Birds are singing and flowers are blooming - spring is here, and members of the Africana Librarians Council (ALC) are once again getting ready for their annual spring meeting, this year hosted by SUNY Albany, and coordinated by Deborah LaFond (Social Science bibliographer at SUNY Albany). On this spring’s agenda are various cooperative initiatives of ALC committees (Bibliography, Cataloging, Book Donation committees, as well as the Title VI librarians group), and CAMP (Cooperative Africana Microform Project). Look for news from the spring meeting as well as various other CAMP news in the May/June issue of Africana Libraries Newsletter.

The current issue includes minutes from last year’s spring meeting in Bloomington, IN, and from the fall meeting in Houston, TX, as well as other news from the Africana libraries world. Contributors to this issue include Karen Fung, Joe Lauer, Joe Caruso, Ken Lohrentz, Tatiana Barr, and Lauris Olson.

Contributions for the next issue of ALN are currently being accepted.
African Libraries Newsletter No. 107  Dec/Apr 2001-02

ALC Cataloging Committee
Meeting Minutes  (Abbreviated Minutes)

Wednesday, November 14, 2001
1:00-2:45 pm, Houston, TX

Present: Jim Armstrong (Library of Congress), Julianne Beall (Library of Congress), Ruby Bell-Gam (Univ. of California, Los Angeles), Simon Bockie (Univ. of California, Berkeley), James Gentry (Library of Congress), Miki Goral (Univ. of California, Los Angeles), Margaret Hughes (Stanford Univ.), Joseph Lauer (Michigan State Univ.), Robert Lesh (Northwestern Univ.), Peter Limb (Michigan State Univ.), Ken Lohrentz (Univ. of Kansas), Peter Malanchuk (Univ. of Florida), Emilie Ngo-Ngulidol (Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison), Lauris Olson (Univ. of Pennsylvania), Loumona Petroff (Boston Univ.), Shoshanah Seidman (Northwestern Univ.), Paul Steere (Library of Congress, Nairobi), David Westley (Boston Univ.).

On behalf of the Dewey editorial team, Beall submitted two queries in advance of the meeting. The first was concerned with Dewey Historical Periods for Africa and included some proposed new submissions for the 1960s, mostly for post-1960 but also for the precolonial period for some countries. Lesh and others had numerous suggested improvements and questions. The second query involved Table 5 (Ethnic and National groups); and there was less discussion on what was an already fine draft.

Africana Subject Funnel (Lauer)

a. Progress: The ALC Prest 2001 report (distributed at meeting and to be posted on web) lists the 21 new subject headings and 8 revised headings that had been submitted since the last report in Fall 2000. An unofficial list of 48 headings in various stages of editorial review was also distributed.

b. Procedures and problems: Briefly reviewed the procedures in place and agreed that future drafts would be submitted as flat files rather than as attachments. The general absence of comments or timely objections was noted. Lauer continued use of James Olson’s The peoples of Africa: an ethnohistorical dictionary. Lemb proposed that Lauer write again with documentation on this issue. The majority of new Africana subjects on LC’s Weekly Lists (available at: http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cps05/cps05.html#subject) continue to come either from LC or from other libraries who chose to evade the peer review that is offered by the ALC subject funnel. In most cases, these libraries do not have catalogers who are ALC members.

c. Priorities: The coordinator plans to give priority to headings eliminating pejorative terms, new historical periods with literary warrant, and form headings not needing much review.

Lauris Olson reported on Penn’s recently completed survey for the North American National Title Count. For older titles, this involved converting the Dewey 10th ed. numbers to the LC system, using Voyager software. The 1997 numbers for DT1-39 indicate that not all libraries are following the same instructions.

Experiences with cataloging of PDF files from web: Stanford is cataloging many documents printed from pdf files. Michigan State has done a few and plans to expand, focusing on its own publications or those of high interest. Northwestern prints small items and puts into vertical files. UCLA considered and dropped due to copyright concerns.

Northwestern University reported two changes among Africana catalogers. Dawn Bastian is now at Colorado State University, and Shoshanah Seidman replaced Liz Plantz. During the past fiscal year, Northwestern staff cataloged 5606 titles (5830 volumes) for the Africana collection. All of the growing backlogged materials have Voyager records and can be requested for rush cataloging. They also indexed 310 new Africana conference proceedings (6254 individual papers) in the last fiscal year. The separate Africana conference paper file now has 5231 proceedings with a total of 93,189 papers.

Gretchen Walsh’s “Opportunities and Challenges in Africana Library Service: A Framework for Cooperation and Development” listed three challenges in cataloging: Backlogs, Original cataloging for complex subjects, and Institutional priorities that defer work on Africana titles. Lauer proposed the following as alternatives: Adding new or amended subject headings and classification numbers; Correcting errors or obsolete terms in bibliographic records on the utilities; maintaining and improving the quality of cataloging by avoiding both minimal-level and rush cataloging and by incorporating the knowledge of specialist librarians in the cataloging process.

