

It should be born in mind that the Library of the Department of State relies heavily on the inter-library loan facilities of the Library of Congress and other research libraries for materials not needed in the normal day-to-day activities of the Department. However, it is also a fact that the Library lends to other libraries about twice as much as it borrows.

At present the physical limitations of the Library make consultation by scholars outside the Department extremely difficult and the individual can obtain best service by placing his requests through the institution in which he works. When the Library occupies its central quarters in the State Department Building now under construction, it is expected that the new expanded facilities will make the extension of service to individual researchers and scholars much simpler.

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NEWS AND NOTES

At a conference in Rome in October 1958, a number of private European organizations concerned with African affairs discussed the possibilities of greater liaison in their work. The meeting, which was called jointly by the African Institutes in the Netherlands, Western Germany, and Italy, was attended by representatives of 19 non-governmental institutions from these countries and from France, Belgium, Portugal and the United Kingdom.

Reports were given of the work currently being done by the different organizations on a wide variety of scientific, social, economic and cultural questions, and the importance of consultation and coordination of activities, both within individual countries and in Europe as a whole was stressed. It was hoped that links might also be developed with comparable institutions in Africa. The conference formed three preliminary commissions: 1) economic, 2) scientific and technical, and 3) social and cultural. It also adopted unanimously a resolution which urged systematic exchange of publications, bibliographies, films and experts on Africa, and circulation of lists of different national institutions and their programs of activity.

A provisional committee was appointed to maintain the contacts so far established among the participating groups, to invite the participation of organizations not so far represented, and to prepare for a second conference. This is tentatively scheduled to be held in Paris in the

autumn of 1959, under the general direction of the Comité Central Français d'Outre-Mer.

The institutions represented at the Rome meetings were as follows: Belgium: Association des Interests Coloniaux Belges; France: Comité Central Français d'Outre-Mer, Academie des Sciences Coloniales, Office des Recherches Scientifiques et Techniques de l'Outre-Mer; Germany: Deutsche Afrika Gesellschaft; Italy: Instituto Italiano per l'Africa, Instituto Universitario Orientale, Instituto Agronomico per l'Oltre Mare, Instituto per l'Oriente, Clinica delle Malattie Tropicali, Gruppo Vittorio Bottego, Centro delle Relazioni Italo-Arabo; Netherlands: Afrika Instituut, Koninklijk Instituut vor de Tropen, Afrika Studiecentrum; Portugal: Junta de Investigações do Ultramar, Instituto Superior de Estudos Ultramarinos, Centro de Documentação Científica Ultramarina; United Kingdom: Royal African Society.

Further information about the 1959 conference will be published in this Bulletin as soon as it is available.

The new editor of the Bulletin would welcome receiving suggestions from members of the Association on material which they would like to have included in forthcoming issues. She would also appreciate assistance in the collecting of pertinent information. Members who are planning meetings or conferences, or who obtain information of general interest to Africanists, are most heartily urged to send it to the editor: Margaret Bates, Department of History, Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont. Another issue of the Bulletin is planned for this spring, and by the fall it is hoped to have time schedules straightened out and the Bulletin appearing regularly as scheduled in October, January, March and May.

The Association is undertaking this Spring a small campaign to enlist Associate members. The Executive Secretary would be most grateful if any Fellow or Associate knowing someone who might be interested in the Association would suggest that he write to the office for a copy of the brochure describing the Association.

Mailings are being undertaken in this campaign and it is quite possible that since the A.S.A. is not given the opportunity to check these lists prior to mailing that present Fellows or Associates may receive the request to join which we are sending out. Should this happen we beg the indulgence of the members for any such duplications.

A communication has been received from Mr. J. M. Barker, Director, Northwestern University Press, 1914 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Illinois, indicating that the Press is in process of building a series of new titles dealing with Sub-Saharan Africa. The Press is prepared to give consideration to new manuscripts on Africa and, therefore, Fellows who are in process of completing monographs on any subject dealing with Sub-Saharan Africa are invited to contact Mr. Barker with reference to submitting manuscripts.

Howard University is offering during the second semester of this year courses in Swahili and Yoruba. These courses yield four semester hours credit each. Use is made of printed and tape recorded materials and the courses range from beginning to more advanced study. Further information can be had from the Program of African Studies, Howard University, Washington 1, D.C.

The School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London has announced the offering of Orientation Courses on West Africa.

These courses are primarily designed to meet the needs of graduates who are about to undertake a project of field research in Africa for the first time. They will last about ten weeks and will be intensive in character taking from eight to twenty hours of student time weekly according to the program chosen.

The syllabus will include courses in history, government and law, social and cultural anthropology, geography, economics, languages, religious institutions and beliefs, education and social welfare.

Courses commence in October but enrollment is requested earlier, preferably before July 1st. Further information can be obtained from the Registrar, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London, W.C. 1, England.

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