NOTES AND NEWS

SCOLMA

News

SCOLMA's AGM was held on Saturday 2nd July in Senate House, University of London at the close of the Africana Resources Day of the AEGIS Conference (see below). David Blake, Librarian of the Commonwealth Secretariat, was reelected as Chair; Ian Cooke, of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, has taken on the role of Treasurer; and Terry Barringer is now acting as Secretary. Two newcomers joined the committee, Marilyn Glanfield of the Centre of African Studies, Cambridge and Dawn Wright of SOAS.

Annual Report 2004–2005

The year 2004–2005 has seen progress in a number of areas, mainly due to the teamwork which has for many years been a feature of SCOLMA.

Committee

The Committee has met four times during the year, in June 2004 at The National Archives, in November 2004 at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, in March 2005 at the Rothermere American Institute in Oxford, and in June 2005 at SOAS. We are pleased to be able to report that the reciprocal agreement which we have with the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom (ASAUK), whereby a representative of each organisation attends the other's meetings, is now operating more regularly.

The activities of the Committee are outlined in the following paragraphs, but it is appropriate to record here our appreciation to two members of the committee who will be leaving shortly.

Helen Muirden became Treasurer in 1999 after a period as a Committee member and has been a careful and efficient guardian of our finances. We are very sorry that she is leaving the Committee and we wish her all the best in the future.

Mandy Banton has been a member of the Committee since at least 1997 and has played an important role in the production of our journal, through proof-reading and liaising with the printers. Her work is now taking her in new directions and she has decided that she cannot continue beyond the end of this year. We are extremely grateful to Mandy for all that she has done and for offering to continue a little longer. We will be very sorry to see her go.

Three Conferences

SCOLMA Conference 2004

Sheila Allcock's written report to the last AGM did not cover the 2004 conference which was held on the same day, so it is appropriate to record it here.

The theme of the conference, which attracted 38 participants, was *Sharing information – African perspectives*. The speakers were:

Jasper Muvezwa (African Capacity Building Foundation) Information and communication technologies and libraries in Africa: challenges and prospects

Bridget McBean (European Centre for Development Policy Management) Has information reached Cotonou? ECDPM's perspectives

Mary Materu-Behitsa (Association of African Universities) DATAD: the database of African theses and dissertations

Sheila Vaughan and David Smith (Institute for Development Policy Management, University of Manchester) Developing quality learning skills: the creation and use of purposive information and knowledge for development

John Lindsay (Kingston University) Metadata and Africa: the issues facing information professionals

Sarah Durrant (International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications) *Bridging the knowledge divide*

Javed Iqbal (British Council) The British Council and information sharing in Africa

The papers by Bridget McBean and Sarah Durrant have been published in *African Research and Documentation*.

ASAUK Conference 2004

SCOLMA has enjoyed a long association with ASAUK and Marion Wallace took this further by organising a library and archive panel at the 2004 conference, held at Goldsmiths College. Interesting papers were given by Marion Wallace, Danny Millum and Susannah Rayner. [Published in this issue of ARD].

SCOLMA at the AEGIS conference 2005

When the Committee heard that the AEGIS conference was to be held in London in June/July this year, our initial reaction was that we could take advantage of this and hold our own conference at the same time, thus increasing attendance. However, our plans changed and it was decided not to hold our own conference, but to participate in the Africana Resources Day.

Barbara Spina has been extremely busy organising or co-organising two panels, both of which include papers by SCOLMA members.

The first, African manuscript collections in Europe, includes a paper from John Pinfold on Collecting African archives: the experience of the Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House. In the second, Terry Barringer will be speaking on Librarians and academics: a view from both sides of the desk and Sheila Allcock and Tom French will be talking about the SCOLMA Directory project. To round off the event, a panel discussion on future cooperative activities will be chaired by Barbara Spina.

It is pleasing to be able to note that the keynote speech for the day will be given by Kay Raseroka, the President of IFLA, whose subject is *Africa to Africa: Building its Knowledge Community*. Thanks are due to Barbara and the rest of the SCOLMA team for their hard work in preparing for this event. [Kay Raseroka's speech and other papers from the day will be published in ARD 99].

