

**HAUSA GRAMMAR WITH
EXERCISES, READINGS,
AND VOCABULARIES; NEW
AND REVISED EDITION**

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Hausa Grammar with Exercises, Readings, and Vocabularies; New and Revised Edition by
Charles H. Robinson & J. Alder Burdon

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WITH

EXERCISES, READINGS, AND VOCABULARIES

BY

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"sun sani su sun yi tarki" (*cf. p. 128, l. 3*)

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A Dictionary of the Hausa Language. Vol. I. Hausa-English. Demy 8vo. 12s. net. Volume II. English-Hausa. Demy 8vo. 9s. net. (Published by the Cambridge University Press.)

Specimens of Hausa Literature. Consisting of poems and historical extracts reproduced in facsimile in the original character, together with translation, transliteration, and notes. Small 4to. 10s. net. (Cambridge University Press.)

Hausaland; or, Fifteen Hundred Miles through the Sudan. Third Popular Edition. Illustrated. 2s. 6d. (Sampson Low & Co.)

Nigeria: Our Latest Protectorate. With Map and numerous Illustrations. 5s. (Horace Marshall & Co.)

Mohammedanism: Has it any Future? With a special reference to the prospects of Mohammedanism in Hausaland. 1s. 6d. (Wells Gardner & Co.)

PREFACE

THE first edition of this Grammar was published in 1897. Since then considerable additions have been made to the study of the language, both in England and in Germany. In the preparation of the present edition, which differs in many respects from the former, I have obtained the co-operation of Major Burdon, C.M.G., the present Governor of Sokoto, who has lived for many years in close intercourse with the natives. Major Burdon very kindly brought over to England a well-educated Hausa Mallam, whose presence in England for six months, during which the grammar was written, was of the greatest service. Every sentence given in the exercises and in the key attached to them has either been suggested or approved by a Hausa native. I desire to express my indebtedness also to Dr. W. Miller, a missionary of the C.M.S. in Nigeria, who has kindly read many of the proofs and made several helpful suggestions; the proof sheets have also been read by Mr. W. H. Brooks, M.A., formerly Hausa scholar of Christ's College, Cambridge. To Mr. Brooks I am further indebted for the greater part of the Notes on Hausa Phonology, which are inserted by permission of the Cambridge University Press, from the Hausa Dictionary, where they first appeared. The reading, entitled "The Country where the Sun rises," which appeared in the first edition of the Grammar, was supplied to me by Mr. Hermann Harris, who studied Hausa for many years in North Africa. The war song on pp. 125-136 was obtained by Major Burdon from a Hausa Mallam at Sokoto. It affords a rare example

of the use of rhythm by the Hausas. I am indebted to the grammar published by Mischlich, in Berlin in 1902, for several of the Hausa proverbs inserted in this Grammar, though in most instances I have not been able to adopt the meaning which the natives in Togoland apparently attach to these proverbs. I am also further indebted to him for one suggestion acknowledged on p. 44 n. I had not the opportunity of seeing Capt. Merrick's interesting volume entitled "Hausa Proverbs" till the whole of this Grammar was in print.

As this Grammar is chiefly intended for the use of officers and civil servants beginning the study of the language, every endeavour has been made to render it as simple as possible, and a key has been attached to the exercises, so that the student who is without a teacher may be able to correct his own mistakes. For the same reason the first half of the Grammar has been printed in Roman characters, and the second half has been printed in Roman as well as in the Hausa characters. It is thus possible to read the whole without acquiring a knowledge of the written language, though this latter is strongly to be recommended to serious students of the language.

I would take this opportunity of appealing to all students of Hausa who may be willing to assist, for suggestions which may help to make this Grammar and a new edition of the Hausa Dictionary, published by the Cambridge University Press, more generally useful.

The letters A, B, C, &c., used in the Grammar refer to the poems denoted by these letters in the "Specimens of Hausa Literature," published by the Cambridge University Press. The use of brackets and the system of transliteration adopted is explained on p. 8. * affixed to a word denotes that it is not generally used in the colloquial.

CHARLES H. ROBINSON.

Lynwood, Limpsfield.

August, 1905.

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