

American government agencies, commercial concerns, and religious and missionary groups, and will also include relevant papers of private individuals or families. It would be appreciated if readers of this note would send information about little-known archival and manuscript sources relating to Africa to Mr. Morris Rieger, Director, National African Guide Project, National Historical Publications Commissions, National Archives and Records Service, Washington D.C. 20408.

### *'Geographers and the Tropics'*

*Geographers and the Tropics: Liverpool Essays* (Longmans, 47s. 6d.) was published to coincide with a symposium on the tropics which the Department of Geography in the University of Liverpool organized before the assembly of the XXth International Geographical Congress in London in July 1964. Edited by Professor Robert W. Steel and Dr. R. Mansell Prothero of the Department of Geography, the essays include 'Geographers and the Tropics', by R. W. Steel, and others of specifically African interest, namely: 'Evidence of lake-level changes from the northern shoreline of Lake Victoria, Uganda', by P. H. Temple; 'Annual, seasonal and monthly rainfall over Moçambique', by S. Gregory; 'Rainfall and the water resources of East Africa', by Joan M. Kenworthy; 'The Land of Zanj: exegetical notes on Chinese knowledge of East Africa prior to A.D. 1500', by Paul Wheatley; 'Continuity and change in African population mobility', by R. Mansell Prothero; 'Changing patterns of African employment in Southern Rhodesia', by I. F. Masser; and 'Aspects of Ushi settlement history: Fort Rosebery District, Northern Rhodesia', by G. Kay.

### *Research among the Tyo (Teke) of Congo Brazzaville*

DR. JAN VANSINA, of the History Department, University of Wisconsin, sends the following note on his recent field research among the Tyo from October 1963 to April 1964, with the aid of grants from the Social Science Research Council and the Carnegie Foundation.

The aim was a study of the history of the political organization of the Tyo Kingdom. The social structure proved to be remarkable in combining bilateral groups with shallow matrilineages as basic social groups. The kingship was found to be intensely sacralized. With extensive decentralization there was limited scope for specialized political institutions. Tyo religion was found to have altered very little since the nineteenth century, there being no converts either to Christian missions or nativistic churches; there was a strong emphasis on witchcraft, which was linked to a very high valuation of leadership, the struggle for leadership being seen as a normal and desirable situation. The present organization of the kingdom does not go back beyond the end of the eighteenth century, but a kingdom existed at the end of the fifteenth century and probably much earlier. The effects of the slave trade, in which the Tyo engaged from the sixteenth century onwards, have been very great and during the eighteenth century the old economic basis of Teke culture changed. Tyo history has been mostly reconstructed from written, ethnographic, and archaeological data, as oral traditions do not go back beyond the first third of the nineteenth century. The short depth of tradition is related to the social structure, since everything is timeless beyond the range of the three-generation matrilineages.

### *Research among the Sonjo of Tanganyika*

PROFESSOR ROBERT F. GRAY of Tulane University, New Orleans, author of *The Sonjo of Tanganyika: an Anthropological Study of an Irrigation-based Society*, left for Tanganyika in July to do a further year's field study on the magic and medicine of the Sonjo, with a grant from the United States National Institute of Health.