

AD1432 THE BUREAU OF LITERACY AND LITERATURE, 1945-1970

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9 boxes

The collection was received from Maida Whyte, former Education Officer of the South African Institute of Race Relations and later the Director of the Bureau, containing its institutional records.

Please note: Collection items E5, E13.1 & E13.2, and F where digitised and are available on our Historical Papers-AtOM platform <http://historicalpapers-atom.wits.ac.za/bureau-of-literacy-and-literature-records>.

#### BACKGROUND

In April 1946 a five-year project was initiated, which aimed at developing materials and techniques for literacy classes for African adults, particularly on the gold mines. It was started by the South African Institute of Race Relations, and conducted through a special committee whose members included specialists from government departments, and with finance provided by the Department of Education, The Bantu Welfare Trust, private donors, and the Institute.

The years 1952 — 1964 were a pre-Bureau period in which work continued, and on the 1 April 1964, the Bureau of Literacy and Literature became an independent voluntary organisation, and was registered as a 'non-profit making company'.

The teaching methods were based on Dr Frank Laubach's phonetic alphabet, which he developed in the 1930s in the Philippines, and which were applicable in different languages, by using the sound of a syllable in association with a familiar picture. He would later be called "apostle of mass literacy".

#### COLLECTION

- A MINUTES 1947 June-1969 Feb. in English and Afrikaans 4 Files.
- A1 Minutes June 1947- Dec. 1956  
Includes minutes of Native Adult Literacy (a Sub-Committee of the National Advisory Council for Adult Education); Minutes and reports of General Purposes Committee; Finance Committee, Interim Committee of Bureau of Literacy and Literature (B.L.L.)
- A2 Minutes March 1957-March 1958  
Includes minutes of interim Committee for B.L.L, Exploratory Committee; Special meetings.
- A3 Minutes 1964 May- 1965 Nov.  
Includes minutes of Advisory Committee of B.L.L; Annual General Meeting; Executive Committee.
- A4 Minutes 1965 Dec.- 1969 Feb.  
Includes executive committee minutes, Annual General Meeting, and Advisory Committee.
- B FINANCIAL PAPERS 1947 Apr.-1966 August. 1file.  
Includes statements of Revenue, Expenditure, Budget, Trial Balance and Balance Sheet.
- C CORRESPONDENCE 1946 Jan- 1966 March 3 Files.
- C1 Correspondence 1946 Jan- 1950 Nov.  
Includes correspondence with the Union Education Department, proposed projects, grant applications.
- C2 Correspondence 1951 April - 1957 August  
Includes correspondence with Department of Education; Comments by Maida Whyte on the Bantu Education Syllabus 1955 Feb-1955 Sept; Letters in appeal for funds 1955 May - November.
- C3 Correspondence 1958 Oct — 1966 Mar  
Includes correspondence with 'World Literacy and Literature'; the University of Witwatersrand; the continuation committee of S.A. Churches; the Conference of Missionary Societies in Great Britain and Ireland; Vivian Hicks in attempts to get personnel to the Bureau.  
Correspondents:  
F.J. Van Wyk; Desmond T. Cole; F. Shacklock; L.B. Greaves; Maida Whyte; Quintin Whyte
- D MEMORANDA 1945 Sept — 1970. 5 files.

- D1 Memoranda 1945 Sept — 1947 Sept  
Includes memorandum of association of "The African Vocational Training Services (1945) and "The South African Institute of Race Relations" (1945); papers on adult education; papers on a conference on adult education for non-Europeans (1947)
- D2 Memoranda 1947 Apr - 1950 Mar (8 items)  
Includes: Reports of the Adult Education Section of the S.A.I.R.R.  
First report 1.4.47 — 30.3.48  
Second report 1.4.48 — 31.3.49  
Third report 1.4.49 — 31.3.50  
Includes reports on visits to Basutoland; notes for Y.M.C.A leaders
- D3 Memoranda 1950 July - 1956  
Includes reports on work done; a summary of the "Report of the Commission on Native Education in South Africa"; reports of the 5 year experiment; notes on Abe Bailey courses; draft constitution and appendices for the B.L.L
- D4 Memoranda 1957 July — 1967 Oct  
Includes a SABRA newsletter (Afrikaans); memorandum re project of B.L.L (Eng and Afr); index a literacy among African women; articles of association of the B.L.L (Ltd); reports on B.L.L; an address to B.L.L by director of Africa Literature Centre in Zambia; report on a visit to the U.S.
- D5 Memoranda 1970 and undated notes  
1970, includes history of B.L.L; training of teachers; publishing of books  
Undated, includes interview with Mr. Schacklack; general notes on adult literacy
- D6 Memoranda dealing with PROJECTS  
Government Miner's Training School 1960  
Notes on an elementary history of South Africa. A seminar programme for Immigrant miners Confirmation for the B.L.L to do basic training in English and Fanakalo.  
Industex — a training routine for African workers 1961  
Notes on the situation at Industex  
Refer to for the programme, which was, devised an essay by Industex on "Some Thoughts on the Training in African Industry".  
Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia 1949 — 1957 Nov  
Annual reports 1949, 1952 — 1956; correspondence notes  
Swaziland Sebenta Society 1961 Oct — 1966, undated notes on literacy in Swaziland, reports of work done undated literacy teaching Swazi orthography.
- E COURSE MATERIAL AND RESOURCES
- E1 Reference literature 4 items. 1 file.  
Crowell-Cook-Henderson; "The PD' S Pronunciation Drills for Learners of English" (Washington, English Language Service)  
  
