

## Notes and News

### *Tropical African Studies Conference: University of Ibadan, 5-10 April 1964*

THE Tropical African Studies Conference, which was announced in an earlier issue of *Africa* (January 1964), was held at Ibadan, Nigeria, from 5 to 10 April and attended by some eighty participants. It had been arranged by the International African Institute in collaboration with the University of Ibadan in order to bring together those responsible for programmes of African studies in university and other centres in Tropical Africa, as well as a representative number of scholars with similar responsibilities in countries outside Africa. Its aim was to take stock of developments in this field, and to consider opportunities for securing more comprehensive and effective communication of information and ideas concerning current and future activities as well as greater co-operation between institutions engaged in research and teaching in this field.

At a dinner held on Sunday, 5 April, to mark the opening of the Conference, Dr. K. Onwuka Dike, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan and Conference President, welcomed the participants and the Chairman and members of the Institute's Executive Council, and expressed his satisfaction that some of the problems raised at the inaugural meeting of the International Congress of Africanists in December 1963 were to be fully considered and discussed during the forthcoming meetings. He welcomed the initiative of the International African Institute in organizing this Conference. He himself felt that there was an urgent need for establishing a Documentation Centre in Africa as a necessary part of any serious attempt to co-ordinate African studies, and offered the co-operation and services of the Institute of African Studies at Ibadan in efforts to achieve this.

The Hon. D. C. Ugwu, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Minister for Education, expressed on behalf of his Minister the active interest of the Government of Nigeria in the deliberations of the Conference. It recognized the vital part that African studies had to play in both education and development in Africa.

M. A. Moeller de Laddersous, Chairman of the Executive Council of the International African Institute, thanked Dr. Dike and Mr. Ugwu on behalf of the Institute for their reception of the Conference, and expressed its appreciation of the generosity of the Ford Foundation in providing the grant which had made the meeting possible.

The Administrative Director of the Institute, Professor Daryll Forde, in introducing the programme of the Conference, outlined the rapid growth of African studies over recent years. He recalled the pioneer work of the Institute since its foundation forty years ago and the rapid multiplication of centres of African studies in Africa and overseas since the war. Referring to the responsibility of scholars to ensure the intelligent deployment of new opportunities and resources for research and education, he expressed the hope that the exchange of views at the Conference would make an effective contribution in the scholarly field to a deeper and more general understanding of Africa and its problems.

The first sessions of the Conference were devoted to discussions of approaches and needs in various aspects of African studies. Traditional cultures and social institutions, social change and the development of new institutions, religion, economics and political science, legal studies, the range of historical studies, linguistics, the arts, and the natural sciences were considered in turn with reference to the contributions of different disciplines and particular needs for training and research.

The second part of the Conference was focused on the organization of African studies. Sessions were devoted to the scope and co-ordination of activities in teaching and research,

liaison among African studies centres, staffing and equipment for research and teaching, and co-ordination and exchange of bibliographical and other documentation. Separate sessions were also held to consider priorities in research and opportunities for co-ordination between centres in Western Africa and in Central and Eastern Africa.

A number of recommendations made at the various sessions were considered by the Conference as a whole at its closing session. A fuller report of the Conference will be given in a later number of *Africa*.

### *Institute Research Grants*

A LIMITED number of grants will be offered by the Institute in 1964 to assist the completion of research in progress within the scope of its recognized field of studies, i.e. African ethnology, sociology, and linguistics. The value of the grants will range between £250 and £750 according to circumstances.

The grants are intended to assist with funds for the extension of a period of field research already in progress, field expenses for a short period to complete an earlier field investigation, or the preparation for publication of the results of previous field research. They will not include funds for overseas travel or the purchase of major items of equipment.

Relevant universities and research centres have already received notification of this research grants programme. The awards will be made by the end of September 1964, and details of the grants will appear in the January 1965 issue of *Africa*.

### *African Studies at the University of Chicago*

A COMMITTEE on African Studies has been formed at the University of Chicago to promote and co-ordinate research and graduate training in African studies through the departments and schools represented by the members of the Committee, who are: C. Arnold Anderson (education); Allison Dunham (law); Lloyd A. Fallers (anthropology); Philip J. Foster (education); Donald N. Levine (sociology); Robert A. LeVine (human development), Chairman; Grant McConnell (political science); Ronald Singer (anatomy and anthropology); Marc J. Swartz (anthropology); Gilbert F. White (geography); Aristide Zolberg (political science).

### *The Linguistic Association of Liberia*

THE Linguistic Association of Liberia was founded in January 1964 at Cuttington College, Suakoko, Liberia. Representatives of several mission organizations and of the University of Liberia were present at the founding meeting. Professor John Gay and Mr. John Wealar, both of Cuttington College, were elected President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively, and Professor Wm. E. Welmers of the University of California, Los Angeles, Liaison Secretary. The purpose of the Association is to provide facilities for intercommunication among, and technical assistance to, researchers in the languages of Liberia, including Liberian forms of English and English as a second language, and also to provide for more effective communication between the small linguistic community within Liberia and the more extensive community of linguistic scholarship in other parts of Africa and the rest of the world. Dues for the first year of the Association's operations were set at \$2.00, student members being exempted. It is expected that these dues will be spent largely in starting a collection of materials on and literature in the indigenous languages of Liberia, many of which materials exist only in mimeographed or other duplicated form.

Communications concerning the Association may be addressed to Mr. John Wealar, Cuttington College, c/o Bishop's House, Monrovia, Liberia, or Professor Wm. E. Welmers, University of California, Near Eastern and African Languages, Los Angeles 24, California.