

JAN SNYMAN PAPERS

Title: Jan Snyman Papers

Reference: SNYM

Creator: Snyman, Jan (1941- 2002) linguist and phonologist

Biographical history and context:

Professor Jan Snyman spent most of his life researching the lesser known and marginalised San languages of Botswana and South West Africa (now Namibia). Together with O. Kohler, E. Westphal and A. Traill, he pioneered linguistic studies on these endangered languages of Africa. He contributed significantly in collection of the data that helped classify and understand the grammar of San languages and was the first to suggest practical orthographies for !xû, Jun/'hoasi, !Xóǀ and Naro. The dictionary of Jun/'Hoasi and !Xu were huge achievements in Khoesan studies. Snyman also wrote several grammars in the form of monographs and notes on these languages. By the time he died, in 2002, a draft for the Tshwaa and Kua languages had been completed.

Content:

Linguistic, phonetics and orthography research materials including fonts for phonetic languages.

Covering dates: 1967-2000

Extent and media: 3 metres; Paper, digital, artifacts, disks.

Provenance:

The material came to UB through Dr A Chebanne, Deputy Dean of Humanities. According to Mrs Snyman, Professor Snyman willed that the University of Botswana should have custody of his San languages research material, which should come to the University through Dr Chebanne, who worked with him in the San research and in research on Setswana. Initially all Professor Snyman's research materials were collected by his colleagues at the African Languages Dept, UNISA. Tswana related material was retained there, whilst the rest was given to Anthony Trail to be donated to UB. There is no formal agreement or deed of gift.

A later accession comprising one file of Snyman papers was transferred to the Archives in October 2007. This may have become detached from the original set at one point and retained in the files of a member of UB academic staff.

Associated material:

Tswana related research material is located at the Dept of African Languages, University of South Africa (UNISA).

Copyright and access:

There are no restrictions on access to the material. Copyright must be checked.

Description prepared by Gemma Bentley, February 2005. Updated April 2007. Please cite as University of Botswana Archives, Jan Snyman Papers SNYM.

The collection contains the following series:

- SNYM/1** San language index cards
- SNYM/2** Published material
- SNYM/3** Typescript, manuscript and electronic notes, reviews and articles (i.e. in unpublished format)
- SNYM/4** Fonts
- SNYM/5** Survey plans of Okavango Delta
- SNYM/6** Other topographical material
- SNYM/7** Three dimensional objects
- SNYM/8** Khoisan Special Interest Group (SIG) Newsletter correspondence and documents

Full catalogue:

- SNYM/1** San language index cards
- Index card cabinets holding cards each with an individual San word or phrase, plus Afrikaans translation and notes. Cards are arranged alphabetically and are also numbered within each drawer.
- 1970-1972
- Estimated approximate dates.
- 9 index card filing drawers
- Paper
- Used in compilation of !xû - Afrikaans woordeboek? [See SNYM/3/1]
- SNYM/2** Published material
- Course book, books, pamphlets, conference papers and off-prints, most signed by Jan Snyman.
- 1978-1997
- 5 items
- Paper

- SNYM/2/2 Mackay, Ian**
'Phonetics: the science of speech production' (2nd Edition)
Interleaved with bookmarks and some loose notes
1987
1 volume
Paper
- SNYM/2/1 Creissels, Denis**
'Remarks on the Sound Correspondences Between Proto-Bantu and Tswana (S31)'
Document presented at the Round Table on Bantu Historical Linguistics 30th May to 1st June 1996
May 1996
1 item
Paper
- SNYM/2/2 Maddieson, Ian**
'Prenasalized stops and speech timing'
Article in 'Journal of the International Phonetic Association'
Vol. 19, No. 2; with some annotations
Dec 1989
1 item
Paper
- SNYM/2/3 Synman, Jan et al**
'Phonetics': study guide for PHONET-H, African Languages (Honours)
Course material for course offered by Department of African Languages, University of South Africa, Pretoria, and for which Professor Snyman was a lecturer.
Course book is interleaved with the following material:
University of Stellenbosch, Research Unit for Experimental Phonology, CSL Training Workshop, 1995;
Report on the 1989 Kiel Convention (article within Journal of International Phonetic Association);
'Phonation types: a re-appraisal' article by R.K. Sprigg 1978 (within journal as above);
Chapter 9, 'Feature Systems', within 'An Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology' by John Clark and Colin Yalop

1978-1997

1 volume containing several additional pieces

Paper

SNYM/2/4 Snyman, Jan

'Advanced Reader in Phonetics'

'Reader for PHONET-H' compiled by Professor Snyman,
Department of African Languages, Unisa.

Plus loose sheet with manuscript notes.

1992

1 volume

Paper

SNYM/3 Typescript, manuscript and electronic notes, reviews and articles (i.e. in unpublished format)

1967-2000

18 items

Paper and digital

Hard copy made by converting original WordPerfect format to Word.

