ALN Survey

ALN editors periodically conduct surveys to up-date the newsletter's mailing list, i.e., to determine who is still interested in receiving the newsletter and who is not. We conducted such a survey over the course of this summer and want to report the results.

The survey was sent to over 400 subscribers in 66 countries. ALC members were not included, because the assumption was that they are all active in the field and want to continue receiving ALN.

Those who wished to continue receiving the newsletter had a choice between the following options:
- I would like to continue receiving the newsletter in printed format
- I would be interested in receiving the newsletter electronically (email required)
- I no longer wish to receive the newsletter
- The current address you have is correct
- The current address you have is not correct (address correction required)

The survey was intended to help us up-date the mailing list with those subscribers who still wish to receive the newsletter.

Only those who reply will be added to the new mailing list and receive future issues.

Survey Results:
Total sent: 433
Total responses received: 158
Total non-responses: 275

Among those who replied, 114 subscribers opted for the print version only, 24 for the electronic version, and 20 for both.

We would like to stress that only those subscribers who replied will continue receiving the newsletter. If you wish to be added to the new mailing list and have not sent back the survey, please do so by March 1st, 2003. Replies may be sent via e-mail to: Melajone@indiana.edu

Or, via snail-mail, to:
Office of the Librarian for African Studies
Indiana University
Main Library E 660
1320 E 10th St.
Bloomington, IN 47405-3907
U.S.A.

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ALC Business Committee Meeting
Friday, May 3, 2002
2:00-4:15 PM
Albany, NY
(Draft: not yet approved by membership) (Version dated 10-30-2002)
Present: Phyllis Bischof (UC Berkeley), Helene Baumann (Duke), Ruby Bell-Gam (UCLA), Jill Coelho (Harvard, Widener), Moore Crosse (Yale), David Easterbrook (Northwestern), Gregory Finnegan (Harvard), Marion Frank-Wilson (Indiana U.), Karen Fung (Stanford), James Gentry (LC), Miki Goral (UCLA), Margaret Hughes (Stanford), Al Kagan (U. of Illinois), Patricia Kuntz (Edgewood College), Deborah LaFond (U-Albany), Joe L. Lohrentz (Michigan State). Robert Lesh (Northwestern), Peter Limb (Michigan State), Ken Lohrentz (U. of Kansas), Peter Malanchuk (U. of Florida), Loyd Mbabu (Ohio U.), Akilah Nosakhare (AUC Woodruff), Afeworki Paulos (U. of Michigan), Loumona Petroff (Boston U.), Lauris Olson (U. of Pennsylvania), Dan Roboussin (U. of Florida), Natalia Taylor (Georgia State U.), Gretchen Loumona Petroff (Boston U.), Angela Williams (Sacramento U.), Dorothy Woodson (Yale), Joanne Zellers (L.C.).

Agenda
1. Welcome and Introductions. 2. Additions to the Agenda.
3. Approval of Minutes of Houston meeting, Nov. 2001.
4. Loree Jones and ALC
4a. Nominations Committee.
4b. ASA Publications Report
5. Resolution re Archives (follow-up) (Kagan).
5a. 100 Best Book List event for Dec. meeting (Caruso).
9. Thanks to Deborah LaFond and the University at Albany.

Chair Greg Finnegan called the meeting to order at 2:10 and welcomed all in attendance. Introductions followed. The agenda was presented and an additional item (5a) was added for Caruso to announce the 100 Best Book List event at the December 2002 meeting. The minutes of the Houston 2001 meeting were presented and approved with corrections. (Items 1-3)

Loree Jones (Executive Director, African Studies Association) was invited to the Albany meeting and was enthusiastic about attending. Unfortunately, she had a conflict and was unable to be in Albany. The invitation was extended to her for the spring 2003 meeting. (Item 4)

The Nominating Committee needs three candidates to present to the fall 2002 meeting: Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Secretary, and Member-at-Large. Members are encouraged to nominate themselves. (Item 4a)

In relation to ALC's concern about the withdrawal of government electronic resources from public use, ASA headquarters has forwarded a resolution expressing this concern to appropriate government officials and the resolution is posted on the ASA website. Kagan reported that other organizations were also interested in the same issue. Finnegan thanked Kagan and the other members who worked for this resolution. (Item 5)

