

Notes and News

Eleventh International African Seminar on Town and Country in Central and Eastern Africa, at the University of Zambia

THE International African Institute is organizing in co-operation with the University of Zambia its eleventh International African Seminar to be held at Lusaka from 30 August to 8 September 1971. The Institute is again indebted to the Ford Foundation for its generous financial support.

Under the Chairmanship of Professor Jaap van Velsen, Professor of Sociology at the University of Zambia, the subject 'Town and Country in Central and Eastern Africa' will be discussed by some eighteen specialists from different disciplines with research experience in the region. Other members of the staff and senior students of the university together with representatives of relevant ministries will be invited to attend the meetings.

One of the main objects of the seminar will be to review the present state and the future needs of research on the many complex problems, both theoretical and practical, arising from the movement of people, goods, and ideas between the rural areas and the rapidly growing towns of Central and Eastern Africa over the past fifty years. It will provide an opportunity for considering the various fields and topics to which special efforts should be directed, both to advance knowledge and to contribute to the effectiveness of policies for development, welfare and education. It will endeavour, through an exchange of views between anthropologists, demographers, economists, linguists, and sociologists, to bring into closer relation the assumptions, methods, and models of the various disciplines concerned with rural and urban studies in this region of Africa. The research papers presented to the seminar and a review of its discussions and recommendations will be published in due course by the Institute in a volume similar to those recording the work of earlier International African Seminars.

R. E. Bradbury Memorial Fund

FRIENDS of Dr. Robert Elwyn Bradbury, who died suddenly on 23 December 1969 at the early age of forty, are arranging for a Memorial Fund to be instituted as a fitting tribute to his life and distinguished work on the kingdom and people of Benin in Nigeria.

The purpose of the fund will be to award two annual prizes, one to be awarded in Nigeria, by the University of Ibadan, to the winner of an essay competition open to graduates of Nigerian universities for work in the historical and social sciences, and the other to be awarded in Britain in alternate years to a student of the Department of Social Anthropology at University College, London, and to a student of the Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham.

Contributions to the R. E. Bradbury Memorial Fund may be sent either to Professor J. D. Fage, Centre of West African Studies, University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham, B15 2TT, or to Professor A. F. C. Ryder, Department of History, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. Cheques should be crossed and made payable to 'R. E. Bradbury Memorial Fund'.

Centre de Recherches Africaines (CRAF) à l'Université, Paris VII

As an integral part of a Unit for Teaching and Research in Anthropology, Ethnology and the Study of Religions, directed by Monsieur R. Jaulin in the recently established Université,

Paris VII, under the Rectorship of Professor Alliot, a Centre for teaching and research in African Studies was inaugurated in December 1970.

The Centre will endeavour, within the framework of the study of the relations between the major cultural areas and the political systems of Africa, to develop programmes of inter-disciplinary research and to promote collaboration between African research workers and other Africanists for the better understanding of their respective approaches, research methods, and organization.

A General Assembly, including all the teaching and research staff and other specialists, will review the work of a scientific committee and of a directorate nominated by the General Assembly. Seminars organized in five sections are being planned: ecology and history; linguistics; religion and art; economics and urbanization; political and juridical systems. The Centre hopes to establish a special library together with photographic, tape recording and film collections and may provide for the publication of studies and of a periodical review.

Northwestern University: Program of African Studies

A 'REPORT to the Ford Foundation 1969-70 on the Program of African Studies and the National Unity Grant' surveys work in this field at Northwestern University. The aim has been to assist the training of scholars in their respective disciplines to focus these on the study of aspects of African life and development relevant to their particular research and teaching interests. Students enrolled in the Program receive academic degrees through their own departments. The Program itself and the Graduate School award a Certificate of African Studies to those who demonstrate competence in African material handled in four different disciplines, in interdisciplinary approaches related to field-work, and in African language or linguistics. Since 1939 over 100 scholars, including an increasing number of Africans, have completed doctoral requirements. As far as possible faculty members and graduate students are aided in securing field research experience in Africa.

Courses and seminars have been extended to additional disciplines and areas. These now include the arts, archaeology, philosophy, law, psychology, and education, and take in the territories of North Africa, the Horn, and southern Africa. Northwestern's professional schools of law, business, technology, and education have shown concern and support for African studies and in recent years students have also played an important part in the functioning of the Program. A *Certificate in African Studies for undergraduates* is now under consideration.

A co-operative inter-university Program in Ethiopian Studies between Northwestern, the University of Chicago, and the University of Illinois, Chicago Campus (see *Africa*, xxxviii. 3, 1968, p. 345) has brought Ethiopian scholars to work at Northwestern and the University Law School has carried out field studies in Ethiopia and Zambia. The scheme for bringing scholars from Africa under National Unity grants has had rewarding results. Research being currently undertaken by various departments at Northwestern includes: the impact of administrative reforms introduced in Kano in 1969, and study of a collection of over 2,000 Hausa and Arabic manuscripts (Dr. John Paden); society, culture, and development in Nairobi (Professor Ronald Cohen); African workers in Katanga (Dr. Johannes Fabian); national unity in the Cameroon Republic; urban life styles in Douala, Yaounde, and Abidjan (Professor Remi Clignet); the social and economic profile of teachers in urban centres in East and West Cameroon (Professor Remi Clignet and Professor Philip J. Foster).

The Africana collection of the University Library has been named officially the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies in honour of the founder and first director of the Program of African Studies.