ALC Bibliography Committee
Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 27, 2001
Indiana Memorial Union, Walnut Room

Present: Dorothy Ansart (Indiana), Helene Baumann (Duke U), Phyllis Bischof (UC Berkeley), Simon Bockie (UC Berkeley), Joe Caruso (Columbia), Jill Coelho (Harvard), Andrew DeHeer (Schomburg Center), David Easterbrook (Northwestern), Greg Finnegan (Harvard), Karen Fung (Stanford), Miki Goral (UCLA), Marieta Harper (LC), Patricia Kuntz (U of Wisconsin-SLIS), Deborah LaFond (SUNY Albany), Joe Lauer (Michigan State U), Bob Lesh (Northwestern U), Peter Limb (Michigan State U), Peter Malanchuk (U of Florida), Judy McDermott (LC), Edward Minor (U of Indiana), Valentine Muyumba (Indiana State U), Akilah Nosakhare (Georgia State U), Lauris Olson (U of Pennsylvania), Loumona Petroff (Boston U), Dan Reboussin (U of Florida), James T. Simon (CRL), Paul Steere (LC Nairobi), Margie Struthers (U of Cape Town), Gretchen Walsh (Boston U), David Westley (Boston U), Marion Frank-Wilson (Indiana U), Dorothy Woodson (Yale)

1. Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order by Phyllis Bischof, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Ken Lohrentz, who was unable to attend.
2. Approval of minutes of the fall meeting, Nashville. Minutes were approved with minor revisions.
3. No additions to the Agenda.
4. Announcements
   a. Conover-Porter Award. Dissemination of the request for nominations are to go out by July 1 for the 12th biennial award for publications issued in 1999-2001. It was suggested to send the announcement for nominations to International Leads, ASA News, ALC Listserv, AFBib-list, H-Africa, AAMES (ALA section).
   b. ALC Web update. Two sources have been submitted to Joanne for mounting on the Web, in accordance with the fall report. Karen Fung has volunteered to serve as liaison for electronic information sources. ALA payment requirement (item submitted to ALC Exec for discussion)
   5. Union list of Africana Microforms (Bischof & Simon) James Simon has entered into an Access database a substantial number [507] of entries culled from CAMP holdings, merged with David Herige's list, lists from the University of Illinois, UC Berkeley, Stanford, the Graduate Theological Union Library, and others. James brought a laptop to Bloomington to demonstrate progress of the database, seeking discussion and input. At present we think of the union list as a guide to primary source archives, e.g. special collections in microform, these large --and sometimes small -- collections which are hard to find in online catalogs or any catalogs, but so useful for historical research on many topics. We collectively know about them but don't know who has them and often can't remember exact citations in order to find them. Since our patrons do not have our collective knowledge, this online bibliography is intended to help them identify these tough-to-identify, often massive collections.
   6. ABPR Update. Coelho is editing the 2001 version of “Africana Reference Works: An Annotated List of 2000 Titles," to appear in the African Book Publishing Record. At present the group of ALC co-compilers includes Bischof, Bockie, Coelho, Lesh, and Malanchuk. Please send citations to Coelho, or to any member of the group, for inclusion in this annual bibliography.
7. Africana Librarianship and African Émigré Communities in the U.S. There are several aspects to this topic. First was a discussion about how to include librarians from émigré communities in ALC activities. One proactive action we can take is to invite those in the area of the ALC and ASA meetings to join us. The second issue was collecting material published by the émigré communities. Easterner spoke of a concern in Chicago (both in the public library and in schools) about acquiring material on African languages in the émigré communities. Although collecting the locally published newspapers and other publications is difficult, there is discussion with the Chicago Historical Association about this. Kuntz reported that Jim Danky (State Historical Society of Wisconsin) is collecting African Diaspora newspapers. Olson suggested sending names of these publications to Ethnic NewsWatch for possible inclusion in that product. A third issue is how to respond to questions for assistance from attorneys working on political asylum/immigration cases. Walsh suggested partnering with the Political Asylum Research and Documentation Service in Princeton. Miki Goral

8. Unprocessed U.S. State Dept. lot files at NARA. Olson distributed information about these files which may be found on the web (http://www.pards.org/phome.html). Walsh and Finnegan will work on a guide for responding to these questions.


Program of African Studies
Northwestern University
620 Library Place
Evanston, IL 60208-4110

Marion Frank-Wilson is working on a book on travel writing by Africans. This will be an anthology that will also result in a bibliography. Deborah LaFond is working on a bibliography on gender and AIDS. Greg Finnegan is contemplating a bibliography of translations in HRAF (Human Relations Area Files). Lauris Olson mentioned ERIC as a source for guides to “uncommonly taught languages” (ERIC descriptor). Joe Lauer announced that he will continue producing the Dissertation List, although it was dropped from the latest issue of ASA News. There was discussion on how to disseminate it. Caruso (member of ASA Board) and Malanchuk (member of ASA Publications Committee) both reported that the list is highly regarded by ASA members. Lauer will continue to submit it to ASA for inclusion in ASA News.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm
Respectfully submitted,
Miki Goral

ALC Business Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 27, 2001
2:30-5:00 PM
Indiana Memorial Union
Bloomington, IN

Present: Phyllis Bischof (UC Berkeley), Helene Baumann (Duke), Simon Bockie (UC Berkeley), Joseph Caruso (Columbia) Jill Coelho (Harvard, Widener), Andrew De Heer (Schomburg), David Easterbrook (Northwestern), Gregory Finnegan (Harvard), Marion Frank-Wilson (Indiana U.), Karen Fung (Stanford), Miki Goral (UCLA), Marieta Harper, Patricia Kurtz (U. of Wisconsin-Madison), (LC), Deborah LaFond (SUNY Albany), Joe Lauer (Michigan State), Robert Lesh (Northwestern), Peter Limb (Michigan State U.), Peter Malanchuk (U. of Florida), Judy McDermott (LC), Loumouna Petroff (Boston U.), Edward Miner (Indiana U.), Valentine K. Muyumba (Indiana State U.), Akila S. Nosakhere (Georgia State U.), Lauris Olson (U. of Pennsylvania), Dan Reboissou (U. of Florida), James Simon (Center for Research Libraries), Paul Steere (LC Nairobi), Margie Struthers (U. of Cape Town), Gretchen Walsh (Boston U.), David Westley (Boston U.), Dorothy Woodson (Yale).

