

I was born on 19th Nov., 1934 in British Guiana and educated locally and at the Universities of Sheffield (from 1955) and London (from 1958). I did an honours degree in English in 1958, my Certificate in Education in 1959 and my M.A. by research on the poetry of D.H. Lawrence in 1960. Since then I have been doing a Ph.D. on African and West Indian literature for Sheffield and my thesis will be submitted in July, 1966.

Before graduation I had a limited amount of clerical experience at the London County Council for two years (1953 - 1955). After graduation I lectured for three years at the Nigerian College of Arts, Science and Technology, Zaria, Northern Nigeria, (1959 - 1962), for one year at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Northern Nigeria (1962 - 1963) and for nearly three years at the University of Ibadan (1963 -), where I am now a Grade I lecturer. During the time since graduation I taught part-time in a number of schools and training colleges, in England and Nigeria and did extra-mural work for the University of Ibadan. I was also an examiner in English for the West African Examinations Council and was external examiner in English for two training colleges in Ibadan and an internal examiner here for this university and the University of London. I have always been concerned with teaching English literature, African literature and West Indian literature and at the University of Ibadan I organised the course in African literature and supervised postgraduate students. I am a fellow of two societies - the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Economic Society and am one of the editors of the literary journal, Black Orpheus. I enclose my list of publications.

Yours sincerely,



O.R. Dathorne.

"Africa in the Literature of the West Indies", Journal of Commonwealth Literature, University of Leeds, 1, Sept. 1965, pp.95 - 116.

Select List of Publications.

(A) Books

- Dumplings in the Soup, Cassell, 1963, novel.
- The Scholar Man, Cassell, 1964, novel.
- "The Wintering of Mr. Kolawole" in Stories from the Caribbean, ed. Andrew Salkey, Elek Books, 1965, pp. 223 - 226, short story.
- "Poem" in Young Commonwealth Poetry '65 ed Peter Brent, Heinemann, 1965, poem.
- Young Commonwealth Poetry '65 ed Peter Brent, Heinemann, 1965. African section, edited by O.R. Dathorne.
- Caribbean Narrative, Heinemann, 1965, ed. and introduced by O.R. Dathorne, anthology.
- Our Poets Speak, University of London Press, 1966, ed. D.St. John-Parsons. Introduced by O.R. Dathorne, anthology.
- Companion to Literature, Penguin, 1966. Biographical and critical contributions to Vol IV on individual African writers.
- African Poetry for Schools and Training Colleges, Macmillan, 1966, ed. with an introduction by O.R. Dathorne, anthology.
- In preparation and commissioned due out in late 1966 or 1967.
- Modern African Literature, Penguin, critical book.
- One Tota of Difference, Cassell, novel.
- Four Way Dictionary, Cassell, in English, Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba (with collaborators).
- Caribbean Verse, Heinemann, anthology.
- Anthology of African Verse, Harrap, (with J.A. Ramsaran).
- Anthology of African Prose, Penguin, (with W. Feuser).
- Cyprian Ekwensi - the Man and His Work, Twayne World Series, critical book.
- Sancho's Letters, Heinemann (with Paul Edwards).

(B) Articles

- "Common Mistakes in Essay Writing in Nigeria", Oversea Education, London, Vol XXXIII, No 4, January 1962, pp. 176 - 178.
- "The Theme of Africa in West Indian Literature", Black Orpheus, Ibadan, 16, Oct. 1964, pp. 42 - 54
- "African Writing in Germany", C.B.C.L. Newsletter, University of Texas, 7, April 1965 pp. 5 - 9.
- "Africa in the Literature of the West Indies", Journal of Commonwealth Literature, University of Leeds, 1, Sept. 1965, pp.95 - 116.

"African Literature: Writers, Publishers and Their Public", Books, No 361, National Book League, London, 1965, pp 180 - 188.

"Africa in West Indian Literature", Phylon, Atlanta, 1965.

"Nineteenth Century African Writers", The London Magazine, Sept. 1965, Vol 5, No 6, pp 51 - 58.

