

The conference concentrated on seeking a common understanding of the social background of the region and on exploring the extent to which linked inter-disciplinary and comparative studies would be fruitful. Four core studies of Madagascar would be carried out to establish the main range of variation in cultural and social structure throughout Madagascar, and would include urban and historical projects. Studies of the oceanic island region, particularly the Comoros, hitherto almost entirely neglected by research, would also be made. It recommended the establishment of an informal clearing-house which would institute and maintain contact between social scientists interested in the region and keep them up to date on relevant plans and work in progress. This would be most conveniently based at Syracuse University where the facilities of the Program of Eastern African Studies would be of considerable assistance. The conference also recommended that a detailed application should be drawn up to obtain funds for carrying out the studies, to attract and train graduate students, secure library facilities, and form appropriate ties with interested scholars and academic institutions overseas.

### *Meeting of West African Archaeologists at Fourah Bay*

A GROUP of archaeologists, mostly from West African countries, met at Fourah Bay College under the auspices of the Institute of African Studies on 28 and 29 June. The participants were: Professor J. Desmond Clark (University of California, Berkeley); Professor Peter Shinnie (University of Ghana); Professor Thurstan Shaw (University of Ibadan); Mr. Ekpo Eyo (Deputy Director of Antiquities, Nigeria); Professor Donald Hartle (University of Nigeria at Nsukka); Professor Frank Willett (Northwestern University); Dr. J. H. Hugo (I.F.A.N., Dakar); Mr. S. G. H. Daniels (University of Ibadan); Mr. Guy de Beauchene (I.F.A.N., Republic of Niger); Mr. Graham Connah (University of Ibadan); Mr. David Calvocoressi (University of Ghana); Mr. R. N. York (Volta Basin Research Project, Ghana); and Mr. Paul Ozanne (University of Ghana). Each participant has been actively engaged on fieldwork in Africa and presented the results of his researches to the conference.

Among the recommendations made by participants were the creation of the post of archaeologist in the Institute of African Studies and the provision of a suitable building for the staff and collections of the Sierra Leone Museum. It was also decided to establish a journal of West African archaeology, with Professor Thurstan Shaw as editor, and to hold annual meetings of West African archaeologists when possible.

### *'Africa in the Wider World'*

THE Institute of African Studies, Fourah Bay College, the University College of Sierra Leone, and the Committee for African Studies of the University of California, Berkeley, jointly held a seminar on the theme of 'Africa in the Wider World: the inter-relationship of area and comparative studies' at Fourah Bay College from 20 to 25 June. The following papers were presented:

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| 1. Musicology        | J. H. Kwabena Nketia, University of Ghana.  |
| 2. Art               | J. Newton Hill, the Ford Foundation.  |
| 3. Literature        | African Literature in English: John Povey, University of California, Los Angeles. |
| 4. Archaeology       | J. Desmond Clark, University of California, Berkeley.                             |
| 5. History           | Arthur Porter, University of East Africa.   |
| 6. Political Science | Carl G. Rosberg, University of California, Berkeley.                              |
| 7. Economics         | David Carney, Economic Commission for Africa.                                     |