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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
African Studies Program
Victor C. Uchendu, Director

WOMEN AND WORK IN AFRICA: A SYMPOSIUM

REPORT PREPARED FOR THE WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Each spring since 1974 the African Studies Program of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has sponsored a symposium on a topic of current interest to Africanist research. As part of a range of activities sponsored by the U. S. Office of Education (NDEA Title VI) through the African Studies Program, this spring symposium traditionally has drawn together a small group of scholars from various institutions within the U. S. In the past, symposium topics have been drawn from the disciplinary research interests of the one or more faculty members who were charged with the program's organization.

In the spring of 1978, four Africanist faculty members interested in research on women in Africa proposed to the Advisory Committee of the African Studies Program that the 1979 symposium be organized around the theme of "Women's Economic Contributions to African Societies." Approval was granted and the faculty organizers set out to form a program planning committee.

The Program Committee was opened to all interested members of the University community. Its membership fluctuated between 12 and 17 persons over the year of regular meetings leading up to the symposium. Some of the earlier members were lost to sabbatical leaves and dissertation research overseas; other joined as late as a month or two before the symposium, having only gradually become aware of the Committee's activities. In all, the Program Committee included seven faculty members, eight graduate students, one undergraduate, and one research associate attached to the African Studies Program. Membership was predominantly female; only one male faculty member regularly worked with the Committee, although two others requested minutes

and information on the planning process. Ethnically, the background of members included fourteen white Americans, one Afro-American, and two Africans. The Committee members' disciplinary backgrounds were diverse, including six in education, five in the humanities, four in social sciences, one in agricultural sciences, and one in library science.

The Program Committee set two general objectives for the symposium: to update the field of economic studies of women in Africa and to provide a forum for the exchange and stimulation of ideas among scholars and professionals concerned for women in Africa. The program was to be wholly interdisciplinary. Thus, after much discussion the symposium title "Women and Work in Africa" was selected as being broad enough to accommodate virtually any disciplinary approach. Committee members felt strongly that the program participants should include as many African women as possible. Hence it was decided to seek funding outside the African Studies Program to bring participants from Africa.

FUNDING

As noted above, funds for the spring symposium were normally drawn from NDEA Title VI monies granted to the African Studies Program. The decision to bring participants from abroad, however, necessitated a much larger travel budget. Support was therefore sought from three areas: from the Women in Development Office of USAID; from the International Visitor Program of the U. S. International Communication Agency; and from various departments and organizations on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus.

The Women in Development Office of USAID was contacted initially in July 1978. At the invitation of WID Director Arvonne Fraser, the Program Committee chairperson, Edna Bay, visited the Agency in early November to

discuss plans for the symposium. A verbal commitment to partial sponsorship was given by the WID Director at that time and was reaffirmed on several subsequent occasions. The grant award of \$9980 was received at the University of Illinois on April 17, 1979.

Correspondence with officers of the Office of African Affairs of the U. S. International Communication Agency began in August 1978. Following the advice of Frederick Quinn of that office, the Program Committee contacted American embassies in three African countries to nominate individuals for International Visitor Grants which would allow them to participate in "Women and Work in Africa." One full 30-day grant was awarded by the U. S. Embassy in the Gambia to Ms. Coumba Ceesay. A partial grant was arranged for Dr. Teresia Elad of Cameroon; USAID funds were used to support her international travel.

Support for the symposium was solicited from a number of organizations on the UIUC campus. Early in its planning, the Program Committee had decided to arrange a visit for Nigerian novelist Buchi Emecheta that would both precede and overlap the period of the symposium. Twelve departments and organizations pledged support for her expenses. Another eight offered general support for the symposium alone. These organizations and their contributions are listed in Appendix A.

PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

Papers and Participants

A call for papers was begun at the end of May 1978. An announcement was placed in the summer newsletter of the African Studies Association, announcement letters were sent to major African Studies Centers in the U. S. and over 130 personal letters were sent over the summer to scholars known to have recently completed research on some aspect of women's work in Africa. Our mailing list was culled from names of authors of published articles, from the "Directory of Women in African Studies," from names submitted by various Committee members, and from newspaper and journal references. In addition to announcing the symposium, each letter requested the names of additional persons involved in research on women in Africa. Thus over time we were able to widen our network of potential participants.

The call for papers requested that an abstract of the proposed presentation be submitted by October 15. In fact, we were forced by a number of circumstances to push to deadline back to the end of November. The following list of seven potential panel topics was included to provide possible contributors with a guide to our expected format:

Measuring Women's Work: The Methodological Questions

Rural/Urban Perspectives: Productivity, Land Use and Migration

Building on Tradition: Can the Past Provide Direction for the Future?

African Revolutionary Societies and Women's Work

Education and Employment

Women at Work: Health, Nutrition, and Children

The Image of Women as Workers

Selection of participants was done by the Program Committee in December. Committee members divided themselves into seven working groups based on the proposed panel topics. Copies of the 63 abstracts submitted were circulated to one or more of the groups according to the focus of the proposed contribution. Readers judged abstracts on the basis of thoroughness and quality of the research, originality of the subject, and the expected contribution to an understanding and elaboration of the symposium theme. In making choices, there was a strong bias toward abstracts based on recent field research. All other factors being equal, Committee members anxious to encourage contact and interchange with scholars abroad selected abstracts by Africans. Persons selected by the Committee were notified by mid-December and were asked to submit a copy of their final paper (25 pp. maximum) and a 1000-word abstract by March 31, 1979.

Local Publicity

Beginning at the opening of the academic second semester (January 1979), the Committee initiated a series of activities designed to encourage broad interest locally in the symposium and its participants. The African Studies Program sponsored a six-lecture series entitled "Women and Society: Comparative Perspectives" as part of its regular noontime Wednesday lecture series. Speakers discussed topics as diverse as women and landed property in eighteenth-century Ethiopia and the changing roles of women in Japan and Bolivia. Committee members spoke on the general topic of "Women in Africa" to numerous class sessions and campus meetings, including, for example, classes in economics, social work, women's studies, and education, and a meeting of the local chapter of NOW. One Committee member appeared on a

local TV talk show, speaking generally about the topic of women in Africa and drawing attention to the planned symposium activities.

One symposium participant, Nigerian novelist Buchi Emecheta, was asked to spend the week prior to the symposium on campus. Thus, the Committee reasoned, a series of public appearances related to the symposium theme would attract a broad spectrum of local people to the program. Moreover, we would have an opportunity to explore the thinking of one important participant in a depth impossible in the brief intense conference setting. In the four days prior to the opening of the symposium, Emecheta gave a public lecture on "The Modern African Woman," appeared on a panel discussion on "Immigrant Women in London," spoke on "Competing Images of Human Development" as part of the University YM/YWCA Friday Forum series, and commented on "My Life as a Writer" at a reception of community women at the Douglass Center Annex. Fatma Husein, a Tanzanian community development specialist then residing in Chicago, appeared with Emecheta on the "Immigrant Women" panel and later returned to attend the full symposium.

