# Ghana Studies Council Newsletter

Issue 15

## Outgoing Chair's Remarks

By David Owusu-Ansah

am very thankful to all of our members who supported me to ■ make the past five years of chairship fulfilling. I am particularly pleased that Jean Allman and Larry Yarak made themselves available to me in close collaboration to coordinate Ghana Studies Council activities. Those of you who gave your time to organize the various GSC conference panels in the past five years certainly enriched our organization. Akosua Adomako-Ampofo and Rebecca Laumann's 2000 travel grants made it possible for presenters from Ghana to participate in GSC panel activities at no or minimum financial cost to them.

David Killingray's representation of GSC (Europe) and the smooth manner he transferred activities to Paul Nugent need mentioning. Baffour Takyi, Ray Silverman, Dennis Laumann, and again Larry Yarak and Jean Allman helped in the distribution of our newsletters. At James Madison University, Dr. Michael Galgano (Chair of the Department) History made department resources available to me in the production of Ghana Studies Council newsletters. He also recognized my work for Ghana Studies Council in his annual reports to the college. For four years, Ms. Jackie Ciccone of the Office of International Programs **Summer 2002** 

made sure that GSC bulk newsletters mailing to our European representatives reached them at no cost to Ghana Studies Council. Lastly, I must thank all of our members for the support and continued participation in this organization to make it one of the most active affiliates of the African Studies Association.

Ray Kea, our in-coming president, should be able to count on us all. Ray will preside over the GSC annual meeting at the December 5-8 2002 African Studies Association Conference in Washington DC. Please make an effort to attend.

## Remarks by Incoming President

Ray Kea

s the incoming president of the Ghana Studies Council I hope that I shall be able to maintain the high standards set by the out-going president Dr. David Owusu-Ansah. On behalf of the membership of the Ghana Studies Council I would like to thank him for his steadfast and dedicated service to the Council. I shall do my best to follow in his footsteps (and those of the Council's pervious presidents, Professors Ray Silverman and Professor Jean Allman).

I would like to remind members that the Council is sponsoring two panels at the December African Studies Association (ASA) conference. They are (1) "Chieftaincy in Ghana: Traditional Roles and Modern Expectations" (organized by Dr. Benjamin Lawrence) and (2) "Ghanaian Universities in the 21st Century-Challenges and Potentials" (organized by Professor Takyiwaah Manuh). It is not too early to begin thinking about possible panels for the 2003 ASA meeting. Let's continue to be a presence there!

## Takyiwaa Manuh and Lynne Brydon to Edit GHANA STUDIES

By Larry Yarak, Outgoing Editor of *Ghana Studies* 

Takyiwaa Manuh and Lynne Brydon will be assuming joint editorial duties of editor of *Ghana Studies*, effective with the preparation and publication of volume 6 (2003). The outgoing editor and editorial board are confident that the new editorial team will continue the tradition we have established of publishing high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarship in all fields relating to Ghana.

Volume 5 (2002) is currently in active preparation and will appear in the fall. It will include a special section on Education in Ghana, under the guest editorship of Akosua Adomako Ampofo,

with papers by Francis Agbodeka, Mansah Prah, Kwasi Ansu-Kyeremeh, David Owusu-Ansah, and Akosua Adomako Ampofo. Additional papers on diverse topics will round out the issue.

As the outgoing editor, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the many contributors to our journal, to the editorial board, and especially to the anonymous manuscript reviewers who have volunteered so much of their time and effort to ensure that we publish scholarship of the highest quality. Together we have created a lively academic journal that has both significantly advanced the state of the art in Ghana studies and served as a model for others. Thank you!

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## Belated Congratulations to Tom McCaskie! The First Chair in Asante History

ur own Thomas McCaskie was promoted to University Chair Professor of Asante History at the Center of West African Studies at the University of Birmingham, UK. This is in recognition of Tom's long and outstanding research publications in Asante history. His History and modernity in an African village 1850-1950 (Edinburgh University Press, 2000; and Indiana University Press, 2001) has received excellent reviews. Congratulations Tom!

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## Remembering Dan

The death of *Daniel Arthur Britz* on 6 May, 2002, greatly

shocked all who knew him. He is famed both nationally and internationally as an Africana bibliographer, and others of his colleagues will be addressing themselves to these professional skills. But Dan was also an exceptionally warm and caring person whose modesty concealed strongly held beliefs about what was right and what was wrong, what distinguished about acceptable from unacceptable conduct.

I came to Northwestern in 1981, a very green and very nervous graduate student. By then Dan was already on his way to becoming a legend. I was immediately told about this extraordinary individual who had already devoted himself for years to the Africana collection, and this at a time before the building of the new library. The books, I was assured, were at that time for the most part housed in one single room. For lack of space many of them had long ceased to be shelved, but were stacked in piles from floor to ceiling. To obtain a book there was, apparently, little point in consulting the catalogue. One simply asked Dan, who knew exactly where the book in question was, and would quite often have to take one pile to bits, expose the one behind it, and skilfully extract the desired item from its position, say, 24th from the bottom! I wondered whether I would be likely to encounter the fabled Dan in the course of my progress through graduate school.

I did! It was soon after my arrival at Northwestern that I searched the library s formidable catalogue system to locate a book on John Rowe s reading list. Many will recollect the huge red tomes that contained references not to be

found in either the older card catalogue or the newly installed computer system. Despite this embarras de richesses, I could not find the item in question. With considerable trepidation I tapped on the open door of an office. "Yes?" The voice, obviously a male one, came from behind a towering stack of files and papers precariously balanced, so at least it seemed to me, on a desk. I explained my problem, and gave the name of the book. A well built figure slowly emerged into view, smiled, and said that I should follow him. He guided me through one stack after another, and from one shelf immediately pulled the desired volume. And so I first met Dan.