1. Welcome (items 1 and 2 10 minutes)

J. Coelho extended a welcome to all in attendance and special thanks to Marion, Dorothy, and Ann for the comfortable conference venue and all of the many arrangements that have made this meeting possible. Get-well cards were passed around for absent members, and Margie Struthers, a welcome guest from the University of Cape Town, was introduced. Changes in the agenda were announced, including the switching of agenda items 6 and 7, and agenda items on other such agendas were suggested. Those presenting committee reports were asked to limit their presentation to the highlights. Small written reports may be inserted in the minutes of the meeting if desired.

2. Minutes The minutes of the fall 2000 ALC Business Meeting in Nashville were approved as written.

3. Future ALC/CAMP meetings (10 minutes)

As for future meetings of ALC/CAMP, proposed requested schedule of meetings has been sent to Lorne Jones, and it is identical to the schedule of the ALC/CAMP meetings in Nashville. D. LaFond announced that the spring 2002 meeting in Albany would take place either the end of April (April 25-27) or the first weekend in May (May 2-4). P. Bischof and H. Baumann expressed a preference for the first weekend in May, and this was approved. The fall 2002 ASA Meeting will take place in Washington, DC. Proposals were requested for the spring 2003 ALC/CAMP meetings. D. Woodson invited the group to Yale in 2003 or 2004. A. Kagan (absent) was mentioned as a possible meeting host at the U. of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

4. Library of Congress reports (15-20 minutes)

M. Harper reported on activities at several Library of Congress departments. In the African Section, various visitors, including Margie Struthers, were shown around the section and oriented to its activities. The ASA Africana Children’s Book Awards will take place on October 11, 2001, and funding from several sources is being pursued. One possible source of funding is the LC Center for the Book.

The LC Law Library is proceeding with the microfilming of African law gazettes to fill the gap left by NY Public’s abandonment of the project. Law gazettes from Botswana are scheduled to be microfilmed first.

There are several new publications explaining some of the Library of Congress’ collections, including brochures or guides on Africana, Hebraica, the Middle East, the African and Middle Eastern reading room, and the treasures of the Library of Congress. Development of a permanent exhibit of the collections of the Library of Congress is taking place for the Jefferson Building. This will include revolving exhibits of the international collections.

M. Harper attended a symposium at West Virginia State College, which included participation by the University of Benin. This was part of a three-year project of cooperation among libraries to highlight issues of literacy, the condition of women, and language learning, with a special aim of collecting government documents from Benin to be carried out by personnel from West Virginia State College. Computer equipment has been sent to Benin for further development of this project.

Valene Mwaliwono’s promotion has vacated her former position as Head of the African/Middle Eastern Acquisitions Section of the Library of Congress. This position will be posted but is not yet available.

James Gentner sends his thanks and regards for letters of support for the LC acquisitions programs. Clifton Gunner reported back a clean audit of LC acquisitions programs. In the past, V. Mwaliwono and Ruth Thomas have sent acquisitions statistics. ASA members were asked what further information they required. Soon statistics will be available by format and country.

K. Fung requested a list of current African newspaper titles received by the Library of Congress. Further requests by email are welcomed.

Paul Steere, the new head of the Nairobi Field Office, was introduced. He is the only U.S. national employed in the Nairobi office. The thirty other employees (22 in core group and 23-24 part-time contract employees on location in other countries) are foreign nationals and are employed by the Department of State through the Nairobi Embassy. As head of the Field Office, he deals primarily with LC regulations, the Department of State, and the local embassy, and he is responsible for paying people on time and collecting money owed. He is also in contact with LC acquisitions librarians and area specialists who travel to target countries. He carries on extensive correspondence to coordinate the activities of the Field Office. As items are ordered, a brief record is created; this record is enhanced when the title arrives and is then forwarded to domestic catalogers. P. Steere is engaged in efforts to improve the organization of the operations and his brief tenure has been smooth. He quoted U.S. Ambassador Johnny Carson as saying that the objectives of the Nairobi Embassy are the promotion of democracy, AIDS education, and services to the American community. The operations of the Nairobi Field Office fall into this last
category. J. Carson feels that the operations of the Field Office provide the U.S. with the where-with-all to solve future problems arising in Africa. M. Harper announced L.C. acquisitions trips to São Tomé, the Central African Republic, and Equatorial Guinea. She also announced the retirement of Kay Elsasser in June.

5. ASA Board report (15 minutes)

In a follow-up to the discussion we had last meeting, D. Easterbrook reported to the Board and numerous questions with Loree Jones concerning the ASA Annual Meeting papers. L. Jones has agreed to allow CAMP to make copies of the papers on a CD-ROM, and the Board will discuss the issue of encouraging scholars to submit papers to ASA. J. Caruso suggested presenting an award for the best graduate student paper submitted in advance, and re-affirmed that the Board will take the problem of submission of papers seriously in the future. G. Finnegan suggested presenting an award for the best paper faculty member, and J. Caruso will make this suggestion. M. Harper raised the issue of whether the chair of each session has an obligation to collect the papers. J. Caruso said that in the past there was an announcement to all of the presenters. G. Walsh stated that ASA must re-extend the importance of collecting papers and emphasized the utility of these papers as examples for other researchers to follow. Moreover, the papers must be available for citation by scholars. He suggested that the submission of papers should be included in the guidelines for panels and chairs. P. Limb suggested that papers could be available on a webpage, but that some scholars may be reluctant to release their research in this manner. J. Caruso will take these suggestions to the Board, mentioning that it would be good to add a set of ethical guidelines. G. Finnegan stated the importance to getting research back to Africa by sending a set of copied papers.