Announcements of the symposium and the appearances by Buchi Emecheta were circulated widely in the local community. A letter was sent out to 20 community organizations, to school personnel in Urbana and Champaign and to 100 local churches. Ads were run in the campus paper; the local press and radio and TV stations were contacted to cover the program. Announcements appeared in the YWCA newsletter, in "Continuing Conversations" (newsletter of the Office for Women's Resources and Services), and in the "Illini Week." Multiple copies of the symposium program were sent to each of the local sponsoring organizations and a special invitation was extended by letter to the African women we knew to be residing in the Urbana-Champaign community. Samples of publicity and press coverages are included in Appendix B.

Out-of-Town Publicity

The question of out-of-town publicity proved a dilemma to the Committee. The symposium was an important event, we felt, and the academic and development communities should know that it was taking place. Scholars across the country began indicating interest in attending the symposium as early as the summer of 1978. Moreover, we felt obligated to at least extend an invitation to persons who had submitted abstracts for the program but been rejected. On the other hand, we wished to keep the total body of participants and observers relatively small so that discussion might be informal, in-depth and continuous over the three-day symposium period. The larger the audience, the Committee reasoned, the greater the possibility that discussion comments would be too general and diffuse to allow particular themes and ideas to develop. We were bringing more than a dozen persons to campus at relatively large expense; we wished to hear more from them than just a thirty-minute paper presentation. Moreover our Committee was unwilling to consider dividing sessions and having discussion running concurrently in separate rooms, nor were we willing to deal with the organizational chaos which would result from a sudden influx of a hundred or more out-of-town visitors. Our dilemma, then, was to bring national attention to the symposium, but to insure that not too many outsiders actually attended!

Our strategy to control attendance was based on a combination of calculation and simple hope. Notices were placed nationally so that they would appear prior to the symposium but near enough to the actual date to discourage all but the most seriously interested. Letters were sent to the major African Studies Centers, and announcements appeared in the African Studies Association Newsletter, in The Chronicle of Higher Education, in

Africa Today, in the University of Illinois' Bulletin of Continuing Education in International Affairs, and in the newsletters of the Chicago Area African Studies Association, the Illinois Africanists, and the Northwestern Program of African Studies. The date of the symposium, near the end of the academic calendar, probably also discouraged some academics who were involved in heavy end-of-term grading responsibilities or who met with end-of-year travel funding shortages. In the end, our strategy proved successful beyond our best expectations. Some 27 out-of-town observers attended from institutions scattered across the U. S. They tended to come singly, one each from major universities or from public and private agencies. They were well-versed in the literature on women and development, and many had field experience as researchers or development practitioners concerned for women in Africa. As a group, they added immeasurably to the discussions and contributed greatly to the atmosphere of open interchange which characterized the sessions. Fortunately, too, they proved just enough in number for our facilities; we met in a room with maximum seating of 100. The Committee arranged housing for out-of-towners either in nearby motels or in their own homes, provided child care facilities, and was able to assist many with local transport and meals. A list of those who attended the symposium is included in Appendix C.

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

The symposium opened on Sunday, April 29, with a brunch for participants, representatives of sponsoring organizations, and other interested persons. The opening session began that afternoon and was attended by an estimated 120 persons. Later sessions had smaller attendance, though the numbers never dropped below 70. The final session ended at noon on Tuesday, May 1. Please see Appendix D for a listing of the full program and participants.

The final program included five panels: "Women in Africa: Image and Ideology," "Government Policies and the Working Woman," "Education, Employment, and Family Responsibilities: Expectations and Realities," "Women in Distribution and Marketing," and "Women and Rural Development." Twenty papers were scheduled for presentation; each of the five panels also included one discussant. Presenters and discussants were all women; nine were African, five Afro-American, and eleven Euro-American. Only one person, Marjorie Mbilinyi of The University of Dar es Salaam, was unable to attend; illness in her family forced her to cancel at the last minute.

The various presentations fulfilled the promise of the abstracts upon which selection had been based. The digests summarizing each were circulated among participants and audience, thus providing a broad base for questions and discussion. Audience and participants alike agreed that the atmosphere of open and honest interchange of the three-day symposium was a tremendous stimulation to ideas and learning.

A number of persons commented that this was one of the most stimulating and rewarding meetings they'd ever attended. The following quotes were received in letters following the symposium:

Congratulations to you, your committee and staff on the outstanding "Women and Work in Africa" program. I know how difficult it is to put together a program of several days duration with a series of outstanding speakers and presentations that complement each other. You accomplished that difficult task admirably. The program was outstanding.

-Director, Office of Women's Resources and Services, University of Illinois

I wanted to tell you that I thought the conference was very interesting. The good thing about it is that a lot of these women were good speakers, and that's nice for a change!

All of the students I talked to thought it was really worthwhile. I heard some people say it was the best conference they ever went to.

-graduate student in the French Department, University of Illinois

The symposium was terrific -- that's the word from all concerned. Julia Bloch of ICA said she had attended many, but this had the best mixture of people.

-Staff assistant, Office of International Programs in Education

I might say that I was thrilled by the conference in April particularly since it dealt with a topic which is of major interest to me and toward which I had earlier this year read a paper, "The Socio-Economics of Domesticity - African Women as Craft Workers" at the Central States Anthropology Meetings. My only regret was that it did not last longer and that there was so little time to converse in conversational/work groups.

-member of the Department of Anthropology, Indiana University

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Dissemination of Proceedings

Committee members and participants agreed that a selection of the papers should be published. The full written papers were generally sound and serious. To date three book publishers and one journal have requested an opportunity to review them for possible publication. A selection of the papers is currently under review by one press.

Among persons in attendance were representatives of various media. Local TV station WICD, an NBC affiliate, filmed the opening session for a news broadcast. Authors Buchi Emecheta and Ama Ata Aidoo were interviewed for our local public broadcasting radio station, WILL. Laurie Ross of the Voice of America taped interviews with several program participants, with out-of-town visitors, and with members of the local community. Some if not all of these interviews have been broadcast on the VOA service to Africa. Following the symposium, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation requested recorded excerpts of the sessions for use in a week of broadcasts about Africa planned for the fall of 1980. Arrangements for use of the tapes are pending.

In the months following the symposium, a series of requests for the proceedings or the papers were received. Copies of the digests have been forwarded to individuals and institutions including UNESCO-Paris and Nairobi, the Ford Foundation-Lagos, Lutheran World Relief, INADES Documentation-Abidjan, and the Community Development Trust Fund of Tanzania.

