

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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**Report on the Institute for Congregation 1987-88
Institute of African Studies
Established - 1963**

Administration

There was a change in the personnel of the administration: Professor K.A. Dickson, Director, 1980-87, rejoined the Department of the Studies of Religion in September, 1987. Professor Kwame Arhin succeeded him in an acting capacity, and became substantive director on 1st October 1988. Professor M.E. Kropp-Dakubu was elected as Deputy Director and Mr. E.Q. Blavo continued as Administrative Secretary.

Professor Kropp-Dakubu left the Institute on appointment as Director of the Language Centre on 1st February, 1989 and Mr. Blavo as Lecturer in Social Administration on 1st January, 1989.

I wish to record the Institute's appreciation of the excellent services of both Professor Kropp-Dakubu and Mr. Blavo.

Administrative Activities

The Administration presented a Five-Year Development Plan, 1987-1992 to the Vice-Chancellor. The main features of the plan include:

- a) the establishment of a Development and Women Studies Unit.
- b) extension to the Institute's Library; and
- c) the building of a Documentation Centre for what was conceived at the inception of the Institute as basic materials for the reconstruction and analysis of past and contemporary African history and society.

These materials consist of Arabic manuscripts, foreign newspapers of the late nineteenth century, court records, stool histories and oral traditions of the various peoples of Ghana and their neighbours, photographic and sound recordings of Ghanaians festivals.

We now envisage the Centre to include basic materials from the Government of Ghana, and the U.N. and its agencies on developmental and gender issues; copies of field reports by visiting scholars, and those submitted by research affiliates of the Institute from foreign Universities.

We were able to complete the projected extension to the library which can now hold 8,000 volumes, and also the physical structure for the nucleus of our envisioned Documentation Centre. During the budget hearings, the Ministry of Education agreed to recommend to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning approval for an estimated sum of thirty-five million cedis for a combined building for an enlarged documentation centre, a museum of ethnographic collections and musical

archives.

We hope that with Government and Unesco support the Centre will become a Regional Documentation Centre for Ghana and its neighbours.

Orientation Courses for Foreign Students

The Institute organized an orientation course in African Studies for a group of students from the University of California at Los Angeles now at Legon for a year's study under an exchange agreement between the Universities of Ghana and California at Los Angeles. The Institute also hosted a seminar for a group of students from the State University of New York at Brockport College led by Professor Nwabueze of the Department of African Studies. The theme of the seminar was African Society, Culture, History, Economics and Politics in change. The seminar was under the direction of Professors Nwabueze and Arhin, Director of the Institute, and speakers included Professor D.A. Akyeampong, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Nana Addo Dankwa III, Okuapemhene, Dr. K.G. Erbynn of the Ghana Investment Centre, and Dr. K. Berkoh of the Budget Division of Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

Academic Sections

The Institute consists of the following sections:

- i) Societies and Culture
- ii) Language and Literature
- iii) History and Politics
- iv) Philosophy and Religion
- v) Music
- vi) Art.

Courses

M.Phil courses were taught in Societies and Culture, Language and Literature, History and Politics and Philosophy and Religion.

Students intake was as follows:

Graduate Studies - Registration 1986/87		
First Year	- M.Phil -	18
	- Ph.D -	1
Second Year	- M.Phil -	1
	- Ph.D -	2
Continuing	- M.Phil -	20
	- Ph.D -	9
F.U.E.	-	985
Research Affiliates	-	6
Occasional Students	-	3

1987/88

First Year	- M.Phil -	8
	- Ph.D -	2
Second Year	- M.Phil -	8
	- Ph.D -	2
Continuing	- M.Phil -	28
	- Ph.D -	10
F.U.E.	-	1438
Research Affiliates	-	8
Occasional Students	-	10

Research: Sectional

Our Development Plan envisaged both sectional and individual projects. But only the Language and Literature Section undertook a collective project. This was the collection of oral literature materials in Ghanaian languages and documentation of the Institute's holdings.

Research: Individual

Societies and Cultures:

Dr. G.P. Hagan, Senior Research Fellow, Head of Section.

Research Interests:

African Philosophy
Wealth, Popularity and political power in traditional African Societies
Drama in African Societies.

Publications:

"Divinity and experience: the trance and Christianity in Southern Ghana": Vernacular Christianity: essay in the Social Anthropology of Religion, presented to Godfrey Lienhardt, Jasso, 1988.

Lectures and Conferences Attended:

- Proceedings of the Conference on Customary Dowry in Marriage held on 8th May 1987, at Tamale.
- 2-week lectures at Kenema, Sierra Leone on Christianity and African Culture. *
- Attended 12th International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Science, Zagreb, Yugoslavia, 24-31 July, 1988.
- Lectures at Nafti.
- Contribution to Staff Seminars at Otu Barracks, Teshie.

