



NEWSLETTER

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ASAUK Recognised as a Learned Society

The British Academy has recognised the ASAUK as a learned society following a process of selection from among a range of area and subject-based societies and associations. As a result, the ASAUK will receive £31,000 a year for five years (starting in April 2007) to contribute to core costs and to support a number of projects. The ASAUK will liaise with the British Academy's own Africa Area Panel and other Academy-supported organisations in taking forward a number of initiatives over the next years. The ASAUK will report on the progress of its work to the British Academy's Board for Academy-sponsored Institutes and Societies (BASIS).

About half of the newly-available resource will fund a part-time post to support the ASAUK in developing its plans and projects. The remainder will be devoted to the preparation of reports from the ASAUK on a number of issues including support for African scholars writing for UK journals, academic book publishing in Africa, Africa-based journals, and there will be a discussion of African Studies research in the UK following the completion of a new edition of the *Directory of Africanists* under the direction of Professor Richard Hodder-Williams. The officers of the ASAUK and the Council will be taking these matters forward and liaising with the Academy in pursuing their suggestion that the ASAUK also establish links with other Academy-supported organisations, in particular the British Institute in Eastern Africa, the Society for Libyan Studies and the Egypt Exploration Society.

Many members will be aware that the annual disposable income of the Association, after covering costs, has hitherto varied between about three and about five thousand pounds. This new, and very welcome, level of support will allow the Association to develop and grow over the next years in a way which has previously not been possible. We acknowledge the part played by our former ASAUK President, Professor Graham Furniss, in securing this grant. We express our gratitude to the British Academy for its support.

Professor Tunde Zack-Williams, President of the ASAUK

Minutes of the Forty-third Annual General Meeting, held at 6pm on 11th September 2006 at the Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS, London

Present: Graham Furniss (President), Alfred Zack-Williams (Vice-President), Insa Nolte (Hon. Secretary), Rita Abrahamsen, Abdalla Uba Adamu, Tim Allen, Victor Ayeni, Oliver Bakewell, William Beinart, Olive Cooper, Elsbeth Court, James Currey, Jan-Georg Deutsch, Richard Fardon, Liz Gunner, Tim Hunt, Margaret Irving, Douglas Johnson, Kenneth King, Ben Knighton, Murray Last, David Maxwell, Claire Mercer, Robert Molteno, Atieno Odhiambo, Olasope Olakunbi, Darleo Opoku, Ben Page, John Peel, Derek Peterson, Gina Porter, David Pratten, Sara Rich Dorman, Heike Schmidt, Anne Serafin, Barry Sesnan, Jean Marc Sika, Alain Sissao, Sef Slootweg, José Teqels, Ola Uduku, J. K. van Donge, Bertram van der Wal, Marion Wallace, Kaye Whiteman and Ralph Young.

1. Apologies

Simon Heap, Brenda Hobday, Richard Hodder-Williams, Tim Kelsall, David Killingray, JoAnn McGregor, Christie Peacock, Jane Salmonson and Andrew Walls.

2. Minutes of 42nd ASAUK Annual General Meeting

The minutes were accepted and signed by the president.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Report by the Honorary Secretary (Dr Insa Nolte)

The secretary announced the following events after the AGM: 2006 Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture: Prof. Abdalla Uba Adamu (Bayero University, Kano), 'Transglobal media flows and African popular culture: revolution and reaction in Muslim Hausa popular culture', the Distinguished Africanist Awards for 2005 and 2006, and the Audrey Richards prize for the best dissertation in African Studies during 2004 and 2005.

The secretary summarised her written report, which had been circulated to the AGM. Throughout the past year, Council has continued to work closely with the Royal African Society (RAS) to state the need for increased support for Africanist research and joint African-UK projects. Council has also established closer relations with the Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa (SCOLMA), and it would like to further relations with Centres of African Studies. Council has welcomed initiatives of relevance for the study of Africa by several funding bodies including the ACU, ESRC and British Academy (BA).

With financial and administrative help from the Royal African Society, Council has also been able to fund a number of conferences, symposia, colloquia and workshops held throughout the year, including a conference on 'The State and Ethnic Definition: Lessons from Nigeria and beyond' (Oxford), Zimbabwe

Society Day (Oxford) and the Africa charity SABDET (for attendance of an African publisher at ASAUK conference).

Thanks to the change in membership policy which means that RAS members will automatically become members of the ASAUK, ASAUK has gained 92 new members in 2006. The following table, for which numbers were supplied by Lindsay Allan, was part of the report.

	2004	2005	2006
ASAUK Members UK	429	408	481
ASAUK Members Overseas	86	69	89
Student Members UK	59	92	94
Student Members Overseas	12	16	15
Honorary Life Members	3	3	3
Corporate Members	1	1	1
Associate Members	7	6	4
Total Members	<u>597</u>	<u>595</u>	<u>687</u>

Finally, the honorary secretary expressed Council's sincere gratitude to Lindsay for the work she has done on behalf of ASAUK. Council is particularly grateful that Lindsay has agreed to continue to work at the ASAUK/RAS office part-time and will be available for general advice to the Association despite her forthcoming retirement.

The AGM applauded Lindsay Allan to thank her for her wonderful support.

