



AFRICANA LIBRARIES NEWSLETTER

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Africana Libraries Newsletter (ALN) is published quarterly by the Michigan State University Libraries and African Studies Center (East Lansing, MI 48824). Those copying contents are asked to cite *ALN* as their source. *ALN* is produced to support the work of the Archives-Libraries Committee (ALC) of the African Studies Association. It carries the meeting minutes of ALC, CAMP (Cooperative Africana Microform Project) and other relevant groups. It also reports other items of interest to Africana librarians and those concerned about information resources in or about Africa.

Editor: Joseph J. Lauer, Africana Library, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824-1048.
Tel.: 517-355-2366; E-mail: 20676afr@msu.bitnet; Fax: 517-336-1445.
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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Contributors to this issue include Moore Crossey, Beverly Gray, Yvette Scheven, Nancy Schmidt, Gretchen Walsh and Julian Witherell. Thanks to the Pitts Theology Library (Atlanta) for its contribution to the costs of postage.

The official minutes for the Fall meeting in St. Louis begin on page 2. It was a good meeting, at a fine hotel with helpful staff. Unfortunately, it was also the first really cold weekend of the season, and the (?Missouri) flu afflicted many librarians either during or immediately after the conference. This led to some delays in producing this issue. CAMP minutes will appear in the next issue along with some reviews and other reports.

The opportunity for confrontation between producers and buyers was avoided at the panel about serial costs; but the ALC business meeting did witness an exchange of views between book vendors (supported by Lauer and Walsh) and librarians on the potential impact of the West Africa Office. It was not unlike

-continued on p. 6

ACRONYMS

ABC - African Books Collective; or Africa Book Centre
ACRL - Association of College & Research Libraries (ALA)
ALA - American Library Association (Chicago)
ALC - Archives-Libraries Committee (of ASA)
ASA - (U.S.) African Studies Association
CAMP - Cooperative Africana Microform Project
CRL - Center for Research Libraries (Chicago)
IAI - International African Institute
IFLA - International Federation of Library Associations
LC - Library of Congress
MELA - Middle East Librarians Association
MSU - Michigan State University
SCOLMA - Standing Conference on Library Materials on Africa
U. - University
UCLA - University of California, Los Angeles

ARCHIVES-LIBRARIES COMMITTEE / CAMP NEWS

CALENDAR OF FUTURE MEETINGS

April 23-25, 1992, Iowa City - ALC/CAMP Spring Meeting.
 November 20-23, 1992, Seattle - ASA Annual Meeting.
 December 3-7, 1993, Boston - ASA Annual Meeting.
 Fall 1994, Toronto - ASA Annual Meeting.
 Fall 1995, Orlando - ASA Annual Meeting.

SCHEDULE FOR ALC/CAMP MEETINGS IN IOWA CITY

April 24, 1992 (Friday)

Cataloging Subcommittee 9:00 - 10:30am
 Bibliography Subcommittee 11:00 - 12:30pm
 Business Meeting 1:45 - 3:15pm
 Executive Meeting 4:00 - 5:00pm

April 25, 1992 (Saturday)

CAMP Business Meeting 9:00 - 11:00am
 CAMP Executive Meeting 11:15 - 12:30pm

More details on the agendas will appear in the next issue of *ALN*. This meeting is simultaneous with the Ninth Triennial Symposium on African Art, April 22-25, 1992, organized by the Arts Council of ASA. Conference hotels are Iowa House (319-335-3513; reservations under "African Art") and Holiday Inn (319-337-4058). Air travel is via Cedar Rapids. American Airlines has a discount through Meecham Travel (319-351-1360).

For details on local arrangements and the CAMP agenda, contact John Howell, Univ. of Iowa Libraries, Iowa City, IA 52242; tel: 219-335-5885.

For details on the ALC business, contact Onuma Ezera (Chair), MSU Libraries, East Lansing, MI 48824-1048; tel: 517-355-2366.

PANEL FOR FALL MEETING IN SEATTLE

Chair-elect Nancy Schmidt is organizing an ALC-sponsored panel for the Fall ASA meeting in Seattle. The title is "African Bibliographies: Compilation and Evaluation." Invited panelists include a compiler of a general bibliography, a compiler of an Africanist bibliography, an evaluator and a critic.

ALC BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, November 24, 1991 11:15a m -12:45pm
 Adam's Mark Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri

The meeting was called to order by Peter Malanchuk, Chair.

Present were: James Armstrong (LC), Helene Baumann (Duke U.), Ruby Bell-Gam (U. of California, Los Angeles), Phyllis Bischof (U. of California, Berkeley), Christopher Boyd (African Imprint Library Service), Dan Britz (Northwestern U.), Moore Crossey (Yale U.), David Easterbrook (U. of Illinois at Chicago), Kay Elsasser (LC), Vicki Evalds (Philadelphia), Onuma Ezera (Michigan State U.), Gregory Finnegan (Dartmouth Coll.), Karen Fung (Stanford U.), Jean Gosebrink (St. Louis Public Library), Beverly Gray (LC), L. Harkombe (U. of Illinois, Urbana), Marieta

Harper (LC), David Henige (U. of Wisconsin), Sharon Howard (Schomburg Center, New York Public Library), John Bruce Howell (U. of Iowa), Al Kagan (U. of Connecticut), Mary Alice Kraehe (U. of Virginia), Joseph Lauer (Michigan State U.), A.D.H. Leishman (UK), Robert W. Lesh (Northwestern U.), Helen MacLam (Choice Magazine), Peter Malanchuk (U. of Florida), Valerie Mwalilino (LC), Razia Nanji (U. of Florida), Dorothy Niekamp (Indiana U.), Patricia Ogedengbe (Northwestern U.), O.O. Ogundipe (U. of the West Indies, Trinidad), Hans E. Panofsky (Northwestern U.), Elizabeth Plantz (Boston U.), Kay Raseroka (U. of Botswana), Yvette Scheven (U. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Nancy Schmidt (Indiana U.), Mette Shayne (Northwestern U.), Denise Shorey (Princeton U.), Andrea Stamm (Northwestern U.), Ruth Thomas (LC, Nairobi), Gretchen Walsh (Boston U.), Thomas Weissinger (Cornell U.), David Westley (Boston U.), Elizabeth A. Widenmann (Columbia U.), Dawn Williams (Northwestern U.), Dorothy Woodson (State U. of New York, Buffalo), and Joanne Zellers (LC).

