

THE MCMILLAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

HEADQUARTERS OF

THE KENYA (Carnegie) CIRCULATING LIBRARIES

THIRD
ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE LIBRARIAN

1st JANUARY to 31st DECEMBER, 1934



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MCMILLAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY.
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1. INTRODUCTORY.

The presentation of the Third Annual Report of the combined library services in Kenya, representing the fourth, and penultimate, year of the chief financial grant, constitutes a critical landmark in the development of the scheme. A close study of the following pages under their respective sections will reveal the growth and extent of all activities to-date. A period of three years may be regarded as a sufficient "testing time" for the development of a public service, and for the ascertainment of the public response to such a service.

At the close of the year 1981 the entire scheme consisted of a building and some few reference books only. By the end of 1994 the McMillan Library had developed its many public services, the Nairobi Lending Library had grown to such an extent as to require a full-time daily service to cope with the requirements of over three hundred borrowers and the Carnegie section had spread over the whole Colony, having forty Branch Libraries with subscriptions amounting to nearly per annum.

The extent and rapidity of this development has been far greater than was foreshadowed in the early forecasts on which the main grant (from the Carnegie Corporation of New York) was made to the Colony, and, despite a period of unprecedented financial depression, the public response, in terms of actual financial support, has far exceeded all expectations.

The early years of the scheme have, therefore, abundantly proved the necessity for such an organization which from a Library point of view has been an unqualified success. yet, notwithstanding these factors the future maintenance of the scheme will be in grave jeopardy after 1935, unless there is a continuation, in some form or other, of the grant from the Carnegie Corporation, or there is some amplification in the governing constitution, and responsibility, in its local aspects.

A reference to the Statement of Income and Expenditure printed at the end of this Report will show that the total income of the combined scheme for 1984 was approximately £2,700, while the actual expenditure was slightly below this figure. For the year 1935, however, the Library is faced with

reductions in revenue, the Government grant having been reduced by £200, and that of the Municipal Council by which will inevitably mean that the revenue for this year will not be sufficient to meet the expenditure, whilst as regards 1986 there is a possibility of a cessation of the Carnegie Corporation Grant which would entail almost the entire suspension of all existing services in their present form. The Management Committee, and the Board of Trustees have under consideration a scheme for the extension of the Circulating Library (Carnegie) service to embrace Uganda and Tanganyika Territory with a view to extending the field of activity and consequent increased revenue without any material increase in the cost of overhead expenses. It is possible that some such proposal, if carried into effect, might be favourably received by the Carnegie Corporation, and, together with other data relative to the further development of the scheme in Kenya, might be the means of obtaining further financial assistance from that body. Such further aid would postpone the main issue for some few years, and bridge a very difficult gap in the immediate future, but it would in no way tend to solve the main problem which, sooner or later, will have to be faced.

The present governing constitution of the combined scheme—necessary and advisable as it may have been in the beginning—carries with it no guarantee whatsoever as to the permanent maintenance of the Library services. Neither the Management Committee, nor the Board of Trustees, have any statutory powers to raise funds to support the Library, but have to approach each year such authorities who possess this power.

Whatever may be the future extent, if any, of further financial assistance from the Carnegie Corporation it cannot reasonably be expected that a purely local service will be maintained indefinitely from funds provided by the Carnegie Corporation whose grant of £1,000 a year for the first five years of the scheme was a most generous one, and was intended, as in the case of all such grants, to assist in the building up of the scheme in its early years, during which period an opportunity is afforded for the service to prove its value to the community, and enables those primarily responsible for its maintenance to make their plans for maintaining it from local funds.

In the original data submitted to the Carnegie Corporation by the Library experts who visited this Colony it was suggested that all local financial contributions should be on an annually increasing scale so that by the time of the expiration of the Carnegie grant, local contributions would have attained such proportions as to enable the Library authority to dispense with any further financial assistance from the Carnegie Corporation, and it is to be regretted this suggestion was not carried out.