African Research and Documentation

At the last AGM Terry Barringer became Editor, Ian Cooke was elected Deputy Editor and Mandy Banton continued to be Assistant Editor with special responsibility for proof-reading and liaison with the printers. Three issues have been produced during the year and a fourth is in preparation. The journal continues to be a major source of information on Africana-related librarianship and bibliography and we are pleased that we have been able to keep the subscription rate as a very reasonable level.

A Changing Website

Clive Wilson has been busy during the year improving the appearing of our website, which is available at www.lse.ac.uk/library/scolma. Possible changes were discussed by a working group consisting of David Blake, Bridget McBean, Marion Wallace and Clive Wilson, the work is nearing completion and may be in place in time for the AGM. We are keen to make the website a major tool for informing members of activities and to this end, items such as this report and the accounts are being made available on it.

Improving Publicity

Every year SCOLMA loses some members but also gains some, so the total number on the books remains pretty steady. In an attempt to change this, a leaflet about the organisation has been produced and will be available at the AGM.

Progress on the SCOLMA Directory

It is pleasing to be able to announce that good progress has been made with this project. Sheila Allcock has taken on the task of producing the entries for British libraries and Tom French, who produced the fifth edition in 1993, is working on the entries for the rest of Europe. Ian Cooke and Clive Wilson have been working on the technical issues related to the online submission of data.

The Committee has been considering how the Directory will be made available, whether through our own website or through a commercial provider, or by a variety of means, including a printed version. The final decision has not yet been made.

SCOLMA Seminars

Two seminars have been held during the year, both of which were interesting and well-attended.

On 29 November, Peter Sebina and Segomotso Keakopa, Lecturers in Archives and Records Management at the Department of Library and Information Studies at the University of Botswana spoke on Archives and records management in Botswana.

Dr Alex May, Research Editor at the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, spoke about African lives in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography on 18 March.

Two new honorary members - and a sad loss

Over the years a number of individuals who have made a major contribution to the work of SCOLMA have been awarded honorary membership. This year the Committee was pleased to add two more to the list:

- Professor John McIlwaine, who was Treasurer from 1980 to 1985, Chair from 1989 to 1993, and spent two periods as Editor, from 1985 to 1989 and again from 1993 to 2004
- Sheila Allcock who, after a period as a Committee member, was Chair
 of the SCOLMA Automation Committee from 1992 onwards and Chair
 of SCOLMA from 1999 to 2004.

For what we think is the first time, official certificates were presented to both John and Sheila at a SCOLMA seminar.

At its most recent meeting, the Committee was sorry to hear of the death of Louis Frewer, who was a founder member of SCOLMA and its Chair from 1968 to 1971. [An obituary appears in this issue of ARD.]

David Blake Chair June 2005

The **British Library** will be organising three events over September and October, to coincide with the Africa 05 programme. The front hall of the British Library will host a Sounds of Africa exhibition. The Library will also be hosting an African Literature festival, organised by the Africa Centre, on the 15th and 16th October. This will be followed on the 17th October by a conference on African writing and publishing. More details are below.

International Development Library, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford

Further to reports in previous editions of ARD, it has now been announced that the International Development Library will close on the 5th July. The collections will be moved to the Social Science Library over the Summer, and will be available to readers from 5th September.

The future of libraries in Oxford University has been the subject of discussion and concern within the University, and some articles in the press have reflected this.

OXFAM Library

The Library is moving this Summer to OXFAM's new site in Cowley, Oxford. The Library collections will be closed from the end of June, and should be available for consultation again in September. The archives are expected to be available from October. As with current arrangements, consultations of the collections are by prior appointment with the Librarian (Ros Buck). The new address and telephone number will be as follows:

Ros Buck Librarian Oxfam GB Library Oxfam House John Smith Drive Cowley Oxford OX4 2JY UK