D. Easterbrook brought up the topic of Northwestern as the depository of ASA archives. This was originally an informal agreement, and he suggested that we should begin a formal arrangement with a deed of gift form submitted to ASA. This is not a high priority issue, and he feels sure that we will come to some eventual agreement. The ASA Secretariat is concerned about revealing any financial information. There is no answer as to whether further materials at Northwestern will be deposited at Northwestern. The last materials sent date from 1994, before the last director stepped down. P. Bischof made a motion for a joint invitation by ALC and CAMP for L. Jones to attend our fall 2001 meetings in Albany, and the motion carried.

6. ALC On Line (30 minutes)

J. Coelho raised the issue of paying $100 for the inclusion of ALA listing of Robert Balay's Guide to Reference Books on the ALC website. Should we consider the imposition of dues for this purpose or make a request to ASA for the sum? J. Lauer suggested that the inclusion of the ALA listing was not essential. There are many other things to spend money on, and we should look into the broader issue of dues. P. Limb rejected the idea of paying ALA for this information. We could simply ask the authors to update their texts and put these on the website independent of ALA. P. Limb suggested that we should just pay the $100 and forget about the revision. P. Limb stated that in the future authors could hold the legal rights to the information themselves. L. Olson asked if the $100 was a one-time payment or an annual payment, and he suggested asking for the terms of an agreement. Individual institutional members of ALC could pay the money. Valentine Muyumba will contact AMES to ask about paying for the ALA listing. G. Finnegan brought up the subject of the ALC website and directory. J. Zellers offered to check on disavowals any gatekeeper functions. K. Fung mentioned the issue of policy regarding vendors on the ALC discussion list. Vendors, who are likely not ASA members and have not attended meetings, have asked to join the list. In addition, should vendors be posting lists of books on the ALC list? Isaac Nitiakulu has asked J. Coelho about inclusion on the website, and she reiterated that we are in the business of helping the publishing industry. D. LaFond mentioned that he has received a request from vendors to draft a postcard to potential vendors. The motion passed. M. Goral suggested a postcard mailing to request email addresses. M. Frank-Wilson will bring up these possible solutions to the funding problem with the Executive Board. P. Malanchuk requested suggestions for ASA publications. J. Lauer said that he would contact David Wiley to find out the current status of Muse. Concerning the ALC Handbook, G. Finnegan asked members what they wanted to see on the webpage. He has not followed up to see if the ALC Handbook will be helpful in preparing for this year's meetings. He will send a letter to Loree Jones. J. Lauer suggested that the Handbook was out of date, and it should be pulled from the website. J. Coelho stated that we should all look at it. After a poll of the members, she could ask J. Zellers to pull the Handbook if it is so decided. G. Finnegan will call Loree Jones to find out if a fall ALC
8. Institutional Reports (15 minutes)

R. Lesh reported that Shoshannah Seidman has joined Northwestern as an Africana Cataloger. J. Coelho announced that Paul Vermouth is a new bibliographer at Howard. J. Lauer stated that Peter Limb had joined the staff at Michigan State University and will be coordinating a grant project for electronic journals from Africa. P. Limb said that the selection of African journals will be made in June. P. Limb also mentioned a proposed new H-Net listserv on Lusophone Africa and the further development of the MSU African Connectivity Project. J. Lauer reported that the African Digital Library: West African Sources Project has begun the process of identifying American and Senegalese historical resources to be scanned and put on the web. MSU staff are working closely with the West African Research Center and other units in Dakar, and trips are planned. D. Roboussin reported on his visit to the Schomburg Center, where he observed a digitization project on African sources. They are developing expertise in streamlining technology.

P. Bischof noted important archival donations to UC Berkeley and Stanford. P. Malanchuk reported that the new University of Florida president is from UCLA. There will be a general reorganization of their collections following the completion of a new book storage tower. The social sciences and humanities will be particularly affected by the reorganization, which includes a new floor within the library dedicated solely to the international area studies collections, exhibit areas, seminar and instructional classrooms, and their respective professional librarian services staffs, including African studies. There was a Gwendolen Carter lecture series held at the U. of Florida during April, 2001, on the theme of higher education in Africa. The invited presenters included five vice-chancellors from African universities. A. De Heere announced further development of the Schomburg's collections on Africa, the Caribbean area, and South America. The collection of African language materials is very strong, and many of these items are being cataloged, relying on the Schomburg's program of electronic cataloging. J. Simon announced personnel changes at the Center for Research Libraries.

D. Woodson revealed that Scott Bennett will step down as Yale's library director, to be replaced by Alice Prochaska from the British Library. Recon records are being added to the online catalog at a fast pace. The Yale offsite storage facility for 2.5-3.0 million books is now full, and a new facility is needed. Many of the papers of the Washington Office on Africa (WOA) have been accessioned by Yale; they are briefly cataloged and not in full online records. Yale will receive the remainder of the WOA papers. Other papers accessioned include James Duffy's papers. There are now provisional online records for many of Yale's African language materials. Visitors from Rwanda are expected to help set up a genocide database on Rwanda. There are two post-doctoral fellowships on Rwanda available at Emory. The African Art Database is now linked to Yale. P. Kurtz stated that the Children's Book Award Selection Committee will move to the Library of Congress. Loree Jones will send word of this relocation to publishers. There are problems in funding since many of the Title VI centers do not designate awards for children's literature and outstanding books. Wendy Simons will organize a course on library issues. There is a reference librarian from Cameroon in Namibia to work on an oral history project in cooperation with the Schomburg Center. D. Easterbrook announced that Northwestern is a lender to a major exhibit entitled: The Short Century: Independence and Liberation Movements in Africa, 1945-1994. The Northwestern loans consist of liberation posters and periodicals. John Hunwick is the recipient of a $1,000,000 grant to reformat and preserve manuscripts from Timbuktu and Zanzibar. There were visits to Northwestern by representatives from the P.B.S. American Experience Series concerning Melville and Frances Herskovits.

