

NEWSLETTER

1979 AFSAA CONFERENCE - CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN AFRICA

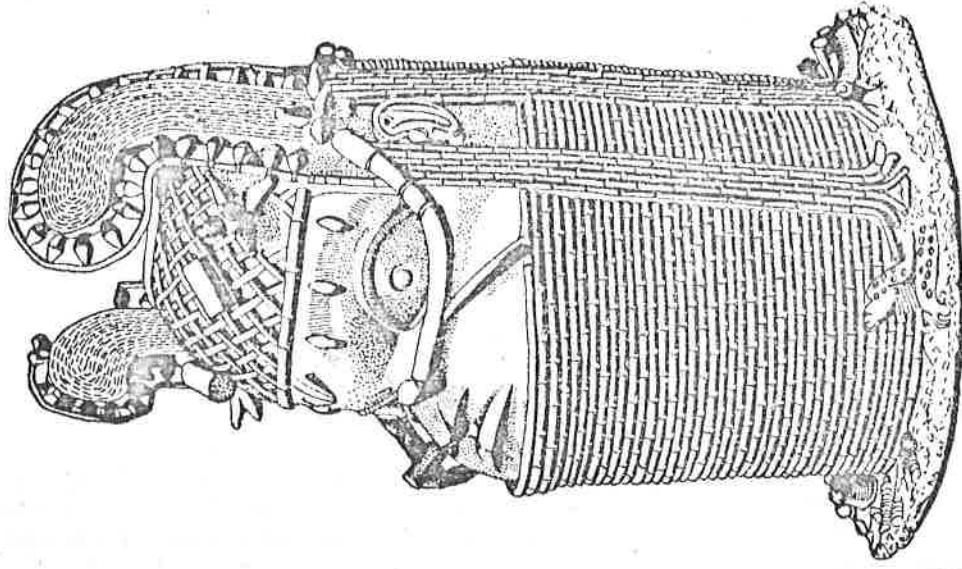
This years AFSAA Conference will be held in Canberra on the theme 'Contemporary Issues in Africa'. Final arrangements are still being made, but it will most likely be held early in November at the ANU.

The following panel topics have been suggested:

- * Ethnicity and Class
- * Perspectives on Southern Africa
- * Political Succession and the Restoration of Civilian Rule
- * The Post-Colonial State
- * Dependency or Decolonialization

A few papers have already been offered, but we still need more on these or related topics.

An additional mailing will be made as soon as the final arrangements have been made.



REPORT ON 1978 AFRICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

The first Australian African Studies conference was held at La Trobe University October 13-14, 1978 on the theme 'New Dimensions in the Study of Socio-Economic Change in Africa'. Over thirty people from all over Australia attended and another thirty expressed interest but were unable to attend. As a result of the response, it was decided to form an Australian African Studies Association and to schedule a second conference in Canberra late in 1979 (see articles elsewhere in this Newsletter).

The conference was designed primarily as a chance for Africanists to meet each other and discuss common issues informally. In keeping with this aim, three panels were organized, each introduced by one or two brief presentations followed by lively discussion among all present. The first panel, "The Study of Socio-Economic Change in the Pre-Colonial Period", was introduced by Tom Spear and Caroline Ifeka discussing the contribution of the work of Claude Meillassoux. This was followed by an African dinner catered by the La Trobe Africanists. The following morning, David Dorward and Cherry Gertzel introduced the session on "The Study of Socio-Economic Change in the Colonial Period" and that afternoon Jan Pettman, Noni Sharp, and David Goldsworthy led the discussion on "The Study of Socio-Economic Change Since 1960". A farewell dinner was held that evening at Jamaica House.

NOTES

The Association has received application forms from the Tanzania National Scientific Research Council for those desiring to conduct research in Tanzania. Copies are available from Tom Spear (La Trobe).

Dr Hermann Vogt would like to contact Australian Africanists on political, economic, and strategic relations between Australia and South Africa in conjunction with a study he is doing on "Apartheid and Underdevelopment in Southern Africa". His address is Bornweg 52, D-6000 Frankfurt 56, West Germany.

David Dorward and Tom Spear (La Trobe) are compiling a resources manual for teaching African Studies in schools for the Victorian Department of Education. The manual will consist of a number of area and thematic topics together with suitable books and films available to teachers in Victorian schools. If anyone else is interested, suitable notes might be appended regarding school syllabuses and available materials for other states.

AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA FORMED

One of the decisions of those present at the African Studies Conference held at La Trobe in October 1979 was to form an African Studies Association of Australia. A number of possible activities for the association were discussed, including the exchange of information regarding African Studies programs, library acquisitions, and current activities among those interested in African Studies; coordinating and sponsoring visiting Africans and Africanists; encouraging the development of African Studies in schools, colleges, and universities; liaison with the Department of Foreign Affairs regarding acquisition of African materials and sponsorship of African visitors; the publication of a Newsletter and a Directory of Africanists in Australia; and the sponsorship of periodic African Studies conferences.

A planning committee was elected to oversee the establishment of the Association. Those elected were: Professor D. A. Low (ANU) President, Dr T. Spear (La Trobe) Secretary, Dr D. Dorward (La Trobe) Treasurer, and Dr C. Gertzel (Flinders), Dr D. Goldsworthy (Monash), Dr J. Pettman (Canberra CAE), Dr J. Polhemus (Deakin), Dr G. Reeves (WAIT), and Professor E. A. Wright (Melbourne) members.

A number of activities have already been started. Melbourne Africanists have compiled a directory of African periodicals, research materials, and courses on Africa in Melbourne. Plans are underway for the 1979 conference to be held in Canberra. A draft constitution has also been drawn up for approval by the 1979 General Meeting. All of these are discussed at greater length elsewhere in this Newsletter.

We hope to provide the means for Africanists to keep in touch with each other and with current Africanist activities in Australia. We already have a mailing list of over 100 names and are anxious to consolidate this into an active membership list, directory, and IBM mailing system so announcements of visiting speakers and the like can be rapidly communicated to everyone. A form is included at the end of this newsletter, and we encourage you to join and fill out your directory entry now. Membership for 1979 is only \$4 (\$2 for students).

We would also like to hear about African activities in your area - courses, conferences, speakers, research plans, etc. - and will do our best to publicise these. A second Newsletter will be issued well in advance of the conference, and periodic mailings of current activities will be made. All editorial matter and correspondence concerning the association should be sent to Tom Spear, Department of History, La Trobe University, Bundoora 3083, telephone: (03) 479-2037 (office), (03) 439-3767 (home).

AREA FOCUSPerth

A monthly African Studies Seminar is conducted at Murdoch University, convened by Hugh Webb of the School of Human Communications.

Professor Gwendolen Carter, Professor of Political Science at Indiana University, spoke at the March meeting of the West Australian Branch of the Australian Institute of International Affairs on "Conflict in Southern Africa" Prospects for the Future".

Melbourne

A Melbourne African Studies Seminar was initiated last year with a paper delivered by Dr John Perry of Deakin University. The 1979 program has not been completed, but anyone interested in being informed of the seminars can contact Jim Polhemus (Deakin), David Goldsworthy (Monash), or David Dorward (La Trobe).

David Goldsworthy (Monash) and David Dorward (La Trobe) have also compiled lists of the African and Africanist periodicals and research materials held in the Monash, La Trobe, and State libraries. These include a number of items not included in the Union List of Serials and are available from them.

A number of courses with an African focus or component are available in the Melbourne area, including:

Deakin University

first year	Interdisciplinary course in Imperialism
second year	Development Economics
	Politics of Developing Areas
	International Relations of Developing Areas

La Trobe University

first year	History: Cultural Change: Africa and the Pacific
	Introduction to Prehistory
second year	African History
	Social Anthropology
	Law in Non-western Societies
third year	Studies in African History
honours and postgraduate	various topics in African History

Monash University

first year	Political Economy: Third World
second year	Social Anthropology
	Imperialism in the 19th century: India and Africa
third year	African Politics
	Centre-Periphery Relations
fourth year	Theories of Development: Kenya and Tanzania
	African Education

DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

The following draft constitution for the association will be submitted to the 1979 General Meeting for approval.