Kwame Arhin, Professor/Director

Research Interests:

- i) The Social framework of economic development
- ii) Transition to Capitalism in West Africa
- iii) Patrimonialism in West Africa.

Publications:

- i) The economic basis of differentiation among migrant cocoa farmers in Ghana, *Research Review*, Vol.4, No.1, 1988, pp. 10-18.
- ii) "Savannah contributions to the Asante Political economy" in Enid Schildrout, Editor, *The Golden Stool: Studies of the Asante Centre and Periphery*, Vol.65, part 1. Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History, 1987, pp. 57-59.

Consultancies, Workshops, Seminars:

- Report for the World Bank: Dynamic Relationships among Population growth, agricultural commercialisation, rural credit, rights of access and use of land and agricultural productivity in the Western and Ashanti Regions of Ghana, 1988.**
- i) Washington, September 9-16, 1988. World Bank Workshop on Inter-regional economic co-operation and integration:
Paper: Profiles of African pre-colonial and long distance trade and exchange.
 - ii) Biennial Congress of German Historians at Bamberg, West Germany, October 12-16, 1988.
Paper: Private, state and commercial trading in Asante in the nineteenth century.
 - iii) Probenius Institute, Frankfurt, 18th October, 1988.
Paper: Rituals of kinship in Ghana.
 - iv) African Studies Programme, Northwestern University, Evanston, 25th October, 1988.
Paper: The PNDC's Experiments in Democracy.
 - v) ASA Meeting, Chicago, 28th - 31st October, 1988.
Paper: Trade, accumulation and the state in Asante in the nineteenth century.

Dr. K.N. Bame, Senior Research Fellow.

Could not write report before proceeding on leave.

Ms. Takyiwah Manuh, Research Fellow.

Assistant Editor, *Research Review*

Research Interests:

- Women and Socio-economic change in Ada, Ghana
Women as Agents and Beneficiaries of Development.

Publications:

The Asantehema's Court, *Research Review*, NS. Vol.4, No.2, 1988.

Review Article: Private Secretary (Female) Gold Coast, *Research Review*, NS. Vol.4, No.1, 1988.

Papers submitted for publication:

Women, the law and land tenure in Africa, IDRC Publications, Ottawa.

Women in Trade Unions in Ghana, and the Structural Adjustment Programme, in *Labour and Society*, ILO, Geneva.

Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, Consultancies

- i) Project Development Meeting, IDRC, Toronto, Canada, May 16-19th, 1988. Women and the Management of Natural Resource in Africa.
Paper: Women, the Law and Land Tenure in Africa.
- ii) ANPPCAN/UNICEF Workshop on the Draft Convention on the Rights of the Child, Nairobi. May 9-11th, 1988.
Paper: 'Towards an African Charter on the Rights of the Child'.
- iii) AAWORD Seminar and General Assembly. Dakar, 8-14th August, 1988.
Paper: Women in Trade Unions in Ghana and the Structural Adjustment Programme.
- iv) OATUU/ILO Seminar for African Working Women. Accra. 9-16th October, 1988.
Resource Person: Prepared OATUU Position paper on 'Women in Africa's Development: Key Problems and Constraints'.
Consultancy for AGC, with L.O. Gyekye (ISSER) on 'The Impact of the Food Aid Package on Beneficiaries at AGC, Obuasi'.

Dr. A.K. Awedoba, Research Fellow.

Research Interests:

The significance of riddles among the Kasena-Nankana.

Publications:

Review of M. Fortes, Religion, Morality and the Person, *Research Review*, NS. Vol.4, No.1, 1988.

Papers accepted or submitted for publication:

Review of P. Barker, Peoples, Religions and Languages of Northern Ghana in *Research Review*, NS. Vol.4, No.2.

Notes on Matrimonial prestations among the Atoende Kusasi, p.t.l *Research Review*, I.A.S.

Conferences Attended

- 1) 12th International Congress of Anthropological and

Ethnological Science, Zagreb, Yugoslavia, 24-31st July, 1988.

Paper: Symbolic non-objectual communication in traditional marriage: Practices in the Upper East Region of Ghana.

ii) 140th Anniversary Celebrations of the Presbyterian Training College, Akropong, 14th December, 1988.

Paper: The National Language Issue.

Language and Literature Section:

M.E. Kropp-Dakubu, Professor, Deputy Director, Head of Section.

Publications:

"Speaking of colour, speaking of others: language, stereotypes and freedom" in Amanee Newsletter of the USIS, Accra, February 1 appendix i - vii.

Editor and Contributor:

The Languages of Ghana, London: Kegan Paul International Ltd. The Multi-lingual environment in the Ada district **Research Review**, NS. 4, 1 pp. 35 - 44.

Editor: Research Review.

