

# Liberia Africa's Oldest Republic

**the love of liberty brought us here**

*Motto of the Republic of Liberia*

Liberia was founded in 1816 by the American Colonization Society. It became an independent state in 1847.

Liberia is divided into five counties: Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Maryland, Sinoe, and Montserrado County which is the capital state. The capital city is Monrovia, named after James Monroe (1758-1831) who was a president of the United States. Liberia lies to the south of Sierra Leone and Guinea, and is about the size of Iceland. It has never been ruled by a European power, a situation which is peculiar to Liberia. This Republic was once called the Grain Coast, referring to the peppers which grow in abundance.

The climate of Liberia is hot all the year round, though a wet season is present between the months of May and October. Such weather encourages the growth of bananas, cocoa, coffee, rice, rubber and sugar cane.

Liberia as Sierra Leone was founded as a refuge for freed slaves. Most of them came from the United States, so obviously they have always had a special relationship with this country. Despite this Liberia has never been a protectorate of the United States though she has had diplomatic, technical and military assistance. The capital Monrovia, as well as being the administrative centre is also the cultural centre. Monrovia has very classical views on clothing and music. They enjoy the Eighteenth century dances and reels. American fashion still infiltrates into the country and the better off get most of their clothes from New York or Paris. The women on the whole in Liberia are probably the best educated in West Africa, if not in the whole of Africa.

It is interesting to see where financial assistance from America goes. More than 36% goes on education, 18% on agriculture and 15% on improving communications. She spends a larger proportion of her income on the health service than any other country in the world except Sweden. Perhaps if this long peaceful little country continues as she is at present she might soon be regarded as the cultural and scientific centre of Africa despite her size. While her fellow Africans squabble she continues in a peaceful co-existence.

B. K. D. & A. E. N. LARTEY VA & VB



## Prison Life

Prison life is awfully hard;  
Up at seven, bed at ten;  
Although our prison is unbarred  
I would not now come back again.  
All are numbered—numbered we  
007's the one for me.

Breakfast time, the same old fare  
Lunch is always just as plain  
Not that I have time to care,  
Or even answer to my name.  
All are numbered—numbered we  
007's the one for me.

**"JAMES BOND"**  
(Captured!)