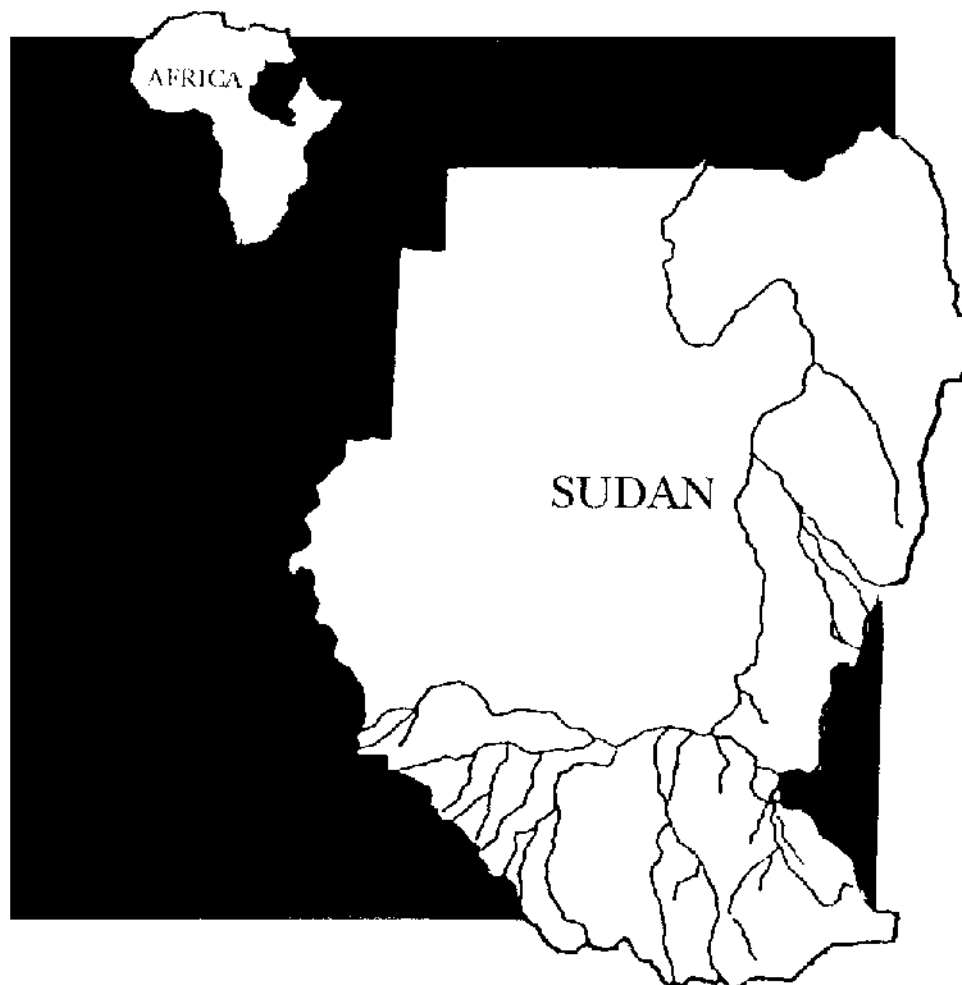


# SSA

## NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
SUDAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

نشرة جمعية الدراسات السودانية



VOLUME 12: NO: 2 (1992)

Editor

Dr Constance E. Berkley

Program in African Studies

Vassar College

Box 316

Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601, USA

## SUDAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

## CONTENTS

**President**                    **Mohammed I. Elshoush**  
 University of Alberta  
 Box 60914, Edmonton,  
 Alberta T6G 2T1, Canada  
 Tel (403) 432-0406  
 Fax (403) 492-2715

**President-Elect**        **Nelson Kasfir**  
 Department of Government  
 Dartmouth College  
 Hanover, NH 03755, USA  
 Tel (603) 646-2549

**Editor**                    **Constance E. Berkley**  
 Prog. in Af Studies  
 Vassar College  
 Box 316, Poughkeepsie,  
 NY. 12601, USA  
 Tel (914) 437-7481  
 Fax (914) 437-7187

**Executive Directors**        **John & Sara Voll**  
 4 Croghan Lane  
 Durham, NH 03824, USA  
 Tel (603) 868-2671  
 Fax (603) 862-2030

\*\*\*\*\*

The Sudan Studies Association is an independent professional society founded in the United States in 1981. Membership is open to scholars, teachers, students and others with interest in the Sudan. The Association exists primarily to promote Sudanese studies and scholarship. It has a cooperative relationship with the Institute of African and Asian Studies, University of Khartoum. SSA works to foster closer ties among scholars in the Sudan, North America, Europe, the Middle East and other places.

ISBN 0899-3785

- 1) From the New Editor
- 2) Minutes of the 11th SSA Annual Meeting
- 3) The 1992/3 Executive Board Meeting
- 4) SSA Officers, 1992-1993
- 5) Summary of Conference Presentations
- 6) Call for papers for the 1993 SSA Meeting
- 7) Cambridge Conference. Call for Papers
- 10) New SSA Committee in Khartoum
- 11) SNR Resumes Publication
- 12) ASA News
- 13) Ahfad Journal
- 14) Sudan Academic Exchange
- 15) Books Delivery to Sudanese Universities
- 16) Boston Museum News
- 17) SSA Human Rights Committee
- 18) M. El-Tigani Complains of the Junta
- 19) R. Lobban's note on El-Turabi
- 20) Obituary
- 21) Library of Congress, Cairo
- 22) Books Available for Review
- 23) Bookreview

GREETINGS FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I assume the duties of Newsletter Editor with a deep sense of gratitude, fondness and respect for our esteemed colleague Dr. Ismail Abdalla who has been one of our most loyal and steadfast supporters of the SSA, since its inception in 1981. As departing Editor, Ismail suggested that the Newsletter might include excerpts from papers in process or "working notes." Such informative additions would give the association's publication greater strength and appeal to new members. If we are to keep the Newsletter as informative and inclusive as this current issue, then we will need your assistance. Please keep us alerted to your current scholarly activities so that we may serve the cause of learning and scholarship which we all support and honor. Let us hear from you. Slight problems with my health and the transition in editorship caused this edition to be somewhat delayed.

Constance E. Berkley, Vassar College

\*\*\*

**SSA; 11TH ANNUAL MEETING**

Business Meeting, Vassar College, New England Hall,  
April 11, 1992

1. Call to Order. President Coughenour Called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and presented the agenda which was accepted without objection. He began his opening remarks by welcoming distinguished guests, including: Yusif Fadl Hasan, Ali Suleiman Fadlallah, Ali Abdalla Abbas, Ambassador Petterson, and Talal Asad. President Coughenour also noted that these are exciting times for the SSA with the acceptance of a new constitution and election procedures. Congratulations were extended to those who organized the various sessions which included 35 presentations, not counting the spontaneous ones.

2. Constitution revision. Dr. John Voll, co-executive director, reported that 58 ballots had been returned from the 158 that had been mailed with 57 returns approving the new constitution and 1 opposing. Motion to accept the election results and authorize destruction of the ballots was seconded and approved. Dr. Ismail Abdalla agreed to prepare a clean copy of the new constitution (without delete and add notations) for distribution to members.

3. 1993 meeting site. Dr. Voll reported that the African Studies Center, Michigan State University, has extended a written invitation for the SSA to hold its 1993 meeting at the Center. In response to a question from Dr. Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban who asked if Toronto had been considered, Dr. Voll indicated that because key persons will be absent in 1993, Toronto would prefer hosting the SSA meeting in 1995. Upon motion and second, the invitation was accepted. Dr. Malik Kheir Balla indicated that he would serve as the local coordinator for the 1993 meeting. Dr. Ahmed El Bashir commended the practice of obtaining written invitations and urged members to arrange for invitations from their institutions for future SSA meetings.

4. Ad hoc 1994 meeting. Reporting for the ad hoc committee on the 1994 joint meeting with the SSSUK, Dr. Richard Lobban reported that arrangements are nearly completed for holding the meeting at Boston University, African Studies Center, the second oldest African Studies program in the United States, with the participation of the Museum of Fine Arts which is opening a permanent exposition on Nubian antiquities on May 10, 1992. As a backup plan, discussions are also underway with the African-African/American Studies Program at Northeastern University. Some concern was raised that with the large presence of Ethiopians in the Boston area we might not be able to keep the Sudanese focus we want. President Coughenour noted that the president and Board of Directors will have final control over the program and will be able to protect SSA interests. The need for a local arrangements person was noted. The suggestion that SSA explore working with other groups from the Horn of Africa was modified by the recommendation that SSA explore individual joint conferences with such groups. Dr. Richard Lobban asked for a vote of confidence in proceeding so that the new director of the Center, who is in favor of holding the meeting, will be supported in coming to final agreement. Dr. Bechtold motion, duly seconded, that SSA endorse the work done to date by the ad hoc committee and that the committee be encouraged to proceed with an agreement on the site and get a formal invitation.

Discussion was extended by Dr. Bechtold who expressed distress at the absence of Southern Sudanese at this meeting and asked whether this was due to holding the meeting in the Northeast and expressed the need to try to get persons representing all points of view at the SSA meetings. Dr. Ahmed El-Bashir wanted to see more new "blood" at the meetings, including Sudanese graduate students. President Coughenour asked each member to devote time and energy in getting new participants and indicated that the new Board of Directors should be charged to look into this matter as well.

5. Executive Director's report. Sarah Voll presented the Treasurer's report, noting a cash balance of

\$3,706.92 as of December 31, 1991; income of \$3,006.30 in the first quarter of 1992; expenses of \$878.27; leaving a balance of \$5,834.95 minus the \$943.00 encumbered for the University of Khartoum, which with the CD held by SSA whose value as of 6/15/91 was \$2,166.96, gives a net worth of \$7,058.91 prior to the current meeting. The actual balance will be lower after expenses for the conference are paid. When asked when the Khartoum conference papers will be ready, Dr. Ismail Abdalla reported that the papers are now edited and he will give the disk to any volunteer to handle publishing. In the absence of a volunteer he will continue with publication through the Michigan State University Press. Dr. Carolyn Lobban urged that the Association commit itself to completing publication as a collective responsibility. The treasurer's report was accepted on the condition that a favorable audit report is provided to the

Dr. John Voll reported on membership, noting that paid dues were received in 1991 and/or for 1992 from 76 regular members, 37 life members, 36 students, 8 emeritus and unemployed persons, and 10 nonprofit institutions (for the newsletter). There were also 4 exchanges. Counting all categories, there are 171 active members. A total of 36 persons had paid dues in 1990 or earlier, but had not renewed, perhaps because of the increase in dues from \$12.00 to \$30.00. Dr. Voll thought the increase may hit hardest on younger faculty who can least afford the increase. Although the increase in dues increased revenues, it decreased the number of members. Dr. Voll also noted that about one-half of the persons presenting at this program had not been members before and that two-thirds of the candidates for the Board are "new blood". Several suggestions were made regarding the dues structure. These included considering a tiered membership and dues pegged on salary levels. Apart from dues, it was pointed out that membership could be increased by making potential members aware of the strong, excellent papers presented at this conference. After some further discussion, it was agreed that two steps would be taken to get former members to renew their membership: (1) Dr. Ahmed El-Bashir will prepare a summary of this meeting, written

to appeal to former members; and (2) President Coughenour will prepare a special report from the President stressing the activities and vitality of the SSA. Both will appear, as an insert, to get extra attention, in the next newsletter along with a copy of the program of the conference. This special issue of the newsletter will be mailed to persons who have not paid dues since 1990. To assist with this effort, President Coughenour agreed to send the abstracts of papers to Dr. El-Bashir. Dr. Nelson Kasfir urged flexibility in publication of the next newsletter, with its release timed to have the greatest impact on attendance for the next conference. President Coughenour thought that the next newsletter should be distributed as soon as possible.