In Great Britain, and in fact in all white civilized communities, Public Library services are maintained as a public charge by the various statutory authorities concerned, and some such provision seems to be the logical, and in fact, the only solution to the future maintenance of library services in Kenya. The history of the development of the combined library scheme in Kenya to-date affords ample evidence of the public appreciation of the provision that has been made, and the time would now seem ripe for a reconsideration of the basis on which the Library is maintained. The two local bodies who possess the necessary statutory powers to maintain a library service out of public funds are the Government of Kenya and the Municipal Council of Nairobi, both of whom, though on a different basic principle, contribute to the finances of the library. In the possession of the McMillan Memorial Library building and its contents, and also in the existing organization and stock of books of the Carnegie scheme, -the Capital and the Colony, respectively, possess most valuable assets which, sooner or later, in some form, they would probably have had to provide out of local funds. The fact that, in the one case through the generosity of a private donor, and in the other by means of a financial grant from an outside body, these services have been inaugurated without any capital expenditure being charged on the community is an additional reason why their maintenance should be considered a local responsibility. It is inconceivable that the people of this Colony would be content to be dependent upon the generosity of the Carnegie Corporation for the maintenance of Library services in the Colony which have been so greatly appreciated.

The generous assistance of the Carnegie Corporation in enabling the Library authorities to bring the present scheme into being is fully appreciated and there is reason to believe that financial assistance will be continued, always provided that efforts are made locally to maintain the service. The policy of the Carnegie Corporation is to help those who help themselves.

2. MCMILLAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

REFERENCE LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.

The history of the McMillan Library during 1934 has been one of steady growth and activity. Viewed both from the point of a general information bureau and as a rendezvous where one may spend a pleasant hour the public appreciation has been particularly noticeable. The figures for the average daily attendance of readers show a slight increase on those for last year, 112 compared with 107, but this is in part accounted for by the transfer of the Lending Library to the ground floor with increased facilities for the issue of books. There can be no doubt, however, that the function of the library as an information bureau is now far more widely understood that

was the case in past years, and daily requests for information (many of them by telephone) are received and answered by the Librarian. The stock of standard works of ready reference is being steadily built up and it is now possible, with the aid of a little bibliographical knowledge, to supply information on almost any subject. The value of such a service to the community is considerable and is one that can be still further developed as the public realise its full possibilities.

Several important additions have been made to the Students' Reference Room, particularly to the African collection which is now nearing 400 volumes. This section, built on the splendid nucleus of African books given by Lady McMillan, is probably the most complete collection of East African books contained in the Colony and will be of increasing value with the passage of time. In addition to the purchase of the older and rarer books—and there remain many gaps still to be filled—efforts are being made to collect and preserve all current literature and documents of local interest in order that the raw material for the future history of the Colony may be available for the student and research worker. This again is an activity which might be developed to a considerable extent and the ultimate ideal should be the preservation of all documents and archives which will be of value and interest in the future. It is frequently the case in the early development of a young Colony that much valuable information—both official and otherwise—is irretrievably lost through the lack of some central agency or clearing house where such documents might be stored and the McMillan Library might well make a special effort to fulfil this function for Kenya. It is interesting to record that the four lectures given in the Library by Dr. H. S. Boedeker on personal reminiscences of the early days of the Colony are to be preserved and issued in book form. There is much other information regarding the early development of Kenya which should be collected and preserved while there is yet time.

During the course of the year, 145 volumes were added to the Reference section, making a total stock of 1,735, in over 250 Government and other official publications.

The series of fortnightly Public Lectures has been continued throughout the year, twenty-four lectures having been held and these have attracted considerable public interest. This form of extension work has for many years been an accepted part of the functions of the Public Libraries of Great Britain and it is pleasing to note that the public appreciation in Nairobi has more than justified the Committee's undertaking. Midway through the year in response to many requests from up-country centres, arrangements were made with Messrs. Cable and Wireless Ltd., for the broadcasting of all suitable lectures, and though this has, at times, tended to affect the actual attendance adversely it has enormously increased their sphere of influence.

