special fund assisted three African scholars to attend. The event was well organized due to the efforts of the Conference Organizer at Bristol University, Krystyna Brown, and Lindsay Allan in the London Office. The Conference did go over budget and barely broke even. The Council assures the Association that in the future more careful budgeting will ensure that the Conference will again generate the modest surplus which subsidizes the seminars which occur in the interim.

*Social and Economic Dimensions and Discourse of African Urban Poverty 7 December, 1997, SOAS convened by Nici Nelson. This was a very exciting day. 65 people attended and the quality of the papers was singularly high and unusually cohesive. Nici Nelson and Sue Jones, are attempting to publish a symposium based on the papers.

*NGOs and Academics: African Studies in Theory and Practice 16 May, 1997 convened by Judy el Bushra and Nici Nelson. This symposium was organized in a manner different from many ASAUK symposia. Instead of formal presentation of papers, there were three panels, each with a number of academics and practitioners from NGOs. The three main questions addressed were whether or not collaboration enhances either sector, what the realities of power in this collaboration are, and what constitutes successful collaboration. Since there were no papers, a summary (based on rapporteurs' notes) of the main points emerging from the discussion were circulated to those who had attended.

6. Relations with other professional bodies

*Royal African Society. As always, relations between the two associations are mutually useful, pleasant and beneficial. We continue to have joint members on each other's Councils. The Secretary of the ASAUk is a member of RAS Speakers and Publications sub-committee. The RAS has been paying the annual subvention on behalf of African Studies in the UK in order to ensure the UK's membership on the European Council of African Studies (see below). The presentation of the Audrey Richards prize seems to have found a mutually enhancing slot attached to the spring AGM meeting of the RAS, a venue which gives maximum publicity for the award while adding an event of interest to all Africanists to the RAS meeting.

*European Council of African Studies. There is a strong feeling on the councils of the ASAUk and the RAS, that this organization has become increasingly moribund. Communication continues to be minimal and little seems to happen. Severe doubts have been raised at the benefits to be gained from paying an annual subvention. The issue of whether or not to continue our membership is therefore, understandably on the AGM Agenda.

*The Coordinating Council of Area Studies Associations. Our membership and participation in this coordinating body continues to be useful. It allows the Association to keep a finger on the pulse of HFCE initiatives. We continue to monitor HFCE initiatives and to respond on behalf of African Studies. This year the President at the behest of the Council wrote a letter querying the HFCE proposals which fail to recognize fieldwork as a funding category for postgraduate studies (only library or laboratory work were recognised categories). Our attendance at meetings also allowed the Association to monitor and query the thematic priorities of the ESRC which seem to penalize African Studies.

*The Standing Committee on University Studies of Africa. It is hoped to build a fruitful collaboration between the two associations. The Secretary of SCUSA, David Simon, is a co-opted member of the Council.

*The International African institute. We remain an institutional member of the Institute.

*Standing Conference on Library on library Materials in Africa. The Council has a co-opted member, Dr. David Killingray, who is our representative on SCOLMA council in order to ensure an exchange of information between our two organizations.

Nici Nelson

REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1996

1. Attached are the annual ASAUk accounts, prepared as usual by Messrs. Uppal and Warr from our books. Major figures for the last two years can be summarised as follows:

	1995	1996
Gross income	3,837	2,356
Expenditure	2,672	2,045
NET INCOME	1,165	311
Current assets	25,937	26,431
Current liabilities	1,793	1,976
NET CURRENT ASSETS	24,144	24,455

The Association's financial situation therefore remains healthy, showing a slight excess of income over expenditure during the year, translated into a (modest) increase in current assets.

2. As a conference year, 1996 should, however, have been expected to generate greater additions to our accumulated funds than has been the case. Past biennial conferences have generally yielded significant net income, whereas the Bristol conference incurred a deficit of £2,282. This seems to have been due to the rather high costs of the administrative arrangements used for the conference. Nevertheless, everyone agreed that the venue at Bristol was superb and that the meeting ran exceptionally smoothly. In this light the extra expense can be justified as an appropriate use of ASAUK funds.

