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The bibliography (which includes items in fifteen languages) is intended only as a guide, and its incompleteness will be readily seen. There is also some inconsistency in the inclusion or exclusion of historical studies not devoted specifically to Christian history, of popular books and juvenilia (for instance, many more accounts of the Uganda martyrs have been published than appear in the list), and of works dealing with contemporary Africa (for at what point does the study of our own times become "history?") Generally speaking, works of general history have been entered if they contained very considerable reference to churches or missions, or, in some instances, to notable Christian figures; and popular works published in Africa, or which seemed to reflect local knowledge or original material, have also been entered rather than excluded. In the same way articles in popular magazines (and even, very occasionally, newspapers), have been entered where they seemed to reflect local knowledge or source material.
not otherwise readily obtainable. Items bearing a date earlier than 1961 have not been included, and as far as possible undated items have only been included if it seems reasonably certain that they first appeared in 1961 or later. Reprints of works appearing before 1961 are included only if they include substantial additions or revisions.

A further difficulty occurs in listing material on the ancient Christian churches of North and East Africa, including the continuing churches of Egypt and Ethiopia. Here a rough and rather arbitrary line has been drawn to exclude items which seem to be within the scope of the recurrent Bibliographia Patristica, which it would be useless to duplicate and impertinent to seek to rival.

Modern political divisions form the basis of a classification, even for works relating to periods antedating those divisions or their present names.

It is hoped that the Bibliography will appear annually.

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