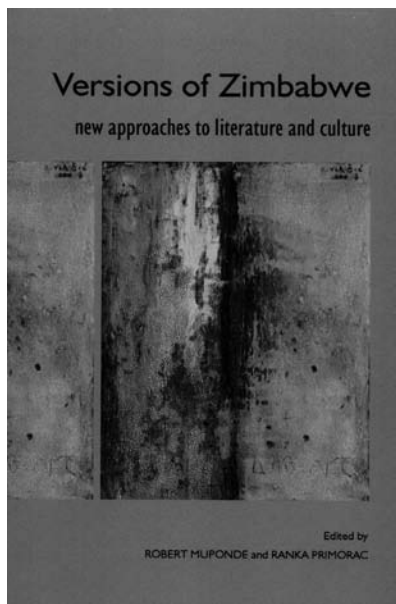


Versions of Zimbabwe

New Approaches to Literature and Culture

Robert Muponde, editor



At a turbulent historical moment, *Versions of Zimbabwe: New Approaches to Literature and Culture* considers the relationships between Zimbabwe's creative literature, history, and politics. It presumes that literature and culture cannot be understood separately from larger social trends; and that, through foregrounding literary and cultural issues, insights into the present crisis inflicting the country can be achieved.

The book is the result of a collaboration of scholars from southern Africa and overseas whose work emphasizes hitherto overshadowed

subjects of literature, exposing new and untried approaches to Zimbabwean writing. The contributors focus on pluralities, inclusiveness, and the breaking of boundaries, and elucidate how literary texts are betraying multiple versions and opinions of Zimbabwe, arguing that only a multiplicity of opinions on Zimbabwe can do the complexity of the society and history justice.

Individual chapters consider the works of celebrated Zimbabwean authors such as Dambudzo Marechera, Alexandra Fuller and the late Yvonne Vera, alongside several Zimbabwean writers who are less well-known outside the country. Works of literature in the three major literary languages of Zimbabwe—Shona, Ndebele, and English—are examined, alongside autobiography, history, memoir, questions of race in literature and racial identities of Zimbabwean writers, and the oft-neglected, arguably underrated Zimbabwean poetry. The contributors include Annie Gagiano, Caroline Rooney, Tommy Matshakayile-Ndlovu, and Terence Ranger.

Robert Muponde is head and coordinator of literary studies at the Zimbabwe Open University in Harare.

280 pages, 6 x 9

1-77922-036-7, paper, \$32.95

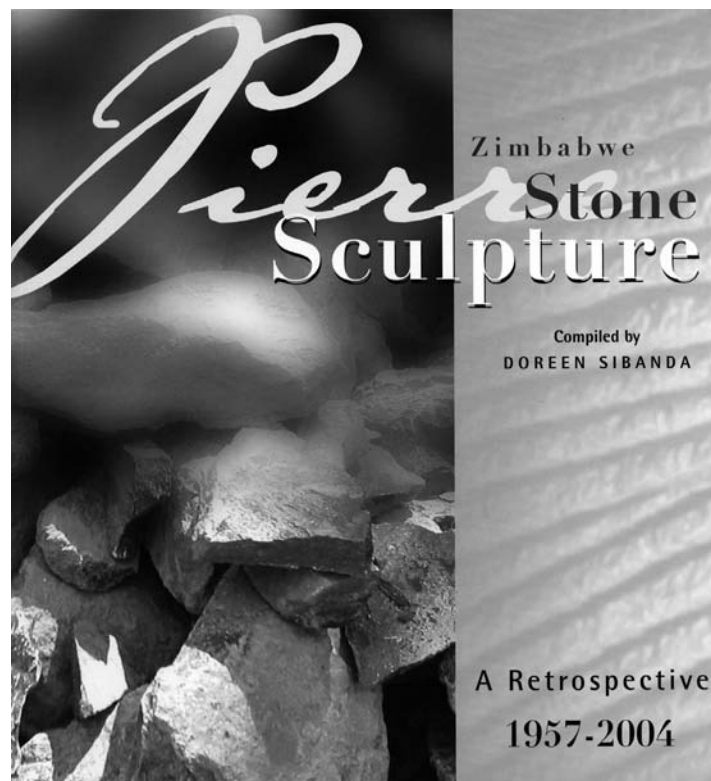
Published by Weaver Press, Zimbabwe

May 2005 · North American Distribution

Zimbabwe Stone Sculpture

A Retrospective, 1957–2004

Doreen Sibanda, editor



Zimbabwean sculpture continues to be one of Africa's most original and internationally acclaimed artistic movements. This retrospective exhibit catalog reflects on the origins, developments, and contemporary challenges of the movement. Containing 90 full-color photographs of examples of stone sculpture from the 1950s until the present day, it showcases the work of artists, past and present, from Zimbabwe and other countries of the southern African region, such as Zambia, Angola, and Mozambique. Introductory essays give an overview of stone sculpture in Zimbabwe, reflect on the role of the National Gallery and Tengenenge, and document the rise of the "independent sculptor" and the "extended family" in Zimbabwean stone sculpture. The final essay is on sculpture, street-craft, and reproduction.

This dual-language book is a joint publication with The Embassy of France in Harare, and the texts and accompanying notes are translated into French.

Doreen Sibanda is the Executive Director of the National Gallery of Zimbabwe.

