

# CONTENTS

A Note on the Women Writing Africa Project <i>Tuzylina Jita Allan, Abena P. A. Busia, Florence Howe</i>	xvii
Preface <i>Esi Sutherland-Addy and Aminata Diaw</i>	xxiii
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> <i>Tuzylina Jita Allan, Diedre L. Badejo, Abena P. A. Busia, Aminata Diaw, Christiane Owusu-Sarpong, Esi Sutherland-Addy</i>	<b>1</b>
 <b>RITUAL AND CEREMONIAL WORDS</b>	
 <i>Ede Court Historians,</i>	
<b>OYA, OR THE WIND BEHIND THE LIGHTNING</b> Nigeria [2001]* Yoruba	<b>87</b>
 <i>Olorisa Osun, PRAISE POEM FOR OSUN</i> Nigeria 1981 Yoruba	 <b>89</b>
 <i>Béatrice Djedja, MAÏÉTO, OR THE BATTLE OF THE SEXES</i> Côte d'Ivoire [2000]* Bété	 <b>91</b>
 <i>Communal, THE PLUMP WOMAN'S SONG</i> Niger [1972]* Hausa	 <b>94</b>
 <b>MARRIAGE SONG CYCLES</b>	 <b>96</b>
 <i>Young Women of Kong, DYULA SONGS</i> Côte d'Ivoire 1976 Dyula	
 <i>Communal, HAUSA SONGS</i> Nigeria 1979 Hausa	
 <i>Dior Konate, SHE WHO DESTROYS HER HARP</i> Senegal 1998 Wolof	 <b>101</b>

\*A bracketed date signifies the date of collection of a text that either bears a long historical tradition or describes a historical occurrence or activity.

<b>ARRIVAL OF THE NEW BRIDE</b>	<b>103</b>
<i>Communal, XAXAR, OR SATIRICAL SONG</i>	
Senegal [1998]* Wolof	
<i>Communal, WELCOMING THE BRIDE</i>	
Niger [1997]* Songhai-Zarma	
<b>CELEBRATING BIRTH</b>	<b>105</b>
<i>Communal, WHERE IS IT FROM?</i>	
Nigeria 1986 Igbo	
<i>Communal, IF NOT FOR CHILDBIRTH</i>	
Nigeria 1987 Igbo	
<i>Binita Bojang, KANYELENG, OR CHILDLESS</i>	<b>106</b>
Gambia 2000 Malinke	
<b>LAMENTATIONS</b>	<b>110</b>
<i>Afua Sias (Fofie), NYAAKO</i>	
Ghana 1955 Akan-Twi	
<i>Manhyia Tete Nwonkoro Group, WE OFFER YOU CONDOLENCES</i>	
Ghana 1994 Akan-Twi	
<i>Communal, DRY YOUR TEARS, LITTLE ORPHAN DOE</i>	
Senegal 1998 Sereer	
<i>Nanabemmaa Toaa Ampofo Tua III, NTAM, AN OATH</i>	<b>114</b>
Ghana 1989 Akan-Twi	
<b>THIRTEENTH CENTURY TO 1916: THE AGE OF AFRICAN EMPIRES</b>	
<i>Communal, TWO SONGS FOR SUNJATA</i>	<b>119</b>
Mali [1993]* Malinke	
<i>Communal, ELEGY FOR INIKPI</i>	<b>120</b>
Nigeria [2000]* Igala	
<i>Madlena Van Poppo, LETTER OF PETITION</i>	<b>122</b>
Benin 1739 Dutch Creole	

<b><i>Nana Asma'u</i>, POEMS</b>	<b>124</b>
GIVE US VICTORY Nigeria 1827 Fulfulde	
BE SURE OF GOD'S TRUTH Nigeria 1831 Hausa	
ELEGY FOR ZAHARATU Nigeria 1857 Fulfulde	
<b><i>Nditi Ba, MAKORI</i>, OR THE TRIUMPH OF SLAVES</b>	<b>129</b>
Senegal [1998]* Fulfulde	
<b><i>Ola Bentsir Adzewa Group</i>, THE WARRING HOSTS</b>	<b>133</b>
Ghana [1996]* Akan-Fante	
<b><i>Malinda Rex</i>, LETTER FROM A FORMER SLAVE</b>	<b>135</b>
Liberia 1839 English	
<b>LETTERS OF QUEEN VICTORIA'S WARDS</b>	<b>138</b>
LETTERS OF SARAH FORBES BONETTA Benin/Nigeria/London 1860–1861 English	
LETTERS OF VICTORIA DAVIES Benin/Nigeria/London 1882–1916 English	
<b><i>Mame Yoko and Others</i>, LETTER FROM THE WOMEN OF SENEHUN</b>	<b>145</b>
Sierra Leone 1882 English	
<b><i>Anonymous</i>, TWO LETTERS TO THE EDITOR</b>	<b>147</b>
Ghana 1886 English	
 <b>LULLABIES AND SONGS OF YOUNG WOMEN</b>	
 <b>LULLABIES</b>	<b>151</b>
<i>Samba Tew Sew</i> , AYO, MY BABY Senegal 1998 Sereer	
<i>Communal</i> , LULLABY Niger 1999 Tuareg	
<i>Maman Ibrah Hinda</i> , HINDATOU Niger 1998 Hausa	
<i>Mariam Gaye</i> , WHO DID MY BABY WRONG? Senegal 1950 Wolof	