As I completed course after course, and came to write my dissertation, I came to rely more and more on Dan s photographic memory not only for locating items but more importantly, for calling my attention to printed and archival sources of which I would otherwise have remained ignorant. My experience was one replicated by virtually all my peers in Northwestern s Program of African Studies. It was not, however, only the graduate students who regularly profited from Dan s expertise, but also undergraduates, faculty, and visiting scholars. Itinerant scholars, too, who took Northwestern in as part of their grand tours of America, received a warm if somewhat shy welcome from Dan... and unstinting help. Yes, Dan had a natural shyness that was an aspect of his modesty. I think I am right in saying that it was my cohort of graduate students that gently coaxed Dan into joining us for the shindig that came to be known, rather irreverently, as "Friday Night Prayers." These were extraordinarily stimulating sessions at which ideas were exchanged and

tossed backwards and forwards, the whole proceedings much facilitated by the moderate (and sometimes not quite so moderate) amounts of alcohol that were consumed. They were both joyous and relaxed gatherings. Dan would usually find himself ensconced at the head of the table. With a much-loved scotch in hand, and a twinkle in his eye, he would play devil s advocate and disconcert us all.

Dan was devoted to Ghana. He had spent three years there with the U.S. Foreign Service, and later returned there to carry out research on Anlo elites. He retained close contact with Ghanaian friends to the end of his life. They too will mourn his passing. Sometimes Dan would give voice to a dream. One day, he said, he would retire to Ghana and open a bar there. Ghanaian highlife music from the classical 1950s and 1960s would be played, Cuban cigar smoke would hang in the air, and lovers from all the races of the world would make their trysts. Perhaps Dan had in mind a place of the sort we all know Rick ran in Casablanca. Sadly, Dan will never be able to explore his dream.

Dan and Ivor Wilks had a friendship that extended back to 1967. Friday Prayers were sometimes enlivened by Dan's attacks on Ivor for being an Asante nationalist, and Ivor s response, that Dan's Anlo had in fact been among the closest allies of the Asante. In 1992 Dan came to stay with Ivor and I at our home in West Wales. It was a somewhat emotional journey for Dan, because Wales was the birthplace of his father. But Dan was amazed and delighted to hear the old Welsh language spoken everywhere in our locality. We took him to the Royal Welsh Show, and he trudged happily through its enormous grounds. Munching countless lambburgers, he watched sheep and horses being judged, trees being felled, stone walls being built, sheepdogs being put through their paces, and so forth. Dan returned to Evanston and thenceforth the Welsh national flag, the Welsh Dragon, hung proudly in his office. Asa Welsh patriot, Ivor commented rather sorely that it was surrounded, incongruously, by portraits of Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, Prince Charles, and Princess Diana. The last, however, lost her place in Dan s pantheon when she and Charles divorced. It was not so much that Dan was opposed to divorce, but rather that he had a high regard for marriage. All the more strange that so eminently loveable a man should not have married. He liked and loved women, but never met the one that measured up to his requirements. His requirements? He wanted someone who would give him wonderful care, but would make no attempt to change him.

Those of us privileged to have known Dan, and to have loved him, would not have wished him much changed. No one can ever quite replace him for us.

Nancy Lawler

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Minutes of the Ghana Studies Council Meeting – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2001

## Chair/President: David Owusu-Ansah

Minutes taken and typed by Kathryn Geurts, California State University

### **Announcements:**

- 1. Minutes from last year's meeting were approved.
- 2. Financial information.
- \$2271.22 currently in Ghana Studies Council (USA) account.
- The new account for GSC (established March 2001) is now located at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.
- The new account was opened with \$1589.96 from the old University of Minnesota account, and with \$505 from the old UK account.
- Since April, income into the account has totaled \$305.00.
- Expenditures have included \$128.74 for reproduction and posting of the newsletter.

#### **Discussion Items:**

Issue of making sure that those who research in Ghana make published results available to institutions in Ghana.

- The suggestion to establish a clearinghouse to which all published papers or offprint of such publications for which research was conducted in Ghana could be sent and then distributed was discussed. It was agreed that Ghana Studies Council should not take on this added responsibility. Instead, recommended that individuals continue sending their own reprints and copies directly to various the institutions.
- Jean Allman listed the major institutions that should receive copies: Balme Library, Institute of African Studies, National Archives in Accra, Padmore Library (the official national library),

In particular, Legon is in need of science and public health books. Also, things missing at the Balme library are Drum magazine, many issues of The Graphic, and much of the Parliamentary record.

Jean Allman promised to carry her investigation further on how to get bulk mail of books shipped to Ghanaian institutions at reasonable costs. (Any new information received will be made available to members at a later date.

#### **Renewals of GSC Dues**

• The meeting agreed to a January – December dues paying cycle. To ensure that the year's dues are paid on time and by all members, Ghana Studies Council will mail dues request letter to members early in the year and independent of the newsletter

## Status of the journal Ghana Studies

- Larry Yarak (Editor of *Ghana Studies*) reported that 3 volumes have appeared so far. Volume 4 is currently at the printers, and will be available in December.
- At next year's ASA there will be single issues available for purchase.
- A proposal was made to link membership in the Ghana Studies Council with subscription to the journal Ghana Studies.
- Members will pay U.S. \$30 per year to be members of the Ghana Studies Council and with the membership will automatically receive a subscription to the journal.
- Student rate will increase from \$5 to \$15 annual membership for same reason

• Memberships will be solicited annually in January.

The proposal regarding changes made to combine association dues and journal subscription was approved unanimously.

