



NEWSLETTER

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Comment and Opinion

Higher Education in Africa and the Report of the Commission for Africa

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and a Vice-Chairman of the Royal African Society.*

In the Commission for Africa report, *Our Common Interest*, the headline recommendations are about trade, aid and debt. But it also puts the spotlight on Africa's crumbling universities. Whatever specific policies and development plans for Africa emerge from the report, implementation will be left to Africa's university graduates. It is they who have the task of making Africa grow and develop. It is the universities and polytechnics of Africa which will produce the pharmacists to run the pharmacies, the engineers to staff the industries and the teachers to run the schools. The last decade has seen DFID and other donors target development effort on primary education leaving to fend for itself the sector that must produce trained men and women. A better balance is now returning and attention will refocus on the tertiary sector. It is time for the UK to reassess its role in supporting higher education in Africa.

The Commission report recommends a commitment of US\$500 per year for investment in tertiary education in Africa over ten years, but it is not simply a question of money. Engagement must be far deeper than that. The continent is littered with 3/4/5 year aid projects that ran out after the money dried up, workers gone, and the local community unable or unwilling to carry the costs. Many universities in Africa are in a dire state of disrepair. Libraries are bare, laboratories are obsolete or broken, the best teachers and researchers have looked at their salaries and their working conditions and have long since left for the private sector or abroad, class numbers are in the hundreds, younger academics cannot get beyond a Masters degree, and university administrations are in despair over their deficits and their inability to invest. On a recent visit to a number of northern Nigerian universities I was assailed by the enormity of the

problem of run-down facilities and astonished at the fortitude of the staff who manage to keep things working (colleagues at Ahmadu Bello University estimated that 60-70% of the best brains had left the universities in the last decade). This rather bleak characterisation does not run for all universities by any means: Makerere in Uganda has been on the mend over the last 20 years; Ghana's Legon survives and flourishes; the impoverishment of Nigerian universities has affected Ibadan and Lagos less than others; the University of Botswana has excellent resources; and a number of francophone African universities continue to function well. Reform in South African universities has produced amalgamations on which the jury is perhaps still out. Nevertheless, flagship universities such as Cape Town and Wits are attracting more and more students and staff from across Africa. But all of these institutions need more support if they are to realise their full potential as engines of development.

So what is needed? Most African universities know perfectly well the reforms that are necessary and the investment that is required. Part of the answer is political will and part is substantial investment in infrastructure and staff. No doubt donor and national governments will tie funding to reform and they may be right to do so. Some look to the return of the brains that drained away, and incentives to bring back lost expertise into African universities will no doubt have a place. But many people have now made their lives and careers outside Africa and would not wish to return. Ironically, the loss of their professional skills would also damage the health care systems or education systems of their adopted countries. Nevertheless, organisations of expatriate Africans support their universities back home. Ghanaian academics, for example, and Nigerian doctors working outside Africa help their countries' universities and health systems in several ways by sending money and materials and making links between institutions in Africa and their adopted countries. A number of international, mostly US, foundations – Macarthur, Ford, Rockefeller and Carnegie – have examined in detail the needs of a number of African universities and supported the establishment of IT systems, research infrastructure, staff training, among other things. The Association of African Universities representing African Vice-Chancellors, and its sister organisation, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, articulate the needs of African universities and the Commission Report endorses their nine-point programme entitled 'Renewing the African University'. In great part it is likely that African universities will want to reinforce their intra-African links to strengthen cooperative relationships within, for example, the southern African region, or within the ECOWAS community (which currently has no chapter on educational cooperation). But there will be a role for the reconstruction and strengthening of North-South links, links with universities in the UK and in the EU more broadly. The close links involving the movement of staff and students between, for example, the University of London, and its constituent colleges of Ibadan and Makerere of forty years ago, have long since been dismantled. The prospect of large numbers of junior staff doing Masters and Doctoral training in

UK universities was dealt a hammer blow by the hike in overseas fees combined with the devaluation of African currencies through the 1970s and 1980s. £9,000 a year in fees for a Nigerian student is two-and-a-quarter million Naira at today's exchange rate – an impossible dream in a country where the average per capita income is less than one tenth of that sum. While the internet and e-learning mean that resources can be available to a Ghanaian academic at home as never before, nevertheless, any move to participate in the global networks of scholarship and up-to-date research will require visits to libraries and colleagues in the North, as also scholars in the North will benefit from collaboration with colleagues in African universities. In recent visits to universities in Nigeria, South Africa, Botswana and the Gambia it was made abundantly clear to me that there are urgent training needs for the new generation of staff in African universities that must involve access to libraries, supervision, advice, participation in conferences, and incorporation into ongoing cooperative networks of like-minded scholars.

