

**My Impressions of Great Britain**

by

**U. M. Lawal Osula**

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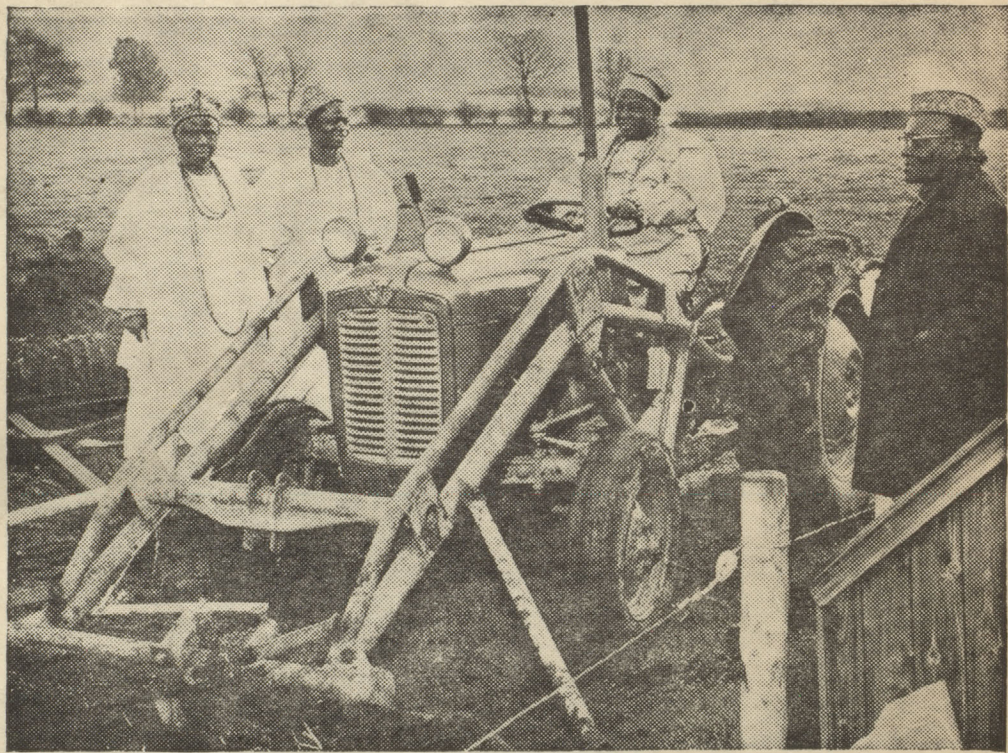
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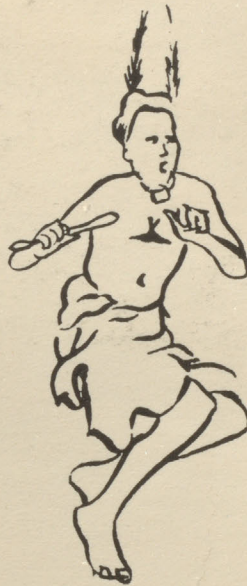
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# *My Impressions of Great Britain*



By **U. M. Lawal Osula**  
The Arala of Benin

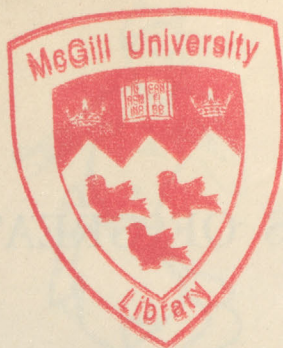
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MY IMPRESSIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN



COVER PICTURE  
BY  
U. M. LAWAL OSULA  
THE ARALA OF BENIN



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**COVER PICTURE**

**NIGERIAN CHIEFS VISIT BRITISH FARM**

*Nigerian Chiefs from the Mid-Western Region visiting Britain as guests of the British Government try out one of the tractors during their recent visit to Bulborne Dairy Farm at Tring in Hertfordshire, north of London.*

*Picture shows—from left: the Asagba of Asaba; the Onogie of Ewohimi; the Arala of Benin; and the Olutse of Jakpa.*

*During their four-week tour of Britain, the Chiefs have had talks at the Commonwealth Relations Office and the Ministry of Overseas Development and are visiting factories, farms, schools and youth clubs. The trip ends with a conducted tour round the Palace of Westminster and luncheon with Members of the House of Commons.*

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*This book is dedicated to my Cousin ITOHAN IGHODARO late Mrs Christiana Itohan Rotimi who during her 40 years on earth had abundant goodwill towards men.*

*A girls' Secondary Grammar School has been established in Benin to perpetuate her good memory.*



*LATE ITOHAN*

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*Oba Akenzua II, C.M.G., C.F.R., Uku-Akpolokpolo of Benin in Emobo Dress*



## OUR ART HERITAGE

In the whole of Africa there is hardly another area that is as rich in traditional arts as Mid-Western Nigeria. This part of Nigeria is not only unique for its riches of art treasures, it is also the Region that has produced most of the modern Nigerian artists. The most famous example of Mid-Western Nigeria art are the bronzes of Benin. Long before the creation of the Region, the Mid-West had been well-known in Europe and America for its brasscastings. Benin brasswork was introduced around 1400 by Oba Oguola who imported craftsmen from Ife. Very soon the artists of Benin developed their own style and created the most productive brasscasting centre in the whole of Africa.

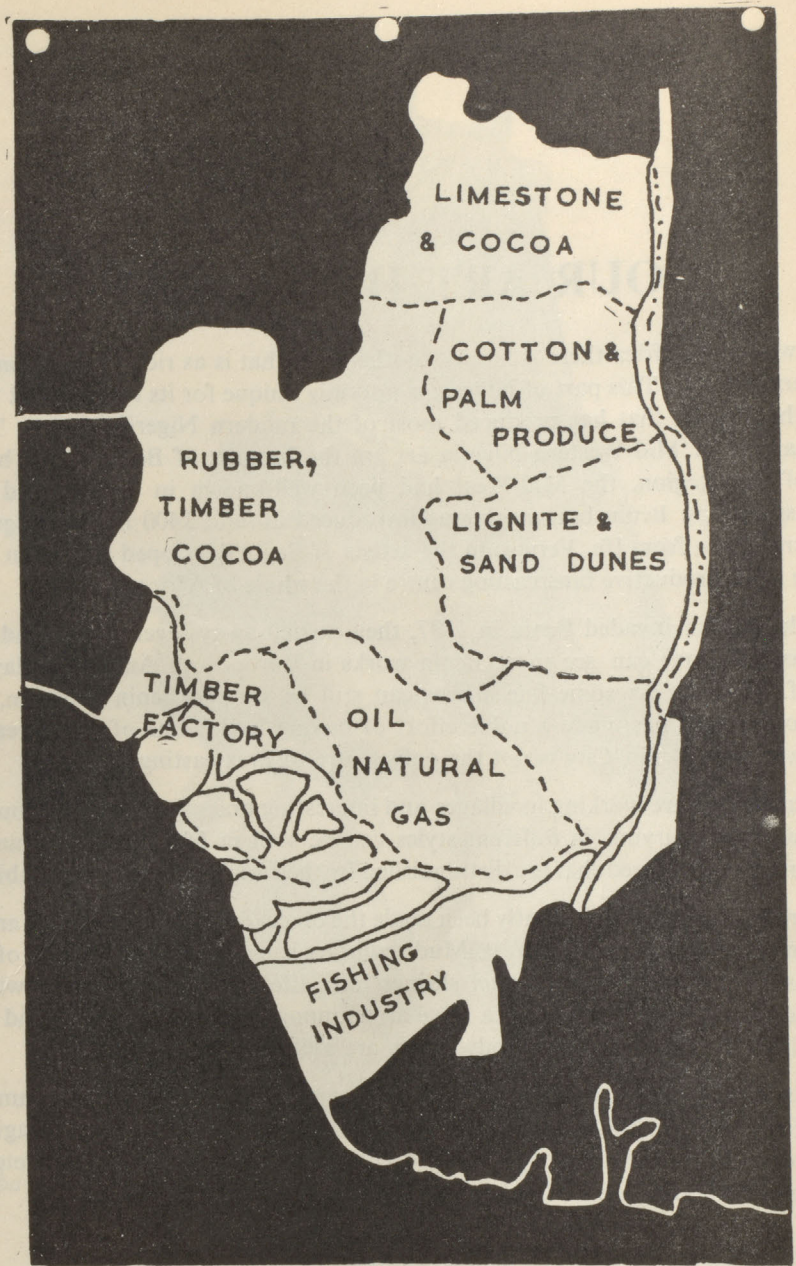
When the British invaded Benin in 1897, they carried away several thousand bronzes, thus paradoxically one can see more Benin works in Europe and America today than in Benin itself. Nevertheless some fine pieces can still be seen in Benin Museum, and the Federal Government has made a noble effort of buying back some of these treasures on European auctions. Benin City is not the only centre of brasscasting.

Many craftsmen are working in villages and interesting brasswork has been found in the Niger Delta. Wood carving in different styles can be seen in Ishan and Afenmai. In the Ijaw area, masks are carved that are distinguished by their highly abstract and cubist forms.

Sculpture in mud has only recently been made the object of study, and yet it is an important art form throughout the Mid-West. Mud sculpture is mainly used in the cult of *Olokun*, the goddess of the sea. Many *Olokun* shrines have life-size figures painted with earth colours. Such shrines are found over a large area among the Binis, Urhobos and Western Ibos. Guilds of brasscasters and woodworkers are still at work.

Nigeria's smallest Region has produced the largest number of artists, to name a few: O. Idah, Felix Idubor, Festus Idehen, Tayo Aiyegbusi, Irein Wangboje, Osagie Osifo, Demas Nwoko, Bruce Onobrakpeya, Colette Omogbai, Erhabor Emokpae, Peter Omo-Esere, Noserine Thomas, A. O. Osakue and Ogiewaure Iranmiran Osula.

*Culled from Mr P. M. Ayeni's publication, 'OUR ART TREASURES'.  
Mr Ayeni is Hon Secretary to the Mid-West Branch of the Nigerian Council for the Advancement of Art and Culture and Public Relations Officer to the Military Government.*



*Natural and Mineral Resources in the Mid-West*

## CHAPTER I

# THE BEGINNING

**E**ARLY 1965, Mr D. S. W. Pepper, British Deputy High Commissioner in the Mid-West Region of the then Federal Republic of Nigeria, who had arrived in Benin in December 1964, asked me if I would like to pay an official visit to the United Kingdom along with the Honourable P. K. Tabiowo, the Speaker of the suspended Mid-Western House of Assembly; His Highness Samuel Usifo Enosegbe II, the Onogie of Ewohimi, Member of the Mid-West House of Chiefs and Minister of State in the Premier's Office; His Highness Obi Raymond P. Onyetenu, the Asagba of Asaba and Member of the Mid-West House of Chiefs, and Senator Chief Edmund Edun Boyo, the Olutse of Jakpa, Warri, I gladly accepted. We all got our passports and reported back to the Deputy High Commissioner who had arranged for us to leave Benin City on 1st November, 1965. On Sunday, 31st October, 1965, His Excellency Mr Dennis Pepper held a farewell party in our honour at his official residence in Benin. Mr Dennis Pepper and our friends and relatives saw us off at the Benin Airport on Monday, 1st November, 1965, at 3 p.m. We arrived in Lagos that afternoon where we were met by an official from the British High Commission. We were taken to an hotel where we were accommodated.

