



NEWSLETTER

Volume 10 Number 38

January 2005

Minutes of the Forty-first Annual General Meeting of the ASAUK, 13 September 2004, held at Goldsmith College, University of London.

Present

Nici Nelson, Graham Furniss, James Currey, Robin Law, Douglas Johnson, Richard Hodder-Williams, Insa Nolte, Kaye Whiteman, Deryke Belshaw, Jan Georg Deutsch, Gina Porter, Laars Burr, Elsbeth Court, Marion Wallace, Alfred Zack-Williams, Michael Twaddle, Ben Knighton, Mpalive Msiska, Martin Lynn, Graham Furniss, Peter Woodward, Deborah Gaitskell, Muzong W. Kodi, Aidan Southall, John Owen, Martin Hill.

1. APOLOGIES

Hakim Adi, Tim Allen, Joan Kenworthy, Brian Marsh, David Maxwell, Alistair Niven, Dimitri van den Bersselaar.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes accepted without any amendments.

3. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

4. REPORT BY THE HONORARY SECRETARY

(i) Summary of the Year

It is time for another biennial conference as well as a year since our interim conference, *Africa: Partnership as Imperialism?*, co-hosted by the *Review of African Political Economy* and the Centre of West African Studies, (CWAS) at the University of Birmingham. In May, the Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecture entitled, *Confronting Africa's Development Challenges in the New Millennium: Are We Making Progress?*, was delivered by Dr Kwesi Botchwey, former Finance Minister of the Republic of Ghana.

(ii) Conferences and Symposia

Council continued to work with funding bodies such as the AHRB, the ESRC, and SCOLMA to promote African Studies throughout the United Kingdom. We are grateful to the Royal African Society (RAS) for agreeing to continue funding

for general conference activities, which has enabled the participation of members from Africa. There were a number of conferences, symposia, colloquia and workshops held throughout the year, which were supported by the association:

The Letters Home Festival. Exiles and Émigrés: South Africans Writing Abroad (Cambridge, 5-6 March);

Growth, Poverty Reduction and Human Development in Africa (Oxford, 21-22 March);

States, Borders and Nations: Negotiating Citizenship in Africa (Edinburgh, 19-20 May); and,

The Political Economy of Kenya: Past & Present, (Oxford, 27-28 May).

The Newsletter continues to grow in stature as an important medium for reaching members and others interested in African affairs. Members are encouraged to pass on news of promotion and appointments, publications, conferences, symposia, workshops, visiting scholars, fellowships, dissertation completions and any news items worthy of academic hearing to the editor. Each issue of *African Affairs* now carries an issue of the *Newsletter*. Douglas Johnson, the editor has signalled his intention to resign from the editorship and the new editor, Simon Heap, will takeover after the AGM. All items for the *Newsletter* should be sent to him at Editor, *ASAUK Newsletter*, Plan International, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK; email: simon.heap@plan-international.org. Council would like to thank Douglas for the sterling work he has done in instituting the Newsletter and establishing it as a major organ of communication among members. The Website is now up and running and members are urged to visit it: www.asauk.net. Council is grateful to Insa Nolte for her effort in operating the website. Lindsay Allan in the ASAUK/RAS office now maintains the ASAUK e-mail list and it provides a convenient, fast and cheap means of communicating with the bulk of the membership. Members who change their e-mail addresses or who have not yet given us their email are urged to pass them on to Lindsay.

(iii) Membership

	2002	2003	2004
ASAUK Members (UK)	36	36	35
ASAUK Members Overseas	8	6	6
Joint Members (UK)	339	380	394
Joint Members (Overseas)	79	76	80
Student Members (Joint UK)	36	54	59
Students Members (Joint Overseas)	15	14	12
Honorary Life Members (UK)	4	4	3
Corporate Members (UK)	0	0	0
Corporate Members (Overseas)	1	1	1
Associate Members	7	7	7
Total	525	578	597

This year membership has gone up by 19.

