
In Memoriam

Colin Legum; *The Observer's* Commonwealth Correspondent, 1951-1989; founding editor of *Africa Contemporary Record* in 1969 with Rex Collings; June 8, 2003.

To friends of ACR

It is with great sadness that I write to inform you of Colin Legum's death on 8 June 2003 while recovering from surgery.

He was the founding editor of *Africa Contemporary Record* in 1969 with Rex Collings. Over the years, though the series weathered changes in publisher, executive editors, contributors and frequency of publication, Colin Legum was the constant.

A journalist by training and profession, his knowledge of the continent was gained firsthand through both his continual travels and the close relationships he held with many of Africa's leaders. In the course of his long and productive career, he was hailed as British media's premier analyst of African affairs. In the current age of specialization, Colin was an unabashed generalist and respected as such by the academic community.

Colin Legum had come to personify ACR. It is difficult to envision it without him. Yet, in recent years, especially following his move back to South Africa, he expressed a desire to slow down and cut back his involvement with ACR and devote more time to family and writing. He welcomed the idea of ACR's new editorial board and looked forward to his role as editor emeritus and contributor.

We met several times over a period of twenty years and he was always vigorous, outspoken and somewhat larger than life—even when he was not in the best of health.

I have the same feeling that I had following my father's death—regret that I didn't listen better and learn more. He will be missed.

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Thomas Odhiambo, entomologist, founder of the International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology in Nairobi in 1967 and founder of the African Academy of Sciences in 1985; May 26, 2003.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
NAIROBI, Kenya, May 31 — Thomas R. Odhiambo, the Kenyan scientist who founded an international insect research center renowned for giving African farmers low-cost solutions for pest control, died here on Monday. He was 72.

The cause was liver cancer, said his physician, G. B. A. Okelo.

Dr. Odhiambo, a Cambridge-educated entomologist, founded what became the International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology in 1967 at the University of Nairobi, where he taught. The center was started to help African farmers combat harmful insects.

During his 25-year tenure as director, the center became an independent research organization where more than 150 African scientists were trained under Dr. Odhiambo's vision of development in Africa through scientific advancement, especially insect control.

Dr. Odhiambo was also a pioneer in researching how to control insects without using synthetic chemicals, said the center's current director, Hans Herren.

"He recognized that this movement, which began in Europe and America, would be essential to assisting Africa," Mr. Herren said, "by not burdening the environment with chemicals."

Dr. Odhiambo also founded the African Academy of Sciences in 1985. In 1987, he and the former president of Senegal, Abdou Diouf, were the first recipients of the Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger. The prize is given by The Hunger Project, which is based in New York.

He was also won the Albert Einstein Medal in 1979 and an honorary doctorate of sciences from the University of Oslo in 1986.

Dr. Odhiambo is survived by two wives and six children.

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Charles David Smith

Dr. Charles David Smith—Africanist, sociologist, field researcher and author—died after a long struggle against colon cancer at age 54, this past April. While teaching at Moi University in El Doret (Kenya) during the 1990s, his gradually worsening condition remain undiagnosed. After returning to his native Canada in 2000, doctors there advised him that his case was fatal, after which Chuck focused his full range of physical and mental resources on continuing to live as actively as possible in Toronto. Chuck is survived there by his sister Robbie, their mother and family, as well as his daughter Leah and her mother, Lesley Stevens, who was also his long-time companion and research associate.

Many Africanists have come to know and respect Charles Smith as a thoughtful colleague—from his graduate work at Essex University in England (where he studied theory with Harold Wolpe); in Montreal, where he maintained an enduring relationship with McGill University's Center for Developing Area Studies (while teaching at Concordia and Sir George Williams Universities); or as a research scholar who was especially devoted to teaching East African students, both at University of Dar es Salaam and Moi University (from the late 1970s, to the late 1990s). An inveterate field researcher, Charles Smith often made the particular results of his various projects known by presenting papers at the African Studies Association, Canadian Association of African Studies and other professional conferences, as well as through scholarly articles and an extended "Research Report," *Did Colonialism Capture the Peasantry?* (Uppsala: 1989), which was part of a series published by the Scandinavian Institute of African Studies. His recent and remarkably concise synthesis of previous work—*Ecology, Civil Society and Informal Economy in North West Tanzania* (Aldershot: 2001)—was published in Ashgate's "The Making of Modern Africa" series. He wrote this

