

Ebrié, Adjoudrou, Dido, Guerzé, and Kono. Several aspects of the political organization, economy, and ritual of the Kono, including demonstrations of the masked dances that accompany tribal initiation, were studied at Nimba.

The very arduous task of organizing, provisioning, and guiding this field party was undertaken by M. J. L. Tournier with the assistance of M. B. Holas, and deep gratitude was expressed for their tireless labours, kindness, and good humour.

An illustrated guide to the Ivory Coast, prepared in connexion with the Conference, provided concise surveys of its geography, resources, ethnology, economic development, and administration. It is hoped to make this available for more general distribution, and inquiries should be addressed to M. J. L. Tournier, Directeur, Centrifan, B.P. 398, Abidjan.

Owing to last-minute difficulties of time-table and transport the intended Portuguese participants in the Conference were unable to arrive. But their representatives on the Permanent Committee transmitted an invitation for the next meeting of the Conference to be held in December 1955 in a Portuguese territory, probably at San Tomé.

The Conference at its final session recorded its deep appreciation of the generosity of the French authorities and of the labours of M. Tournier, Professor Mangenot and their colleagues in organizing the meeting and ensuring its success.

DARYLL FORDE

### *African History Conference*

A CONFERENCE on African History was held at the School of Oriental and African Studies from 7 to 9 July 1953, under the chairmanship of Professor C. H. Philips, Head of the Department of History at the School. Among those who attended were representatives of the Institut Français d'Afrique Noire (IFAN), of the Musée du Congo Belge, members of the staffs of the African university colleges, and historians and archaeologists from universities in the United Kingdom.

The Conference was occupied with the two themes of oral tradition and historical archaeology, and with the practical problems arising from the development of these studies in Africa. Surveys of oral tradition in East, Central, and West Africa were used to show what conclusions about the movements of peoples and about chronology could be drawn from them at the present stage, and archaeologists described the progress of research into the problems of historical archaeology. It was clear from the discussions that both oral tradition and archaeology should make their contributions to such investigations as, for instance, the Uganda earthworks at Bigo and Ntusi.

Sir Mortimer Wheeler addressed the Conference on the organization of archaeological studies in Africa, and the Conference concluded with the passing of a number of resolutions urging the preservation of sites, monuments, and documents essential for reconstructing the outlines of African history. Attention was drawn to the need for expert and effective revision of existing Ordinances for preserving sites and monuments, and for the formation of adequately staffed departments of antiquities and record offices. As an immediate step, it was proposed that a School of History and Archaeology in East Africa should be established, which could act as a field training centre for students. The Kenya Government had undertaken to make Fort Jesus at Mombasa available for such a purpose.

In the concluding discussions, members expressed the hope that the Conference might meet at three- or four-yearly intervals.

Communicated by R. A. HAMILTON

### *The Gold Coast and Togoland Historical Society*

THE Gold Coast and Togoland Historical Society was founded in 1952 in order to promote the study of history and, in particular, of the history of the Gold Coast and adjacent West