

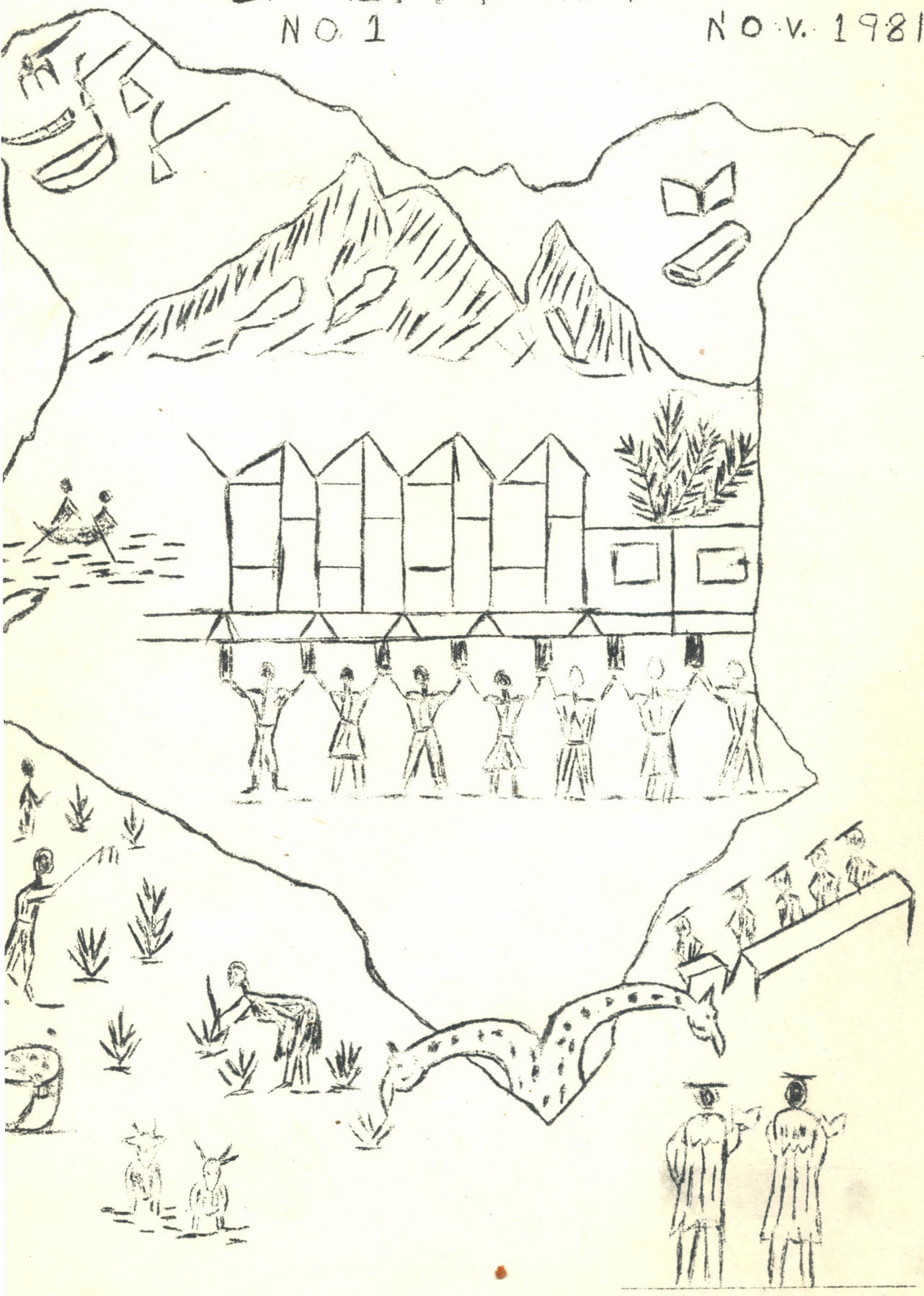
H.A. LIYAI

CHUO KIKUU CHA NAIROBI  
MAKTABA

# UPASHANAJI

NO. 1

NOV. 1981



## HATI

Tulikuwa tumesikilizana kuliita gazeti hili "Habari", lakini ishara za kulipatia jina lingine lenye maana zaidi zilipatikana wakati gazeti hili lilikuwa linachapishwa. Baada ya kuchunguza sana, jina lililotiwa maanani zaidi ni "Upashanaji", ambalo linaonyesha jinsi watu wanaopashana habari.

## Picha Ya Jalada

Picha ya jalada imetolewa na Sehemu ya utungaji inaëleza daraka la chuo kikuu na maktaba yake kwa jamii za wananchi wa Kenya.

Ramani ya nchi ya Kenya na mlima wa Kirinyaga ukionekana vizuri inaonyesha chuo kikuu katika kikao chake. Imesimama wima kutokana na nguvu za wanaKenya. Wakulima wadogo na wafanyi kazi wanastahimilisha maktaba kwa nguvu zao wenyewe. Hii inaonyesha jinsi maktaba inavyofanya kazi. Maktaba inategemea nguvu za wafanyi kazi na wakulima wadogo ambao daima ndio wanahuluku utajiri wa nchi hii.

Twiga wamejitokeza kutoka kwa kisima cha ujuzi, wanatafuta ujuzi kutoka kwa binadamu. Wanafikiria kama huduma za chuo kikuu zitapatiwa wanachuo tu, au wananchi wote, ambao wengi wao ndio wanapambania utajiri wa nchi hii. Vyombo vya wafanyi kazi zinaonekana juu mkono wa kushoto na zile za wenye elimu nyingi mkono wa kulia.