So what can we in the UK do when it comes to working out in practice what the broad policy statements mean for this university or that, this country or that, this subject or that – chemistry, medicine, engineering, linguistics, political science or any other? Clearly we must have a mechanism first for hearing what African universities are saying is needed. We also need a mechanism for coordinating a response. While universities in the UK are in intense competition with each other for overseas students there is a disincentive to collaborate. Nevertheless, from the perspective of the network of 600 Africanist academics represented in the African Studies Association of the UK (ASAUK) and its sister organisation, the Royal African Society (RAS), it is apparent that collaboration is essential.

We know that DFID funds research in the UK and in African universities linked to development projects; the British Council finances exchanges and links between UK and African universities, as does, separately, the FCO through Chevening Scholarships. We know that the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission responds to African Vice-Chancellors and their requests to support staff they have selected. We are aware that a number of Centres of African Studies – Edinburgh, Birmingham, Oxford, Cambridge and London – have small amounts of money that they make go a long way in supporting visits by African academics to UK universities, and we know that they are linked into their European equivalents through the AEGIS network of European Centres of African Studies. A number of UK universities are looking to make more flexible their degree formats to reduce the cost of training in the UK for younger African academics. But the UK-Africa element of any programme to support the rehabilitation of African universities will need to move away from these somewhat piecemeal efforts into a more coordinated and sustained effort. The important response to the Commission for Africa consultation document from the Royal African Society drew attention to the schemes run by the Norwegian and Swedish governments as models for assistance to African universities. Members of the African Studies

Association of the UK work closely with individuals and groups in their equivalent departments in African universities, they are aware of the particularities of those departments, those universities, those countries, and it is those particularities that any new effort has to take into account.

It is time for a discussion, before implementation plans get set in stone, between the institutional stakeholders, the British Council, Universities UK, the Association of Commonwealth Universities, among others, and the academics who work closely with colleagues in African universities, in the Centres of African Studies, the ASAUK/RAS, the AEGIS network, the Africa-related programmes of the Research Councils, to work out how best to respond to expressed wishes of African universities, coming from their departments, faculties and vice-chancellors, and how best to match those individual needs to provision that can be organised here in the UK and in Europe more widely.

If the outcome of our combined efforts over a ten or twenty year period were to be a real reinforcement of 'human capital' in Africa then their success as people will also be dependent upon all the other dimensions of successful development. The production of people with skills has to move in parallel with the provision of the tools they need to do the job. As a spanking new hospital without the right quantity and quality of staff can be a white elephant of massive proportions, so also the trained pharmacist in the town clinic needs to have the tools to do the job – an income that is sufficient to live, uninterrupted electricity to keep the vaccines safe in the fridge, clean water in the taps, and drugs to dispense that are not counterfeit chalk tablets. And pharmacy has to be a viable business in a thriving economy, and one which is not subject to the devastation of war or the debilitation of corruption. The Report of the Commission strikes a note of optimism and hope in its attitude to Africa and its prospects. The task will be to work together to make a reality out of that prospect.

Conferences Future...

Tell the Conference Organizers that you saw their meeting in the ASAUK newsletter. Organizers are invited to keep the Newsletter up-to-date with any changes or additions to earlier notices.

