

AFRICAN STUDIES NOTES AND NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LATIN AFRICA RESEARCH BULLETIN

Owing to the predominance of anglophone countries in British research on Africa, those people working on other parts of the continent are somewhat isolated. The colonial powers of Latin Europe had a relatively homogenous culture, of which important elements have taken root in independent African countries, most notably language. Those doing research on 'Latin Africa' thus frequently face similar problems and situations. The purpose of a research bulletin would be to lessen their sense of isolation by enabling them to contact people scattered round the country, who often do not know what is going on elsewhere. Moreover, the School of Oriental and African Studies in London hopes to put on a series of small workshops to bring people together in this field, as part of the School's wider programme to develop studies on Francophone and Lusophone Africa. Thus, in May 1982, there will be a workshop on large business corporations in West Central Africa (Zaire, Angola, Cameroun etc). Madagascar and the Indian Ocean could be the focus for another workshop at a later date. The Research Bulletin could help to indicate in what areas such workshops would be most fruitful.

It is proposed to produce the Research Bulletin in a cheap roneoed form, and distribute it to all those listed in it. All who wish to be included in it should send their names, addresses, and a brief (single short paragraph) description of their research, to Dr W G Clarence-Smith, Department of History, SOAS, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HP. Please inform all the people you know who might be interested in this project.

SEMIOTICS SOCIETY OF AFRICA

The prospects for African Semiotics and the needs for an African Association were discussed at the Claremont A LA 1981 Conference by Daniel Kunene (Madison Wisconsin, USA), Simon Battestini (Calabar, Nigeria), Valentin Mudimbe (Lubumbashi, Zaire), Medupe Broderick (Kano, Nigeria), Leonard Kodjo (Abidjan, Ivory Coast), Aliko Songolo (UCLA, USA), Robert Cancel (UC San Diego, USA). Simon Battestini was to draft the statutes of the association.

The draft constitution was discussed and amended at A SA 1981 Bloomington Conference by Valentin Mudimbe, Simon Battestini and Robert Hazel (Montreal, Canada). This text was considered by the next (provisional) Executive Committee on April 8th, 1982, Howard University, Washington DC, USA, and will be finally approved by the General Assembly which will take place in March 1983, at the University of Calabar, Nigeria, during the Inaugural Semiotics Society of Africa Congress.

Also at Bloomington, some participants of the 1981 A SA Conference were briefed by Michael Herzfeld about the launching of the American Journal of Semiotics, the Facilities of the Research Center for Language and Semiotic Studies of the University of Indiana, and about the prospects of developing