

Notes and News

The First International African Seminar at Makerere College, Kampala

THE first of the International African Seminars which are being organized by the Institute with the aid of a grant from the Ford Foundation was held at Makerere College, Kampala, Uganda, from 3 to 12 January 1959, under the chairmanship of Professor Aidan Southall, Director of the East African Institute of Social Research. It was attended by eighteen participants and three observers, fifteen from various territories in tropical Africa, three from Europe, and three from the United States.

These seminars are being devoted to research problems of significance for further social, economic, and educational development in Africa. An important aim of the seminars is to provide opportunities for research workers and other scholars holding posts in various parts of Africa to establish closer contact with each other and with their colleagues in Europe and America, and to exchange views on problems and methods of research.

The subject of this seminar was 'Kinship, status and neighbourhood under modern economic conditions in Tropical Africa'. The discussions were mainly focused on the restructuring of social relations in African towns. They included a review of the various factors affecting migration, resettlement, and the differentiation of occupations, incomes, and modes of living. Particular attention was given to the changing character of the domestic family and kinship relations in new occupational and neighbourhood settings, and to the interaction of traditional ties with new patterns of prestige and forms of association. Papers, based for the most part on their own field research, had been prepared in advance by the participants. These and other relevant studies were reviewed in sessions devoted to particular aspects and problems, which included extended discussions of the character, causes and effects of changes in kinship relations, authority in the family, marriage stability, the position of women, and status and prestige symbols. Other sessions considered the role of norms in social change, problems of demographic analysis, range and variation of extrinsic factors affecting social change, and problems of theory and method in research. A report, summarizing the papers presented to the seminar and the scope of its discussions, is being prepared for early publication.

Opportunity was afforded during the period of the seminar for its participants to meet members of the staff of Makerere College, of the Uganda Society, and many others interested in African social studies. There were visits to H.H. the Kabaka's Palace, to the Uganda Museum, to the Buganda House of Assembly, to African housing estates, to Jinja and the Owen Falls Dam, and to a County Chief's headquarters.

Arrangements are being made to hold the second seminar at Lovanium University, Léopoldville, Belgian Congo, under the chairmanship of Professor Daniel Biebuyck. It will be concerned with the study of the indigenous agrarian systems and their modern development.

The African Studies Association in the United States.¹

THE African Studies Association in the United States (see *Africa*, October 1957, p. 401 and October 1958, p. 365) has held its first annual meeting, at Northwestern University, Illinois—the campus of its first President, Professor M. J. Herskovits. It is a measure of the success

¹ An account of the Conference, with the text of Professor Melville Herskovits's Presidential Address, has been published in the *African Studies Bulletin*, vol. i, no. ii, November 1958.

of this bold project to establish an active African Studies Association, launched only in March 1957, that over 150 members, who to fulfil the qualifications of the Society 'must have demonstrated a continuing scholarly interest in Africa, either through teaching or publication work in any recognized scholarly form', attended the meeting. Readers of *Africa* will be particularly interested in the report of the African Studies Association's Library Committee presented to the business meeting of the first day. The Committee's terms of reference embraced the current status of library resources in the United States for African studies, acquisition of materials, microfilming and cataloguing problems; among its recommendations were, to help the International African Institute find additional support to expand *African Abstracts* to cover a wider field, the creation of a separate division in the Library of Congress on Africa, the preparation of a retrospective National Catalogue of Africa holdings centred perhaps on the estimated 20,000 catalogue cards on Africa now housed in the Howard University Library, and to encourage the reprinting of such rare Africana as Lugard's *The Dual Mandate* and Perham's *Native Administration in Nigeria*.

One of the most significant items on the agenda was a preview of the comprehensive report of a committee set up to assess the present state of African studies in America. It seems likely that more will be heard of this important document, prepared by Professors L. Gray Cowan (Columbia University), Lloyd A. Fallers (University of California, Berkeley) and Carl G. Rosberg (Boston University) under the chairmanship of President Cornelis W. de Kiewiet (University of Rochester), after it has been considered by its sponsor, the Ford Foundation. On the second day papers were read on 'Orientations and Current Research at European Centres engaged in African Studies' by Professor James S. Coleman (University of California, Los Angeles); 'Review of the Orientations and Current Research at African Centres engaged in African Studies' by Professors Lloyd Fallers (University of California, Berkeley), J. Maquet (Université Officielle, Élisabethville, Belgian Congo), Edwin S. Munger (University of Chicago) and Miss Ruth Schachter; 'The African Student in the United States', by Mr. John Livingston of the African-American Institute; and 'Methodological Frontiers in African Studies', a symposium by Professors David Apter (University of Chicago), Leonard Doob (Yale University) and Joseph Greenberg (Columbia University) under the chairmanship of Professor E. Franklin Frazier (Howard University).

