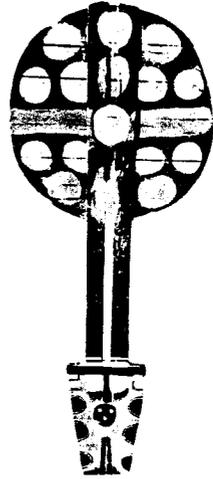




*The
African
Association
for the
Study of
Religions*



STEERING COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Jacob Olupona, University of California, Davis, African-American and African Studies Program, Davis, California, 95616, U. S. A.

Regional Representatives

West Africa: Dr. Friday M. Mbon, Dept. of Religious Studies and Philosophy, University of Calabar, P.M.B. 1115, Calabar, Nigeria.

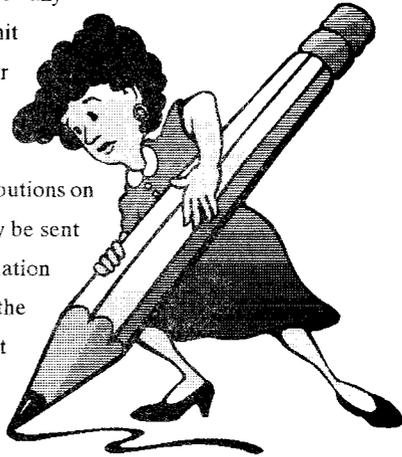
East and Central Africa: Dr Mary Getui, P. O. box 52979, Nairobi, Kenya. Fax. 254-2- 726976

Southern Africa: Dr Abdulkader I. Tayob, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa.

North and South America: Dr Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Dept of Religious Studies, 501 McClung Tower, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tn 37996-0450, U.S.A.

Europe: Dr. Gerrie ter Haar, Dept of Social Sciences & Science of Religion, Katholieke Theologische Universiteit, Heidelberglaan 2, 3584 CS Utrecht, The Netherlands

The editors of the newsletters welcome any contributions and comments. Please submit entries to Gerrie ter Haar or Abdulkader Tayob, or any of the regional representatives who will pass them on. We would prefer, wherever possible, your contributions on computer disk format. E-mail messages may be sent to TAYOB@socsci.uct.ac.za. The information supplied in the Newsletter is accurate to the best of our knowledge. We, however, do not take responsibility for errors and omissions.



Message from the Chairperson

Prof. Jacob Olupona

The fourth newsletter of our Association comes after the XVII Congress of History of Religions held in Mexico City, August 5-12, 1995. The AASR was represented by thirty of us from several countries but mainly from North America, Europe and South Africa. In spite of all our efforts to get the local Planning Committee in Mexico to invite African scholars from the Continent, we were disappointed that this did not happen. The members of our Executive discussed this matter and decided to put it behind us and work towards solving this problem in future.

The AASR was formally admitted as a member of Association of the IAHR. In my acceptance speech, I expressed our appreciation to the Congress and promised to be an active member of the International Association. The IAHR agreed in principle to hold the next Congress in South Africa in the year 2000, and has asked the South African Association to present a proposal to the Executive Committee for their consideration. Our Association expressed her support for the African Congress and promised to assist the South African Association in its planning. We will keep you informed through this medium about developments in this regard.

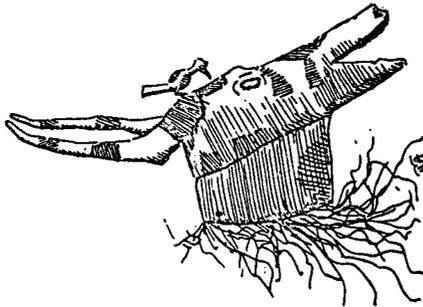
Another highlight of the Mexico Congress was the election of new officers, who will carry out the work of the IAHR in the coming years. I am glad to inform you that three of our members have now joined the Executive Committee. Dr. Rosalind Hackett, our Treasurer and the Regional Representative for America now serves as the Deputy Secretary General, while Drs Abdulkader Tayob, Gerrie ter Haar and I will serve as members of the Executive.

While in Mexico we also took the opportunity to arrange a general meeting for the AASR. The highlights of the meeting appear below, but I have pleasure in announcing that Dr. Jan Platvoet of the University of Leiden, the Netherlands, was elected the first Vice President of our Association. You will recall that Dr. Platvoet was the main

convenor of the Conference in Zimbabwe that led to the founding of the Association. Dr. Abdulkader Tayob will now serve as the Secretary General. Dr. Christopher Ejisu at the University of Port Harcourt will join Dr. Friday Mbon as our Regional Representatives in West Africa while Dr. Mary Getui of the University of Kenyatta, Nairobi, will replace Dr. Teresia Hinga as our representative in East Africa. In the near future, we will appoint other representatives especially in countries where we are now actively recruiting new members.

