

**STILL IN PRINT ...**

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Hilda Kuper: *A Witch in My Heart: A Play about the Swazi People*, foreword by Max Gluckman, published by OUP for the International African Institute, 1970, available from the Institute at £3.25.

**Advance notice: Fifth Birmingham Sierra Leone Studies Symposium**

It has not proved possible to make arrangements for SLSS V to be held in 1987 as the biennial sequence would require. However, arrangements are in progress for a weekend date in *mid-July 1988*. This postponement has the merit of avoiding the potential conflict of interest with the meeting held at Fourah Bay College in the University of Sierra Leone in May 1987 which specifically celebrated the Bicentenary of the Freetown settlement.

Changes at Fircroft College mean that a new venue in the Birmingham area may have to be found: equally congenial, one hopes.

As for earlier Symposia, the main aim will be to provide opportunities for informal discussion and contact, but we also hope that most participants will be willing to give some sort of paper. We suggest two formats: a) a 40-minute seminar submission followed by discussion; and b) a 15-minute review of work in progress or discussion of some particular problem, methodological or substantive. We expect to publish the proceedings.

Reply to: Dr. P. K. Mitchell  
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## THE INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN LIBRARY

General editors: J. D. Y. Peel and David Parkin

Theoretically informed ethnography, studies of social relations 'on the ground', with due attention to local cultural forms, has long been the chief focus of the International African Institute's publishing. This new series extends that strength into areas of current concern, practical and theoretical. It focuses on problems of development, especially the links between local and national levels of society; the interface between the social and environmental sciences; and history, particularly social, cultural and interdisciplinary questions.

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by Sandra T. Barnes 0 7190 1944 3

Winner of the Amaury Talbot Prize for 1986

Close runner-up for the Herskovitz Prize

**2 Feeding African cities** Studies in regional social history *ed.* Jane I. Guyer;  
*contributions by* Deborah F. Bryceson, Jane I. Guyer, Paul Mosley and  
Michael Watts 0 7190 2214 2

**3 The Maasai of Matapato** A study of rituals of rebellion *by* Paul Spencer  
0 7190 2554 0

The age system of the Maasai is ritually opposed to the patriarchal family, reflecting a fundamental ambivalence in their society. Extensive case material is used in this study to explore the process of aging, characterised by an element of ritualised rebellion and an ideology that is transformed with experience. Young men, the *morán*, uphold the ideal of Maasai unity, cultivating a Platonic society of their own that is opposed to the self-seeking life style of the elders and yet lays the foundations on which they too will settle down to elderhood, learning to cope with these opposed aspects of their lives.

**4 Migrants no more** Settlement and survival in Mambwe villages, Zambia  
*by* Johan Pottier 0 7190 2810 8

On the brink of famine, Zambia resolves to help the food sector recover by encouraging indigenous traditions, values and technology. The book explores the dynamics of a peripheral, so-called traditional economy, examining the extent to which village structures and value systems have changed over twenty-five years. It details genealogical developments which, with changes in agricultural production, religious ethic, politics, gender relations, patterns of solidarity and trade, constitute genuine local adjustments to the agrarian crisis.

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on behalf of the International African Institute

Authors wishing to submit proposals should contact either of the general editors or Dr Elizabeth Dunstan, Chairman of the Publications Committee, International African Institute, Lionel Robbins Building, 10 Portugal Street, London WC2A 2HD.

# TRANSFORMATIONS OF AFRICAN MARRIAGE

*editors*

DAVID PARKIN, DAVID NYAMWAYA

Is marriage in Africa to be understood in terms of alliance or descent? Or have such academic distinctions become irrelevant in modern Africa, where problems of Third World capitalism and urban population growth have totally transformed traditional systems? In fact, as this volume shows, there is still considerable continuity in the practices and ideas of marriage against a background of change. Out of this comes an extraordinary diversity of marriage forms in Africa. Some systems can be fruitfully understood in terms of Lévi-Strauss's distinction between complex and semi-complex structures, while others throw up questions of filiation, child custodianship, and rights secured through bridewealth transactions. In fact changing relations between men and women are the pivot on which these and other issues including those of a symbolic and legal nature turn.

This book will be particularly relevant to academic specialists in African studies, as well as to those concerned with the changing organisation of communities in Africa.

**David Parkin** is Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. **David Nyamwaya** is Research Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, Nairobi, Kenya.

## INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN SEMINARS

The International African Seminars and the volumes based on them have long been regarded as one of the International African Institute's most important contributions to African studies. The seminars bring together in Africa anglophone and francophone Africanist specialists from inside and outside the continent to debate particular topics. Many of the volumes in the previous series of seminars, the first of which was held at Makerere University in 1959, have become classic assessments and syntheses on topics ranging from indigenous African systems of thought, Islam in sub-Saharan Africa, to urbanisation and trade and the formation of elites. This new series, based on the same formula of international co-operation between Africanists addressing themes of direct relevance to contemporary Africa, maintains the same high standards of scholarship.

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- (a) for books: Griaule, M. 1965. *Conversations with Ogotemméli: an introduction to Dogon religious ideas*. London: Oxford University Press for the International African Institute.
- (b) for articles: Forde, D. 1950. 'Ward organization among the Yakö', *Africa* 20 (4), 267–89.
- (c) for papers in books: Kashoki, M. E. 1975. 'Migration and language change: the interaction of town and country', in D. Parkin (ed.), *Town and Country in Central and East Africa*, pp. 228–49. London: Oxford University Press for the International African Institute.

**Tables, maps, diagrams, and figures** should be placed at the end of the article, each on a separate sheet of paper and numbered. The number should also be placed in the margin of the text where the author wishes the table, diagram, etc., to appear. They should be clearly drawn so that they are suitable for photocopying as submitted. And sources must be duly acknowledged.

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