

Notes and News

Awards of Field Research Fellowships and Grants

THE Institute has awarded a field research fellowship to:

Mr. George Kingsley Garbett (University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland), for a two-year study of the social structure of the Korekore people of the Zambezi Valley, Southern Rhodesia.

In addition, grants have been awarded to:

M. Jean Gauthier (University of Bordeaux), for a year's field study of the social organization of the Fali of N'Gutchumi, Cameroun.

M. Pierre-Francis Lacroix (École Nationale des Langues Orientales Vivantes, Paris), for a period of six months among the Fulbe of Adamawa, to complete his earlier researches into the social and political organization of this people.

Nana Kobina Nketsia IV, D.Phil. (University of Oxford), for a year's field study on the effect of missionary activities on Akan institutions from 1916 onwards.

Dr. Erika Sulzmann (Institut für Völkerkunde der Universität Mainz), for a six-month field study of the social and political organization of the Bolia, Province de Léopoldville, Belgian Congo.

*The Study of Migrations in West Africa*¹

THE CCTA/CSA Secretariat has recently distributed the text of the report by Dr. Jean Rouch, scientific director of their Joint Project No. 3, on West African migrations into the Ivory Coast, Ghana, and Togo. The object of the survey was to make a comparative study of migratory movements in these territories.

The survey was divided into three main sections: (1) Ivory Coast: A study of the migratory movement at the Bouaké bus and railway stations and a sociological survey of the town of Bouaké, both as a centre of attraction and as a transit centre for migrants. (2) Ghana: Studies of the character and scale of movements at points where the migrants must cross the River Volta—Yeji, Bamboi, Otsu, and Bouipé ferries—and a sociological survey of the town of Kumasi, both as a centre of attraction and for dispersal of migrants. (3) Togo: A study of migratory movements from east to west and north to south, following the Dahomey-Togo road and moving towards the coastal areas of Ghana.

The general aim of these surveys was to investigate, in all its aspects, a migratory phenomenon which affects a large part of West Africa and results every year in the movement of several hundred thousands of active men towards areas where they seek employment. This movement is accompanied by an economic activity which, while not as a rule subject to any control, nevertheless represents a dispersed but substantial trade. The survey had a two-fold character: quantitative, by means of sampling the composition of the migratory movements towards the coastal areas; and qualitative, by means of interviews, concerning certain aspects of the migratory movement that could not be covered by systematic questionnaires.

The organization of the work was as follows:

1. A systematic sample census and brief questionnaire of migrants passing through Bouaké, using the Volta River ferries, or passing through the Togo frontier posts.

¹ See *Africa*, April 1958, pp. 156-9.

Experience obtained in the course of the survey, undertaken since the middle of November 1957 at Bouaké, had brought out the difficulties of the systematic interrogation of travellers passing at a given point, and in January 1958 a number of participants in the inquiry held a meeting in Bouaké. It appeared in particular that it was essential that travellers should be questioned by interviewers speaking their own language, in order to avoid having recourse to more or less voluntary interpreters, who distorted both the questions and the answers. It was also decided to base the sample on time periods, that is, the systematic interrogation of all travellers passing in a given direction in the course of one half-day out of four. Interviewers were chosen from ethnic groups that were as far as possible representative of the migrant populations: natives of Volta, Niger, Togo, Dahomey, or the Sudan. In Ghana interviewers were stationed at the two main crossing-points, the Yeji and the Bamboi (12 interviewers at Yeji and 2 at Bamboi). In Togo interviewers were stationed at the various frontier posts of Southern Togo. The questionnaires used were the same at each check-point: general questionnaires comprising, both for arrivals and departures, 26 questions grouped on the same sheet, covering 25 travellers; and exhaustive questionnaires, which were felt to be necessary at Bouaké, on the Volta ferries, and at the Togo frontier posts. For incoming migrants these questionnaires covered the activities of the migrant during his stay in the country, details of his journey, the motives which led him to choose a particular place of residence, employment, and employer in the coastal area. On departure the questionnaires covered the way of life of the migrant in the coastal areas, the amount of time spent in these areas, the reasons for returning to his native country, and the economic basis of his stay. Finally, in the course of the year, a certain number of questionnaires, phrased in very general terms, were tried, using a tape recorder. These were taken down in the vernacular, then transcribed into French by the interviewer, and their analysis enabled a new plan for later interrogations to be drawn up.

2. Surveys on the cattle trade towards the Ivory Coast and Ghana.

Since the beginning of November 1957, a systematic check on cattle passing through Bouaké, on foot and by lorry or railway, enabled systematic questionnaires to be drawn up for use in both the Ivory Coast and Ghana. These were of two types: general questionnaires providing information on ethnic origin; district of origin, place of residence of the owner of the herd, of the dealers and herdsmen; the market origin of the herd; ethnic group of the original seller and purchase price per head; itineraries followed on foot, by lorry, and by train; incidents in the course of the journey; wages of herdsmen; final market in the coastal areas; ethnic group of the usual buyers in that area; the selling price it was hoped to receive; exhaustive questionnaires, designed for the cattle-dealer, giving more accurate information on his previous or other occupation.

