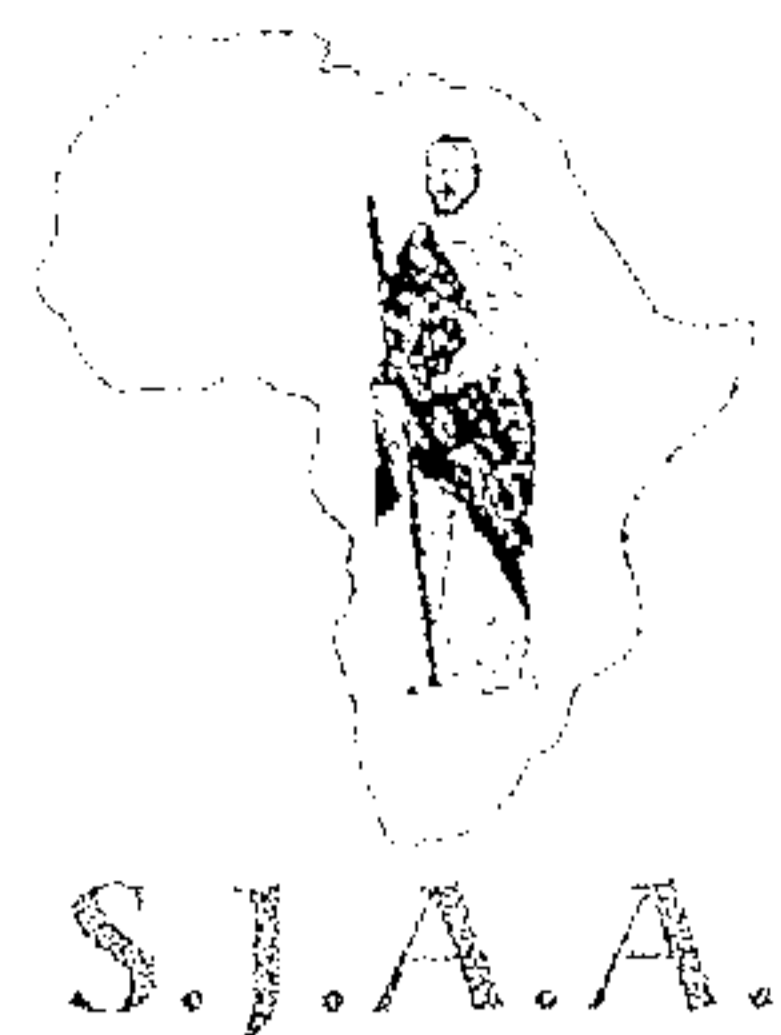


ST JOSEPH'S AFRICAN AID NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2010



SJAA are working closely with the Congregation of the Josephites who run schools and a dispensary in the diocese of Mweka in the Province of the Western Kasai. Frequent visits by SJAA to the Congo enable us to ensure that year by year we continue to make a difference.

Education and health remain our top priority.

Our annual newsletter

Once again this annual newsletter offers SJAA an opportunity not only to thank all our donors for their generosity, but also to report on the Charity's financial situation and to share the good news of our achievements. Keeping our donors informed is an important challenge for the Trustees. I hope that this year's Newsletter will bring you up to date with the Charity's organization, finances and activities. Please do not hesitate to contact SJAA if you have any questions you would like to ask or comments you would like to make. The address to write to is at the end of the Newsletter.

Our aim "To Make a Difference"



Since its foundation in 2001 SJAA has been on a steady learning curve. From the beginning we have always understood that just sending money to Africa is not always the best way of ensuring progress. SJAA has always worked closely with those responsible for spending your money to improve conditions in Africa. Africa is a large continent and the D.R.Congo is a very large country.

Our aim is to **make a difference** and that is why as the years have gone by we have tended to concentrate our efforts more and more (though not exclusively) on the territory of Mweka in the Western Kasai. In this way we can start to make a difference year by year.



