

EDITORIAL NOTE

SCOLMA's 2010 Conference, held at the British Library in June 2010, broke new ground. For the first time we issued a call for papers, ran parallel sessions and were so over-subscribed that we had to turn people away. Clearly our chosen topic, *The Real Story? Personal Papers, Life Histories and Africa*, investigating the research potential of personal papers for African studies, struck a chord not only amongst our usual constituency of librarians and archivists but also with many scholars and research students across a range of disciplines. So much so that SCOLMA will pursue the theme with a panel on 'Archives and Sources for African Studies' at the ASAUK Conference at Oxford in September 2010.

In this issue we publish David Killingray's keynote address to the conference, together with Marion Frank-Wilson's case-study from Indiana, which combines details of two collections with an exploration of the wider issues around the acquisition, location, conservation and cataloguing and research potential of private papers. More presentations from the conference will follow in *ARD* no. 113. Colleagues from continental Europe and North America were well represented at the conference and at the European Librarians in African Studies (ELIAS) meeting which preceded it, and which explored similar themes. The combination of the two meetings was notably successful in enabling SCOLMA and ELIAS together to raise the international profile of Africana librarianship, and the networking potential of Africana librarians is not to be underestimated, as a growing number of scholars are appreciating.

Two articles in this issue are from African librarians – a reminder that SCOLMA and *ARD* are committed to the promotion of resources **within** as well as **about** Africa and to encouraging and publicising Africa-based scholarship and professional good practice. Case studies and news items are always welcome and the editors welcome submissions. We aim to hold a balance between commissioned and submitted articles.

We are also planning to host a debate in a future issue on the state and future of African reference sources in the internet age and seek contributions.

Terry Barringer