The following day, we were given a send-off party by His Excellency Sir Francis and Lady Cumming-Bruce at his official residence. It was during this reception that I mentioned in reply to Sir Francis' speech that we prize above all things our traditional arts and crafts and appealed through him to the British people to let us have back in Benin some of our treasures which were looted during the unfortunate Benin Expedition of 1897. I told Sir Francis that in 1939 one Mr Cowan, Manager of Cowan Estate at Ajagbodudu who is a member of the Miller Family in Britain, after discussion with some of us obtained from his father 'the Ovonrame Beaded Dress' which was officially returned to Oba Akenzua II, C.M.G., at a colourful ceremony in Benin City King's Square, by His Honour Sir Geoffrey Gay Shute, C.M.G., who was the then Chief Commissioner for the Southern Provinces of Nigeria.

It was on this occasion that Lady Cumming-Bruce mentioned that an aunt of hers on her own suggestion had returned a Benin treasure to the Oba of Benin through a Nigerian friend. On my return to Nigeria, I made enquiry about this curio and was informed by Mr Dennis Pepper that his wife, Mrs Joan Pepper, enquired from the Oba Akenzua II who said no Nigerian had delivered to him any such curio.

The same evening, at 11 p.m., we left Ikeja Airport where we were seen off by a large number of friends. We boarded B.O.A.C. Plane, V.C. 10. Our plane had a brief stop at Accra, Kano, Rome and then to London where we arrived at 8.1 a.m. We were met by Mr James Shotton of the Commonwealth Relations Office and Mr J. W. O'Brien of the Central Office of Information who accompanied us while we were in London. Chief J. A. P. Oki, Agent-

General in London for Mid-Western Nigeria and Mr J. T. Boyo, the Official Secretary were present as well as many Mid-Westerners. From the London Airport, we drove in convoy to the De Vere Hotel at 6 Hyde Park Gate, Kessington, W8, where we were accommodated. The Speaker, Hon. P. K. Tabiowo who had previously arrived in Britain, on Tuesday, 2nd November, 1965 at 12 noon had already arrived at the hotel.

After lunch that afternoon, we were received at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kessington, SW7, by Sir Trenchard Cox, C.B.E., Director who exchanged views with us on the functions of a Museum and enabled us to see the Departments of special interest to us. It was here that we saw Indian, Egyptian and other African and Asian art.

On Thursday, 4th November, 1965, we were received at the Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, Westminster, SE 1, by Mr R. G. Briggs, O.B.E., Director of Tours and Production Services Division. Mr James Shotter who represented the Commonwealth Relations Office was present. The Central Office of Information is a common service department which provides material and services needed to carry out official publicity in the United Kingdom and overseas. The Administrative head of the COI is the Director-General who is assisted by two Controllers. There are ten production divisions each specializing in the provision of a particular kind of material or service, two administrative divisions or establishment and finance matters and a Regional Organization.

It was at this meeting that we discussed our programme for the tour. That afternoon, we were entertained to luncheon in the Chapter Room of the Criterion Restaurant in Piccadilly, as guests of the British Government and our host on this occasion was Sir Arthur Clark, K.C.M.G., Director of Information Services of the C.R.O.

On Friday, 5th November we visited the Ministry of Overseas Development. This is responsible for carrying out the Government's policy for development overseas. It is responsible for the aid programme as a whole and its make-up as between bilateral and multilateral aid and between capital and technical assistance. The Ministry works in close co-operation with the overseas departments and other departments concerned.

We were received by Mr G. A. Crossley, Head of the Department for West Africa with whom we discussed the responsibilities of his Department. Mr S. J. Moore who was once a Permanent Secretary in Northern Nigeria and Miss V. L. Pond took part in the discussions. We then went on to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in Gower Street, London. We were received by Dr E. T. C. Spooner, Dean of the School.

On Monday, 8th November I rejoined the party when we visited the Headquarters of the Commonwealth Development Corporation in London. It was here that I met Mr John Stocker, M.V.O., Information Officer for the Corporation who I knew in Nigeria during the World War II when he was the Army P.R.O. and I was a Publicity Officer for the Public Relations Department collecting and reporting.

#### A VISIT TO SCOTLAND

Shortly after my arrival in London, I received a telephone call from Scotland. It was from my old friend, John McCall, an Administrative Officer of twenty-nine years' experience in Nigeria, then on leave in Scotland. I told him that no plans had been made for us for a visit to Scotland. Mr McCall was concerned and said that he would get in touch with the Commonwealth Relations Office. This he did, I gather very definitely, and so on Friday evening, the 5th of November, I found myself at twenty minutes to midnight boarding the famous Railway train, the Night Scotsman, to Edinburgh.

I had a splendid night's sleep in my first-class Sleeper and I was awakened as we drew near to Edinburgh at 6.30 in the morning. I was met at Waverley Station, Edinburgh, by John and Kathleen McCall. They drove me on a keen frosty morning to their home in West Linton, in their car.

West Linton is a small pretty village of about eight hundred inhabitants and the McCalls have a small house, Burnside, in the village, beside a river which flows past the front door. The house itself is centrally heated and was very warm compared with the cold weather outside.

After I had had my breakfast, the McCalls drove me back to Edinburgh and we went to the Head Office of the great Scottish Newspaper, *The Scotsman*. There I was shown all over the building by one of the Scotsman's best known Correspondents, Wilfred Taylor, and after that I had much discussion with the Editor, Mr Dunnet. I noticed the inscription on the wall of the Scotsman Office and this prompted me to speak of the great part which I considered many Scotsmen had played in the development of Nigeria.

After my visit to *The Scotsman*, we all went to lunch in an old restaurant in the country, about five miles from West Linton, called the Old Mill. Here, I was most hospitably received by the proprietor and his wife, Mr and Mrs Black. Mr Black served in Nigeria in the Royal Air Force during the war and was very pleased to welcome a Nigerian Chief.

The Old Mill is a picturesque Inn containing the equipment of a Mill. It would have been two or three hundred years old.

After a very good lunch we all returned to West Linton and that evening we were visited by Professor Hanham of the Chair of Politics at Edinburgh University and Mrs Hanham. I had a most interesting discussion with Professor Hanham about the needs of a developing country like Nigeria. I was very impressed by the intelligence and interest of this young New Zealand Professor, who is obviously a very able man and who will go far in his profession.

The following day was a Sunday and I accompanied John McCall and his sister, Mabel, to the early celebration of Holy Communion in the small Episcopal Church at West Linton. There were only about half a dozen people present. I, myself, am awaiting confirmation and so did not take Communion but I greatly liked the peaceful atmosphere of this small country church. Afterwards, I met the Rector, Mr Fenwick, and I signed the Visitors' Book.

After breakfast, we again drove the seventeen miles to Edinburgh and, this time, the reason for our journey was to go to Morning Service in St. Giles Cathedral, known as 'The High Kirk' of Edinburgh. This beautiful Cathedral is hundreds of years old and I was greatly moved by its great old beauty. I was met on the door step by the Most Reverend Dr Whitley, the Minister, in his full robes and was conducted through a large congregation of hundreds, if not thousands of people to a seat in the front of the Cathedral by the Pulpit.

The Service was most exhilarating. It started with the baptism of several babies. The singing and music were beautiful. Dr Whitley preached an inspiring sermon. After the service, I was taken to the Chapel of the Knights of the Thistle where a few of Scotland's most famous men, about twenty-five in all, have their stalls. The most recent addition to their number, which includes the premier Dukes and Earls of Scotland, is Sir James Robertson, the last British Governor-General of Nigeria, himself a Scotsman.

After my visit to this most historic and beautiful Chapel, I was taken to the Vestry where I signed the Visitors' Book. I was glad to see that my name followed a list of very distinguished people, including Her Majesty, the Queen, and the Duke of Edinburgh.



*Chief Lawal Osula with the McCalls second and third from right*



*Some of the many curios in the palace of the Oba of Benin. Here the Oba shows a 14th century bronze staff to visitors.*



*Chief Lawal Osula—The Arala of Benin*

After my visit to St. Giles Cathedral, which I regard as the high-light of my visit to Scotland, I drove back with the McCalls to West Linton. That afternoon, after lunch, I rested and so was refreshed to undertake the journey to Edinburgh to catch the night train back to London. Again the McCalls drove me to Edinburgh and we waited, until the time of the departure of my train, in the North British Hotel in Edinburgh. While sitting there I had the idea that I would like to call on the telephone my old friend, Captain J. C. F. Pender, who was Resident of the Benin Province until 1948. We found his name in the telephone book living in the South-West of Scotland and I rang him up. I spoke to Mrs Pender. She must have been surprised to hear my voice after all these years. She told me her husband was not well, indeed was in bed. I expressed my sympathy.

Then, at about eleven o'clock at night, I got into my Sleeper in the London train and said good-bye to John and Kathleen McCall. Soon after the train started off, I quickly went to sleep, and when I woke up seven hours later, I was approaching London.

Nothing during my tour of the United Kingdom pleased me more than my visit to Scotland and especially to Edinburgh. Edinburgh, with its ancient buildings (I visited Edinburgh Castle on Saturday morning) and its tradition and long history, reminded me so much of the equally ancient history of my own country, the old Empire of Benin.

#### COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

On Monday, 8th November I rejoined the party when we visited the Headquarters of the Commonwealth Development Corporation in London. It was here that I met Mr. John Stocker, M.V.O., Information Officer for the Corporation who I knew in Nigeria during the World War II when he was the Army P.R.O. and I was a Publicity Officer for the Public Relations Department collecting and reporting Nigeria news-items to our boys who were then fighting in South-East Asia with the R.W.A.F.F., and after the war as Public Relations Officer for Nigeria where he made many friends. It was on the occasion of this visit that I asked Mr Stocker why he failed to come to Mid-Western Nigeria on his visit in August 1965 to Nigeria. To this, he replied that the C.D.C. had never been asked to help the Mid-West in any way. Mr Stocker explained that the Commonwealth Development Corporation (C.D.C.) is a statutory body, set up by Act of Parliament. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Members of the Board of C.D.C. are appointed by the Minister of Overseas Development. Mr Stocker was responsible for dishing out news-items to our boys who were then fighting in South-East Asia with the R.W.A.F.F. and after the war, he was Public Relations Officer for Nigeria where he made many friends.

Now Mr Stocker explained the operations of the C.D.C.

He said the C.D.C. offers investment in the development of resources on a strictly commercial basis. C.D.C. finance is not available as grants. To qualify for consideration by the Corporation the projects must be within C.D.C.'s statutory terms of reference; have good development value for the territory concerned, and the approval of the territorial Government; be shown to have good prospects of commercial viability; have first-class management, either provided or procured by its sponsors.

C.D.C. operates in all Commonwealth countries which have achieved independence since 1948, and in the remaining dependent territories. It cannot invest in any Commonwealth countries which achieved independence before 1948, but with the agreement of the Governments concerned, C.D.C. can act as managing agents and render advisory services.