## Rotation of Chair of the Ghana Studies Council.

- Discussion concerning term of office for Ghana Studies Council chairship: Current chair David Owusu-Ansah (in his fourth year of chairship) suggested that the 5 year term of chairship be amended to make the position more attractive to members.
- Duties of the chair:
- -- Develop the conference agenda.
- -- In February, reminds the African Studies Association Secretariat of Ghana Studies Council panels (2 panels allowed).
- -- Follows through in March by submitting the actual panel proposals to ASA (much support is usually needed from panel chairs and organizer. GSC chair, in many cases, engages in several contacts with members to get proposals ready.)
- -- Checks ASA provisional programs to ensure that GSC panels are actually listed and make sure that, presenters have paid ASA membership and conference registration fees.
- -- Keeps GSC lists updated, such as email lists and membership information.
- -- Puts together and send out the newsletter to a membership of approximately 300 people
- -- A Motion was made that future president/chairs serve 3 years total. The first year will overlap with the final year of

the out-going chair so that it is a year-in-training. In the third year, the chair will have a newly elected chair-pro-tem who will assume some initial responsibilities (during his/her year-in-training).

 Motion concerning the chairship unanimously approved.

## Nominations for Chair or President-pro-term

- Akosua Perbi (Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana); she declined.
- Francis Dodoo (University of Maryland); he was unavailable.
- Ray Kea (University of California, Riverside); he accepted.
- Ray Kea (Professor of History, University of California Riverside) was approved unanimously as new Chair or President-Elect.

# Discussion of 2002 GSC panels for the African Studies Association.

It was proposed that no specific panel should be accepted as yet until the panels are actually formed and panel members have submitted the abstracts ready to be forwarded to the ASA Secretariat by the Chair of GSC. The Chair of GSC will submit the first two panels for which full information is received by the deadline to ASA. *This proposal was approved*.

The following panel titles were suggested. (Please, look at the list; if you are interested in any of these, make sure that you make the necessary contacts and get your abstract ready.) As you put together your panels, please be

informed that Ghana Studies Council does not have funds to bring participants from overseas. Presenters will foot their own bills. On the other hand, if you want to write proposals to seek travel grants from institutions and funding agencies, Ghana Studies Council will be ready to provide cover letters.

- The University in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Specifically focused on issues faced by higher education. Takyiwaa Manuh will work on this. Contact Takyiwaa Manuh at (tmanuh@ghana.com
- Chieftaincy in Ghana (the nature and scope to be defined by panel members). See Irene Odotei at <a href="mailto:asafo@ncs.com.gh">asafo@ncs.com.gh</a> or Benjamin Lawrence at <a href="mailto:lawrance@standord.edu">lawrance@standord.edu</a>
- New family patterns in Ghana, addressing divorce rates, children living in the streets, home desertion in the Diaspora community, etc. Contact Oheneba Sakyi at oheneba@potsdam.edu)
- Final announcement: think imaginatively about what to do with the funds in the Ghana Studies Council bank account!

Historical Society of Ghana

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t a meeting at the end of January 2002 of historians from the University of Ghana, the University of Cape Coast, the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, and the University of Development Studies at the

Institute of African Studies (University of Ghana), a resolution revived the hitherto defunct Historical Society of Ghana. Dr. Irene Odotei, Acting Director of the Institute of African Studies, the University of Ghana, chaired the meeting.

A number of important decisions were made at this meeting.

- The Society will hold its annual meeting in July 25-28, 2002. The theme for the conference and a call for papers will be announced shortly.
- To ensure a regular and quality production of the journal of the Society, the Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana. Professor Robert Addo-Fening of the University of Ghana was nominated as the senior editor of the journal with Professors Per Hernaes (Norway) and Emmanuel Akyeampong (USA) as assistant editors for Europe and North America respectively. Mr. Ebenezer Ayesu (IAS) is the business secretary for the journal, assisted by Kwaku Nti (History Department). Α subscription list will be compiled. An annual newsletter will be produced.
- The Society has taken up a two volume edited work on the History of Independent Ghana. Contributors will be Ghanaians based in Ghana and abroad.
- Specific strategies to revive interest in history in pre-tertiary and tertiary institutions were discussed. Radio shows on the history of Ghana were held as part of the independence

- celebrations for March 2002. A date will be scheduled for the Society to interact with Parliamentarians and present short lectures on "The Uses of History: Engaging the Ghanaian Past."
- The following nominations were made and approved for membership of the Council of the Historical Society of Ghana. President - Dr. Irene Odotei; Vice-President – Prof. Francis Agbodeka; Secretary – Dr. Kofi Baku; Assistant Secretary - Dr. Wilhemina Donkoh; Treasurer - Dr. Akosua Perbi; Members – Mr. Idrissu Abdulai (UDS), Mr. H.K.O. Asamoah (UCC), Prof. Bernedict Der (UCC), Prof. Kwamena Poh, Emmanuel Akyeampong, and a nominee from the Winnebah University of Education.
- The Asafo Office at the Institute of African Studies will double as the Secretariat for the Society for the time being. Correspondence should be directed to this office at <a href="mailto:asafo@ghana.com">asafo@ghana.com</a>. Regular mail to Dr. Kofi Baku, Historical Society of Ghana, c/o Asafo Office, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Accra.
- Membership dues for the Society were fixed at ¢150,000 (Ghanaian Cedis) for Ghana-based scholars: \$30 for individual foreign-based scholars; and \$50 for Institutional membership. Ghana-based scholars can acquire a lifetime membership for ¢2,000,000 (Ghanaian Cedis). The membership dues include an annual subscription to the Transactions and the

Society's newsletter. The Society is also seeking endowments from scholars in Ghana and abroad.

A Web site for the Society is in preparation.