Tel +44 (0) 1865 473757

email: rbuck@oxfam.org.uk

INSTITUTIONS & ORGANISATIONS

African Journals Online (AJOL), a database of scholarly research from African journals, has announced that its database will now be hosted by National Inquiry Services Centre (NISC), South Africa. The searchable database includes details of articles published in more than 200 peer-reviewed journals published in Africa. The full-text of articles may be ordered online. New additions to the database include the *Ghana Library Journal*, and *Huria: Journal of the Open University of Tanzania*. The web address for AJOL remains: http://www.ajol.info/

AWARDS & PRIZES

Conover-Porter Award for Africana Bibliography or Reference Work

The winner of the 2004 award has been announced as A.J. Christopher, *The Atlas of Changing South Africa*, London, Routledge, 2001. The award is made biennially by the Africana Librarians Council of the African Studies Association (US). Honourable mentions were given to: Paul Tigambe Zeleza and Dickson Eyoh, *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century African History*, London and New York: Routledge, 2003; and Toyin Falola, *Key Events in African History: A Reference Guide*, Westport CT: Greenwood Press, 2002. Nominations for the 2006 award will be requested from 1st July this year.

Joel Gregory prize

Details of the 2006 award have been released. This award is for a book on Africa (relating to the humanities or social sciences) written either by a Canadian or by an author from Africa, who has studied in Canada. The book must have been first published between 1st January 2003 and 31st December 2005. Further details can be obtained from, and nominations sent to, Chris Youe (past president of the Canadian Association of African Studies). Emails can be sent to cyoue@mun.ca

EXHIBITIONS

Sounds of Africa

Sounds of Africa, an exhibition for the front hall of the British Library, will explore aspects of African culture through music and literature. Using the Sound Archive's holdings of published and unpublished recordings of traditional and popular music and oral literature, visitors will experience the vast array of African cultural expression as captured by ethnographers and publishers dating from the infancy of recording technologies to the present time. Recordings of selected African writers will also be included, facilitating connected displays of some of the BL's holdings of relevant printed and manuscript collections. The recordings will be enhanced with visual displays of record artwork, ethnographic photographs, maps and related printed material where appropriate. The exhibition will run from mid-September to mid-November 2005.

ONLINE

Afrika-Studiecentrum http://www.ascleiden.nl/

The Afrika-Studiecentrum in Leiden have announced their new website. The homepage has details of forthcoming events and activities, and there are links to information about research and publications from the Centre. Of special

interest are the Library Web Dossiers. A number of these are produced each year, focusing on a specific topic and comprising a review of print and online literature.

British Library Images Online http://www.imagesonline.bl.uk/britishlibrary/

A searchable database of images taken from the British Library's collections. Search results include thumbnail and larger images, and there is an ordering service for researchers who need higher quality images or require publication rights. The database is growing, and, at the time of writing, contains 154 images relating to Africa. The content is mainly 19th Century or earlier, and includes watercolours of scenes and wildlife, and several early maps.

Eritrean Print and Oral Culture http://www.crcstudio.arts.ualberta.ca/eritrean/

A new online archive, which includes images from books, artefacts, and sound recordings of folk tales. The site is intended both as a resource for those interested in Eritrean literature and culture, and as a means of promoting cultural awareness amongst Eritrean-Canadians. The digital archive is growing, and includes examples in English and the Tigrinya language.

H-French Colonial http://www.h-net.org/~frenchco/

A new H-Net discussion list, which will focus on French colonial history, cultural studies, and on France's relationship with its colonies (both past and present). Like other H-Net lists, this will be moderated, and will include announcements of new books, conferences, and job opportunities, alongside academic debate.

Nollywood Rising

http://www.nollywoodconventionusa.com/home.html

Website for the international convention and symposium held in Los Angeles in mid June this year, looking at the Nigerian film industry. Alongside details of the convention, the site links to film clips and a short bibliography of Nigerian film. As the site supports the convention, it is not clear for how long it will be maintained.

Resources on African Health and Diseases http://www.africa.upenn.edu/health/

A listing of online resources aimed at improving understanding of health issues as they apply to Africa. Entries are organised by: diseases, organisations, and ministries and hospitals.

Société français d'histoire d'outre-mer http://sfhom.free.fr/ or http://www.sfhom.com

Launched in September 2004, the site contains information about the Society, details on contents of its journal *Outre-Mers: la revue d'histoire*, and a useful list of links to external bodies. Of particular interest is the retrospective bibliography of the Society's publications, covering the period 1913-2003, and organised by author and region. The bibliography may be downloaded from the "publications" section of the site.

