

# RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

## PLANNED AND CURRENT PROJECTS OF THE FELLOWS OF THE INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES

Dr. Afari Gyan is conducting research on:

- i) Political representation in Ghana from the inception of the Legislative Council Research involves the collection of basic data about Ghana's political representatives at the national level in respect of age, duration of office, education and professional qualifications.

- ii) Forms of political instability in Ghana since 1952. Involves identification and explanation of causes and factors.

Dr. Kofi Emmeleh Agovi's research interests are in the areas of African Literature and drama. Present research is concentrated on the following:

- a) African Oral Literature, principally of the Nzema people. Involves the collection of literary texts, clan diriges of the Nzema, riddles and installation texts.

- b) African Written Literature. Under this, two projects are envisaged: A history of creative writing in Ghana - 1920-78 and (ii) African poetry and its ancestry.

- c) African Drama.

Three projects are currently underway -

- i) History of theatre performances in Ghana, 1920-60.

- ii) Theatre and politics in Africa.

- iii) The concept of tragedy in festival drama.

Dr. K. Ampom Darkwa is putting together research materials collected over the years. He is also conducting research on the traditional education of the child. This project aims to document the codes

of conduct of traditional professional groups, and how they nurture, train, educate and hand over their professions to the succeeding generation. The institutional elements of the professions - stated objectives, behavioural patterns, symbols and emblems, utilitarian cultural objects, oral and written traditions - are examined in relation to the education of children. Interviewing involves both parents and children.

Prof. Kwame Arhin is

- i) currently editing I.A.S. publication *The Life and Work of Kwame Nkrumah*.

- ii) writing up research on *Mohe: the Biography of Krobo Edusei*, a CPP Regional Boss.

- iii) engaged in research with Ms. Karen Legge (University of Liverpool), in Anansie (Bekwai) District of Ashanti on *The Political Economy of Modern Chieftaincy*.

- iv) with Ms. W.J. Donkor (Department of General and African Studies, UST, Kumasi) doing research on *Akan Palace Organisation with particular reference to Kumasi: Towards the study of patrimonialism in West Africa*.

- v) conducting documentary research with Aggrey-Fynn, National Serviceman, on *The Era of Primitive Accumulation in Ghana*.

- vi) ongoing literary and field research: *The Social Framework of Economic Development: the Measurement of commitment to Development: Fieldwork, Balsa District*.

Prof. Kofi Asare-Opoku has the following projects:

- i) Research on Akan Clans - brings together oral and written information on the Akan clans.
- ii) **Denuah and the Afrikania Mission: the man and his message.** This is a study of the life of the founder of the Afrikania Mission and the Mission itself, its ideological origins, its teaching and impact on contemporary Ghanaian society.
- iii) **Profile of a Ghanaian Prophet: Yeboah-Koree and the Feden Church.**
- iv) Research to update material contained Opoku, 1978. **West African Traditional Religion.**

Dr. A.K. Auedoba is conducting research into various aspects of some Upper Eastern Ghanaian Societies, principally the Kasena-Nankana and the Kusasi. Research embraces kinship networks, economics, markets and exchange, marriage, funerary practices, linguistics and political relations. At the moment, he is helping the Kasem Department of the School of Ghana Languages to produce informative material on the grammar and phonology of the Kasem language. He envisages participating in collaborative research with the Kasem Department of the School of Ghana Languages on Kasena-Nankana history, culture and society.

Dr. K.N. Bame is conducting research in the following areas:

- i) The sociology of the military in Africa - a study of the role of the military in political change, social development, social mobility etc. in Africa.
- ii) Folk media and development: research into the use of folk media to facilitate the acceptance of development ideas in rural and urban Ghana.
- iii) A study of the social background of a cohort of Ghanaian University students and its relationship to their academic career at the University.
- iv) A study of traditional education in Ghana. This will attempt a detailed description and analysis of the content

and methods of Ghanaian indigenous education.

Mr. E.Q. Blavo, Administrative Secretary of the Institute, is conducting research on:

- i) the development and organization of social services in Ghana (with Mrs. Nana Apt Van Ham of the Sociology Department).
- ii) new religious movements in Ghana: their impact on society (also with Mrs. Van Ham).
- iii) towards a Ph.D. dissertation: the problems of refugees in Africa: a challenge to social policies in African countries.

Dr. G.P. Hagan's general research interests are in the fields of African philosophy, society and culture. He has some major publications in the pipeline on

- i) Elements of African philosophy.
- ii) Three systems of health delivery in Ghana.
- iii) Wealth, popular following and political power.
- iv) Dramatic elements in African ritual form.
- v) He envisages a detailed, empirical study over a five-year period of the Swedru District of the Central Region of Ghana since its formation for an analysis of the problems of culture and development. The possible themes include ecology and geography, ethnic composition, settlement and population distribution patterns, social and physical infrastructure, economic activities, education, traditional political structures, religious activities, festivals and other celebrations, law and criminality, income and expenditure levels, women's roles.

Prof. M.E. Kropp Dakubu's current research is organised around 3 main areas as follows:

- i) A Dangme-English Dictionary Project well under way. She expects to have a trial edition by autumn 1988.

ii) The Sociolinguistics of Accra, from a historical point of view. She expects to write a book in 1988-89 involving aspects of language and communication patterns among migrants from Northern Ghana, and the history of Hausa in Ghana. She also expects to revise *Ga-English Dictionary*, and write on Ga syntax.

iii) Dagaare Language Studies. This involves publications on introductory phonology and grammar, analysis of tales in Dagaare and a project on the Dagaare xylophone in relation to its language and its literature.

