

OBITUARY: HARRY HANNAM

Harry Hannam, who died on 17 December 2011 at the age of 85, was a long standing member of SCOLMA's Committee during the 1970s and 80s. On leaving school at the end of the war he was conscripted into the army and saw four years of service before beginning his career in librarianship at Hackney Public Libraries in 1948. On gaining his ALA he moved to the Library of the Colonial Office (now Foreign & Commonwealth Office) in 1952 as a cataloguer and later worked at increasing levels of seniority in its Overseas Development and Commonwealth Office Libraries. Apart from a period of three years, when he was seconded to the Commonwealth Secretariat as Librarian and Registrar, he remained at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, rising to Chief Librarian, until his retirement in 1986.

He was voted on to SCOLMA's Committee in 1970 and in 1972 became Editor of SCOLMA's then journal *Library Materials on Africa*. In 1973 SCOLMA joined forces with the African Studies Association of the United Kingdom (ASAUK) to publish a joint journal, titled *African Research & Documentation: the journal of the African Studies Association of the UK and SCOLMA* which would serve both the library and academic Africana communities. Under the Editorship of Marion Johnson *AR&D* appeared in 1973 with Harry Hannam as Assistant Editor overseeing the library content of the new journal.

After ten years ASAUK decided to withdraw its support so, from issue no. 31, 1983, Harry Hannam assumed the sole Editorship of *AR&D* as SCOLMA's own journal for the next two years.

In 1979 he was elected Chairman of SCOLMA, an office which he held with distinction for three years. As such he chaired the regular series of lunch time seminars and represented SCOLMA as Chairman and speaker at meetings and conferences. He then accepted the task of compiling the 4th edition of the SCOLMA *Directory* which for the first time covered libraries in Western Europe. This was published in 1983.

As well as his SCOLMA activities he was a founder member (and at one time, Chairman) of the Government Libraries Group and also served for eight years on the British Library's Advisory Committee for Humanities & Social Sciences between 1983/83 and 1989/90.

In 1984 and 1985 he co-authored two bibliographical articles, *African Studies, 1979-83* and *Commonwealth Studies* in the British Council's *British Book News*. The latter led to Harry and myself accepting an invitation from the Clio Press to produce *The Commonwealth*, one of its bibliographical series on international organisations. This appeared in 1993.

Harry Hannam was an enthusiastic and active supporter of SCOLMA's aims and activities. His interest in African affairs led him, in retirement, to enrol at

the School of Oriental & African Studies to study for a degree in African history and where he was awarded a prize as the most promising student during his first year of study. He successfully completed a BA degree in 1989. He also undertook a short term consultancy at the FCO to organise its photographic collection. He continued to receive and read *AR&D* and to pursue his interests in walking, music and acting until increasing ill health claimed him. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, herself a former member of Library staff at the Colonial Office, a son, a daughter and two grandchildren.

Pat Larby