

Notes and News

In consequence of the decision of the Council of the I.A.I. to discontinue publication of the *Bulletin*, the "Notes and News" section of *Africa* is again to appear regularly. As before, this is intended to provide a forum, not only for informing members of the situation and activities of the Institute, but for announcements regarding conferences, exhibitions, new periodicals, research projects, academic awards and programmes, and any other projects or developments, from any country or institution, likely to be of interest to scholars and students of African cultures and societies. The Editor invites the submission of appropriate material, in either English or French, from organizers of conferences, editors of new publications, directors or research projects or institutes, and others.

Directorship of the Institute

Following the resignation of Professor B. W. Hodder as Honorary Director of the Institute last January, Executive Council at its 54th meeting in London from 7 to 9 July, 1981, appointed MICHAEL CROWDER, Consultant Editor, *History Today*, and formerly Research Professor in History at the University of Lagos, now Visiting Fellow, Centre for International Studies, London School of Economics, and IOAN M. LEWIS, Professor of Anthropology, at the London School of Economics, University of London, as Joint Honorary Directors. Before their appointment the directorship of the Institute was assured by an Executive Coordinating Committee composed of Officers and Life Members of the Institute namely Pierre Alexandre, Michael Crowder, Germaine Dieterlen, John Middleton and J. D. Y. Peel.

Report on the Institute's Activities for the Year 1980–1981

At the 53rd meeting of Council held in July, 1980 in London, it became clear that the Institute was facing a grave financial crisis that appeared to threaten its very future. Only by a drastic cutback in the range of Institute activities and the number of its staff, coupled with a determined fund-raising campaign, could its future be assured. Over the year the Honorary Director and, subsequently the Executive Coordinating Committee, managed by dint of pursuing these policies to bring the Institute's revenue and expenditure back into balance. In this respect a great debt is owed to the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which made a generous grant to the Institute of £16,000 for 1980 and has given similar support for 1981. Many more such grants are needed if the Institute is to resume activities on the scale of the past decade.

Because of the severe financial restrictions on expenditure the Institute was unable to initiate any new publications, but three that were already in press were published during the year, namely Robin Law: *The Horse in West African History* with Oxford University Press; Wauthier de Mahieu: *Structures et Symboles* (with the University of

Leuven); and Edgar C. Polomé and C. P. Hill: *Language in Tanzania* (with assistance from the Ford Foundation).

During the current financial year it is hoped to undertake a modest publication programme if finances permit. Arrangements have been made for *Africa* to be published for the Institute by Manchester University Press with effect from January 1982, and we hope that thereby we will be able to expand the number of subscribers to our distinguished Journal and thus increase the membership of the Institute.

The Institute's research projects have fortunately not been affected by the financial problems it has experienced during the year and good progress has been made on all three current projects:

Village Food Systems in West Africa (Gambia)

Spontaneous Settlement of Nomads in the Sudan

Directory of African Languages and Survey of Orthographies

During the course of 1982 it is hoped to keep Members of the Institute informed of the state of progress of each research project by way of short reports in the re-instated 'Notes and News' section of *Africa*.

Executive Council recommended that the Institute initiate a new series of International Seminars along the lines of the highly successful series which produced *The Historian in Tropical Africa*, *Pastoralism in Tropical Africa*, and *Islam in Tropical Africa*. Foundations and governments are being approached with a view to their supporting these Seminars and Members will be kept informed of developments.

Despite the financial vicissitudes of the past two years, we look forward to the future with confidence. The IAI has led the field in the promotion of African Studies over the past half century, and continues to have a vital role to play today. As African studies expand so the need for an organisation to provide machinery for international cooperation and coordination becomes the more significant. In the words of Professor J. F. Ade Ajayi, the Chairman of our Executive Council, at its last meeting: "There is a continuing need for an inter-disciplinary, international institute actively promoting research on practical problems transcending national boundaries in Africa, bringing scholars together on an inter-disciplinary and international non-governmental basis. Such an institute enjoying the goodwill and confidence of governments, foundations and universities especially in Africa, can remain a valuable and influential body. Among other things, such an institute provides an informal permanent secretariat for the International Congress of African Studies and cooperates with the secretariat of the Association of African Universities in the coordination of African Studies on an international basis."

Donations and Grants

The Institute gratefully acknowledges the following for the donations and grants they made to the Institute during the period:

The Federal Government of Nigeria

Overseas Development Administration, UK

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France

The Ford Foundation

The Leverhulme Trust Fund

The Baring Foundation

Barclays International