

O B I T U A R Y : M R . D . H . J O N E S

Mr. D.H. Jones, who died on 31st August 1979, had been a Lecturer in West African History at the School of Oriental and African Studies since 1951. He took his B.A. degree in History with First Class Honours at the University of Liverpool in 1949, followed by a Dip.Ed. with distinction in 1951 and an M.A. in 1953 with a thesis on The Church in Chester 1300-1540, which was published by the Chetham Society in 1957. Meanwhile he had turned his attention to Africa. He was much involved in the preparatory work for the three international conferences on African History and Archaeology held at the School in 1953, 1957 and 1961, and the conference on African chronology in 1966: he edited the report of the 1957 conference for publication.

In 1954-5 he spent a year as Visiting Lecturer at the University College of the Gold Coast (now the University of Ghana), and followed this with six months of adventurous travelling and research in northern Ghana and Upper Volta, the result of which was seen in his article on 'Jakpa and the foundation of Gonja', published in the Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana in 1962. This was Jones's only substantial visit to Africa. Thereafter, first family responsibilities and later his own ill health kept him at home except for regular summer visits to the archives in Paris, where he developed a special interest in the life and writings of the Abbé Boilat on which he was still working at the time of his death.

An omniverous reader, Jones liked to express much of his own scholarship in reviewing the work of others, and in this he was prolific, learned and judicious. As a teacher he tended to intimidate undergraduate students, and was at his best as a supervisor of research. His finest memorials are probably many grateful acknowledgements by former students which are to be found in a long line of theses and monographs on West African history published during the last two decades. He will be remembered by his colleagues with respect and affection.

ROLAND OLIVER