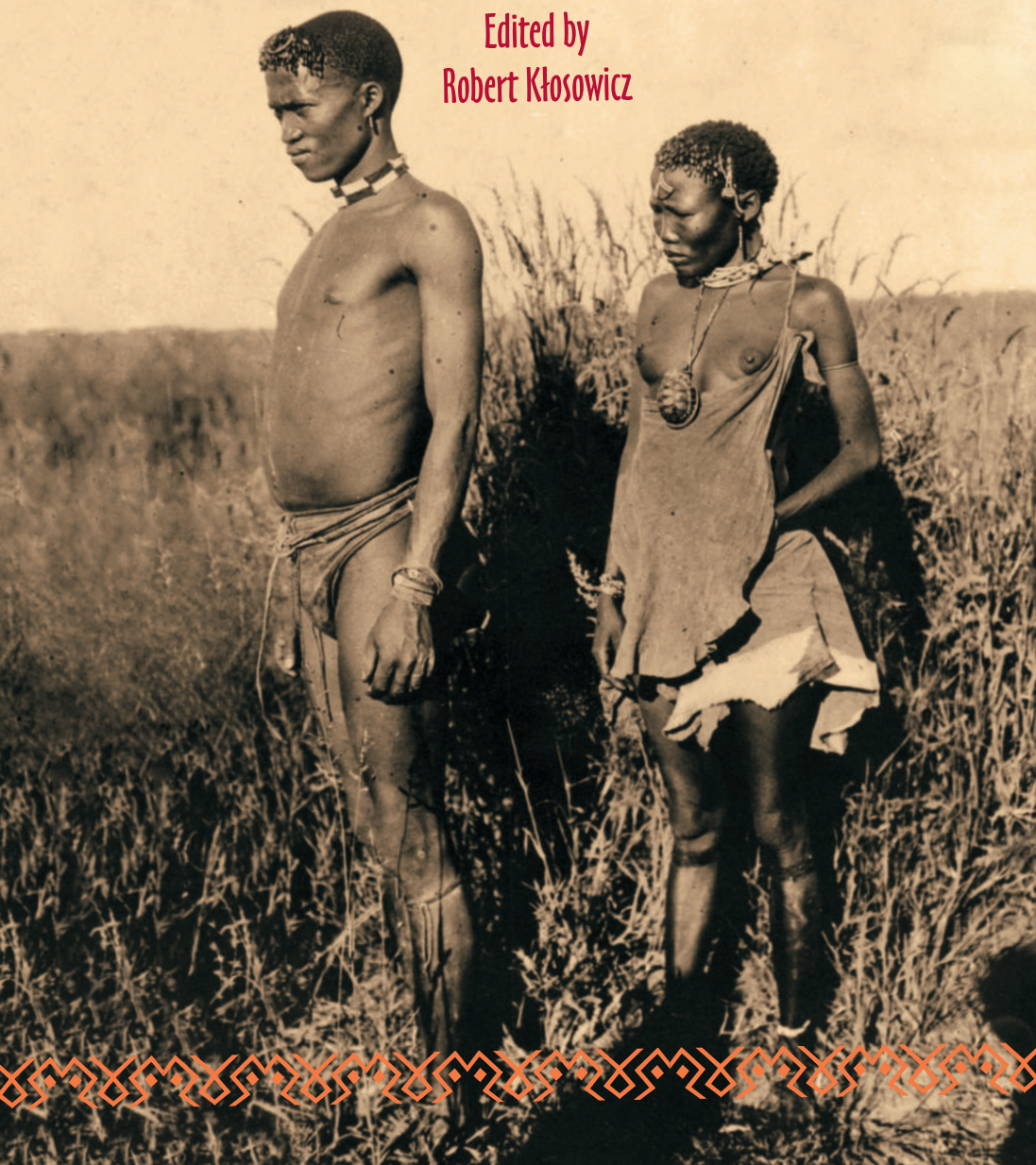


PIONEERS OF AFRICAN STUDIES IN KRAKÓW



Edited by
Robert Kłosowicz



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In memory of Professor Roman Stopa (1895-1995)



