Documentation Centre for African Studies

D D T JABAVU COLLECTION

Inventory

Updated by
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February 2012
Davidson Don Tengo Jabavu was born in King William’s Town in 1885. He was the eldest son of John Tengo Jabavu. He went to school at Lovedale and at Morija Institution in Basutoland. He completed his high school career in Wales, after which he started his studies at the University of London in 1906. He graduated in 1912 with a bachelor’s degree, majoring in English. From London he went to Birmingham University, where he obtained a diploma in Education.

Davidson Jabavu returned to South Africa in 1914, after undertaking a trip to the United States, where he visited Tuskegee and other black institutions. Jabavu kept a diary in which he wrote down his experiences. He called it *My Tuskegee Pilgrimage*. Jabavu’s description of his boat trip to America, as well as his visit, is very enlightening. On his return to South Africa, he was appointed as the first member of staff at Fort Hare, which was to open the following year. Throughout his career, his reputation grew and at his retirement as professor of Bantu Languages in 1944, he was Fort Hare’s most prominent African faculty member.

On the political front Jabavu preferred to use the methods of rational argument and persuasion, rather than confrontation. He accepted the principle of a qualified franchise, but was adamant that the common voters’ roll was a safeguard of African interests, and a symbol of a common society. In the 1920’s and early 1930’s the Cape Native Voters’ Convention, with Jabavu as president, became the most outspoken opponent of proposals for the disfranchisement of nonwhites.

Jabavu, together with Abdul Abdurahman of the African People’s Organization, played a major role in the organizing of the Non-European Conference. It was attended by Africans, Coloureds and Indians. Meetings took place between 1927 and 1934.

In December 1935, Jabavu & Pixley Seme of the African National Congress convened the first meeting of the All African Convention, an umbrella organisation that consisted of various organisations that were opposed to segregation. In 1943 the Non-European Unity Movement was formed, with Jabavu as chairman.

In 1953 he received a honorary doctorate from Rhodes University. He died in East London in 1959.

**The collection in the Unisa Archives consist of the following:**

- Publications by DDT Jabavu
- Other publications
- University College of Fort Hare
- *My Tuskegee Pilgrimage*
- Photographs
- Newspaper cuttings

**Sources:**


D D T JABAVU COLLECTION (0.8 lm)

1. **PUBLISHED MATERIAL**

1.1 **Publications by D D T Jabavu**

Native unrest: its cause and cure; a paper read at the Natal Missionary Conference, Durban.  
July 1920

Bantu literature; classification and reviews (This paper was written for the South African Association for the Advancement of Science).  
1921

1930

E-Amerika; u-welo luka.  Lovedale Press.  
1932

“Native disabilities” in South Africa.  Lovedale Press.  
1932

Criticism of the Native bills, by D D T Jabavu and others. (Pamphlet one).  
1935

Native views on the Native bills, by D D T Jabavu and others. (Pamphlet two).  
1935

The findings of the All African Convention. (Pamphlet three).  
1935

Izi-Ganeko; zama bali.  Lovedale Press.  
1935

All African Convention: presidential address, June 1936.  
Lovedale Press.  
1936

Lovedale Press.  
1936

All African Convention: presidential address.  
Dec 1937

E Jerusalem; uhambelo luka.  Lovedale Press.  
1940

All African Convention: minutes.  
Dec 1940

All African Convention: minutes.  
Dec 1941

An African indigenous church; a plea for its establishment in South Africa.  
1942

The Influence of English on Bantu literature.  Lovedale Press.  
1943

Izithuko.  Lovedale Press.  
1954

I-Rafu zaba-ntu.  Lovedale Press.  
1954

Umsebenzi wama wesile ku bantsundu.  
1954

What Methodism has done for the Natives.  Lovedale Institution Press.  
1954
1.2 Other publications

BIBLIOGRAPHY of African Christian literature. 1923

BRITISH KAFFRARIAN SAVINGS BANK SOCIETY. Annual report. 1957

BROOKS, Senator Edgar H.
The Bantu in South African life. SA Institute of Race Relations. 1943

CALATA, J A.
Isikumbuzo sika-ntsikana ongcwele; erini nasekapa. Lovedale Press. 1950

CAPRICORN AFRICA SOCIETY.
Handbook for speakers. n.d

CHAKRAVARTY, Amiya.
A Note on the Indian philosophy of pacifism. Hiralal Bose. (World pacifist meeting pamphlets; no. 3). 1949

CHINESE labour question; speeches delivered on Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman’s Vote of Censure. 21.03.1904

EAST LONDON. Municipality.
Municipality regulations with regard to native locations, natives, etc. Chapter XVIII. n.d

FOSTER, Margaret.
A Little bit and his brothers; a temperance play for children. In English, Afrikaans and Xhosa. Congregational Women’s Federation of South Africa. n.d

HELLMANN, Ellen.
In defence of a shared society. SA Institute of Race Relations. 1956

HELLMANN, Ellen.
Seligoods; a sociological survey of an African commercial labour force. SA Institute of Race Relations. 1953

IBBOTSON, Percy & RAMUSHU, Rev. Oswald, D.
African family life. Methodist book room. n.d

