



NEWSLETTER

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Awards

DISTINGUISHED AFRICANIST AWARDS GIVEN AT THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN STUDIES UK, 13-15 SEPTEMBER 2004

During the recent ASAUK Biennial Conference [of which a full report will appear in the next newsletter], the Anthropology Department of Goldsmiths College hosted a reception opened by the Acting Warden, Kay Staples. The President of the ASAUK, Nici Nelson, presented Distinguished Africanist Awards to two eminent members of the African Studies community in Britain. The two awards went to Professor Roland Oliver and Professor Terry Ranger.

Professor Roland Oliver

Professor Roland Oliver was throughout his long career an eminent researcher, writer, teacher, administrator and organiser, who had a profound effect on the development of African Studies in the UK. His influential *Oxford History of East Africa* and, in collaboration with John Fage, the *Cambridge History of Africa*, were produced in a decade between the late 70s and late 80s. These histories recognised and celebrated the long, rich history of a continent which for the first half of the 20th Century was previously thought by historians to have only a history 'created' by white travellers, administrators and settlers. Many young African students on the continent were excited to be introduced to their history through these histories.

In his long career at SOAS since 1948, he nurtured a generation of African historians and was very active in the institutional development of African Studies. Over his long career he worked with the Institute of Race Relations, the British School of History and Archaeology (latterly the British Institute of East African), the African Education Trust, the Royal Africa Society and the Africa Centre. He founded and edited for many years the *Journal of African History*. In 1963, he carried out a survey of 250 working Africanist academics in the UK and founded the African Studies Association itself. How appropriate and well deserved that now the Association should honour him as a Distinguished Africanist!

Professor Terry Ranger

Professor Terry Ranger is an academic of distinction, with many accolades to his name, who has made a lasting impact on British African Studies. He was the first Africanist Fellow of British Academy and has held chairs at UCLA, Manchester and Oxford.

He was a prolific scholar with a number of seminal publications to his credit. As an historian, he has made important contributions to a wide range of critical debates and important issues. To name but a few: challenging colonial historiography, contesting Marxists 'radical pessimists', identity issues including the invention of tradition and the imagination of ethnicity, and engaging with post-colonial discourse theory.

He was also an active figure in the institutional development of African studies in three continents: UK, USA and in Africa. Amongst activities too numerous to enumerate in the UK, he was critical to the development of the *Journal of Southern African Studies*. In Africa, he was a founder member of the University College in Nyasaland, a pioneering history professor at the University of Dar es Salaam and currently Visiting Professor to the University of Zimbabwe. He has been actively engaged in the public arena in Africa, especially in Zimbabwe.

He is a man of enthusiasm, energy and influence, who has always encouraged young scholars. The ASAUK is pleased to award him with the Distinguished Africanist Award.

Conferences Future...

Conference listings may appear twice, one short and one long, the second notice appearing in the nearest quarterly number prior to the conference date. Organizers are invited to keep the Newsletter up-to-date with any changes or additions to earlier notices. Please mention the ASAUK newsletter when inquiring to organizers.

UNITED KINGDOM

African Studies Association of Ireland Fifth Annual Conference, Magee Campus, University of Ulster, 3-4 December 2004. The theme will be on conflict and conflict resolution in Africa, though papers will be presented on a wide variety of subjects. Details from Professor Martin Lynn, Secretary of ASAI; e-mail: m.lynn@qub.ac.uk

Reclaiming Development? Assessing the Contribution of Non-Governmental Organisations to Development Alternatives, Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM), University of Manchester, 27-29 June 2005. What roles can NGOs and civil society organisations play in reclaiming development? To what extent can they be seen as the agents for social justice, human realisation

and social transformation, principles that have inspired so many to commit themselves to the work of NGOs? Individual paper abstracts as well as abstracts for a set of papers collected into a panel will be considered. Abstracts should be submitted by 15 November 2004. For those authors whose abstracts are accepted, complete papers should be submitted by 1 May 2005. Contact Debra Whitehead; tel: 0161 275 2821; e-mail: debra.whitehead@man.ac.uk