**Ms. Takylwa Maruh's** research interests are on Ghanaian women and analyses of their roles in society, culture, the economy, religion and politics. Current research is on

i) Women and socio-economic change in Ada. This involves an analysis of the changes in productive, familial and other roles for women following on the ecological and other developments around the Ada Songor lagoon.

ii) An analytical bibliography on women in Ghana, with Dr. Elizabeth Ardayfio Schandorf (Department of Geography, University of Ghana) and Mrs. Kate Kwafu-Akoto (RIPS, University of Ghana). Involves the compilation from archival, library, Governmental and other sources of materials on or about Ghanaian women from the pre-colonial period to the present.

iii) With Dr. Ardayfio-Schandorf, 'Gender and access to control over land in Ghana'.

iv) Project on 'Madam Sophia Doku, Mother of the Party'. This is a study of the life of first ten CPP women parliamentarians during the 1st Republic (1957-1966).

**Dr. Irene Odotei** is currently engaged in updating the following research materials on the Ga for publication:

i) A History of the Ga - 1600-1850. Includes papers on the economy, political changes, religion and historical

influences on Ga society and culture.

ii) Annotated translations of Danish authors on the Ga not available in English, such as Rømer, Bjørn and Monrad.

iii) Publication of collections of oral traditions of the Ga-speaking people.

**Mr. Atukwei Okai's** present research is organised around four main areas:

i) Modern African Literature: a series of publications and essays is envisaged.

ii) Children's Literature: continuing research into literature for Ghanaian children, towards the writing and preparation for publication of textbooks of children's verses.

iii) Publishing and Literature. This involves research into the connection between the practices and conditions of the publishing industry and its impact on African literature, and the publication of critical essays on the theme.

iv) Ghanaian Literature Anthologies. This involves research and compilation towards the production of anthologies of Ghanaian poems and short stories.

**Dr. Ousu-Brempong** is engaged in research in folklore methodology and techniques. He plans research on

i) Queen Mothers in Akan Societies, with Professor Beverly Stalltje (Indiana University, USA).

ii) Chieftaincy Problems of the Techiman Traditional Area.

iii) Research into narrative genres in Ghanaian societies, such as folktales, riddles, jokes, personal experience stories, poetic insults and other neglected genres, through collections of folktales from each region in Ghana.

iv) Collection of materials on festivals and celebrations among the Bono-Ahafo peoples of Ghana and on food ways.

**Mr. S.S. Quarcoopome** plans to initiate research projects into the origins and development of the socio-political institutions of the Ga-speaking peoples of Ga Mashie, Osu, Labadi, Teshie, Nungua and Tema, through the collection, examination and documentation of oral traditions, archival sources etc. In

addition there will be comparative studies of similar or analogous institutions of contiguous ethnic groups like the Adangmes and Akans. The ultimate purpose would be the publication of a comprehensive handbook and a history of the Ga-speaking people from about 1850.

Mrs. Brigid Sackey is currently researching into:

- i) the involvement and participation of women in spiritual churches in Ghana.
- ii) the church of 'Nyameson Pa' (Ekwem) revisited.
- iii) Traditional interpretations and treatment of certain childhood maladies e.g. bed-wetting, whooping cough, mumps.
- iv) Housemaids as agents of witchcraft.

Mrs. Esi Sutherland-Addy

- i) is currently engaged in writing up teaching manuals to accompany *Kyeame Akuffo* and *Ephraim Amu* video packages.
- ii) envisages commencement of research on individualism in traditional tale telling. The project will examine the influence of factors such as age, sex, domicile, personality/disposition and class on the telling of tales. Arising from this is a possible video production on the art of story telling and a seminar on the topic.

#### ANNUAL TALBOT PRIZE FOR AFRICAN ANTHROPOLOGY 1988

The Annuary Talbot prize, which is awarded annually and which in 1988 will amount to approximately £570 will be awarded to the author or authors of the work which, in the opinion of the Judges, is the most valuable of the works of anthropological research relating to Africa which are submitted in the competition.

Only works published during the calendar year 1988 are eligible for the award. Preference will be given to works relating

in the first place to Nigeria, and in the second place to any other part of West Africa or to West Africa in general. Works relating to other regions of Africa are, however, eligible.

All applications, together with two copies of the book, articles, or work in question, to be received by the 31st January, 1989 by the Trustees: Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited, Trust Management Office, P.O. Box No.27, Octagon House, Gadbrook Park, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 7RE, England. Please quote reference number 61/888. Entries will not be returned to candidates but will be at the disposal of the Judges.

#### NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

KLEVOR ABO is a Principal Research Assistant at the Institute of African Studies, Conducting research on African Music.

KOFI ERMELEN AGOVI is Senior Research Fellow in the Institute of African Studies, specializing in Drama and Literature.

KWASI ANYEMEDU is a Lecturer in the Department of Economics, University of Ghana. He has an abiding interest in economic policy.

KWAME ARHIN is Professor and Director of the Institute of African Studies. His research is in the area of Economic Anthropology.

ALBERT KANLISI AWEDOKA is an anthropologist and a Research Fellow in the Institute of African Studies.

GEORGE BENNEH is Professor and Head of the Department of Geography, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana.

MARY ESTHER KROPP DAKUSU is Professor and Deputy Director of the Institute of African Studies, specializing in Linguistics.

TAKYIWAA MANUH is a Research Fellow in the Institute of African Studies, specializing in Women's Studies.