



Oxford Development Records Project (ODRP) on African Education

Lucy McCann*

Bodleian Library of Commonwealth & African Studies at Rhodes House,
Oxford, United Kingdom

This collection of papers is the result of the work of the Oxford Development Records Project (ODRP) in the early 1980s. The aim of the project was to record the experiences of people who had been involved in education in former colonial territories in Africa, both those who had served as Colonial Education Officers and those who had otherwise been active in the educational field such as missionaries. An aide-memoire was sent out to potential contributors which they were invited to answer and expand on, adding any original papers they were willing to donate. The territories concerned were the Gold Coast/Ghana, Northern Nigeria, Northern Rhodesia/Zambia, Nyasaland/Malawi, Tanganyika/Tanzania and Uganda. The period covered was mainly post-Second World War to independence although some contributors wrote about pre-war and post-independence times.

The collection comprises fifty boxes in total. The papers are arranged by territory and alphabetically by name of contributor within each territory. The contributions vary widely in size from brief notes in response to the aide-memoire to extremely detailed memoranda and some very large contributions which comprise several boxes of papers.

A collection-level description, with information on the larger contributions, can be seen at <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/dept/scwmss/wmss/online/blcas/primary-sec-ed.html> and a more detailed hardcopy catalogue is available in the library.

Higher Education in Anglophone Tropical Africa (MSS. Afr. s. 1825)

This collection of papers, similarly amassed by the Oxford Development Records Project, aimed to preserve the memories and experiences of people who had served in the field of higher education in the former British territories of tropical Africa. The project concentrated on Uganda, Nigeria, Tanzania, Ghana and Zimbabwe and their principal universities but material was also included which related to other universities and colleges in these countries and also in other territories, such as Kenya (the University of Nairobi), Sudan (the University of Khartoum) and Lesotho (the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland).

As with other ODRP projects contributors were invited to reply to an aide-memoire and send in any original papers from their time overseas which they

were willing to donate. Some responses are very brief while others run to several boxes of papers. The papers donated include letters written home to families in England, diaries, photographs, minutes of meetings of various university bodies, working papers and printed material.

The material mainly relates to the period following the Second World War but in this case many contributors remained in Africa long after independence and some were still working there when contacted by the ODRP in the early 1980s. Most contributors were in academic posts – indeed many became the first Professors in their subjects in the new universities – but a few were more indirectly involved with higher education in Africa, such as those who worked for the Inter University Council.

The entire collection comprises eighty-six boxes and the papers are arranged alphabetically by name of contributor. A collection-level description can be seen at <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/dept/scwmss/wmss/online/blcas/high-ed-ang-trop-afr.html> and a more detailed hardcopy catalogue is available in the library.

Anyone wishing to consult these collections is encouraged to contact the library in advance:

Bodleian Library of Commonwealth & African Studies
Rhodes House
South Parks Road
Oxford OX1 3RG
United Kingdom
Email: rhodes.house.library@bodleian.ox.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1865 270