

INTRODUCTION

This bibliography records publications of interest to students of Africa principally in the social sciences, humanities and arts. The whole continent and associated islands are covered. Compilation began in March 1984 with the aim of including material appearing in 1983 and 1984. Some items dated before 1983 but actually published in the relevant period have been included. Works of creative literature are not covered by the bibliography but there are no other *a priori* exclusions. The majority of items indexed are periodical articles, books and essays in edited volumes, but other types of publication are eligible for inclusion.

The principal sources of data for this issue of the bibliography are the book acquisitions and periodicals of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, together with material received by the International African Institute. Individual offprints sent in by authors for the bibliography have also been included. Wherever possible the periodicals listed on pp. xiii-xxviii have been scanned for the whole of 1983 and 1984 for suitable material, but, in a few instances, only one or two issues or an individual item from one issue have been available to the compiler.

The arrangement of the bibliography is by region and country, with a preliminary section for the continent as a whole. The regional sections contain both items of a general nature and items treating a specific topic in a regional context. The continental and country sections are

arranged under eleven headings which are broad groupings of related topics rather than strict disciplinary divisions. The groupings are as follows:

- General,
- Agriculture, environment, natural resources
- Arts, architecture, literature, media
- Economics, finance
- Education
- Health, medical care, psychiatry
- History, archaeology
- Language, linguistics
- Politics, law, government
- Religion, philosophy
- Sociology, social anthropology, psychology, social welfare

In the main listing these categories are identified by the first term of each section in the list above.

The bibliography contains three types of entry: periodical articles, books and essays in edited volumes. Periodical entries give the conventional bibliographic information and use abbreviated periodical titles which can be expanded by reference to the list of periodicals on pp. xiii-xxviii. Book entries give author, title, place, publisher, date, pagination, price, ISBN (international standard book number) and series, if any. Price and ISBN always refer to the hardback edition of a book where one is available. Essays in edited volumes are treated somewhat differently. Each book containing relevant material has been

assigned a Book Number [BN]. The entry for an essay in the bibliography refers to this Book Number and gives the pagination of the essay. The indexed books are listed at the end of the bibliography in number order with full bibliographical information. If a book of essays is wholly about Africa it is also included in the bibliography with its Book Number; if it has more general coverage, it is not.

The bibliography has an author and a subject index, both of which use the item number to link an index entry to the main listing. The subject index is basically of the key-word type and reflects the vocabulary of the items indexed. A number of more formal terms have been used, however, in order to avoid too wide a scattering of similar topics throughout

the index.

I would like to thank Owen Bristow of the University of Manchester Administrative Computer Unit for the care and thought he has devoted to the program used in the compilation of the bibliography and for his patience in dealing with an electronic illiterate like myself. My colleagues in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, Paul Holder, Dana Laidlar, John Laidlar, Lorna Stewart and John Tuck have been particularly helpful in drawing my attention to items for the bibliography, as has Paul Baxter of the Department of Social Anthropology at Manchester. Co-operation, of course, does not imply complicity, and responsibility for the shortcomings of the first issue of the *Africa Bibliography* falls squarely on the compiler's shoulders.

H.J.B.