

Jack R. Harlan Expedition No. 6: Sept 20 – Dec. 22, 1968 East Africa to West Africa (3 months & 2 days)

Expedition No.6 to East Africa 1968. Narr.

[Champaign](#) (Sept. 20, 1968)

[Sudan](#) (Sept. 21 – Oct. 8: 19 days)

[Chad](#) (Oct. 9 – 19: 11 days)

[Cameroon](#) (Oct. 20; 1 day)

[Nigeria](#) (Oct. 21 – Nov. 7: 18 days)

[Cote d'Ivoire](#) (Nov. 8 – 12: 5 days)

[Sierra Leone](#) (Nov. 13 – Dec. 21: 39 days) He had been hired by NUC to work there for 6 weeks.

Champaign (Dec. 22)

SUMMARY: This expedition (Exp. No. 6) is the second of a trilogy of trips to Africa, collecting, looking for centers of origin of African crops: sorghum, millet and African rice. As it turned out, he spent much time consulting farmers about their particular situations. In this expedition Harlan will make a grand sweep from Sudan in east Africa Sierra Leone in West Africa, a total of

Historical Review: Over a period of several centuries the French colonial empire grew and ebbed, including colonies in North America, the Caribbean, India and Southeast Asia and Africa. In 1960 France granted 17 colonies independence, including 14 in Africa. Each colony gained its independence as a result of a referendum France held in its colonies in 1958. By 1965 many of the former African colonies were involved in bloody civil wars. The manner of granting independence, evidently, was not working. The leaders were not ready to lead modern democracies. The economic systems were not ready to support a modern capitalistic or socialistic society. The people were not ready to do their job in making the new nations succeed. The result was an inherent and incipient instability in the new African nations.

When Jack Harlan appeared in the African lands in 1968, Sudan was in the middle of a civil war which occurred between the Muslim north and the Christian/animist south. It raged from 1965 to 1972.

In 1965 Chad was starting to rebel against the authoritarian rule of President François Tombalbaye. A civil war began and raged until a coup overthrew Tombalbaye on April 13, 1975.

Cameroon was a little bit different from the other former French colonies. It underwent some geographical realignments leading up to the January 1, 1960 independence and the result included a French speaking section and an English speaking section of the country. There ensued a low key civil war ending in a fairly stable state in 1961. The elected leader, Ahmadou Babatoura Ahidjo - as did a number of African leaders - consolidated power around himself and his party. The country avoided outright civil war and president Ahidjo resigned in 1982. In 1968, things were tense in Cameroon, but relatively peaceful.

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Nigeria, one of Harlan's main objectives, was in the middle of a civil war with the secessionist province of Biafra (1967-70). He makes no mention of this in his notes, except for a "curfew" which has to be acknowledged in a few cases and the fact that some of the Nigerian art has been taken down from some of the museums for safe-keeping.

Regarding Sierra Leone, we need to read what Wikipedia has to say:

Three Military Coups in Sierra Leone (1967-1968)

The APC, with its leader [Siaka Stevens](#), narrowly won a small majority seats in Parliament over the SLPP in a closely contested [1967 Sierra Leone general election](#) and Stevens was sworn in as Prime Minister of March 21, 1967. Within hours after taking office, Stevens was ousted in a bloodless [military coup](#) led by the commander of the [army Brigadier General David Lansana](#), a close ally of Sir Albert Margai who had appointed him to the position in 1964. Brigadier Lansana placed Stevens under [house arrest](#) in Freetown and insisted the determination of office of the Prime Minister should await the election of the tribal representatives to the house. On March 23, 1967, A group of senior military officers in the Sierra Leone Army led by [Brigadier Anrew Juxon-Smith](#) overrode this action by seizing control of the government, arresting Brigadier Lansana, and suspending the constitution. The group constituted itself as the National Reformation Council (NRC) with Brigadier Anrew Juxon-Smith as its chairman and Governor-General [6]. In April 1968, a group of senior military officers who called themselves the Anti-Corruption Revolutionary Movement led by [Brigadier General John Amadu Bangura](#) overthrew the NRC [junta](#). The ACRM juntas arrested many senior NRC members. The democratic constitution was restored, and power was handed back to Stevens, who at last assumed the office of Prime Minister. (Wikipedia)

Thus Jack Harlan was stepping into a very unstable political situation in Africa in 1968. He does not mention any of this in his travel notes and seems to avoid any difficulty directly attributable to the instability.