(iv) Council for the year 2003-04

Officers

President	Dr Nici Nelson
Vice President	Professor Graham Furniss
Honorary Secretary	Professor Alfred B. Zack-Williams
Honorary Treasurer	Professor Richard Hodder-Williams

Council Members

Retiring 2004	Dr Mario Aguilar, Dr Angela Browne, Dr Insa Nolte, Dr Gina Porter, Dr Mel McNulty.
Retiring 2005	Dr Martin Hill, Dr David Maxwell, Dr Helen Thomas, Dr Ola Uduku.
Retiring 2006	Dr Giles Mohan, Dr Dmitri van den Bersselaar, Dr Hakim Adi, Dr Rita Abrahamsen, Dr Mark Leopold.

(v) Administration

Council would once again like to convey its sincere gratitude to Lindsay for the wonderful work she continues to do on our behalf. The Association cherishes its close relationship with the Centre for African Studies University of London, Centre for African Studies, Edinburgh, Centre of West African Studies, Birmingham, and the various Centres and Units specialising in African Studies, such as Central Lancashire, Coventry, Leeds and Liverpool.

(vi) Relationships with Other Bodies

RAS: Relationship between the ASUK and the RAS continues to be mutually supportive, co-operative and cordial.

SCOLMA: The Standing Committee on Library Materials on Africa is now represented on Council by Dr Barbara Turfan.

Alfred Zack-Williams
Hon. Secretary

5. REPORT BY THE HONORARY TREASURER

This had been distributed prior to the meeting. The Honorary Treasurer registered his gratitude to the Royal African Society for funds provided for convening colloquia, as well as enabling the Association to bring scholars from Africa. He also drew attention to what superficially seems like a discrepancy between the increased membership and the decline in subscription. This is to be taken up with Lindsay Allan. The Treasurer also offered sincere thanks Lindsay, and following an enquiry he informed the AGM that indeed the Association pays for her services.

There was a question about the rate of interest currently obtained for the Association's deposit account. It was suggested that we could go for a higher rate of interest than the current three percent. However, the Treasurer pointed out that for a small increase in interest, we could easily be tied into severe restrictions on withdrawing funds as, and when, required. As such the usual practice is to go for the safest and easiest to access.

There was a brief discussion concerning the auditors. It was suggested that we do not need a large and expensive firm of auditors, as the fees for the current auditors appeared to be high. The Treasurer sought permission to speak to the RAS, in particular to see if we can do our auditing internally or to negotiate with them for cheaper auditors.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This was also distributed prior to the commencement of the meeting. Nici expressed gratitude to Goldsmiths College for hosting the conference and in particular to the Department of Anthropology for the sum of £1,000 donated to the Association. The President also expressed her sincere thanks to the outgoing executive, in particular to Graham Furniss for his sterling work on the Audrey Richards Prize for the best dissertation presented at a United Kingdom institution in the previous two years. Specific thanks also went to Lindsay Allan of the RAS; Insa Nolte for her work with ASAUK Website; Douglas Johnson retiring Editor of the *Newsletter*. A special thank you was extended to the RAS for financial support to enable the Association to undertake its functions.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

New Executive

President: Prof Graham Furniss (SOAS)

Vice-President: Prof Tunde Zack-Williams (Central Lancashire)

Hon Treasurer: Prof Richard Hodder-Williams (Bristol)

Hon Secretary: Dr Insa Nolte (CWAS, Birmingham)

New Members of Council

Roy May, (Politics, Coventry)

Elsbeth Court (Anthropology, SOAS)

JoAnn McGregor (Geography, Reading)

Sara Rich Dorman (Politics, Edinburgh)

Jan Georg Deutsch (History, Oxford)

Gina Porter (Anthropology, Durham)

8. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Following a suggestion for special rates for members resident in Africa a brief discussion ensued. The burden of £37 on African scholars was raised and a call for a much-reduced rate was suggested. Though discussion with the RAS will be required, the President was seeking the approval of the AGM for this special rate.

There seemed to be a consensus for a new rate following discussion with the RAS.

There was also a call for special conference rate for retired members as the £160 was seen as prohibitive as institutional funding would have ended. The Treasurer warned that for this suggestion to make a difference there must be a significant drop in fees, which in turn was a slippery slope to bankruptcy for the Association. This motion was rejected, but other suggestions were discussed, including the day rate, which was to be given further consideration. The question of institutional funding was raised. There seems to be much variation among institutions and within Departments. These suggestions will be included in the Treasurer's discussion with the RAS.