C.D.C. has powers to borrow up to £150 million on long- or medium-term and £10 million on short-term. It may borrow up to £130 million outstanding at any one time from U.K. Exchequer Funds.

The General Manager, as chief executive, is responsible to the Chairman and Board for all C.D.C. operations. He is assisted by an Executive Management Board comprising Head Office Controllers, Regional Controllers and other senior executives.



There are six overseas regions—Caribbean, East Asia and Pacific Islands, East Africa, Central Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa, with a resident Regional Controller in charge of each. The Corporation invests in a wide variety of developmental projects. They include basic development such as power and water supply, transportation and housing finance; primary production incorporating agriculture, ranching, forestry and mining, and investments in commerce and industrial projects including factories, industrial development companies and hotels. C.D.C. does not lend money for social services such as schools and hospitals or for government administration.

The investment methods of the Corporation are flexible. It has investments in wholly owned projects, investments by way of ordinary shares, debentures and loan capital in subsidiary and associated companies and loans to Governments and statutory bodies: it favours particularly joint companies with local entrepreneurs and local capital. Thus C.D.C. is linked in a variety of ways with other investors. It is associated with territorial governments, with the West German Government and Netherlands Government Development Agencies, the World Bank and International Finance Corporation, Commonwealth Development Finance Company and leading banks, insurance and commercial companies from Australia, Britain, Canada, Holland, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States of America.

C.D.C. not only provides money for development. It also brings in skilled management and skill in training local people as the managers of the future. Besides a great deal of training done on the job, C.D.C. also offers a number of scholarships and bursaries in technical subjects to academically qualified local people and sponsors promising members of its staff for U.K. courses in management, accountancy, engineering and industrial relations.

At mid-1965, C.D.C. had investments in nineteen projects in the West Africa Region involving a total capital commitment of some £14½ million. The majority of these were in Nigeria, fourteen projects with a capital commitment of approximately £12 million.

In the afternoon, we visited the headquarters of Voluntary Service Overseas at Hanover Street, where we were received by Mr Gilbert Stephenson, the Secretary. Voluntary Service Overseas is an independent organization founded in 1958 with the aim of sending carefully selected young people from Britain to help overseas. Volunteers are now working in fifty-five countries, taking part in community development and social welfare projects, teaching, nursing, etc. Voluntary Service Overseas pays for their passage and the host country provides their keep; they generally stay a year.

While I was in Scotland with Mr J. A. G. McCall, he told me that Mr Gilbert Stephenson was now Secretary to the Voluntary Service Overseas. I was interested in meeting Mr Stephenson (Jnr.) again as we had known each other in Katsina and Makurdi. He was an Administrative Officer in Nigeria for twenty-five years. During our acquaintance in Katsina, we discussed the whereabouts of Benin Curios which were looted in the most unfortunate Benin Expedition of 1897. Mr Stephenson (Jnr.) told me that his father who as a young Naval Officer took part in the 1897 Benin Expedition where he had acquired a Benin ceremonial Sacrificial Sword. It was at this time Mr Gilbert Stephenson promised that he would get his father to return the sword. He went home on leave and on his return to Nigeria, he brought with him the sword which he handed over to the Oba on behalf of his father.

Although Mr McCall had arranged for me to meet Gilbert Stephenson's father, Admiral Sir Gilbert Stephenson, K.B.E., C.B., C.M.G., we were unable to meet owing to the Admiral's indisposition. Mr Gilbert Stephenson sent me the following letter:

*'VOLUNTARY SERVICE OVERSEAS,  
3 HANOVER STREET,  
LONDON, W1.*

*Telephone: HYDe Park 0501*

*26th November, 1965.*

*Chief Ushman Lawal Osula,  
The Arala of Benin,  
c/o Central Office of Information.*

*My dear Lawal,*

*By now you will have heard from Mr Robinson of my father's illness, which has necessitated our lunch having to be postponed.*

*I can assure you that my father is greatly disappointed about this, for he was much looking forward to meeting you and hearing how your countrymen were faring.*

*But he hopes that the occasion is only postponed and that when next you are in this cold land—come in the summer for your next trip—he will have the chance to meet and entertain you.*

*He asks me to extend to you and to your countrymen his very best wishes for the future. To this, of course, I should like to add my own personal regrets at this sudden change of plan.*

*Please give my best wishes to Johny McCall.*

*Yours sincerely,  
G. L. Stephenson,  
Secretary.'*

## CHAPTER 2

# THE QUEEN IN PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY, 9th November, 1965, is a day which we can never forget. It was on this day we witnessed the State Opening of British Parliament by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Having come from Benin City where Kingship is hereditary and this system dates back to the Ninth Century, and where Tradition is paramount and State Ceremonies have not only a colourful pageantry but a meaning to our lives, we were very much impressed and moved by this occasion. We were astounded to discover that the numberless crowd who thronged the area around Buckingham Palace and the Parliament Building and lined the routes in spite of the inclement weather, were spontaneous in demonstrating their joyful feelings for the Queen.

Inside the Palace of Westminster where the Queen and Prince Phillip were received by Great Officers of State and others were assembled to conduct the Queen to the Robing Room. Having put on the Royal Robes and wearing the Imperial Crown, the Queen proceeded in state carriage to the Chamber of the House of Lords which is equivalent to the House of Chiefs. In this colourful pageantry where scarlet Robes predominated, the Queen was led in by the following:

*Fitzalan Pursuivant Extraordinary*  
R. C. W. SCOTT-GILES, ESQ.

*Rouge Croix Pursuivant*  
C. O. DENNYS, ESQ.

*Wales Herald Extraordinary*  
FRANCIS JONES, ESQ.

*Richmond Herald*  
R. DE LA LANNE-MIRRELES, ESQ.

*York Herald*  
THE LORD SINCLAIR

*Somerset Herald*  
M. R. TRAPPES-LOMAX, ESQ.

*Gentleman Usher to Her Majesty*  
BRIGADIER RICHARD GOOCH

*Equerry in Waiting to Her Majesty*  
CAPTAIN CHARLES HOWARD

*Bluemantle Pursuivant*  
J. P. B. BROOKE-LITTLE, ESQ.

*Private Secretary to His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh*  
JAMES ORR, ESQ.

*The Crown Equerry*  
LT.-COLONEL JOHN MILLER

*Rouge Dragon Pursuivant*  
C. M. J. SWAN, ESQ.

*Portcullis Pursuivant*  
A. C. COLE, ESQ.

*Norfolk Herald Extraordinary*  
G. D. SQUIBB, ESQ.

*Chester Herald*  
W. J. G. VERCO, ESQ.

*Lancaster Herald*  
J. R. B. WALKER, ESQ.

*Windsor Herald*  
R. P. GRAHAM-VIVIAN, ESQ.

*Gentleman Usher to Her Majesty*  
COLONEL SIR GEOFFREY CODRINGTON

*Equerry in Waiting to Her Majesty*  
MAJOR THE LORD PLUNKET

*The Comptroller of Her Majesty's  
Household*  
CHARLES GREY, ESQ.

*The Keeper of Her Majesty's Privy Purse*  
BRIGADIER THE LORD TRYON

*The Treasurer of Her Majesty's  
Household*  
SYDNEY IRVING, ESQ.

*The Private Secretary to Her  
Majesty*  
LT.-COLONEL THE RIGHT HON.  
SIR MICHAEL ADEANE

*Clarenceux King of Arms*  
SIR JOHN HEATON-ARMSTRONG

*The Lord Privy Seal*  
THE EARL OF LONGFORD

*The Lord President of the Council*  
THE RIGHT HON. HERBERT BOWDEN

*The Lord High Chancellor*  
THE LORD GARDINER

*The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod*  
AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR GEORGE MILLS

*Garter King of Arms*  
SIR ANTHONY WAGNER

*The Earl Marshal*  
THE DUKE OF NORFOLK

*The Lord Great Chamberlain*  
THE MARQUESS OF CHOLMONDELEY

THE SWORD OF STATE MARSHAL OF THE ROYAL  
AIR FORCE  
THE VISCOUNT PORTAL OF HUNGERFORD

THE CAP OF MAINTENANCE  
THE LORD CHAMPION

THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY

ACCOMPANIED BY

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE PHILLIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH

*Pages of Honour*

LORD SCRYMGEOUR

EDWARD HAY, ESQ.

CHRISTOPHER TENNANT, ESQ.

RICHARD FORD, ESQ.

*Woman of the Bedchamber*  
THE HON. MARY MORRISON

*The Mistress of the Robes*  
THE DUCHESS DOWAGER OF  
DEVONSHIRE

*Lady of the Bedchamber*  
THE COUNTESS OF LEICESTER

*Gold Stick in Waiting*  
ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET THE  
EARL MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA

*The Lord Steward*  
COLONEL THE DUKE OF  
WESTMINSTER

*The Master of the Horse*  
THE DUKE OF BEAUFORT

*Lord in Waiting to Her Majesty*  
THE EARL OF WESTMORLAND

*The Vice-Admiral of the United  
Kingdom*  
ADMIRAL SIR JOHN EDELSTEN

*The Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard*  
THE LORD BOWLES

*The Captain of the Corps of Gentlemen at Arms*  
THE LORD SHEPHERD

*Air Aide-de-Camp to Her Majesty*  
AIR CHIEF MARSHALL  
SIR WILLIAM MACDONALD

*First and Principal Naval Aide-de-Camp to Her Majesty*  
ADMIRAL SIR DESMOND  
DREYER

*Aide-de-Camp General to Her Majesty*  
GENERAL SIR RODNEY  
MOORE

*The Comptroller Lord Chamberlain's Office*  
LT.-COLONEL ERIC PENN

*The Gentleman Usher to the Sword of State*  
AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR ARTHUR  
BARRATT

*Field Officer in Brigade Waiting*  
COLONEL M. J. P. O'COCK

*Silver Stick in Waiting*  
COLONEL D. J. STM. TABOR

*The Lieutenant of the Yeomen of the Guard*  
MAJOR-GENERAL SIR ALLAN ADAIR, BT.

*The Lieutenant of the Corps of Gentlemen at Arms*  
MAJOR-GENERAL WILLIAM FOX-PITT

After the Queen was seated on the Throne, she commanded the Gentlemen Usher of the Black Rod to summon the Speaker and members of the House of Commons, the Bar of the House of Lords where she proceeded to make THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

After the Speech from the Throne, the Queen then left the Throne and in procession returned to the Robing Room after which in a colourful procession, she returned to Buckingham Palace in the State Carriage drawn by six horses.

After the State Opening of Parliament, we were entertained at a Reception in Westminster Hall by the United Kingdom Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association where we met other legislators, High Commissioners from other parts of the Commonwealth all of whom had attended the State Opening of Parliament. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association was formed in 1911. Its primary aim is to promote understanding and co-operation between Commonwealth Parliaments by the exchange of information, visits and conferences, etc. It now has nearly 100 branches with some 6,000 members.