5. Report by the Honorary Treasurer (Professor Richard Hodder-Williams)

The treasurer was unable to attend the AGM, and the president summarised the information contained in the ASAUK trustee's report and financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2005, which was circulated to the AGM. He pointed out that ASAUK had made a surplus of £1,867 in 2005. However, most of this surplus was income from existing capital. In the future, every RAS member will automatically become a member of ASAUK, meaning that income will go up. Also, ASAUK has moved from an auditor to an independent assessor to keep expenses lower. The accounts now required from ASAUK are now much larger than in the past because ASAUK is a charity.

It was noted that the statement only showed a contribution of £200 for prizes, and the president explained that this contribution was matched by the same sum from the RAS and by very generous contributions from a range of publishers and other members.

The president reminded the membership that the accounts do not reflect the substantial debt that ASAUK owes to the Royal African Society (RAS) and to the service of Lindsay Allan. The AGM noted its gratitude to the RAS and to Lindsay.

The president also reported on Richard Hodder-Williams's behalf that the production of the ASAUK Directory of Africanists was progressing. The directory will probably have three types of access. The RAS Secretary will have control over input, all RAS/ASAUK members will have access, and other interested parties can obtain access via the RAS secretary. The financial terms of access still need to be discussed further.

The AGM approved the financial report and expressed its sincere thanks to Richard Hodder-Williams on behalf of the association.

6. Subscriptions

Both ASAUK and the Royal African Society (RAS) now accept new members as members of both organisations only, and single members will be asked to join both association. Subscription prices are not going up this year, but members were asked to bear in mind that they might have to go up next year.

7. President's Report (Professor Graham Furniss)

The president invited the current vice-president and incoming president Alfred Zack-Williams to report on his trip to Pretoria to discuss the state of African Studies in southern Africa with academics and policy-makers. A report of the trip was published in a previous ASAUK newsletter, and Zack-Williams pointed out that a useful collaboration with South African Africanists might derive from this contact.

The president informed the AGM about the collaboration of ASAUK and SCOLMA regarding the completeness and grading of Africanist academic journals on a list prepared by the European Science Foundation (ESF) since the last AGM. Comments included that the original list provided little acknowledgement of major journals published outside Europe and that its strong focus on disciplinary journals should be complemented by other publications.

The president also informed the AGM that he had applied to the British Academy (BA) for recognition as a Learned Society. The present application is for a core grant of roughly £30,000 per annum for two years starting from 2007, and with a view to strengthening research links between UK and African academics through a series of initiatives. The president explained that if the BA accepts the application, further work may be required to clarify the envisaged activities by the ASAUK. If these clarifications are accepted, the ASAUK would not only receive the funding applied for but it would also be able to apply for up to £100,000 per annum. The president remarked that success in this application would substantially transform the work of ASAUK.

The AGM thanked the president for his hard work during his tenure of office.

8. Election of Officers and Council Members

The AGM unanimously voted for the election and re-election of the following council officers:

President	Professor Alfred B. Zack-Williams
Vice President	Professor William Beinart
Hon. Secretary	Dr Insa Nolte
Hon. Treasurer	Professor Richard Hodder-Williams

The AGM unanimously elected Derek Peterson to begin a 3-year term on the council. The AGM unanimously re-elected the following council members to begin a second 3-year term: Dr Rita Abrahamsen, Dr Tim Allen, Dr Anne Griffiths and Dr Mark Leopold. The AGM unanimously co-opted the following council members: Dr Simon Heap (Newsletter), Dr Tim Kelsall and Dr Ben Page (both *African Affairs*) and Barbara Spina (SCOLMA).

9. Call for nominations for 2007 ASAUK awards and prizes

The honorary secretary reminded all ASAUK members that the ASAUK seeks nominations for the Distinguished Africanist Awards and for the Audrey Richards Prize, both to be awarded in 2008, and for the Mary Kingsley Zochonis Lecture, 2007.

10. ASAUK Newsletter

Dr Simon Heap was unable to attend the AGM, and the president summarised his written report. At present, 1,200 copies of the ASAUK Newsletter are sent out with *African Affairs* through a new distributor, and the process is going well. ASAUK members are asked to contribute to the Newsletter by announcing conferences early on. Information about theses, news, fellowships and publications is also required. Members are also invited to write 400-800 word contributions about conferences or other topics of interest. The AGM thanked Simon for his work as Newsletter editor, and for maintaining its role as a major organ of communication among members.

11. ASAUK Website

The Website – www.asauk.net – has been maintained by Rohan Jackson. ASAUK members are encouraged to visit the website and to contact Rohan with suggestions at: webweaver@asauk.net. Rohan is also working on the ASAUK directory of excellence, which will be linked to the website.

12. SCOLMA

The Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa (SCOLMA) remains active. Its Programme Secretary, Barbara Spina, was co-opted into the ASAUK council in 2006.

13. Any Other Business

No further issues were raised.

Conferences Future...

UNITED KINGDOM

'The State, Mining and Development in Africa', Leeds University Centre for African Studies and *Review of African Political Economy*, University of Leeds, 13-14 September 2007. This conference brings together pressure groups and academics to explore three key themes: what lessons have been learnt from the resource curse days of the 70s, 80s and 90s; what opportunities for resource-led growth have emerged in the 21st century; and what resistance exists within the continent to the continued politics of dispossession and primitive accumulation that has characterised much resource extraction? The focus of the meeting will be analysis of case studies from Ghana, Sudan, Zambia and South Africa, though this will not exclude other country cases or comparative contributions.