Introductions.

Malanchuk introduced Tom Weissinger, the librarian for African and Afro-American materials at Cornell. He also noted the retirement of Doris Hull from the Moorland-Spingarn Library of Howard University.

Minutes from the spring meeting (Washington) [*ALN* Aug. 1991] were approved.

Announcements.

Members were invited to a reception hosted by Hans Zell that evening.

Nominations for the Conover-Porter Award are due before December 31, 1991.

CAMP members were asked to review the Bascom Collection materials at the Norman Ross booth.

Spring Meeting.

Howell distributed the agenda for the Ninth Triennial Symposium on African Art which occurs April 22-25, 1992, or the same weekend as the spring meeting, and discussed hotel and travel arrangements.

Ezera extended Michigan State University's invitation for the 1993 spring meeting.

Nominating Committee (Bischof & Fung).

Nominated for deputy chair: Schmidt and Stamm; for member-at-large: Bell-Gam and Westley.

Elected: Schmidt, deputy chair; Bell-Gam, member-at-large.

LC West Africa Office Report (Armstrong):

The Library requested authorization and funding for a West Africa Field Office to support enhanced acquisition activities in that part of the world. Congress provided funds for staff travel and consultant expenses during FY 1991 "to determine the feasibility and cost effectiveness over current dealer arrangements of establishing a West Africa office." Congress further directed the Library to "submit to the committee a comprehensive analysis documenting the study which compares the current dealer book acquisition effort with alternatives."

During the past fiscal year (FY 1991) the Library conducted its studies and analysis and is now completing the report which will be submitted to the Congress. Its release is at the discretion of the Congressional Committee, once it has been submitted by the Library.

As of FY 1992 the Library has been authorized \$100,000 a year in support of West African acquisitions. Specific plans for the expenditure of these funds will depend in part on direction from Congress pursuant to its review of the Report. However, the Library is encouraged by this indication of support for the project.

For FY 1994 (which is the next opportunity for a new budget initiative), any budget request to increase this \$100,000 to an amount sufficient to support a full field office is largely dependant on the findings of the Report and the direction received from Congress as a result of its review of the Report.

Discussion of West Africa Office:

Walsh referred to the vendors' letters in *ALN* and asked for their comments on the impact of this plan. Malanchuk announced that the Executive Committee will write a letter in support of the West African Office. Boyd expressed his concern about the effect of the multiple copies program on vendors; he also voiced a hope that a LC accession list for West Africa would result in more orders, thereby benefiting all parties. Bischof proposed a panel at ALA to introduce the dealers to ALA membership. Malanchuk seconded this suggestion, noting that ACRL African and Asian section would be a natural place for this issue. The possibility of linking with the Black Caucus, major public libraries, and children's librarians' groups was discussed. MacLam suggested that the ALA Black Caucus fall meeting would be a good place for such a presentation. Walsh felt that we need to de-exotify Africa and expand the number of African imprints in non-specialist libraries, thereby expanding the recognition of the intellectual products of Africa. Schmidt noted the publication of the Africa volume in the ALA series on foreign acquisitions. Crossey expressed reservations about the LC program for monographs, but not for the serial program nor for the bibliographical value of the acquisitions list. Given the general lack of current national bibliographies and reliable sources for serials and government documents, LC's services are very valuable. He sees ABC as the supplier for smaller academic and public libraries. Bell-Gam voiced concern for public libraries; but LC has offered lists of books to them. Britz felt that some were exaggerating the negative effect on the dealers. LC will provide services that the dealers cannot offer, such as newsprint on a regular basis and materials in microformat. Elsasser noted that LC field offices stimulate bibliographic efforts in host countries. Zell pointed out that dealers depend on the library market for their business and that LC only services about two dozen libraries. Walsh questioned whether there would be a future requirement that field offices be fully self supporting. Taussig argued that small libraries will never generate enough business to satisfy the dealers. After comparing titles on his lists with [monographic] titles in *Accessions List: Eastern Africa*, he estimates that he carries about 95% of LC-Nairobi monographic acquisitions; plus some titles they miss. He has no objection to fair competition, but he does not feel that the proposed program is fair. Lauer argued that a multi-copy program from all countries would probably cause the Boyds to radically change their business; but he thought it highly unlikely that more than a few countries would be so covered. Bischof ended the discussion saying that there would be room for both since we are only scratching the surface of the larger publication base in West Africa.

Book Famine Task Force Report Walsh reported on her draft of the "Handbook and Directory" on book donation projects for Africa. It will be published as an insert of *ASA News*, and she will have it available for groups interested in developing book donation projects. ASA is involved in other projects to disseminate information to Africa. [See *ASA News*, 1991, no. 1, p. 10.]

Ogedengbe wrote to 37 African embassies in the US to seek their cooperation with small parcels. Of the 8 replies, only one was really positive. Easterbrook wanted the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) Sub-Saharan Africa Journal Distribution Program to add library journals. ALC endorsed his suggestions to ACRL, ALCTS (ALA's Association for Library Collections and Technical Services) and ALA to donate journal subscriptions to Africa.