Dr. Ann Lesch pointed out that these efforts will not reach new potential members. In response, Dr. John Voll noted that SSA arranges special sessions with MESA and ASA as a way of reaching new members and increasing interest in the Sudan.

Dr. Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban reminded the group that SSA is a robust organization, now in its 12th year and one that has held two international meetings and is organizing its third such meeting. SSA, she further indicated, is seen as a positive model for similar organizations in other countries.

6. Newsletter Editor. President Coughenour announced that Dr. Constance Berkley has agreed to become the new editor of the Newsletter. Dr. Ismail Abdalla agreed to continue to manage the production and distribution until another arrangement can be found.

7. Report on elections. Dr. John Voll reported that ballots were sent to the 150 members in good standing and that 61 ballots were returned. Dr. M. I. Shoush was elected president and Dr. Nelson Kasfir was elected president-elect. Based on the number of votes received, Dr. Victoria Bernal, Dr. Salah Hassan were elected to three-year terms as Directors of the Association; Dr. Mohamed Khalil and Dr. Lidwein Kapteijns were elected to two-year terms, and Dr. David Chand and Dr.

Richard Lobban were elected to one-year terms. Dr. Voll thanked the remaining candidates for being willing to have their names placed in nomination. Motion to accept the election results and to destroy the ballots was seconded and approved.

8. Committee to monitor human rights violations in Sudan. Extensive discussion followed President Coughenour's request for discussion of these issues. Dr. Ahmed El-Bashir, noting that monitoring of violations is not directed to the present regime urged that SSA take a positive position on monitoring violations. Dr. Ismail Abdalla asked that SSA focus on violations in academic institutions and those involving academics, a view supported by Dr. Richard Lobban. Dr. Ann Lesch noted that MESA has such a committee while ASA monitors a wider array of violations across all of Africa. Questions were raised about how much influence SSA could have; to what extent our efforts would duplicate those of larger organizations; and whether SSA has the resources to validate claims of violations. Dr. El-Bashir reiterated the need to have a group that would inform our own members of violations and that could act as a pressure group with the U.S. State Department and other U.S. groups. One speaker called for efforts that reach persons in power in Sudan in personal and unpublicized ways while others pointed out that what persons in authoritarian regimes fear most is publicity given to violations. Dr. Peter Bechtold poised the question in terms of strategy versus tactics: will additional SSA activities make any difference? He further urged that contacts be focused on the Human Rights Office of the Africa Bureau of the State Department and that contacts with Congressional offices might be counter productive.

Summing up the discussion, Dr. Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban moved that SSA establish a standing committee or liaison body to obtain information on human rights violations involving colleagues in Sudan and that the group establish liaison with similar organizations that have resources and means to bring attention to violations. Dr. John Voll reminded the meeting that the committee could not speak for the Association without taking a

poll of members on issues at hand. Dr. Nelson Kasfir recommended that the committee be created from among the directors of the Association. Dr. M. I. Shoush indicated that focusing on human rights does not involve making political statements; the focus should be on what is happening to a particular person. Dr. Richard Lobban noted that individuals may write articles for the newsletter on human rights issues and violations as well. With these additional considerations in mind, the motion was seconded and passed.

9. Appreciations. President Coughenour asked for and received enthusiastic approval for sending a letter of appreciation to the acting president of Vassar College commending the College for the fine facilities and gracious hosting of the conference. President Coughenour was directed to include appreciation for the outstanding services and support provided by Dr. Constance Berkley and student assistants.

10. New business. As retiring editor of the newsletter which he managed so well for the past three years, Dr. Ismail Abdalla received an acclamation of appreciation on behalf of all SSA members. President Shoush thanked Dr. Coughenour for his work and contributions to the success of the 11th Annual Meeting.

11. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

#### 1992-1993 Executive Board Meeting

The meeting of the 1992-1993 Executive Board of the S.S.A. was held at #101 New England Building, Vassar College, on Saturday, April 11, 1992 at 2:30 p.m.

The meeting was attended by the members of the Board present at the SSA 11th Annual Conference, namely:

M.I. Shoush  
Nelson Kasfir

Richard A. Lobban  
C. Milton Coughenour (Past President, SSA)  
Constance Berkley (Editor/Newsletter)  
Sarah Voll Co-Executive Director  
John Voll Co-Executive Director

#### Absent Board Members

Salah Hassan  
Victoria Bernal  
M.I. Khalil  
Lidwiens Kaptejins  
David Chand  
Lee Burchinal Secretary

#### Minutes

##### 1. 1991/92 SSA Board

The Board moved a vote of thanks for Professor Milton Coughenour, Past President and Program Coordinator of the 1992 Conference, Professor Constance Berkley, local Arrangements Coordinator, the President of Vassar College, the staff of the Program in Africana Studies and all other co-sponsors for an excellent job in conducting what a number of participants described as one of the best successful SSA conferences.

##### 2. The Newsletter

The Board expressed its appreciation and thanks for Professor Ismail Abdalla for his excellent work during his term as Editor of the SSA Newsletter and welcomed Professor Berkley as the new Editor. The Board pledged to actively participate by providing and encouraging other members of interested individuals to provide the necessary material for the Newsletter.

##### 3. Absent Board Members

Absent elected members of the Board are to be informed of their election to the Board and advised of the decisions of the Board and the Annual Business

Meeting held at 5:00 - 6:15 on Friday, April 10, 1992. They are also to be requested to make special efforts to attend the next Conference and Board meeting.

#### 4. The New Constitution

The Executive Directors informed the Board that the final edited copy of the Constitution would be distributed to the members of the Board and published for the benefit of all members in the coming edition of the Newsletter.

#### 5. Election of Secretary and Executive Directors

A motion to elect the Secretary at the next meeting of the SSA in 1993 and to request the Co-Executive Directors to continue to serve until 1994 was made by Professor Coughenour, seconded by Professor Kasfir and was carried unanimously.

It was agreed that Professor Lee Burchinal be approached by the Executive Directors to inquire whether he would like to continue to serve as Secretary beyond 1993.

#### 6. Nomination Committee

The President appointed Professor Milton Coughenour, Ismail Abdalla and Ann Lesch to act as three member nominating committee for the election of the Secretary and the two three year Board members for 1993. Professor Coughenour agreed to undertake to approach the other two members to start the procedure.

It was suggested that Robert S Kramer be encouraged to put his name for nomination and to endeavor as far as possible within the limits of the Constitution to have unopposed candidates to avoid confused elections.

#### 7. 1993 Conference

The Board endorsed with gratitude the Annual Business Meeting acceptance of the invitation to hold the 1993 SSA Conference at Michigan State University. It took note that Malik Balla will be responsible for all local administrative arrangements.

It was also agreed:

(a) that the President and President-Elect act as joint Program coordinators;

(b) that a strict schedule be adhered to announcing the main theme (preferably in the first-coming issue of the Newsletter) determining panel topics and panel organizers, soliciting paper titles (by November 1992) submission of abstracts (by January, 1993) and completed papers (by March, 1993).

(c) The Board approved the suggestion made by the President - to hold the 1993 Conference towards the end of April (i.e. April 29-30, May 1, 1993), provided it is considered suitable by the host university.

The Board deliberated on the theme for the 1993 Conference and suggestions were made that the theme may revolve around the topic of Sudanese Identity between Africanism and Arabism. The Board highlighted the necessity of attracting wider disciplines not hitherto represented (i.e. archeology) in future Conferences.

#### 8. 1994 International SSA Conference

The Board took note of the proposal made by Professor R. Lobban and accepted in principle in the Business meeting, to consider Boston as the most appropriate venue for the International Conference scheduled for 1994. Both the African Center of Boston University and the Museum of Fine Arts, which is planning to stage a Nubian exhibition, would be approached to act as co-sponsors.

It was decided that the President and Professor Richard Lobban make the necessary contacts to finalize arrangements. An agreed theme with SSSUK will be published in the Newsletter as soon as such agreement is reached.

#### 9. Publication

Professor Richard Lobban informed the Board that Mellen Press would undertake the publication of the SSA Conference papers against the payment of \$1,000.00 Other

details on the offer were not available. Professor John Voll explained that in its present financial situation the Association would not be able to afford the sum required by Mellen Press.

Professor Coughenour suggested that as a first step, the Association should demand from all participants that they present a specific number of copies of their papers to be collated and produced in volumes in paperback covers to be sold to recover expenses incurred. The Association may later consider the publication of a selection of these papers based on their academic merit.

It was finally decided that the President would investigate this matter further and report to the Board at a later date.

#### 10. Human Rights

Pursuant to the discussion in the Annual Business Meeting regarding the question of human rights, it was agreed that the Association has neither the resources nor the facilities to tackle the problem rights independently. However, it was agreed that the Association should work in close collaboration and coordination with other existing bodies, i.e. Amnesty International. Information regarding human rights violations in connection with Academicians and professionals in the Sudan can be obtained, as well given, to these organizations. It was agreed that, in dealing with this matter of human rights, the Association should avoid a general political or partisan stand, as the Association is constituted of individuals of different or opposing political/ideological stands.

The Board entrusted Professors Richard and Carolyn Lobban with monitoring human rights violations involving academic and professional colleagues, in liaison with International Human Rights Commission, United Nations, Amnesty International and other organizations involved in human rights questions. Members at large will be asked through the coming Newsletter to contact Professors Carolyn and Richard Lobban on this matter. Professors Carolyn and Richard Lobban will present a

human rights annual report to the SSA Annual Business Meeting.

#### 11. Membership

The Board took note of the fact that the total membership is 171 including 76 regular and 37 life members. It endorsed all recommendations made at the Annual Business Meeting to enlarge the present membership and ensure that various divergent views are adequately represented at the Annual Conference. These include publishing the success of the 1992 Conference as a positive message to potential new members, who were unable to attend, and to those who ceased to be members. In addition, active members would be provided with membership forms to recruit new members. Special attention would be given to the young and those whose field had not been represented.

