EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief: Angaluki Muaka
Production/Circulation Editor: Yonas Admassu
Review Editors: Karl Fickenscher, Mary S. Lederer
Editorial Staff: Joyce E. Boss, Karl Fickenscher, Lloys Frates, Zelda Groener, Mary S. Lederer, Patrick Malloy, Reuben Omweri Mekenye, Muadi Mukenge, Gichingiri Ndigirigi
Advisor: Teshome H. Gabriel


CONTRIBUTIONS

UFAHAMU accepts contributions from anyone interested in Africa and related subject areas. Contributions may include scholarly articles, political-economic analysis, commentaries, review articles, film and book reviews and poetry. Manuscripts must be between 20-30 pages, clearly typed, double spaced, with footnotes on separate page(s). Contributors should keep copies of their manuscripts. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit any manuscript to meet the objectives of the journal. Authors must submit two copies of their manuscripts and a brief biographical note, including position, academic affiliation and recent significant publications, etc. All correspondence - manuscripts, subscriptions, books for review, inquiries, etc. - should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief at the above address.

Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS and AMERICA: HISTORY AND LIFE.

Partial funding for the publication of UFAHAMU is provided by the Graduate Students Association of UCLA.
### CONTENTS

**Contributors**

**Editorial**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| African Response to German Colonialism in East Africa: The Case of Usukuma, 1890 - 1918  
Buluda Itandala | 3 |
| The Challenge of Democratization in Nigeria: Involvement or Alienation of the Military  
Emmanuel N. Amadife | 30 |
| Creative Apostasy or Aesthetic Amnesia?: Osofisan's *Birthdays Are Not For Dying and Other Plays*  
Okwute J. Abah | 44 |
| Indigenous Nigerian Oral Drama as an Instrument of Social Regulation: A Study of Ogblo Secret Society of Idoma  
Idris O. O. Amali | 56 |
| Socio-Cultural and Linguistic Implications of Abusive Expressions in Hausa  
Lawan Danladi Yalwa | 68 |
REVIEW ESSAY:
The Moral Imperative in Revolution-making: A Critical Review of *Riding the Whirlwind: An Ethiopian Story of Love and Revolution*
Yonas Admassu

Book Reviews

*The Story of Gambo Sawaba*, by Rima Shawulu
John P. Barnard

Poetry

Two Poems
by Onookome Okome

Three Poems
by Jackie Rukuba
Contributors

Okuwute J. Abah (Ph. D) is a faculty member in the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Nigeria.

Yonas Admassu is a Ph. D. Candidate in the Program in Comparative Literature, University of California at Los Angeles.

Emmanuel N. Amadife (Ph. D) is a faculty member in the African and Afro-American Studies Program, University of Rhode Island.

Idris O. O. Amali (Ph. D), poet and essayist, is currently a lecturer in African Literature, Creative Writing, and Oral Literature in the Department of English at the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria. His articles and essay have appeared in several journals. His book, *Idoma Bibliography 1848-1897*, is soon to be released.

John P. Barnard is a history student at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Buluda Itandala (Ph. D) is Senior Lecturer in the Department of History at the University of Dar-es-Salaam where he teaches Pre-Colonial East African History.

Onookome Okome. Unfortunately we had not received a bio data at the time of going to press.

Jackie (Jacqueline) Rukuba is currently undertaking study at the Uganda Management Institute. She has also studied in Scotland and Botswana and is widely traveled. She started writing poetry at the tender age of thirteen.

Lawan Danladi Yalwa is a Ph. D. Candidate in Linguistics at the University of California at Los Angeles. He is currently Hausa Instructor at the University of Kansas, Laurance.
One of the most controversial debates in African scholarship now involves the impact of foreign influences on the development of African structures and systems. In other words, it is asked: in the absence of external interference, would African systems be more or less developed than they are now? Some scholars argue that foreign influences have done a lot in helping to develop African systems, while others argue that foreign influences have had a negative effect on otherwise flourishing African systems. Scholars who subscribe to the latter school of thought point to the Nubian civilization of the Nile Valley and Mwenemutapa of Zimbabwe, among others, as examples of highly advanced African civilizations that were already in existence long before the arrival of the Arab slave and the European slave/colonizer. According to this school, it is difficult to tell with certainty the level of advancement that the African systems would have attained by now had they not been interfered with.

Most of the systems and structures in place in African countries today, however, are largely a legacy of the European colonial heritage. Police forces, school, judicial, penal and parliamentary systems are some of the structures that were inherited almost intact from colonial governments. Their inadequacy and inefficiency today are, in fact, always attributed to the fact that they are alien systems imposed on African societies without due regard to the values and needs of the African people.

In this issue of our journal, we have included an interesting article that looks at one of the ways by which a Nigerian community maintained law and order, and ensured the administration of justice. In "Indigenous Nigerian Oral Drama as an Instrument of Social Regulation: a Study of Ogbllo Secret Society of Idoma," Idris Amali looks at the role of the Ogbllo Secret Society among the Idoma of Lower Benue in upholding social morality and punishing social deviants. A self-sufficient system, the Society used both invisible powers of the ancestors and visible powers of the living to keep social misconduct such as theft, adultery, and selfishness in check.

Amali’s article is appropriately supplemented by Lawan Yalwa’s "Socio-Cultural and Linguistic Implications of Abusive Expressions in Hausa." In this piece, Yalwa also discusses the various ways in which insults are used among the Hausa of Nigeria to maintain good social conduct among members of the community.

In "African Response to German Colonialism in East Africa: The Case of Usukuma, 1890-1918," Buluda Itandala argues that what happened during the colonial period in East Africa cannot be attributed...
to the colonizing powers alone. The trend of events during that period should also be seen in the light of the changing African responses to colonial rule, as this was instrumental in influencing the decisions and actions of the colonial administration.

Politically, Nigeria has perhaps been the most eventful country in Africa. The role of the military as protagonists on the Nigerian political stage is discussed by Emmanuel Amadife in "The Challenge of Redemocratization in Nigeria: Involvement or Alienation of the Military?" Tracing the factors responsible for military hold onto political power in Nigeria, Amadife argues that even after the anticipated transition to civilian government, military influence on Nigerian politics will continue to be felt and their return to power cannot be ruled out altogether. And Okwute Abah discusses the evil that is perpetrated by those who are driven by lust for power in "Creative Apostasy or Aesthetic Amnesia?: Osofisan's Birthdays are not for Dying and Other Plays."

Angaluki Muaka