

Northcote Thomas (1868-1936) - a bibliography

The Northcote Thomas project was set up by Dr Roger Blench and myself to catalogue the prodigious collections created by the anthropologist Northcote Thomas in Southern Nigeria and Sierra Leone between 1909 and 1914. These include over 2000 ethnographic artefacts, 5000 photographs, 700 sound recordings and at least 10000 botanical specimens. The documentation accompanying these is variable but usually includes at least provenance and (in the case of the artefacts) vernacular name and/or function.

Thomas is an important figure both in Nigerian ethnography and in the history of anthropology: he was the first Government Anthropologist to be employed in West Africa, and lived through the transition between the folklore studies of nineteenth century and the field-oriented work of the post-First World War period. His work synthesising his work in Nigeria and drawing the lessons remains sadly unfinished in Cambridge University Library.

It became clear as part of our work on his archive that a comprehensive bibliography of his published work would be invaluable. I began this work unaware of the full range of his publications nor of the range of his interests. He wrote on a wide range of subjects before his Nigerian period, including two books on psychical phenomena and a study of Australian kinship. He published 13 monographs based on the West African fieldwork, as well as a large number of papers, during the First War and into the 1920s on languages, artefacts and culture in the wider sense, often drawing on his Nigerian experiences. He was also a frequent book reviewer.

The bibliography is based on the extensive resources of the Haddon and University Libraries, Cambridge, supplemented by the British Library, and the libraries of the Horniman Museum and the Museum of Mankind. Most obvious sources have been scanned, including the journals Man and Folklore, for which Thomas wrote regularly. Periodicals have been abbreviated according to the relevant ISO standard. Items of particular Nigerian interest have here been printed in bold.

nd

'Duplex stems in Sudanic languages' Philologica

1896

'The École Pratique des Hautes Études' Folklore VII, pp. 200-201

1897

'A folktale concerning Christ' Folklore VIII, pp. 379-80

1898

'La survivance du culte totémique des animaux et les rites agraires dans le Pays de Galles' Revue de l'Historie des Religions XXXVIII

1899

The naval wordbook Kiel: Lipsius & Tischer

1900a

'Animal superstitions and totemism' Folklore XI, pp. 227-267

1900b

'Notes on [Nootka] vocabulary' J Roy Anthropol Inst XXX, (misc. no. 58), p62

1900c

'Questions on animal superstitions' J Roy Anthropol Inst XXX, (misc. no. 114), pp. 114-6

1900d

'Horse's heads, weathercocks, etc' Folklore XI, pp. 322-3 & 5 plates

1901a

'American parallels to European agricultural customs' J Roy Anthropol Inst XXXI, pp. 155-6

1901b

On a pictorial representation of the Wheel of Life from Japan' Man 1, no. 1, pp. 1-4

1901c

'Animal folklore in Georgia' Man 1, no. 42, pp. 56-7

1901d

'The Australian Ethnological Expedition' Man 1, no. 67, pp. 82-3

1901e

'Suggestions for an international bibliography of anthropology' Man I, no. 108, pp. 129-133

1901f

Eine Internationale Anthropologicsh-ethnographische Bibliographie
Braunschweig:

1901g

'Stray notes on Japanese folklore' Folklore 12, pp. 69-71, 214

1901h

'Horse's heads, weathercocks, etc' Folklore XII, pp. 99-100 & plate

1901i

'The ethnological significance of burial and cremation' Folklore
XII, pp. 468-9

1901j

'Animal superstitions' Folklore XII, pp. 189-94

1901k

'Cropping animals' ears' Folklore XII, pp. 97, 208-9

1901l

'Sun charms' Folklore XII, p. 216

1901m

'A Buddhist wheel of life' Folklore XII, pp. 67-9 & plate

1901n

'The transition from totemism to ancestor worship' Folklore XII,
pp. 341-3

1901o

'Ship processions' Folklore XII, pp. 476-7

1902a

'An American view of totemism' Man II, no. 85, pp. 115-8

1902b

'Yew wood' Folklore XIII, p. 96

1903a

(with G. Krüger) Berichtigungen und Ergänzungen zum zweiten Teil
von Muret-Sanders Encyklopädischem Wörterbuch der englischen
und deutschen Sprache Dresden und Leipzig:

1903b

(ed.) Examples of Printed Folklore Concerning the Orkney and
Shetland Islands collected by G.F. Black London: Folklore
Society