UNITED KINGDOM

Rethinking Education, Skills and Work in Africa: towards informal or knowledge economies? Towards autonomy or dependency in development? Centre of African Studies Annual International Conference, Old College, University of Edinburgh, 27-28 April 2005. Education and human development – both for poverty reduction and growth – are expected to be central to several international debates in and on Africa in 2005, associated with the Commission for Africa, Britain's EU and G8 presidency, and the Millennium Summit. The Edinburgh Conference will discuss: The Sustainability of the Millennium

Development process in Education; After Education for All – What? Post-basic education and training for poverty reduction and for knowledge development; Aid for greater autonomy in the education and training sectors; New conceptual approaches to integrating education, skills and work in urban and rural Africa. Contact: Pravina King, Centre of African Studies, 21 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD. Tel: 0131-650-3878; Email: P.King@ed.ac.uk

Zimbabwe, Africa and the World, St. Antony's College, Oxford, 11 June 2005 will discuss whether Zimbabwe still has a positive role to play in Africa and the wider world. With so much international pressure on Zimbabwe, and so much defiance coming from its ZANU-PF Government, can there be a future of cooperation and Zimbabwean influence once again? What, in particular, is the current role of Zimbabwean foreign policy? What is Zimbabwe's position in international law? To what extent is the Zimbabwean diaspora in Britain dealing with infection from HIV? Can Zimbabwean writers speak to the world from Zimbabwe? These and related questions will be discussed by a range of experts, representing Zimbabweanists and a cross-section of Zimbabweans themselves, representing all genders, ages, and race groups. Contact Ranka Primorac: rankaprimorac@aol.com

15th Anniversary Conference of Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA), 29 September 2005. Contact Kees Maxey: Kees.maxey@geo2.poptel.org.uk

INTERNATIONAL

'Bridging the gap between policy, research and intervention', 3rd Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA) African Conference, Dakar, Senegal, 10-14 October 2005. SAHARA is an alliance of partners established to conduct, support and use social sciences research to prevent further spread of HIV and mitigate the impact of its devastation on South Africa, the SADC region and sub-Saharan Africa. SAHARA is a vehicle for facilitating the sharing of research expertise, sharing knowledge, conducting multi-site and multi-country research projects that are exploratory, cross-sectional, comparative or intervention-based with the explicit aim of generating new social science evidence for prevention, care and impact mitigation of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on individuals, families and communities. The conference is expected to be all embracing of all institutions, networks and alliances. The Conference should be of specific interest to researchers and policymakers who are interested in the following themes: Guidelines on how to submit your abstract by 15 May 2005 at the Conference website: www.sahara.org.za/conference/submission.php

'Language, Culture and Globalization', Association for Promoting Nigerian Languages and Culture. Owerri, Nigeria, 21-24 November 2005. Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 20 October 2005. Website: <http://www.apnilac.4t.com> Contact: Anopue Calistus Cussons: callycussons@yahoo.com

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

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

Dela Adadevoh (2005) 'Approaches to Christianisation among the Ewe People of Ghana', Ph.D thesis, Oxford Centre for Mission Studies/University of Leeds.

Keith Michael Borien (2004) 'Education in Transition: From Policy to Practice in Post-apartheid South Africa, 1994-1999', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Colin Brock. Please note that it is closed until 20 January 2010.

Ebrima J. Ceesay (2004) "'Democratisation" Under the Military and Quasi-Military Regimes in The Gambia: 1994-2003', Ph.D thesis, University of Birmingham.

Elizabeth Daley (2004) 'Land Tenure and Social Change in Tanzania: A Study of Kinyanambo Village, Mufindi District', Ph.D thesis, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Supervisors: Professor Henry Bernstein and Dr Deniz Kandiyoti.

Jonathan N. C. Hill (2004) 'Identity and Crisis in Algeria: A Postcolonial Critique of the Failed State Thesis', Ph.D thesis, Department of International Politics, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. Supervisors: Dr Rita Abrahamsen and Dr Peter Jackson. External Examiner: Professor Tunde Zack-Williams.

Janvier Désiré Nkurunziza (2004) 'The Effect of Credit on Firm Growth and Survival in Kenyan Manufacturing', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Marcel Fafchamps.

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).

Gareth Austin (2005) *Labour, Land and Capital in Ghana: From Slavery to Free Labour in Asante, 1807-1956*. Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press/Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell and Brewer. 616 pages. ISBN: 1-580461-61-1 (hardback only). \$75 from URP/£50 from Boydell & Brewer.

