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Research in Progress

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the University of Chicago.” Ph.D. diss., York University.
Busby.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

David Mills (Department of Anthropology, University of Manchester, U.K.) is doing
research on “The political history of postwar British Social Anthropology, drawing on his work
cataloguing, indexing, conservation and general preparation of the archives of the Association of
Social Anthropologists.

Brenda G. Plummer (Departments of History and Afro-American Studies, University of
Washington) is pursuing research on “African Studies in American perspective: A history of
separate development.”

Susan Sperling (San Francisco, CA) is at work on a biography of Ashley Montagu, who
died at the age of 94 on November 26 (see obituary, *New York Times* 11/29/99)

BIBLIOGRAPHICA ARCANA

I. The History of Portuguese Anthropology

João Leal
Department of Anthropology, ISCTE (Lisboa)

The development of Portuguese anthropology (1870-1960)

Two distinct research orientations are generally accepted in the history of the Western
anthropological tradition. One of them, corresponding to the German concept of “volkerkunde”
(the study of [other] peoples) prevailed in some “central” European countries, such as Great
Britain and France, and in the United States. Here, anthropology developed as a discipline
focused on the study of non-western societies and cultures. The other, corresponding to the
German concept of “volkskunde” (the study of [one’s own] people), was adopted in the
“peripheral” countries of Europe. According to “volkskunde,” anthropology should be concerned
with the study of local folk traditions. The choice between “volkerkunde” and “volkskunde” has
been frequently explained as a choice related to the political and ideological circumstances of
nineteenth century Europe. “Volkerkunde” developed in countries that ruled over a colonial
colonial empire, while “volkskunde” developed in countries that had a “classical national problem,” i.e.
countries in which a process of national autonomy and/or independence had started. Following