

Notes and News

The Third International African Institute Seminar at Salisbury

THE third in the series of Seminars organized by the International African Institute with financial support from the Ford Foundation was held at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, between 12 and 21 December 1960. The Seminar, under the general chairmanship of Professor Clyde Mitchell, was on 'African Systems of Thought, Religious Belief and Ritual: Traditional and Modern'. The nineteen participants were drawn from West, East, Central, and South Africa, and from the United States of America, Great Britain, France, and Sweden. Three observers came from South and Central Africa, and one from Germany.

The topic was very wide and for convenience was divided into seven subjects of discussion. Each was introduced and led by a participant chosen for that purpose. The subjects were: The Ancestor Cult (Professor M. Fortes); Indigenous Religious Systems (Dr. R. Gray); Islam in Africa (Dr. I. M. Lewis); Christianity in Africa (Professor B. Sundkler); Systems of Thought (Mme G. Dieterlen); Ritual and Symbolism (Dr. V. Turner); and Witchcraft and Sorcery (Father Hulstaert and Professor M. Marwick).

Members of the Seminar were welcomed by the Principal of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland and visited the various buildings on the College campus. They were able to meet members of the College Council at a cocktail party given to welcome the Seminar. Trips to the African Residential Areas in Salisbury and to a neighbouring Reserve gave visitors an opportunity of seeing something of African life in Southern Rhodesia. A visit to the Queen Victoria Museum and another to rock-paintings near Salisbury under the guidance of the expert Mrs. Goodall enabled members of the Seminar to become acquainted with local prehistory. At the request of the Chairman several of the members had brought films of interest bearing on the topic of the Seminar. These dealt with Burial Customs in West Africa, Shona Ancestor Rituals, a Separatist Church in South Africa, and Hindu Fire-walking. They were screened at a public showing and the comments of the Seminar participants on these films added considerably to their interest.

A high light of the Seminar, from the public point of view, was the lecture which Professor Sundkler delivered on 16 December, the subject being 'Black Messianism and White Christianity'. In spite of the competition from other activities at the festive season of the year the lecture drew a large and obviously appreciative audience.

The Institute hopes to publish a volume of the proceedings of the Seminar.

Le Congrès international de l'histoire des découvertes (Lisbonne, Septembre 1960)

LE 500^e anniversaire de la mort de l'Infant Henri le Navigateur (1394-1460) a été marqué au Portugal par de nombreuses manifestations commémoratives: revue navale à Sagres, inauguration du monument des découvertes à Belem, exposition henriquine, etc.

Parmi celles-ci, nous retiendrons le Congrès international de l'histoire des découvertes qui a eu lieu à l'Université de Lisbonne du 4 au 11 Septembre 1960. De très nombreux délégués venant de toutes les parties du monde — rares sont les pays d'Afrique, d'Asie, d'Amérique et même de l'Océanie qui n'ont pas eu de page portugaise dans leur histoire — avaient répondu à l'appel des organisateurs de ce Congrès. L'IFAN (Dakar) y était représenté par le Professeur Th. Monod et R. Mauny; O. Davies, de l'University College de Legon, représentait le Ghana.

Les 134 communications présentées étaient réparties entre deux sections elles-mêmes.