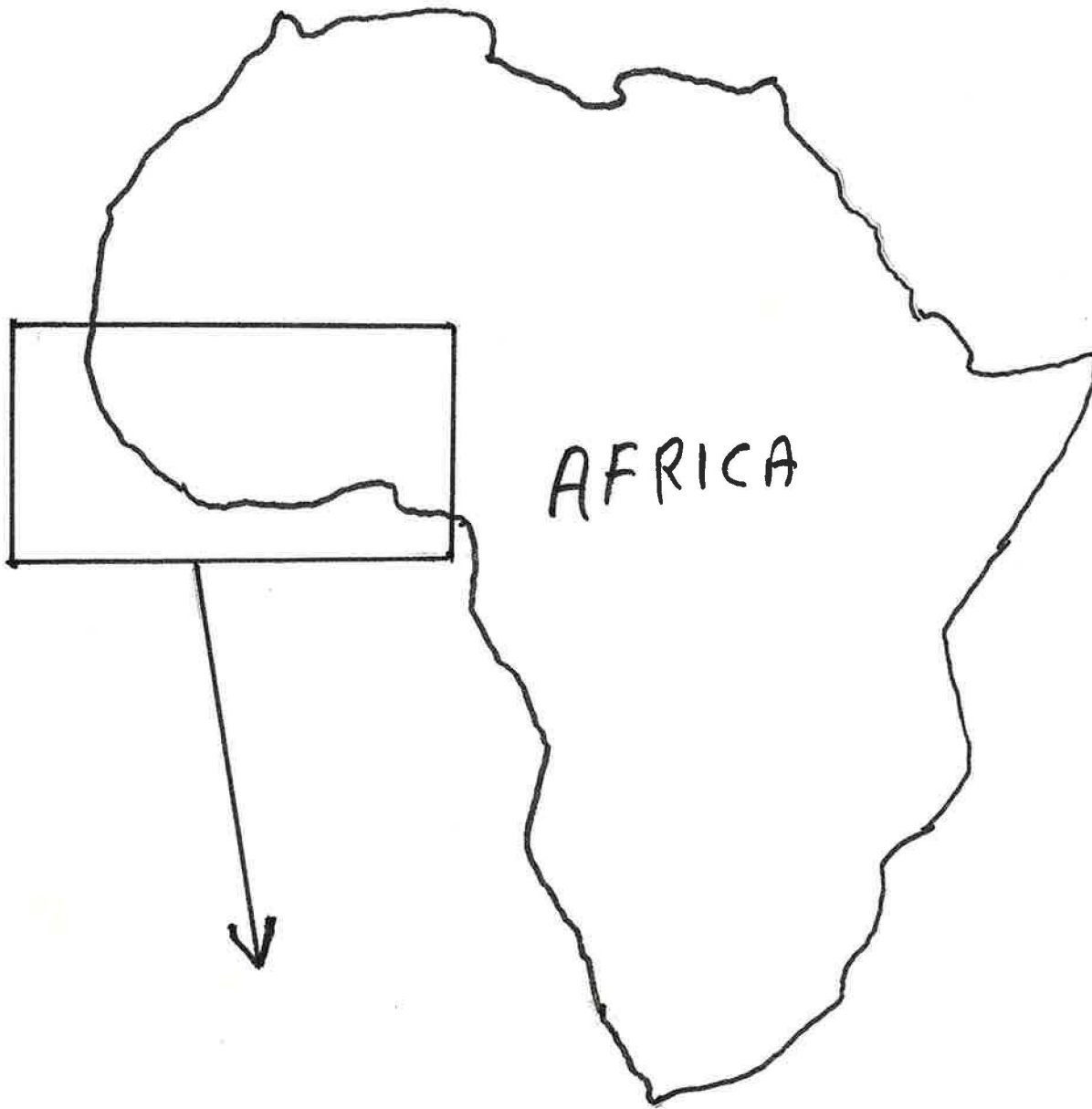


SABBATICAL LEAVE REPORT

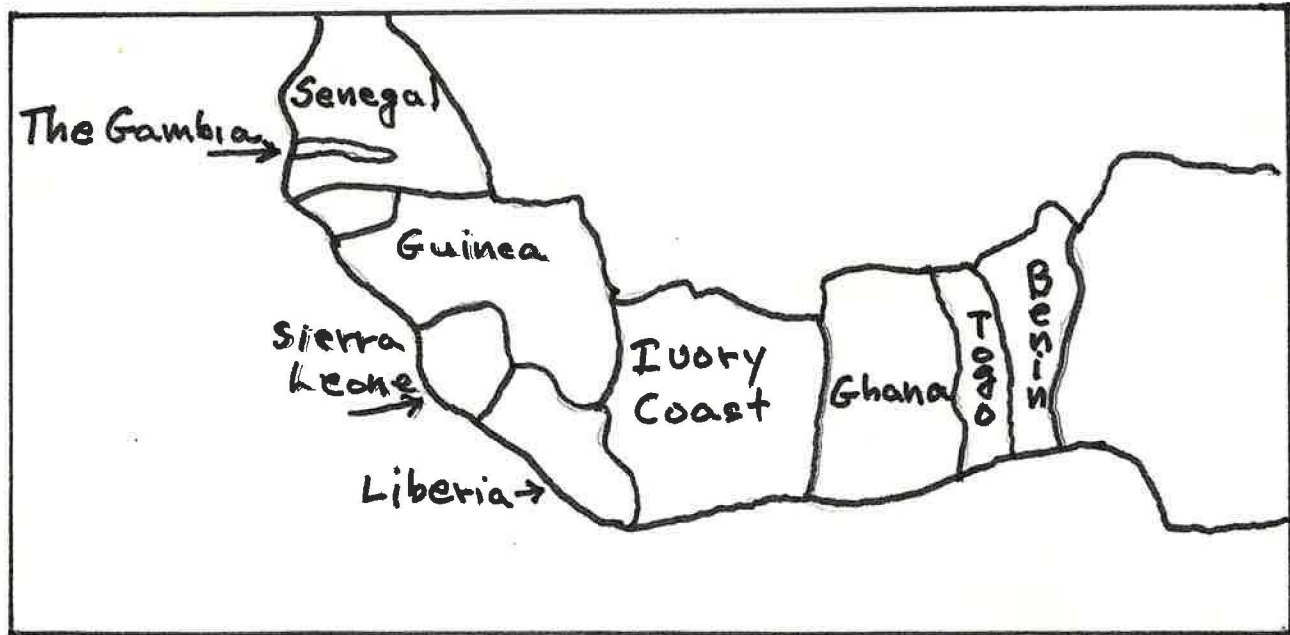
Submitted to the
Board of Trustees
MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE
by

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WEST AFRICA



INTRODUCTION

The sabbatical leave granted me by the Board of Trustees of Mount San Antonio College involved travel in four different and very distinct areas of the world.

1. West Africa: This trip consisted of visits to nine small African nations strung west to east along the bulge of that continent. They are, in west to east order, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, and Benin (see map).
2. England and France: Most of my time was spent in London and environs with short trips to Edinburgh, Colchester, and Cambridge. I also spent five days in Paris, France.
3. Guatemala: This trip was made to observe and study the remains of the Inca and Spanish colonial periods, as well as, to view Indian life and contemporary problems in this Central American country.
4. Hawaii: Our fiftieth state is a microcosm of the mixture of Pacific and mainland cultures and a laboratory for the study of urbanization and haphazard development.

In the body of this report I shall discuss these four journeys and conclude with an evaluation of their importance to my professional growth.

WEST AFRICA

