Introduction

The Jesuit Historical Institute in Africa (JHIA) was started in 2010 as an idea of the Superior General of the Jesuits, Most Rev. Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., to encourage the study of the Society of Jesus’s largely unexplored involvement in the evangelization of Africa from an African perspective. We provide a cost-effective environment for groundbreaking research on the religious histories, cultures, and traditions of the people of Africa and Madagascar. Our mission is to collect and preserve records on the religious traditions and cultures of Africa. We document the evolution of Christianity on the continent, especially the role played in it by the Society of Jesus, other missionary societies, and African agents of evangelization. We make the collected information available to researchers from all academic disciplines.
Books and Document Donations

In 2022, we have been working on two important collections. Jonathan J. Bonk’s collection, which we received two years ago has been fully cataloged and shelved. The collection contains primarily mostly History of Religion in Africa, Church and State, Dictionaries, Atlases, and Encyclopedias, History of Colonialism, just to name but a few.

We also received, from Comunicación Loyola in Spain, the entire Colección Manresa. This is the best single collection available in the market on Ignatian Spirituality. We are grateful to our partners in Spain, especially our fellows Jesuits Ramón Alfonso Diez Aragón and José García de Castro Valdés, who have worked tirelessly and generously to acquire this collection and pay for it. We are also continuously very grateful to Angus Crichton, of Cambridge Center for Christianity Worldwide (Westminster College). From Cambridge and his Oxford home, Angus has been so generous and supportive of our mission by acquiring a number of collections of books and journals, including more recently:

- Parrett/Moss donation: Spreadsheet of Christian Literature in African Languages
- Terry Barringer Donation: Books on African Research, Documentation, and the Round Table journals
- CMS Library Donation
- Copies of Coldham’s A bibliography of scriptures in African languages, which are bibliographic guides of Christian publications in African languages.

The institute was able to provide resources and space in order to accommodate the new arrivals to be part of our collections serving as an impetus to our increased research. The cataloged collection now stands at 40,616 of books, without counting journals that are still work in progress. Your support has significantly expanded our collection, and it is now possible to do serious research and write articles and books with the resources available at JHIA.
Newspapers / Newsletters

This year we have received over 200 library inquiries, which is twice the number that we usually receive every year. These numbers got a boost after the introduction of the Newsletter/Newspaper project. JHIA’s Newsletter provides monthly information about JHIA’s activities and other related activities of historical relevance within the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM). It also makes available the list of African Jesuits celebrating their birthday that month, as well as the deceased whose memory we celebrate and pray for. At least two detailed biographies of the deceased Jesuits are published in each volume of the Newsletter. Most biographies published so far are from Central Africa Province, West Africa Province, and Southern Africa Province, thanks to the work done in recent years by Fr. Anicet N’teba, David Harold Barry, Eddie Murphy, Matthew Charlesworth, and Jean Luc Enyegue for their respective provinces. It is a work in progress, with the potential of becoming an important source of information on the Society in Africa and Madagascar for future historical research.

Another initiative that took shape at JHIA in 2022 is to create a digital collection on religion in ordinary life in Kenya. We record from Kenya’s important newspapers, information about religion and religious activities, and other issues relevant to society like slavery, poverty, ethnicity, and drought. The information collected is scanned, and then uploaded to the server to create a digital archive. To date, the number stands at 692 scanned newspapers with relevant information. We would like scholars to dream of what would be of this collection fifty years from now!

What’s New on JHIA Website?

During Covid-19, we decided to revamp our website, and create a portal. In addition to the library’s catalog, and the Africa Thesis Bank that was already available on the website, the new website developed additional projects, including:

Jesuit Sources in Africa

It collects primary sources from different administrative provinces and regions of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar, providing their contents in a single source. The Portal currently hosts a record of 705 growing collections. Inspired by a similar initiative from Boston College Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies (IAJS), this collection includes:

- Biographies, and obituaries,
- Essential Documents of the Society of Jesus in Africa and Madagascar: Founding documents of Provinces and Regions; texts critical to Jesuit history in the continent,
- Official letters,
• *Newsletters from different Provinces and Regions*

**Ignatian Spirituality in Africa**
This is a collection of Notes on the Spiritual Exercises in Africa; Homilies; and other publications in spirituality.
Access to the documents and their use requires prior permission according to the official guidelines for archivists of the Society of Jesus in Africa and Madagascar (Published in 2019).

**The JHIA's Africa Thesis Bank**
This collection keeps growing. It contains relevant dissertations, and master theses that have already been accepted by recognized institutions, from Africa, on Africa, or by an African from all over the world. We are interested primarily in research focusing on the histories, cultures, and religions of Africa and Madagascar. We have so far collected 8525 masters and doctoral dissertations and have been patronized by 2059 researchers so far.
JHIA’s Publications
In our mission to make research affordable and thus make the findings available to a wider audience, JHIA has published a number of books in recent years:

**The Way, the Truth, and the Life:** A Confluence of Asia, Europe, and Africa in Jesus of Nazareth

In collaboration with the African Theological Press Network (ATNP), we have acquired the rights to some important books that had been published in the global north to reprint them and distribute them at affordable prices so that they are within the reach of the researchers and scholars in Africa, who have limited resources.