Caruso proposed an event at the December 2002 meeting to promote the 100 Best Books List. Zellers suggested coordinating an activity with Walter Bgoya, who presented a related paper at the recent MPALA meeting. Caruso suggested setting up a working group to celebrate the list. Other efforts might be made in subsequent years. Limb suggested an exhibit at the December meeting, and we would still have the option of scheduling something else. Walsh said that no panel proposals had been received as yet, and suggested that a panel with Bgoya could be organized. Caruso was asked to lead this effort for ALC. Easterbrook said that the Zimbabwe International Book Fair could be asked to participate. Caruso was eager to initiate something and stated that someone from the Africa-America Institute had expressed interest in the project. Easterbrook said that this might be a good way to bring other organizations into the effort. Bischof asked whether this would be a panel or a roundtable. Bischof, Limb, Walsh, Westley, and Nosakhare will join with Caruso to organize this event. Kagan mentioned that Bgoya was a critic of the list but that he had much that was positive to say about it. Limb is chairing a panel discussion about African journals, and his panel could be linked to the 100 Best Book List event. (Item 5a)

Committee, task force, and liaison reports followed. (Item 6)

Lohrentz gave a brief summary of the Bibliography Committee meeting and noted that the committee did not complete the agenda. Any agenda items not covered in the meeting will be distributed on the ALC list. (Item 6b)

Lohrentz reported that the Conover-Porter Committee was meeting in Albany to review titles suggested for the award. He was pleased by the number of titles nominated twice as many as the previous year as well as the geographic balance of the titles, several of which were from Africa and one from Europe. Concerning a procedural issue, Lohrentz mentioned that one of the titles nominated was compiled by a member of the committee. She recused herself from the deliberations of the committee, and Lohrentz stepped in to fill the void. (Item 6d)

Frank-Wilson announced that the next issue of the ALC Newsletter would appear in late May and that the publishing schedule would soon be on track. Greg F. said that the group could revisit the issue of including minutes in the Newsletter at the December meeting. Limb moved to compliment Frank-Wilson for her work on the Newsletter, and this motion was approved by acclamation. Melissa Jones also contributed to the Newsletter. (Item 6e)

Speaking about the ALC list, Fung asked members to report all changes in email addresses. Bell-Gam raised the issue of allowing bibliographers to discuss issues with each other specifically intended for librarians to the exclusion of vendors. Finnegan reminded members that the ALC list is not thrown open to vendors, but that some vendors are ALC members with full access to the list. This means that at present we have no means of separating librarians from vendors on the list. Fung noted that if members wanted a separate list, it could be set up. Since it was impossible to separate vendors from librarians on any list.
the present list, a separate list is the best means to allow librarians to discuss issues among themselves. Walsh suggested that it might be beneficial that the participants be informed that they could still continue to send complaints. Woodson replied that this might needlessly upset a vendor, and Finnegan averred that there were problems of civility in letting vendors know of complaints. Woodson stated that we had entertained an identical discussion at the past meeting, and this was reflected in the minutes. Fung will set up the non-vendor list. Finnegan agreed that this was a useful communication for members. Kagan agreed with both Fung and Walsh; namely, that it was useful to have a discussion about vendor problems and equally useful to have private discussions among librarians. With the two lists, Finnegan said that it was possible to accomplish both of these goals without any further procedures, and he asked for an informal resolution to reflect this. The motion to have two separate ALC lists was approved by a 15 to 11 vote, with one abstention. Suggestions on the name of the new list may be made to Fung. (item 6f)

Coelho read the names of the African Book Publishing Record (ABPR) contributors and appealed to all of the members for suggestions of titles of bibliographies or other reference works. The listing of reference works currently appears in the third issue of ABPR every year. Others were invited to join. An effort will be made, in conjunction with Zellers, to mount the entries on the ALC website through a proctor database, which allows more flexible public access. Caruso mentioned that the African and Africanist scholarly journals. This is based at the MSU/ASA-sponsored African e-journals project through the Johns Hopkins University Press' Project MUSE, a subscription-based, full-text humanities e-journals service. However, the MSU/ASA project is supposed to make the selection of journals from Africa and (eventually) those of the ASA available free-of-charge to those African universities who sign up their journals in the project. Thanks were given to ALC members for bringing the issue of online availability to ASA publications to the fore with ASA, ASA publications will be available online. Malanchuk wondered if there would be any monetary benefit to ASA. Caruso does not know the details of the arrangements, but he assured member that the materials would be made available for free in Africa. Limb said that sample issues of the journals had been forwarded to MUSE, and that Muse lists the first three African journals on their website. Hopefully, ASA publications will not take so long. He foresees no special problems. There is an estimated return to the journals of approximately $10,000 per year per journal, based on an average journal. After attending a small regional conference for academics in African studies, Malanchuk reported that knowledge of JSTOR was not universal. However, access opportunities were enormous, and we have come a long way. Finnegan observed that the critical mass was growing but that some organizations are dithering. Woodson asked why JSTOR doesn't have something on geography. Finnegan wondered if ASA was withdrawing from the publishing arena. He mentioned that ASA would not be publishing Janet Stanley's book. Walsh expressed the hope that Caruso would develop a forum for multi-disciplinary cooperation. Caruso said that ASA can no longer afford to publish single monographs, and this was the reason for their declining to publish the Stanley bibliography. Finnegan noted that this would raise another issue for ALC: How can we replace things that no longer exist? (item 6k)