Future Symposia

Many in attendance agreed that, in addition to the value of the formal papers and presentations, they found very worthwhile the opportunity to meet and chat informally with persons of like interests and concerns. In a field with a past marred by a lack of sharing and cooperation, particularly across national lines, Americans and Africans alike seemed relieved and delighted to be able to discuss in detail research results and the practical problems of development projects. There was a sense of a common understanding which superseded the limitations of a national, academic, or development practitioner's viewpoint.

More small meetings of this type could be extremely valuable, particularly if focused on a narrow but carefully defined geographical region or problem area. Topics such as women's economic status in sudanic West Africa, the problems of agricultural programs involving women, educational opportunities for African women, migration and women in Central and Southern Africa, are a few obvious examples. The cross-fertilization of thinking allowed by a mix of professional and national backgrounds is essential.

Funding by the Women in Development Office of USAID

The participation of nearly half the program presenters was based on funding by the Women in Development Office of USAID. A proposal requesting funding from the WID Office was submitted on November 13, 1978. Though we were regularly assured verbally that funds would be approved, we had no indication in writing prior to a letter of March 23, 1979, that USAID would become a partial sponsor of the program. Moreover, we assumed in our proposal that we would be able to use USAID monies for general support of symposium activities and particularly for international travel. We learned only at the end of March that we would be severely restricted to certain budget categories and to the support of international travel for only certain nationalities. The last-minute processing of the funds, which arrived only twelve days prior to the symposium opening, caused hardships in the administration of the international travel. Several participants, for example, were forced to spend their own money to purchase a round-trip air ticket, since they assumed that we would be unable to get their pre-paid ticket to them in time. We were also unable to benefit from considerable savings which would have accrued from the purchase of tickets some weeks in advance.

Thus we respectfully recommend to the Women in Development Office of USAID that a letter of commitment be sent to an applicant for funding and that the contract itself be processed as soon as a decision has been taken to support a given undertaking. In our case, a letter of commitment would have allowed our Contracts Office to release University funds to us in anticipation of money to be received from USAID. Prompt processing of contracts would allow a recipient of a WID grant to plan around the limitations and restrictions associated with USAID funding.

FUNDING SOURCES AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

General Symposium Contributions

| | |
|---|--------|
| African Studies Program | \$3000 |
| Anthropology Department | 50 |
| College of Agriculture | 300 |
| College of Education | 100 |
| History Department | 50 |
| Illini Symposia for Women/Office of Women's Resources and Services | 250 |
| Office of Women's Studies | 200 |
| School of Human Resources and Family Studies | 500 |

Contributions for Emecheta Visit

| | |
|---|-----|
| Afro-American Studies and Research Program | 50 |
| Center for Advanced Study | 250 |
| Department of English | 25 |
| Department of French | 25 |
| Department of Political Science | 25 |
| Department of Sociology | 25 |
| George A. Miller Committee | 750 |
| Institutional Racism Project | 150 |
| Program in Comparative Literature | 25 |
| School of Humanities | 100 |
| Unit I (in-kind, room and board) | |
| YWCA | 25 |

Samples of Symposium Publicity

Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Radisson South and L'Hotel de France, Minneapolis, Minnesota (April 19-21). Write: Maurice W. Conner, Department of Foreign Languages, University of Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska 68101.

Northeast Foreign Language Conference. Washington, D.C. (April 19-22). Contact: Northeast Conference, Department P, Box 623, Middlebury, Vermont 05753.

Association for Arid Lands Studies Annual Meeting (in conjunction with the Western Social Science Association). Reno, Nevada (April 26-28). Program Chair: Otis W. Templer, Department of Geography, Texas Technical University, Lubbock, Texas 79409.

Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. Lexington, Kentucky (April 27). Contact: Professor Gerald Janeck, Department of Slavic and Oriental Languages, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40506.

Symposium on Women and Work in Africa. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois (April 29-May 1). For information, write: Edna Bay, Program Committee Chairperson, African Studies, University of Illinois, 1208 West California Street, Room 101, Urbana, Illinois 61801.

Canadian Association of African Studies 1979 Annual Conference. University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg Manitoba (May 1-4). Theme: "Science, Technology, and Social Change: Africa in the 20th Century." Contact: Dr. Robert L. McCormack, Organizing Committee Chairman, Department of History, University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9, Canada.

Seventh Annual Conference on Ethnic and Minority Studies. Institute for Minority Studies, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse (May 2-5). Sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, North Carolina Central University, Grambling State University, West Central Wisconsin Consortium, and the National Association of Interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies. The themes will be "Ethnicity and Religion" and "The Invisible Ethnic: Those Who Refuse to Participate." Write: Conference Program Director, George E. Carter, Director, Institute for Minority Studies, 101 Main Hall, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601.

A Conference on Images of Africa: New Directions in Media. African Studies Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan (May 10-12). Supported in part through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the U.S. Office of Education NDEA Title VI Act, the conference will bring together the Africanists and teachers who use media to teach about Africa with the people and agencies who fund and produce, and distribute these resources. The goal of the conference is to develop more and better images of Africa in the West by: providing interchange between producers of African media materials and their users; exposing both producers and users to an African viewpoint concerning these images and their uses; allowing all parties to explore funding, producing, and distribution possibilities; introducing major topics which have yet to be explored through the media.

For further information, contact: Images of Africa, African Media Center, 10 International Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.

Symposium on Political Economy of the Black World. University of California, Los Angeles (May 10-12). The second annual symposium of the Center for Afro-American Studies at UCLA will focus on the political economy of black people in the United States, Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America in comparative perspective. Speakers include: Charles V. Hamilton; Walter Rodney, author, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*; Marguerite Barnett, Chair, Political Science, Howard University; George Beckford, Chair, Economics, University of the West Indies; Robert Browne, Director, Black Economic Research Center; and Norman Whitten, author, *Class, Kinship and Power in an Ecuadorian Town: The Negroes of San Lorenzo*.

For further information, contact: Patti Iiyema, Symposium Coordinator, Center for Afro-American Studies, 3105 Campbell Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, California 90024.

Caribbean Studies Association 4th Annual Meeting. Fort de France, Martinique (May 28-31). Theme: "Research in the Caribbean." Program Committee: Stanford N. Gerber, Department of Sociology/Social Anthropology, Clark University, Worcester, Mass. 01610 and Arvin Murch (chair) and Ransford Palmer, Department of Economics, Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Cheiron: The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences 11th Annual Meeting. University of Akron, Akron, Ohio (June 8-10). Program Chair: Robert G. Weyant, Department of Psychology, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB 2TN 1N4, Canada.