U P A S H A N A J I

# UPASHANAJI

MAKTABA YA CHUO KIKUU CHA NAIROBI

NO. 1

Nov. 1981

Mhariri: FRED E. WADUNDWE,  
Mktaba Kuu,  
Huduma Za Mktaba Ya  
Chuo Kikuu Cha Nairobi,  
S.L.B. 30197,  
NAIROBI.

Wasaidizi: J.N. KAGO  
J.G. KINUTHIA  
W.R. KARANJA  
H. MUCHENE  
MWONGELA NGITI  
SHIRAZ DURRANI

Mpigaji Chapa: WAMBUI NG'ANG'A

Michoro: Sehemu Ya Utungaji

Upashanaji imetolewa na kamati ya gazeti la mktaba ile  
watu wawe na njia rahisi za kupashana habari.

No. 1 November, 1981

Editor: Fred E. Wadundwe  
East African/Special Collections  
now at Periodicals Section.

From the Editors desk.

This library newsletter, 'habari', is yet another tool for use in communicating within the community of the library services. It has been found that the library magazine cannot cope with the daily events in the library as staff endeavour to communicate with others in the process of carrying out various duties as assigned. The University Library Magazine is still very much alive and will continue to record events as it has done in the past, very successfully. This habari will not in any way endeavour to stifle the newly started KELIAS NEWS published by the Kenya Library Association. In fact it is quite encouraging to see that it is growing strong since we in the library will be able to make use of the Kelias News to expand our library habari which is still in growing stage.

The library habari is to offer a chance to every member in the library to write on any issue that carries relevance to the library community. The newsletter will be keen to record events such as resignations, promotions, transfers, retirement, training, retraining, filmshows and many other items like poems and short stories. We invite articles, news items and letters to the Editor to be published in future issues. These should preferably be in Kiswahili.

In this habari we have got a record of events which date back to 1980. There is much on the Kenya Polytechnic as it concerns the library assistants' course. The University library has been strongly represented ever since the course started in 1974.

About the Library Magazine: so far we have been able to produce three issues the fourth and the fifth will soon be out. The editorial board has been able to organize two workshops. The first one was organized in 1979 at Kabete Campus. It was attended mostly by staff within our library services and few other attendants came from other libraries around Nairobi. For the University Library Services, this was the first successful attempt to bring together other members of staff in different service

points to form a forum and discuss openly the issues affecting their fellow friends at Kabete. For those who didn't attend they grasped what was discussed by reading the library magazine No.2. This issue was entirely devoted to the workshop proceedings. The 2nd workshop was held in Education Building and it was quite successful. All the papers and discussions will be published in No.4 of the library magazine.

Plans are in the pipeline to stage another workshop sometime early next year. Many people are willing to present papers when time comes. Some articles in the issues of the Magazine have been abstracted for inclusion in international journals like LISA. One proceeding paper in No.2 was reproduced in Zambia for circulation to the members of the Zambia Library Association.

Fred Wadundwe.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This space has been reserved for letters from you on any subject. Please send your letters to:

Fred Wadundwe,  
Editor,  
Upashanaji,  
Main Library,  
Periodicals Section.

Mr. William Umbima, formerly in charge of the Chiromo Library has tendered his resignation from the Bachelors Club. His wedding will be in the 5th of December 1981. He marries former Joyce K. Angogo.

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- S -

#### TEMPORARY TRANSFER

Mrs. Inger Otieno an Assistant Librarian in Cataloguing Section has been transferred to Chiromo Library, It is hoped that she will remain in charge after Mr. Umbima's departure to ICIPE Library until replacement is found. Posts to this effect have been advertised.

???????

#### TRANSFERS:

Quite a good number of staff have had transfers. To some people, this was a blessing in these times of ever biting inflation. Justus S. Kanga was transferred to Medical Library. Mr. Kanga stays a few metres away from the library. To go in his place at Kabete was Joshua Kinuthia who stays at Ndumbu-ini, just a Kilometre away from his place of work.

#### Other transfers:

1. Gathui Manyara was transferred from Main Library Issue Desk to Chiromo Library.
2. S. Mandegwa was transferred from the Main Library Issue Desk to Chiromo Library.
3. Kanyi Thiong'o was transferred from the Main Library to Chiromo Library.
4. Shitakla was transferred to ADD library from the Main Library.
5. Nancy Kagonda was transferred to the University Bookshop from the Institute for Development Studies where she was in charge of I.D.S. Library. She is now the Ag. University Bookshop Manager.
6. Matthews Jack Ongany was transferred from the East African/Special Collection to go and head the I.D.S. Library. On return from Britain, Matthews

worked in orders Section in charge of Gifts and Exchange before he was transferred to the E.A. Collection.

7. Alice Ngaira- She was in orders before her transfer to Medical Library which has now a senior library assistant.

#### DEPARTMENTAL PROFILES

This is in a first series of Departmental Profiles to highlight work of staff on various library Departments. Other Departments will be featured in other issues of Habari.

#### EAST AFRICANA/SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

For the full history of this section, please read the University Library Magazine No.1 July, 1979 an article written by Mrs. Bilha Pfukani now in Zimbabwe. This section is manned by seven members of staff:

1. Matanji, P.
2. Mulwa, J.M.
3. Murila, J.
4. Mutuku, N.
5. Mwenda, B.
6. Ngundo, E.
7. Wadundwe, F.E.

The department has embarked on many projects some of which are listed below.

KENYAN THESES 1900-1980. This project involves acquisition of theses on Kenya published between 1900-1980. As we advance, it becomes absolutely necessary that we endeavour to make sure that effort and scholarship do not get drained, therefore what has been produced must be harnessed for effective accessibility. The bibliographic control of theses is of vital importance because they are devoted to a highly specialized subject with the particular aim of bringing out originality and a mastery of earlier works in the same field. Theses also carry detailed lists of references to other readings in the same field. So far, over 350 theses have been placed on order. When the project is complete, Kenyans will have wider accessibility to original works to stimulate more.

