

THE ASHANTI RESEARCH PROJECTRESEARCH REPORT

List of Stool Histories (continued from Research Review Vol. I. No. I. <sup>1</sup>.)

IAS 41	Sana Stool History	Gyase division of Kumasi
IAS 42	Anaminako Stool History	Ankobia division of Kumasi
IAS 43	Sare and Amoanim Stool	Kyidom division of Kumasi
IAS 44	Kokofu Stool History	Paramount Stool
IAS 45	Atene Akoten Stool History	Ankobia division of Kumasi
IAS 46	Gvebi and Banahene Stool History	Kyidom division of Kumasi
IAS 47	Nkonson Stool History	Gyase division of Kumasi
IAS 48	Kyerema Kobia Stool History	Kyidom division of Kumasi
IAS 49	Afari Stool History	Kronti division of Kumasi
IAS 50	Suame Stool History	Ankobia division of Kumasi
IAS 51	Anwonomsa Stool History	Gyase division of Kumasi
IAS 52	Saamang Stool History	Gyase division of Kumasi
IAS 53	Bremang Stool History	Gyase division of Kumasi
IAS 54	Bantama Baamu Stool History	Kronti division of Kumasi
IAS 55	Obogu Stool History	Oyoko division of Kumasi (now Paramount by Govt. instrument)
IAS 56	Oyoko Breman Stool History	Oyoko division of Kumasi
IAS 57	Mentia Stool History	Gyase division of Kumasi
IAS 58	Baworo Stool History	Kronti division of Kumasi
IAS 59	Boadu Linguist Stool History	Ankobia division of Kumasi
IAS 60	Esereso Stool History	Oyoko division of Kumasi
IAS 61	Juansa Stool History	Oyoko division of Kumasi (now Paramount by Govt. instrument)
IAS 62	Agogo Stool History	Gyase division of Kumasi (now Paramount by Govt. instrument)
IAS 63	Odumase Stool History	Adonten division of Juaben
IAS 64	Mamponten Stool History	Oyoko division of Kumasi
IAS 65	Deboaso Stool History	Gyase division of Kumasi
IAS 66	Dua Kyeame Stool History	Manwere division of Kumasi
IAS 67	Achiase Stool History	Gyase division of Kumasi
IAS 68	Nanti Stool History	Gyase division of Kumasi
IAS 69	Asem Stool History	Kyidom division of Kumasi

<sup>1</sup> . See Research Review Vol. I. No. I. for Nos 1 - 40

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IAS 70	Fontomfrom Drum Stool History	
IAS 71	Omanti Stool History	Manwere division of Kumasi
IAS 72	Aboatem Stool History	Kronti division of Kumasi
IAS 73	Boakye Yam Linguist Stool	Gyase division of Kumasi
IAS 74	Feyiase Stool History	Kyidom division of Kumasi
IAS 75	Akankade Linguist Stool History	Gyase division of Kumasi
IAS 76	Asomfo Stool History	Gyase division of Kumasi
IAS 77	Amakum Stool History	Adonten division of Kumasi
IAS 78	Anyinase Stool History	Oyoko division of Kumasi
IAS 79	Asokore Mampong Stool History	Nifa division of Kumasi
IAS 80	Akumaten Stool History	Kyidom division of Kumasi

ASHANTI COURT RECORDSINTRODUCTORY

The main problem confronting any student who wants to study the history of African states is that of sources. Recently, however, this problem has been greatly reduced in its magnitude by the use of the work of people in such disciplines as ethno-botany, linguistics, ethonology, anthropology, and the last but the most important of all, archaeology. The other principal source is, of course, oral tradition which, according to a recent writer on the subject, includes "formulae including titles and names; poetry; lists including genealogies, tales commentaries, precedents in law"

It has, however, occurred to me from the very little work I have done in connection with the oral traditions of Juaben, that there is yet another very rich source which appears to have been untapped so far. I refer to court proceedings involving state lands and constitutional (enstoolment and destoolment) cases. Litigation over state lands and contested successions have been endemic among many African states. From the few proceedings I have studied so far, it is clear that all the people versed in the traditions and the histories of the states or families involved in the case are called upon by both parties to the dispute to give evidence. As these witnesses are usually numerous, these cases go on for months or years and the proceedings often run into many pages.

