

EDITORIAL

The future of the Nigerian Field Society and its journal, *The Nigerian Field* outside the world war years has never been as delicate as it is now in 2023. There is apprehension about the winding down of the UK Branch scheduled to happen in 2025. The founders of the society, former colonialists were ardent members and wrote on their perceptions of the Nigerian and West African culture and environment in the journal even after Nigeria's independence up to the present day. Membership subscription sustained the society and the journal and the UK membership was more vibrant and contributed financially more to the running of the society than the Nigerian members. The culmination of the tremendous British contribution was the digitization and archiving of the past issues of the journal from 1931 to 2020. Most Nigerians that joined the society were influenced by their British connections such that when the British left the tempo of the society began to wane. In spite of the lofty ideals of the NFS, efforts to sell the society to Nigerians have not met with resounding success.

But the objectives of the society and the frugal management of funds, coupled with solid commitment of members are strong foundations to build on. The journal is known globally and will continue to be a veritable source of information on the Nigerian environment and culture. Such strong attributes are enough to propel the society into the future. What is now needed is to increase the Nigerian membership base and increase revenue. To this end, the Annual Business Meeting held at Ile-Ife in November resolved that the UK Branch should not be wound down and that a nucleus of diaspora Nigerians along with the remaining Britons should take over and continue running it. This becomes expedient in a situation where it is difficult to register new charities. It was further recommended that the Society participates in Nigerian Trade Fairs for more exposure to the public. To make more widely known and accessible, and to align with modern trends, we are publishing this issue online, the first time on our revamped website, www.nigerianfield.org

Our current issue has, as usual, very captivating articles. Flooding has become a worrisome global phenomenon associated with climate change. Chris Ikporukpo and Abiodun Areola in their write-up titled "Rivers of Roads and Roads of Rivers: The Character and Impact of Two Great Floods in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria", describe flooding in a part of Nigeria. We conclude the three-part exposition by Prof. John Hall on West Africa's sedges focusing this time on their tribes, history, habitat and biogeography. Philip

Allsworth-Jones in a historical/archaeological/geological perspective present unpublished data from the visit of Geoffrey Bond, English geologist based in then Rhodesia, to the tin-mining area of Jos Plateau in 1948. Prof. Cordelia Osasona, Oluseyi Olagoke (architects) describe the restoration of a church mission house built in the 19th century in Ibadan. The article illustrates pioneer missionary life in southwestern Nigeria

We have three reviews. Dr. Pat Oyelola reviews *Beyond Aesthetics: Use, Abuse and Dissonance in African Art Traditions* by Prof. Wole Soyinka. Dr. Stephen Folaranmi reviews an art exhibition titled *The End of The Beginning* by Akintayo Akintobi, South River Art Studio, 1300 Fleetwood Drive SE, Atlanta GA, USA. October 6 to November 3, 2023.

The Nigerian Environment: Past 100 Years and The Future, edited by David Okali, Mynepalli Sridhar and Chris Ikporukpo is reviewed by Olatunde Obasola.

We pay tribute to Professor Mynepalli C. K. Sridhar, 1942-2022 who was a very committed member of the Ibadan Branch of the Nigerian Field Society.

We thank our contributors and manuscript reviewers for their support. We thank our subscribers and wish them a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

AUGUSTINE O. ISICHEI

Ile-Ife, December 5, 2023