Second International Meeting on Modern Portugal. University of New Hampshire, Durham (June 21-24). Theme: "Twentieth Century Portugal." Panels on Portuguese-speaking Africa will be included in the program. Contact: Professor Douglas L. Wheeler, Department of History, and Coordinator, International Conference Group on Modern Portugal, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire 03824.

Eighth International Congress for the Study of Pre-Columbian Cultures of the Lesser Antilles Biannual Meeting. St. Kitts, West Indies (July 29-August 4). Sponsored by the International Association for Caribbean Archeology. Contact: R. Christopher Goodwin, Dept. of Anthropology, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona 85281.

que, N.M.; Valley Forge, Pa.; and n-Salem, N.C.
 r adults: Regional conference on lonal and employment opportunities, an Association of Community and Colleges, Dallas.
 esearch: Northeast regional meet- sity of Research Administrators, orth-by-the-Sea, Portsmouth, N.H.
 t students: Regional meeting, Na- Scholarship Service and Fund for Students, Rye Town Hilton Inn, Rye.
 Involving education: Regional meeting, tion for Continuing Higher Educa- mple University, Philadelphia.
 Admissions: Regional college fair,

30-June 1—Careers: National conference, American Society for Personnel Adminis- trators and National Institute for Career Development, Doane College, Crete, Neb.
 30-June 1—Financial aid: "Data Processing in Financial Aid," conference, College Schol- arship Service, Williamsburg, Va.
 30-June 1—Libraries: "Critical Issues in Co- operative Library Development: A Confer- ence on Networks for Networkers," confer- ence, Indiana Cooperative Library Services Authority, Indiana Department of Public Instruction, Indiana University, and Pur- due University, Indianapolis.
 30-June 1—Personalized instruction: "Deliv- ering Individualized, Personalized Instruc- tion: A Nuts and Bolts Approach," work- shop, Community College,

ional Vietnam Era American Associ- American Associ- and Universities,

conference, North- port History, Uni- , Tex.

literature, Mod- ern Studies Associ- America, Sonoma, Lawrence, ert Park, Cal.

5—Publications: "Dhood and Creativ- sign," workshop to Mister Fred and Support o- Hotel, Washing

6-9—Research: Society of Res- son-Chicago Hi

8-11—Evaluation: fectiveness," Lodge, Gatlinab

7—Giving: Semi techniques, P Beverly Wilshii

7-8—Institutional ordinator's col- tional Develops Four-Year Ins Hotel, Las Veg

7-8—Testing: "D- ing Programs," ta Kappa, Clev

7-9—Chemistry: American Ches Columbus, Osh

7-11—Grantman- ing programs, cago, Los Ange

8-9—Giving: Sem techniques, P Beverly Wilshii

8-11—Giving: Sem techniques, P Beverly Wilshii

April 23, 1979

Calendar

April

24-25—Admissions: Regional college fair, National Association of College Admissions Counselors, Cleveland Convention Center, Cleveland.

24-25—Independent institutions: Annual meeting, Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, Empire State Plaza, Albany, N.Y.

24-27—Women: "Career Development for Employed and Underemployed Minority Women, seminar, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

25—Faculty: "Faculty Evaluation in Higher Education," workshop, National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and Cornell University, Biltmore Hotel, New York.

25—Experiential learning: Colloquium on experiential learning, Metropolitan State University, St. Paul.

25-27—Admissions: Regional college fair,

29-May 1—Administrators: "Leadership and Management for Women Administrators," conference for middle-level administrators, University of Pennsylvania and HERS-Mid-Atlantic University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

29-May 1—Africa: "Women and Work in Africa," symposium, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.

29-May 1—Educational research: Spring conference, New England Educational Re- search Organization, Provincetown, Mass.

29-May 1—Two-year institutions: Annual convention and educational materials show, American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago.

29-May 1—Nursing: Biennial convention, National League for Nursing, Georgia Con- gress Center and Hyatt Regency Hotels, Atlanta.

29-May 2—Black students: Annual national conference, National Scholarship Service

29-May 2—Black students: Annual national conference, National Scholarship Service

Continuing Conversations

WOMEN AND WORK IN AFRICA

Women and Work in Africa, a symposium exploring contemporary African women's economic roles in society, will take place April 29 to May 1 in the General Lounge, Illini Union. Participants will include African, European, and American women scholars and professionals who will present talks based on recent field research and work experience. Panel topics and times are as follows:

- Sunday, April 29--2:00-5:30 p.m. - Women in Africa: Image and Ideology
Sunday, April 29--7:30-10:00 p.m. - Education, Employment, and Family Responsibilities: Expectations and Realities
Monday, April 30--9:00 a.m.-12:30 - Government Policies and the Working Woman
Monday, April 30--2:00-5:30 p.m. - Women in Distribution and Marketing
Tuesday, May 1--9:00-12:30 - Women and Rural Development

Co-sponsors for the event include the African Studies Program, Illini Symposia for Women/Office for Women's Resources and Services, College of Agriculture, College of Education, History Department, Office of Women's Studies, School of Human Resources and Family Studies, and the Women in Development Office of USAID. For further information, contact the African Studies Program (3-6335).

BUCHI EMECHETA

Nigerian novelist and feminist Buchi Emecheta will spend the week of April 24-May 1 on the UIUC campus. Author of Second-Class Citizen (1975), The Bride Price (1976), The Slave Girl (1977) and The Joys of Motherhood (1979), Ms. Emecheta has won acclaim for her work. A recent critic notes:

In narratives of attractively readable simplicity (the sort that

A F R I C A N S T U D I E S P R O G R A M

presents

WEDNESDAY NOON LECTURE SERIES

12 noon

315 Gregory Hall

Bring a sack lunch.

The Wednesday noon informal lecture series is intended to explore new ideas and methods currently being employed by colleagues and to stimulate discussion. This semester we again include the presentation of a sub-series, Women and Society: Comparative Perspectives, from January 31 to March 14. We hope for your continued support of the lecture series.

