

BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (GIGL
American Notes & Queries
July 1978

Lindfors, Bernth. *Black African Literature in English: A Guide to Information Sources*. Detroit, Gale, 1979. xxx, 482 pp. \$24.00. This is an annotated bibliography of more than 3,300 critical books and essays on over 400 African authors. In the first part, 2,221 numbered entries are arranged in twenty-four sections covering different types of genre and topical studies and reference sources. The some 1,100 entries in the second part cover individual African authors.

Bernth Lindfors
Theodore Grieder

P.W.D.A.

Black Africa Literature Guide Edited

AUSTIN (Special) — A University of Texas professor of English and African literature has edited a new bibliographic guide to Black African literature.

"Black African Literature in English: A Guide to Information Sources," edited by Prof. Bernth Lindfors, was published recently by Gale Research Company of Detroit.

Dr. Lindfors, a UT Austin faculty member since 1969, has served as editor of Research in African Literatures since that journal's founding in 1970. British editions of two of his previous books, "Critical Perspectives on Chinua Achebe" and "Critical Perspectives on Nigerian Literature" were published in August.

The annotated bibliography contains more than 3,000 critical books and essays on more than 400 African authors. Fiction, drama, poetry, criticism, autobiography, children's literature, and popular literature are included in Part One, as well as sections on periodicals, publishing, censorship, research, teaching, organizations, conferences and festivals.

Part Two of the book treats critical studies of African authors, including Chinua Achebe, Cyprian Ekwensi, Taban Lo Liyong, Ezekiel Nphahlele, Gabriel Okara, Wole Soyinka and Amos Tutuola.

The 400-page book is Volume 23 in the American Literature, English Literature and World Literatures in English Information Guide Series published by Gale Research Company.

Bernth Lindfors

Theodore Grieder

P.W. V.D.A.

BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
(GIGL)

The Black Scholar

Sept.-Oct. 1979

**BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH: A
Guide to Information Sources**, Bernth Lindfors
(ed.), 1979. ISBN 0-8103-1206-9, LC 73-16983, 482
pp., \$22.00. A comprehensive guide to more than
400 Black African authors.

Theodore Grieder
Bernth Lindfors

P.W.

* D.A.

New guide to Black African literature

Gale Research Company in Detroit (Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226, USA) have published a major new reference tool on African literature, *Black African Literature in English. A Guide to Information Sources* by Bernth Lindfors. It is a monumental compilation, citing more than 3,300 (partially annotated) references to critical writing on black African literature in English up to the end of 1976, covering books, periodical articles, interviews, review articles, teaching aids, bibliographies, and other sources of informed commentary. The work is divided into two parts: the first is organized by genre or topic, such as biographies, interviews, fiction, drama, poetry, children's literature, popular literature, language and style, the role of the writer, folklore and literature, conferences, etc. The second part is an alphabetical listing of books and articles that focus on a single author. This section should prove particularly valuable for anyone undertaking research about individual African writers, for, under each author, Lindfors provides details of available bibliographies, biographies and auto-biographical material, interviews, and criticism, and the numerous cross-references given lead into sources cited elsewhere in the bibliography. There is also a full listing giving details of all periodicals cited and their abbreviations, and four indexes - by name, title, subject and geographical area - guide the user to locate and identify the references they need. This bibliography represents a truly outstanding piece of scholarship and is an essential purchase for any library with collections on Black literatures, and is, indeed, indispensable for anyone with a serious interest in African writing.

This review was
also written by Hans Zell

Theodore Grieder

Bernth Lindfors

P.W.

* D.A.

Bibliography of black literature

Black African Literature in English: A Guide to Information Sources by *Bernth Lindfors*. (*American Literature, English Literature, and World Literatures in English - Information Guide Series, vol. 234*. Detroit: Gale Research Company)

BLACK AFRICAN literature in English is now well on its way towards becoming an established academic discipline, not only in Africa, but also in many other parts of the world. Parallel with this development there has been a rash of critical writing on this comparatively new field of literature; but, as Bernth Lindfors rightly points out in his introduction, too many books and articles are still being written on some aspects of African writing, as if nothing had been done on it before, which means that the same old ideas and interpretations are coming up again and again. It is one of the aims of Lindfors' monumental compilation to encourage more responsible scholarship: his bibliography "attempts to list all the important works produced on black African literature in English up to the end of 1976," and it represents a truly magnificent piece of bibliographic archaeology. It cites more than 3,300 (partially annotated) references covering books, periodical articles, interviews, review articles, teaching aids, bibliographies, and other sources of informed commentary.

