

THE
AFRICAN
STUDIES

VOL. 30, NO. 2

REVIEW



Published By

THE AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

AFRICAN STUDIES REVIEW

The Journal of the African Studies Association

EDITOR

R. Hunt Davis, Jr.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Frank A. Salamone

Managing Editor: Carol W. Lauriault

Assistant to the Editors: Virginia Salamone, Cody Watson

Editorial Assistants: Kofi Awkwabi-Ameyaw, E. Craig Schultz

EDITORIAL BOARD

David B. Abernethy (Political Science, Stanford University)

Margaret L. Bates (Political Science, New College of South Florida)

Sara S. Berry (Economics, Boston University)

Paul H. Brietzke (Law, Valparaiso University)

Robert Cancel (Literature, University of California, San Diego)

Marion Doro (Political Science, Connecticut College)

C. Tracy Harrington (Education, Murray State University)

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

Francis Kornegay (Bibliography, African Development Foundation)

Patrick Manning (History, Northeastern University)

Maxwell K. Owusu (Anthropology, University of Michigan)

John Povey (Literature, University of California, Los Angeles)

Alan K. Smith (History, Syracuse University)

Bob J. Walter (Geography, Ohio University)

Michael Watts (Geography, University of California, Berkeley)

The African Studies Review is edited by the Center for African Studies, University of Florida. All editorial correspondence and manuscripts should be sent to: R. Hunt Davis, Jr., Editor, African Studies Review, Center for African Studies, 470 GRI, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611, U.S.A.

All manuscripts should be submitted in triplicate. Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced (notes, excerpts, and references should also be double-spaced) and should be clear and dark. Please do not use erasable or onionskin paper. Maps, tables, charts, graphs, and other illustrations must be camera-ready. Manuscripts should conform to the recommendations of the latest edition of *A Manual of Style* (University of Chicago Press); a *Review* style sheet may be secured from the editors. Footnotes and references should appear at the end of the manuscript. Manuscripts will be submitted without the name of the author to outside readers; please include a removable cover page giving title, authorship, affiliation, and address; the article itself should carry only the title. The *Review* will only consider manuscripts that have not been published elsewhere and are not being considered by other journals.

THE AFRICAN STUDIES REVIEW

Volume 30, Number 2
June 1987

AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
Credit Union Building
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

NOTICE TO MEMBERS: The United States Postal System does not forward periodicals. We must receive *written notification* from you at least five weeks in advance of any change of mailing address. Failure to notify us of your correct mailing address will result in suspension of your membership until we receive such notification. We can make address changes only when current dues are paid. Domestic claims for non-receipt of issues must be made to the Association's office within six months of the month of publication (overseas claims, one year). Copies of the *Review* damaged in the mail will be replaced without charge.

The *African Studies Review* is published four times a year (March, June, September, and December) by the African Studies Association, Credit Union Building, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia 30322, U.S.A. Articles in the *Review* represent neither the views of the African Studies Association nor those of its officers; responsibility for opinions expressed and for the accuracy of facts published rests solely with the individual authors. The publishers of the *African Studies Review* assume that contributors to the journal are literate in the English language, coherent in thought, and conversant with the principles of scholarship. The publisher has not copyedited this material; responsibility for copyediting is entirely the author's.

© 1988

African Studies Association

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. Any author has the right to republish his article in whole or in part without requesting permission from the Association; others desiring permission should apply to the Association.