SNYM/3/1 Synman, Jan

Proof copy typescript: 'Zu / 'Hoasi Fonologie &
Woordeboek'

Phonology and Dictionary of !xû language, described by the editor as 'the first true and serviceable monographic dictionary of any of the Bushman languages of Southern Africa'. A study written under auspices of Department of African Languages, University of Capetown, forming 'Communication no.37'.

Written in Afrikaans, with an English foreword and in some sections of Phonology.

Phonology and dictionary in separate sections.

1972-1975

2 items

Paper

Glue and tape used in original have caused pages to become stuck together in places.

Published in 1975 under ISBN 0 86961 072 4

See index at SNYM/1

Copyright of author.

SNYM/3/2 Snyman, Jan

Research papers and drafts for !xû phonology and dictionary

Exercise books / notepads with notes, vocabulary lists, word and grammar tables and translations of !xû sentences and prose to Afrikaans. Mainly manuscript.

Plus: government permit to visit South West Africa (1968) and schools in South West Africa (1967);

letter giving comments on draft Chapter II.

Some books are labelled with Afrikaans titles.

1967-1968

Estimated end date.

10 soft bound volumes, 1 hard bound folder

Paper

Stored / packed within box labelled: 'Khoesan-navorsingsnotas Koln Universiteits-argiess'

SNYM/3/3 Snyman, Jan

Review of 'Khoekhoegowab - English Glossary' (Wilfred Haacke and Pastor Eliphaz Eiseb, 1999)

With hard copy print out.

3 May 2000

1 disc, hard copy and soft copies

Paper and digital

WordPerfect file converted to Word and PDF and stored in DMS.

SNYM/3/4 Snyman, Jan

Manuscript notes: 'The vibration of the larynx'

Not dated

1 item

Paper

SNYM/3/5 Kohler, Oswin

Annotated / edited typescript: 'Book III The Khoisan Languages' by Oswin Kohler

Pages 1-168.

Undated

1 item

Paper

SNYM/3/6 Snyman, Jan

Current position of Tswana in the Republic of South Africa
(Note that Disc is labelled SYNMAN.WPD 'Cross Border
Language Workshop').

With hard copy print out.

7 Aug 1996

1 disc, hard copy and digital

Paper and digital

WordPerfect file converted to Word and PDF and stored in
DMS.

SNYM/3/7 Snyman, Jan

Proposals for a Pan-Khoesan Orthography

With hard copy print out.

12 Oct 1999

1 disc, digital and hard copies

Paper and digital.

WordPerfect file converted to Word and PDF and stored in
DMS.

SNYM/3/8 Three typescript pages (14-16) from publication

Contain sections: '3.1 Pre-voiced trigressive clicks'; 3.2
'Normally voiced trigressive licks'

Not dated.

1 item

Paper

These pages were found loose with the boxes of index
cards.

**SNYM/3/9 Speech of the Deputy President of the Republic of South
Africa, Thabo Mbeki, at the Paasiviki Society, Helsinki,
Finland, 14 September 1998**

Sep. 1998

1 item

Paper

SNYM/3/10 Address by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki at the 'African Renaissance Conference', Johannesburg, 28 September 1998

Sep. 1998

1 item

Paper

SNYM/3/11 Speech of the President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, at the launch of the African Renaissance Institute, Pretoria 11 October 1999

Oct. 1999

1 item

Paper

SNYM/3/12 Opening remarks by H.E. Ms Thandi Lujabe-Rankoe on the African Renaissance Symposium held on 22 March 2000, Gaborone

Mar. 2000

1 item

Paper

SNYM/3/13 Keynote address by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Lt Gen Mompoti Meraphe, at the African Renaissance Symposium, Gaborone

22 Mar. 2000

1 item

Paper

SNYM/4 Fonts

Electronic and hard copy material about fonts and font versions, accumulated in order to express the phonetic African languages in written form.

1992-1999

Paper and digital

SNYM/4/1 Department of African Languages: 'Special Khoisan diacritics and fonts made for Prof. J.W. Snyman

Floppy disc containing WordPerfect and TrueType documents [accessible by conversion to Word], plus accompanying notes

1999

1 disc and notes; electronic copies

Paper and digital

This may be a copy of material held within SNYM/4/2.
Soft copies in DMS.

SNYM/4/2 Eulitz Productions

Commercial product: Phonetic Symbols for Word Perfect (Windows) by Eulitz Productions

1997

1 disc

Paper

See also SNYM/4/1

Copyright reserved.

SNYM/4/3 IPAKiel font

Comprises True Type and FOT files, plus hard copy keyboard chart and extra characters.

1992-1994

2 discs and notes; electronic copies

Paper and digital

FOT files not readable on Windows. Soft copies in DMS.

SNYM/5 Survey plans of Okavango Delta

1964-1965

8 plans

Paper

SNYM/5/1 1716 Eenhana

Drawn from aerial photography 1964; field survey 1965.