Limb stated that M.S.U. continued its relationship with the University of Zimbabwe on dissertation exchange. Concerning the African E-Journals Project (AEJP), he reported that the African journals are currently being digitized and several other journals have signed contracts or are under consideration. The AEJP website is at http://www.isp.msu.edu/AfricanStudies/aejp/. The Project is working in cooperation with INASP. Also included in the Project is a database of African and Africanist scholars. This is based at the MSU African Studies Center and is rapidly growing but still under construction and not yet public. The database will contain all available material on journals (including library holdings). There could be problems maintaining the database when the grant runs out, but other grants may be secured or cooperation sought. Zellers asked about overlapping with serial supplements, and Limb admitted that there was some overlap. On an historical note, Zellers mentioned a 1970 African serials project done at L.C. Perhaps they would want to look at the older projects to see how they compare. The suggestion was made to amend the bylaws to accommodate the Book Donations Committee. Baumann will take on the task of wording the amendment. Zellers mentioned that a vote was taken two years ago to put the Book Donations Committee into an official amendment, but this change was never added to the bylaws. (item 6b). Finnegan suggested inviting the MPALA, the new Aficana group that Lohrentz is involved with, to attend the ALC/ASA events in December 2002. (item 7b)

Concerning the December meeting, it was suggested meeting a day ahead to maximize meeting time. Liz Plantz invited the group to visit the National Library of Medicine (NLM) in December, and she would serve as guide. The NLM has resources that would be of interest to researchers in African studies. Finnegan mentioned that the ALC group brought up the issue of health statistics and wondered if anyone was collecting these statistics on Africa. The NLM also uses some of the same resources in collecting, such as Hogarth. We could investigate once again if a major body of information is falling through the cracks. Bishop mentioned that we could ask other national libraries to tell about the range of their activities concerning Africa and possibly open new channels for purchasing books. Limb thought that we might need to meet two days in advance of the ASA meetings. Caruso mentioned that we might consider inviting the MPALA, the new Aficana group that Lohrentz is involved with, to attend the ALC/ASA events in December 2002. (item 7b).
ALC Bibliography Committee Meeting  
(DRAFT of June 6, 2002)  
May 3, 2002  
University at Albany  

Present: Helene Baumann (Duke U), Ruby Bell-Gam (UCLA), Phyllis Bischof (UC Berkeley), Joe Caruso (Columbia), Jill Coelho (Harvard), Moore Crossey (Yale, ret'd), Andrew de Heer (Schomburg), David Easterbrook (Northwestern), Karen Fung (Stanford), James Genter (LC), Miki Goral (UCLA), Margaret Hughes (Stanford), Al Kagan (U of Illinois), Patricia Kunzt (Edgewood College), Deborah Lafond (U of Albany), Joe Lauer (Michigan State U), Bob Lesh (Northwestern U), Peter Limb (Michigan State U), Ken Lohrentz (U of Kansas), Peter Malanchuk (U of Florida), Loyd Mbati (Ohio U), Akilah Nosakhare (Georgia State U), Lauris Olson (U of Pennsylvania), Afeworki Paulos (U of Michigan), Loumona Petroff (Boston U), Dan Reboussin (U of Florida), James T. Simon (CRL), Natalia Taylor (Georgia State U), Gretchen Walsh (Boston U), David Westley (Boston U), Angela Williams (Syracuse U), Marion Frank-Wilson (Indiana U), Dorothy Woodson (Yale), Joanne Zellers (LC)  

1. Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 11:00am.  
2. The minutes from the Fall, 2001 meeting in Houston were approved.  
3. Additions to the agenda.  
 a. The Council of East Asian Librarians (Olson)  
 b. LC portal pages (Zellers)  
 c. Quarterly Index (Genter)  
 d. Website preservation (Simon)  
4. Old Business  
 a. Lohrentz sent an email to CRL about the importance of cataloging the foreign dissertation collection. Simon brought a response that CRL recognizes that this collection is one of the major components of their collection. CRL has received a Mellon grant to assess and catalog the dissertations. Lohrentz will respond to CRL that the Bibliography Committee of ALC is pleased with the report from James Simon.  
 b. Bibliography projects in progress will be put on the ALC website.  
5. Scope and future of "Recent Doctoral Dissertations" in ASA News. Lauer reviewed the status of this compilation, which he has been working on since the 1980s. When ASA News went to three issues a year instead of four, one of the lists was not published. There was discussion about the best method to disseminate the list in the future.  
6. Microform Bibliography project. James Simon presented an update and demonstration of the database being compiled at CRL.  
7. Resource sharing of Africana library materials. Lohrentz reported on the regional meeting of the newly formed Mountain Plains Africana Libraries Association (MPALA), which he was instrumental in planning. Reports from this organization will go on the web - either the ALC page or the BCALA (Black Caucus of ALA) page. A major benefit of the conference was to raise awareness of resources and develop sharing mechanisms. Lohrentz distributed a position paper on resource sharing through interlibrary loan.  

Time ran out before the other agenda items could be addressed. It was agreed that they would be dealt with via email.  

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Miki Goral  

Page Last Updated November 4, 2002
Results of the CAMP election:

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Peter Malanchuk
Faculty Representative: Ned Alpers

The terms of these newly elected members of the CAMP Executive Committee will begin at the end of the CAMP meeting in Washington on December 5.

Thanks to all who stood for election; and thanks to the Nominations Committee for preparing the slate.

The minutes of the 5/02 CAMP meeting in Albany are available on the CAMP Web site at: http://www.crl.edu/info/camp/campsu.htm. The Exec minutes will be made available very soon.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

**ALA**

Midwinter Meeting 2003
Philadelphia, PA, January 24-29

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

Annual Conference 2003
Toronto, Canada, June 19-25

Annual Conference 2004
Orlando, FL, June 24-30

**ASA & ALC/CAMP**

ASA Annual Meeting 2003, Boston, MA
October 30 – November 2, Sheraton Boston Hotel

ASA Annual Meeting 2004, New Orleans, LA
November 11-14, Marriott Hotel in New Orleans’ French Quarter

ASA Annual Meeting 2005, Washington, D.C.
November 17-20, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

ALC Spring Meeting 2003, April 24-26
Yale University

ALC Spring Meeting 2004, The University of Michigan
CORRECTION: PREVIOUS EDITIONS HAD MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

**IFLA Annual Conferences**

Berlin, Germany, August 1-9, 2003
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2004
Oslo, Norway August 14-19, 2005
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 2006
Durban, South Africa, 2007

**ACRL**

National Conference 2003
Charlotte, NC, April 10-13
Northwestern University Seeks Bibliographer of Africana

ENVIRONMENT: Established in 1954, the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies at Northwestern University is the largest separate library devoted to African studies in existence. With holdings of about 286,000 volumes and 2800 current serials, the Herskovits Library’s collections are strongest for Africa south of the Sahara. Although a separate library, the Herskovits Library is an integral component of Northwestern University Library. The Herskovits Library is closely linked with the curricular and research programs of Northwestern University’s Program of African Studies. Established in 1948 by Melville J. Herskovits, the Program of African Studies is one of the earliest interdisciplinary centers of its kind and serves as the academic, administrative and social center of the University’s Africanist community. Northwestern University’s Africa-related curricular and research programs extend beyond the Program of African Studies, however, embracing a broad range of departments, schools and colleges, all of which are served by the staff and resources of the Herskovits Library. Because of the worldwide reputation of the Herskovits Library’s collections and public services programs, the Herskovits Library serves the broadest of researcher communities. The Herskovits Library also plays a central role in the Africa-related cooperative activities of the African Studies Association’s Africana Librarians Council, the Center for Research Libraries’ Cooperative Africana Microform Project, the Committee on Institutional Cooperation and the Association of Research Libraries. The Herskovits Library staff consists of 3.25 FTE exempt staff, 2 FTE non-exempt staff and student assistants. Further information about the Herskovits Library is available from its website, www.library.northwestern.edu/africana.