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Exhibition Review
The Vibrant Art of Ghana:
Gemeentemuseum
The Hague (September 29, 2001
to January 6, 2002)

Raymond Silverman
Michigan State University

rom September 29, 2001 to **↓** January 6, 2002, the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague hosted a major exhibition dealing with the visual traditions of Ghana. This was one of several events occurring over a year (2001-2002) celebrating 300 vears of Dutch-Ghana (Gold Coast) relations an ambitious undertaking organized by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [A working document outlining plans for the celebration has been posted online at the web http://www.ambaccra.nl/pages/c pr ogram.html]

The Gemeentemuseum project, in fact, included three separate exhibitions dealing with various aspects of Ghana's rich and varied visual cultures, both past and present. One was an exhibit of Akan material culture that included more than five hundred historical objects — funerary terracottas, cast brass containers (kuduo), stools, textiles, figurative wood sculpture, and royal regalia. In addition, the installation featured objects from the Akan-influenced Maroon cultures of Suriname, which provided a context for a discussion of the slave trade — one of the prime objectives for this project. The contemporary work of three artists, painter George Hughes and photographers Francis Provençal and Philip Kwame Apagya were featured in a second exhibition. A third exhibition presented Ghanaian and Ghanaian-inspired haute couture (fashion). The sheer scale of the undertaking was awesome the largest, most diverse display of Ghanaian visual culture ever presented in the Netherlands, perhaps even the world (outside of Ghana).

Traditionally, i n Netherlands, exhibitions dealing with Africa and other parts of the "tropical world" have been organized by and installed at ethnology museums, such as the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde (Leiden), the Tropenmuseum (Amsterdam), the Wereldmuseum (Rotterdam), and the Afrika Museum (Berg en Dal). One wonders why Gemeentemuseum, the Netherlands' premiere museum of and modern contemporary (Western) art and a museum with little experience interpreting the visual cultures of non-European "traditional" societies, was chosen as the venue for this project.

I visited the exhibition(s) during the opening reception — not the best conditions for viewing an exhibition — and was able only to scrutinize the first of the three exhibitions in any depth. As a result, my remarks, for the most part, are directed towards the one exhibition.

It was a good exhibition in that it presented many fine objects that had never been exhibited or published before, and offered multiple examples of many

traditions that conveyed a sense of the breadth and depth of Akan visual culture. Though there were objects borrowed from a number of museums, most of the pieces were from Dutch and Belgian private collections. The quantity and, for the most part, quality of the objects was impressive, but the installation left a bit to be desired. The object labels were adequate (however, there were a number of spelling errors, and a few objects were mislabeled or without labels). The narrative text panels provided some contextual information, but occasionally offered erroneous or dated interpretations of Akan cultural or social history. A limited number of photographs also aided in providing some context for the objects on the display. The arrangement and display of the objects themselves was quite conservative and rather uninspired. Considering the venue, one would have expected a more sophisticated installation.

A number of the exhibition's shortcomings may be explained by the limited amount of time the guest curators, Kathy van der Pas and Steven van de Raadt, were given to organize the exhibition — I was told, less than a year! It is remarkable that this installation, as well as the other two exhibits, and two book-length publications were produced in such a short time. Undoubtedly, considerable resources and energy went into this project, but because of a tight timeframe, the exhibition fell short of realizing its full potential, at least as vehicle for interpreting Ghanaian culture and history. Given more time, the curators could have acquired additional museum pieces, created a more dynamic design for the installation, and developed a fuller interpretive program. Despite the exhibition's

shortcomings, its political agenda may have been fulfilled, for it did successfully celebrate 300 years of economic and diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and Ghana, and it did serve as an effective gesture of reconciliation — an opportunity to publicly deal with issues arising from the Dutch involvement in the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

Two reasonably priced and useful publications accompanied the Akan and Fashion exhibits. Aspects, Akan Cultures of Ghana (96 pages, selling for 11.12), includes a historical overview of the Akan and their relations with the Netherlands by Steven van de Raadt, an introduction to the visual arts of the Akan by Daniel Mato, and an illustrated catalogue of many of the objects included in the exhibition with captions written by Mato and van de Raadt. Fashion and Ghana (63 pages, selling for 8.85), by Ietse Meij, is comprised of chapters dealing with Ghanaian textiles, African-inspired fashion design in Europe, and Ghanaian contemporary fashion design. Both books are well illustrated with color reproductions. They are available from the Gemeentemuseum Museum shop.

The three exhibits closed on January 6, and regrettably, none of them, as far as I know, is traveling to another venue. Nevertheless, the Dutch government has maintained its commitment to celebrating the cultural traditions of Ghana on a dedicated Web site http://www.ghana300holland.nl The site, which primarily features contemporary traditions, periodically updated. At the time this review was written it included features on Ghanaian filmmaker Socrate Safo, the photography of Francis Provinçal, the National Dance Company of Ghana, Hiplife music, and the sculpture of Kofi Setordji.

Ιn summary, the Gemeentemuseum exhibition(s), especially when viewed in the context of the Netherlands-Ghana Tercentenary, was an important event. Though it did not realize its full potential as a museum exhibition, the curators and staff of the Gemeentemuseum are to be commended for organizing this impressive installation in such a short time and for providing an exceptional opportunity to view a wide range of Ghanaian visual tradition.

#### **NOTE**

Those interested in receiving catalogs/ books of the exhibition should contact Professor Daniel Mato at dmato@acs.ucalgary.ca. The title of the material in question is Aspects: Akan Culture in Ghana.

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UNESCO Slave Route Project
The Transatlantic Slave
Trade and the
Fredensborg Slave Ship
By Selena Axelrod Winsnes

he UNESCO Slave Route Project was launched in September 1994 to further intercultural cooperation for tolerance and a culture of peace among peoples of all races, religions and ethnicities. A Scientific Committee was established to draw up recommendations for implementation of the project. The committee recommended programs in the areas of education, culture, communication and information. and the development of regional and thematic networks. In the area of education, the goal is, through research and study, to enhance intercultural learning and appreciation, to encourage innovative activities to learn about the slave trade, to improve and revise history and social studies textbooks. The goal of the cultural aspect would be conservation and restoration of monuments and sites of remembrance of the slave trade. In the area of communication and information one of the chief goals is safeguarding, and providing access to, documentary materials in archives. Regional and thematic networks would be interdisciplinary efforts implement the results of research and study. That research should help to reveal the causes and modalities of the slave trade, as well as to analyse and bring to light the consequences and interactions that it generated.