The work is divided into two parts: the first is organised by genre or topic, such as biographies, interviews, fiction, drama, poetry, children's literature, popular writing, language and style, the role of the writer, folklore and literature, conferences and many more. The second part is an alphabetical listing of books and articles that focus on a single author. This section should prove particularly valuable to anyone undertaking research on individual African writers, for under each author Lindfors systematically provides details of available bibliographic sources, biographies and autobiographical material, interviews and criticism; and the numerous cross-references given lead to sources cited elsewhere in the bibliography.

There is also a full listing giving details of all periodicals cited and their abbreviations; and four indexes — under name, title, subject and geographical area — guide the user to locate the references he needs. This bibliography constitutes an outstanding piece of scholarship and is an essential purchase for libraries everywhere with collections on Black literature. It will be an indispensable reference tool for anyone with a serious interest in African writing today.

HANS M. ZELL

Theodore Grieder
Bernth Lindfors

P.W

* D.A.

BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (GIGL)
Literary Research Newsletter
Fall 1979

Where does one go for information on the latest scholarship and criticism published on African literatures? Some of the journals already cited, particularly the Journal of Commonwealth Literature, will be of assistance for certain Anglophone literatures, but the best general source remains the annual MLA Bibliography which since 1965 has had a section devoted exclusively to African oral and written literatures. More than one thousand entries on African subjects now appear in the MLA Bibliography each year. Researchers working on African literature in English should also find Bernth Lindfors's Black African Literature in English: A Guide to Information Sources (1979) a great timesaver, especially since the only previous book-length bibliography of criticism on this literature, Barbara Abrash's Black African Literature in English Since 1952: Works and Criticism (1967) is quite dated, and William H. New's Critical Writings on Commonwealth Literature: A Selective Bibliography to 1970, with a List of Theses and Dissertations (1975) makes no attempt to deal with material published in the 1970s. The tremendous growth of interest in Anglophone African writing during this period is evident in the amount of critical activity recorded in these three books: Abrash lists fewer than 300 critical works, New reports about 900, including commentary on white South African and Rhodesian writing, but Lindfors, extending coverage up to 1977, documents more than 3300 books, articles, and theses on black African

Berth Lindfors
Theodore Grieder
P.W. V.D.A.

English in Africa (9)

Bernth Lindfors, *Black African Literature in English: A Guide to Information Sources*. Detroit, Mi.: Gale, 1979. 482 pp.

This is a bibliography of critical material on black African literature in monograph and serial form, in all languages, up to the end of 1976. Theses and dissertations are included. The purpose of the book is to encourage responsible scholarship: "Too many books and essays are still being written on this literature as if nothing had been published on it before. Some of the same old ideas are being circulated again and again, and a few commentators are not bothering to check basic facts that are now easily accessible."

Certainly this guide puts its material in an extremely accessible form. It is divided into two parts. The first, "Genre and Topical Studies and Reference Sources", contains twenty-six sections labelled A to Z (a tidy count that must have delighted the compiler). The generic classes include Bibliographies, Biographies, Fiction etc.; the topical include Audience—here is classified "What do African Intellectuals Read?"—and Image Studies—mostly works on women in literature; and the reference sources include reports on Conferences and Festivals. Within these sections there are often subdivisions: many start with Bibliographies, for instance, and the Conferences and Festivals sections are geographically and chronologically subdivided. Additional accessibility is ensured by the use of annotations when the title of a book or article is not specific or when it is necessary to indicate that several authors are discussed. One problem here: Entry 43, "Towards a Bibliography of South African Literature in English", has not been annotated and, appearing as it does under Bibliographies, seems to be a checklist of some kind rather than the bibliographical essay that it is. To cope with the problem of cross-classification and to avoid repeating an entry, additional references are given at the end of each section by their entry numbers. This is occasionally but unavoidably cumbersome. Part II of the *Guide* provides references to Individual Authors. Source material is classified into Bibliography, Biography, Criticism and Interviews, and again there is extensive cross-referencing. The layout here is sometimes an irritant: the entry numbers lose visibility amidst the various headings and cross-references.

Perhaps the biggest bonus of all is the extensive indexing. There is an Author Index which refers to each author, editor and translator whose works appear in the bibliography, a Title Index which refers to the titles of books, theses and dissertations but not to articles (unfortunate but understandable), and, most wonderfully, a Subject Index and a Geographical Index. The Subject Index is generous. Without repeating the headings in Part I and the authors' names in Part II, there are forty columns of entries from Aarhus, Denmark (the site of a conference in 1971) to Zulu. The index has been compiled on the basis of both title of work and annotation, so its rate of success in bringing together scattered topics is high: thus Tom Hopkinson's *In the Fiery Continent* has "Drum" as its access point. One error was picked up here: the entry "Drum" takes one to an article that is not about, but merely appears in, that magazine. And it took me too long to find the entry for the bibliographies published annually in *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* since they appear, in a single entry, under the name of the editor of the journal and not under the various individual compilers, who do not even provide an access point from the index to the entry. The Geographical Index refers, very usefully, both to Regions of the World—southern Africa, for instance—and then to specific countries, with subdivisions into Bibliographies and Studies.

