

## Notes and News

### *IV<sup>e</sup> Conférence internationale des Africanistes de l'Ouest*

THE Fourth International Conference of West Africanists (C.I.A.O.) was held in Fernando Po from 5 to 12 December 1951, the members of the conference being the guests of the Spanish Government. Four days were devoted to meetings for the reading and discussion of papers at the hill station of Moka, and these were followed by excursions to various parts of the island. Delegates from Spain, Spanish Guinea, France, French West Africa, Cameroon and Equatorial Africa, Portugal, Portuguese Guinea, the United Kingdom, and British West Africa were present. The Conference was opened by His Excellency the Governor of Spanish Guinea, and organized by Professors Hernandez-Pacheco (President) and Emilio Guinea (Secretary) of Madrid, and Dr. Pedro Gajera Torres, Director of Agriculture, Spanish Guinea (President of the local committee). As on previous occasions the communications presented to the Conference covered a wide range of field studies including accounts of practical research in agriculture, animal husbandry, forestation and soil conservation, biological researches, as well as numerous ethnographical and sociological studies.

The officers of the section of Human Sciences were: President, Professor Daryll Forde, Director of the International African Institute; Vice-President, Monsieur B. Holas, Ethnologist at the Abidjan (Ivory Coast) Centre of IFAN; and Secretary, Monsieur C. Gonzalez Echegary. Papers contributed to this section included: Studies of pastoralism in West Africa (M. Bonnet Dupeyron); Demographic and somatological studies in Portuguese Guinea (M. Carreira and E. O. Matteus); Drum language in Central Africa (H. Pepper); A prophet cult in the Ivory Coast (B. Holas); Baoule divinities (B. Holas); Functional classification of fishing techniques (Th. Monod); Organization of a laboratory of human ecology (J. P. Nicolas); A psychological study of film audiences in Africa (J. P. Nicolas); The co-ordination of ethnographic surveys in West Africa (D. Forde); Coastal settlement in continental Spanish Guinea (G. Echegary); The research programme of the British West African Institute (Hamilton Whyte); and Skin-covered head-dresses of the Cross River area, Nigeria (K. C. Murray). The Spanish organizers of the Conference are arranging for the publication of these and other papers in a full report of the Congress.

The Conference elected a new Permanent Committee to continue its activities as follows:

*French:* Professors Th. Monod (Paris and Dakar, General Organizing Secretary), and G. Mangenot (Sorbonne); *Portuguese:* Professors O. da C. Ribeiro and A. A. E. Mendes Correa (Lisbon); *Spanish:* Professors E. Hernández-Pacheco and D. S. Alsobé Noguer (Madrid); *British:* Professors Webb (Ibadan) and D. Forde (London).

The French delegation to the Conference invited it to meet in December 1953 at Abidjan, French Ivory Coast. Local arrangements for this meeting will be under the chairmanship of Professor Mangenot, Director of the ORSOM Research Station, French Ivory Coast.

The general meeting resolved that the next Conference should be organized in the following sections: (1) Geology and Geography, (2) Botany, (3) Zoology, (4) Ethnology (including archaeology, physical anthropology, and linguistics) and Sociology. One or more themes on which papers are invited for the next Conference were agreed with respect to each section. Themes adopted for the section of Ethnology and Sociology were as follows:

- (a) the technology, sociology, and economics of traditional and modern fisheries (maritime, lagoon, and fresh-water) in West Africa (other sections were invited to cooperate in this theme and joint sessions would then be arranged);

- (b) changes in social structure consequent on the development of wage economies in West Africa, with special reference to the emergence of the African artisan;
- (c) plastic art in West Africa, including its prehistoric, historic, and modern developments.

Monsieur B. Holas (IFAN, Ivory Coast), was appointed organizing secretary for the section of Ethnology and Sociology at the 1953 Abidjan Conference and the following were appointed local correspondents for this section: Mr. K. C. Murray, Surveyor of Antiquities, Ibadan, Nigeria; Professor Hamilton Whyte, Director, Institute of Social and Economic Research, Ibadan, Nigeria; Dr. K. Busia, Department of Sociology, University College of the Gold Coast, Accra; Monsieur Carreira, Bissau, Portuguese Guinea; and Monsieur G. Echegary, Santa Isabel. Further particulars concerning the work of the Fourth Conference at Santa Isabel and the projected Fifth Conference at Abidjan will be obtainable from the Secretary-General, Professor Th. Monod, IFAN, Dakar, A.O.F.

The Conference also resolved to request the C.S.A. (Scientific Council for Africa South of the Sahara), as the international governmental body established for scientific co-operation in Africa, to recognize the C.I.A.O. as a permanent organization for the promotion of scientific research and co-operation in West Africa by the organization of periodic conferences and by the preparation and publication of relevant studies; and further invited it, as an appropriate organization with a secretariat in Africa, to assist with secretarial facilities in the preparatory work for C.I.A.O. conferences.

The Conference adopted with acclamation a resolution of thanks to the Spanish authorities and organizers, and in particular to His Excellency the Governor, and to Dr. Grajera Torres, for the excellent arrangements and the generous hospitality received.

### *African Statistical Conference*

THE first statistical conference of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa south of the Sahara (C.T.C.A.) was held at Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, from 30 July to 7 August 1951. The Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, Sir Godfrey Huggins, opened the Conference, which was attended by representatives of 25 countries and was the first of its kind to be held in Africa under the sponsorship of several governments. The Director of the Central African Statistical Office in Salisbury, Mr. Shaul, presided at the conference.

The primary reason for the conference was the agreed view of the governments represented on C.T.C.A. that, in a continent such as Africa, the statistics of governments must be exchanged in order to study the welfare of the continent as a whole. The conference was concerned principally with agricultural statistics and with methods of measuring and estimating annual increases in population. As Sir Godfrey Huggins said in his opening address, 'The world wishes to know whether, as a result of the extension of medical services, the cessation of inter-tribal wars, and the mitigation of the effects of natural disasters, the African population is growing faster than the production of food and raw materials'. Sir Godfrey added that the governments concerned wished to have more precise information on whether Africa could be regarded as a net contributor in the future to world supplies of food, and whether African standards of nutrition and living could be raised parallel with the provision of a surplus of food and raw materials. They were also seeking information on the health and standard of efficiency of the African, and on the rate of the rising level of health and productivity of the African as a result of the extension of medical services. The conference agreed that it would be desirable to establish a permanent international bureau in Africa for the exchange of statistical information. It also agreed to the establishment of regional conferences for periodical exchanges of views on statistical matters.