#### 12. Membership Directory

It was agreed that it is essential, in order to facilitate contact between members and colleagues working in the same field, to publish an annual directory to include addresses with brief biographical notes specifying field of study, and current research and publications. Members would be required to give written consent for their names and addresses to be included in the directory. Only those giving consent will receive copies of the directory. Use of this directory for advertising purposes by academic publishers and others would be regulated. Implementation of this recommendation was left to the Co-Executive Directors.

#### 13. Relationship With Other Academic Organizations

The Board approved the recommendation of the Annual Business Meeting to initiate and maintain relations with similar studies associations, (i.e. the Eritrean, Ethiopian...etc).

#### 14. Audited Statement

Professor Nelson Kasfir accepted to audit the SSA 1991-1992 financial statement.



The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

M.I. Shoush

**SUDAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**  
Officers, 1992-93

**Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Shoush, President**

**Dr. Nelson Kasfir, President-Elect**

**Dr. C. Milton Coughenour, Past President**

Department of Sociology  
500 Garrigus Building  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, KY 40546  
Office: (606) 257-8920  
Home: (606) 266-7815  
fax: (606) 257-4354

**Dr. Sarah Voll**

**Dr. John Voll**

Executive Directors  
Department of History  
4 Croghan Lane  
University of New Hampshire  
Durham, NH 03824  
Home: (603) 868-2671  
Fax: (603) 862-2030

**Dr. Constance E. Berkley, Newsletter Editor**

**Dr. Lee G. Burchinal, Secretary**  
4141 N. Henderson Road, Suite 1216  
Arlington, VA 22203  
Office: (703) 525-9045

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
1992-93

1-year terms

**Dr. Richard Lobban,** Department of Anthropology,  
Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908  
Office: (401) 456-8006, Home: (401) 467-2857

**Dr. David Chand,** 1025 Vermont Ave., N.W.  
Apt. S-920, Washington D.C. 20005  
Office: (202) 347-3507  
Home: (301) 608-3713.

2-year terms

**Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Khalil,** 109 North West Drive, Silver  
Spring, MD 20901  
Tel (202) 429-3825

**Dr. Lidwien Kapteijns,** Department of History, Wellesley  
College, Wellesley, MA 02181.  
Tel (617) 235-0320, ext. 2603  
(617) 239-0560

3-year terms

**Dr. Victoria Bernal**

Department of Anthropology  
University of California-Irvine, Irvine, CA 92717.  
Fax (714) 856-8441

**Dr. Salah Hasan,**

New School for Social Research, 65 Fifth Avenue, New  
York, NY 10003 Office: Office: Tel (212) 229-5757

\*\*\*

**ELEVENTH ANNUAL SSA CONFERENCE - SUMMARY**  
**INTRODUCTION**

The theme of the Sudan Studies Association's 11th Conference (April 9-11, 1992) at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York was "Islam in Sudan's Past and Future." The Conference was sponsored by Vassar's Program in Africana Studies, and co-sponsored by the Dean of the Faculty's Office and the departments of Anthropology, Art, Education, English, Political

Science, International Studies and Religion, in addition to the college's Library Reader Services. Professor Constance Berkley coordinated the local arrangements; Professor C.. Milton Coughenour, as President of SSA, coordinated the program; and Professors John and Sarah Voll, as Executive Directors, made the financial arrangements. No wonder then that the end result was one smooth and elegant operation, thanks to the collective efforts of the above-mentioned offices and individuals.

The chosen theme was both timely and ambitious, yet the participants, American and Sudanese, managed to deal with its different aspects with objectivity and sensitivity. The absence of Southern representation was regretted, but was more than compensated for by several Northerners who believe in secularism, human rights, and democracy for the whole Sudan. It should be remembered in this regard that the introduction of the Islamic Sharia Law in September 1983 and the fundamentalist military takeover on June 30, 1989 replaced the old regional and ideological demarcations of South/North, Right/Left, Muslim/Christian with a more subtle and pervasive division between the rainbow of advocates of secularism (euphemism: democracy) versus those who believe in political Islam (euphemism: federalism). More than any other political developments the introduction of the Sharia Law and the 1989 military coup have qualitatively changed the course and dynamics of politics in the Sudan.

The contributions of the participants were in many ways an indication of such unfolding changes. In more than one way the Conference was a harbinger of the confusion and deadlock that characterized the Abuja [Nigeria] Peace Talks in the last week of May between the military-fundamentalist government of Sudan and the two wings of the SPLM/A, and its aftermath. A follow-up of the 11th annual Conference of SSA is in order to examine the ability of both Sudanese politicians and Sudanists around the world to coin new terminology to capture the post-September 1983 political and socio-economic developments in the Sudan. It is time to find

out whether the terms and concepts of the post-World War II period, which are still in use, are relevant, and whether they are tools of conflict resolution or perpetuation and complication.

Both the Conference theme and the contributions of the participants are dealt with here from this perspective. The following discussion is based solely on the abstracts of papers sent to the Conference organizers prior to its convening. This process was done for the sake of accuracy and fairness. During the Conference Vassar College, Africana Studies Historian, Dr. Norman Hodges assumed the role of Oral Historian, video-taped the proceedings and promised to make the tape available to those interested in a more comprehensive coverage. We thank him and wish him good luck with his efforts in this regard.

#### SESSION SUMMARIES

Session I - Open Roundtable on Democracy and Human Rights in Sudan

Chair: Ahmed El-Amin El-Bashir

The opening panel was an experiment in group intellectual interaction. It served as a stimulus and pace-setter for the rest of the conference. Future conferences should utilize such a strong and effective instrument that functions as the topic sentence for the sessions to come. This panel opened with a few remarks by the Chair that emphasized the urgency of the issue of human rights, and the moral responsibility of both Sudanese expatriots and Sudanists in the ongoing struggle for these rights. It was also emphasized that such a struggle is moral rather than political, and as such it would not violate the non-sectarian, non-political articles of the SSA Constitution. There was a near consensus that the issue of democracy should be separate from that of human rights on the grounds that while democracy is not necessarily the only political alternative of world governments, human rights are considered to be basic and the same everywhere for all people.

Session III - Women, Islam and Sudanese Society  
Chair: Sarah Voll, University of New Hampshire

Panelist I - Kharyssa K. Rhodes, Rhode Island College.  
"Situation in Sudan: Female Circumcision"

The issues surrounding circumcision are exceptionally complex: they envelop nearly every aspect of community life and custom. The practice of female circumcision was somehow incorporated into Islamic belief when the faith swept the continent [of Africa] in the eighth century, but it is not endorsed by Muslim leaders or the Qur'an in any way. As a custom it serves as a positive-functioning aspect of the culture which fits neatly into Islamic codes of modesty and virginity. For this reason the eradication of the practice, a continuing fight since the 1920s, has not been realized.

Panelist II - Edith Grotberg and Sadiga Washi, Ahfad University. "Critical Factors in Women's Status Predictive of Fertility Rates in Sudan"

The study examined the status of women as this related to fertility rates in Sudan. The objectives were to 1) identify the position of women in the dynamic push of change and the pull of tradition; e.g., individual freedom and patriarchal control, and 2) identify the position of women resulting from the separation of ideas traditionally held inseparable; e.g., high fertility and female status.

The research consisted of 1) urban interviews with 600 women representative of income levels, rural/urban residence, and age, to obtain data on demographics, family systems, child rearing practices, sex differences, male-female equality sense of autonomy, and early childhood experiences; and 2) determining the woman's position on the traditional, transitional, and modern continuum.

The question guiding the analyses was: What aspects relating to the status of women are important in predicting fertility rates? It was hoped that the analyses, being conducted at Iowa State University, would provide some answers as to why the fertility rates

have not changed in Sudan in spite of national efforts to reduce them.

Session IV - Perspectives on Early and Late Socio-cultural History  
Chair: John Voll, University of New Hampshire

Panelist I - Gabriel Warburg, Institute of Advanced Studies. "Sudanese and Egyptian Views of the Mahdiyya."

Historiographical disagreement between Egyptian and Sudanese embraced the study of the Mahdiyya. Egyptian historians have, by and large, defined the Mahdiyya as anti-European, rather than as aimed against Turco-Egyptian rule and its alleged corruption of Islam. Some of them went as far as to deny the evidence that the Mahdi ever denounced his fellow Muslims in the Lower Nile in his *manshurat*, or called upon his followers to launch a *jihad* against them. Comprehensive studies of Mahdist sources undertaken by Sudanese scholars, such as Muhammad Ibrahim Abu Salim, refute these arguments. While it has never been claimed that the Mahdi and his Khalifa welcomed European presence in their country, their attitude to these foreign trespassers was by no means worse than that to the Egyptian Khedive or the Ottoman Sultan. Indeed, an examination of the Mahdi's and the Khalifa's letters indicates that they were less concerned with the few Christian intruders than with the corrupt Muslim rulers who hired their services. Probably because they realized that it would be easier to expel the former, when the time arrived.

Panelist II - Jay Spaulding, Kean College  
"The Value of Virginity on Echo Island"

Structuralist anthropology, exemplified in the northern Sudanese context by Janice Boddy's recent and highly-acclaimed *Wombs and Alien Spirits*, denies that culture is in any meaningful sense the product of historical process. For example, the customs surrounding northern Sudanese marriage are seen as organized systematically around the defense of the cultural value

attributed to female virginity. Specifically, men are expected at first marriage to wed their virgin patrilineal parallel cousins or other close relatives, and to pay a high bride price in so doing; subsequent marriages may be contracted with a wider range of choice, and cost less.

The present study is part of a wider project of historical reconstruction of a Shaiqiyya village community of the 19th century called Abranarti or Echo Island; it is based largely upon an archive of private legal documents created by members of the community.

Panelist III - Richard Lobban, Rhode Island College  
 "Kushites: In the New World before Columbus?"

Next year, much of the western world will commemorate the 500th anniversary of the "discovery" of the New World by Christopher Columbus. However, it is clear that his achievement was built on past experiences of other earlier sailors and navigators from Egypt, Carthage, Greece, medieval Moors, Portuguese and Spaniards. Thus, to temper and balance his signal accomplishment, this paper takes an Afro-centric perspective which indicates a number of the African claims for Pre-Columbian Atlantic navigation. This paper also hopes to add some new perspectives to the scholarship of Ivan van Sertima, who has pioneered in the Afro-centric study of Africans in the New World before Columbus. In particular Lobban investigates the possibility of Kushitic voyages to the New World in the 8th and 7th centuries B.C.

Session V - The Islamic Impetus to Sudanese Literary Development

Chair: Constance Berkley, Vassar College

Panelist I - Mona Amunyi, American University of Beirut.

"In Fine Feather? or in God's Eye"

This paper analyzes Dr. Khalid al-Mubarak's play Rish al-Na'am (The Ostrich Plumage) written in Arabic in 1976 upon the advent of al-Numeiry in Sudan. The play

is inspired by the true story of Sheikh Taj-el-Din-al-Buhari who came from Baghdad to Sudan upon the invitation of some Sudanese pilgrims.

