

C. Sylvester Whitaker (Rutgers University)

Retiring in 1985

Bennetta Jules-Rosette (University of California, San Diego)

Michael McNulty (University of Iowa)

Joel Samoff (Stanford University)

RESEARCH IN AFRICA: ACCESS REPORT

For two years the African Studies Association, at the suggestion of the Archives-Libraries Committee, has been collecting information on the climate of research conditions in Africa. We welcome the latest information in regard to such matters as visa requirements, addresses for inquiries, general procedures, fees required, obligations incurred, whether affiliation with a local university is required, and the general climate of access to sources. If you wish forms for yourself or for someone recently returned from research, whether a member of the ASA or not, please let us know.

This service is being provided to the African studies community at no charge to the requestor, with the reporter remaining anonymous. In order to obtain a copy of an access report, please furnish us the name of the country and discipline desired. We will furnish the most recent report available to us. Those reports currently on file cover: Botswana: Political Science; Cameroon: History and general; Comoros: all; Ethiopia: Ethnology, History; Ghana: Anthropology, Guinea: History; Ivory Coast: Anthropology, Folklore; Kenya: Anthropology, Communications, History; Lesotho: Anthropology, Economics, General; Malawi: "All", Anthropology; Mozambique: History; Niger: Anthropology, Linguistics, Literature, Social History & Law; Nigeria: "All", Art, History, Political Science/Geography, Religious Studies; Senegal: Anthropology, History; Sierra Leone: Anthropology/Literature; Somalia: History, Social Science; South Africa: Anthropology/Art, History; Sudan: History; Tanzania: Anthropology, "All", Development Studies (Economics), Education/Political Science, History; Zaire: Anthropology, Education/Psychology, History; Zambia: "All"; Zimbabwe: History/Religion.

LETTERS

"WE ARE NOT TIME-LIFE"—THE SAGA CONTINUES

Dear ASA Members:

In our zeal to collect unpaid 1985 membership dues we mailed a reminder letter requesting payment or proof that 1984 membership had already been paid. Of course we meant 1985, but many members dug through their files and came up with year-old cancelled checks, and queries as to the bizarre ways we seem to have of doing business. Please accept our embarrassed apologies. We probably don't need to reaffirm that we're not Time-Life, and hope that comparisons with the I.R.S. or Kafka's *Castle* were not terminal judgments. Our typo unfortunately recalls the letter that came out from Brandeis in 1980 requesting membership dues of \$40,000. If you have a vision of Bob Crachitt on a high stool crouched over his ledgers, you've probably peeped into our Kinsey Hall office. But rest assured, we've ordered a Mac XL and plan on trading in our quills for a Toshiba

Printer. Ex California, semper aliquid novum.

Donald J. Cosentino
Executive Secretary

ZAMBIA/GAMBIA . . . ENUGU/OUAGADOUGOU

Dear Don:

Just a vignette illustrating the ignorance of Africa among the USA's literati (if so we may believe editors at Alfred A. Knopf to be).

Here I am reading the collection of John Updike's essays of criticism *Hugging the Shore* (1983). From pp. 686-701 we find Updike reviewing (very well, I say) four books: *A Bend in the River*, *The Joys of Motherhood*, *Petals of Blood*, and *North of South*. As regards the last, by Shiva Naipul, we are introduced to it on p. 691 by being informed that it concerns Kenya, Tanzania, and Zambia. But then, on p. 693 I find, "Neither Kenya's national slogan *Harambee*, nor Tanzania's of *Ujamaa*, nor Gambia's Humanism impresses him as more than empty words." Lest you think this is an isolated typo, we find near the bottom of the same page ". . . and the way the nice little Chinese railroad in Gambia is being allowed to deteriorate." I can't believe Updike got that wrong—but somebody at Knopf did (As I bet you he'd get their *best* editors?).

Thousands of miles, different history, different cultures, separate Gambia and Zambia. Just think how we'd feel if we met a highly educated Zambian who confused Austria and Australia!

Yours didactically,
John Western
Department of Geography, Syracuse University.

(Ed note: We remember Russell Baker's article "Enough, Enugu, Enough" at the beginning of the Biafran secession, bemoaning linguistic parallelisms in the new Africa. But see here Knopf, you've had a generation to learn).

