

March 27, 1963

Mr. Alan R. Taylor
P. O. Box 8043
Causeway (Salisbury)
Southern Rhodesia
South Africa

Dear Mr. Taylor:

By now you must really be wondering about our progress. The fact is that all goes well - if indeed slowly.

One of the problems being ironed out, we hope favorably, is to contribute toward your transportation expenses by arranging for a book buying expedition in Africa and Europe en route to the United States. Liebenow and myself are pushing for this; it would advance your plans; and be very useful in bolstering our library holdings.

We hope to have the final decision within the next three weeks at the outside.

Best regards,

George E. Brooks

GEB:st

AFRICAN LIBRARY PROGRAM

April 1, 1964

1. Library program for AFRICAN STUDIES. Indefinite duration.
2. Support academic program with materials and service.
3. Specialist librarian engaged August, 1963. Limited purchasing program inaugurated.
4. Extension of purchasing and development in depth of African collection.
5. Alan Taylor, African Bibliographer. Should have clerical help.
6. Direct, frequent consultation with academic department at I.U. Contacts outside largely limited to professional associations in area.
7. Similar programs among CIC institutions.
8. Initial financing partly Ford. At this time, all salaries and book money from I.U. or I.U. Foundation.

	61/62	62/63	63/64 estimate
Salary and Wages	--	---	\$7800
Books	\$1000	\$3700	\$17,500

9. Organizational development not clear. Mr. Taylor reports to Dr. C. K. Byrd.
10. Additional book money needed. Collection weak.
11. Not clear to us.
12. See Library program Asian.

REPORT ON THE YEAR'S WORK BY THE BIBLIOGRAPHER FOR
AFRICAN STUDIES FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 1, 1963 - JUNE 15, 1964

TOUR OF SOUTH, CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA AND ENGLAND, AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1963

Having resigned from the Librarianship of the National Archives of Rhodesia and Nyasaland I took up my appointment with Indiana University Libraries on August 1, 1963 while still in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. During the initial six weeks of my appointment I visited booksellers, government printing offices, information departments, private collectors, publishers and scholarly libraries in Salisbury, Blantyre, Zomba, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Pretoria, Lourenco Marques, Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Mombasa, Nairobi, Entebbe, Kampala, London, Oxford and Cambridge. In addition to recommending books for purchase by the Order Department, I was able to renew old contacts and forge some new ones; to establish the availability of government documents in the countries visited and to establish ordering procedures.

As a direct result of this trip the Library purchased just over 300 titles (books and monographs) of which 101 had appeared on a special wants list compiled by Professor George Brooks. (Since last October a further 47 titles from this list have been purchased.)

Arrangements were made for Indiana University to appear on a dozen or so worthwhile free mailing lists, and preliminary agreements were discussed for the exchange of publications between institutions in Africa and Indiana University. Ten different libraries and archives in South and Central Africa possessed collections of duplicate material, notably government documents, from which I was allowed to select items of interest to Indiana's Library. As a result I had wrapped, or wrapped and posted to myself over 200 documents---most of them in good condition, but very, very dusty.

I am grateful to the Ford International Program of the Indiana University Foundation for the grant which enabled me to undertake this tour. Not only in terms of books and documents acquired, but also in terms of experience gained and contacts established, the tour must be considered to have been a considerable success.

ACQUISITIONS

The bulk of my time since the beginning of the academic year has been spent in acquisitions work. This has involved reading booksellers' catalogues and special and national bibliographies and checking them against the public catalogue and the Order Department's process file. Faced with a collection that was a completely unknown quantity this work went very slowly to begin with until I had established the basis of the collection in my own memory.

In the case of second-hand book catalogues a preliminary letter was sent to the bookseller to reserve the desiderata while slips were prepared for the Order Department. Such is the competition for the older, standard works dealing with Africa among libraries in Europe, Africa and the United States that of 840 titles ordered, booksellers had received prior orders for 206 titles so that the Order Department sent confirming orders for 634 titles. The success rate of a fraction over 75% compares favourably with the only comparable statistic to hand. (University of Wisconsin's Tropical Areas Bibliographer reports that orders for Africana met with a success rate of 62% in 1961-62, and dropped to 55% in 1962-63.)

Towards the end of last October I visited New York to examine the library of the late Heinrich Albert Wieschhoff, the well-known African anthropologist, a former pupil of Leo Frobenius, for many years professor at the University of Pennsylvania and latterly Adviser on Africa at the United Nations. Dr. Wieschhoff was accompanying Mr. Dag Hammarskjold to the Congo in the airplane which crashed and caused the death of everyone on board. By arrangement with Mrs. Wieschhoff, part of the library was purchased. Apart from runs of two important periodicals (NADA, The Southern Rhodesia Native Affairs Department Annual and the Bulletin of the Comite d'Etudes historiques et scientifiques de l'A.O.F.) and several books and reports, most of this was used to form the nucleus of a collection of political ephemera and pamphlets on Africa. This collection was augmented by minor purchases and by gifts from the African Studies Bibliographer at the University of California at Los Angeles at the beginning of this year and has been added to by various donations by others, notably by graduate students of the African Program. That 36 issues to students were made during the semester and a half that it has been available is some indication of its usefulness.