3. Survey on the fish trade.

From April 1958 the trade in dried and smoked fish passing through Bouaké was investigated. This fish, which comes in general from the Mopti area, passes in transit through the Bouaké fish market, making it easy to check. A probably more important volume of trade in fish occurs in the coastal regions of Ghana. From December 1958 a systematic check, comparable to that undertaken at Bouaké, was carried out in the Kumasi fish market, which is the main distribution centre in Ghana for dried and smoked fish from both the Mopti and the Niamey areas. Finally, a rapid check was made by interviewers at the Togo frontier on fish from the Niamey area on its way to Accra. The questionnaire showed the type of freight (smoked, dried fish, size, species, number of boxes, weight, and cost of transport); the ethnic group, the district of origin, and the frequency of the dealer's journeys; the place of purchase, the ethnic group of the original seller, and the purchase price; the place of sale and the selling price it was hoped to obtain.

4. Survey of the kola and foodstuffs trade.

All interviewers, in the Ivory Coast, Ghana, or Togo, in addition to travellers' questionnaires, completed general questionnaires dealing with the loads on lorries passing through the road service stations, on ferries or at frontier posts (rail traffic was checked directly by the railway statistical department). The questionnaire gave information on the type of load, on the categories of goods carried and their weight; the ethnic group and the place of origin of the trader; the frequency of his journeys; the place of purchase and the ethnic group of the original seller and the purchase price; the place of sale; the cost of carriage.

5. Urban sociological surveys.

The qualitative surveys of the urban centres of Bouaké and Kumasi, in view of their particular importance for the migratory movement, covered the following main points: the development of the town; arrival and reception of migrants; the occupation of particular districts by different ethnic groups, and the social organization of migrant communities; a systematic survey of markets, of stallholders and hawkers; relationships between the various communities; religious organizations and political life among foreign communities.

The survey in the Ivory Coast is now practically complete. In Abidjan itself, a supplementary survey is being undertaken on 'hawkers and stallholders', to enable a comparison to be made with a similar survey undertaken two years ago. Certain additional surveys are also being undertaken on groups of young foreign immigrants and on the problems of intermarriage between young foreigners and native girls. Finally, in agreement with the Ministry for Public Works and SETAT, a survey is shortly to be undertaken on the problems of urbanization at Abidjan.

All the surveys are at present being analysed in Abidjan, where a coding office has been operating since April 1959. This coding should be completed by October or November 1959; the punching of the corresponding cards and the mechanical analysis of these cards will produce the first tables at the beginning of 1960. Thus, the main results of the inquiry will be at the disposal of the participating specialists, who are expected to attend a Seminar to be organized by CCTA/CSA in the first part of 1960 to discuss the writing of a joint report on the problem of migration in this part of West Africa.

Recherches de l'Institut d'Études Centrafricaines

LE chercheur titulaire de la sous-section ethno-sociologie, M. Soret, a consacré une grande partie de son temps pendant 1957-8 à regrouper la documentation nécessaire à la publication de la Carte Ethnique de l'A.É.F. au 1 : 1.000.000. A la demande du Gouvernement de l'Oubangui, M. Soret a utilisé la documentation qu'il possède pour aborder l'établissement d'une carte démographique du Territoire par canton. La rédaction de l'étude sur les Kongo Nord-Occidentaux, destinée à la collection des *Monographies Ethnologiques Africaines*, patronnée par l'Institut International Africain, a aussi été achevée.

Les travaux en cours que M. Soret va poursuivre en 1958-9 sont les suivants: la poursuite de la publication des feuilles de la carte ethnique; l'achèvement de la carte démographique de l'Oubangui; satisfaction aux diverses demandes faites par l'Inspection générale du Travail dans le cadre des programmes de collaboration entre l'I.É.C. et l'I.G.T. pour la période 1957-61, c'est-à-dire, (a) recensement des travailleurs sans emploi à Brazzaville et ventilation de leurs effectifs selon les critères de la perte d'emploi, (b) enquête sur l'utilisation des disponibilités financières provenant des prestations familiales pour les travailleurs urbains et ceux des entreprises de brousse, (c) enquête socio-économique sur l'artisanat traditionnel et moderne dans les régions actives du Moyen-Congo, (d) enquête socio-économique sur la structure des budgets des travailleurs en milieu urbain et non urbain selon le niveau social et selon que le travailleur est, ou non, originaire de la région dans laquelle il travaille, (e) enquête ethnologique sur les systèmes éducatifs comparés