

The right to use the few emblems, honours, etc., mentioned, has been gathered mostly from Chiefs in the Ashanti-Akim District and must not be read as absolutely accurate, it being possible, if not probable, that they wished to aggrandize their own divisions.

EAST AFRICAN STUDIES

During the Long Vacation three pupils of the Institute will visit Kenya and Tanzania to carry out field work in connection with their M.A. theses. They will be the first pupils of the Institute to have worked in East Africa.

Mr. Charles Darkwah will first visit Mombasa to collect original material for an account of the history of the Mazrui family, who ruled Mombasa as governors appointed by Oman from 1741 to 1837. Some epitaphs in their family cemetery were published by Charles Guillain as long ago as 1856, but it is known that his collection was incomplete.

Mr. G.O. Ekemode is writing a history of the Kilindi Kingdom of Vuga in Northern Tanzania, and will first visit Vuga before proceeding to Dar-es-Salaam to work on German material in the university library there. At Vuga he will meet the hereditary sultan who keeps a pack of hunting dogs who are descended from the pack of hunting dogs founded by the first of the Kilindi dynasty in the early eighteenth century.

Mr. G.A. Akinola will be doing field work in southern Tanzania, visiting Kilwa Kisiwani and Lindi in connection with a history of French trading activities in this area in the eighteenth century. For this he is also using a hitherto unknown collection of French documents I discovered in the French National Archives last year.

I have received permission from the Vice-Chancellor to accept the invitation of Columbia University, New York, to be Visiting Professor of African History for the fall semester, 1965-66.

I shall also give occasional lectures at Indiana, North-Western and other United States universities. I shall not return to Ghana until the end of January. During July I shall work in the Archives of the Augustinian Order and the S. Congregatio de Propaganda Fide in Rome, concerning missionary activity on the eastern African coast during the seventeenth century.

G.S.P. Freeman-Grenville.

RESEARCH ON YAMS

This Department has recently initiated an extensive programme of research on yams (*Dioscorea* spp). The programme is devoted primarily to a study of biochemical problems associated with the deterioration of yams during storage. This involves major economic problems in many West African countries, as the total storage losses throughout the yam zone of West Africa have been estimated at almost a million tons per year.

Other aspects of the use of the yams as food crops are also receiving attention, however, especially the processing involved in their preparation as food. These investigations may be of relevance in connection with the possibility of developing industries to manufacture edible yam products within Ghana. At present, however, these studies are confined to the traditional West African processing methods.

The yams, like many other crops used primarily for local food, were much neglected by research workers during the Colonial Era, and a large, and, it is hoped, fruitful field for research lies open. The yams are of particular interest in the West African matrix, as they are among the very few major food crops indigenous to the area, and it appears likely that their cultivation originated in Ghana or in neighbouring parts of Africa. The writer has already spent some years on work with the yams in other parts of Africa, which experience should be of service in the current research programme.

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