South African Research and Archival Project (SARAP) http://sarap.howard.edu/

SARAP is a new site, which examines archive records of US institutions to show American (and principally African American) links with South Africa. The site contains finding aids to file or item level, listing only the records of relevance to relations with South Africa or South Africans in exile. The finding aids may be browsed or searched. The website is the result of collaboration between Howard University and the University of Fort Hare.

REFERENCE SOURCES, BIBLIOGRAPHIES & INFORMATION WORK AFRICA IN GENERAL

Soul Beat number 35 (9th March 2005) focuses on Libraries. Articles cover the Co-operative Africana Microform Project, the Zimbabwe Women Resource Centre and Network, library resources for children, and an online project to set up an HIV/AIDS library in Lagos. Soul Beat is an online publication and web resource on Africa, intended for use by academics, media researchers, and others concerned with communication for change in Africa. Issue 35 can be viewed online at: http://www.comminit.com/africa/soulbeat/soul-beat-35.html

Gerdes, P., AMUCHMA Newsletter, no. 30, special issue: Over 600 Examples of African Doctorates in Mathematics

This work follows from Paulus Gerde's Mathematics in History and Culture: an Annotated Bibliography. The listing is of the work of scholars who were either born in Africa or who were African citizens. The newsletter can be downloaded from the website of the African Mathematical Union: Commission on the History of Mathematics in Africa (AMUCHMA), which may be found at: http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/AMU/amuchma_online.html

Africa Bibliography 2003, edited by Terry Barringer, has been published. The volume contains more than 5000 entries. There is also an article by Sarah Heery on the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa

"Books on the move: How mobile libraries deliver health advice in Africa and India", *Nursing Standard*, Vol. 19 Pt 36, 2005, pp. 22–24

Ali, I., "Women in African Politics: A Select Bibliography", Africa Quarterly, Vol. 44 Pt 3, pp. 109–135

Assensoh, A., "Africa, Third World Studies and Our Responsibilities as Researchers", Journal of Third World Studies, Vol. 32 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 13–20

Bemath, Abdul Samed (ed), The Mazruiana Collection Revisited: Ali A Mazrui Debating The African Condition, an Annotated and Select Thematic Bibliography, 1962–2003 (Revised and Enlarged Edition), Foreword by Chief Emeka Anyaoku, New Dawn Press, New Delhi, 2005. 426 pp., 650 Entries. ISBN: 1932705376 (Hardcover)

Darko-Ampem, K., "A University Press Publishing Consortium for Africa: Lessons from Academic Libraries", *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*, Vol. 36 Pt 2, 2005, pp. 89–114

Dent, V., Yannotta, L., "A Rural Community Library in Africa: A Study of its Use and Users", *Libri*, Vol. 55 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 39–55

Gyamfi, A., "Closing the digital divide in Sub-Saharan Africa: meeting the challenge of the information age", *Information Development*, Vol. 21 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 22–30

Igun, S.E., "Implications for electronic publishing in libraries and information centres in Africa", *Electronic Library*, Vol. 23 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 82–91

Lor, P.J., "Preserving African digital resources: is there a role for repository libraries?", *Library Management*, Vol. 26 Pt 1/2, 2005, pp. 63–72

Mutula, S.M., "Peculiarities of the digital divide in sub-Saharan Africa", *Program*, Vol 39 Pt 2, 2005, pp. 122–138

Philips, J.E. (ed), *Writing African History*, University of Rochester Press, 2005, 552 pp., ISBN 1580461646. Contents include: oral sources and traditions; Arabic sources; European documents; botanical data; linguistic evidence; and the use of Mission and Colonial documentation.

Sonaike, S.A., "The Internet and the dilemma of Africa's development", Gazette: international journal for communication studies, Vol. 66 Pt 1, 2004, pp. 41–61

Thompson, T. Jack, *Images of Africa: missionary photography in the nineteenth century: an introduction*, Occasional Paper, Centre of African Studies, University of Copenhagen, 2004, 24 pp.

