

EAST AFR. PROT.
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REC'D FEB 14

Warner Field 15
1914
25 January
Not previous Paper.
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COMMUNICATIONS IN KISUMU
BY MR. H. W. BROWN

Requests sanction to the grant of £10 towards cost of publication. Enclosed letters from Sir H. Johnston, Mr Hollis and Mr Hamilton as to the value of the work.

~~Mr Johnston~~ Mr G. Fielder

The Govt commndante makes it difficult to refuse the grant of £10 for the publication of Mr Reed's book. On the other hand we refer to the case of Capt. Stigand, and we had to find good grounds for differentiating between the two cases. In the former case the Govt. in the case of Capt. Stigand's book there was no question of abandonment of publication of Govt. and should not be granted (see 29/1/1914/S. 4/12). The Comd. Gen's Press was willing to undertake the work. In the case of Mr Reed's book the £10 is required if the publication is to be undertaken (see 29/1/1914/S. 4/12) (and Mr Reed's letter of 5 Sept 1912 attached to that paper). We might approve as a special case on the above grounds, pointing out that it is not an usual practice and that the Govt. is not prepared to establish a precedent for such grants to be established.

See Mr Johnston's & Mr Hamilton's testimony does not relate to the particular book, we know that the former thinks very highly of Capt. Stigand's book, but Hollis's opinion, which is based on the work itself, we had before

Mr. 107 case 13 1122

subsequent Paper.
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on with 29864 (4 returned 4)

I still think that the very heavily
taken in the people are that in view of
the Gov's heavy-handed recommendation
I think it is better to appeal to the Gov
and to let the people know of the
state of the matter

[I have written to my agent the other day in which
I refer your article & say for the full amount
I do look in the same way as you]

Oct 5/96

as proposed? We ought to
have sent copy of the previous
corresp^{ce} to the press

Yes N.R.
The full amount

H. J. R.

Oct 1/96 (London) 1897

Send the correspondence to the
business attention of the kind from
Casson and the native language of
Africa and has been well
sanctioned, and ask the Gov. to give
further info in the light of the correspondence
we brought this whole
alone

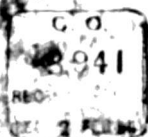
Oct 9. 2. 1896

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

January 6th 1914

AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

No. 25



Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that Mr. M. W. H. Beech, Assistant District Commissioner, has recently compiled a short work entitled "Studies in Ki-Swahili" intended for the use of those who desire to study the language.

2. The manuscript was submitted to the Clarendon Press who replied that they were unable to bear the whole burden of publishing a work of this nature, but agreed to undertake the publication on receiving a subsidy of £50.

3. I enclose herewith copies of a letter from Sir H. H. Johnston and Memoranda by Mr. A. C. Hollis (late Secretary for Native Affairs) and the Chief Justice. The knowledge of Ki-Swahili possessed by the two last named gentlemen is probably unequalled among members of the Service, and I consider that their opinion merits serious consideration.

4. The ability to read and write letters in Arabic characters is one of the requirements demanded of those who present themselves for the Higher Swahili Examination and it is eminently desirable from an administrative point of view

that

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

Sir H. H. Johnston
Nov. 6th 1913

Mr. A. C. Hollis
Nov. 4th 1913

Mr. Hamilton
Dec. 9th 13

(2)

that the study of this branch of the language should be encouraged as far as possible. Hitherto this question has not been treated by British authors and I am of opinion that Mr. Bosch's work will, if published, prove of great value to the Administration.

5. I should be glad, therefore, to receive your sanction to the expenditure of £50 in aid of its publication.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

Henry Wood

GOVERNOR.

15 of 67 1914

COPY.

REC

Molins.

Near Arundel.

Oct. 5/1913.

Dear Sir,

I must apologise for not answering your letter of September 20th earlier. When it arrived here I was abroad and since my return I have been very unwell.

I certainly think there is room for a work of an advanced character on Ki-Swahili: especially the Swahili that is current in educated Arab and Swahili circles in Zanzibar, Mombasa and the Seyidie province, generally, of British East Africa. The use of Swahili, moreover is spreading yearly through Central Africa between the Zambezi on the South and the Bahr al Ghazal and Mountain Nile on the North because it is the easiest and most polished of all the Bantu languages. Its association with Arabic renders it (unfortunately) necessary that those who intend to take up this language seriously should learn how to transcribe the Swahili in Arabic characters, and above all how to read the language in the Arabic character, of course the Arabic script is as utterly unsuited to the phonetic and accurate transcription of Swahili as it is to the transcribing of Hansa or of any other negro language with an Italian vowel system and with nasal consonant and a clear discrimination between g and k, v and p etc. But there it is: you have to deal with things as they are. I well remember during six years struggle with the Arabs in Nyassaland the interception of much correspondence written in the Arabic

characters

characters, and now I had to force myself most unwillingly to master the system on which their writing was based so as to decypher them myself and not have to rely on possibly treacherous Swahili interpreters or Arab scribes. At any day there may arise disagreeable conditions in East or Central Africa in which it will be important for at any rate a few of the British officials to be able to read Swahili writing for themselves. I think therefore there is room for a treatise on Swahili such as you propose publishing. As to whether I should ask you to send down your M.S. and examine it for the purpose of giving an expert opinion, I do not feel able to do that without some fee for the time and labour it would cost me to do it, in short, save on the terms on which I report to publishers on the merits of books they are considering. For some time past I have been in uncertain health, and yet have a good deal of work which I regard as important and the putting on one side of which is a cost to me in time and money. I have no energy to spare, and I can only speak in this letter in general terms as to the need there is for a work on the Swahili language from the Arab aspect as to speak, I am aware that some sides of this question have been very ably treated by Gervase in the Mittheilungen of the Berlin institute for the study of African and Oriental languages. But I do not know of any one book in which such studies have been gathered together in a convenient form; and know of no complete and 'advanced' study of Swahili existing