WOMEN AND SOCIETY: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

- January 31 Edna G. Bay, Asst. Prof., African Studies
 "Women in Africa: an Introduction"
- February 7 Donald E. Crummey, Vis. Assoc. Prof. in African History
 "Women and Landed Property in Gondarine Ethiopia"
- February 14 Jan Gorecki, Prof., Sociology, Russian & E. European Studies
 "Some Recent Divorce Trends and the Position of Women"
- February 21 Evelyne Aocad, Asst. Prof., French
 "Women in the Arab Gulf: Preliminary Report on a Recent
 Research Trip"
- February 28 Susan Flynn, Vis. Asst. Prof., Latin Amer. & Caribbean Studies
 "Women in Bolivia"
- March 7 Barbara A. Yates, Assoc. Prof., Educational Policy Studies
 "Colonialism and the Education of Women: the Belgian Congo"
- March 14 Waunita Kinoshita, Grad. Asst, Center for Asian Studies
 "The Changing Role of Women in Japan"

* * * *

- March 28 Stephen Bunker, Visiting Lecturer, Sociology
 "The Succession of Ascendant Status Groups in Bugisu, Uganda, 1912-71"
- April 4 John Latham, Vis. Assoc. Prof., of Economic History, Economics, and Dept.
 of Economic History, University College of Wales, Swansea,
 "Karl Polanyi and the 'Birmingham School'"
- April 11 George Yu, Prof., Political Science
 "Nonalignment and Development: Development Assistance to Tanzania, 1970-76"
- April 18 Mohamoud Gulaid, Grad. Asst, Agricultural Economics
 Topic to be announced
- April 25 Hubert Dyasi, Vis. Prof., African Studies and Secondary Education
 "Southern African Issues"
- May 2 Daniel Avorgbedor, Grad. Asst, Music
 "Multi-media Musical Aesthetics Among the Anlo of Ghana: a Preliminary
 Investigation"

Spring 1979

THE MODERN AFRICAN WOMAN

BUCHI EMECHETA

A Nigerian novelist presently living in London with her five children. Emecheta has a degree in sociology from London University, with a special interest in racial stratification. She is the author of *In The Ditch*, a novel based on her experiences with the British welfare system, and three novels drawing on the experiences of women in Nigeria. Her fifth novel, *The Jays of Motherhood*, is being published this month. She has written for T.V. and radio, has worked as a teacher and community organizer, and is currently a member of the advisory committee to the British Home Secretary on Race and Equality.

She will participate in the symposium *Women and Work in Africa*, sponsored by the African Studies Program, April 29 - May 1.

African Studies Program, School of Humanities, Department of English, French, Political Science and Sociology, Afro-American Studies and Research Program, Program in Comparative Literature, Institutional Racism Project, Center for Advanced Study, Unit 1, YWCA, and The George A. Miller Committee.

**Wednesday,
April 25, 8 PM
University YM-YWCA,
Latzer Hall
1001 S. Wright Street,
Champaign**

MILLERCOMM79

African Women Topic Of Speech

A Nigerian novelist who writes about the experiences of African women in contemporary and traditional settings will keynote a symposium on "Women and Work in Africa" at the University of Illinois this week.

Buchi Emecheta, who now lives in London with her five children and whose fifth novel, "The Joys of Motherhood," will be published in the U.S. this month, will speak on "The Modern African Women," at 8 p.m. today at the University YMCA's Latzer Hall.

The symposium, sixth in a series of annual symposia sponsored by the African Studies Program at the UI, will be at the Illini Union April 29 through May 1.

Born in Lagos, Nigeria,



BUCHI EMECHETA

in 1944, Emecheta emigrated to London in 1962 with her student husband. When her marriage broke

up and she was left alone with five children, she managed to support her family while she earned a degree in sociology, with honors, from the University of London, and wrote five novels.

She has written for television and radio, worked as a teacher and community organizer, and is a member of the advisory committee to the British Home Secretary on race and equality.

Her books include "In the Ditch," a documentary on her experiences with the welfare system in London; "Second Class Citizen," an autobiographical work on her childhood in Nigeria and early years in Britain; "The Bride Price," set in rural Nigeria; "The Slave Girl," the life of a woman in the

early days of the colonial period in Nigeria, and "Titch the Cat," a book of children's stories.

The symposium will open at 2 p.m. April 29 with remarks by Ama Ata Aidoo, on sabbatical from the University of Ghana, Cape Coast to the University of Florida Gainesville.

Aidoo will speak on images of women in Africa.

AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM
University of Illinois

1208 West California, #101
Urbana, Illinois, 61801

IMMIGRANT WOMEN IN LONDON

A DISCUSSION WITH BUCHI EMECHETA AND FATMA HUSEIN

Thursday, April 26 at 7:00 pm
Murphy Hall, University YWCA-YMCA
1001 South Wright

Nigerian Buchi Emecheta has lived in London since 1962. A writer who has earned a BSc Honours degree in sociology from London University, she has described Africans' experiences as immigrants both in her documentary novel In the Ditch and in her autobiographical novel Second-Class Citizen. She has worked as a community organizer in London and is a member of the advisory committee to the Home Secretary on Race and Equality.

Born in Tanzania, Fatma Husein earned advanced diplomas in Social Administration and in Community Development from the London School of Economics and Manchester University respectively. She was a community worker in innercity London for four years, where she worked in particular with the South Asian immigrant community. She is currently completing her PhD dissertation based on a study of social needs and services in a Swahili neighborhood of Mombasa, Kenya.

Sponsors: African Studies Program, School of Humanities, Departments of English, French, Political Science and Sociology, Afro-American Studies and Research Program, Program in Comparative Literature, Institutional Racism Project, Center for Advanced Study, Unit I, YWCA, and The George A. Miller Committee.

Buchi Emecheta

will give a free public lecture

THE MODERN AFRICAN WOMAN

Wednesday, April 25, 1979

8 PM

Latzer Hall

University YWCA-YMCA

1001 South Wright

Champaign, Illinois

Buchi Emecheta is a Nigerian novelist presently living in London with her five children. She has a degree in sociology from London University, with a special interest in racial stratification.

Her first published work, In the Ditch (1972), was a documentary novel describing her experiences with the British welfare system. She has since published three other novels, all of which draw upon the experiences of Nigerian women in both historical and contemporary Nigerian settings. In January, her first children's book, Titch the Cat, appeared and in April her fifth novel, The Joys of Motherhood, will be published.

She has also written plays for television and radio, has worked as a teacher and community organizer, and is currently a member of the advisory committee to the British Home Secretary on Race and Equality.

She will be visiting the U of I campus from April 24 through May 1. In addition to her lecture on "The Modern African Woman," Ms. Emecheta will be participating in the following events to which you are cordially invited:

- April 26 7 PM Panel presentation, along with Fatma Husein, "Immigrant Women in London." Murphy Lounge, University YM/YWCA.
- April 27 Noon Y Forum Lecture, "Competing Images of Human Development." Latzer Hall, University YM/YWCA.
- April 29 2 PM Panel presentation, "Women in Africa: Image and Ideology," as a part of the Symposium on Women and Work in Africa, April 29 through May 1. General Lounge, Illini Union.

Emecheta's visit is being co-sponsored by the African Studies Program, Afro-American Studies Program, Center for Advanced Study, Comparative Literature Program, English Department, French Department, Institutional Racism Project, George A. Miller Committee, Political Science Department, School of Humanities, Sociology Department, Unit 1, and University YWCA.