General comments: In setting the stage for our discussion of the West African states a few generalizations are in order. First, they are all members of the so-called Third World. Or, we may use the other euphemism and say they are among the Developing States. What this means is that they are among the international basket cases economically. They are mostly poor with little hope for improvement. Secondly, for the vast majority of people the quality of life reflected by standards of health care, housing, and life expectancy is among the world's lowest. Finally, political freedom in all except The Gambia is non-existent or at a very low level. An article in Time magazine March 13, 1978 presented the following figures which will serve to illustrate what I mean. The United States and Mexico have been included for comparison.

	Sen	Gam	Gui	S.L.	Lib	Gha	Togo	I.C.	Benin	USA	Mex
Per Capita Income (\$)	390	180	150	200	450	580	260	610	130	7890	1090
Qual. of Life	24	25	20	27	26	34	25	28	23	94	73
Political Freedom	50	83	0	33	33	25	8	25	0	100	50

Geography: The nine states we are discussing stretch for over fifteen hundred along the south side of the hump of Africa. Senegal and The Gambia are relatively dry and flat since they are on the southern edge of the vast Sahara Desert. The other seven have certain geographical features in common. They all have a flat coastal plain with sand bars off shore and marshes and lagoons along the coast. With the exception of Dakar, Senegal there are no worthwhile natural harbors. The cost of man-made harbors is one of the blocks to future development in most of the states.