On Wednesday, 10th November, 1965, we visited the Shell Centre in London. Shell Centre contains the London component of the Central Offices organization of the Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies. There are some 500 Shell Companies operating in over 130 countries throughout the world and the job of the Shell Central Offices is to co-ordinate their activities and to provide them with services and advice. About 5,000 employees work in Shell Centre. Of special interest are the Permanent Exhibition of the various and essential activities that together make up the oil and chemical industries, the staff amenities, and the Viewing Gallery of the tower, 317 feet above ground level.

Here we were received by Mr Levick, West African Area Co-Ordinator, who introduced us to Officials of the Shell Group of Companies and were later entertained to Luncheon in the Director's Dining Room. That evening, Field-Marshal and Lady Templer entertained us to a Cocktail Party at their residence, 12 Wilton Street, London SW1. The party was arranged at the instance of my 'sister', Mrs Joan Pepper who is a Cousin of the Field Marshall. Not only was Lady Templer a good hostess but the Field Marshall regaled us with many witticisms which we really enjoyed.



ABOVE: A unique pottery work showing the dexterity of a traditional Mid-West artist.

BELOW: Though sculpture in terra-cotta has only recently been the object of study yet it has been an important art form through Mid-Western Nigeria. For example, terra-cotta is mainly used in OLOKUN shrines, as below from Usonigbe.



On 11th November, we visited the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. We were received by Professor Malcolm Guthrie, Ph.D., B.Sc., Head of the Department of African and Professor of Bantu Languages and by Professor A. N. Allott, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of African Law, and met the following members of the Staff:

Dr D. W. Arnott, M.A., Ph.D., Reader in West African Languages.

Mr J. Carnochan, B.A., Reader in Phonetics.

Dr A. Cohen, Ph.D., M.A., Lecturer in Sociology, with reference to Africa South of the Sahara.

Mr C. G. B. Gidley, O.B.E., B.A., Lecturer in West African Languages (Hausa), formerly of the Nigeria Police.

Dr H. J. Fisher, B.A., D.Phil., Lecturer in History of Africa.

Mr A. V. King, B.Mus., Fellow in African Music.

Rev. E. C. Rowlands, M.B.E., M.A., Lecturer in West African Languages (Yoruba, Bini, Urhobo).

Mr F. D. D. Winston, B.A., Lecturer in West African Languages (Igbo, Efik).

We were entertained to Luncheon by Dr Arnott at the President Hotel, Russel Square, London.

In the evening, we visited Erith, Kent and were received at the Town Hall by a Lady Mayoress of the Borough of Bexley, Kent, Councillor Mrs Marjorie E. Barron, J.P. It was here that we watched the polling of a Bye-election and saw the election procedure. We met the Mayor of the London Borough of Bexley, Councillor Mrs Marjorie E. Barron, Jnr., in her parlour on the evening of our visit. The Mayor holds office for approximately one year and the office is filled by a new Mayor annually elected from among the ranks of the Aldermen and Councillors. The same process usually applies to the other thirty-one London Boroughs in the Greater London area. The Borough is responsible for, among many other functions, Education, Health and Welfare, Local Housing Redevelopment, Maintenance of Highways and in conjunction with appropriate Ministries and/or Greater London Council Planning Redevelopment.

## SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES

University of London, WC1

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

LANGHAM 9021

66 Ormond Avenue,  
Hampton, Middx.,  
22 November, 1965.

Dear Chief Lawal Osula,

*I very much enjoyed our discussion on 11th November, at the School of Oriental and African Studies. I have since then consulted the journal of my visit to Nigeria, and find that I did indeed meet you in Benin City, on 27th January, 1959, in the morning. We talked in your sitting-room; I noted that a lot of mail was brought to you during our discussion, and that people kept calling on you for one thing or another.*

*I was very interested to receive more recent news of developments in Benin. I shall mention here what I recall of our discussion at the School, so that you may correct me if necessary. Mallam M. M. Habeeb, originally trained as a teacher of Islam and Arabic by Maulvi Hakim in Lagos, is now teaching in the Ahmadiyya Primary School at Benin City, and serves as Assistant Imam for the Ahmadis in the City. An Ahmadiyya Secondary School has been*



*Bronze work of a piper; one of the collections believed to have survived the British invasion of Benin in 1897.*





*The Oba of Benin Akenzua II at IGUE Festival. The IGUE is an annual festival dating to the 13th century.*



*Elephant Tusks are carved by Benin sculptors and they form a valuable ornaments.*

opened at Okhuhe, ten miles from Benin City on the Asaba road, on land given by the Oba of Benin. The orthodox Muslims are planning to establish an orthodox secondary school also—Two years ago the Mid-West branch of the Muslim Congress was established. The President of the Mid-West branch is Hajj Chief Ja Isuman, who is also Chairman of the Mid-West Nigerian Development Corporation. The Vice-President of the branch is Hajj Aminu Yusufu Otokiti, and the Secretary, Mr F. Y. Otokiti.

In 1959, I met Mallam Habeeb at Agbede, would you please give him my warmest greetings. In Benin City, I met also the orthodox Imam Jamiu, Hajj Chief Yesufu D. Otokiti (is he the same as the Vice-President of the Mid-West branch of the Muslim Congress?); to him also I send my affectionate respects.

Among other people whom I met in 1959 were Chief Bello Osagie; the Nayibi Imam of the orthodox Muslims (alas! I did not record his name); Mr Lawal, in charge of the Ahmadi schools; Imam Habeebullah Arasomwan Nabunlele; Mr Ishaq Adewunmi Kuku; the teacher, Mr Yusufu; Mr Muhammad Sharafa, head of the Ahmadis who joined Saifi, and a Court Registrar, who became an Ahmadi in 1948—I have lost his name, but when I visited him he had just acquired a dog named Whisky, and wondered what his wife would say about it when she returned. In Jagbe, I met Mr A. I. Esekhaigbe, and in Agbede, Imam Uthman, Mr Z. A. Qadiri and Mr A. O. Enakimio. There were of course many others also who helped me, and were kind to me in many ways. To all I send, by you if I may, my thanks and salutations.

You said that you would be willing to give my name and address to some of your Muslim friends in Benin, so that they might perhaps be able to send me some further information about the modern development of Islam in Benin. I should be most grateful if you would do this. With best wishes for your journey home,

Yours sincerely,

Sgd: HUMPHREY FISHER.

*Dr Fisher and I had discussion on Islam in the Mid-West. His letter is reproduced here to this effect.*

On the following day, we visited Bulborne Dairy Farm, Tring, Hertfordshire and we were received by Mr David Blundy, the Manager who showed us round the seventy acres of the farm and described how cattle rearing, milk production and cultivation of the soil are being intensified. It was here that we came across, for the first time, an electric cattle fence. But Chief Edmund Boyo, who had received a shock through his gloves, shouted at us not to touch the wire. The weather was bitterly cold and the other members of the party were anxious to get into our heated car but I insisted on inspecting a store of wheat. We then went on to an old English Inn called the 'Bell' at Ashton Clinton where we had a very good lunch. It was at this Inn, we were drawn like moths to a beautiful Log-Fire to get our blood circulating again after the intense cold at the Dairy Farm which brandy and ginger, nor whisky and soda, gin and bitters could not restore to us. We drove back to London through some lovely English country-side.

In the afternoon, I went to the British Museum in Bloomsbury, where I met Mr B. P. C. Bridgewater, the Secretary of the Museum, with whom I discussed matters of common interest and arranged for subsequent visit to the British Museum.

Saturday, 13th November, the day we watched the colourful pageantry of the Lord Mayor's procession through the City of London from the Goslines Branch of Barclays Bank Limited, 19 Fleet Street by the kind permission of the Manager, Mr Cattel, is a day we can hardly forget. We were received by Mr S. Sutton, Assistant Manager and Mr R. J. B. Tait and Mr J. N. D. Bettley. We subsequently met Mr J. B. Donghty, Head of the Securities

Department who has been on the staff of the branch for forty years. The mile-long procession of the newly elected Lord Mayor of London who travelled in his gilt-coach to pay his respects, according to the age-long tradition of the British people, at the Royal Court of Justice.

In the afternoon, I went to the Royal Academy where I was received by Mr Wyndham Goodden, Director of the Commonwealth Arts Festival Exhibition 'Treasures from the Commonwealth', who showed me round. I enjoyed seeing the Arts treasures from various parts of the Commonwealth. Mr and Mrs Goodden later entertained me to lunch at Simpson's Old English Restaurant in the Strand where they told me they had had their wedding reception some years ago. After lunch, I went on to the British Museum where I was received by Mr B. P. C. Bridgewater, the Secretary and Mr W. B. Fagg, Deputy-Keeper. I was conducted on a tour of Departments of general and of special interest to Nigeria. It was at this Museum that I saw very many ancient Benin Curios and works of Art. I took this opportunity to put to the Curator, Mr W. B. Fagg, a case for returning these works of Art to Benin. He said whilst he agreed to the proposal, he pointed out that they could not be returned but suggested that true replicas could be made and purchased by my Mid-West Branch of the National Council of Arts and Culture. He also promised to get a Photo Album of all Benin Treasures in the Museum and let me have it in due course. Some of the Benin Treasures were loaned out to other Museums to enable people in other parts of the world to see and appreciate our works of Art. It was here that I discovered that replicas of Benin Treasures are on sale to the general public thereby publicising our ancient culture.

My colleagues and I later had the opportunity of calling on the then Agent-General for the Mid-West in London, Chief and Mrs Oki.

### Bristol

ON Sunday, 14th November, we left London by train for Bristol where we were met by Mr I. S. A. Howard, O.B.E., of the Central Office of Information and taken to the Grand Hotel where accommodation had been booked for us. Bristol, which has a population of nearly half a million, is a major port which serves the Midlands industrial area and has a large coastal trade. Bananas and tobacco are notable imports. It is also the main centre of trade in the west of England. Its industries include aircraft, tobacco, chocolate, high-quality printing, chemicals, and food processing and there are extensive oil installations. Bristol is famed for its educational and cultural tradition through its schools, university and art galleries.

On Monday, 15th November, we visited the Lockleaze Comprehensive School, Bristol where we were received by the Headmaster, Mr F. Langley, D.F.C., B.Sc., who discussed the functions of the school with us and later introduced us to the teaching staff and to many of the pupils. During the tour of the school, we paid special attention to the Arts and Crafts and the Metal and Woodwork sections.

Bristol's 218 schools are attended by 66,500 pupils and include seven Grammar Schools, thirteen Bilateral Schools, a Commercial School and a Technical School and ten special schools for backward and physically handicapped children. In the field of further education there is a College of Advanced Technology, one of nine in England with 1,500 pupils and Bristol Technical College with over 6,000. A College of Art (1,027) and a College of Commerce (4,888), six Institutes of Further Education (23,000), and a Day Continuation School (1,070) complete the picture. There is a Teacher Training College with 320 students which will increase to 500 in five years and a Nursery Nurses Training Centre with 170 students.

In the afternoon, we visited the Bristol Council House and entertained to tea by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Alderman Thomas Martin, M.B.E., J.P.

