

Bahá'í Houses of Worship Mashriqu'l-Adhkár

Kampala, Uganda, 1961

Class prepared by Arthur Lyon Dahl

Bahá'u'lláh

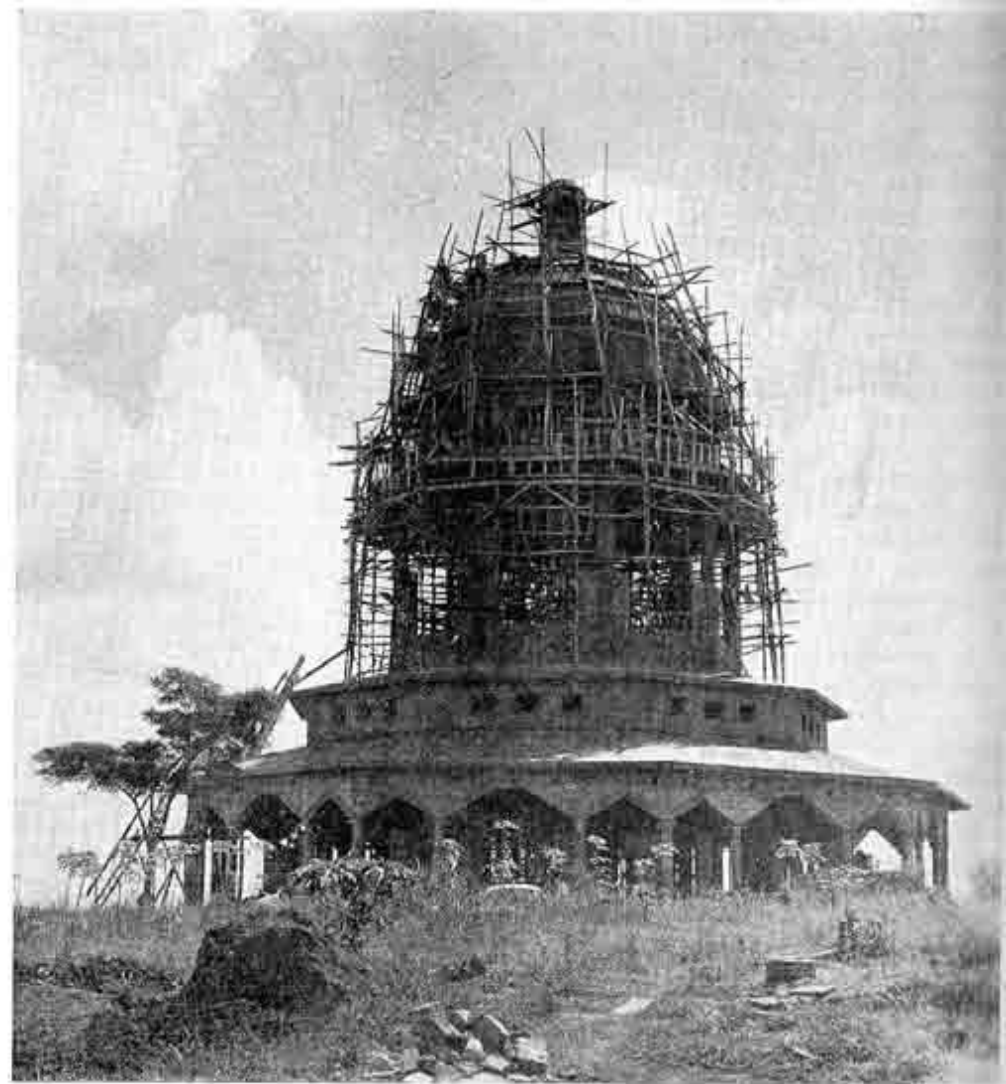
Blessed is he who, at the hour of dawn, centring his thoughts on God, occupied with His remembrance, and supplicating His forgiveness, directeth his steps to the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár and, entering therein, seateth himself in silence to listen to the verses of God, the Sovereign, the Mighty, the All-Praised. Say: The Mashriqu'l-Adhkár is each and every building which hath been erected in cities and villages for the celebration of My praise.