D. LaFond spoke in favor of funds to support cooperative projects in Africa. G. Walsh reported on the Boston University African Presidential Archives and Research Center (APARC), which was founded by Charles Stith, former U.S. ambassador to Tanzania. The Center will help to create and define a continuing role for former heads of state, and the archives will assist African nations in creating a tradition of presidential libraries. ASL staff members have talked with Ambassador Stith, and are pleased that he shares our concerns about migrating archives. The Center is still in a fund-raising stage. More complete information will be forthcoming as the Center develops. Both the Library and the African Studies Center are redesigning their websites. M. Goral reported problems at UCLA with their new online catalog. M. Struthers gave thanks to the Africana librarians who are showing her the workings of Africana librarianship in the U.S. She sees the importance of starting a listserv.

The meeting was adjourned.

CAMP MINUTES

The minutes for the April 2001 meeting are now available in draft form on the CAMP Website. Please visit: http://wwwcrl.uchicago.edu/info/camp/campsu.htm
CALENDAR OF FUTURE MEETINGS

ASA & ALC/CAMP
Washington, D.C. December 5-8, 2002, ASA Annual Meeting

IFLA Annual Conferences
Glasgow, Scotland, August 18-24, 2002
Berlin, Germany, August 1-9, 2003
Buenos Aires, Argentina, dates TBA, 2004
Oslo, Norway August 14-19, 2005

ALA
Atlanta, Georgia June 13-19, 2002
ALA Annual Conference

Philadelphia, PA January 24-29, 2003
ALA Midwinter Meeting

Charlotte NC Apr. 10-13, 2003
ACRL National Conference

Toronto, Canada June 19-25, 2003
ALA Annual Conference

San Diego, CA Jan 9-14, 2004
ALA Midwinter Meeting

Orlando, FL June 24-30, 2004
ALA Annual Conference

CONFERENCES

"African Universities in the 21st Century,"
28th Annual Spring Symposium of the Center for African Studies,
University of Illinois
25-27 April 2002

Organized by:
Center for African Studies, University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign,
USA College of Education at the University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign, USA CODESRIA

Co-Sponsors:
Association of African Universities
The Ford Foundation
U.S. Department of Education

Indiana University, Department of African Studies
May 10-12, Dowling International Center.

The conference is hosted by IU's African Studies Program. It is the conclusion of three years of activities under the theme, supported by the Ford Foundation.
AFRICA'S 100 BEST BOOKS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Excerpts from "Announcement" by the Chairman of the Jury, Africa's 100 Best Books of the 20th Century, Professor Njabulo Ndebele. Tuesday, 18 February 2002, Golden Tulip Hotel, Accra, Ghana. To view the complete press release and the final list, see: http://zibf.org/newsreleaseac.html.

The members of the Jury to select Africa's 100 best books of the twentieth century met in Accra, Ghana and have completed their task. They considered over five hundred nominations, from the original one thousand five hundred and twenty-one nominations proposed from many sources all round the world. Prior to the meeting in Accra, members of the Jury had already reduced this list, via electronic discussion, to a more manageable number. An initial meeting to set the guidelines for the process of selection was held in Harare, Zimbabwe in August 2001.

The idea of a list of Africa's 100 best books of the twentieth century came from the celebrated author Ali Mazrui at the Zimbabwe International Book Fair in 1998. His vision was to find a way to direct the spotlight of the world on the achievements of African writers who have had their works published in the twentieth century. The Jury, whose names are appended below, comes from thirteen countries representing all the regions of Africa as well as other continents. Each member has expertise in African writing and publishing generally and specifically in the areas of the different categories demanded of this project.

The books considered were in three categories: children's writing, non-fiction/scholarship and creative writing, which further divides into short stories, novels, poetry and drama. Books were considered in Afrikaans, Arabic, English, French, Gikuyu, Portuguese, Sesotho, Shona, Swahili, isiXhosa, Yoruba and isiZulu. All the nominated books were subjected to rigorous criteria and had to meet some, if not all, of these. Criteria included assessment of quality, ability of a book to provide new information or new insight, continuing contribution to debate, extent to which a book breaks boundaries, and impact through such matters as popularity, sales and public influence. The Jury was particularly concerned to ensure in the final list a balance of regional representation, gender, historical spread and genres of writing. The top twelve best books selected are listed below:

Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart, 1958
Meshack Asare, Sosu’s Call, 1999
Mariama Ba, Une si longue letter (So Long a Letter), 1979.
Mia Couto, Terra Sonambula, 1992
Tsitsi Dangarembga, Nervous Conditions, 1988
Assia Djebar, L’Armour, La fantasia, 1985
Naguib Mahfouz, The Cairo Trilogy, 1945
Thomas Mofolo, Chaka, 1925
Wole Soyinka, Ake: The Years of Childhood, 1981
Ngugi wa Thiongo, A Grain of Wheat, 1967
Leopold Sedar Senghor, Oeuvre Poetique, 1961

Special Commendation: UNESCO General History of Africa, Vols. I-VIII.