## RESEARCH WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY 1977-80: SUPPLEMENT.

Academic staff are awarded grants to carry out research in their fields. This is where their academic survival hinges. Publish or perish. This section has taken on the job of recording all the researchers going on within the University. This is of vital importance because some of the research take time to produce the desired results and if some record is not kept, we cannot avoid duplication which is wasteful and costly. For the library the register of research will serve as a directory to which enquirers will be referred to for assistance. The first directory came out in 1977 and the coverage was research published between 1973-1976. Since then a lot of research has been going on hence the preparation of a supplement covering the period 1977 to 1980. This supplement is expected to be ready at any time before the end of this year.

## SUPPLEMENT TO HIGHER DEGREE THESES AND DISSERTATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

This is a listing of theses submitted to the University of Nairobi and subsequently copies kept in the University Libraries. The first publication covers theses that were submitted between 1970-1979. Already, many theses have been submitted since 1980, a fact that has called for a supplement. The first issue has been found very useful. Its just like a book catalogue with its advantages. Readers and library staff will find it a very useful tool for reference a catalogue in a users office.

CATALOGUING: Is done centrally but Africana has started doing a bit of its own materials. E. Ngundo is doing this under the direction of Mr. Mulwa who carries a wealth of cataloguing experience.

## TRAINING

Edward Macharia in the Orders Section has left for U.K. to embark in a masters degree in librarianship at the University of Loughborough. He will be there for twelve months. This is a very rare chance for diplomats because already in U.K. the situation is changing. Emphasis is on training degree holders. Diplomats and M.A. Certificate holders are being retrained.



Peter Matanji is supposed to have reported at Louegborough University to start on a three year course leading to a Bachelor of Library Science. He holds an "A" level certificate. He did his library assistants course at the Kenya Polytechnic in 1976/77 obtaining a credit in the finals. Presently, Matanji is stationed in Africana Section where he is working on U.W. Documents.

- 7 -

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS COURSE AT THE KENYA

POLYTECHNIC

This year 1981/82, there are 50 students attending the library assistants course at the Kenya Polytechnic. Last year there were 34 students. This time University Library has got 8 representatives, one of whom is doing archives. The problem of lecturers is almost eliminated with 2 full time lecturers. Last year, most of the lecturers were teaching on part time basis. Some of the lecturers had problems with their employers, which at times inconvenienced the students. There are plans to have exams marked by the Kenya National Exams Council.

Also there are plans to start some other higher levels of training in librarianship. The next level is supposed to be the diploma level. But some senior librarians have tried to object to this calling it TERMINAL. They prefer the degree course in librarianship to the diploma. This is a bit unfair since not everybody working in libraries will qualify for the degree course. If the degree course is established at the University of Nairobi, the requirements will be uniform. For a developing country, we still need the diploma course. Britain and many other developed countries are phasing out the diploma and other levels to suit their own needs. This is understandable. Library education has been known in these countries for a long time.

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARY GUIDE

Students / <sup>at Kenya Polytechnic</sup> for their field practice, were assigned to look critically at the various guides of libraries to which they were assigned to work in. Those who worked in the University Main Library had the following to say about our guide:

1. It is very bulky.
2. Not illustrated.
3. **Out** of date because <sup>no</sup> updating policy.
4. Contains empty pages, some found at the end which is uneconomical.
5. Stressing very much on regulations in a very negative way.

The students suggested the formation of a Guide Revision Committee made up of all levels of University Library staff which could revise the guide with the above criticisms in mind.

## TRANSPORTATION

These days members of staff are taken home after late duties. This is an important achievement. Those were days when after working at 10.00 p.m. members of staff were left to go and look for their own means to go home.