UNESCO The Associated Schools Project Network was established in 1953 with the aim of translating UNESCO's goal of promoting peace and international co-operation through education into concrete action. Addressing this goal, a new project to study the Transatlantic Slave Trade [hereafter TST] was launched in 1998 under the motto "Breaking the Silence." With the use of educational materials and new approaches to teaching, it has established a new triangular route, this time of education, cultural and social links between ASPnet schools in Europe, Africa and the Americas. The objectives of promoting links between young people, to "break the silence," to learn about the causes, consequences and contributions of the TST, are being realized in many places. The Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) funded the international

education project through the year 2001.

The story of the slave ship Fredensborg has become a cornerstone of the Norwegian Norwegians, clearly program.1 lacking information, have always brushed aside the possibility of any connection with TST - "Oh, it was Denmark who did that" conveniently ignoring the fact that it was a twin monarchy, Denmark-Norway, and that Norwegian involvement was very much in place. For example, there were Norwegian personnel, to some degree ships, and decided economic gain in the establishment of sugar refineries in Norway dependent upon sugar from the West Indies, and profits from other colonial products. This stance made possible the long silence about the trade, mentioned only in passing in the schools, if at all. The appearance of the Fredensborg story was an unpleasant revelation that is now generating interest and study of that part of our history. A theatre group, Cito (Centre International du theatre d'Oslo), has a work-in-progress based on the *Fredensborg* story. This is now being shown - with great success to schools in Norway, and there are hopes that funding can be provided to extend this to a full evening production.

The revelation was not limited to Norway. It has also moved into Ghana, aided by the project that was initiated, and is being realized, by the Fredensborg Team (see below). Many of you have seen the book, *The Slave Ship Fredensborg*, and are familiar with the background of the wreck, the find

and the story, but I shall review briefly for those to whom this material may be unfamiliar.

## \* \* \* \* The Fredensborg Story

he *Fredensborg*, a frigate belonging to the Royal L Chartered Danish Guinea Company, started on her fateful voyage in the triangular trade on 19 June 1767. The first leg of the journey - to the Gold Coast took a total of 103 days before arriving on 1 October 1767. The ship lay anchored in the road at Christiansborg Castle for 205 days, waiting to complete purchase of a sufficient number of enslaved Africans to make it profitable to depart. They weighed anchor at midnight, 23 April 1768, a night time departure being considered safest because the slaves would be asleep and less liable to cause trouble. The frigate was carrying 265 enslaved Africans, ivory and gold. Due to the extended stay in the road and the spread of disease, death reduced the crew by 11 men -- one had died earlier. The middle passage, to the West Indies, ended on 9 July. Fredensborg anchored in the road at St. Croix, at Christiansted. The 78-day voyage had cost the lives of twenty-four Africans and three members of the crew. The slaves were soon sold. The ship was careened, scraped, caulked and made ready for new cargo. Loaded with mahogany, sugar, dyewood, cotton, tobacco, cinnamon, and three slaves sold to unknown purchaser in Copenhagen, the ship weighed anchor on 14 September. This was the last leg of the triangle and they were homeward bound. One of the slaves died on the Atlantic crossing.

The first landfall was 11 November at Sandefjord, on the coast of Norway. There were storms, the men were sick and exhausted, and the ship was in poor shape. Further, the wind had turned. To continue the journey to Denmark was impossible under those circumstances. More deaths, more difficulties, and the ship remained at Sandefjord for sixteen days. Finally, on 29 November 1768, they ventured out, heading for Copenhagen. However, once again, unfavourable winds and heavy snowfall made the captain decide to return to the Norwegian coast, rather than risk being forced out into the North Sea. This was 1 December. Land was sighted and a pilot was summoned. Nonetheless, the heavy seas, the poor state of the crew and the heavy cargo made the ship difficult to manoeuvre. Fredensborg ran aground at great speed. The long journey in the triangular route was nearly completed when the crew, three passengers and two slaves managed to save their lives and the ship's chest containing all the documents and the gold from the Gold Coast, under very dramatic conditions. The difficult work of removing as much as possible of the cargo, and efforts to salvage the ship continued throughout December and well into January. She finally sank on 20 January 1769. In addition to the suffering of the slaves, the last journey cost many lives. Thirty slaves, sixteen crewmembers, and two passengers - a total of 11 % of the slaves and 37.5 % of the crew died.

Two hundred years later, on 15 September 1974, three Norwegian divers were successful in finding the wreck of the *Fredensborg* after considerable research. The search was based on information from the maritime declaration of 1768. Two

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The story is told in Leif Svalesen, *The Slave Ship Fredensborg*, transl. by Pat Shaw and Selena Winsnes, Indiana Univ. Press, 2000.

expeditions were carried out in cooperation with the Norwegian Maritime Museum and the County Museum of Aust-Agder.

One of the divers, Leif Svalesen, determined to follow up the find by researching, and tracing the wake of that ship. A team was formed to realize this project. The Fredensborg Team is composed of Leif Svalesen as author, lecturer, photographer, and disseminator of information. Johan Kloster, Chief Curator at the Norwegian National Maritime Museum, has been part of the project from the very start, and led the mounting of a museum exhibition about the slave ship and TST to inform and educate the public in Scandinavia. Tove Storsveen, then Chief Editor at one of the largest publishing houses in Norway, made the publication of the book possible. Selena Winsnes acted as consultant in the writing of the book and texts. Mari Hareide, Secretary of General Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO, was at once taken by the idea of this story to be a starting point for study in the ASPnet, and succeeded in having it integrated in the Slave Route Project. Thanks also to her efforts, Svalesen has become a member of the UNESCO International Scientific Committee, and some of you have undoubtedly heard his presentation. The latest member is George Tyson, historian, former director of the Great Whim Estate museum, and resource person, on St. Croix. Tyson has arranged for the contacts and network in the USVI.