More detailed issues relate to what opportunities exist for the state in Africa to benefit from the promotion of mining and resource-led development? Has Africa's incorporation into the world economy created conditions within which African states can benefit or not from increased interest by multinational companies in the continent's resources? To what extent are local dominant classes and political elites in Africa continuing to benefit from resource led growth while labouring classes of peasants and workers remain or become poorer from state involvement with mining companies? What resistance has there been in Africa to the new rush for the continent's resources? Here focus can lie with organised labour, trade unions and political parties and also with the need to explore micro, village and household consequences for communities that border, for example, open cast mining. To what extent is small-scale or artisanal mining a competitor with large-scale national or international mining operations? Analysis here may focus too on the role of women-headed households, especially where mining is a dominant feature of employment as men migrate to work and women remain in rural areas sustaining their families and communities. Abstracts by 15 February 2007 to Saeed Talajooy: african-studies@leeds.ac.uk

INTERNATIONAL

'Preserving Linguistic and Cultural Identity in the Age of Globalization', Fourth International Conference of The Faculty of Al-Asun, Minia University, Egypt, 23-25 April 2007. The conference explores issues of cross-culturalism, probes new horizons in the area of language teaching and learning, discusses a variety of issues in linguistics, arts, translation and culture, examines the developments in the area of modern technology and considers ways of maintaining the aspired equilibrium between cultural and linguistic identity and globalization trends. There are eight themes: linguistic studies, literature, translation, culture, teaching and learning foreign languages and cultures, linguistic and cultural identity in the age of globalization, modern technology,

and media language. Papers can be presented in English. 500-word abstracts by 31 January 2007 to Professor Amal Moustafa Kamal: alsunminia@gmail.com

‘Transformations, Renewals and Reconfigurations in Southern African Historical Studies – Only Skin Deep?’, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, 24-27 June 2007. The Southern African Historical Society Biennial Conference focuses on innovative research currently taking place in Southern African historical studies. Papers and panels are invited on new ways of writing/reading history since the 1980s; HIV and AIDS – are historians in denial?; does history help or complicate land restitution?; historical perspectives on crime and violence; urban history – new ways of understanding the city?; is landscape and the environment the historian’s business?; how do historians write analytically about the supernatural and the forces of good and evil?; why do archives and museums seem to be history’s step-children rather than rightful heirs?; theorising, re-evaluating, adjudicating and deployment of oral history and memory; teaching, learning and institutional change; a more radical approach to gender; identity and/or ethnicity; sport and history; the politics of sexual orientation; missions, religion and morals – time for a serious re-interpretation; and local/regional economic developments and cooperation in Southern Africa since the 1990s. 250-word abstracts for papers and panels, which will be accepted on a space-available basis until 2 March 2007, to Professor Louis Grundlingh: louisg@uj.ac.za

‘Settler Colonialism: Fifth Galway Conference on Colonialism’, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland, 27-30 June 2007. Settler colonisers come to stay. They seek to replace native peoples on – or, at least, displace them from – their land. Characteristically, the outcome is a conflictual coexistence through which indigenous and invasive societies historically transform one another. In addition to the classic sites of European settler colonialism (Ireland, Africa, the Americas and Australasia), settler colonialism structures relationships as historically and culturally diverse as those between Chinese and Tibetans, Indonesians and Papuans, ‘Americans’ and Hawaiians, Tswana and Khoi-san.

The organisers invite conceptual, comparative, transnational, or locally-focused contributions to a wide-ranging interdisciplinary discussion of settler colonialism and indigenous alternatives, past and present. Thematically, papers might address issues such as: native resistance and survival; cultural adaptation and renaissance; invasions and frontiers; sovereignties (titles, treaties, *terra nullius*); middle grounds, interludes, spaces of mutuality; internal colonisation; assimilation; race and place (the Pale, reservations, urban zoning, segregation); settler colonialism and the question of genocide; reparation and reconciliation; diaspora/exile; indigenous people and multiculturalism; settler and indigenous literature; gender; social class; religion; political economy, economics, and colonisation. 300-word abstracts by 1 February 2007 to: irishstudies@nuigalway.ie

'Sociology – the African Challenge (Reflections on Sociological Practice in Africa)', 2007 Congress of the African Sociological Association (AfSA), Rhodes University, Grahamstown-iRhini, South Africa, 15-18 July 2007. The objective of the congress is to focus on the challenge that doing sociology within the African context poses for global sociology, and reflect on modes of its practice in the African context. Among the questions that will be addressed are the ways in which sociological scholarship has benefited from distinctly African perspectives. The conference's sub-themes include sociology and the challenge of African ontological narratives; canonical works in African sociology; regional and national sociological traditions; teaching sociology in the African context; sociology and development in the African context; social policy in Africa's development; economic sociology: urban and rural nexus; labour historiography; health, well-being and sociology; land and agrarian issues; environmental sociology; urbanism and urban lives; race, ethnicity, xenophobia, and genocide; indigenes, 'strangers', and citizenship; social movements and civil society; politics, power, and democracy in Africa; globalisation and transnational networks; sociology, faith and belief-systems; youth and youth culture; sports, leisure and livelihood; and the sociology of education and schooling. There will be Special Panels on Amilcar Cabral, Frantz Fanon and Akínsolá Akìwowo. Abstracts and panel proposals by 31 January 2007 to: afsa2007@afsanet.org

'Afrikanistentag 2007', Department of African Studies, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, 23-25 July 2007. As there is no overall theme of the conference, papers with a focus on various fields of African Studies (primarily linguistics, literature studies, history) will be considered. 500-word abstracts for panels by 31 January 2007 to: afrikanistentag07@univie.ac.at

'Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented Society', University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa, 19-21 September 2007. Fragmented societies in the context of both globalization and democratic reforms are under considerable stress. International opening up of markets and increased mobility and communication creates opportunities. Unfortunately, those groups with considerable assets in terms of physical, human and social capital benefit more. These economic elites are thriving but might be minority groups in a fragmented society. Combined with an increase of democratic reforms in fragmented societies, these tendencies may lead to different backlashes for democracy. The conference is about how democracy can be deepened in such contexts, particular in South Africa, where the issue of closing the income and entitlements gap is of critical importance. Preferably with reference to South Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, the organizers welcome papers on comparative approaches to deepening democracy in fragmented societies; the inclusion of vulnerable groups in low and middle income countries; and the challenges of service delivery for policy-makers, civil servants and scholars. Abstracts by 1 February 2007 to Joris Verscheren: joris.verschueren@ua.ac.be

'Expressions of Traditional Wisdom', Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences, Brussels, Belgium, 27-28 September 2007. With reference to cultures from Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas, and including those continent's ancient civilizations, the notion of 'wisdom' in the sense of practical wisdom has entered Western civilization through biblical texts. In the Hellenic experience this kind of wisdom received a more structural character in the form of philosophy. In this sense, philosophy also reflects one of the expressions of traditional wisdom. Papers are sought relating to expressions of traditional wisdom in philosophy, religion, gender studies, the afterlife, family life, justice, education, contemporary literature, politics, material culture, linguistics and health. Abstracts by 1 February 2007 to Professor Dr Danielle Swinne: kaowarsom@skynet.be

'Federalism in Historical Perspective', Historical Society of Nigeria 52nd Annual Congress, Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa, Nigeria, 14-17 October 2007. The organisers seek papers on the theme of federalism: the concept and practice; religious and cultural perspectives; local government; elections; crisis in Nigerian federalism; political systems and structures; political parties and partisan politics; indigenous systems; sub-cultural and ethnic nationalism; federal character; fiscal federalism in historical perspective; and regional, continental and global comparisons of federalism. Abstracts by 31 March 2007 to Rev Dr C. M. Sorgwe: sorgwechab@yahoo.com

'Spatializing the Missionary Encounter: The Interaction between Missionary Work and Space in Colonial Settings', Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, 22-24 November 2007. While research on colonial architecture and space has found a broad academic interest, research on the architectural staging and spatial implications of the worldwide expansion of religion has found much less concern. Nonetheless, the development of colonial empires went hand in hand with a missionary revival sending Christian missionaries to every corner of the world. As those missionaries generally were in closer contact with the local population than colonial officials, studying their spatial practices and strategies offers high potential for analysing the dynamics of intercultural interaction in the imperial encounter.

The workshop focuses on missionary work of all denominations in colonial settings between roughly 1800 and 1960. Papers are sought that shed light on the complex and plural realities surrounding the interaction between missionary work and space in colonial settings. Papers exploring new methodologies are particularly encouraged, as well as those that explore the possible lines of a nuanced analytical scheme to study this interaction between missionary work and space. Critical in this scheme is an approach to missionary architecture and space not so much as a backdrop for the missionary encounter, but as an essential part of this encounter in itself. Short abstracts and CV by 31 January 2007 to Bram Cleys: bram.cleys@asro.kuleuven.be

...Conferences Past

ASAUK Biennial Conference, 2006

The ASAUK Biennial Conference 2006 was held at SOAS from the 11th to the 13th September. The conference was not built around one central theme, since it brought together Africanists working in a wide variety of disciplines. Nevertheless, within particular disciplinary fields the organisers outlined certain themes that were developed in a series of panels. The conference consisted of 135 papers in 38 panels in seven parallel series, allowing conference participants to follow a sequence of papers over three days. Each panel lasted 90 minutes usually allowing three paper-givers 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion each (a more detailed list of papers and abstracts is available on the ASAUK website):

- Series A: history, politics, and urban studies
- Series B: environment, development and human rights
- Series C: human, plant and animal health
- Series D: anthropology, religion, and conflict
- Series E: literature, media and the visual arts
- Series F: books, writing and education
- Series G: various themes

Some 270 people registered for the conference (45% members, 25% students or unwaged, 30% day registrations) and the following publishers maintained busy stalls at the conference: Africa Book Centre Ltd, Edinburgh UP, Hurst Publishers, James Currey, Lynne Rienner Publishers and CAIPSA, id21, Pathfinder Books, Routledge, Sabinet Online and Zed Books. We are grateful to the publishers and bookshops for their attendance and support.

Most of the panels were well-attended. However, the numbers who participated in the sessions on human, plant and animal health were a little disappointing, particularly since we responded to a criticism voiced at the previous conference that these areas were underrepresented in the programme. The Centre for Economic Botany at Kew went to considerable lengths to run two consecutive panels at this conference and their audiences were small. I am most grateful that they came and I am sorry that we perhaps did not do them justice.

The Mary Kingsley Zochonis lecture given by Professor Abdalla Uba Adamu of Bayero University, Kano, was well-attended and was an exciting glimpse into the ferment of cultural creativity surrounding the video film industry in northern Nigeria. The Association held its AGM and saw the transition to a new President for the next two years, Professor Tunde Zack-Williams. The winners of the Audrey Richards dissertation prize were announced and the Association took great pleasure in awarding the Distinguished Africanist award for 2005 to Tony Kirk-Greene, and for 2006 to John Lonsdale. Ninety members of the Association

were present at the major social event of the conference, a dinner/dance, enjoyed, I believe, by all who were there.

