

NOTES AND NEWS

HISTORY OF AFRICAN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY AND FIELD SYSTEMS

A colloquium on this subject is to be held in Oxford on 23 and 24 June 1988, organised by the British Institute in Eastern Africa. While the concentration is expected to be on the eastern side of the continent, suitable contributions from West Africa and cross-continental comparisons and discussion will be welcome. It is intended to combine the insights of geographers, economists and cultural and social anthropologists with the results of historical and archaeological research on Iron Age agriculture and technology, largely by projecting backwards from the present. It is *not* planned, therefore, as another 'agricultural origins' conference or a 'drought, famine and disaster' seminar, though it should be relevant to the understanding of both those issues.

Among the subjects for consideration will be farming strategies and the questions of intensification and specialisation, including field and tillage techniques, terracing and ridging, manuring and irrigation. The more difficult questions of the effects of environmental and demographic changes on agricultural practices and crop preferences should also be addressed, as far as the present state of research allows.

Short papers or summaries will be invited for circulation before June. The Institute intends that a publication should result from the colloquium. Those interested in participating are asked to write to the London office of the British Institute in Eastern Africa (1 Kensington Gore, London SW7) or direct to Dr J. E. G. Sutton (at BIEA, PO box 30710, Nairobi, Kenya).

STILL IN PRINT ...

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