

Zimbabwe from the north, reaching Southern Rhodesia in about A.D. 1400. The second came from the direction of the Congo Basin, whence it spread to Southern Rhodesia in the early part of the sixteenth century.

A number of papers were read on rock paintings in various parts of Africa, and opportunities were provided for visiting rock shelters in both Rhodesias. This art is highly developed in Southern Rhodesia and covers a long stretch of history possibly from the Middle Stone Age to recent times, several styles of painting being represented. In the north, the naturalistic and schematic styles may be distinguished, both probably dating from the Later Stone Age. The Nachikufu Cave south of Mpika is of particular importance since it gives the complete Late Stone Age sequence of that part of the country. There are interesting geometric designs in Nsalu Cave in the Nachikufu ridge, which are considered to be Bantu and exhibit obvious similarities to the Teso rock paintings in Uganda. There may also be paintings on Buvuma Island in Lake Victoria.

Two sets of rock engravings were inspected in Rhodesia. Very few have been found in Tanganyika, but they are more common in Kenya, where the designs are rich and include animals and people.

At the closing plenary session resolutions were passed regarding the terminology to be used in African prehistory.

The Belgian Government's invitation that the next Congress, to be held in 1959, should take place in the Belgian Congo was unanimously accepted.

### *Centre d'études africanistes à l'École Pratique des Hautes Études (Paris)*

DEPUIS novembre 1956, un Centre d'études africanistes existe au sein de l'École Pratique des Hautes Études, VI<sup>e</sup> section (sociologie). Ce centre dispense l'enseignement suivant:

G. Balandier, directeur d'études, professeur à l'Institut d'Études politiques:

1. Structures sociales et structures économiques; aspects traditionnels et aspects modernes; 2. Travaux pratiques, exposés d'ouvrages, résultats d'enquêtes.

D. Paulme, directeur d'études: Quelques types de structures sociales traditionnelles en Afrique Noire.

P. Mercier, chargé de conférences: Fonctions économiques de groupes sociaux en milieu africain.

G. Sautter, chargé de conférences: Les économies africaines et la colonisation.

En outre, des séances de travail collectif réunissent professeurs et étudiants, parmi lesquels on compte de nombreux Africains. Ces séances sont consacrées à des exposés sur les techniques de l'enquête (Sautter, l'enquête cartographique; Paulme, l'enquête en milieu rural; Mercier, l'enquête en milieu urbain; Balandier, l'enquête en milieu industrialisé). D'autres séances sont réservées à l'étude d'une question particulière: exposés d'ouvrages, résultats d'enquêtes.

Dans le cadre de cet enseignement, M. Hampate Ba a donné, en décembre 1956, deux leçons sur l'éducation traditionnelle dans la société peule. Ces leçons ont marqué l'accueil officiel fait par l'Université à un enseignement de sociologie africaine émanant d'un Africain.

Un Centre de documentation africaniste, comprenant une assistante (Mme A. Chiva-Deluz), une documentaliste et une secrétaire, a été constitué. Il comporte, dès à présent, une bibliographie ethnographique et des bibliographies spécialisées sur les structures et évolutions politiques; les problèmes de sociologie économique. Une bibliographie historique est en cours d'élaboration. Ce centre est installé à Paris, 54 rue de Varenne.

Le programme de publication pour 1957 prévoit les ouvrages suivants:

Ouvrage collectif: Systèmes africains en mouvement.

G. Althabe: Pygmées du Cameroun: changements économiques et sociaux.

- E. Leynaud: Organisation politique des Azandé.  
 A. Venciana: Notes sur les Bwiti.  
 G. Tardits: Les mythes, les institutions et les coutumes des Dogon.  
 Bibliographie des problèmes politiques actuels.

*Communication de G. Balandier*

### *The Advancement of African Women in the Belgian Congo<sup>1</sup>*

THE advancement of women in the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi was the subject discussed at the 12th session of the Congrès Colonial National held in Brussels 23 and 24 November 1956. The Congress received reports from four Commissions each of which was concerned with one of the following aspects of the problem: The legal status of African women; social welfare and assistance; education; the role of European women in the Congo. M. Paul Coppens, Secretary-General of the permanent committee of the Congrès Colonial National, summarized the reports and resolutions presented by the Commissions. Before the session, questionnaires had been circulated in the Colony, and the 62 answers received from a wide variety of sources, African as well as European, had provided material on which the reports of the Commissions were based.

A review of the status of women in the traditional African society led to the conclusion that indigenous law and custom in fact protected women, especially as wives and mothers, although denying them full legal status in theory. Rapidly changing economic and social conditions today were, however, undermining the traditional structure with consequent repercussions on the status of women. These were, of course, most acutely felt in urban centres and here the disparity between the stages of development reached by men and by women was most clearly evident. The problem was whether the traditional structure could be adapted to the needs of the future and to the women of the future. Welfare and educational facilities needed to be developed and multiplied and the active co-operation of educated Africans must be secured. There was need for many more schools for girls, primary and post-primary as well as vocational and professional, together with facilities for further training in Belgium.

It was suggested that European women living in the Congo, whether exercising a profession or accompanying their husbands, should receive some training and preparation for life in the Colony, should study one or other of the African languages and be encouraged to play their part in working for the common welfare.

### *Missionary Conference on Literature in the Congo*

THIS conference, the last of six sponsored by the Conseil Protestant du Congo and the Evangelical Literature Organization and organized by Mr. Paul Stough of the Africa Inland Mission, met in Léopoldville in October 1956. Mr. Stough was assisted by the executive secretary of ELO, the Rev. Harold Street, and the International Committee for Christian Literature in Africa was represented by its London secretary, the Rev. Claude de Mestral. Language-area conferences were held as follows: Kikongo (Kikwit), Lingala (Bolenge), Congo-Swahili (Ruanguba), Bangala (Gombari), Kinyaruanda (Usumbura).

In proposing the resolution for the formation of a colony-wide committee, Mr. R. B. Anderson of the Methodist Evangelical Union suggested that it should be formed from the literature committees of local missions and from the area fellowships which had grown out of these. The function of such a committee would be to further the interchange of manuscripts between areas, to supervise the French literature programme, and to dispense neces-

<sup>1</sup> A lengthy report of the Congress, with numerous illustrations, was published in *Belgique d'Outremer*, Janvier 1957.