Cont'
Bernth Lindfors
P.W.D.A.

In an enterprise as massive as this one, there are bound to be omissions, and, indeed, the editor is concerned simply to list "all the important works" on black African literature in English. One unfortunate omission is David Rabkin's University of Leeds Ph. D. dissertation (1975), which deals with the development of *Drum* magazine and the literature produced by the *Drum* writers, in that magazine and elsewhere.

These flaws notwithstanding, Lindfors's *Guide* is an important contribution. And, as in the case of any invaluable reference work, one wonders how one ever managed without it.

Dorothy Driver

BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN
ENGLISH (GIGL)
--Testimonial, from Professor
Dennis Brutus

Gale Research Company

PUBLISHERS OF REFERENCE BOOKS, DICTIONARIES AND DIRECTORIES
BOOK TOWER - DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226 • TELEPHONE (313) 961-2242

February 6, 1980

Dennis Brutus
Department of English
Northwestern University
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear Mr. Brutus:

Thank you for your kind comments on Berth Lindfors's Black African Literature in English. A review copy is being sent to you under separate cover.

Since others interested in Black African literature would find your comments of value, we would like permission to quote from the following in our printed materials:

"I am ^{greatly} impressed with the usefulness of this book as a teaching and research tool. It should be ^{very} ~~more~~ widely known ^{of} as a valuable contribution ^{to the study} to the African literature."

If you will grant us permission, please sign your name below and return this letter to me.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

David Bianco

David Bianco,
Assistant Advertising
& Promotion Manager

Permission to quote is granted:

Dennis Brutus Professor English Dept
Dennis Brutus
Feb. 12, 1980
(date) Northwestern University
Evanston IL 60201

Berth Lindfors
Theodore Grieder
P.W. V.D.A.

BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN
ENGLISH (GIGL)
Choice
March 1980

LINDFORS, Bernth. *Black African literature in English: a guide to information sources*. Gale, 1979. 482p (American literature, English literature, and world literatures in English, 23) (Gale information guide library) index 73-16983. 24.00 ISBN 0-8103-1206-9. C.I.P.

Lindfors replaces the out-dated work of Barbara Abrash in *Black African literature in English since 1952* (1967), but the book does not overlap the standard literary bibliographies such as Jahnheinz Jahn's *A bibliography of neo-African literature from Africa, America, and the Caribbean* (CHOICE, June 1966) since it concentrates not on the literature but on criticism *about* that literature. The listing covers the major scholarly books and all the associated journals including both European and African publications, some of them very rare. Structurally, the book is divided into two parts, one listing by topic and a second by author, with helpful cross references. There are also some specialized sections devoted to related subjects such as publishing, censorship, research, and teaching. Only Lindfors could have had the knowledge and industry to bring all this material into a single book. It provides the most comprehensive source of information available in this field. It is an essential tool for the scholar and obligatory for every academic library, for students at all levels will consult this work repeatedly. It is both a valuable resource and an impressive scholarly achievement.

Bernth Lindfors

P. 113

1. 113

Three basic bibliographical tools....

AFRO-AMERICAN FICTION, 1835-1976: A Guide to Information Sources.
Edward Margolies and David Bakish, eds. Gale Information Guide Series.
Gale Research Co. (Book Tower, Detroit, MI 48226), 1979. 161p. \$24.00.

A brief introduction highlights the peak era for the Black novel in the United States; a list (arranged in alphabetical order of authors then of titles) permits identification of novels written by Blacks; a separate chapter covers collections of novellas and anthologies; the index provides (serves as) a chronological bibliography, and, above all, the fifteen most important novelists receive special treatment, since each of them is accorded a supplementary bibliography of secondary sources; among the most recent could be named Reed, Kelley, Gaines, and Toni Morrison. And finally, one chapter covers bibliographies and general studies of the Black American novel.

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AFRO-AMERICAN POETRY AND DRAMA, 1760-1975: A Guide to Information Sources.
"Afro-American Poetry, 1760-1975" by William French, Michel Fabre, and Amritjit Singh, eds.; "Afro-American Drama," Genevieve Fabre, ed. Gale Research Co., 1979, 487p. \$24.00.

