

# KAY WILLIAMSON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (KWEF)



Report to Trustees, June 2017 covering financial year 2016-2017

Roger Blench  
Chief Research Officer  
Kay Williamson Educational Foundation  
Also;  
McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research  
University of Cambridge  
Department of History, University of Jos  
Correspondence to:  
8, Guest Road  
Cambridge CB1 2AL  
United Kingdom  
Voice/ Ans (00-44)-(0)1223-560687  
Mobile worldwide (00-44)-(0)7847-495590  
E-mail [rogerblench@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rogerblench@yahoo.co.uk)  
<http://www.rogerblench.info/RBOP.htm>

**1. Security situation in Nigeria**

The security situation in Northern Nigeria is improving marginally.

**2. Activities in Nigeria and Cameroun**

Roger Blench was in Nigeria October-December 2016, and March-April 2017, and then in Cameroun 2017, working on KWEF projects.

**3. Social media**

The KWEF Facebook site has been regularly updated.

**4. Jos Linguistic Circle**

Jos Linguistic Circle is flourishing and celebrated its tenth anniversary in September 2016 and an all-day event was held in December 2016 to mark this anniversary. The programme for the meeting is given in an Appendix to this report.

**5. Publications**

Copies of the dictionary of Lamnso are being distributed and the dictionary of Muyang is currently in press.

**6. Conferences where presentations were made**

Roger Blench has made presentations of the work of the Foundation in Addis Ababa, Bielefeld, .

**7. KWEF collaborators**

Dr. Robert Hedinger continues to assist with publication of dictionaries.

**8. Possible funding of workshops on language documentation**

Negotiations are under way concerning possible funding of workshops on language documentation

**9. Affiliation with the University of Jos**

Roger Blench has now become an international research fellow at the University of Jos

**10. Future commitments**

Roger Blench will be visiting Köln, Leiden, to talk about KWEF research in the coming year. He has been invited to teach graduate seminars in the ethnography of minority language documentation.

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## **1. Situation in Nigeria**

The security situation in Northern Nigeria is improving marginally and it is becoming safer to travel in the North. However, the Delta remains a very insecure area.

## **2. Activities in Nigeria**

Roger Blench was in Nigeria October-December 2016, and March-April 2017, and then in Cameroun in April 2017, working on KWEF projects. Work in October-December consisted of continuing work on long-term projects and organising the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Workshop of the Jos Linguistic Circle on November 23<sup>rd</sup> (programme in the Appendix). Particular thanks to Margaret Mado and Sonia Dettweiler, who organised the venue and catering. Roger Blench was able to make a visit to Ilorin and give a talk to the students of the proposed centre for the Study of Nigerian Languages at KWASU.

Fieldwork in March-April consisted mainly of work with the Tal language in collaboration with Michael Bulkaam. The photos show the group of elders helping Michael as well as Roger Blench with the acting chief. In addition, some ethnomusicological research was undertaken on Tal flute music.

**Photo 1. Michael Bulkaam and Roger Blench in Balong village**



Michael has submitted his thesis to TCNN on the Tal verbal system and it is to be hoped that this is the beginning of a long-term project to document Tal lexicon and grammar.

Fieldwork in Cameroun in April was part of a long-term project in collaboration with Bruce Connell and David Zeitlyn to produce a dictionary and grammar of the Ba Mambila language. KWEF has been funding Bruce Connell to pay his informants as part of this project. Photo 2 shows the dictionary team. Particular thanks to the chief of Somie for his encouragement to the dictionary project.

**Photo 2. With the Mambila dictionary team**



Apart from standard linguistic work a remarkable discovery was made concerning the invention of a new writing system based on the traditional system of spider divination. The photos show Bruce Connell and Mark Mouh eliciting the symbols, and a cut and dried leaf used on the divination.

Ethnomusicological fieldwork was also

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undertaken, and Photo 5 shows a performance on the mouthbow, an instrument played mainly by women, which is threatened by the advance of industrial music.

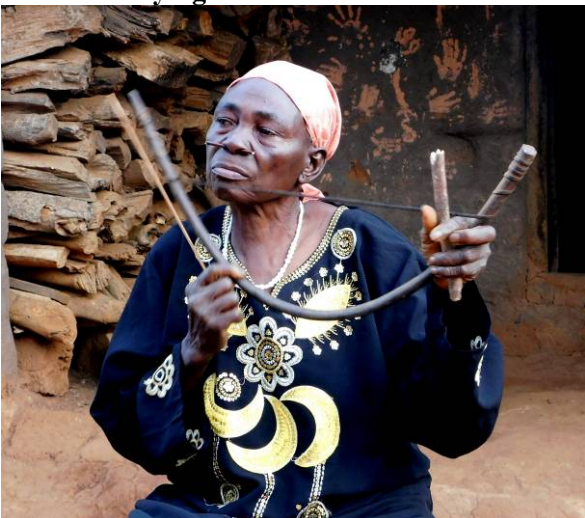
**Photo 3. Eliciting data on the Ba Mambila writing system**



