

**UFAHAMU**  
**JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN ACTIVIST ASSOCIATION**

JAMES S. COLEMAN AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024-1130

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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.

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VOLUME XIX NUMBER 1  
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## *In Memoriam*

**To Professor John Frederick Povey.**

(April 2, 1929-May 3, 1992)



PROFESSOR POVEY was affiliated with the Departments of English and English as a Second Language and the African Studies Center at the University of California at Los Angeles. During his tenure at the university he taught several courses in African Literature, particularly literature from Anglophone Africa. His affiliation with the African Studies Center had to do with the popular and widely-circulating *Journal of African Arts*, of which he was the founder and, until his retirement a year ago, its long-standing and dedicated Editor-in-Chief. Professor Povey's dedication to his work and his sensitivity to the needs of his students, as well as the respect and admiration he deservedly commanded from his colleagues could be described but in only one word—*proverbial!* Equally proverbial are the warmth and the engaging sense of humor which suffused work place, conferences, meetings, and, of course, social gatherings. For these seldom ever-green human qualities, John Povey shall indeed be remembered as one of a kind. It is only appropriate that we close this tribute to his memory with the following words taken from a letter written to him, before he passed on, by a very close friend of his:

*You are a rare spirit, indestructible and forever present. You have been the midwife to many a talented African writer. I do promise you that all the seeds you planted will emerge as a gigantic forest, in the name of the Ancestors, in the name of all that is beautiful in the cosmos, in the name of the gift of life that we share together."*

**SO DO WE, JOHN, AND MAY YOU REST IN  
ETERNAL BLISS!**

**MUNGU AMWEKE MAHALI PEMA PEPONI!**

## EDITORIAL

Nigeria was among the first African countries to regain their independence from European colonial rule (1960). It is one of the largest and most populous African countries. Nigeria is not only the African country that has had the largest number of presidents since its independence but also the one with the largest number of living ex-presidents (four). It is also one of the most powerful countries on the continent politically and militarily. Nigeria, therefore, occupies a unique position in Africa.

For the last one and a half years the winds of political change have been blowing across the African continent. Diehard dictators like Somalia's Siad Barre, Liberia's Samuel Doe, and Ethiopia's Mengistu Haile Mariam are all gone. Zambia's Kenneth Kaunda lost honorably in a democratic election that ushered in a new leadership for Zambia. Citizens in many more other African countries are persistently demanding of their governments to be more accountable, clean up their human rights records, guarantee the administration of justice, and institute measures that will return their countries to democratic rule.

Nigeria has already set itself on the path for a return to a democratic civilian government once more. Out of 32 years of independence Nigerians have lived under civilian government for a total of only 9 years. After successful gubernatorial elections, it is hoped that presidential, senate and house of representatives elections, due before the end of 1992, will be conducted in an equally democratic and tranquil atmosphere, and that once back to the barracks, the military will not be in a hurry to force their way back into power. The forthcoming Nigerian elections are crucial not only because they will increase the number of Nigerian ex-presidents, but also because they will accord Nigerians the opportunity to decide on who should lead them, an opportunity that has eluded them for a long time. Together with the Zambian elections, it is hoped that Nigerian elections will also inspire incumbent African leaders, who have outlived their usefulness, to move in similar directions, by proving to them that life does not end with the end of the presidency.

In recognition and support of its efforts towards democratization, we have devoted this issue of *UFAHAMU* to Nigeria. We believe that the various aspects of Nigeria addressed by the articles in this issue will give our readers new insights into the Nigerian situation.

Diana Rosenberg's contribution, "Ibo Resistance to British Colonial Power", explores the use of both active and passive methods by the Ibo to resist British colonial rule, an important step in the process leading to Nigeria's total independence. On attainment of independence,

however, a myriad problems have beset Nigeria. Economic problems including the notorious Structural Adjustment Program, corruption and curtailment of individual freedoms under military rule are addressed in Julius Ihonvbere's article, "Adjustment, Political Transition, and Organization of Military Power in Nigeria" and Andrew Okolie's "Economic Crisis, Structural Adjustment, and Prospects for Political Stability in Nigeria's Third Republic." Dele Layiwola's "The Radical Alternative and the Dilemma of the Intellectual Dramatist in Nigeria" explores the role of theater in the Nigerian political arena. And Prosper Godonoo examines the evolution of the Nigerian literacy system and its role in shaping the Nigerian society in "The Perceived Role of Literacy and its Attendant Problems in Nigeria."

Nigeria had long been one of the primary areas of interest of Prof. John Frederick Povey, one of the leading Africanists at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Sadly, he passed away on the 3rd of May 1992. As a tribute to his outstanding contribution to African scholarship, we dedicate this issue of *UFAHAMU* to Prof. Povey. MAY GOD REST HIS SOUL IN ETERNAL PEACE.

Angaluki Muaka