

His situation is desperate; he needs financial aid, and above all, he needs to leave Zambia and find work. In other words, he needs a kind of help which an individual person cannot provide. Would it be possible for your organization to do something for him? If there is, in any meaningful sense of the word, such a thing as an "international community of scholars" we should not let this man and his family languish as a displaced person without a future in a refugee camp. He has not committed any crime beyond the peaceful expression of his views which should be a universal human right.

I am aware, of course, of the academic market being depressed and of the language difficulty since French is the language of Zaire. However, similar obstacles were overcome with ingenuity and good will in the 1930s when this country's universities took in scholars fleeing from Hitler and Fascism. Then, it took for each family an individual act of Congress under an individual Congressional sponsor to enter our country.

I also wrote to the Linguistic Society of America and to the MLA, but anything you and your colleagues could do would be wonderful! Prof. Ntamunozza's address is: Prof. Mambo-Mbili Ntamunozza, c/o UNHCR, Great North Rd., P.O. Box 32542, Lusaka, Zambia, Africa.

Sincerely,
Sabine D. Jordan, Ph.D.

(Ms. Jordan's original letter was addressed to Prof. Kenneth Harrow of the African Literature Association. A copy of Mr. Ntamunozza's c.v. and of the original Amnesty International appeal is on file at the ASA headquarters.)

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for your letter of 27 March regarding our request that an advertisement be placed in the ASA Newsletter concerning Dr. (Mbagus V.) Murinda's need for employment in Africa in his field. However, it might be that the ASA Newsletter could consider the idea of a special arrangement for such cases as he represents.

There are a large number of refugee scientists whom I know of who are unemployed, living on social security in Europe or wielding their hoes in camps in Africa. When one considers what this means in terms of waste of the investment in education for Africa, one is moved to ask why the situation has gone unnoticed for so long. The IDRC did fund a project which attempted to document the numbers, but it was not sufficiently global to raise attention and as far as I know was never published. One such person, Elias Habte-Selassie, is an agriculturalist, a lawyer, and recently completed an M.A. in Development Studies, The Hague. He has been some eleven years living on social security in Holland. We were able--with some help from MP's--to get him to Oxford for a month as a visiting Fellow. He has made a collection of refusals to job applications from voluntary agencies. His own situation has improved in that finally he has received citizenship in Holland and is presently a visiting professor at Berkeley for this semester. I could go on with case after case.

Although not all refugees are African, more than half of them are. If members of the ASA were alerted to their plight it might be that not only voluntary agencies but UN organizations could be persuaded by individual and collective pressure to

think about how to make use of the talents and skills many represent. Although a UN Travel Document is supposed to provide a refugee with the right to travel, unfortunately it is in itself an impediment to employment. I hope that you and your editorial committee will think about the possibility of the ASA Newsletter being a vehicle which is available to such persons who need employment.

Yours sincerely,
 Dr. B.E. Harrell-Bond
 Refugee Studies Program
 Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford

OBITUARIES

Professor Cheikh Anta Diop, 1923-1986

(The following article from the *UCLA African Studies Center Newsletter*, Spring 1986, was submitted by Boniface I. Obichere.)

It was with grief and sorrow that we were informed of the sudden death of Professor Cheikh Anta Diop of Senegal, which sad event occurred on February 8, 1986 in Dakar.

Cheikh Anta Diop was born in Diourbel about 150 km. east of Dakar, Senegal, on December 29, 1923. He received his *Docteur ès Lettres* from the University of Paris in 1960 in the History of Ancient Africa. Before this, he had been through the maze of the French education system that existed in colonial Senegal from the *école primaire* to the *lycée* and obtained his *baccalauréat* with distinction. He went to Paris to continue his education and progressed from the *licence* to the doctorate degree at the Sorbonne in 1960.

Professor Diop became famous as a result of his rethinking and rewriting of the history of ancient Africa. He did this with a new methodology, which led him to evidence that had been overlooked or deliberately suppressed. Much controversy has raged over his work and his generalizations about ancient Egypt and its ties with Black Africa, especially his study of the skin color of the mummies of the Pharaohs through his unique melanin test methodology. Dr. Diop was the veritable pioneer in the scientific study and analysis of the contributions of ancient Black Africa to the development of classical and ancient Egyptian civilization. His comparative analysis of the political and social systems of pre-colonial Africa and those of Europe before the rise of modern nation states, provoked as much controversy as his revisionist and persistent publications on ancient Egypt and Black Africa. His masterly response to his critics in 1962 silenced most of them. He pushed his arguments and generalizations beyond the doubt in his seminal publication in 1977 of the results of his scientific study of the genetic and consanguinal ties of Pharaonic Egyptians and the skin pigmentation of ancient Egyptians. He applied his methodology of melanin tests, which was a real revolutionary technique in modern Egyptology. I remember discussing these far-reaching results with him during the Congress of African Historians in Yaounde in December 1975.

Dr. Diop was a pre-eminent scholar, a respected social scientist and historian, an indefatigable researcher and a very valuable colleague. He also entered party