

Human and Regional Geography of Zambia

DR. GEORGE KAY, formerly a Research Officer of the Rhodes–Livingstone Institute and now Lecturer in Geography at Hull University, is engaged in a study of the human and regional geography of Zambia. Work in progress includes a geographical analysis of population data for the whole country and for selected towns (Lusaka and Nkana-Kitwe), and the preparation of an advanced textbook provisionally entitled ‘A Population Geography of Zambia’.

Urbanization in Africa: Centre of Documentation and Research

A CENTRE of Documentation and Research on Urbanization in Africa South of the Sahara has recently been established, under the direction of Professor Paul Mercier, at the École Pratique des Hautes Études (VIth Section, Economic and Social Sciences), 20, rue de la Baume, Paris VIII^e. The Centre’s first concern will be documentation: analysis of books and articles, collection of unpublished reports, etc. The publication of annotated bibliographies will begin in 1966, each one being devoted to a particular aspect of African urban problems. The Centre has sent out a questionnaire with a view to collecting pre-publication information on research in progress, recently completed, or planned, in ethnology, sociology, demography, and economics. Such information will be recorded in a card index and will be available to all interested research workers.

The African Research and Information Center, Washington, D.C.

THE African Research and Information Center (AFRIC), at 1622 21st Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, offers a series of publications, mainly dealing with the Catholic Church in Africa. AFRIC also supplies information on other pamphlets and books on this theme.

Visit of German Nutrition Team to Kenya

A NUTRITION Team from the Federal Republic of Germany, headed by Dr. H. D. Cremer, Professor of Nutrition in the Medical Faculty of Giessen University, and composed of university and research institute staff in the fields of nutrition, food chemistry, botany, agronomy, sociology, economics, and domestic science, visited Kenya from 3 March to 6 April. The team interviewed specialists and others, inspected institutions and projects, and carried out field studies in three selected localities. The team found that the customary diet was generally adequate for the nutritional needs of the people as long as it was not upset by exceptional conditions. Among the recommendations made by the team were the encouragement of cash crops, an advertising campaign, and nutrition education in schools; it was also suggested that projects of nutritional importance might be considered within the framework of Technical Co-operation between the Federal Republic of Germany and Kenya.

Museum of Primitive Art, New York: Radiocarbon Tests on African Carvings

THE Museum of Primitive Art in New York is at present trying to establish the age of certain African wood carvings by means of the Carbon-14 method. The sculptures in question have been collected among the Dogon, but are said to be from an earlier people, the Tellem, whom the Dogon encountered when they settled in their present territory of the Bandiagara

Cliffs. The aim of the Museum's project is to verify the age of the carvings—generally thought to be several hundred years old—and to try to establish correlations between age and style for Tellem and Dogon wood carvings. The radiocarbon tests are carried out by Isotopes, Inc., U.S.A., and a first series is in progress on the Museum's own objects. A second series is planned for which the Museum hopes to have the collaboration of other institutions whose collections contain Dogon and Tellem material. Publication of the results is planned after completion of the entire project (i.e. no individual results will be published).

Un petit musée de brousse à Bangassou

L'EST de la République Centrafricaine et le nord du Congo ont été jadis le siège d'une très vieille civilisation, la civilisation nzakara/zandé, qui a survécu jusqu'à nos jours, plus ou moins affectée par le cours des affaires du monde. Près de la capitale de l'ancien royaume de Bangassou, deux sociologues, avec l'encouragement de l'inspecteur de l'enseignement, ont créé un petit musée de brousse où ils ont rassemblé quelques objets anciens sauvés du feu, de l'eau et des termites.

Pourquoi un musée en brousse? Simplement pour pouvoir offrir sur place, aux enfants des écoles, à la jeunesse questionneuse, un témoignage authentique et concret de leur passé glorieux. Une collecte étonnamment homogène d'objets usuels anciens, de belles armes, de faible valeur marchande, souvent rares et tous de bonne forme a été recueillie au pays nzakara. Une autre est en cours de rassemblement, consacrée au pays zandé; les deux d'ailleurs sont parentes. Des copies de documents historiques, des cartes originales retraçant l'histoire ou expliquant l'organisation très sociale du pays complètent les collections.

Le tout est conservé dans une salle de la Mission sociologique du Haut-Oubangui (B.P. 68, Bangassou R. C. A.), pour l'instant encore dans des caisses de fer, faute de moyens muséographiques. Les mesures de conservation appropriées ont été prises, inventaire et photographies peuvent être communiqués. On voit comment un tel effort peut contribuer à forger l'unité nationale.

(Communication de Monsieur E. de Dampierre)

INADES: Correspondence Courses in Sociology and Economics

INADES (Institut Africain pour le Développement Économique et Social, B.P. 8008, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire) has produced a series of courses for adult education by correspondence. The cost of each course is 30 frs. (20 frs. without homework) or the equivalent in other currencies. The following courses are now available:

Cours de sociologie, by R. Bureau.

Sociologie générale. Cours d'introduction; sociologie familiale et démographie sociale; sociologie religieuse; sociologie politique et juridique; sociologie du travail; sociologie urbaine; psychologie sociale; la société moderne, les changements sociaux; conclusions: l'intégration sociale. Personne et société.

Économie politique, by Xavier Baronnet.

Découvert de l'économie; le circuit économique; aspects géographiques de l'économie; la population; la production des richesses; le travail; le capital, l'entreprise; la répartition des richesses: prix et marchés, salaires, profits; l'utilisation des richesses: la monnaie, le crédit, consommation et épargne; fluctuation et maîtrise de la vie économique.

Développement et planification, by R. Houi and J.-L. Fyot.

Conditions géographiques du développement; conditions économiques; conditions sociologiques; un cas non-africain: l'Inde; un cas africain: les pays de savane; les problèmes de la croissance; le modèle de croissance; l'élaboration du plan.