AEGIS European Conference on African Studies, London, 29 June-3 July 2005. Accepted panel proposals may be found on the conference website www.aegis-eu.org/conference. The Conference Steering Committee invites interested paper-givers to submit 50 word abstracts to the convenor of an appropriate panel as apparent from the details available on the website. Panel convenors may accept papers at their discretion so long as they do not thereby exceed their allotted time. In the latter case, convenors will need to liaise with the Steering Committee before accepting further contributions, and a final decision may have to be deferred to the closure of the Call for Papers. The panel convenors will also have discretion. Deadline for papers: 1 November 2004. E-mail enquiries for further information sent to the Centre of African Studies (cas@soas.ac.uk) will be forwarded to the appropriate member of the AEGIS Conference Steering Committee.

Self and Subject: African and Asian Perspectives, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, 20-23 September 2005. Organized by The Ferguson Centre for African and Asian Studies, The Open University, this conference invites a double questioning of the constitution and representation of the subject of the self. Deadline for abstracts: 31 December 2004. Website: www.open.ac.uk/Arts/ferguson-centre/index. Details from Heather Scott; e-mail: arts-ferguson-centre-enquiries@open.ac.uk

Reaching the Margins: The Colonial and Postcolonial Lives of the Book, 1765 - 2005. Institute of English Studies, Senate House, University of London, 3-5 November 2005. The primary focus will be on Asia, Africa and Australasia, although workshop papers are invited on any aspect of colonial and postcolonial publishing and reading history within the specified period. Methodological or comparative papers across more than one region are also welcome. Highlighted themes will include publishing and the colonial system, publishing commonwealth literature, missionary publishing houses, censorship and copyright, distribution and the transport network, imperial archives and current research, British publishers in the Empire, post-colonial publishing opportunities, local publishing, globalisation, print and the nation state. Abstracts of up to 300 words by 1 March 2005 to Robert Fraser (r.fraser@open.ac.uk) or Mary Hammond (m.e.hammond@open.ac.uk). Further information may be obtained from the website: www.open.ac.uk/Arts/reaching-the-margins.

INTERNATIONAL

The Arts as Strategy for Development: The African Perspective, International Conference on African Arts, Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria, 13-16 November 2004. For details, e-mail: africonf@yahoo.com

5th International Conference on African and Asian Studies, Oporto, Portugal, 17 November 2004. For details, contact Paula Dias; e-mail: pdias@ufp.pt

African Language Literatures: Production, Mediation, Reception Conference, Jahn Library for African Literatures, Department of Anthropology and African Studies, University of Mainz, Germany, 17-20 November 2004. This conference (re-)examines and explores different aspects of the production, mediation and reception of contemporary creative writing in as many African languages as possible. For details: contact Dr Anja Oed or Dr Uta Reuster-Jahn; e-mail: 8thJJS@uni-mainz.de

11th Pan-African Ornithological Congress, Djerba, Tunisia, 21-25 November 2004. Organized by Association Les Amis des Oiseaux; e-mail: aao.bird@planet.tn

'African Renewal, African Renaissance': New Perspectives on Africa's Past and Africa's Present, AFSAAP (African Studies Association of Australasia & the Pacific 27th Annual & International Conference), University of Western Australia (UWA), Perth, Australia, 26-28 November 2004. Details from Dr Jeremy Martens; e-mail: jmartens@arts.uwa.edu.au

Africa Matters, Evaluation Matters: Joining Forces for Democracy, Governance and Development, Third African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) Conference 2004. Holiday Inn Conference Centre, Cape Town, South Africa, 1-4 December 2004.

