

---

# AFRICA

Vol. 59 No. 4 1989

*Editor · Rédacteur*

Murray Last

*Reviews Editor · Rédacteur comptes rendus*

Tom Young

*Consultant Editors · Rédacteurs consultatifs*

Kwame Arhin · Bolanle Awe · Caroline Bledsoe · Angela Cheater · Calestous Juma · Paul Sinclair · Nicole Sindzingre · Ulrike Wanitzek

---

Nature as myth, symbol and action: notes towards an historical understanding of development and conservation in Kenyan Maasailand · *Joan N. Knowles and D. P. Collett* 433

'Three's a crowd': knowledge, ignorance and power in the context of urban agriculture in Rwanda · *Johan Pottier* 461

The letter and the spirit: literacy and religious authority in the history of the Aladura movement in western Nigeria · *Peter Probst* 478

The Oberi Okaiame Christian Mission: towards a history of an Ibibio independent church · *Monday B. Abasiattai* 496

## Shorter communications

Recollections of the Spirit Movement in the Ibibio area of Calabar Province · *G. I. Jones* 517

R. G. Armstrong, 1917–87 · *Kay Williamson* 518

David Webster, 1945–1989: a campaigner for human rights · *Barbara Klugman* 519

---

General index to Vol. 59 555

## Review article

South Africa: how many minutes to midnight? · *Tom Young* 521

---

Reviews of books 527

Norman R. Bennett (ed.), *Discovering the African Past* (RICHARD RATHBONE); Jean-Francois Bayart, *L'Etat en Afrique* (DONAL B. CRUISE O'BRIEN); E. Wayne Nafziger, *Inequality in Africa*

---

**Journal of the International African Institute**  
**Revue de l'Institut Africain International**

(CHRISTOPHER CLAPHAM); Philip Raikes, *Modernising Hunger* (ROSALIND EYBEN); Martin Upton, *African Farm Management* (EDWARD MAKHANYA); Wolfgang Zehender, *Regional Cooperation through Trade and Industry?* (JEFF HAYNES); L. Lewis Wall, *Hausa Medicine* (NINA L. ETKIN); Veit Erlmann and Habou Magagi, *Girkaa* (MURRAY LAST); Graham Furniss and Philip J. Jaggard (eds.), *Studies in Hausa Language and Linguistics* (JOHN P. HUTCHINSON); Albert de Surgy, *Le Système religieux des Evhe* and *De l'universalité d'une forme africaine de sacrifice* (LYNNE BRYDON); D. Elwood Dunn and S. Byron Tarr, *Liberia* (CHRISTOPHER CLAPHAM); Harry A. Gailey, *Historical Dictionary of the Gambia*, and David P. Gamble, *The Gambia* (ARNOLD HUGHES); Joseph Sheppherd, *A Leaf of Honey — and the Proverbs of the Forest* (RICHARD FARDON); Joop T. V. M. De Jong, *A Descent into African Psychiatry* (ROLAND LITTLEWOOD); Rosemarie Eggert, *Das Wirtschaftssystem der Mongo am Vorabend der Kolonisation* (A. KLEIN); Francis Mading Deng, *The Man Called Deng Majok* (PETER WOODWARD); Bernard Riley and David Brokensha, *The Mbeere in Kenya* (KATHERINE HOMEWOOD); C. Heymans and G. Totemenyer, *Government by the People?*, and R. Tomlinson and M. Addleson, *Regional Restructuring under Apartheid* (DAVE CHRISTIANSON); Brian Wrobel, *South Africa and Human Rights* (PETER SLINN); Allan D. Cooper (ed.), *Allies in Apartheid* (ANDRE DU PISANI); Allan F. Isaacman (ed.), *The Life History of Railü Honwana* (LANDEG WHITE); Claude Meillassoux, *Anthropologie de l'esclavage* (JEAN-PIERRE WARNIER).

## CONTRIBUTORS

MONDAY B. ABASIATTAI is Reader and Acting Head of the Department of History at the University of Calabar. His major professional interest is the history of Liberia.

D. P. COLLETT is senior resident archaeologist at the Great Zimbabwe National Monument; he has done archaeological fieldwork in South Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe, and also works on the semiotics of material culture.

G. I. JONES lives in Cambridge. His most recent publication is the three-volume *The Background of Eastern Nigerian History* (1988), published by HRA Flex Books.

BARBARA KLUGMAN is a lecturer in the Department of Social Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand. She was herself a detainee in 1981.

JOAN KNOWLES did fieldwork with the IIOitai Maasai in Kenya for a doctoral dissertation for the University of Durham. Her principal research interests are human-animal relationships and the expression of these relationships through animal symbolism.

JOHAN POTTIER is Lecturer in Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. His *Migrants No More: settlement and survival in Mambwe villages, Zambia* was published by Manchester University Press for the International African Institute in 1988.

PETER PROBST has master's degrees from both Cambridge University and the Free University of Berlin (where he has also taught). Subsequently he has completed fieldwork among the Wimbun on the Cameroon Grassfields.