Behind the coastal plain is a range of mountains which catches the moisture bearing ocean air and produces the long rainy season. These mountains are covered with tropical rain forest. The mountain rains do not result in wide navigable rivers as one might think. Instead the waters run off in scores of small water courses and spread across the coastal plain to form swamps, marshes, and lagoons. With the exceptions of the Senegal and Gambia rivers, the lack of navigable streams is a severe restriction on the economic development of the interiors of these countries.

Finally, because the rains are dropped in the mountains and flow south the area north of the mountains is desert. Indeed, the desert area is growing year by year as the Sahara moves inexorably south.

Colonial Origins: Sierra Leone and Liberia have common reasons for their foundings. Great Britain and American citizens, respectively, founded them as homes for freed slaves. Most of those taken to Sierra Leone were from slave ships intercepted by British naval vessels in the early 19th century. Liberia (Liberty) with its capital Monrovia (Monroe) was to be colonized by freed slaves as a solution to the slavery question in the United States.

The other seven states are the result of the European scramble for African colonies in the late 19th century. Until that time the Europeans had been content to control the West African coast from small trading post and coastal towns. However, in the 1880's, for reasons too complicated to go into here, the British, French, and Germans appropriated to themselves the West African coast and hinterland. The borders of the colonies were the results of European conquest and agreement without consideration of cultural or linguistic boundaries. The result, consequently, was split and isolated tribal groups. For example, the Fulani people are 7.4% of the population of Senegal, 16.2% of The Gambia, and 40.3% of Guinea.

Another case involves Togo. It was founded by the Germans, taken from them after World War I, and divided between Britain and France. Britain later incorporated her part into Ghana while France granted her portion independence. Thus, we have an ongoing crisis between Ghana and Togo because the Ewe tribal people want to be reunited.

Tribalism: As a result of the colonial origins of these states there is not only a division of tribes between nations, but also, a mixture of tribes within. The break down in two countries will serve to illustrate. Ivory Coast is Baule 23.2%, Bete 17.6%, Senuto 15.2%, Malinke 11.4%, Dan 9.8%, Lobi 5.8%, Lagoon 5.2%, Ngere 4.5%, Bakwe 4.5%, and over 50 others 2.8%. The division in Ghana is Akan 44.1%, Mossi-Dagomba 15.9%, Ewe 13%, Ga-Adangme 8.3%, Guinea 3.5%, Yoruba 1.6%, and 70 others 13.6%.

Because few books are written in Akan or Baule, all of the West African states have adopted the language of their colonial masters as their official language. French is spoken in Togo, Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Benin. English is the language of Ghana, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. The course taken by these countries is obviously the only one open to them. However, it has created a chasm between the educated and the uneducated. The uneducated, not knowing a European tongue, cannot operate functionally in the society.

Religion: The Christian, Muslim and animist religions are present in all the West African states. Islam is strongest in the northern portions of each country and in the western most states (Senegal 90%, Guinea 62%). Traditional religions prevail in the countries to the east. There is a Christian minority in all states, with Ghana having the largest at 25%.

Barriers to Development: The West African states have many common problems when we consider future economic progress. Most common is a lack of development capital. Given the per capita incomes listed on page 2 it can be seen that there is no tax base for the raising of revenue locally. It must be obtained abroad. Political instability limits the amount the private sector is willing to risk for fear of future expropriation. As a result, most of the states are supported or subsidized by their former colonial masters. Much of this capital goes into show case projects-- sports, stadiums, government offices, plush hotels, convention centers, national airlines, presidential palaces. The gap between the very rich and very poor widens.

Another common problem is a one or two product economy that is at the mercy of world price fluctuations. As examples the exports of Togo are 65% phosphates, Gambia 91% peanuts, Sierra Leone 54% diamonds, Guinea 72% bauxite, and Liberia 72% iron ore. Without diversification a balanced progress can not be expected. Given the lack of resources, both manpower and natural, this diversification is unlikely.

Domestic politics: The governments of West Africa run the range of political systems. All are adapted from European or American examples. Three countries still have their founding fathers in control after nearly two decades, i.e. Toure in Guinea, Houphouet-Boigny in Ivory Coast, and Senghor in Senegal. Three have military dictatorships-- rightwing with Eyadema in Togo and Acheampong in Ghana --

and left-wing with Kerekou in Benin. Two, Stevens in Sierra Leone and Tolbert in Liberia are representatives of the freedmen cliques that control the politics of those countries. The highest mark for the political freedom in the Time article was given to The Gambia where there is political opposition to Jawara, but his party controls 27 of the 35 seats in the parliament. This would hardly seem a functioning two party system.