ASA Board. Newly elected member Walsh asked members to forward their concerns to her. She encouraged everyone to participate in the NEH challenge grant which will establish an ASA endowment. Priorities for funding are travel by African scholars, K-12 outreach activities, and publications.

Serials Task Force Report. Mwalilino noted with pleasure the documentation of journal cancellation in *ALN*. She asked for volunteers to take over the work of the task force on serials. Gray, Schmidt, and Walsh volunteered.

Africana Oral Tradition Archives. Gray suggested establishing an oral history project to interview selected retired members of ALC. The questions were raised and there was a brief discussion. Howard, Finnegan, Malanchuk and Widenmann expressed interest in working with Gray on this project.

ALN Report (Lauer). Problems with slow mail were noted. The mailing list is being reviewed, and some names have been dropped. Ideas and letters are welcome.

ASA Publications Committee: Report on meeting by ALC liaison Scheven [not presented during ALC business meeting]:

Mark DeLancey, the new editor of the *African Studies Review*, plans to include review essays and wants suggestions for topics. He needs reviewers for Russian titles.

The Committee commended Howell for his Index to the *ASR* and recommended that it be continued with 5-year cumulations.

ASA has begun work on a new directory of African studies.

The Executive Secretary seeks recommendations of firms who can do microfilms and microfiches in a timely manner.

The ASA membership list will be issued every other year. It was not sent to institutional members, but probably will be in the future. Institutional membership will be raised by \$5.

Discussion of the by-law changes (Baumann):

See *ALN Oct. 1991, p.2, for list of 9 proposed amendments.*

Due to time constraints, discussion limited to Name Change.

Since ASA will no longer accept "Committee" in the ALC name, the consensus was to replace it with Council; and not Caucus.

Africana Librarians Council was discussed as a new name that keeps the same initials. Preliminary votes were to drop the word "Archives" and to prefer "Librarians" to "Libraries."

Some then expressed a preference for "Africanist" in lieu of "Africana" in the name of ALC. Further discussion was deferred to the spring meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

- Mette Shayne (Secretary)

CATALOGING SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

St. Louis, Nov. 23, 1991 7:30 - 8:45am

The meeting was called to order by Robert Lesh, Chair.

1. *Minutes* of the spring meeting (Washington, D.C.) were read and approved.

2. **Library of Congress Reports:** Elsasser reported on the reorganization plans, scheduled for March 1992. An outline of the new structure was presented and discussed. Inquiries concerning cataloging and classification problems should be sent to the Cataloging Support Office, who would forward them to the appropriate office.

Gray announced that a two volume, loose-leaf draft of the schedule *KL-KWX: Law of Asia and Eurasia, Africa, Pacific Area and Antarctica* is now available. An index is being prepared, and the final version should be ready at the end of '92 or early '93. The Africana Pamphlet Collection has been declared in arrearage, and a contractor has been assigned to prepare collection level records.

3. **ALA Committee on Cataloging: Asian and African Materials (CC:AAM) report:** Niekamp reported that Africana cataloging issues were not a topic of primary discussion at the meeting in Atlanta.

4. **African Language Codes Project (MARC field 041):** The purpose of this project is to propose new language codes for African languages to LC. A list of 172 languages was prepared by the Chair from several sources. These included lists by Niekamp and Widenmann, a list of languages remaining from a previous project in 1984, as well as languages from collection level records at Northwestern. Lesh presented a preliminary report of the findings of 9 out of 13 participating libraries who searched their collections for items in these languages. Literary warrant for establishing language codes is believed to be 20 or more items. Of the languages on the list, 68 meet this criteria and 54 have 10-19 citations. It is hoped that when the surveys of the 4 remaining institutions are completed, an even larger number of languages will meet the criteria. It was decided that upon completion of the survey, the lists of languages for proposed codes will be submitted to two ALA committees: CC:AAM and the Subject Analysis Committee (SAC). The lists will then be submitted to the ANSI Z39 sub-committee. Millie Wewerka in LC's Subject Cataloging Policy Division will be responsible for devising the actual codes.

Lauer raised a question about the suitability of some of the language names provided. It was discussed that some of the established headings for languages might need to be evaluated. It was decided that this evaluation was not appropriate at this time.

5. **Proposed changes in Folk Literature** in Dewey Decimal Classification: A proposal prepared by Northwestern was presented and discussed. The Sub-committee voted to fully endorse the Northwestern document and submit it to CC:AAM and SAC for discussion as well as to LC directly.

6. **Authority records for African languages:** Elsasser asked for help with a project to upgrade the reference structure of authority records for about 500 African languages. Six members volunteered. Kay will prepare instructions on how to do the work and the Chair will forward them and the list of languages to those interested. The results should be returned by Feb. 1, 1992.

- Elizabeth J. Plantz

BIBLIOGRAPHY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

St. Louis, November 24, 1991 9 - 11am

Acting Chair Helene Baumann called the meeting to order.

Announcements:

Vincent Ferrante, **Norman Ross Inc.**, presented information on the William Bascom Collection microform set. The full titles list was available at the booth.

Mick Delap, BBC Africa Services, discussed several projects:

1. Sound recordings of Somalia materials, including accounts, interviews and poetry, have been collected since 1957. John Johnson (Indiana University) is working on a project to house these at IU with appropriate preservation and cataloging.

2. BBC Focus on Africa has archived interviews and reports since 1960. These comprise about 5000 items, or about 5-600 hours. Since BBC funds, by act of Parliament, are confined to broadcasting, they are looking for another body to undertake a project to preserve, catalog and make use of these tapes.

3. Currently, Focus on Africa prepares a printed daily distillation of news on Africa. They hope to have this digitalized in about 18 months. They are looking for a project which would make this more widely available. This is not the same information that is already available on NEXIS.