The Librarian has received many letters of appreciation and thanks, and in several districts little groups of listeners regularly assemble to hear and discuss the lectures broadcast from the McMillan Library. The Management Committee wish to record their cordial thanks to all speakers who have kindly undertaken to give lectures in the course of the year and also to Messrs. Cable and Wireless Ltd. for the broadcasting of the lectures.

Another important feature of the activities of the Library during the past year has been the housing in the main reading room of several of the specialized libraries of various local societies and institutions. Such co-operative arrangements are entirely in keeping with, the whole trend of modern library practice, a unification of all sources of book supply, being recognized as the most efficient and economical modern system. The first institution to house their collection of books and periodicals within the library building was the East African Society of Architects, an arrangement which gave much satisfaction both to the members of the Society and to the public at large. Most unfortunately, at a later date this arrangement had to be discontinued on account of possible racial complications, but the friendly co-operation initiated has been maintained and it is hoped that it will be still further developed in the future. Two other organizations have placed their books in the keeping of the McMillan Library, The Kenya Horticultural Society and The Kenya Society for the study of Race Improvement. These co-operative arrangements are of considerable mutual advantage both to the actual society and to the library and its public, and it is confidently hoped that this is but the first step towards a larger unification of all specialized libraries within the Colony under the aegis of a Central Students' Library.

Looking back on the year 1934, it is probable that The McMillan Library has come nearer to the full ideal of a Public Reference Library service than has been the case during any year in the past. The functions of such a service, with all that it entails, are now more fully understood by the public, and, given some measure of financial security in the future, the library should develop as an indispensable centre of civic and educational activity.

The total stock of books on 31st December, 1934, was 1,735 composed as follows:—

ANALYSIS OF BOOK STOCK.

	31st Dec. 1933.	31st Dec. 1934.
General Works (Encyclopaedias, etc.)	196	106
Philosophy	12	12
Religion	111	114
Social Science	126	138
Languages	52	56
Natural Science	102	120
Useful Arts	110	110
Fine Arts and Sport	114	124
Literature	226	251
History and Travel ..	631	695
	1,590	1,735

Additions: 145.

(Biography is classed under its most appropriate subject; thus:—a biography of Napoleon is included under French History; Shakespeare under English literature, etc.).

REFERENCE LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.

	Total.	Daily Average.
Approximate number of visitors ...	34,000	112

3. NAIROBI LENDING LIBRARY.

The year 1914 has been an important one in the history of this section. It had been apparent for some time past that the original location of the Lending Library on the upper floor, necessitating the climbing of a flight of stairs and a journey across a narrow balcony, debarred many persons from active membership who would otherwise have availed themselves of the facilities provided. This fact, together with the necessary, but most unsatisfactory, curtailment of the hours of opening, had caused the section steadily to lose ground in the early part of the year.

At the June meeting of the Management Committee it was decided to form a special Lending Library Advisory Committee on which should be strongly represented the actual users of the library with a view to bringing the section in line with other

districts participating in the Kenya (Carnegie) Circulating Libraries. This was subsequently carried out and the Advisory Committee, consisting of six subscriber members and two representatives of the Management Committee, held its first meeting on the 7th August. The Revd J. F.G. Orr was elected Chairman for the year 1934, and was subsequently re-elected for 1935.

The Committee acts in a purely advisory capacity and the final decision in all matters rests with the Management Committee.

In the middle of September, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Lending Library section was transferred to the ground floor Heading Room, being situated at the foot of the stairs leading to the Students' Reference Room and having its own entrance to the right of the main door. This alteration did away with the necessity for the issue of books being restricted to certain hours only, and thenceforth the section was open daily from 8.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The public response to the new arrangements proved most satisfactory and each succeeding month until the close of the year, saw new records created both for the number of books, issued, and the revenue derived from borrowers' subscriptions. During the last three months of the year a total of 3,692 books were issued and the sum of Shs. 645/- was received in borrowers' subscriptions. It was found possible to renew all existing obligations to the Carnegie scheme and to take out an additional subscription of Shs. 150/-, making the total contribution for the year Shs. 2,013/-.