1903c

'Note on totemism in New Caledonia' Folklore XIV, pp. 243-59

1903d

'Butterfly charm' Folklore XIV, p. 182

1904a

'The origin of marriage prohibition' Man IV, no. 2, pp. 7-9

1904b

'Further remarks on Mr. Hill-Tout's views on totemism' Man IV, 53, pp. 82-5

1904c

'Arunta totemism: a note on Mr. Lang's theory' Man IV, no. 68, pp. 99-101

1904d

'Animal folklore from Greece' Man IV, no. 81, pp. 119-22

1904e

'Animal folklore from the Herzegovina' Man IV, no. 88, pp. 132-6

1904f

'Studies in terminology: I. magic' Man IV, no. 107, pp. 163-7

1904g

'Animal superstitions among the Zulus, Basutos, Griquas, and Matagese, and the Kafirs of Natal' Man IV, no. 115, pp. 181-3

1904h

(ed) Examples of Printed Folklore Concerning Northumberland collected by MC Balfour London: Folklore Society

1905a

Crystal Gazing: Its History and Practice, with a Discussion of the Evidence for Telepathic Scoping with an introduction by A. Lang London: A. Moring

1905b

Thought Transference: A Critical and Historical Review of the Evidence for Telepathy with a Record of New Experiments 1902-1903 London: A. Moring

1905c

'The religious ideas of the Arunta' Folklore XVI, pp. 428-33

1905d

'Australian canoes and rafts' J Roy Anthropol Inst XXXV, pp. 56-79

1905e

'Animal folklore from Russia' Man V, no. 11, pp. 20-1

- 1905f
'Baiaame and the Bell-bird' Man V, 28, pp. 49-52
- 1905g
'Animal superstitions among the Araucanians' Man V, 60, pp. 104-5
- 1905h
'A further note on magic' Man V, no. 82, pp. 152-4
- 1905i
'Group marriage' Folklore XVI, p. 99
- 1905j
(with CH Read, TA Joyce and E Torday) Questionnaire ethnographique
traduction française par D Warnotte Bruxelles: Institutes
Solvay
- 1906a
Kinship Organisations and Group Marriage in Australia Cambridge:
University Press
- 1906b
Natives of Australia London: A. Constable & Co.
- 1906c
Bibliography of Folk-lore 1905 London: D. Nutt
- 1906d
'Australian canoes and rafts' J Roy Anthropol Inst XXXVI, pp.
409-12
- 1906e
'Note on a MS. in the British Museum' Man VI, 16, pp. 26-7
- 1906f
'Questionnaire on dolls' Man VI, 68, pp. 105-6
- 1906g
'The scapegoat in European folk-lore' Folklore XVII, pp. 258-287
- 1906h
'Dr. Howitt's defence of group marriage' Folklore XVII, pp. 294-307
- 1906i
'Cropping animals' ears' Folklore XVII, pp. 72-3 & plate
- 1907a
'The origin of exogamy' in Anthropological Essays Presented to E.B.
Tylor in honour of his 75th birthday ed. by N.W. Thomas Oxford:
Clarendon Press, pp. 343-354

1907b

Bibliography of Anthropology and Folklore 1906

1907c

'Australian marriage customs' Folklore XVIII, pp. 306-18

1908a

Bibliography of Anthropology and Folklore 1907

1908b

'The market in African Law and Custom' J Soc Comp Legis 1908

1908c

'The disposal of the dead in Australia' Folklore XIX, pp. 388-408
& map

1910a

Anthropological Report on the Edo-speaking Peoples of Nigeria Part
I: Law and Custom Part II: Linguistics London: Harrison & Sons
[reprinted 1969 New York: Negro Universities Press (two
volumes)]

1910b

'Decorative art among the Edo-speaking Peoples of Nigeria. 1.
Decoration of buildings' Man 10, no. 37, pp. 65-6

1910c

'Pottery making of the Edo-speaking people' Man 10, no. 53, pp.
97-8

1910d

'The incest tabu' Man 10, no. 72, pp. 123-4

1910e

'The edo-speaking peoples of Nigeria' J Afr Soc 10(37), pp. 1-15

1910f

'Marriage and legal customs of the Edo-speaking peoples of Nigeria'
J Compar Legis 1910, pp. 94-101

1913

Anthropological Report on the Ibo-speaking Peoples of Nigeria Part
I: Law and Custom Part II: English-Ibo and Ibo-English
Dictionary Part III: Proverbs, Narratives, Vocabularies and
Grammar London: Harrison & Sons

