

The Museum of Mankind (British Museum), London

IN accordance with a recent decision of the Trustees of the British Museum, the building at 6 Burlington Gardens, London, W. 1 (immediately behind the Royal Academy) which has since December 1970 housed the exhibitions of the Ethnography Department of the British Museum will henceforth be known as The Museum of Mankind. The Department will continue to illustrate in its exhibitions the science of cultural anthropology in the broadest sense—including ethnography, the descriptive, and ethnology, the comparative, study of human cultures—and cover especially the life and arts of tribal peoples of the world.

The Ethnography Department has now begun the immense task of transferring most of the study collections, amounting to some 750,000 specimens, from cramped and often unsuitable quarters in the main British Museum building at Bloomsbury to an excellent repository in Orsman Road, Shoreditch, N. 1, a task which will probably occupy at least the next two years. When the move is complete, facilities for students wishing to work on specimens will be better than ever before; however, during the intervening period it will often be difficult or impossible to give students all the help and facilities which the Department would like to provide.

Leo Frobenius Centenary: Prize Competition

To mark the Centenary of the birth of Leo Frobenius, the German UNESCO Commission together with the Frobenius Institute intend to hold an International Symposium in Africa, tentatively fixed for Autumn 1973. The Frobenius Institute also invites participation in a prize competition. Entry is restricted to Africans; the best fifteen articles on African culture and history are to be selected by an international jury and printed in a 'Festband' of *Paideuma*. The articles need not be concerned directly with Leo Frobenius, but should deal with current historical and cultural research and ideas in present-day Africa. They should be written in English or French and should not exceed 6,000 words in length. The last date for receipt of the manuscripts is 31 March 1973. The authors of the five best articles will receive a three-month study and research grant and will be invited, together with the authors of the other accepted articles, to the Symposium 'History and Culture in Africa'. All inquiries and correspondence should be addressed to Professor Dr. Eike Haberland (Frobenius Institute), 6000 Frankfurt a. M., Liebigstrasse 41, Germany.

African Books in Print

THE University of Ife Press is publishing a new reference tool project for book development in Africa: *African Books in Print: an Index by Author, Title and Subject*. The project is undertaken jointly with Richard Abel & Company Inc., Portland, Oregon, who will handle marketing and distribution. Compiled with the assistance of a board of editorial consultants, it will be the first authoritative source of reference for books published in Africa currently in print. It will help to solve book-finding problems, provide guidance on the acquisition of these materials, and will include information about the African book and publishing trades. It is estimated that some 5,000 titles will be listed in volume one. Scheduled for publication in late 1973, this will cover all English language materials plus a selection of books in the vernacular languages. Volume two will cover books from francophone Africa as well as titles in Portuguese and Spanish.

Social Research Center, The American University in Cairo: 1971/72 Reprint Series

THE Social Research Center of the American University in Cairo has begun a Reprint Series. Lists of current reprints are scheduled for distribution on a semi-annual basis.

Requests for reprints, lists of titles available, etc., should be addressed to The Social Research Center, The American University in Cairo, 113 Sh. Kasr El Aini, Cairo, Egypt.

Dr. D. J. Stenning: Papers on Banyankole

THE papers of the late Dr. D. J. Stenning, mainly on Banyankole, have been deposited in the Cambridge University Library by Mrs. Sheila Stenning.

Dr. M. J. Field (1899–1972)

DR. M. J. FIELD, who died on 12 June 1972, was a pioneer in ethnopsychiatry. Graduating in chemistry in 1923, she went to Ghana in 1929 to teach at the Prince of Wales College in Achimota, where her interest in anthropology led to a Ph.D. degree in 1936. She became especially concerned with studies of traditional native healers and shrine priests. This led to an emphasis on the psychology, sociology, and psychopathology involved in native treatment methods, particularly at the healing shrines, so closely linked with local religious-magical beliefs. In 1937 she was appointed as a government anthropologist in the Gold Coast and made a close study of the Ga. Her researches on their treatment of illness led her to take up the study of medicine herself and in 1951 she qualified with an M.B. from Edinburgh. She then worked for several years in mental hospitals, which gave her a most unusual and solid grounding for further work in Ghana. She returned to Africa in 1956 on a Medical Research Council grant as a senior research fellow at the Ghana Academy of Sciences. Dr. Field's many published works include *Religion and Medicine of the Ga People*, *Social Organization of the Ga People*, and, perhaps best known, *Search for Security*, a study of the suppliants at the shrines of rural Ghana and of the mental illness and possession states she observed among them. (We are indebted to Professor Edward L. Margetts for information on Dr. Field's career.)

Report on the International Conference on Manding Studies

THE first international Conference on Manding Studies was held from 30 June to 3 July by the Centre for African Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, in association with the French Société des Africanistes. On the preceding day, 29 June, a joint meeting was held at the School between members of the Société and members of the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom.

The Conference formed part of a continuing programme of education and research sponsored by the School of Oriental and African Studies, devoted to the study of the Manding civilization of West Africa. The term 'Manding' has been used to cover a number of West African peoples (including the Mandinka/Maninka, Bambara, Dyula, Dyakhanka, Khassonké, Kuranko, Kono, and Vai) who speak related forms of the same language and share similar cultures. The Manding language, in a variety of dialects, is spoken as a major language in nine West African states—The Gambia, Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Portuguese Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Upper Volta—and also by small minorities in Ghana, Mauritania, and elsewhere. It is thus one of the major languages of Africa, spoken across an area 1,200 miles wide. It was formerly associated with the medieval empire of Mali, governed from the Manding heartland on the Upper Niger, which flourished between the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries. At the height of its power, the Mali empire dominated a major part of West Africa, and its influence continues to pervade the culture and traditions of numerous Manding and non-Manding speaking peoples.

Despite the importance of the Manding, the co-ordinated study of their civilization had previously been hampered by modern political frontiers in West Africa, by ethnic divisions among the peoples involved, and by inadequate contact among scholars in different