**Photo 4. Leaf used in divination**



**Photo 5. Playing the mouthbow**



**3. Website**

The KWEF website has been updated

<http://www.rogerblench.info/KWEP/KWEP/KWEPFOP.htm>

The Facebook Page continues to be visited regularly;

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kay-Williamson-Educational-Foundation/147159102128443>



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### **4. Jos Linguistic Circle (JLC)**

This has been one of our most successful initiatives. Since its inception in 2006, KWEF has supported meetings of JLC with hire of rooms and refreshments, and has been able to bring together a growing number of enthusiasts for Nigerian languages. Jos Linguistic Circle is flourishing and celebrated its tenth anniversary in September 2016 with a mini-conference bringing together past and present contributors. The programme of the meeting is given in the Appendix to this report, as well as photographs of the event.

A list of talks given at JLC over the past year can be consulted in the Appendix.

The JLC Page continues to be visited regularly;

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jos-Linguistic-Circle/157255621102227?fref=ts>

### **5. Publications**

KWEF has made an agreement with Rudiger Köppe, our international publisher to also distribute its local (Nigeria and Cameroun) editions and these are now available through the website.

The Lamnso dictionary, worked on in Cameroun in April 2014 has now been printed and copies were received in the United Kingdom.

The dictionary of Muyang, prepared by Tony Smith, is currently in press.

Dr. Constanze Schmaling has been preparing a series of folios of Hausa Sign Language following a series of workshops in Kano. KWEF has funded both the printing of Folios 3/4 and the workshop held in Kano in October 2016. It is likely KWEF will continue to fund this initiative.

### **6. Conferences where presentations were made 2016-2017**

Conferences make it possible to present work completed with KWEF funding, and purchase books to improve Nigerian library resources. The following conferences were attended to present the results of KWEF fieldwork between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 and May, 2017.

#### **2016**

September. Leiden. Presentation at the Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics.

October. Paris. Presentation at the Niger-Congo Workshop.

#### **2017**

May. Addis Ababa. Key note presentation, 13<sup>th</sup> Nilo-Saharan Conference.

May. Bielefeld. Presentation, linguistics seminar, University of Bielefeld.

### **Forthcoming meetings**

September. Paris. Presentation at the BICCL Chadic meeting.

September. Köln. Presentation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Nuba Mountains Conference.

### **7. KWEF collaborators**

Dr. Robert Hedinger continues to assist with the preparation and publication of KWEF dictionaries from his new base in the United Kingdom. Again, many thanks.

Mark van der Velde, CNRS, is establishing a research base for Nigerian Languages at Research Centre for Nigerian Languages at Kwara State University. The idea is to provide an institutional home for researchers, both Nigerian and external with strong financial management. Delays in establishing the relationship with

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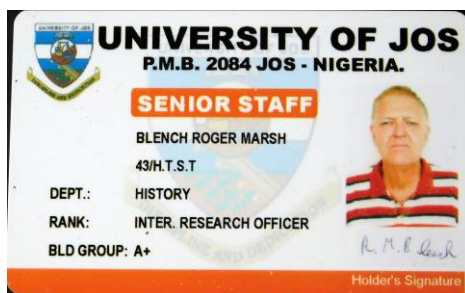
KWASU has meant that Dr. Van der Velde is also looking at the University of Ibadan for the proposed centre.

### 8. Possible funding of workshops on language documentation

Enquiries have been received concerning possible KWEF support to Nigerian participants in both international training workshops (Language documentation in South Africa, 2018) and a more speculative training series attached to the Linguistic Association of Nigeria (LAN). A meeting was held with Professor Harrison Adeniyi (Lagos University) in Lagos in March 2017 to discuss the way forward. No conclusions have yet been reached.

### 9. Affiliation with the University of Jos

After long negotiations, Roger Blench has now become an international research fellow at the University of Jos, which is highly beneficial as it does away with the need to seek a new visa each time he visits Nigeria. Thanks to John Nengel for arranging this.



### 10. Future commitments as of June 7, 2016

- a) Roger Blench has been invited to teach a course on documenting minority languages at the University of Abidjan June 17-30<sup>th</sup>, which will be largely based on experience in Nigeria. under a DAAD co-operation agreement.
- b) A presentation will be made at the Third Nuba Mountains Language Workshop in Köln in September, 2017.
- c) Further visits to Nigeria will be made in July and November 2017.

