

chat. Not long before he died he enchanted a large seminar audience in Cambridge with his comments and, appropriately, readings from his first Tallensi notebooks in response to an analysis and further development of some of his ideas on West African religion by Robin Horton. It was a delight to witness the combination he displayed of enthusiasm and modest pleasure in the fact that someone had been interested to follow and extend a path which he himself had cleared; and his comments were as instructive and insightful as at any time in his career. Innumerable anthropologists and other scholars are indebted to him for his encouragement in times of difficulty and for his help in seeing at least a little of what lies under the surface of human society. He asked little in return beyond commitment to research and teaching and to those one taught and those whose life one studied. The official representation of the Ghanaian High Commission at his funeral in Cambridge was a particularly touching and fitting tribute to his own commitment both to Ghana and to social anthropology.

NOTE

¹ See J. A. Barnes, *Three Styles in the Study of Kinship*, Tavistock, 1971, and J. R. Goody (ed.), *The Character of Kinship*, Cambridge, 1973. The latter contains a bibliography of the writings of Fortes up to 1971.

RAY ABRAHAMS

JAN VOORHOEVE 1923–83

African studies has suffered a grievous loss in the sudden and untimely death of Jan Voorhoeve, the Chairman of the Department of Linguistics at the University of Leiden. His work involved a unique combination of interests which he pursued with great energy and enthusiasm. One basic contribution was his work on Sranan and Saramaccan, two Creole languages of Surinam. To these he devoted the major portion of his earlier career. His activity here was not narrowly linguistic but extended to literature and culture in general. He wished to alter the low esteem in which the speakers of these languages held them and he contributed seminal to their survival and their use as literary media by founding with some young students an organization for Surinam language and culture.

In 1962 he went to the Cameroons and from this time dates his first studies of African languages. Two years later he returned to the Netherlands to join the newly founded Department of African Linguistics at the University of Leiden. In 1974 he went once more to the Cameroons to renew his linguistic fieldwork. He had been one of the organizers of the Grassfield Bantu Project, an international group interested in the basic problems involved in the historical status of a group of languages of the Northwest Cameroons which evidently had a special relationship to Banta proper which required further elucidation and raised questions of general theoretic interest.

Jan Voorhoeve's interest in theoretical linguistics grew in the course of his career. He found that the purely practical problems of orthography involved in Bible translation could not be solved without attention to the deeper problem of linguistic theory. His chief contributions in the area of theory grew quite naturally out of his basic descriptive work. These were on two main topics, the problems of tonal analysis which arose in his work in Saramaccan and which received further input

from his work on African tonal languages, and the general problem of the genesis of Creoles. He treated the latter as a historical process and, in particular, in an important paper published in *Language and Society* in 1973 he presented evidence in favour of the reexification on hypothesis in regard to Sranan as a complete and Saramaccan as a partial reexification of an originally Portuguese Creole.

His multifarious activities included as has been already noted in passing, much organizational activity. Besides aspects already mentioned, one may add that he was a founding member of the Benue-Congo Working group, and a member of the executive councils of the West African Linguistic Society and the Society of Caribbean Linguistics. For readers of Africa it is particularly relevant to note his activities connected with the International African Institute of whose Executive Council he was a member in 1975–78. His numerous substantive and theoretical contributions, and his boundless energy combined with personal modesty, made him someone who will be missed both as a scientist and as a human being.

JOSEPH H. GREENBURG

CORRECTION

Johan Pottier. 'Defunct labour reserve? Mambwe villages in the post-migration economy', *Africa* 53(2), p. 8. Below is a version of the original map included in this article correcting errors in the key and location of the Mbala State Ranch.