Conover-Porter Award: Howell distributed a list of nominations and called for further recommendations to be sent to Janet Stanley, the Chair of the Subcommittee. These should be accompanied by a rationale for the recommendation and/or a review.

Issues in Bibliography and Indexing: Walsh discussed the concerns articulated at the last meeting. [See *ALN* Aug. 1991, p.5.] *Africa Bibliography* is continuing under the editorship of Chris Allen at Edinburgh University. Easterbrook reported that the editor of *International African Bibliography* does not plan to retire, as had been rumored earlier. Carol Priestly of the International African Institute had reported to Janet Stanley that IAI's survey of African bibliography and indexing will be published in a forthcoming issue of *African Research & Documentation*.

Walsh repeated her suggestions of Spring 1991, that a conference of agencies and individuals providing printed or electronic indexing be arranged. She will explore this possibility. She also reported that Ed Brown's *Abstracts for Africanists* is nearing final production. She had some sample entries and descriptive information. The compiler envisions this service to be directed toward researchers rather than libraries.

Library of Congress projects were reported by Zellers. Work for the bibliography on the United States and Africa (1981-1990) was suspended upon Julian Witherell's retirement. The existing entries will be accessible in the African Section.

The African Section has been exploring the feasibility of updating *Africa South of the Sahara: Index to Periodical Literature*. So far they have determined that there is a perceived need and that production would necessitate either a new unit or a cooperative approach. The Section needs endorsements of the concept to proceed. The Publication Office has urged CD-ROM technology, but a year will not fill a disk.

Zellers also outlined several African projects she has implemented on LC's GENBIB mainframe systems. These are accessible at LC and at state libraries subscribing to LC Direct. The files she has created include a list of Africana serials received by LC; items

receiving minimal level cataloging; and African-language materials in the "lesser known languages" category.

RLG/ACLS Meeting on Access to Bibliographic Information:

On behalf of ASA, Widenmann attended this June 6th meeting sponsored by the Research Libraries Group and the American Council of Learned Societies. After some discussion of the issues, the meeting turned out to be, in effect, an announcement of RLG's decision to use CARL Uncover, an article delivery service that indexes 10,000 journals. The constituent societies of ACLS were encouraged to work within the Uncover system to add necessary access to their specialized materials.

Members of the Bibliography Subcommittee noted that Uncover is very popular with undergraduates, but most felt that the system trades depth for currency. It is also poor in foreign and area studies coverage.

Budget Survey: Baumann presented a form to survey budget information among the major Africana collections. This project is modelled on SALALM's budget information-sharing system, and it was felt by some to be useful in local budget negotiations. After some discussion, it was decided that libraries will use the draft. (Note: Further discussion among ALC members resulted in a postponement of the project until the questionnaire can be improved to provide more detailed and meaningful data.)

Other reports: Malanchuk reported that Jutta Reed-Scott is now heading the ARL project to study access to foreign materials, and he will follow up his initial communication to have Africa included in the pilot study.

Alice Nhkoma, Ph.D. candidate at the University of North Carolina and librarian from Uganda, was introduced. She is also chair of the ASA Taskforce on Gender Relations. Her dissertation topic is transfer of information technology.

Shayne reported that Northwestern's grant proposal to index conference papers has not been funded, as the project was deemed too costly and of marginal importance.

Kagan announced that Bill Katz is looking for a compiler of the African section of *Magazines for Libraries*. He also noted that IFLA is bringing out a book on reference service for international government publications. A journal of interest is *Focus on International and Comparative Librarianship*.

Hans Zell offered packs of ABC's new card service, which will supplement their catalogs. The 4th edition of *African Books in Print* will appear in late 1992, with an estimated 30,000 titles.

Westley is working on a bibliography of mental health in Africa.

- Gretchen Walsh, recorder

ALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

St. Louis, November 24, 1991 7:30 - 8:45am

The meeting was called to order by Peter Malanchuk, Chair.

Present: Baumann, Bischof, Ezera, Gray, Howard, Howell, Lauer, Lesh, Malanchuk, Scheven, Shayne, and Widenmann.

The agenda order for the ALC business meeting agenda was discussed and agreed upon, with the by-laws review to occur near the end and institutional reports to follow with a time limit.

Malanchuk reported that ALC proposals which underscored the importance of area studies libraries were submitted to the White

House Conference on Libraries and Information. The proposals became part of the final conference document which was sent to President Bush.

The South African Now program has ended despite the efforts of ALC to preserve it. Video tapes are available commercially, at high prices. ALC should contact them to negotiate prices. Perhaps CAMP should consider purchasing selected items or the entire collection.

Members mentioned that there should be time allotted for discussion of the ALC panel for next year's annual meeting.

Widenmann offered to discuss the African librarian oral history project with the head librarian of the Women's collection at Radcliffe.

Malanchuk reported that Jeff Gardner of the Association of Research Libraries referred him to Jutta Reed-Scott, the senior program officer in charge of administering the Mellon Foundation Grant to strengthen area studies collections. Malanchuk will contact her. The collection information survey constructed by the Latin American bibliographers may be useful for ALC to adopt to collect information on Africana collections. ALC hopes to become a liaison to ARL for the purpose of participating in the ARL preliminary project.

The ALC ad hoc committee on serials needs to be reviewed with some possible amendments to its original charge.

Lauer distributed a tentative list of ALC members. [The 44 listed were ASA members. Finnegan's "Africana Librarians Directory" lists 52 regulars.] This was used for first-class mailings of the pre-meeting *ALN* and could be used to establish a quorum. Errors were noted. Committee confirmed that ASA membership is required but did not settle the issue of ALC membership for librarians who do not attend our meetings but are members of ASA.