1914a

Anthropological Report in the Ibo-speaking Peoples of Nigeria Part
IV: Law and Custom of the Ibo of the Asaba District, Southern
Nigeria Part V: Addenda to Ibo-English Dictionary Part VI:
Proverbs, Stories, Tones in Ibo London: Harrison & Sons

1914b

Specimens of Languages from Southern Nigeria London: Harrison & Sons

1914c

'Slang in Southern Nigeria' Man 14, no. 3, pp. 3-4

1915a

'Totemism in Southern Nigeria' Anthropos X: 1-2, pp. 234-48

1915b

'Tones in Ibo' Man 15, no. 21, pp. 36-8

1915c

(with T.A. Joyce) Women of All Nations New York: Funk & Wagnalls
(1908-09 London: Cassell & Co)

1916a

Anthropological Report on Sierra Leone Part I: Law and Custom of the Timne and other Tribes Part II: Timne-English Dictionary Part III: Timne Grammar and Stories London: Harrison & Sons
[reprinted 1970 Westport, Conn.: Negro Universities Press
(one volume)]

1916b

Specimens of Languages from Sierra Leone London: Harrison & Sons

1916c

'A duodecimal system in South Africa' Man 16, no. 70, p. 122

1917a

'Some Ibo burial customs' J Roy Anthropol Inst XLVI, pp. 160-213

1917b

'Notes on Kukuruku' Man 17, no. 32, pp. 43-45

1918a

'Nigerian notes (II) Metal work' Man 18, no. 100, 184-6

1918b

'Magic and religion; a criticism of Dr. Jevons' Folklore XXIX, pp. 99-112

1919a

'(III) Twins' Man 19, no. 87, pp. 173-4

1919b

'IV. Astronomy' Man 19 no. 92, pp. 179-183

1920a

'Prefixes and pronouns in Limba' Man 20 no. 3, pp. 7-9

1920b

'Duodecimal base of numeration' Man 20, no. 32. pp56-60

1920c

'Note on an object from Benin' Man 20, no. 53, pp. 109-10

1920d

'The Edo week' Man 20, no. 73, pp. 152-3

1920e

'Sudanic names for the domestic fowl' Man 20, no. 92, pp. 189-190

1920f

'What is the Ka?' J Egyptian Archaeol VI: iv, pp265-273

1920g

'Ashanti and Baule gold weights' J Roy Anthropol Inst L, pp. 52-68

1920h

'Notes on Edo burial customs' J Roy Anthropol Inst L, pp. 377-411

1920i

'Duodecimal base of numeration' Man 20, no. 14, pp. 25-9

1920j

'Who were the Manes' J Afr Soc 19,74, pp. 176-88 and 20,77 pp. 33-42

1920k

'The Sudanic languages' Bulletin SOAS pp. 107-124

1920l

'Totemism in Southern Nigeria' Anthropos XIV-XV: 1-3 pp. 543-2

1920m

**'Thirty-two folk-tales of the Edo-speaking peoples of Nigeria'
Folklore XXXI, pp. 210-30**

1921?

'Determination and indetermination in Sudanic languages'
Philologica

1921a

'Semi-Bantu' Man 21, no. 4, pp. 8-9

1921b

'The plural in Biafada' Man 21, no. 54, pp. 91-3

1921c

'A note on the Nilotic Languages, by G.W. Murray' Man 21, no. 69,
pp. 230-33

1921d

'**Twins in the Yoruba country**' Man 21, no. 85, p. 140

1921e

'Further note on the Nilotic languages' Man 21, no. 109, pp. 185-7

1922a

'**Fulani Grammar by Sylvia Leith-Ross**' Man 22, no. 58, p. 95

1922b

'The Musical accent or intonation in the Kongo language by K.E.
Laman' Man 22, no. 100, p. 176

1922c

'**Birth customs of the Edo-speaking peoples**' J Roy Anthropol Inst
LII, pp. 250-8

1924

'The week in West Africa' J Roy Anthropol Inst LIV, pp. 183-209

1927

'**The Bantu languages of Nigeria**' in Festschrift Karl Meinhof
Sprachwissenschaftliche und andere Studien 1927, pp. 65-72

1928a

'Counting on the fingers' Festschrift P.W. Schmidt ed. W. Koppens,
pp. 726-733 Vienna:
Mechitharister-Congregations-Buchdruckerei

1928b

'Review of Das Sterbende Afrika by L.Frobenius' Folklore XXXIX:
109-111