Al-Buhari spent seven years in Sennar and spread the teachings of Sheikh al-Jilani's Qadiriya Tarigah which is, today, the largest Sufi tarigah in Sudan. The play is written in symbolical style and allows the author to draw a vivid political satire with a nice blend a humor, pathos, and poetry. It dramatizes Arab man's lost soul as it is drawn in many contradictory directions. Set on a long indefinite road, with the desert behind him and the ocean ahead, Arab man seems to be in search of a home and some meaning in life in the midst of evils of many sorts.

Panelist II - Malik Balla, Michigan State University.  
 "Is Arabic an African Language?"

As any language Arabic originated in a certain part of the world, Arabia, surrounded by other languages. Due to the strategic location of Arabia in the Old World, Arabic became an important language of business and trade. Lately Islam enhanced the usage of Arabic in which the Qur'an was revealed. This paper is intended to examine the extent of African knowledge of Arabic and whether or not we can consider Arabic to be an African language.

Session VI - The Urban Experience in Sudan  
 Chair: Robert S. Kramer, St. Norbert College

Panelist I - Robert S. Kramer. "The Governance of Mahdist Omdurman"

This paper examines, in the context of Mahdist Omdurman, a problem familiar to students of Middle Eastern and "Islamic" cities: how urban areas are governed in the absence of civil authorities concerned specifically with urban matters. The paper seeks to explain how life in Omdurman was regulated: how security was ensured, how disputes were resolved, how matters of health and sanitation and food supply were attended to. After a discussion of overt political authority (viz.

the Khalifa Abdullahi and his contribution to the governance of the city), the paper examines the roles of socio-economic, religious and family-tribal structures in the ordering of daily life. The paper concludes with a discussion of Mahdist belief in the capital and its effectiveness in helping to transform the Sudanese into a coherent and unified social order.

Panelist II - Richard Lobban, Rhode Island College  
 ■Themes of Sudanese Urbanization in the 20th Century: The Case of Three Towns.■

Over the past century numerous studies have been done of the capital city. This paper seeks to put such works under a broad lens which looks at changing themes over this period. For example, social research during colonialism looked at land use planning and patterns, labor management, censuses, and the growth of urban trade unions. Post-colonial researchers have been concerned with urban development, ethnicity, community studies, migration, class formation, and the informal sector. This paper seeks to put this all into context and derive some general themes emerging from those who have studied the process of urban transformation.

Session VII - Islam and Economic Development in Sudan  
 Chair: Abdel-Hamid Bashir, Grambling State University

Panelist I - Adam Fadlalla, Cleveland State University. ■Information Systems Technology Transfer: A Tool for Economic Development■

Technology transfer, in general, and information systems technology, in particular, is an issue of major relevance to developing countries, as they, mostly, live on imported technologies. Technology transfer has been the topic of discussion and research by many over the years. The common conclusion of most of these authors is that successful technology transfer is a complex process and a challenging task indeed. However, it is an essential task that has to be continued in order

these countries to achieve technological and economic self-reliance. Issues addressed include 1) the problems, opportunities, and necessary precautions associated with information systems technology transfer; 2) the role that information systems technology can play in facilitating transfer of other types of technologies; and 3) the overall impact of a successful technology transfer on the development process in the country.

Panelist II - Abdel-Hamid Bashir, Grambling State University. ■Islam and Development■

Economic development is defined as increasing the GNP per capita in the country and raising the standard of living of the population. The vehicle for achieving these goals is assumed to be increased investment and physical capital formation. However, despite the technological advancement that we witness today, a vast majority of the world population live in poverty and severe unemployment, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. He investigates the cultural values and their effects on development, focusing on Islamic and economic development in Sudan.

Session X - Late 20th Century Islamic Movements and Their Impacts  
 Chair: Hassan El-Naggar, University of Chicago

Panelist I - Mustafa A. Mustafa, University of Wisconsin, Madison. ■The Relevance of Sudan's Past and Present to its Future■

There is a recent trend in many of the ■Third World■ countries toward what has become known as ■indiginization■ whereby people seek to return to a past and a present that is not tainted with the effects of colonialism and foreign ideologies. This is sometimes taken to an extreme that would practically isolate these societies, and deprive them of a confident and positive interaction with the world of today. These, of course, bear on the question of identity and independence, and consequently on the vision of how to contribute to the enrichment of human experience. The Sudan, with its

rich diversity, can provide a good test for this tendency and its viability. This paper touches on these issues, argues that a big dose of this is harmful, and attempts to see how much "indiginization" is practicable, and what that means to the future of the country.

Panelist II - Hassan El-Naggar. "Healing with Culture: The Case of Tayeb Salih's Mustafa Saeed"

No character in contemporary fiction has generated such a flow of literary criticism like that of Tayeb Salih's Mustafa Saeed. This paper briefly recounts the different interpretations that link the protagonist's tragic plight to his deranged psychological makeup to historical circumstances, or to his deprivation of motherly love but contends that the paramount focus of the narrative is on the central character's cultural alienation. By focusing on this theme the paper attempts to underline the importance of developing strong cultural roots in one's local environment in order to grow into a normal, whole human being.

Panelist III - Muhammad W. Ahmed, University of Mississippi. "Sociopolitical Transformation in Sudan: The Role of the Modern Islamic Movement"

This paper examines the various characteristics that set the modern Sudanese Islamic movement apart from its other counterparts in the Muslim world. It traces the important historical landmarks of the movement paying special attention to its variable stances toward the political establishment. By examining the movement's electoral campaigns and political programs, the paper attempts to measure the movement's role in the socio-political transformation of the Sudan.

Panelist IV - Hassan Ali, University of North Texas "Islam as a Legitimizing in Sudanese Partisan Politics"

Since the early days of its inception in the Sudan, Islam played a significant role in politics. Historically, the Sudan has witnessed a weak presence of

the central government in the remote areas of the country. Religious sects and orders along with the tribes filled this vacuum. When the political parties were created in the early 1940s, popular Islam was a power to be reckoned with. The socio-economic basis of the major political parties reflects this notion. Leaders of the political parties used Islam as a legitimizing and as a means to generate public support. Competition between tradition popular Islam, represented by the Umma and United Democratic parties, and the emerging contemporary Islamic movement, represented recently by the National Islamic Front, resulted in and increased role for Islam in Sudanese politics.

Session XI - Resolving Sociopolitical Conflicts in Sudan

Chair: Ismail Abdalla, College of William and Mary

Panelist I - Ahmed El-Amin El-Bashir, University of the District of Columbia. "Sudan and Iran: The Troublesome Regional Fundamentalist Connection"

In his paper about Sudanese-Iranian relations, Professor El-Bashir stressed two points. The first was that the international and regional reaction to this relationship was disproportionate to its real size. The second was that the limited amount of technical and financial assistance came at a time when the Sudanese government was in dire need for both, while the SPLM/A was cut off completely of outside aid after the fall of Mengistu, the former Ethiopian dictator. In other words, the fundamentalist Sunni-Shia connection was and remains more effective than either Sudan or Iran put into it or anticipated from it, thanks to a jittery and insecure "new world order."

Panelist II - Philip J. Thiuri, Vassar College "Reconstruction, Reconciliation and Healing in Southern Sudan: Where Do We Start?"

This paper discusses the cultural, political and economic forces that foster or hinder the processes of reconstruction, reconciliation and healing in Southern

\*\*\*

1993 SSA CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS

The 12th Annual SSA Conference will be held April 15-17, at the Kellogg Center of Michigan State University in East Lansing Michigan. Dr. Malik el-Kheir Balla will be the local arrangements coordinator. Dr. Ahmed el-Amin el-Bashir will be the Program Coordinator.

The Conference theme is "The Future of Democracy in Sudan". Submit Panel titles and Paper titles by November 30, 1992. Abstracts should be submitted by January 15, 1993. Completed papers must be received by your panel chair by March 17, 1993.

Please submit all panel and paper titles and abstracts to Dr. el-Bashir, 801 Lanark Way, Silver Spring MD, 20901

\*\*\*

CALL FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

University of Cambridge  
African Studies Centre

FROM MILITARY INTERVENTIONISM TO CIVILIAN RULE IN THE SUDAN THE CRITICAL TRANSITIONAL PERIODS

Transitional periods in Sudanese contemporary politics will be the subject of a two-day conference to be held at the Cambridge University Centre, in Cambridge, United Kingdom on the 17th of August, 1992. The conference will focus on assessments which appears to be of special interest to any future government in the Sudan. The conference will be held at a time when both national transitional plans and strategic policies for the region will have matured further. Thus, the conference provides a strategic venue for the Sudanese affairs analysts whether academicians or practitioners.

THEMES

Papers are invited concerning particular periods and

experiences which among them explore a range of issues about national efforts to manage and control the aspects of transitional stage. It is unlikely that these issues can be feasibly explored for the country in general. Thus, contributions should be clearly oriented towards the impacts of transitional period on the future developments.

Persons wishing to present papers should contact Dr. Salah Bander, at the African Studies Centre, Free School Lane, Cambridge, CB2 3RQ  
 Telex: 81240 CAMSPLG Fax: +44 223 334748 E-Mail: SAB17@UK.AC.CAM.PHX (Janet), SAB17@PHX.CAM.AC.UK (EARN/BITNET...etc)

A brief statement of any proposed paper would be most welcome.

\*\*\*

Conference Papers for the SECOND INTERNATIONAL SUDAN STUDIES CONFERENCE are still available in three volumes, each containing a mixture of subjects. They may be purchased either as a set or individually. Send to Miss L E Forbes, Durham University Library, Stockton Road, DURHAM, DH1 3LY, ENGLAND

\*\*\*

#### NEW SSA COMMITTEE: KHARTOUM SUDAN

Through the initiative of the new SSA President, Dr. M. I. Shoush, a local committee of members and friends of the SSA has been established in the Sudan. It is composed of Professors Yusuf Fadl Hasan, Mohasin A. Hag el-Safi, Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Abu Salim and Dr. Abdullahi Ali Ibrahim. Dr. Yusuf Fadl should be contacted for any services such as visas, lectures in the Khartoum area and outside it and information about scholarly activities in the Sudan.

\*\*\*

#### SUDAN NOTES AND RECORDS RESUMES PUBLISHING

During his stay for the participation in the Eleventh SSA Conference Professor Yusuf Fadl Hasan informed us that he has renewed editorship of Sudan Notes and Records. A current volume should appear within the coming semester. If you would like to buy a collection of back issues you would be able to receive a substantial discount. Or articles from any back issues can be obtained by writing to Professor Yusuf Fadl Hasan, Afro-Asian Institute, P.O. Box 321, Khartoum University.

