

# KAY WILLIAMSON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (KWEF)



Report to Trustees, November 2018, covering financial year 2017-2018

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**Summary**

**1. Death of David Pierce, long-term trustee**

David Pierce, a trustee of KWEF from its inception, died in August 2017. He has been replaced by Dr. Roberth Hedinger.

**2. Activities in Nigeria and Cameroun**

The security situation in Northern Nigeria is improving marginally. There have been no attacks in Jos for several years

Roger Blench was in Nigeria July-September 2018, working on KWEF projects.

**3. Social media**

The KWEF Facebook site has been regularly updated.

**4. Jos Linguistic Circle**

Jos Linguistic Circle is flourishing.

**5. Publications**

The dictionary of Muyang has been published. A first edition of a Tal Dictionary has been printed and a Mwaghavul Reading and Writing Book is in Press.

**6. Conferences where presentations were made**

Roger Blench has made presentations of the work of the Foundation in a variety of forums.

**7. KWEF collaborators**

Dr. Robert Hedinger continues to assist with publication of dictionaries. Michael Bulkaam is being employed as a temporary consultant to work on dictionaries in Nigeria.

**8. A programme to modernize existing data for Android phones**

A programme to move legacy data from Nigeria and Cameroun to Android formats is under way.

**9. Future commitments**

Roger Blench will visit Nigeria in January and February 2019 to continue with ongoing KWEF projects.

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### **1. Death of David Pierce, long-term trustee**

David Pierce was originally Kay Williamson's solicitor, working for Hazelwoods, near Cheltenham. He served as a trustee of KWEF from its inception in 2005. From his retirement in 2016, he continued work as a trustee. Regrettably, in August 2017, he died from cancer. The two trustees, Wyn Jones and Roger Blench, would like to express their gratitude to David for his work for KWEF. Dr. Robert Hedinger, already a well-established KWEF collaborator has kindly accepted to become the third trustee.

An initial meeting was held in the offices of Hazelwoods on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2018, to meet with the financial advisers and for Dr. Hedinger to meet them and Wyn. It was agreed at this meeting that Dr. Blench would take over the issuing of cheques in respect of the trust's investments. Discussions with Stephen Dick resulted in agreement on a future investment strategy and during the following months, new investment plans were initiated. Hazelwoods, in the person of Sue Birch, will continue to manage the accounts of the trust.

### **2. Activities in Nigeria**

The security situation in Northern Nigeria is improving marginally and it is becoming safer to travel in the North. Roger Blench was in Nigeria July to September 2018, continuing with KWEF projects. Among these were;

- a) Completion of editorial work on the Mwaghavul Reading and Writing book. KWEF has provided funds for printing of this (120 pp.) and to subsidise sale in the community.

# **Reading and Writing Mwaghavul**



© October 2018

Mwaghavul Mother-Tongue Initiative

- b) Intensive work on the Grammar and Dictionary of Mwaghavul in collaboration with Raymond Dawum
- c) Continuing work on an Irigwe dictionary in collaboration with Daniel Gya

Photo 1. Simultaneous work on Mwaghavul, Tal and Irigwe



d) Intensive work on the Dictionary of Tal. A preliminary Edition has been prepared and funds allocated for printing. Cover shown below

# A DICTIONARY OF TAL, A WEST CHADIC LANGUAGE OF NIGERIA *(Kalu Shik Tal)*



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**This version: Jos, 2 December, 2018**

d) A field trip was undertaken with Michael Bulkaam following a request by the Gera people in Bauchi State and work is now under way preparing a database with view to developing reading and writing materials.

**Photo 2. Michael Bulkaam eliciting Gera**



**Photo 3. With Gera speakers**



e) Roger Blench was invited to Bwor to give a speech on the importance of language development and was welcomed by an enthusiastic musical performance!

**Photo 4. Flute dance at Bwor**



f) Roger Blench was invited to talk at the meeting of CONAECDA, Jos, August, 2018. CONAECDA is a body lobbying for linguistic rights of minorities in Plateau State.

