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presentation

Global Access to Local Treasures: A Botswana-Canada Collaboration

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Gase Kediseng, Khama III Memorial Museum
Amal Hussien, University of Toronto Libraries

CRKN CONFERENCE, 2025

Access Check

Is there anything about the space (display, sound, speaking speed, etc.) that we should address now?

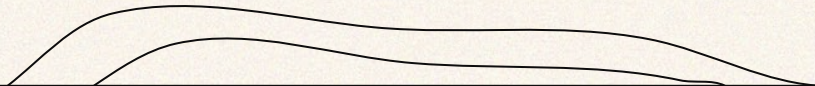
Are there any other access needs that might affect your participation in the conversations that we could also address?

Land Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge the Lands upon which this work was done, and of which we are uninvited occupants.

Accordingly, we acknowledge Toronto - originally Tkaronto - which for thousands of years has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Amal is grateful to be on Treaty 13 lands to give this presentation today, and Jordan is grateful to be presenting from the territory of Mississaugas of the Credit (Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg), specifically the Between the Lakes Treaty 3 after growing up on neighbouring Treaty 19 lands.



Who are we?



Amal Hussien
(she/her)

**Outreach & Engagement
Librarian for Black Studies**
University of Toronto



Gase Kediseng
(she/her)

Museum Curator
Khama III Memorial Museum



Jordan Pedersen
(she/her)

**Research and Scholarship
Librarian**
University of Guelph

What you can expect

01

Overview of the
process and
timeline

02

Highlights from
the Collection

03

Success and
Challenges

04

Lessons
Learned

05

Practical advice
& takeaways

06

Q&A

A world map with a light gray background. Canada is highlighted in a solid red color. A small country in central Africa is also highlighted in red. The map includes labels for continents and countries, though they are not legible. There are some decorative elements: a blue and purple gradient in the top left corner, a yellow and orange gradient in the top right corner, and a large orange and red gradient in the bottom center.

01

Brief timeline of the collaboration

Part 1: 2022 - Summer 2023



Part 2: Fall 2023 - Present



Doc 113
Mafeking
Dec 30/14

Chief Seagoma
Serone

Dear Chief

I have to advise you of having received the
Lion Skin through Mr. Forbes of the D.F.A.

Mr. Reid is delighted with it, and we both wish to thank
you for the very useful present.

We also desire to wish you the Compliments of the Season
and trust the New Year will be a Bright and Prosperous
one for you and all at Serone.

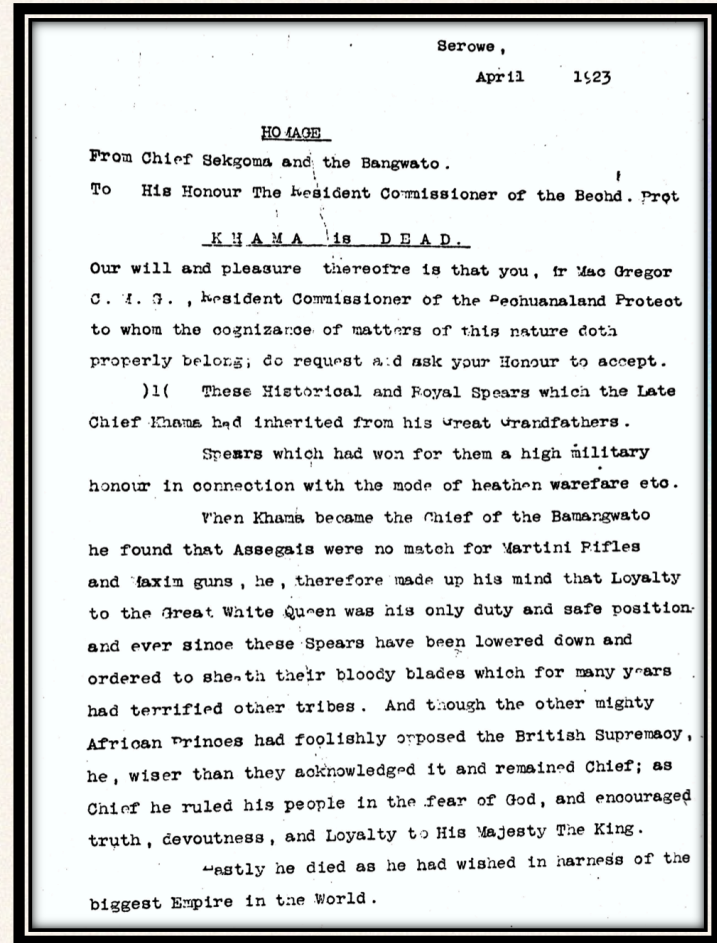
Yours Sincerely
W. H. Reid

02

Highlights from the Collection

Highlights from the Collection

- A letter from Sekgoma II, dated April 1923 to King George V, through the Resident Commissioner of the Bechuanaland protectorate Mr. Mac Gregor, paying tribute to King Khama III.
- Represents loyalty and continuity through giving him their most prized possession (generational spear and a kaross).
- Tracing of our heritage and identity. Uncover the unknown about our heritage.



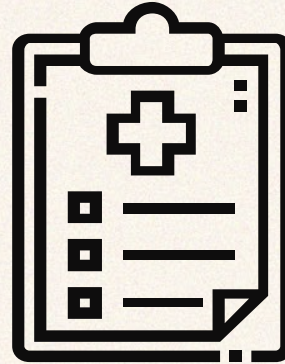
Success of the Partnership

- From the University of Toronto perspective - this fulfilled the goals of the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Collection fund and can serve as a model for more community-engaged collection building
- The project is contributing to significant professional development (ex. collecting as liaison).
- Possibilities are endless!



Challenges of the Partnership

- Ensuring the right people and partners are in place
 - Ex. Drafting the contract and project charter, assessing digitization and hosting partners
 - Ex. Working with rights holders
- Finding the Right Hosting Platform
 - There was uncertainty regarding which platform would provide secure, long-term access to the digitized materials. This delayed the decision-making around storage format and security protocols
- Fragile and Unlabeled Documents
 - Several documents were in poor condition or missing identifying information, requiring extra care and slowing down the organization process





03

Lessons Learned and Key Takeaways

Our learnings

01 Strong Team

- Base collaboration on respect, mutual interest and trust
- It's important to have a strong team of people working together to make sure the project doesn't rest on a single individual

02 Plan for External Delays

- Build in buffer time when relying on outside institutions
- Maintain a flexible timeline and have contingency plans in place

03 Secure Hosting Early

- Discuss and decide on hosting platforms in the initial planning phase
- Early alignment ensures smooth transitions between phases

04 Be Creative

- Be creative with the resources that you have access to
- You may need to ask for external support for resources your institution does not offer

Questions?





Thank you!

Amal Hussien

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