

## Editorial Board

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## Editorial

*Mila* was launched in 1970 as a newsletter of the Institute of African Studies. The Newsletter started in the same year that the Institute was created as a separate entity from the Institute for Development Studies. The new Institute was given the mandate to carry out research and publish on traditional african cultures, with specific emphasis on oral tradition, material culture, prehistory, cultural anthropology and linguistics. The Institute has carried out this responsibility with dedication and distinction. There are now many monographs and papers on the institution, rituals and material culture of African societies resulting from research carried out by the Fellows and Associate fellows of this Institute.

In 1986, the Institute of African Studies was transformed from a purely research institution into a research and teaching institute when it started an undergraduate programme in Anthropology. Three years later, post-graduate programmes were started in the same field, both at diploma and masters levels. We also run a PhD programme. The establishment of the post-graduate programmes has meant intensification of research in various areas of Anthropology. The results of these researches have not been made available to schools worldwide because of lack of publishing opportunities. The publication of *Mila* has been erratic since 1976. The various issues began appearing two years later and as we entered the 1980s, the situation got worse. In fact, the last issue of *Mila* appeared in 1984 and it was with this in mind that an appeal was made in mid-1994 to the Annual Conference of the Japan Association for African Studies for financial assistance to enable the Institute not only to revive the publication of *Mila* but also to transform it to a refereed journal. This is, therefore, the first issue of the journal *Mila* and will henceforth be titled *Mila (N.S.)*, the letters 'N.S' denote 'New Series' and will distinguish it from the Newsletter.

Although this volume contains only one article from a former student of this Institute, it is hoped that the next issue will mostly contain contributions from our former students. Thereafter, we intend to open the journal to contributors from outside the Institute.

The publication of this first issue of the new *Mila* has been made possible by generous funding from the Japan Association for African Studies. On behalf of the Editorial Board and the Institute of African Studies, I would like to gratefully acknowledge this financial assistance. I would also like to take this opportunity to appeal to other well-wishers to assist us financially so we can continue to publish the journal.

**Editor**

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