\*\*\*

#### AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWS

##### Annual Meeting Papers 1991

El Hadi El Nagar, Samia. The Status of Women Studies in the Sudan.\* 1991:28

Kanya-Forstner, Sydney and Paul E. Lovejoy. Pilgrims, Interpreters and Agents: French Reconnaissance Reports on the Central Sudan in the 1890s. 1991:52

Kevane, Michael. Village Labor in Sheikan District, Sudan. 1991:53

\*\*\*

#### HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO SUPPORT SCHOLARLY PUBLICATION IN SUDAN

THE AHFAD JOURNAL, now in its ninth year of publication, is published by the Ahfad University for Women under the able editorship of Dr. Amma El-Sadik. Despite escalating prices for paper and printing, Dr. Amma and her assistants continue to maintain semi-annual publication of The Ahfad Journal. This journal is the only journal published in a developing country that focuses on issues affecting women.

As an SSA member, you can help sustain publication



of this unique journal and scholarly publication in Sudan by :

Becoming a subscriber yourself (\$25.00 per year):  
and

Arranging for the library of your institution to  
subscribe (\$40.00 per year).

Both prices include airmail delivery from Sudan.

To subscribe, make out your check to The Ahfad University for Women and send it to me at the address listed below. I manage subscriptions for Ahfad. Invoices will be sent to libraries upon request.

You and your colleagues may submit manuscripts at any time for publication in The Ahfad Journal. Send them either to me or directly to Dr. Amna El-Sadik, The Ahfad University for Women, P.O. Box 167, Omdurman, Sudan.

Each issue of the Ahfad Journal contains 5 or 6 articles on the role of women in development; women in developing countries; and topics related to social change and effects on women, particularly in Arab and African countries, review of books on similar topics; and 8 to 10 summaries of research papers completed by seniors at Ahfad. Anyone seriously interested in Sudanese culture today will find material of interest in each issue.

Thank you for your subscription and efforts to get your library to subscribe as well. Each new subscription helps ensure continued publication of Sudan's sole scholarly journal.

Dr. Lee G. Burchinal, Associate  
Editor, 4141 N. Henderson Road, #1216, Arlington, Va  
22203 USA

\*\*\*

flexible and accommodating to purely Sudanese needs. Nevertheless, most of find more rewards than we bargained for....

1. Despite Sudan's size, importance, politics, surging Islamic fundamentalism, and poverty, no moral imperative compels the U.S. and its citizenry, either as individuals, institutions or a nation, to become involved in academic exchange with Sudan (or any other country). Scholars must weigh the benefits and costs to themselves, following their own muse. They certainly can urge their institutions and government to help negotiate the best deal for them, but under no circumstances can they pass the buck of responsibility.

2. While being saddened and properly outraged by the repressive trends and the narrowing radical political interests now at play in Sudan, we cannot overlook the national and institutional agenda by which our Sudanese counterparts must necessarily engage in exchange activities. For them, academic exchange cannot be entirely divorced from "foreign aid"--in its broadest, not simply economic, sense. Sudan will continue to face much more severe tests of "mutual benefit" than will we, and will continue to demand respect and understanding for purely Sudanese views....

Where this situation takes us is, to the extent that we should seek to involve ourselves intellectually and professionally with Sudan, new means of conducting academic exchange business are required. More directly y, it is time to further organize interests in scholarly cooperation with Sudan, for whenever that activity becomes possible again on a large scale. Where formerly the cry always has been for funding, today it is also for the continuing private institutionalization of our interests in Sudan....beneath the umbrella of the Sudan studies academy, we should move to establish and provide for the maintenance of an American institute of Sudan studies.

The necessity for an American institute in Khartoum with a hostel, reference library, lecturing and

research space, nd resident director and staff, is obvious. The impact and further implications of recent events in the Persian Gulf have placed in sharp focus the critical role of Sudan as the crossroads of the Middle East and of Africa and the heightened need to promote long-term mutual understanding with the country and its people....Regular gatherings of scholars from the U.S., Europe and the Middle East suggest the usefulness of taking the step of creating n institute to facilitate the ongoing free exchange of information and knowledge about Sudan among nations and individuals.

The initial task of launching the effort should be the assembly of a steering committee. This body representing the society of scholars and professionals working on Sudan would undertake the examination of preparations leading to establishment of a subsidiary organization of the Sudan Studies Association, with a board of directors to determine and guide its activities....

NOTE: Michael Graham is a Near East/South Asia academic exchange specialist with the U.S. Information Agency...Views of the author, as well as references to geographic boundaries and place names, do not necessarily reflect the policies of the United States government.

EDITOR'S NOTE: When I last saw Mohamed Omer Beshir in Khartoum in the Fall of 1990 he asked me to try to coordinate a group of people from the Sudan Studies Association who would be eager to try to establish a permanent exchange with several U.S. Universities and Ahliya University. Perhaps it would be fitting to try to make such an establishment of an Institute a possibility.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### SUPPORT DELIVERY OF BOOKS TO SUDANESE UNIVERSITIES

Since 1986, when the Sudan-American Foundation for Education, In., began operations, it has sent over;

100,000 books; 50,000 issues of scholarly

journals; and a variety of educational equipment (computers, CD-ROM drives, typewriters), a windmill, paper and various supplies whose total value exceeds \$1.3 million to 25 academic institutions and libraries throughout the Sudan.

Most of the new books and journals received by academic libraries in Sudan now come from SAFE.

SAFE is a tax-exempt organization managed by a joint Sudanese and American Board of Directors and operated entirely through the efforts of volunteers. There is no paid staff, either in the U.S. or in the Sudan.

SAFE'S operations depend entirely on donations of materials for shipment to Sudan and cash contributions from supporters in the United States to pay for construction of shipping crates, truck transport of shipments to U.S. ports, and for office expenses (postage, office supplies, etc.).

You can help your academic colleagues and students in Sudan by sending a check to me (made out to SAFE) at the address given below. Any amount will help in two ways: (1) to pay for expenses and, therefore, keep shipments of donated materials going to Sudan; and (2) to help SAFE maintain its tax exempt status without which we could not operate.

You can also assist by donating books, journals and other materials appropriate for libraries in Sudan and getting your colleagues to do so. Donations can be sent at any time to the SAFE warehouse:

Sudan-American Foundation  
c/o Fast Forward  
201 Davis Drive, Unit Z  
Sterling, VA 22170

Cash contributions and the value of donations may be claimed as a tax deduction.

When you send a donation to the warehouse, please send

me a brief note describing the donation. This note may be as brief as stating the number of books in each broad field (science, psychology, economics, etc.) or the titles of journals and the number of issues of each. My acknowledgement letter will serve as documentation for your claim for a tax deduction.

Thank you for your support and assistance. Your cash contribution and/or donation of materials will help faculty and students in Sudan for years to come.

Dr. Lee G. Burchinal, Executive Director  
Sudan-American Foundation for Education, Inc.  
4141 N. Henderson Road, 1216  
Arlington, VA 22203 USA

\*\*\*

#### MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BOSTON NEWS

A permanent gallery dedicated to the art and culture of ancient Nubia, the region of Africa that is southern Egypt and northern Sudan, will open at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston on May 10, 1992.

The gallery, "Nubia: Ancient Kingdoms of Africa," will highlight a portion of the MFA's vast collection of objects, including gold jewelry, monumental sculpture, pottery and carved sandstone reliefs. "Nowhere else but in the Sudan National Museum in Khartoum can you view such a comprehensive array of objects from this original and accomplished ancient African civilization," according to Rita Freed, curator of Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern Art at the MFA.

The MFA's Nubian collection of more than 25,000 objects, spans six thousand years (6000 B.C. - 350 A.D.). "The collection is at the MFA," Freed said, "because of the joint Harvard University/Museum of Fine Arts archeological expeditions between 1905 and 1932. During that time period, the Sudanese and Egyptian governments permitted the Museum to keep half of the objects found and the other half remained in the country."

"All new museum installations are a reason to

celebrate," said MFA Director Alan Shestack, "but this one is particularly noteworthy because it will present for the first time in our Museum, a coherent grouping of our greatest treasures from the ancient African kingdom of Nubia."

The new gallery will present each phase of Nubian culture, beginning with tools, some of the earliest pottery ever made, and ornaments of shell and bone. Also included will be gold and silver jewelry collected from the burial mounds of the Kerma period (1700-1500 B.C.), bronze mirrors, brilliant faience, daggers, and ivory inlays in a variety of floral and faunal shapes from the footboards of beds.

From the pyramids of Nubian royalty come an array of decorative objects, both locally made and imported into the region. "The presence of Greek and Roman objects in the later tombs attest to the cosmopolitan environment of Meroe, Nubia's southern capital," according to Freed.

A major challenge in the preparation of the new gallery was conservation and restoration of the ancient objects., Freed said. Six conservators and volunteers have devoted nearly a year to the restoration of objects to be included in the gallery. Treatment ranged from the reassembly of fragmentary stone or pottery vessels to such major projects as the preservation and reconstruction of a carved coffin bench and chapel wall whose fragile sandstone slabs were all but crumbling away, according to Freed.

"An especially tricky problem was the conservation of a fragile wooden stool from about 1600 B.C. whose goat fur seat may be the world's oldest known piece of upholstery," according to Freed.

In addition to the new gallery at the MFA, there will be a special exhibition of other objects from the MFA Nubian collection on view at the Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists in the Roxbury section of Boston. "One gallery there, according to Freed, "will recreate the tomb chamber of King Aspelta with a full-scale model of his colossal sarcophagus."

Shestack said the Nubian gallery at the Museum of Fine Arts will be a wonderful place for traditional museum-goers and new audiences as well. "Nubian

civilization, studied on its own, provides us with one more strand in the fabric of early human history and helps grasp some basic human urges and responses which cut across cultures and demonstrate the common heritage of humankind."

This installation has been made possible through generous grants from the NYNEX Foundation and New England Telephone. Additional support has been provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal agency.

#### NUBIAN NEWS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

##### WHAT IS NUBIA? WHERE IS NUBIA?

For more than six thousand years ancient Nubian civilization flourished (6,000 B.C. - 350 A.D.). This sophisticated and unique culture is characterized by its own artistic development, central organization often led by a king, and, at one particular period, a type of writing called Meroitic. Nubians created some of the earliest ceramics in the ancient world, as well as magnificent stone colossal sculptures. At one point in their long history they built pyramids for their kings, and for over sixty years they successfully ruled Egypt.

Geographically, the area called Nubia overlapped southern Egypt and the northern Sudan. It is located from the first cataract (or rapids) of the Nile River to the foothills of Ethiopia. This location made Nubia a crossroads, both a contact and a transfer point between Africa and, in chronological order, Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, and the Christian and Islamic worlds. The Nubians were made up of diverse cultures which occupied this portion of the Nile River Valley. These cultures were linked by many common traditions but also distinguished by their unique works of art and individual customs.

The new gallery at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston provides a long awaited opportunity to highlight Nubia's contributions to the ancient world.