Edited by
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Kraków

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INTRODUCTION



THIS PUBLICATION, entitled *Pioneers of African Studies in Kraków*¹, aims to present the beginnings of African Studies in Kraków, which has currently been largely forgotten, while in fact it was in Kraków in the first decades of the 20th century that Bronisław Malinowski (1884-1942) launched his career at the Jagiellonian University, his first *Alma Mater*, at which he defended his PhD thesis in philosophy in 1908. This mention of Bronisław Malinowski within the context of the Kraków-based African studies is not without significance. Even though he is best known for his ethnographic research focusing on the inhabitants of the Trobriand Islands, in the 1930s he also became interested in the African continent. In 1934, he even made some field trips to East and Southern Africa, while during his doctoral seminar in the London School of Economics he worked with a group of PhD students interested in African studies, including the outstanding British

¹ The publication is a revised translation of the original Polish version – *Pionierzy krakowskiej afrykanistyki*, ed. by R. KŁOSOWICZ, Księgarnia Akademicka, Kraków 2017.

anthropologist Audrey Richards and Jomo Kenyatta – the first president of independent Kenya.²

For Kraków-based African studies, the 1930s were a turning point, during which the developing interest in Africa would bear fruit in the form of the first independent research projects conducted in the field – on the African continent. The best example would be the studies conducted by Roman Stopa (1895-1995), considered to be the father of Polish research into African linguistics, a professor of the Jagiellonian University, a world-renowned expert on click languages. In 1935, Roman Stopa conducted linguistic studies for a few months in the area of modern-day Namibia and Botswana among its indigenous inhabitants: the San and the Khoikhoi, at the same time collecting a significant amount of ethnographic material on the culture of the San peoples. Today, this unique collection is housed by the Seweryn Udziela Ethnographic Museum in Kraków. For many years, Prof. Stopa lectured at the Jagiellonian University in the present-day Institute of Oriental Studies (African languages, including Swahili, Hausa, Ewe, the Khoisan languages, and the comparative musicology of Africa). In the course of his long university career, he came to be known as the author of academic and popular science texts, including *Studies in African languages: (essays on phonetics, semiotics and meaning)*; *The evolution of click sounds in some African languages*; *Powstanie mowy ludzkiej w oświeceniu antropologii i językoznawstwa* [The forming of human speech in light of anthropology and linguistic studies]; *Tek-*

² Bronisław Malinowski even wrote the introduction to Kenyatta's text *Facing Mount Kenya* (1938) – an ethnographic study of the Kikuyu ethnic group.

sty hotentockie (Hai-/omn i nama) = Hai/omn- und Namtexte [Hottentot texts]; or *Mali ludzie z pustyni i puszczy* [The small peoples from the desert and the jungle].

Professor Roman Stopa's legacy is not only an important element of Polish input into African studies, but it also holds a significant position within global African studies. In 2014, during my visit in Basler Afrika Bibliographien – a renowned research centre focusing on studies into Namibia and South Africa with its headquarters in Basel, I learned of the huge admiration in which Prof. Stopa research is held. Professor Stopa was undoubtedly the first, paving the path for future Africanists in Kraków.

It is also worth mentioning that just before World War II broke out, Interdepartmental Colonial Studies were established at the Jagiellonian University at the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the aim to educate specialists in the area of agriculture, livestock breeding, tropical medicine and hygiene. Within the framework of the Studies, specialized lectures had been planned for future geologists, biologists and missionaries. The Maritime and Colonial League³ was to have participated in covering the costs of educating specialists, mainly in the form of financing internships for the academics, including in Sub-Saharan Africa in regions in which Polish settlement had been planned. It is worth noting that the then Docent Roman Stopa was offered the possibility of teaching a course at the institution “about humans in African colonies”.

³ Maritime and Colonial League (*Liga Morska i Kolonialna*) was a Polish social organization operating in the years 1924–1931, aiming to promote maritime issues among Polish society and to acquire land for settlement or future Polish colonies. In Africa, this encompassed the territories of Liberia, Angola, and French colonies.

