



The History of the Congo Podcast Newsletter February 2021

Hello and welcome to the first History of the Congo Podcast Newsletter!

PODCAST UPDATE

Firstly an update on the first phase of the podcast. To date we have over 700 downloads, which is way above the average for podcasts in their first period of launch, so it looks like we are starting to build a listening community here!

Perhaps more importantly we have listeners from many countries. These include strong followings in Zambia, South Africa, Nigeria, Rwanda, the UK, Belgium, Portugal, the US and, perhaps most importantly of all, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The next Episode, Episode 7, will cover the Eastward journey of the Swahili-Arab traders in the 19th Century. Episode 8, to be released 1st March, then has a surprise in store, as we have the choice of a global trip during the interval. I am particularly excited for the release of that episode.

CHARITIES UPDATE

Impossible as it is to imagine, this podcast is all written, recorded, edited and published as a project by just me. That lets me, and of course you, choose what we want out of it.

I have been challenged by an acquaintance as to what the purpose of the podcast is. Initially I hoped it would help to shed a light on the land. As I became more and more engaged in the history I decided to put it into audio - the results of which you can hear and hopefully enjoy!

But on reflection, and after meeting a number of people who have lived and worked in the Congo, as well as the pleasure of speaking to some of the Congolese diaspora, I considered inviting donations, on a 100% voluntary basis, which I would give to a charity.

I'd be interested in your thoughts as to what charity might be appropriate - here are some front runners....it's just a thought at the moment.

1. The Kimbanguist Church in London: <https://www.thekhw.co.uk/> (we'll cover the rise of Kimbanguism once we get to the early 20th Century)
2. Congo Action: <http://www.congoaction.co.uk/index.html> a UK based charity which works in the Eastern Congo, around Bukavu
3. Congo Hounds: <https://congohounds.org> a charity launched in Virungu National Park, on the Eastern Congo borders. This is an organisation which trains dogs to help protect the mountain gorillas that have their homes here.

SUPPORT THE PODCAST

Get in touch:

e-mail: author@thehistoryofthecongo.com

website: www.thehistoryofthecongo.com

facebook: www.facebook.com/theHistoryoftheCongo

Apparently a succesful podcast needs likes, ratings and reviews, so these would be appreciated.

So far we have 6 ratings and one review, which is fantastic, but I am sure we can do more. I have received around zero mails, although I look at the mailbox several times a day....just in case.

Do keep in touch.