The presentation of this annotated bibliography is slightly different from that of the preceding one. In each of two large sections, a chapter is devoted to general, bibliographic and critical studies; then the authors are cataloged in three broad periods (before 1900, 1900-1950, and 1950-1975), the titles of each author being followed by a select list of critical studies concerning him or her. The Black-Theater section, enhanced by a substantial introduction, is copiously annotated and even plays not published are indicated for each of the authors.

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BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH: A Guide to Information Sources.
Bernth Lindfors, ed. Gale Research Co., 1979. 482p. \$24.00.

A classified bibliography (including, among other categories, interviews, folklore and literature, role of the writer, audience, censorship, teaching, children's literature) precedes a bibliography by authors (works, and also critical studies, interviews, biography, etc.), so that a very wide field is covered in detail. Only the works of writers who have been the object of considerable critical study are included. However, works and secondary sources in European languages other than English are allowed, the purpose not being to make this exhaustive but, rather, useful through a logically consistent and select choice.

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Each one of these works will be extremely useful in its place, and they all ~~belong~~ belong in every university library along with Gale guides to other aspects and spheres of English literature. The work of Lindfors is to be recommended for its particular attention to the problems of African literature in its social contexts, and the first section of it will be valuable to those engaged in a study of that genre or, more generally, of one literary field of literature. The part that Genevieve Fabre devotes to the Black theater in the volume on that subject (as well as on poetry) is commendable for the accurate discussions of the plays. The smaller volume on the novel would have been improved by more extensive research into critical studies of 'secondary' writers, but, to its credit, it picks up certain long-forgotten authors who would have been considered white.

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Lindfors
Greider
P.W.
D.A.

AFRICAN LITERATURE

1287. Lindfors, Bernth. *Black African Literature in English: A Guide to Information Sources*. Detroit, Gale, 1979. 482p. index. (American Literature, English Literature, and World Literatures in English Information Guide Series, Vol. 23; Gale Information Guide Library). \$24.00. LC 73-16983. ISBN 0-8103-1206-9.

The bibliographer who perceives the craft as a means, not simply of making information accessible, but of nourishing incipient or discouraging irresponsible scholarship, is a bibliographer deserving attention. Lindfors's occasional annotations are as brief as possible, explaining only the general subject of the item listed (when that subject cannot be ascertained from the title) or marking the existence of on-going critical dialogue. In other words, the work seems to have been compiled primarily to make scholars in the field of black African literature aware of one another.

The author has listed over 3,300 critical books and essays, treating more than 400 African authors in this two-part bibliography. The first part lists general reference resources and those critical works that cover either a particular genre (including children's and popular literature) or a special topic (like imagery, audience, language, or "the role of the writer"). Part I also includes sections on publishing, research, teaching, organizations, conferences, and festivals. Part II lists those books and articles that treat individual authors. No creative works have been listed, except those that include significant or substantial critical introductions; nor does the bibliography include reviews of books or stage performances. Each work appears only once, but excellent cross referencing and indexing by title, author, and subject facilitate searches.

Lindfors believes that the greatest weakness of critical analysis in this area is the unwillingness of scholars to determine what subjects have already been treated and what conclusions have already been reached. The existence of this volume eliminates all excuses.

F. W. Ramey

Bernth Lindfors
Queadore Grieder
P.W. D.A. ✓

Sources about African Literature:

A Comprehensive Bibliography

Nancy J. Schmidt

Bernth Lindfors, **BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH, A Guide to Information Sources** (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1979) 482 pp. \$22.00

Lindfors clearly states his aim in compiling this indispensable guide to books and articles about African literature and African authors:

To encourage more responsible scholarship, this bibliography attempts to list all the important works produced on African literature in English up to the end of 1976.

Many of us besides Lindfors have complained about the scholarly inadequacies of writing about African literature. The publication of this bibliography is an important first step in stimulating more informed writing about African literature. No longer will there be an excuse for critics not doing their homework, for Lindfors has provided a guide that is both comprehensive and easy to use.

Lindfors demonstrates both his own responsibility as a scholar and thoroughness as a bibliographer by having examined most of the 3300 references cited in the bibliography and designating those which he was unable to examine. Most of the items in the bibliography are articles from more than 500 journals published between 1937 and 1976, although a few articles were published as long ago as the 1930s. The list of journals, which precedes the bibliography, is useful in showing how widespread interest in African written literature is. Articles about African literature have been written in French, German, Czech, Spanish, Chinese, Hungarian, Russian, Swedish, Italian, Polish, and Slovak, as well as in English. They have appeared not only in literary journals, but also in journals on education, publishing, current affairs, linguistics, black studies, anthropology, commonwealth studies, sociology, librarianship, religion, history, mental health, and philology, as well as in newspapers and a wide range of popular magazines from *Africa Report* to *Playboy*. Clearly, any serious scholar must go far beyond his or her local university library to locate the wealth of periodical literature about African literature.