What are the chances of improvement in the political situation? Small and none. The problem is that there is no effective, unified political opposition. What opposition there is, is splintered into conflicting groups. The result is the founding political parties can only be replaced by the military, which is then reluctant to give up power. Poor Benin has endured five military coups d'etat, 10 coup attempts, 12 governments and six constitutions in a dozen years.

Travel in West Africa: Before discussing my experiences in the individual countries in which I traveled in West Africa, a few words about travel conditions in that part of the world. First, West Africa is not for the novice or independent traveler. I went within a group of seven people on a packaged trip which included airfare, hotels, tours, and most meals. All my companions had traveled widely and were prepared to cope with problems that would have baffled the novice. From our experience, for example, it is about one in three that you will not be

met as promised by a local representative at the airport. You must make it through the jumble of forms for customs and immigration on your own. You must change money and arrange transportation to your hotel for you and your baggage. Three times it was necessary to convince the hotel that we belonged there. Also, it is an even bet that the local representative and his bus will be late for any arranged activity--a tour, transportation to the airport, or going out for dinner.

The greatest obstacle to independent travel is cost. With a group you receive discounts on fares and accommodations that would otherwise be out of the price range of all but the most affluent. Even with the group rate this was the most expensive trip I have taken in my twenty-three years of traveling to one hundred and two countries. It cost nearly \$3,000 for three weeks.

THE TRIP

Guinea: Guinea, the first French colony to achieve independence in West Africa, was my unscheduled first stop. The fly-blown, broken down, delapidated airport at Conakry was my introduction to West Africa. Cattle grazed along the runway and a large crowd was on hand to gape at our arriving plane. What I didn't know was there was a reason for the crowd.

Disembarking from our flight was a group of U.S. Steel officials who had come to make a deal for iron ore. President Toure' had come to the airport to personally greet them. He passed through the airport building like a ward politician, shaking hands (including mine) as he moved toward the American delegation.

One other thing to note from my short visit was the evidence of the aid that the Soviet Union has extended Guinea. There were a number of Soviet automobiles and trucks in the airport lot and a few Soviet short-range passenger planes on the field.

Liberia: I arrived late at night at Roberts Field Monrovia. I was able to catch a ride with the off going police shift into town, which is forty miles away. As we approached the capital toward 1 a.m. I noticed dozens of upper income houses with completely lighted exteriors for protection against break-in. I've seen burglar protective measures before, but nothing like that.

The next day, having caught up with my group, we toured the city. Among the places visited was the U.S. built J.F.K. hospital. U.S. ties with Liberia are still strong and American money, both public and private, keeps the nation from going on the rocks.

Ivory Coast: Abijan, the capital, is the finest city in West Africa. It is modern, well planned, and clean. It reflects the fact that Ivory Coast has the highest per capita income in West Africa. This is the result of the stability of the government of President Houphet-Boigny and its encouragement of foreign investment. It is also the result of Ivory Coast overcoming the lack of harbor problems. A channel cut through the coastal sand bar into a natural lagoon has given Abijan an excellent deep water facility.

After a day in Abijan we flew north to the interior town of Man. During two days there we visited a half dozen villages in the area between Man and Guessesso. We observed local industries, customs, markets, handicrafts, and entertainment. This interior area is changing rapidly. Development money has built schools, offices, and roads. The traditional round hut with a thatched roof is giving way to cement block and corrugated roofs.

Togo: Our next stop Lome, Togo brought our first encounter with a military dictatorship. President Eyudema whose face is omnipresent (every employee of the hotel

wore a lapel botton with his picture), is so insecure that he has moved out of the presidential palace in town and lives with his troops at an army post.

We have already noted that there is friction between Togo and its neighbor Ghana over the aspirations of the Ewe people. Increasing the tension is the fact that Ghana is constructing a complex of building within a quarter of a mile of the border, which is marked by a twelve foot fence. What the Togo people can't figure is whether the structure is a fort or a shopping center. In any case, there is concern.

While we touring the under construction University of Togo, our guide comment on the fifteen or so faculties that were going to be established. He added with a smile, "There will be no political science department."

Benin: We had only a day visit in this Marxist paradise. Our goal was a visit to the village of Ganvie which is built on wooden piles in a large lagoon. The people moved to that location a couple of hundred years ago to escape their enemies and have remained. The problem was getting there and back to Lomé.

We were required to have special visas, which were late in arriving, so we had a late start. At the border we were delayed an hour as a soldier-clerk laboriously entered our names, passport numbers, and occupations in a log. Then the hectic ride to Ganvie some sixty miles east. We were

stopped five times at road blocks by machine gun totting, fatigue clad soldiers. There was no particular difficulty, but automatic weapons have a tendency to make me nervous. After our most interesting visit to Ganvie there was the scramble to get back before the border closed for the night. We made it with fifteen minutes to spare. After this experience I understand better the U.S. State Department recommendation on travel to Benin -- "Don't go."