(Bahá'u'lláh, Kitáb-i-Aqdas – The Most Holy Book, §115)

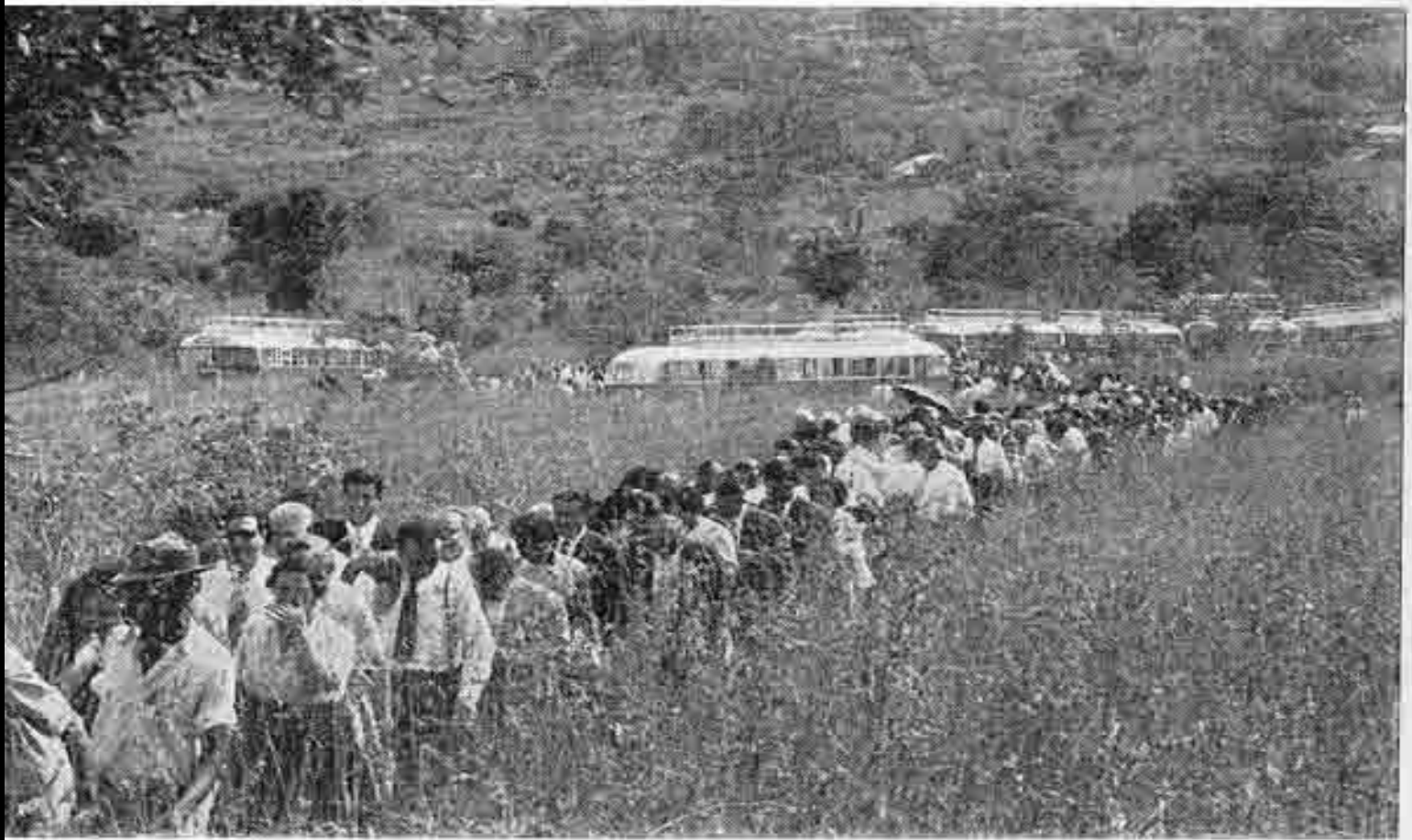


Kampala, Uganda, 1961

Building a Bahá'í House of Worship for Africa was one of the goals of the Ten Year Crusade 1953-1963. It is located on a hill in Kampala, Uganda, and was dedicated on 14 January 1961, with over 900 Bahá'ís attending. It was opened to public worship on 15 January with many dignitaries in attendance.



The superstructure and dome of the Temple, as well as the lantern, were well advanced by September 1959, as shown in the above photograph.



Bahá'ís of many races and nationalities proceeding to the Mother Temple of Africa for the Service of Dedication, January 14, 1961.

Kampala, Uganda, 1961



INAUGURAL SERVICE OF THE MOTHER TEMPLE OF AFRICA
Hand of the Cause Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum, officially opening the
Mashriq'u'l-Adhkár to public worship, January 15, 1961.

Kampala, Uganda, 1961

DEDICATION OF THE MOTHER TEMPLE OF AFRICA



Over 900 Bahá'ís from all over Africa, Europe, America, Persia and India were gathered in Kampala for the joyous occasion which took place on January 14, 1961.

