

Notes and News

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Information on Current Research in African Studies

'Notes and News' endeavours to provide a comprehensive coverage of reports on current, prospective, and completed field research projects, special study courses, conferences, and other activities relevant to African studies. Effectiveness in making such information generally available in this way must largely depend on the co-operation of university and other study centres and of individual research workers in sending reports promptly and on their own initiative. We would therefore greatly appreciate the assistance of all organizations and persons actively concerned with African studies. Items for inclusion in 'Notes and News' should be concise, but should indicate the name and address of the organization, the scope and area of the study, names of participants, time-table, and plans for publication. Reports should be in English or French and, save in exceptional cases, should not exceed 500 words. They should be addressed to Miss Barbara Pym, the Assistant Editor of Africa.

Dr. R. E. Bradbury

WE deeply regret to record the death on 23 December 1969 at the age of 40 of Dr. R. E. Bradbury who held a Field Research Fellowship of the Institute from 1952 to 1954 and contributed a volume on the Benin Kingdom to the Ethnographic Survey of Africa. Dr. Bradbury devoted seven years to intensive anthropological field work on Benin and the Edo-speaking peoples of Nigeria on which he was the outstanding authority. His numerous published papers on many aspects of the political organization, religion, art, and history of Benin were marked by exceptional richness and theoretical insight. Since his appointment to a Senior Lecturership at the Centre of West African Studies at the University of Birmingham he had been engaged on a major work on the political development of the Benin Kingdom. This loss will be deeply felt by his colleagues and all concerned with the advancement of Nigerian studies.

Seminar on the Development of African Trade and Markets in West Africa

THIS seminar, the tenth in the series of International African Seminars, arranged by the Institute with the generous support of a grant from the Ford Foundation, was held at Fourah Bay College, Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 14 to 22 December 1969, under the chairmanship of M. Claude Meillassoux of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France.

The Institute is most grateful to the Principal, the Revd. Canon Harry Sawyerr, for welcoming the seminar and to Mr. Jonathan Hyde, Secretary of the Institute of African Studies and other members of the staff at the College for their valuable assistance in the local arrangements.

The following papers, relating to their own special fields of research were prepared by the participants for consideration in advance of the seminar:

- M. Samir Amin (Université de Poitiers): 'La politique coloniale française à l'égard de la bourgeoisie commerçante sénégalaise (1820-1900)'.
- M. Jean-Loup Amselle (Institut des Sciences Humaines, Bamako): 'Parenté et commerce chez les Kooroko'.

- Dr. Kwame Arhin (Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana): 'Atebubu markets: c. 1884-1930'.
- M. Marc Augé (ORSTOM, Abidjan): 'L'organisation du commerce pré-colonial en Basse Côte-d'Ivoire et ses effets sur l'organisation sociale des populations côtières'.
- M. Jean Louis Boutillier (ORSTOM, Paris): 'La cité marchande de Bouna dans l'ensemble économique Ouest-Africain pré-colonial'.
- Dr. Abner Cohen (School of Oriental and African Studies, London): 'Cultural strategies in the organisation of trading diasporas'.
- Mme Coquery-Vidrovitch (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris): 'De la traite des esclaves à l'exportation de l'huile de palme et des palmistes au Dahomey: XIX^e siècle'.
- Professor Philip Curtin (University of Wisconsin): 'Precolonial trading networks and traders: the Diakhanké'.
- Mr. K. Y. Daaku (University of Ghana): 'Gold, guns and the Gold Coast: a study of the organisation of trade among the Akan in the precolonial period'.
- Dr. B. W. Hodder (Queen Mary College, London): 'Periodic and daily markets in West Africa'.
- Mrs. M. E. Humphreys (Dr. Polly Hill) (University of Cambridge): 'Two types of West African house trade'.
- M. Michel Izard (CNRS and Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale, Paris): 'Les Yarse et le commerce dans le Yatênga pré-colonial'.
- Mrs. Rowena Lawson (University of Leeds): 'The supply response of retail trading services to urban population growth in Ghana'.
- M. Claude Meillassoux (CNRS, Paris): 'Le commerce pré-colonial et le développement de l'esclavage à Gubu du Sahel (Mali)'.
- M. Memel-Fôté (Institut d'Ethno-Sociologie, Université d'Abidjan): 'Stratégie de la politique des marchés dans une société sans état de Basse Côte d'Ivoire: les Adioukrou'.
- Professor Marvin Miracle (Dept. of Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin): 'Capitalism, capital markets and competition in West African trade'.
- Dr. Colin Newbury (Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Oxford): 'Prices and profitability in early nineteenth century West African trade'.
- M. Marc Piaux (CNRS and Centre Nigérien de Recherches en Sciences Humaines, Niamey): 'Cycles de marchés et "espaces" socio-politiques'.
- Professor Robert Smith (African Studies Program, University of Wisconsin): 'Market periodicity and locational patterns in West Africa: theory and empirical evidence'.
- M. Emmanuel Terray (Université de Vincennes): 'Commerce pré-colonial et organisation sociale chez les Dida de Côte d'Ivoire'.
- Professor Ivor Wilks (University of Cambridge): 'Asante policy towards the Hausa trade in the 19th century'.

