

In Memoriam

Christine Messiant

Don Ohadike

Philip Shea

Christine Messiant

Christine Messiant died January 3, 2006 in Paris. She was highly regarded and respected for her work as a politically engaged sociologist focusing on Lusophonic African countries, and, in particular, Angola. She was a professor at the Center for African Studies at The School for Advanced Study in Social Science (EHESS) in Paris. Her dedication and unyielding integrity both politically and professionally is a great loss.

Submitted by Marissa Moorman, Indiana University March 1, 2006.

Don Ohadike

Professor Don Ohadike of Cornell University died yesterday. He once served as the Director of the prestigious African Studies and Research Center.

Dr. Ohadike made significant contributions to the study of resistance and the Igbo of Nigeria. He acquired a tremendous reputation in the field of African history, one of the very best in the field of resistance to colonial rule in south-eastern Nigeria and the social history of the Igbo of West Africa. He contributed to the development of the discipline in many other ways. He related with his own peers and juniors with ease, offered leadership, shaped the direction of the discipline, encouraged aspiring students, generated trust and respect, and promoted a healthy debate among a large number of intellectuals. He was a gifted leader with capability and experience. He believed in an interdisciplinary focus, and he contributed substantially to the historical linkages between Africans and African-Americans. He combined a passionate commitment to scholarship with an understanding of the academic community, culture and society.

He published with Ohio University Press, one of the preeminent publishers in African studies, two books on the Igbo. The first one, The Ekumeku Movement, an analysis of resistance to colonial rule in south-eastern Nigeria, broadens the discourse on resistance in general through fresh data, original interpretation, and a conclusion that previous scholars have made an error by assuming that resistance was limited to large African groups. We see in The Ekumeku Movement the analysis of guerilla warfare and the anti-colonial activities of the Western Igbo between the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the outbreak of the First World War. The originality displayed in this remarkable book has been the hallmark of his scholarship.

His other book on Anioma: A Social History of the Western Igbo People is dense and original—the very first to explore how a dynamic Igbo group was able to navigate change at a most dramatic period in their history. We see ideology and identity combined to reveal the rich history of a group that has been ignored in the literature. This is an important book on a neglected Nigerian ethnic group. He is careful to place such a history in the broad context of state formation, imperialism and European contacts with Africa.

Future historians of the Anioma will find it convenient to take any of his chapters and expand on them, while work of synthesis on Nigeria will find it valuable to integrate this marginalized group to the larger picture.

May His Soul Rest In Peace.

Submitted by Michael W. Tuck, Northeastern University, January 23, 2006.

Philip Shea

A pioneer economic historian of Northern Nigeria and an important figure in the Nigerian historical profession has died. Coming so soon after the death of another prominent Nigerianist historical scholar, Dr Bala Usman, Shea's death is an unquantifiable loss to Northern Nigerian, Nigerian, and African Studies.

Shea was a Professor in Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria, where he taught for almost thirty years, training and mentoring several generations of historians and avidly conducting path-breaking research into the economic and political history of Hausaland, especially Kano. He published several articles in Nigerian and international journals on, among other subjects, the development of the dyeing industry in pre-colonial Kano; rural production; indirect rule; and the central Sudanese silk trade. His most recent publication is 'Mallam Muhammad Bakatsine and the Jihad in Eastern Kano', *History in Africa* (2005).

His unpublished doctoral dissertation, 'The Development of an Export Oriented Dyed Cloth Industry in Kano Emirate in the Nineteenth Century' (Wisconsin, 1975), has become one of the most cited works on dyeing and textiles in Africa. It has become a reference text in discussions of indigenous African textile practices.

Philip Shea was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on July 31, 1945. He attended Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania before proceeding to the University of Wisconsin for his Ph.D in African History. While conducting field and archival research for his doctoral dissertation in 1970-71, he fell in love with Nigeria and never left. After the completion of his Ph.D., he took a job with Advanced Teachers College, Gumel, now in Jigawa State. In 1980, he was appointed Senior Lecturer at the Abdullahi Bayero College campus of Ahmadu Bello University, which had become an autonomous university and was renamed Bayero University in 1975. He was promoted to a full professor in 1998. Professor Shea held visiting professorships at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, and Bayreuth University, Germany.

Submitted by Moses Ebe Ochon, Vanderbilt University, April 13, 2006.