NORTH-EAST AFRICA

Eritrea

Palma, S., "The seen, the unseen, the invented: misrepresentations of African 'otherness' in the making of a colony. Eritrea 1885-1896", Cahiers d'études africaines Vol. 45 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 39–69

EAST AFRICA

Ngulube, P., "Disaster and Security Management in Public Archival Institutions in ESARBICA Region", *African Journal of Archives Libraries and Information Science*, Vol. 15 Pt 1, pp. 15–24

Kenya

Kaduda, J., Olola, C.H., Oluoch, T.O., Mwazi, D.M., "A digital library in a rural malaria research centre in Africa; the Kenyan experience", *International Information and Library Review*, Vol. 37 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 3–10

Rwanda

Adami, T.A. and Hunt, M., "Genocidal Archives: The African Context – Genocide in Rwanda", *Journal of the Society of Archivists*, Vol. 26 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 105–122

Uganda

Magara, E., Batambuze, C., "Towards A Reading Culture for Uganda", African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science, Vol. 15 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 35–42

CENTRAL AFRICA

Maina, E., "Pour une généalogie de l'africanisme portugais", Cahiers d'études africaines Vol. 45 Pt.1, 2005, pp. 165–215

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Ojedokun, A., and Lumanda, E., "Co-operative electronic networks of academic libraries in Southern Africa", *Information Development*, Vol. 21 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 66–73

Botswana

Gerhan, D.R., Mutula, S.M., "Bandwidth bottlenecks at the University of Botswana: complications for library, campus, and national development", *Library Hi Tech*, Vol. 23 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 102–117

Lumande, E., Ojedokun, A.A., "Collection Mapping as an Evaluation Technique for Determining Curriculum and Collection Relationship: The University of Botswana Experience", *African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science*, Vol. 15 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 25–34

South Africa

de Jager, K., Nassimbeni, M., "Information Literacy and Quality Assurance in South African Higher Education Institutions", *Libri*, Vol. 55 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 31–38

Jacobs, G., "Libraries support local business", Cape Librarian, Vol. 49 Pt 2, 2005, pp. 10–13

Minishi-Majanja, M.K., "Information and communication technologies in library and information science education in South Africa", *Mousaion*, Vol. 22, Pt 2, 2004, pp 150–171

Ngubeni, M., "Self-reliance: is it possible for public libraries in South Africa at present?", *Innovation*, No 29, 2004, pp. 45–54

Nicholson, D.R., "What has copyright got to do with newspapers? A South African perspective", Cape Librarian, Vol.49 Pt 2, 2005, pp. 6–9

Stefano, L.A., Hendriks, S.L., Stilwell, C., Morris, C., "Printed Information Needs of Small-Scale Organic Farmers in KwaZulu-Natal", *Libri*, Vol. 55 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 56–66

Swaziland

Muswazi, P., "The Integration of Print and Electronic Sources: A Case Study of the University of Swaziland Library", *African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science*, Vol. 15 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 59–66

WEST AFRICA

Ghana

The African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science, Vol. 15 Pt 1, 2005, contains a number of articles of relevance to Ghana:

Adams, M., "The Management of Chieftaincy Records in Ghana: An Overview", pp. 67–74

"Towards Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Planning Procedures for Libraries: A Survey of Staff and Users of the Balme Library, University of Ghana", pp. 75–80 "The Ghana Interlibrary Lending and Document Delivery Network Gillddnet", pp. 87–88

Badu, E., "Employee motivation in University Libraries in Ghana: a comparative analysis", *Information Development*, Vol. 21 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 38–46

Nigeria

Shiloba, G.E., "Setting up and Managing ICT Laboratory in a Nigerian Library School: Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria Experience", African Journal of Library Archives and Information Science, Vol. 15 Pt 1, 2005, pp. 51–58

AFRICAN ARCHIVES

More information has been released regarding the **British Library's Endangered Archives** project. A partial list of successful applications for 2005 funding has now been placed on the project webpages. These include two projects under the "Major research projects" heading as follows:

"Rescuing Liberian history: preserving the personal papers of William V.S. Tubman, Liberia's longest serving President", project based at Indiana University.