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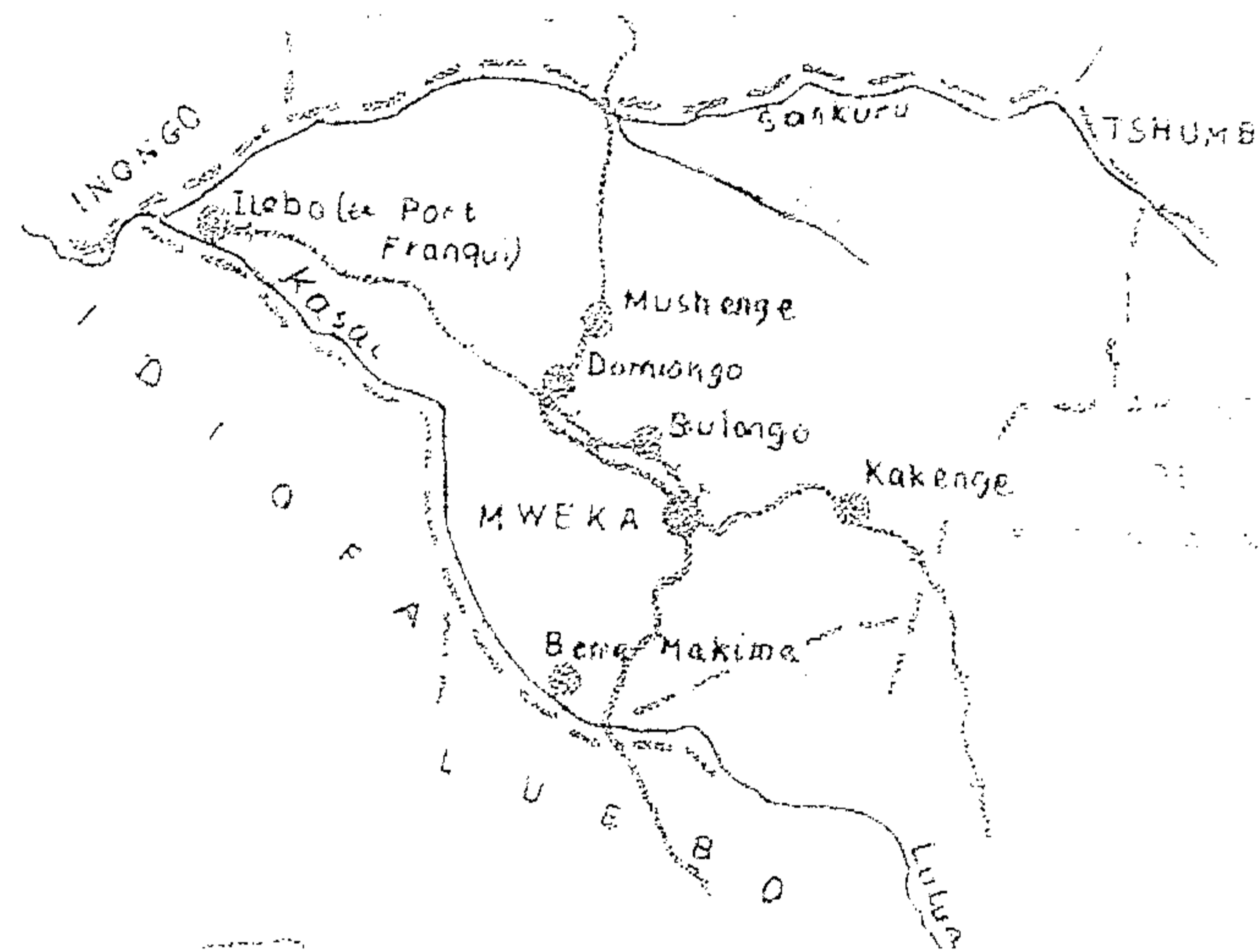
We are aware that we can only if we spend our resources limit our efforts to what is

We hope this Newsletter will we take to ensure that your properly and effectively.

make a difference wisely. We must achievable.

indicate the care money is spent

The size of the D.R. Congo compared to Europe.