The conference was run by Rohan Jackson of NomadIT and his team of organisers with the able assistance of the staff of the ASAUk/RAS office. As conference convenor I found it a delight to work with Rohan Jackson and I would like to express the gratitude of the Association to him for all his efforts and for his professionalism. The conference has made a surplus which will ensure that the reserves of the Association are not called upon to balance the books.

I had a good and interesting conference and I hope you did too!

Professor Graham Furniss, Conference convenor

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

Nicholas Cheeseman (2006) 'Continuity and Change: The Development of Participation and the Breakdown of the One Party State', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr David Anderson.

Christina R. Clark (2006) 'Beyond Borders: Political Marginalisation and Lived Experiences of Congolese Young People in Uganda', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr David Anderson.

Ruth Elaine Hill (2005) 'Risk, Production and Poverty: A Study of Coffee in Uganda', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Marcel Fafchamps.

Godius Kahyarara (2005) 'Determinants of Real Earnings and Productivity in Tanzanian Manufacturing Firms', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr Francis Teal.

Sloan Mahone (2004) 'The Psychology of the Tropics: Conceptions of Tropical Danger and Lunacy in British East Africa', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Professor Megan Vaughan and Dr Mark Harrison.

Emily Onyango (2006) 'Luo Women's Negotiation of Mission Education: A Critical Analysis of Anglican Women in Nyanza, Kenya, from 1895', Ph.D thesis, Oxford Centre for Mission Studies/University of Wales. Supervisors: Professor John Lonsdale and Dr Ben Knighton.

Katherine Rogers (2006) 'Manufacturing Consensus from Within: Civil Society's Role in the Liberalization of Kenya's Political Economy (1990-2002)', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisor: Dr David Anderson.

Angus Selby (2006) 'Commercial Farmers and the State: Interest Group Politics and Land Reform in Zimbabwe', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford. Supervisors: Gavin Williams and Dr Jocelyn Alexander.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Arnold Hughes and David Perfect (2006) *A Political History of The Gambia, 1816-1994*. Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press. 552pp, ISBN: 1-58046-230-8, hardcover, £50. Available from: www.boydell.co.uk/sous.htm; when ordering, quote ref: \$06098.

Huw M. Jones (2006) *The Boiling Cauldron: Utrecht District and the Anglo-Zulu War, 1879*. The Shermershill Press. 379pp. ISBN: 0-9553841-0-9 and 078-0-9553841-0-3, hardback, £45. Available from: www.casus-belli.co.uk

Edwin Mellen Press intends to publish an edited book on *The Great African Rinderpest Epizootic: 1888-1898*. Scholars working on this subject are encouraged to submit chapters on any aspect of the epizootic. Indications of interest by 30 March 2007 to Dr Pule Phoofolo: pulep@hotmail.com

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Royal African Society and African Studies Association Administration

After 21 years I have taken the decision to stand down from my administrative position with the RAS and the ASAUK as Secretary of the Royal African Society. I have enjoyed immensely working for both Councils, and am delighted that both organisations are now in stronger positions, enabling them to take on projects in and for the benefit of the African continent. I was very moved by the kind words expressed on behalf of the members by the Chairman of the RAS, Lord Holme, the President of the ASAUK, Graham Furniss, and the other executive officers at the 2006 AGMs and would like to express my thanks to the Councils and all the members for making my years so enjoyable, and convey my very best wishes for the future.

I shall be working part-time for the RAS and ASAUK on a consultancy basis next year, but the office will continue with the following staff in addition to my replacement, Gemma Haxby, who joins in January from DFID:

- Pat Jensen, RAS/ASAUK Membership and PA to Richard Dowden;
- Nicholas Waddell, RAS Research and Development; Administrator of the Africa All Party Parliamentary Group at Westminster; and,
- Namvula Rennie, RAS Events and Communications.

The office will be open during normal weekday hours from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Lindsay Allan

Creole Social and Cultural Studies Project

This project is a multidisciplinary research programme conducted by Professor Robin Cohen, funded by the ESRC, and based at the University of Warwick. The

programme is the first major comparative study of creolization and mixed identity. It will investigate the social scientific value of the concepts of creolization (and cognate concepts like hybridity, métissage and syncretism) in Brazil, the South Atlantic/Indian oceans, the Caribbean, West Africa (notably Sierra Leone), the USA and the UK. The project's website serves as a point of reference for all those engaged in Creole Studies, particularly those working on contemporary cultural, sociological and anthropological aspects of creolization: www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/sociology/research/cscs/

Awards, Prizes and Fellowships

Audrey Richards Prize Winners, 2006

I am pleased to announce this year's winners of the Audrey Richards Prize for the Best Dissertation submitted on Africa at any British university, 2004-05. Before announcing the winners I want to thank a number of people. First, the Royal African Society for continuing support of the Association, in particular Lindsay Allen, the indefatigable Administrator for her patience and skills in encouraging supervisors to submit their best candidates' work. Second, I would like to thank the panel of judges, who sacrificed what appears to be an ever shrinking vacation to read sixteen theses. The judges were Professor Ray Bush, POLIS/African Studies Centre, University of Leeds and *Review of African Political Economy (ROAPE)*; Dr Nici Nelson, Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths College, University of London; Dr Lynne Brydon, CWAS, University of Birmingham/ROAPE; Dr Rosaleen Duffy, Department of Politics, University of Manchester/*Journal of Modern African Studies*; Dr Reg Cline-Cole, CWAS, University of Birmingham/ROAPE; Dr Branwen Gyuffidd-Jones, POLIS/African Studies Centre, University of Leeds, ROAPE; and myself of the University of Central Lancashire/ROAPE. Finally, my thanks to the supervisors and director of studies who sent in the theses of their students. The judges collectively commented on the high standard of the theses they read, pointing to the fact that the many reached the high criteria set by the panel.