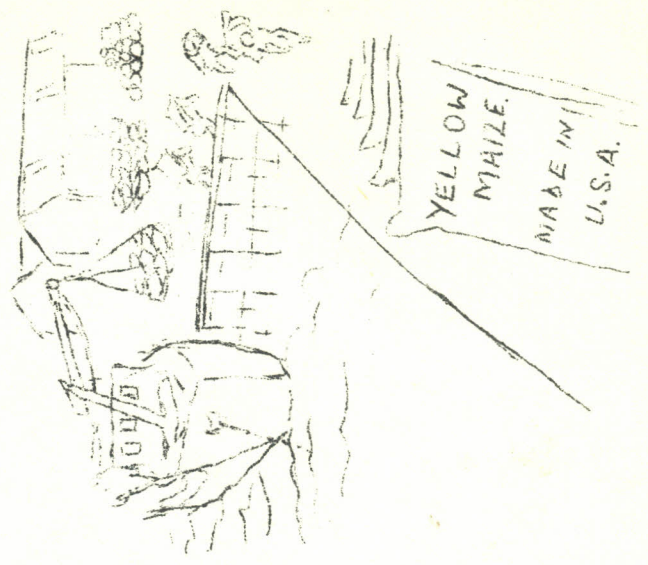
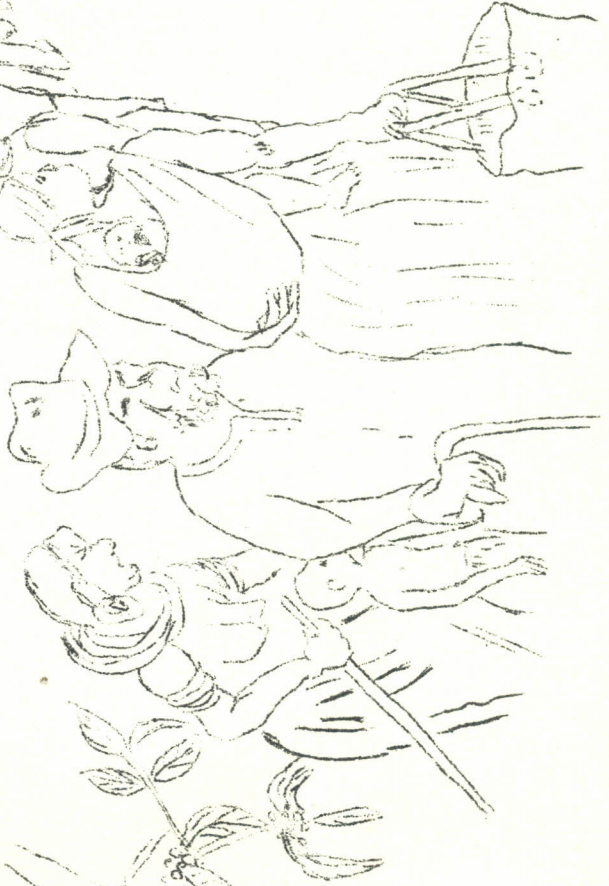
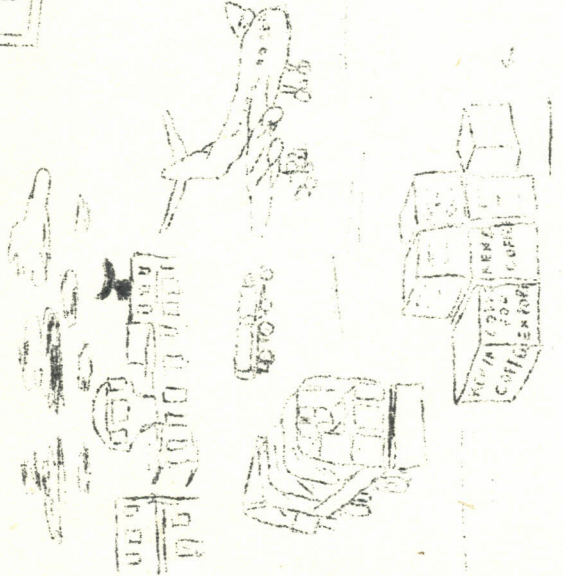
This is a bygone case. But still some members encounter problems. Sometimes drivers don't turn up for some unconvincing reasons. At one time, one member of staff at Kabete Library was taken home alone in a bus which can carry over 75 passengers. This was at midnight. This happened because there wasn't a small vehicle. Some have had to spend their nights in their places of work. Despite all these, it is an achievement. It is hoped that one day members of staff in essential services will be provided with houses in "University Village". Infact it's one of the recommedations contained in the University Grants Report released recently. With shortage of accomodation in the city, this will be a real relief. At Chiromo there are two houses occupied by library staff. The houses are just a few strides away from the library. At Kikuyu there is one house for library staff. But for Kabete Campus with so many houses for staff in lower grades, there isnt any for library staff. The houses are occupied by staff from other departments. Each department has got its own houses so that if any falls vacant it is occupied by someone from the same department.

NJAA PROVISION STORE  
NJAA DUKA LA REJA REJA

NJAA

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AVAILABE  
TODAY  
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YELLOW  
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MADE IN  
U.S.A.

## FAREWELL PARTY FOR MR. UMBIMA

Colleagues of Mr. Umbima organized a party for him on the Friday 9th October 1981. It was complete success. Our gratitude to Mr. Mutahi, Mr. Mulwa, Mr. Nganga and Mr. Ngundo, all from the Main Library. The attendance was very positive with strong representations from Chiromo and Medical Libraries. The Acting Librarian attended. It was all smiles as members of staff talked, listened, sipping their drinks and munching Samosas, crisps etc. A speech prepared by members of staff was read by Mr. Mutahi. Mr. Umbima himself had something to say, after which staff continued with drinks in a complete controlled and satisfying atmosphere. Below is the speech read by Mr. Mutahi:

Ladies and Gentleman: Thank you for giving me your attention. This is not a speech making occasion; rather it is a get together and I will therefore be brief.

We are gathered here, not to bid farewell, but to wish well to our dear friend Mr. William Umbima, who is now moving on to be Librarian at ICIPE. Some of us have known Mr. Umbima for the twelve or so years that he has worked for the University and we have found him to be a likable and social person who has not found it necessary to lock himself up in an ivory tower of seniority. A lot of us have profited professionally from his guidance and encouragement. As a senior member we found him to be tolerant and understanding. We therefore felt that to show our appreciation we would organise this small 'Best Wishes Occasion' besides the normal gift giving affair. We only wish we can have more staff members like him in this institution.

Mr. Umbima, all of us here wish you the best in your new appointment and we are quite confident that you will make it a big success.

Let me take this opportunity to put across an idea for those of us who feel that there has been too much isolation in this library. It has been suggested that we hold 'End of Term' get together so that people can get together outside the context of work. We are therefore suggesting the first of these be held either on 4th Dec. 1981 or 11th Dec. 1981. We look forward to your cooperation.

Thank you And Enjoy Yourselves

J. G. Mutahi

for and on behalf of Library Staff

#### GET TOGETHER PARTY

Members of the library are organizing a get together party to be held on the 19th of December 1981. Participants are required to pay 50/=. The venue will be the JUNIOR COMMON ROOM. Music will be provided. The date is still disputable because there are people who would not like to miss the occasion and at the same time, they would like to go home for the holidays. Matanji, Africana Section is one of the staffs hanging on the horns of a dilemma. We hope that the organizing committee will understand and ensure that no one misses for no fault of his/her own.

The composition of the organizing Committee.

