Professor R. Mansell Prothero died peacefully on 24 December 2013, aged 89, at his lovely home, Vine House, in Neston, Merseyside. Mansell was a proud and devoted family man, much missed by his six children and their partners, 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased in 2003 by Peggy, his wife of over 50 years.

Ralph Mansell Prothero was born and brought up in Merthyr Tydfil, and in 1942 followed the well-trodden path of many grammar school boys from the valleys to read Geography at Aberystwyth University College, taking his degree in 1945, a teaching diploma in 1946 and his MA on Cultural contacts between the Bristol Channel lowlands in prehistoric times in 1947. He was appointed Assistant in the Department of Geography at Edinburgh, working especially with Ronald Millar, who in 1950 persuaded Mansell to apply for a lectureship in the newly founded Department of Geography at Ibadan University College, where he was till 1954, with a Research Fellowship in the West African Institute for Social and Economic Research for a further year. He was appointed Leverhulme Research Fellow at Liverpool University in 1955 and successively from 1956 Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, Reader and holder of a personal chair as Professor of Geography till his retirement in 1989.

Mansell’s research on population mobility and land-use in Nigeria laid the foundations for his distinguished career as an Africanist population and medical geographer. The excitement of being in that young Geography Department at Ibadan in the early 1950s, with equally pioneering colleagues such as Keith Buchanan and John Pugh, led in particular to his studies of seasonal labour migration from Sokoto, NW Nigeria, and of Land use in Soba (in Economic Geography, 1957) that were early major conceptual markers in African geography. This work was brought together in Mansell’s Liverpool PhD submission by publications, Land use, population distribution and population mobility in Tropical Africa. Studies in man/land relationships (1962). These were complemented by a concern for the implications of population movements for the transmission of disease in Africa, recognised in his consultancy secondment to the World Health Organization in 1960, and in many subsequent consultancy and lecture invitations to medical audiences. His Migrants and malaria (1965) has become an international classic for medical geographers and medical scientists generally.

Mansell’s later work was characterised by a series of influential books, often as editor or co-editor, notably his A geography of Africa: Regional essays (1965), Essays on African population (1961 with Michael Barbour), Geographers and the Tropics (1964 with Robert Steel), Circulation in Third World countries (1985, reprinted in 2012, with Murray Chapman), two books arising from IGU Population Geography symposia, Geography and a crowding world (1970 with Leszek Kosinski and Wilbur Zelinsky) and People on the move (1975 with Leszek Kosinski), and together with seven other Liverpool geography colleagues he wrote A Geography of the Third World (1983, 1996).
In Liverpool he supervised over 20 PhD students, many from overseas, and he was especially touched by the appreciation that these students presented to him just before he died.

Mansell was Head of Geography in Liverpool, 1980-85, a Member of Council of the Institute of British Geographers, 1966-69, and in 1969 was awarded the Gill Memorial Award of the Royal Geographical Society ‘for population studies’. However, the reach of his scholarship was truly international. He was a member of the Commission of the International Geographical Union on a World Population Map, 1958-64, and Chair of its Commission on Population Geography, 1964-72. He held visiting posts in Israel (Hebrew University), Australia (ANU), Mexico (Universidad Nacional) and USA (Minnesota and Hawai’i), and in several Indian universities sponsored by the British Council. He gave visiting lectures on five continents, and was an external examiner in several overseas universities, as well as in UK. He held research grants from various international sources, including the World Bank and the National Science Foundation of USA, as well as ESRC and Nuffield Trust in UK, and was a familiar and popular contributor at international congresses.

Those of us who had the pleasure of working with Mansell greatly appreciated the generosity of his personality, enjoyed his easy facility as a raconteur, and benefitted from the insights of his own work and the direct encouragement he gave to students, colleagues and his wide range of international collaborators. The range and depth of his achievements attest to the urbane commitment he brought to his scholarship.

Bill Gould, Adrian Wood, John Dickenson
University of Liverpool

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

1959  *Migrant Labour from Sokoto Province, Northern Nigeria* Government Printer, Kaduna


MAPS


1959  *Density of Population, Northern Nigeria* (1952) 1:2 000 000 Federal Survey Department, Lagos
1960  Distribution of Population, Northern Nigeria (1952) 1:1 000 000 Directorate of Overseas Surveys, London


1962  Distribution of Population, Federation of Nigeria (1952/53) 1:1 000 000 Federal Survey Department, Lagos

PAPERS, PAMPHLETS and NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

1947  Polished axe, Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan. Archaeologia Cambrensis xcix 292-94

1948  Cors Goch Glan Teifi Wales 8 615-17

1949  The Bristol Channel coastlands: early cultural contacts Scottish Geographical Magazine 65 44-54


1950  Forestry in water catchment areas Nature 166 584-86

1951  Silting in British reservoirs Nature 168 168-70

1952  Afforestation of reservoir gathering grounds Quarterly Journal of Forestry October 1-6

1953  Tropical studies: the geographical approach and the need for integration South African Geographical Journal 35 46-48