Bischof urged a response in *ALN* to the vendors who expressed their concerns regarding the establishment of a LC West African Office. The Committee will respond in *ALN*. Malanchuk agreed to draft a response with Bischof and Ezera. Bischof suggested some ideas to assist the dealers to increase their market. A panel at the ALA annual meeting sponsored by ACRL's African/Asian Section, along with the ALA Black Caucus and various collection management, children's and public librarian constituents seemed the most promising. ALC/ALA members would lobby for such a program through ACRL at ALA Midwinter, January 1992.

Malanchuk reported that he thanked Congressman Howard Wolpe for his continued support on behalf of the establishment of the LC West African Office.

Scheven will resign as ALC's liaison to the ASA Publications Committee after this meeting. A new liaison will be appointed.

Discussion continued regarding the organization of the review of ALC by-laws.

ALC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 1991-92*Chairperson*

Onuma Ezera, Michigan State (517)355-2366

Deputy Chair/Chair elect

Nancy Schmidt, Indiana (812)855-1481

Secretary (1990-92)

Mette Shayne, Northwestern (708)491-2934

Members-at-large

(1990-92) Robert W. Lesh, Northwestern (708)491-7585
also Cataloging Sub-Committee Chair.

(1990-93) Sharon M. Howard, Schomburg Center (212)491-2233

(1991-93) Ruby Bell-Gam, UCLA (310)825-1518

Ex-Officio Members

Past Chair: Peter Malanchuk, Florida (904)392-4919

Bibliography Sub-Committee Chair: Janet L. Stanley,
National Museum of African Art (202)357-4875

Library of Congress Rep.: Beverly Gray, (202)707-5528/29

ALN Editor: Joseph J. Lauer, Michigan State (517)355-2366

CAMP Chairperson: John Bruce Howell, Iowa (319)335-5885

ASA Publications Committee Liaison:

CAMP BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes were unavailable as of 13 January 1992. They have been distributed direct to member institutions and will appear in the next issue of ALN.

Editor's Comments, continued from p. 1

the usual domestic quarrel, with each side speaking a language that is only partly understood or acknowledged by the other. Since we will continue to depend on each other, it was all very polite. Nobody asked rude questions, such as:

- Is the difference between LC's 50% overhead and vendors' 150-200% overhead the result of federal subsidies or something else?
- Is LC becoming another multinational corporation engaged in exporting jobs?
- When will vendors inform librarians when they are unable to provide timely and reliable coverage (especially of newspapers) from a country?
- Why should LC field offices produce acquisitions lists when more complete lists of African imprints can be done with the JALA database at Northwestern?
- When will vendors of African imprints supply the types of records and monitoring services that are standard for other blanket order suppliers?
- Is it purely coincidental that LC-Nairobi increased the number of libraries served just before submitting the proposal for a West African office?
- How does LC manage to get the best librarians, despite less than ideal working conditions?

Other features in this issue include more details on the career of Julian Witherell and a brief statement of the history of ALC support for LC projects.

Finally, readers might note the continuing discussion on what is ALC. We are no longer a Committee, but we are not yet a Council. Do we want to let outsiders know that archivists rarely attend our meetings? To be continued in Iowa City.

OTHER NEWS**NEWS FROM OTHER ASSOCIATIONS****CALENDAR****ALA:**

Jan. 25-30, 1992, San Antonio - ALA Midwinter meeting.

April 12-14, 1992, Salt Lake City - ACRL National Conf.

June 25-July 2, 1992, San Francisco - ALA Annual Conf.

Sept. 4-7, 1992, Columbus - Black Caucus National Conf.

Jan. 23-28, 1993, Denver - ALA Midwinter meeting.

June 24-July 1, 1993, New Orleans - ALA Annual Conf.

Canadian Association of African Studies:

May 13-16, 1992, Montreal

IFLA Annual Conference:

Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 1992, New Delhi.

ACRL (Association of College & Research Libraries) Conference (April 1992):

Scheduled papers and panels include the following:

- "Using a For-Credit Course to Increase Access to a Diverse Collection," by Rudolph Clay, Jr., & Clara P. McLeod. Addresses the needs of students conducting library research in African, Caribbean, and African-American studies.

- "Old Worlds, New Worlds: Area Studies meets Multi-cultural Ethnic Studies," by Merry Burlingham.
- "Book Donations to Third World Academic Libraries: Practical Considerations and a Roundtable Discussion," by David L. Easterbrook.
- "Research and the Academic Librarian: A Global View."

Scheduled speakers include James Ngana (U. of Nairobi). Details on registration fees (\$85-255, with discount if before March 2) and other matters are available from ACRL/ALA, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611-2795. Fax: 312-280-2520.

Middle East Librarians Association:

MELA Notes no. 53 (Spring 1991) carried minutes of the MEMP (Middle East Microform Project) Executive Committee Spring meeting on April 26. Discussion covered expanding membership, a MEMP union list, changes in the by-laws, and new filming projects. Most of the issue was taken by a document explaining the procedures developed by Princeton University Library's Near East Cataloging Team for establishing Arabic personal name headings.

MELA Notes no. 54 (Fall 1991) carried book reviews and minutes of the Fall 1990 annual meeting. In addition to the usual business and reports, a Committee on an International Conference of Middle East Librarians and a Committee on Intellectual Freedom were established at their meeting in San Antonio.

FREE MATERIALS OFFERED AND REQUESTED

National Library of Namibia (Windhoek 9000), formerly the Windhoek Reference Library, seeks material on Namibia published outside the country before 1990.