This Association will be embarking on fund-raising for several of our projects. We have asked two group members, Drs. Simeon Ilesanmi and Jack Nelson to look into funding sources. They will be contacting some of you for suggestions and advice on this matter. Details of other activities of the AASR in the past six months will be provided by the officers who are directly responsible for the various programmes of the Association.

I do hope that you will enjoy reading this newsletter and I wish you a Happy New Year.



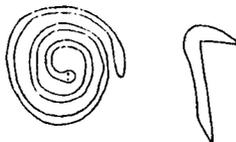
Some Issues raised at the **African Association for the Study of Religions General Meeting** in Mexico City (6 August 1995)

1. The Association was forging ahead with its newsletters and its networking. Members are urged to send their news and features to the editors and regional representatives. Some problems were experienced with establishing and maintaining contact with Francophone countries. It was suggested that the entire Newsletter may be translated into French to address this problem.

2. As opportunities arose, scholars in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Kenya and Uganda, have been informed about the Association. European participation in the Association was growing slowly but steadily. Southern African developments indicated a growing rapprochement between South African scholars and their northern neighbours. Dr. Tabona Shoko of Zimbabwe became the secretary for the Southern African Association for the Study of Religions. The American response to the Association had not grown much, but dues were paid when members were reminded.

4. As at October 11, 1995, our North American account stood at \$US 1719.46; the European account was healthy (approximately \$5000); and the South African balance was R659-29 (approximately \$180-00). The AASR would like to acknowledge the generous donation by the Reference Centre on Education and Religion in South Africa (RECSA) in Utrecht, The Netherlands. In closing their accounts, they transferred the sum of Dfl. 5000 (about \$US 3200) to our European account in March 1994.

Our main expenditure continues to be the production and distribution of the newsletter. The meeting, therefore, took a decision to increase the fund-raising drive for promoting our publication projects. Simeon Oluwasanmi and Jack Nelson expressed interest in this regard. We urge all members who can pay dues to the AASR to keep their annual sustaining payments of \$50 (\$25 students) flowing in to the Treasurer!

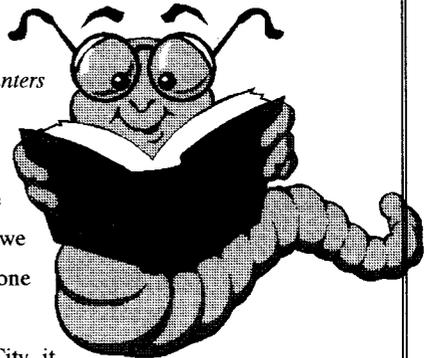


PUBLICATION NEWS

David Westerlund

The sub-committee on publication policies arranged a special meeting to discuss various issues at the congress of the International Association for the History of Religions in Mexico City (1995). It was decided that the sub-committee should remain as an ad hoc body until some publication ventures have become properly established. The members who will now serve in this committee are Ulrich Berner, Gerrie ter Haar, L. Njinya-Mujinya, Jacob Olupona and David Westerlund (chairperson).

Concerning the AASR book series, which was presented in the third issue of our Newsletter (April 1995), I reported about my discussions with the publisher Christopher Hurst in London and Uppsala. Both of us felt it would be mutually beneficial if the series was not restricted exclusively to one single publisher. In principle, we are thus free to cooperate with any publisher who is interested in publishing a manuscript that we feel should be published. The AASR members present in Mexico agreed that we should plan to have the proceedings from the Harare conference in 1992, when the AASR was formed, as volume one in the series. This volume will probably be published by the new publisher Roots and Branches in Cambridge, England, which previously published the proceedings from the IAHR regional conference in Beijing. Another volume which we plan to publish in the AASR series is a collective book entitled *African Islam and Islam in Africa: Encounters between Sufis and Islamists*, which Hurst is interested in publishing. Some other manuscripts are currently being assessed by members of the editorial committee. During the next few years, we hope to be able to publish on average about one volume per year.



In the meeting of the sub-committee in Mexico City, it was suggested that we also consider starting a minor series of research reports, to be produced inexpensively from camera-ready copies. Such a series should include studies

of a size between articles and books (normally from about 50 to 100 pages). Moreover, there were discussions about journals on African religions. However, no decisions have yet been taken, and these discussions will continue.