<b>MAIDEN SONGS</b>	<b>154</b>
<i>Communal</i> , I'D LIKE TO STAY Burkina Faso 1974   San	
<i>Communal</i> , AN OLD MAN Burkina Faso 1997   Mooré	
<i>Communal</i> , CARRY ON AND HAVE FUN Burkina Faso 1997   Mooré	
 <b>CIRCLE SONGS</b>	 <b>156</b>
<i>Communal</i> , EVEN IF YOU BEAT ME Ghana 1998   Nzema	
<i>Communal</i> , I WILL BUY YOU A SHIRT Ghana 1998   Nzema	
<i>Communal</i> , MAIDENS IN A GROUP Ghana 1998   Nzema	
 <b>1916 TO 1970: THE RISE OF NATIONALISM</b>	
 <i>N'della Sey</i> , A MOTHER'S PLEA: TWO LETTERS	 <b>161</b>
Senegal 1919, 1920   French	
 <i>Women of Passoré and Ladre</i> , ANTI-COLONIAL SONGS	 <b>163</b>
Burkina Faso 1988   Mooré	
THE WHITE MAN HAS COME	
BAMAKO	
POKO	
 <i>Houleye Diop</i> , A PETITION	 <b>165</b>
Senegal 1923   French	
 <i>Nwanyeruwa</i> , THE ABA WOMEN'S WAR	 <b>169</b>
Nigeria 1930   English	
 <b>SATIRE FROM THE "WOMEN'S CORNER"</b>	 <b>174</b>
Ghana 1934   English	
<i>Yaa Amponsah</i> , TO MISS BRIDGET THOMAS	
<i>Odarley Koshie</i> , STUPIFIED	

<i>Efwa Kato</i> , <b>WHAT WE WOMEN CAN DO</b> Ghana 1934 English	178
<i>Elizabeth Mgbeke Ezumah</i> , <b>CHAMPION OF TWINS</b> Nigeria [1998]* Igbo	182
<i>Mariama Bâ</i> , <b>MY LITTLE COUNTRY</b> Senegal 1943 French	186
<i>P. A. Itayemi Ogunḍipe</i> , <b>NOTHING SO SWEET</b> Nigeria 1947 English	189
<b>THE MARCH ON GRAND BASSAM</b>	203
<i>Anne-Marie Raggi</i> , <b>THAT IS HOW THE WOMEN WOKE UP</b> Côte d'Ivoire [1998]* French	
<i>Lucie Traoré Kaboré</i> , <b>MY NAME IS LUCIE TRAORÉ</b> Burkina Faso [1998]* French	
<i>Mabel Dove-Danquah and Others</i> , <b>FROM THE "WOMEN'S COLUMN"</b>	208
<i>Adjua Mensah</i> , <b>THE BLACKMAN'S BURDEN</b> Ghana 1949 English	
<i>Akua Amaku</i> , <b>AN ODE</b> Ghana 1950 English	
<i>Akosua Dzatsui (pseud. for Mabel Dove-Danquah)</i> <b>"I HAVE TAMED MY WIFE"</b> Ghana 1950 English	
<b>MOTHER AND DAUGHTER</b>	211
<i>Adelaide Casely-Hayford</i> , <b>PROFILE OF GLADYS</b> Sierra Leone 1940 English	
<i>Gladys Caseley-Hayford</i> , <b>AFRICAN SCHOOLGIRLS' SONG</b> Sierra Leone 1950 English	
<i>Efua Sutherland</i> , <b>NEW LIFE</b>	217
<b>FROM THE ROADMAKERS</b> Ghana 1961 English	
<b>FROM FORIWA</b> Ghana 1962 English	
<i>Celestine Ouezzin Coulibaly</i> , <b>WE WOMEN OF THE UPPER VOLTA</b> Burkina Faso 1961 French	225

