

ANNUAL  REPORT

2008



**Langa Research and Publishing
Common Initiative Group**

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1. Langaa Mission

The mission of Langaa Research and Publishing Common Initiative Group (Langaa RPCIG), a not-for-profit organisation, is to contribute to the cultural development and renaissance of Africa. This is achieved by conducting and promoting research; building capacity; promoting fiction and non-fiction writing by African authors.

2. 2008 Objectives

- Renovate building and set up centre
- Increase publications output by thirty books
- Expand books to include non-Cameroonian authors
- Organise structure
- Acquire technology and equipment
- Acquire funding for both publishing and research
- Solicit collaboration and cooperation, together with raising awareness about the initiative

3. Funding

Funding still continued to be provided by founders. There was major support from ASC-Leiden. Also commencement of two Projects: (i) Wotro (Netherlands) funded project on ICTS and Mobility in Africa targeting Cameroon, Mali, Chad and Angola; (ii) Volkswagen Foundation (Germany) funded project on Mobility and Resource Management targeting Cameroon, Tanzania, Namibia and South Africa. Langaa RPCIG received donations of books, two computers, a TV, DVD viewer and Beamer from ASC-Leiden. Same as last year, negotiations continue to acquire funding for various projects.

4. Cooperation and Collaboration

Collaboration continued with Africa Book Collective (ABC), Michigan State University Press (MSUP). We are still discussing with the Universities of Buea, Yaoundé and the two universities in Bamenda to establish a more concrete MoU. Amongst local collaborators, we invited the Fon of Mankon, local council and several NGOs and community organisations to visit the Centre and understand Langaa and its activities. The Centre was also invited to Foundation Radio in Bamenda to share with the public information on its research and publishing initiatives.



5. Building and Equipment

Renovation of the centre and full equipment with furniture was achieved – a major landmark.



Doors have been secured, electricity acquired and rooms are all equipped with modern furniture.



Langaa RPCIG: 2008 Annual Report

Conference and reading room is now equipped with tables and chairs. Shelves have been constructed for books and several books have already been placed on these for public access. Access to IT has also been made possible.



We hope to be able to acquire more books, especially Langaa books for public access. We also hope to be able to encourage more international participation and collaboration.



6. Staffing

The volunteers continued with publishing and the situation will stay the same until we are able to acquire funding or raise money to pay permanent staff. Langaa continues to seek funds to hire a Managing Editor and outreach officer, and secure the services of two local staff to manage the centre.

7. Published Books

The number of published titles increased to 37 this year. We were also able to expand the focus to include politics, poetry, fiction, economics, religion, environment and other academic works. We published a title in Pidgin English to encourage local languages. We were also able to attract publications in French from francophone Africa. For next year we intend to increase the number of publications in French and to expand to both South, East and West Africa and also to attract European authors. We also plan to increase the number of publications in indigenous languages.

Africa's Political Wastelands
The Bastardization of Cameroon
Emmanuel Fru Doh

ISBN 9789956558629 | 200 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



Africa's Political Wastelands explores and confirms the fact that because of irresponsible, corrupt, selfish, and unpatriotic kleptocrats parading as leaders, the ultimate breakdown of order has become the norm in African nations, especially those south of the Sahara. The result is the virtual annihilation of once thriving and proud nations along with the citizenry who are transformed into wretches, vagrants, and in the extreme, refugees. Doh uses Cameroon as an exemplary microcosm to make this point while still holding imperialist ambitions largely responsible for the status quo in Africa. Ultimately, in the hope of jumpstarting the process, he makes pertinent suggestions on turning the tide on the continent.

Babi Yar Symphony
G.D. Nyamndi

ISBN 9789956558513 | 112 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

This unique work lifts the African question out of the dust. Against the backdrop of prison life, it explores the complex reality of being an African in today's world. Through the tight sensitivity and illuminating knowledge of its two principal characters, themselves victims of misplaced justice, greed and lust, it captures the pain and sadness that almost always comes in the wake of betrayal and egotism. The work's message is strong, and is delivered with equal strength by characters whose individual convictions also sway us to their side. We have here a new, powerful shaft of light on the landscape of recent African writing.



The Woman who Ate Python and Other Stories
Sammy Oke Akombi

ISBN 9789956558018 | 112 pages | 203 x 127 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



A collection of six thought-provoking stories, four of which were award-winning-stories at the 1990 literary contest of the national Association of Cameroonian Poets and Writers (APEC). The stories are set in different localities in Africa and Cameroon in particular. In the lead story, the author lucidly explores the theme of women's liberation - the African way. Ebenye, the protagonist, representing the sharp-witted African woman cannot understand why she should cook food without tasting it. So she decides to take the bold step of eating a piece of the python that she has been ordered to cook for the men of her community. The other stories tackle themes of corruption, poverty, alcoholism, endurance, love and more.

