

Some notes by Graham Hedderley for John Osire, in answer to his questionnaire

Biographical

Born 1930 in Southend-on-Sea, Essex, U.K.

Secondary Education:-

The Priory School, Threwsbury (for 4 terms during World War II when schoolchildren were evacuated from Southend owing to the threat of bombing & of invasion).

Southend High School for Boys.

National Service:-

Royal Army Ordnance Corps, including service in the Suez Canal Zone & in Aqaba, Jordan.

University:- University of Oxford (St. Edmund Hall)

B.A. (Hons.) in Modern History, M.A., Diploma in Education

Teaching experience prior to Jeso College:-

Eleven years at Rickmansworth Grammar School, teaching History & R.E., & becoming Senior History Master.

Jeso College, Aloet.

Both to widen my experience & to make some small contribution to the developing world I applied for service in Uganda under the British Overseas Aid Scheme, & was posted to Jeso College in Jan. 1966.

In Nov. 1967, on the retirement of Mr. Jones, Mr. F. C. Thomas became Acting Headmaster & I was appointed Acting Deputy Headmaster.

In March 1968, Mr. A. K. Ziberondwa having been appointed Headmaster & Mr. F. C. Thomas having

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returned to the U.K., I was appointed substantive Deputy Headmaster.

From Sept. to Dec. 1969 I was Acting Headmaster while Mr. Ziberondwa was in the U.S.A. on study leave. One of the outstanding events of Mr. Ziberondwa's Headship was a visit to the College by President Milton Obote, Mr. Ziberondwa was closely associated with Dr. Obote & I believe, a personal friend.

Jan. 1971. Shortly after Idi Amin's coup d'état, Mr. Ziberondwa left for Nairobi. This was not unusual, as he was a member of the Board of East African Airways & had to attend meetings there from time to time. However, I very soon had a telephone call, followed by a letter, from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, telling me that Mr. Ziberondwa had been suspended from duty & that I was to take over as Acting Headmaster until further notice.

Aug. 1971. Mr. Ziberondwa returned, having been re-instated in the Teaching profession, but at the end of the month was appointed Director of the National Teachers' College, Kyambogo. I was again confirmed as Acting Headmaster & remained so until Jan. 1972, when I was appointed substantive Headmaster of Moyro Secondary School.

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The other questions I find more difficult to answer after 40 years! I always found the overwhelming majority of Jeso College students to be polite, friendly & well-motivated. Their essential loyalty to the leadership of the College was shown when certain "confusing agents" (as one report termed them) attempted to stir up a major riot in Nov. 1971 by introducing frogs' legs etc. into the students' food! No doubt to the disappointment of the instigators, after the initial disturbance most students refused to get involved.

I have been re-reading an article I wrote during my time as Acting Headmaster of Jeso College, extracts from which sum up what I still believe should be the aims of the College. They are two-fold:-

- ① To train boys of ability in academic disciplines, to encourage them to reach the highest standards of academic excellence, & to enable them to obtain academic qualifications with which they will be equipped to play an active part in the future development of their country.
- ② To produce men of honesty, integrity & sound judgement: not men of uniform, stereotyped views, but of independent mind, capable of weighing the evidence on any question, & of acting with tolerance toward those of differing outlook; men who will be prudent, balanced & humane leaders in their society.

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