We visited sites of historic interest to Scandinavians, which were duly noted in detail, later to be the material of a cultural-historical route. We visited the Wulff house, *Frederiksminde*, close

to Christiansborg Castle.<sup>2</sup> We were shown tamarind trees, the sure sign of early Danish presence, because impressively long allées of these trees had been planted along routes used by the Danes.3 Finally, we needed to visit Akwamu because it was mentioned in the logbook some Akwamu slaves had been planning a revolt, but it was discovered and stopped. We told our driver, the excellent Roland Nimako, now an ex-officio member of the team. He was delighted because his wife was an Akwamu. Not only was she an Akwamu, but they know the chief of Adome (in Akwamu), Apea Kwasi III, very well. So we were off to Akwamu. Received formally first, we stated our business, and were then informed that the next day (Sunday) was Akwasidae, and that we should try to attend, as guests of the Adomehene and the Paramount Chief. Naturally, we accepted. At a reception the next day we were introduced to the elders, and Svalesen told them the story of the Fredensborg. He had a folder of photographs that he passed around, and the vision of this man in diving gear, searching underwater to find the wreck of a ship, that had even held some Akwamus, held them enthralled. He was now 'the diver', and the Akwamu connection was in the making.

The first trip to Ghana was over. It had been a huge success and had laid the groundwork for continuing the project. Work was

started on two major productions publication of the book, and mounting a museum exhibition. The original edition of the book, in Norwegian, came out in 1996, and it was an immediate success. Translation into Danish followed, and suddenly Scandinavians were being made aware of the long silence about TST that had prevailed. Instrumental in breaking the silence was the exhibition "With Slaves, Ivory and Gold: The slave ship Fredensborg's final journey, 1767-68", that opened in April 1997. Conceived and realized by Johan Kloster, with active participation by Svalesen and the Team, it had a grand opening ceremony at the Maritime Museum in Oslo. The chief speaker was Doudou Diene, Director of the Division for Intercultural Projects at UNESCO. After five months it was sent out, first to Helsingør, Denmark, and then to Gothenburg, Sweden, before returning to Norway, where it has been given a permanent home in the Aust-Agder Museum in Arendal. The chief speaker at the presentation in the Arendal was Ghanaian ambassador to Northern Europe, H.E. Professor Dr. Martha Tamakloe, who officially opened the exhibit. Response in all these places has been spectacular, and press coverage was extensive and enthusiastic, both for the exhibition and the book, in all three countries. The cartoon book accompanied the exhibition and was extremely well received, and later published in English. All this has given impetus to study of this aspect of our history, and the world history of TST. It has become the very base of the school work in progress in Norway. The cartoon book has recently been translated into Italian and is being used at some schools in Italy as part of their curriculum. The visible, tangible aspects of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Frederiksminde [in memory of King Frederik VI of Denmark]. The house was built in 1840 by a Danish Reserve Assistant, Wulff Joseph Wulff, and some of his ancestors live there today. The house is frequently visited by Scandinavian tourists.

<sup>3</sup> The Danes had lined all of their routes with tamarind trees. These routes went from the coast, inland to the Akwapim hills where they had plantations. One went over Legon Hill; one went around it.

books and exhibition have proven to be an excellent starting point for further information and study.

The next step was the preparation and production of two mini-Fredensborg exhibits to be presented as gifts to Fort Frederik Museum on St. Croix, and the National Museum in Accra. This would complete the triangle. Again Kloster and Svalesen produced an excellent display, in co-operation with George Tyson and the Team. Of special interest to the people of St. Croix was a perfect replica of the "Liberty Bell", the bell from plantation La Grange that was used to summon the slaves for the uprising in 1848, thus forcing their prompt liberation.4 NORAD provided UNESCO with funds for this part of the project. The exhibit was presented by Kloster and Svalesen, representing UNESCO, and Anne-Lise Langøy, from NORAD, at the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Emancipation celebration on St. Croix on 3 July 1998. In February 1999 we sent the other mini-exhibit to Accra, and travelled to Ghana to mount it at the National Museum, and to follow up our earlier contacts. Akwamuhene Otumfuo Ansah Sasraka VI was invited to perform the official opening of the exhibit. The Museum had invited a chief from Cape Coast and Old Ningo, the Minister of Culture Mike Gizo, Nana Akuoko Sarpong, Chairman of the National Commission on Culture, a representative of the Norwegian ambassador, and the ambassadors of Denmark and Italy. Doudou Diene represented UNESCO, and the Ghana National UNESCO Commission was also present. There was wide press coverage. It was an extremely

Back in Norway the project continued. This time we would design and produce metal information plaques to be mounted at those historical sites. The plaques were made of plates of aluminium measuring 20x30 cm., the texts as concise as possible. Prof. Per Hernæs was our historical consultant. Four large information panels were made to be placed at the site of Fort Fredensborg in Old Ningo. These would be mounted free-standing in an annealed glasscovered frame at what had been the entrance to the fort. All work was done in close cooperation with the National Museum, whose staff marked out the sites and contacted individuals concerned for permission for mounting the plagues. The metal plagues and annealed glass would be made in Norway, and the frames, etc. would be made in Ghana. Our closest contact and collaborator was Prof. Joe Nkrumah from the National Museum. During this period the English translation of Fredensborg book was completed. We were now ready for our next trip.

The third, and most recent, trip was in October-November 2000. A new element on this trip was the formal launching of the English translation of the *Fredensborg* book. Sub-Saharan Press, one of the four publishing houses that had collaborated on the publication, hosted an elegant launching in

Accra.<sup>5</sup> The aluminium plaques were ready for mounting, and Svalesen had come equipped with all the necessary tools for the project. These plaques were mounted at the following places:

- The Danish-Norwegian cemetery at Christiansborg Castle
- Wulff's house, *Frederiksminde*, on Castle Drive
- Richter's house in Osu
- Tamarind trees from the old allée in Osu (outside of the Boys' Primary Presbyterian School)
- A tamarind tree on Legon Hill (near Commonwealth Hall)
- A tamarind tree near the European cemetery at Abukubi
- The tamarind allée near Kpompo
- The plantation at Daccubie
- Fort Prinsensten, Keta
- Another one to be mounted at the ruins of the plantation *Frederiksgave*, the 'royal Plantation', at Sesemi, in 2002 (See Ghana Studies Council web posting [http://people.tamu.edu/~yarak/ghana studies.html]).

