

undertaken to delineate the quantity and quality of available sources. The basic, general monographs are processed first, and other sources are added as finances permit, according to their significance and usefulness in rounding-out the File coverage.

Each File is made up of xeroxed and printed reproductions of the original text of sources on a particular socio-cultural unit (e.g. Nuer), processed to a uniform 5" x 8" size for convenient use. If a source is in a foreign language, an English translation is made, and complete copies of both the foreign and English texts are placed in the File. Subsequent analysis and coding are done with the English text. The rapid retrieval of specific information is accomplished by the multiple filing of materials according to a special coding classification system utilizing over 700 numbered subject categories (cf. George P. Murdock et al., *Outline of Cultural Materials*, 1967). If, for example, one page of text contains information on five different categories (indicated by the code numbers written in the margins), five copies of the page are printed, and a copy filed under each of the five appropriate categories within that File. In this manner, all materials dealing with a particular subject, from any of the processed sources, are brought together under a single category division in the File.

A complete set of the Files is located at each member institution, where they are usually housed at the main library and available for use under the same conditions as other special collections. In addition, a microfiche version of the Files, called HRAF-Microfiles, is produced by University Microfilms, Inc. These are currently being supplied to over ninety institutions throughout the world.

Of the 270 Major Files at present available, forty-two deal with African cultures. Details of these are given in Table 1 above, in which they have been grouped in accordance with the system of regional divisions used in *African Abstracts*. Two additional African Files are planned for the near future: FA16 Dogon and MS14 Kanuri. Three others are scheduled for processing whenever the funds become available: FO4 Pygmies (Mbuti), FQ9 Lozi, and MW11 Shlulh/Cheleuh.

Food Habits Survey. During 1962-4 a major research project was conducted on the food patterns of peoples in the developing areas. Extensive data were compiled on nearly 400 societies, including some 132 African societies. (Partial data were also obtained for approximately eighty other African groups.) A standardized research design was followed in collecting this information from the extant literature and from questionnaires sent to field workers. Much of the information has been entered on punch cards for computer manipulation.

Hraflex Books. This programme is designed to provide a low-cost, rapid method of placing almost unlimited amounts of descriptive, primarily ethnographic materials on the permanent record through the medium of microfilm storage and Copyflo Xerography reproduction. It represents an attempt to fill the gap in scholarly research created by the difficulty of publishing through regular channels the extensive bodies of descriptive data relevant to the social and human sciences. Four African monographs are at present available, three on the Tiv by Paul and Laura Bohannan, and one on *Contemporary Egyptian Nubia*, edited by Robert Fernea. What should be stressed, however, is the future potential of this programme as a means of disseminating data essential for African researchers. The HRAF encourages the submission of typewritten manuscripts reporting first-hand field data, preferably written by or under the guidance of a professional social scientist. A brochure presenting full details about this programme is available on request.

(Communicated by Robert O. Lagacé, Research Staff, HRAF)

Mbunda Craftsmen of Zambia

THE Ethnography Department of the National Museums of Zambia (Livingstone Museum, P.O. Box 498, Livingstone, Zambia) made successful contacts in 1967 during a survey of

of the Mbunda, people of Angola origins who have lived in the Barotse province for more than 150 years. It is intended to carry out further studies on the position of the craftsman in Mbunda society and the significance of the crafts produced. As a result of a long historical evolution the Mbunda produce crafts traditional to their own culture, others derived from the cultures of neighbouring tribes, and objects for the curio trade. The craftsmen will be studied in relation to this historical background both individually and socially. The techniques used in producing the crafts and how the crafts are utilized will also be studied.

(Communicated by P. André Vrydagh, Keeper of Ethnography)

Recent Research at the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Ibadan

AN account of the activities of the N.I.S.E.R., University of Ibadan, is given in its *Information Bulletin*, No. 3, February 1968. When the Institute was reorganized in 1964 a new research programme was initiated which gave priority to those projects most relevant to Nigeria's economic and social development. Among studies already completed are: Studies in the Staple Food Economy of Western Nigeria (R. Guesten), an aspect of a larger project on the marketing of staple agricultural products in Nigeria, which is being prepared for publication; The History of the Co-operative Movement in Nigeria (S. O. Adeyeye); and other studies on aspects of Nigerian economy, trade, and investment. Projects on which field work has been completed include: Survey of Fertility and Income in Nigeria (P. O. Olusanya); Differential Fertility in Selected Areas of Ibadan (F. O. Okediji); The Role of the Small Town (Shagamu) in the Economic Development of Nigeria (A. L. Mabogunje); Attitudes towards the City: The Example of Iwo (P. D. Milone); Socio-Economic Research in the Kainji Lake Region, a project directed by A. L. Mabogunje dealing with the problem of changing the present fishing population into commercial fishermen on the future lake; Organization of Markets and the Marketing of Foodstuffs in Northern Nigeria (Polly Hill). Field work is also in progress on several projects concerning the Nigerian economy and on economic development and rural improvement. During the next two years the Institute's research programme will give special attention to three immediate problems: (i) economic and social reconstruction following the civil war; (ii) preparation of the second National Development Plan; (iii) economic and social problems arising from the creation of new States.

Second Meeting of Social Research Fieldworkers in North-Eastern Africa

THE second meeting of this group, organized by the Institute of Ethiopian Studies and the Department of Anthropology and Sociology of Haile Sellassie I University, was held in Addis Ababa from 20 to 21 March under the chairmanship of Professor William Shack. It was organized by Professors Georges Savard, Alvin Rose, and Richard Pankhurst of Haile Sellassie I University.

The papers presented and discussed included 'The Linguist and the Social Scientist' by Professor Wolf Leslau; 'The Osseous Characteristics of the Femur and Tibia Indicating Race or Malnutrition' by Professor Peter Lisowski, Associate Professor; 'Archaeological Research in Ethiopia' by Dr. R. Schneider; 'Patterns of Thinking in Ethiopian Students' by Dr. R. Giel; 'The Economics of Handicrafts in Sidamo and Gemu Gofa' by Professor D. Karsten; 'Patterns of Marriage in a Roadside Town in South-Western Ethiopia' by Professor I. N. van Luyk; 'Governmental Recognition of Non-Governmental Legal Institutions and Laws' by Professor Norman Singer; 'Social and Religious Institutions of the Sidamo' by Dr. S. Stanley; 'Some Thoughts on the Problem of Urbanization in Pre-Twentieth Century Ethiopia' by Dr. Akalu Wolde Mikael; 'Function of Sexuality and