

## In This Issue

\*Early Achebe

\*A Creole Experiment

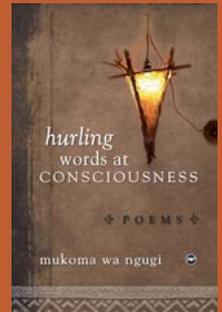
\*Theorizing African Oral Poetic Performance and Aesthetics

\*The Debt-Collector

\*Excising the Spirit

\*AWP & RSP News

## News



AWP & RSP is proud to announce that one of our gifted authors, MUKOMA WA NGUGI has been shortlisted for THE CAINE PRIZE FOR AFRICAN WRITING! Click on the book cover above to be linked to Mukoma's AWP "impressive volume" of poetry, *Hurling Words at Consciousness*.

## Quick Links

[The Caine Prize for African Writing](#)

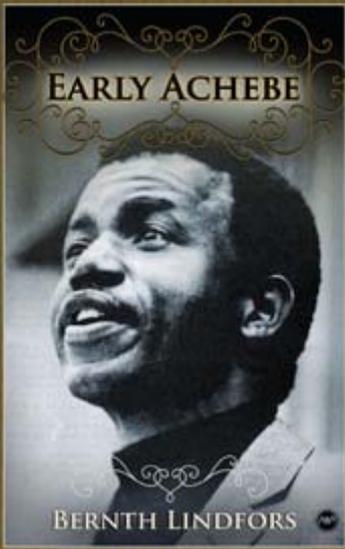
[The Harlem Book Fair 2009](#)

[AWP & RSP on the Web](#)

## Early Achebe by Bernth Lindfors

*Early Achebe* deals with the essays, stories, and groundbreaking novels Chinua Achebe published between 1951 and 1966 during the first phase of the writer's long and distinguished literary career. Lindfors, a longstanding and renowned scholar and critic of African literature, demonstrates vividly the pervasive influence the subject's early writing had not only on fellow Nigerian authors but also on teachers and critics of African literature both on the continent and abroad. The book concludes with a previously unpublished lecture by Achebe titled "The Writer and the African Revolution" delivered at The University of Texas at Austin in November 1969.

ISBN: 1592217036  
\$29.95



## A Creole Experiment Utopian Space in Kamau Brathwaite's "video-style" Works by Melanie Otto

In *A Creole Experiment*, Melanie Otto examines the utopian aspect of Brathwaite's major "video-style" works while employing the concepts of Heimat (homeland) and "concrete utopia," which were developed by philosopher Ernst Bloch in *The Principle of Hope*. She also focuses on Brathwaite's interrogation and reinterpretation of the conventions of magical realism. Unlike mainstream Latin American magical realism, Brathwaite's work is radical in both form and content, developing a distinctly creole aesthetic. In addition, Otto notes that Brathwaite's vision of a "creole cosmos" does not refer to an ideal place. Instead, it reveals the tangibility of an often dismal day-to-day existence.

ISBN: 1592215637 \$29.95

## A CREOLE EXPERIMENT

Utopian Space in Kamau Brathwaite's  
"video-style" Works



Melanie Otto

## Theorizing African Oral Poetic Performance and Aesthetics

### Udje Dance Songs of the Urhobo People by Tanure Ojaide

Starting with the premise that literature and the arts are cultural productions, Tanure Ojaide finds using Western literary theory to judge African literary works, whether oral or written, not only missing the major aims of such creative works but also failing to understand their aesthetic impact. Using udje dance songs of Nigeria's Urhobo people as an example of an African oral poetic performance, he theorizes that provoking laughter and intellectual delight are foremost in the minds of the poets/composers of the songs, the performers, and the audience. Ojaide goes further to relate African oral poetic performance to the African Diaspora where African-American battle rap, Caribbean Calypso, music and rhetoric, among other artistic productions, exhibit the same performance features and aesthetic impact.

ISBN: 1592216951 \$21.95

## The Debt-Collector AND OTHER STORIES

TANURE OJAIDE

### The Debt-Collector by Tanure Ojaide

The *Debt-Collector* and Other Stories deals with African reality from traditional to modern times. The ten stories are snapshots of human experience told from different perspectives and covering the vast stretch of society. They range from the origin of witchcraft, debt-collecting in the olden days and the marriage of descendants of hostile families, through the appearance of a military officer presumed dead in a plane crash, to the humanity of a feminist and a pastor. They are stories which affirm that the unthinkable can happen, the imagined could be real, and the real could be fantastical. The stories portray characters and incidents that depict humanity as fragile before fate and asserting one's humanity becomes the ennobling pursuit of all. **ISBN: 1592216935 \$19.95**

### Excising the Spirit A Literary Analysis of Female Circumcision by Linda Strong-Leek

*Excising the Spirit* seeks to complicate the issue of female circumcision and analyze it from both "within" and "outside" the ritual community, by investigating not only Walker's text, but three other texts written much earlier than Walker's, Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *The River Between* and Flora Nwapa's *Efuru* and her unpublished manuscript, *The Lake Goddess*. This analysis also includes the text, *Do They Hear You When You Cry?*, by Fauziya Kassinjda, who seems to step literally out of Alice Walker's novel into flesh and blood as a detainee of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. Each of the texts offers a very specific insight into the complexity of the cultural, political, and social issues related to female circumcision, and how each of the novelists grapple with these complexities.

**ISBN: 1592216757 \$24.95**

#### Upcoming Events

##### THE HARLEM BOOK FAIR

AWP & RSP will be participating once again in the 11th Annual Harlem Book Fair!

##### WHEN:

The Harlem Book Fair will take place on Saturday, July 18th  
11:00 a.m. to 6 p.m.

##### WHERE:

In Harlem on West 135th Street.

#### Contact Information

**EMAIL:** [info@africaworldpressbooks.com](mailto:info@africaworldpressbooks.com) / **WEB:** [www.africaworldpressbooks.com](http://www.africaworldpressbooks.com) / **TEL:** +1-609-695-3200

Chinua Achebe made a splash with the publication of his first novel, *Things Fall Apart*, in 1958. Renowned as one of the seminal works of African literature, it has since sold more than 20 million copies and been translated into more than 50 languages. On the writing front, Achebe remained highly productive in the early part of the decade, publishing several collections of short stories and a children's book: *How the Leopard Got His Claws* (1972). Achebe's Education and Career educated in English at the University of Ibadan taught for a short time before joining the staff of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation in Lagos. Biography. Early Life Achebe was born in Nigeria, West African Named Albert Chinualumogu Achebe in the Igbo village on November 16, 1930 at a crossroads. Published by Madlyn Gibson Modified over 5 years ago. Embed. Early Years. Chinua Achebe was born in Ogidi, an Igbo village in Anambra, southern Nigeria. He was the fifth of six children born to Isaiah and Janet Achebe, who were among the first converts to Protestantism in the region. Achebe grew up as a Christian, but many of his relatives still practiced their ancestral polytheistic faith. His earliest education took place at a local school where children were forbidden to speak Igbo and encouraged to disown their parents' religion. Early Achebe book. Read reviews from world's largest community for readers. Early Achebe deals with the essays, stories, and groundbreaking novels Chinua... We'd love your help. Let us know what's wrong with this preview of Early Achebe by Bernth Lindfors. Problem: It's the wrong book It's the wrong edition Other.