9. ASAUK NEWSLETTER

Douglas drew the attention of the AGM that he was retiring as editor and that the new editor will be Simon Heap. Plea for those who want to get in touch with him for any items to be included in the *Newsletter* to do so now, as deadline was possibly the following week. Thanks was extended to the out-going editor by the President for a brilliant job done over several years in establishing the Newsletter as the major organ of communication among Africanists in Britain.

10. ASAUK WEBSITE

Insa Nolte called for support to make it a dynamic medium of communication. The address was given as: www.asauk.net

11. CUSA

No communication from CUSA.

12. UKCASA

Similarly, no communication with UKCASA, who has been talking about RAE preparation.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

One member congratulated the Executive for the theme of this year's conference. *Debating Africa*, a very inclusive theme, nonetheless, the problem of our inability to attract more than just a handful of natural scientists to the conference. On a positive note the member was pleased to see one Veterinarian and two physicians who attended this year's conference, though both of the latter were retirees. He implored the Executive to encourage younger health science people to join the association and to attend the conference. There was widespread support for this suggestion. There was also a call for development economists to be included in the Council membership.

The following people were nominated for the RAE Panel:

Professor Karin Barber (CWAS Birmingham)

Professor David Simon (Royal Holloway)

Dr Robin Law (Stirling)
Professor Peter Woodward (Reading)
Dr Mpalive Msiske (Birkbeck)
Professor Tunde Zack-Williams (University of Central Lancashire)

The sad news of the death of former President of the Association, Mr Douglas Rimmer was announced to members. Douglas was an economist of West Africa who taught for many years at Birmingham and was also one of the first recipients, of the Distinguished Africanist Award. Members paid tributes to Douglas who passed away the previous week. A minute silence was observed in his memory. May he rest in peace.

Conferences Future...

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

UNITED KINGDOM

Beyond the Imperial Centre and Colonial Periphery: Reconnecting the Global and the Local, World History Workshop, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), University of Cambridge, 11-12 March 2005. This interdisciplinary postgraduate/post-doctorate conference seeks to explore new ways of understanding the global movement of ideas and information. Moving beyond the problematic ideas of the 'centre' and 'periphery' which have dominated the recent historiography of the extra-European world, it will explore conversations between colonisers and colonised, and between Atlantic, African and Asian colonial spheres. As well as questioning current conceptions of the geography of knowledge, it is hoped that the conference will present work challenging conventional chronological divisions between the colonial and the post-colonial. Particular focuses will be on the limits of imperial reach, 'trans-imperial' ideas, bridging the colonial and the post-colonial, science and medicine and modernity and knowledge. For more information contact Rachel Berger: rb305@cam.ac.uk or Michael Lewis: mhl24@cam.ac.uk

Recent Research on African Archaeology in Britain and Ireland, Bi-Annual Day Meeting, St Anselm Hall, Manchester University, 9 April 2005. Papers on any aspect of African archaeology are welcome but must not exceed 15 minutes in length which will also allow an additional 5 minutes of questions per paper. Two parallel sessions will run if the numbers of papers justify this. A charge of £5 per delegate covers tea/coffee. This also entitles the delegate to attend the early evening wine reception hosted by the British Institute in Eastern Africa. Indicate if you will be attending/giving a paper by emailing Sarah Croucher sk_croucher@yahoo.co.uk, while cheques for £5 payable to 'Dr Timothy Insoll' should be sent to him at Archaeology, School of Arts, Histories and Cultures, Manchester University, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL.

INTERNATIONAL

Homegoings, Crossings, and Passings: Life and Death in the African Diaspora Conference, University Heights, Ohio, USA, 23 April 2005. For details, e-mail: african.diaspora@csuohio.edu

“Lusophonie” in Africa: History, Democracy and Integration, 28-30 April 2005, Luanda, Angola. The Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa, with the kind of relations that linked them to their former colonizer, have developed an identity that goes beyond the simple use of a common language; they have all been shaped by a long history of rapacious external exploitation and domination. The slave trade, colonial domination, the fascist administration, a system of economic pillage and an aggressive assimilation policy are some of the salient features of the “Lusophonie” in Africa. These experiences have all fed into the contemporary modes of expression that have been forged by the peoples of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome. Abstracts and proposals by 15 January 2005 to: lusophonafrica@codesria.sn Website: www.codesria.org