MFA-Boston 1/1992

Excavating Ancient Nubia

Few institutions in the world have contributed as much to our understanding of the civilizations of ancient Nubia as the Museum of Fine Arts, according to Peter Lacovara, assistant curator in the Museum's Department of Egyptian and Ancient Near Eastern Art. The earliest systematic archaeological work done in Nubia was a salvage campaign necessitated by the building of the first Aswan Dam. It was conducted by George A. Reisner, later to become the MFA's curator of Egyptology....

After his preliminary excavation in Egyptian Nubia, Reisner moved south to Sudanese Nubia. He continued his excavations there from 1913 to 1932. Reisner and his team of archaeologists discovered, excavated and recorded more than twenty sites in Sudanese Nubia. Most notable of these sites were the capitals of the greatest Nubian kingdoms- Kerma, Napata, and Meroe--spanning the period from about 2000 B.C. to A.D. 370. Thanks to the Sudanese government's generous policy of sharing the expedition finds, the Museum possesses many treasures from these great African civilizations, Lacovara said.

#### Archaeological Treasures

From the site of Kerma came beautiful pottery, glazed stone, magnificent jewelry, and ebony furniture inlaid with ivory--even the earliest upholstered piece of furniture known! Gold vessels, jewels, great stone sarcophagi and offerings from Greece and Rome were discovered in the royal pyramids at Napata and Meroe. At the great Nubian temple complex of Jebel Barkal in Napata the Museum expedition uncovered colossal stone statues of the Nubian kings who conquered and ruled Egypt.

Also from Nubia came an appealing painted coffin of a child. Similar to Egyptian coffins, this one was, however, made of pottery, since wood was scarce in northern Nubia.

The Museum recently obtained by exchange an important collection of objects from another great excavation in Nubia, undertaken by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. These pieces include funeral statues of the deceased with wings to fly to heaven, and colorfully painted pottery from the end of the Meroitic period.

MFA Boston, March 1992

#### FAMOUS NUBIANS

The gallery will bring many important Nubian historical personalities into the public eye. The great king Piye (or "piankhy"), who conquered Egypt about 720 B.C. is represented by a magnificent bronze offering table found in his tomb. A gold handled mirror of his brother and successor Shabako will be one of the glories of the exhibition, while a statuette of Piye's illustrious son Taharka (690-664 B.C.) is one of the most expressive.

Taharka the greatest of all the Nubian pharaohs to rule Egypt, built his huge pyramid at Nuri, Sudan, which was excavated by the Boston Museum in 1917. The gallery will feature over a hundred stone servant figures (shawabtis) from this tomb, each representing the king as a mummy.

A fine nearly life size granite statue of Senkamenisken (see Nubian object of the month photograph), Taharka's grandson, will be exhibited, as will the gold treasure of the latter's son Aspelta (about 600-580 B.C.), which was also recovered from his incompletely plundered pyramid tomb at Nuri.

Aspelta is most familiar to Museum visitors by his colossal granite statue in the Egyptian sculpture gallery on the second floor, and by his twelve ton granite sarcophagus, which was once exhibited in the Museum rotunda (now in storage). Although these objects, the largest in the Museum, will not be placed in the new gallery for the May opening, plans are being made to reunite them all in the near future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on the Nubian Gallery at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston or to request photographs of the feature object, the granite statue of King Senkamenisken from Jebel Barkal, contact Robert Mitchell, Public Relations and Marketing, (617) 267-9300 extension 446.

\*\*\*\*\*

SSA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

SUDAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

U.S.A. BRANCH  
April 27, 1992

Founded in 1985 and banned following the military coup of June 30, 1989, the Board of Trust (Majlis al-Umana'a) of the Sudan Human Rights Organization (SHRO) announced the re-launching of its activities in exile with its base in the city of London in October, 1991....

On Monday, April 6, 1992, yet another group of concerned Sudanese citizens working in accordance with Article 19 of Chapter III of the Sudan Human Rights Organization's Constitution decided to establish a branch of the SHRO in the United States....

It is the position of the SHRO that the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Sudanese individual are intrinsic to the enjoyment of his or her citizenship and cannot be derogated. They spring from deep-rooted convictions within the cultural heritage of the Sudanese nation, its aspiration for liberty, equality, and justice which may explain the valiant struggle being waged by thousands of our brothers and sisters within Sudan. In recent months the status of human rights in Sudan has actually worsened and a conscious policy designed to exacerbate the divisions of race, religion, and even gender is being pursued by the government with brutal vigor.

Special mention should be made of the systematic and brutal human rights violations committed against southerners and women. Not only have southern Sudanese been targeted with extra-judicial killings, imprisonment and torture like their northern brethren, but they are also being subjected to the violent policies of forced relocation and full-scale war. The women of Sudan have also been subjected to killings, torture, and imprisonment by the Security forces in equal measure to their male counterparts.

The Provisional Committee of the Sudan Human Rights Organization, U.S.A. Branch, proposes to convene a general meeting on Saturday, June 27, 1992.

CONTACT DRS. CAROLYN FLUEHR AND RICHARD LOBBAN FOR MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE HOLDING OF THE MEETING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

AFRICAN CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES  
Kairaba Avenue, K.S.M.D.  
The Gambia  
Dear Richard,

....Recently, the junta of Khartoum burnt three of my publications which include "The Evolution of Crime and Punishment in the Sudan," a book on "Sudanese Writers," and a book on "Gamal Mohamed Ahmed," a renowned Sudanese scholar on African politics, culture, and diplomatic relations. I hope that you would circulate this information and that the Sudanese authorities would be strongly criticized for this uncivilized action. Related to this, I was informed that Professor Ali Osman Mohamed Salih, Head Department of Archaeology, and Sahal El-Beshir Guma, a senior staff official of the University of Khartoum Press were expelled from their jobs for their role in publishing these books.

SIGNED: Mahgoub El-Tigani Mahmoud

19 June 1992

Dear SSA Newsletter Editor:

By now most readers of the Newsletter will know of the international speaking tour of Hassan Al-Turabi. This was covered in many newspapers and editorial columns. Some may not know that this tour came to an abrupt halt in Ottawa, Canada when Ustaz Hassan was met by an unprovoked attack in which his assault was so severe that, as of this writing, he remains in the hospital.

With this as background, I want to express my personal regret to his family and friends and to Ustaz Hassan himself. It is always tragic when political issues are addressed by personal, physical attacks, rather than by on-going dialogue and debate. For this reason I want to condemn this attack as destructive. I fear that this may further intensify the lack of resolution of the several divisive issues in the Sudan today.

In order to have some balance in understanding the context, I feel that I must also note that Ustaz Hassan was painfully close to the toppling of an imperfect, but

democratic government in the Sudan. This act deepened the failure of the already stalled policies inherited from the Nimieri and Sadiq administrations. There is no secret to the solution of the Sudan's central problem. A sincere combination of regional autonomy, democracy, cease fire, and equitable distribution of national resources already achieved peace as all can see in the result of the Addis Ababa accords of 1972. It is a tragedy in Sudanese history that this fine fruit withered on the vine. Religious zealotry, narrow secessionist goals, physical assaults and violence, personal greed, and out-of-date political formations will only contribute from various quarters to the continued division and antagonism.

So my sincere regret about Ustaz Hassan is tempered with the knowledge that this great man with his great intellect and charm may be a victim of his own policies and programs. I am not trying to blame the victim, but only put this all into some wider context. One must now move to accept that all religious, or non-religious beliefs, must be tolerated. Conversion done under free will and personal choice must be protected. Not to suggest that the United States is a model for all, but with our many imperfections, racism, and shameful episodes in our own history, it does seem nevertheless that the structural goal of a democratic and secular state is close to what might be appropriate to a nation like the Sudan with its equally great cultural and religious diversity.

Yes, Ustaz Hassan I do appreciate your devotion to your religious principles. I accept the need to revitalize and unify a nation which has suffered from slavery, colonialism, and civil war. I fervently hope that your opponents can forgive you, and that you can now turn your resolve, and the actions of your thousands of devoted followers, into the great act of mercy and compassion to unify the Sudan with mutual respect for all of its diverse ethnicities and viewpoints. It is a divided Sudan that serves the interests of those genuinely opposed to Islam and Afro-Arab unity. With my best wishes for a full and speedy recovery to you and your equally battered and beloved nation.

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Richard Lobban, Jr.  
Professor of Anthropology;  
former President of the SSA  
expressing his personal views.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are glad to know that as of this writing Ustaz Hassan al Turabi has returned safely to the Sudan.

\*\*\*

SUDAN DEMOCRATIC GAZETTE of March, 1992

#### OBITUARY: PROFESSOR MOHAMED OMER BESHIR (\*M.O.B.\*)

Professor Mohamed Omer Beshir, fondly known to his friends, colleagues and admirers as \*M.O.B.\*, died in Khartoum at the end of January after a long battle against cancer. He had endured the illness with great courage. He was 65 years of age.

Mohamed Omer Beshir was a difficult person to accurately describe. His knowledge of Sudan and the world surpassed that of most Sudanese and was equalled by his love for his country and its people. Throughout his life he did much to promote a positive image of Sudan at a time when many individuals had become ashamed of the country and given up on it. MOB, however, was no ordinary person, he was larger than life and knowledge itself. He wanted to live more and to know more.

Over the years, Mohamed Omer Beshir excelled as an educationist, administrator, scholar and diplomat. He was born at Karima in Northern Sudan in 1926 and educated at the Gordon Memorial College, later to become the University of Khartoum. He then joined the ministry of education as a teacher, before later studying at Queen's University, Belfast, and Oxford University. Eventually he joined the staff of the University of Khartoum where he became the academic secretary in the 1960s. He played a leading role in the establishment of

the graduates college at the university while he was head of the Institute of African and Asian Studies. Many young Sudanese scholars had their works published and promoted by the graduates college publications during his time as editor. These were the golden years of academic scholarship in Sudan.

In spite of his impressive career record and achievements, MOB would have probably wanted to be remembered for his most recent role as founder and administrator of the privately funded National University of Omdurman. It was here that he joked loudly about his ability to beg for funds at home and abroad. His pride in this achievement surpassed that of any other of his many achievements, because he believed that this institution of higher learning represented the liberal national character of the Sudan he had grown up in and known. He went out of his way to enroll bright Southern Sudanese Christian students at the university and to organize financial support for them when required. In his final days he spoke with great sadness about what he saw as an Islamic fundamentalist assault on the one and only institution that truly represented the diverse national character of Sudan.

A prolific writer, Mohamed Omer Beshir's works covered a wide range, encompassing education, history and politics. His earlier works concentrated on education in Sudan, the history of Sudanese nationalism, as well as the contemporary politics of the country. Among his better known volumes were several concerned with the South-North conflict, particularly the history of the civil war. His works were often based on close personal knowledge of events that he had participated in. He was secretary general of the 1965 Round Table Conference on the South and was a member of the Sudan government delegation to the peace talks in Addis Ababa in 1972, which successfully ended the seventeen year civil war by giving regional autonomy to the South. He was among the few Northern Sudanese to vocally oppose Nimeiri's abrogation of that peace agreement over a decade later, because he believed it to be the only basis for maintaining political unity between South and North. He

foresaw the outbreak of the second civil war and tried to prevent it.

