



#### Prayer Book from Gambia

Bound in goat skin leather, the prayer book *Fī Madh Al-Rasūl* has an inscription that dates its creation to before 1894 in the Gambia. This beautiful manuscript is written in Arabic with local language translations. (Near East Section, African and Middle Eastern Division)

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## The African Section African and Middle Eastern Division

AMED Reading Room (LJ-229)  
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#### Omar Ibn Said

Half length formal portrait of "Uncle Moreau" [Omar ibn Said], ca. 1850. (From: Randolph Linsly Simpson African-American collection, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University,

## Library of Congress Websites Related to Sub-Saharan Africa

**Homepage of the African & Middle Eastern Division**  
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed>

**The Library of Congress Africana Collections:  
An Illustrated Guide**  
<https://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/guide/afrillguide.html>

**Countries of Africa**  
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/afs/afscitylng.html>

**Library of Congress databases and e-resources**  
<http://eresources.loc.gov/>

#### Digital Resources:

**African Section Program Webcasts**  
<https://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/webcast/africansectionwebcasts.html>

**Africana Historic Postcard Collection**  
<https://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/afs/africana-postcards.html>

**Conversations with African Poets and Writers Series**  
<https://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/afs/conversationswithafricanpoetsandwriters.html>

**Digital Exhibits of Manuscripts from Timbuktu**  
<https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/mali/>

**Omar Ibn Said Collection**  
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/omar-ibn-said-collection/about-this-collection/>

**Picture of the Week: Julius Kambarage Nyerere, First President of Tanzania** (Blog post)  
<https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2012/11/mwalimu-julius-kambarage-nyerere-pic-of-the-week/>

**Swahili Photos Online** (through the Prints and Photographs Division)  
<https://blogs.loc.gov/international-collections/2018/02/20th-century-images-of-east-africas-swahili-coast-online/>

#### Special Collections

**Macedo Collection**  
**Mazrui Family Collection** (not catalogued: finding aid in process)  
**Swahili Box Collection** (catalogued but not in online catalogue yet)  
**Torrence Royer Collection on Historical Zanzibar** (not catalogued)

# THE AFRICAN SECTION



Liberia's national flag, the "Lone Star," reminiscent of the American "Stars and Stripes," appears in the lower right corner. The single star in the blue field representing the African continent signifies Liberia's claim to be the first African "independent republic." (Prints and Photographs Division).

# AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN DIVISION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

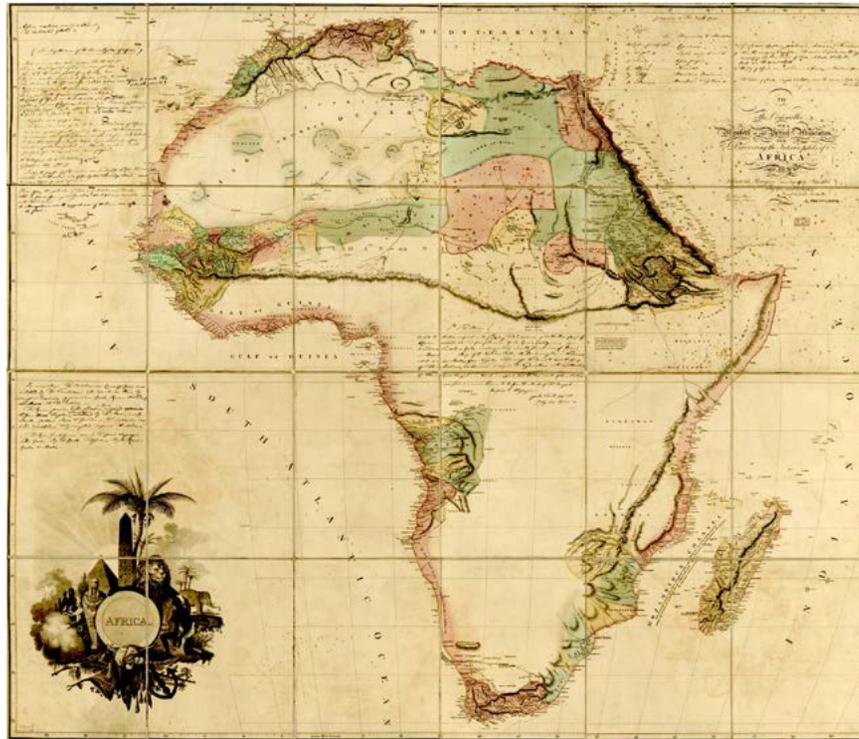
**The African Section, one of three units of the African and Middle Eastern Division at the Library of Congress, was established in 1960.**

The Section is the focal point of the Library's reference, bibliographic and collection development activities on sub-Saharan Africa. The Near East Section has responsibility for the North African countries of Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. The Section plays a vital role in the Library's acquisitions programs, offers reference services and bibliographic access, and hosts special events. It engages in partnership and outreach activities with other research institutions and scholarly and professional associations in the United States and abroad.



A mural painting from a house in southern Lunda is pictured on a postcard produced for the Companhia de Diamantes de Angola (1960s), from the collection of the Museu do Dundo, Angola. (Prints and Photographs Division)

For both historical and contemporary research, the Library's collections of Africana materials from, or relating to, Africa are substantial and include every major field of study in the social sciences and the humanities. Although the Library has holdings in the sciences, its collecting policy excludes technical agriculture and clinical medicine, which are under the



**Arrowsmith, Aaron, 1750-1823.** Africa : To the Committee and Members of the British Association for Discovering the Interior Parts of Africa This Map Is with Their Permission Most Respectfully Inscribed. London : A. Arrowsmith, 1802. (Geography and Map Division)

jurisdiction of the National Agricultural Library and the National Library of Medicine, respectively. The collections include invaluable primary and secondary materials in diverse formats and languages, including African vernaculars. Depending on format, they may be integrated into the general collections or be placed in custodial special format collections.

Since 2002, AMED has provided online access for its free and open to the public video-recorded lectures given mostly at noon-time by authors, scholars and researchers on a wide range of topics.

The African Section Pamphlet Collection also supports the research interests of scholars and researchers. This is a custodial collection of approximately 30,000 items printed and distributed in limited quantities and in varied formats which are housed in over 600 archival containers.

The African and Middle Eastern Division Reading Room is the public access point for researchers seeking to use the vast Africana collections of the Library of Congress. The reading room contains a reference collection on Africa which includes yearbooks, guidebooks, atlases, directories, encyclopedias, and other specialized reference guides.



**Sultan of Zanzibar seated on throne. c1927.** Sultan Sayyid Ali bin Hamud was the 8th Sultan of Zanzibar who was on the throne from 1901 through 1911. (Prints and Photographs Division.)

**Queries are encouraged via Ask-a-Librarian, email, telephone and in-person visits.**

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**Ask-A-Librarian Online Reference Services**  
<https://ask.loc.gov/africa-middle-east/>