Flows from the past: a trans-disciplinary conference on the history of water in Africa, Vanderbijl Park, South Africa, 8 December 2004; e-mail: gskjwnt@puknet.puk.ac.za

Genocides: Forms, Causes and Consequences [Namibia], Berlin, Germany, 13-15 January 2005. Website: www.hist.net/ag-genozid/namibianwar; Contact Dr Juergen Zimmerer; e-mail: namibian-war@freenet.de

African Health and Illness Conference, University of Texas at Austin, 25-27 March 2005. Contact Matthew Heaton; e-mail: mattheaton@mail.utexas.edu

Professional Social Work and its Contribution to Africa's Development, 6th Pan African IFSW Regional Social Work Conference, Nairobi, Kenya, 10-14 April 2005. Details from Charles Mbugua; e-mail: mbuguacharles@yahoo.com

Private Military Companies and Global Civil Society: Ethics, Theory and Practice, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, 14-16 July 2005. While the history of mercenary forces is thousands of years long, recent events in Africa, Iraq and elsewhere have highlighted the fact that private military forces are now being employed to an unprecedented level. Also unique is the degree to which 'Private Military Companies' are demanding recognition as legal and morally legitimate entities. This conference provides a forum for an interdisciplinary engagement with the moral, ethical and policy questions. Abstracts up to 1,000 words by 1 December to Deane Baker; e-mail: BakerDP@ukzn.ac.za

Zambia: Independence and After. Towards a Historiography

This conference is tentatively scheduled for Lusaka in August/September 2005, under the auspices of the Network for Historical Research in Zambia (NHRZ). Expressions of interest and abstracts should be sent by 30 November 2004 to the following address: Network for Historical Research, PO Box 27, UNZA Post Office, Lusaka, Zambia; e-mail: nhrz@zamnet.zm. Please copy your e-mail to Dr Giacomo Macola, Secretary, NHRZ: gmacola@hotmail.com

Theses Recently Accepted at UK Universities

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

Michael S. Kargbo, 'British Foreign Policy and the Conflict in Sierra Leone, 1991-2001', Ph.D thesis, Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham, 2004.

Abby James, 'Democratic Discourse and the Oral Practices of Griots', Ph.D thesis, University of Essex, 2002; supervisors: Ernesto Laclau and Graham Furniss.

M. M. Bolaane Maitseo, 'Wildlife conservation and local management: the establishment of Moremi Park, Okavango, Botswana, in the 1950s-1960s', D.Phil. thesis, University of Oxford, 2004; supervisor: Professor William Beinart.

Kate Meagher, 'Identity Economics: Informal Manufacturing and Social Networks in South-eastern Nigeria', D.Phil. Thesis, University of Oxford, 2004; supervisors: Professor Barbara Harriss-White and Gavin Williams.

Jane Carter Ingram, 'Forest change, condition and composition with implications for conservation in Madagascar.' by D.Phil. Thesis, University of Oxford, 2004. Supervisors: Dr Terry Dawson and Dr Robert Whittaker.

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).

Clemens Gütl (ed.). (2004) *"Adieu ihr lieben Schwarzen": Gesammelte Schriften des Tiroler Afrika-Missionars Franz Mayr (1865-1914). Herausgegeben und Kommentiert von C. Gütl.* Wien, Köln: Böhlau. pp. 370.

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

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

Mark Leopold (2005) *Inside West Nile. Violence, History & Representation on an African Frontier.* Oxford: James Currey. 192pp. ISBN 0-85255-941-0 (cloth) £45.00, 0-85255-940-2 (paper) £16.95.

Paul Richards (ed.) (2004) *No Peace, No War. An Anthropology of Contemporary Armed Conflicts.* Oxford: James Currey. 224pp. ISBN 0-85255-936-4 (cloth) £45.00, 0-85255-935-6 (paper), £16.95.

Ola Uduku and Alfred B. Zack-Williams (2004) *Africa Beyond the Post-Colonial: Political and Socio-Cultural Identities.* London: Ashgate. 144pp. ISBN: 0 7546 3171 0. £39.95 (Hardback only).

Appointments, Academic Links and Exchanges

Peter Mitchell, Lecturer in African Prehistory, Oxford University, has been elected President of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists, the largest regularly meeting organisation of archaeologists working in the African continent.

