

Third West African Languages Congress

THE Third West African Languages Congress was held at Fourah Bay College, Freetown, from 26 to 31 March, under the auspices of the West African Languages Survey. Over 70 participants came from 17 countries, including 11 West African countries. A special grant from UNESCO enabled various people to come from more distant areas. Many of these had attended the previous Congresses, at Dakar and Accra, and their presence at Freetown was important for the continuity of linguistic work as a whole in West Africa.

More than twenty-five papers were read and many of these are to be published in the *Journal of African Languages*, edited by Professor Jack Berry. There was a special session on the teaching of English and French in West Africa, which was organized by Professor Dykstra of Columbia University Teachers' College. Another similar session is planned for next year's Congress, and it is hoped that some kind of West African modern languages teachers' association may develop from it.

The Congress was entertained at a sherry party given by Fourah Bay College and officially opened by the Governor-General, Sir Henry Lightfoot-Boston, who then inspected the special exhibit of linguistic works published at Freetown during the nineteenth century, which Dr. Paul Hair had set up in the college library. Later in the week Sir Henry and Lady Lightfoot-Boston gave a sherry party for the participants at Government House, Freetown. Professor Greenberg, the chairman, gave a public lecture one evening at the British Council on 'The History of Linguistic Work in West Africa'.

This year marks the end of the first phase of the West African Languages Survey. There are two Survey Fellows still in the field, Dr. David Crabb, near Ikom, in Eastern Nigeria, and Dr. Marcel Bôt at ba-Njock, near Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon. Professor Robert Armstrong, the Field Director, has resigned and has accepted the post of Research Professor of Linguistics, Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan. It was announced that the Ford Foundation has made a grant of \$75,000 to extend the life of the Survey for another three years, on a somewhat different basis. There are to be three more annual congresses. Substantial scholarship aid will be available, on the basis of matching grants, to Africans who wish to do field studies for advanced degrees in linguistics. The programme of grants-in-aid of research is to be continued and will be administered jointly by Professor Joseph Greenberg, now of Stanford University, California, and M. Maurice Houis, of IFAN, University of Dakar, to whom requests should be addressed. Much of the material resulting from the work of the Survey is to be published in a series of monographs which will be issued by the Cambridge University Press to accompany the new *Journal of West African Languages* (see p. 367).

The Fourth West African Languages Congress will be held at the University of Ibadan, 16-24 March 1964. It is hoped that it may consider the establishment of a permanent West African Linguistic Society.

(Communicated by Professor R. G. Armstrong)

American Summer Institute in African Languages and Area Studies

FOLLOWING the successful pilot institute in African Languages and Area Studies held at Michigan State University last summer, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare this year granted from its National Defense Education Act budget funds and a number of tuition scholarships to hold a second special summer programme. This was held from June to August under the direction of the African Studies Center of the University of California Los Angeles (Director: Dr. James S. Coleman).

The Area Studies courses lasted for six weeks and consisted of lectures on such topics as 'The Peoples of Africa', 'The Politics of Tropical Africa', 'New African States and World Politics', and 'The History of Africa and Traditional African Literature', given by visiting faculty members Dr. Jacob Ajayi (Ibadan University), Dr. J. Nketia (University of Ghana), Dr. Vernon McKay (Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C.), and Mr. Colin Legum (England), as well as by UCLA's own Africanists Drs. A. C. Jordan, Hilda Kuper, and Benjamin Thomas.

Under the Languages programme, credit-earning courses were offered in four African languages (Hausa, Yoruba, and Swahili at both the introductory and advanced levels, and Twi at the introductory level) by visiting professors D. W. Arnott (SOAS, London) and A. H. M. Kirk-Greene (Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria) for Hausa, R. Snoxall (SOAS) and B. Kirwan (Uganda) for Swahili, and Robert Armstrong (Ibadan) for Yoruba, as well as by two professors from UCLA's Department of Near Eastern and African Languages, W. Welmers (Yoruba) and P. Schachter (Twi). Informants and tapes supported the materials compiled by the faculty, and extensive use was made of language laboratory facilities. It is expected that a similar NDEA programme will be offered in the summer of 1964.

UCLA now offers a number of regular courses in African languages, and for 1963 its Department of Near Eastern and African Languages under Dr. Wolf Leslau listed Swahili, Bambara, Luganda, Kpelle, Xhosa, Hausa and Twi in its calendar as well as a survey course in African Language Structures and one on traditional African literature in translation.

(Contributed by Anthony Kirk-Greene)

'Islam in Africa': International Conference at Bouaké

AN International Conference on the theme of 'Islam in Africa' was held from 2 to 6 April at the Cultural Centre of the Monastery of Bouaké, Ivory Coast (see *Africa*, April 1963, p. 156).

After an introductory address by the chairman, M. Norbert Tapiero of the University of Lyon, the historical background of Islam in Africa was dealt with in papers by Dr. Robert Cornevin (The history of Islam in Africa down to the end of the eighteenth century); Mr. Daniel McCall (The importance of the eleventh century in the islamization of the Sudan); and Mr. Mervyn Hiskett (The role of the Fulani among the Hausa-speaking people). The second session of the Conference included an account of Islamic mysticism by His Excellency Amadou Hampate Bâ, the Mali Ambassador in the Ivory Coast, a paper on 'Marabouts in black and white' by Professor Vincent Monteil, and an eye-witness account by the Rev. Fr. Luc Moreau, O.P., of a contemporary Mahdist mystical phenomenon. The third session was devoted to geographical, sociological, and cultural aspects of Islam in Africa. The Rev. Fr. Schildknecht, W.F., read papers on Islam in Eastern Africa by himself and the Rev. J. Spencer Trimmingham, who had been unable to attend the Conference. M. J.-C. Froelich spoke on the African's concept of Islam today, while Dr. A. D. H. Bivar and Mr. Mervyn Hiskett gave papers on Arab manuscripts in West Africa and a critical study of the Islamic content of Hausa literature, respectively. Each paper was followed by a lively discussion in which observers at the Conference also took part. In his closing address M. Tapiero expressed the hope of the Conference that the new African Governments would show an active interest in research into original documents of both Arab and African expression and realize the importance of collecting and preserving such materials.

The papers and discussions are to be published shortly by 'Les Éditions du Seuil', Paris. Further information about this Conference and others planned by the Cultural Centre of the Monastery of Bouaké may be obtained from the R.P. Placide Pernot, O.S.B., Monastère de Toumliline, Azrou, Morocco.