There can be no doubt, but that in this Section the Library possesses one of its most valuable assets and there is every indication of still further growth and support in the future. The minimum subscription of Shs. *of* per annum for one book at a time has proved most popular and has more than compensated for the possible loss of a few subscriptions at a higher figure. Moreover the introduction of the Shs. 5/- sub subscription has opened up the library to very many who would have been debarred by a higher subscription and has thus been in keeping with the ideals of all Public Lending Libraries, namely the supplying of books at a minimum cost to the public.

It should here be noted that this Section functions as a separate entity within the library building. Tree housing and staff are provided by the McMillan Library, but apart from this the Section is maintained entirely out of borrowers' subscriptions and represents no additional charge in the yearly budget of expenditure.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES.

The total number of books issued for the year was 11,307, comprised as follows:—

General works	9
Philosophy	Si
Religion	42
Social Science	235
Languages	2
Natural Science	125
Useful Arts	75
Fine Arts and Sport	107
Literature	120
History and Travel	1,195
Biography	175
Fiction (including " Juvenile " Literature and " Standard " works of Fiction)	9,140
TOTAL	11,307

STATISTICS — BORROWERS AND TICKETS.

1st January—31st December.

Total number of Borrowers enrolled	275
Tickets issued	380
„ „ „ Borrowers having used the Library	310

STATISTICS — FINANCE.

Balance in hand 1st January, 1934	Shs. 312 00
Subscriptions and Fines, 1934	„ 2,013 95
	2,325 95
Subscriptions to Kenya (Carnegie) Circulating Libraries	„ 2,180 00
Balance in hand. 31/12/34	145 95

4. KENYA (CARNEGIE) CIRCULATING LIBRARIES.

The past year has witnessed a record development of this department of the Library's activities. Notwithstanding the fact that at the close of 1933 the Branch Library system appeared to have reached its maximum development no less than seven new districts have been included in the scheme in the course of the past year and a considerable number of existing Branches have increased their subscriptions. The full total of subscriptions received from all Branch Libraries reached a figure of £679.9.0, representing an increase of £137.14.0 on the previous year, with a corresponding increase in the estimated revenue.

The total number of districts in receipt of books is forty, including two Libraries opened in the course of the year at Mining Company Headquarters in the Kakamega area. Other new districts incorporated in the scheme were situated at Kisii, Kitale, Subukia, Cherangani and Taveta. The Branch at Kisii, in a growing and progressive district and under the supervision of a most enthusiastic local Librarian and Secretary, has developed into one of our most successful Branches and has already extended its field of activities with a sub-station in the Lolgorien area. The rapid growth of the gold-field areas will undoubtedly, call for further Library provision in the future and in addition to further libraries situated at Company Headquarters it is expected that a Branch will be opened in Kakamega Township in the early part of 1935.

In the course of the year 8,675 books were despatched from Headquarters to local Branches in the form of periodical exchanges and new consignments. As in the case of all figures for this department during the year under review this represents a considerable increase on previous figures. The total number of books issued—from 35 Branch Libraries—was 71,564, a most encouraging figure, exceptionally high for the population served, which shows the extent of the use made of the library over the whole Colony. A study of the figures given under the Analysis of Issues will reveal that though as may be expected, Fiction predominates, yet very considerable use has been made of the various Non-Fiction classes, the figures for Kenya being actually in excess of the average proportion in the Public Libraries of Great Britain, which is approximately 20%. The official figures for the total number of borrowers making use of the Library is 1,581, but as pointed out in previous years, this represents the number of tickets issued only, many such being "family tickets" which actually refer to a considerably larger number. At a low estimate it would be safe to put the figure for the number of persons in receipt of books at 3,000,

Reference to the Summary of General Statistics will reveal how great has been the development of all activities in this section; every previous record has been surpassed and the

general position at the end of the year was more promising than it has ever been in the past.

