

*The African Studies Association of the United Kingdom*

AN African Studies Association of the United Kingdom has been instituted, and by June 1964 had some 300 members. Pending the first Annual General Meeting of the Association on 17 September 1964, a provisional Council had been elected under the Presidency of Miss Margery Perham, C.B.E., with Professor J. D. Fage as the Honorary Secretary.

A bulletin of Information is issued free to members three times a year and so far two issues have appeared. Non-members may for the time being subscribe to this for 15s. a year. Among the aims of the Association are: to represent the interests of African Studies in the United Kingdom and those engaged in them both nationally (e.g. *vis-à-vis* government and university authorities in the U.K.) and internationally (e.g. *vis-à-vis* the International Congress of Africanists); to assist visiting Africanists from overseas; to provide information in connexion with exchanges of teachers and research workers to African universities; to hold from time to time conferences, at which the progress of African studies, more particularly in the United Kingdom, will be reviewed on an interdisciplinary basis.

The first conference has just been held at Birmingham University from 14 to 17 September, when there was discussion of papers presented in advance on the role of social anthropology and of economics in African studies (Prof. D. Forde, Mr. W. T. Newlyn); African language classification (Prof. M. Guthrie); studies in African population and food-supply (Prof. R. W. Steel); the natural sciences in Africa (Dr. R. W. J. Keay); African archaeology (Prof. J. D. Clark); and the relationship between Egyptology and African studies (Prof. H. W. Fairman).

Application for membership should be made to the Honorary Secretary, c/o Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham.

*International Congress of Agricultural and Food Industries in Tropical and Sub-tropical Regions*

THE first International Congress of Agricultural and Food Industries in Tropical and Sub-tropical Regions is to be held in Abidjan, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of the Ivory Coast, from 14 to 19 December 1964. The Congress will be organized by the C.I.A.A., the B.I.P.C.A. and SEDIAC and the theme will be 'Aspects and perspectives of the industrialization of agricultural products of biological origin'. The various aspects of the subject to be dealt with will include research, technology, and industrialization concerned with agricultural products; problems of marketing, distribution, and transportation; teaching, research, and training of technicians; information, publicity, and documentation; and the connexions between agricultural economy, sociology, and technology. The languages of the Congress will be English, French, German, and Spanish.

*Centre of West African Studies: University of Birmingham*

A CENTRE of West African Studies at the University of Birmingham will be in full operation from October 1964, under the direction of J. D. Fage, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of African History.

Courses dealing with Africa in general and West Africa in particular are being provided for the B.A. Honours Degrees in Geography and History, and for the B.A. in Combined Subjects (in Geography, History, Political Science, and Sociology). For the B.Soc. Sc. Degree, West African Studies are a recognized field of study, courses being offered in the Economic and Social History of West Africa; in the Economics of Development, with special reference to Africa; in Traditional West African Cultures and Societies; in Modern West African Society; and in Government and Administration in West Africa.

A Post-graduate Diploma in African Studies is also available, following one year of full-time study and an examination consisting of four papers, or three papers and a dissertation.