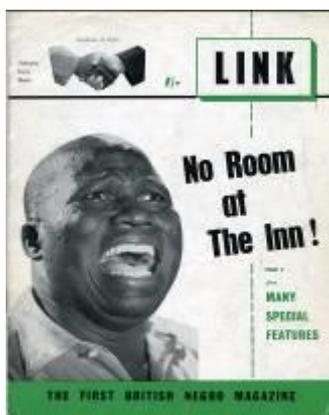


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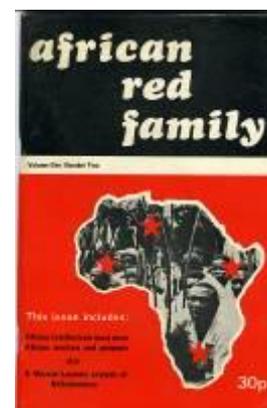
Periodicals



Ref. Periodicals/127
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Ref. DADZIE/5
© Russell Press Ltd



Ref. DADZIE/5
© Hamibantu

Background

Over the centuries, Africans and their descendants in the diaspora have produced thousands of newspapers and periodicals, many of which are difficult to trace. They range from titles with a long history, such as *West Africa*, *Race Today*, or *The Voice*, to the newsletters of small organisations which may have had a very short life but contain vital information about activities and issues that were of great historical importance.

The 20th Century saw a huge increase in the number of newspapers and magazines published by African and African-Caribbean communities. These publications have come and gone over time, and many may not be known to exist anywhere other than at BCA. Many have been lost, but even a single surviving issue can be of value.

Many of these publications can be found in national libraries, and the list of titles held at the British Library (BL) while not comprehensive, gives a picture of its vast resources. For more information on visiting the British Library please visit <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/inrooms/readingrooms.html>

Other titles are held by public libraries, and in a number of archives and special collections. These notes cover periodicals held at BCA, and also refer to those in the Black History Collection at the Institute of Race Relations (IRR), and in the George Padmore Institute's (GPI) archive. There is relatively little overlap between these three collections, and the majority of titles in each one are unique to it.

BCA is primarily an archive, but its holdings of periodicals include some that are treated as such, rather than as part of a named archive, and are referred to as the Periodicals Collection. Others are found within the specific archive collections of named individuals or organisations. Most titles have their own number, but where there is only one issue it will be grouped with other single titles. The collection can be found [here](#).

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BCA holds about 200 titles, of which over 60 are in the BL. Over 100 are unique to BCA, i.e. not in the BL, IRR or GPI. The collection is enormously varied, and includes magazines appealing to a wide readership, as well as those focusing on cultural identity, social and political issues, business, economic development, fashion, health, education, the arts, sport and music, as well as a large number addressed to women readers, including *Africa Woman*, *Black Bulletin for the Woman of Culture*, *Diaspora*, *Black Women Writers*, and *Polareyes*, a magazine for Black women photographers.

The IRR collection is similar to BCA's in size and scope, and at least 50 of the titles held in it are unique. They include some older publications, such as *Progress: Organ of the Coloured Workers' Association of GB and Ireland*, dating from the 1940s and 1950s, the newsletters of several campaigns (Roach Family, Mangrove 9 and Broadwater Farm Campaign) and a number of local titles, such as *Black Consciousness* (Sheffield) and *Uhuru* (Nottingham).

The IRR's holdings of some titles complement those at BCA, for example, *African Red Family* (of which BL has a single issue), *Black Attack Newsletter* (a complete run, not in BL), *Black Linx*, *Black Seeds*, *Brixton Defence Campaign Bulletin*, *Flamingo* (complete) and *FOWAAD!* (not in BL).

The GPI archive includes, for example, the publications of a number of campaigns for justice in education, the New Cross Massacre Action Committee, Caribbean Labour Solidarity, the Scrap Sus Campaign and the Caribbean Artists' Movement.

Some of BCA's periodicals focus on specific countries, published either by solidarity campaigns (with South Africa, Grenada, Namibia, Zimbabwe) or by and for members of a specific national community (*The Gambian*; *Links* and *Rapture* (Sierra Leone) or *Nigerian Link*. Others, like *Black Action* (Unison) and *The Black Journalist* (NUJ), neither of which are in the British Library, are addressed to members of those trade unions.

While many of the titles were distributed nationally, others sprang from the activity of local communities. They include the *Hackney African Organisation Newsletter*, and the *Hackney Black Peoples Association Newsletter*, both of which are unique to BCA. *Bradford Black: voice of the Black community in Bradford*, is not in the British Library, but is in both IRR and GPI, which suggests it had wide distribution – its design belies its 1970s date. *TNJ* (The Northern Journal) is published in Leeds, and may be complete at the British Library, while *BBJ* (Birmingham Black Journal) and *BBMHP* (Brent Black Mental Health Journal) are unique to BCA.

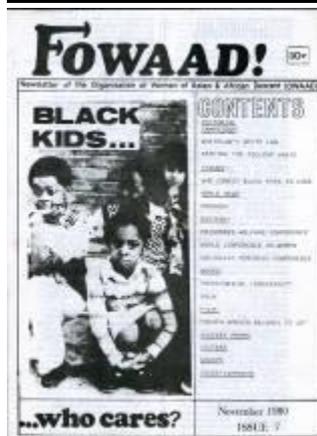
An interesting title, perhaps the earliest in the collection, is *Link*, subtitled 'The First British Negro Magazine', published in 1958, priced at "one shilling". The British Library holds the slightly earlier *Checkers Magazine* (1948-1949), and both offer insight into publishing initiatives in the post-Windrush years. These single issues offer a tantalising glimpse of past events and concerns, but even the incomplete story they tell may be a springboard for further discoveries. It is vital that back numbers of as many titles as possible are located and preserved, and BCA is continually adding to its collection where possible.

