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expect that the move will take around one month. The library and office will have to be closed during some of this time, and we apologise in advance for the inconvenience this may cause. We hope to be open and operating in the new building by Friday 24th April: the inaugural event in the new building will be the workshop on Contemporary India-East Africa relations on 27/28th April. We will send out more precise dates for the move in early March.



*Rear of the new building*

### Co-location with IFRA

BIEA has long worked closely with our colleagues in the French Research Institute (IFRA). We are pleased to announce that from mid-2009 IFRA will be moving into offices in the new BIEA building. This is not a merger of the two institutions, each of which will retain a distinct identity – but it will create a new, larger research community at the Nairobi base, which will allow us to work much more closely in research and in conferences and other events. The libraries of BIEA and IFRA will be managed jointly; this will entail considerable cataloguing work, and we ask for your patience while this goes on.

*Justin Willis, Director*

### New BIEA Building

We are pleased to report that the construction of the new building at BIEA's Nairobi base is now well advanced, and the work should be completed by early April. The new library will offer more shelf-space and a much better working environment for users; the building will also contain a seminar room, as well as offices and working space for visiting researchers. The existing office/library building will be available for use as accommodation for visiting researchers.



*Front of the new building*

The process of moving the library and offices into the new building will take a little while, even though it is next door to the existing building; we

### Major BIEA-supported projects

In this issue we profile two major ongoing projects conducted by UK based researchers and supported by BIEA.

#### Modern Lives

*Project Director: Professor Henrietta Moore*

The international media has a growing presence in urban Africa. From problem pages in the national press to internet blogs and forums to the rise of the radio phone-in, participatory formats engender wide discussion, not least on notions of sexuality, desire and the body. Yet in much of Africa conservative religious morality pervades public policy and discourse; chastity, purity, and temperance are celebrated virtues. Urban Africans negotiate between these conflicting discourses in many ways, and in doing so assert new perspectives on morality, modernity, and how ethnic and national identities relate to global cultural flows.

'Modern Lives', the current research project of **Professor Henrietta L. Moore**, explores urban Africans' consumption of and participation in radio, TV and magazines, and what this means for their approaches to marriage, love, commitment and modernity. The research is a comparative study of professional classes in Nairobi, Kampala and Lusaka, exploring the nature and meaning of sexuality, romantic love, sex and commitment and their relationship with the cultural processes we usually term as globalisation. With the support of BIEA and the assistance of several graduate attachées, the research is currently well underway in Nairobi and Kampala, and will be expanding to Lusaka in early 2009.



*The Modern Lives project is making use of photographic studio shots like this one (of a Kampala couple in the 1970s) to document changing ideas about modernity and relationships'*

### Historical Ecologies of East African Landscapes (HEEAL)

*Project Director: Dr Paul Lane*

Co-ordinated by former BIEA director **Dr. Paul Lane** and logistically supported by BIEA, HEEAL is a four year research programme based at the University of York and funded by a European Union Marie Curie Excellence Grant. Based around six overlapping sub-projects, HEEAL combines archaeological, historical, geocological and ethnographic perspectives to define the presence, nature and extent of human-induced environmental change in Eastern Africa. Fieldwork to date has focused on the Pangani valley and the adjacent Pare Mountains in Tanzania with particular emphasis on the relationship between the 18th-19th century caravan route, associated markets in the foothills, and the intensive agronomies located in the highlands.



*HEEAL aims to use historical documents to analyse recent landscape changes. In this instance, historical photographs are being compared to present landscapes in northern Tanzania.*



*HEEAL excavations at Ngombezi caravan site in the Pangani Valley, Tanzania.*

Concentrating on the last 500 years, the HEEAL sub-projects explore the intensification of herding and specialised hunting (Paul Lane); the environmental and social consequences of intensive agriculture (Daryl Stump); the perception of landscape history and its effect on policy (Pauline von Hellermann); the historical archaeology of the 19th-century caravan trade (Thomas John Biginagwa); the geocology of the Pare Mountains (Matthias Heckmann); and the bioarchaeology of the ivory trade (Ashley Coutu). During 2008 each sub-project conducted extensive preliminary research, including the survey and test-excavation of irrigation features in North Pare and caravan sites in the Pangani valley, archival and photographic analysis of landscapes in South Pare, and the refinement of techniques of stable and radiogenic isotope analysis to provenance collections of historic ivory in Kenya, Tanzania, Britain and the USA. In 2009 HEEAL expects to extend its activities within Eastern Africa and looks forward to further cooperation with BIEA.



*elephant ivory contained in museum collections, such as this tooth from the Smithsonian.*

*As one of its sub-projects, HEEAL is conducting significant research into historic elephant populations, part of which involves the analysis of*

## Ground breaking geophysical survey at Vumba Kuu, Kenya

Dr Wynne-Jones' BIEA research at Vumba Kuu on the southern Kenya coast continued in August 2008 with a geophysical survey of the site, conducted by Dr John Gater and James Adcock of GSB Prospection Ltd (Bradford, UK). A magnetometer survey was conducted using a combination of gradiometer and magnetic susceptibility coil. The gradiometer was able to distinguish broad differences in types of occupation within the town limits; it picks up on soil disturbance, burning and differences in magnetism among the buried artefacts. In particular, it was possible to identify a part of the site associated with iron slag deposits. This was separated from a purely residential section. The magnetic susceptibility coil was used at intervals to refine these results and tie them down better to the site grid. It was also able to pick up on a series of more elusive linear features, which we hope might prove to relate to residential structures.



*James Adcock using the magnetic susceptibility coil at Vumba*

In addition to the geophysical survey, a team led by Benson Kimeu, the BIEA's GIS technician and surveyor, conducted a detailed topographic survey at Vumba, providing a contour map with which the geophysical results could be combined. A final season of excavation will be undertaken by Dr Wynne-Jones in February 2009.



*Benson Kimeu uses the EDM total station to map Vumba Kuu. Benson's recent appointment at BIEA greatly enhances our surveying and GIS mapping capabilities and we look forward to offering a much wider range of mapping facilities in the near future.*

## Appointment of new Assistant Director

At the end of September 2008, Stephanie Wynne-Jones left the position of Assistant Director to take up a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship at the University of Bristol. Stephanie's record at BIEA was exemplary and she played a leading role in a series of new initiatives, including the revitalisation of our website and the establishment of this newsletter. Although Stephanie will be missed, we look forward to seeing her on a regular basis as she continues her BIEA-supported research into historic caravan routes in Tanzania and the archaeology of Vumba Kuu on the Kenyan coast.



Stephanie was succeeded in November by Matthew Davies, who recently submitted his doctoral thesis at the University of Oxford on the archaeology and ethnography of intensive agriculture in Pokot, northwest Kenya.

Among other things, Matthew aims to continue his work in Pokot and extend his analysis into Karamoja, Eastern Uganda, while taking an active role in the preparations for the new BIEA building.

## 2009 Membership subscriptions

We are pleased to inform you that we are now taking membership subscriptions for 2009. Both *JEAS* and *Azania* are now to be published three times annually and to secure the timely arrival of your copies you should subscribe ASAP.

Full membership details can be found on our website [www.biea.ac.uk](http://www.biea.ac.uk) and subscriptions can be conveniently paid online via Paypal.

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