"Ouladah Equiano: a Nigerian Writer of the Eighteenth Century", Nigeria Magazine 85, June, 1965, pp 130 - 131.

(c) Talks

Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation
71 talks given including: -

"West Indian Poetry" - 2 talks - 1961

"Modern Poetry" - 9 talks - 1962

Also "Discussions on Poetry" with Ulli Beier, D.E.S. Maxwell and others - 1963.

British Broadcasting Corporation

"The Idea of African in West Indian Literature" - Third Programme - Sept. 1965.

"African Poetry" - 3 scripts and Teacher's Notes for the Schools' Broadcasting Unit.

Also various discussions with Andrew Salkey, Edward Blyshen and others on West Indian and African Literature.

(D) Miscellaneous

Poems have been published in Black Orpheus, (Ibadan) No 10 and 17, Transition, (Kampala) No 15, Nigeria Magazine (Lagos) No 79,

Outposts (London) No 66 and Présence Africaine (Paris) No 48 .

Short stories have appeared in Black Orpheus No 17 and Nigerian Radio Times.

Reviews and review articles have appeared in Ibadan (University of Ibadan), West African Journal of Education (University of Ibadan) Black Orpheus and The Bulletin of the Association for African Literature in English, University of Sierra Leone.

Department of English
Njala University College
University of Sierra Leone
P.M.B. Freetown
Sierra Leone
14th March, 1969

Dear Professor Jones,

It is some time since we corresponded. You might recall that I did something once for your C.B.C.I. Newsletter on African writing in Germany. I am writing to you now in a slightly different context. I would like to come to the U.S., preferably with a full professorship. Do you know of any openings that might be suitable? I am interested in African and West Indian Literature but can of course teach any normal English courses ~~after~~ after Chaucer. *I am prepared to work to also summer course.*

My C.V. would be something like this. Born 1934 in Georgetown, Guyana. I went to the University of Sheffield where I gained my B.A. (1955-1958) ~~with Honours~~ with Honours in English, my M.A. in 1960 and my Ph.D in 1966. At the University of London I did the postgraduate certificate in Education (1959) and the Diploma in Education (1967).

My working life is as follows: 2

1959 -1963 - Ahmadu Bello University - English Language and Literature, English as a Foreign Language.

1963 -1966- University of Ibadan - the novel, in charge of two courses on oral and written African literature, practical criticism, metaphysical poetry. I supervised M.A. and Ph.D students (inc. American students).

1966 - 1968- Invited by Sierra Leone government to take part in a programme of education. Involved broadcasting, teaching at training college and university level. *Taught American exchange students at Fourah Bay.*
Invited to become Professor and Head of the Department of English. Since we are short-staffed, I teach some five courses. I am entirely responsible for the seniors as well as the day-to-day running of the department. I sit on various committees and am Chairman of the Library Committee. *I have an American woman on the staff and three American students.*

1968 -

BY AIR MAIL

PAR AVION
AIR LETTER
AFROGRAMME



Professor Coates Coles
Department of English
University of Texas
Austin
Texas
U.S.A.

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Sender's name and address:
O. R. Dathorne
Dept of English
Niagara Univ College
Niagara Falls
New York

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

To open cut here

Over the years I have taught in schools in England, in schools and training colleges in West Africa and have been an examiner for oral and written English for West African Examinations Council. I have also in 1966 been the external Examiner for candidates doing their M.A. in African studies at Makerere College, University of East Africa. I have written two novels, published two anthologies on Caribbean prose and verse, two on African prose and poetry and written articles for inclusion in books and journals. Among the most important journals have been your own, Phylon, Journal of Commonwealth Literature, National Book News, London Magazine and Times Literary Supplement. I have broadcast for the B.B.C. on several occasions as well as for stations in West Indies, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. I have done television work in Germany and Britain.

Please let me hear soon from you. The book you asked me to do on Ekwenzi comes along very slowly because of the Nigerian situation but I envisage that once this terrible war comes to an end, I will have something for you.

Kindest regards.

O. R. Dathorne
Head of Department

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