AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This conference was made possible by the generous support of:

His Excellency, Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani, M.D., Governor of Enugu State, our gracious host.

Chief Ayogu Ezi, Commissioner for Information and Culture, Enugu State Government

The Ford Foundation, West African Office

Rutgers University, Dept. of History, Center for African Studies and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences

York University/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project

Enugu Historical Documentation Bureau

We should like to thank the following individuals for their support and help.

Professor G. I. Nwaka
Dr. O. N. Njoku
Dr. J.O. Ijoma
Dr. N. Omenka
Mr. Anayo Enechukwu
Mrs. Nneka Osakwe
Mr. Sydney Emezue
Ms. Irene Mayers
MONDAY JULY 10, 2000

1:00-2:30 pm Opening Ceremony

Welcome

Dr. Carolyn Brown, Rutgers University  
Professor Paul E. Lovejoy, York University  
Professor M.B. Abassiattai, President, Historical Society of Nigeria  
Mr. Anayo Enechukwu, Director, Enugu Historical Documentation Bureau

Address

Dr. Hilary Beckles, Pro-Chancellor University of the West Indies  
Dr. Elisée Soumonni Member of UNESCO  
Scientific Committee

3:00-5:00 pm Panel 1: Historical Overview

Chair: Professor Sam Ukpabi (Professor Emeritus, Nigerian Defense Academy)

Dr. J. Okoro Ijoma (U. of Nigeria, Nsukka)  
“The Impact of the Slave Trade on the Interior of the Bight of Biafra: An Overview”

Dr. Douglas Chambers (U. of Southern Mississippi)  
“Out of Calabar: The Igbo Diaspora in the Early Atlantic World.”

Dr. C.C. Agbodike (Nnamdi Azikiwe U)  
“The Atlantic Slave Trade-Responses of Enslaved Individuals to Conditions of Slavery in the Biafran Interior and in the Americas.
TUESDAY JULY 11, 2000

9:00-11:00 am Panel 2: Case Studies of Slavery on the Lower Niger.

Chair: Professor M.B. Abassiattai (U. of Uyo, President, Nigerian Historical Society)

E.N. Ngozhichukwuka Uchendu (U. of Nigeria, Nsukka)
“Rating of Slaves in the West Niger Igbo Area.”

Femi Kolapo (York University, Canada)
“Nineteenth-Century Niger River Trade and the 1844-1862 Aboh Interregnum.”

Ngozi E. Ojiakor (Nnamdi Azikiwe U)
“Slavery Slave Trade and Emancipation in Igboland in Nigeria: The Case Study of Ogbaru Communities.”

11:00-11:30 am Coffee Break

11:30-1:30 Panel 3 The Mechanics of the Trade

Chair: Verene Shepherd (University of the West Indies, Mona)

Dr. U.D. Anyanwu (Abia State U)
“The Atlantic Slave Trade and Demographic Configuration in South-Eastern Nigeria.”

Professors Paul E. Lovejoy (York University, Canada) and David Richardson (University of Hull, UK)
“This Horrid Hole’: Commerce and Credit at Bonny 1690-1840.”

Christian C. Opata and Damina U. Opata (U. of Nigeria, Nsukka)
“Ownership Structure of Slaves Among Nineteenth Century Nsukka Igbo.”

Prince Paschal N. Mebuge-Obaa Jr. (Museum Piece International)
“War Against Slavery in Nri Kingdom and the Establishment of Military Alliance Against Aro Slave Merchants.”

1:30-3:30 Lunch Break
3:30-5:30 Panel 4 Aro Trade Networks: Northern and Central Igboland

Chair: Professor E.F. Alagoa (University of Port Harcourt)

Sydney Emezue (Abia State U)
“The Touch of Life and the Kiss of Death: An Assessment of the Impact of Aro Slave Trade on Bende.”

G. Ugo Nwokeji (U. of Connecticut) and David Eltis (Queen’s University)

Johnston Njoku (Western Kentucky U)
“Before the Middle Passage: The Slave Routes from the Igbo Hinterland to Slave Port at Bonny in the Bight of Biafra.”

John McCall (Southern Illinois U)

Ejitu Nnechi Ota (Abia State University)
“The Impact of the Aro State Trade on the Immediate Neighbours of arochukwu.”

WEDNESDAY JULY 12, 2000

9:00-11:00 Panel 5 Locating Calabar Identity: Home and Diaspora.

Chair: Dr. David V. Trotman (York University, Canada)

Joy O. Uguru (U. of Nigeria, Nsukka)
“Identity Loss, Linguistic Inequality and Insecurity among Slave Trade Victims.”

Renée Soulodre-La France (York University, Canada)
“Buried Treasure: Caravaries in New Granada.”

