

EDITOR'S NOTE

With this issue we enter the third volume of *Modern Africa: Politics, History and Society*. We are slowly coming of age. The texts submitted multiply and we are sometimes struggling to find suitable anonymous reviewers which delays the preparation of an issue for the printer. We settled with Oftis, located in the eastern Bohemian town of Ústí nad Orlicí. The suggestion sent to the Institute of African Studies at Bayreuth to cooperate in the production of the journal was not accepted, so for the time being the Hradec team is solely responsible for the editing while the webpage is further cared for by Bayreuth computer wizards, led by Georg Klute who is a member of the editorial board. I went to Paris to attend ECAS 6 and I used that occasion for promoting the journal among the more than a thousand Africanists present there. We launched a subscription drive so that we can at least to some extent cover the editorial and printing expenses.

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Terence O. Ranger, a great historian of Africa, and especially Zimbabwe, who died early this year. Otakar Hulec volunteered to write an obituary. The five articles included in this issue are a varied evidence of Africanist scholarship of mostly young researchers from Africa and Europe. Matthew Sabbi puts to scrutiny the local government in Ghana through the analysis of local political actors and their competition. Gabriel Szuma broaches a very burning topic of modern maritime piracy with special emphasis on Somalia. Aneta Kříčková, our assistant executive editor, examines the socio-economic effects of the South African Reconstruction and Development Programme implemented during the presidency of Nelson Mandela. Tamer Abd Elkreem critically examines the controversial Kajbar Dam project on the Nile north of Khartoum. Finally, Erika Dahlmanns submits to scrutiny the use and abuse of the Intore warrior tradition in present-day Rwanda. The articles are followed by two reposts about the conferences which took place this year. Reviews are still not numerous but I would like to thank those publishers and institutions who began to send us review copies of their recent publications and express the hope that the reviews of them will appear as soon as possible.

To conclude, let me say that *Modern Africa: Politics, History and Society* slowly but surely gains prestige as a journal which discovers young talents and confirms tested standards in African studies.

Petr Skalník