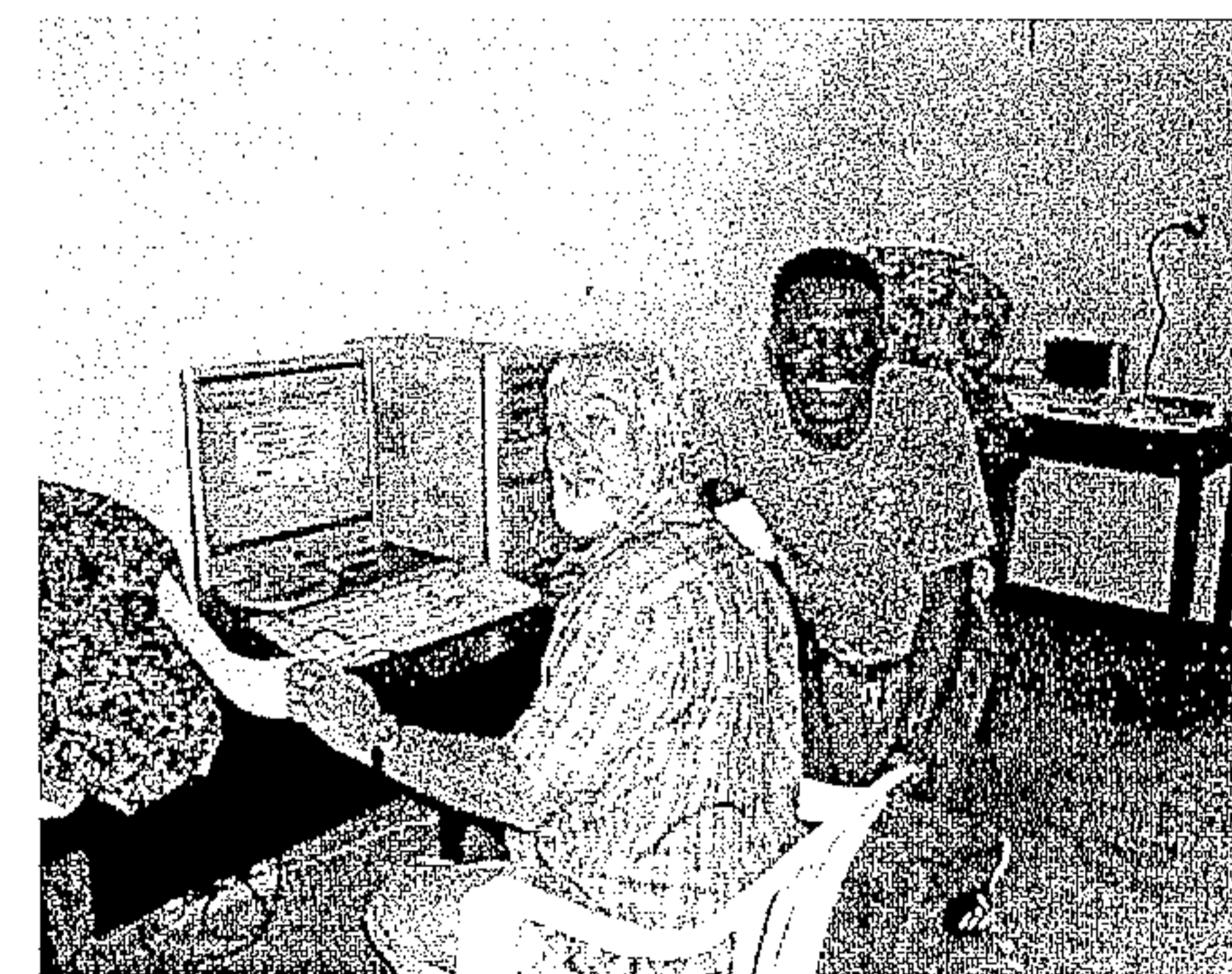


The diocese of Mweka.