ON THE NEWS FRONT

The following seminars were held at the **School of Oriental and African Studies**, University of London:

9 October "Hostile witnesses: reconstructing Yoruba religion from missionary accounts" by J.D.Y. Peel (SOAS).

25 October "Grief and grievances: widows and widowhood in Maragoli, western Kenya, in the 1930s" by Kenda Mutongi (University of Virginia)

15 November "Clitoridectomy in Central Kenya in the 1950s" by Lynn Thomas (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

27 November "Race without racism? Reflections on Zanzibar" by David Parkin (SOAS).

6 December "The papacy and Africa in the 17th century" by Richard Gray (SOAS).

7 December "Prophecy and madness in the Eastern Cape: the story of Nontata, 1921-1935" by Hilary Sapire (Birbeck) and Bob Edgar (Howard)

The Royal African Society, University of London, held a meeting on 7 November 1995 where Professor Margaret Peil (CWAS, University of Birmingham) spoke on "Ghanaians Abroad." The meeting was organised with the Centre of African Studies.

The 1995 **Ethiopian Research Council Convention** was held from 26-29 October. The theme was "Ethiopians in the Diaspora," and particular emphasis was given to Ethiopian contributions to Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas. For information contact the Director, Center for African American Culture, Florida State University, 210 S Woodward Avenue, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2097, USA.

The African Religions Group of the American Academy for Religion in Phila-

delphia organized a symposium on November 19, 1995. The theme was "Art and Religious Expression in Africa", and participants included:

Elias K. Bongmba (Rice University) on "Preserving Religious Values through African Art",

Rosalind I.J. Hackett (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) on "Envisioning and Representing the Spirit World in Africa",

Babatunde Lawal (Virginia Commonwealth University) on "Performing Gèlèdè: Art, Religion, and Gender Politics among the Yoruba",

Benjamin C. Ray (University of Virginia) on "African Art and the Teaching of African Religions",

Sandra T. Barnes, University of Pennsylvania, responded.

For November 20, a symposium on "Oral Tradition and religion in Africa" was presided by Teresia Hinga (DePaul University). Speakers included:

Mario Aguilar (University of St. Andrews): "Goat. We Ask You to rescue Us from the Somali; Ritual Preparations for Warfare in Waso oorana."

Lillian Ashcroft-Eason (Bowling Green State University) : "Role and Ethics of West African Women in the Atlantic Slave Trade,"

Yushau Sodiq (Texas Christian University) : "The Influence of Yoruba Traditional Religions on Islam in Yorubaland,"

→ Kathleen O'Brien Wicker (Scripps College) : "Mami Water: The hospitality of African Spirituality."

Simeon O. Ilesanmi, Wake Forest University, was the respondent.

From 17 to 25 November, 1995, a week-long consultation was held in Nairobi, Kenya, on "**Building bridges** between African independent churches and the historic mission churches." The consultation, attended by Gerrie ter Haar, intended to discuss how African Institute Churches could share information, experience and resources. The consultation was organised by the Centre for Black and White Christian Partnership in Birmingham, UK, and the Organisation of African Instituted Churches in Nairobi.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

In Leiden (the Netherlands) an international conference will be held on **Religious communities in the Diaspora** on 8 December 1995.

Diaspora studies are an important theme of the Leiden Institute for the Study of Religions (LISOR) programme on Comparative Religion. The theme of Diaspora enjoys a growing importance in the recent study of religions. Rooted in the Jewish tradition, it has been applied to the situation of other religious minorities in a context of migration. Examples are African-American communities in both North and South America, and Muslim communities in the United Kingdom. However, the popularity of the concept is not based on a clear definition of the term. There is thus good reason to devote a conference to the topic with a view to greater clarification of the terminological issues.

The conference will look at Diaspora developments in ancient

and modern times, with particular attention to the African

Diaspora. The latter receives particular emphasis in the

work of Dr. Gerrie ter Haar whose present research

project is on African religious

communities in the Netherlands within

the wider context of Europe. These are

mostly Christian communities and the result of

recent migration processes. So far, these new

developments have suffered from lack of

scholarly attention. An international research

network, therefore, is being established by her to

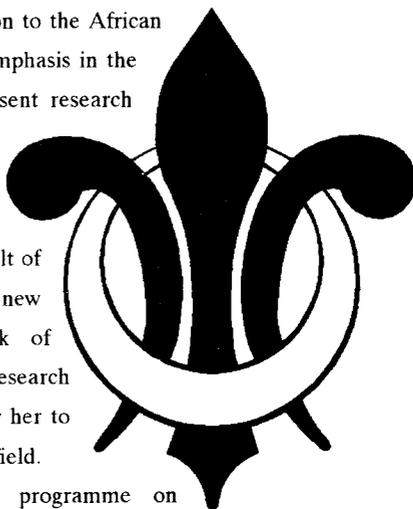
stimulate and coordinate research in this field.