Members of the staff of the departments of History, Economics, and Political Science at Fourah Bay College and several visiting observers took part in the discussions at the seminar. These were organized with reference to the following themes:

Pre-colonial Trade and Politics: relations of developments in trade to political organization and expansion.

Trading Areas and Market Centres: factors affecting the location and periodicity of markets; differing modes of exchange, market, and non-market trading; the social functions of markets.

Trade and Social Organization: effects of external trading on the structure of groups, social relations, and division of labour; the emergence of new social categories.

Long Distance Trade and the Development of Specialized Trading Groups: forms of

long-distance trading, expeditions, networks, relay trading, and transit markets; conditions for the emergence of specialized trading groups, their distinctive organization and ideology and their relations with host communities.

The Adaptation of African Economies and Trading to Changes in the nineteenth-century European Trade on the Coast: economic and social consequences of the growth and changing character of overseas trade.

The Impact of Modern Capitalism on African Trade: the position of African traders in the development of modern commerce, problems of African capital formation, responses to the development of urban consumer markets.

Comparative review of the Spheres and Categories of African Trade: the influence of geographical, socio-cultural, and political factors; the classification and elements of trade; reconsideration of concepts and theories.

The work of the seminar is being prepared for publication in a book which will include an introductory essay by the chairman which will review the discussions and the preparatory papers.

Budapest Conference on Problems of Economic Development in Africa

A CONFERENCE on 'The Implementation Problems of Economic Development Plans and Government Decisions in the Countries of Black Africa' was held in Budapest from 3 to 9 March 1969, and was attended by participants from the U.S.S.R., German Democratic Republic, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia, India, and Hungary. Further information may be obtained from: Mr. Paul Páricsy, Centre for Afro-Asian Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest XII, Kalló eszperes 15, Hungary.

Société Africaine de Culture: Symposium at Porto-Novo

A SYMPOSIUM on traditional African religions as a source of cultural values, organized by the government of Dahomey and the Société Africaine de Culture, with the co-operation of Unesco, will be held at Porto-Novo from 16 to 22 August 1970. A number of African and non-African specialists are being invited to contribute papers relating to institutions and legal systems, customs, technology, art, and cosmology. The influence of Islam and Christianity in Africa will be considered in the context of traditional African religions. There will also be papers on the Antilles and the Americas. Further information about the Symposium may be obtained from the Secretary-General, Société Africaine de Culture, 'Présence Africaine', 42 rue de Descartes, Paris 5^e; or, M. le Secrétaire-Rapporteur, Comité National de Préparation du Colloque sur les Religions Traditionnelles Africaines, Commission Nationale pour l'Unesco, Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, Porto-Novo, Dahomey.

African Folklore Conference: Bloomington, Indiana, July 1970

THE Folklore Institute of Indiana University will sponsor an African Folklore Conference, to be held in Bloomington, Indiana, on 16, 17, and 18 July 1970. It will continue the series of special summer programmes in Folklore held at Indiana University every four years since 1942. Scholars from Africa, Europe, and the United States will discuss the genres of African folklore, oral tradition as literary art, the influence of African folklore on modern African literature, relationships between African folklore and American Negro lore, African folklore as a source for the historian, and teaching materials for courses in African oral traditions. Further information and reservations may be obtained from the Director of the Folklore Institute, 714 East 8th Street, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.