KROEBER ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY PAPERS
Numbers 63 and 64, 1984

Opportunity, Constraint, and Change:
Essays in Honor of
Elizabeth Colson

Edited by
Jack Glazier
Michael Lowy
Kathryn T. Molohon
John U. Ogbu
Anya Peterson Royce
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CONTENTS

Preface ........................................................................................................ v
Acknowledgments ...................................................................................... vii
List of Contributors ................................................................................ viii
Photographs ........................................................................................... ix

PART ONE: DEDICATORY LETTERS .................................................... 1

PART TWO: CHARACTER AND CHANGE
AN APPRECIATION OF ELIZABETH COLSON:
HER EARLY INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT
Penelope Hartland-Thunberg ............................................................... 21
SCHOLARS AND CONTROVERSY: ELIZABETH COLSON’S WORK
AGAINST SEX DISCRIMINATION IN ACADEMIA
June Starr .......................................................................................... 27

PART THREE: CHANGING ROLES OF MEN AND WOMEN
MEN, WOMEN, AND WORK IN A LOMBOK VILLAGE
Mary Judd ....................................................................................... 33
THE ZAMBEZI GOBA IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY:
NEW MALE-DOMINANT INSTITUTIONS AND
THE DECLINING STATUS OF RURAL WOMEN
Chet S. Lancaster ............................................................................... 46

PART FOUR: PROBLEMS OF MODERNIZATION
ISLAM, POWER AND CHANGE: VARIATION
IN NORTH AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS
M. Elaine Combs-Schilling .................................................................. 59
ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND LAND TENURE
CHANGE IN MBEERE, KENYA
Jack Glazier ..................................................................................... 76
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TREATING THE JAPANESE ELDERLY: THE MASKING OF A SOCIAL PROBLEM</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Lock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESPONSES TO TELEVISION IN TWO SWAMPY CREEK CREEK COMMUNITIES ON THE</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST COAST OF JAMES BAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn T. Molohon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INVESTMENT IN HUMAN CAPITAL: EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA, AND GWEMBE, ZAMBIA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John U. Ogbu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART FIVE: CULTURE AND BEHAVIOR</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEMOCRACY AT WORK IN THE SWEDISH BUREAUCRACY</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris A. Fred</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXCHANGE, POWER, AND COMPLIANCE: A SCOTTISH AND AMERICAN COMPARISON</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN TWO INSTITUTIONS FOR THE AGED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanie Schmit Kayser-Jones</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART, THE MUNDANE, AND THE ART OF THE MUNDANE</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anya Peterson Royce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PART SIX</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ELIZABETH FLORENCE COLSON</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy A. Koenig and Lenore D. Ralston</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PREFACE

In 1975 a group of Professor Elizabeth Colson's former students met in San Francisco, California, to plan a tribute to our great and beloved teacher when she retired in 1984. One of the two things we wanted to do was to establish a fund in Elizabeth's name that would enable people from Africa, Asia, and other parts of the Third World to study anthropology and to do their fieldwork on mainstream Western cultures. We believed that anthropology as a whole and anthropology in the Third World would benefit greatly from the study of Western cultures by non-Western anthropologists. Although we have not succeeded in this endeavor, our idea lives on in honor of our mentor.

We also wanted to honor Elizabeth with a festschrift. The volume would include original essays as well as dedicatory letters from colleagues, friends, and students. The dedicatory letters would give many more people a chance to participate. Aware of the wide range of Elizabeth's geographical and substantive interests in anthropology, and aware that she has nurtured many students whose interests are equally varied and that she has a diverse circle of friends, colleagues, and former colleagues, we did not limit the scope of the essays or the letters.

Elizabeth Colson's accomplishments as a teacher and professional anthropologist have been far-reaching, inspiring students and colleagues alike over the course of her distinguished career. The essays and letters in this volume reflect the considerable breadth of anthropological concern that she has stimulated. In their diversity they are a fitting tribute to a valued teacher and colleague. It is, therefore, in recognition of the intellectual inspiration that she has provided and with great esteem and affection that Elizabeth's students, colleagues, and friends present this volume to her on the occasion of her retirement.

In the first part of this five-part volume are the dedicatory letters. We regret that because of time constraints we could not get more writers from beyond North America. Even so, these letters reflect the diversity and depth of Colson's influence and the writers' appreciation of her as a person and as an anthropologist.

The remainder of the volume consists of the essays. Part One, "Character and Change," is made up of two papers by Hartland-Thunberg and Starr. They deal with Colson's academic background, including her early development and experience as a woman in Academia, as well as her ideas and efforts to improve women's academic status. The theme of Part Two, "Changing Roles of Men and Women," consisting of essays by Judd and Lancaster, continues the issue of changes in women's status but outside of Academia. Part Three, "Problems of Modernization," includes essays by Combs-Schilling, Glazier, Lock, Molohon, and Ogbu. These essays focus on forces of social change and responses to social change in Africa, Japan, and North America, in rural as well as in industrialized urban societies. The last three essays, by Fred, Kayser-Jones, and Royce, deal with the problems of several modern organizations—bureaucracies, institutions for the aged, and the theater. The papers in this group have been subsumed under the heading of Part Four, "Culture and Behavior." As we mentioned earlier, we did not set out to organize the essays around any particular themes, but we are pleased that themes have emerged around which we could organize them, themes which reflect the varied concerns of Colson and her students.

The editors sincerely appreciate the enthusiasm, cooperation, and patience of the contributors to the volume in the face of publication delays. We are also grateful to many who have contributed generously in time, advice, and financial and other resources to make this
publication possible. We would like to express our special appreciation to the following: the Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley, for support and generously allowing the help of Grace Buzaljko, Editor, and M. J. Tyler, Management Services Officer of the department; Joseph Alter, Scott Morgan, Bruce Pohlman, and other members of the Kroeber Anthropological Society; Dr. Penelope Hartland-Thunberg for her continuous support, and, along with Judith Justice, Lenore Ralston, and Scott Morgan for making the photos in this volume available; and the office of Dean David Love of Oberlin College for assistance in assembling the manuscripts for the volume.

Jack Glazier
Michael Lowy
Kathryn T. Molohon
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With Chief Mwamba of the Bemba tribe in his village near Kasama, September 1957. (P. Hartland-Thunberg)

With Ruth Castle, Graduate Student in Biology, Bertram Hall, Radcliffe, Spring 1941.

About 1968.
With Mrs. A. Wallis during the Morgan lectures, 1973.

At home on the day of moving out of her Kroeger Hall office, 1984.

PART ONE:
DEDICATORY LETTERS