Against this background, the LISOR programme on

Comparative Religion has decided to organise a conference

intended for researchers and others interested in Diaspora studies. Among the speakers will be:

Dr. Patrick Kalilombe (Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham) & Dr. Roswith Gerloff



(University of Leeds): "The African religious Diaspora in the United Kingdom."

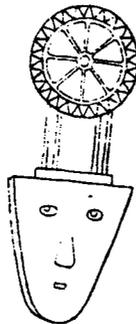
Dr. Gerrie ter Haar (Katholieke Universiteit, Utrecht): "The African religious Diaspora in Europe."

Dr. Amélé Ekué (Universität Hamburg): "Women of the African Diaspora in Europe."

Drs. Nathal Dessing (Rijks Universiteit Leiden): "The Muslim Diaspora in the Netherlands."

Further particulars may be obtained from: Ms. Arti Ponsen, P.O. Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, Netherlands, or fax 071-272571 or telephone 071-272572

A conference on **The African Diaspora: African Origins and New World Self-fashioning** is to be held at the Department of Africana Studies (Binghamton University) from 11-13 April 1996. This interdisciplinary conference will address the central issues and paradigms of African Studies with a comparative Pan-African focus. It will include sessions on the following themes: Freedom lost, freedom regained?; Towards social and economic well-being; Race and ethnicity; Gender relations; Expressive traditions; Metaphysical orientations. There will be two plenary sessions, entitled "A "Black Atlantic", or Africanity Regained?" and "The Diaspora, Contemporary African Reality, and the World System". Paper titles and short abstracts should be sent by 30 November 1995 to Dr. Isidore Okpewho, Chair, Department of Africana Studies, Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY 13902, USA (tel: +1-607-777 2636, Fax: +1-607-777 2280).



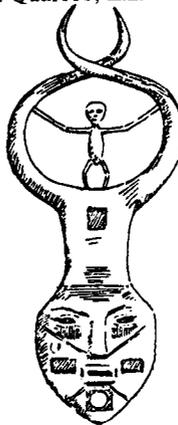
The African Studies Association of the U.K. will be holding a one-day symposium on Mobility in Africa on 16 December at the School of Oriental and African Studies. The symposium covers both involuntary and voluntary forms of population mobility, and is convened by Dr. David Simon (Royal Holloway) and Dr. Nici Nelson (Goldsmiths). Fees are £12 member, £15 non-member, £7 student member, £10 student non-member. For full details and booking form, contact Lindsay Allan, ASAUK, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russel Square, London WC1H 0XG (tel:(0)171-323 6253).

Un Programme de formation continue de coopérants pour le compte du ministère de la Coopération, seront organisés au CEAN du 21 au 25 aout sous la direction de Patrick Quantin avec la participation des chercheurs du CEAN. Religion, développement et politique en Afrique noire.

Sujets abordés:

- L'Islam et l'Etat au sud du Sahara
- Religion et représentations de la maladie
- Paganisme et nouveaux mouvements religieux
- Religion et enjeux politiques en Afrique de l'Est.

The First Ghana International Book Fair will be held from 6-12 November 1996. For more information contact P.C.T. Quarcoo, Exhibition Director, PO Box 111, Trade Fair Centre, Accra, Ghana.



RESEARCH GRANTS

The Leventis Foundation is supporting collaborative research between the Centre of African Studies in London and colleagues in Nigerian universities. It is anticipated that further funding will be available for research grants/sabbaticals in London during the 1996/97 session. For further information please contact the Centre office: Centre of African Studies, University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, LONDON WC1H 0XG, United Kingdom.