Green Rape
Poetry for the Environment
Peter W. Vakunta

ISBN 9789956558483 | 80 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

Green Rape: Poetry for the Environment is an anthology of poems written in strong support of environmental literacy. Each poem is the poet's cry of protest against the rape of natural and built environments. The anthology examines a wide range of issues including the clash of global capitalism with environmental activism. It takes a close look at the major themes in international discourse on environmental degradation, climate change, renewable energy sources, global warming, Gene technology, biodiversity and more. The poet dispels a number of myths, notably the existence of an inexhaustible bank of natural resources at the disposal of Man. He attempts to

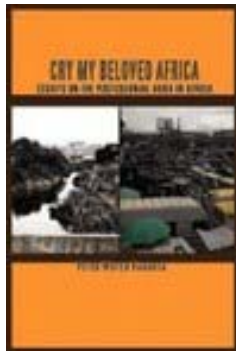


provide a solution to the abusive and unbalanced utilization of scarce natural resources. In a unique way, the poems contribute to the fostering of environmental awareness that would contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources.

The poet invites us to look beyond the doomsday rhetoric about the state of the environment and to commit more of our resources where they will do the most good to lifting the world's population out of poverty. The significance of this anthology to environmental education resides in its contribution to the debate on global sustainable development, especially efforts to protect the environment and eradicate poverty.

Cry my Beloved Africa
Essays on the Postcolonial Aura in Africa
Peter W. Vakunta

ISBN 9789956558735 | 100 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

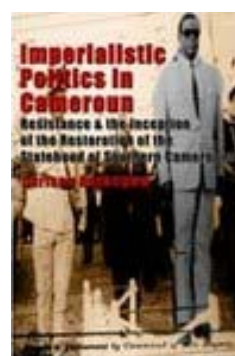


Cry My Beloved Africa is a compendium of essays having as locus the continent of Africa. It comprises insightful observations on the politics, governmental systems, political economy, cultural practices, educational systems and natural phenomena that impact on the lives of Africans. True to the tradition of French novelist Stendhal, the author intends this work to serve as a mirror that reflects the day-to-day living of the different peoples that inhabit the fifty-three nation-states in Africa. It is directed to contemporary Africa and to the relationship between Africa and the rest of the globe. The didactic value of the book resides in its suitability to the young and the old. The language is clear and free of sophistry.

**Imperialistic Politics in Cameroun
Resistance & the Inception of the Restoration of the Statehood of
Southern Cameroons
Carlson Anyangwe**

ISBN 9789956558506 | 172 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

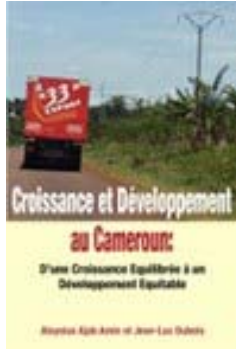
It always comes as a surprise to many that the British-administered UN Trust Territory of the Southern Cameroons was not granted independence like other colonial territories but was allowed to fall prey to the territorial expansionism of the contiguous state of Cameroun Republic, a former French-administered UN Trust Territory granted independence on 1 January 1960. This book focuses on the unresolved Southern Cameroons colonial predicament, giving insightful accounts of how Cameroun Republic hijacked the Southern Cameroons and is holding its citizens under colonial bondage. The insights include details of the stratagems resorted to by Cameroun Republic to exact submission to its annexation of the Southern Cameroons and to conceal this crime from outside censure. These attempts have met and continue to meet with stiff resistance by the people of the Southern Cameroons. The book is a contribution to the loud and intense conversation on the inevitability of the restoration of the stolen statehood of the former British Southern Cameroons, the restitution of its occupied territory and the reassertion of the dignity and humanity of its people.



**Croissance et Développement au Cameroun
D'une Croissance Equilibrée à un Développement Equitable
Aloysius Ajab Amin, Jean-Luc Dubois**

ISBN 9789956558872 | 440 pages | 234 x 156 mm | B/W Illustrations |
2008 | Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

Croissance et Développement au Cameroun: D'une Croissance Equilibrée à un Développement Equitable is on the economy in Cameroon, and it is in line with sustainable development logic and its conditions in terms of economic, social and ecological sustainability. While following this logic, the book also focuses on two main



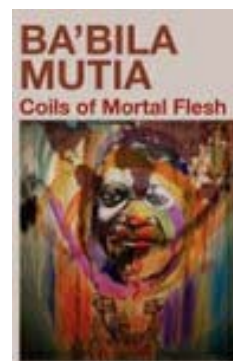
dimensions, namely: economic and social dimensions. According to the book, the Cameroon economy is characterized by enormous resources and huge potentials; yet, the poverty level remains relatively very high.