1. Chairman - Mr. Mutahi - Cataloguing
2. Secretary - Miss Josephine Kamau - Law Section
3. Treasurer - Mr. E. Ngundo - E.A. Collection
4. Members: Mr. W. Nganga - Periodicals
5. Mr. F. E. Wadundwe - E.A. Collection
6. Mr. Waweru - Medical Library representative
7. Mr. Gathui Manyara - Chiromo Library representative.
8. Mr. Kago - Kabete and Kikuyu libraries representative.
9. Miss Mary Aswani - Periodicals
10. Mr. Joseph Mulya - E.A. Collection

Most of the staff who are attending have already contributed their first instalments. Others have indicated to clear everything at the end of the Month (November 1981).



SW. MBWA KALI

## WRITING A BOOK

A member of staff at main library has finished writing a play in Gikuyu. He plans to start another one in the near future. We wish him the best of luck. You will know soon enough who he is.

## UNION LIST OF PERIODICAL HOLDINGS IN EASTERN AFRICAN LIBRARIES

The latest issue is to be ready at any time. All that is left is printing. Mrs. Jacinta Were in Periodicals Section has been working on the list in collaboration with Institute of Computer Science. University Library used to produce its own union list but this is no longer done since this one for the Eastern African is quite comprehensive as far as the holdings in the University library systems is concerned. The list is a very useful tool in library cooperation.

## THE FAO WORLD FOOD DAY

It occurred on the 16th Oct. 1981. The day was observed all over the whole republic. It should have been a much longer occurrence because for us in Kenya, we have to go without food for many days on empty stomachs queing anywhere without knowing why we were queing.

Events such as this help us understand food scarcity in our society, given that we have much fertile land and enough people to work on it.

In appreciation of the day, Kenyan agricultural library workers organized a seminar which lasted for two days at Kabete Campus. Books, journals, annual reports, technical reports and many other literatures related to food production were exhibited in the seminar room, one of the lecture theatres in the Faculty of Agriculture Building. The seminar started on 15th Oct. 1981. The F.A.O.'s representative attended the opening session and talked about the FAO's information activities in Kenya.

Participating libraries were:

1. Vet. Research Laboratories, Kabete - Ministry of Livestock Development.
2. Kabete Library, University of Nairobi.
3. K.A.R.I. Library Muguga.
4. Egerton Agricultural College, Njoro.
5. Documentation and Library Services, Ministry of Agriculture.

6. The Agricultural Information Centre. Kirungii Nairobi.
7. The Jomo Kenyatta Institute of Agriculture and Technology.

Each representative of the participating library gave a talk about the activities that his/her library is involved in. Agricultural Information Centre in addition to the talk given by Mr. Kariithi, showed filmstrip which brought a much clear focus on the activities of the centre in the noble job of information dissemination to our peasants in the country.

Also in attendance, were the Kenya Polytechnic Library course students accompanied by their course director and lecturers who also effectively participated in the deliberations of the seminar. Plans are in advanced stage to publish the proceedings of the seminar. \*

#### AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY INFORMATION WORKERS.

There are plans to form an association of the above group of workers. This is very much welcome. There are various reasons as to why it is important that this group of workers should unite and work as a team for the good of the country. It is hoped that, we pray, they succeed in forming an association that will serve a useful purpose. For a developing country like Kenya, we cannot afford to work in isolation at this time of inflation. Most of these libraries are under different bodies but all of them prepare their budgets to be presented to the Treasury. The treasury has a lot of other demands to cater for. Developed countries like the United States of America, Britain and many others can't afford to dish out funds to their libraries. The libraries in these countries have realized and have tried very much to create areas of cooperation and one of them is cooperative acquisition. In U.S.A. there is Farmington Plan and in Britain, there is SCOLMA. To cope with information explosion, libraries will have to try and work as a team and ensure <sup>every</sup> cent from the treasury is well spent.

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\* We reproduce points from the welcoming speech on the following page as it should be of interest to our staff members. It touches on many issues of relevance to information in Kenya. We also reproduce in 'Habari' the three posters designed by Sehemu Ya Utungaji for the FAO World Food Day.



PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO THE FOOD THEY NEED: PEOPLE HAVE  
THE RIGHT TO THE FOOD THEY PRODUCE.

15th October, 1981

WELCOMING SPEECH BY N. WANGUTHI

Participants, Fellow librarians,

On behalf of the Kenya Agricultural Library and Information Workers I have the pleasure to extend to you all a most hearty and cordial welcome to our two day's event here at Kabete.

Our deliberations will mainly revolve around three issues; namely Food, the proposed Kenya Agricultural Information Workers Association and the Organization of Agricultural in Kenya for maximum Dissemination to those who need it and in appropriate forms and languages.

Turning to the issue of food it is very appropriate that we dwell on this one very seriously. This is in view of the fact that food is the most essential source of energy, of all the sources. This is because it provides energy to move the most important, valuable and wuperior Machine, and the master of all other Machines, which is man. It is amazing how we tend to be unconscious of this fact, and give priorities to other items such as roads, buildings etc, whenever gauging or reflecting on our development. Thus we often talk of how many new roads have been constructed, or how many new and modern buildings have been erected in our cities or towns, but rarely how much food has been produced. Yet a hungry man will never feel the comfort of riding or walking on a tarmac road, neither will he see the beauty or magnificency of a modern building.

Now it is on the organization of Agricultural Information in Kenya for Maximum Dissemination to those who need it in appropriate forms and languages. A lot of money has been spent on agricultural research, and a lot of literature or information pertaining to our country has come out as a result of this. But the question is, has this had any meaningful effect? Has it reached the intended or the appropriate person who are the peasants of Kenya who labour to produce the food we eat. I will leave it to you to dwell on those questions and others hereof.