East African Visiting Scholarship Scheme. During the second year of the Centre for African Studies' new scholarship scheme, academics from Uganda and Tanzania are invited to visit the Centre for a three month period in order to pursue research and/or course development in the broad field of African studies in the Social Sciences and Humanities. One scholarship will be available for each country; and preference will be given to academics at an early stage in their career. The scholarship may be taken up during either the Autumn (September-December) or Spring (January-April) terms of the 1996-97 academic year. Applications in the form of a 1,000 word research proposal and up-to-date curriculum vitae (and optional letter of support) should be submitted to the Chairman of the Centre of African Studies by 1 May 1996. For further information please contact the Centre office: Centre of African Studies, University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, LONDON WC1H 0XG, United Kingdom



The British Institute in Eastern Africa awards at its discretion grants to assist scholars undertaking original research in pre-colonial history, archaeology and related subjects in eastern Africa, broadly defined. In general, it considers requests for modest amounts to help towards the actual costs of fieldwork or other essential aspects of the research. Through the Haycock Memorial Fund, the Institute is also able to support research into the past cultures of eastern Africa, especially those of the central and northern parts of the Sudan Republic, or neighbouring regions (excluding Egypt). Preference may be given to research on aspects of Meriotic Studies. For full details on applying for the above grants please contact either the Director, BIEA, PO Box 30710, Nairobi, Kenya, or the London Secretary, BIEA, 20 Queensberry Place, London SW7 2DZ.

The Du Bois-Mandela-Rodney Postdoctoral Fellowship Program of the Center for Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Michigan announces its 1996-97 theme: "Transformations of Power and Culture in Africa." The Center seeks applications from scholars in the humanities and social sciences whose work addresses key issues in understanding the connections between culture, society and the state in Africa, and questions the assumptions inherited by the field of African Studies from its colonial and anti-colonial past. The deadline for application for the 1996-97 fellowship is 16 January 1996: for further details contact the Du Bois-Mandela-Rodney Fellowship, Center for Afro-American and African Studies, 200 West Engineering Building, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1092, USA (tel: +1-313-764 5513).



The Center for Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Michigan has established an interdisciplinary and international project on African Peoples in the Industrial Age. Applications are invited from postdoctoral scholars in the humanities for a one-year, residential fellowship under the Rockefeller Fellows Program. The deadline for application is 16 January: for full details contact the Rockefeller Fellows Program, Center for Afro-American and African Studies, 200 West Engineering Building, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1092, USA (tel: +1-313-764 5513).

The Pew Charitable Trusts

1. Research Advancement Grants for Projects on Christian Mission and World Christianity.

The Religion Program of The Pew Charitable Trusts invites proposals for large-scale projects that will enhance team research and publication in studies of Christian Mission and non-Western Christianity. Grants will be made on a competitive basis for two- to three-year collaborative projects that will contribute significantly to the advancement of scholarship on cross-cultural mission and/or the development of Christianity in the southern and eastern continents. Grants will range from \$50,000 to \$100,000 (U.S.) per year.

Projects should be directed by one or more established scholars, have access to appropriate research facilities, involve scholars from two or more regions of the world, and contribute to the intellectual and cross-cultural vitality of the global Christian movement. Projects that are interdenominational and interdisciplinary and that elicit significant contributions from the non-Western world are particularly welcome. Two or three grants will be awarded at the end of 1996, subject to the quality of proposals received and the availability of funds.

The deadline for receiving initial proposals (maximum four pages) for 1996 Research Advancement Grants is May 15, 1996.

2. Projects In Mission Research

The Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven, Connecticut, administers the Research Enablement Program for the advancement of scholarship in studies of Christian Mission and Christianity in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania. Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis in the following categories:

Postdoctoral book research and writing projects

Field research for doctoral dissertations

Missiological consultations (small scale)

Planning grants for major interdisciplinary research projects

Projects that are cross-cultural, collaborative, and interdisciplinary are especially welcome. The deadline for receiving 1996 grant applications is November 30, 1995.

For further information and official application forms for either of the two projects, please contact:

Geoffrey A. Little, Coordinator

Research Enablement Program

Overseas Ministries Study Center

490 Prospect Street

New Haven, CT 06511 U.S.A.

Tel: (203) 865-1827

fax: (203) 865-2857



The Royal Dutch Academy of Scientific Research (KNAW) offers grant possibilities for congress participation, travel, organisation of congresses and the like. A minimum term of 4 months is required for processing applications. Contact: Mrs. M. M. M. Kooy or A. de Wit, KNAW, Secr. Reis- en Congressubsidies, PO Box 19121, 1000 GC Amsterdam.

Oppenheimer Academic Fellowship Scheme. The Centre welcomes the ninth Oppenheimer Fellow, Dr. Darma Mahadea, of the Department of Economics, University of Transkei. Darma Mahadea's research interest is in the area of small firm entrepreneurship, both formal and informal sectors, and he intends to explore ways and means of stimulating economic growth and development in the new South Africa. He can be contacted in Room 480 at SOAS.

