

## CHARLES M. N. WHITE

Charles White ethnographer of the Lwena—Chokwe—Luvale—Luchaze peoples died in his middle sixties at Oxford in September 1978.

After taking a modern languages degree at Oxford he joined the Colonial Service in the late 1930s and was posted to the Western Province of Northern Rhodesia. He immediately devoted himself to a study of the languages in this area and his earliest publications were all on this topic. With the resumption of anthropological research by the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute after World War II Charles White's interests broadened to other aspects of the ethnography of the Western Matrilineal peoples. Initially his contributions to *Africa* and *African Studies* were concerned with ritual and religion. While retaining an interest in these fields his writing then expanded to encompass more sociological aspects such as joking relationships, social and political organisation, land tenure, rural economy and marriage. While he never assembled his writings on the Luvale peoples into a single volume the Rhodes-Livingstone Papers (Nos. 29, 31, 32 and 34) that he published on different aspects of the social life of the Luvale peoples—on rural economy, social and political organisation, beliefs and ritual and marriage—constitute a wide coverage of Luvale ethnography.

Towards the end of his service with the Colonial Government in Northern Rhodesia and subsequent service with the Zambian Government he turned his attention to more general administrative problems of land tenure and customary law. He left us some forty papers predominantly on the language, history and ethnography of the Western Matrilineal peoples of Zambia. He had no pretensions at being an anthropologist, he recorded accurately and fully in a scholarly way. In so doing he has made a lasting contribution to our knowledge of one part of Africa.

J.C.M.