AN OPEN APPEAL FOR MORE US EDUCATION ABROAD IN AFRICA

Dear President Cummings

I am writing this letter on behalf of the ad hoc SECUSSA group on Third-World Study Abroad Programs. This group includes professionals who are concerned with advertising and assisting undergraduates in U.S. colleges and universities who wish to earn academic credit by studying in the so-called Third-World, including Africa. We believe we share with you, and with the Board of Directors of the African Studies Association: (1) An awareness of the importance of Africa in the contemporary world. (2) A belief that students who begin their serious study of African languages and cultures as undergraduates today are better-prepared to be graduate area-specialists and/or well-informed citizens tomorrow. (3) A desire to encourage American undergraduates to enroll in accredited, high-quality study-abroad programs in Africa. (4) An awareness of the relative scarcity of such programs in much of Africa and the nearly complete absence of such programs in certain parts of the continent (e.g., Zimbabwe, Cameroun, Zaire, Guinea, Zambia, etc.).

As one of the outcomes of a Workshop on Study Abroad in Third World Countries (held at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont March 7-9, 1984), the ad hoc SECUSSA group would like to request you and the Board of Directors of the

African Studies Association to consider ways in which you might encourage those faculties and centers capable of organizing and strengthening high-quality Study Abroad Programs in Africa to address the need for more such programs, especially in those sectors of Africa where, at present, no program exists.

It may be that the first step in such a process would call for some overview and stock-taking of current Study Abroad Programs in Africa.

We offer of cooperate with the Board of the African Studies Association (or with any appropriate sector/s of the A.S.A.) in identifying, organizing, or strengthening Study Abroad Programs in Africa. We seek your advice in how you, and we, might collaborate most usefully in these efforts.

Sincerely,
Ronald M. Rassner, Director
World Affairs Center

ARPP/CIIR DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT (CORRECTION)

Dear Editor:

Thank you for including information on the Africa Research and Publications Project, Inc., and Catholic Institute for International Relations Distribution Agreement in the *ASA News*, Vol. XVII:4, p. 5-6. Unfortunately, you failed to include our address so that interested Africanists may order the CIIR books directly. We will appreciate it if you can insert an amendment in the next issue. With best wishes.

Kassahun Checole, Director
(Ed note: The ARPP/CIIR address is P.O. Box 1892, Trenton, NJ 08608)

A.I. PLEA ON BEHALF OF FORMER RECTOR OF OMAR BONGO U.

Dear Sir,

I would like to call your readers attention to the human rights situation in Gabon, in particular as it regards the members of *Mouvement de regression nationale* (MORENA), an association formed by critics of the present government.

Amnesty International believes that as many as 260 persons were arrested in late 1981 and six others in March 1982. Ultimately, after being held incommunicado for almost a year, thirty-seven people were tried in November 1982 in connection with their alleged membership in MORENA, charged with threats to state security and insulting the Head of State. Twenty-nine were found guilty and sentenced to as much as twenty years at hard labor. Those sentenced include the Rector of Omar Bongo University, a former diplomat, a former cabinet minister and educator, a presidential counselor, a member of the National Assembly, and a prominent journalist.

Amnesty International has concluded that their trial in November 1982 did not conform in important ways to internationally accepted standards of fairness. At this trial none of the defendants was alleged to have used or advocated violence. Moreover, ever since 1980 Amnesty International has continued to receive reports that prisoners are routinely beaten by Gabonese security officers. Several of the MORENA prisoners stated at the trial that they were kept incommunicado, naked, without adequate food or medical care, doused with water, and beaten.

I am including the following address for President Bongo in the hope that many of

your readers will write, protesting the treatment of these prisoners and requesting amnesty.
The address is:

Son Excellence
El-Hadj Omar Bongo
La Présidence
B P 546
Libreville
République du GABON

Sincerely,
Marion R. Bottorff
AI Group 14, U.S.A.

REPRESENTATIVE

Position based in HARARE, ZIMBABWE

The Institute of Internal Education, a prestigious not-for-profit organization engaged in international educational student exchange, seeks a representative to manage its project office in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The representative will be responsible for coordinating U.S. and third country training of Zimbabweans under USAID-funded manpower development programs, and will serve as a liaison between IIE and USAID in Harare and the government of Zimbabwe.

Candidates must have overseas work experience, preferably in southern Africa, knowledge of the U.S. higher education system; and demonstrated administrative experience and strong communications skills.

Forward resumes, with salary history and requirements to:
David A. Lister, Personnel Director

***Institute of
International Education***
809 United Nations Plaza New York, NY 10017
An equal opportunity employer