3. The relatively high expenditures on printing, postage and stationery for 1996 also reflect the additional demands posed by the conference.

4. 1996 was the first full year for the ASAUK newsletter. This, as Council has agreed, is a highly appropriate use of Association funds, and Douglas Johnson is to be congratulated for keeping costs as low as they are.

5. In contrast with the conference, and with previous years, symposia and day workshops during 1996 yielded a surplus of income over expenditure.

6. The African Scholars' Trust Fund received only £35 in 1996, bringing its current holding to £585. While it was intended that the fund should be used to contribute to African scholars' travel to the biennial conference, no-one was in fact eligible. Hence no expenditures were made from the fund, which will be carried forward to next year.

7. As usual, many thanks to Lindsay Allan for her continuing hard work in maintaining the ASAUK's everyday financial and administrative affairs.

Melissa Leach
9 September 1997

Meetings, Lectures and Events

African Studies Centre, University of Cambridge: The theme for Hilary Term's *Africana Forum* (Mondays at 5.00pm, starting 19 January) will be 'Gender'. The theme for the *African Studies Research Seminar Series* (Tuesdays, 5.00pm, starting 20 January) will be 'Current issues in southern Africa'. Further details can be found on the African Studies Centre's homepage 9<http://www.african.cam.ac.uk/>).

11 March: The Centre for African Studies (SOAS), the Zimbabwe High Commission and the British Zimbabwe Society will be holding a one day workshop on '*Land reform in Zimbabwe*'. Date to be confirmed. Contact Tanya Bowyer-Bower for further details (Centre of African Studies, SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq., London WC1H 0XG; tel: +44-(0)171-323-6396; fax: +44-(0)171-323-6254; email: cas@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

24-26 April: *'Africa and Globalisation: Towards the Millennium'*, University of Central Lancashire, a stock-taking of political, economic and cultural developments in Africa (for details see *ASAUK Newsletter no 8*). Contact Helen Taylor, Centralan Consultants Ltd., University of Central Lancashire, Preston PR1 2HE (tel: +44-(0)1772-892251; fax: +44-(0)1772-892938; email: h.m.taylor@uclan.ac.uk).

26-27 May: *'Microenterprise in Africa. Between poverty and growth: the role of human resources'*. Microenterprises are a vital element of African economies and must be accorded a key role in development strategies for the continent, whether couched in terms of poverty eradication or economic growth. This conference seeks to explore the nature of the role that microenterprises can play in Africa's successful insertion into the global economy. Recent accounts of microenterprise support have tended to focus on the importance of credit. However, this conference will seek to explore the potential role of human resource development in stimulating microenterprises and economies. Formal, non-formal and informal education and training will be considered, including the learning possibilities that exist through business linkages. Contact Simon McGrath at CAS, University of Edinburgh, Adam Ferguson Building, George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LL (tel: +44(0)131-650-4321; email: S.McGrath@ed.ac.uk).

15-17 July: *5th International 'Borderlands under stress'* conference to be held at the International Boundaries Research Unit, University of Durham. Contact Professor Gerald Blake, Director, IBRU, Mountjoy Research Centre, Suite 3P, Durham DH1 3UR (tel: +44-(0)191-374-7701; fax: +44-(0)191-374-7702; email: ibru@durham.ac.uk).

