

Société des Africanistes: Centre de Documentation et d'Information

THE first number of the new quarterly *Bulletin d'Information* of the Centre de Documentation et d'Information of the Société des Africanistes appeared in June 1964, under the editorship of Dr. Léon Pales, the Director of the Centre, and Mme Roberte Hamayon of CNRS. In his Introduction Dr. Pales explains how the committee of the Société des Africanistes decided to establish the centre at the Musée de l'Homme, and to make the results of researches more widely known by means of a regular periodical.

The area covered by the documentation will be North Africa (*lato sensu*) and Africa South of the Sahara—West, Equatorial, Central, and East Africa, and Madagascar. It will be concerned with French-speaking research workers and will deal mainly with the disciplines treated within the XX section of CNRS, but extending also to other 'Sciences de l'homme'.

The documentation includes a catalogue of research workers, comprising some 1,300 names, based on information obtained from a questionnaire sent out in 1963-4; a list of institutions and universities in Africa, Belgium, France, and Switzerland, where teaching in African studies is available; a list of research projects and work in progress, including theses and works not yet published; a list of field expeditions recently completed, in progress and proposed, initiated in Europe (e.g. CNRS, Unesco, FAO, &c.) and in Africa. The centre also intends to list conferences, seminars, exhibitions, showings of ethnographic films, &c. These catalogues and lists may be consulted at the centre (Musée de l'Homme, 4^e étage, Tél. PASSy 74-46 and 57-78), or a stamped addressed envelope may be sent for the information required.

The *Bulletin* itself contains a section on teaching in African Studies 1963-4, listed under the names of the instructors, and a first list of over 100 research workers and teachers.

African Studies in the Soviet Union

RESEARCH in the various fields of African studies in the U.S.S.R. is organized within the framework of the Academy of Sciences and carried out in a number of the institutes under its authority. The main relevant branches of the Academy are those of History and of Economics. Within the former are the long-established Institutes of Ethnography in Moscow and in Leningrad. The African section of the Leningrad Institute, under the direction of Professor D. A. Ol'derogge, has been the main centre for ethnographic, historical, and linguistic studies and has the main museum collections. At present it has a senior staff of about ten researchers, together with a similar number of assistants, who are severally engaged in studies on the material culture and ethno-history of the Congo Basin, Arabian sources for the history of East Africa and of the Western Sudan, classical and early European sources on African history, linguistic studies of Swahili, Zulu, Hausa, Fulani, and Mandinka. Two members of the staff are concerned with African archaeology. Some research workers at the Institute of Ethnography in Moscow are associated with the African section of the Leningrad Institute.

In 1960 an Africa Institute was established in Moscow under the auspices of the Economic and Political Sciences branch of the Academy under the direction of Professor I. I. Potekhin, who had earlier formed an African research group in the Moscow Institute of Ethnography. This Institute has been mainly concerned with the colonial period in Africa and with contemporary social, political, and economic studies. Dr. V. G. Solodovnikov, formerly vice-director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, has recently succeeded Professor Potekhin, news of whose death in September 1964, following a period of grave illness, has been received with regret. The Institute has a staff of nine senior research workers and over twenty more junior assistants. The wide scope of its work is indicated by announcements of recent and prospective publications which include studies on the partition