

OBITUARY : MR. HENRY W. ORD

Henry Ord, Senior Lecturer in the Centre of African Studies and the Department of Economics at the University of Edinburgh, died on Christmas Eve 1977, after a brief but severe illness, which he bore with dignity and characteristic concern for his friends, students and colleagues. He had first completed, with his co-author Ian Livingstone, a revision of their textbook An Introduction to Economics for East Africa, which, with the companion West African volume, has already served many students in both parts of the continent.

Born in Northumbria in 1928, and graduating in economics from St. Catherine's College, Cambridge in 1952, Henry spent the greater part of his subsequent professional life with African concerns. From 1954 until 1958 he served as an economist-statistician in the Kenya Treasury, and thereafter devoted three years as a Senior Research Fellow at the East African Institute of Social Research to a project on capital formation in Kenya. Although he published an outline of this research in the journals, some 40 files of primary data and painstaking analysis still remain in the Centre as an archive from this period. The next major project which he directed was based in Ghana and driven through to a published conclusion in Ghana: Projected Levels of Demand, Supply and Imports of Agricultural Products 1965, 1970, 1975.

In 1962, Henry Ord was a founder member of the Centre of African Studies at Edinburgh, where he continued to hold a joint post with the Department of Economics until his death. Thence he sustained a wide range of interests and initiatives, teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, especially in development economics, publishing a number of personal research papers, editing several seminar volumes, advising publishers on economics texts, and helping to organize, set and mark Cambridge H.S.C. and G.C.E. examinations in Economics. He spent the years 1967-69 in Malawi, on secondment, as Chief Economist in the President's Office. Both temperamentally and professionally, Henry Ord was attuned to life and work in Africa. He thus made an acknowledged contribution to the furtherance of Malawi's statistical series, applied economic research, and funding of its development policies.

Because he combined his sustained academic judgement and strongly-held views on academic and policy issues with a natural reticence of manner, the force of his advice and suggestions was the greater, and subtly pervasive. It sometimes surprised, seldom offended, and was always positive in intent, and, when speaking out, he was neither malicious nor uncharitable. Many students and colleagues will now miss his cheerful influence.