September: *'Science and society in southern Africa'*, University of Sussex, a Call for Papers. Much recent research into the dominant ideologies of the southern African region shows how policies have drawn on scientific ideas and institutions. This conference We proposes to examine the deployment of scientific discourse in the formation and contestation of dominant ideologies and policies in the subcontinent. Issues of particular concern include: the role of science in the making of national identities; the professionalisation of scientific enquiry; conflicts between metropolitan scientific ideas and local knowledge; the notion of the 'moving metropolis' and the emergence of distinctive southern African approaches; the generation and dissemination of scientific ideas; the place of scientific ideas in political and literary discourse; and so on. It is hoped that the conference will thereby bring clearer focus and coherence to debates about the relationship between the development of science and modernity in the region as well as the complex influence of scientific ideas in the context of socially and racially divided colonial societies. Brief paper proposals (of about 150 words) are invited by the conference organisers: Saul Dubow (School of African & Asian Studies, University of Sussex; tel: +44-(0)1273-606755; fax: +44-(0)1273-623572; email: s.dubow@sussex.ac.uk) and Diana Jeater (School of History, Faculty of Humanities, St Matthias Campus, University of the West of England, Bristol BS16 2JP; tel: +44-(0)117-965 5384x4384; fax: +44-(0)117-975-0402; email: D-Jeater@uwe.ac.uk). Please send these by January 30 1998. It is anticipated that the conference will be restricted to paper-givers only and that publication of a selection of papers will follow soon after.

5-8 July, 1999: *Journal of Southern African Studies*/St Antony's conference on *'African environments, past and present'* JSAS is organizing a conference on African environments. The focus is not restricted to southern Africa, and contributions on other parts of the continent are welcome, as are papers which explore comparative contexts and wider international linkages. A rich body of research which examines the interaction between social and environmental change is accumulating. The conference is designed to stimulate dialogue between different approaches and disciplines, following some productive recent encounters. Papers and proposals for panels should be submitted by the end of February 1998. Contact: JoAnn McGregor (St Antony's

College, Oxford OX2 6JF; fax: +44-(0)1865-554465; email: joann.mcgregor@sant.ox.ac.uk.

INTERNATIONAL

28 February: The Africa Society (University of Alberta, Canada) is organising its first annual conference on 'Africa in the 21st century'. The keynote speaker will be Abiola Irele, who will be speaking on 'Towards reconstruction in Africa'. Registration is \$C 10. Contact: Chris Nsaliwa, Department of Educational Policy Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G5 (fax: +1-403-492-2999; email: afso@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca, or cnsaliwa@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca).

26-28 March: 24th Annual Conference of the African Literature Association (see details in *ASAUK Newsletter no 8*). Contact Louis Tremaine, ALA Treasurer, Department of English, University of Richmond, Richmond VA 23173, USA.

African Studies Association Migrates

The African Studies Association (USA) has completed the move of its secretariat to Rutgers New Jersey. Its new address is African Studies Association, Rutgers The State University of New Jersey, Douglass Campus, 132 George Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1400, USA.

African Development Studies Association

The African Development Studies Association (ADSA) has recently been launched. For further information contact: Kempe Ronald Hope, Sr., Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Botswana, Private Bag 0022, Gaborone, Botswana (fax: +267-324989; email: hopekr@noka.ub.bw).

Obituary: Kenneth Kirkwood (1919-1997)

Professor Kenneth Kirkwood, Rhodes Professor of Race Relations from 1954 to 1986, died on October 16th. Born and educated in South Africa, he held a lectureship at the University of Natal before being elected as the first holder of the Chair of Race Relations at Oxford. He was only thirty-six, an unusually young age at that time for such a senior appointment at one of the older universities. Besides graduate teaching in the new subject of Race Relations, he established the University's first regular seminar in African Affairs and progressively developed *une présence africaine* in St Antony's College. Several of the first generation of teachers of African Studies in the USA were among Kirkwood's students. He was instrumental in securing the admission of African students to the College and founded the Africa Society and JACARI. Under Kirkwood's leadership, St Antony's emerged as the *de facto* centre for the study of Africa at Oxford.

Kenneth Kirkwood was an active member of many boards and committees within the College and outside in the University. His wide interests also took him in the same role into the community life of the city. He displayed a cheerful and caring personality; above all, he had the precious attribute of courtesy towards all. He is survived by his widow, Deborah, and by six children and fourteen grandchildren. The Funeral Service was held at St Margaret's Church on October 24th as a thanksgiving for Kenneth's life. The service was taken by one of his earliest students, Humphrey Fisher. (*Tony Kirk-Greene*, abridged from *St Antony's College Newsletter, Michaelmas Term 1997*)

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

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

Deborah Fahy Bryceson & Vali Jamal (eds), *Farewell to Farms: De-agrarianisation and employment in Africa*, Aldershot, Avebury, 1997, 265pp, ISBN 1-84014-193-X, £16.50.