Christine Ayorinde (Nigerian Hinterland Project, Canada)
“Ekpe in Cuba: the Abakuá Secret Society, Race, and Politics.”

Joseph Okokon Charles (University of Calabar)
“Ethnic Antagonism and the Search for Cultural Identity Among Efik and Ibibio of Nigeria: An Aftermath of Transatlantic Slave Trade.”
11:00-11:30  Coffee Break

11:30-1:30 Panel 6 Slavery and Its Aftermath in Nkanu, Northern Igboland

Chair: Professor G. Nwaka (Dean, Post Graduate Studies, Abia State University)

Carolyn Brown (Rutgers University)

Paul Obi-Ani (U. of Nigeria, Nsukka)
“Stigmatization of Descendants of Slaves in Igboland: Aftermath of Forced ‘Abolition’.”

Nneka Osakwe (Nnamdi Azikwe U)
“Semantic Implications of ‘Ohu’ and ‘Amadi’: The Aftermath of Slavery in Nkanu and Ezeagu, Northern Igboland.”

Axel Harneit-Sievers (Center for Modern Oriental Studies, Berlin)
“Repercussions of Pre-Colonial Slavery in Contemporary Local Politics: The Case of Nike, Enugu State, Nigeria.”

1:30-3:30 Lunch Break

3:30-5:30 Panel 7 Cultural Reflections of Slavery and the Slave Trade.

Chair: Professor Paul E. Lovejoy (York University, Canada)

Joseph Adande (Université du Bénin)
“Ophiolatry and Slave Trade: Form the Bight of Benin to the New World.”

John Oriji (California Polytechnic State U)
“Transformations in Igbo Cosmology During Slavery: Place-Names, Totems and the Quest for a Collective Identity.”

Nicholas Omenka (Abia State U)
“Spirit Landing: The Place of Former Slaves in Christian Evangelism in the Biafran Hinterland.”

T.J. Desch-Obi (UCLA)
“Biafran Cultural Traditions in North America.”

5:30 Grant Writing Workshop
THURSDAY JULY 13, 2000

9:00-11:00 Panel 8 The Igbo in the Diaspora

Chair: Professor Sam C. Ukpabi (Professor Emeritus Nigeria Defense Academy)

Michael Gomez (New York U.)
“A Quality of Anguish. The Igbo Response to Enslavement in the Americas.”

Abena Busia (Rutgers U)
“‘Those Ibos! Jus’ Upped and Walked Away’: The Story of the Slaves at Ibo Landing as Transcendent Ritual.”

Paul Obiyo Mbamnso Njemanze (U. of Lagos)
“A Boat Against the Tide: Ex-Slaves in Post Emancipation Igboland and the Americas.”

Ndu Life Njoku (Imo State University)
“Slave Autobiographies as History: A Reading of Equiano’s The Interesting Narrative…”

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-1:30 Panel 9 Demographic Consequences

Chair: Dr. Carolyn Brown (Rutgers University)

Queen Joy Nwoji (U. of Nigeria, Nsukka) and Nene Onyekwel u (U. of Nigeria, Nsukka)
“The Impact of Umuada (Women) Sold into Slavery in Awka: The Lingering Impression.”

E.S.D. Fomin (U. of Buea)
“Procreation in Slavery in the Bight of Biafra 1750-1950.”

P.U. Okpoko (U. of Nigeria, Nsukka) and Canute A. Ngwa (U. of Nigeria, Nsukka)
“Reproduced Identity: Tracing the Roots of Slaves in Diaspora.”

Innocent F.A. Uzoechi (Enugu State University of Science and Technology)
“Slavery in the Agbaja Area of Colonial Udi Division”
1:30-3:30 Lunch Break

3:30-5:30 Panel 10 Dimensions of the Slave Trade

Chair: Elisée Soumonni (Université du Bénin)

Felix Ekechi (Kent State U)
“Perspectives on the Social and Economic Dimensions of the Slave trade in the Biafran Hinterland: Examples from the Owerri Area.”

P.C. Ezeah (Enugu State University of Science and Technology)
“The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the Crisis of Under-development in Africa.”

Hannah Ngozi Eby Chukwu (University of Nigeria, Nsukka)

FRIDAY JULY 14, 2000

9:00-11:00 Panel 11 The Heritage of Slavery

Chair: Professor O.N. Njoku (University of Nigeria, Nsukka)

Austin Ahanotu (California State University, Stanislaus)
“Slavers and Historical Memory: Should the Village Remember?”

Eli Bentor (Appalacia State University)
“Aro Ikeji Festival-Historical Experience and Negotiated Identities.”

Anayo Enechukwu (Enugu Historical Documentation Bureau)
“Slave Trade Has Not Ended, It Is Still Booming in the Bight of Biafra.”

Closing Remarks by Conference Organizers