

The African Studies Association of the United Kingdom

AN African Studies Association of the United Kingdom has been instituted, and by June 1964 had some 300 members. Pending the first Annual General Meeting of the Association on 17 September 1964, a provisional Council had been elected under the Presidency of Miss Margery Perham, C.B.E., with Professor J. D. Fage as the Honorary Secretary.

A bulletin of Information is issued free to members three times a year and so far two issues have appeared. Non-members may for the time being subscribe to this for 15s. a year. Among the aims of the Association are: to represent the interests of African Studies in the United Kingdom and those engaged in them both nationally (e.g. *vis-à-vis* government and university authorities in the U.K.) and internationally (e.g. *vis-à-vis* the International Congress of Africanists); to assist visiting Africanists from overseas; to provide information in connexion with exchanges of teachers and research workers to African universities; to hold from time to time conferences, at which the progress of African studies, more particularly in the United Kingdom, will be reviewed on an interdisciplinary basis.

The first conference has just been held at Birmingham University from 14 to 17 September, when there was discussion of papers presented in advance on the role of social anthropology and of economics in African studies (Prof. D. Forde, Mr. W. T. Newlyn); African language classification (Prof. M. Guthrie); studies in African population and food-supply (Prof. R. W. Steel); the natural sciences in Africa (Dr. R. W. J. Keay); African archaeology (Prof. J. D. Clark); and the relationship between Egyptology and African studies (Prof. H. W. Fairman).

Application for membership should be made to the Honorary Secretary, c/o Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham.

International Congress of Agricultural and Food Industries in Tropical and Sub-tropical Regions

THE first International Congress of Agricultural and Food Industries in Tropical and Sub-tropical Regions is to be held in Abidjan, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of the Ivory Coast, from 14 to 19 December 1964. The Congress will be organized by the C.I.A.A., the B.I.P.C.A. and SEDIAC and the theme will be 'Aspects and perspectives of the industrialization of agricultural products of biological origin'. The various aspects of the subject to be dealt with will include research, technology, and industrialization concerned with agricultural products; problems of marketing, distribution, and transportation; teaching, research, and training of technicians; information, publicity, and documentation; and the connexions between agricultural economy, sociology, and technology. The languages of the Congress will be English, French, German, and Spanish.

Centre of West African Studies: University of Birmingham

A CENTRE of West African Studies at the University of Birmingham will be in full operation from October 1964, under the direction of J. D. Fage, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of African History.

Courses dealing with Africa in general and West Africa in particular are being provided for the B.A. Honours Degrees in Geography and History, and for the B.A. in Combined Subjects (in Geography, History, Political Science, and Sociology). For the B.Soc. Sc. Degree, West African Studies are a recognized field of study, courses being offered in the Economic and Social History of West Africa; in the Economics of Development, with special reference to Africa; in Traditional West African Cultures and Societies; in Modern West African Society; and in Government and Administration in West Africa.

A Post-graduate Diploma in African Studies is also available, following one year of full-time study and an examination consisting of four papers, or three papers and a dissertation.

A post-graduate and staff seminar is already in operation. Its theme for the first term of 1964-5 will be 'People and Cities in West Africa', while for the second term it is expected that seminars will be held on 'West African Ecology'. Opportunities exist for research, with reference to Africa in general and West Africa in particular, in sociology and social anthropology; geography (especially human and agricultural geography); history (especially economic and social history); economics; political science and government; and education.

African Literature in the Department of English, University of Ibadan

THE Department of English in the University of Ibadan has recently started an undergraduate course in African Literature, divided broadly into two sections—the Historical and Sociological Background and the Study of Present-day African Writers. The former includes intensive study of oral and traditional material and its relevance for the African writer. The study of African writers concentrates on writings by black Africans in English—originals or translations. Some attention is also paid to indigenous white African writers, expatriate writers on Africa, the Caribbean writers, American Negro literature, and relevant literature in English. An M.A. course will be offered in the field of African literary studies from 1965.

The Department would welcome news of the activities, publications, vacation seminars, and field projects of Institutes and University Departments concerned with African studies, and would be glad to supply on-the-spot information about African, and especially West African, writing and its own research activities. This may be obtained from Professor D. E. S. Maxwell, Head of the Department, and Mr. O. R. Dathorne, Lecturer.

University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland: The Doke Collection

THE private library of Professor C. M. Doke, formerly Head of the Department of Bantu Studies at Witwatersrand University, has recently been acquired by the University College Library in Salisbury. It comprises more than 3,000 books, pamphlets, and manuscripts, many of them unobtainable today, and includes a number of very rare items, first editions of classic works on Bantu philology, such as Boyce's *Grammar of the Kafir Language* (1834), Koelle's *Polyglotta Africana* (1853), and Callaway's *Nursery Tales and Traditions of the Zulus* (1868); the manuscript of Torrend's *Grammar of Rhodesian Tonga*, and of MacMinn's *Bemba-English Dictionary* and his *English-Bemba Vocabulary*; and hitherto unpublished grammars and dictionaries in the languages of South-Central Africa, in some cases the only ones available (such as one in Lomwe, a Nyasaland language). More than 120 Bantu languages are represented in the collection, which is particularly strong in Shona, Nguni, Bemba, Northern Rhodesian Tonga, Nyanja, and Swahili. There are also a number of valuable collections of folklore. Many of the items have been annotated by Professor Doke, and formed the basis of his standard bibliographical work *Bantu. Modern Grammatical, Phonetical and Lexicographical Studies since 1860*. The collection has been acquired through the generosity of Professor Doke himself and with the assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation; when catalogued it will be available for consultation and research not only to Africanists in South-Central Africa, but to scholars elsewhere in Africa and in countries overseas.

The National Archives of Zanzibar

THE National Archives and documentary records of Zanzibar date from 1840 and include the archives of the British and German Consulates, the British Residency and the Government Secretariat. Records illustrating the internal history and administration of Zanzibar and Pemba also exist in large series. In January 1964 the Zanzibar Government opened the National Archives to research workers and provided a modern fully equipped Public