

## The Nigerian Field

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### EDITORIAL

Volume 78 2013 in 2014! A new editor and not enough articles, it seemed at some point we were not going to publish this particular volume. But it is now published and I thank the Ibadan Branch for many of the papers. Their submissions arose from lectures delivered during the Ibadan Branch lecture series, which is vital part of their branch activities.

The years 2012 and 2013 were marred by the passing of two key members of the Nigerian Field Society: our newly appointed journal editor, Professor Emmanuel Obot, who died in the Dana air crash in June 2013; and six months later (January 2013), we lost Fr. Joseph Kenny. Both members were instrumental in getting the journal out. A big thank you to Dr. Pat Oyelola, our former editor, who helped to edit/proofread many of papers in this volume.

The passing of these key members should be a wake up call for younger members to take up the gauntlet. It is hoped that the new branches in Warri and Umudike and the revival of the Abuja Branch will spur the formation of other new branches, and thereby provide additional sources of material that will let us serve an ever rich content to our readers.

The scientific/environmental and cultural issues covered in volume 78, show the breadth and depth of the society's interests. The first paper on "edible insects" by Professor Ivbijaro is an informative presentation on this important source of protein and trace minerals; likewise Professor Sridhar and Dr Hammed look at the usefulness of weeds and their value to human habitats. Dr. E. O. Bright and J. Yisa's paper on the habitat use of the Allen's Gallinule (*Porphyrio alleni*) in the Middle Belt brings in a contribution from a part of Nigeria we do not often hear from. On the cultural front, *From Shrines to Modern Walls* by Stephen Folaranmi and Olusegun Ajiboye is a virtual history of Ife mural art at the university. *Burying the Dead and Identifying the Living* by Josiah Olubowale is a fascinating study of how the Yoruba gods have been incorporated into the burial rites among the African communities in Trinidad. Volume 78 ends with a picturesque travelogue on Offa, Kwara State, which is reminiscent of articles in earlier volumes of the Field.

Finally, we wish to thank all the contributors (including our reviewers), especially the newly constituted Editorial Board, headed by Dr Pat Oyelola. We also sincerely appreciate the support of the vice president, Dr Joyce Lowe and Chris Bankole and her staff at BookBuilders for the typesetting, layout and proofreading of this issue.

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Editor