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enty three entries are contained in the book. Each of the four sections has an Author Index which indicates the name of the author featured, the number allocated to the book(s) written by him. See also references are made where necessary to facilitate easy reference in the book.

A full entry consists of the following details where available:

Author, title, subtitle, volume or part edition, year of publication, edition (if, other than the first), the size of the book (length and breadth in cm) number of pages, ISBN, series statement (including the number of publication if part of a series),

and language (if the text is in other language other than English).

The date of publication for each entry is given as supplied by the publisher or as available in the source.

Prices of the materials are not included in the publica-

tion because of inflation and fluctuation in prices. Some titles merely distributed by reputable publishers are listed along with the publications of such publishers.

Publishers' names are abbreviated in some entries. The full meaning of these abbreviations, as well as their addresses, are contained in the publishers' directory.

Many of the entries by the apex publishers carry International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN) issued by the Bibliographic Section of the National Library of Nigeria, Ijora, Lagos. Those wishing to order are advised not to use the ISBN alone while ordering. An author index to the work is contained in pages 446-56. The name of the author whether single or jointly authored, along with the number allocated to the publications in the serial numbering of entries is given in the Author Index.

With the exception of a few anomalies, (for example some entries are made under editors

which negates the provisions of the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules Second edition, 1978 now revised 3rd edition), the efforts of the NPA is commendable. It is hoped that the errors in the first edition will be corrected in subsequent editions and that the publication will be revised frequently.

The publication will no doubt create a national and International awareness of what educational books and data are actually available in Nigeria and where they can be procured.

Nigerian Books-in-Print 1996 like its counterparts *British Books-in-Print*, *African Books-in-Print*, etc. will make a unique contribution to the book trade in Nigeria especially for the identification and acquisition of materials. The work is valuable acquisition for libraries and book traders.

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In Pursuit of Publishing

Wumi Raji

Hans M. Zell & Cecile Lomer, PUBLISHING AND BOOK DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY, Hans Zell publishers, Oxford, 1996.

WHEN a definitive history of African publishing is written, Hans M. Zell, one of the two authors of the volume under review will stand out. Directly, Hans Zell represents our reason for adapting *In Pursuit of Publishing* the title of the autobiography of the late Alan Hill, initiator and facilitator of Heinemann's African Writers Series (AWS) as the heading for this review. Zell was the director of the Ife University Press for much of the Seventies. In that period, the press became the

model for University presses in Nigeria as well as in Africa - in the light of its distinguished scholarly publications and particularly then once famous but now deceased annual book fair it originated. In 1973, the press organised an international conference on the theme, *Publishing in Africa - a Dialogue for the Seventies*, an event that pulled participants from all over Africa and Europe and America. Zell later left Ife to found his own publishing company in the UK which is unambiguously focused on Africa publishing and book development.

But Zell also functioned as the intellectual, editing since 1975, *The African Book Publishing Record* (ABPR) a bibliographic journal produced in cooperation with well over one thousand publishers and research centres, learned societies and professional bodies spread over the continent. ABPR has listed titles in English, French and indigenous languages as well as publishing reviews, interviews and essays. Beside, Zell has written, compiled and edited

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more than twenty books of mainly bibliography and directories on book development in Africa. Indeed the majority of materials listed in this fresh volume are built from his own personal archive which has now been donated to the recently commissioned resource centre of The African Publishing Network (APNET) in order to, in his own words, 'make it widely accessible for research and teaching'.

Publishing and Book Development in Sub-Saharan Africa is ambitious in conception as it is grand in execution. Containing 2,267 citations, the project represents a great improvement on Hans Zell's earlier work on the same subject, *Publishing and Book Development in Africa: a Bibliography* published along with a French edition under UNESCO's 'Studies on Books and Reading Series' in 1984. Despite the

earlier bibliographies and directories, reports, reviews and official government publications and gazettes.

A small proportion of unpublished materials such as theses and dissertations, conference papers and commissioned articles are also included. Ultimately, what makes this aspect the more salutary is the manner in which the authors have made sure to provide full information on the availability and accessibility to the works.

There are three major divisions to the volume with General, Comparative and Regional studies as one; Country Studies as two, and Studies by Topic or Subject as three. Also, a small but nonetheless important section commences the bibliography. It contains the citations on serials, bibliographies, directories, indexes, biographies and autobiographies as well

as handbooks for writers and teaching guides and texts. Preceding this is an introduction by Hans Zell himself, a list of the periodicals cited in the work and a directory of book trade and other organisations interested in, or supporting, African book development and publishing.