A financial report from the Treasurer. Neil Twist

SJAA recently completed its 9th year. During that time we have paid out nearly £320,000 in grants to various projects in Africa mainly in the D R Congo.

Last year – the year to 31 May 2010 – we received nearly £35,000 in donations. Gift Aid tax reclaims from past years added over £5,000 to this. (We encourage all our donors to gift aid where possible).



Neil Twist at work in the Congo.

Our expenses are kept to a minimum and at a total of approx £1,000 remained low.

Last financial year we sent, or committed to send, some **\$65,000** (costing us c. £44,000) for grants last year. Here are the main grants to give an idea of the scope of the projects we are supporting.

\$16,000 - to augment the salaries of teachers in the Kasai schools
 \$4,200 - for educational supplies for those Kasai schools
 \$9,578 - Domiongo: School text books
 \$7,500 - Domiongo: Sewing machines
 \$5,100 - Ilebo (St Marie): Sewing machines & fabric
 \$4,050 - Ilebo (ITC): Anti-rust paint to protect the buildings
 \$4,000 - Domiongo: 100 school desks
 \$3,300 - Domiongo: Church repairs
 \$3,000 - Domiongo: Material for uniforms
 \$2,400 - Ilebo: School desks
 \$1,200 - Ilebo (St Jacques): School desks.

More recently we have sent a further **\$38,250** to support projects in the Kasai schools and parishes and, with your help, we hope to be able to do more before this financial year is out. Included in this \$38,250 were grants to support the work of the parishes in Bulongo, Domiongo and Ilebo and further grants to augment the salaries of our Kasai teachers, and for more educational supplies for those schools together with \$14,000 for the Art School in Mushenge to renew its equipment. (See below for more information on the Art School in Mushenge)

The Art School. Mushenge

The Art school is situated in Mushenge which is the chief village of the Bakuba tribe in the Western Kasai. The Bakuba are an artistic people, skilled in carving wood. The Art School in Mushenge was founded in the 1950's and over the decades has helped young people develop their artistic skills while receiving an academic education.



The Art School. Mushenge.

Today, after more than 50 years of existence, the School needs to renew its equipment in order to continue to form young people in a variety of artistic skills. SJAA received a request from the Director of Education in the Diocese of Mweka to provide money for the purchase of new equipment for the Art School.

SJAA has sent \$14000 for the purchase of new equipment. This equipment has been purchased in Kinshasa and sent to the interior. We hope the new equipment will have reached the school in time for the new school year 2010-2011.

Our Donors

It is thanks to the generosity of our donors that we are able to do so much in the D.R. Congo. Over the years SJAA has been able to attract the support of a wide variety of donors.

Individual donors

SJAA has a data base of some 350 donors who make regular donations.

Schools. Colleges

St George's College, Weybridge, supports SJAA in a variety of ways.

- The Governors help with the running costs of our schools in the Kasai.
- Many of the teachers at St George's contribute to a fund which enables SJAA to supplement the very low salaries of their Congolese colleagues in the Kasai.
- The pupils at St George's are always very generous. Money is raised from concerts, Mufti days etcetera. The annual *Congo Awareness Week* helps to develop an understanding of what it is like to go to school in the Congo.
- Last school year (2009-2010) 6th formers raised over £5,000 to build a dormitory for girls attending school in Domiongo.

St Mary's Rydes Hill sends money to pay the school fees for 18 girls in Ilebo.



It is thanks to your generosity that SJAA are able to support schools. Education is vital to the future of the Congo especially the education of girls and young women.

Parishes

3 local parishes (Weybridge, Byfleet, Woking) have donated money to help with the running costs of 3 missions in the Kasai.

SJAA are most grateful to all our donors for the way in which they empower us to make a difference in a very poor area of the Congo especially in the area of education and health.