<b><i>Kate Abbam</i>, ON WIDOWHOOD</b>	<b>227</b>
WE WERE WITH YOU, DEDICATED TO ETHEL KENNEDY Ghana 1968 English	
WE SHALL OVERCOME Ghana 1972 English	
CHRISTIANITY AND WIDOWHOOD RITES Ghana 1994 English	
<b><i>Constance Agatha Cummings-John</i>, MAYOR OF FREETOWN</b>	<b>233</b>
Sierra Leone [1995]* English	
<b><i>Olufunmilayo Ransome-Kuti</i>, AFFIRMATIONS AND REMEMBRANCES</b>	<b>238</b>
THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN NIGERIA Nigeria 1961 English	
AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOTES Nigeria 1968 English	
THE CAUSES FOR REVOLT REMEMBERED Nigeria 1973 English	
 <b>WORK SONGS</b>	
 <b>GREETINGS AND PRAISE</b>	<b>251</b>
<b><i>Communal</i>, YOU OF THE HOUSE</b> Nigeria 1979 Hausa	
<b><i>Communal</i>, ONE SINGLE MEASURE</b> Senegal 1998 Diola	
<b><i>Communal</i>, INVOCATION AT MILKING</b> Guinea 1987 Fulfulde/Pulaar	
<b><i>Zebuglo of Lobo</i>, PRAISE SONG</b> Ghana 1999 Dagaare	

<b>SONGS OF MIGRATION</b>	<b>256</b>
<i>Communal</i> , THE BEAUTY OF KUMASI Niger 1988    Songhai-Zarma	
<i>Communal</i> , THESE WEST-COASTERS ARE LIARS Niger 1998    Songhai-Zarma	
<i>Communal</i> , THE NON-MIGRANT'S SONG Niger 1998    Songhai-Zarma	
 <b>SONGS OF INSULT</b>	 <b>259</b>
<i>Communal</i> , TABARDÉ, OR BLANKET-MAKING Niger 1999    Tuareg	
<i>Communal</i> , THE SISTERS-IN-LAW DIEDHIYOU Senegal 1994    Diola	
<i>Communal</i> , SEYBATA, OR MY BACKSIDE— INSULT HER! Niger 1999    Songhai-Zarma	
 <b>THE 1970S AND 1980s: NEGOTIATING NEW SOCIAL IDENTITIES</b>	
 <i>Selma Al-Hassan</i> , TANOFIA	 <b>269</b>
Ghana 1971    English	
 <i>Flora Nwapa</i> , THE TRAVELLER	 <b>271</b>
Nigeria 1971    English	
 <i>Adja Khady Diop</i> , TWO POEMS	 <b>279</b>
Senegal 1975    Wolof	
THE WORK OF SENEGALESE WOMEN	
THE YEAR WE LOOKED UP AT THE BALLON	
 <i>Aoua Keïta</i> , CONVERSATION WITH MIDWIFE SOKONA DIAOUNÉ	 <b>281</b>
Mali 1975    French	
 <b>RURAL POEMS</b>	 <b>291</b>
<i>Khadi Diop</i> , TRIBUTE TO YAXA MA JAM WOMEN Senegal 1975    Wolof	
<i>Ndeye Seck</i> , EMIGRATION TERRIFIES ME Senegal 1990    Wolof	

<i>Buchi Emecheta</i> , <b>A NECESSARY EVIL</b>	<b>294</b>
Nigeria 1977 English	
<i>Daughters of Divine Love</i> , <b>TWO SONGS</b>	<b>305</b>
Nigeria 1977 Igbo	
HOW THE DAUGHTERS OF DIVINE LOVE CONGREGATION STARTED IN THE YEAR 1969	
WE LOVE YOU, JESUS	
<i>Hadjia Barmani Coge</i> , <b>ALLAH IS THE LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS</b>	<b>308</b>
Nigeria 1979 Hausa	
<i>Afua Kuma</i> , <b>JESUS OF THE DEEP FOREST</b>	<b>310</b>
Ghana 1980 Akan-Twi	
<i>Toelo</i> , <b>LISTEN TO ME, CHILD OF A GRIOT</b>	<b>314</b>
Burkina Faso 1981 San	
<i>Shaïda Zarumey</i> , <b>LOVE POEMS FOR THE SULTAN</b>	<b>316</b>
Niger 1981 French	
INCENSE	
TAKA	
<i>Nawa Kulibali</i> , <b>NAWA'S LAMENT</b>	<b>317</b>
Côte d'Ivoire 1986 Senufo	
<i>Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf</i> , <b>PRESIDENT DOE'S PRISONER</b>	<b>322</b>
Liberia 1985, 1987 English	
 <b>SONGS AND TALES OF SOCIAL NEGOTIATION</b>	
<i>Nyano Bamana</i> , <b>THE MAN WHO DUG UP YAMS</b>	<b>335</b>
Senegal 1971 Tenda	
<i>Communal</i> , <b>NAME POEMS</b>	<b>338</b>
HASAN	
Niger 1972 Songhai-Zarma	
SÎTA	
Niger 1984 Fulfulde	

