

proceed at full speed; while in West Africa also the governments are beginning to tackle these difficult and complex aspects of the law.

The Project will involve the collection and analysis of existing material on the customary law, and the preparation of a series of publications which would restate the principles of customary law as they vary from tribe or ethnic group to ethnic group within the assigned regions of study. For this purpose Africa has been divided into three regions: West Africa; East Africa; Central-Southern Africa; and within these regions the primary emphasis will be placed on the British or Commonwealth territories. To restrict the field of investigation, the Project will be limited in the first place to the customary law relating to marriage, the family, land tenure, and succession.

Preliminary draft bibliographies, including all published and unpublished sources of information relating to the customary law in the selected regions, will be prepared and circulated for comments and additions to all those having special knowledge of the subject in Africa and elsewhere. Regional restatements will then be prepared on the basis of the bibliographies and other material available. The form of the Restatement will be somewhere between that of the American Restatements of the Law of Torts, Contracts, &c., and the Digest of Customary Law in the Punjab made by Sir William Rattigan and his successors. The Restatement will, it is hoped, reveal the extent to which local divergences and variations in the customary law obtain, and will note modern changes and developments in the substance and administration of the customary law. The African Marriage Survey, conducted by the International African Institute under the direction of Dr. Arthur Phillips, was a notable forerunner in this field.

The Project cannot succeed, however, without the co-operation of other interested persons and bodies in Africa and elsewhere, and the fullest mutual assistance is envisaged between those engaged on the Restatement and governmental and academic agencies in Africa. International collaboration with French, Belgian, and other scholars will also be of vital importance. The experience now being gained at the School in the recording and analysis of material on the customary law will, it is hoped, be of value to others; and the card-indexes and files of the Restatement will be made available to other accredited research workers in this field.

The Project will be under the particular direction of Dr. A. N. Allott, Lecturer in African Law at the School and Editor of the *Journal of African Law*.

Current Research at the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute

THE research work of the Institute is proceeding on a broad front. In the field of urban and peri-urban social survey, Dr. Bettison was able to complete the necessary field work before his recent appointment to a teaching post at the University of Queensland. Since he joined the Institute in January 1957, Dr. Bettison and the Institute's team of assistants have conducted surveys in and around Blantyre-Limbe, Lusaka, and, to a lesser degree, Salisbury. One of the most valuable aspects of the work was a Poverty Datum Line study, conducted in these three towns, using identical techniques and the same personnel; in these circumstances the material collected is particularly valuable for a comparative study. Several Communications arising from this work have already been published and further Communications and a Paper are in course of preparation.

Another urban study, the first to be conducted among the European population of the Federation, has started in Salisbury, where P. MacEwan is studying the integration of European immigrants into Southern Rhodesian society. The co-operation of the authorities concerned has been most gratifying, as has the response to the questionnaires issued; the distribution and collection of these has involved the temporary employment of a considerable team of assistants.

J. W. Argyle has continued his field work among the Soli, to the east of Lusaka, while at the same time collecting data on the urbanized Soli in Lusaka. This project will be written up next year.

A study in rural economics was launched among the Bemba to discover how far the village economy is supported by local agriculture and other rural activities, and to what extent it is dependent on the remittances from the copper mines and other sources of employment. As in some villages up to 70 per cent. of the adult male population is absent at work, it was considered that a woman would be better able to conduct the field work, which perforce involves inquiry largely among the Bemba women. Miss Tweedie was appointed and has since built up a team of assistants who are collecting household budgets in the villages, no easy task where most of the local produce and much of the wealth remitted from the employment areas is in kind and not in cash.

Dr. R. J. Apthorpe, the Research Secretary, has devoted considerable time, both in field trips and in inquiries from local informants, to the clan organization of the Nsenga, and it is hoped that the material will shortly be ready for publication. The Institute's work in Nyasaland gave Dr. Apthorpe the chance to do some comparative work on the clan organization in the Blantyre-Limbe area.

In connexion with a CCTA inquiry into Absenteeism and Labour Turnover, the Institute has undertaken the collection of data in Northern and Southern Rhodesia. R. Burnett, with previous personnel experience on the Copperbelt and in Salisbury, is conducting this work, assisted by three African assistants.

The latest recruit to the staff is George Kay, who is engaged on inquiries in the Luapula Province of Northern Rhodesia, in connexion with the Fort Rosebery Health and Nutrition Scheme; it is hoped that the observations of a trained geographer will provide data on which the progress of the scheme can be accurately assessed.

The Institute is also assisting a number of affiliates and associated workers. Dr. and Mme Roumeguère, holders of an International African Institute grant, have returned to France after a year's field work in Southern Rhodesia. R. Rotberg, an historian of Princeton and currently a Rhodes Scholar, is studying the part played by the Christian Missions in the development of Northern Rhodesia. M. Miracle, from the Nutrition Research Institute at Stanford University, California, is engaged on a study of the role of maize in African agriculture, while Dr. M. Cole, of the University College of North Staffordshire, spent a long vacation (1959) working on certain aspects of the ecology, particularly in relation to the *brachystegia* woodlands. Finally, in September, Dr. Dotson, a Fulbright scholar, began his study of the Asian communities of the Federation.

[Communicated by H. A. Fosbrooke, Director, Rhodes-Livingstone Institute]

The Diaries of Richard Thornton

A most valuable addition to records of African exploration is shortly to be published, in the diaries kept by the young geologist, Richard Thornton.

Thornton's first appointment was to Livingstone's expedition of 1858, one of the objectives of which was to investigate the coal deposits in the neighbourhood of Tete on the Zambezi. He was soon dismissed by Livingstone, however, and went to Zanzibar, where he joined the expedition which Baron von der Decken was preparing to verify the report of Rebmann (1848), not fully accepted in contemporary scientific circles, that snow-clad mountains existed on and near the Equator in eastern Africa. After spending May to November 1861 with von der Decken on his Kilimanjaro expedition, Thornton became reconciled with Livingstone and rejoined him in the Zambezi in April 1862. After further mapping and geological work on the Zambezi and Shire, Thornton died at Shupanga on 21 April 1863.