

Isaac Schapera: a bibliography

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Abstract

The extraordinary record of published scholarship by Isaac Schapera stretches from 1923 right up to date, with publications forthcoming in 1999. This bibliography covers almost two hundred titles. His main subject of interest up to 1930 was the Khoesan of South Africa. Thereafter he published on the Tswana of Botswana, beginning with studies of Kgatla society and literature, and moving into general Tswana law and society by the time of his classic Handbook of Tswana Law and Custom in 1938, commissioned by the Bechuanaland Protectorate colonial administration. In the 1940s he produced many studies of Tswana land tenure and history, including unpublished official reports. From the 1950s he definitively edited 19th century source materials on the Tswana, notably the unpublished papers of David Livingstone, and continued producing his own original studies at a prodigious rate into the 1970s. Important latter studies have been in the field of indigenous law and government, many in the Journal of African Law, founded in his honour.

Introduction

This bibliography has been compiled to honour Isaac Schapera, born 23rd June 1905, and to introduce new generations of scholars to the full range of his work by providing an updated and accessible listing. It relies heavily on the two previously published bibliographies by Archibald (1969) and Shack and Cohen (1979), which have been extended and, in a few instances, corrected. In addition, it includes works published over the last twenty years, including reprints of earlier writings which have been reproduced and reprinted in collections of essays or as self-standing publications.

The bibliography also includes reports prepared by Schapera for the Bechuanaland Protectorate Government and which are available in the Botswana National Archives (hereafter BNA). Additionally, the Archives hold an extensive collection of Schapera's private papers and research materials, including official correspondence and proclamations, vernacular texts on history and custom, replies to questionnaires, photographs, notebooks, Mission publications and other materials used by Schapera in the course of his research in the Protectorate from 1929 to 1950. It also includes historical documents collected by Schapera and a large set of genealogies which he compiled from all the main Setswana-speaking groups during the 1930s and 1940s. These papers are classified in the BNA as PP1 and PP2. It should be noted that the University of Cape Town also holds an extensive collection of Schapera's manuscripts.

First editions of books written or edited by Schapera are given full citation and further editions indicated in the entry though, given the fact that Schapera's major books have been reprinted and re-issued in many different countries and publishers, this listing should be taken as indicative rather than

as definitive. Nevertheless, effort has been made to trace the various editions, especially the latest and this has been given a separate entry, which is cross-referenced to the original. Reprinted articles have also been traced and are cross-referenced to the original.

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