Kampala, Uganda, 1961



PUBLIC DEDICATION OF THE FIRST BAHÁ'Í HOUSE OF WORSHIP IN AFRICA

A large audience overflowed the new Temple as it was officially opened on January 15, 1961. Seated in the front row left to right: The Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Central and East Africa, Mr. 'Alí Nakhjavání; the Resident of Buganda officially representing the Governor of Uganda; Hand of the Cause Amatu'l-Bahá Rúḥiyyih Khánum; Prince Henry, officially representing the Kabaka of Buganda, Mutesa III, who is one of the four rulers of Uganda; a sister of the Kabaka.

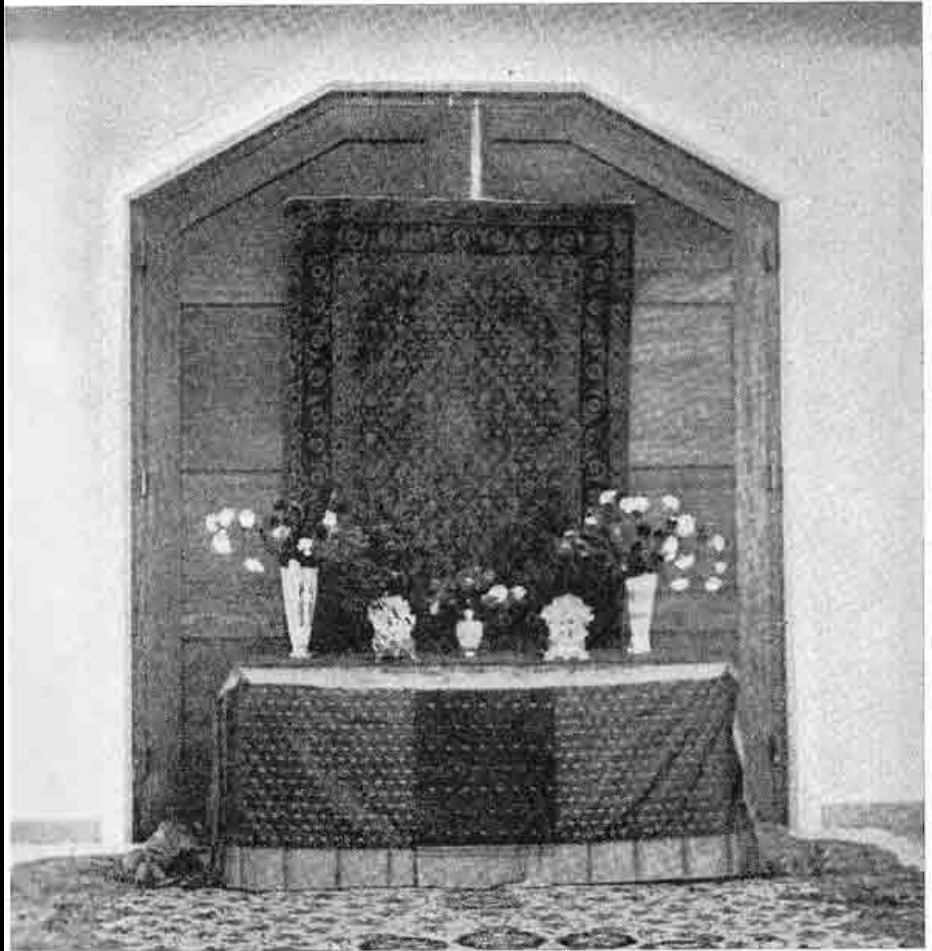
Kampala, Uganda, 1961



Prayers of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, psalms and hymns, sung by an *a cappella* choir contributed greatly to the beauty and solemnity of the inaugural service.

Kampala, Uganda, 1961

Kampala, Uganda, 1961



After the Bahá'í Service of Dedication of the African Temple, on January 14, 1961, the believers filed past these sacred portraits, which were shown at the express request of Shoghi Effendi. Behind the table can be seen hanging the rug from the Tomb of Bahá'u'lláh, which was his gift to the new House of Worship.



Bahá'u'lláh

Prayer for the Mashriq'-l-Adhkár

Blessed is the spot, and the house,
and the place, and the city,
and the heart, and the mountain,
and the refuge, and the cave,
and the valley, and the land,
and the sea, and the island,
and the meadow where mention
of God hath been made,
and His praise glorified.

—Bahá'u'lláh