

whether it is worth revising. The important developments which have occurred during the past half-dozen years - affecting internal party organization, party-state relationships, inter-party relationships at the international level, ideologies, etc., as well as the emergence of a large number of new parties and the mutation of old (e.g. in the Congo, the Portuguese Territories, Southern Africa, Ethiopia, Algeria, etc.) would make it necessary to write what would amount to a new book. The increasing number of serious studies that have been published dealing with parties and party-systems in particular states would also suggest that what is needed is a new book rather than revision of the old. And I doubt whether I have either the energy or the competence for this.

Thomas Hodgkin

CONTACT WITH FRENCH ANTHROPOLOGISTS

Contact between British and French anthropologists in West African has always been slight and unsustained, partly, one supposes, because of the vast areas of savannah, if not the lagoons, which separate us. But Britain and France lie relatively close to each other, at least geographically, so last December I suddenly decided to fly from London to Paris (at my own expense, which is surely unique in these days of Foundation-sponsored travelling) to meet Dr. Marguerite Dupire, who was readily identifiable at Le Bourget airport by her black Basque beret. Though Dr. Dupire (whose masterpiece Peuls Nomades, 1962, has been rather neglected by Anglophones) is primarily interested in the pastoral Fulani (she happens, indeed, to be on camel back in Niger at the moment of writing), yet during her fifteen year connexion with West Africa she has also worked in the forests of the Ivory Coast and in Fouta Djallon. In 1958 she was studying migrant cocoa farmers in the south-east corner of the Ivory Coast while I was doing something similar in the south-east of Ghana, though we were unaware of this until some years later.

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH REPORTS

However, road communications between the Ivory Coast and Ghana are improving and on May 17th, 1965, Mr. Albert de Surgy, who like Dr. Dupire works with the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris, arrived unexpectedly at the Institute in his small French car from Abidjan, bearing with him three excellent cyclostyled reports on the sea fishermen of the Ivory Coast, which are now deposited in the Institute's Library. The significance of these fishermen, in this connexion, is that they are nearly all Ghanaian (Anlo and Fanti), so that Mr. de Surgy was obliged to migrate over the frontier in pursuit of their homeland. In 1963 he had been investigating the 31 companies of Anlo seine fishermen that are operating on the beaches in the neighbourhood of Abidjan and Grand Bassam; it was in 1963 that I had briefly investigated the Anlo seine fishermen in Keta. My gratitude to Mr. de Surgy is already considerable, for he has kindly permitted me to quote from his unpublished material when undertaking the revision of my article on the Anlo seine fishermen which his arrival necessitated.

Although I greatly enjoyed my brief stay in Paris with Marguerite Dupire (and she was sufficiently encouraged by my enterprise in crossing the channel to venture a similarly unsubsidised visit to myself in Cambridge England - a country she had never hitherto visited), it was disappointing to find that most of the other French West Africanists were away in West Africa. I had hoped, in particular, to meet Mr. Claude Meillassoux whose work on the economic history of trade and markets in Gouro country in the Ivory Coast is of great general interest to those concerned with trade connexions between forest and savannah. Of course Dr. Jean Rouch was not there either (he had left the day before), though fortunately we have all met him from time to time, however fleetingly. Subsequently, I was pleased to hear from Mr. Denis Danset, at present in Niamey, and to receive from him another example of those excellent cyclostyled reports - La Commercialisation du Betail et de la Viande du Niger. As I had been working on livestock marketing and butchers in the forest zone, mainly in Kumasi, as well as on cattle ownership on the Accra plains, our work is distinctly complementary and I was pleased when he suggested a future collaboration.

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH REPORTS

Mr. Claude Meillassoux is, as I was informed in Paris, an economist turned anthropologist and there are other well-known French, though not British, West Africanists who have undergone similar transformation. For this and other reasons the future of economic anthropology undoubtedly lies with the Francophone. There history lies with the Anglophone, for at last there are signs, especially in Ghana, that this grossly neglected subject may soon begin to be established on a proper academic basis.

Geography (and language) apart, one factor explaining our cultural isolation from the French is their practice of confusing books and periodicals. Marguerite Dupire's Planteurs Autochtones et Etrangers en Basse-Cote d'Ivoire Orientale is 232 pages long and is published in Etudes Ebumeennes, Vol.VIII, 1960, a periodical which I have never seen on sale in a bookshop in West Africa or Britain. No price is stated on Vol. VIII and whether it is necessary to subscribe to the whole series in order to buy particular issues I do not know. Then, of course, there is the tradition of publishing huge illustrated volumes, such as Peuls Nomades, as paperbacks: can the need for binding be one reason why the Cambridge University Library, for instance, is so ill-stocked with French-African publications? I conclude by listing some of the publications of the authors I have mentoned, nearly all of which are available in the Institute's Library or in the Balme Library.

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