November 16, was our Chocolate Day. We have never seen as much chocolate in all our lives as we saw when we visited the Headquarters of J. S. Fry & Sons Limited, Chocolate Manufacturers. At the factory, we were received by Mr R. W. Leonard, a Director, who described to us the company's operations and also accompanied us on our tour of the factory. Messrs J. S. Fry & Sons Ltd. produce some 500 tons of confectionary a week and employ 5,000 people. An old established company, now a member of the Cadbury Group, it has helped to pioneer employee welfare and recreational facilities. A group factory was opened at Apapa, Nigeria, in 1960 as a distribution depot and since 1964 it has been manufacturing Bournvita. After the most interesting visit around the factory, we were entertained to luncheon by the Board of Directors of the company.

On Wednesday, 17th November, we visited the British Broadcasting Corporation Regional Office in Bristol. The British Broadcasting Corporation was established as a public corporation by Royal Charter in 1927. The Corporation consists of nine Governors, and its chief executive officer is the Director-General. The B.B.C. is required by its charter to see that its services are used 'as a means of disseminating information, education and entertainment'. It is expected to be impartial in current affairs, but is completely independent of the Government in the day-to-day conduct of its business, both in administration and programme content.

In the evening we attended a Regional Dinner in the Churchill Room at the Grand Hotel. Our host was Mr W. J. D. Irving, Chief Officer for the South Western Region, Central Office of Information.

On 18th November, we visited the headquarters of Monlton Developments Limited, manufacturers of modern bicycles, at Bradford-on-Avon. We were received by Mr J. Benjamin who also showed us a Museum to illustrate the history of the bicycle. He also took us on a tour of the factory. We were very much impressed with what we saw and it was here that the Speaker, Hon P. K. Tabiowo endeavoured to ride one of these new and modern bicycles which have a much smaller wheel than the conventional bicycle. As we were afraid that the Hon. Speaker may come a cropper, we all supported him, when he was on the seat of the Monlton bicycle. On our return journey to Bristol, we called at the Domestic Science College at Bath where we saw a niece of the Asagba of Asaba, Miss Kerry, who is studying Domestic Science.

On Friday, 19th November, I was visited by the Anglican Bishop of Bristol. We discussed various aspects of religion in Nigeria. That afternoon, we left in two cars and travelled to Cardiff by road. With a population of more than 260,000, Cardiff is the capital of Wales, a major port and a centre of road and rail communications. Its growth has been largely due to the exploitation of coal and iron deposits in the South Wales region. Among its major industries are ship repairing, steel making and flour milling.

We were accommodated at the Angel Hotel, Cardiff and received by Mr Idris Evans, M.V.O., Director, Information Division Welsh Office. We were entertained to dinner in the evening by Mr Harold Finch, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Welsh Office and Mrs Finch. Also at the dinner were:

Sir Gwilym Ffrangcon-Williams, C.B.E., Vice-Chairman of the National Savings Committee for the United Kingdom, and Lady Ffrangcon-Williams.

Professor R. J. C. Atkinson, M.A., F.S.A., Professor of Archaeology, University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, and Mrs Atkinson. Senegalese Counsellor and Gambia Parliamentarians.

The next day, we were joined at the Hotel by the Rt. Hon James Callaghan, Member of Parliament for Cardiff and Chancellor of the Exchequer in the British Government. During

our discussion with Mr Callaghan, the Speaker, Mr Tabiowo, mentioned the struggle we had for the creation of Mid-West Region and the difficulties we were experiencing in getting the new Region going and trying to interest investors to put money into industrial projects in Mid-West. I showed the Chancellor of the Exchequer a copy of a speech delivered on 19th August, 1963, by Chief Dennis Osadebay entitled 'The Builders Arrive'. Mr Callaghan was most interested in the subject of the speech. He was aware of the assistance we required in the newly formed Region and while he was aware of our requirements for technical assistance and other types of aid, he told us it would be advisable to put these requests through the British Government's representatives in the Mid-West and that they would be given sympathetic consideration. Our meeting with Mr Callaghan was most cordial and friendly.

On Sunday, 21st November, Chief Boyo and I worshipped at Llandaff Cathedral and the Onojie of Ewohimi, the Asagba of Asaba and Mr Tabiowo worshipped at St. David's Cathedral.

The next day, we visited the Welsh Office where we were received by Mr G. B. Daniel C.B., Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Wales, with whom we discussed the functions of the Welsh Office and its relationship with other Government Departments in Wales. We were later entertained to luncheon by Mr A. J. Nicholas, C.B.E., Chairman, Aberdare Holdings Ltd. It was at this luncheon we met the Rt. Hon James Griffiths, Secretary of State for Wales and Mr Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State for Wales. It was a large lunch party where we met a number of interesting people including members of the Welsh Economic Council. That afternoon, we went to the Headquarters of the Conservative and Unionist Association, where we had talk with Messrs G. Howard Davies and Mr Ian Grist on the organization and activity of the Conservative Party in Wales.

On Tuesday, 23rd November, we visited the National School of Medicine where we were received by Mr F. Dodsworth, the Secretary and with whom we had a brief discussion followed by a tour of the departments. We later visited the University College of South Wales. On the same day, we were particularly interested by our visit to the National Museum of Wales and some of the historical buildings in Cardiff, including the Castles.

The next day, after a visit to the office of the Welsh Council of Labour and the office of the Liberal Party and met the Leader of the Welsh Nationalist Party, we left by train for London and arrived there that evening. I was rushed straight from the Railway station to General Henry and Mrs Alexander's residence in Milner Street, Chelsea, London where a Cocktail Party was arranged in my honour. The other members of the delegation had other engagements. At the party I met some officers of my host's Regiment who were in London doing guard duties at Buckingham Palace. They had been in Edinburgh at the Castle during my visit to Scotland earlier in the tour. At the party also, were Mrs T. Omo-Bare, wife of the Commissioner of Police, Mid-Western Nigeria and Lady Susan Head, wife of Sir Francis Head who is a member of the British Foreign Office and several other friends of the Alexanders. I really felt at home that evening amongst such congenial people who could not have been more friendly. General Alexander was at one time Chief of Staff to President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana. General Alexander was sacked by the Ghana President, yet he had the greatest admiration for the Osagyefo for whom he, Alexander, spoke nothing but good.

General Alexander is the brother of my 'sister,' Mrs Joan Pepper, who I have no doubt arranged for her brother to give the reception for me. At this point, I would like to mention how deeply I appreciate Joan's efforts to make me happy and feel at home in Britain. With all that the McCalls', the Alexanders, the Templars, the Peppers, the Dicks and a host of others did for me in Britain, I have come to the conclusion that my sins found me out thousands of miles away from home.

On Thursday, November 25th, 1965, Mr P. K. Tabiowo and Chief Edmund Boyo had luncheon with the United Africa Company Ltd., and their host was Mr N. W. I. Kaye, Area Manager for Nigeria. In the evening, the Standard Bank Ltd., gave a Cocktail Party for us all. Our host was Sir Cyril Hawker, Chairman. At this Cocktail, there were other Directors and high officials of the Bank including Mr E. I. McQuin whom I had met in Benin City during his recent visit to Nigeria. Quite an enjoyable time was spent at this reception.

#### MEETING WITH THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

November 26 was a very busy day for us. In the morning, I had a meeting with the London Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated). I was received by Mr W. J. Luxton, C.B.E., the Director of the Chamber and by Mr W. F. Nicholas, O.B.E., Deputy Director of the Chamber and Director of the Federation of Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce and by Mr J. C. F. Winchley, Secretary of the Federation. It was here that I delivered an address and greetings on behalf of Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Incorporated) as follows:

'Mr Chairman, Officers and Members of the London Chamber of Commerce, I bring to you greetings from the Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Mid-Western Region of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

'Until the creation of Mid-Western Nigeria as a separate region within the Federal Republic of Nigeria on 9th August, 1963, the geographical area contained therein formed part of Western Nigeria. This resulted in the seat of Government being located at Ibadan, the capital of Western Nigeria so that representations to and negotiations with Government bodies were best dealt with through the long-established Ibadan Chamber of Commerce. After the creation of Mid-Western Nigeria, the position changed in that the seat of Government and therefore the location of the various Ministries concerned with the development of Mid-West trade became the ancient city of Benin.

'It became apparent that the various commercial organizations, both indigenous and expatriate, should form themselves into an association to look after their interests in these changed circumstances and on 3rd March, 1965, a meeting of Benin business-men was formally convened towards this end. The meeting unanimously agreed upon the necessity of the formation of a Chamber of Commerce and a *protem* Committee was elected, under the Joint Chairmanship of Chief Morgan Agbontaen, the Arosokun of Benin, a highly respected, well-travelled and experienced African business-man and Mr M. A. Mair, then General Manager of John Holt Ltd., one of Nigeria's oldest and most reputable British trading companies. It is worthy of note that the other members of the Committee were drawn almost equally from indigenous and expatriate business-men, thus representing all sectors of the commercial community and emphasizing the good relations existing between Africans and Europeans in our new region.

'The *protem* Committee then set about forming a properly-constituted Chamber of Commerce and Industry, registered by law and governed by the terms of a Memorandum and Articles of Association. In a creditably short time, the *protem* Committee was able to call a General Meeting of all subscribers and the business of the General Meeting culminated in the election of an Executive Council. The foundations were thus laid for the new Chamber to play its part in the economic development of Mid-Western Nigeria.

'As you will know, we Nigerians wish to see our Country-make controlled but rapid progress towards self-reliance in the economic sense as well as towards high standards of democracy and sophistication. We are very conscious of the help already given us by our Western friends, particularly Great Britain, towards the achievement of

these aims. In a young country, however, there must be problems pertaining to our development and the Federation of Nigeria requires the continued assistance of all interested in its future. We are indeed fortunate in Mid-Western Nigeria that the Ministers of Government welcomed the formation of a Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry and made it clear by word and deed of their wish to co-operate with the Chamber towards economic progress.

‘Mid-Western Nigeria is rich in resources and exports oil palm produce, cocoa, timber and rubber. Added to these is the relatively new discovery of substantial quantities of mineral oil and natural gas. The exploitation of these natural resources, coupled, as it is, with the determination of the region’s Government to improve agricultural efficiency and to encourage local industry, enables Mid-Westerners to look to the future with confidence. The Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry, of which I am an Executive Council Member, can play a major part in this economic development and deserve encouragement and support.

‘From the bottom of my heart, I say thank you for giving me a hearing.’

Mr Luxton replied on behalf of the London Chamber of Commerce as follows:

**THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (INC.)**

**69 Cannon Street, London, EC4**

**30th November, 1965**

‘Dear Chief Osula,

‘On behalf of the officers and members of the London Chamber of Commerce I thank you for the message of greetings which you have conveyed to me from the Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Mid-West Region of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

‘The London Chamber heard with great pleasure that you had decided to form a Chamber of Commerce and looks forward to the development of close relations between our two Chambers.