Security for Africa: External and Internal Aspects, 10th Conference of Africanists, Moscow, 24-26 May 2005. Organised by the Academic Council on Problems of African Countries and the Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, the conference covers such topics as Africa and Russia in contemporary system of international relations, the Cold War in Africa, and the international community and the anti-terrorism struggle in Africa. For details, e-mail: inter@inafr.ru and vladimir.shubin@inafr.ru

Southern Africa and the World: the Local, the Regional and the Global in Historical Perspective, The South African Historical Society Biennial conference, University of Cape Town, 26-29 June 2005. The Society, which may change its name to the Southern African Historical Society next year, wishes to highlight debates on such topics as liberation struggles and the limits of liberation, history and heritage, post-colonial and post-nationalist historiographies, and new methodologies for teaching and researching history in the 21st century, including the use of film and video and digitisation. Panel discussions are envisaged on the state of history in the different countries of the region, and how history teaching and research can be decolonised. Abstracts up to 250 words will be accepted on a space-available basis until 1 February 2005: sahs@humanities.uct.ac.za. For proposals for panels and roundtables include the names of participants, abstracts of their proposed contributions, their affiliations, email addresses and contact details. The possibility of subsidising postgraduate students presenting papers and organising accommodation in a university residence on campus for delegates is being considered. All papers presented at the conference will be considered for inclusion in the *South African Historical Journal*. Enquiries to the conference organiser, Brenda Beneke: bren@humanities.uct.ac.za; Fax: 27-21-689-7581.

Medicine and Health in the Tropics, Marseilles, France, 11-15 September 2005.
Submit abstracts through the website: www.iftm-pharo2005.org

Management of Lake Basins for their Sustainable Use: Global Experiences and African Issues, Nairobi, Kenya, 31 October 2005. E-mail the Conference Organizers: kenya2005@ilec.or.jp Website: www.ilec.or.jp/eg/wlc.html

African Astronomical History Symposium, Cape Town, 8-9 November 2005. As one of the events surrounding the dedication of the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT), the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa is organizing a symposium covering all aspects and periods of astronomy in Africa, including ancient Egyptian astronomy, archaeoastronomy and ethnoastronomy, medieval Islamic astronomy, European scientific expeditions, colonial astronomy, and modern astronomical and astrophysical research in Africa. Contact Dr Ian Glass: aahs@sao.ac.za Website: www.sao.ac.za/assa/aahs

...Conferences Past

Report on 'Debating Africa', 2004 ASAUK Biennial Conference, Goldsmiths College, London, 11-13 September 2004, by Dr Nici Nelson

As 2004 began, the second year in the Biennial Conference cycle gathered momentum. The then-President, Nici Nelson, the Council and the ASAUK office accepted volunteered papers, and panels, encouraged others to fill gaps, and applied for Grant money. When the programme was assembled in June and advertising went out, bookings starting coming in. Pat Jensen and Lindsay Allan in the RAS/ASAUK office, Agnes Kanya the Conference Administrator, and Nici Nelson went into 'conference-organising high gear' registering participants, taking payments, dealing with the expenses and arrangements of African scholars trying to get to the UK, persuading panel coordinators and paper givers to register for the Conference and reproducing conference papers.

In the week before the Conference there are always moments when it seems that nothing will come together and arrangements will not be completed in time. The team, assisted by Justin Woodman, spent frantic hours completing the spread sheets, negotiating with the Goldsmiths Conference office and Catering, moving furniture, clearing conference rooms, putting up signs, stuffing conference participant packs, helping the publishers get set up in the space assigned for their stands, tracking down lost consignments of books from publishers. Inevitably last minute emergencies crop up. This year it was the fact that the Commission for Africa, which was hosting a Round Table Discussion on how academics could be of assistance to the Commission, decided that it wished to also host a luncheon for all the African post-graduates attending the conference. That meant last minute room bookings, food orders and invitations to deal with.