Dr. Schmidt is Librarian of Tozzer Library, Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Bernth Lindfors

Theodore Greider

PW

OA

BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN
ENGLISH (GIGL)
Africa Today
Vol. 27, No. 4 (1980)

--page 2 of 2

Lindfors provides short annotations for many of the citations. Brief as they are, the annotations are quite useful, for they provide such information as the names of authors discussed in general articles, where the article has been anthologized, what articles have been written in response to the article, as well as other descriptive information not self-evident from the title of the article. Even more useful than the annotations are the extensive cross-references provided in every topical section and for each of the more than 463 authors. Not only do the cross-references make the bibliography easy to use, they also reduce the problem of topical over-lap in articles inherent in a classified bibliography.

The bibliography is divided into two parts. Part I, Genre and Topical Studies and Reference Sources, is divided into twenty-six sections that cover all genres of literature including popular literature and children's literature, facets of the literary milieu such as publishing, audience, and censorship, and criticism, biography, and autobiography. Of particular interest to persons familiar with African literature, but not with the literary activities of African authors, will be the sections on conferences and festivals, which are arranged by location and listed chronologically for each location. Within many of the twenty-six sections there are separate listings for bibliographies and books and essays.

Part II, Individual Authors, includes biography, autobiography, and criticism about more than 400 African authors. There are numerous cross-references to material on the authors included in Part I. This section includes author's pseudonyms and former names where relevant. Of course, there are many more references for Chinua Achebe, Kofi Awoonor, and Taban Lo Liyong than there are for Bai T. Moore, Meja Mwangi, and Isidore Okpewho. But the numerous entries for well-known authors is not the main point. Part II is a rich source for selecting research projects on authors about whom relatively little has been written, but who have written enough literature to provide the basis for critical studies. Surely anyone who consults this bibliography will have no excuse for writing still another essay on Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, when there are so many other authors whose works have not been studied in depth.

The volume concludes with three indexes which further aid locating information about African literature. There is an index of all authors, editors, and translators whose works are included in the bibliography, and an index of every literary work listed in the bibliography. The twenty-five page subject index provides detailed access to topics of articles about African literature from aesthetics to conflict to exile, from heroines to liberation to negritude, as well as to institutions important in the development of African literature.

Black African Literature in English belongs in every university library and on the shelf of every serious scholar of African literature. Since Lindfors is continuing his bibliographic activities we can anticipate a supplement of material on African literature published from 1976 to the present, whenever that may be.

BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (GIGL)
Freedomways
Second Quarter 1980

Lindfors, Bernth (editor). BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH: A GUIDE TO INFORMATION SOURCES. Detroit: Gale Research Co. xxx, 482 pp. \$24.00. (A bibliography. Priscilla Tyler's edited bibliography *West Indian Literature in English* is in preparation in this series.)

Bernth Lindfors
Theodore Gwieder
P.W. D.A. ✓

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Bernth Lindfors

Theodore Grieder

P.W. D.A. ✓

BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (GIGL)
"Reference and Subscription Books Reviews",
Booklist
July 1, 1980

Black African literature in English:

a guide to information sources. [Compiled by] Beruth Lindfors. Detroit, Gale, 1979. 482p. (American Literature, English Literature, and World Literatures in English Information Guide Series, v.24). 22cm. cloth \$24.

The 3,305 items listed in this bibliography include critical books and essays, and are an indication of the growth in such materials since Barbara Abrash's *Black African Literature in English Since 1952*, which was published in 1967. That volume listed only 250 items. The general purpose of *Black African Literature in English* is to "encourage more responsible scholarship" based upon an awareness of what has been done before.

The body of the work is in two parts. In Part I, 26 items are listed in alphabetical order; the headings include *Biographies, Interviews, General Fiction, Drama, Children's Literature*, and end with *Teaching, Organizations and Associations, Conferences, and Festivals*. There is considerable subdivision under the 26 headings, and there are many cross-references to relevant items under other subjects.

Part II is an alphabetical listing of authors. Under each, citations are grouped thus: (1) Bibliography; (2) Biography and Autobiography; (3) Interviews; and (4) Criticism.

The book concludes with 4 indexes: author, title, subject, and geographical. The Author Index includes editors and translators, all with references to entry numbers. The Title Index lists "every literary work listed in the bibliography, including theses and dissertations" but not titles of articles. The Subject Index is diversified under a number of narrow topics. Geographical Index refers to the many areas of Africa, each followed by entry numbers under which material may be found.

