

*The Amaury Talbot Fund Annual Prize, 1971*

THE Amaury Talbot Prize for 1971 has been awarded to Dr. Jack Goody for *Technology, Tradition and the State in West Africa*, published by the International African Institute in February 1971. The prize is awarded annually for the most valuable work of anthropological research published during the year, preference being given to Nigeria and West Africa. The theme of Dr. Goody's book is that certain aspects of traditional African social systems, and hence also of contemporary African life, have been misunderstood because of a failure to appreciate what is implied by important differences between the technologies of the major traditional states in Africa, on the one hand, and those of the European and Asian continents, on the other. He also shows that the reconstruction and interpretation of traditional political systems calls for a combination of historical and comparative sociological approaches.

*University of Khartoum: Institute of African and Asian Studies*

THE University of Khartoum is establishing an Institute of African and Asian Studies to encourage, promote, co-ordinate and communicate research studies and teaching on the Sudan, and also more generally on Africa and Asia in the fields of humanities, social sciences, and related subjects. It will also provide postgraduate courses leading to an M.A. and a Diploma in Afro-Asian Studies and establish a documentation centre in the fields of its specialization. As an inter-disciplinary Institute it will incorporate the Sudan Research Unit (see *Africa*, xxxix. 3, 1969, p. 300) and function in close co-operation with the faculties of arts, law, and economic and social studies where Afro-Asian courses pertaining to Afro-Asian studies are offered. The Sudan Research Unit's *Bulletin of Sudanese Studies* will continue to be published, in addition to occasional papers on Sudanese and African themes. It is hoped that the Institute will start in July 1972. Further information may be obtained from the Academic Secretary, University of Khartoum, P.O. Box 321, Khartoum, Sudan.

*Research in the Western Indian Ocean Area*

PROFESSOR IRVINE RICHARDSON has recently spent a year's sabbatical leave in Madagascar and Mauritius. The Malagasy Republic, Mauritius and dependencies, Reunion, Seychelles, and the Comorian Islands are linked in several ways to Africa and also to other localities in and around the Indian Ocean. Unfortunately researchers in this region are still somewhat isolated from each other and spend considerable time trying to contact scholars with kindred pursuits and sources of useful information. In an attempt to improve this situation Professor Richardson has volunteered to act as a 'clearing house'. He would be glad to hear from those who have worked on any kind of research project in these areas or who are planning to do so. Please note that this appeal for information is not limited to the social sciences and humanities. Appropriate news items and bibliographia will be especially welcome. Write to Dr. Irvine Richardson, African Studies Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

*Makerere University, Kampala: Programme in Agricultural Economics*

IN July 1972 the Department of Rural Economy at Makerere University is starting a new Regional Programme for the M.Sc. degree in Agricultural Economics, sponsored by the Ford Foundation. The need for rapid development of the agricultural sector in East and Central Africa is emphasized in all the Development Plans of the six countries since agriculture contributes so largely to the national economies and economic growth is to a very considerable extent conditional on the modernization of this sector.

The programme will be open to students, who fulfil the entrance requirements, from Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, and Malawi, who will normally be nominated