DUTIES: Selects and acquires Africana for all disciplines in all formats including electronic, current and retrospective in a department of 3.25 FTE librarians each of whom has some selection responsibilities. Maintains liaison with Northwestern University faculty, staff and students on collection management issues. Coordinates collection management responsibilities within the Herskovits Library working cooperatively with all staff. Collection management for Francophone Africa is the responsibility of the Francophone Bibliographer (.25 FTE). Manages the Herskovits Library’s participation in the University Library’s trade approval plans. Manages the Herskovits Library’s specialized approval and blanket order plans for African imprints. Manages the Herskovits Library’s allocated library materials budget. Works cooperatively with the curator with regard to the management of the endowed and gift materials budgets. Administers the Herskovits Library in the curator’s absence. Maintains liaison and productive working relationships with other library selectors, branch libraries and with technical services departments on matters relating to acquisition, selection and cataloging, with interlibrary loan and with preservation. Works with Northwestern University Library’s digital programs to insure the innovative application of digital technology to existing Herskovits Library collections and provision of access to web-based African studies information resources. Participates in the provision of reference services including scheduled desk hours (approximately 10 hours a week) and public service programs in the Herskovits Library. (Public services for the Herskovits Library are the primary responsibility of the Librarian of Africana.) With the curator and the Library Development Office, develops proposals and identifies and consults with donors concerning gifts and grants. Works consistently with local, national and international efforts relating to Africana, in particular those based within cooperative Africana librarianship; participates in scholarly meetings and conferences related to Africa. Serves on elected and/or appointed Northwestern University Library committees and task forces. Takes an active role in the scholarly life of the Northwestern University Africanist community, in particular the Program of African Studies. Carries out other position related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: Required: MLS from an ALA accredited library school or an advanced degree in an Africa-related social sciences or humanities discipline. Three years of successful library or equivalent experience including collection development experience. Demonstrated success working effectively with diverse staff, student, faculty and patron communities. Effective skills in both oral and written communication. A combination of education and experience that provides for a clear understanding of research and scholarly communication in African studies. Competence in French. Familiarity with publishing in Africa, the African book trade and Africana vendors. Strongly Desired: Competence in an African language, Portuguese or written Arabic. Experience and interest in electronic formats and digital technologies and their innovative application to collections. Graduate work in an Africa-related social sciences or humanities discipline.

SALARY: Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience ($34,000 minimum)

TO APPLY: Send letter of application and resume, including names of three references, to Peter J. Devlin, Personnel Librarian, Northwestern University Library, 1935 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Illinois 60208-2300 or library-personnel@northwestern.edu.

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until position is filled. Northwestern University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Employment eligibility verification required upon hire.
New Bibliographer at the University of Iowa

Edward A. Miner is the new International Studies Bibliographer with the University of Iowa Libraries, responsible for the African and South Asian Studies Collections. He holds a Ph.D. in African Linguistics and an M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois, and in 2000-01 was the Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in African Studies Librarianship with the University of Indiana Libraries. His most recent position was that of Government Documents Librarian with the Mercer University Libraries in Macon, Georgia.

Vendor News

MESSAGE FROM DAVID HOGARTH

Developments at Hogarth Representation. I would like libraries to be aware that I have passed on Hogarth Representation and responsibility is now split as follows:

Nigeria
Oluranti Olumoroti in Ibadan is responsible for all the shipments you have received since the summer of 2001. I first knew him as a bookseller 15 years ago when he did everything from a small room in which he and two friends also slept. By hard work he has improved his circumstances considerably. Being located in Nigeria he has easier access to sales outlets and can use the services of a large family. I think you will find his blanket and approval shipments and his order searching will be satisfactory.

Please communicate direct with him as far as possible and particularly please e-mail him your orders and claims. You will get much quicker service if you do. His address is optionsbook@justice.com. If there are any problems of communication please e-mail me here (hogarth@hogarthrep.fsnet.co.uk). Payment should also continue to be sent to Hogarth Representation, Unit 54 Millmead Business Centre, Millmead Road, London N17 9QU. Returned approvals should also go to that address.