This trip starts off with a rather disastrous flight and includes a time of great frustration on the part of Dr. Jack R. Harlan.

SUDAN (Sept. 21 – Oct. 8: 19 days) Return to beginning of Exp. Control home

Kharoum, train to El Obeid (center of country), Dalinj (Google: Dilling), eight hour ride on a land rover to **Generina** (Google: **Al Junaynah**), Nayla, Fasher & back to Nayla, then flew to Ft. Lamy, Chad.

Harlan began his second expedition into Africa with a rocky flight from Champaign to Khartoum, Sudan. Notice that he did not visit the Kew prior to entering Africa. This he would regret before the journey is over. He arrived in Khartoum on September 21 and the next day went to the University of Kharoum at

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Shambat, north of Khartoum, across the Blue Nile. There he met with two experts, El Saeed¹ and Kambal. They discussed Sorghum and the crops which the people in various parts of Sudan grew. El Saeed told him that there was very little millet in the area around where they were, but it could be found to the west, near the border with Chad.

After their discussion Harlan went to the Herbarium at the U of K and investigated the plants which he expected to find. That night Kambal took him to the train station so that he could travel out into the countryside. The train traveled first to Gazeera (Google: Al Jazirah), then Kosti and finally El Obeid, near the center of the country. Kambal met him there in the morning and the first day no collecting took place. The next day, September 28, they set off into millet (*Pennisetum*) country. "... later in morning half way to Dalinj (Google: Dilling) picked up the complete introgression pattern with *P. vistorium*. It lasted for only a few villages. The millet is all pretty grassy in plant type but nice variation in seed & chaff colors. Half wild in all although one farmer had very little & said he had tried hard to get rid of it. Smut, worms, insect damage causing sterility all common, not to mention the birds. Generally preferred to sorghum & here called 'Aish' = 'life' = 'bread'. In real sorghum areas. 'Aish' = 'sorghum'. The sorghum shows considerable variation in color & seed type, fairly uniform in hood type. Staiga, smut & birds common. At Delinj at end of journey finally found a wild/weed sorghum ..." and, finally, some African rice.

On September 29, Harlan found some wild grass that he could not identify, but it looks like it could be a progenitor to millet. However, they are a little early for seeds and there is nothing to collect. In the last expedition – the first one to Africa – they were a little too late for collecting. The harvest had already taken place and there was not much left. This emphasizes one of the crucial variables in this enterprise – timing! Harlan noted in his journal that collecting seeds at this particular place was, "Not really critical but would like to try the crosses."

The next day, September 30, they turned toward the west and in about 8 or 9 miles saw great stands of sorghum about 4 m in height. He collected 4 large bags of seed to be shipped back. On October 1 it was off to Delinj (Google: Dilling) where they found some more sorghum and millet. He noted in his journal: "Great gobs of nomads going through. Wonder if *P. violacean* is not entirely the weed race sorting out of cult pearl millet?"

He drove to the west. On October 2, after hours of frustrating delays he and some companions launched into a very bumpy eight hour ride on a land rover to **Generina** (Google: **Al Junaynah**) near the border with Chad. When they stopped for dinner Harlan noted the following: "A camel train passed as we ate, the ungainly shapes like fluid silver in the moonlight. On into the night a magnificent tawny & spotted leopardess slipped out into the headlights, turned and slipped leisurely into the tall grass, her long tail swooping down & curled almost into a circle at the tip. Night birds everywhere, nighthawks, owls, snipe – looking birds. Eyes shining unidentified from the brush and all bathed in moonlight. It was worth every bounce & jounce, but I was tired."

¹ The best match I could come up with was Elsayed Ali Ahmed Zaki, BS 1967 from Khartoum U; later (1990's) became expert on drought and desertification in Sudan.

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Working his way from east to west across Sub-Saharan Africa, Harlan's collecting expedition began to turn into an agricultural consultant tour, as he encountered practical farming techniques that could be improved. New crops were being introduced and the local farmers need help raising them in a productive way.