RESOURCES AT LIBRARIES AND RESEARCH CENTERS

Fellows Program at the University of Illinois: The C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has a fellows program for librarians from around the world. Currently, librarians from Ethiopia and Malawi are among the Fellows in residence. For further information, please contact Marianna Tax Choldin (Director, C. Walter and Gerda B. Mortenson Center for International Library Programs and Mortenson Distinguished Professor), 246J Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1408 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801. Tel: 217-244-1898; fax: 217-244-0398; E-mail: mcholdin@uiuc.edu.

Ohio University Libraries has been made the United States depository for publications from Swaziland, per an agreement signed by the Swaziland Minister of Education. The University is also the depository for publications from Botswana and Malaysia.

[Editor's note: The largest U.S. collections of Botswana and Swaziland documents are usually considered to be at LC, Yale University and Northwestern University.]

Royal Commonwealth Society announced that Commonwealth House, including the Library, was to close on 20 December 1991. Efforts are being made to secure the future of the Library. If these fail, the Library or parts of it, will have to be sold. The Society will endeavour to place material within suitable institutions and libraries. For further information, contact the RCS Library, 18 Northumberland Ave., London WC2N 5BJ.

Yale University has received a microfiche copy of the International Defence & Aid Fund (IDAF) South Africa Archive and Namibia Archive. This collection of 10-12,000 fiche contains about 15,000 files (totaling 500,000 images) of clippings from newspapers, magazines and newsletters published in South Africa, Namibia and the UK, 1975-1990. Coverage is broad, with an emphasis on repression. There are substantial files on wage rates, sanctions, housing, education and police brutality. The set is arranged chronologically, with a computerized index. This deposit is part of the process of closing IDAF's London office and transferring its resources to southern Africa.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Northwestern University is pleased to announce the recent appointment of **Elizabeth Plantz** to the position of Africana Cataloger, effective February 4. Elizabeth was previously a cataloger of Africana materials at Boston University. She holds a joint Master's in Library Science and Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Chicago.

Julian W. Witherell retired as chief of the **Library of Congress African and Middle Division** on August 30, 1991, after 30 years of service.

Mr. Witherell was born (1935) and raised in the Washington, DC, area. After undergraduate studies at Bowdoin College, he enrolled at the University of Wisconsin where he became one of Philip D. Curtin's first African history doctoral students. After a Master's in 1958, his study on the 19th-century history of Cayor (Senegal) led to research in the archives of Senegal and France. He defended his history dissertation in March 1964.

Julian's library career began in the Summer of 1957, when he was hired as a private in the LC Guard Force. He also worked as a stacker in the Periodical Reading Room at the University of Wisconsin's Memorial Library. His professional career at LC began in 1962, when he was appointed a reference librarian in the Government Publications Section of the Serial Division. His experience there stimulated the great interest he had in government documents and reports, and this is reflected in his many activities and publications.

From 1963 to 1966, he was promoted first to senior reference librarian and then to an area specialist in the African Section, where he distinguished himself in acquisitions activities. He has undertaken acquisition and survey trips to 38 countries in Africa and Europe, and his trip reports served as acquisition guides to many libraries and scholars. He also played a prominent role in the meetings and activities of the African Studies Association, its Archives-Libraries Committee and CAMP.

His abilities and knowledge of the African situation were recognized when he was asked by the then Processing Department to act as an adviser and to accompany a LC delegation to survey possible East African sites for the establishment of a PL-480 center. The delegation visited centers in Tel Aviv and Cairo before proceeding to Nairobi, Dar-es-Salaam and Lusaka to study the problem of selecting the most appropriate site, which turned out to be Nairobi.

On June 20, 1966, Dr. Witherell was appointed head of the African Section. In 1967 he received the William A. Jump Foundation Meritorious Award for achievement in public service. In July 1979, the new African and Middle Eastern Division was created during a reorganization in the Reference Department. Dr. Witherell was appointed chief of that division, comprising the Near East, Hebraic and African sections. In addition to his membership in ASA, he belonged to the American Library Association, Middle East Librarians Association, American Oriental Society, and North American Conference on Afro-Asiatic Linguistics.

Among Dr. Witherell's many accomplishments, his bibliographies stand out. He compiled numerous guides such as the lists of official publications of French-speaking Central and West Africa, Ghana and Madagascar; and he initiated several continuing bibliographic projects. His *The United States and Africa: Guide to U.S. Official Documents and Government-Sponsored publication on Africa, 1785-1975* (1978) was the first winner of ASA's Conover-Porter Award. A supplement was published in 1984, and similar titles were published for Afghanistan (1986), Turkey (1988), and Libya (1990). He also edited and saw through to publication *Africana Resources and Collections* (Scarecrow Press, 1989), a festschrift in honor of Hans Panofsky. [Based in part on *LC Information Bulletin*, 1991, p. 444.]

RESEARCH ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

The following items have come to the attention of the editor.

THESES

Gathegi, John Ng'ang'a. "Policy on the creation of scientific and technological information in developing countries: The case of agricultural information in Kenya." Ph.D. thesis, University of California, Berkeley, 1990. 287p. DAI52A:1116. Examines the government efforts to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge for development through the creation of scientific and technological information. Within the agricultural sector's information system, the effectiveness of the state's intervention is hampered by limited resources, expertise and authority.

Lau, Jesús G. "A study of selected social factors influencing information development in low, middle, and highly developed countries: An assessment for the period 1960-1977." Ph.D. thesis, University of Sheffield, 1988. 415p. DAI52A:1117. Used 10 library indicators and 5 publishing indicators to compare information development with socio-economic development (health, education, food, water supply and sanitation) in 31 countries. Clustering analysis suggested that the information gap between highly and lesser developed countries is wider than that of social aspects. Regression analysis suggested that all social indicators have a close relationship with information indicators, especially life expectancy and food consumption.