If you would like more information on donating items to BCA please contact archives@bcaheritage.org.uk, or telephone 02075828516.

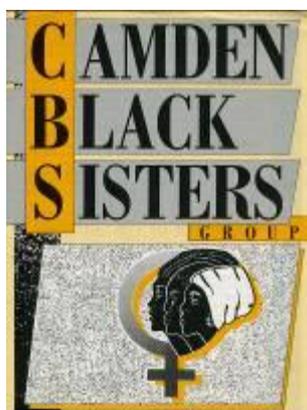
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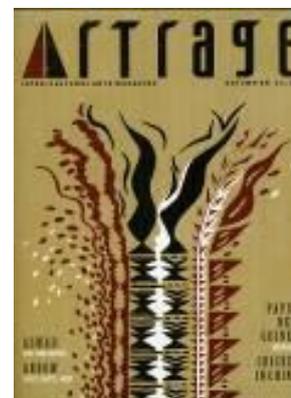
Collections



Ref. RC/PC/162
© Stella Dadzie



Ref. Periodicals/45



Ref. Ephemera/370
© MAAS

3.1 Periodicals (ref. PERIODICALS)

BCA holds a large collection of publications and periodicals which feature national and grass roots publications. This series features over 100 periodical titles from BCA's collection and the Runnymede collection.

We also have a large collection of single issues of publications, including some rare and one-off issues. **(Periodicals/124-130).**

Runnymede (ref. RC/PERIODICALS)

The Runnymede Periodicals collection also holds a wide range of periodicals which shows the variety of issues and interest within the community, for example *Artrage* **(RC/PERIODICALS/26)**, *Dragon's Teeth* **(RC/PERIODICALS/122)** and *Black Eye* **(RC/PERIODICALS/41)**.

3.2 The Papers of HANSIB (Ref. HANSIB)

Hansib Publications was founded in 1970 by Guyana-born Arif Ali.

In 1971 Hansib launched its first title '*West Indian Digest*' before shortly expanding to produce magazines, newspapers and books for Britain's Caribbean, Asian and African communities. These titles included *Caribbean Times*, *Asian Times*, *African Times*, *Asian Digest*, *Root Magazine* and *West Indian World*. Hansib are noted for launching the careers of Isabel Appio, BBC producer Abiola Awojobi and former Chair of the Labour party Black section, Marc Wadsworth.

In 1997, after twenty-four years of publishing newspapers, Hansib Publications sold its three weekly titles and thereby concluded its interest in newspaper publishing.

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Since the early 1980s, Hansib has published more than two hundred books and specialist titles and is widely acknowledged as being a significant brand in Black publishing in the United Kingdom.

BCA holds incomplete runs of *Caribbean Times*, *African Times* and *Asian Times* (Ref. HANSIB/1) and a number of HANSIB publications.

3.3 The Papers of Stella Dadzie (ref. DADZIE)

Stella Dadzie is a published writer and historian, best known for *The Heart of the Race: Black Women's lives in Britain*, which won the 1985 Martin Luther King Award for Literature.

Her career as a writer and education activist spans 25 years. She has written numerous publications and resources aimed at promoting an inclusive curriculum and good practice with black adult learners and other minorities.

She is well known within the UK for her contribution to tackling youth racism and working with racist perpetrators, and is a key contributor to the development of anti-racist strategies with schools, colleges and youth services.

The collection also contains material relating to Dadzie's political work with the African Red Family and African Student Union (**DADZIE/2**) and periodicals and ephemera collected by Dadzie in relation to her feminist and educational work (**DADZIE/5 and DADZIE/6**).

3.4 Records of Minority Arts Advisory Services (Ref. MAAS)

The Minority Arts Advisory Service came into existence as a result of meetings that were held for a report titled "The Arts Britain Ignores", by Naseem Khan, published in 1976. The main aims of the organisation were to maintain registers of artists, give advice to artists and arts organisations, and publicise activities. MAAS started as a very small operation in 1976, and became an official legal entity in January 1977. It was initially funded by the ACGB, Gulbenkian Foundation and Marks & Spencer. It ceased to operate due to insufficient funding.

In addition to holding copies of *Artrage* (please see 3.1), BCA also holds Annual Reports from 1977-1985 (**Ref. MAAS/2**) and documents relating to the contributions to *Artrage* (**Ref. MAAS/7-10**).

3.5 Ephemera Collection (Ref. Ephemera)

BCA holds many leaflets and posters relating to book fairs and Black writers. Particular items of interest may be '*A Press of the Margins: The Black Press in, and out of Britain*' by Paul E. Martin (**Ref. Ephemera/112**), catalogues and book release notices (**Ref. Ephemera/370, Ephemera/371 and Ephemera/378**) and posters relating to African book festivals (**Ref. Ephemera/244**).

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Other Sources

Black and Asian Studies Association: <http://www.blackandasianstudies.org/>

British Library: http://explore.bl.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=BLVU1

George Padmore Institute (and New Beacon Books): <http://www.georgepadmoreinstitute.org/>

HANSIB: <http://www.hansib-books.com/index.htm>

Institute of Race Relations: <http://www.irr.org.uk/publications/>

London Metropolitan Archives: The Papers of Eric and Jessica Huntley, especially papers relating to Bogle- L'ouveture LMA/4462

<http://search.lma.gov.uk/scripts/mwimain.dll/487/2/1/4247?RECORD>

Minority Arts Advisory Service (at Warwick):

<http://dscalm.warwick.ac.uk/DServe/dserve.exe?dsqIni=DServe.ini&dsqApp=Archive&dsqDb=Catalog&dsqCmd=NaviTree.tcl&dsqField=RefNo&dsqItem=MAA#HERE>