Happy just to be in school.

The Redmans run a half marathon

Dr James Redman and his son Joseph (aged 14) ran the half marathon at Paddock Wood in Kent. They raised £180 for SJAA. A wonderful effort. Thank you and congratulations.



Lydia Redman congratulates her brother Joseph.



James and Joseph after the run.

Visits to Kinshasa July 2010

SJAA continues to visit the Congo whenever possible.

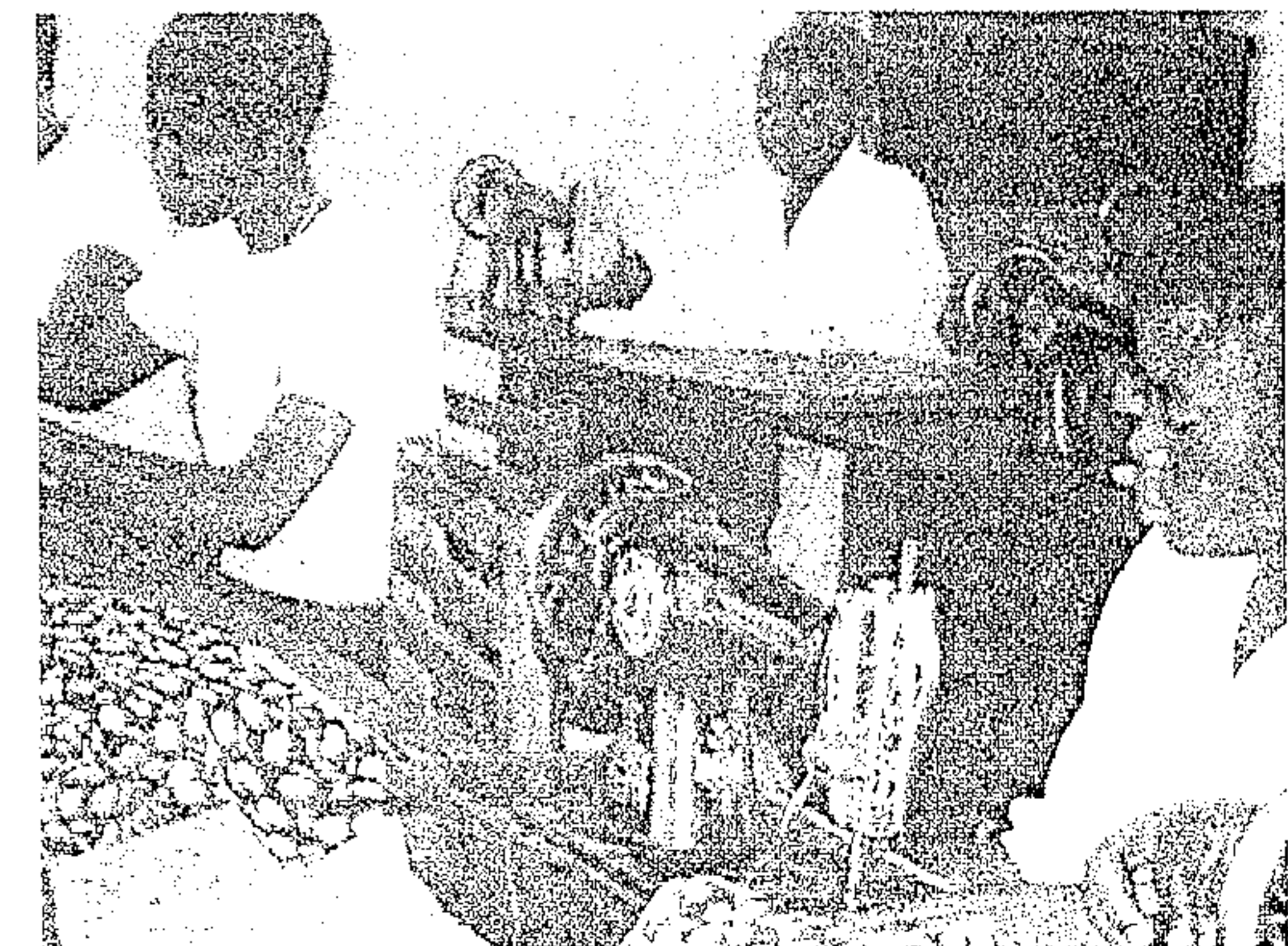


Robert Hamilton in Ilebo with a group of young women.

