

Notes and News

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'Town and Country in Central and Eastern Africa'

THE Institute's twelfth International African Seminar was held in association with the Institute of African Studies at the University of Zambia, Lusaka, from 11 to 20 September 1972. The subject—"Town and Country in Central and Eastern Africa"—afforded an opportunity to contribute and discuss the results of much recent research on social, economic, and political developments in the region with special reference to rural-urban relations and also to consider the special fields and topics to which further studies should be directed. The assumptions and methods of the relevant disciplines and the means of securing wider communication of different approaches were reviewed. Special attention was given to such topics as: demographic trends, changing patterns of migration, valuations and expectations of rural and urban environments, the relevance of substantive researches and theoretical developments to the formulation of policy in development and administration.

The Chairman of the Seminar, Professor J. van Velsen, Director of the Institute of African Studies of the University of Zambia, is preparing the research papers and an introductory review of the work of the Seminar for publication by the International African Institute. The participants included: Mr. P. Halpenny, Dr. M. A. Hirst, Mr. M. Mushanga, Miss C. Obbo, Professor A. Southall (Makerere University); Mr. M. U. Kashoke (University of Zambia); Dr. A. V. Chilivumbi (University of Malawi); Dr. A. B. M. Mafeje (University of Dar es Salaam); Dr. P. Ohadike (U.N. Economic Commission for Africa); Professor Max Gluckman, Dr. G. Kingsley Garbett, Professor J. C. Mitchell (University of Manchester); Dr. W. T. S. Gould (University of Liverpool); Dr. D. Parkin (University of Sussex); Dr. T. van Velsen (University of Utrecht); Professor Elizabeth Colson, Dr. T. Scudder (University of California); Dr. V. C. Uchendu (University of Illinois).

The Institute and the participants are indebted to the University of Zambia for the generous and much appreciated hospitality which it provided. Thanks are also again due to the Ford Foundation for its continued support of this international seminar programme.

Grants for African Studies (U.S.A.)

THE Joint Committee on African Studies, sponsored with the American Council of Learned Societies, has awarded ten grants for 1972-3 for research relating to Africa south of the Sahara:

Ralph A. Austen (Chicago): economic, social, and political transformation of an African people trading as 'middlemen' c. 1700-1940 (Duala).

René A. Bravmann (Washington): artistic interactions between the Bobo, the Bwaba, and the Muslim Mande-Dafing of Bobo-Dioulasso.

Kenneth W. Grundy (Case Western Reserve University): international relations in southern Africa—the role of an 'intrusive' European power.

Kaba Lansiné (Minnesota): African traders and their role in national movements in Mali, 1945-58.

Marion D. de B. Kilson (Simmons College): Mende oral literature.

C. Gregory Knight (Pennsylvania State): a unified model of a man-environment system (Nigeria).

Suzanne Miers (Ohio): the results of the suppression of slavery and the slave trade in two East and two West African societies, 1890–1920 (Kenya, Uganda, and Nigeria).

Kingsley Ogedengbe (Luther College): Chief Ogedengbe, Kakamfo Ilesha—his career as a military leader and statesman.

Harold E. Scheub (Wisconsin): oral-narrative performance in diverse African cultures (Swaziland, Uganda, Nigeria).

William F. Steel (Vanderbilt University): employment, labour migration, and the labour absorption potential of the industry of Ghana.

Current Research at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana (see also *Africa*, xxxix. 3, 1969, p. 300)

RESEARCH at present is concentrated mainly on the history and cultures of societies in Ghana, including languages and literature, social and political organization, traditional economies, as well as music, dance, drama, and visual art. Inter-disciplinary studies are being undertaken in the Ashanti and Brong-Ahafo, Dagomba, Efutu, and Dangme areas. A handbook on Akwapim with contributions by scholars within and outside the Institute has been prepared for publication by the Ghana Publishing Corporation. It is hoped to move into areas such as northern Ghana and the Volta Region in which some preliminary work has been done in restricted fields.

The Ashanti Research Project, launched in 1963, has received the greatest attention and has produced studies in the constitutional history of Ashanti as well as in traditional economy. A significant contribution was made by the late Asantehene, Nana Sir Osei Agyeman Prempeh II, who made all the court records and minutes of the Asanteman Council and other documents available to the Institute. These are housed in a building at Manhiya, Kumasi, allocated by the Asantehene to the Institute for use as a Record Office. His successor, Nana Opoku Ware II, has also shown great interest in the project. The documentation of historical traditions has been completed in a number of Akan areas and some special reports on history and traditions have been published. Current researches include a study of the political organization and history of Mampong in relation to Kumasi and northern Ghana, a survey of Brong, the study of Buffer States (e.g. Berekum), studies in problems of accommodation, incorporation, and conflict with particular reference to Zongos, patterns of destoolment, social conflicts in Ashanti and their modes of resolution, as well as the control of cult organizations and rituals of chiefship. Investigations into the arts of Ashanti in connection with these rituals are also being carried out.

Current researches in Islamic Studies include the histories of Islamic peoples in Ghana, education, historiography in Ashanti, survey of Zongo communities in southern Ghana, Islam in the service of tradition in Dagomba, and biographical studies of Islamic scholars. The collection of Arabic manuscripts begun in 1963 has continued, but more attention is now being given to the cataloguing, translation, and study of the accumulated material.

Special projects are being undertaken regarding the collection and documentation of oral traditions, festivals and ceremonies, and important regional events. The collection of art objects of ethnographic interest and indigenous musical instruments has been continued, but lack of storage space, a laboratory, and a proper exhibition hall have made it necessary to suspend field collection and to concentrate for the present on detailed contextual studies of selected objects. The archive of the Institute now holds a large number of field recordings made in Ghana and other parts of Africa and steps are being taken to build up a comparable stock of ethnographic and educational films, and documentaries in various fields of African studies.

(Abridged from Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana,
Current Research 1971–3)