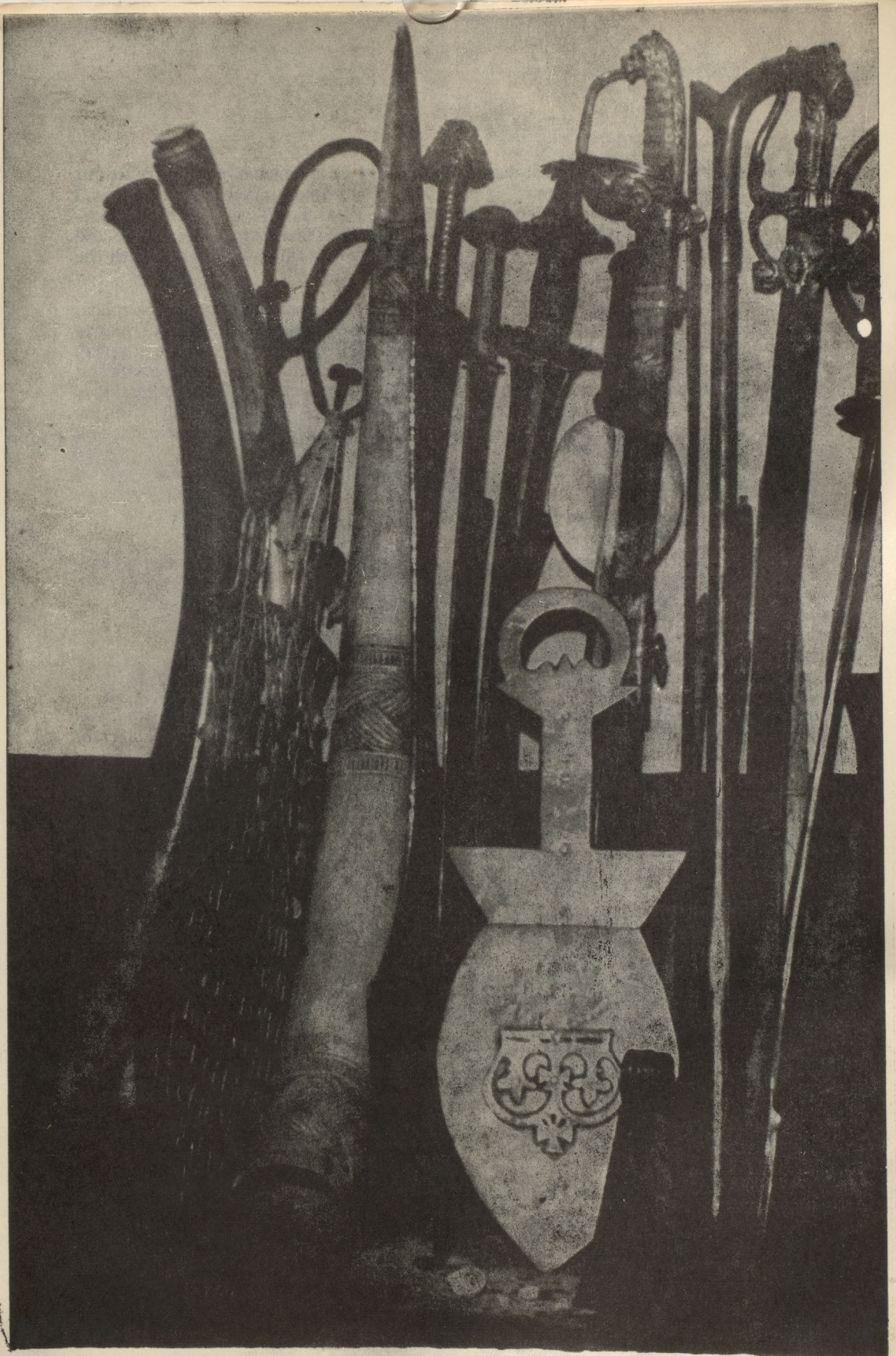
‘The London Chamber will at all times be willing and anxious to render to the Benin Chamber any help or advice which lies within our power.

‘May I also on behalf of the Federation of Commonwealth Chambers of Commerce send greetings to you personally and to the Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Important talks were recently held with Nigerian businessmen under the auspices of the Federation of Commonwealth Chambers of Commerce and we are looking forward to our forthcoming Congress which is to be held in Lagos in November, 1966. We hope that as many of our members as possible will then be able to visit your historic City.

‘I should be most grateful if you would convey from the Officers and Members of the London Chamber a warm message of greetings and good wishes to your own officers and members’.

Yours Sincerely,  
Director.

Chief Usman Lawal Osula,  
The Arala of Benin,  
c/o The De Vere Hotel,  
1 De Vere Gardens, W8.



*Scepters, elephant tusks, swords and brass-knives are some of the art treasures of the Region.  
These objects are status symbol for some chiefs.*



*The Oba of Benin Akenzua II in full hand-woven Regalia. The outfit is made entirely of cora beads and sown dexteriously by the nimble hand of members of the IWEBO Society.*



*Chiefs participate in IGUE Festival. Each chief with his Entourage dances before His King. Each phase has a meaning.*

The Chamber of Commerce is the centre for trade organizations in London and exists to help members in every possible way and to promote the welfare of trade and industry. It has a direct membership of 12,500, equally divided between commerce and industry.

I later visited the Guildhall in the City of London where I was received by Colonel P. C. Britten, Ceremonial Assistant to the City Remembrancer and who described some of the traditions associated with the City of London to me. I was very tempted to go back to the Guildhall but time was against me.

For lunch, I rejoined the party at the Barclays Bank Headquarters for a Buffet Lunch given in our honour by the Bank. Our host was Mr A. G. Bishop, the Assistant General Manager and other guests included Bank officials at home and from abroad. At this party, it was pleasant meeting some of the Bank officials who had served in the Mid-West. That afternoon, we were received in a private room at Royal Overseas League, St. James's, where we were entertained at a small reception by the last British Governor-General, Sir James Robertson. We reminisced for sometime on Nigeria before we left for another reception given in our honour by Chief J. A. P. Oki, Agent-General for the Mid-West in London and Mrs Oki. Here we met many friends and acquaintances. Altogether, it was a nice evening.

We then went on to the Connaught Hotel for dinner where our host was Mr Michael Holt, Managing Director of John Holt Limited, and an old friend of mine. It was at this dinner party that we met another old friend and who we may describe as a Mid-Westerner who played a major part in the formation of the Benin Chamber of Commerce, Mr Martin Mair. At this dinner, we had a long discussion with Mr L. H. T. Dickerton, an Overseas Director. We were particularly pleased at this dinner since many of our hosts had travelled from Liverpool for this occasion.

On Saturday, 27th November, Chief Boyo visited Dulwich College where he was received by Mr G. A. Way, Deputy Master, who conducted him round and introduced him to the Assistant Masters, who, like himself, remembered Chief Boyo's son, Professor Boyo as a pupil at Dulwich.

In obedience to Lydia, my wife, I visited Hampton Court Palace where I was received by Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, G.B.E., the World's Chief Guide who recalled her visit to Nigeria and her meeting with Mrs Sasegbon and my wife whom she remembered as 'Lydia' and who is the Commissioner for Girl Guides in Benin. Lady Baden-Powell (Snr) gave me a letter for my wife.

Hampton Court Palace was begun in 1514 by Cardinal Wolsey and presented by him to Henry VIII. The Palace was largely rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren towards the end of the seventeenth century but it has not been occupied by a sovereign since the time of George II (1727-60). The state rooms, opened to the public by Queen Victoria in 1837, attract many thousands of visitors each year. A number of other rooms are granted by favour of the sovereign for the use of widows and children of distinguished servants of the Crown.

With the World's Chief Guide were friends and supporters of the Movement amongst whom were:

Dame Leslie Whately, DBE, formerly the Director of the World Association of Girl Guides.

Mrs Dennistown Sword, formerly Commissioner for Girl Guides in the County of Surrey.

Mrs Clare Norman.

Lady Gaunt.

Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, grandson and granddaughter of the Chief Guide.

Sir Charles Harvey, C.B., C.V.O., C.B.E., M.C., Hon. LL.D., Chief Steward of Hampton Court Palace.

On my return from Hampton Court, I rejoined the party and we were all taken to the Steak House, Dulwich Village, by Mr and Mrs R. G. Biggs. Mr Biggs is the Director of Tours at the Central Office of Information. It was here that we were given an excellent dinner and probably too much to drink. But we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It was on this occasion that Mrs Biggs gave me a small present to take back to Lydia my wife.

On Sunday, 28th November, we arrived at the Church of St. Magnus the Martyr, at lower Thames Street in the City of London for a Divine Service. It was here that we met the Rector, the Reverend Colin Gill, large, fat, expansive and witty who not only kept us amused but also delivered a powerful sermon and prayed that we all returned safely to our home. God must have listened to him because we did! We felt we must have been protected since Ven. Archdeacon S. O. Akinluyi of St. Matthew's Cathedral, Benin prayed for our safe journey. We were happy to know that we had two Ministers of the Church both of whom prayed for our safety. After the service, we were taken to the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street in the City of London for luncheon, where judging by the service we received, the Rev. Colin Gill must not have been an infrequent frequenter of the hotel.

In the evening, the Asaba Students' Union gave a party for the Asagba of Asaba at the De Vere Hotel. The Ishan Students' Union gave a party for the Onojie of Ewohimi. The Benin Students' Union gave a party in my honour at Africa Centre, 38 King Street, London, WC2. Mr J. T. L. Boyo, the Official Secretary to the Agent-General's Office, chaired the occasion. I felt really at home. A novel idea was used by Mr I. Omoregbe in the form of twenty-five chairs used as 'Musical Chairs'. The winning girl opened the floor with me. Altogether we had a most enjoyable evening.

Monday, 29th November, we were received by Mr J. Q. Wood, Director U.A.C. Timber at Shelley House in the City of London. He described to us the services performed in London for associated companies in Nigeria such as African Timber & Plywood (Nigeria) Limited at Sapele. He also introduced us to members of the company and showed us an exhibition of their products. The A.T. & P. (Nigeria) Limited at Sapele is one of the biggest timber mills of its kind in Africa which employs over 3,000 people and is a considerable source of revenue not only to the Benin Divisional Council but to the Federation of Nigeria as a whole. We were later entertained to lunch at St. Bridget's House, Blackfriars by the Chairman of the U.A.C. (Timber) Limited, Mr E. C. Measures, who is a frequent visitor to the Mid-West.

On Tuesday, 30th November, we arrived at the Houses of Parliament, Westminster. The greater part of the Palace of Westminster (or the Houses of Parliament) was built by Sir Charles Barry after a fire destroyed most of the old building in 1834. Westminster Hall, however, originally built in 1097 by King William II and remodelled by King Richard II, still remains. The two Houses of Parliament are the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The Chamber of the House of Commons was destroyed in an air raid in May 1941, rebuilt after the war and re-opened in 1950.

We were received by Mr James Dunn, M.P., who took us on a tour of the Palace of Westminster, including the House of Lords, the House of Commons and Westminster Hall. We were entertained to luncheon in the Dining Room D with members of the Government and Opposition parties. Our host was Mr James Dunn, Labour Member of Parliament for Kirkdale. Other guests were: Mr David Ensor, Labour Member of Parliament for Bury and Radcliffe, Mr John Biggs-Davison, Conservative and Unionist Member of Parliament for Chigwell, and Mr Anthony Fell, Conservative and Unionist Member of Parliament for Yarmouth. We witnessed the Speaker's procession into the House of Commons and also present at Question Time. It was interesting to see the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson, answering questions in his own inimitable style for which I admired him. We were greeted

at the Lobby by the Rt. Hon Joseph Grimmond, Leader of the Liberal Party who received the Onojie of Ewohimi in his private room at the House of Commons. We were all later entertained by the Rt. Hon Arthur Bottomley, M.P., Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations in his private room at the House. He remembered well his visit to Benin in August 1965 and was very grateful for all we had done for him and Mrs Bottomeley during their visit.