AFRICAN STUDIES REVIEW

VOLUME 30

JUNE 1987

NUMBER 2

CONTENTS

AFRICAN HISTORY RESEARCH TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE

Guest Editor: David Newbury

ARTICLES

- Research Perspectives on African History: An Introduction 1
David Newbury
- Foxes in the Field: An Essay on an Historical Methodology 9
Janet Ewald
- The Interpretation of Evidence in African History 17
Thomas Spear
- Systems, Games, and History: Models for the Study of Africa's Past 25
Robert Harms
- African History: An Assessment and an Agenda for Future Research 35
Kings M. Phiri
- The Prospects for African Economic History: Is Today Included in
the Long Run? 49
Patrick Manning
- The Future of the History of Ideas in Africa 63
Felix Ekechi
- The Social History of Africa in the Future: Medical-Related
Issues 83
Marc H. Dawson

BOOK REVIEWS: *Salt of the Desert Sun: A History of Salt Production and Trade in the Central Sudan*, Paul Lovejoy (Kathryn L. Green), pg. 93; *The Politics of Miseducation: The Booker Washington Institute of Liberia (1929-1984)*, Donald Spivey (H.S. Bhola), pg. 95; *A Short History of the First Liberian Republic*, Joseph Saye Guannu (Charles W. Hartwig), pg. 97; *Ethiopia and the Challenge of Independence*, Haggai Erlich (Ahmed I. Samatar), pg. 98; *The Southern Marches of Imperial Ethiopia: Essays in History and Social Anthropology*, Donald Donham and Wendy Jones, eds (Tukumbi Lumumba-Kasongo), pg. 99; *Empire on the Nile: The Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1898-1934*, M. W. Daly (Erving E. Beauregard), pg. 100; *Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature*, Ngugi wa Thiong'o (H.S. Bhola), pg. 102; *The Message of Tourist Art, An African Semiotic System in Comparative Perspective*, Benetta Jules-Rosette (Simon Battestini), pg. 104.

CONTRIBUTORS

MARC H. DAWSON is an assistant professor of history at Western New England College. His research has focused primarily on the twentieth century medical history of Kenya.

FELIX K. EKECHI is a professor of African history at Kent State University. His research interests are missionary studies and social and political change in colonial West Africa, especially Nigeria. His publications include *Missionary Enterprise and Rivalry in Igboland* (1972), *Owerri in Transition* (1984), *Tradition and Transformation in Eastern Nigeria* (forthcoming), and several articles in scholarly journals. He is currently working on the biography of a Nigerian religious leader and educator, Rev. M.D. Opara.

JANET J. EWALD, an assistant professor of history at Duke University, conducted research in the Republic of Sudan. Her most recent work delineates the links between the state, merchant capital, and commodization in the greater Nile valley. She has also explored how speaking and writing convey different types of authority.

ROBERT HARMS is associate professor of history at Yale University. He is the author of *River of Wealth, River of Sorrow: The Central Zaire Basin in the Era of the Slave and Ivory Trade* (1981) and *Games Against Nature: An Eco-Cultural History of the Nunu of Equatorial Africa* (1987).

PATRICK MANNING is associate professor of history and African American Studies at Northeastern University. He is the author of *Slavery, Colonialism and Economic Growth in Dahomey, 1640-1960*, and of two forthcoming books: *Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa (1880-1985)*, and *Slavery and African Life*.

DAVID NEWBURY is assistant professor of history at the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill). He has taught and carried out research in Uganda, Rwanda, and Zaire and has published numerous articles on the history of the peoples living around Lake Kivu (eastern Zaire). With Bogumil Jewsiewicki, he has co-edited *African Historiographies: What History for Which Africa?*

KINGS M. PHIRI is reader in history at Chancellor College, University of Malawi. His main research interests are in the precolonial history of central and southern Malawi, urbanization, and Afro-American influence in central Africa. Along with several journal articles and book chapters, he has completed *A Political and Socio-Economic History of Central Malawi to 1930* (forthcoming).

THOMAS SPEAR is associate professor of history and chair of African and Middle Eastern Studies at Williams College, Massachusetts. He has done fieldwork in Kenya on Mijikenda history and is the author of a number of books and articles on pre-colonial history and methodology, including *The Kaya Complex: A History of the Mijikenda Peoples of the Kenya Coast to 1900*; *Kenya's Past: An Introduction to Historical Method in Africa*; and (with Derek Nurse) *The Swahili: Reconstructing the History and Language of an African Society, 900-1500*.