Students and scholars of African literature will find *Black African Literature in English* to be a handy guide to in print sources. The value of this bibliography will, of course, be greatest where the availability of materials is most assured.

016.82 African literature (English)—History and criticism—Bibliography [I] African literature (English)—Black authors—Bibliography [CIP] 73-16983

Theodore Grieder
Beruth Lindfors
P.W. D.A. ↗

BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (GIGL)
American Book Collector
September-October 1980

Collectors specializing in Afro-American fields will need to know of four recent publications in this area. But they should also recall Valerie Sandoval's warning, in a review of three other such studies that appeared in *Book Collector's Market* in November-December 1979, that the quantity of such studies has yet to be matched by their quality. Bernth Lindfors studies *Black African Literature in English: A Guide to Information Sources* (American Literature, English Literature, and World Literatures in English Information Guide Series, vol. 23, Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1979, \$24). The volume locates secondary sources, including bibliographical ones, but does not itself attempt to locate primary works by the writers with whom it is concerned. Primary works are listed (along with secondary studies) by Carol Fairbanks and Eugene A. Engeldinger's *Black American Fiction: A Bibliography* (Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1978, \$15). But — as Sandoval's review pointed out — the work is not as definitive as it would like us to believe, and must be used in conjunction with other, similar works.

Beruth Lindfors
Theodore Greder
P.W. D.A.

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Kelvinator Refrigerator KM122 12 cu ft D/Door	£150.00
LEC Chest Freezer 9 cu ft	£110.00
Kelvinator Refrigerator KMS400 14.5 cu ft D/Door	£220.00
LEC Chest Freezer 14 cu ft (Eng)	£165.00
Indesa Chest Freezer 12 cu ft	£134.00
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spread over a number of sovereign states, and the chapter on them refers to the 1972 London Conference on Manding culture which attempted to focus attention on the unifying factors within it. The Wolof, too, though not as scattered as the Malinke, are found in both Senegal and The Gambia. The Dan are divided by the Ivory Coast — Liberia frontier, and the Kongo people, who established in the 15th century one of Africa's most powerful kingdoms are today divided between Zaire and Angola.

Other West African peoples described are the Dogon of Mali, with their great panorama of myths explaining the universe, the Fon of Benin, who established the fabulous Kingdom of Dahomey, and the Kru people of Liberia, famous as seafarers, and now, with other indigenous peoples, providing recruits for the universities, the professions and the civil service.

The book does little to remove confusion over use of the term "Arab", which is not an accurate one for describing the peoples of African states ethnically, although it is highly significant from a cultural viewpoint. The chapter on the Egyptian Fellaheen, the majority of Egyptians, makes it plain that they are descendants of the ancient Egyptians, not of Arabs, while another chapter reminds us that millions of Coptic Christians have played and still play a significant role in Egypt's history. There are, too, some 10 million Berbers in North Africa, while the "Moors" of Mauritania comprise people of both Berber and West African origin.

The author of the chapter on the Falasha, the "black Jews" of Ethiopia is cautious about their origins, although noting they still want to migrate to Israel — he does not mention that in spite of the Jewish aspects of their ancient religion and culture they are not officially recognised as Jews in Israel. They appear to have little hope of survival as a separate group.

Other peoples described include the Masai of Kenya and Tanzania, the Merina people of Madagascar, with their connections with South-East Asia, the Afar of Ethiopia and Djibouti, the Kikuyu of Kenya and the Zulus of South Africa, peoples of the Southern Sudan, and the Ndebele of Zimbabwe, from whom comes Mr. Joshua Nkomo. In the chapter on the Afrikaners particular emphasis is placed on the significance of international sporting boycotts.

Some of the writers are clearly out-of-date, even if their ethnographic information is correct. It is some years since there were pyramids at Kano. The great timber industry at Ashanti cannot be dismissed by referring to "a certain amount of timber". And, can one dismiss the great mine of the former Ashanti Goldfields by saying that in Ashanti now gold is still produced "to some extent"? A writer on Benin should know that the cocoa which contributes to the country's revenues is virtually all smuggled from Nigeria. The East Central State of Nigeria was divided in

1966 "the corrupt and traditional leaders of the Nigerian government were killed in an army coup"?

D.W.

Bibliography of black literature

Black African Literature in English: A Guide to Information Sources by *Bernth Lindfors*. (*American Literature, English Literature, and World Literatures in English - Information Guide Series, vol. 234*. Detroit: Gale Research Company)

BLACK AFRICAN literature in English is now well on its way towards becoming an established academic discipline, not only in Africa, but also in many other parts of the world. Parallel with this development there has been a rash of critical writing on this comparatively new field of literature; but, as Bernth Lindfors rightly points out in his introduction, too many books and articles are still being written on some aspects of African writing, as if nothing had been done on it before, which means that the same old ideas and interpretations are coming up again and again. It is one of the aims of Lindfors' monumental compilation to encourage more responsible scholarship; his bibliography "attempts to list all the important works produced on black African literature in English up to the end of 1976," and it represents a truly magnificent piece of bibliographic archaeology. It cites more than 3,300 (partially annotated) references covering books, periodical articles, interviews, review articles, teaching aids, bibliographies, and other sources of informed commentary.