For further information, please call the African Studies Program, 333-6335.

AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM
University of Illinois

1208 West California, #101
Urbana, Illinois 61801

WOMEN AND WORK IN AFRICA
April 29 - May 1, 1979

Ama Ata Aidoo, c/o Mildred Hill-Lubin, Ass't Dean of Graduate School, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

E. Oben Ako, Program in Comparative Literature, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Richard B. Allen, Dept. of History, 309 Gregory Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Delawit Amelga, History Dept., Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

Edna G. Bay, African Studies Program, University of Illinois, 1208 W. California, Urbana, IL 61801

Eyamba G. Bokamba, Dept. of Linguistics, 4003 Foreign Languages Building, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Sylvia Boone, c/o Dept. of Art History, Box 2009, 56 High St., Yale University, New Haven, CT 06520

Cynthia Brantley, Dept. of History, University of California, Davis, CA 95616

Coumba Cassey, Senior Community Development Officer, Supervisor Women's Programmes and Day Nurseries, Community Development Service, Banjul, The Gambia

Mbye Cham, African Studies Program, University of Illinois, 1208 West California, Urbana, IL 61801

Eunice Charles, Black American Studies, Southern Illinois Univ. Carbondale, IL 62901

Gayla Cook, African-American Institute, 833 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

Donald E. Crummey, African Studies Program, University of Illinois, 1208 W. California, Urbana, IL 61801

Lorraine Crummey, 705 W. Indiana Street, Urbana, IL 61801

Yomi Daramola, Institute of Communication Research, College of Communications, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

LaRay Denzer, History Dept. University of Illinois-Chicago Circle, P.O. Box 4348, Chicago, IL 60680

Doris Derby, Dept. of Anthropology, 109 Davenport Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Sabine Orsot-Dessi, 101 Vegetable Crops, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Masuma Downie, International Programs, College of Agriculture, University of Florida, G-025 McCarty Hall, Gainesville, FL 32608

Jean M. Due, Agricultural Economics Dept, 305 Mumford Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Cecelia Dumor, African Studies Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48823

- Teresia Elad, Provincial Economic Division, P.O. Box 123, Buea Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning, South West Province, Cameroon
- Buchi Emecheta, 7, Briston Grove, Crouch End, London, N.89EX
- Eleanor R. Fapohunda, 567 Langley Avenue, West Hempstead, NY 11552
- Anne Fleuret, Anthropology Program, National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C. 20550
- Dr. Louise Fortmann, Dept. of Rural Sociology, Cornell University, Warren Hall, Ithaca, NY 14850
- Betty Gabehart, University YWCA, 1001 S. Wright Street, Champaign, IL 61820
- Ellen Gillespie, Box 604 North Falmouth, MA 02536
- Corrine Glesne, 140 Education Bldg. University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801
- Jane Guyer, African Studies Center, Boston Univ. 10 Lenox St., Brookline, MA 02146
- Verna Hildebrand, Dept. FCS, NE 203, Michigan State Univ. East Lansing, MI 48824
- Dr. Mildred Hill-Lubin, Ass't Dean of Graduate School, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611
- Grace Hemmings, c/o Dept. of Anthropology, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06520
- Beverly D. Houghton, 87 Piermont Place, Piermont, NY 10968
- Fatma Muscin, 5708 S. Blackstone, Chicago, IL 60637
- Ellen Kittell, Dept. of History, 309 Gregory Hall, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801
- Ella C. Leppert, 704 S. Lynn St. Champaign, IL 61820
- Barbara Lewis, Dept. of Political Science, Livingston College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NY 08903
- Ruth M. Lewis, Dept. of Anthropology, 109 Davenport Hall, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801
- Pam Lindell, Modern Languages & Linguistics Library, Univ. of Ill. 425 Library, Urbana, IL 61801
- Edna E. Loose, Dept. of Agricultural Economics-West Africa Projects, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47906
- Lynette Lowe, 170 Lincoln St. Middletown, CT 06457

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Fhyllis Martin, Dept. of History, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47401

Wariara Mbugua-Mazrui, Population Studies Center, 3718 Locust Walk-CR, University
of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Scott McCormick, Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 310 King Hall,
Madison, WI 53703

Jane Mohraz, Dept. of Political Science, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Janice Monk, Dept. of Geography, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

M. S. Muntamba, Dept. of History, University of Zambia, P.O. Box 2379, Lusaka, Zambia

Matilda Nantogmah, The National Council on Women and Development, P.O. Box 100,
Tamale, Ghana

Shirl Newman, 19 West 69th Street, #704, New York, NY 10023

Andrea Nicolls, Fine Arts Dept., Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47401

Jean O'Barr, Political Science Dept., Duke University, 214 Perkins, Durham, NC 27706

Christine Obbo, 3418 Mendota Drive, Madison, WI 53705

Ehimwama Omo-Osagie, 1410 Garden Lane, Champaign, IL 61820

Penelope Roach, Dept. of Sociology, Marymount College, Tarrytown, NY 10591

Claire Robertson, 1727 E. Hunter St., Bloomington, IN 47401

Janet Rogers, Dept. of Political Science, Michigan State University, East Lansing,
MI 48824

Laurie Ross, African Division, Voice of America, Washington, D.C. 20547

Sonya Salamon, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Yvette Scheven, 328 Library, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Enid Schildkrout, American Museum of Natural History, Anthropology Dept., Central
Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024

Ilsa Schuster, Rehov Horkania 29/7, San Simon, Jerusalem, Israel

Mary Ellen Seaver, 1365 Sherman Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

Cynthia Smith, 910 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Patricia Stamp, Division of Social Science, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Kathleen Staudt, Office of Women in Development, Department of State, Agency of International Development, Washington, D.C. 20523

Elizabeth Stewart, 604 W. Iowa, Urbana, IL 61801

Michele M. Thompson, Office of the Chancellor, University of Illinois, 107 Coble Hall, Champaign, IL 61820

John Wembah-Rashid, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL 61801

E. Frances White, Dept. of Pan-African Studies, Temple University, College of Liberal Arts, Philadelphia, PA 19122

Francille Rusan Wilson, 3900 Walnut Street, Box H 124, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Helen Henderson, Office of Arid Land Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85700

Margaret Saunders, Dept. of Ag-Econ, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN 47906