Reactions of the local people at these places were very positive. They thanked us for the plaques and congratulated us on our efforts. The most ambitious part of the project – the large information panels at Old Ningo – was an unveiling of the panels at a large durbar in the grounds of Fort Fredensborg.

Our next project was to make a small guide folder that follows and explains the plaques that we have mounted along the route that marks Danish-Norwegian history in

impressive ceremony. Interest in the exhibit was evidenced even before the opening, as the workers setting up the displays frequently stopped to look at the material and read the texts. Visits and comments in the guest book since then have been overwhelming. And the silence is beginning to crack, there, too.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The original bell is in Denmark, in the Danish Maritime Museum at Kronborg.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The other publishers are Ian Randall, Jamaica; Indiana University Press, USA; and Aschehoug in Norway.

Ghana. The colourful folder has now been completed and is ready for production. This should be made available at the National Museum, and perhaps other loci. We follow with interest the work to establish an Information Center in Akwamufie.

In sum, the Team, working often in unconventional ways, has, we feel, made a very good start in realizing the broad aims of the UNESCO Slave Route Project. By providing tangible starting points – the books and the exhibitions – an interest in studying that part of our common history has awakened among both adults and young people. We have marked certain historic sites and provided information on the backgrounds. By making available primary sources we have provided European views of their history. The Ghanaians may, with study, find different, African, versions of that history. These views should be made known. We have made a beginning at Old Ningo for preservation of the ruins of the fort there. We are informed that the total number of visitors to the three exhibits is c. 250,000. It is our sincere hope that these initiatives will bear fruit, and that they will contribute growing to a cultural/historical tourism whose theme will be a 'culture of peace'.

Acknowledgements, and sincere thanks, are due to NORAD for financial support in the publication of the cartoon album and in financing our second and third trips and the production of the information plaques and panels. We thank GHACEM for providing living quarters on the Team's first and second trips, and the essential transportation and a driver on all three trips. Tor Kjelsaas graciously provided us with excellent quarters

on our third trip. Above all, we are grateful to General Secretary Mari Hareide and the Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO for their faith in our projects and for their support, often against great odds.

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## Institute of African Studies Publications

Submitted by Mary Esther Dakubu

The Institute of African Studies has in stock numerous publications both recent and not so recent of interest to members of the Ghana Studies Council. Items may be ordered by writing to: Publications Officer, Institute of African Studies, P. O. Box 73, Legon, Ghana. All dollar prices include airmail postage. Payment should be made by US dollar cheque or money order. Unfortunately we are not at present able to handle credit card payments.

Research Review: 2 issues per year. Subscription price (Vol. 14 and later) \$35.00 per year. Contents may be viewed at the following website: <a href="http://www.inasp.org.uk/ajol">http://www.inasp.org.uk/ajol</a>.

Contents and abstracts may be viewed through another website at <a href="http://www.directcenter.org">http://www.directcenter.org</a>

Volume 16 will include an issue on religion and an issue on language. Volume 17 will include issues on health and one on education.

Vol. 15 .2 (New Series), papers on maternal and child health, by Adomako Ampofo, Agyei-Mensah, Awedoba, Oppong, Sackey.

Vol. 15 No.1: papers on gender roles, by Amu, Odotei, Sackey,

Dako, Baanante Thompson and Acheampong.

Vol. 14.2: papers by Sutherland-Addy, Hilton Keller and Ankrah, Akrong, Osei-Hwedie, Poda, Quarcoopome.

Vol.14.1: papers by Boakye-Sarpong, Brukum, Okpoko, Abayie Boaten.

#### Earlier volumes:

Volumes 10-13 (double issues, i.e. one per volume): \$20.00 each.

Volumes 2-9 (7, 8 and 9 are double issues): \$15.00 per issue.

Old series, back to 1965: \$10.00 per issue if available. Special consideration will be given to large orders.

Research Review Supplements: Numbers 4 through 14 are in stock. \$15.00 each.

#### Other publications:

New: Occasional Papers Series 2000: Monographs by J. Goody, C. Oppong (infant health), B. Sackey (faith healing). \$15.00 each.

We still have in stock most issues of *Okyeame*, the literary magazine active in the 1960s and early '70s, at \$10.00 per issue. Other older series partly still available include *Collected Language Notes*, *Legon Family Research Papers*, *Papers in Ghanaian Linguistics*, and *Odawuru*, a literary magazine entirely in Twi. A complete list of publications is available on request, by writing to the Publications Officer or by email from medakubu@ug.edu.gh

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#### **New Books**

T. C. McCaskie, Asante Identities History and Modernity in an African Village, 1850-1950 (Edinburgh University Press, and Indiana University Press, 2000). 0-253-340300-6 (Indian Cloth), 0-253-21496-3 (Indian paper). 0-7486-1510-5 (Edinburgh). study of the people of the Asante village of Adegbeba - now part of Kumase, Ghana's second city over the century 1850 to 1950 is unparalleled in its wealth of detail about the concerns of ordinary African men and women in a period of tumultuous change. In exploring their testimony in all its rich diversity, McCaskie draws out its larger implications for the understanding of Asante identities a world overtaken by modernity. colonialism and Community and belonging, politics and belief, rural and urban lifestyles, money, mobility and sex, and all the other daily concerns of Adegbeba villagers are discussed in depth. The result is a book that is unequalled in its recuperation of the African past through African voices" [Information was taken from the book cover.]

