

THE ASHANTI RESEARCH PROJECT

The following is an extract from an up-to-date Progress Report No. 1 (1963-1966) on the Ashanti Research Project.

Project A: Stools History of Ashanti

So far 180 reports have been received from Mr. Agyeman-Duah, a part-time Senior Research Assistant of the Institute. They bear the classification numbers: IAS. acc. no. 1-180.

Work in connection with this project is in three stages:

Stage 1:

- Involves
- (a) checking the serial arrangement of the reports;
 - (b) reading through a selected number, 25, taking at random, to know and note points of immediate interest; and
 - (c) preparing a Code Book on the basis of this knowledge.

Work on this is completed, but it can be expanded from time to time to take account of new material.

Stage 2:

- Involves
- (a) preparing code cards for each of the 180 reports;
 - (b) transferring information from the reports on to the cards, using code numbers. To de-code the information on the cards, the Code Book is to be referred to.

Work at this stage is tedious and time-consuming, since it involves patient reading and careful analysis of the 180 reports. It may take at least three months to complete this assignment.

Stage 3:

- Involves (a) preparing statistical tables; and
 (b) submitting a preliminary report. (Target date: March 1967).

Note: Since our interest is not specifically on the provision of statistical data, it may not be necessary to transfer the coded information on to the IBM cards for processing; but the preservation of these cards is essential for easy reference work at the Institute. They will be stored at the Statistical Section here in our Branch.

Section B: Other Collections

These other collections include reports on the Volta Basin (VB); Traditions of the Ewe Tribe (te); History of the Brong-Ahafo (BA), etc. submitted by Messrs Ameyaw, Kumah, Aduamah, and the rest.

After reading through a few of these reports, I noticed interesting similarities of occurrences relating to the role of certain historical individuals, such as the Hunter; of certain religious inanimate objects, such as the Stone, etc., in helping to build nations. These must be classified, codified and documented for the benefit of research workers. Here, one can find the problem of synthesis a matter of research interest.

As a result, special cards have been issued for each subject under the following categories: "H": The role of the Hunter as Pathfinder of States, Kingdoms or Oman; "S": The significance of Stone + in traditional religions, e.g. Fetishism; "Co": Contradictions in Oral Traditional History; "Cl": Evolutions of Clans and their place in traditional administration; "My": Traditional Mythology; "Dw": Drums with death, war, or terror-implied message; etc. Referring to any such card, one could not only know the range of similar historical references to a particular medium, but could use the codified list as a bibliography in an auxiliary sense.

A special Report on Cross-cultural Symbolisms (based on analysis of the Collections) will be submitted in due course.

Section II:

CODE-ITEMS

About 60 of the 80 cells have so far been used thus:

A: General Classification

- Cell 1: Answers the question "to whom does the stool occupant swear oath of allegiance".
- Cell 2: The kind of Sword used by the stool occupant when swearing to the Asantehene or Chief.
- Cell 3: Whether the stool occupant has direct access to the Asantehene, or whether he has to pass through another stool occupant.
- Cell 4: Multiple-coding
(a) Shows the abusua (clan) of the stool occupant.
(b) Shows the Division (military or otherwise) of the Asantehene to which the stool occupant belongs.
(c) The category under which the stool occupant is traditionally classified.
- Cell 5: Descent of the Stool: Matrilineal; Patrilineal; Both Matrilineal and Patrilineal; Esom Dwa; Akofe Dwa, etc. Which one?
- Cell 6: Indicates the status of the stool occupant: royal or non-royal; ancestral or non-ancestral; hereditary or non-hereditary, etc.
- Cell 7: Refers to the non-hereditary stool whose occupant owes his appointment by the exercise of the Royal (Asantehene's) Prerogative.
- Cell 8: Refers to created stools, and the Asantehene - the referent King, who created them.
- Cell 9: Reasons as to why the stools were created.

- Cell Nos. 10-20: The total number of occupants on each stool from:
- Cell 10 : Nana Prempeh I to Nana Prempeh II
 Cell 11: Nana Osei Tutu to Nana Prempeh II
 Cell 12: Nana Osei Kwadwo to Nana Prempeh II
 Cell 13: Nana Opoku Ware to Nana Prempeh II
 Cell 14: Nana Pre-Obiri Yeboah to Nana Prempeh II
 Cell 15: Nana Osei Kwame to Nana Prempeh II
 Cell 16: Nana Kwaku Duah I (Fredua Agyeman) to Nana Prempeh II
 Cell 17: Nana Obiri Yeboah to Nana Prempeh II
 Cell 18: The Present Asantehene, Nana Sir Agyeman Prempeh II
 Cell 19: Nana Osei Tutu Kwame (Osei Asibe Bonsu) to Nana Prempeh II
 Cell 20: Nana Osei Yaw Akoto to Nana Prempeh II