*Here follows the list of the members of the Jury:

Professor Njabulo Ndebele (Chairperson)
Ms. Wangui wa Goro
Dr. Alastair Niven
Dr. Fatoumata Keita
Professor Fatima Mendonca
Dr. Ato Quayson
Dr. Zifikile Mguni-Gambahaya
Professor Ali Mazrui
Professor Helge Ronning
Professor Bankole Omotoso
Professor Eldred Jones
Mr. Bernard Magnier
Dr. Adotey Bing
Dr. Nana Wilson-Tagoe
Mr. Samir Saad Khalil
Professor Alois S. Mlambo (Ex-officio)
Louise Leonard Retires

Louise Leonard, Middle East and Africana Cataloger at the George A. Smathers Libraries of the University of Florida retired in the spring of 2001. She joined the Cataloging Department in 1978. She was first hired as a Latin American Cataloger, but when she saw the need for an African and Middle East cataloger she embarked on the study of Arabic and African languages to enable her to catalog the Arabic and Africana languages in the Smathers Libraries collections. As Africana cataloger, she was active in the Library of Congress African Languages Funnel Project.

Louise Leonard has been active in MENSA and Latin American, Middle East, and African affairs and has had an abiding concern for human rights. She was active in professional library organizations, she brought many speakers to the campus of the University of Florida, American and international, was instrumental in founding the Arabic studies program, African Studies, and regularly published book reviews.

Her passion in life is travel and she has lived and worked on five continents and in fifteen states, and she has visited forty-nine states and over 100 countries. She has known many famous individuals: Marian Anderson, ex-President Truman, Richard Wright, Kwame Nkrumah, Che Guevara, Faisa al-Husseini, Arnold J. Toynbee, Jesse Jackson, Margaret Yourcenar and some infamous, such as Gypsy, the wife of one of the great British Mail Train robbers, who lived in her apartment building in Tangier in the 70s.

Her breadth of knowledge, many talents and skills contributed much to the academic life of the University and to its Libraries.

Tatiana Barr
Head of Special Collections
Humanities Cataloging Unit
University of Florida

Thank you to Dan Reboussin, Assistant Bibliographer, Africana Collections, University of Florida and Gregory Allen, Sr. Library Technical Assistant, University of Florida, for the contribution of photos.
Literature on Library and Information Services

The entire issue concerns African libraries and information science, examples being articles on "Five decades of Nigerian university library buildings" (A. T. Agboola), "The role of libraries in the use of African-published journals in African universities" (A. A. Alemna, V. Chifwepa, D. Rosenberg), and "Information science education in sub-Saharan Africa" (Innocent Rugambwa).

Library Management v.22, n.6/7 (2001). [Emerald Fulltext] includes two articles on Nigerian university libraries, discussing "The security of computer and other electronic installations" and "Non-tenured leadership appointments". Also, "Automation and its impact on the job satisfaction among the staff of the Margaret Thatcher Library, Moi University".

Library Review v.50, n.5 (2001) [Emerald Fulltext] Three articles on "Managing adaptation of buildings to library use: a case study of community libraries in Kenya, "Deterrents to information service for community development [in rural Nigeria]", and "Assessment of library services as a support system in the Institutes of Health Sciences (IHS) in Botswana"

Library Review v.50, n.9 (2001) [Emerald Fulltext] Two articles on "Reference service in an urban public library in Nigeria" and "Subject indexing in the Nigerian National Corporation Library: design of an instrument".


"Information science and technology in developing countries." Duncan Wambogo
**VENDOR NEWS**

**Indian Ocean Books, Maps and Prints** has issued Catalogue Number 7. For the first time, the catalogue is online. It contains 72 books, 25 maps, and 19 prints. Many other items are available at this website: [indianoceanbooks.com](http://indianoceanbooks.com). Please send orders or inquiries to Larry W. Bowman at: indianoceanbooks@earthlink.net

**Yves-Emmanuel DOGBE** sends a catalog for Editions Akpagnon, Lome Togo. E-mail: yedogbe.akpagnon@laposte.tg

Anyone who wishes to be on a mailing list for notices of future publications, please send their email address to Mr. Dogbe.

**Clarke’s Africana & Rare Books** catalogue no. 13 (March 2002) has been issued online. P.O. Box 186, Constantia, 7848, South Africa; e-mail: africana@clarkes.co.za; website: [http://www.clarkes.co.za](http://www.clarkes.co.za)

**Michael Graves-Johnston** issued catalogue 73, "African Travel and History". P.O. Box 532, 54 Stockwell Park Road, London SW9 ODR; Tel: 0207-274-2069; Fax: 0207-738-3747; e-mail: books@gravesjohnston.demon.co.uk

**California Newsreel** has issued its Library of "African Cinema 2002" catalog. Contact: California Newsreel/Resolution INC., Order Dept., P.O. Box 2284, South Burlington, VT 05407; Tel: 877-811-7495; Fax: 802-846-1850; e-mail: contact@newsreel.org; website: [http://www.newsreel.org](http://www.newsreel.org)

**African Imprint Library Services** has recently received shipments from South Africa and Nigeria. For a complete list of available titles, point your browser to [www.africanbooks.com/SAweb0202.htm](http://www.africanbooks.com/SAweb0202.htm) and [www.africanbooks.com/NAweb1101.htm](http://www.africanbooks.com/NAweb1101.htm).