JHIA’s staff have been working on groundbreaking historical research, some were published with other partners in Europe and the USA, and others are being prepared for JHIA Publications. In 2022, Fr. Jean Luc Enyegue published *Competing Catholicisms. The Jesuits, the Vatican, and the Making of Postcolonial Africa* (Boydell & Brewer: 2022), and *The Jesuit Ethos. A Social and Spiritual History* is currently in production with Paulist Press. Also, add a list of articles published in connection with Jesuit Studies.

Father Anicet N’teba is working on several book projects, expanding the number of Jesuits interested in publishing with us. Here are a few projects being considered by JHIA Publication:

1. **JALONS POUR UNE HISTOIRE DE LA PROVINCE JÉSUITE DE L’AFRIQUE DE L’OUEST (1946-2016)** (livre pour la célébration du jubilé d’or de la Vice-Province de l’Afrique de l’Ouest)
2. **VIENS ET SUIS-MOI. Collège N’Temo : pépinière des vocations sacerdotales et religieuses au Kwango.** (livre pour la promotion des vocations sacerdotales et religieuses)


7. **Collecte des photos des consacrés originaires du Kwango-Diocèse de Popokabaka (Exposition des photos à l’occasion du centenaire de la fondation de la Mission catholique de Kingunda pour la promotion des vocations sacerdotales et religieuses)

Still, in line with publications on Jesuit Studies, Africa has never been as productive as it is now. In addition to the already mentioned books, we had important publications by Festo Mkenda, David Harold Barry, Rigobert Kyungu, N’teba [Munzihirwa], Malulu, and a number of master and doctoral theses defended on Ignatian Spirituality in Africa.

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**JHIA’s Partners**

- JESUIT CONFERENCE OF AFRICA AND MADAGASCAR (JCAM)
- ARCHIVUM ROMANUM SOCIETATIS IESU (ARSI)
- BOSTON COLLEGE’S INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED JESUIT STUDIES (IAJS)
JHIA’S Zoom Meetings with Partners

JHIA - ARSI has conducted a few online zoom meetings to assess the present situation of the archives in the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM) and the archives in other Jesuit provinces. Clear progress has been made, and there is a greater awareness of the need to take the archives seriously. Serious investments in material and workforce have been made in some Provinces. They need to be made in others. Most provinces and regions still face the challenge of training people to be archivists. In that sense, the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM) has been very supportive and helped train one archivist in Rome.

The following are some of the topics discussed in most of the zoom meetings that took place so far:

- Church mission society archives 9th December 2020
- Restoration of ancient documents 3rd December 2021
- Creation of café of Jesuit historians of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (History) 5th May 2022
- Digital archiving 25th January 2022 in collaboration with ARSI
- Setting up an archive on 27th October 2022 in collaboration with ARSI

Apelación financiera

En su misión para preservar el patrimonio cultural, spiritual e Histórico de la Compañía de Jesúes, el Instituto Histórico de la Compañía en África agradece su ayuda, y le/la comunica una cuenta de la Provincia de España para hacer su transferencia:

- Ponemos a vuestra disposición una cuenta de la Provincia
NAIROBI_ARCHIVO HISTORICO + NAME OF BENEFAC tor
IBAN: ES18 0075 0241 4606 0071 7166
Titular: COMPAÑÍA DE JESÚS PROVINCIA CANÓNICA DE ESPAÑA
BIC: BSCHESMMXXX

- Todos los donativos deberían realizarse en esa cuenta. No cogemos dinero en efectivo
- Los ingresos o transferencias deberían llevar como concepto: “NAIROBI_ARCHIVO HISTÓRICO + Nombre del donante”
- Una vez hecho el ingreso, si se desea certificado de donación, deberían enviar un mail a esp.administracion@jesuitas.es adjuntando el comprobante de la operación y todos los datos completos del donante (nombre, apellidos, DNI, dirección postal, mail y teléfono). Ese correo ha de enviarlo el propio donante.
- Cuando se nos indique, o cuando termine la campaña, nosotros enviaremos el monto que se haya recaudado.

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**Financial Appeal**

In its mission to preserve the cultural, spiritual and historical heritage of the Society of Jesus, the Historical Institute of the Society in Africa thanks you for your help, and informs you of an account of the Province of Spain to make your transfer:

NAIROBI_ARCHIVO HISTORICO + NAME OF BENEFAC tor
IBAN: ES18 0075 0241 4606 0071 7166
Holder: COMPAÑÍA DE JESÚS PROVINCIA CANÓNICA DE ESPAÑA
BIC: BSCHESMMXXX

All donations should be made to this account. We do not take cash
The deposit or transfer should have as a concept: "NAIROBI_HISTORICAL_ARCHIVE + Donor’s name".

Once the deposit has been made, if you want a donation certificate, you should send an email to esp.administracion@jesuitas.es attaching the receipt of the transaction and all the donor’s complete data (name, surname, ID number, postal address, email and telephone number). This mail has to be sent by the donor himself.

When indicated, or when the campaign ends, we will send the amount that has been collected to JHIA in Nairobi.

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**Special Gratitude to these Friends and Benefactors of JHIA:**

We are immensely grateful to all our friends and benefactors whose contributions make this mission exciting and achievable:

- The Mariano and Elena Family
- Angus
- Adele
- Julia and Family
- Ignacio and Marta’s Family
- Enrique
- Rafael Family
- Corine Family
- John and Eileen's Family
- Yurrita and Family

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**Support our work**

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