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Sehemu ya Utungaji organized film shows in October 1981. The films were 'White Man's Country', 'Mau Mau', and 'Kenyatta'. Tickets for the shows were designed by the Sehemu and are reproduced on p.13

ADVENTURES OF PROFESSOR KIMENYIUGENI

LIBRARY



Why doesn't library teach your people about family planning? There are too many people in your country.

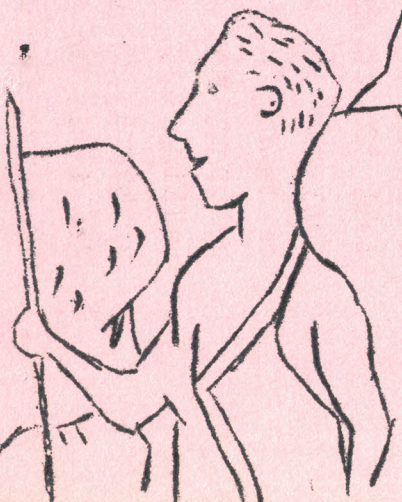
I have been to Denmark, Germany, U.K. U.S. A. Japan



Mzee Jifunzeni mambo ya kupanga uzazi. Jamii inahitaji kuwa na watoto wawili tu.



Una watoto kumi na wkatu. Kila mtoto humaliwa na kinywa la kimoja, mkono mivili. Basi kwa nini mktaba haituelezi na kutufundisha kwa nini hakuna chakula cha kutosha? Pia kuni wasiofanya kazi na wanachakula hata ora kualisha mbwe.



FAO WORLD FOOD DAY SEMINAR:

PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO THE FOOD THEY NEED: PEOPLE HAVE  
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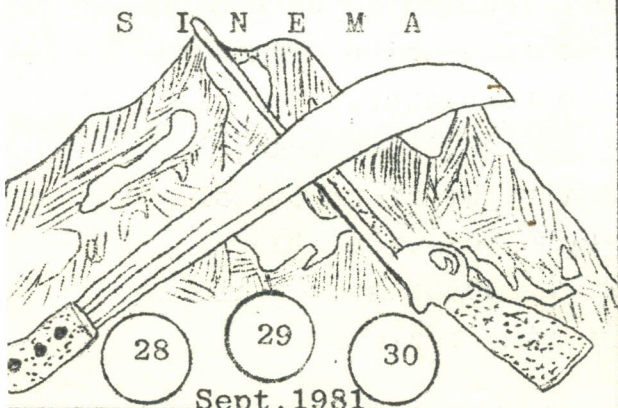
On our assembling here, the importance of this needs no emphasis. I believe that nobody has a monopoly of ideas. It is only when we come together like this, with each one of us coming out with each own's ideas arising out of personal experience or observations, and then bringing this together, that perfection can be achieved. Again we should realize that we the Kenyan people themselves are the only people who can identify the problems facing our own country, analyse them and come out with our own solutions. We should not rely on outsiders or on borrowed ideas to solve our problems. For when we do this, irrelavancy and impractability are bound to creep in.

As we set out to dwell on our deliberations, let us have the peasant at the front of our minds. I mention this one because in most cases whenever we are discussing or planning on issues relating to farming or agriculture we tend to think only in terms of big time farming such as foreign plantations etc. while the peasant land holding forms the bulk of agriculture in the country, as is dictated by our and economic set up.

# CKCN

Maktaba, Sehemu ya Utungaji

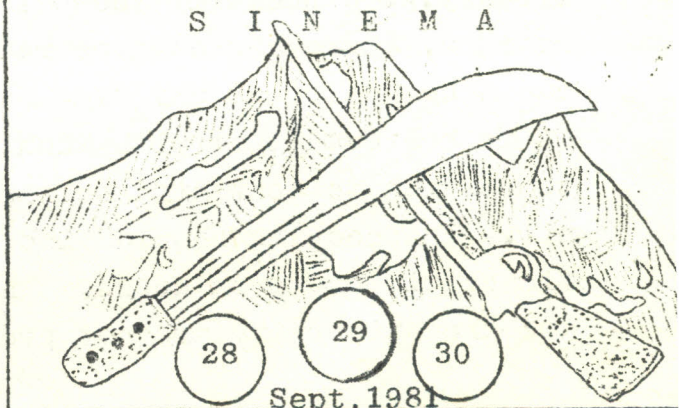
S I N E M A



# CKCN

Maktaba, Sehemu ya Utungaji

S I N E M A



Kabete Campus Library and Bookshop Meeting 6.10.1981

The meeting was held on the 6th of October 1981 and attended by departmental library representatives from the faculties of Vet. Medicine and Agriculture. Kabete library sent three representatives. In ~~the~~ attendance also was the Acting Bookshop manager Miss Kagundu. This was her first time to attend such a meeting. Whenever such a meeting is held, departmental representatives get a chance to air their views about the library services. They make suggestions which are then forwarded to the University Library and Bookshop Committee who will reject or accept whatever suggestions have emanated from this meeting. Some of the issues discussed were:

1. Lending of journals to Post Graduate students - Readers in this category are not allowed to borrow journals - may it be bound or loose. Representatives feel that Post Graduate students should be allowed to borrow bound journals. This sounds very reasonable but the only problem is that some Post Graduate students as Government employees are supposed to work in the respective stations some located as far as Mombasa. Now in case another reader wants to refer to the journal borrowed, what will happen? Tremendous inconvenience. But Post Graduate Students can be accorded the facilities during their first academic year. For the First year, most of the students are around doing class work which lasts for one year. After the first year successful Post Graduate Students proceed to carry out their projects. Some go back to their stations, some do remain around the library.