**JSTOR** has announced the release of the following African Studies titles:

- **African Historical Studies** 1968-1971
- **Journal of African History** 1960-1995

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Compiled by Lauris Olson, University of Pennsylvania
NEW BOOKS NOTED


_Entrepreneurship in Africa: A Study of Successes_ by David S. Fick. Quorum Books (an imprint of Greenwood Publications Group) ISBN: 1-56720-536-4. The author encourages feedback and suggestions for a potential sequel titled _New Africa: Continent of opportunity_. E-mail: whlgeagle@aol.com

_Ama: A Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade_ by Manu Herbstein. Paperback - 450 pages; published by [e-reads]; ISBN: 1585869325 companion website: [www.ama.africatoday.com](http://www.ama.africatoday.com) The author is a South African who has spent most of his adult life in Ghana. The Amazon link is [www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1585869325/ama-20](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1585869325/ama-20). The first chapter is on-line at Fictionwise, [www.fictionwise.com/ebooks/eBook627.htm](http://www.fictionwise.com/ebooks/eBook627.htm). For links to other on-line vendors please visit the companion website [http://www.ama.africatoday.com](http://www.ama.africatoday.com) and click on ORDER AMA. The website has texts and references relevant to the period and geographical spread of the story as well as material on issues such as racism, reparations, teaching the slave trade and African participation in the slave trade.

_Islam et les pratiques cultuelles_ by Mouhamadou Makhtar Thiam. 278 pages, written in french and first published in Lebanon in 1964, the cost is 10.000francs or 14 US dollars not including shipping. See description on the website maintained by the author's son, Amadou Thiam. [http://www.touba.com/islam.html](http://www.touba.com/islam.html) Write to Amadou Thiam: amadou@touba.com

Full-text papers of _Magical Modernities in Africa_ (APRIL 6, 2001) are on the web at [http://history.wisc.edu/bernault/](http://history.wisc.edu/bernault/)

**CONTENTS:**

“Magical Politics in Equatorial Africa” (Florence Bernault)

“On Unpacking the Occult: Why We Need to Go Back to Friuli (or Transylvania for that matter)” (Luise White)

“Alien-Nation: Zombies, Immigrants, And Millennial Capitalism” (Jean Comaroff)

“Pentecostalite Culture on Screen - Magic and Modernity in Ghana’s New Mediascape” (Birgit Meyer)

**BASLER AFRIKA BIBLIOGRAPHIEN (BAB)**
Namibia Resource Centre - Southern Africa Library in Switzerland
PO Box 2037, CH 4001 Basel

**NAMIBIA BIBLIOGRAPHICAL UPDATE** No 4:2001 Compiled 7.1.2002 by Dag Henrichsen and Susanne Hubler ISSN 1422-9900.

This update covers monographs, periodicals, unpublished theses, papers and other materials as received by the library of the BAB Namibia Resource Centre only. It is selective and annotations do not imply a comprehensive treatment of the title. For more detailed information kindly contact the library at library.bab@bluewin.ch.

The **NAMIBIA BIBLIOGRAPHICAL UPDATE** is issued since February 1997 and approximately every second month. Backissues can be consulted at: [http://www.baslerafrika.ch](http://www.baslerafrika.ch)

From the Centre for Development Studies at the University of Bergen:
We are proud to inform you that a new major bibliographic work on the Southern Sudan has been compiled by Prof. Terje Tvedt at the Centre for Development Studies at the University of Bergen. The bibliography is entitled An annotated bibliography on the Southern Sudan, 1850-2000. To read more about the work, views excerpts and to order the book, please go to CDS’ pages on the bibliography at http://www.svf.uib.no/sfu/orderframe.htm. The two-volume work is the first comprehensive bibliography on the Sudan in general and the Southern Sudan especially. Costs and shipping Price: USD 195 / NOK 1750. Postage and packing per order: Norway: USD 8 / NOK 75 World: USD 24 / NOK 210
Address: Centre for Development Studies
Strømg. 54, 5007 Bergen, NORWAY
Fax: +47 55 58 98 92 E-mail: post@sfu.uib.no
http://www.svf.uib.no/sfu/orderframe.htm

Makishi Lya Zambia: Some Mask Characters of the Upper Zambezi Peoples by Manuel Jordán. CD-ROM. The CD is by the Stanford Museum's African and Oceanic Art Curator, Dr. Manuel Jordan. Makishi Lya Zambia provides a rare opportunity to see eleven different Chokwe-related masks perform in the context of two male initiations in northwestern Zambia. CD features masks, dances, music and processions held to celebrate the graduation of initiates. Lively scenes bring to life the complex character and demeanor of different ancestral masquerades. CD-ROM Order Page http://chokwe.com/order.htm

New publication from Hans Zell Publishing Consultants: Published both as a print edition and in electronic format, Hans Zell Publishing Consultants have launched a unique new documentation and information resource on African publishing and book development, The African Publishing Companion. Containing over 1,600 entries, The African Publishing Companion is intended as a one-stop reference tool that will facilitate access to a wide array of up-to-date information relating to African publishing and the book trade, and to serve as a desktop companion for quick answers to questions about the African book industries and the various players, organizations, and publications involved.

The access and delivery point of the online version is at www.africanpublishingcompanion.com. The full table of contents and the Introduction is freely available from this site, but access to the password-protected database requires registration, and purchase of the print edition. Purchase of the print edition entitles purchasers free access to the fully searchable electronic version, and free updates for a period of 24 months from date of publication of this first edition. Where possible, provision will be made for libraries and their patrons to access the online version using their own authentication methods.

The online version will be kept current by frequent updates, and new material and extra entries will be added at regular intervals.

The 258-page A4 size book (ISBN 0954102908) costs £80.00/$130.00 for the combined print and online version (it is not available separately). The print edition has been produced as a wiro-bound book and lies flat for ease of use.