Abdul Samed Bemath (2005) *The Mazruina Collection Revisited. Ali A. Mazrui Debating the African Condition. An Annotated and Select Bibliography, 1962-2003*. Revised and Enlarged Edition. New Delhi: New Dawn/Pretoria: Africa Institute of South Africa. 426 pages. ISBN: 1-932705-37-6 (hardback) £24.99 from Sterling Distributors. 2 Tintern Close, Slough, Berkshire, SL1-2TB; Phone: 01753-820091. sterlingdis@yahoo.co.uk

Ben Knighton (2005) *The Vitality of Karamojong Religion: Dying Tradition or Living Faith?* Aldershot: Ashgate. 406 pages. ISBN: 0-7546-0383-0; £47.50 (hardback).

Alex Thomson (2004) *An Introduction to African Politics*. London: Routledge, second edition. 304pp. ISBN: 0-4152-8261-6 (hardback, £65); ISBN: 0-452-8264-4 (paperback, £17.99).

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Dr James Smith recently took up the first full-time lectureship in African Studies at the Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh. With a doctorate in Geography from University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, in 2001, Dr Smith's main research interests are food security, agrarian transformation, science and technology management, globalisation and governance, and development theories. He has advised NEPAD Science and Technology Secretariat, Oxfam, and the UK and Canadian governments on a range of development issues.

Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecturer

The Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecture will be given at 18.15 on Saturday 2 July in the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre at SOAS. The lecture will be given by Joyce Nyairo, Lecturer in the Department of Literature department at Moi University, Kenya. She has just completed her PhD on 'Reading the Referents': (Inter)textuality in Contemporary Kenyan Popular Music at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. She has also been chosen as one of three Cadbury fellows working at the Centre of West African Studies, Birmingham, on the subject of 'Ethnic nationalism and cultural critique' from March to May 2005.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Audrey Richards Prize

Dr Joost Fontein, who recently completed his Ph.D at the University of Edinburgh, Centre of African Studies, has been awarded the prestigious Audrey Richards Prize for the best thesis on Africa. This prize is awarded every two years by the Association of African Studies in the UK; 12 theses were submitted for consideration. Joost took the prize for his thesis, "The Silence of Great Zimbabwe: Contested Landscapes and the Power of Heritage" supervised by Dr Jeanne Cannizzo and Paul Nugent. Joost is currently a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Edinburgh.

Co-equal second were Mattia Fumanti, supervised by Dick Werbner at Manchester University, thesis entitled 'Youth, Elites and Distinction in a Northern Nambian town', and Rebekah Lee, supervised by William Beinart at St Antony's College, Oxford, thesis 'Locating Home: Strategies of Settlement, identity Formation and Social Change Among African Women in Cape Town 1948- 2000'.

British Academy/ACU Grants for International Collaboration 2005/06

The Association of Commonwealth Universities is pleased to announce the continued availability of funding to help support international joint projects in the fields of the humanities and the social sciences. Funds are available to support international joint projects, involving British scholars in collaboration with Commonwealth partners. Applications must be for projects involving genuine collaborative work between a defined group of scholars in one, or possibly two, other Commonwealth countries. Priority will be given to applications involving the initiation of a new programme where there is an expectation of continued collaboration, or a defined outcome such as planned joint publications. Preferences will be given to projects from any discipline which considers the political, economic or cultural relations between countries or regions of the world.

Grants are available for advanced research, at Postdoctoral or equivalent level or beyond in the fields of the humanities and social science. Participants must be on the staff of a university in membership to the ACU at the time of application. Tenable for one year, they are valued up to £5,000, and intended to cover travel, maintenance costs and approved research expenditure incurred in the partner country or countries. Applications should reach the Association no later than 30 September 2005. For a downloadable application form and further grant details please go to www.acu.ac.uk Go to 'funding your studies or work abroad', then select 'other awards administered by the ACU'.

British Institute in Eastern Africa Research Grants, 2005-06

The Institute awards at its absolute discretion grants to assist scholars undertaking original research in Eastern Africa broadly defined, in any field of the humanities and social sciences with some emphasis on archaeology, African history, anthropology and related subjects. Grants are normally awarded as contributions towards actual research costs and do not include institutional overheads or any stipendiary element for applicants. The maximum sum awarded is £1,000 or its equivalent in local currency. Subject to availability of funds, over the year (2005-06) the Institute intends to give priority to research in relevant fields which focuses on at least one of the following themes: Histories of Environmental Change; Colonial Encounters; Sacred Space in Eastern Africa; Maritime Heritage of the Western Indian Ocean; or Migrations in Cultural and Historical Perspective.