The Management Committee feels that the Circulating Libraries scheme is now firmly established over the whole Colony and the rapid development and increased support during the past year gives rise to confidence that any suggestion made with a view to the permanent maintenance of the service will receive a full measure of welcome and support.

The Committee wish to thank all districts which have supported the scheme in the course of the year and to all local Librarians and Committees whose help and enthusiasm have made the full service possible.

In addition to the normal Branch Library service two further important activities were introduced during the latter part of the year;—the inauguration of a Postal Service to individual borrowers living in the more sparsely populated districts, and the development of a special section consisting of books specially selected for children and adolescents.

The first activity is one which it is felt will bring the Library service within the reach of many previously debarred on account of distance and isolation and will thus fill the few remaining gaps in the Library's sphere of influence.

The second activity—the provision of books suitable for children and adolescents—is looked upon by the Committee as the necessary completion of any library service and it is confidently expected that in the future this section will develop into a most important undertaking. "Negotiations are already in progress with the Government and other school authorities for the regular supply of books, and in addition several Branch Libraries are already taking advantage of the facilities offered. It is to the rising" generation that the Library must look for support in the future and experience has abundantly proved that the " Library habit " once formed, is one that lasts for life,

B. BARTON-ECKETT,

Chief Librarian.

The McMillan Memorial Library,

"Nairobi.

23rd February. 1935.

KENYA (CARNEGIE) CIRCULATING LIBRARIES.

Analysis of Issues.

	31st Dec. 1933.	31st Dec. 1934.
General works	36	14
Philosophy	206	250
Religion	254	220
Social Science	1,044	.. 1,301
Languages	14	8
Natural Science	552	.. 512
Useful Arts	806	850
Fine Arts and Sport ...	1,079	.. 1,060
Literature	1,293	.. 1,119
History and Travel ...	9,175	.. 9,979
Biography	2,387	.. 2,358
Fiction	40,517	53,887
	63,863	71,564

Total of Non-Fiction issues: 17,077,
or 24 per cent.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES, etc. From LOCAL BRANCHES.