There were three winners and all three were excellent theses on diverse subjects. In third position was Dr Kate Meagher, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford, for *Identity Economics: Informal Manufacturing and Social Networks in South-Eastern Nigeria*, supervised by Professor Barbara Harriss-White.

We had joint winners:

Dr Williams Oliver Norman, London School of Economics and Political Science, for *Living on the Frontline: Politics, Migration and Transfrontier Conversation in the Mozambican Villages of the Mozambique-South Africa Borderland*, supervised by Dr Deborah James and Dr Matthew Engelke.

Dr Samuel Cyuma, OCMS, Oxford, for *Conflict Reconciliation in South Africa (1990-1998) and its Significance for Mediating Role of the Church in Rwanda 1990-2003*, supervised by Dr Ben Knighton.

I want to extend my warm congratulations to the winners and my commiseration to the rest. Prizes of book tokens generously given by several leading publishers will be awarded at the ASAUK AGM, May 2007.

Professor Tunde Zack-Williams, President, ASAUK

The Martin Lynn Scholarship. Thanks to the generosity of the family of the late Martin Lynn, the Royal Historical Society has pleasure in announcing the establishment of an annual award in his memory. Martin Lynn was Professor of African History in the Queen's University, Belfast, the first scholar to hold a chair in African history in Ireland. His scholarly career was devoted to the history of West Africa and he published most extensively and importantly on the 19th and 20th century history of Nigeria. His scholarly achievements were matched by the reputation he enjoyed as an exciting and concerned teacher and a delightful, generous colleague and friend.

This new award reflects the interests of the man it commemorates. Annually the Society will make an award of up to £1,000 to assist an historian pursuing postgraduate research on a topic in African history. Eligible students will be registered with a university history department in the United Kingdom and will have successfully completed their first year of full-time or first two years of part-time study by the time the award is taken up. Applicants intending to use the award to carry out research within Africa will be especially welcomed. With a closing date of 31 May 2007, applicants should use the form on the Royal Historical Society's website: www.rhs.ac.uk

UK-Africa Academic Partnerships. In an initiative developed by the British Academy's Africa Panel, two awards of up to £10,000 a year for up to three years are available to support the development of ongoing links between UK and African research centres or institutions, within the humanities and social sciences. The link would be built around a specific research theme of mutual interest. This could be carried forward through visits in both directions; workshops; seminars and lecture programmes; collaborative research; and joint publications. The programme might form part of either institution's training programme and will ideally involve participation from more than one African institution, and might also involve more than one department/university/group/research centre in the UK. The deadline is 5 February 2007. Website: www.britac.ac.uk/funding/guide/intl/africaap.html

Leventis Nigerian Post-doctoral Fellowship, Centre of African Studies at SOAS, University of London. Applications are invited from Nigerian academics to take part in a scheme of collaborative research funded by the Leventis

Foundation to spend three months as visitors of the Centre of African Studies in order to pursue their research in libraries and archives and to participate in the intellectual life of the Centre. The fellowship is devised to assist younger scholars develop their research interests in collaboration with their counterparts in London. The scheme might be particularly appropriate for scholars working up a Ph.D thesis into publishable form. Applicants should submit a CV and a statement of their current research interests (up to 1,000 words), specifying the aims to be achieved during the research period in London. Applications by letter by 1 May 2007 to The Chair, Centre of African Studies, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG, UK.

Obituaries

Dr Abby James, an RAS member who was passionate about African issues, died on 30th May 2005, at the age of 45. She will be greatly missed by her loving family, and also by her many students and friends in academia.

Abby lectured on sociology, politics and government, at the Open University, the University of East London, the British American College, and London South Bank University. A caring and dedicated teacher, she always found time to discuss her students' work with them, encourage and advise them, and provide support to her many international students.

She earned a B.A. Hons in Politics and History from the School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London (SOAS), and an M.A. in Ideology and Discourse Analysis from the University of Essex.

Abby's Ph.D. thesis, 'Democratic Discourse and Oral Practises of Griots', written at the University of Essex under the supervision of Ernesto Laclau, explored the ways that African oral performance may be developed for ideas that deepen conceptions of radical democratic theory. Griots are storytellers – "social mediators" – who use rhetorical techniques to help the people find new ways of thinking about themselves, thus creating a collective social identity to replace an identity imposed on them by imperialist rulers. Abby, who had a great love of music and the arts, and was herself a talented musician, also wanted to explore the potential for musicians and other performance artists to fulfil the role of griots today.

Abby was continuing her research on the role of rhetoric in the development of public opinion and the formation of social identity, and was to write a series of journal articles. She intended to develop an account of the practises of social mediation among the working class in British society. Drawing on African oral performance styles, she planned to conceptualize alternative ways of interpreting political differences in less oppositional terms. She wished to show the possibility of the establishment of more fluid formations of social identity, less-

confrontational social relationships, and, ultimately, a more-democratic redistribution of power.