It should also be mentioned that Kazimierz Nowak (1897-1937) a Polish traveller, correspondent, reporter and photographer gave a speech on African ethnography in 1937 at the Jagiellonian University, a presentation supplemented by photographs he had taken himself. He had just returned a few months earlier from his famous 1931-1936 expedition to Africa. At more or less the same time, another exceptional scholar, Professor Tadeusz Lewicki (1906-1992), a graduate of the University of Lviv, was also expanding his interest in Africa, albeit only those linked to its northern, Arab-speaking part. After completing his studies in Lviv, he settled permanently in Kraków and became affiliated with the Jagiellonian University, first as the director of the Department and then the Institute of Oriental Philology at the Jagiellonian University. Despite being known primarily as one of the most renowned Polish specialists in Oriental and Arab studies and a medieval historian, from today's perspective Professor Tadeusz Lewicki could easily be referred to as a pioneer of Polish African studies. Just after World War II, another scholar from Kraków conducted fieldwork in Kenya (at the time British East Africa) for two years: a former PhD student of Bronisław Malinowski at the London School of Economics, the ethnographer Andrzej Waligórski (1908-1974). Yet another scholar to develop the tradition of African studies at the Jagiellonian University was Andrzej Zaborski (1942-2014), a linguist researching Cushitic and Semitic languages, who in 1976 defended the first habilitation in the world on Afro-Asiatic linguistics.

In reference to the rich tradition of African studies at the Jagiellonian University and in response to the increasing interest in Africa and Africans, the idea emerged to

form a research centre that would bring together Kraków-based Africanists, scattered across various University units. In November 2014, by the decision of the Jagiellonian University Senate, the Jagiellonian Research Center for African Studies was created as an interdepartmental unit of the Jagiellonian University, formed thanks to the joint efforts of the Institute of Political Science and International Relations of the Jagiellonian University (the Faculty of International and Political Studies) and the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology (the Faculty of History). This unit of the university aims to become a platform integrating African studies researchers affiliated with the Jagiellonian University and representing various research disciplines, such as international relations, political science, security studies, ethnology, cultural anthropology, history, linguistics or cultural studies. The main aim of the Center is initiating, organising and coordinating various forms of scientific activities within the framework of interdisciplinary studies of Africa and Africans, as well as the promotion of scientific and research texts on African issues and conducting educational activities on Africa and Africans.

The official inauguration of the Jagiellonian Research Center for African Studies took place on 13th May 2015 in the Michał Bobrzyński Chamber in the Jagiellonian University Collegium Maius during an academic conference organised jointly with the Institute of Political Science and International Relations – *Pioneers of the African Studies in Kraków: Roman Stopa – a portrait of an exceptional Africanist on the 120th anniversary of his birth*. The aim of the conference organisers was not only to present Roman Stopa's scholarly achievements, but also to be a voice in the discussion on

the present shape and future of the Polish African Studies. The idea emerged to prepare a publication dedicated to the pioneers of the Kraków-based African studies.

The first part of this book is dedicated to Professor Roman Stopa and consists of four articles, Paweł Siwiec's *Roman Stopa – Pioneer of Polish African Studies*, Arkadiusz Żukowski's *Roman Stopa's Research in Light of African Studies in Poland and Worldwide – Initial Considerations*, Marcin Brocki's *Hottentots and Bushmen – on the Margins of Roman Stopa's Ethnological Commentary*, Jacek Kukuczka's *Roman Stopa's Unknown Photographs. Sketching a Portrait of the Khoisan Peoples*. The second part is dedicated to the African studies in Kraków after World War II and includes the following chapters: Robert Kłosowicz's, *Tadeusz Lewicki's Academic Achievements in the Field of African Studies*, Joanna Bar's *African Topics in Andrzej Waligórski's and Leszek Dzięgiel's Research*, and Joanna Mormul's *Andrzej Zabor-ski – Researcher of Cushitic and Semitic Languages*.

I would like to thank the authors of the texts published in this book for providing insight into the biographies and academic achievements of the pioneers of African studies in Kraków, thus bringing the memory of them back to life.

Robert Kłosowicz

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Excerpt from *Introduction* by Prof. Robert Kłosowicz