On October 4, he visited a new tobacco farm in Sudan and saw a great abundance of wild millet. He made it to Nayla, Sudan the next day, as he began to recognize the pattern of wild and weed millet and sorghum, then on to Fasher, after another 8 hour bumpy ride on October 6. He came back to Nayla where there is an airport and, after a considerable bureaucratic run-around flew out to Ft. Lamy², Chad. As he flew along, Harlan made the following observations: "The Jebel ridge that divides the watersheds between the Nile and Lake Chad is impressive. I am glad I was not driving. The Chad watershed is much greener & lush & looks good from the air. To my surprise I was met by a governmental official who had received a letter from Nyala. He is to look after me. If he can take care of the seeds that will be enough. We shall see." Harlan has already established a pattern that before he leaves a country for another country he needs to unload his currency, which may or may not be worth much in the new country. Following is from his notebook about this border crossing: "I was to take a tour at 11:00, but we spent the whole time on the seeds & finally decided it could not be done. So, I am to take them with me. It was agreed to clear them through customs at least. L 40 Sudanese = \$117.65 is left over, because I had no way of foreseeing cost from Khartoum & did not ship the seeds. No legal way to change it or even take it out. I'll try to get it to Miss Jenny Boclay, Girls secondary School, Gensira, Sudan, but I can't worry about it; part of the hazards. Dull day. No where to go."

CHAD - Also called Tchad - (Oct. 9 – 19: 11 days)

Ft. Lamy & ORSTOM facility, flight to Moundou, To Gore³ and back with M. Dabendjon, and back to Ft. Lamy – collecting all the way, Sorghum and Millet.

On October 9 he made it to Chad and on the 10th Harlan toured the ORSTOM⁴ facility near Ft. Lamy and learned a little of their operations, which include 1) soil mapping, evolution of soils, etc. 2) Hydrology, 3) Hydrobiology and 4) geology. After that he "did some (difficult) banking, bought tick to Maundou⁵, rented a pirogue & paddled across Chari⁶ & back in sunset & dark. To Chari again for dinner & made reservations for check out on 13th. Chad was in the third year of a civil war which would drag on for another seven years.

On October 15 he makes some observations about the swamp vs savanna ground coverage on the flight to Moundou, Chad, where he met a M. Dabendjon who hosted him and bought him a beer and a café' complet and got him a hotel room and they met the director "who blew his top; knew nothing of me, no

² Ft. Lamy was renamed N'Djamena in 1973 by Chadian President Francois Tombalbaye.

³ Core', Chad is across the Logone River and about 66km east of Moundou.

⁴ ORSTOM: Office de Recherches Scientifique at Techniques d'Outre) (Outre means overseas)

⁵ Maundou is a city in Chad ?? miles to the south of Fr. Lamy

⁶ The Chari River flows through Fr. Lamy. I am not sure what he means by "to Chari again for dinner, except that there must have been a restaurant by that name on the Chari River.

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place to stay, was just leaving for town with his wife, etc., etc. Anyway gave me quick tour of the plots & some two year old seed, a beer & sent me off settled in hotel, lunch, rest & in eve a tour of the neighborhood: wild S. (sorghum) abundant where expected along river; glaberrima rice is grown here together with the weedy Asian rice. The local S. is elegans and very impressive: ca 20 ft tall, heavy stalked, large leaved, pale green, ... enormous stuff. ”

And continues on the 16th with: ‘To **Gore**’⁷ and back with M. Dabendjon – S. elegans the whole way. Variation in panicle shape, seed color, etc, but all the same race. Interesting pattern. The millet is also all of one race. Very tall, clean, robust, medium length skin candles w. very white seeds. No weedy millet at all and no shibra⁸ visible – Definitely out of range of millet monkey business – and S. monkey business, too, for that matter. Both races are highly derived and elegant. Wild S. in the expected places – i.e. stream banks of Pande’ & Logone. The rice at Gore’ Asian with some mix of glaberrima. Hot ride, but roads v. good.”

And then on October 17 he writes: At **Ft. Lamy**⁹ “Mostly killing time waiting for the plane. Checked with Tchad Air re. ticket. Toured the market & got some local millet, finger millet & voandzeia seeds. Nothing much. Finished reading Coquery, Catherine: ‘La De’couverte de l’Afrique’ . Collection Archives Julliard, Paris, 1965 pp 252 pocketbook ed. Quite good & will be useful for references. Insects really BUGGING me! It’s pretty and peaceful here, but I’ll be glad to move on.”