Nana Arhin Brimpong, Transformations in **Traditional** Rule in Ghana. 1951-1996 (Accra: Sedco Publishing Ltd.). This book author's other follows the publication Traditional Rule in Ghana: Past and Present (1985) also by the same publisher. Nana Arhin Brempong, Nifahene of Barakese, is an editorial board member of Ghana Studies. For more information about the publications, contact Sedco Publishers at P.O. Box 2051, Accra.

Kwame Braun, Stage-shakers (IUP <a href="http://iupress.indiana.edu">http://iupress.indiana.edu</a>.)

"For the first time, Western audiences have access to the power Ghana's intensity and o f remarkable concert party theatre through Kwame Braun's documentary video. Stage-shakers brings its festive atmosphere to life by showing backstage preparations--touring, making-up, and practicing - as well as live performance footage. Interviews with key performers, both pioneers and current practitioners, reveal the concert party as a dynamic form of entertainment that is in step with popular fashion, music, song, dance. and social issues. Researched and filmed in collaboration with Catherine M. Cole, this video companion is an important extension of her book, Ghana's Concert Party Theatre. The video is approximately 103 minutes long and is divided into three sections suitable for classroom sessions: In Gold Coast Times; An Old-time Show (featuring the Jaguar Jokers' "Onipa Hia Moa"); and Concert Tonight! -- featuring portions of contemporary plays by Adehyeman and Kumapim Royals Concert Parties. Book and video are available from Indiana University Press.

Nancy Lawler, Soldiers, Airmen, Spies, and Whisperers. The Gold Coast in World War II. Ohio University Press, 352 pp., cloth \$49.95, ICBN 0-8214-1430-5. Available from May. European distributor is: Eurospan, 3 Henrietta Street, London WC2E 8LU, G. B. The fall of France in June 1940 left the Gold Coast unexpectedly surrounded by French colonies that were controlled by pro-Axis forces. In this book, Lawler describes how the Gold Coast responded to this challenge. The Gold Coast Regiment, the Home Guard, the Special Operations Executive, the Takoradi aircraft ferry and assembly base, and the propaganda machine, all receive attention in this study of how the colony came to play a vital role in the Second World War.

Emmanuel K. Akyeampong, Between the Sea and the Lagoon: An Eco-Social History of the Anlo of Southeastern Ghana c.1850 to Recent Times (Oxford and Athens, OH: James Currey and Ohio University Press, 2001). The book offers a social interpretation of environmental change in Anlo: from the Anlo migration and adjustment (cognitively and technologically) to the aquatic ecosystem of the southeastern Ghanaian coast to the ongoing struggle against sea erosion, and how that has shaped society and economy in twentieth-century Anlo. Straddling the fields of social history and cultural ecology, this original and innovative book advances our understanding of the Anlo in significant ways.

Kwamina Panford, IMF-World Bank and Labor's Burden in Experience Africa: Ghana's (Praeger Publishers, Westport, Conn., 2001). Panford examines how the Ghana Constitution of 1992 led for the first time to new workers' rights, including the right to affiliate with any local, national or international union. In response globalization and policies advocated by the IMF and the World Bank, the Ghana government sought to resist worker demands for improved working and living conditions. The situation was worsened by the privatization of state-owned businesses and severe cuts in public employment. In this environment of tense labor relations, government hostility, and weak employment, Panford traces the ways workers are revitalizing

unions and developing sources of jobs and finances.

Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang, ed., IMF and World Bank Sponsored Structural Adjustment Programs in Africa: Ghana's Experience, 1983-1999 (Voices in Development Management) (Ashgate Publisher, 2001). Bringing together geographers, planners, political scientists, economists, rural development specialists, bankers, public administrators, and other development experts, this volume questions the benefits of Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPS). It critically assesses the impact of SAPs from a wider perspective than a purely economic one, highlighting concerns impacts of adjustments on the more vulnerable elements of society such as social welfare, the environment, labor, gender and agriculture.

See also this information Submitted by Ineke van Kessel: Merchants, Missionaries and Migrants

This book is published at the occasion of the tercentennary of Dutch-Ghanaian relations. The title - Merchants, Missionaries and Migrants-covers the important areas of contact between Dutch and Ghanaians over the past centuries. The point of departure for the tercentennary is a mission in 1701 by David van Nyendael, envoy of the Dutch West India Company, to the Ashanti capital Kumasi. Expert authors from Ghana, the Netherlands, Suriname and Indonesia present their research findings on various aspects of this long-standing and intricate economic, political and cultural relationship: from the trade in gold, ivory and slaves to the cocoa trade; from liaisons between Dutch men and African women in previous centuries to present-day Ghanaian migration to the Netherlands; from the involuntary migration of tens of thousands of slaves to the plantations in Suriname to the largely forgotten history of the African soldiers who served in the Dutch colonial army in the East Indies; and from the role of Dutch Geneva in Ghanaian ritual to the tragic story of Jacobus Capitein, the first black Christian minister to be ordained in the Netherlands.

Ivor Wilks, A Study of the Rise and Fall of a West African Empire, Trondheim Studies in History, No. 35, Norwegian University of Science Technology, Trondheim, 2001. 352 pp., cloth \$49.95, ISBN 0-8214-1430-5. Available from bokhandel@tapir.no or through www.gnist.no. Originating in the Gold Coast hinterland the Akwamu kingdom took shape in the middle of the 17th century, and then entered on a course of expansion eventually made that Akwamuhene master o f extensive territory on the eastern Gold Coast and western Slave Coast, at an important moment of African-European interaction in the Era of the Atlantic Slave Trade. The rise and fall of the Akwamu Empire was carefully researched by Ivor Wilks more than forty years ago. The publication of his seminal study, so long awaited, has now materialized in the present book. The author has added an interesting Preamble with comments on Akwamu history in the light of resent research. The book also includes three important articles by Wilks: "Akwamu and Otubluhum: A Study in Akan Cross-Cousin Marriage," "A Note on Twifo and Akwamu," and "Tribal History and Myth."

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