

AFRICAN STUDIES IN AUSTRALIA

The first Australian African Studies conference was held at La Trobe University October 13-14th, 1978 on the theme 'New Dimensions in the Study of Socio-Economic Change in Africa'. Over thirty people from all over Australia attended, while another twenty to thirty expressed interest but were unable to attend. As a result of this response, it was resolved to form an African Studies Association in Australia and to schedule a second conference in Canberra during September-October 1979. A provisional committee centred in Melbourne and with corresponding members in Canberra, Adelaide, and Perth was appointed to draft a constitution and includes:

Professor D.A. Low	ANU	President
Dr. T. Spear	La Trobe	Secretary
Dr. D.C. Dorward	La Trobe	Treasurer
Dr. C. Gertzel	Flinders	
Dr. D. Goldsworthy	Monash	
Dr. J. Pettman	Canberra CAE	
Dr. J. Polhemus	Deakin	
Dr. G. Reeves	WAIT	
Professor E.A. Wright	Melbourne	

The first newsletter of the association will be issued early in 1979; other activities for the association which have been suggested include: co-ordination of library acquisitions, sponsorship of visiting Africans and Africanists, encouraging the development of African Studies in secondary and tertiary institutions, dissemination of information regarding research opportunities in Africa, and liaison with the Department of Foreign Affairs regarding acquisition of African materials and sponsorship of African visitors.

Membership is open to anyone interested in African Studies and costs \$4.00 per year (\$2.00 for students). All correspondence regarding the association should be sent to Dr. Tom Spear, Department of History, La Trobe University, Bundoora 3083, Australia.

Local associations have also been formed in Melbourne and Perth to sponsor local activities and can be contacted through the local committee members listed above.

