

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The African e-Journals Project has digitized full text of articles of eleven social science and humanities journals. This item is from the digital archive maintained by Michigan State University Library. Find more at:

<http://digital.lib.msu.edu/projects/africanjournals/>

Available through a partnership with



Scroll down to read the article.

PROJECT REPORTS

THE ASHANTI RESEARCH PROJECT

The project was formally launched at its first preparatory conference held at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, in May 1963. It involves research in various fields relating to the development of society and culture in that area which, historically, fell within the Ashanti sphere of influence. The geographical area of the project is therefore not limited to the present Ashanti Region. It covers other areas, not only in Ghana, but in adjacent countries, which culturally, politically and economically were linked with the old Ashanti Empire.

Specific fields in which the project is interested include:-

- (a) History: The social, political, economic and military history of Ashanti.
- (b) Government: the structure and evolution of the Central Government; provincial administration and local government; constitutional and political institutions; political theory.
- (c) Social and Economic Institutions: the structure and organization of craft guilds; the organization of trade; the structure of the economy of Ashanti, etc.
- (d) Music, Literature and Art.
- (e) Archaeology.
- (f) Traditional Architecture.

The Institute now holds a collection of stool histories recorded by Mr. J. Agyeman-Duah, who works for the Institute as a part-time research assistant. Basic data on one hundred and forty stools have so far been recorded.

This series of reports constitutes the IAS/AR series. The following is a list of the first forty items accessioned; further lists will appear in future numbers of Research Review.

AR 1	Asokwa:	Gyaase division of Kumasi
AR 2	Ankobia:	Ankobia division of Kumasi
AR 3	Ananta:	Gyaase division of Kumasi
AR 4	Asrampong:	Manwere division of Kumasi
AR 5	Adum:	Akwamu division of Kumasi
AR 6	The Atumpam drums.	
AR 7	Asamang:	Adonten division of Kumasi
AR 8	Akyawkrom:	Adonten division of Kumasi
AR 9	Atipin:	Ankobia division of Kumasi
AR10	Lake Bosumtwi.	
AR11	Ejisu.	
AR12	Dadiesoaba:	Gyaase division of Kumasi
AR13	Adwomfohene:	Kyidom division of Kumasi
AR14	Asomfuo:	Kyidom division of Kumasi
AR15	Gyaase:	Gyaase division of Kumasi
AR16	Juaben:	
AR17	Akwaboa:	Kronti division of Kumasi
AR18	Ohwim:	Akwamu division of Kumasi
AR19	Nkabom:	Manwere division of Kumasi
AR20	Nkabom linguist:	Manwere division of Kumasi
AR21	Atene Akuapong:	Ankobia division of Kumasi
AR22	Nsumankwa:	Gyaase division of Kumasi
AR23	Bookye Yam:	Gyaase division of Kumasi
AR24	Odurugya horns.	
AR25	The Kwadwom singers.	
AR26	Ntchera horns.	
AR27	Abrafo :	Independent stool of Kumasi
AR28	Oyokohene:	Oyoko division of Kumasi
AR29	Ntutia:	Gyaase division of Kumasi
AR30	Nkonguasofo:	Gyaase division of Kumasi
AR31	Kronti and Akwamu divisions of Kumasi.	
AR32	Atutue:	Oyoko division of Kumasi
AR33	Ceremony of enstoolment of Otupfuo Asantehene.	
AR34	Antoa:	Adonten division of Kumasi
AR35	Kaase:	Gyaase division of Kumasi

AR36	Mpaboahene of Kumasi.	
AR37	Kodua Topa:	Gyaase division of Kumasi
AR38	Akwamu:	Akwamu division of Kumasi
AR39	Bantama:	Kronti division of Kumasi
AR40	Bantama (cont.):	Kronti division of Kumasi

Another research assistant, who will work full-time, will be appointed as soon as a grant promised by UNESCO is released, and this will facilitate the expansion and development of the work started by Mr. Agyeman-Duah.

The Institute is grateful to the Asantehene for allowing it access to the records of the Kumasi State Council. Copies of the proceedings in a number of important constitutional and land cases - valuable source material for the historian - are being made, and have been deposited in the Institute. This forms the series IAS/AS/CR, and a list of the forty cases so far accessioned will be published in a later number of Research Review. The Institute has also been concerned with the purchase of microfilms of archival and other material relevant to the Ashanti Research Project from European and other sources. It has also undertaken to finance the translation from Dutch, Danish, German, Arabic, etc., of texts relating to Ashanti. Works so far translated include:

- (i) The Journal and Correspondence of H. W. Daendals, Governor-General of the Netherlands Settlements on the Coast of Guinea (1815-1817). /From Dutch/
- (ii) Klose's Journey to Northern Ghana 1894: pp. 285-544 of Togo unter deutscher Flagge, 1899. /From German/

Work is now in progress on a translation of the Danish Tilforlædig Efterretning om Kysten Guinea, 1760, by L. F. Romer.

It is expected that more post-graduate students will take full advantage of the documentary material being collected and the oral traditions being recorded, and submit the results of their studies either in part fulfilment of the requirements of the M.A. degree in African Studies, or for doctoral degrees.

The Institute is also working out a scheme for the study of traditional architectural patterns in Ghana. This scheme, which will be within the Ashanti research project, will be directed and guided by the school of Architecture and Town Planning of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

THE VOLTA BASIN SURVEY

With the imminent flooding of many parts of the Volta Basin, the Institute evolved an emergency scheme for the recording of basic ethnographic and historical data from the towns and villages to be inundated. Since the Volta Basin Research Project was unable to offer any financial assistance, the Institute operated a modified scheme from its own finances. Mr. E. Y. Aduamah has been working mainly in the Ewe parts of the flood-area, Mr. Kwabena Ameyaw in the Afram plains, and Mr. J. E. K. Kumah within the Kete Krachi area. It has thus been possible to obtain a considerable quantity of field material from those areas already, or about to be, flooded, and after processing, this data will be made available. Plans are now in hand to extend this work over the more northerly areas which will be flooded within the next two years, and also into the Bui area, where a second dam is in course of construction. In addition, several expeditions have visited the Kete Krachi area to study the libraries of the malams there, for the Muslim community is likely to become dispersed after the evacuation of the town (see report on the Arabic collection below).

The field reports on the Ewe-speaking areas so far accessioned cover the following areas:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Kpalime | 2. Tonkor |
| 3. Botoku | 4. Tsoho |
| 5. Wusuta | 6. Awate and Jufaji |
| 7. Aveme | 8. Tsyome |
| 9. Ewes in the Afram Plains | 10. Dodi-Anum area |
| 11. Buem-Akan area | 12. The migrant Tongu fishermen. |

Lists of reports from other areas within the flood basin will be published in subsequent issues.