

dell'Arte), Professor Romain Romero (University of Milan). The Secretary-General and Director of the Centre is Ezio Bassani, and the President is Professor V. L. Grottanelli.

Further information from:

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*Conference on the History of the Family in Africa, London*

The African section of the History Department at the School of Oriental and African Studies was host to an international conference organised by Drs Shula Marks and Richard Rathbone, on the history of the family in Africa, held in London from 23 to 26 September 1981. With support from the Social Science Research Council and SOAS itself, twenty-seven scholars were present from Africa, Europe and America. The conference grew from a series of research seminars held at SOAS since 1979, inspired by the idea that the social history of Africa, in particular a social history 'from below', might benefit from the perspectives on the history of the family in non-African societies developed by scholars like David Levine, A. E. Wrigley, David Sabeen, Hans Medick and Herbert Gutman.

After an opening paper by G. Kitching inviting the application of Levine's European model of the family and early industrialisation to Africa, the first section was devoted to papers on family and kinship, in particular African societies: David Cohen on Luo alliance building; M. Bloch on kinship and the centralising policy in Imerina; W. McGaffey and Anne Hilton on Kongo kinship; and A. D. Roberts on the Bemba royal family. The next major theme was relations between the family, Christianity and morality: D. Crummey on family and property among the Amhara nobility; R. Ross and Sheila Meintjes on different aspects of inheritance in nineteenth-century South Africa; R. Gray on the family and the control of evil; D. Gaitskell on Christian women in Johannesburg. The third major session dealt with the impact of rapid social change, with sessions on West Africa (J. D. Y. Peel on Ijesha, M. Last on Hausa, D. C. O'Brien on the Mourides) and East and Central Africa (Shamwiyaa Muntemba on Zambia, Kings Phiri on Chewa matriliney, Nici Nelson on fostering in Nairobi, W. Beinart on youth organisations in Transkei). The final session, with major contributions from H. Gutman, D. Sabeen, D. Levine and S. Woolf, returned to cross-cultural comparisons, with Gutman arguing that future study of the black American family would depend on new data and insights from Africanists.

An edited selection of the papers will be appearing in the first issue of the *Journal of African History* for 1983.