Abby will be remembered by family, friends and students, not only for her invaluable contributions to academic thought, but also for her sense of humour and ready wit, her passion, and her willingness to stand up for what she believed in. She was a wonderful and unique person, and she will be loved and missed always.

Linda Enright: enright1@bellsouth.net

Professor Michael Barbour (21 October 1921 – 30 September 2004) was born in the foothills of the Himalayas, this overseas origin together with war service in South East Asia was continued in spending much of his academic life overseas, making him unique among British academic geographers in the second half of the last century in teaching and researching in Africa. From Oxford, interrupted by submariner service, he went like many young academic geographers to work, in his case to Khartoum, in the new university institutions in Africa, and develop their subject in teaching and with endless opportunities for field research.

At Khartoum he researched on water supplies and irrigation and on population, writing up and publishing this research during a number of years at University College London. Most important was *The Republic of the Sudan* (1961), in which his geographer wife was involved, still a standard work on the physical and human geography of the country to which, with his published papers, more attention should be paid by those concerned with Sudan affairs at the present day. An article on allocating the Nile waters in *International Affairs* (1957), an evaluation of the essential needs of countries within the river's basin, foresaw very closely the international political agreement on the division of the Nile waters reached a little later. During the time at UCL he researched on the population of Sudan from its census of the mid-1950s, and in a wider African context initiated and jointly edited *Essays on African Population* (1961), one of the first to bring together work from a variety of disciplines.

In the early 1970s Barbour became Professor of Geography at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in a well-established department with Nigerian staff in the majority, some of them already with international recognition. During the next decade, one of considerable political upheaval, he built on existing foundations, enhancing the department's international reputation through advancing the careers of his Nigerian colleagues who had regard and indeed affection for him while accepting and arguing with the verbal slings and arrows that he could send in their direction. With them he developed joint work, *Planning for Nigeria* and *Nigeria in Maps* (1982). Directness characterised his participation in university affairs, forthright and often provocative but a successful Dean promoting among other things new university buildings at a time when there was oil money to pay

for these. An Arab sabbatical during these years produced *The Growth, Location and Structure of Industry in Egypt* (1972).

He left Nigeria to become Professor of Geography at the New University of Ulster, moving from a country with considerable internal dissension to one with similar problems. His headship of the department was similar to that at Ibadan, his colleagues knowing clearly who was in charge but also with whom ultimate responsibility lay, though in the academic community at Coleraine his direct approach caused some problems.

On retirement, after a possible appointment to a Vice-Chancellorship at a university in eastern Nigeria, he returned to Africa for two years associated with the University of Nairobi. He turned to a manuscript of Halford Mackinder (a notable academic geographer and politician) who made the first ascent of Mount Kenya. A manuscript account of this expedition was prepared in 1899 but not published. With Barbour's introductory analysis and notes *The First Ascent of Mount Kenya* appeared nearly a century later in 1991.

Barbour retired finally to Winchester, with interests in photography, travel and china and participating in the intellectual life of the city. Looked after by Jane, his wife of 58 years, and with visits from his four daughters (his son predeceased him), cancer made his last year very difficult. Yet he retained the determined spirit one had always known. Colleagues will remember a geographer of wide experience and substantial reputation. It is fortunate to have known Michael Barbour for nearly 50 years, an interesting and unusual good friend – with a quirky sense of humour, always forthright and so often provocative. Friends and colleagues will treasure many things he said, even though they were often not strictly bon mots!

Professor Mansell Prothero, University of Liverpool: Prothero@liverpool.ac.uk

Remembering Dennis Duerden, 1927-2006. Perhaps because his main achievements were in his prime thirty or forty years ago, there has been only limited attention paid to the passing of Dennis Duerden, one of the influential British figures in the world of Africa's creative arts, who died in June this year at the age of 78. To try and remedy this gap, I took myself to Cambridge on a day of limpid autumn sunshine to assist in a "celebration" of his life, which was a striking opportunity to learn of the many-sided nature of his talent.

There was not much in his early life to indicate why he should have decided to branch out into Africa once he had completed his education. He was born in Hertfordshire in 1927 and was educated at St Albans County Grammar School before getting a scholarship to the Queen's College, Oxford where he took a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. An old college friend told the gathering that at Oxford Dennis and friends had a rare talent for discussion on many subjects, such as art (he had from childhood begun his long career as a

painter), culture and philosophy: for example, he would argue about Kant and Kierkegaard, although not fond of the logical positivists that were popular in Oxford in those days. It was said: "He could bring passion and commitment to any topic when he had a point to make".

In 1948 Duerden did his National Service as a captain in the Army Education Corps, based near Oxford. He then took a Diploma in Overseas Education, and in 1951, he went to Northern Nigeria as Housemaster at Government College, Keffi, for two years, and then became Principal of the Teacher Training College, Keffi, in 1953. In Keffi, when the Director of Education learnt that his paintings had been exhibited with the London Group of Victor Pasmore, he was drafted to teach art. It was there that from his great intellectual and emotional receptivity, he developed his abiding passion for African culture, both the traditional richness, and the burgeoning modern that was being born. He had already given lectures in African history at the Community Centre in Kaduna, and in 1955 was seconded to Jos Museum as assistant Curator to the pioneering archaeologist Bernard Fagg, the beginning of a life-long interest in the development of museums in Africa.

From there he moved back to London in 1957 as head of art at a secondary school and part-time university lecturer, but not before he had put on a remarkable show of his Keffi students that was opened in London by Sir Herbert Read, after having toured the US. As his college friend said he always showed an "ability to obtain whatever he needed to pursue life on his own terms". Restless to be involved in what interested him, he moved in 1958 to become a producer at the Hausa Service of the BBC, at the same time as freelancing as an art critic and broadcasting on the subject of African art.