The work is divided into two parts: the first is organised by genre or topic, such as biographies, interviews, fiction, drama, poetry, children's literature, popular writing, language and style, the role of the writer, folklore and literature, conferences and many more. The second part is an alphabetical listing of books and articles that focus on a single author. This section should prove particularly valuable to anyone undertaking research on individual African writers, for under each author Lindfors systematically provides details of available bibliographic sources, biographies and autobiographical material, interviews and criticism; and the numerous cross-references given lead to sources cited elsewhere in the bibliography.

There is also a full listing giving details of all periodicals cited and their abbreviations; and four indexes — under name, title, subject and geographical area — guide the user to locate the references he needs. This bibliography constitutes an outstanding piece of scholarship and is an essential purchase for libraries everywhere with collections on Black literature. It will be an indispensable reference tool for anyone

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#156

LINDFORS, BERNTH. Black African Literature in English: A Guide to Information Sources. Detroit, MI: Gale Research, 1979. xxx+482pp. 22cm. (American Literature, English Literature, and World Literatures in English: Information Guide Series, 23). Index pp.421-482. ISBN 0-8103-1206-9. \$28.00.

A specialist in African literature in English, B. Lindfors here presents a bibliographic guide to sources in that ever-expanding field.

In addition to a list of journals cited, with the abbrevia-
and
tions for their titles, ^{-some} an alphabetical index of sixty ^Λ pages,
the bibliography itself is in two parts, one on the various
literary genres and the other on authors, listed in alphabeti-
cal order. For the latter there is usually a single bio-
graphical reference, then, if ^{there are some} possible ^Λ, a list of references
to literary studies and criticism.

More than 3,300 citations are assembled here on more than 400 authors.

Sylvie B. Thiebeault

Bernthe Lindfors
Theodore Frieder
P.W. D.A. ✓

GALE INFORMATION GUIDE

PUBLISHED BY: GALE RESEARCH CO., BOOK TOWER DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226 (313) 961-2242

March 17, 1981

Mr. Bernth Lindfors
Department of English
University of Texas
Austin, TX 78712

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Cordially,



Denise Allard Adzigian
Editor

BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
(GIGL)
Etudes Anglaises
No 3 1981

Black African Literature in English : A Guide to Information Sources. Ed.
BERNTH LINDFORS. (Detroit : Gale Research Co., 1979, 482 p., \$24.00.)

Une bibliographie par rubriques (entre autres, interviews, folklore et littérature, rôle de l'écrivain, public, censure, enseignement, littérature enfantine), précède une bibliographie par auteurs (œuvres mais aussi études critiques, interviews, biographie, etc.) si bien qu'un champ extrêmement vaste est couvert de façon détaillée. Seules les œuvres d'auteurs ayant fait l'objet d'une étude critique substantielle sont retenues. En revanche, les ouvrages et sources secondaires dans d'autres langues européennes que l'anglais sont répertoriés, le but n'étant pas d'être exhaustif mais utile par une sélection cohérente et perspicace.

Cet ouvrage sera, sans conteste, extrêmement utile au chercheur. Il se recommande par une attention particulière aux problèmes de la littérature africaine anglophone dans son contexte social ; en ce sens, sa première partie sera précieuse pour ceux qui s'intéressent aux conditions de la production et de la diffusion littéraires, aux études de genres et aux domaines annexes de la littérature. — M.F.

Bernth Lindfors
Tuesda Garcia
P.W. D.A

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BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
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Etudes Anglaises
No 3 1981

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ETUDES ANGLAISES
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Black African Literature in English: A Guide to Information Sources.
Bernth Lindfors, Editor. (Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1979) 482pp.
\$24.00.

A classified bibliography (under such headings as interviews, folklore and literature, role of the writer, reading public, criticism, teaching, children's books) precedes a bibliographical section arranged by authors (naming their works, but also including critical studies, interviews, biography, etc.). The result is that a really vast field is covered in detail. Authors included are only those who have been the object of substantial critical study. Secondary works in European languages other than English are listed, no attempt being made to have the list exhaustive but rather to make it useful by reason of ~~the~~ cogent, shrewd choices.

