

Cheap Bibles - nineteenth-century publishing and the British and Foreign Bible Society

Cambridge University Press - Cambridge Studies in Publishing and Printing History Ser.: Cheap Bibles : Nineteenth



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Cheap Bibles : nineteenth

During the late 1940s and early 1950s, the British Council saw repeated reductions to the funds it received from the three overseas departments.

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After all, they reasoned, such high-quality selections projected an important message about British musical taste.

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The council also opened or sponsored numerous elite schools around the region, where expatriate and elite children received British-style educations.

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Instead of being published from London, the books came out of the new OUP branch in Nairobi. For them, the dates of independence marked the start of the postcolonial in a temporal sense, that is, the time that came next, after the colonial.

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For them, it was truly an imperial encore, but one that showed no signs of ending. What this all meant was that over the late colonial period, Oxford University Press gained familiarity with and became a known entity to populations in East Africa at very little risk to its bottom line. As the act of publishing Ngũgĩ demonstrates, British cultural agencies sometimes found reason to encourage criticism—even when they were the target.

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But, in spelling out what constituted a cultural activity and what a development objective, British officials realized how slippery those spheres really were. What all of this is to say is that the political history of the end of the British Empire must be realigned with a cultural history of reinvigorated imperial ambition.

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He described a writing contest the East African Literature Bureau started in the middle of the 1950s through a grant it obtained from the Rockefeller Foundation. The drama advisers believed this small rhetorical change would make a big difference. After a decade on the air, the Nairobi station had built a schedule of twenty-six hours each week, but rarely relayed any BBC material.

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