Agricultural problems in Nigeria Corona September 328-29

A university college in West Africa Yr Einion 5 125-32

Some problems of land use survey in Nigeria Economic Geography 30 60-69

1954  Our Continent Crownbird Series, Federal Information Services, Lagos

1955  Recent developments in Nigerian export crop production Geography 40 60-69

The Sample Census of Agriculture, Nigeria 1950-51 Geographical Journal 121 197-206

Problems of an African University College Universities Review 28 9-11

The population of Eastern Nigeria Scottish Geographical Magazine 71 165-70

The population census of Northern Nigeria: problems and results Geographical Review 45 579-81

1956  The population census of Northern Nigeria Population Studies 10 166-83

Population patterns and migrations in Sokoto Province, Northern Nigeria in L.D. Stamp ed Natural Resources, Food and Population in Inter-Tropical Africa International Geographical Union, London 49-54

1957  Land use at Soba, Zaria Province Northern Nigeria Economic Geography 33 72-86

Migratory labour from north-western Nigeria Africa 27 251-61

Population movements in West Africa Geographical Review 47 434-37

Land use, land holding and land tenure at Soba, Zaria Province, Northern Nigeria. Bulletin de l'Institut Francais d'Afrique Noire 19 Series B 558-63

Labour migration in British West Africa Corona 9 169-72

1958  Heinrich Barth and the Western Sudan Geographical Journal 124 326-39

1959  Migrants and malaria West Africa December 26th 1132

1960  Problems of population mapping in an underdeveloped territory (Northern Nigeria) Nigerian Geographical Journal 3 1-7

Informants and statistics: population changes in Gwadabawa District, Sokoto Province 1953-54 Nigerian Geographical Journal 4 26-32

Contribution to *Nigeria: the Political and Economic Background* Royal Institute of International Affairs, London


Problem of Somali nomads: border dispute in the Horn of Africa *The Guardian*. February 26th

Malaria eradication: a human problem *West Africa* February 11th 156 and February 18th 175

Population movements and problems of malaria eradication in Africa *Bulletin World Health Organisation* 24 405-25


Some aspects of human ecology in Africa relevant to the planning of malaria eradication programmes *WHO/Mal/315* Division of Malaria Eradication, WHO, Geneva

Sokoto Province – past and future *West Africa* October 14th 1131-32

Out of petrol in Niamey *The Guardian* 30th October

The big fish *The Guardian* [date unknown]

1962 African ethnographic maps with a new example from Northern Nigeria *Africa* 32 61-64

Migrant labour in West Africa *Journal of Local Administration Overseas* 1 149-55

Some observations on desiccation in northwestern Nigeria *Erdkunde* 6 111-19


*Rapport sur une visite au Maroc EUR-Maroc-28* Regional Office for Europe, WHO, Copenhagen


1964 Continuity and change in African population mobility in *Steel R W* and *Prothero RM* eds *Geographers and the Tropics* 189-213

Geographical factors and malaria eradication: the case of Morocco *Pacific Viewpoint* 5 182-204

Migrations and social change in Africa in *Frohlich W* ed *Afrika im Wandel Seiner Gesellschaftsformen* E J Brill, Leiden 14-34

1965 Socio-economic aspects of rural-urban migration in Africa South of the Sahara *Scientia* 59 1-7


Characteristics of rural-urban migration and the effects of movements upon the composition of population in rural and urban areas in sub-Saharan Africa. United Nations World Population Conference 1965 IV 52


1968 Migration in Africa in Caldwell J C and Okonjo C eds The Population of Tropical Africa Longmans Green, London 250-63


Nomads, pilgrims and commuters Geographical Magazine January 271-78


One-seventh of mankind on one sub-continent Geographical Magazine August 801-02

1972 Problems of public health among pastoralists: a case study from Africa in McGlashan N D ed Medical Geography: Techniques and Field Studies Methuen, London 105-18


1974 Some perspectives on drought in north west Nigeria African Affairs 73 162-69

Nigeria loses count Geographical Magazine October 24-28


1975 (with L A Kosinski) Introduction 1-17, Conclusion 375-77 in Kosinski LA and Prothero RM eds People on the Move Methuen, London

(with W T S Gould) Space and time in African population mobility ibid 39-49


State of Nigeria Geographical Magazine 48 708


1977 Persistent malaria Geographical Magazine 49 539-42

Disease and mobility: a neglected factor in epidemiology International Journal of Epidemiology 6, 259-67

1978 Perspective on migration and rural development in north-western Nigeria Conference Paper Series Afrika Studiecentrum University of Leiden
The context of circulation in West Africa
*Journal of Population Geography* 1 22-40


Contribution to *Report on the 1976 Population Census of Swaziland* Vol 1

1981 (Guest Editor) Studies in Medical Geography in Africa *GeoJournal* 5 298-390

Introduction: Studies in Medical Geography in *African Historical Demography* 2 Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh 473-86