Security copy for making prints.

Scale: 1:250,000

1965

(Former reference: a)

1 map

- Paper
- SNYM/5/2 1816 Namutoni**
Drawn from aerial photography 1964; field survey 1965
Autopositive film copy for making prints.
Scale: 1:250,000
1965
(Former reference: b)
1 map
Paper
- SNYM/5/3 2120 Rietfontein**
Security, provisional issue.
Scale: 1:250,000
1965
Note dated, but c. 1965
1 map
Paper
- SNYM/5/4 2020 Gam [emended from Hammansklip]**
Security, provisional issue
1:250,000
1965
Not dated, c. 1965
1 map
Paper
- SNYM/5/5 1714 Oshakati**
Drawn from aerial photography 1964; field survey 1965
Security issue.
Scale: 1:250,000
1965
1 map
Paper
- SNYM/5/6 2118 Steinhausen (emended from Epukiro)**
Security, provisional issue.
Scale: 1:250,000

1965

Not dated; c 1965

1 map

Paper

SNYM/5/7 1718 and 1818 (showing Okavango River)

Plan No. Topo 12.7; L.G.K. S.G.O. Windhoek

Annotation reads: 'Runtu 1718 en 1818 Korakuwisa'

Scale: 1:250,000

1964

Estimated date.

1 map

Paper

SNYM/5/8 Sheet 1820 Andara

Plan No. Topo 12.8; L.G.K. S.G.O. Windhoek.

Scale: 1:250,000

1964

Estimated date.

1 map

Paper

SNYM/6 Other topographical material

1960-1990

6 items

Paper

SNYM/6/1 Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft

Afrika-Kartenwerk published plan: Sheet 15 Historical Geography, 'Distribution and movements of ethnic and political groups (1840-1898); Locations of archaeological finds'

From German Research Society plan series on southern Africa, featuring eastern South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique;

Scale: 1:100,000

1984

1 plan

Paper

SNYM/6/2 Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft

Afrika-Kartenwerk published plan: Sheet 10 Linguistics, 'African languages and dialects'

From German Research Society plan series on southern Africa, featuring eastern South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique;

Scale: 1:100,000

With compliments slip.

1982-1985

1 plan

Paper

SNYM/6/3 Roodt, Veronica

Souvenir tourists' map of Moremi Game Reserve

1990

Not dated, c. 1990.

1 map

Paper

SNYM/6/4 John Bartholomew & Son Ltd

Colour map of African continent

Published by John Bartholomew & Son Ltd, (UK)

Scale: 1:10,000,000

1961

1 map

Paper

Brittle and torn at edges of map.

SNYM/6/5 Shell Company of South West Africa Ltd

Colour map of South West Africa [Namibia]

Specially compiled and drawn for the Shell Company of South West Africa Ltd; pole mounted for display

1960

Not dated; approx date.

1 map

Paper

SNYM/6/6 Government Printer, Republic of South Africa

Map of Republic of South Africa

Compiled and drawn by the Office of the Director of Irrigation, Pretoria, 1948. Printed and published by the Government Printer 1964.

Pole mounted.

Scale: 1:1,500,000.

1964

1 map

Paper

SNYM/7 Three dimensional objects

2 objects

artefact

SNYM/7/1 Set of metal printing blocks

Individual Roman letters and phonetic symbols plus uncut mounting strips

artefact

SNYM/7/2 Plant press

1 object

artefact

SNYM/8 Khoisan Special Interest Group (SIG) Newsletter correspondence and documents

Jan Snyman took over as coordinator of this newsletter in January 1986, from Robin Borland. As it was difficult to generate submissions the newsletter was subsumed under the African Language Association of Southern Africa (ALASA). All Khoisan news items were to be included in the ALASA newsletter, while articles and longer contributions were to be published when enough material became available for a special Khoisan SIG supplement.

Copies of correspondence (mainly concerning subscriptions, submissions, delays in publication, and arrangement with ALASA) with:

- Robin Borland (and copies of letters to Borland from Thilo Schadeberg 1984, Werner Hillebrecht, 1986)
- Franz Rottland
- Professor J Argyle

- Rainer Vossen
- Bob Hitchcock
- Henry Honken
- Hans den Besten
- Rosalie Finlayson of the African Language Association of Southern Africa (ALASA), plus copies of letters addressed to her from JF Thackeray and Rainer Vossen
- ‘Tony’ of Linguistics Dept, Witwatersrand
- Frank R Thorold (Pty) Ltd
- Dr J F Thackeray
- Harold Scheub
- W Hillebrecht
- Generic letters to members soliciting content, explaining new arrangements under ALASA
- Copies of completed membership / expression of interest forms for the Khoisan SIG.

1984-1986

1 file

Paper

This material, which had been in the custody of DVCAA Prof Frank Youngman, was passed to the Archive in October 2007.