

European Traditions in the Study of Religion in Africa

Edited by Frieder Ludwig and Afe Adogame
in cooperation with
Ulrich Berner and Christoph Bochinger

2004

Harrassowitz Verlag · Wiesbaden

ISBN 3-447-05002-0

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	v
Preface and Acknowledgements.....	ix
Introduction: Historiography and European Perceptions of African Religious History	1
<i>Frieder Ludwig & Afe Adogame</i>	
“They became slaves of their definitions.” Okot p’Bitek (1931-1982) and the European Traditions in the Study of African Religions	23
<i>Henk J. van Rinsum</i>	
Sources in Mission Archives.....	39
<i>Adam Jones</i>	
European Perceptions of Islam in Africa: Missionaries, Administrators and Scholars.....	47
<i>Nehemia Levtzion (†)</i>	
German Koran Translations and Their Reception in North Africa	57
<i>Mahmud Haggag</i>	
From Distance to Difference: Modern European Travel Accounts on Religion and Healing in Africa.....	65
<i>Robert Debusmann & Frieder Ludwig</i>	
Dutch Merchants, Missionaries, & Academics on African Religions, 1594-2000: Their Earliest Contributions	75
<i>Jan G. Platvoet</i>	
The Dialectic of the French Enlightenment for Africans: Thinking Alterity in Abbé Grégoire, Condorcet, Ch. de Brosses and Olympe de Gouges	97
<i>Jean-Godefroy Bidima</i>	
Fetishists and Magicians – The Description of African Religions by Immanuel Kant (1724-1804).....	109
<i>Wolbert Smidt</i>	
<i>Wissenschaft</i> , Africa and the Cultural Process according to Johann Gottfried Herder (1744-1803)	117
<i>Werner Ustorf</i>	
Thomas Fowell Buxton (1786-1844): His Impact on Christian Mission in Africa	129
<i>Musa A. B. Gaiya</i>	

Africa and the Origin of the Science of Religion. Max Müller (1823-1900) and James George Frazer (1854-1941) on African Religions..... <i>Ulrich Berner</i>	141
The Sociology of Religion and the Possibility of African Society: Some Theoretical Remarks <i>Elisio Macamo</i>	151
Germanophone Orientalism Revisited: A Polemic..... <i>Roman Loimeier</i>	161
“The Gods Are Dying”: Diedrich Westermann (1875-1956) and Some Aspects of His Studies of African Religions <i>Holger Stoecker</i>	169
“Friend of Africa”: J.H. Oldham (1874-1969), Missions and British Colonial Policy in the 1920s..... <i>Keith Clements</i>	175
A Tale of Two Germans and the Yoruba of Nigeria: Leo Frobenius (1873-1938) and Ulli Beier (*1922)..... <i>Jacob K. Olupona</i>	187
“They Have Laid Hold of Some Essential Truths”: Edwin W. Smith (1876-1957), A Wise Listener to African Voices..... <i>W. John Young</i>	197
Geoffrey Parrinder (*1910) and the Study of Religion in West Africa..... <i>Andrew F. Walls</i>	207
Bengt Sundkler (1909-1995): Sixty Years of Engagement with Africa..... <i>Christopher Steed</i>	217
‘A Theology of Attention’: The CMS Tradition at the End of the Colonial Era in Africa: Max Warren (1904-1977) and John V. Taylor (1914-2001)..... <i>Kevin Ward</i>	227
John Spencer Trimingham (*1904) on Islam in Africa: Integrative or Isolationist?..... <i>Abdulkader Tayob</i>	237
From Rationality to Creativity: Ritual Activity and Religious Experience in the Work of Edward Evans-Pritchard (1902-1973) and Victor Turner (1920-1983)..... <i>Till Förster</i>	245
From Africa to Africa: The Significance of Approaches to the Study of African Religions at Aberdeen and Edinburgh Universities from 1970 to 1998 <i>James L Cox</i>	255

Introduction	vii
African Christian Studies, 1967-1999: Reflections of an Editor <i>Adrian Hastings (†)</i>	265
Uppsala Studies on Religions of Africa <i>David Westerlund</i>	275
Africa Research Centre, University of Leuven: Aims and Activities <i>René Devisch</i>	291
Missionary Experience and Academic Quest. The Research Situation in Greece <i>Athanasios N. Papathanasiou</i>	301
Institutions of the Former GDR <i>Ulrich van der Heyden</i>	313
Writing of Past: Times An Interdisciplinary Approach to Mission History <i>Andrea Schultze</i>	323
Catching the Wind: Some Remarks on the Growing Interface of Migration Studies and Studies on African Religions <i>Klaus Hock</i>	329
West African Religions in European Scholarship <i>Umar Habila Dadem Danfulani</i>	341
The Use of European Traditions in the Study of Religion in Africa: East African Perspectives <i>Grace Nyatugah Wamue</i>	365
The Use of European Traditions in the Study of Religion in Africa: West African Perspectives <i>Afe Adogame</i>	375
Appendix	383
List of Contributors	395
Index	399