Without question, this work will be extremely helpful to researchers. It is commendable for its particular attention to the problems of Anglophone African literature in its social context. On this point, the first part of the book will be invaluable to those concerned with the conditions of literary production and distribution, with studies of type, and with related fields of literature.

-M.F.

BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH
(GIGL)

Ethnic Forum

Vol 1, No 2

1981

Lindfors, Bernth. Black African Literature in English: A Guide to Information Sources. (American Literature, English Literature, and World Literatures in English, v. 23). Detroit: Gale Research, 1979. 482p. \$28

Lindfors's intention in creating this bibliography was to minimize "irresponsible scholarship" by making critics in the field aware of one another and of what has already been written on Black African Literature in English. It is a comprehensive work, including everything written on the topic through 1976 (excepting the creative works themselves, unless they contain substantial critical introductions). Also excluded are reviews of books and stage performances, political biographies of statesmen, and newspaper reports of nonliterary activities of famous authors. Lindfors, with over 3,300 entries covering over 400 authors, updates and expands Barbara Abrash's work, Black African Literature in English Since 1952: Works and Criticism (1967), which lists only 250 critical books and essays. He also supplements Jahn-heinz Jahn's A Bibliography of Neo-African Literature from Africa, America and the Caribbean (1966), which concentrates only on the literature itself, and does not treat its criticism. Used together with this and other bibliographies of the creative works, Lindfors's book is the most valuable source available in the field.

The book is divided into two parts. Part I is organized by subject, genre and form, and includes a great variety of topics, from children's literature and festivals to publishing and the craft of writing. At the head of each topic is a brief explanation of its scope and the criteria for inclusion. Part II consists of works focusing on a single author, and under each author the sources are divided into four sections: "Bibliography," "Biography and Autobiography," "Interviews," and "Criticism." Both parts abound with helpful cross references. All of the associated journals are covered, including European and African publications. Each entry provides full bibliographic information, and annotations (one or two lines) are included only when it is necessary to explain the contents of a work or to relate it to another.

The book concludes with four indexes. The author index includes editors and translators as well as authors. The title index includes books, theses and dissertations, but not titles of articles. The subject index includes many narrow topics with, again, an abundance of cross-references. The geographical index contains references to all the regions of the world and the countries of Africa covered in the bibliography. This is an essential information source, and promises to be as valuable an aid to scholarship as Lindfors intended it to be. Highly recommended for students, scholars and teachers of Black African literature.

EMILY LEHRMAN

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GALE TO PUBLISH NEW BIBLIOGRAPHIC GUIDE

FOR BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

A relatively young field, but one that is growing dynamically, the study of Black African literature in English is just beginning to achieve widespread recognition as an established academic discipline. To encourage more responsible scholarship in this area, Gale Research Co. will publish an annotated bibliography covering more than 3,300 critical books and essays on more than 400 African authors. To be published in August, 1979, Black African Literature in English: A Guide to Information Sources (Gale/482pp./\$22.00) is edited by Bernth Lindfors, who has served as editor of the journal Research in African Literatures since its founding in 1970.

The information guide is arranged in two major parts. In the first part, 2,221 numbered entries are arranged in 24 sections covering different types

BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH: A Guide to Information Sources. Edited by Bernth Lindfors, Professor of English and African Literature, University of Texas at Austin. (Vol. 23 in the American Literature, English Literature, and World Literatures in English Information Guide Series, part of the Gale Information Guide Library.) xxx + 482 pages. Author, Title, Subject, and Geographic Indexes. Published by Gale Research Co., Detroit, 1979. CIP: L.C. Card No. 73-16983. ISBN 0-8103-1206-9. \$22.00. (Ready August 1979)

"BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH"

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Black African Literature in English provides comprehensive coverage of major scholarly books and periodicals, plus a selection of other relevant sources of informed commentary. Because of space limitations, certain types of material were not included: brief reviews of books and stage performances, political biographies of statesmen, and newspaper reports of non-literary activities of authors. No creative works--novels, stories, plays, poems, anthologies--have been recorded unless prefaced by a substantial critical introduction.

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The information guide is arranged in two major parts. In the first part, 2,221 numbered entries are arranged in 24 sections covering different types of genre and topical studies and reference resources. Among the reference sources covered are bibliographies, biographies, and interviews. Genre coverage ranges from fiction, drama, poetry, and criticism to autobiography, children's literature, and popular literature. Topical studies also cover a wide range of material, including the following areas: Language and Style . . . Literature and Commitment . . . Folklore and Literature . . . Audience . . . Craft of Writing. Additional sections in Part One cover: Periodicals . . . Publishing . . . Censorship . . . Research . . . Teaching . . . Organizations and Associations . . . Conferences . . . Festivals.

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