All other sub-Saharan countries
Oleg Semikhnenko has taken over our operations in these countries. Many of you know him well already but you may like to know that he has been going on buying trips for Hogarth Representation since 1993, so he has plenty of experience. He has also done a great deal to improve our computerized operations.

Many of you have already been communicating with Oleg and will know that his e-mail address is info@meabooks.com. Please send all communications about countries other than Nigeria to that address and also as far as possible orders and claims for these countries. (His telephone number is 1-819-647-9927 and fax 1-819-647-9928)

Oleg has for some years operated a website from which he sells books from Sub-Saharan Africa - www.meabooks.com. This includes books from Nigeria which he has obtained from Oluranti. Orders for these books and any communication about them should be sent as directed on the website but please do not communicate with Oleg about any other Nigerian matters.

Payment for books from the Meabook website should be made as indicated in the website. All payments for Hogarth Representation invoices issued by Oleg should come here (see above for address) and returns should also be sent to this address.

David Hogarth
October 22, 2002
MEABOOKS has a few extra copies and accepts orders for Ayi Kwei Armah’s new novel published in Senegal this year. The bibliographic data is as follows:

Armah, Ayi Kwei
KTM: In the House of Life : An Epistemic Novel
Popenguine (Senegal), Per Ankh, 2002
ISBN: 2-911928-06-7
350pp.

Please, note that the book is currently being supplied to all Hogarth Representation blanket order and approval customers requiring it.

The price is US$25.90 plus the actual shipping charges.

Please contact Oleg Semikhnenko at: info@meabooks.com

Or order from:
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AFRICAN IMPRINT LIBRARY SERVICES is having a clearance sale on every single title currently in stock. Take 25% off the listed price shown, and browse the list either by country or by subject, at your convenience. Orders will be processed on a first-come first-served basis, while supplies last. Please refer to the Title Code Number for each title ordered. Your 25% discount will be applied to the invoice which accompanies your order.

Christopher Boyd
Managing Director
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KENNY’S BOOK COLLECTIONS AND LIBRARY SERVICES offers a catalogue on materials from Abyssinia/Ethiopia. The catalogue is online at www.kennyscollections.com/Africa/KEAN3.pdf.

Recently improved navigation on their Various Rare Books Catalogue at: www.kennyscollections.com/Rare_Interesting/KVRB.pdf

This document is 254 pages and contains 119 different subject areas in its index and previously contained no means of navigation throughout the document. For more information contact: Michelle Burke

Contact information:
Kennys Book Export Co.,
Kilkerrin Park, Liosban, Tuam Road,
Galway, Ireland
Phone: +353 91 709350
Fax: +353 91 709351

THE AFRICA BOOK CENTRE 38 King Street, London, WC2E 8JT UK; info@africabookcentre.com) has published its Africa Book Centre Book Review Issue No. 22, Autumn 2002.

CLARKE’S BOOKSHOP issued Catalogue 109, 2002. 211 Long Street, Cape Town, South Africa. E-mail: books@clarkesbooks.co.za; website: www.clarkesbooks.co.za
NEWS FROM THE AFRICAN BOOKS COLLECTIVE
From the Press Release:
African Books Collective and Michigan State University Press have signed an agreement to enter a partnership designed to raise the profile of African-published books and disseminate them more widely. They will work together to increase the visibility and sales of books representing the best cultural product from Africa – the wealth of its scholarship, fine literary writing, and children’s books emanating from within the African culture. Such books have been disadvantaged by not having a North American distributor; and MSUP will become the first US stockist of a critical mass of African-published books.

The partnership will be launched at the African studies Association in Washington, D.C., in December 2002.

For further details:
African Books Collective Ltd., The Jam Factory, 27 Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1HU, UK
Tel: +44-(0)1865-726686; Fax: +44-(0)1865-793298
Email: abc@africanbookscollective.com
Website: http://www.africanbookscollective.com

Michigan State University Press, 1405 South Harrison Road, 25 Manly Miles Building, East Lansing, MI 48823-5202, USA
Tel: +1-517-335-9543; Fax: +1-517-432-2611; +1-800-678-2120
Email: msupress@msu.edu
Website: http://www.msupress.msu.edu

BOUCHÈNE EDITIONS
113-115, rue Danielle Casanova, 93200 Saint Denis, Tel : 33 1 48 20 93 75, E-mail : edbouchene@aol.com
Website: www.bouchene.com, Paris, 7 April, 2002

Bouchène Editions is a publishing house with special focus on Algeria, the countries of the Maghreb and, more broadly, the western Mediterranean rim, operating out of two locations in Paris and Algiers.