The next Fellow will be Peter Merrington, of the Department of English, University of the Western Cape, who is pursuing doctoral research on Dorothea Fairbridge. He will arrive in London in February 1996 but can be contacted in the meantime at the Centre office.

The Centre invites applications from relatively established South African academics, working in the broad field of African Studies in the social sciences and humanities, for the September/October-December 1996 and January/February-April 1997 Fellowships, sponsored by the Ernest Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (deadlines 29 February and 31 May 1996 respectively). For full details on application please contact the Centre office: Centre of African Studies, University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, LONDON WC1H 0XG, United Kingdom.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Books:

- Alvis, Joel L. Jr. *Religion and Race: Southern Presbyterians, 1946 to 1983*. University of Alabama Press, 1994. ISBN 0-8173-0701-X.
- Ayim-Aboagye, D. *The Function of Myth in Akan Healing Experience: A Psychological Inquiry into Two Traditional Akan Healing Communities*. Stockholm, Almqvist & Wiksell International, 1993.
- Chevannes, Barry. *Rastafari: Roots and Ideology*. Syracuse University Press, 1994. ISBN 0-8156-0296-0.
- Chrétien, J.-P. et al. (sous la direction de). *L'invention religieuse en Afrique*. Paris, Karthala. 1993. ISBN 2-86537-373-8.
- Danfulani, Umar H.D. *Pebbles and Deities. Pa Divination among the Ngas, Mupun and Mwachavul in Nigeria*. Frankfurt/M., European University Studies: Series 23, Theology. Vol 551. ISBN 3-631-49161-1.
- Davison, Jean with the Women of Mutira. *Voices of Mutira. Lives of Rural Gikuyu Women*. Lynne Rienner, 1989. ISBN 1-55587-158-5.
- Haar, Gerrie ter, *L'Afrique et le monde des esprits: le ministère de guérison de Mgr. Milingo, archevêque de Zambie*, Paris: Editions Karthala, 1995. ISBN: 2-86537-594-3. (French translation of *Spirit of Africa: the healing ministry of Archbishop Milingo of Zambia*, London: Hurst & Co./ Trenton, N.J.: Africa World Press, 1992).
- Hallgren, Roland. *The Vital Force: a study of A.S.C. in the traditional and neo-traditional culture of the Yoruba people*. Lund: Dept. of History of Religions, University of Lund, 1995.
- Hanssen H.B. & M. Twaddle (eds.). *Religion and Politics in East Africa*. London, J. Currey. 1995.
- Hubsch, Bruno (sous la direction de). *Madagascar et le christianisme*. Paris. Karthala, 1993. ISBN 2-86537-445-9.

- Isichei, Elisabeth. *A history of Christianity in Africa: from antiquity to the present*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans/ Lawrenceville, N.J.: Africa World Press, 1995. ISBN 0-86543-443-3.
- Kabasele-Lumbala, François. *Alliances avec le Christ en Afrique*. Paris, Karthala, 1994. ISBN 2-86537-474-2.
- Kessler, David F. *The Falashas: Jews of Ethiopia*. Frank Cass, 1995. ISBN 0-7146-4170-7.
- Klei, J.v.d. (ed.). *Popular culture. Africa, Asia, Europe*. Utrecht, CERES. 1995.
- Laborde, C. *La confrérie layenne et les Lébou du Sénégal: islam et culture traditionnelle en Afrique*. Etudes et recherches (ISSN 1160-1655) No. 25, 1995.
- Mana, Kä. *Christ d'Afrique. Enjeu éthique de la foi africaine en Jésus-Christ*. Paris, Karthala. 1994. ISBN 2-86537-472-6.
- Ndi-Okalla, Joseph. *Inculturation et conversion*. Paris, Karthala, 1994. ISBN 2-86537-516-7.
- Nsumbu, Joseph. *Culte et société: Le culte Chrétien comme réflexion critique d'une société moderne africaine: cas du chant dans la communauté Evangelique de Zaire*. (Studia Missionalia Upsaliensia LXII) Uppsala, Swedish Institute of Missionary Research, 1995.
- Prozesky, Martin & John de Gruchy (eds.). *Living Faiths in South Africa*. London, Hurst & Co. 1995. ISBN 185065-244-9.
- Rouner, Lereoy S. (ed.). *Human Rights and the World's Religions*. University of Notre Dame Press, 1994. ISBN 0-268-01107-9.
- Steed, Christopher & David Westerlund (eds.) *The Triple Religious Heritage of Nigeria: Three Essays*. (Uppsala Research Reports in the History of Religions 5) Stockholm, Almqvist & Wiksell International, 1995.
- Tilley, Maureen A. & Susan A. Ross (eds.). *Broken and Whole: Essays on Religion and Body*. University Press of America, 1994. ISBN 0-8191-747-5.
- Turkson & Wijssen, F. *Inculturation: Abide by the Otherness of Africa and Africans*. Kampen: Koli, 1994.