As must be obvious from the description, the first major section is sub-divided into three rough groups. The first, sub-titled Comparative Studies, lists publications which examine issues on, and developments concerning, African publishing in relation with either the rest of the Third World or countries of Europe, Asia and America. Examples here include the Philip Altbach edited *Publishing and Development in the Third World* (155), a landmark

publication on book publishing in Africa and Asia; Urvashi Butalia and Rita Menon's *Making a Difference: Feminist Publishing in the South* (169) which in the words of Zell and Cecile Lomer 'examines feminist publishing in the North, South and South-east Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific'; Ivor Kemp's *Books and Library Development for Developing Countries* (182), a paper reporting the activities of the British Council, the World Bank and the Overseas Development Administration in the area of textbook development specifically in Nigeria, Tanzania and Indonesia; and UNESCO's *Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materi-*

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06.1
Central Business
District, Harare,
during Zimbabwe
Book Fair, 1996.

fact that the latter contains only 685 references, most of the entries in the former are also presented with brief and precise annotations. Additionally, the scope of the new volume is very wide in both depth and breadth covering not just the general and specialist aspects of book publishing (textbook publishing, children's literature, Christian publishing, journals and magazines, tertiary books and indigenous language publishing) but other segments intimately connected with the industry including sales and distribution, promotion, the retail market, copyright, reading habit, training programme, and national book development policies. Arranged in an alphabetical order, the bibliography concentrates on published materials - books and chapters in books, journal articles,

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als: a Guide to its Operation (199) published in 1958. The second sub-section focuses on General Studies on Africa and includes Mokwugo Okoye's *Books and National Development* (325), a paper presented at the national conference of University Bookshop managers held in Nsukka, Nigeria in 1980 and eventually published in *Pan-African Book World* Vol.2, no. 1 1982; Gabriel Onibonjo's deliberately provocative paper 'Wanted! A Cultural Revolution, not a Dialogue on Publishing in Africa in the Seventies and After' (335) included in Edwina Oluwasanmi's, Eva Mclean and Hans Zell edited *Publishing in Africa in the Seventies: Proceedings of an International Conference on Publishing and Book Development*, held at the University of Ife, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, 16-20 December, 1973 (331); Helena Smith's *Land Without Books* (351), which examines the state of the book in Africa; Alex Tetteh-Lartey's *Interview with David Martin and Louis Taussig about publishing and book marketing on the continent*; and Scott Walter's *Manchester Conference on Textbook Provision and Library Development in Africa a Report* published in the *Bellagio Publishing Network Newsletter* no.1, 1992. The third and final sub-section divides Africa into regions: Africa, East on which there were nineteen citations; Africa, Francophone where most of the entries in French are concentrated; Africa, West; and finally Africa, Southern. As the title of the sub-section has indicated, the listings are focused on general issues affecting the book industry in each of the regions.

The second major division lists the forty-four countries of Africa, South of the Sahara in alphabetical order. Nigeria has the highest number of entries of one hundred and forty.

Directly, the high entry on Nigeria represents a reflection of both the size and population of the country as well as the degree of intellectual activity. Certainly, the country generates a lot of concern as it regards the book. With a history of virtual indifference to literacy by successive governments, Nigeria stands as a classic case of unbridled philistinism, an enormous, yet unharnessed book market and fount of authors. Expectedly, many of the entries on Nigeria are focused on the different dimensions of this problem. An interesting sampler is the debate on what Zell calls the 'Nigerian-style book launches' first generated by Odia Ofeimun in his column on the Nigerian *Guardian*, November, 1988. The article titled 'Come to Our Book Launching' (812), presents Nigerian book launches as a potentially viable 'strategy for entrenching or at least instigating commitment to book culture'. The late Ken Saro-Wiwa, scandalised by Ofeimun's, replies in 'The Odd, the Odious and our very Odia' (846) *The Guardian* January 5, 1989, dismissing his argument

as a distortion of the intellectual essence of the book and a corresponding valorisation of wanton materialism. There then ensued a lively debate which was joined by other writers and commentators including Dimgba Igwe: 'Writers' War on Book Launching' (824) *ANA Review*, 1989, Eddie Ayo Ojo 'Against Book Launching' (817) *The Guardian* April 22, 1989 and Wale Are Olaitan, 'Attending Ofeimun's Book Launching' (824) *ANA Review* 1989. A number of countries however record very low entries - Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Niger, Sao Tome, Seychelles, Swaziland and Sudan have just an entry recorded on each of them. It is difficult to ascertain the reason for this: whether for example, it is due to the low level of book development in the countries or that the authors could not lay hands on literature from those areas.

The third major division focuses on the specialist and other aspects of the industry earlier identified and constitutes over half of the total entries in the bibliography. There now are citations on all the factors identified in the introduction as representing major landmarks in the development of independent publishing in Africa. The first of the factors is the Noma Award. Twenty citations on this single development are taken including Niyi Osundare's 'The Possibilities of Hope' (1986), the text of the speech he delivered while receiving the 1991 award in Harare, Zimbabwe. The other factors are the Zimbabwe International Book Fair (ZIBF) which pulled thirty-eight entries; the African Books Collective (ABC), twelve entries; the Bellagio Publishing Network, six entries; and the African Publishers' Network (APNET), ten entries.

Publishing and Book Development in Africa is particularly difficult to fault, more so when the authors are so self-critical. They are aware that the literature on Francophone Africa is not comprehensive and that of German limited. They therefore request that omissions be brought to their notice in order to include them in subsequent editions.

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