Robert Hamilton visited Kinshasa in July. It was an opportunity to meet with the Head Teachers of the schools which SJAA supports and discuss future projects and developments.

The schools are working well in spite of the break down of the local infra structure. There are no proper roads, no water, no electricity, very few trains etc. The continued success of pupils in the state exams is very encouraging.

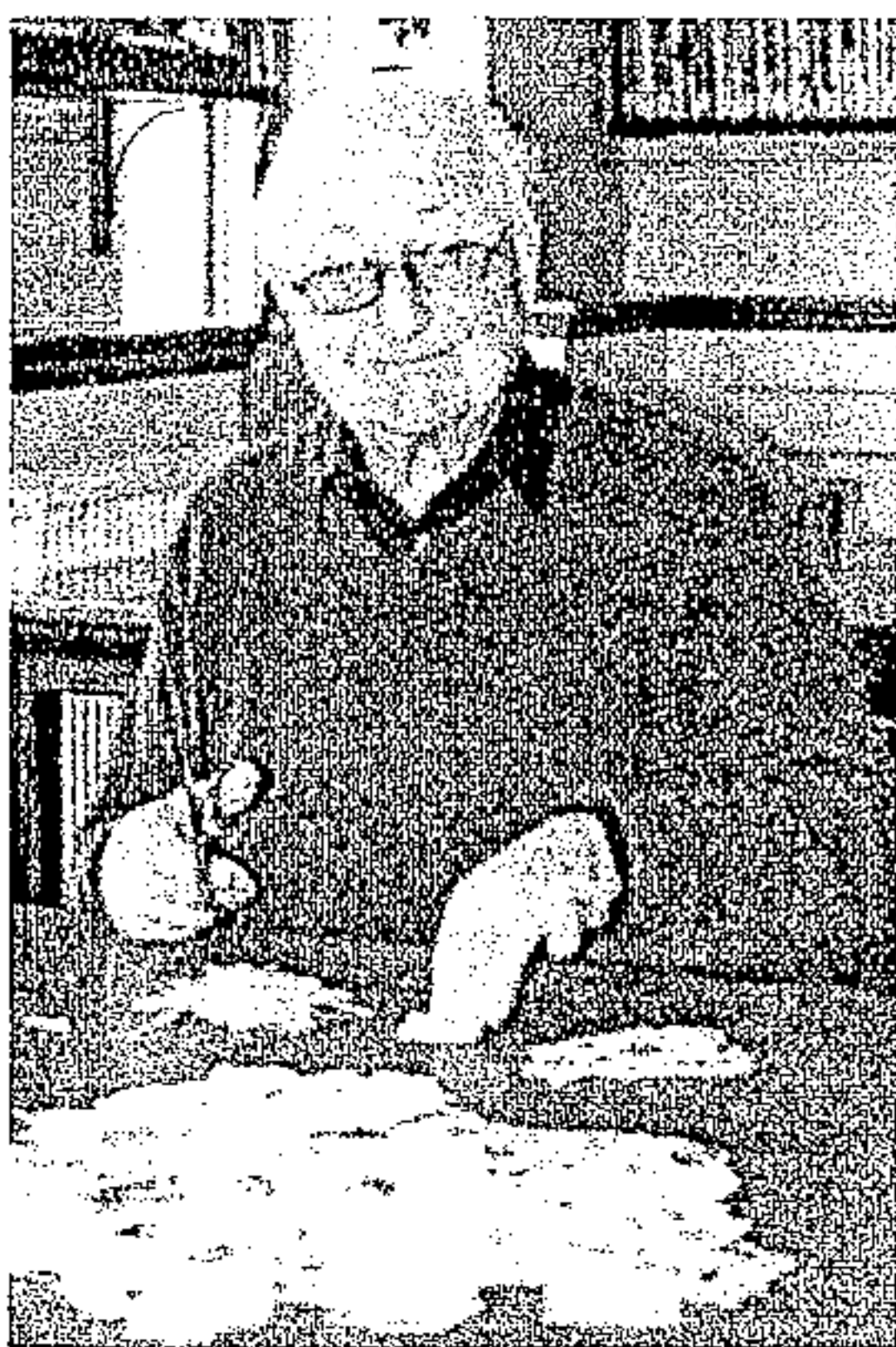
No less than 71 sewing machines were sent to the Congo. These manual sewing machines are invaluable. They are used in the Dress-making schools and are also available to the women in the Mission Centres. Another 70 await transportation.



