

Kitabu

The bi-monthly newsletter of the African School Mobile Library
"African Studies by bicycle"

Issue 5 – an extra edition – November 2020.

Dear Reader, welcome to Kitabu. This extra edition is in support of a new mobile library, founded in Edinburgh, by Zaki El-Salahi and friends.

The Liberation Man

I see the Liberation Man, cycling around, a smile on his face, greeting all: offering the ballads of freedom. And these songs that we all need to listen to, whatever our political affiliations, have been written by figures such as Marcus Garvey and Samora Machel.

He sits tall on his seat, like one upon a thoroughbred. Of Sudanese descent, he sits proud, because he knows of Napata: he knows of the Kushite Pharaohs. Due to that knowledge, his mind cannot be entrapped: his spirit roams free in the land of ancestry. So he cycles around, lending the ballads and passing on posters, notifying the people of his collection.

He hopes that his mobile library can make a contribution to the stationery one; giving the ballads the widest dissemination possible: because he knows that knowledge offers a sense of freedom.

He knows of Meroe - the trade as far as Afghanistan and Turkey – and the expertise in gold, glass and quartz.

His eyes see clear through the mist and the cold can only penetrate so far, for something inside insulates him. Stories from the ancient anthology; of those skilled in the use of iron, builders of temples, traders in ivory and ostrich feathers: he will gladly talk of Nubia.

Feeling good as he goes along, because he is passing on sources of strength, sharing the pole vault of upliftment; because he knows there is nothing, institution or individual, that can chain him.

I saw the Liberation Man today, enjoying his daily bike ride, sharing another ballad of freedom.

The Black Liberation Library is a pop-up bicycle delivery service for the Southside of Edinburgh, Scotland. It was inspired by the African School's mobile library in Oxford, England.

Our pilot launched/started pedalling on 19th October 2020 and runs until 19th December 2020.

Our goal is to establish a special collection at the City of Edinburgh Council's Newington Library; which is a brilliant community library that has served our neighbourhood for decades.

I'd personally wanted to donate books to our local library about Marcus Garvey and the UNIA; to mark the centenary of the 'Declaration of the Rights of the Negro People's of the World' in 1920 – one of the world's first human rights treaties of the modern era!

Due to Covid-19 disruptions, Newington hasn't been able to accept book donations from its members for some months now and advised that's likely to remain the case in 2021.

Edinburgh's Blacker than people realise! The BLM solidarity demonstration on 7th June 2020 was testament to that!

With 2020's BLM global risings and a resurgence of local interest in Black people's heritage and herstories, The Black Liberation Library introduces neighbours and newcomers to accessible learning resources and educators from the Black Diaspora, right here on Edinburgh's Southside.

quotes from Zaki El-Salahi, founder of the Black Liberation Library

The ASML has

MEROITIC ARCHITECTURE: A Background of An African Civilization

Ahmed Mohammed Ali Hakem

THE BLACK PHAROAHS – Robert G.Morkot

THE KUSHITE CEMETERY OF SANAM:

A Non-Royal Burial Ground Of The Nubian Capital c.800-600BC

Angelika Lohwasser

ANCIENT EGYPT AND NUBIA – Helen Whitehouse – The Ashmolean

DARFUR: Colonial Violence, Sultanic Legacies and Local Politics, 1916-1956

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