JOURNALS

Religion Today (ISSN 0267-1700) is to be relaunched as *Journal of Contemporary Religion* (ISSN 1353-7903) and will be published by Carfax Publishing Company from Vol. 10, 1995.

Since its inception in 1984, *Religion Today* has provided a forum for discussion and analysis of new religions. A wide range of new movements have been sampled, including Rastafarianism, Goddess worship, self-religions, the Unification Church ("Moonies"), Hare Krishna, the New Age Movement, New Japanese Religions and Rajneeshism. The philosophical, theological, educational and sociological aspects of these movements have been covered. Further, current developments in the major religions and, in recent times, the present situation of religion in Eastern Europe have been documented.

From Volume 10, 1995, the editorial coverage of the journal will be enhanced and expanded. While the focus will continue to be on new religions and new manifestations of religiosity and spirituality, there will be a place for articles covering trends and contemporary developments within mainstream churches and the world's major religions.

Contributions to the journal are welcome. They should be between 5-6,000 words in length. Manuscripts should be typed (double-spaced) and, if available, on disk, compatible with Macintosh Word. Please send three copies to Elisabeth Arweck, Center for New Religions, Department of Theology, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS, UK.

For subscription or a free sample copy please contact: Carfax Publishing Company, P O Box 25, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3UE, UK, Fax +44 (0)1235 553559 (UK), Tel. +44 (0)1235 521154 (worldwide, 24 hours, 7 days/week).

People On the Move

Drs. Halleh Ghorashi has been appointed as an aid on a joint project of the Center for Women's Studies and the Institute for Cultural Anthropology, University of Nijmegen (the Netherlands). The project is entitled "Iranian female migrants: conflicting identities and context-bound reactions."

Mercy Amba Oduyoye will be teaching at the Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen, the Netherlands, from 29 January to 15 March 1996.

Samuel Mbambo, Lecturer in African Religion and Culture in the Department of Religion and Theology of the University of Namibia, has been at Utrecht University since May 1995 to prepare for his Ph.D. in the field of African traditional religions. He will also spend most of 1996 in Europe.



The Study of Religion Forges Ahead

The Centre for African Studies in Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo, Mozambique, is embarking on a collaboration project with Utrecht University in the Netherlands on the academic study of religion. The project intends to promote interdisciplinary research of religion in the country, notably in the field of traditional religions and of independent churches, areas which have been seriously neglected in the past. Coordinator of the project will be Dr. Teresa Cruz e Silva who is about to defend her Ph.D. thesis on the role of the Swiss mission in southern Mozambique at the University of Bradford in the U.K. On the Utrecht side the work will be coordinated by Dr. Gerrie ter Haar. The joint project is a result of the growing insight into the meaning of religion as a social force in Mozambique where political conditions have changed considerably.

From 23 to 28 November, 1995, the **Global Coalition for Africa (GCA)** held its second major conference in Maastricht, the Netherlands, in the presence of African heads of state and other dignitaries. The GCA was founded in 1990 as an informal political platform for discussing important issues concerning the political and economic situation in Africa. The main theme of the 1995 conference was "Africa's future and the world." Remarkably, and a good reason to make mention of the event in our newsletter, much attention was given to the role and impact of religion in most African countries, viewed against the background of the general condition of the state in Africa. It seems that religion is becoming a serious topic in political and NGO-circles, a fact which may well reflect the relevance of the academic study of religion in Africa.