A dress making class.

Robert was also able to meet with the Director of the Medical Centre in Bulongo to get a progress report. SJAA are working together with the local doctor and the Director to improve the medical services offered to the local population. Bulongo is fairly isolated and it is not easy for people to get to the clinic in Mweka.

Postage stamps



So much of what we throw away can be of value in the right hands.

Please continue to send in your used postage stamps to SJAA. Fr. Adrian Cadwallader sorts them and trims them before selling them. Last year Adrian raised £60 for SJAA. £60 is the price of a meal in a restaurant in England. In the Congo in some areas it represents a term's school fees.

Sums of money like these go along way in the Congo.

Please send your used stamps to SJAA, 131 Horton Road, Staines TW19 6 AF

The Trustees

The work of the Trustees.

The Board of Trustees continues to meet 3 times a year. The work of the Trustees is fourfold.

1. To make the work of SJAA known in order to raise money in donations to support our projects in Africa. To keep our donors informed about what has been accomplished as a result of their generosity.
2. To professionally manage the finances of the Registered Charity and to ensure that they are properly audited in accordance with charity law.
3. To decide which projects to finance and to ensure that the money for these projects arrives safely at its destination.
4. To ensure that all approved projects are properly carried out and our donors' money properly accounted for.

The death of Fr. Paul Connor.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of one of our trustees. Fr. Paul Connor was one of the founders of SJAA and it was his energy and enthusiasm that helped the Charity to get started.



Fr. Paul Connor C.J.