For more information:
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Website: www.hanszell.co.uk. The full table of contents, and the Introduction, is freely accessible at the new domain that has been created for the book at www.africanpublishingcompanion.com and from where copies may also be ordered online.
BOOK REVIEW
by Cristiana Fiamingo

Photography and African studies: A bibliography, compiled by Massimo Zaccaria.
Department of Political and Social Studies, University of Pavia (ss. 175), Pavia, 2001.

The volume is a unique contribution in English to African studies in general, and to the photography seen as a source for African studies, in particular. First bibliography on the subject, after 5 years, since “Photographs of Africa. Preliminary bibliography” edited by Kisor, McIlwaine and Roberts, appeared in African Research and Documentation, with its 264 items, this major bibliography lists some 1502 entries – covering books, catalogues of exhibitions, theses, parts of books and articles – preceded by a serial number, which helps a lot to follow the directions of the author in managing such a useful tool of research. The work is well organised in two parts, between: [1.] “Countries”, grouping the African countries in regional areas. In this first part numerous items referring to specific countries such as Algeria, Egypt and South Africa, are organised along a chronological succession, [2.] Specific Collections of African Photographs in Libraries and Archives”. This part covers important libraries, museums and archives in Africa, in the Near East, in Europe and in the United States. More importantly, entries are completed by short descriptions or comments refering to other volumes contained in the bibliography, or to reviews and websites.

The complex work is introduced by a four-page detailed description of the research strategy and of the sources used, and it concludes with an alphabetical subject and an author index which referrs the reader to the serial numbers of the items.

In conclusion, it is worth mentioning that the bibliography is the result of extensive research, carried out in international institutes, libraries, museums and/or websites, by Massimo Zaccaria, an Italian Africanist, in the Department of Political and Social Studies in the University of Pavia. As with his first monograph, Il flagello degli Schiavisti: Romolo Gessi in Sudan 1874-1881 (Ravenna, Fernandel, 1999), with this bibliography Zaccaria once again demonstrates his interest in the value and role of photography in the history of Africa.

The bibliography can be obtained by writing to:
Dr. Massimo Zaccaria
Dipartimento di Studi Politici e Sociali
Università di Pavia
Strada Nuova, 65
27100 PAVIA
ITALIA
Cristiana Fiamingo
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA SEEKS INTERNATIONAL STUDIES BIBLIOGRAPHER

POSITION DESCRIPTION: Under the direction of the Director for Collections and Information Resources, the International Studies Bibliographer will: (1) select or provide access to materials in all formats and in all appropriate languages relating to African studies, South Asian studies, and other area studies fields (chiefly for developing countries), global health and development, and other social science fields as assigned, and advise and assist other selectors throughout the libraries in the selection of international materials in their disciplines; (2) provide bibliographic and reference assistance to faculty, students, and staff on international studies topics; (3) coordinate and, as necessary, implement user education in appropriate subject areas; (4) serve as liaison to faculty in a variety of international studies programs, including African Studies, South Asian Studies, Global Health Studies, and a variety of other international programs; (5) work with the Preservation Librarian on the preservation and conservation of relevant materials; (6) represent the University Libraries in appropriate on-campus groups and national and regional organizations, and work with appropriate faculty to support interest in international studies throughout the university and the state; (7) represent the university and the libraries in cooperative activities, especially within the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, and in exchange programs with institutions abroad; (8) participate in library committees, task forces and working groups; (9) carry out other professional duties as assigned. Depending on interest and qualifications, the successful applicant may have the opportunity to teach in an area of specialization as adjunct faculty.

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Leopold Sedar Senghor, 1906-2001

Leopold Sedar Senghor, former president of Senegal, has died at the age of 95. He was president of Senegal from 1960 until he resigned in 1980. He was one of the originators of the concept of Nègritude, which has become known as the literary and artistic expression of the black African experience. This movement has had a profound influence on the strengthening of African identity, particularly in the francophone diaspora. Throughout his life, Senghor maintained a steady stream of publications on topics as varied as linguistics, politics, and poetry.

Senghor has received several international awards as a writer and a major African political opinion leader, among others the Dag Hammarskjöld Prize (1965), the Peace Prize of German Book Trade, the Haile Sellassie African Research Prize (1973), and the Apollinaire Prize for Poetry (1974). In 1969 he was appointed member of the Académie Française.

Selected Works:

- **Chants d’ombre (Songs of Shadow)**, Paris: Éditions du Seuil, 1945
- **Hosties Noires (Black Offerings)**, Paris: Éditions du Seuil, 1948
- **Chants pour Naëtt**, Paris: P. Seghers, 1949
- **La belle historie de Leuk-le-lièvre** (with Abdoulaye Sadji), Paris: Hachette, 1953
- **Élégies majeures, (Major Elegies)**, Paris: Éditions du Seuil, 1979
- **Ce que je crois**, Paris: B. Grasset, 1988

Photo courtesy of www.academie-francaise.fr/.../fiche.asp?param=666
In this issue of

Africana Libraries Newsletter

No. 107 (Dec/Apr 2001-02):

- Africa’s 100 Best Books of the 20th Century
- Louise Leonard Retires
- New Books Noted
- Review of Photography and African Studies: A bibliography
- University of Iowa seeks Int’l Studies Bibliographer

Africana Libraries Newsletter (ALN) is published by the Office of the Librarian for African Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington and is funded by the Indiana University Libraries, the Indiana University African Studies Program, and Indiana University’s Office of International Programs. Its purpose is to support the work of the Africana Librarians Council (ALC) of the African Studies Association. Contents include minutes of ALC and CAMP (Cooperative Africana Microform Project) meetings, as well as reports on other events and resources of interest in Africana librarianship. The newsletter is mailed free of charge to over five hundred interested individuals and organizations in sixty-nine different countries.

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