

BERNTH LINDFORS, *BLACK AFRICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH: A GUIDE TO INFORMATION SOURCES*. (American Literature, English Literature, and World Literatures in English Information Guide Series, v. 23). Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1979. pp. 482. \$24.00.

Although there is no single Black or African world view, Black African creative writing offers us alternative perspectives to the Western European/American value system characterizing the literature most familiar to us.

Bernth Lindfors, professor of English and African literature, University of Texas, Austin, has compiled an outstanding tool for a systematic approach to the study of Black African authors who write in English. It is probably the most comprehensive collection of information sources presently available on this material up to the end of 1976.

It is important to emphasize that the *Guide* contains commentary only on Black Africans writing in English, although the articles cited may be written by non-Africans in languages other than English. Users should also be aware that lists of creative works are themselves generally excluded.

Lindfors has done his homework, having examined most of the items himself and indicating with an asterisk those he has not been able to obtain. The *Guide* is divided into two major parts. The first, Genre and Topical Studies and Reference Sources, is subdivided into specific sections, including such topics as interviews, censorship, festivals, etc. Many entries have brief explanatory annotations.

The second part of the *Guide* is an alphabetical listing of individual authors. Lindfors states the primary criterion for inclusion is a page or more of commentary in a secondary source. Under each author entry the sources are separated into four categories: bibliography; biography and autobiography; interviews; and criticism. There are abundant cross references to citations appearing elsewhere in the *Guide*. Sources for this compilation are more than 500 periodicals in languages ranging from English to Russian and published in Africa, Europe, and the North American continent.

One of the greatest delights for users of this book is its excellent indexing. There are four indexes: author, title, subject, and geographical. For any scholar in the field or library supporting an African literature collection this work is a necessary acquisition.

--Helen MacLam
Dartmouth College Library