

power towards the writing of analytically rigorous textbooks for African students. One hopes that Mr. Harvey, in his next textbook would be "more adventurous" in trying to fill the gap that exists. Unfortunately, his present volume hasn't.

(Prof. N. Ahmad — U.B.S. Gaborone)

**Eckhard Strohmeier. Namibian National Bibliography.
1971 - 75 . Communications from
The Basel Africa Bibliography
Basel . 1978 . 242 pp**

The Basel Africa Bibliography (BAB) has become a well-known project which has gradually developed on the basis of a highly specialised library concentrating on Africana in general and Namibiana in particular. Several publications on geomorphological, hydrological, historical, and bibliographical topics have been published by BAB in recent years, with most of them written in German.

This language has been used also in compiling the NNB which aims at listing "titles of monographs, pamphlets, journal articles, and similar documents of Namibian interest, published anywhere in the world".

In his foreword, the author explains why he undertook this considerable task of establishing a kind of national bibliography of Namibia. He maintains that the SWA Central Administration Library failed to serve as the country's national deposit library and had no national bibliographical control of Namibia. It was felt, therefore, that the library of the Basler

Afrika Bibliographien in Basle/Switzerland should be chosen as the major source for the compilation of the NNB, as this library seems to hold the most comprehensive stock of Namibiana outside the country itself.

The NNB has been divided into two parts, i.e. the classified list of title-entries, and the author-title index. As the author himself admits, his arrangement of documents which follows the Dewey Decimal Classification does not allow for detailed bibliographic information. In fact, his system leads to various errors and omissions, to mention only a few:

(a) Several items are included under subject headings to which they have hardly any relationship and should have better been placed elsewhere, e.g. item 593 (B. ROGERS, Namibia : test case) under classification number 341 'International Law, Law of Nations' instead of classification number 330 'Economics'; items 704 and 706 (two documents dealing with hunting laws and customs) under classification number 639 'Hunting & Fisheries' instead of classification number 342/349 'Law'; items 710 and 711 under classification number 350 instead of 342/349, etc.

(b) Some subject fields include documents which touch upon facets of scientific subjects other than those mentioned by the author; leaving out 'Geomorphology', for example, as a separate subject field, relevant documents are arranged either under classification number 551.4 'General Geology' (e.g. items 1012-1014) or under 551.5 'Meteorology & Climatology' (e.g. item 1030), although they should have been included under 'Geography' which embraces geomorphology as a special discipline.

(c) Classification number 916.88 'Geography of Namibia' comprises all kinds of documents most of which have hardly anything to do with geography as a scientific discipline. It seems that this subject field contains a

hotchpotch of documents which the author found difficult to allocate. A subject heading like 'Miscellaneous' would have been more appropriate for the documents listed here.

Further to these deficiencies in the arrangement of bibliographic material, the method of documentation used for the NNB proves to be rather unsatisfactory:

- (a) annotations are given alternatively in three different languages (German, Afrikaans, and English) and impede the use of NNB for those readers who are not trilingual;
- (b) in several instances, annotations which in the bibliographical sense are meant as informational and descriptive notes on documents, are phrased in a highly emotional way, e.g. those for items 852 ("worthless sex-story") and 1923 ("historical manipulation without any attempt to objectively analyse the unfortunate period of 1904-1907") - (Reviewer's own translations);
- (c) the contents of some annotations seem to be either irrelevant or even useless, like those following items 169, 573, or 960.

Finally, little effort has been put into covering some important subject areas, e.g. the subject field 380 'Commerce, Traffic'. Here only 13 items are listed although the list could have easily been expanded by drawing on such sources as leading S.A. magazines (e.g. Financial Mail), journals (e.g. Bulletin of the Africa Institute of South Africa), and newspapers including supplements.

On the other hand, the author cites some sources which, due to their character, are at least of dubious bibliographical value, e.g. the German sex-magazine 'Praline' (see items 844, 849, 861) or the frivolous 'Hamburger Illustrierte' (see item 852).

As it stands, the NNB is certainly a welcome first step to lay the foundations for an improved national system of bibliographical control and analysis in Namibia. It appears, however, that only a starting point has been made yet, and

thorough discussion on the scope and methods for future documentation work is urgently needed. Those librarians and documentalists who are concerned with Namibiana should therefore establish communication between themselves and convene a meeting in a not-too-distant future in order to uplift the standard of forthcoming editions of the NNB.

(Dr. J. Jeske — U.B.S. Gaborone)

**Hoyt Alverson . Mind in the Heart of Darkness: Value
and Self - Identity among the Tswana
of Southern Africa . MacMillan
South Africa . 1978 . 299 pp . £6.50**

Hoyt Alverson has addressed here one of the deepest and most complex questions of any trans-cultural study: how do people from another culture think? This inquiry brings a whole train of associated questions, no less difficult. What is the relationship between the physical environment and the possibilities of human perception and endeavor? In what ways do particular groups of people give symbolic meaning to the perceived universe? Most importantly, how do these people react to the existence of colonial economic and political oppression, what Alverson calls the "heart of darkness"? A large task, without doubt, and one with which the author grapples without claiming complete success. He calls his work a "philosophical meditation"