

----- curriculum vitae -----

Born 17 December, 1919, in Pretoria, South Africa.

Education

Elementary education in Pretoria, high-school education in Johannesburg, South Africa. Teacher training (1939-1940), Adams College, Natal Province.

Professional Background

- 1941-1945: Worked as clerk, short-hand typist and instructor to the blind at Ezenzeleni Blind Institute, near Johannesburg.
- 1941-1942: Prepared for and awarded Matriculation Certificate by the University of South Africa after correspondence studies.
- 1945-1952: Taught English and Afrikaans at Orlando High School, Johannesburg.
- 1946-1949: Studied for Bachelor of Arts degree by correspondence with the External Division of the University of South Africa, Pretoria. Majored in English, Psychology and Native Administration. Awarded the B.A. in 1949.
- 1952: Banned from teaching by the Government as a result of campaigning against "Bantu Education" as general secretary of the Teachers Association. The new system imposed by the Government aimed at lowering educational standards for Africans.
- 1955: Sat for and awarded the B.A. Honours degree in English Literature by the University of South Africa, again after correspondence studies.
- 1955-1957: After a number of odd jobs, joined DRUM magazine in Johannesburg as fiction editor, sub-editor and political reporter. Became an external student of the University of South Africa to work on a thesis for the Master of Arts degree in English Literature. Subject: The Non-European Character in English Fiction. Awarded the M.A. degree with distinction in April 1956.
- 1957: As I was not allowed to teach in South Africa, and I wanted desperately to return to the profession, I exiled myself to Nigeria, where I taught English at C.M.S. Grammar School, Lagos. Also taught English Literature to adults under the University of Ibadan's extension system (Extra-Mural Studies).

1961: Helped establish Mbari Writers' and Artists' Club, Ibadan, Nigeria, as editor of and contributor to Black Orpheus, a literary journal, published in Ibadan.

1961-1963: Director of the African Program for the then Congress for Cultural Freedom (now The International Association for Cultural Freedom) in Paris. Toured Africa and organized Literary and arts conferences and workshops for the Congress, among the most outstanding in Kampala (Uganda) 1962; Ibadan 1962; Legon (Ghana) 1962; Dakar (Senegal) 1963; Freetown (Sierra Leone) 1963. Helped establish as part of the programme one other creative centre in Nigeria (Enugu). Founded under the auspices of the Congress South Africa Bulletin, a digest of South African news and opinion, which I edited in 1962 and 1963.

Attended conferences and seminars in connection with my work with the Congress - Sweden, West Germany, Denmark, Italy, U.S.A. Lectured and read papers on African cultures and literatures, African affairs, library and educational projects in Africa. Also had occasion to attend conferences and seminars organized by the Societe Africaine de Culture (Presence Africaine), Paris, the American Society of African Culture, U.S.A.

In 1961 I lectured for a month (October) as a guest of International Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass. on African affairs. Because of the financial backing the Congress for Cultural Freedom assumed in the interests of Transition (a cultural journal based in Kampala, Uganda) as from 1962, I became associated with the journal until its death in 1975.

1963-1965: Founded and directed Chemchemi Creative Centre, Nairobi, Kenya, after the pattern of the Nigerian centres, under the sponsorship of the Congress for Cultural Freedom. As director, I was responsible for writers' workshops in Nairobi and surrounding districts, secondary schools and teacher training colleges. I taught creative writing myself in these projects. I also ran a theatre group with which we experimented in African music and dance as theatrical techniques. The centre also had an art gallery which exhibited