work in opposition to the sweeping generalities, "simplistic negative stereotypes" and "Afro-pessimism" which have dominated so many international discussions of Africa's economic hardships, choosing instead "to search out more concrete details, as well as underlying structures..." indicative of "positive trends" and possibilities for rural development in a particular region of Central Africa (1-3). In his "Foreword," distinguished Africanist/development theorist Goran Hyden praises Charles Smith's "commitment and intellectual creativity" as well as the "deep and penetrating analysis," which makes his book "a pleasure to read"; he also

welcomes the work's "ample evidence that local values and institutions are alive" and attributes its "tremendous value" to "what is particularly remarkable about Smith himself...his firm belief in the possibilities of grassroots development" (ix).

To all who knew him—this diligent, soft-spoken, clear-thinking, keenly analytical and genuinely empathetic individual, a dedicated Africanist scholar—Charles Smith will be sorely missed. A true internationalist, his approach to life/work was characterized by a sincere appreciation and respect for all people, a perpetual probing of the disturbing disjunctions

between theoretical models and specific realities, a consistent promotion of sharp, thoughtful, constructive and amicable discourse, and an ever gentle but firm voice of reason and compassion amid the intensity, confusion and controversy of public debate.

This memorial was provided by Professors James D. Graham and Vincent B. Khapoya, Oakland University.

ASA 2003 Election
Ballots must be postmarked
on or before September 15,
2003. Please vote!

ASA Board of Directors Fall 2002 Meeting Minutes

The approved minutes of the ASA Board of Directors Fall 2002 Meeting will be posted to the ASA website as soon as they are available and they will be published in the next edition of the *ASA News*.

Announcements

Invitation to Contribute to Special Issues of CODESRIA Journals

In the course of 2003 and 2004, the **Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa** (CODESRIA) will be publishing special issues of its flagship journal *Africa Development* (AD) and of the *African Journal of International Affairs* (AJIA). Scholars with an active and on-going research interest in any of the themes to which the special issues will be devoted are invited to submit full-length articles, review essays reflecting on a body of literature, and shorter, more specific book reviews responding to new works to be considered for publication. Full-length articles should span 25-30 pages while review essays should be limited to between 15 and 20 pages.

Book reviews should not be longer than 5 pages. Special issues on the following themes are proposed for *Africa Development*:

- * The Politics of Resources in Contemporary Africa
- * Decentralization and Development
- * New Trends and Directions in African Regional Co-operation and Integration
- * Domination and Rebellion in Africa: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

For the *African Journal of International Affairs*, special issues will be produced on the following themes:

- * Africa and the Challenges of an Emergent Unipolar World Order
- * From the OAU to the AU: The Politics of the Making of the African Union
- * Conflict and Diplomacy in Contemporary Africa
- * The United Nations and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Africa

Scholars wishing to contribute essays on any of the above-mentioned themes are invited to send their contributions to: Madame Khary Cisse; Assistant Editor; CODESRIA; BP 3304; Dakar, SENEGAL; Tel: +221-825 9822/23; Fax: +221-824 1289; E-mail: khary.cisse@codesria.sn

Collaboration or Calamity: Africa in Peril: Twentieth Annual World Food Day Teleconference October 16, 2003.

The mounting human tragedy in sub-Saharan Africa is the theme for the 2003 World Food Day satellite teleconference coordinated by the U.S. National Committee for World Food Day. The impact of HIV/AIDS and land and water issues on agriculture plus the added burden of wars and debt – threaten to throw the region into a tailspin to disaster. UNICEF's Executive Director, Carol Bellamy has noted that the famine "is much larger than just a food crisis. It's also a water crisis, a health crisis, an education crisis." *Saving Africa* calls for nothing less than an unprecedented rescue effort by an engaged world alliance.

The 20th anniversary worldwide teleconference will be hosted by Ray Suarez, a senior correspondent with the PBS Jim Lehrer NewsHour and formerly host of NPR's news program *Talk of the Nation*. It will feature Urban Jonsson, UNICEF Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa. There will also be several cameo appearances by experts from various perspectives on the situation. The work of the new Partnership for African Development and the need for international efforts to build an alliance to coordinate action will also