**Accounts.** Presented separately.

**APPENDIX I: Publications in progress**

**International series**

1. Kuteb grammar [published]
2. Mofu Dictionary [published]
3. Copy pronouns [published]
4. Mambay grammar [published]
5. Proceedings of the Jos Linguistic Circle, Volume I. [published]
6. Languages of the Nuba mountains [published]
7. Muyang dictionary [in press]

**Ethnoscience series**

1. An Atlas of the Mammals of the Niger Delta [in preparation]
2. Ethnobotany of the Niger Delta [in preparation]

**In the future**

1. Berom dictionary
2. Mada dictionary
3. Tarok Dictionary
5. Kuteb dictionary
6. New Atlas of Nigerian languages

**Nigerian series**

1. The Tarok language [printed]
2. Babanki dictionary [printed]
3. Ngwo dictionary [printed]
4. Akoose dictionary [printed]
5. Moghamo dictionary [printed]
6. Mambay dictionary [printed]
7. Ngiemboon dictionary [printed]
8. Lamnso dictionary [printed]
9. Hausa Sign Language Dictionary, Folios 3-4 [printed]

**APPENDIX II: Jos Linguistic Circle**

Speakers and Titles back to April 2016 onwards

<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>
Gareth Mort	Apr-16	If there is no but: An analysis of the use of discourse connectors in Kamuku
Matthew Harley & Pelumi Oyeniya	Sep-16	Does Marking Tone in Yoruba Increase Fluency in Reading?
Julius Emmanuel Dabet	Oct-16	Mupun and Mwaghavul: Separate Languages or Varieties of the same Language?
Russell Norton	Feb-17	Vowels We Can Believe In: An Evaluation of Participatory Research as Applied to Alago Vowels



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**Speaker**

**Date**

**Title**

Matthew Harley

Mar-17

Vowels We Can't Believe in: Nzanyi and the limits of Participatory Methods

The organisers of the Jos Linguistic Circle wish to express their thanks to the Kay Williamson Educational Foundation for their interest and support for local linguistic meetings in the Jos area. The meetings serve students, researchers and development workers engaged in the study of linguistics and Nigerian languages. They provide a forum for presentation of work or research in progress and enable linguists and language development workers to engage in useful debate. Attendees include staff and students from the Theological College of Northern Nigeria Bible Translation Department; University of Jos (linguistics and mass communications departments); Nigeria Bible Translation Trust; Bible Society of Nigeria and others.

Margaret Mado, TCNN

APPENDIX III: Programme of the One-day Meeting of the JLC held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

Programme for JLC 10th Anniversary Workshop

Roger Blench  
Margaret Mado

At: Mountain View

We are celebrating ten years of JLC meetings on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a programme of short talks from TCNN students, academic linguists and co-ordinators of literacy projects. This is the first draft with temporary titles and timings, so please send us a final title. If you have a problem with the time, please let us know and we can adjust this. After the last talk we will have a meal, rather than just the usual snacks, so please let us know if you will not be able to stay for that. If you send your slides ahead of time or bring them on a stick a few minutes in advance, it will speed up the changeover between talks.

All welcome! Please forward to your colleagues not on the mailing list.

Programme Starts 14.00 sharp!

Roger Blench 14.00 14.10 Introduction

TCNN Students

Russell Norton	14.15	14.25	Introduction to the TCNN programme and the student talks
Nlabephee Othaniel	14.25	14.35	Voiceless approximants in Jenjo
Michael Bulkam	14.35	14.45	Recent consonant discoveries in Tal
Blessing Dogara	14.45	14.55	Unusual consonants in Gbagyi
Plangtong Simon	14.55	15.05	Initial nasals in Mwaghavul: their role and assimilation
Yunana Malgwi	15.05	15.15	Assimilation of nasals in Bura
Kaduwe Ornan	15.15	15.25	Letter choices in Bwaatyé

Break 15.25 15.35

Linguistics and literacy

Daniel Gya	15.35	15.50	Rigwe
Deme Dang	15.50	16.05	Iten
Jennifer Harper	16.05	16.20	Fulfulde
Jacob Bess'	16.20	16.35	Mwaghavul
Raymond Dawum			
David Rowbory	16.35	16.50	Making dictionaries serve translation: The example of Gworog

Break 16.50 17.05

Special Lecture

Mark van der Velde & Dmitry Idiatov 17.05 17.35 The work of the Research Centre for Nigerian Languages and current projects on the Adamawa languages

Institutional

Tom Crabtree	17.35	17.50	SIL
Luther Hon	17.50	18.05	The work of the SIL survey team, 2006-2016
John Obono	18.05	18.20	NBTT
Roger Blench	18.20	18.35	KWEF: achievements and future prospects

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**Photos of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting**

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**Photo 6. The audience in rapt attention**



**Photo 7. Andy Warren and Jennifer Harper, long-term KWEF collaborators**



**Photo 8. Mike Rueck and John Nengel, long-term KWEF collaborators**



**Photo 9. With Jos University linguistics students**

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