Branch.	Headquarters.	Librarian,	Total Subscriptions.	Stock Jan. 1st, 1934	Books Exchanged and new Subs.	Total books available.	Issues.			No. of Borrowers.	Average issue per Borrower.
							Fiction.	Non-Fiction.	Total.		
Cherangani	European Store	J. Biddlecombe, Esq.	Details	included	under		564	330	804	21	42
Eldoret	McNabMundeil's Auction. Room	Miss Murray	£10	80	114	104	1,157	248	1,405	40	35
Fort Hall	D.C.'s Office	I. H. B. Murphy, Esq.	£ 4	40	115	155	158	111	269	13	20
Gilgil	Local Shop	Major A. L. Bingley ...	£13 9s.	146	338	338	1,880	546	2,426	65	37
Hoey's Bridge	European Store	J. Gamson, Esq.	£15	—	240	240	602	348	950	22	43
Kabete	Jeanes School	Mrs. Benson	£ 2 5a.	40	53	93	80	61	141	8	17
Kakamega— Kenya Development Ltd. (Opened December 1934).	Company Headquarters ...	L. Shaw, Esq	£10	—	80	80	—	—	—	12	—
Kakamega — Kimi-ngini Gold Mining Co., Ltd. ... (Opened December 1934).	Company Headquarters ...	H. L. Dixon, Esq.	£10	—	80	80	—	—	—	16	—
Karunga Bay	Loral Boma	J. B. Coupe, Esq	£ 8	40	101	141	570	135	705	8	88
Kericho	European Store	Mrs. de Halpert	£35. 10s.	280	438	718	2,580	1,303	3,883	65	50
Kiambu	Kiambu Sports Club	Mrs. Simpson	£10	80	124	201	483	106	580	40	14
Kisii	Guest House	E. Melnnes, Esq.	£22 10s.	—	345	345	950	666	2,616	30	87
(Opened 20th January, 1934).											
Kisumu	Nyanza Club	Dr. Enzer	£65	210	960	1,209	1,380	439	1,810	65	28
Kitale	Local Shop	Rcvd. O. H. Knight ...	£ 5	—	40	40	—	—	—	—	—
(Opened December 1934).											
Koru	Koru Club	Mrs. Villiers Stuart	£15	117	221	398	772	181	953	19	50
Limoru	Brackenburst Hotel	Mrs. Howard	£ 3	24	50	80	—	—	—	—	—
Londiani	Londiani Hotel	H. B. Atkinson, Esq. ...	£ 8 7s.	81	71	155	375	190	565	16	35
Lumbwa	European Store	Mrs. G. Nottidge	£14 10s.	128	261	380	1,070	438	1,508	34	44
Machakos	Machakos Club	Mrs. Rawlinson.	£ 4 10s.	40	61	101	223	125	351	23	15
Makuyu	Makuyu Club	Mrs. Dothy	£15	80	390	470	2,452	371	2,823	37	76
Meru	United Methodist Mission	H. Clay, Esq	£ 5 6s.	40	103	143	350	70	420	21	20
Molo	European Store	A. C. Blight, Esq.	£35	320	320	640	2,080	1,520	4,500	41	100
Mombasa.	C.M.S. Book Shop	Mrs. Park	£38 10s.	308	260	577	2,465	473	2,938	66	45
Nairobi	McMillan Memorial Library	B. Barton-Eckett. Esq.	£107 10s.	800	452	1,252	9,140	2,167	11,307	310	36
Naivasha	Sports Club	Mrs. Ward	£17	136	287	423	010	271	1,181	42	28
Nakuru	European Library	Mrs. Selfe.	£15 10s.	160	275	435	1,477	952	2,429	114	21
Nanyuki	Nanyuki Club	Mrs. Aggett	£10	80	217	297	2,776	1,556	4332	56	77
Njoro	European Store	H. A. Whitaker, Esq.	£14 10s.	116	236	352	1,570	388	1,058	47	44
Nyeri	Outspan Hotel	Lady Bettie Walker	£15	200	318	518	4,190	904	5,184	50	103
Rongai	Farmer's Asaociation	C. D. Hill, Esq.	£ 1	8	14	22	102	48	150	12	12
Ruiru	Rniru Hotel	Mrs. Barnes	£21	168	263	431	634	290	924	53	17
Songhor	European Store.	Mrs. A. G. Thomas	£20	127	246	373	4,630	1,070	5,700	30	190
Sotik	Loral Farm	H. H. Marshall, Esq. ...	£ 6 12s.	104	131	235	460	252	712	24	30
South Elgon	Local Farm	Mrs. J. R. Anderson ...	£ 9	88	206	204	900	570	1,470	9	163
South Kinangop	Loral Farm	T. H. Polhill, Esq. ...	£10	80	200	280	628	277	905	23	40
Soy	Soy Hotel	S. M. Roberts, Esq.	£ 5	113	183	205	638	69	707	14	50
Subukia	Local Farm	Miss C. M. Aubrey	£11 10s.	—	186	186	592	284	876	39	22
(Opened July, 1934).											
Taveta	Loral Farm	Mrs. L. M. Nash	£ 3	—	24	24	—	—	—	8	—
(Opened November, 1934).											
Thika	Thika Club	Mrs. M. Rae	£ 8	96	226	322	913	300	1,222	41	27
Thomson's Falls	Barry's Hotel	E. Barraclough, Esq.	£24	192	431	623	2,236	516	2,752	47	50

