

*La IV<sup>ème</sup> Semaine d'Études Ethno-Pastorales de Bandundu*

Le Centre d'Études Ethnologiques de Bandundu (Congo-Kinshasa) qui est affilié à l'Institut Anthropos (Allemagne) [voir *Africa*, xxxvii. 1, 1967, pp. 88-9] vient de terminer son IV<sup>ème</sup> congrès annuel sur le thème: 'L'organisation sociale et politique de la société traditionnelle.' Le Directeur du Centre d'Études, le Père Hermann Hochegger S.V.D., a préparé cette réunion par une équipe de collaborateurs qui ont étudié ce thème sur place chez les populations yansi, boma et teke. Parmi les participants se sont distingués M. Anicet Ngambene, Président de la J. M. P. R. Bagata, avec un exposé sur l'organisation cheffale des baTeke, Mlle Joséphine Charlotte Bulungu, Directrice d'École à Bandundu, sur l'installation du chef chez les baHumbu (groupe teke), et Père Alphonse Müller S.V.D., sur la structure sociale du milieu villageois et concernant l'organisation des chefferies des baYansi de la région de Bagata. Le Directeur du Centre d'Études a exposé ses recherches sur les baMbanda-Bansala, le groupement yansi de la rive gauche de l'Inzia. Une étude sur l'organisation sociale et politique des baBoma nord a été remis à l'organisateur de la session par le Père Frank Roelants S.V.D., qui par son congé a été empêché de participer personnellement.

Les rapports et le compte rendu de la semaine d'études seront publiés par le Centre d'Études Ethnologiques de Bandundu. Ce dernier vient d'éditionner le volume: *Dieu, idoles et sorcellerie dans la région Kwaugo/Bas-Kwilu* qui constitue le résultat de la session d'études de 1966.

Comme thème de recherche pour l'année prochaine l'équipe de collaborateurs a choisi: 'L'économie traditionnelle et ses perspectives d'avenir.'

*Wenner-Gren Research Conference on Bantu Origins in Sub-Saharan Africa, March 1968*

THE Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research supported a research conference, organized by Dr. Brian M. Fagan, on Bantu Origins in Sub-Saharan Africa, which was held from 25 to 30 March 1968 at the Center for Continuing Education, University of Chicago. (A full report has been published in *Bulletin of the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom*, 13 July 1968, pp. 2-9, and in *African Studies Bulletin* (U.S.A.), 11 September 1968, pp. 225-31.) No formal papers were presented, to leave maximum time for discussion; no publication resulting from the conference is planned.

Archaeologists felt that their evidence, although incomplete, suggests the strong possibility of the existence of dense populations in the more peripheral parts of the Congo Basin, and in the woodland savanna during the 'Later Stone Age'. Some of these peoples had specialized economies oriented towards fishing and intensive collecting. The interpretation of the history of the Bantu-speaking peoples had been made difficult by the perpetuation of outmoded typological concepts. Although the Bantu languages are, by African standards, closely related, linguists nevertheless postulated that the degree of differentiation existing between present-day Bantu languages could scarcely have come to pass within such a brief period as two millennia, the conventionally accepted chronological limit of the African 'Iron Age'. It was also pointed out that there was no remnant non-Bantu language in the north-west or central part of the present Bantu area which could be regarded as a possible predecessor of Bantu. It was almost certain that the affinities of the Central Bantu were with the Negroes of the West African forest rather than with the Central Sudanic-speaking Negroes or the Nilotes, living immediately to the north of the present Bantu sphere. There was strong support for the notion that the main concentrations of non-Bantu-speaking populations had lived in the eastern and southern parts of sub-equatorial Africa, Kushites living to the north-east, while the Khoi-Khoi (Hottentot) speakers and the Bushmen lived further to the south.