"Bamum script and archives project: saving Africa's written heritage", based at St John's University, New York. This includes more than 7000 documents, many from the 19th century or earlier, and including examples of writing in several African languages, written using the Bamum script of the Cameroon Grassfields.

Smaller, pilot projects funded by the programme include: an assessment of the conservation requirements of the archive of Professor Ade Obayemi (an early archaeologist of northern Nigeria); and a study on preservation and access of Liberia's Presidential and National Archives.

Details on the Endangered Archives Programme can be found at http://www.bl.uk/about/policies/endangeredarch/homepage.html

CONFERENCES

Regional workshop on the problems and challenges of producing textbooks and other reading materials in African languages, Dakar, 26th-30th November 2004

Organised by the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), the African Publishers' Network (APNET), and Associates in Research and Education for Development (ARED), InWEnt Capacity Building International, and the UNESCO Institute for Education (IUE). A note on the workshop appears in *ADEA*Newsletter*, Vol. 16 Pt 4, Oct–Dec 2004, p. 20.

Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) 8th Annual Conference, Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province, 26th–30th September 2005 The theme of this year's conference is "Taking Libraries to the People". Alongside presentations on public libraries in the community, there are also

considerations of university, government and national libraries. Invited speakers include the president of the Nigeria Library Association, and Margaret Crampton of NISC. More details of the conference can be found at: http://www.liasa.org.za/conferences/conferences.php

African Publishing and Writing, British Library, London, 17th October 2005 This conference will be an opportunity to discuss the state of African publishing today, how and where new writing is being published, and connections with Britain. The conference is a follow-up to the two-day literature festival at the British Library, organised by the Africa Centre, on 15 and 16 October. Writers, publishers, academics and librarians, and anyone with an interest in African publishing and writing, are warmly invited to attend.

The organisers welcome offers of contributions (15-20 minute presentations) to the conference. The main themes will be: African publications in the British market; libraries and African material; the publication of African-language texts and translations; new writing and the internet; African publishing and development; and women in African writing and publishing. For more information about contributing to the conference please contact Dr Marion Wallace, African curator, British Library, at africa@bl.uk.

If you would like to attend the conference, you will need to register by contacting Marion Wallace as above. (Please note that places are limited, so early registration is advisable.)

Association for African American Research and Historical Preservation 3rd Annual Conference, Seattle, 4th February 2006

The Call for Papers for this conference is now open. The theme for the conference will be, "Re-examining the History Books: Uncovering and Discovering the Black Experience". Submissions are invited from academics, teachers, and those from libraries, archives and museums. Subjects for discussion will include: Black writers, Black newspapers and publishing, and the culture and history of African nations. Proposals and enquiries should be sent to conferences@aaahrp.org. Further information regarding the conference will be made available on their website at http://www.aaahrp.org

17th Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Library and Information Professionals (SCECSAL XVII), Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 10th–14th July, 2006

The main theme will be "Libraries as a Bridge to an Information and Knowledge Society in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa", and sub-themes explore the application of knowledge management in a wide variety of sectors and regional settings. The deadline for submission of papers has now passed. Further information on the conference can be obtained at http://www.tlatz.org/serv05.htm or from Dr Alli Mcharazo, the Chair of the organising committee, at PO Box 33433, Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA, Tel: +255 744 296134 and email: tla_tanzania@yahoo.com or amcharazo@muchs.ac.tz

Knowledge and Science in Africa, Frankfurt a.M., 24th–27th July 2006 Further to the announcement of this conference in the last issue of ARD, the date has now moved to a couple of weeks later in July.

OBITUARY

Peter K. Mitchell born 2nd June 1932, died 7th March 2005 Senior Lecturer in Geography, Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham.

Dr Mitchell taught at Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone from 1959 to 1966 and then accepted a lectureship at the University of Birmingham. His research interests focused mainly upon the geography and history of Sierra Leone. Between 1979 and 1988 he co-organised (with Adam Jones) five international Sierra Leone Symposia, held in Birmingham, and he was responsible for publishing the papers presented at the last three of these symposia.