There are two closing dates, and applications for Research Grants must reach the Director by 30th May or 31st October. It is the applicant's responsibility to send a copy of his/her application to the nominated referee and to ensure that references are received by the Director before the relevant closing date. Applicants will normally be informed of the results of their applications within one month of the closing date. Copies of the application form can be obtained from the Director: pjlane@africaonline.co.ke or from the London Secretary, BIEA, 10 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH, e-mail: biea@britac.ac.uk

Centre of African Studies, University of Cambridge: African Studies Visiting Research Fellowships Scheme, October 2006–March 2007

With the generous assistance of the Ford Foundation, Isaac Newton Trust, Smuts Memorial Fund and A. G. Leventis Foundation, the Centre of African Studies is pleased to announce a Visiting Research Fellowships Scheme to be held at the University of Cambridge. Visiting Research Fellowships will take effect from October 2006, one of which will be entitled 'Smuts Visiting Research Fellowship in African Studies'. Fellows will be affiliated to various Colleges in Cambridge. Each award is worth a total of £10,000, out of which travel, accommodation, maintenance costs and medical insurance will be paid by the Centre on behalf of the fellow. The maximum duration of a Fellowship is six months and is non-renewable. The Fellowships for October 2006 will be centred on the theme of Africa and the Atlantic World, 1500 to the present.

Applications are invited from all disciplines and are open to scholars and others in academia, research institutes, NGOs, museums and libraries. Preference will be given to candidates with a distinguished research profile who are permanent residents in Africa and who have active research interests in the areas advertised for the Fellowships. Applicants from non-English speaking African countries are also encouraged, provided candidates can demonstrate a competent grasp of English. It is expected that applicants would be intending to come to Cambridge to work on a project, building on existing research for which a period of residence in Cambridge is demonstrably appropriate, although the initiation of a new piece of work will not be ruled out where there is a realistic expectation that it could be substantially advanced by the end of the tenure of the Fellowship. Applications and references to the Centre of African Studies, Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RQ by 1 October 2005. Neither applications nor references should be sent via email and should make arrangements accordingly.

Smuts Visiting Fellowship in Commonwealth Studies, University of Cambridge, 2006-07

Applications are invited for one or two Smuts Visiting Fellowships in Commonwealth Studies in association with a Visiting Fellowship at Wolfson College to be held during the academic year 2006/2007. Fellowships are available for research in the field of Commonwealth Studies, including the Commonwealth related aspects of archaeology, anthropology, economics, history, human geography, law, literature, oriental studies, sociology, politics and social psychology. The Fellowship is up to nine months, beginning in October 2006, but the Managers would be willing to consider applications requiring less time in Cambridge. Fellows are expected to advance Commonwealth Studies in Cambridge mainly by pursuing research, but also by taking part in seminars and similar activities within the University.

Fellows will receive a contribution towards their expenses of £20,000 for a nine month stay. This sum may be reduced to the extent that the Fellow receives income from another source or if the duration of the Fellowship is less than nine months. A further sum of up to £5,000 is available towards travel and related costs for a nine month stay. Neither sum is subject to tax in the UK. Applicants should be members of staff of another University or similar institution outside the UK. They should hold a Ph.D. or, if not, be working at a post-doctoral level. Application packs from the Secretary, Smuts Memorial Fund, 4 Mill Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1RZ, or send an email: kfw20@admin.cam.ac.uk The closing date for completed applications and references to be received in Cambridge is 28 August 2005.

