

FOREWORD

Africa's subscribers have long felt the need for a reasonably priced bibliography which would enable them to have access to information on the latest publications relating to Africa. The International African Institute has felt that it is part of its tradition of service to its members to make such information available to them. Having lost all connection with the *International African Bibliography*, the Institute felt it was time to resuscitate such a service. It was therefore with considerable pleasure that it accepted Manchester University Press's offer to arrange and produce a bibliography to be made available to members. Inevitably there have been teething problems in getting such a large enterprise off the ground and we look for comments and suggestions from members on how we can improve the format so as to fully answer their needs. Greater technical experience will, it is hoped, facilitate typographical improvements in the 1985 volume.

We are fortunate to have Dr Hector Blackhurst edit this new bibliography. Dr. Blackhurst, whose fieldwork was done mainly in Ethiopia and who taught social anthropology before becoming a full-time librarian at the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, seemed an ideal editor – fully aware of the African and scholarly interests of many of our members – and yet with a librarian's approach to the task of compiling a bibliography. Dr Blackhurst's introduction explains fully how to use the

bibliography and should be read with care before using it as a tool of reference.

In subsequent years the bibliography will benefit from the contribution of consultants who have volunteered to assist in monitoring and recording material, especially within the countries of Africa, that does not always circulate widely and might otherwise escape notice. Those to whom we are indebted for help in this way already include Dr Angela Cheater, University of Zimbabwe, J. G. Ikem, Ibadan University Library, Professor Elizabeth Isichei, University of Jos, Karla Jones, University of Botswana Library, Dr J. van den Meulen, Africa Studies Centre, Lieden, D. B. V. Phiri, Chancellor College Library, University of Malawi, and Mrs Deanna Thomas, Fourah Bay College Library, Sierra Leone.

We should welcome the participation of other scholars in looking through what has been listed with regard to their own area and specialities, or to drawing the editor's attention to items published in the current year. Correspondence should be addressed to Dr Hector Blackhurst, John Rylands University Library of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PP, England.

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