B. War Records - Military Service

Number of wars (and their names) fought by the stool occupant in the reign of: (21-33)

- Cell 21: Nana Obiri Yeboah
 Cell 22: Nana Osei Tutu
 Cell 23: Nana Opoku Ware
 Cell 24: Nana Osei Kwadwo
 Cell 25: Nana Osei Kwame
 Cell 26: Nana Osei Tutu Kwame (alias Nana Bonsu Panyin)
 Cell 27: Nana Osei Yaw Akoto
 Cell 28: Nana Kwaku Duah I (Fredua Agyeman)
 Cell 29: Nana Kofi Karikari
 Cell 30: Nana Prempeh I (Kwaku Duah III)
 Cell 31: Nana Sir Agyeman Prempeh II
 Cell 32: Prior to Obiri Yeboah
 Cell 33: Nana Mensah Bonsu
 Cell 34: Blank Cell
 Cell 35: Unclassified wars (wars without referent kings)

C: Cell 36: ORIGIN OF ANCESTRAL STOOLS

Cell Nos. 37-40: Blank Cells

D. DESTOOLMENT of Stool Occupants: Causes and Motivation: e.g. colonial intrigues; customary demands; Nkrumah-political pressure, or what? Also indicates the number of abdications, executions, deportations, etc. of stool occupants, under each of the following successive referent Ashanti Kings: (41-56):

- Cell 41: Nana Oti Akenten
- Cell 42: Nana Obiri Yeboah
- Cell 43: Nana Osei Tutu
- Cell 44: Nana Opoku Ware
- Cell 45: Nana Kusi Bodom
- Cell 46: Nana Osei Kwadwo
- Cell 47: Nana Osei Kwame
- Cell 48: Nana Opoku Fofie
- Cell 49: Nana Osei Tutu Kwame (Osei Bonsu Panyin)
- Cell 50: Nana Osei Yaw Akoto
- Cell 51: Nana Kwaku Duah I (Fredua Agyeman)
- Cell 52: Nana Kofi Karikari
- Cell 53: Nana Mensah Bonsu
- Cell 54: Nana Kwaku Duah II (Agyeman Badu Kofi)
- Cell 55: Nana Prempeh I (Kwaku Duah III)
- Cell 56: Nana Sir Agyeman Prempeh II (Present Asantehene)
- Cell 57: Data without referent Asantehene
- Cell 58: Blank Cell
- Cell 59: Blank Cell
- Cell 60: Total Number of Destoolments, abdications, etc., suffered by the stool from the time of its first occupant to the present.
- Cell Nos. 61-79 Blank Cells
- Cell 80: Total number of wars fought by the stool and its occupants from 'its beginning' to the present.

Section III: BIBLIOGRAPHY (ASHANTI STOOLS HISTORY)A. REGALIA AND RELICS

1. Swords: As/8, p.1; As/16, p.6; As/27, p.1; As/33, pp. 2, 6; As/37, p.1; As/38, p.4; As/158, p.1; As/168, p.1; As/177, pp.1-2. (Lists to be extended).
2. Horns: As/1; As/16, pp.3-4; As/22, p.3; As/24, p.2; As/26, p.1; As/52, p.1; As/57, pp.1-3; As/95, p.2; As/106, p.2; As/145, pp.1-3; As/150, pp.1-2. (To be extended).
3. Drums: As/5, p.3; As/6; As/8, p.2; As/18, p.8; As/24, p.2; As/33, p.2; As/36, p.2; As/70, pp.1-3; As/114, pp.1-2; As/149, p.1; As/158, p.6; As/167, p.4; As/174, p.2. (To be extended).
4. Miscellaneous Stool Properties: As/3, p.1; As/8, pp.1-2; As/14, p.1; As/22, p.6; As/33, pp.1-6; As/39, p.7; As/43, p.3; As/58, p.3; As/59, p.1; As/61, p.1; As/63, pp.1-4; As/70, pp.1-2; As/79, p.2; As/81, pp.1-5; As/89, p.3; As/92, p.1; As/97, p.1; As/98, p.1; As/113, p.2; As/114, p.2; As/121, pp.3-6; As/124, p.1; As/131, p.1; As/132, p.1; As/138, p.3; As/139, p.1; As/140, p.1; As/143, p.3; As/146, p.1; As/147, p.2; As/150, p.2; As/151, p.5; As/156, pp.1-2; As/164, pp.1, 2; As/166, pp.1, 2, 3; As/167, p.4; As/168, pp.1-2; As/169, pp.3, 5, 7; As/171, p.1; As/174, pp.1, 2; As/175, pp.3,4; As/176, p.1; As/177, p.3.