- East African artists. I directed Chemchemi for two years, after which I decided to return to teaching.
- 1965: Joined the University College, Nairobi, as lecturer in English Literature.
- 1966: As permanent residence for foreigners is not provided for in the immigration laws of most African countries, I had to think seriously about the future of my family of stateless persons. At the end of the academic year 1965-6 I took up a teaching fellowship in the English Department of the University of Denver, Colorado, USA, sponsored financially by Farfield Foundation, New York, which channelled funds for creative centres in Africa through the Congress for Cultural Freedom. I studied for the Ph.D. in the creative writing programme at Denver while I taught .
- 1968: Awarded the Ph.D. for the novel The Wanderers. This novel was awarded first prize as the best African novel for 1968/9 by the magazine African Arts/Arts Afrique, published by the African Studies Center, University of California, Los Angeles.
- 1969: Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and subsequently nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- 1968-1970: Taught English Literature at the University of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia, as Senior Lecturer, and directed African literature courses. Also taught American poetry.
- 1970: Returned to the University of Denver as Associate Professor of English, on an immigrant visa, which accorded me permanent residence. I taught African, Afro-American, and Caribbean literatures and English Romantic poetry.
- 1974 - Now Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where I have full professorship and tenure. I teach African, Afro-American and Caribbean literatures, plus English Romantic poetry, Development and Appreciation of the Novel.
- Major fields of specialization: African, Afro-American, Caribbean literatures; Nineteenth-Century British literature with emphasis on the Romantics and Victorian poetry and prose.

Languages: In addition to my mother tongue - Sesotho - I read and speak Tswana, French, Afrikaans, and have a working knowledge of Dutch, Spanish and Zulu.

Publications

A. Full-length books and collections of short stories

MAN MUST LIVE AND OTHER STORIES, Cape Town: African Bookman, 1947

DOWN SECOND AVENUE (autobiography), London: Faber & Faber, 1959; Berlin: Seven Seas, 1962; New York: Doubleday, 1971. Translated into nine European languages plus Japanese and Hebrew.

THE AFRICAN IMAGE (essays, political, cultural, literary), London, Faber & Faber, 1962; New York: Praeger, 1964; revised edition by Faber & Faber, 1974, Praeger, 1974.

IN CORNER B AND OTHER STORIES, Nairobi, East African Publishing House, 1967.

THE WANDERERS (novel), New York: Macmillan Co., 1971; London: Macmillan, 1971; London: Fontana/Collins (paperback) 1973.

VOICES IN THE WHIRWIND AND OTHER ESSAYS, New York: Hill & Wang, 1972; London: Macmillan, 1972; Tanzania Publishing House/Macmillan, 1973.

A GUIDE TO CREATIVE WRITING (pamphlet), Nairobi: East African Literature Bureau, 1966.

B. Books edited

MODERN AFRICAN STORIES, London: Faber & Faber, 1964

AFRICAN WRITING TODAY, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1967, 1969.

THOUGHT, IDEOLOGY & AFRICAN LITERATURE, Denver, University of Denver, 1970.

C. Short Stories published in journals, not appearing in anthologies

"A Winter Story" in Fighting Talk, Spring 1956, Johannesburg.
"Across Downstream" in Drum, April 1956, Johannesburg.
"Lesane" - a series of complete short stories on the same character, in Drum, Johannesburg: December 1956, January, March, April, 1957.

Publications contd.

- D. Essays (excluding several reviews), Poems, in anthologies, single-author volumes and journals
1. Introduction to Modern African Stories (see B above)
 2. Introduction to African Writing Today (see B above)
 3. Introduction to NIGHT OF MY BLOOD, a book of poems by Kofi Awoonor, New York: Doubleday, 1971
 4. Introduction to NO SWEETNESS HERE, short stories by Ama Ata Aidoo, New York: Doubleday, 1971.
 5. Introduction, EMERGENCY, novel by Richard Rive, New York: Collier, 1969.
 6. Introduction to DOWN SECOND AVENUE (see A above - the American edition)
 7. "Remarks on Negritude" in AFRICAN WRITING TODAY (see B above)
 8. "The Long Road" in AFRICAN WRITING TODAY (see B above)
 9. "Accra Conference Diary" in AN AFRICAN TREASURY, ed. Langston Hughes, New York: Crown Publishers, 1960
 10. "The African Intellectual in Africa" in TRANSITION, ed. Prudence Smith, London: Max Reinhardt, 1958
 11. "African Culture Trends" in AFRICAN INDEPENDENCE, ed. Peter Judd, New York: Dell Publishing, 1963
 12. "The Language of African Literature" in AFRICA: A HANDBOOK TO THE CONTINENT, ed. Colin Legum, New York: Praeger, 1966.
 13. "Langston Hughes" - an essay on his poetry, in INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN LITERATURE, ed. Ulli Beier, Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1967.
 14. "The Language of African Literature" - an extension of 12 above, in Harvard Educational Review, Vol. 34 No. 2, Spring, 1964, Cambridge, Mass.
 15. "The cult of negritude" in Encounter, March 1961, London.
 16. "Cultural Identity: Israel and Africa: in Jewish Quarterly, 1965, London.