*****CAMEROON (Oct. 19, 1968: 1 day)*****

On October 20 Harlan flies to Douala, Cameroon (about 1100 km from St. Lamy), after writing many letters. He made some comments on what he is seeing: “Savanna goes almost to **Yaoundé (Cameroon)** before forest really sets in. at Garoua (Cameroon) still S. ‘elegans’ & millet. Much wild rice in Ft. Lamy area visible from plane. Can identify it flying low, now. Got some specimens from Bezot – rice from Bongor (Chad) – not much help but he tried.” The next day he flew to Nigeria, which was in the midst of its own civil war.

*****NIGERIA (Oct. 21 – Nov. 7: 18 days, including 2 days in Niger)*****

Lagos, Kaduna (NE quad), met dir. IAR, rice farming in the Fadama area

Jack Harlan was in Nigeria during the military-led period between the first and second republics. The Biafran independence war was in progress in the southeastern areas of Nigeria during the time of his visit. Note that Harlan had visited Nigeria the previous year. See Expedition No. 5.

⁷ Core’, Chad is across the Logone River and about 66km east of Moundou.

⁸ Intermediate forms of pearl millet and wild/weedy varieties. See ICRIAT Web site: <http://oar.icrisat.org/6349/>.

⁹ Ft. Lamu is now called N’Djamena, it is the largest city and capital of Chad. It lies on “the Chari River, near the confluence with the Logone River, it directly faces the Cameroonian town of Kousséri, to which the city is connected by a bridge.” [Wikipedia](#)

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Harlan arrived in Lagos, Nigeria on October 21, 1968. He stayed in Lagos for two days, visiting the museum (the Benin Bronzes were back¹⁰) and then flew about 900 km northeast to Kaduna, Nigeria in the Northern district. On October 24 he met the acting Director of the Institute of Agricultural Research, John H. Davies, a situation he then describes in his notes: “K State has contract for faculty of agric. and of Vet science (In small inserted letters: a K State man to be provost, but Director to be English.) The ‘Institute of Agricultural Research’ is relatively old (30 years?) & the University new. Tour of facilities & plant impressive.”

From the Website of IAR:

The Institute for Agricultural Research (IAR), Samaru was established 1922 as the research division of the Department of Agriculture for the defunct Northern region of Nigeria. IAR was formally transferred by law to the later established Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) on October 14, 1962. With the Federation of the University in 1975, the IAR was affiliated in accordance with statute 14 of the University. IAR has been the bedrock of crop research and improvement in the savanna region of Nigeria. The re-organization of the National Agricultural Research Institution in 1987 mandated IAR to conduct research and provide service. (<http://iar.abu.edu.ng/>)

And on October 25, 1968 Harlan is getting sidetracked by the concerns of the experiment station staff. He is taking notes on several publications about beef production. He is really studying up on this. He met Dr. Hagga, Director of Sluka Station, and then he gives a general picture of the station and their experiments with the use of fertilizer on forage crops to increase beef production. He lists some range grasses to feed the cows: “Friesian X Fulani hybrids. Demand for milk v. large. \$40 million heard of beef cattle in the north alone great potential for beef export. Stylosanthes is the range legume best adapted. S. humilis is an annual one. Brachieria brizantha is good crues. White Fulani ca. 2000 lbs milk, crossbreds 3000, 3500. Stylosanthes gracilis – perennial preferred in this area & S. humilia to the north where it is drier.” He continues on the next page with a Reference: “Williams, G. G.: Rice farming on the Sokoto fadama. Min. Agric. Northern Region (Nigeria) Newsletter No. 17, 1960, pg. 2-6”.

His primary objective of finding centers of origin in Africa seems to have been put on hold, while he deals with the local issues of the farmers. The fadama area is described as followed by Wikipedia:

Fadama is a Hausa name for irrigatable land which are flood plains and low lying plains underlined with shallow aquifer found along Nigeria's river system. The basic phenomenon is the ease of accessibility of shallow ground water and or surface water for agricultural production (Edo ADP, 2000). Jun 17, 2014¹¹

The fadama area of northern Nigeria was seen by the British, during the colonial period, as a potentially fertile area suitable for the growing of crops and they established a research institute in the area. When independence came in 1960 the research effort was continued

¹⁰ In his previous expedition to Nigeria he had visited a museum in which the Benin and Ife art had been taken to safe keeping. See Jan. 21, 1968 entry.

