

Africa Commons



Meet us in San Francisco at the ASA Annual Meeting!
Booth #403

Hello, and welcome to your quarterly newsletter from the *Africa Commons* team.

Your library has purchased all three modules of *Africa Commons*. These resources are free for you and your students to use and are cross-searchable on one platform.

- *Africa Commons: History and Culture*
- *Black South African Magazines*
- *Southern Africa Films and Documentaries*

History and Culture

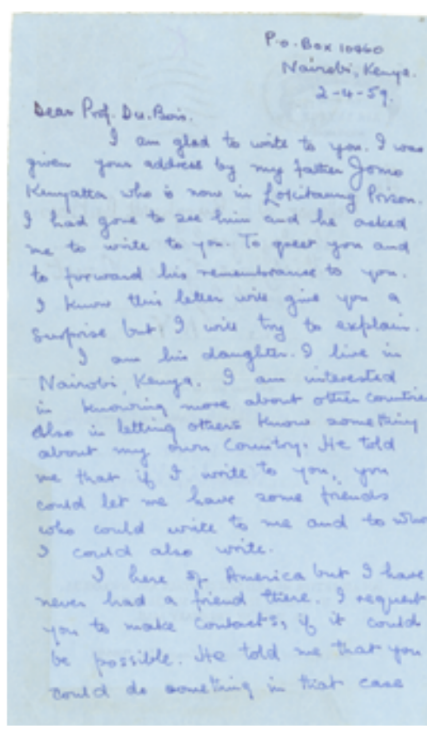
With over 400,000 documents, *Africa Commons: History and Culture* includes books, magazines, newspapers, historical journals, posters, letters, diaries, photographs, art, music, and more.

Check out these content highlight [lists](#) below:

- [MUS 210 History of Music II - African Diaspora](#)
- [AFS 560: Sexualities: African and Caribbean Perspectives](#)
- [African Commemorative Fabrics](#)



[Fosatu Worker News No 40, August, 1985](#)
Digital Innovation South Africa



[Letter from M. Wambai Kenyatta to W. E. B. Du Bois, April 2, 1959](#)
U Mass Amherst



[Islamic manuscripts from Mali](#)
Library of Congress

Black South African Magazines

Black South African Magazines brings together over 50,000 pages of rare, historically significant magazines, written by Blacks Africans and targeted for Black African audiences.

Check out these content highlight [lists](#) below:

- [DRUM Magazine through the 1950s](#)
- [DIGI 350: Gender, Family, and Media in African History: Representation and Realities](#)



DRUM (1955-1973; issues from 1951-1954 are forthcoming)

DRUM was once the most widely read magazine in Africa, circulated in eight countries. Its journalists influenced political outcomes and are credited with changing the way Black South African, Indian, and multiracial communities were represented in society. The magazine became an important platform for a new generation of writers and photographers, and it served as an important vehicle for voicing resistance, from the Defiance Campaign of 1952 to the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960.

Grace (1964-1966)

Grace was an illustrated, general-interest women's magazine published in Durban, South Africa. It consisted of pictures, fashions, romantic novellas and short stories, and personality profiles. Published during apartheid, the magazine represented Black African women in a positive light—educated, beautiful and modern—in contrast to their representation in white African women's magazines of the time.

Hi-Note! (1954-1957)

Founded in Johannesburg, South Africa, *Hi-Note!* was a pictorial entertainment magazine aimed mainly at multiracial and Indian readers. It focused on sports, music, and "star" personalities; it also contained pulp fiction—mainly romantic/suspense sagas—and selected, serialized "classics."

The Townships Housewife (1968-1969)

Subtitled "A journal to the ladies of the upper classes on cookery, homes and gardens," *The Townships Housewife* was aimed at an audience of African housewives. The newsletter included recipes, fiction, gardening hints, and parenting notes. Like *Grace*, it was was one of the first women's magazines written by and for Black African women.

Southern African Films and Documentaries

With content spanning the 1900s and early 2000s, *Southern African Films and Documentaries* offers, for the first time, streaming access to more than a century of African history, politics, and culture.

Check out these content highlight [lists](#) below:

- [Southern African Film Studies](#)
- [ETHM 543 Seminar in Ethnic Music: Africa](#)



Black Beulahs

"Beulah" is a South African gay slang term that means "beautiful or attractive man or boy." The documentary explores the lives of three friends living within the largely unexplored Soweto gay subculture.

Voices from Robben Island

This definitive documentary on perhaps the world's most infamous island looks at its 400-year history through the eyes of people incarcerated there—including inmates Mandela, Sisulu, Mbeki, and other the freedom fighters against apartheid.

Zonk!

This film is a series of musical numbers with an all Black cast, often relying on American Hollywood stereotypes of the Black entertainer. It has everything from Broadway top-hat numbers to Harlem dance hall jams.

As you explore the *Africa Commons* collections, we'd love your feedback. We're continually making updates as the collection expands, and we're eager to learn what content you'd like to see.

Learn about another project we're working on: [The Hilary Ng'weno Archive](#) (forthcoming).

Interested in scheduling a training demonstration of *Africa Commons* with your faculty members, subject librarians, and researchers? Our editorial and engagement team are eager to [help](#).

Thank you!

[Yoomna Rahim \(she/her\)](#)

Product Engagement Manager

Request a demo of *Africa Commons* [here!](#)

[Elizabeth Robey \(she/her\)](#)

Publisher, *Africa Commons*



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October 2023