During the period under review the Cataloguing Department reported that 585 items requested by the African Program had been catalogued and passed to Circulation Department for location in the stacks. This figure includes items ordered during the previous year.

SERIALS

In addition to back files of the two periodicals mentioned above, complete sets of two periodicals important for Congo studies were purchased---Belgique d'outre-mer and the Bulletin des seances of the Academie des Sciences d'Outre-Mer, Brussels. A partial back-file of Europe-France Outre-Mer was purchased in an effort to improve holdings related to French West Africa.

Current serial holdings and subscriptions recorded in 270 Kardex drawers were checked title by title in order to make a complete listing of I.U. current serials relating to African studies. In the light of this check Africa Institute International Bulletin, Africa maps and Statistics and Race covering the whole of Africa; East African Journal, Makerere and Swahili of East African interest and African Notes and Journal of West African Languages devoted to the western part of the continent were among the titles added to the new subscription list.

One of the difficulties facing the Serials Department has been the inability of the usual agencies to handle subscriptions to periodicals published in Africa. After discussion with the Head of the Serials Department (Mrs. Naomi B. Blair) it was felt that the only solution would be to place subscriptions directly with publishers in Africa. This has added to Mrs. Blair's burden of clerical and accounting work, but the results have been better, and African publications are beginning to appear in the Periodical Reading Room with greater regularity.

STOCK EDITING

Stock editing is one term given to the process of checking a library's holdings against standard lists and bibliographies and compiling a list of the lacunae for subsequent purchase in order to achieve a properly balanced and coordinated collection with over-all coverage of the required field.

So far little work of this kind has been done to establish the completeness of the Library's collection of older standard works apart from that which forms an essential part of checking second-hand booksellers' catalogues. Bibliographies appended to some of the books recently acquired have been used as the basis for small exercises in stock editing, however, and Farwell's Burton, Jones' Trading States of the Oil Rivers, Hargreaves' Prelude to the Partition of West Africa, Livingston's Federalism in the Commonwealth, and Suret-Canale's Afrique Noire have been used in this manner. In the forthcoming year much more of this type of work will be undertaken in order to concentrate limited funds on the most important gaps in the collection.

For a research library the ideal time to purchase a book is as soon as possible after publication, before it has time to go out of print. With this in mind, and aware that the last few years have witnessed a tremendous increase in the volume of important scholarly publication about Africa, the bulk of stock editing has been concentrated on recent publication. The issues of Africana Nova, the quarterly bibliography issued by the South African Library, Cape Town, back to March 1959 have been scanned, marked and checked against the Library catalogue, as have issues of the British National Bibliography back to January 1963 to ensure that no important recent publication has been overlooked. In a similar manner the catalogues of a number of publishers, notably Praeger, Presence Africaine, and the University Presses of Oxford and Cambridge have been checked over.

INTER-LIBRARY LOAN

In the middle of last Fall's semester when the Curator of the African Collection at Northwestern University telephoned to ask us to reduce the number of loan requests that we were submitting to him I became aware that the Program's students were making exceptionally heavy demands on the inter-library loan facilities. At this point I interceded in the application procedure in order to try to do two things: firstly, to prevent applications being made for material which I had on order or which I knew was in processing (i.e., awaiting cataloguing); and secondly to prevent requests being made for titles which had been picked out of bibliographies as "looking helpful" but which, for various reasons which I might be able to suggest, would not come up to students' expectations. The latter reason prevailed in only two or three instances; almost thirty applications were cancelled when I was able to indicate that the required book was on order or in processing. The Cataloguing Department was extremely helpful to students in rushing any required book and making it speedily available for circulation.

It has long been my contention that the records of inter-library borrowing by faculty and students is the best guide that a library has of its own inadequacies. In this connection it is significant to note that nineteen students in the African Program applied for 255 items or just 10% of the total applications made to the Inter-Library Loan Office during the past academic year.

ASSISTANCE TO AND FROM STUDENTS

African studies is a field where the bibliographical aids are notoriously sparse, and even where they do exist they suffer from a number of defects ranging from senility to incompleteness. Some of the best guides have appeared

in the form of articles in periodicals or chapters in books. Students consequently have considerable difficulty in tracking down the material that they require for use in connection with term papers or theses. Difficulties are compounded owing to the multiplicity of languages in which certain basic texts have appeared, corresponding to the original colonial pattern of Africa, and the inter-disciplinary nature of all African studies.

It has been very clear to me that students need help in their bibliographical problems, and I have made it a practice to give that help whenever it has been requested and it has been within my power to do so. Nor has this been a one way process. Students who have gone on "digging" around a problem and have turned up something fresh have responded by reporting back, and my own resources have been extended.

Mr. Robert Masaya assisted with routine checking and verification during the first semester; Mr. Neil O. Leighton took his place in January.

CONFERENCES AND COMMITTEES

I attended the annual meeting of the African Studies Association held in San Francisco in October 1963 and contributed to the deliberations of the Archives-Libraries Committee as Associate Member.

In November 1963, I was invited to a Conference on African Procurement held in Washington, D. C., under the auspices of the Association of Research Libraries, and subsequently served on an ad hoc committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Gordon Williams to consider a cooperative microfilming project.

Alan R. Taylor
Bibliographer for African Studies