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This particular source has many great advantages over the other types of oral literature. First, there are at least two versions of each episode (the Plaintiff's and the Defendant's) and a great deal of argument and cross-examination and the evidence given is usually gone into in great detail. The historian therefore has a great deal of material to play with. Secondly, this particular source can be easily dug up from court records. The third is that the research student has assembled for him the evidence of several witnesses whom he would otherwise have to chase from the town to the village and to the farm. . The last and the most important is that very often most of the key witnesses usually then bowed down with age, wisdom and knowledge are no longer alive and the proceedings thus provide the only key to their usually incredible knowledge of the history and customs of their state.

This source has of course its own pit-falls. The most obvious one is how to separate history concocted for the purpose of that particular case from real traditional history. I suppose, however, that evidence from the cross-examination as well as from the other sources, would enable the careful historian to do this.

A library of proceedings of land and constitutional cases will definitely be of invaluable service to the student of the early history of most African states.<sup>1</sup>

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1. The Institute has begun to collect certified copies of Court Proceedings. See 16 for a list of proceedings held in the Institute's Library.

SUMMARIES OF COURT RECORDS

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Year</u>	
1	1942	Representations to the Chief Commissioner of Ashanti on (a) appeals from the Asantehene's Court in constitutional cases and (b) measures to deal with the increasing incidence of burglary in Kumasi.
2	Undated	Accredited office-holders of the Akwamu functional group (called in the Asantehene's records 'clan')
3	Undated	Accredited office-holders of the Gyase functional group.
4	1955	A Great Oath (the most solemn of Ashanti) case on the grant of Timber Concessions by the chief of Sabronum.
5	1952	A destoolment case involving the chief of Asuonwin: The Asantehene decides that as a general rule a queenmother of a state or any political unit cannot rebel against the chief; that the <u>Abrempong</u> (the major chiefs) under the Asantehene swear allegiance only to him and that therefore he alone is the competent authority to destool such chiefs.
6	1955	An enquiry to determine the rightful successors to Asawuram stool.
7	1955	The settlement of a complaint against the chief about the 'uncustomary' allotment of Ofoase stool lands.
8	1955	The determination of the legitimate chief makers of Mfensi.
9	1937	Arbitration on complaints of the Akwaboahene (of Kumasi and the overlord) against the Mimbene of Ahafo (sub-chief) on mutual rights and duties.

<u>Serial No.</u>	<u>Year</u>	
10.	1955	Bafour Akoto (Okyeame of the Asantehene) and the Kyidomhene, swear the Great Oath of Ashanti in denial of a publication of a Kumasi daily 'The Ashanti Sentinel' alleging a fist fight (taboo) in the Asantehene's palace.
11.	1955	Arbitration on land dispute between the chiefs of Nyinahin and Akrodie.
12.	1948	The Asantehene's decision on the legitimate occupant of the Tuobodom stool.
13.	1957	Customary arrangements for the division of land revenue between some Kumasi chiefs on the one hand and on the other, the Mimhene and some other Ahafo chiefs.
14.	1955	The Asantehene's definition of <u>Saadwere</u> - a decision on the division of cocoa revenue between the chief and the queenmother of Ahwiriwa.
15.	1959	Arbitration on a land dispute between the Ejisuhene and the chief of Krapa.
16.	1952	A Great Oath case over an Atronie-Sunyani land dispute is settled by arbitration.
17.	1932	Enquiry into destoolment charges against the Jasihene.
18.	1930.	Judgment on the overlordship of certain persons.
19.	1940	A Great Oath case over the 'ownership' of Kenyasi No.1 (Ahafo) lands is settled in favour of the chief of Kenyasi No.1 and against the Akwaboahene.
20.	1942	Decision on the payment of, and the division of, tolls between the Ankasihene and the chief of Asekye-Dumasi.

1. Numbers 21 - 40. in this series will appear to the next issue of the "Research Review". - Editor.