HISTORY DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

The Department has recently initiated an M.A. program which now has six Tanzanian participants, all serving as teachers within the Department. The course is open to non-Tanzanians willing to finance themselves. The main focus is economic, and courses will be concerned with the problems of under-development and their historical roots. For more details on the M.A. program, write: Department of History, University of Dar es Salaam, P.O. Box 35051, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Current research in the department includes the TANU History Project being done at the request of the Tanganyika African National Union. Writing the TANU history will be the responsibility of the entire Department and will be wholly financed by the University. A committee of five will coordinate the project. In addition, Mrs. Martha Honey (Syracuse University) is conducting a political history project entitled “Asian involvement in the Nationalist Movement in Tanganyika.”

[This information was obtained from Tanzania Zamani, issued by the History Department and the Historical Association of Tanzania, no. 13, July 1973.]

ASA PROTESTS CENSORSHIP

[The following exchange of correspondence was initiated by the Board of Directors of the African Studies Association at a meeting on October 31, 1973. The Board directed Mr. Duffy to send a letter to Clarendon Press protesting what it considered to be “an act of surrogate censorship” by the publishers in Leo Kuper’s The Oxford History of South Africa.]

November 6, 1973

The Director
Clarendon Press
Oxford, England

Sir:

I have been instructed by the Board of Directors of the African Studies Association to protest an act of surrogate censorship of a scholarly work by Clarendon Press, notably the exclusion of a chapter by Leo Kuper from the Oxford History of South Africa, Volume II.

It is a matter of deep concern to the Association that the Oxford History should have appeared in a special South African edition, without the specified chapter, so as to comply with the Suppression of Communism Act and other laws directed against African nationalism in South Africa.

The Association has noticed that Clarendon Press has decided not to republish the truncated version, and we hope that this decision reflects a future policy not to exercise censorship in compliance with the politically repressive laws of a racist government, or for any other non-academic reason.

Sincerely,

James Duffy
Executive Secretary
2 January 1974

Dear Mr. Duffy:

Your letter of 6 November concerning the Oxford History of South Africa was delayed and did not reach us until shortly before Christmas.

You may like to know that the complete edition is now available in South Africa. The decision to publish a first impression with fifty blank pages was reached after very careful consideration by the Delegates and by the two Editors, one of whom it appeared might be in some danger if the full version were published. Paradoxically, it was also to avoid the risks of censorship that Leo Kuper's chapter was initially omitted. As far as one can tell, from colleagues in South Africa and from the South African press, the appearance of so blatantly bowdlerized a book with its fifty blank pages had precisely the desired effect, calling attention to the absurdity as well as to the iniquity of the censorship laws.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

P. H. Sutcliffe

April 19, 1974

Dear Mr. Sutcliffe:

Thank you for your letter of January 2, 1974.

The Board of Directors of the African Studies Association is dismayed that the Clarendon Press has not perceived the gravity of its editorial censorship of the Oxford History of South Africa. The Board is distressed that your letter contains no assurances that such an act of surrogate censorship will not be repeated.

We believe that the membership of this association should be informed, and we are publishing the exchange of correspondence in our Newsletter. Copies will be sent to other scholarly organizations on African affairs.

Sincerely,

James Duffy
Executive Secretary

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Goler Teal Butcher, formerly Counsel and Staff Director for the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa and formerly with the Office of the Legal Adviser, Department of State, has joined the Washington D.C. firm of White, Fine & Ambrogne. Ms. Leslie Yates has been temporarily appointed to succeed Ms. Butcher as Counsel and Staff Director for the Subcommittee.

The Eicher collection of Nigerian textiles was borrowed by Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia for display during Human Ecology week. This is basically the same exhibit which was sponsored at the Kresge Art Center Gallery, Michigan State University, by the African Studies Center, Art Department and College of Human Ecology. Dr. Joanne Eicher was invited to speak on "Nigerian Handcrafted Textiles," from the Dept. of Human Environment and Design at Michigan State University.