But then the 13th arrived and miraculously, we were all at our posts. The publishers' stands were at the ready; registration and conference paper selling went like clockwork. After a good lunch, the participants found their way across Football field in the back to the difficult-to-find rooms (cunningly concealed behind the tennis courts!) and 'Debating Africa' was well and truly under way.

All told, things ran relatively smoothly and the three days saw an interesting and stimulating gathering of Africanists. With 35 panels on a diverse set of topics scheduled (minus 2 last minute cancellations) the 200 people who attended all or part of the conference were certainly spoiled for choice on what to attend. It was gratifying to note that ASAUK was able to assist the travel and attendance of 7 scholars from Africa, thanks to the generosity of the RAS Council, ASAUK Council, the Mary Zochonis Lecture award and the British Council. It was also good to see so many postgraduates attending (rough estimate is 21, plus half a dozen who came for one or two sessions). It would be nice in future to increase this number.

Monday evening saw a lively and challenging Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture by Dr Charles Ukeje from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. He spoke movingly about *A Farewell to Innocence: African Youths and the Challenges of the 21 Century*.

On Tuesday morning the Commission for Africa met with many of the participants for a roundtable discussion. Dr. John Lonsdale chaired it and a forceful and useful discussion took place [see below]. In the evening, at a reception hosted by the Anthropology Department of Goldsmiths and opened by the Acting Warden, Kay Staples, Distinguished Africanist Awards were presented to Professors Roland Oliver and Terry Ranger. The winners of the Audrey Richards Dissertation Prize were announced. The actual prizes and awards for those will be presented in May after the RAS AGM. The Conference Dinner was delicious and beautifully presented. Sadly, the only disappointment was that Chartwell Dutiro's mbira duo never arrived to play.

Wednesday morning saw the windup of the Conference with Nici Nelson's Presidential Address, 'Anthropology Debating Africa' the AGM and the Commission for Africa's lunch for African post-graduate students. With many enthusiastic goodbyes and purchases of sale items at the publisher's stands, the participants dispersed to their various destinations and another Biennial Conference was over.

Many thanks are due to everyone who worked so hard to bring all this about. from the Conference Office and Catering Office, to the helpers from Goldsmiths anthropology department, the team from the ASAUK office headed by Lindsay Allan, as well as the panel organisers and paper givers. See you all in 2006 at SOAS, University of London!

ASAUK Round Table Discussion on the Commission for Africa, Goldsmiths College, London, 14 September 2004.

John Lonsdale (Cambridge, in chair) welcomed the thirty members present, with two representatives of the Commission's secretariat (Clare Shakya & Rebecca Affolder), and read from the ASAUK Newsletter of July 2004 extracts from the Commission's terms of reference that stressed its desire to reinforce such existing initiatives as NEPAD, not to cut across them. He suggested policies that members might fantasise about, were the world other than what it is, e.g.:- a global ban on agricultural subsidies, a ban on foreign-owned fisheries in African territorial waters, the cancellation of African government-to-government debt, the placing of African oil and mineral extraction under a UN mandate, all with immediate effect – to be matched by: the phasing out of government-to-government aid over twenty years, UN tax-advisory commissions to African governments, the opening of all large Swiss bank accounts, international start-up aid to members of the African diaspora seeking to invest in enterprises at home (to stimulate the creation of African Bangalores). He asked whether the general aim should be to foster Weberian nation-states or a Nkrumahist all-African state.

More realistically, he suggested that as Africanists our main interest was to see that Africans engage with the world in all fields as equals, so that Africa was not seen merely as a 'security threat' to others. Schemes for improvement must fail without respect for local knowledge; 'trusteeship' was not enough. Historically, Universities had trained national elites able to communicate internationally. We might then focus on how the Commission could best help African universities. For instance, should the Commission aim to re-stock libraries or facilitate access to shared teaching programmes on the web? Could one envisage 'sandwich' graduate training, and if so to which African universities/departments would one willingly entrust one's own students? Was there a case for fostering a 'golden quadrangle' to train the future elites of the African Union, eg., al-Azhar, Dakar/Legon/Ibadan, a revived University of East Africa, and Wits? Or what?

Clare Shakya (Commission's Human Development Theme Manager) said the only theme they hoped not to hear about was 'trade & aid': they had already heard enough.

