

## Notes and News

### *Meeting of Executive Council at Ibadan, 8–10 July 1982*

The 55th meeting of Executive Council was held at the Conference Centre of the University of Ibadan from 8 to 10 July by courtesy of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor S. O. Olayide. The Minister of Education of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Hon. Mr S. Ugoh, was represented by his Minister of State, who addressed the opening session of Executive Council. The chairman was Professor J. F. Ade Ajayi.

*Directors' report.* The year 1981–82 has been dominated by our concern to restabilise the Institute, particularly its finances and accounts. This has not been an easy task, given the general recession and the consequent difficulties in obtaining grants from governments and foundations. The £26,359 deficit of 31 March 1980 was turned into a modest surplus of £5,423 at 31 March 1981, and by continuing the stringent financial measures introduced during 1981, and by maintaining only a much reduced office staff, the Institute's reserves at 31 March 1982 stand at £44,443. For the first time in three years, Executive Council is able to consider the Institute's financial situation in the context of the audited report for the previous financial year, April 1981–March 1982; the grave crisis through which the Institute passed between 1979 and 1981 is underscored by the audited accounts for April 1979–March 1980 and April 1980–March 1981.

That the Institute now shows a credit balance owes much to the advice, generously tendered over the past two years, by our Honorary Financial Adviser, Mr Ian Mills. This balance has also been achieved by reducing the staff and curtailing some of the activities of the Institute. Even with these economies the long-term financial position is far from healthy. New sources of funding are urgently needed, particularly if the Institute is to continue to play a significant role in the development of African studies. It is against this sombre financial background that the joint Honorary Directors submit this report on their activities for the year 1981–82.

*Directorship of the Institute.* The Joint Honorary Directors were appointed at the last Executive Council meeting for the year 1981–82 following the resignation of Professor W. W. Hodder in February 1981. The appointment of a Director on a longer-term basis was to be reviewed at this current meeting of Executive Council, in particular as to whether his appointment would be purely honorary (as it has been since 1973 after the death of Daryll Forde) or whether it should be a part-time paid appointment. It was also suggested that the appointment of a full-time paid Executive Secretary with a strong administrative and academic background be discussed in the context of the appointment of a long-term Director of the Institute, since such an appointment might make the position of Honorary Director more attractive. However, the constraints of the Institute's current financial situation have made it impossible to pursue the question of appointing an Executive Secretary, and it is also doubtful whether, at present, we can afford a modest honorarium or part-time salary for a Director appointed on a longer-term basis. Yet the future of the Institute clearly depends substantially on the appointment of a Director on a reasonably long-term basis, with sufficient funds at his or her disposal to support a meaningful programme for the Institute. In this context, over the past year, as well as securing the Institute's financial administration and seeking to increase its income, the Joint Honorary Directors have also sought to re-establish a

modest programme of activities.

*Fund-raising.* The Joint Honorary Directors have to report only moderate success in identifying additional sources of income. A particular difficulty has been to secure core funding to support the Institute's offices and administrative staff and expenses. Funds for research projects and seminars appear to be more readily available than money to maintain the administrative infrastructure which the Institute requires. The Overseas Development Administration agree to continue paying a reduced annual grant of £7,000 for the year 1982–1983, but have stipulated that this will be a terminal one, though officials in the ODA have indicated that further grants for research projects could be forthcoming. Thanks to the efforts of our Consultative Director in Paris, the French Government grant of £11,000 for 1981–82 has been renewed for 1982–83, while approaches have been made to the French Ministry of Co-operation through our Life Member in Paris. The Chairman was successful in getting the Nigerian government, which has generously contributed £16,000 for 1980–81 and £30,000 for 1981–82, to make a further allocation of £20,000 for 1982–83, though not all this will be available to the Institute's office in London, some being directed to the expenses of the current Executive Council meeting. The British Academy has made a small grant for the current financial year towards the editorial expenses of *Africa*, and a new application has been made for more substantial support for the core funding of the Institute.

In April this year Sir Leslie Kirkley, Chairman of the Disasters Emergency Committee and of the Standing Conference on Refugees, former Vice-chairman of the Voluntary Committee for Overseas Aid and Development, very kindly agreed to spare time from his heavy schedule and chair an Institute Fund-raising Committee. A preliminary meeting was held with Sir Leslie as a result of which discussions have taken place on how such a committee might operate and how it might best be constituted. The committee is specifically designed to seek funds within the United Kingdom from firms and foundations with African interests, and it is hoped that it can serve as a model for further committees to be established in other countries, particularly those represented by members of Executive Council.

*I.A.I. seminar programme.* At an *ad hoc* meeting in September 1981 of some Officers and members of Council at Vallerauses, near Montpellier, where we were privileged to be the guests of Madame Dieterlen, plans were drawn up for a second series of International African Institute Seminars.

Arrangements for two of these are now in train: namely, the seminar on 'African Philosophy' which Dr Paulin Hountondji of the University of Benin has agreed to chair and which it is hoped to hold at the University of Yaoundé, and the seminar on 'African Marriage' which Professor Anita Jacobson of the University of Uppsala has agreed to chair and which it is hoped to hold at the University of Nairobi. A third seminar, on 'African Traditional Medical Practices Today', is under active negotiation. Professor Gordon Chavanduka at the University of Zimbabwe, where Executive Council hopes to hold its 1983 meeting, has been invited to chair this.

*Research projects.* This year our major project on Village Food Systems in West Africa has been concluded and a report drawn up by the research team, L. Denzil Phillips, Anne Coles and John Seaman. This project was funded in the main by the Overseas Development Administration as well as by Barclays Bank International and the Baring Foundation. It is hoped to have this report published in book form.