That evening, we were received at a grand reception given by the Commonwealth Relations Office at Malborough House. Our host was the Rt. Hon the Lord Beswick, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State. It was here that we met a large number of people who, in one way or another, had been connected with Nigeria. We met old friends and made new ones. We discovered that a large number of people we had met during this tour had come from considerable distances to this reception. This was our last social engagement in Britain.

On Wednesday, 1st December, we packed our baggage and attended to our personal requirements. In the evening, we had a quiet dinner with Mr J. Shotter of the Commonwealth Relations Office. We were driven down to London Airport where we caught the VC. 10 that night for Lagos.

We arrived Ikeja Airport on December 2. We were met by our families and friends and by the British Deputy High Commissioner for Mid-West, Mr D. S. W. Pepper. We spent two nights in Lagos at Ikeja Arms and left for Benin by plane on December 4 to be met by our friends and relations at the Benin Airport.

I went straight from the Airport to St. Matthew's Cathedral to offer prayers for my safe return. Although I enjoyed the tour, I was happy to be back in the sunshine of Benin. At the same time, however, I sympathized with those students from Nigeria who were studying in England and had to bear the cold weather year in and year out. I am sure if most of the parents realize the hardship endured by their sons and daughters, they would never hesitate to send extra money for their children's reasonable comfort.

After my experiences in Great Britain, I will earnestly suggest to parents that unless they can conveniently afford to send children to study and at the same time ensure that they are housed, clothed and fed adequately, it will be better to let them have their university education in one of our universities in Nigeria.

In the United Kingdom, I was impressed to see that tradition and culture are still upheld as they were originally in spite of the fact that we now live in the atomic age. For example, my observation of State Opening of Parliament by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, during which period I particularly saw the high regard the people of Britain have for the Sovereign and moreover the splendour and gaiety of the pageantry; the various costumes of participants, the scarlet robes, the sceptres, the head-gears, the beautifully decorated horses, etc. All these made up the grandeur of the occasion.

Another striking observation I made was when I was present in Westminster Abbey. There was awe and reverence. Looking round the Abbey, I found that Kings, Queens, heroes and heroines, and other great men and women, who at one time or the other performed great acts of gallantry for which their names are now inscribed in gold, are buried in the Abbey. Some are embalmed and laid in State there. There are chapels dedicated to certain Kings and Queens. The Queen—the Head of the Commonwealth—worships in the Abbey. Therefore, I consider the Abbey to be the most important building in the whole of the United Kingdom. Westminster Abbey was built in the eleventh century during the reign of Edward the Confessor on the site of a Saxon Abbey built in the seventh century. It was rebuilt by Henry III in the thirteenth century in which form it stands today. In it have been

crowned all the English kings and queens, except two, since 1066 and many of them are buried there together with some of the most illustrious persons of British history.

There are very many other ancient and modern churches in Britain. Although in some cases, the attendance is rather poor but, nevertheless, the few Christians do worship in spirit and in truth. Therefore, I attribute the poor attendance to the British weather which is unpredictable. The general attitude of the people in Britain proved that everybody minds his or her own business irrespective of race, creed, or colour. The culture of the people leaves no room for unwarranted interference into other peoples affairs. For snobbery, it is natural with every race. At this juncture, I must not forget to mention the high regard the menfolk have for the female sex. In fact, I would say the women are worshipped.

Family life in the United Kingdom is one for which one should be proud and try to emulate here in Nigeria. A family is limited to a man and his wife and if blessed with children, the children are part of the family until they are of age. The mutual help between husband and wife in the maintenance of the home—keeping it clean, cooking of the meals, washing of clothes, etc., without the assistance of servants—make family life most enjoyable and interesting.

I observed that nearly all workers in United Kingdom have the feeling that they are morally obliged to contribute their own quota to the development of their country. This, they think they can do or carry out by rendering selfless service. Thus I find they are very conscientious as workers in trying to put in their best voluntarily whatever their task may be. They do not need to be driven to work. Little or no loitering is allowed. Time to them is money. This spirit leads me to appreciate the yeoman sacrifice of the people in saving lives, e.g., donating blood to the Blood Bank, enthusiastic in saving houses in danger or fire, boat drowning and all other accidental incidents which need immediate help and attention justify my impression that the people are educated and human.

The Binis have a saying that 'Only the liar would say that the Mighty potentate of Benin—Uku-Akpolokpolo is a handsome man'. This saying is considered to be the height of exaggeration as normally the OBA must be handsome. It is so with the United Kingdom as far as development is concerned, for I shall be painting the lily if I begin to narrate the various developments already achieved. But nevertheless, I have this much to say that the aspects of their development which impressed me most were things like public transport, such as the underground railway, the electric trolley buses and the incredible bus service which can take you round almost the whole of United Kingdom; museum and art Galleries; Madam Tussauds which is full of life-wax figures of people who have made history; planetarium and the various theatres.

In the House of Commons buildings we were shown in a room inscriptions and paintings of (1) *Courtesy*, (2) *Religion*, (3) *Generosity*, (4) *Kindness* and (5) *Mercy*. Thinking of these five essentials in a man's or a nation's life, I come to the conclusion that their successes are achieved by being prayerful and courteous, kind, generous and merciful without hope of any reward. We witnessed various aspects of these five points wherever we went in the United Kingdom.

My only criticism of the tour was the British climate. Although we were well protected with thick under-clothing and gloves and our cars and hotels centrally heated, we still felt the cold but this was not the fault of the British people or the organizers of our tour.

My grateful thanks go to the British High Commission representative in Benin, the High Commissioner in Lagos, the Commonwealth Relations Office and the Central Office of Information in London and their Regional Offices in the United Kingdom for all they did to make our tour the success that it was. I hope my colleagues share the same expression of gratitude to those concerned.



*An Art and Crafts School has been established in Benin City, by the Local Government Council. Pictures show a section of the school at work. A visit to the Region is incomplete without seeing the school or some of its excellent craftsmanship.*





[ *Oba Akenzua II sits on the throne at IGUE (below) one of His Chiefs dances for him*



APPENDIX

OFFICERS IN CHARGE BENIN PROVINCE

<i>Years</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>Officers</i>
1914	H. B. Mansfield		H. F. M. White
	J. Watt	1936	N. C. Denton
	R. D. N. Raikes		R. J. Hook
1915	J. Watt	1937	N. C. Denton
1917	R. D. N. Raikes	1938	G. T. Harris
1918	J. Watt		E. V. S. Thomas
	R. Hargrove		R. B. Kerr
1919	J. Watt	1939	N. C. Denton
1920	P. A. Talbot		A. P. Pullen
	A. R. Mytton	1940	N. C. Denton
1921	P. A. Talbot	1941	L. R. C. Summer
1922	W. H. Cooke	1943	I. W. E. Dods
1923	E. B. Dawson		L. R. C. Summer
1924	E. C. Palmer	1945	L. L. Cattle
	W. B. Rumann	1946	J. C. F. Pender
1925	E. Falk	1947	J. H. Blair
1926	H. G. Aveling		A. Y. Scallan
	W. H. Cooke	1948	J. C. F. Pender
1927	E. B. Wanton		H. Spottiswood
	W. H. Cooke	1949	I. F. W. Schofield
1928	E. B. Wanton		H. Spottiswood
1929	H. C. Aveling		R. J. M. Curwen
	H. De B. Bewley	1951	H. L. M. Butcher
1931	H. Maddocks	1952	W. R. Hatch
	H. De B. Bewley	1953	H. L. M. Butcher
1932	G. B. Williams	1954	J. R. V. A. Bromage
1933	G. S. Hughes	1956	C. E. Iles
	G. B. Williams		A. M. Moodie
1935	A. R. A. Dickins	1957	W. Fowler
	H. P. James		



OFFICERS IN CHARGE BENIN DIVISION

<i>Years</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>Officers</i>
1897	A. H. Turner	1923	H. N. Nevins
	E. P. S. Roupell	1924	J. N. Hills
1898	D. Oriordan	1925	H. N. Nevins
1899	W. Fosbery	1927	J. N. Hill
	R. Granville		H. Maddocks
1900	H. M. Douglas		H. N. Nevins
	L. C. Woodman	1928	D. S. Cook
1901	W. Fosbery		E. Burgess
1902	F. E. G. Johnson	1929	R. L. Archer
1903	H. F. Pryce		L. R. C. Summer
1904	O. S. Crewe Read	1930	A. C. Cooper
	L. C. Woodman	1931	R. J. D. Fremlin
	O. S. Crewe Read		H. L. M. Butcher
1905	C. W. Todd		L. R. C. Summer
	C. C. Pyke	1933	J. N. Hill
	H. O. Swanston		L. R. C. Summer
1906	C. C. Pyke		H. P. James
	O. S. Crewe Read		F. M. Woodhouse
	T. W. Dann	1934	L. R. C. Summer
	C. W. Todd		F. M. Woodhouse
1907	H. O. Swanston		A. R. A. Dickins
	S. E. N. Hamfray	1935	H. C. B. Denton
	C. N. Ferguson		A. P. Pullen
1908	R. D. N. Raikes	1936	J. M. Simpson
	W. B. Rumann		E. G. Hawkesworth
1909	R. D. N. Raikes	1937	R. B. Kerr
	T. W. Dann	1938	A. P. Pullen
	H. O. Swanston	1939	H. Spottiswood
1910	J. Davidson		A. P. Pullen
1911	H. O. Swanston	1940	R. A. Vosper
1912	W. Birrell Grey	1941	I. W. E. Dods
	H. B. Mansfield		D. M. Elliot
1913	W. Birrell Grey	1942	I. W. E. Dods
	H. B. Mansfield		R. A. Vosper
1914	W. B. Rumann		H. Spottiswood
	E. C. Palmer	1943	J. C. F. Pender
	C. P. Hazard	1944	H. B. Cox
1915	W. H. Cooke	1945	A. Holden
1916	C. P. Hazard	1946	R. J. M. Curwen
	W. H. Cooke	1947	J. H. Bourne
1917	H. M. Brice Smith	1949	J. D. Hamilton
1918	H. G. Aveling		H. Spottiswood
1919	H. O. Lindsay		J. D. Hamilton
1920	W. H. Cooke	1950	J. M. Cruddas
1921	J. C. Hamilton	1951	J. H. Beeley
	H. N. Nevins	1953	J. A. G. McCall
1922	H. G. Aveling		G. K. Munro

<i>Years</i>	<i>Officers</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>Officers</i>
1954	J. R. V. A. Bromage F. Waller	1958	J. H. Beeley G. J. Davies
1955	R. F. Hunter M. M. R. Haig A. M. Moodie	1959	D. B. Patridge G. F. Harris
1956	C. Richardson	1960	A. G. R. Cross G. F. Harris
1957	I. H. Mc. Nab O. Otuyelu J. D. Logan K. Y. M. Mackenzie	1961	R. Kirker R. Kirker
		1962	J. D. Bullivant