JOURNALS & ARTICLES

Information Trends - News Magazine (Review of Developments in Information Studies in the Eastern and Southern African Region), vol. 4 (1991), nos. 1-3, is available from the University of Botswana, Dept. of Library & Information, Pvt. Bag 0022, Gaborone. In addition to numerous short communications, the following articles appeared: "The School Library: Why should it be an integral part of every Zambian School," by Albert Kakoma, p. 3-16; "An Evaluation of Marketing Strategies of a small Documentation Centre," by Melania Bachubire, p.17-26; "Legacy of the past: The state of school libraries in Namibia," by Andree-Jeanne Tôtemeyer,

p. 27-36; and "The Plight of School Libraries in Africa," by Felix Tawete, p. 123-138.

International Library Review, v. 23, 3 (Sept. 1991) includes: C.O. Enyia, "Computerization in Nigeria Libraries;" M.I.S. Boye, "Education for Library and Information Work in Ghana;" K. Mchombu, "Which Way African Librarianship;" C.O. Enyia, "The Role of the Nigerian Publisher in National Development;" D. Savic, "Information and Documentation Services as a Tool for Improving National Development Planning: A Case Study of Sierra Leone."

Alemna, A.A. "Characteristics and Careers of Past Post-Graduate Diploma Students of the Department of Library and Archival Studies, University of Ghana, Legon, 1981/82-1987/88." *Education for Information* (Amsterdam: IOS Press), v. 9 (June 1991): 121-8.

Alemna, A.A. "Continuing Education for Librarians in Ghana: Problems and Expectations." *IFLA Journal*, v. 17 (1991):303-.

Alemna, A.A. "Librarianship as a Profession in Ghana." *ASLIB Proceedings*, v. 43 (Sept. 1991): 287-.

Kaniki, A.M. "Information Seeking and Information Providers among Zambian Farmers." *Libri*, v. 41 (1991):147-164.

Malanchuk, Peter. "African Acquisitions: Strategies to Locate and Acquire Current and Retrospective Africana." *Library Acquisitions: Practice and Theory*, v. 15 (1991): 453-562.

Nawe, J. "Need and Priority Areas for Continuing Education for Sub and Professional Information, Library and Archives Personnel in Tanzania." *IFLA Journal*, v. 17 (1991): 310-.

Simmons, W. "International Library Education: A History of the University of Botswana Department of Library and Information Studies." *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, v. 32, no. 1-2 (1991): 135-.

NOTES ON REFERENCE SOURCES

The following items or issues are noted. For more titles, see the annual "Africana Reference Books" in The African Book Publishing Record, no. 2.

Dictionary of African Biography, vol. 3, covering South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, has been announced for 1992 by Reference Publications. This work contains 174 biographies. ISBN 0917256212. \$75.00

Humphreys, R. Stephen. *Islamic History: A Framework for Inquiry*. Revised Edition. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991. 401p. Paper: \$12.95. Focus on methods and approaches for the studying the political and social history of the central region, 600-1500. Excellent introductory chapters on reference works and on sources.

Index des documents microfichés au Mali, compilé par Mekonnen Assefa. Addis-Abeba: Centre international pour l'élevage en Afrique, 1991. 238p. (ILCA-MP/ML-1337/91) Available for \$14 from ILCA, POB 5689, Addis Ababa. Lists 1337 documents filmed in 1990.

Kane, Thomas Leiper. *Amharic-English Dictionary*. Wiesbaden: O. Harrassowitz, 1990. 2 vols (2351 p.) DM298.

Khoury, Fawzi W., and Bates, Michele S. *The Middle East in Microform: A Union List of Middle Eastern Microforms in North American Libraries*. Seattle: University of Washington Libraries & Middle East Microform Project, 1991. \$49.95

Periodica Islamica, a new quarterly, is to reproduce the tables of contents of an estimated 500 core journals which cover the religious, cultural, socioeconomic and political affairs of the Muslim world. Annual sub.: \$35 & \$70 (institutions) from Berita Publishing, 22 Jalan Liku, 59100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Quarterly Index to Periodical Literature, Eastern and Southern Africa, vol. 1, no. 2 (1991), contains another 524. Available from LC Office, PO Box 30598, Nairobi.

A South African Bibliography to the year 1925, vol. 5: Supplement, compiled by Fransie Rossouw; assisted by Elizabeth A. Vockerodt. Cape Town: South African Library, 1991. 476p. (Grey bibliographies no. 19) ISBN 0-86968-101-X. Price: R175+postage. 2778 annotated entries, plus 308 addenda and corrigenda. The original four volumes (1979) are also available for R600 from the South African Library (P.O. Box 496, Cape Town 8000) and other vendors.

Wiseman, John A. *Political Leaders in Black Africa: A Biographical Dictionary of the Major Politicians Since Independence*. Brookfield, VT: Edward Elgar, 1991. 248p. \$74.95

Hans Zell's 1991/92 catalog of new titles includes:

African Music: A Pan-African Annotated Bibliography by Carol Lems-Dworkin. £48/\$70 approx.

Guide to Indexing and Abstracting Services in the Third World, by G.E. Gorman & J.J. Mills. £37.50/\$65 approx.

Dictionary of Portuguese-African Civilization, by Benjamin Nunez. £48/\$84 approx.

LETTERS & OPINIONS

The last two issues carried letters from three vendors, expressing concern about the Library of Congress proposal to act as a supplier of monographs and serials from most African countries. The first letter was solicited by the editor, who felt that the vendor outlook had not yet been given a fair hearing.

What was missing was a letter or statement from the community of librarians, expressing the almost unanimous support of ALC for the West African Field Office. Many librarians have distinguished themselves and ALC with their efforts in behalf of this office.

ALC support is part of a long tradition of collaboration with the Library of Congress. The support of ASA was part of the process that led to the establishment of the LC field office in Nairobi in 1966. At the time, librarians were hoping for additional offices in West or Central Africa and that these offices would supply copies of monographs and serials at cost.

