

Editorial

With apologies, Volume 79 2014 is late; perhaps a hangover from volume 78, which saw two key members of the editorial board pass away. The journal is back on track with a new editorial board, and every effort shall be made to catch up and get volume 80 out before the end of 2015. While the reduction in the UK membership is not being matched by an increase in local Nigerian enrolment into the society, there has been a renewed interest in the society and the journal. It is therefore important to increase reader access to past issues by creating an on-line digital version of all back issues from 1931 to 2010. The rate of urbanization in Nigeria is phenomenal and the major victim of this process is the natural environment. Prof O. Ogunkoya and Dr Aboyeji present a report on wetland sustainability and urban growth in southwestern Nigeria, using Ile-Ife as an example. Wetlands serve as watersheds for rivers and streams, provide several environmental services and are important for agriculture, especially in the dry season. The picture painted by their report is replicated throughout Nigeria. The update on the management of Agodi Gardens, Ibadan, by Prof Okali is, however, cheering, as it is an example of an attempt at using a forest environment for recreation in a manner that is sustainable.

Female drummers are not a common sight in Yorubaland, so the report by Dr Kayode Samuel, a new member of the Ibadan Branch makes very interesting reading. Names and naming among the Yoruba continues to be a significant event in the life of the newborn. Modupe Oduyoye explains the context and content of names in this most educative paper. A short paper on the ingenious use of local fabrics in the design of academic gowns by Ghanaian universities is not only beautiful but should serve as an inspiration to universities across Africa.

Father Raymond Hickey discusses the origins of the Agadez Cross and the Northern Knot, two common motifs used throughout art forms in West Africa. The Agadez cross can be found in African art from Zanzibar to Senegal. Concluding this issue is a concise report of the state of modern art in the West African region, a summary of the Cambridge Symposium on African Art written by Philip Allsworth-Jones.

We congratulate and thank all the contributors (including our reviewers), members of the editorial board (led by the chairperson, Dr Pat Oyelola) and Prof D.U.U. Okali for their efforts, time and talents to ensure that this volume is published. Chris Bankole and her staff at BookBuilders worked very hard on the layout and quickened the rolling out of this volume.

Augustine O. Isichei, Editor

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