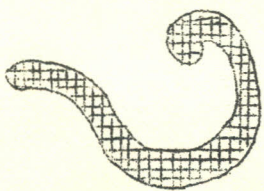
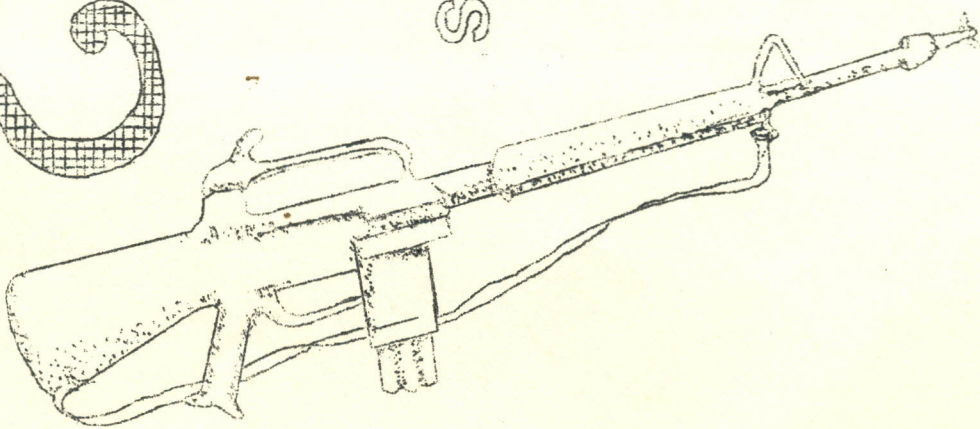
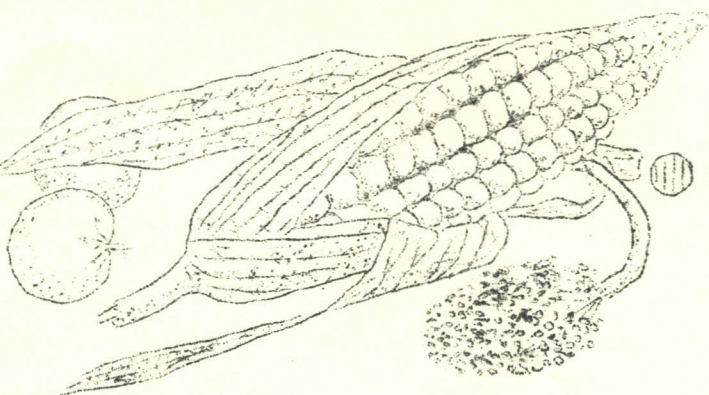
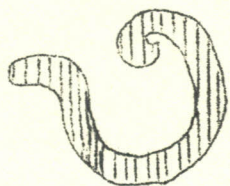
PHOTOCOPYING FACILITIES: The meeting recommend that a photocopying Machine should be purchased and kept in the library. In other libraries especially those that are located in developed nations, there are coin operated machines which a student can make use of at any time at his convenience. Sometimes, it is believed that with such a Machine around, temptation to tear off the important pages is practically nil. Photocopies should also be *cheap* to lessen the financial burden on users. This makes sense as the library and the University are not profit making bodies.

PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO FOOD THEY NEED

PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO FOOD THEY PRODUCE

Undoubtedly  
the desire for food  
has been, and still is,  
one of the main causes  
of great political  
events.

Bertrand Russel



## Sehemu Ya Utungaji

The Sehemu brings together all library workers who are interested in creative work. Activities include drawing, painting, writing plays, short stories, poems, literary criticism among others. All library workers are invited to join by contacting J. Kago, mkuu wa Sehemu ya Utungaji, Kabete Library.

A special creative issue of library magazine is being planned for 1982. Submit your articles, stories, plays, poems, songs etc. to the Editors.

### Creative work of Sehemu

1. Kuvunja Minyororo.
2. Mau Mau Mbuci.
3. Magazine Cover No. 1, 2, 3.
4. 3 Posters for World Food Day, and map to Kabete Campus.\*
5. Poster for Ideas and Action.
6. Cover of Who's Who.
7. Posters and tickets for film show.
8. 2nd Workshop Posters.

Two posters designed by the Sehemu have been accepted for publication by 'Mashambani'. They will appear in their December issue in both editions, Kiswahili and Gikuyu.

Publications of the University of Nairobi Library Magazine Publishing Committee:

1. Library Magazine Nos. 1 - 3 Twice a year.
2. Who is who in the University of Nairobi.
3. Habari Kutoka Maktaba ya Chuo Kikuu cha Nairobi.

### In preparation

1. Library Magazine No.4; Special Issue.  
Proceedings of 2nd library workshop on the theme 'Maktaba na Sehemu za Mashambani katika Kenya'. held in Oct. 1980
2. Library Magazine No.5: Special Issue: Youth and Oral Literature in Kenya.
3. Occasional Publication No.1: 'Kuvunja Minyororo: Mapambano ya wanaKenya kwa michoro'.

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\* Reproduced in this issue of 'Habari'

*KLA*  
Now that Kenya Library Association has become professional we felt it is appropriate to reproduce an editorial which was written by one of our staff members. It was accepted for publication in Maktaba Vol. 5 No. 2 but was never actually published. Although written several years ago, we felt it is still relevant.

Kenya Library Association turning 'Professional' is seen by some in biblical *terms* as 'the transformation of the Kenya Library Association from being a cluster of workers.. into an organized structured and systemised association' and the 'creation of order out of chaos' (KELIAS News No.2 (1981) P.1).

The article reproduced below provides some other views on the performance of a professional association in Kenya today. We also invite our readers to document the history of Kenya Library Association since its formation to the time it turned 'Professional'. We feel the 'Cluster of workers' had achieved something more than 'Chaos'. Do the Kenya Library Association members, library workers and former Kenya Library Association office bearers have any views on these?