The African Language project is due for completion in October 1982, after which a detailed report will be drawn up and presented to members of Executive Council at its 1983 meeting.

The project on Settlement of Nomads in the West of Sudan has now been concluded and a report is in course of preparation. A report on Drought and Famine in Ethiopia, a project funded by the French government and concluded some time ago, is also being prepared.

*Africa.* Arrangements have been completed for publication by Manchester University Press. As far as the administrative resources of the Institute are concerned the transfer of subscription fulfilment to Manchester University Press has relieved us of a major administrative burden, but it has on the other hand presented a problem with regard to our cash flow. For while overall new arrangements with Manchester approved at the last meeting of Executive Council are financially beneficial to us, we no longer receive membership/subscription renewals direct.

*Publications.* The Institute has not been able to publish any new books this past year because of the constraints placed on the Publications Committee by our current financial situation. However, two books are now in press, *Cocoa and Kinship in Ghana* by Christine Okali and *Igbo Standard Orthography* by Philip Nwachukwu, a former Research Fellow of the IAI. The publication of these two books has been made possible by the grant from UNESCO made in September 1981. Routledge & Kegan Paul will be publishing them on our behalf later this year.

Institute titles that have been reprinted are: Jack Goody, *Technology, Tradition and the State in Africa* (with Hutchinson); Hilda Kuper, *An African Aristocracy* (with Africana Publishing Corporation); I. M. Lewis (ed.), *Islam in Tropical Africa* (with Hutchinson); I. M. Lewis *A Pastoral Democracy* (with Africana), and V. W. Turner, *The Drums of Affliction* (with Hutchinson).

*Public lecture series.* In order to give the Institute a higher profile in London, where it is based, a series of public lectures was inaugurated during 1982. Two such lectures were given: 26 January 1982 (jointly with the London School of Economics), Professor Rosa Ismagilora (Head of the Department of Ethnography, Moscow Institute of African Studies): 'Problems of National Integration in Africa'; 13 May 1982 (jointly with the School of Oriental and African Studies), Professor A. A. Boahen (Professor of History, University of Ghana): 'Colonialism in Africa: its Impact and Significance'.

*Decisions of Executive Council.* Professor I. M. Lewis was appointed Honorary Director of the Institute with effect from 1 October 1982, when Professor Michael Crowder, his co-Honorary Director, will be leaving for Botswana, where he is taking up the Chair of History. The long term position of the directorship will be reviewed at the next meeting of Executive Council in the light of the current financial situation of the Institute.

Dr Elizabeth Dunstan was appointed Chairman of the Publications Committee of the Institute in succession to Professor Michael Crowder.

The following were elected to fill vacancies on Executive Council: Professor Michael Crowder (U.K.), Dr Bashir Ikara (Nigeria). Approval was given to the appointment of a part-time fund-raiser for a period of one year to assist the Honorary Director and the newly instituted Fund-raising Committee in his efforts to improve the long-term financial situation of the Institute.

Approval was given to the appointment of Dr P. T. W. Baxter of Manchester University as Associate Editor of *Africa* for a period of one year while the Editor, Professor J. D. Y. Peel, is on leave at the University of Chicago. Dr Murray Last, of University College, London, was likewise appointed Associate Reviews Editor for a period of one year during the absence abroad of the Reviews Editor, Dr Paul Richards, at the Njala College of the University of Sierra Leone.

It was decided to accept the kind invitation of the University of Zimbabwe to hold the next meeting of Executive Council at Harare, 5–9 July 1983.

*Papers of the late Dr Derrick J. Stenning*

Dr J. H. M. Beatie writes:

Readers of *Africa* may like to know that a substantial body of unpublished material by Dr Stenning, deriving from his researches in the former Ankole kingdom of western Uganda during the late 1950s, is available for consultation. Despite the lapse of time, much of this material is still potentially of considerable importance and interest for students of the area and its people; it is likely that had he lived Dr Stenning would himself have gone on to publish at least a part of it.

Some years ago these materials were read, classified and re-filed by myself, following as far as possible Dr Stenning's original method of arrangement, and a detailed inventory of the contents of the thirty or so files involved, together with an assessment of the relative importance of the various items, was prepared. The material falls roughly into four main categories, of which the third and fourth, recording two detailed and intensive surveys carried out in two representative areas of Ankole, are of special interest.

The detailed and annotated inventory referred to, together with the material itself, can be consulted in the Manuscripts Room of Cambridge University Library. Would-be users should apply in advance to the Head of the Manuscripts Department.

*Second International Congress of Somali Studies*

The Congress is sponsored by the Somali Studies International Association and is due to take place at the University of Hamburg, 1–6 August 1983. Papers are invited in all areas of the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences. Papers may be submitted in any language, but an English translation must be provided to be considered for publication in the Congress proceedings. An exhibition of archival materials, manuscripts, books, and cultural items, as well as a programme of 'Somali' films and cultural events, is being planned. Further details from the Congress co-ordinators: Dr Thomas Labahn, Hagentwiete 31, 2083 Halstenbek, West Germany; Dr Hussein M. Adam, SSIA Secretariat, P.O. Box 2962, Moyadishu, Somalia.

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y sont ensuite décrites. Au cours des décades du milieu de ce siècle la possession Nyavingi qui auparavant était un culte officiel contrôlé par les chefs et consacré à assurer la santé et la productivité de la société, s'est transformée en un culte décentralisé s'occupant des malheurs individuels, et officié par des gens ordinaires. Ceci est en rapport avec la déstabilisation de la Chef-archie durant l'époque coloniale, et avec les perceptions des Bashu quant à la signification de ce changement politique en terms des conditions nécessaires au maintien d'une utopie de santé.