Conferences:

- i) Linguistic Circle, Accra, 2nd March, 1988.
Paper: 'A Dynamic Model for multilingualism in Accra.
- ii) Conference on Dagaare Studies, Wa, April, 1988.
Paper: The Symbolic Language of a Folk-tale: "How Spider became Chief of Folktales".
- iii) Conference on Oral Literature, Legon, August, 22 - 25, 1988.
Paper: Literacy and the folk-tale tradition: a case study.

Dr. K.E. Agovi, Senior Research Fellow.

Research Interests include:

The Political Relevance of Ghanaian Highlife Songs.

Nzema Maiden Songs

The Short Story in Ghana

The Origins of Stage Drama in Ghana.

Publications:

Novels of Social Change, G.P.C. Accra-Tema, 1988.

Consensual Politics and Development Aid in Africa **Presence Africaine**, No. 143, 3rd Quarterly, 1987.

The aesthetics of Creative Communication in Performance Situations. *Research Review*, 4, 1, 1988.

Mr. Atukwei Okai, Senior Research Fellow

Research Interests:

Structure and symbolism in modern African Literature.

Publications:

The Anthill in the Sea, G.P.C., Tema.

Conferences:

- i) Second Conference of African Ministers of Culture on the Pan African Writers Association Project, Ouagadougou, March, 1985.
- ii) Participant, Conference on African Literature 2-6 May, 1988, Accra.
- iii) Participant, 8th Congress of the Afro-Asian Writers Association, Tunis, 17th December, 1988.

Mrs. Esi Sutherland-Addy, Research Fellow

Research Interests:

The Life and Work of Dr. Ephraim Amu.

Publications:

Video Documentary (2 hrs. 15 mins.) on *The Life and Work of Dr. Ephraim Amu*.

History and Politics:

Dr. Irene Odotei, Research Fellow, Head.

Research Interests:

Chieftaincy among the Ga.

Introduction of New Technology in the fishing industry and its effects on the role of women.

Seminar Papers read at the Institute include:

Historical and Social Significance of Ga names

Ghana's Cultural Heritage: a historical overview.

Dr. K. Afari Gyan

Research Interests:

Aspects of Ghanaian politics: past and present.

Publications:

Public Tribunals and Justice in Ghana, Asempa Publishers, Accra.

Seminar Papers read at various venues include:

The struggle for independence in Ghana;

Kwame Nkrumah and Du Bois

Kwame Nkrumah, Du Bois and the Black Star Line

Chieftaincy in Ghana

The current political situation in Ghana, its root causes.

S.S. Quarcoopome, Research Fellow

Assistant Editor, Research Review.

Research Interests:

Colonial Government and Traditional Politics in Accra,
1920-1940.

Publications:

Accepted for publication in Universitas (Legon)

"Party political activities in Accra, 1927-45".

Philosophy and Religion

K.A. Opoku, Associate Professor, Head.

No report.

Mrs. Brigid Sackey

Research Interests:

Spiritual Churches in Ghana

Aspects of AIDS

Seminars, Workshops

Member of panel group discussion for orientation course for
Californian Students on:

Religious Ideas and Ethics

The Nature and Role of Traditional Medicine.

Publications:

"Nyameson Pa" Research Review, NS. Vol.3, No.2, July 1987. pp.
84-110.

Music

Dr. S.D. Asiana, Head, in charge of Musical Archives.

Research Interests:

With Esi Sutherland-Addy.

Documentary: The Life and Work of Dr. Ephraim Amu

Collection, compilation and editing of the works of the late

R.O. Danso, Entsuah Mensah, Otto Boateng.
The linguistic basis of rhythm in the music of drums.

Conference:

Participation in the International Conference on Popular music on "Africa in the World of Popula Music" organized by the Music Section.

Supporting Services:

The Library:

Ms. Olive Akpebu, Head.

Library space has been extended to house 8,000 volumes, with a seating capacity for twenty; Lighting facilities have also been improved.

The physical structure for the nucleus of a Documentation Centre has been completed; it is proposed to furnish and equip it in the 1989-90 financial year.

The cataloguing and classification of Arabic manuscripts collected in the 1960s have begun.

Printing

The Institute's printing machines have been moved into another room. It is intended to board and sell all obsolete equipment and ask for additional government grant to refurbish our equipment so as to commercialize our services.

Photographic Section

We are seeking for funds to increase our photographic equipment in order to increase our commercial potential.

The Museum of Ethnographic Collections

We have installed an air-conditioner in the room in order to ensure the preservation of the collections.

We are engaging a consultant and an assistant to classify, catalogue and arrange the collections in such order as would interest visitors to the Museum. In 1987-88 we had the honour of showing the Museum to The President of the Peoples' Republic of Rumania and the Deputy Head of the U.S. Mission to Ghana.

Chalets:

We were able to put 8 Units of our chalets into shape for renting to visiting scholars: Six units were also given to the University to help ease the pressure on accommodation in the University.

Kwame Arhin
DIRECTOR.