

## INTRODUCTION

THIS Special Issue of *JASO* in memory of Godfrey Lienhardt contains seven previously unpublished talks by him; a bibliography of his work with biographical notes; fifteen appreciations and memoirs by some of his friends and former students; as well as two poems and three songs.

As Godfrey Lienhardt's literary executor, I have had the task of sorting his papers and deciding how best to make the material accessible to a wider readership. The first task was to compile a bibliography of his published work, which is, I hope, complete. Along with this, I have put together notes on his academic career. These do not amount to a biography as such, but will perhaps be helpful to students interested in his work.

The seven papers published here are by no means all those that were left unpublished at the time of his death. They are, rather, those that first came to light, and which required the least editorial work. They are published here in chronological order: the first having been written in 1957, the last in 1989. Though selected rather arbitrarily, they do represent Lienhardt's range of interests. The dominant themes are the Nilotes of the Southern Sudan and, in particular, the Dinka; comparative religion; and the history of anthropology, in particular the role of individuals in it.

As anyone familiar with his published work will have realised, Lienhardt never published anything until it met his own exacting standards. This often meant that a paper would go through a number of typescripts before he considered it ready. To give an example, among his papers there are two typescripts of the essay on Sir James Frazer and Sir Edward Evans-Pritchard published here, on each of which there are deletions and additions. None of the papers published here had been provided with footnotes and references. They were, of course, working papers and had Lienhardt prepared them for publication, he would no doubt have provided the necessary scholarly apparatus. Jeremy Coote and I have done our best to provide

this, though there remain a few gaps where Lienhardt left insufficient clues to enable a reference to be tracked down.

Three of the papers published here are transcripts of radio talks. Lienhardt gave seven talks on BBC radio in the 1950s and 1960s, of which three were published contemporaneously (see the biographical notes and bibliography below for details). Of those published here, the first, 'Dinkas of the Sudan', is particularly interesting as it takes the form of a dialogue, scripted by Lienhardt, between himself and a Dinka. The Dinka both reacts and responds to what the anthropologist has to say about his people and enriches and sharpens the anthropologist's observations and perceptions. These three talks, like all the papers published here, should be understood as contributions to contemporary anthropological debates. The talks in particular are, in a sense, historical documents in their own right. Aimed at non-anthropological audiences, they deal accessibly with complex issues. 'Dinkas of the Sudan' was prepared for one of the BBC's schools broadcasts and aims to provide an accessible word-picture of another way of life.

About half of the appreciations and memoirs published below are revised versions of addresses given at the gathering to remember him which was held at his Oxford college, Wolfson, on Saturday 7 May 1994. This was, in fact, a wonderful occasion—quite different in character, naturally, from the funeral six months before. As Lienhardt had requested that no memorial service should be held for him, this spring Saturday afternoon was to be a Celebration. In his address at Lienhardt's Requiem Mass (see *JASO*, Vol. XXIV, no. 2 (1993), pp. 101–3), Peter Rivière had remarked how 'Godfrey is no longer with us in person, but I know that whenever a company of his friends meet, his name will be on their lips'. Many of us have found that to be very true, and no more so than at this Celebration, when all the people one had met over the years at his regular table in the pub were gathered in one place. In all, some two hundred friends and colleagues gathered to celebrate Lienhardt's life. After the addresses, a group of British-based Dinka danced and sang three songs—one traditional, two specially composed for the occasion by Nyuol M. Bol, Thiik A. Giir-Thiik, and Duang Ajing Arop. The performance provided a rousing end to the more formal part of the afternoon. In the evening a dinner was held, and Lienhardt's friends stayed on to reminisce. Jeremy Coote and I are grateful to Stephen Madut Baak, Paul Baxter, Zachariah Bol Deng, Wendy James, Philip Lyon Roussel, and John Ryle for agreeing to the publication of their addresses here. We are also grateful to Nyuol M. Bol, Thiik A. Giir-Thiik, and Duang Ajing Arop for agreeing to the publication here of the specially composed songs, and to Bona Malwal for providing the English translations. My own address also appears here, in revised form.

While space in this publication is limited, it has been possible to include here a few other memoirs, as well as two poems dedicated to Lienhardt. The memoirs by Gerd Baumann, John W. Burton, Jeremy Coote, Francis M. Deng, Douglas H. Johnson, Bona Malwal, and F. C. T. Moore were written especially for publication here. We are also delighted to be able to include here the piece by Jack Goody, which was written two days after Lienhardt's death but remained hidden among

his papers until three years later when he sent a copy to Peter Rivière. It is fitting that Lienhardt's great love of poetry is reflected in the publication here of two poems. Ruth Padel's 'Cymbals for Strauss' is dedicated to him and was first published in 1975. Eva Gillies' 'Looking Back' reflects on Lienhardt's death and is published here for the first time.

It has been possible to include material from only a few of the many people among his wide circle of friends around the world who may have liked to contribute. We trust that Lienhardt's other friends will understand our predicament and not feel left out. We have no doubt they will find much to value in the affectionate appreciations published here. They may also like to know about the brief, but excellent, pen portrait of Lienhardt by Keith Ovenden that appears in his biography of Dan Davin (see pages 265–6 of *A Fighting Withdrawal: The Life of Dan Davin—Writer, Soldier, Publisher*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996).

The addresses, memoirs, and poems are published together below in alphabetical order by author. It seemed fitting, however, to end this publication with the Dinka songs, which drew to a close the formal part of the Celebration four years ago. The final words of the third and final song are a prayer for peace in Sudan so that a shrine can be erected to Thienydeng (Lienhardt's Dinka name) among the shrines of the Dinka ancestors.

Godfrey Lienhardt, and his brother Peter (who died in 1986), were central personalities of an extraordinary era in the history of Oxford's Institute of Social Anthropology, in particular, and of the University of Oxford in general. The affection in which Godfrey's memory is held is greater than any single volume could adequately represent. This modest volume and the efforts that went into preparing it are, however, offered in his memory. He is missed and will be remembered, always.

AHMED AL-SHAHI