Deryck Belshaw (OCMS) said generalisations about Africa were not helpful; NEPAD centralised too much; one needed measures specific to each ecological zone.

Aidan Southall (ex-Makerere) followed up the 'local knowledge' theme by warning that key collections of Africana knowledge were being lost.

Kees Maxey also called for the strengthening of African intellectual capital, with international bodies being obliged to employ African, not external, consultants.

Douglas Johnson (James Currey publishers) reverted to the loss of local knowledge. National Archives were losing material needed for institutional memories; outsourcing of tasks to NGOs accentuated the 'memory problem'; UN

relief agencies should preserve and make accessible their records rather than dispose of them after each emergency was over.

Graham Furniss (SOAS: incoming ASAUK president) said that any data-retention schemes must be integrated with staff-development programmes, and the funding of associated Ph.D students. It was up to the ASAUK members to propose and engage in practical linkages of this sort.

Robin Law (Stirling) said the British Academy had appointed a working party under his chairmanship to examine such issues.

Ron Fennell (ex World Bank) supported these ideas. He had recently returned from Tanzania, where he had found it impossible gain access to household survey data held by government departments.

Rosalind Shaw (Tufts) said that in her experience sandwich courses had encouraged the brain drain. Tufts is now experimenting with co-ordinated courses on the web, with 'virtual seminars' shared between Tufts, Dar es Salaam, and Makerere.

James Currey noted that books available on a 'print on demand', demand-led, basis were making it possible for African publishers to reduce costs to African libraries. Appropriate licensing agreements would have to be negotiated.

Tunde Zack-Williams (Liverpool) said any schemes would fail if not supported by Weberian states in Africa. State institutions were a universal need, not a western peculiarity.

Tim Hunt (Coventry) instanced cases of practical assistance to African businesses in a programme he would forward to the Commission secretariat.

Wangui Ngoro (Goldsmiths) urged the need to organise the intellectual and financial capital that was found in the African diaspora, to support local initiatives in Africa.

Rita Abrahamsen (Aberystwyth) confessed it was difficult to know how to proceed beyond trusteeship. One could not build (or re-build) states. They grow, if they grow, over time. And Universities were, historically, centres of state-formation.

Ben Knighton (OCMS) followed up by stating the need to think beyond states and quoted Terence Ranger's view that change in Africa has been mediated through religious organisation. African studies should take more note. How could one ground change in existing African religious institutions? How could one employ all those involuntarily idle youths?

Deryck Belshaw agreed, but civil society could not be creative so long African states remained authoritarian, suppressing all other initiative.

Wangui Ng'oro urged the need to strengthen African cultural discourse through the encouragement of music and drama.

Clare Shakya agreed, and said a particular concern was how HIV/AIDS orphans could be socialised and inculturated.

Tunde Zack-Williams questioned how Africa's youth could culturally challenge their gerontocratic and feudal oppressors without the suppression of chiefship – a measure he would support.

Graham Furniss thought this too pessimistic. There was a massive cultural production in Hausa, widely available on tape and on video.

John Lonsdale thanked all contributors and concluded by recalling James C. Scott's recent book, *Seeing like a State*, on how schemes for human improvement were likely to fail when they neglected to take account of the local knowledge and cultures we had been talking about.

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Andrew William Hurst (2004) 'Not yet out of the woods: political ecology of state forest policy and practice in mainland Tanzania, 1961-1998', D.Phil., University of Oxford. Supervisors: Dr Patricia Daley and Professor William Beinart.

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).

Katherine Homewood (ed.) (2005) *Rural Resources & Local Livelihoods in Africa*. Oxford: James Currey. 224pp. ISBN 0-85255-916-X, £50.00 (cloth); 0-85255-915-1, £16.95 (paper).

Robin Law (2004) *Ouidah: The Social History of a West African Slaving 'Port' 1727-1892*. Oxford: James Currey. 320pp. ISBN 0-85255-498-2, £50.00 (cloth); 0-85255-497-4, £18.95 (paper).

Mark Leopold (2005) *Inside West Nile: Violence, History & Representation on an African Frontier*. Oxford: James Currey. 288pp. ISBN 0-85255-941-0, £45.00 (cloth); 0-85255-940-2, £16.95 (paper).