¹¹ The main fadama lands in Nigeria are in the Northeast quarter of the nation.

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under the Nigerian government and the Northern Region. Following the military coup in 1966 the research continued and Dr. Harlan was impressed by what he saw.

On October 28 he writes: “Servant crisis & slow start but finally on the road. ca 1/3 way **Zaira to Kano** a fadama w. sugarcane & **rice fields of *O. glaberrima* w. some *O. sativa* & a little weed rice.**”

And now he comes to a conclusion and asks a question: “Obviously, Northern Nigeria is no center of origin of either sorghum or millet and probably not rice. Sorghum is derived, uniform, neither wild nor weed forms present. Millet hardly there, very advanced & we saw little ‘chibra’ until reaching Niger, where it became abundant – weed millet not noticeable. Is sorghum East African?” Jack Harlan has been in Africa for seven days, out on the road for one day and already he is coming to these conclusions!

On October 29, Harlan, evidently now in Niger, conducted an interview with M. J. Mocquand, who told him about how the Niger government puts up the money for the experimental work. And then they discuss the type of sorghum they would like to see on the land and the expectations for production. M. Mocquand pointed Harlan to certain areas in Niger where he could find sorghum and millet.

On October 30 he set out for Maradi, 146 miles west of Zinder, Niger. From there he will re-enter Nigeria, go to Kano and Samaru. His attention has turned away from genetics to soils and the specific problems local farmers were having growing their crops. The following is from his field notebook for September 2, 1968: “Towards the farm discussing diseases, pests & problems, then climbed the plateau of Jos.¹² Much acha and transplanted millet on top. Soils have a poor look & production looked very low for all that rainfall. Rock close to surface & much yellow soil instead of red. Visited some official or other at Jos, had a beer & took off for Samaru¹³, arriving maybe 7:00 & then to a big benefit bar-be-q & all that at the ABU¹⁴ club. Decorations superb. Food so-so. We left at 1:00 AM and the party was just getting started. 4 long days in a row.”

Harlan then drove from Samaru to Lagos, then up to Ibadan and back to Lagos in a week’s time (Nov. 1-7, 1968)

IVORY COAST (Nov. 8 – 12: 5 days)

On November 11 Harlan writes: “We saw great gobs of genetic studies & I can’t remember very much – being in considerable misery with my first major stomach upset – a very long day completed only with determination & will power. The general breeding program is to use recumbent reciprocal relation to select & upgrade parents whether *dura* x *tenera*, *tenera* x *tenera* or *pisifera* x *dura*. They have materials now that can yield 3.5 or 4 tons/ha and in Melanesia & Indonesia where conditions are better they can get 6-6 tons, perhaps. Percent form yields may be ½ ton & price is falling due to competition by soybean, sunflower & even peanuts.”

¹² the plateau of Jos is in central Nigeria

¹³Samaru School of Agriculture. “Samaru College of Agriculture started in 1921, as an Agricultural Training Centre at Maigana, located 24 kilometers from Zaria along Zaria-Jos road.” From http://www.abu.edu.ng/dept/view_departments.php?depid=143&dept=Samaru%20College%20of%20Agriculture

¹⁴ ABU: Ahmadu Bello Univ. at Zaria, Nigeria

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November 12: “Exhausted & rocky with bad stomach, so took it easy – walked to **Treisherville** {A SUBURB OF **ABIDJAN**} & bought some cloth, etc. bought lion’s claw¹⁵, etc. saw a movie: good but a bit murky on symbolism.

SIERRA LEONE (Nov. 13 – Dec. 21: 39 days)

On November 13 Harlan flew to Freetown, Sierra Leone. There he visited Njala University and, working with Mr. Karnes and a Dr. Karr at the university, formulated out a practical plan to develop the rice industry in Sierra Leone. Njala University had been started in 1964 with the help of the University of Illinois and had become one of the premier agricultural universities in Sierra Leone.¹⁶ Harlan works with Dr. Karnes for several days and on September 15 he posts in his Notebook a five step plan for helping Sierra Leone develop her agriculture program.

(1) strategy for developing a rice program by phases, (2) strategy for attacking the bush-fallow problem, (3) a course in ecology, (4) cytogenetics export for plant breeding to be developed by de Wet later, (5) maybe I can learn something about yams on this tour.