148 pages, 8.5 x 9, color photos

1-77922-030-8, paper, \$32.95

Published by Weaver Press, Zimbabwe

May 2005 · North American Distribution

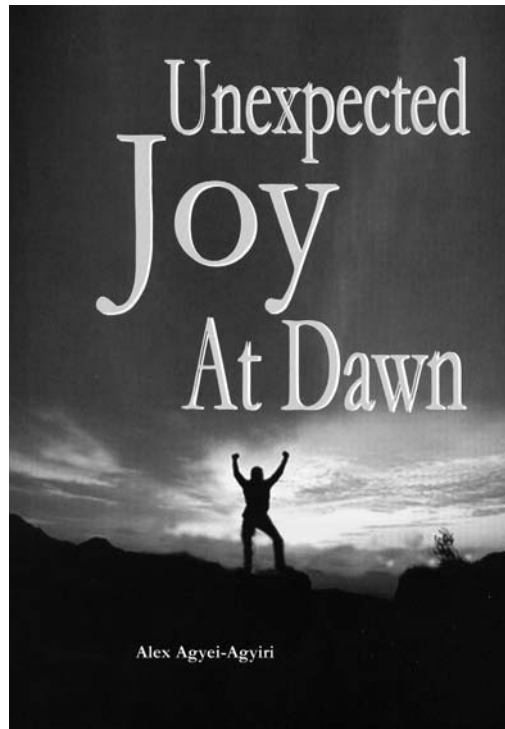
Unexpected Joy at Dawn

Alex Agyei-Agyiri

Unexpected Joy at Dawn received a commendation in the Best First Book Prize, Africa Region, of the **Commonwealth Writers Prize.**

“Fifteen years ago,” Mama said, starting her story, “I came to Lagos from Ghana. I came to Nigeria because I was considered an alien in that country. The government of Ghana passed a law asking all aliens without resident permits to regularize their stay in the country. You see, my great, great grandparents had migrated to Ghana several years before, and regarded Ghana as their home . . . as for the reason, possibly it was because the opposition party then had hyped to monstrous heights that aliens were ruining the country; or the government of the time . . . blamed their failure to do things right on us ‘alien’ scapegoats. . . . It was difficult to start life all over again, and even more difficult to learn that we were unwanted in a country we had come to regard as our own.”

This story of migration, identities, and lives undermined by cynical and xenophobic politics pushed to their logical and terrible conclusion by the Ghanaian orders of “alien compliance” issued in 1970–1971, which were designed to force all non-ethnic Ghanaians, so-called illegal immigrants, to return to their—so stipulated—“homes.” The novel touches on concerns of deeper relevance to the politics of race and migration in the twenty-first century.



Alex Agyei-Agyiri is a poet, playwright and short story writer. He has previously won the BBC Arts and Africa Poetry Award, the Ghana Association of Writers' Literary Prize, and the Valco Award for Literature. This is his first full-length novel.

319 pages, 6 x 9

9-988550-53-7, paper, \$14.95

Published by Sub-Saharan Publishers, Ghana

December 2004 · North American Distribution

Languages of Instruction for African Emancipation

Focus on Postcolonial Contexts and Considerations

Rodney Kofi Hopson, editor

With rhetoric in the twenty-first century focused on the African Renaissance, the central role of language in the development and emancipation of the continent seems to have taken a backseat. The fact that many countries on the continent are operating with pre-independent and colonial language policies is catastrophic to large numbers of people who are not in a position to participate in the political democracies of their countries.

Languages of Instruction

for African Emancipation is a collection of case studies from seven African countries that poses questions such as: What alternatives are there for educational language policies toward African emancipation? What efforts have governments made to change language policies to favor African languages and how far have they succeeded? What challenges do African learners face when it comes to current language of instruction policies?

The authors reject a language education policy that neglects the multilingualism existing in Africa and that reinforces patterns of privilege that existed in the colonial era, further entrenching the schism between the elite and the masses. They give short shrift to the “new” justification of the unjustifiable status accorded to English in Africa as the language of globalization, suggesting that it is not relevant to the vast majority of African lives and their human development. The sum of thoughts presented suggests that the answer to the language question provides the key to development challenges and further emancipation of the African peoples, which, it is argued, is at the same time a question that will determine whether Africa will remain a recognizable and distinctive cultural component of humanity or whether Africans will cease to exist culturally as Africans.

This is a co-publication with the Centre for the Advanced Study of African Societies, the pioneering research organization dedicated to the furtherance of African languages for education and development.

Rodney Kofi Hopson is an African American with experience living and teaching in post-independent Namibia.

200 pages, 6 x 9

9-987417-36-1, paper, \$34.95

Published by Mkuki na Nyota Publishers, Tanzania

2005 · North American Distribution

My Journey Through African Heritage

Alan Donovan

Alan Donovan was a co-founder of African Heritage, the continent's first pan-African gallery, which became a pioneering craft retail and wholesale operation in Nairobi. He later constructed The African Heritage House, inspired by the mud architecture he discovered while traveling across the continent and was the driving force behind numerous music, dance, costume, and food festivals and exhibitions that traveled the world for over three decades. Through his work, he discovered and revealed to the world Africa's rich cultural legacy and beauty. In all, he has made an unprecedented contribution to the promotion of arts and culture in Africa and throughout the world.

This work reflects all this and more. It is a panoramic documentary and history of so much that has been achieved; it is the author's own story of forty years in Africa, in which, in his own words, he “searched for the continent's beauty and creativity, passing through the glorious sunrises and magnificent sunsets that encompass the splendor and calamity of each new day . . . and found an ageless and vibrant inner beauty.”

The narrative is chronological, presenting the developments of African Heritage from its beginnings, with its many facets and global influence, to its final days, and its failures resulting in part from the devastating impact of recent global events, terrorism and the war thereon on culture and tourism in Kenya.

Alan Donovan, originally a food relief officer in Biafra, went on to co-found African Heritage, Africa's first Pan-African gallery.

409 pages, 8.5 x 12, 4-color throughout, cloth

9966-25-3394, cloth, \$110.00

Published by East African Educational Publishers, Kenya

August 2005 · North American Distribution