Following the 1972 agreement, MOB was appointed director of the African Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He enjoyed the role of roving ambassador, explaining to the African world all the workings of the agreement. A year later he returned to his post at the University of Khartoum. On the surface, at least, the agreement was working and Africa seemed convinced of this.

Mohamed Omer Beshir's greatest virtue, and perhaps been his greatest weakness, was his perception of himself as a perpetual conciliator with no real enemies. Always a generous and entertaining man, he looked for the positive in everything so as to bury the many negatives he saw around him in Sudanese political life. His dignified but modest home in Munisha in Khartoum was a hubbub of party life, open to friends and strangers from home and abroad. He loved to meet new people, not least because of what he could learn from them.

Mohamed Omer Beshir's health appeared intrinsically linked with the health of the Sudanese state. He was a man who truly abhorred military dictatorship in all its forms and was a committed democrat. The cancer which finally killed him was first diagnosed in the latter years of the Nimeiri dictatorship. Its treatment seemed to have been successful, and MOB enjoyed a new lease of life at a time when Sudan itself stood ready to enjoy a new found democracy following the overthrow of Nimeiri in 1985. During this short-lived period of democracy he founded and became president of the Sudanese Human Rights Organization. His health began to deteriorate again following the June 1989 Islamic Fundamentalist military coup d'etat, which overthrew the democratic system he had struggled to create and even detained him briefly despite his ill health.

It is said that all the Sudanese who have died under this regime are martyrs to the democratic cause. Professor Mohamed Omer Beshir is truly a Sudanese



martyr for freedom, love and unity.  
Bona Malwal, Editor and Publisher

The next issue of the SSA Newsletter will feature MOB's last article which he was prevented from presenting at the Second International SSA Conference in Durham, England, April 1991.

\*\*\*

#### **RICARDO A. CAMINOS, 76; FORMER PROFESSOR AT BROWN**

Ricardo A. Caminos, 76 a long-time Brown University professor who was a leading scholar of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics and writings, died May 28 at his home in London.

He died of a heart attack, his family said.

Caminos, who was on the Brown faculty for 28 years and was chairman of the university's department of Egyptology from 1972 to 1980, spent much of his career on research expeditions to Egypt and Sudan....

Caminos specialized in both epigraphy, the study of carved works, and paleography, the study of the hieratic, or written cursive, scripts. His work incorporated skill in archaeology, grammar, philology and lexicography....

The main sites where Caminos worked were Karnak, Thebes (Luxor), Gebel es-Silsilah, Qasr Ibrim, Buhen, Wadi el-Shatt el-Rigal, Semna and Kumma. He was among the scholars who redoubled their efforts in the late 1960s to record as much as possible at sites before they were to be submerged by flooding from the Aswan Dam.

Reprinted from the Providence Journal Bulletin, June 6, 1992

\*\*\*

Library of Congress-Cairo (LC) is a regional office which acquires scholarly materials for LC and more than 30 research libraries. As part of the Legislative

Branch, our primary mission is to serve the informational needs of Congress.

Cairo, one of six regional offices, is staffed by Americans, foreign service nationals, and supported by a network of bibliographic representatives and vendors. This part of the U.

S. diplomatic mission has over 35 librarians, computer experts, linguists, and support staff. There are LC bibliographic representatives in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, U.A.E., and Yemen.

LC regional overseas offices:

- responds to congressional requests;
- acquire monographs, serials, and non-print materials, such as audio and video tapes, posters, and microform;

- provide bibliographic ("cataloging") records for each new title which accompanies the publication:

- supply logistic assistance for on-site visits by librarians and scholars from participating institutions;

- participate in joint preservation and archive programs, and:

- furnish basic national bibliographic control through publications such as the MIDDLE EAST ACCESSIONS LIST.

LC-Cairo routinely collects and catalogs research materials in all languages about the Middle East from Asia, Africa, and Europe. Recently, the office began to collect publications from Armenia and Cyprus. Almost 150,000 pieces were acquired in 1991.

Besides routine acquisitions the office works on projects. Currently Cairo is collecting materials relating to current issues. These materials are sent directly to the Congressional Research Service for congressional use as well as to research collection of the Near East Section. We are working closely with the national libraries, especially from the Gulf to improve library development in the Middle East in developing an

Arabic cataloging network and to restore the National Library of Egypt.

Although, LC-Cairo is not a public service library with books to lend, we welcome visits from the interested community. Daily librarians and administrators of large institutions call on us about libraries and information processing.

For further information contact: William P. Tuchrello, Field Director Library of Congress-Cairo, American Embassy Unit 64900 -Box 26, APO AE 09839-4900

\*\*\*

#### BOOK REVIEW INFORMATION

The following book is available immediately for review: Ladislav Holy: Religion And Custom in a Muslim Society, The Berti of Sudan, Cambridge University Press, 1991.

The following two books are on order: Abbas Abdelkarim, PRIMITIVE CAPITAL ACCUMULATION IN THE SUDAN, Frank Cass, London. Tony Barnett and Abbas Abdelkarim: SUDAN: THE GEZIRA SCHEME AND AGRICULTURAL TRANSITION, Frank Cass, London.

\*\*\*

#### BOOKREVIEW

Gred Baumann, National Integration and Local Integrity (New York: The Claredon Press, 1987).

Reviewed by Michael Kevane, Dept of Economics, U. California at Berkeley.

The firings of Islam, to borrow Richard Hill's felicitous phrase, have always been a fascinating area study. One current reason for this study is the conviction by many that the dominant Northern Sudanese ideology leaves no room for subaltern groups. These groups, whether Berti, Fur, Uduk or Nuba, are supposedly faced with two alternatives: complete assimilation or stubborn resistance. Neither alternative seems very attractive, yet both are evident in the contemporary reality of a fragmented Sudan.

Gerd Baumann takes this problem of national integration and turns it on its head. The small community of Miri, in the Nuba mountains, was not integrated "into" the dominant Sudanese culture and national economy, or into Islam. Rather, the Miri took the basic elements of the outside society and refashioned them to fit into their own society. In the process, of course, their own institutions were reshaped. (or 'reintegrated' as Baumann puts it: 'made whole again').

The strength of the book is the precise analysis of the process of this reformulation of Miri culture and society. Baumann uses a writing technique I found very appealing. He starts with conventional observations about the Miri integration into wider Sudanese society. Four aspects are highlighted: 1) the farming economy and labor migration, 2) community and polity, 3) religion, and 4) music and dance. Then in successive chapters Baumann probes each of these aspects using different ethnographic tools. As he puts it, each chapter tries to come to the Miri's own view. He looks at what Miri informants say about the process; he looks at the actual things the Miri have done in relation to the process; he tries to understand the historical contingencies that shaped the process; and lastly he tries to go beyond presenting discourse and facts and into Miri meaning and interpretation.

This last section is most problematic. Baumann cleverly uses the biligualism of most Miri to compare and contrast Arabic translations of Miri vocabulary (the Arabic translations are hilla, ahal, hash and khawf, which are also represented in English as: village, kinship, farming, and awe). Baumann wants to use these "key words" (words that are difficult to define without understanding the context of their usage) to deepen the sense of what 'reintegration' means for the Miri. He is unable to go beyond the analysis presented in the preceding chapters, though, because he limits himself to what "the Miri" think or understand. To borrow Baumann's own analogy of Heidegger's ship (whose parts are continually changed and yet whose integrity as 'the ship' or the 'Miri' remains the same), I would liked to see more about the different kinds of ships that are created in the process. A more successful chapter might have tried to break down "the Miri" into the discordant voices that certainly exist and which are hinted about throughout the book. He does attempt that in a limited way in the conclusion, with an excellent discussion of the problem of labor migrants. None of the migrants had returned to live in the villages, and yet they retained their problematic identities as villagers.

Two other processes deserved attention. First, Baumann never fully confronts what seems to be a central problem in Miri society- the changing power of women within households. Their expressions of dissatisfaction (voiced in grindstone and other songs) are instead used to illustrate other aspects of Miri society (male political struggles, economic change at the village level). In that regard, the question of how female circumcision came to be dominant in one generation is not addressed.

Second, Baumann asserts that the community is very equal in terms of economic power. Yet there is no data that would validate such an assertion, and the book is peppered with details that suggest otherwise - some households are much larger than others. some participate more actively in the government agricultural scheme. Does this differentiation influence people's views about their community? Does it influence those shared standards that define local integrity?

Ultimately, it might have been better to think of Miri's 'meanings' instead of 'meaning'. In that regard the book resembles other ethnographies that have been thrown into the fire of the anthropological discipline's own internal discourse. It seems only fitting that Baumann's book should be enmeshed in a process that sounds awfully similar to the process enveloping the Miri.

\*\*\*

Muddathir Adb el-Rahim et. al. (eds), Sudan Since Independence, (Gower, London, 1985), pp xi + 181. \$ 19.50.

Reviewed by Peter L. Shinnie, University of Calgary.

This book consists of fifteen short essays nearly all written by present or former members of the Department of Political Science of the University of Khartoum and discusses various aspects of Sudanese political events and developments since independence up to the end of the Nimeiry's regime. For those with little or no knowledge of Sudanese politics it will be useful and informative, but for those better informed the shortness and sometimes the slightness of the contributions will not help in developing a critical or analytical view of what was happening and what went wrong during the years being considered.

That many things went wrong is a common theme in all the contributions and the present unsatisfactory state of political and economical life in the Sudanese shows that criticisms made in the various articulus are well warranted. The essays are weak on suggestions for change and rectification of the present situation and being, in the main, descriptive, short on analysis. There is a good deal of repetition and some indication that the four editors used a rather light editorial hand where tighter control would have removed many of the repetitions.

The straightforward description of political events which is the main theme of the first two sections is competent but never very exciting and to one who lived through many of the events described, not very illuminating. We are told, for example, that the Sudanese Communist Party was the largest and best

organized in Africa and perhaps in the Middle East. This may well have been so (there was little competition from other such parties in the area mentioned) but it is not necessary to repeat the statement so frequently, particularly since no evidence is produced to show that the statement is valid. The exciting events of 1971 and their traumatic results are also frequently referred to but no detailed explanation of the reasons for the attempted coup nor of its aftermath is given.

The section on the south does open up new or previously understated views and Badal's chapter on the new role of oil in causing disillusionment and opposition amongst southerners is vigorously written and shows how important the decision to locate the refinery at Kostl was in increasing the alienation. The chapter by Gwado-Ayoker is fascinating. Here for one of the very few times the southerner is allowed to speak for himself and to demonstrate the way in which he looks at the north and the way in which contact with the north and some aspects of 'development' are changing the lives of southerners.