It would appear that Dr. Harlan has been hired by Njala University to do some kind of study or to make some proposals for the improvement of some of the local crops. They gave him a trailer to stay in. It has a bed, WC and a writing desk. Harlan has a hard time getting started, but once he does, the writing comes pretty easily. He is all alone and after a few days things are beginning to grind to a crawl for Jack Harlan. More and more, he finds himself in the trailer with nothing to do. He starts working on something he calls “Organic Revolution No. 1.” He worked up a seminar with that title and gave it at Njala University, then wrote up a paper on it¹⁷. He keeps writing in his Notebook “must get on my project.” On September 20 he goes to the library and worked up a memo to Mr. Karnes outlining what he could do. That evening he also wrote in his Notebook, which has now become his diary: “To club in eve. A big zero.” A deep frustration is setting in. Jack Harlan has always been a man of action. In his mind, his purpose in life is to be out there doing something good for the world. He has come a long way to be in Sierra Leone, West Africa and suffered many things, but at this point, on this expedition it seems as though all his efforts are going nowhere.

However, the plan he gave to Karnes may have given a needed boost to the Njala rice program. Eventually, after many trials, the effort bore fruit in the form of Dr. Monte Jones, a native of Sierra Leone and chief rice breeder at Njala University, who was awarded the World Food Prize in 2004 for his work in developing superior strains of African rice, by crossing them with Asian rice. I do not want to claim something that is not ours, and it would be difficult to establish a clear link, but this author would like to think that Jack Harlan and Dr. Karr’s efforts in some way helped to set in motion the movement to

¹⁵ I had this lion’s claw for a while as a young man. I war it on a chain around my neck, but sometime it got lost.

¹⁶ About 80% of the University infrastructure was destroyed during a civil war, 1991-2002, but rebuilding began in 2010.

¹⁷ I cannot find a publication called “Organic Revolution No. 1” or anything like that in the official list of JRH publications.

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genetically improve African rice, using the expertise and influence of Njala University, eventually resulted in Dr. Monte Jones' award-winning work.

Enter a man named Emji who is an expert on yams. On September 21, 1968 Harlan "Hiked through the wildwood looking for wild yams – don't think I saw any. The bush is really messy. More likely ride on the river in late aft. Very pleasant. This will be a big waste of time if I don't get on my project. But visitors this weekend. Tomorrow date w. Emji, seminar in eve for staff and students." And then in the next day's entry he says: "Met Emji last night at the club, so did not need to meet him today. More library work. Did seminar in evening 'Agricultural Revolution No. 1'. Seemed to go well. West Africans resent not having more domesticates from West Africa." The following day he went with Emji to a yam field. Harlan is now beginning to learn about yams. He is learning a lot from Emji and from his own library work, as well as from the field trips. The yam is an African domesticate and has been a traditional source of food in Africa for thousands of years.

On September 25 he writes: "Enji was to take me to bush to see wild yams, but begged off. Gave seminar in aft about research. Don't know if anyone listened or not. Guess I'll write it down for the record anyway. Felt rather discouraged." The next day he writes: "Went with Enji to the bush to find wild yams; need to return to get photos. Dean Neil Worker's birthday this eve. So everybody tramped in & drank his booze, but he seemed to enjoy it." And on the 27th he writes: "Spent the day in the library researching and writing up the 'bush fallow' thing. At least I'm learning something, but I might as well not have come, as far as everyone is concerned. Advice is cheap but thankless & probably about as it should be." Jack Harlan is sinking into a greater depression of discouragement. He continues to work on his report in the library by himself. September 28 is Thanksgiving Day. Jack writes: "Just a work day here. Library again & started to put something on paper if aft. Still feel that I'm the only one interested in learning. The rest could not care less." On September 29 he ends his notebook entry with: "To club in eve. as usual & no one there by me." He spends the next two days in the library finishing up his paper, which he feels will be "round-filed" when it is done. On September 30 he writes: "Feel in a very strange position, expressing alarm over soils problems, when the soils guys are goofing it up."

