

### ' *African Language Review* '

SINCE its establishment in 1962 the *Sierra Leone Language Review* has served to revive the tradition of linguistic research established in Sierra Leone in the 1790s and associated with Fourah Bay College from its foundation in 1827. The Review has expanded steadily in size and geographical scope and the sixth annual volume is the first to appear under the new, broader title of *African Language Review*, the African Language Journal of Fourah Bay College. The policy and editorship remains unchanged. The Review will continue to concentrate on the cultural and historical study of African languages without neglecting their descriptive study. 'Cultural' is interpreted as embracing literary, ethnographic, and educational aspects, and attention will be paid not only to indigenous African languages but also to European and Creole languages in Africa and the Caribbean. Volume VI, published in December 1967, contains papers by A. N. Tucker, B. W. Andrzejewski, Charles Taylor, P. E. H. Hair, Gail Stewart, A. H. M. Kirk-Greene, and Edgar A. Gregersen, as well as four further studies in a series on Koelle's *Polyglotta Africana*. It will also include a 'Research Review' giving information on current research projects. Further details may be obtained from the editor, Dr. David Dalby, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London, W.C. 1, or from the publishers, Frank Cass & Co. Ltd., 67 Great Russell Street, London, W.C. 1.

### ' *A History of Africa* ', edited by Ivan Hrbek

THIS two-volume *History of Africa* is edited by Dr. Ivan Hrbek, Head of the African and Arabic Department, Oriental Institute, and Assistant Professor of African History, Charles University, Prague, with chapters contributed by a number of Czech specialists on African history, linguistics, anthropology, and archaeology. It is published by the Svoboda Publishing House, Prague (price Kčs 300).

The work is divided into six parts, with a general introduction dealing with African historiography and sources of African history, and setting out the scope and structure of the study. Part I (Prehistory) considers the origins and development of African populations down to the beginning of recorded history in the Nile valley; Part II (Antiquity) covers the period of the rise of states in the north-eastern region, the Neolithic and Iron Age phases south of the Sahara with the accompanying migrations and changes until the fifth-sixth centuries A.D.; Part III (The Period of Independent Development) deals with the period before the coming of Europeans with Muslim domination in the north and the emergence of new states and societies in the south; Part IV (The Era of the Slave Trade) reviews the period between the sixteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century; Part V (The Struggle against Foreign Occupation) deals mainly with the history of Africa in the nineteenth century, attempts at preservation of independence and resistance to colonization; Part VI (The Colonial Rule and the Fight for Independence) covers the period of the twentieth century down to 1960.

Each volume has a bibliography and an index and the whole work contains 500 illustrations in the text, 45 coloured plates, and 26 historical maps.

### *Unesco Catalogue of Ethnographic Films on Africa*

THE first international catalogue of ethnographic films on Africa down to 1964 (*Premier Catalogue sélectif international de films ethnographiques sur l'Afrique Noire*. Unesco, 7, Place de Fontenoy, 75-Paris 7<sup>e</sup>. F. 26; \$7.50; 38s.) is a 408-page volume, prepared by the International Committee of Ethnographic and Sociological Films (CIFES). It reviews 467 films, 60 per cent of them short subjects and documentaries. Each receives a brief notice indicating

the subject, date, production unit, technical characteristics, language used, etc. Four cross-indexes locate the material.

Eighty per cent of the films listed were made in French-speaking countries: the book itself appears only in French and there are no plans to bring out other language editions. The films deal with such subjects as religion, news, technology, and the arts.

### *A Note on Some Recent Bibliographies of African Literature*

THERE have been several recent attempts to compile bibliographies of works of African writers published in Africa and elsewhere. One such attempt, 'Bibliographie africaine et malgache', appeared in 1963 in *Revue de littérature comparée* but lists only the works of French African writers published in French. Others have been produced by the Deutsche Afrika-Gesellschaft in Bonn (*Schöne Schriften aus Afrika*, 1962) and the American Society of African Culture in New York (*Some Modern African Writers*, 1964); both these contain biographical data but are incomplete as attempts to enumerate all the works of African writers.

At the Dakar Conference on African Literature and the University Curriculum in 1963 Janheinz Jahn, the German literary historian, announced that he was preparing a bibliography to include data on all the works of African and American negro writers, and the furthering of this project was among the resolutions passed by the conference. This appeared in 1965 (*Die neoafrikanische Literatur: Gesamtbibliographie von den Anfängen bis zum Gegenwart*. By Janheinz Jahn. Düsseldorf-Köln: Eugen Diederichs Verlag, 1965. Pp. xxxv, 360. DM 42). It is divided into three parts on a geographical basis and contains valuable bibliographical data and notes on each item. An attempt has been made as far as possible to include works written in European and African languages, translations and new editions.

The first part, which deals with Africa, is unfortunately by no means complete, since the author has relied only on direct information from the literary historians without consulting such sources as the *Nigerian Publications* (Ibadan), the Nigerian national bibliography, or the *South African National Bibliography* (Pretoria). A careful study of these and other sources such as recently published African literary anthologies and personal communications from African writers, has made it possible to augment this first part of Jahn's bibliography by nearly 30 per cent. This additional material includes new works, recent editions and translations. One part of this supplementary bibliography, by Paul Páricsy, is to be issued in *The Journal of New African Literature* (Stanford). Among the most interesting additions are: a novel in Zulu, *UNomalanga kaNdengezi*, by R. R. R. Dhlomo (1964); an English adaptation of *Three Yoruba Plays*, by Duro Ladipo, by Ulli Beier (1964); a Danish translation of the autobiography of A. J. Luthuli, *Let My People Go* (1963); a Pedi play by Silpha Phaladi Ngwako Makwala, *Kgasane* (1962); and *Vhamusanda who-dzegere*, a Venda drama by E. S. Netshilema (1960).

(Communicated by Paul Páricsy, Institute of Hungarian Academy of Sciences,  
Vácrátót)

### *'The Aboakyer of the Effutu: A Critique of Meyerowitz's Account'*

WE have received the following comments on the paper by Robert W. Wyllie (*Africa*, xxxvii, 1, 1967, pp. 81-5) from Mrs. Eva L. R. Meyerowitz:

Mr. Robert W. Wyllie claims that there are various inaccuracies in my description of the *Aboakyer*, published in *The Akan of Ghana: Their Ancient Beliefs* (1958, pp. 38-42). I did not witness the festival and got my information, in 1946, from the *Ex-Omanhene* of Winneba, Nana Ayiribi Acquah, in the presence of some elders, but I doubt whether 'inaccuracy' is the right word. Mr. Wyllie makes five points.