

BOOK REVIEWS**NIGERIA'S CULTURAL SCENE****by John Wright****University of Port Harcourt Press, 2006 (Uniport P.O.Box 50, Port Harcourt, Nigeria)****32 pp. 31 coloured plates. A4 size. Soft covers. No price given.****ISBN 978-074-673-0.**

John Wright has lived in Nigeria for over 50 years, and joined the staff of the Man O' War Bay Training Centre in the Cameroons Trust Territory (then administered from Nigeria) in 1956. His assignments enabled him to travel throughout Nigeria and, although he left during the civil crisis, he returned in 1970 to help with development programmes in the Delta Region. He has received the OBE, the French Order of Social Merit, and many Chieftaincy titles for his service to rural communities.

Nigeria's Cultural Scene is a collection of 15 short essays on aspects of Nigeria, illustrated with colourful paintings by the author. Sample titles are: Lagos, the market place, cattle Fulani, Sharo, Durbar ceremony, wrestling, Delta masquerades, Bonny, and the religious boom. John Wright says in his preface that his intention is to "paint a picture" of Nigeria to show, by means of a few examples, the richness of Nigeria's heritage - of which even many Nigerians seem to be unaware. He comments that the National Youth Service Corps was meant to remove this ignorance by sending university graduates out to work in states other than their own. He hopes that self respect and pride will come from the contribution that each group makes to "a richly diverse Nigerian whole".

There are a few typographical errors in the text, and in the review copy some of the illustrations are imperfect due to the different colours not coinciding. The book will be of especial interest to newcomers to Nigeria, and I hope that it may also help to serve the author's aims.

Joyce Lowe