Lanham-Trail; "South African English Pronunciation" (Witwatersrand Univ. Press: Jhb: 1962)  
Lanham-Trail; "Pronounce English Correctly" (Longmans: Jhb1962)  
Prator, C.H. Jr; "American English Pronunciation" 2 records
- E2 Courses in AFRIKAANS (2 files)
- E2.1 Die Mabunga se Gesin  
Introduction to Afrikaans (learner's and teacher's copy).  
Rough notes for reading, tape aids.  
Refer to E4.5
- E2.2 Afrikaans Lees en Skryflesse vir Volwassenese Bk I, II, III, IV
- E3 Course in ARITHMETIC (2 items) (1 file)  
Arithmetic for Adults Bk I, II
- E4 Course in ENGLISH (8 files)
- E4.1 English draft course.  
Reading and writing for Adults, Book I  
Literacy by direct lessons.  
Regular routine for teaching lessons
- E4.2 Read English the easy way Book 2.  
Read and write for adults: who can speak English, I.
- E4.3 Sound Reading and Raiting, (2 books)  
English for Indian women Bk I — IV

- E4.4 English readers (follow-ups for new literates)  
 Jim Ndlovu and his family, Bk I.  
 The Mabunga family (3 copies)  
 Guide to health for adults.  
 Cooking in one pot.  
 Savoury, spicy and sweet — new and exciting Indian recipes.
- E4.5 English and Afrikaans for Anglo-American corporation.  
 A synopsis of the language course.
- E4.6 The Government Miner's Training School  
 Basic lessons in English.
- E4.7 Industex  
 Includes photographs and lessons
- E4.8 Rand Leases (V) G.M. Co Ltd  
 Training handbook
- E5 Courses in FANAKALO (15 files), DIGITISED  
 Many of the training manuals were compiled (with copyright) by M.E. Whyte, the executive director of the BLL, for the training of African and white mine workers. They contain sketches and photographs to illustrate the text. The training material is described using the language on the mines in these respective years.
- E5.1 Development of training material for Fanakalo, 1f
- E5.1.1 Fanakalo, 49 pages  
 With handwritten note saying 'an attempt at literacy in Fanakalo as an introduction to Bantu literacy for non-Union Africans' 1948.
- E5.1.2 Functional Fanakalo, rough worksheet  
 Contains small photos pasted into worksheets depicting workers in various work situations, which served as examples for the illustrations in the training materials.
- E5.1.3 Minimum basic vocabulary in Fanakalo, draft, n.d.  
 Prepared by Maida Whyte and including 300 words used in courses. Copyright reserved South African Institute of Race Relations.
- E5.1.4 Workbook I
- E5.1.5 Workbook II
- E5.1.6 Workbook III, Bala na Funda, May 1958
- E5.1.7 Workbooks for various work tasks  
 Including Bas-boy (boss-boy), pipe work, Spor-boy (track-boy).
- E5.1.8 Other  
 Including key copy with sketches
- E5.2 Fanakalo course material, 1957, 2f
- E5.2.1 Fanakalo course material, 12 items, 1f  
 Course material for each work task, including track-boy, switch installing, box-boy, boss-boy, winch-boy, rope-boy, loco-driver, loco-guard, pipe-work.
- E5.2.2 Fanakalo course material, 14 items, 1f  
 Course material for each work task, including lashing-boy, tshisa-boy (hot water), trammer, tally-checker, bar-boy, timber-boy, machine-boy, winch-boy, stone wall-boy, boss-boy arriving at waiting place.
- E5.3 Fanakalo course material, 4 items, 1958 1f
- E5.3.1 Worksheet with illustrations
- E5.3.2 Fanakalo for women
- E5.3.3 Instructor's notes for lashing drill and vocabulary  
 Adapted from 'Lo Foshol', by M. Whyte
- E5.3.4 Incomplete item
- E5.4 Fanakalo course material, 1960,3f
- E5.4.1 Fanakalo course material, Job series, F0-124, incomplete, 2f  
 Including job related tasks, but also 'going home', and record clerk
- E5.4.1.1 Job series, F0-58, 1f
- E5.4.1.2 Job series, F62-124, 1f
- E5.4.2 Matpack, procedures and safety
- E5.4.3 Fanakalo for Europeans, Two 1960 versions  
 Intended to provide lessons for European personnel, and should be done in conjunction with Fanakalo ka lo Mlung Qala
- E5.5 Fanakalo deur medium Afrikaans, by J.S. Erasmus, 1966  
 The publication was compiled for Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Ltd.