Obituaries

Professor Kenneth Robinson, CBE, who died in London on 18 January 2005, worked for the British Colonial Office on graduating in both PPE and History at Oxford University. Upon the outbreak of the Second World War he was posted briefly to West Africa where friendship with the French administrator Paul Marc Henry began a lifetime's interest in the history and politics of French-speaking West African and other colonies and overseas departments, an interest which continued when he responded to Margery Perham's suggestion that he return to Oxford University shortly after the war to work at Nuffield College. Oxford at this time, Kenneth later remembered as being largely unaware of how short a future any of the surviving European empires in Africa would be likely to enjoy. The anti-French sentiment which he also found to be widespread there at the time, he considered subsequently to have been a response, not so much to the Vichy government's collaboration with Hitler as to continuing sympathy among older dons for pre-Hitler Germany's sufferings during the French occupation after the First World War.

In 1957, Kenneth Robinson left Oxford for London University to become Director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Continuing his interests there in both French-speaking Africa and in the British-administered colonies, trusteeship territories and protectorates, he published *The Dilemmas of Trusteeship*, co-founded the *Journal of Commonwealth Political Studies* with Bruce Miller of Leicester University, and attracted African specialists to run seminars and research programmes at ICS who included such scholars as Dennis Austin, Ken Post, Shula Marks and Stanley Trapido, to mention only the most distinguished of them. Later, Kenneth would leave to become Vice-Chancellor of Hong Kong University, before handing over to a Chinese successor seven years later and retiring to London and Oxfordshire where he would devote his remaining years to reading, gardening, and supporting an enormous number of voluntary agencies concerned with the Commonwealth in general and with Africa in particular. Among these bodies both ASAUK and the Royal African Society

benefited from his advice and support. He became a member of council and exco of the Royal African Society in 1984, vice-president in 1987, and president from 1989 to 1996. During this time, Kenneth Robinson did much to encourage and strengthen ties between ASAUK and the RAS. He was a great enthusiast for African research, an enormous encourager of other scholars, and a fine friend.

His wife Stephanie, whom he married in 1938, died in 1994 and his son Julian also predeceased him by several years. His daughter Miranda survives him and, together with other relatives and friends, hopes to arrange a memorial meeting later in 2005.

Professor Ruth Margaret 'Kay' Williamson died in Brazil on 3 January 2005. Born in January 1935 in Hereford, Kay went to Oxford in 1953, where she took a B.A. in English. After Oxford, she went to Nigeria on a Leverhulme Research Scholarship, where she began research on the Ijò language cluster and later became an Assistant Lecturer in Phonetics at the University of Ibadan. She later studied linguistics at Yale University, where she received her Ph.D. in 1964. After further research on Ijò with a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, she then taught linguistics at Ibadan, where she became a Professor in 1972. In 1977, she moved to the University of Port Harcourt, where she taught Linguistics and Nigerian Languages until she retired in 2000. She held the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Heritage at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria until her death.

With Nigerian colleagues she initiated the Rivers Readers Project, which encouraged students to study their own languages, to develop orthographies and reading materials. Through the Rivers Readers Project, primary school books have been published in all the languages of Rivers State. She is a founding member and has been a council member of the West African Linguistics Society and the Linguistic Association of Nigeria. Kay Williamson is a specialist in Nigerian languages and comparative Niger-Congo. She published on Ijò, Igbo, various other languages of the Niger Delta, and on the classification of Benue-Congo and Niger-Congo. She has left behind very substantial manuscripts on the Ijò and Igbo languages; it is hoped that these can be published in due course. Kay was an eminent linguist: her two greatest contributions are in comparative West African linguistics and in local language development. This was very influential both for the products developed, and for the awareness and legitimacy it gave to many local languages. She inspired and taught whole generations of students to become linguists like herself: competent, kind and applying her skills to help new generations to a better image of themselves, their family, people and nation. One impressive testimony to this were the two Festschrifts prepared for her by her Nigerian colleagues, the latest one in 2003.

Dr Peter Kellett Mitchell died suddenly 7 March 2005, aged 72. A former Senior Lecturer at the Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham, he is survived by his wife Phyl and children Tim, Jon and Alison. A full obituary will appear in the next newsletter.

Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports (of around 200-300 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. **Please do not send review copies of books.**

All items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* should be sent to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, Plan International, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK (fax: +44(0) 1483-756505; email: simon.heap@plan-international.org). **Deadlines are 15 June (for July Newsletter), 15 September** (for October), *15 December* (for January) and *15 March* (for April). 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.

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