Having finished with his, seemingly futile, library and writing project he "Hiked to farm they wanted to clear for income-farming. Went up in boat & hiked through village & beyond. It started out looking very good. Soil fairly deep & well drained, grass *P. subaugustum* & not much bush. Then we hit it. Imperata cylindrea by the acre. The villagers can't handle it & avoid it. They are using bush & there is good bush there. 1 yr rice & 1 yr cassava & then back to bush. Somebody goofed & farmed too long so in came the cogon grass. Still, it's a nice farm & if we knew how to handle the soil, could be developed for mechanized farming (I think). Maybe I saved them a headache and maybe not. Took laundry over to Karnes in eve to leave for Kawa. Had several drinks & was invited to dinner. Very nice." (Dec. 2)

Finally, he gets out of this rut and it's off to Freetown, where he does some shopping. There he bought a Benin Bronze, a man's head, which he felt was authentic. It is illegal to take Benin Bronzes out of Nigeria, but he bought this one in Freetown, Sierra Leone. It had a crack at the base of the neck and

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Harlan felt that this was the reason it was available for purchase. It could be hundreds of years old. No one knows how old it is.¹⁸

On December 7 Harlan finished his suggestions on rice production and reviewed what he called his “Opus” and found it to be pretty good. Then he got into a Joseph Conrad book and commented. “Had forgotten how gripping a story teller he was. Tremendous.”

It is now December 10 and getting close to the time for Harlan to begin to return home, but he visited some farms in which the workers were attempting to replicate American farming techniques. He has his doubts, but saw some areas that might be farmable by machine. Some of the wetter areas were called balilands. Upon seeing “vast quantities of tractors, discs & etc. never used & never will be,” Harlan concludes, “a hopeless mess.” The next day he reviews a project which has a better chance of success.

“ In aft to a pseudo-bali near **Mano**. They are thinking of plowing for the farmers. A 4 chieftom adventure. The farmers to put up 7 Le/acre for a turnkey job of plowing & planting. Soil wet but not necessarily flooded in the rains. Still wet, grey, poor drainage. Enormous stand of Chasmopodium candatum & some Imperata¹⁹. No bush & looks farmable. The most farmable piece of land I’ve seen,”

Beginning on December 12, Dr. Harlan toured an “area about 10,000 acres plowed & harvested by machinery.”

On December 17 Harlan takes another field trip to **bolilands**. After reviewing what they were doing and what they were up against he concludes: “At any rate the **botilands** look machinable.”

December 20 and now Jack is preparing to finish his African odyssey and return to the states. That night he wrote: “Got two pillow cases and made two more packages at the hotel; one for reports & books, etc. and the other for field clothes. Took them to the Embassy and after some fiddle they actually took them for the pouch!” He then lists four publications. “Also, went up to **Fourah Bay** before noon got off at library & found Institute of African Studies. To Hyde’s residence. Not there. Will phone later. Back to **Land Flats** a magnificent view. Great camaraderie as the beer flowed and flowed and flowed. Gerry Karr showed. The Hodges were there. Several S. L’s – can’t remember names, except one named Jarret (sp) fired from Njala and now, seemingly in good political position in Fourah Bay. He wants to start his own Agric. Extension Program, much to the disgust of many at Njala. Various others in math, etc. Called Hyde on phone. He eventually showed, but could not expect anything to come of it. He does know Prof. Dolby & latter does have a student there. Hiked down through botanical gardens. Wringing wet. Couple of whiskeys in room and slight snooze. Then to Tropicana in eve. Not nearly so posh as I had expected. Food passable. No entertainment & so to bed.” HE WENT BACK AND EXTENDED THE DEC. 20 ENTRY TO INCLUDE ALL KINDS OF GOOD-BY TO PEOPLE. I DID NOT COPY THAT PART. PAGE 91-2.

Dec 21 “Stating home today! Woke early but managed to stay in bed until 7:30. Then good breakfast & then hiked the curio shops to see if there was something I couldn’t resist. No problem. Resistance easy.

¹⁸ I have this piece now. HVH2

¹⁹ Two African grasses.

Jack R. Harlan Expedition No. 6: Sept 20 – Dec. 22, 1968 East Africa to West Africa (3 months & 2 days)

Check UTA nothing new on ticket so back to hotel, packed, showered put on clean clothes all around & checked out. Sitting in lobby saw: Larry Innan & wife, Marilan, just arrived; also small daughter. Bill & Anne Hodgs & Tommy (Gerry not in sight). Gifford and Aldine Zimmerman, Gene Brams (Pat left yesterday to have a baby somewhere else), Dan Chaytor & maybe that's all. " He does not say in his notebook, but his pocket calendar indicates that he arrived back in Champaign on December 22.