17. "Ghana: On the Cultural Front" in Fighting Talk, October, 1962.
18. "For a Cultural Boycott" in Fighting Talk, July 1962 Johannesburg.
19. "Writers of Africa" in Fighting Talk, September, 1962, Johannesburg.
20. "Out of Africa" (the literary scene) in Encounter, April, 1960, London.
21. "Cultural Activity in Africa" in Manas, August 25, 1965, California.
22. "Cultural Tensions in a Mixed Society" in Racial and Communal Tensions - African Contemporary Monographs No. 3 - East African Publishing House, Nairobi, 1966.
23. "My Heart Said Speak Bold" - On Todd Matshikiza, writer and composer who died in 1968.- in Topic 33, United States Information Agency, Washington, 1968.
24. "Uganda Intellectuals and the State" in Times of Zambia, February 6, 1969, Lusaka.
25. "Black and White" - on South African Literature - in New Statesman, September 10, 1960, London.
26. "Rediscovery of African Culture" in Africa and the World, November 1968, London.
27. "From the Black American World" I, in Okike, No. 4, ed. Chinua Achebe, December 1973, Amherst, Mass.
28. "From the Black American World" II - on Gwendolyn Brooks, poet - in Okike No. 5, June 1974, Amherst Mass.
29. "African Literature: dialogue of two selves" in Horizon, Vol. 11 No. 10, October, 1969, Ndola, Zambia.
30. "The Short Story: South Africa" in International Symposium on the Short Story in Kenyon Review 126, Issue No. 4, Gambier, Ohio, 1969.
31. "African Literature for Beginners" in Africa Today Vol. XIV No. 1, 1967, University of Denver, Denver.
32. "Why I teach my Discipline" in Denver Quarterly, Vol. 8 No. 1, Winter, 1973, Denver.

Publications contd.

33. "The Voice of Prophecy in African Poetry" in Umoja, Southwestern Afro-American Journal, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, 1973.
34. "The Function of Literature at the Present Time: The Ethnic Imperative" - first given as a lecture in a symposium on the subject at the University of Denver, - in Denver Quarterly, Winter 1975, Vol. 9, No. 4. Abridged in Transition 45, Vol. 9 (ii) ed. by Wole Soyinka, Accra, Ghana,
35. "The Tyranny of Place" - first given as a lecture in a symposium at University of Missouri, Kansas City, - in New Letters, Autumn 1973.
36. "Mphahlele's reply to Addison Gayle, Jr." - an essay in reply to Gayle's review of VOICES IN THE WHIRLWIND & OTHER ESSAYS, (Black World, July 1973) - in Black World, January, 1974, Vol. XXIII No. 3.
37. "Notes from the Black American World" III - a discussion of Askia Muhammad Touré's poetry in relation to the element of mysticism and prophecy in contemporary Afro-American poetry - in Okike 8, 1975.
38. "Notes from the Black American World IV: Images of Africa in Afro-American Literature", in Okike 10, 1975.
39. Poem: "Exile in Nigeria" in POEMS FROM BLACK AFRICA, ed. Langston Hughes, Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, 1963.
Poems: "Death", "Somewhere", "Homeward Bound", in NEW AFRICAN LITERATURE AND THE ARTS I, ed. Joseph Okpaku, New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., in association with The Third Press, 1970.
Poems: "A Poem - for all the victims of racist tyranny in Southern Africa"; "Death III - Variations on a theme by John Keats, or E.M. scores 55, Dec. 17, 1974",

in SOUTH AFRICAN VOICES - Occasional Publication by African and Afro-American Studies and Research Center in association with the Harry Ransom Center, the University of Texas at Austin, 1975.

Poem: "Death II" in The Gar 18, Vol. 4 No. 4, March-April, 1975, Austin, Texas.