The Nairobi Office's supply of copies was essentially limited to LC and the New York Public Library until 1989, when Kenyan serials and then monographs were offered in what is part of a plan to supply American libraries with imprints from most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The enthusiasm of ALC librarians for this plan is eloquently expressed in the statement by Phyllis Bischof (then chair of ALC) that was submitted to a Congressional Subcommittee in February 1990 during hearings on funding for LC. Excerpts from this public document follow:

"A Statement to Support the Library of Congress's Request for a West African Regional Accessions Office"
by Phyllis Bischof

Thank you for this opportunity to state the wholehearted support of the Archives-Libraries Committee of the African Studies Association of the U.S. for the establishment of a West African regional office by the Library of Congress. Members of this Committee manage the most substantial and prestigious collections of Africana held by our nation's major research libraries. Our seventy members and our respective libraries welcome the prospect of better acquisition of and improved bibliographic control over West African materials, publications which have been notoriously difficult to acquire.

...The Archives-Libraries Committee wishes to express its appreciation to the Library of Congress for this [recent] extension of the activities of its Nairobi Office. This action should significantly strengthen and improve East African holdings in American librar-

ies. Since no commercial alternative to this support exists, improved library collections of Africana remain quite dependent upon this type of assistance.

...Africana librarians consider publications of Nigeria to be among the most urgent to acquire; they are also among the most difficult. ... Recently established (since 1984) Nigerian publishers, are all quite significant, but thus far only poorly represented in libraries of this country. They include the following: Fountain Publications (Ibadan), Booklinks (Ibadan), Gbemi Sodipo Press (Abeokuta), Malthouse Publishing (Ibadan and Lagos), Paperback Publishers (Ibadan), Saros International (Port Harcourt), Vantage Publishers (Ibadan), Zikizum Publishers (Benin City), Pero Press (Lagos), Zim-Pan African Publishers (Oguta), etc. Publications of these newly established publishers and other indigenous publishers, as well as the information issued by West African governments should be readily available in major research libraries here in the United States. I wish to make emphatically clear that adequate private sector resources to supply research libraries with these publications do not exist.

...Establishment of this office provides a singular opportunity to bridge a troubling gap in our sources of information on West Africa.

The Archives/Libraries Committee of the African Studies Association is encouraged by the present endeavor to establish a West African acquisitions office. We consider passage of the Library of Congress proposal for this office essential to the successful performance of our work. Passage is also essential to the national interest, for it would enable policymakers to base their decisions on a fuller representation of West African information of all kinds. Members of the Archives-Libraries Committee unanimously urge the Subcommittee's favorable consideration of this measure.

[For the full document and the testimony of Edna Bay and Gretchen Walsh, see *Hearings before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, 101st Congress, Second Session: Subcommittee on Legislative Appropriations, Vic Fazio, Chairman* (Washington: GPO, 1990) (SuDocs No. Y4.Ap6/1:L52/991/pt.2), pp.1063-72, esp. 1070-2.]

NOTES ON MATERIALS AND VENDORS

VENDOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chadwyck-Healey announces that the microfiche set *South Africa: The Making of U.S. Policy, 1962-1989* was to be available in Fall 1991. The microfiche set reproduces 2500 documents (or 12,000 pages) from the Department of State and other agencies. A printed guide and index of about 2000 pages accompanies this latest addition to the National Security Archive series. Prices are \$3900 for complete set or \$900 for printed index. Contact Chadwyck-Healey Inc., 11012 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Tel: 702-683-4890.

Dakar Newspapers: Selected back issues of *Dakar-Matin* and *Le Soleil* are available for \$1 per issue. Years covered are 1952-1988. For details, contact: M. Fily Ba, Archives Nationales, Building administratif, Dakar, Senegal.

McBlain Books (P.O. Box 5062, Hamden, CT 06518; 203-281-0400) has just issued Catalog 121, "Sub-Saharan Africa: Scarce and Rare Books", with 1746 titles.

LITERATURE ON THE BOOK TRADE

The African Book Publishing Record, vol. 27, no. 2 (1991), includes Diana C. Newton, "Autonomous Publishing in Cameroon," pp. 95-102. Conclusion: The Public Choice analysis revealed that the publishing industry in Cameroon cannot qualify as autonomous: its

main beneficiaries are the elected politicians, foreign publishers and distributors, the public sector and the westernized elite. The publishing industry is officially expected to contribute to nation-building and to cultural independence, but the government's own policies do not allow for such a role.

The government has chosen to legislate and practice censorship, to impose a high customs duty on raw materials, to virtually exclude the private sector from the only profitable educational segment, and to give preferential treatment to foreign publishers.

Logos, a new quarterly with the slogan "The professional journal for the book world", has carried the following articles about Africa:

Hans Zell, "Africa: the neglected continent." 1,2 (1990): 19-27.

Hooper, "The case against the South African book boycott." 1,3 (1990).

David Philip, "Oppositional publishing in South Africa from 1945 to 2000." 2,1 (1991): 41-48.

Subscription prices for vol. 2 (1991): \$54.50 or £32.50 for individuals; \$81.50 or £49 for institutions. Contact Whurr Publishers Ltd, 19b Compton Terrace, London N1 2UN (or c/o Thomas Slatner & Co, 401 Baldwin Ave, Jersey, NJ 07306). The editor seeks contributions placing experiences and ideas in the context of history or contemporary trends. Average length of articles is 3000-5000 words. *Logos* does not carry news or advertising or footnotes or lists of references. Send manuscripts or proposals to: The Editor, LOGOS, Harleyford Estate, Marlow, Bucks LS7 2DX, UK.

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