

EDITORIAL NOTE

The principal focus of this special issue of the *Dalhousie Review* is Africa. Each year Dalhousie University presents a series of lectures in memory of one of the university's major benefactors, Mrs. Dorothy J. Killam. From time to time, when the subject matter of the lectures has been appropriate, and the lecturers have been willing, the *Review* has taken advantage of the opportunity to reprint them. The last time this was done was in the case of the series devoted to women's issues under the title "Feminist Visions" (*Dalhousie Review*, vol. 64, no. 4).

In 1988, the Killam lectures took as their subject, Africa: Past, Present, Prospective. The three lecturers were Jan Vansina, Christine Obbo and Ali Mazrui. In conjunction with the Killam lecture series, other events were held at Dalhousie including films, music and theatre performances, additional lectures, and, most notably, a major art exhibit, "Visual Variations: African Sculpture from the Justin and Elizabeth Lang Collections." The collection of activities was given the title: "African Worlds."

In this issue of the *Review*, we have included the lectures by Jan Vansina and Christine Obbo, and a related article by Ali Mazrui. In addition, Sada Niang's article originated as a lecture in the "African Worlds" program, while Maxine Tynes's poem was read at the opening of the art exhibit. Tim Shaw, who was primarily responsible for the overall organization has contributed a further article. Dr. Shaw has also acted as guest editor for the African material in this issue of the *Review*, and commissioned the articles by Abillah Omari and Bridglal Pachai.

In addition to the "African Worlds" material, this issue contains a shortened selection of articles, poetry and book reviews. A word about the poetry is appropriate. Each year, Dalhousie awards a H. W. Dennis prize for poetry, and it is a condition of the competition that the winning poems be offered to the *Dalhousie Review* for possible publication. Andrew Wainwright and I believe this is the first year in which the *Review* has taken up this offer. It is particularly apt the prize-winning submission by Larry Swatuk was "Images from Southern Africa." Incidentally, we intend to publish one of the poems from the second-place submission in a future issue of the *Review*.

Our thanks are due to Tim Shaw for his assistance, and to Partnership Africa-Canada for its financial help, with the "African Worlds" section of this issue.

A.R.A.