40. Review of E.R. Braithwaite's HONORARY WHITE - account of a visit to South Africa - in New York Times Book Review, 13 July, 1975.
41. "Tribute to Léopold Sédar Senghor" - a prose poem - in Présence Africaine 1977.
42. "The African Critic Today - Toward a Definition", in READING BLACK: ESSAYS IN THE CRITICISM OF AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN, AND BLACK AMERICAN LITERATURE, being contributions to a symposium on "The Function of Black Criticism at the Present Time" held at the University of Pennsylvania and published by Africana Studies and Research Center of Cornell University, Ithaca, 1976, ed. Houston A. Baker, Jr.
43. "Higher Education in South Africa", commissioned editor of The International Encyclopedia of Higher Education, Northeastern University, Boston, Mass., 1977.

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E. Recent papers read at conferences or seminars and articles/essays submitted for planned publication:

"Black American Literature and Cultural Tensions as viewed by an African: A Comparative view". Recorded by Voice of America, June 1975, and submitted for planned publication as a VOA Forum paper.

"South Africa: Two Communities and the Struggle for a Birthright" - a paper read at a symposium on multi-cultural issues organized by the University of Pennsylvania, January 1975, to discuss nationalism, separatism, and cultural leaders in various parts of the world.

"Ideology and Politics in the Black American and the African Novel" - a paper read at a symposium on "Black America, Black Africa and a Technicolor World" held at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, organized by the Patterson School of Diplomacy, November 24-26, 1974, and submitted for planned publication of the symposium material.

SHORT STORIES, POEMS AND ESSAYS
anthologized by me and other editors

--indicated in parentheses thus:
(SS) (P) (E)

- "The Living and Dead" (SS) in Following the Sun (Berlin, Seven Seas Books, 1960) pp 109-124
- "The Suitcase" (SS) in New World Writing (New York, The New American Library, 7th Mentor Selection, 1955) under pen-name Bruno Esekie, pp 56-61
- in Come Back Africa, ed. Herbert L. Shore & Megchelina Shore-Bos (New York, International Publishers 1968) pp177-186
- in Africa is Thunder and Wonder, ed. Barbara Nolen (New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1972) pp 175-181
- "He and the Cat" (SS) in South Africa Writing Today, ed. Nadine Gordimer & Lionel Abrahams (Harmondsworth/Baltimore, Penguin, 1967) pp 73-77
- "The Master of Doornvlei", "A Point of Identity", "A Ballad of Oyo" (SS) ed. Edris Makward & Leslie Lacy in Contemporary African Literature (New York, Random House, 1972) pp 68-101
- "Remarks on Negritude" (E) in Contemporary African Literature ed. Edris Makward & Leslie Lacy (New York, Random House, 1972) pp 432-437
- "Remarks on Negritude" in African Writing Today ed. Ezekiel Mphahlele (Harmondsworth/Baltimore, Penguin, 1967) pp 247
- "On the Long Road" (E) in African Writing Today ed. Ezekiel Mphahlele (Harmondsworth/Baltimore, Penguin, 1967) pp 253-261
- "Grieg on a Stolen Piano" (SS) in Modern African Stories, ed. Ellis Komey * Ezekiel Mphahlele (London, Faber & Faber, 1964) pp 129-147
- "Dinner at Eight" (SS) in Pan African Short Stories ed. Neville Denny (London, Thomas Nelson & Sons, 1965) pp142-153
- "A Ballad of Oyo" (SS) in Africa in Prose ed. O.R. Dathorne & Willfried Feuser (Harmondsworth/Baltimore, Penguin 1969) pp 289-298
- "Mrs. Plum" (SS) in Cannon Shot and Glass Beads, ed. George Lamming (London, Picador Pan Books, 1974) pp 221-251
- in Modern African Stories, ed. Charles R. Larson (London, Collins Fontana Books, 1971) pp 155-192
- in The Short Story: An Introductory Anthology, 2nd Ed., ed. Robert A. Rees & Barry Menikoff (Boston, Little, Brown & Co.
- "African City People" (E) in East Africa Journal (Nairobi, East African Publishing House, June 1964)
- "African City People" in Africa: Tradition and Change, ed. Evelyn Jones Rich & Immanuel Wallerstein, (New York, Random House, 1972) pp 63-65
- "Death" in Poems in Context ed. Lee A. Jacobus & William T. Moynihan (New York, Harcourt Brace Janovich, 1974) pp 431-43.