Paul Richards (ed.) (2005) *No Peace, No War: An Anthropology of Contemporary Armed Conflicts*. Oxford: James Currey. 224pp. ISBN 0-85255-936-4, £45.00 (cloth); 0-85255-935-6, £16.95 (paper).

Frank Willett (2004) *The Art of Ife: A Descriptive Catalogue and Database*. Glasgow: the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery, University of Glasgow. At a third-of-a-million words and 2,200 plates, it is published as a CD-Rom. Can be ordered for £25 from the museum website, where more information can be found: www.hunterian.gla.ac.uk/artofife/index.shtml.

Selena Axelrod Winsnes (2004) *A Danish Jew in West Africa: Wulff Joseph Wulff, Biography and Letters 1836-1842*. Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NTNU, 217 pp., ISBN 82-7765-049-3; maps, colour plates, index. (Paper) NOK 225, incl. P&P. Available from Dept. of History, NTNU, Trondheim, Norway; swinsnes@c2i.net

Using Google for African Studies Research: A Guide to Effective Web Searching. A pilot edition of this guide is now freely accessible at www.hanszell.co.uk/google. It is published as an adjunct to the new third edition of **The African Studies Companion: A Guide to Information Sources** (online at www.africanstudiescompanion.com) although it can also be used on its own. Preceded by an examination of Google's extraordinary growth and popularity – and looking at issues such as its page-ranking methods and privacy concerns – the guide is designed to help the user get the most out of Google's Web searching techniques, and at the same time provides a critical evaluation of Google's many Web search features, services and tools. The guide is liberally interspersed with examples of searches and search strategies relating to Africa or African studies topics. Hans Zell welcomes feedback on the Guide, especially from Africana and reference librarians and from African studies scholars: Hans Zell Publishing, Glais Bheinn Lochcarron, Ross-shire, IV54 8YB; hanszell@hanszell.co.uk; tel: 01520-722951; fax: 01520-722953.

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Native Voice Films wins prestigious Rory Peck International Impact Award, 2004

Phil Cox of Native Voice Films was the independent film-maker who was the first to begin reporting about Darfur on British TV. He did two reports for Channel 4. The one broadcast in March, for which he got his award, documented the co-ordination between the Sudanese army and their air force colleagues in attacking civilian villages in Darfur.

Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society

Academic writing is an under-remunerated exercise, on that we can all agree. But did you know that you may be entitled to payment for any of your articles or books that are photocopied or scanned? With the increased use of 'course packs' for teaching, as well as the posting of material on the Internet, this is potentially a regular source of income – if you know how to collect it. The Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society Ltd (ALCS) is the UK rights management society for all writers. Its principal business is to collect and distribute fees to writers whose work have been copied, broadcast or recorded. It also collects monies for lending and rental. It has distributed over £79 million in fees to authors since its inception in 1977. In order to receive money collected on your reproduced articles, chapters or excerpts from your books you must be a member of the ALCS. Full membership costs £10 annually. Associate membership is free, but a 3% handling charge as well as a commission fee will be levied by the society on fees collected for associate members. To find out more about the society, and to download a membership form: www.alcs.co.uk

Obituaries

Douglas Rimmer (1927-2004) was a leading light in the affairs of the Royal African Society for twenty years. He became an RAS Council Member in 1983, Vice-Chairman in 1985, President from 1986 to 1988 and an Honorary Vice-President from 2001. He organized two very successful conferences for the RAS, one at Cambridge (1991) on the record of, and outlook for, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the other at Oxford (1993) on governance, business and aid in the continent. His contribution was recognized in 2001 when he became one of the first three recipients of the RAS's Distinguished Africanist Award.

Douglas began as a student of economics and history. He remained one throughout a most productive and distinguished writing career in African Studies. In that career his deep understanding of economics informed his history, and his acute historical sense tempered his economics. Douglas was, then, a political economist in that humane tradition that stretches from Adam Smith to Joseph Stiglitz. He was conservative by instinct, in the Thucydidean sense that man – that fallen creature – was endlessly prone to those errors that required the corrective restraint of rational political and economic structures. Thus, his writings on the postcolonial African state were astringently free from cant and fashionable nostrums, and while they were often pessimistic documents reflecting pessimistic times they were also informed by a deep empathy with those who suffered the shortcomings of such states and the impositions of their power.