ISIMISELO se -tempile somhlambi okululekileyo wama tempile ngenene; omisiswe ngo August 1875… Right worthy true temple. 1930

IVANGELI ngokubalwe ngu-Marko. British and foreign Bible Society. 1934

IZIFUNDO zesi-kolo se cawa kunye na ma-nqaku o-titshala… Lovedale Press. n.d

JOHANNESBURG. Alexandra township. Health Committee.
The future of Alexandra township; an open letter to the citizens of Johannesburg. 1943

KALEYA, Stephen, M.
The fight for health. Sheldon Press. 1940
KERR, Alexander.
An old church in a new age. Christian Council of South Africa. 1941

KINGON, Rev. J R L.
The transition from tribalism to individualism; presidential address. Section E: Anthropology, ethnology, native education, philology and native sociology. SA Association for the advancement of science. 1919

KIRKWOOD, Kenneth.
The group areas act. SA Institute of Race Relations. n.d

LESTRADE, G P.
Bantu praise-poems; reproduced from the Critic, a South African quarterly journal, vol. IV, no. 1. 1935

LESTRADE, G P.
Locative-class nouns and formatives in Sotho; reproduced from Bantu studies, vol. XII, no. 1. 1938

LOVEDALE BIBLE SCHOOL.
Uncedo lomshumayeli. 1935

MBEKI, G A.
Transkei in the making. 1939

METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA.
Missionary Department. Is it nothing to you? (text in Xhosa). n.d

NAKASA, C J.
Ivangeli Lokuz'akha. Mission Press. 1941

NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS.
2nd. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. 1937

NATIVE disabilities in the Union of South Africa; speeches delivered in the City Hall, Cape Town, by Sir James Rose-Innes e.a. 28.01.1931

POWELL, Harold.
Fundamental principles of co-operation in agriculture. Federated farmers of SA Ltd. 1921

PRIZE list of the twentieth annual agricultural show. Fort Hare, Alice. 26.05.1944

SEME, P. Ka I.
The African National Congress: is it dead? No, it lives? The proposed amendment of its constitution. The Newcastle advertiser. n.d

SINXO, Guybon, B.
U-Jinoyi netitshalakazi (Ibalana). Lovedale Institution Press. n.d

SINXO, Guybon, B.
Umzali wolaheko (a novel). Lovedale Press. 1953

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVE COLLEGE.
Calendar for 1919; fourth year (Xhosa version). 1919
SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVE COLLEGE.
Report of the opening of the College. 08.09.1916

STUDENT CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA.
Bantu section. Handbook; methods and suggestions for promoting the work of the SCA.

UMZINGELI we nyaniso. n.d

UNION COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH.
Recommendations on Zulu orthography. 1929

UNIVERSITY of London convocation. 1951

WESILE, Yama.
Incwadi yamkokeli; we remente. Palmerton Mission Press. n.d

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF FORT HARE
4. Report on Fort Hare Theological Institution and hostel. 12.1920

2. STENCILLED DOCUMENTS
2.1 The Lovedale Bulletin. 15.04.1955; 25.10.1957
2.2 South African Institute of Race Relations reports, minutes, etc. 17.06.1952-18.06.1958
2.3 The Organisation of labour bureaux by local authorities as an integral part of the distribution of native labour in South Africa.
2.4 A Memorandum presented by Tshekedi Khama on the implication of the British Governments’ ban on him - its effects - the vital needs of the immediate present.
2.5 Cape Province Native population.
2.6 Minutes of the informal discussion of the representatives of youth organisations held at the Bantu Mens’ Social Centre. 02.04.1955
2.7 Three loose papers. (Unidentified).

3. UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL
3.1 Diary. My Tuskegee pilgrimage. (4 post cards). 1913
3.2 Correspondence.
3.2.1 Letters and telegrams of condolence on the death of Tengo Jabavu Jr. 03.1955
3.2.2 Correspondence of a general nature. 12.06.1934 - 21.12.1966

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3.2.3 Letters and telegrams of condolence on the death of Prof D D T Jabavu. Collection list. 08.1959

3.3 Notes and drafts of religious and political nature (holograph). (Incomplete).

4. PHOTOGRAPHS

4.1 Photographs of D D T Jabavu.

4.2 Partly identified group photographs.

4.3 Miscellaneous photographs.

4.4 Album of photographs: D D T Jabavu, family, etc.

4.5 Printblock of photo.

5. NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

5.1 On African matters. -

5.2 Press and other reviews of The Black Problem by D D T Jabavu. (Pasted in exercise book). -

5.3 On Prof. Jabavu's retirement. (Letter pasted on). -

6. MISCELLANY

6.1 Certificates; educational, baptism.

6.2 Examination papers, time-tables, etc.

6.3 Exercise books with lists of names.


6.5 Autograph book.

6.6 Duplicate cash receipt book.

6.7 Imiteto yomanyano lwe Nkosi.

6.8 Methodist church calendar. 1944

6.9 Articles on D D T Jabavu.

6.10 Accounts.

6.11 Programs, invitation and ticket.

6.12 Music on the occasion of the Royal Visit. 1947


6.14 Rubber stamps: All African Convention and SA Native Farmers' Congress.