

CORRESPONDENCE

Professor C. M. B. Brann of the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria, has asked us to publish the following note:

Dear Sir,

In ARD 21:27 you write on CILF. Now, the proceedings of the March 1976 Dakar conference were published in book form by CILF under its title: Les relations entre les langues négro-africaines et la langue française, Paris, CILF, 1977, 794 pp. This is an important collection of papers, including a significant address by President Senghor. I reviewed it in WAJML 3 Language in society in West Africa, pp.182-5. It is this volume which is the immediate outcome of the eponymous conference. ALSO published by CILF is Daniel Barreteau (sic) (ed.) Inventaire des études linguistiques sur les pays d'Afrique noire d'expression française et sur Madagascar, Paris, CILF, 1978, 624 pp, 2 folded maps + country language maps. This volume is a further outcome of the Dakar conference, but please note that the title and text are French, and not in English as publicised in ARD. If a translation of a title is given, it should be so noted. This interesting work consists of two parts, the first being an inventory of language families, as represented in the francophone countries, the second a socio-linguistic description of language use in most (but not all) 'francophone' states of Africa (only Guinée and the Mascareignes are missing). The second part, being the more original in conception, is also the more interesting, in spite of the unevenness of its information (in the absence of reliable statistics of L1 and much more of L2 speakers (lingua francas), not to mention the guess-work concerning the number of L3 (i.e. francophones) speakers. Both books are a must for Africanists concerned with language, though they are very expensive, 160 and 194 FF respectively. They reflect a serious attempt of French officially-sponsored bodies to get to grips with the realities of the African language situation, whilst maintaining their sponsorship of French as the link language - at least of the elite.

Yours etc.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

AFRICAN BIBLIOGRAPHIC CENTER, WASHINGTON

The African Bibliographic Center has recently published (in conjunction with The African Council on Communication Education, Nairobi, and the Overseas Liaison Committee of the American Council on Education, Washington) the following report:

"Africa speaks, America responds": a report on the African Council on Communication Education dialogue "Communication education/training needs in Africa", April 11-13, 1979, Washington, D.C. The report is published in French and English and is 61pp long.

Queries and orders should be addressed to The African Bibliographic Center, 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 901, Washington, D.C. 20036, U.S.A.