Ghana: Our stop in Accra, Ghana was in many ways a disaster, but altogether an unparalleled learning experience. It was independence day when we arrived and we were not met at the airport. Good travelers that we were, we found our way to the hotel. Five years ago the Ambassador Hotel was the finest in Ghana. Today it is a shell ready for the wrecking ball. Nothing works: neither plumbing nor lights; neither phones nor airconditioners.

Prices in Ghana would have to be among the highest in the world. This is the result of President Acheampong's absolute refusal to revalue the cedi, which is four or five times over-priced. The result of this is a thriving black market in dollars and gross over-pricing. As an example, six of us went to a Chinese dinner (no meals were included in Ghana) and the bill was \$180 -- \$30 each.

For me, as an historian, Ghana was one of my most important stops. We were able to visit Cape Coast Castle, Elmina, and Ft. Amsterdam. All of these were important

European slave trading posts during the colonial era and have been kept in an excellent state of preservation. Also, after being granted special permission, I was able to get some excellent pictures in the Ghana National Museum.

Finally, I would note Acheampong's power is ever-present in Accra. There was a large body of troops stationed across from the university to overawe the students. Across from the hotel about thirty soldiers resided in tents and in the lobby there were always six or eight policemen.

Sierra Leone: In Freetown we stayed at a new hotel that was officially dedicated by President Stevens the day we arrived. The facilities are excellent, but one has the feeling of being in a luxurious prison. The grounds are surrounded by a high wire fence with police at all entrances. The grounds were patrolled day and night. I gave a shirt to the man who made up my room and then had to write a note so that he could get it off the grounds. We were told it would be unsafe to venture into town alone in broad day light.

The city tour consisted of the usual monuments and markets, with the addition of a diamond cutting facility. The national stadium was built by the Chinese.

One tragic story must be noted. A bus load of employees of a nearby hotel hit a tree the day we arrived.

Twenty-two were injured, including, most seriously, those sitting near the front. Their legs were smashed. To care for them there was one orthopedic surgeon in the entire country -- he was on vacation.

The Gambia: This minute country has enjoyed a tourist mini-boom since the publication of Roots. However, it is still underdeveloped and literally living on peanuts. Banjul, the capital has little of note, but our visit to the rural areas was most interesting.

We had another crisis as we prepared to leave Banjul and cross the Gambia river to Senegal. We were prepared to board the ferry when we were told we would need visas -- we had none. So to the Senegalese consulate, an hour of waiting, and ten dollars. By the time we got back to the dock we had lost our place in line and missed the ferry. Another two hours of waiting. When the ferry returned, some four hundred people and ten cars boarded a vessel that shouldn't have been carrying half that number. The hour crossing was a nightmare. You could not move, the little tub rolled, and a two foot wave would have capsized it. The only life belts I saw were for children under sixty pounds.

Senegal: As we drove the hundred miles to Dakar it became clear we were nearing the Sahara Desert. The landscape became more dry and flat with herds of long horned cattle grazing in the scrub vegetation.

Dakar was the capital of French West Africa during the colonial period and clearly shows its history. It is modern, cosmopolitan, and growing. Its public buildings are the finest in West Africa. For me, its national museum was of most interest. Its collection of African art was the best of all I had seen.

Goree, an island in Dakar harbor was the highlight of the visit. It was for two hundred years a slaving post and has been preserved as a monument to that infamous traffic.

Finally, I have written of the high costs in West Africa, but let me give some examples. The minimum for dinner is twelve or thirteen dollars; a hamburger \$5.00; a dish of strawberries \$6.00; a liter of bottled water \$4.00; a fifth of whisky \$35.00. In Dakar I checked a grocery store with the following charges: 5.3 ounces of chocolate chip cookies \$2.00; frozen peas \$2.50; and, six hot dogs \$2.50.

EUROPE

During my sojourn in Europe I used London as a base of operation. From there I made excursions to Edinburgh, Cambridge, Colchester, and crossed the Channel for five days in Paris. The places I visited are listed below.

London: Imperial War Museum

Army Museum

City of London Museum

British Museum

National Art Gallery

Science Museum

St. Pauls Cathedral

Naval Museum, Greenwich

Clipper ship Cutty Sark

I also attended seven stage productions

Edinburgh: The Royal Mile

The Tollhouse

Edinburgh Castle

John Knox House

Hollyrood House

Cambridge: Peterhouse

Fitzwilliam Museum

Kings College

Trinity College

St. Johns College