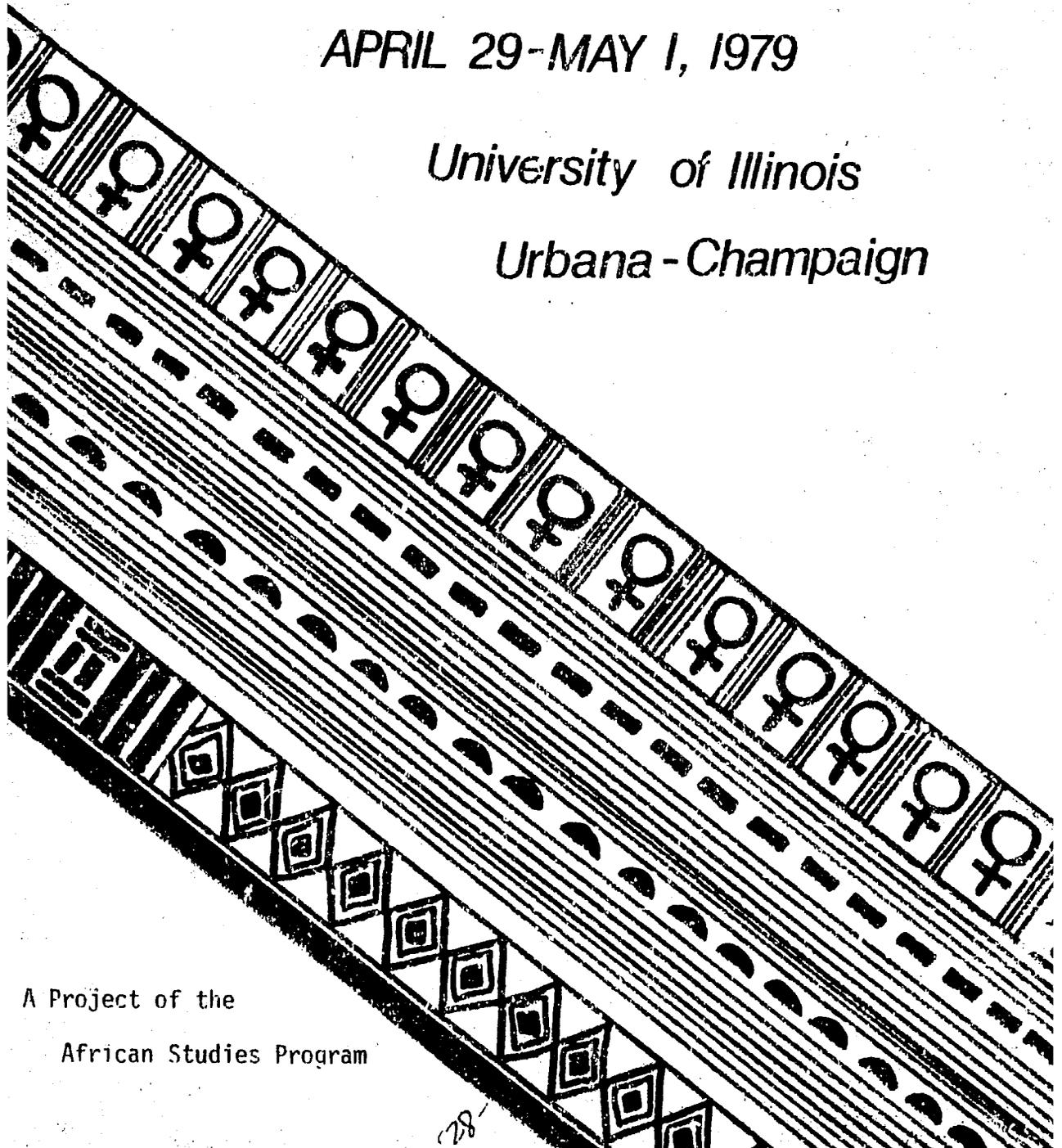
Susan Diduk, Dept. of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405

Women & Work in Africa

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 1979

University of Illinois

Urbana - Champaign



A Project of the

African Studies Program

DB

WOMEN AND WORK IN AFRICA is the sixth in a series of annual symposia sponsored by the African Studies Program of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It is the result of nearly a year's preparation by a group of University faculty and students. Our purpose was two-fold: to update the field of economic studies of women in Africa and to provide a forum for the exchange and stimulation of ideas among scholars and professionals concerned for women in Africa. The Program Committee thanks the following organizations for their generous support of the symposium effort:

African Studies Program
Department of Anthropology
College of Agriculture
College of Education
Department of History
Illini Symposia for Women/Office of Women's Resources & Services
Office of Women's Studies
School of Human Resources & Family Studies
US International Communication Agency
Women in Development Office, USAID

PRE-SYMPOSIUM ACTIVITIES

April 29, 1979

11:30 a.m. * Brunch for participants, guests, and symposium observers at the Levis Faculty Center, 919 W. Illinois, Urbana

Welcome: Linda Wilson
Associate Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Introductions: Edna G. Bay

SESSION I

WOMEN IN AFRICA: IMAGE AND IDEOLOGY

April 29, 1979 - General Lounge, Illini Union
2:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Chair: Doris Derby, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Mildred A. Hill-Lubin, University of Florida
*'For Whom Things Did Not Change': Women as Workers in Ama Ata Aidoo's
No Sweetness Here*

Ama Ata Aidoo, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
Feminism in Africa

Buchi Emecheta, London, England
Building on Tradition: Can the Past Provide Direction for the Future?

Sylvia Ardyn Boone, Yale University
Mende Ideals of Feminine Beauty in Relation to the Reality of Female Work

Discussant: Ehimwema Omo-Osagie, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

5:45 p.m. * Dinner for participants, guests, and symposium observers at The Parthenon Restaurant, 502 E. John, Champaign

* Observers may purchase brunch at \$5.25 per person and the group dinner at \$6.00 per person

SESSION II

GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND THE WORKING WOMAN

April 29, 1979 - General Lounge, Illini Union
7:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Chair: Donald E. Crumney, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

M. S. Muntamba, University of Zambia

Women in Agriculture in the Railway Region of Zambia: Dispossession and Counter-Strategies, 1930-1970

Francille Rusan Wilson, University of Pennsylvania

Re-inventing the Past and Circumscribing the Future: Authenticité and the Negative Image of Women's Work in Zaïre

Louise Fortmann, Cornell University

Women's Work and Ujamaa

Teresia Elad, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning, Cameroon

Women and Development Planning

Discussant: LaRay Denzer, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle

SESSION III

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES: EXPECTATIONS AND REALITIES

April 30, 1979 - General Lounge, Illini Union
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Chair: Barbara A. Yates, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Enid Schildkrout, American Museum of Natural History

Thoughts on Child Labor, Education and Marriage in Kano City

Penelope M. Roach, Marymount College

Career and Family--Expectations and Post-Secondary Realities: A Long-Term View of Ghanaian Students, 1961-1978

