

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Far too many people from the villages of Ikot Akpa Nkuk, Ikot Afanga and elsewhere in the southern Annang region have contributed to the making of this work to be mentioned here. I extend my sincere thanks to them for their patience and invaluable insights. I would, however, like to acknowledge my enormous debt to Obong Dr Frank A. Umoren, the Paramount Ruler of Southern Ukanafun, and his family for their generous hospitality during my fieldwork between 1996 and 1998 and again in 2001, 2002 and 2004. I also owe Imoh Frank Umoren my sincerest gratitude for his work with me during these years.

I would like to extend my thanks to those who assisted in my archival researches. By far the largest proportion of source material for this work was compiled from the Nigerian National Archives in Enugu. Mr U. O. A. Esse and his staff, including Comfort Umoh, Felicia Ibe and Isaac Iheakaram Amaechi, deserve special mention for their careful and patient assistance. Zofia Sulej and Mary-Ann Alho of the University of Witwatersrand were of enormous help in copying M. D. W. Jeffreys' papers, which are held in the library archives there. I must also mention the staff at Rhodes House Library, Oxford, at the Library of Congress, Washington D. C. and at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, for their help. Thanks also to John Cardoo of the Qua Iboe Fellowship for facilitating my access to the Church's archives held at the Public Record Office in Belfast, and to Tim Hutchinson at the University of Saskatchewan Archive. I should also like to thank Ursula Jones for permission to consult Dr G. I. Jones' papers in Cambridge. Thanks also to John Messenger, Rosemary Harris, John McCall, Ken Barnes and John Manton for their observations and personal papers. For his friendship and his translation of the Spirit Movement papers I am especially grateful to Obong Walter Idem.

Along with colleagues at SOAS, Edinburgh, Sussex and Oxford, I am very grateful to Tom McCaskie, Richard Rathbone, Axel Harneit-Sievers, Charlie Gore, Ruth Ginio, Robin Horton, Kay Williamson, Turner and Miriam Isoun, Violetta Ekpo, Martin Lynn, Mike Rowlands, Peter Geschiere, Richard Fardon and Colin Murray for their help, insight and advice. During my fieldwork I enjoyed the hospitality of the Sociology Department at the University of Port Harcourt and the Faculty of Social

Sciences at the University of Uyo. I owe particular thanks to Steve Wordu for his amiable assistance during my first months in Port Harcourt. I am grateful to the Economic and Social Research Council for a studentship award which supported my initial research and to the British Academy for a postdoctoral research fellowship and fieldwork funding which saw the project through to this point.

For encouraging me many years ago to make the history I write 'my own', I should like to thank Cliff Davies. Since I had the good fortune of becoming John Peel's research student I have been inspired by his passion for a thoroughly historical ethnography, by his intimate knowledge of African societies and by the style and scholarship of his research. Most of all, though, I want to thank him for his belief in my work and for the persistence and generosity of his guidance over the many years of this project.

My research and writing would not have been possible without the support of my parents and family to whom I will always be grateful. My wife and daughters have borne the labours of authorship and the absences of an anthropologist with humour, grace and resolve and it is to them that I dedicate this book.