The 1960s was an exciting decade of great activity and the realisation of projects for Duerden, at a time when the new cultural output of independent Africa was beginning to make waves. His résumé of this period reads like an excerpt of African cultural history. The most important of his enterprises was the setting up of the Transcription Centre in London in 1962, to produce, record and distribute tapes to African radio stations on the culture of the continent, as well as TV films. I recall going to many evening sessions at their premises in Dover Street, where all the independence generation of African writers, from Soyinka and Achebe to Ngugi and Ezekiel Mphahlele spoke and were interviewed. It was a focal point for visitors from Africa and the Caribbean and a cultural meeting point, inspired by Duerden's relaxed guidance. His Warwick Avenue apartment was a true African social centre in London.

Some of the transcripts were reproduced in the Transcription Centre's newsletter *Cultural Events in Africa*, and again in the 1972 book *African Writers Talking* (Heinemann) which he edited with Cosmo Pieterse. Most importantly all the products of the Centre are now to be found in the Harry Ransome Research

Library at the University of Texas, Austin. The publisher, James Currey, speaking at the Girton celebration, said that the Centre had been one of Dennis' greatest achievements. Currey, who started Heinemann's African Writers' Series at around the same time, recalled that when he visited the library in Austin, he found there was one whole box in the Transcription Centre collection dealing with the Congress for Cultural Freedom; this worthy patron of publications like *Encounter* in London, and *Transition* in Kampala, later turned out to have been banked by some US foundations which laundered funds from the CIA.

There was also a box dealing with the court case in Nigeria when Wole Soyinka was tried for treason in 1967, on which Duerden was prominent among many international campaigners, including his publisher Rex Collings, and the author John Mortimer, acting on behalf of PEN International. Soyinka, who was the first African winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, was a close friend, and Duerden had been involved with him and Athol Fugard in the Ijinle Theatre Company, which put on Soyinka's *The Lion and the Jewel* and *The Trials of Brother Jero*, as well as Fugard's *Blood Knot*. Duerden was also an adviser on the premiere of *The Road* in Stratford in the 1965 Commonwealth Arts Festival, and produced a 1964 film of *The Swamp Dwellers* for the Transcription Centre.

Duerden was also involved in the staging of exhibitions by African artists such as Jimo Akolo and Yusuf Grillo, usually in collaboration with the Institute of Contemporary Arts, and the Commonwealth Institute and other bodies. Later in the decade, he also worked with musicians from Africa breaking into the jazz scene in London at the time such as Dudu Pukwana and Abdullah Ibrahim, as well as Chris MacGregor's *Brotherhood of Breath*. But art was his main preoccupation.

Apart from continuing to work as a painter and stage exhibitions continuously right up to the 1990s, and although his interests constantly explored further afield than Africa, it was the main subject matter of his discourse. He wrote two important books in this period – *African Art* published in 1966 by Paul Hamlyn, (with a restructured version in 1974); and *The Invisible Present*, published by Heinemann in 1972, described by one critic as his most important work, exploring “the nature and structure of African societies through an examination of their art and literature”.

From the 1970s (when the Transcription Centre closed down) through to the 1990s, he was increasingly involved in lecturing and writing about African art, and increasingly as a studio art teacher, with a particular Trans-Atlantic connection at universities like Stanford, UCLA and Santa Cruz. Hans Panofsky, for years the enormously influential Herskovits librarian at Northwestern University in Chicago was a lifetime friend, sent a tribute to the Girton meeting saying that “a conversation with Dennis tended to make you giddy....we were awed by the vast field of his interests”. His first wife, Rhoda, mother of four

children, died in 1981, and in 1986 he married Sue Owen, with whom he lived first in Bethnal Green, then Hull, and then near Cambridge. They had one daughter.

I had first got to know Dennis during the First World Festival of Negro Arts in Dakar in 1966, when we among those who stayed on the Italian cruise ship moored in the port. Apart from experiencing the flavour of the unique event, I came to appreciate his trenchant, perceptive views on the whole cultural phenomenon in Africa at the time. His Soyinka-esque views on the limitations of *négritude* were articulated in an article in *New Society*, which I found myself echoing in an editorial in *West Africa* "Is *Négritude* Dead?"

In the 1990s he wrote frequently in *West Africa*, mainly book reviews on African art, but he was as fluent as ever, and even at his death was working on a new book on *African Art and Modernism*. Visiting him in Cambridge in recent years during his long and painful illness, he was always ready to embark on a discussion of topics that preoccupied him, like Picasso's relationship to African art. It was not so much that he denied that Picasso had his Damascus moment confronted with an African mask: but he was profoundly hostile to Euro-centric strait-jackets. For Duerden's life-long argument was to place the forms of African art and culture within their historical context and not as forms of 'primitivism'.

A personal appreciation by Kaye Whiteman: kaye.whiteman@blueyonder.co.uk

Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, abstract deadline 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.

Send items for inclusion in the *Newsletter* to Dr Simon Heap, Editor, ASAUK Newsletter, Plan International, Chobham House, Christchurch Way, Woking, Surrey, GU21 6JG, UK or simon.heap@plan-international.org

Newsletter deadlines are 15 March (for April) and 15 June (for July), 15 September (for October), 15 December (for January). Any opinions expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the ASAUK.

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