To date, since the creation of our Paris operation some three years ago, there are 32 titles in four separate collections: The Maghreb History Library, Inside the Maghreb, The Mediterranean Library and Ports of Call, as well as some special releases. A number of manuscripts are currently in process.

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SCOLMA’S 40th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE, 2002
Report by Peter Limb

The Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa (SCOLMA) is the British equivalent of ALC. SCOLMA, reads its web page "provides a forum for librarians and others concerned with the provision of materials for African studies in libraries in the United Kingdom; monitors, co-ordinates and improves the acquisition of library materials on Africa, especially through its co-operative Area Specialization Scheme for the acquisition of materials from Africa; sponsors bibliographical projects; publishes bibliographical works and a journal; organises conferences and seminars on African bibliographical topics." (http://www.soas.ac.uk/scolma/#scolma)

SCOLMA’S 40th Anniversary Conference took place 25-26 June 2002 at the University of Oxford under the title “African Research and Documentation in the New Millennium.” Speakers came from Europe, Nigeria, South Africa and the U.S. The introduction was given by SCOLMA Chair Sheila Allcock, followed by an informative joint-presentation on "40 years of SCOLMA" by veteran Africana librarians Patricia Larby and John McIlwaine.

Africana librarians from several countries then gave presentations on recent developments. Marlene van Doorn (African Studies Centre, Leiden) surveyed the main features and trends of "documenting Africa in the Netherlands." Dalhatu Hamza (Kano) outlined the enormous problems, but also the prospects, of libraries in Northern Nigeria where a veritable book famine persists. Lesley Hart (University of Cape Town) gave a thoughtful and challenging talk on Africana collections in South Africa, reminding Western librarians to respect their African library partners.

Laverne Page (Library of Congress) gave a very useful and comprehensive report on "New directions in collections development and reference services in American Africana libraries," with an emphasis on progress and problems at LC. Peter Limb (Michigan State) spoke on "Accessing African archives, libraries and journals: partnerships, ethics and equity in the 21st century." He emphasized the opportunities to overcome longstanding problems of access and equity through creatively applying new technologies as seen for instance in the African e-Journals Project and African Journals Online. Phyllis Bischoff (Berkeley) also was in attendance, so the three of us together were able to present a range of data on U.S. developments to the delegates.

There also were two fascinating presentations on the digitization of British museums and archives by Amanda Hill (Manchester University, on the "Archives Hub") and Mary Ingoldby (Oral History Archive, British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, Bristol). It is useful for librarians to see what their kin in archives and museums are doing, and the Bristol archives in particular should be useful to some of our clients.

An erudite keynote address was given by Professor Colin Bundy (SOAS Director) on "African scholarship and African studies: challenges for our time" (published in African Affairs, 2002). Other professors to speak were Alvaro Correia de Nobrega (Lisbon) on African studies in Portugal and Andrey Zhukov (St. Petersburg) on African studies in Russia, whilst the overview was given by Tony Kirk-Greene (St. Antony’s College). His talk on "The changing face of African studies in Britain, 1962-2002." was a nice foil to earlier presentations focusing on high-tech solutions. He brought us back to earth and made us consider the whole history and development of African studies. The integration of these faculty speakers into the conference was a stimulating phenomenon that ALC might wish to consider.

The conference reception was held in the serene Bodleian Divinity School. I stayed behind to attend the SCOLMA Annual General Meeting. It is clear that British Africana librarians face similar problems to us, but with much reduced resources and with declining official interest in Africa. One problem is a tendency to re-designate once dedicated Africana positions as generalist librarian slots—apparently only one full-time Africana Librarian defined as such remains. Overall, the conference was very useful, with productive discussion of recent developments. Whilst in Oxford, I also was able to meet with INASP about the African e-Journal Project, do a little Africanist research of my own, as well as attend the annual Zimbabwe Research Day.

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Africabib Progress Report #7
http://www.africabib.org
May, 2002-October, 2002

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New Books Noted


- *Nyerere and Africa: End of an Era.* Godfrey Mwakikagile. Atlanta: Protea Publishing, 2002. 6" x 9", 472 pages Softcover $27.98 Hardcover $42.98 Order from: Protea Publishing 5456 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard #648 Atlanta, Georgia 30341 USA Email address: kaolink@msn.com
  
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