#### LIBRARY AND SOCIETY TODAY

*1980*  
At the ~~last~~ Annual General Meeting of KLA, many questions were raised on the role of the Association in Kenyan society today. While the Association has achieved much in the last few years, it would be a great mistake not to look at shortcomings of the Association.

To begin with, there is need to define very clearly what role we see the Association playing in our society. In a society where over 80% of adult population cannot read and write (see: Ngugi wa Mirii: on literacy content. University of Nairobi, IDS Working Paper 340, 1979) and where a majority of population lives in rural areas, where abject poverty exists side by side with extremes of wealth, it will not do to model our library Association on British or American Library Association models. Those who advocated the adaption of the new constitution at the AGM on the grounds that 'other countries have these types of constitution so we must have it also' need to be made aware of the particular conditions of Kenya which are different from those in other countries both qualitatively and quantitatively.



We cannot define our role without understanding the social and economic context in which we live. The major struggles of the broad Kenyan population are based on obtaining food, shelter, and clothing. It is indeed ironic that in a land as rich as Kenya, both in terms of its industrious peoples and natural resources, vast majority of the people go without these basic necessities. It will not do for the Library Association to brush aside these facts as irrelevant and try to exist in a vacuum. For it is a fact that

- most Kenyans cannot read and write
- most Kenyans cannot afford to buy any books
- we have a patriotic history of struggles, both against nature and against foreign domination from which we can learn valuable lessons to solve our present problems.

It is also a fact that the Library profession and the Association has done nothing to find out how the people of various Kenyan nationalities<sup>1</sup> survive and what the Association can learn from them and in return teach them in a mutual exchange of information and knowledge so as to lighten the burden of providing food, shelter and clothing as the minimum necessary to survive. It is only on this basis that we will be able to fulfil our role in the society.

While it is good to see the Association sponsoring international conferences and seminars (though some of these are also dominated by non-librarians and foreign business concerns), no attempts have been made to hold conferences of librarians serving the various nationalities within our own borders and to pull their experiences and to study the relevance of libraries in these areas. Too often we dismiss the 'junior librarian' as non-professional and fail to learn anything from her/his vast experience. Out of a population of about 15 million and hundreds of libraries, we consider only a handful - about 90 or so - as professional librarians, because they meet some mysterious qualifications recognized by 'international librarianship'. The rest of hundreds of library assistants with or without certificates are considered as unworthy of recognition as librarians, though they may spend their whole lives working in libraries. The result of this elitist way of looking at the profession is that the profession has been weakened and deprived of its life

blood which can only be provided by the two way exchange of ideas between the large number of librarians throughout the country and the Association.

Some of the positive steps that the Association can take towards meeting the needs of the society are: publicity through the mass media to make the public both aware and interested in libraries; publication of simple booklets on libraries and librarians; links with Adult Education Centres, Community development offices, local churches, rural co-operatives and societies such as Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organization in the rural areas.

But of course before we can achieve this, the librarians themselves will have to get organized and become people-orientated: for example we may need to start projects of fact-finding on the information needs of worker-peasant population and the forms and channels through which the information can be made available.

Much however depends on the attitude of the librarian himself/herself. An attitude orientated towards meeting the information needs of the broad national population reflects a feeling of patriotism and service to the nation. If this can be achieved through our everyday work which most of us probably started for subsistence, then perhaps we can do a little service for our fellow Kenyans as well as earning our subsistence. To get as much information as one needs is a basic human right and to provide as much information as we are able to those who need it should become our motto.

Shiraz Durrani  
Kabete Library

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<sup>1</sup>Nationalities: formerly the ~~colonialists~~<sup>colonialists</sup> used the term 'tribes' for Kenyan nationalities. Oxford dictionary defines 'tribes' as 'group of primitive clans under recognized chiefs' and 'clan' as 'Scottish Highlanders with common-ancestors'. Ethnic groups within the nationalities (Eg. the Maragoli, Samia, Triki of the Luhya nationality; the Tugen, Marakwet, Pokot of the Kalenjin nationality) were called sub-tribes.

## Security of library material

As librarians, security of library material is often in our minds. The experience of many of our sections shows that there is a need to tighten up security precautions to prevent loss of valuable material.

One possible source of loss is the stealing of such material by foreigners, many posing as scholars.

The loss of such material cannot be calculated in financial term as a lot of it is irreplaceable. While UNESCO and other international organizations continue efforts to repatriate valuable material culture and documents to the countries to whom such material belongs, the theft continues even today to drain our countries with rich treasures building up in U.S.A. and Western European countries.

We reproduce below a news item which appeared in an Indian newspaper in December 1981 to show how such theft are conducted.

### ARCHIVES THEFT ROCKS TN GOVT.

MADRAS: The mysterious disappearance of valuable records from the Tamil Nadu Archives (TNA), has taken the government by shock and surprise.

The hanky-panky of a section of the TNA employees is said to be responsible for disposing of historic records for a pittance to foreigners hunting for particulars about Tamil Nadu. Inquiries reveal that a number of records pertaining to agricultural statistics have vanished after the arrival of a foreigner conducting research on the topic.

What has deeply upset the government is the vanishing of the valuable data regarding the origin of the Justice Party and the Dravida Kazhagam in the State, which gave birth to the DMK and the AIADMK. Suspicions naturally point to two other foreigners researching on the subject.

What comes as the climax to the mystery is the knocking off of two letters of Lord Olive from the Annkal Trade Fair in Madras in February last.

### PILFERAGE

Other underhand dealings that have surfaced in the scandal include the involvement of the books received on an exchange basis from the State Archives and also abroad. According to an Archives source, top officials snatch the books even before they land at the Archives office. These are then sold cheaply to foreigners.