**Photo 5. The hazards of fieldwork in Nigeria**



A broadly successful year.

**3. Website**

The KWEF website has been updated

<http://www.rogerblench.info/KWEF/KWEF/KWEFOP.htm>

The Facebook Page continues to be visited regularly;

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

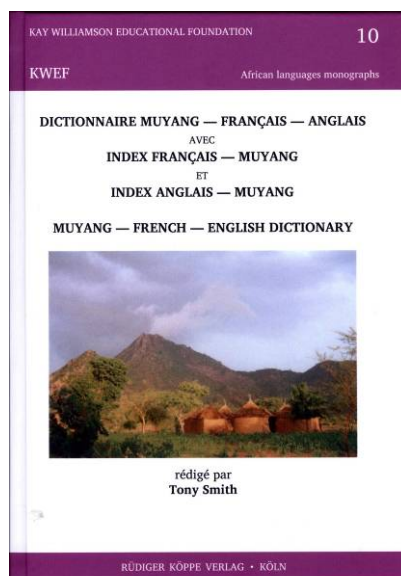
**4. Jos Linguistic Circle (JLC)**

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 celebrated its tenth anniversary in September 2016. The JLC Page continues to be visited regularly;

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

**5. Publications**

The dictionary of Muyang, prepared by Tony Smith, has now been published. A first edition of a Tal Dictionary has been printed and a Mwashavul Reading and Writing Book is 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 5/6 and the workshop held in Kano in October 2017. It is likely KWEF will continue to fund this initiative.

#### **6. Conferences where presentations were made 2017-2018**

Conferences make it possible to present work completed with KWEF funding, and purchase books to improve Nigerian library resources. The following presentations were made;

- a) May 2017. Nilo-Saharan Conference 13, Addis Ababa
- b) Talk at Bielefeld University, 19/5/17
- c) Talk at Cambridge talk 6/6/17
- d) Presentation at the Chadic Colloquium, Paris 7-8/9/17
- e) Presentation at the Nuba Mountains Conference, Köln 26/9/17 29/9/17
- f) Presentation at the Austroasiatic Conference, Kiel 29/9/17 - 2/10/17
- g) Presentation at Uppsala University, 31 May to June 3, 2018
- h) Presentation at Warburg Symposium, London, 14-15 June
- i) Presentation at SAFA, Toronto, 18-21 June
- j) Presentation at IWAA 9, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria 26-29 June 2018
- k) Presentation at ICAAL, Antanarivo, 17-20 July
- l) Presentation at IPPA, Hue 23-29<sup>th</sup> September
- m) Presentation at Conference on reconstructing Bantu Grammar, Gent, 19-24<sup>th</sup>, November, 2018
- n) Presentation at AARD, Cambridge, 25 November, 2018

#### **7. KWEF collaborators**

Dr. Robert Hedinger, now a trustee, continues to assist with the preparation and publication of KWEF dictionaries from his new base in the United Kingdom. Michael Bulkaam is being employed as a temporary consultant to work on dictionaries in Nigeria.

Mark van der Velde, CNRS, is attempting to establish a research base for Nigerian Languages at Research Centre for Nigerian Languages at the University of Ibadan. The idea is to provide an institutional home for researchers, both Nigerian and external with strong financial management.

#### **8. A programme to modernize existing data for Android phones**

New technologies are allowing old dictionary data to be moved into databases which can be made available online, but can also be converted into Apps for mobile phones. Roger Blench gets regular requests for his data to be converted to this format. In collaboration with Dr. Hedinger, legacy data from Nigeria and Cameroun is slowly being moved to these new formats. Two legacy dictionaries left by Kay Williamson, the Ijò and Igbo dictionaries will hopefully be converted in 2019 and made available for download.

#### **9. Future commitments as of November, 2018**

- a) Roger Blench will visit Nigeria in January and February 2019 to continue with ongoing KWEF projects.
- b) Roger Blench will attend the 14<sup>th</sup> Nilo-Saharan Conference in Vienna, May 2019

**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

**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
7. Dii dictionary
8. Tikar dictionary

**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]