Eleanor R. Fapohunda, University of Lagos, Nigeria

The Child Care Dilemma of Working Mothers in African Cities: The Case of Lagos, Nigeria

Barbara Lewis, Rutgers University

Fertility and Employment: An Assessment of Role Incompatibility among African Urban Women

Discussant: Christine Obbo, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

SESSION IV

WOMEN IN DISTRIBUTION AND MARKETING

April 30, 1979 - General Lounge, Illini Union

2:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Chair: Dean E. McHenry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Claire Robertson, Indiana University
Education and Marketing in Accra

Ilsa M. Schuster, Hebrew University, Israel
Marginal Lives: Female Trade in Lusaka

Coumba Ceesay, Community Development Service, The Gambia
Women's Cooperative and Credit Societies: The Gambia

E. Frances White, Temple University
Women, Work and Ethnicity: Circole Women Traders, 1792-1945

Discussant: Edna G. Bay, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

6:15 p.m. Dinner for participants at the home of Jean and John Due, 808 Dodds Drive, Champaign

9:00 p.m. Reception for participants at the home of Victor C. Uchendu, 2401 Barbary Drive, Champaign

SESSION V

WOMEN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

May 1, 1979 - General Lounge, Illini Union

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Chair: Jean M. Due, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Grace Hemmings, Yale University
Adaptive Strategies to the Drought and the Evolution of Women's Economic Roles

C. P. McCormack, Cambridge University, England
Women's Control of Land, Labor and Capital--Sierra Leone

Marjorie Mbilinyi, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
The Changing Position of Women in Peasant Commodity Production

Marilda A. Nantogmah, Ghanaian National Council on Women and Development
Ghanaian Women Workers

Discussant: Kathleen Staudt, Women in Development Office, USAID

PARTICIPANTS

Ama Ata Aidoo, a Ghanaian writer best known for her short stories, is presently on sabbatical leave at the University of Florida, Gainesville. She is preparing for publication a collection of poems tentatively entitled As the dust begins to settle.

Edna G. Bay is a historian who received her PhD from Boston University. She has carried out research in West Africa on the social history of royal women in the kingdom of Dahomey.

Sylvia Ardyn Boone is a PhD candidate in art history who has done extensive field research among the Mende of Sierra Leone.

Coumba Ceesay is a Gambian in charge of Women's Programs for the Department of Community Development. She is specifically concerned with women in rural development.

Donald E. Crumney received his PhD in African history from the University of London in 1967. He spent six years teaching history in Addis Ababa and has published a book and articles on Ethiopian political, religious, and social history.

Doris Verby, a PhD candidate in social anthropology, is preparing her dissertation on "Black Women in Basket Weaving: A Study of Domestic Economy in Charleston, S.C." Her main interest in research is the roles of Black women as wives, mothers, and workers.

LaRay Denzer, a historian, received her PhD from the University of Birmingham. Interested in Sierra Leone, she is working on a biography of the political activist Constance Cummings-John.

Jean M. Due is a professor of agricultural economics. Her research has centered on agricultural development projects in Africa, on allocation of credit to small farmers in Tanzania, Zambia, and Sudan, and on constraints to women in development in Africa.

Teresia Elad, a Cameroonian, is with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning in Buea. She has worked with women's cooperatives and is responsible for the economic planning of her region.

Buchi Emecheta, born in Lagos, Nigeria, moved to London in 1962 where she began writing. Best known for her semi-autobiographical novel, Second-Class Citizen, she has just published her fifth book, The Joss of Motherhood.

Eleanor R. Fapohunda, a lecturer in economics, did her graduate work at New York University. She is particularly interested in the role of working women in the development process.

Louise Fortmann is a visiting assistant professor of rural sociology at Cornell University. She spent the last four and one-half years in Tanzania where she taught at the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry.

Grace Hemmings, a PhD candidate in economic anthropology, is writing her dissertation on "International Development and the Evolution of Women's Economic Roles in Northern Gourma." She has done extensive work in Upper Volta.

Mildred A. Hill-Lubin, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School and a professor of English at the University of Florida, received her PhD in English at the University of Illinois. Her research involves defining the African aesthetic as it is reflected in African and African-American literature.

Barbara Lewis is a political scientist who teaches at Livingston College, Rutgers University. She has extensively researched women's issues in the Ivory Coast.

Carol P. MacCormack, a lecturer in social anthropology, received her PhD from Bryn Mawr College. Since 1969 she has conducted intermittent fieldwork in the Mende and Sherbo ethnic areas of Sierra Leone.

Marjorie Mbilinyi is on the faculty of the College of Education at the University of Dar es Salaam. She has contributed significant research on female access to education in East Africa.

Dean E. McHenry, a professor of political science, has recently published a book, Tanzania's Ujamaa Villages. His principal area of research is rural development in Tanzania.

Naud Shimwagi Munteba is a historian who received her doctorate at UCLA. She specialized in the economic history of women in Zambia during the colonial period.

Matilda A. Nantogmah is a Ghanaian with the National Council on Women and Development at Tamale. She works with the health, education, and employment of women in northern Ghana.

Christine Obbo, from Uganda, received her PhD in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin. There she developed a course on "Women in Africa." Her research interests focus on women in East Africa.

Eliwema Omo-Osagie, from Nigeria, is a recent graduate of the University of Illinois in education. She is highly interested in the contributions of African women to their societies.

Penelope M. Roach received her PhD from Columbia in comparative education. Much of her research has been done in Western Ghana. Currently she is involved with the education of women and changing sex roles.

Claire Robertson, an African historian, received her PhD from the University of Wisconsin. She is writing a book about the impact of changing socioeconomic structures on Ga women.

Ilsa M. Schuster, who received her PhD in anthropology from Sussex, carried out research and taught for several years in Zambia. She is a Research Fellow at the Harry S. Truman Research Institute in Jerusalem.

Enid Schildkrout received her PhD from Cambridge University. Her doctoral work was on migration and ethnicity in Ghana. She has recently been researching the economic roles of Hausa women and children.

Kathleen Staudt, on leave from the political science department of the University of Texas at El Paso, works as an intern in the Women in Development Office of USAID. She has studied development program implementation in Kenya.

E. Frances White, an assistant professor in African history at Temple University, has taught at Fourah Bay College and researched Creole women traders in Sierra Leone.

Francille Rusan Wilson has researched African women in economic development in Zaire as part of a study sponsored by the Stevens Traveling Fellows Program. She is a PhD candidate in American and African social history.

Barbara A. Yates, who received a PhD from Columbia, is a professor of comparative education. Her research and published articles have dealt primarily with Belgian Africa. She is working on a study of "Sex Differentiation in Education in the Belgian Congo."