<i>Communal, EYIDI, OR NAMING</i> Côte d'Ivoire 1979, 1982 Abe	340
<b>RECITATIVES FOR DRUM AND DANCERS</b>	<b>342</b>
<i>Sadi Habi, PLAY FOR ME, DRUMMER MAN</i> Niger 1999 Songhai-Zarma	
<i>Mareme Seye, TAASU</i> Senegal 1979 Wolof	
<i>Communal, THE GAZELLE</i> Niger 1972 Songhai-Zarma	
<i>Salle-ka-ma-kani, TYPES OF WIVES AND HUSBANDS</i> Niger 1992 Songhai-Zarma	344
FIVE TYPES OF WIVES	
THREE TYPES OF HUSBANDS	
<i>Nana Yaa Tiakaa, THE POOR ORPHAN: A FOLKTALE</i> Ghana 1995 Akan-Twi	347
<b>BODIES AND BABIES: THREE SONGS</b>	<b>353</b>
<i>Communal, THE TORMENTS OF LABOR</i> Senegal 1998 Diola	
<i>Communal, I HAVE HOPE</i> Senegal 1998 Sereer	
<i>Kunak Bonat, DID YOU SAY I AM OLD?</i> Nigeria 1970 Hausa	
<i>Bobintu Kulibali, I AM NOT A COW</i> Mali 2000 Bambara	356
<b>THE 1990s AND THE NEW CENTURY</b>	
<i>Werewere Liking, ECLECTIC CONNECTIONS</i>	363
INTERVIEW Côte d'Ivoire 1995 French	
FROM <i>SINGUÈ MURA</i> , OR GIVEN THAT A WOMAN Côte d'Ivoire 1990 French	

<b><i>Bernadette Dao Sanou, A DECENT WOMAN</i></b>	<b>373</b>
Burkina Faso 1992 French	
<b><i>Ama Ata Aidoo, SPEAKING AS A WOMAN</i></b>	<b>375</b>
THE AFRICAN WOMAN TODAY	
Ghana 1992 English	
A YOUNG WOMAN'S VOICE DOESN'T BREAK. IT GETS FIRMER	
Ghana 1992 English	
<b><i>Deborah Nazi-Boni, THE UGLIEST GIRL IN THE KINGDOM</i></b>	<b>387</b>
Burkina Faso 1994 French	
<b><i>Afua Kobi, A TRADER CAUGHT IN ETHNIC VIOLENCE</i></b>	<b>393</b>
Ghana 1994 Akan-Twi	
<b><i>Amma Darko, RUSSIANS UNDER ACCRA</i></b>	<b>402</b>
Ghana English 1996	
<b>REGRETS FOR RWANDA</b>	<b>412</b>
<b><i>Tanella Boni, FROM THERE IS NO SUITABLE WORD</i></b>	
Côte d'Ivoire 1997 French	
WHERE TO FIND THE PROPER WORD	
SILENCE CAME RELUCTANTLY	
THOUSANDS OF SPECKS OF DUST WERE WE	
<b><i>Véronique Tadjó, FROM THE SHADOW OF IMANA</i></b>	
Côte d'Ivoire 1997 French	
THE STORY OF CANSOLATA	
ANASTASIO AND ANASTASIA	
<b><i>Nana Adwoa Anokyewaa, KAPRO, THE ROYAL GIFT</i></b>	<b>417</b>
Ghana 1998 Akan-Fante	
<b><i>Adja Dior Diop, THE IMPORTANCE OF WORK</i></b>	<b>422</b>
Senegal 1998 Wolof	
<b><i>Adja Mariama Niasse, TEACHING THE QUR'AN</i></b>	<b>424</b>
Senegal 1998 Wolof	
<b><i>Oumou Sangaré, A WASSOULOU SINGER</i></b>	<b>427</b>
Mali 1998 French and Fulfulde	

<i>Anna Dao</i> , <b>A PERFECT WIFE</b> Mali 1999 English	<b>430</b>
<i>Isatou Alwar Cham-Graham</i> , <b>CHILD SOLDIERING</b> Gambia 1999 English	<b>441</b>
<i>Nagbila Aisseta</i> , <b>THE HUNGER PROJECT AWARD SPEECH</b> Burkina Faso 1999 Fulfulde	<b>442</b>
<i>Mariama Ndoye</i> , <b>EN ROUTE TO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY</b> Senegal 2000 French	<b>445</b>
<i>Aminata Traore</i> , <b>AFRICA IS NOT POOR: AN INTERVIEW WITH DEBRA S. BOYD</b> Mali 2000 French	<b>448</b>
Biographies of Editors	<b>454</b>
Permissions Acknowledgments and Sources	<b>457</b>
Authors Listed by Country	<b>471</b>
Index of Authors and Titles	<b>473</b>