Fellowships

Cadbury Fellows' Workshop at Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham. The CWAS announces a new programme of annual residential workshops built around current themes in African Studies. *The theme for 2005 will be Cultural Nationalism and Social Critique.* CWAS is looking for young African scholars who have something to contribute to this theme, and whose research would benefit from a residential fellowship of up to two months at the University of Birmingham. They should be in the early stages of their academic careers and based in an institution on the African continent. They should have a PhD or be close to completing one. 2-3 fellows will be appointed to participate in a two-month programme of seminars and discussion groups, culminating in a CWAS Interdisciplinary Conference in May 2005. Fellowships will cover return air-fare, and accommodation and living costs for a period of up to two months. For more information, website: www.cwas.bham.ac.uk/staff/visiting.htm. Deadline for applications: 31 January 2005.

Visiting Scholarship for Eastern African Academics. The Centre of African Studies of the University of London, based at the School of Oriental and African Studies, invites academics from universities in East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) and the Horn (Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia) to apply to visit the Centre for a three month period in order to pursue research and/or course development in the broad field of African Studies in the Social Sciences and Humanities. Preference will be given to academic staff at an early stage in their career. The Visiting Scholarship includes a return air-fare, accommodation in London and a subsistence allowance. The successful applicant may be invited to take up his/her period of residence during either the autumn (mid-September–mid-December) 2005 or spring (mid-January–mid-April) 2006. Applications enclosing the following information a proposal of around 1,000 words outlining the main features of the research to be pursued, a short description of how a scholarship at SOAS will benefit your project and an up-to-date CV should be sent to the Chairman, Centre of African Studies, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG, UK. Deadline for applications: 30 April 2005.

Leventis Research Co-operation Programme (Nigeria) scholars based at the Centre of African Studies (CAS), SOAS. The Leventis Foundation supports collaborative research between CAS and colleagues in Nigerian universities. Successful applicant(s) will be attached to CAS for three months. Applications should include CV, a 1,000 word statement of current research interests and aims to be achieved during the research period in London. The programme is particularly suitable for younger academics, perhaps working up a doctoral thesis into publishable form. Further details from CAS office or website: www.soas.ac.uk/cas/home. Deadline for applications: 1 May 2005.

Obituaries

Cyril Ehrlich (1926-2004) died 29 May, aged 78. He pioneered the economic history of colonial East Africa before embarking on a second career as a historian of the piano industry in Europe and America, and of the music profession in Britain. Born in London, he read economics at the London School of Economics from in late 1940s. In 1952, Ehrlich went to teach at Makerere College, Uganda; while there, he also wrote his doctoral thesis on the marketing of Ugandan cotton, and contributed chapters to *The Oxford History Of East Africa*. This work gave economics a cultural context, showing how patterns of production and trade were shaped by market forces, Christian missions (promoting new consumer tastes), the planters' racism and the public-school education of administrators. He is survived by his wife Felicity, whom he met at Makerere and married in 1954. Their daughter and two sons are all professional musicians.

Professor Douglas Rimmer (1927-2004), died on 10 September, aged 77. A former President of ASAUK and recipient of the Distinguished Africanist Award, ASAUK/RAS will publish a full obituary in the next newsletter.

Note to Contributors

The *Newsletter* solicits short reports (of around 200-300 words) on recent conferences, announcements of forthcoming conferences, symposia and workshops (giving topic, date, venue, and contact address), announcements of the awarding of grants, fellowships and prizes, news of appointments and visiting fellowships, recently completed theses, publication announcements of books by members, and brief articles or notices on matters of importance to Africanists in the UK. **Please do not send review copies of books.**

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

For all matters relating to membership of either the ASAUK or RAS contact Lindsay Allan, RAS/ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh St., Russell Sq., London WC1H 0XG; tel: +44 (0)20 7898 4390; fax: +44 (0)20 7898 4389; email: asa@soas.ac.uk, or ras@soas.ac.uk.

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www.asauk.net