characters, and now I had to force myself most unwillingly to master the system on which their writing was based so as to decypher them myself and not have to rely on possibly treacherous Swahili interpreters or Arab scribes. At any day there may arise disagreeable conditions in East or Central Africa in which it will be important for at any rate a few of the British officials to be able to read Swahili writing for themselves. I think therefore there is room for a treatise on Swahili such as you propose publishing. As to whether I should ask you to send down your M.S. and examine it for the purpose of giving an expert opinion, I do not feel able to do that without some fee for the time and labour it would cost me to do it, in short, save on the terms on which I report to publishers on the merits of books they are considering. For some time past I have been in uncertain health, and yet have a good deal of work which I regard as important and the putting on one side of which is a cost to me in time and money. I have no energy to spare, and I can only speak in this letter in general terms as to the need there is for a work on the Swahili language from the Arab aspect so to speak. I am aware that some sides of this question have been very ably treated by Germans in the *Mittellungen* of the Berlin Institute for the study of African and Oriental languages. But I do not know of any one book in which such studies have been gathered together in a convenient form: and know of no complete and 'advanced' study of Swahili existing

in either English or French. I am dealing with some aspects of the language myself in a work which is to be published eventually by the Clarendon Press, but not on the lines you indicate.

I sincerely trust you may find some way out of your difficulties.

Have you tried the African Society?

Could you by the bye send me any leaflet you may possess setting forth what works you have already written on African languages. You mention two or three have been already published by Oxford.

My wife and I desire to be most warmly remembered to Mrs. Beach whom we knew (as you say) prior to her marriage. Lady Mary Parry who is a neighbour of ours often refers to her and the visits she used to pay to Ruelington.

Yours very truly,

(Sd.) H. H. Johnston.

COPY.

Sierra Leone.

I have much pleasure in giving an opinion on Mr. M. W. H. Beech's Studies in Ki-Swahili.

The compilation, if published, will be a great help to students of the language, especially those who wish to enter for the Higher Standard Examination.

Contrary to what is frequently believed to be the case a knowledge of Arabic characters is essential for coastal administration in East Africa; and so far as I am aware, the only book on the subject is Gossan (Buttners Swahili Schriftstücke). The letters contained in Study I are typical of the documents met with every day in Pemba.

Study II contains much that is new, useful and interesting.

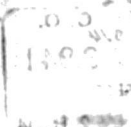
Study III consists of aphorisms and enigmas. A few of the former have already been published in Taylor's African Aphorisms, whilst some of the latter are to be found in various German works (e.g. Mittheilungen des Orientalischen Seminars zu Berlin and Desturi za Swahili). But a good proportion of both are new.

Not only is Study IV an example of high Class Swahili but it is interesting as very little is known regarding Magic in Pemba, except what was recorded by Sir R. Burton (Zanzibar, City, Land and Coast) Mr. Beech's account will bear comparison with Dr. Vohsen's notes on magic on the mainland opposite (Desturi za Swahili).

I recommend that the book be published.

Sd/- A.C. Hollis.

4-8-13.



The Honourable The Chief Secretary

With reference to the enclosed letter to you from Mr. Beeson dated 2/13/13 with copies of memoranda by Sir H.H. Johnston and Mr. Hollis. I should like to add a word as to the usefulness of a knowledge of Arabic-Swahili script from the practical point of view.

A knowledge of this is essential for an administrative officer not only at the coast but wherever Arabs and Swahilis trade from the Sea to Mount Elgon.

In the trial of cases up country letters and accounts in this script are frequently produced in evidence, and for general purposes it is and is likely to be of great use for many years to come.

Having personally experienced the difficulty of learning to read and write it any work such as that of Mr. Beeson which would assist the student would in my opinion deserve the small assistance asked of the Government for its production. I have not myself seen the manuscript but Mr. Hollis' opinion of it sufficiently describes its scope and quality.

Sd/ R.W. Hamilton
CHIEF JUSTICE.

9.12.13.

[Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

17 FEB 11 1891

15 Feb 1914

Sir,

How many

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 15 of the 6th of Jan^r requesting sanction for the grant of £50 towards the cost of the publication of a work ^{which has been} compiled by Mr. G. H. Beach, ~~and~~ ^{K. Swahili} entitled "Studies in ~~the~~ ^{the} Swahili Language" and to transmit to you in your favour the account copies of copies relating to ~~the~~ ^{previous} applications ^{made} in connection with this work, and an application for ~~the~~ ^{the} publication of a Swahili Grammar by Capt. G. H. Beach.

I would point out that numerous applications of this kind are received in connection

DRAFT.

P. No. 127

L. R. Bellard 1894

MINUTE.

Mr. Bellard 11.2.14

Mr. Bellard 11.2.14

Mr. Bellard 12

Mr. H. Just

Mr. J. Anderson

Mr. F. Emmott

Mr. Harcourt

From Mr. Bellard 3 June 1913
18974

To Mr. Bellard 23 Aug 1913
18974

To Mr. Bellard 29 Oct 1913

To Mr. Bellard 29 Oct 1913
42294

To Mr. Bellard 8 Dec 1913
42294

ask for the language of
Africa, and I have usually
been unable to sanction a
grant.

I shall be glad to
hear from you further about
the question of a grant towards
the publication of
Prof. Seligman's work, in
the light of the Com. and
is now brought to your notice.

I have

Richard L. HARCOURT.