

NOTES AND NEWS

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON AFRICAN STUDIES

The constituent assembly of the Council took place in Paris on 21–22 March 1983. This followed a gathering of scholars from ten countries in October 1981, sponsored by the Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique, attended also by representatives of governments and international organizations, and a meeting of a working group in February 1982.

The Council exists to promote research and teaching on Africa throughout Europe, to assist the exchange of information both within Europe and between Europe and Africa, to facilitate the movement of scholars and students, and to demonstrate both to governments and to the general public in Europe the need for continuing studies of Africa for the mutual benefit of both continents. At present its concerns are confined to studies in the humanities and social sciences.

Initially, the Council includes representatives from eleven countries (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom), but it may be expanded in due course. There are four members from most countries, and there is a committee comprising one member from each.

The executive elected for the first two years comprises: President, A. Coupez (Belgium); Vice-Presidents, B. Bernardi (Italy), A. G. M. Lima (Portugal), H. O. Sano (Denmark); General Secretary, A. M. O'Connor (UK). An Executive Secretary and Treasurer is to be appointed from France. The headquarters is to be the institution to which the President is affiliated.

Financial support has so far been generously provided by the Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique, but that body has made it clear that it cannot continue as the main source of support, and therefore one of the first tasks of the executive must be to seek adequate finance from alternative sources. There are, however, no plans for the Council to become a large organization with its own full-time staff and a substantial budget. It will remain an international association of scholars dedicated to the well-being of Africa-related studies that are based in Europe but conducted in close co-operation with institutions within Africa.

The Executive Committee met on 4–5 June 1983, and was due to meet again in November or December. Efforts to secure funding for the Council for 1984 and onwards, from bodies such as the European Community secretariat and UNESCO, had been unsuccessful, and its future must depend on further such efforts since the commitment of the Agence de Coopération Culturelle et Technique ends this year. As a first step in gathering and spreading information on African studies in Europe, a directory of teaching programmes relating specifically to Africa is being compiled. The Council is also likely to be involved in a European symposium on African language bibliography due to take place early in 1984, and provides a network for publicizing other meetings of this type. In the absence of funds, it is not as yet able to sponsor any itself. Close liaison has been established with the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), which has existed since 1975 and is currently based in the Netherlands.

It is envisaged that the Council as a whole should meet once every two years, i.e. next in early 1985.

ASSOCIATION FRANÇAISE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DE LA RECHERCHE
SCIENTIFIQUE EN AFRIQUE DE L'EST (ARESAE)

L'Association, dont le Président est J. Tubiana, a été fondée en 1968 pour contribuer au développement de la recherche scientifique désintéressée (en Ethiopie, en Somalie, à Djibouti, au Soudan, au Tchad, et dans les pays limitrophes), notamment en favorisant la circulation rapide des nouvelles scientifiques et la diffusion des résultats de la recherche.

Ainsi est-elle, en liaison avec le Laboratoire Peiresc du CNRS (Centre de Recherches sur l'Afrique Orientale, Sophia Antipolis, F-06560 Valbonne), organisé le V Congrès International d'Études Ethiopiennes à Nice en 1977 (*L'Ethiopie Moderne/Modern Ethiopia . . . Proceedings of the fifth International Conference of Ethiopian Studies . . .* edited by J. Tubiana, Rotterdam, Balkema, 1980), publié deux ouvrages dans sa collection 'Bibliothèque Peiresc' (Tawfiq al-Hakim: *Dans sa robe verte*, 1979; V. A. Yagi: *Contes d'Omdurman*, 1981), réuni un volume de mélanges en hommage au savant éthiopien Jerome Gabra Muse (*Guirlande pour Abba Jerome*, Ed. le Mois en Afrique, 8 Rue Mandar, F-75002 Paris) et préparé, actuellement, la publication d'un recueil d'études sur la littérature éthiopienne, rassemblant une série de conférences données sur ce thème, en 1983, à l'Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales.

Elle publie, depuis 1973, une feuille de nouvelles, scientifiques et bibliographiques, où l'on a souhaité rassembler pour les diffuser dans le plus bref délai possible, les informations utiles aux chercheurs (on peut l'obtenir en faisant la demande au Secrétaire Général, à l'adresse indiquée ci-dessus; on peut également nous faire parvenir des informations d'intérêt général, qui seront bienvenues). L'Association veut être un lien entre les chercheurs et un moyen de faire connaître leurs recherches, en dehors de toutes considérations extra-scientifiques. Renseignements: M. Perret, Secrétaire-Générale ARESAE, 30 Rue de Clichy, F-75009 Paris, France.

NEW SCOLMA PUBLICATIONS

The Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa (SCOLMA) in the United Kingdom continuing its programme of bibliographical publications has various new titles in hand. The *Directory of libraries and special collections on Africa*, 4th edition appeared late in 1983 published by Hans Zell. This new edition is edited by Harry Hannam, Librarian, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and will include a number of new libraries in Great Britain and, for the first time, in Western Europe.

Two supplements to SCOLMA's definitive bibliography of journals published in Africa, *Periodicals from Africa*, will appear in 1984. The first, listing some 7000 titles, will be published in March by G. K. Hall and will shortly be followed by a second supplement of approximately 2000 titles issued