PROFILES OF INSTITUTIONS

Baylor University is the largest Baptist university in the world with 12,000 students. The University, established in 1845, includes the College of Arts and Sciences, eight professional schools, and a graduate school. **The African Studies Program of Baylor University**, a division of The Center for International Education, was established in 1994 under the direction of Professor John N. Jonsson, Ph.D. This program offers study and research of the wide diversity of Africa's natural and human resources; its languages and ethnicity; its religions and nationhood; its indigeneity and its role in modernity. Students may participate in this program with a major or a minor in African Studies. The curriculum enables students and faculty to interact with eminent African statespersons, vocationalists and academics on campus. The program also includes a summer foreign-site program in Kenya, which is open to non-Baylor students. For more information contact:

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In Memoriam

Bengt Sundkler

"What is there beyond the forest line?" This was the cardinal question for the boy from Vindeln in northern Sweden, who became a missionary in Africa and an internationally renowned Africanist and missiologist. High school studies in Umeå broadened Bengt Sundkler's perspectives as well as stimulated his artistic ambitions. Studies of theology at Uppsala University gave him new insights and methods to find the answer to the question "what is beyond the forest line". His doctorate was based on extensive research on the Swedish Missionary Society. In this thesis he showed a mature fusion of the method of the Uppsala prosopographic way of interpreting history, as well as new conceptions concerning social history.

As a young Uppsala academic and missionary, Bengt Sundkler chose Africa as his field of operation. He worked first in South Africa and then in Tanzania. His linguistic talents deepened his childhood's question about the forest line; and the influence of social and cultural anthropology refined his analysis of religion in Africa. This resulted in two academic breakthroughs: the international classic *Bantu Prophets in South Africa* and *Ung kyrka i Tanzania*. His devotion to Africa is testified by his continued scholarly production. The Christian Ministry in Africa is important for understanding the more established church life in Africa, as Bantu Prophets of the Zulu Zion and some Swazi Zionists have been for the study of the more spontaneous independent or indigenous churches. With the book *Bara Bukoba* he continued to uncover African church life at the grassroots level.

In 1948, Bengt Sundkler was appointed to the new chair of Church History with Missions at Uppsala University, which he held until 1974. As a scholar he broadened the frame of reference for the study of church history. He taught us to talk about Third World church history. With his sense of humour, quick-wittedness and literary elegance, he encouraged in many generations an international scholarly engagement. He taught us to see beyond the forest line. As professor, he showed respect for the ideas of his students and supported them with generous and dependable advice to go

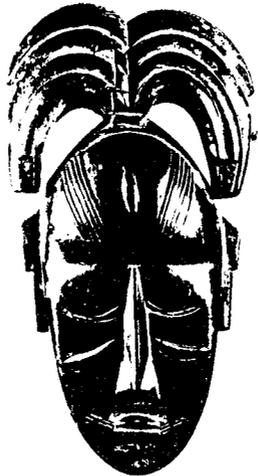
through and beyond the forest line.

Retirement was an unknown word in Bengt Sundkler's vocabulary. He did not see his own retirement in 1974 as a time for relaxation. Rather, it was a new point of departure for his continued scholarly work. He devoted himself to African church history from the Holy Family's escape into Egypt to the release of Nelson Mandela. We have all waited for the results of Sundkler's great study of African church history begun in 1974. His faithful co-worker Christopher Steed is now editing the manuscript for publication. For those of us who have had an insight into this extensive project, it has been edifying to register the enthusiasm as well as respect with which Sundkler has dealt with the fact that Africa was even larger and its church history even longer and more complicated than he anticipated. There were numerous forest lines to reach beyond.

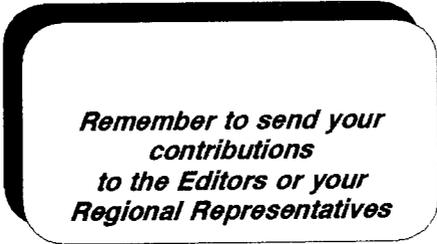
Now Bengt Sundkler has reached his final retirement - beyond the forest line - and we look forward to the publication of his last great study about Africa.

Requiescat in pace.

Carl F. Hallencreutz and Sigbert Axelson



Dr. Denis M'Passou from Malawi, previously from the Department of Religious Studies of the University of Swaziland, passed away during a brief stay in Namibia. Dr. M'Passou had been suffering from health problems since he came to Namibia, and we deeply regret to announce his untimely death on 12 October at the age of 60. Due to communication problems, we have not been able to ascertain the precise circumstances of his death at the time of writing. Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing him personally will remember him not only as a colleague but also as a friend. Dr. M'Passou will live on in our memory as a man of many qualities. He was a prolific writer who combined his scholarly work with fiction writing. Through the latter, he was able to communicate his academic insights to a large public whose daily lives had become so familiar to him as an Anglican priest. In Malawi, he served the churches as chairman of the Christian Council and of the Association of Central African Christian Training Institutions. While in the university, he continued to make himself available outside academic circles and thus spread his expertise. Dr. M'Passou will be greatly missed by all who are actively engaged in the development of church and theology in southern Africa.



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contributions
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