Doencas e mobilidade: uma questao negligenciada em epidemiologia in *Doencas e migracao humana* Ministerio da Saude, Brasilia 169-81

(with S Watts) Population mobility and multilocality in Ilorin, Kawara State, Nigeria. *Liverpool Papers in Human Geography* 1

(with D Davis) A bibliography of population mobility in West Africa *Liverpool Papers in Human Geography* 6

People as resources in *Oliver R and Crowder M eds The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Africa* CUP, Cambridge 283-89


(with M Chapman) Themes on circulation in the Third World *International Migration Review* 17 597-632

1984 Some issues on population movements and health studies in *Fernando M A ed Proceedings of the Workshop on Human Population Movements and their Impact on Tropical Disease Transmission and Control* Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Malaria: socio-economic and demographic problems in *Sharma V P ed Proceedings of the Indo-UK Workshop on Malaria* Malaria Research Centre, India Council for Medical Research, New Delhi 41-52


People on the move *World Health* June 11-13

People in the poverty trap *Geographical Magazine* September 445


(with B Benjamin) The nature and scope of population studies in the United Kingdom *Biology and Society* 2 55-109

Foreword, in *Rogge J Too Many Too Long: Sudan’s Twenty-Year Refugee Dilemma* Bowman and Allanheld, New Jersey xiii-xiv

People in exile January 4; Focus on fertility June 303; Urban futures September 464 *Geographical Magazine*

1986 The people problem, February 69-73: Better times for better halves. January 7; The moving human condition, July 330; Down, down under, November 556 *Geographical*
Magazine

Foreword in Rajagopalem P K et al. Population movements and malaria persistence in Rameswaram island Social Science and Medicine 22 879-80


Interdisciplinary involvement and the importance of people in Davies W K D ed Human Geography from Wales: Proceedings of the E G Bowen Memorial Conference Cambria 13 63-77 (Previously Professorial Inaugural Lecture, University of Liverpool)


(with M Chapman) Temas Sobre Circulacion en el Tercer Mundo. Divulgacion Geografica Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico.

Mankind and the mosquito World Health June 18-19

Populations on the move Third World Quarterly 9 1282-310

Still in the melting pot, February 57; AIDS memoire, August Geographical Magazine


Problems of human mobility and diseases in Service M W ed Demography and Vector-Borne Diseases CRC Press, Baton Roca 1-17

1990 (Guest Editor): Labour recruiting organizations in the developing world: Introduction 221-28 International Migration Review 24

Perspectives on census data for migration measurement in Fetter B ed. Demography from Scanty Evidence: Central Africa in the Colonial Era Lynne Reider, Boulder 143-59

Migration and health African Population Studies 4 59-74


Notes on the health of pastoralists in Stone J C ed Pastoral Economies and Long-Term Responses to Drought African Studies Group, University of Aberdeen 45-51


1994 Reproductive revolution The Galton Institute Newsletter 13 2-4


Malaria in the nineties Geography 80 411-14

Migration and AIDS in West Africa Geography 81 374-77

Migration and malaria in Carosi G and Castelli F eds Handbook of Malaria Infection in the Tropics Quaderni di Cooperazione Sanitaria No 15 Associazio Italiana Amici di Raoul Follereau, Organazione per la Cooperazione Sanitaria Internazionale, Bologna 227-36

1995 Malaria in Latin America: environmental and human factors Bulletin Latin American Research 14 357-65

1997 Circular mobility in part of the West African dry zone in Clarke J I and Noin D eds
On the populousness of Africa: an eighteenth-century text Population and Development Review 24 601-08

John Hippisley on the populousness of Africa: a comment Population and Development Review 24 609-12

1999 Malaria, forests and people in Southeast Asia Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography 20 76-85

Health hazards and wetness in tropical Africa Geography 85 335-44

Malaria and the importance of people Development in Practice 11 86-91

Migration and malaria risk Health, Risk and Society 3 19-38

2002 Malaria and development I: overview Progress in Development Studies 2 53-58

Population movements and tropical health Global Change and Human Health 3 20-32

2003 Malaria and development II: recent initiatives Progress in Development Studies 3 65-70

2004 Fifty years a population geographer Population Geography 25 1-6

Malaria and development III: in the future Progress in Development Studies 4 143-47

Hippisley, John (bap.1729, d. 1766) New Dictionary of National Biography Oxford University Press 13360

Malaria: some recent developments Geography 90 180-85

Reproductive revolution – update The Galton Institute Newsletter 56 2-4

2005 Editor. This Changing World; Studies in Medical Geography: an introduction Geography 92 148-60

Selected publications

Prothero RM 1957 Land use at Soba, Zaria Province, Northern Nigeria Economic Geography 33 72-86

Prothero RM 1957 Migratory labour from north-western Nigeria Africa 27 251-61


Prothero RM ed 1969 A geography of Africa: Regional essays on fundamental characteristics, issues and problems Routledge, London


Kosinski LA and Prothero R M eds 1975 People on the move Methuen, London


13 May 2014