

24. Armitage - Report on Yeji in C.O. African (West) No.538 p. 157.
25. H. Klose - Togo unter deutscher Flagge p. 362.
26. Insp. Parameter - Letter dated March 31 1897 in C.O. African (West) No.529 p.206.
27. Tomlinson, op. cit.
28. Al-Hajj Umar: - Poem on the causes of the Civil War IASAR/27.
29. G.E. Ferguson - Letter to Adjutant in C7917 of 1896.
30. G.E. Ferguson. - Memorandum of interview at Salaga in 1892, in C.O. African (West) No.497 of 1895. "The king of Gonja died about a year ago, and there is anarchy in the country. The kings of Kosoo, Gun and Boniape were claimants to the stool".

Marion Johnson.

### SIERRA LEONE ARCHAEOLOGY

In February and March 1966, I conducted a short survey of the archaeology of Sierra Leone. This was sponsored by the Institute of African Studies, Fourah Bay College, with the kind support of the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Labour, the main purpose being to discover whether the archaeological potential of the country was sufficient to warrant, or demand, the appointment of a Research Fellow in Archaeology.

It is surprising that so little work has been done there. The miniature Museum is continuously crowded with people anxious to know of their cultural heritage; and in addition to its variegated recent material culture,

Sierra Leone possesses medieval remains of the greatest attraction. For example, unbroken beakers, well designed and modelled in thin earthenware, the famous steatite carvings (nomoli), stone maceheads and brass bracelets, can now be ascribed to this period, to a culture which declined in the sixteenth century.

I saw much of the southern half of the country, from the lower reaches of the Scarries to the creeks of the Sherbro, and inland as far as Kono, but was unable to go north to Kabala and Falaba, nor to examine the gold-rich banks of the Pampana River - two areas which I would expect to be of great interest. The survey was very profitable. One site must be classed amongst the most important in Atlantic Africa. This is Baka ( $8^{\circ} 29.6'N$ ;  $13^{\circ} 4.6' W$ ), situated in a dominant spot on the estuary of the Rokel (Sierra Leone) River. It is almost certainly the Manguy described by Valentim Fernandes in 1507 as the largest settlement in the area, and in addition to locally-made pottery and stone objects it yielded very early European imports including the oldest tobacco-pipe I have yet found, an English or Dutch clay of 1590-1600, and a glazed handle, probably of the sixteenth century. A short and inexpensive excavation here would not only reveal the cultural effects of early trade with Europe, but would also provide dating evidence which could be extrapolated up-country, and perhaps even as far as the ancient Mali capital near Bamako. Neither in Ghana nor Nigeria, nor indeed in any country between Morocco and Mozambique, is there any site known of similar promise.

This site aside, there was still sufficient material to make the tour worth while, ranging from the cultures transitional between the stone and iron ages to that of the early settlers of the colony. What struck me most, in both ancient and modern culture, was that although there are very great differences between Sierra Leone and Ghana, there are also strong similarities. Indeed, the very contrasts make it easier to understand some aspects of the history of Ghana. There can be no doubt that in three or four years time when an archaeologist has been appointed in Sierra Leone and has had time to do a little field-work, our knowledge of the cultural development of West Africa will be significantly greater.

A copy of my report, apart from some appendices, will be lodged in the Institute library; a major part of it, an essay on the iron age in Sierra

Leone, will be published as soon as possible in the journal Sierra Leone Studies.

I wish to thank Professors J.H. Nketia and I.G. Wilks, and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, for allowing me to be absent during term; and to express my gratitude to Mr. M. Crowder and Mr. J. Hyde of the Institute of African Studies, Fourah Bay College, as the most instrumental of the many who made my work possible, successful, and extremely enjoyable.

Paul Ozanne.

### COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE VOLTA-COMOE LANGUAGES

Both WESTERMANN AND BRYAN and GREENBERG recognise the genetic unity of a group of languages which they call Akan and which includes Akan (Twi-Fante), Anyi-Bawule, Nzema, Ahanta and the Guan languages. On the advice of my colleagues in Ghana I now call this group Volta-Comoe in order to avoid confusion with the Akan (Twi-Fante) language.

I have for many years been interested in the comparison of Akan (Twi-Fante) with other languages of the Western Sudanic (Niger-Congo) family.<sup>1</sup> At an early stage I sought regular sound correspondences between the Akuapem Twi dialect of Akan, on which a vast amount of material was available in CHRISTALLER'S Dictionary of the Asante and Fante language called Twi, and the Common Bantu worked out by GUTHRIE from the Languages of the Bantu group. The Bantu group was the only one within the Western Sudanic family for which an overall system of sound correspondences and a list of starred forms had been established, and I had the privilege of access to GUTHRIE'S 'Index of Common Bantu starred forms'

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1. See J.H. GREENBERG, Languages of Africa (Mouton, The Hague 1963).