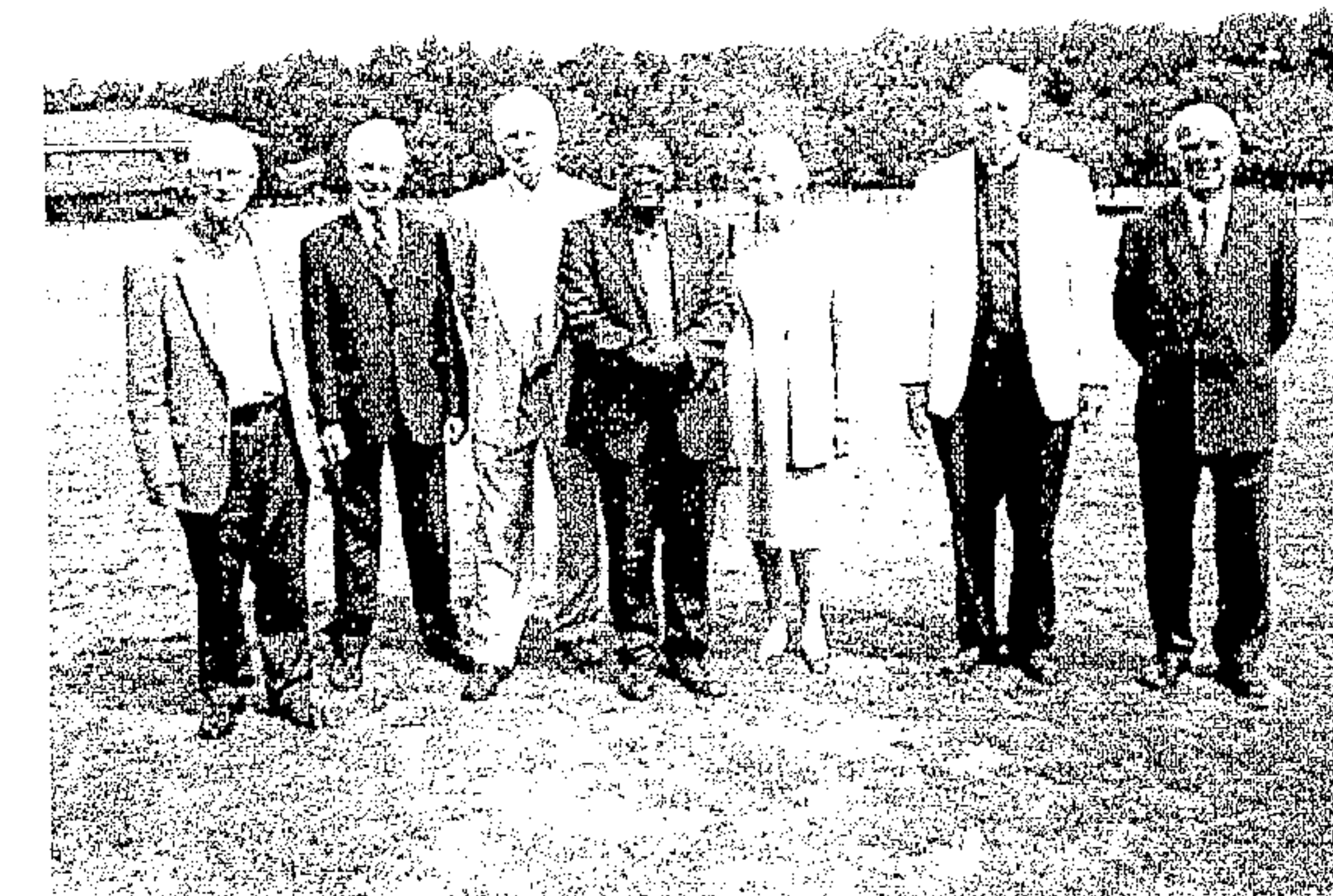
The members of the Board of Trustees

Robert Hamilton

Robert is the current Chairman of the Trustees. He visits Africa regularly and ensures a close contact between SJAA and all our collaborators there.

Neil Twist

Neil is in charge of the finances of SJAA. A retired businessman and qualified Chartered Accountant, he ensures that the Charity's finances are properly supervised and audited.



Richard Lear. David Atkinson. Martin Knops. Jacob Beya. Ann Murphy. Robert Hamilton. Neil Twist.

Martin Knops

Martin has worked for Oxfam for many years and his knowledge and understanding of the challenges facing large charitable organizations has been of immense help to SJAA.

Ann Murphy

Ann is a retired nurse with many years experience. She has visited Africa on a number of occasions and her medical knowledge is invaluable for SJAA, especially as we establish our Medical centre in Bulongo.

Richard Lear

Richard has spent a number of years working in Africa in the schools and missions which SJAA support and help. His knowledge of the Western Kasai is invaluable.

David Atkinson.

David spent many years as a Member of Parliament. He has recently joined the Trustees and brings to our meetings an insight into the different resources available to charitable organizations such as our own.

Jacob Beya Kadumbu

Jacob is Congolese and a former Provincial Superior in the Congo. He is able to keep the Board of Trustees in touch with the realities of everyday life in the D.R. Congo.

Contacting SJAA

SJAA. 131 Horton Rd, Staines. TW19 6AF. Telephone 01784 490 154.