Martin Lynn, *Commerce and Economic Change in West Africa: the palm oil trade in the 19th century*, Cambridge, CUP, December 1997, 270pp, ISBN 0-521-59074-4, £40.00.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

African Environmental History Studentship, University of Oxford: The Rhodes Race Relations Fund Committee of the University of Oxford invites applications for a postgraduate studentship in African environmental history. Preference may be given to applicants focusing on southern or central Africa. The successful applicant will be registered for a research degree leading to a D.Phil. at the University and will be a member of St Antony's or another Oxford college. The studentship will cover fees and a grant similar to that awarded by the British Academy. For further particulars contact William Beinart (St Antony's College, Oxford OX2 6JF; tel: +44-(0)1865-284730/726743; email: william.beinart@sant.ox.ac.uk), or Charles Shaw (University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD; email: charles.shaw@admin.ox.ac.uk). The closing date for applications is 16 February.

ASA Text Prize: The 1997 ASA text prize was awarded to James H. Vaughan and Anthony H.M. Kirk-Greene (eds), *The Diary of Hamman Yaji: Chronicle of a West African Muslim Ruler*, Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 1995.

B.W. Andrzejewski Memorial Award: Applications are invited for the 1998 Andrzejewski Award. A total amount of £2,500 will be available in 1998 for an award or awards in honour of the late Professor B.W. Andrzejewski, scholar and broadcaster. The objective of the award(s) is to encourage scholarship, study and understanding in the fields of Language, Literature, Education or Broadcasting, as they relate to the Horn of Africa. The award(s) may be used to support individual study or field work, for example on postgraduate courses or PhD research, or to assist the study, production or provision of materials which will support Language, Literature, Education or Broadcasting in the region. Application forms for the award may be obtained from: the Director, Africa Educational Trust, 38 King Street, London WC2E 8JS. Completed applications must be returned by 28 February 1998.

Bram Fischer Oxford South Africa Awards: Oxford University has launched an appeal to establish the Bram Fischer Oxford South Africa Awards, aimed at strengthening the management, teaching and research skills of those involved in South African higher education. The award is named in honour of the late Bram Fisher, former Rhodes Scholar, member of the South African Communist Party, and Nelson Mandela's defence lawyer. The target figure is £500,000, of which £100,000 had been raised by the end of 1997. Enquiries may be directed to Carol McCall, Oxford House, Magdalen St., OX1 3AB (tel: +44-(0)1865-278117; email: carol.mccall@devnsa.offices.ox.ac.uk).

Smuts Research Fellowship, Centre of African Studies, Cambridge: The Committee of Management of the Centre of African Studies invites applications for the Smuts Research Fellowship in African Studies tenable at the Centre for up to three years from 1st October 1998. The Fellowship is not renewable. The University follows an equal

opportunities policy. The appointment will be open to candidates in all the disciplines within the humanities and social sciences and, subject to the approval of the Committee of Management, the Fellow will be expected to pursue a programme of research relating to any of the countries of Africa, preferably members of the Commonwealth. This programme will involve residence in Cambridge, where the Fellow will be expected to participate in the activities of the Centre, and periods of research in Africa. The person appointed will usually be expected either to have obtained a PhD (or equivalent) within the past five years, or to have submitted a doctoral dissertation by the time the appointment takes place. Some candidates will be invited to submit a substantial piece of written work prior to an interview shortlist being drawn up. The scale of the stipend is £15,159-£21,016 (age related). Applications, including a curriculum vitae, the names and addresses of three referees and a description of the research proposal, of not more than 1,500 words, should be sent to The Director, African Studies Centre, Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RQ, UK by 6th March 1998. The appointment will be made in early May.

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.