### BENIN MONARCHS

#### The First Period

900 A.D.

#### The OGISOS and the REPUBLICAN RULERS:

1. Obagodo
2. Ere
3. Orire
4. Arhuankhuan
5. Ekpigho
6. Oria
7. Emose
8. Orhorho
9. Henenden
10. Obioye
11. Arigho
12. Owodo
13. Evian—Administrator
14. Ogiammwen—Administrator

#### The Second Period

1. Oranmiyan 1170 A.D.
2. Eweka I about 1200 A.D.
3. Uwakhuahen
4. Ehenmihen
5. Ewedo about 1255 A.D.
6. Oguola about 1280 A.D.
7. Edoni
8. Udagbedo about 1299 A.D.
9. Ohen about 1334 A.D.
10. Egbeka about 1370 A.D.
11. Orobiru

12. Uwaifiokun
13. Ewuare about 1440 A.D.
14. Ezoti about 1473 A.D.
15. Olua about 1473 A.D.
16. Ezolua about 1481 A.D.
17. Esigie about 1504 A.D.
18. Orhogbua about 1550 A.D.
19. Ehengbuda
20. Ohuan about 1608 A.D.
21. Ahenzae about 1641 A.D.
22. Akenzae
23. Akengboi about 1578 A.D.
24. Akenkpaye
25. Akengbedo
26. Ore-Oghene
27. Ewuakpe about 1700 A.D.
28. Ozuere about 1712 A.D.
29. Akenzua I about 1713 A.D.
30. Eresoyen about 1733 A.D.
31. Akengbuda about 1750 A.D.
32. Obanosa about 1804 A.D.
33. Ogbeko about 1816 A.D.
34. Osemwende about 1816 A.D.
35. Adolo about 1848 A.D.
36. Ovonramwen who was the last and independent King about 1888 A.D.

#### The Third Period

37. Eweka II 1914
38. Akenzua II 1933



*Benin Queens participate in IGUE Festival, they sit here in order of seniority from left to right: ESON, The Premier-Queen is first on left. She is mother of the heir-apparent to the Bini throne.*



*A Bini Chief in a formal traditional outfit.*



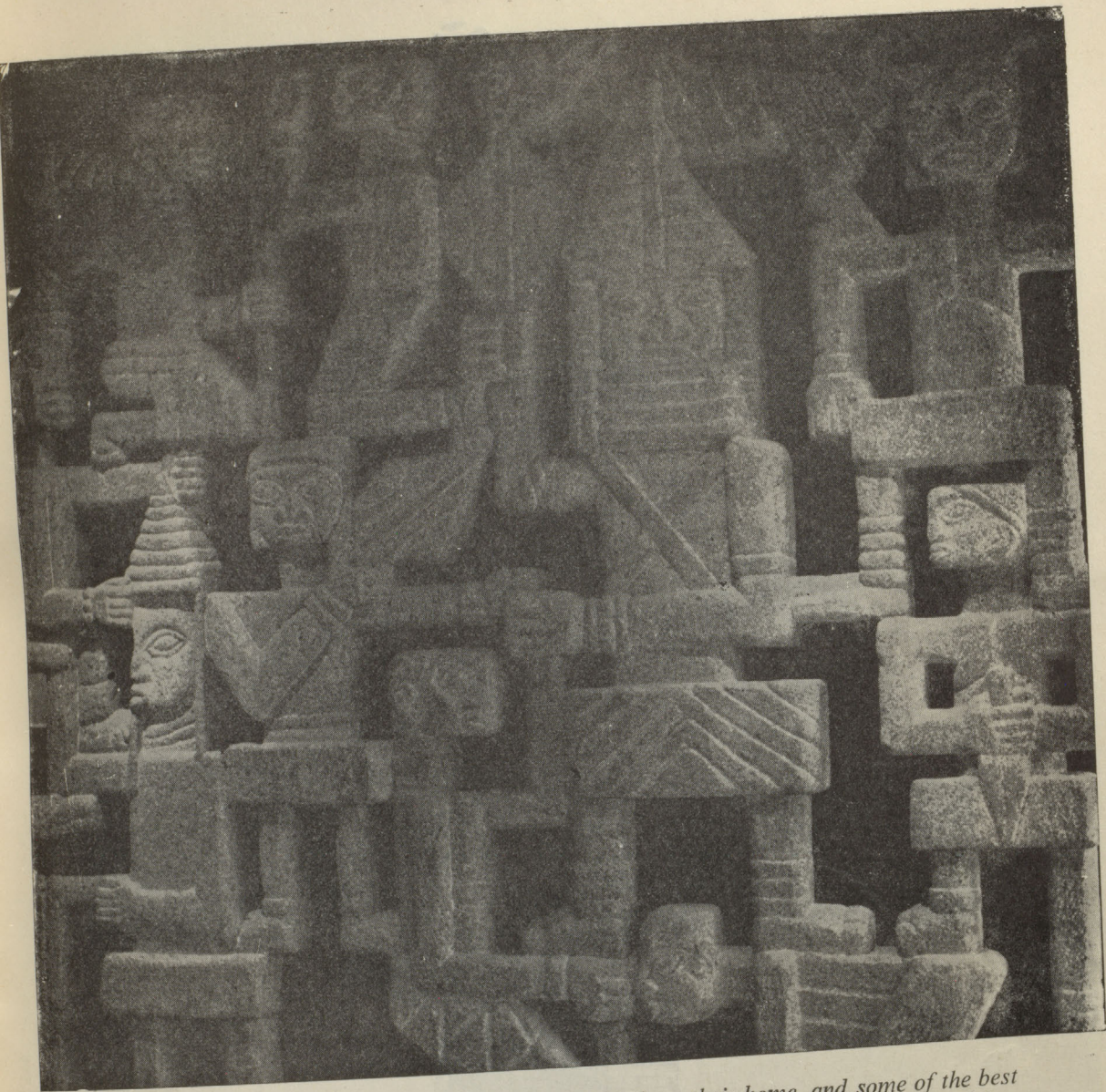
*EMOTAN. This effigy was raised in the memory of a Bini heroine, Emotan who saved a king from rebellion.*



*Found in historical places in Mid-Western Nigeria are wood-carvings supporting the roof of houses. Picture shows O. Idah's terra-cotta elephant and a wood-carving of a female pillar.*



*O. Ida, one of the oldest traditional artists in Nigeria today. His wood-carvings and terra-cotta are unique for their originality and form.*



Many Mid-West contemporary artists are working far from their home, and some of the best works executed in Lagos are done by them. Picture shows a cement sculpture by Festus Idehen in the Chase Manhattan Bank, Lagos.



*This bronze piece executed by Bini bronze-casters has been said to be more than 600 years old*





*A Bini Chief in his ceremonial regalia*



IGU'OBA. A chief invokes blessing on his king



*(Above) Picture shows, from left: the Asagba of Asaba; the Onogie of Ewohimi; Mrs Barron; the Honourable Patrick Koarhorhiebie Tabiowo, Speaker of the Mid-Western House of Assembly; the Olutse of Jakpa, and the Arala of Benin.*

*(Below) Picture shows: Mr C. Gidley, Lecturer in West African Languages (Hausa) and a former member of the Nigeria Police (left) talking to the Arala of Benin.*



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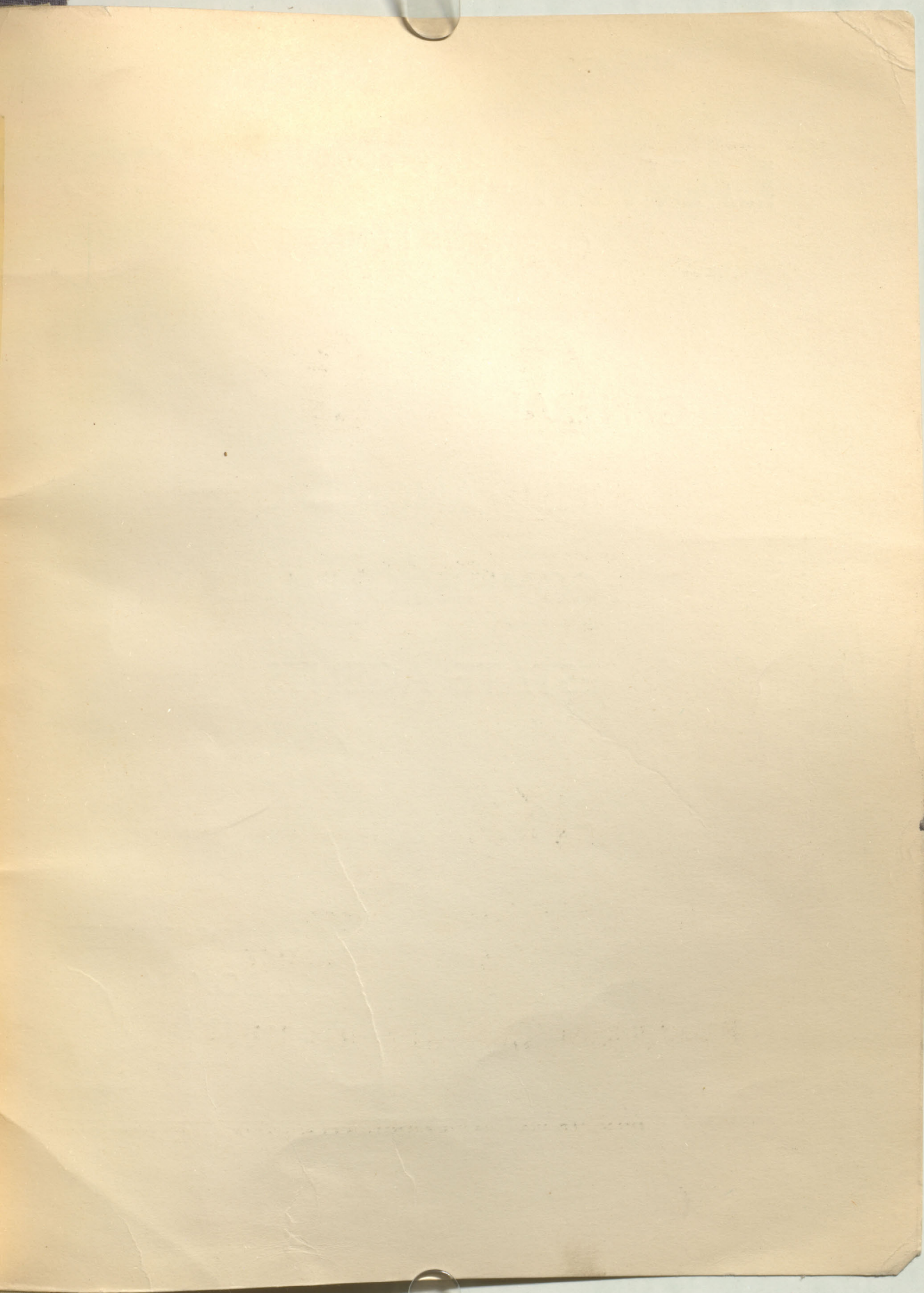
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