Later the Conference split up to hear reports on recent research projects. These included 'A Sociological Analysis of Nigerian Elites' by Mr. Hugh Smythe (Brooklyn College), 'The Radio and Social Change on the Northern Rhodesia Copper-Belt' by Professor Hortense Powdermaker (Queen's College, New York), 'The Colonial Settlement Scheme at Cela, Angola' by Professor Richard J. Houk (DePaul University), 'Settlements and Transportation in Kikuyuland' by Professor Benjamin E. Thomas (University of California, Los Angeles), 'Changes in Title Societies in an Ibo Village Group' by Professor S. Ottenberg (University of Washington) and 'The Study of African Law as an Aid to African-American Understanding' by Professor A. A. Schiller (Columbia University).

The Conference ended with a public lecture on 'American Africanists and African Research: An African View' given by M. Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, then Minister of Education and Culture in Senegal, and Mr. Duwuona, Registrar of the University College of Ghana, and with meetings of area and discipline groups to discuss questions of geography, education and 'the cattle areas' in Africa.

The officers of the African Studies Association for 1958-59 were elected as follows: President, Professor Gwendolen Carter (Smith College); Vice-President, Professor William O. Brown (Boston University); Secretary-Treasurer, Professor L. Gray Cowan (Columbia University); Directors of the Board, Professor Melville J. Herskovits (Northwestern), Father John Considine (Maryknoll Seminary), Professors Leonard Doob (Yale), E. Franklin Frazier (Howard University), Walter Goldschmidt (University of California,

Los Angeles), William A. Hance (Columbia University) and Vernon McKay (School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University).

[Communicated by A. H. M. Kirk-Greene]

Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association

At the fifty-seventh annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, held in Washington D.C. at the end of November 1958, which was attended by nearly 1,000 members, one session was set aside for Africa. Papers were read by William B. Schwab (Temple University), 'Conflict and Urbanization in an African Community'; Councill Taylor (U.C.L.A.), 'Yalunka Resistance to Urbanization'; Ronald Cohen (Toronto), 'Marriage Instability and its Determinants among the Kanuri of Northern Nigeria'; and Robert LeVine (Northwestern), 'Rape, Bridewealth, and Clanship in Gusii Society'.

In addition, a number of papers of African interest were presented at other sessions of the congress. These included 'Problems in Studying Primitive and Changing Economies', by Paul Bohannan (Princeton); 'The Effects of Labour Migration on Mossi Society', by Elliot P. Skinner (Columbia); 'The Impact of the Christian Concept of Forgiveness on an African System of Morality', by John Messenger (Michigan State); and papers in a symposium on 'Religious and Philosophical Beliefs in Relation to Socio-Economic Structure', by Robert G. Armstrong (Atlanta) for West Africa, and May Mandelbaum Edel (New School for Social Research) for East Africa.

[Communicated by A. H. M. Kirk-Greene]

The United States and Africa—Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Assembly

THE Rocky Mountain Assembly, sponsored by the Social Science Foundation of the University of Denver and the American Assembly, Columbia University, met in October at Glenwood Springs, Colorado. American political, economic, social, and cultural relationships with the countries of Africa were discussed during a three-day conference, and addresses were given by George D. LaMont, Deputy Director of the Office of Middle and South African Affairs of the Department of State, and Sir Andrew Cohen, Permanent United Kingdom Representative on the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations and a former Governor of Uganda. Both speakers stressed the importance of economic aid and technical assistance for the rapidly developing African states and it was recognized that the United States government could make a particularly effective contribution by supporting university, technical, and vocational education, and teacher-training programmes which would help to alleviate some of the most critical shortages in the African educational field. Sir Andrew Cohen emphasized the need for more trained research workers in Africa. Research was non-political and its results were of interest to the whole world; it was therefore a peculiarly suitable field for outside assistance to Africa.

The Center of African Studies at the New School for Social Research, New York

A CENTER of African Studies has recently been opened at the New School for Social Research in New York. The Director is Professor Sanford Griffith, who is in special charge of discussions on African problems, and the members of the advisory committee are Dr. William O. Brown, Dr. Vernon McKay, and Dr. Heinrich Wieschhoff. During the autumn of 1958 courses were given by S. and J. Comhaire-Sylvain on Black Africa's Larger Cities, by A. Melamid on African Geography, and by W. B. Schwab on Africa in Transition. Symposia on new careers for Africans were conducted by W. Dillon, in co-operation with the Phelps-Stokes Fund.