

New Appointments

Dr. Beulah L. Brown, B. Mus (Edinburgh 1962), Music Teacher's Certificate (Institute of Education, London University, 1963), PhD (Manchester 1966), has been appointed a Research Fellow in Music.

Odawuru

A new magazine, in Akan, has been added to the list of publications by the Institute of African Studies. It is intended to be a quarterly and will serve, not only the specialists in the Twi language, but also students in secondary schools and training colleges, as well as the general public.

Articles published in the magazine include poems, research notes, cultural materials and other original works. The first issue, which appeared in September, 1968, contains the following, among other things:

1. Some valuable notes on the symbol called "Sankofa", which is one of the proverbial patterns of the "adinkra" cloth.
2. A six-stanza, four-line lullaby.
3. A brief biographical sketch of the late Dr. C.A. Akrofi, the notable Twi scholar and grammarian.
4. The traditional festival calendar of the Akan people.
5. A poem on peace and a memoir on Yaw Kani, author of many Twi books.
6. A treatise on the Akan custom of greetings and their appropriate responses.
7. A list of the Akan names of most, if not all, the birds of Ghana.

8. A review of B.S. Akuffo's book, "Kontonkrowi", an exhaustive account of 14 types of Akan funerals.
9. An analysis of some Akan proverbs.
10. A word of advice to the sons and daughters of Ghana.

Odawuru is jointly edited by Messrs. A. "Crakye" Denteh and Kofi Asare Opoku.

Articles are invited for publication in the subsequent issues of Odawuru. Articles written in English will be accepted and translated into Akan.

Visual Arts - M.A. (African Studies)

1. Definition and Aim:

Detailed examination of aesthetics, history and sociology of the visual arts of traditional and contemporary Africa, with primary emphasis on sculpture and the crafts. History, and the visual arts, will also be an important feature to be examined. Attention to be given to arts like dance and drama but also music and verbal art which are inextricably bound up with the visual art. The coverage is all Africa but with special emphasis on Ghana and West Africa. (East, and Central Africa and Ethiopia for comparative studies). The principal aim will be the study of "The Visual Arts and Society".

2. Method:

Primary studies in the field and secondary studies in seminars, lectures, etc. Students whose background in African Studies

is inadequate, will need to do intensive library work in specific and general literature on Africa relating to social organisation and culture. Interest in elementary archaeology will be encouraged. Efforts will be made to achieve the aim of the course through the study of aesthetics, history, and sociology of the visual arts. The methodology will be empirical and inter-disciplinary.

3. Aesthetics:

Stylistics - art in general; general stylistic survey of African visual and plastic art, Techniques and canons of African art, Problems of form and meaning - (symbolism, naturalism etc.) Art appreciation, typologies, morphology and distribution of the visual arts of Africa.

Work in this section will be intensive and extensive to form the basis of other parts of the syllabus.

4. History:

History of European attitude to arts of Africa; Problems and difficulties in general historical studies of African arts; Historical survey of styles - art of ancient and contemporary Africa; pre- and post-renaissance art of Europe and the canons of African visual art; Visual art and oral tradition; art history in Africa; special emphasis on West, East and Central Africa; visual arts and oral literature; visual arts and indigenous mask dances.

5. Elementary museum studies:

Material culture - Museum work with special emphasis on Ethnography.

6. Sociology:

The artist as a member of society; the traditional contemporary artist; art in cultural context; design and meaning; art as an element of culture; physiological and psychological basis of African art; the problem of meaning; the social framework of African visual art; African visual art and social institutions, for example (religion, politics and government, economics, family and marriage); evolution and progress in art; masks, regal and ritual art and social control; religion and art; art, magic and psychology; visual art and traditional or contemporary dances. Visual art - (a) traditional (b) contemporary, and education.

Special study of art and religion which have been regarded by some writers as the hub of all African art. Social and Cultural change and the visual arts.

7. Case studies:

Aesthetics; sociological and historical study of the art of selected African communities; field and laboratory work will be mainly in Ghana, but work outside Ghana may however be undertaken. Specific individual and, or, group projects on design, patterns, history, and sociology of arts mentioned above.

A. K. Q.

Note

The article, "The General State of Research Review into the History of Ghana", which appeared in Research Review, Vol. 4 No. 3, 1968, under the authorship of Dr. R. H. K. Darkwah was based on reports

prepared by scholars from the departments of History and Archaeology and the Institute of African Studies. It was prepared for the UNESCO Conference for the Coordination and Planning of the Collection of Oral Traditions in Africa held in Oagadougou, Upper Volta, from July 29 - August 2, 1968.

The omission of this note in the said issue of the Research Review is regretted.

Editor.