B. STOOL HISTORY

1. Origin of Stools: As/7, p.2; As/8, p.3; As/9, pp.1-3;
As/12, pp.1-2; As/14, p.1; As/19, pp.1-3;
As/26, As/28, p.1; As/29, p.1; As/35, p.2;
As/38, p.6; As/40, p.2; As/108, p.1;
As/163, p.1; As/167, p.4; As/172, p.2;
As/177, p.1
(Note: Data coded in cell 36 to be processed
further and added to this list).
2. Evolutions of Clans & their significance: As/5, p.3; As/7,
pp.1-4; As/8, pp.1-3; As/38, pp.1-3;
As/56, p.4; As/69, p.3; As/153, pp.1-2;
As/154, pp.7-9; As/155, pp.1-2; As/161,
pp.1, 2; As/179, p.2.
(Note: Data coded in cell 4 to be processed
further and added to the list).
3. Traditional Mythology: As/7, p.2; As/8, pp.1-2; As/11, p.1;
As/24, p.1; As/32, p.3; As/35, p.1; As/39,
pp.2, 3; As/43, pp.2-3; As/44, p.1; As/48,
p.3; As/58, p.1; As/69, p.2; As/70, p.1;
As/77, p.1; As/78, p.1; As/80, p.2; As/87,
p.1; As/89, pp.1, 2; As/90, p.3; As/95,
pp. 2-6; As/106, p.5; As/115, p.2; As/125,
p.3; As/126, p.1; As/139, p.1; As/141,
p.1; As/161, pp.1-2; As/162, p.1; As/166,
pp.1, 2; As/168, pp.1, 2.
4. The Hunter as Pathfinder of States or Oman: As/7, p.1;
As/10, p.1; As/16, p.1; As/24, p.1; As/39,
pp.1, 5, 6; As/40, pp.1, 3; As/44, p.2;
As/54, p.1; As/62, p.1; As/63, pp.3, 4;
As/64, p.3; As/72, p.1; As/86, p.1; As/88,
p.1; As/95, p.1; As/99, p.1; As/101, p.1;

As/107, p.2; As/110, p.2; As/129, p.1;
 As/147, p.2; As/151, p.2; As/152, p.1
 As/166, p.2 As/169, p.3; As/171, p.3.

5. DESCENT (As/ to be prefixed to the numbers).

- (a) Matrilineal: 3, 12, 19, 20, (21), 28, 29, 32, 34, 36, 43,
 45, 47, 55, 56, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65,
 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 72, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79,
 82, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 94, 95, 97, 98,
 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 105, 107, 110, 111,
 115, 118, 119, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 128,
 129, 131, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139,
 141, 142, 145, 146, 148, 149, 151, 152, 153,
 155, 156, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165,
 166, 167, 170, 171, 173, 175, 176, 178.
- (b) Patrilineal: 2, 5, 9, 14, 15, 17, 26, 27, 30, (38), 39,
 41, 42, 46, 49, 59, 73, 75, 84, 91, 93, 106,
 117, 130, 140, 147, 154, 174, 177.
- (c) Both Matrilineal and Patrilineal: 23, 50, 80, 81, 144,
 150, 158.
- (d) Extensions: Esom Dwa: 71, 92, 96, 104, 109, 113, 114,
 157, 168, 179, 180.
- (e) Extensions: Ekofu Dwa: 120.

Note: Changed from Patrilineal to Matrilineal 21; Matrilineal to Patrilineal 38.

C. NATIVE ADMINISTRATION

1. Finance: As/15, p.1; As/33, pp.5,6; As/41, pp.1-6

As/43, p.4; As/154, pp.7-9; As/157, pp.1-2;
As/175, p.1. (To be extended).

2. Duties and Responsibilities of Stool Occupants: As/1, p.1;
As/14, p.2; As/27, p.1; As/29, p.1; As/36,
p.1; As/42, p.1; As/45, p.1; As/51, p.1;
As/52, p.1; As/69, p.4; As/92, p.1; As/93,
p.1; As/97, p.1; As/113, p.2; As/138, p.3;
As/143, p.1; As/164, p.2; As/168, p.1;
As/177, p.3.
(Note: Data coded in cell 5 to be processed
further and added to this list).
3. Oaths: As/43, p.2; As/54, p.6; As/87, p.5; As/95,
p.6; As/110, p.3; As/123, p.3; As/129, p.5;
As/144, p.3; As/149, p.3; As/154, p.9;
As/159, p.4.

D. OTHERS

1. Election and Installation of Asantehene: As/33.

SECTION IV: WORK IN PROGRESS

1. Bibliography on Ashanti Stools is also being prepared for the following subjects:
- (a) Titles and Appellations.
 - (b) Fetishism
 - (c) Komfo Anokye's Predictions.
 - (d) Komfo Anokye's Miracles.
 - (e) Changes in Ashanti Administration.
 - (f) Abuses of Ashanti Constitution.
 - (g) Contradictions in Oral Traditional History.
2. Definitions, notes, remarks and details covering items under Section III will be submitted in a later Report.