- E5.6 Fanakalo training on the mines, 1950s, 2f
- E5.6.1 Fanakalo ka lo Nyuwan, Training Department Native Training, Anglo American, 1958  
An introduction to oral Fanakalo for Tropicals, M.E. Whyte
- E5.6.2 Fanakalo relating to Lashing, Training Department Native Training, Anglo American, 1958  
Adapted for Anglo American from Lo Foshal, by M. Whyte, relating to job training, namely lashing drill
- E5.6.3 Introduction to Fanakalo for Mining Personnel, n.d.  
Draft for experimental use and comment, adapted from the original 'Introduction to Fanakalo' by M. Whyte, Anglo American
- E5.6.4 Fanakalo Instruction, Anglo American, n.d.  
With handwritten note saying it was given to MW (Maida Whyte) in 1947 ... it was not done this way...
- E5.6.5 Language and training within Industry, draft for Fanakalo Version, by M.E. Whyte  
Typescript, building a mat-pack for Springs Mines.
- E5.6.6 Lessons in developing Fanakalo for European Personnel, Studie Series III, 1958
- E5.7 Fanakalo for Tropical labourers, 1950s, 1f
- E5.7.1 Eight introductory lessons in functional Fanakalo for new Tropical labourers on Rand Leases, incomplete
- E5.7.2 Fanakalo Course, Session I-IV, Harmony Gold Mining Company
- E5.7.3 Lo Nyuwan, by M. Whyte, 1958  
Adapted for Union Corporation from the original.
- E5.7.4 Suggestions with reference to training scheme for Tropicals
- E5.7.5 List of vocabulary, 68 pages, Feb 1959 (?)
- E5.7.6 Concept notes handwritten
- E5.8 N.C.G.F. Fanakalo study-work group, 29 September- 24 October 1958, 1f
- E5.8.1 Workshop plan, notes and report, by M. Whyte, 1958  
Includes introduction, method and time plan; some reminders about adults; notes for introductory remarks; Fanakalo training on the mines; how to introduce the new technique to European trainers; how to introduce the new technique to Native trainers; report and follow-up casual.
- E5.8.2 N.C.G.F. Fanakaloo, Series I-III, 83 pages, 1958
- E5.8.2.1 Series I, pages 0-46
- E5.8.2.2 Series II, pages 47-59
- E5.8.2.3 Series III, pages 60-83
- E5.9 Fanakalo pocket dictionary  
5 pages of a pocket dictionary Fanakalo - Afrikaans - English - Equivalents. Stamped "With the compliments of the management, Rand Leases G.M. (Gold Mine).
- E6 Courses in SOTHO (2 files)
- E6.1 "Khirimpana" — lyrical prose  
Monaila oa thutho.  
Teacher's guide  
"Sekhukhuni"
- E6.2 "Khotso" — learners, teachers guide
- E7 Course in SEPEDI (1 file)  
Teacher's guide  
Mpudullê  
Puku ya pele
- E8 Courses in SETSWANA (1 file)  
Pula - matlho
- E9. Course in TSONGA (1 file)
- E10 Course in SWAZI (1 file)  
Swazi primers - Notes  
Embili ngwane
- E11 Courses in XHOSA  
"Funda isixhosa usibhale" - Bk I-IV  
"Molo" - 1955

- E12 Courses in ZULU (2 files)
- E12.1 " Ezempilo" - Health guide  
Uvukufunde  
Teachers guide to "Funda isizulu usibhale"  
"Funda isizulu usibhale" Bk I-III
- E12.2 Sakubona- Learner's and teacher's guide.
  
- E13 VISUAL AIDS  
The drawings were used in the teaching materials.
- E13.1 Printed drawings of life on the mines, DIGITISED
- E13.1.1 Drawings for pocket booklet, undated
- E13.1.1.1 Pocket booklet, ringbound  
Drawings depicting migrant miners arriving at the mine, taking off their traditional clothes, shower, get new clothes, medical examination, shown to dormitories, dressing for work, going underground.
- E13.1.1.2 Additional booklet pages  
Drawings of shoemakers, getting food at canteen, leisure time at dormitories, work underground
  
- E13.2 Pictures for teaching English  
Pencil drawings, and printed items; also included "The prodigal son: Pictures for Africans", drawn by M. Trowell, published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, London, undated
  
- E13.3 Photographs of life on the Mines, DIGITISED  
Stored with photographic collections.
- E13.3.1 Measuring feet and receiving boots
- E13.3.2-6 Life in mining hostels
- E13.3.7-11 Literacy classes and vocabulary boards
- E13.3.12 Two workers with protective clothing
  
- F SCRAPBOOK OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, September 1947 - December 1948, DIGITISED  
Articles relate to issues of illiteracy and literacy projects for Africans, driven by the SAIRR and Maida Whyte; the teaching methods developed by Dr Frank Laubach; the upcoming Apartheid and Civil rights protests in response; the Cape Franchise and Coloured vote; Donald Molteno on 'Native Policy'.