Douglas first taught at the University College of the Gold Coast (now the University of Ghana at Legon) and he maintained a lifetime interest in Africa's earliest postcolonial state. His *Staying Poor: Ghana's Political Economy 1950-1990* (1992) is a summation of his views and the best single volume macroeconomic of what went wrong or occasionally right with Ghana's state and economy. In 1963 Douglas was a founding member of the Centre of West African Studies at Birmingham University. He served as John Fage's deputy and became Director when John retired in 1983. At Birmingham, Douglas's interests came to extend beyond Ghana. An early sign was *Macromancy: the ideology of development economics* (1973), a tough, cogent and intellectually rigorous analysis of the past and possible futures of Africa's economies. Following this, and in congenial partnership with A. H. M. Kirk-Greene of Oxford University, Douglas produced *Nigeria since 1970: a political and economic outline* (1981). It is a measure of this book's value, its clarity and conciseness, that it can still be recommended today to students seeking a sane and non-partisan account of Nigeria's troubled passage through the years of oil boom and bust. More conceptual work followed. Douglas edited one book on rural transformation in Africa (1988) and another on the postcolonial continent thirty years on from independence (1991). His final major contribution was his gathering up of contributors to *The British Intellectual*

Engagement with Africa in the 20th Century (2000), a spry and feisty but also nostalgic portrait of – in essence – the history of African Studies in Britain.

Douglas Rimmer was an important figure in British African Studies at departmental, university and national levels. But the offices held hardly describe Douglas's impact on his subject. What he was above all else was an amazingly effective organizer and facilitator, a bringer together of people and projects. In this he was unflappable, for his administrative capacities were matched by a sense of humour at once bone dry and generously charitable. At the end of his life Douglas was an honoured, esteemed and universally liked figure in the world of African Studies. He was both institutionally and academically central to the creation and evolution of the subject. To his concern with and involvement in Africa Douglas brought an outstanding forensic intelligence, wide and lightly borne learning, and human warmth. He was a major figure, and our sole condolence for his loss is that he contributed so much to an academic field that he adorned. He will be much missed.

By Tom McCaskie, Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham

George Moody-Stuart, OBE (1931-2004), who died on 1 November, had a long association with Africa that was reflected in his close involvement with the Royal African Society where he was a Council Member, serving on the Executive Committee, from 1990 to 1998.

Born in Antigua into a family of sugar planters, he will be remembered for work with Booker Agriculture International and Commonwealth Development Corporation and their involvement with Ramu in Papua New Guinea and Pelwatte in Sri Lanka, but George's happiest memories were of Mumias in Kenya, where he headed the hugely successful Mumias Sugar Company. He was truly excited by the development role that the business would fulfil and the difference it would make to the lives of thousands of Kenyans.

Thanks to George's efforts as the first Chairman of Transparency International (TI) (UK) (the national chapter of TI, the international coalition against corruption with chapters in about 90 countries, two-thirds of them in developing countries) and of others working in the TI movement, corruption and related economic crimes are now almost daily reported in the serious press. George's seminal book, *Grand Corruption*, written in 1993, provided the inspiration and the intellectual input to make Transparency International feasible. The OECD countries have all ratified an international convention against foreign bribery. It is now a crime for a UK subject or UK registered company to offer or solicit a bribe even if the entire transaction takes place outside of the UK. George always

considered a change of corporate behaviour to be more important than criminal law enforcement, claiming that bribery was simply bad for business.

George was the first (and to date the only) person to be decorated for services in combating corruption in 2000. The work he started is continually expanding, with TI (UK) undertaking major projects tackling corruption in construction and engineering, the official arms trade and proposing enhancements in measures to limit money laundering in the UK. This will be his continuing and dynamic memorial.

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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, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey GU21 6JG, UK (fax: +44(0) 1483-756505; email: simon.heap@plan-international.org). **Deadlines are 15 March (for April Newsletter), 15 June** (for July), **15 September** (for October) and **15 December** (for January). Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.

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