

## *African Studies in Western Germany*

### 1. *African Linguistic Research*

In post-war years the Seminar for African languages and culture at the University of Hamburg has become the main centre of studies on African linguistics in Western Germany. Its Director, Professor Lukas (Chado-Hamitic languages), and Professor Klingenberg, Professor Kähler-Meyer, and their assistants (Dr. Jungreithmeyr and Dr. Willms) are actively engaged in various research projects. The study of Bantu languages has for a long time been the main field of activity of the Hamburg Institute, which also publishes the journal *Afrika und Übersee*.

In Cologne University Professor Köhler, particularly well known for his Khoisan research (Bushmen and Hottentots), has recently been appointed to a new chair of African languages and is building up this department. Centres for African languages, connected with theological studies, exist in Mainz (Professor Rapp, Twi) and Marburg, where Professor Dammann is now working after leaving his chair in the East Berlin Humboldt University last year.

### 2. *Ethnology*

Two main centres of ethnological research on Africa are Frankfurt and Munich. The Frankfurt school—with emphasis on cultural and ethno-historical studies—was founded by Frobenius. After the last war, Professor Jensen led two expeditions (1950-2, 1954-6) to southern Ethiopia, in which some of his assistants (Drs. Haberland, Schulz-Weidner, and Straube) also took part. The head of the department of ethnology in Munich (Professor Baumann) has a special research interest in Angola.

Other ethnologists working on African problems are Dr. Müller (Heidelberg) on the Northern Congo, Dr. Himmelheber (Heidelberg) on Liberia and the Ivory Coast, Dr. Erika Sulzmann (Mainz) on the Congo, Dr. Schlosser in Kiel on South African problems, and Dr. Herzog in Cairo on Egypt and Nubia.

In addition to the universities the ethnological museums have always played an important part in research. In the Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum in Cologne, African studies are represented by Professor Fröhlich (Nigeria), in the Linden Museum in Stuttgart by Dr. Zwerne-mann (Western Sudan), in Hamburg by Dr. Dittmer (Western Sudan), and in Western Berlin by Dr. Krieger (Nigeria). In Frankfurt Professor Smolla is attempting to build up a sub-department of African prehistory and archaeology.

### 3. *Geography*

The main centres for African geography in Western Germany are Cologne and Würzburg; in both universities special divisions for African geography have been created. While Würzburg (Professor Büdel and Professor Mensching) is more interested in Northern Africa, Cologne (Professor Kayser and Dr. Manshard) lays special emphasis on Southern and Tropical Africa. Other geographers working on human problems in Africa include Drs. Abel (Bremen), Kuls and Fricke (Frankfurt), Professor Schultze (Berlin), Professor Meckelein (Stuttgart), Professor Weigt (Nürnberg), and others.

### 4. *General*

The German Africa Society in Bonn (Secretary-General Dr. Splett) acts as a clearing-house for scientific African interests in Western Germany. Besides its many other interests it has a scientific council with a standing committee and a secretary. The Afrika-Verein in Hamburg is more concerned with commercial and economic needs. At a conference organized by the German Africa Society at the beginning of this year (4-5 January) a survey of African

studies and research in Western Germany ('Stand und Aufgaben der Deutschen Afrika-Wissenschaft') was attempted, the proceedings of which have just been published.

### *Second International Conference of Ethiopian Studies*

THE First International Conference of Ethiopian Studies was held in Rome in 1959, under the auspices of the Accademia dei Lincei. The Second International Conference will take place in the University of Manchester from Monday afternoon, 8 July, to Thursday noon, 11 July 1963. Apart from the usual conference activities, papers, and discussions, members will be able to see the collections of the John Rylands Library, Manchester, including some as yet uncatalogued items in the field of Ethiopic manuscripts. It is hoped to have a small number of full-length papers (50 minutes), followed by a detailed discussion, as well as a somewhat larger number of brief communications (10-15 minutes). Any subject within the sphere of Ethiopian studies will be acceptable. The Conference languages will be English, French, Italian, Amharic, and German. Further particulars may be obtained from: Professor Edward Ullendorff, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Manchester, Manchester 13.

### *Symposium on Systems of African Land Control*

THE Centre d'Étude de Droit Comparé Africain of Lovanium University will organize a symposium on African land control, from 1 to 10 April 1963, in the University Campus at Leopoldville.

All countries south of the Sahara are confronted with the problem of land control, and the aim of CÉDCA is to bring together, on African soil, jurists versed in this subject, so as to draw up an objective dossier on the problem and to put it at the disposal of interested governments and administrations.

With this aim in mind, the following points will be examined: (a) land control in the customary African systems; (b) the main methods of land control under colonial law; (c) the main systems of land control in force abroad; (d) new legislation (proposed or already in effect) in the independent African states.

In order that the symposium may retain its detached scientific character, only those scholars invited to the discussion will be admitted to full participation. Land-control agents and others interested in these problems will be admitted as observers.