The idea of having a book written by members and former members of the department of Political Science of Khartoum University was a good one and the general agreement as to the nature of the Sudan's political woes show that there has been reasonable identity of view in the department, a factor which must have made it comfortable for the various heads to steer their colleagues through what must have been some very difficult shoals.

In spite of a few flaws, and an intolerable number of misprints, this book can be very useful to the beginner in modern Sudanese politics. The price seems high for a book produced in such a spartan way and with such small print.

\*\*\*

Hamza Mohamed El Amin, Trees and Shrubs of the Sudan, Exeter: Ithaca Press, 1990. Numerous illustrations, index. 484 pp.

This study offers brief, scientifically precise descriptions, with numerous illustrations, of all the trees and shrubs of the Sudan. The author was a highly-respected and experienced field researcher for the

Department of Forestry in the Ministry of Agriculture, and served as Professor at the Forestry Research Institute at Soba. He was a gifted and sensitive draftsman whose pen conveys love for nature as well as a keen eye for detail. The present volume has been abridged from the late author's considerably larger doctoral dissertation (the original is on deposit in the Sudan Library, University of Khartoum) by Dr. Ekhlal Abdel Bari, Head of the Botany Department, University of Khartoum; she has also added some additional entries for the sake of comprehensiveness. The publication of the abridgement in its present form was sponsored by the Dutch government in conjunction with the project, 'Fuel-wood Development for Energy in the Sudan,' undertaken for the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

This is a reference handbook that assumes the reader's full command of botanical taxonomy; it is not an amateur's guide. Each of about a thousand entries outlines the plant's gross morphology, describes in detail its reproductive parts, and delineates the manifestations of its seasonal cycle. One is told the soil conditions and micro environments it favors, and the parts of the country in which it may be found.

The book's only serious weakness is that its utility in the field will be confined to speakers of Latin; for example, out of the many who know well the tebeldi or baobab, not everyone will recognize Adansonia digitata L. The original thesis supplies lists of vernacular names, and many potential users of this handbook will first wish to budget time in the Sudan Library to copy them.

Jay Spaulding, Kean College.

\*\*\*

John H. Taylor, Egypt and Nubia, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1991. 94 illustrations, 72 pages.

'Egypt and Nubia' is a comprehensive survey of the history of ancient Nubia. Published as an historical guide to the collections of the British Museum, this book is filled with numerous and beautiful photographs, with which the author presents Nubia's immense history in a well organized and visual manner.

The book begins with the rise of the Khartoum Neolithic period and ends with the final displacement of the Kingdom of Alwa in the 16th century. Although mentioned, Islam, which effectively gained a strong footing in Sudan in the 14th century, is not explored in any substantial detail.

Taylor begins our trip through Nubian history with a brief overview of this region's geologic and human resources and her relation to ancient Egypt, as well as relative and important etymology of the word 'NBW' and basic geography. We are then introduced to the different Nubian ethnic and language groups, and the 'A', 'B', and 'C' pre-dynastic cultural groups (the existence of a 'B' culture eventually was disproved). Taylor thoroughly explores the archaeology of associated sites with detailed descriptions and countless pictures of pottery, architecture, grave sites, grave goods, jewelry, and other aesthetics. Indeed this seems to be his area of expertise. With the continuing development of the 'C Group' and the rise of Kerma in the 12th Egyptian Dynasty, Taylor goes on to describe the domination of Nubia by her northern neighbors, as well as the culture of Kerma as determined from the archaeological record. In the chaos of the 2nd Intermediate Period, a weakened Egypt, now dominated by the Hyksos presence, was forced to withdraw from subjugated Nubia. This development cleared the Upper Nile Valley for the newly liberated Nubia, and a surge of dominance allowed her to place her northern borders at Aswan. With the expulsion of the Hyksos from Lower Egypt, a reconquest of Nubia was undertaken by the Pharaoh Thutmose I, who successfully sacked the city of Kerma, defeated the Kingdom of Kush, and pushed the southern borders of Egypt as far south as the fourth cataract. Nubian resistance against such domination continued but was unsuccessful.

Economically dependent upon Nubia for gold, luxury items, and slaves, Egypt maintained extensive control over all Nubian trade to the north as well as to the interior of Africa. However, such control was not reflected in the power of the pharaohs themselves, and this decline afforded quite an opportunity for the Viceroy of Kush, Piankhy I, who triumphantly rebelled against his northern masters and established the 25th

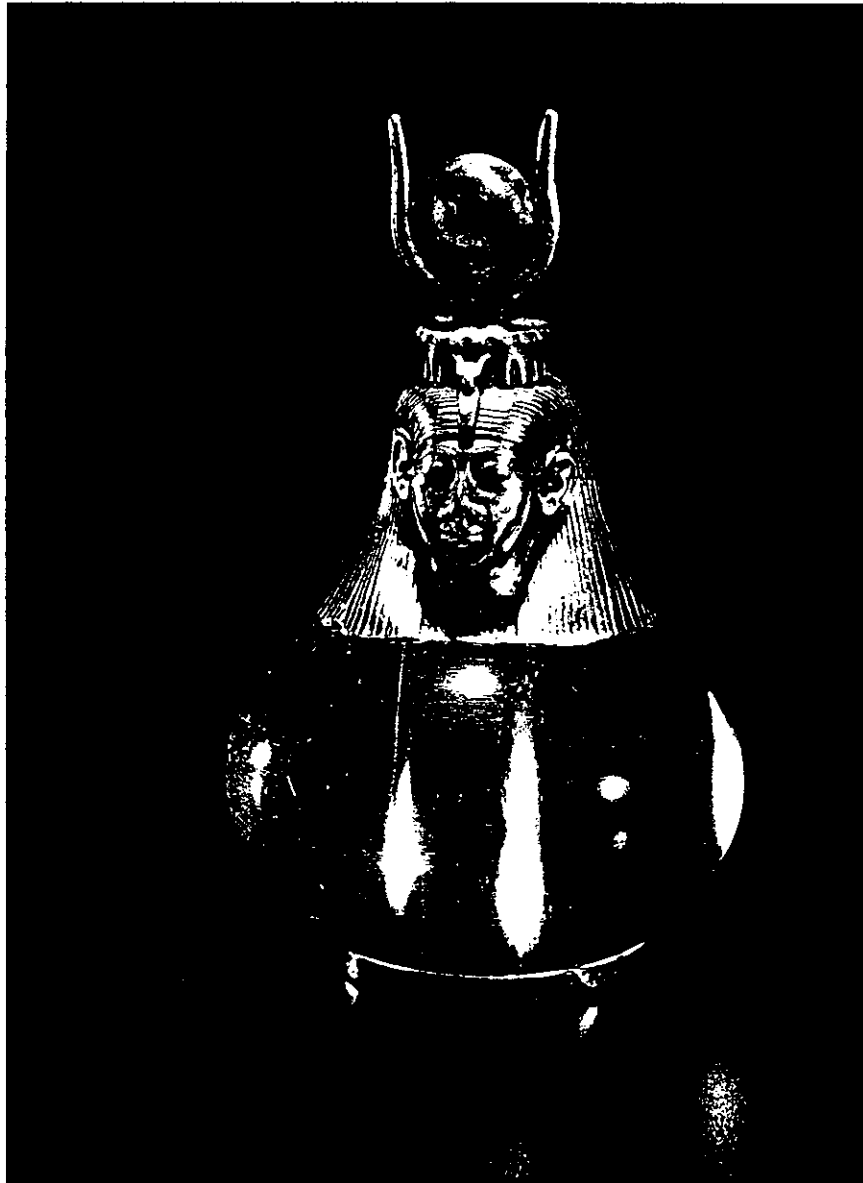
Dynasty. Perhaps the most famous and successful pharaohs of this 'Ethiopian' dynasty was Taharka, who continued the conquest of Lower Egypt begun by his father. Well known for his glorious monuments, Taharka's reign also introduced a distinctly African influence into traditional Egyptian art. It is at this point that the assimilation of Nubian and Egyptian cultures becomes definitive.

Taylor also gives a detailed cultural survey of Kushitic Egypt, especially the culture of the more isolated Kushites in Sudan, known as the Meroitic period. There emerged by now a new distinctive culture which was deeply rooted in traditional Africa and heavily influenced by Egyptian and Graeco-Roman societies. Most notable among the achievements of the Meroites was the development of came to be known as the elusive Meroitic cursive and hieroglyphics. Although numerous stelae, offering tablets, and ostraca have been catalogued, transcribed, and studied, the meaning of Meroitic language has yet to be deciphered. A typical mistake resulting from this ignorance is exemplified in 'Egypt and Nubia: as the publisher unknowingly reproduced a photograph of an offering tablet (p.53), both upside-down and backwards. But this type of mistake is easily forgivable in the wake of a similar up-side down slip (p. 297) in William Y. Adams' 1977, authoritative Nubia: Corridor to Africa.

Taylor ends his survey of Nubian history with a discussion of the culture, art, and politics of Christian Nubia and the Three Kingdoms. Unfortunately our journey ends amidst the rubble of Nobatia, Makuria, and Alwa as these great kingdoms fall to the influence of Islam.

In conclusion, Egypt and Nubia is a well-written pictorial account of Nubian history. The author provides the reader not only with a general introduction to this history but also with a visual representation of the diversity of Sudanese cultures and peoples. It is indispensable as a classroom tool and general reference. EDITOR'S NOTE: Kharyssa K. Rhodes is currently an undergraduate attending Rhode Island College majoring in Anthropology and African Studies.

\*\*\*



Ball with Hathor Head and Hollow Cylinder,  
 mid-8th c., BC  
 Artist/maker unknown  
 Egypt/Sudan (Dynasty 25)  
 Rock crystal & gold  
 H: 5.3 cm.; Diam: 3.2 cm.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Normal activities of the SSA include the publication of the *Newsletter*, organizing meetings for the exchange of ideas, and recommending research candidates for affiliation with appropriate institutions in the Sudan. The Association also sponsor panels and programs during the meetings of other academic organizations. It occasionally publishes the proceedings of its annual meetings in book form.

For information about membership, change of address, program information, or back issues of the SSA publications, please contact the **Executive Directors** listed inside the cover page.

For news releases, or information to be communicated to members, please write to the **Editor of the Newsletter**.

The SSA is legally incorporated as a non-profit organization and all **contributions and donations** are tax-exempt. Membership is for each calendar year which entitles the subscriber to receive four issues of the newsletter, and to discounted registration rates for attending the annual meetings of the Association. These categories of membership are available:

Honorary	By recommendation of the Board	
Regular member		\$30.00
Students		5.00
Non-profit Institutions		30.00
Profit-making Bodies		150.00
Life (payable in 3 Installments)		200.00

SSA also welcomes exchanges with other newsletters and periodicals. As space allows, and as content is appropriate, limited advertising is accepted.