1. The title of the Association shall be the African Studies Association of Australia (AFSAA).
2. The purposes of the Association shall be: to promote research and teaching of African Studies in Australia; to facilitate contact among scholars and students in the field of African Studies through conferences, regional meetings, and publications; to coordinate African Studies programs and the acquisition of African materials by Australian libraries; to contribute towards an understanding of Africa in the community at large; to serve as the professional body representing Africanists' interests to governments and the community; and to establish contact with African universities and scholars, other overseas scholars and African Studies associations, and to promote interchanges with them.
3. Membership of the Association shall be open to all individuals interested in African Studies. There shall be two categories of members: full members and student members (the subscription for whom shall be lower than for full members). Members of the Association shall pay an annual subscription at a rate to be determined by the General Meeting.
4. The Officers of the Association shall be a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Those elected will normally reside in the host city for the next General Meeting and Conference.
5. The Executive Committee shall conduct all the business of the Association between General Meetings. It shall consist of the Officers and not more than ten other paid-up members of the Association, the exact number to be decided at the General Meeting. The members of the Executive Committee shall be nominated and elected at the General Meeting and shall include both representatives of the host city for the next General Meeting and Conference and at least one representative from each state, where possible. Three members of the Executive Committee, including at least one officer, shall constitute a quorum.
6. A General Meeting of the Association shall meet at the time of the Conference to discuss the affairs of the Association, all resolutions to be by a majority of members present and voting and to be binding on the Officers and Executive Committee of the Association. The General Meeting shall also set the time and place of the next General Meeting and Conference, normally held annually but not less than biennially; nominate and elect the Officers and Executive Committee members to serve until the next General Meeting and Conference; and set the membership fees until the next General Meeting.
7. A bank account in the name of the Association shall be established, all cheques drawn by the Association to be signed by any Officer singly. The accounts of the Association shall be open for inspection to all members at the General Meeting.
8. This constitution may be amended by a majority vote of those members present and voting at the General Meeting or by a majority of all members in a postal ballot, three weeks notice of the proposed amendment having been given to all members.

OTHER CONFERENCES

The International Conference on Indian Ocean Studies will be held at the University of Western Australia 15-22 August 1979. There will be different sections on Environment and Resources, Trade and Development, Trade and Maritime Transport, International Politics, Cultural Exchange, Archives and Resources, and Comparative Education, most of which will include one or more sessions on Africa. The final program will be available in May, but the following papers on Africa in International Politics are already tentatively scheduled:

- * Dr Z. Cervenka (Scandinavian Institute of African Studies), "The Indian Ocean in the Foreign Policies of African States"
- * Professor T. Shaw (Dalhousie University), "Southern and East Africa"
- * Professor P. King (University of New South Wales), "The Horn of Africa"
- * Mr R. Higgott (University of Western Australia), "Recent Trends in Australian-African Relations"
- * Ms S. Nichterlein (Wall Street Publications), "Portuguese Decolonization from Maputo to Dili"

The 2nd Women and Labour Conference will be held at the University of Melbourne, 17-19 May 1980. One of the themes will be women, racism and colonialism. Four pre-conference Bulletins will be published and are available for \$5 from the Women and Labour Conference, Department of History, La Trobe University, Bundoora 3083.

The 1979 American African Studies Conference will be held in Los Angeles, 31 October - 3 November 1979 on the theme "Africa and the Media: Changing Aspects of Communication". The Program Director is Professor Bennetta Jules-Rosette, Sociology Department, University of California-San Diego, La Jolla, California 92093.

MEMBERSHIP AND DIRECTORY OF THE AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA (AFSAA)

If you are not already a member of AFSAA, you should join now to continue receiving our mailings and Newsletter. We are also compiling a Directory of Africanists in Australia to be included in a later edition of the Newsletter. If you wish to join the association and/or be included in the Directory, please fill in the following and return to Tom Spear, Secretary, African Studies Association of Australia, Department of History, La Trobe University, Bundoora 3083.

- () I am already a paid-up member of AFSAA
- () I would like to join AFSAA. Enclosed please find my check for \$4 (\$2 for students)
- () I do not wish to join AFSAA at this time, but include the following information for the Directory of Africanists in Australia.

Name:

Title:

Position:

Address:

Office phone:

Home phone:

Areas/fields of interest:

Courses taught with an African orientation (title; year level; brief description)

Other African studies courses taught in your institution:

African activities in your area:

Field work, employment, or travel in Africa (location; dates; brief description):

Main publications:

Suggestions for possible academic activities of an African studies association:

Suggestions for possible community activities of an African studies association:

Are you interested in attending the 1979 AFSAA conference in Canberra?

Are you willing to give a paper at the conference? If so, on what topic?