A combination of a short medium term and long term vision has become indispensable to achieving sustainable development. Sustainable development can be understood through several dimensions mainly economic, social and ecological. Sustainable, in economic terms implies balance development through time and different sections/groups of the society. However, in social terms, sustainable development also implies equity, which translates to sharply reduction of poverty or completely elimination of poverty and maintaining such through time and generations. Finally, it is a question of development which aims at ensuring that growth acquired is not jeopardized by serious social imbalances at the detriment of current generations as well as future generations. Furthermore, the book focuses on environmental issues. Within this framework, as the main objective, the book articulates growth, equity and balanced growth. This volume, therefore, brings out these challenges and suggests appropriate strategies for addressing them.

Coils of Mortal Flesh Ba'bila Mutia

ISBN 9789956558148 | 84 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

The diverse voices in the poems in this collection are unified in the single voice of the omnipresent persona who appears to be searching for a collective voice, some kind of order or rhythm that would impose meaning to life. Reading the poems constitutes an individual journey. This poetic journey from Awakening that takes the reader to Moonlight Spells & Wreaths and leads her/him through Laments to the Epilogue is a continuous movement in the search for humanity's existence. As a metaphor of self-discovery, the poetic quest is both an expression of, and a search for mankind's elusive self - that single, unbroken umbilical cord that is firmly rooted in the African experience and identity.



The Day God Blinked Alobwed'Epie

ISBN 9789956558865 | 116 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



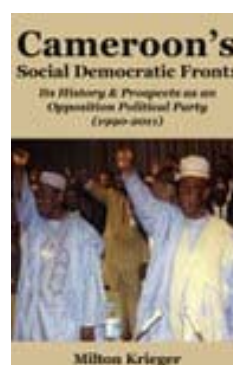
The Day God Blinked x-rays the politico-economic and socio-moral life of a rich and resourceful country called Ewawa from 1982 to 2007. The country had been ruled by a dynamic and insightful miser known as the Old Man. But because he had been in power for too long, his citizens longed for change. It happened when nobody expected it. The old man died suddenly in his sleep and was replaced by his handpicked successor. Unfortunately, the successor whom everybody had expected would do better plunged the country into terrible economic and moral crises. Lucia, the protagonist, narrates her predicament. To her, Ewawa is rotten in all totality. There

is nowhere to turn for salvation. The custodians of the economic, social, moral and spiritual values of the land are not up to the task. The country is without hope. Is all doomed?

Cameroon's Social Democratic Front Its History and Prospects as an Opposition Political Party (1990-2011) Milton Krieger

ISBN 9789956558162 | 120 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

Cameroon's Social Democratic Front (SDF) was among the watershed challenges in 1990 by sub-Saharan Africa's democratization forces against autocratic regimes, but it crested in 1992 and has subsided since. Yet the party survives, participates in the National Assembly, maintains a grassroots structure, and prepares for a presidential ballot in 2011 that will probably determine its fate. The author conducted research four times in Cameroon, 1989-1999, focusing on the SDF since 1991, and maintains party contacts to the present. The book assesses its history and its prospects, covering the SDF in Africa-wide as well as Cameroonian terms.



Hot Water for the Famous Seven
Ntemfac A.N. Ofege

ISBN 9789956558391 | 180 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



A bunch of mischievous renegades in Form 1A, foxes all of them, with outrageously bushy tails to boot, have the radioactive cheek to gallivant about Sacred Heart College calling themselves the Famous Seven. As if that is not mortifying enough, these arrogant little confederates have the tendency of threatening and even bringing down time-tested and firmly established college rules, regulations and procedures with reckless abandon. The little rascals—Mozarts in football and streaks of lightning all of them—even have the effrontery to provoke retribution by belting their seniors—the semi-foxes of Form 2, in a rousing football encounter. But, when the Famous Seven break bounds and sneak out of campus, going after the most eloquent of all infernos, Bamanga Njuma of the Fifth, conveniently decked in his father’s army garb—spivishly borrowed—the principal of the college, Brother Hugh McGregor Jones, blows his top. “Enough is enough,” the principal bellows with stentorian alacrity.

The Fire Within
Emmanuel Fru Doh

ISBN 9789956558186 | 216 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

In Africa, there is unrest, and possibly tragedy, when new trends clash with traditional values. With a curmudgeonly stepmother who harasses her even as she spoils her own biological daughter, Mungeu’, the protagonist, blazes a path for herself in the face of many odds. But things go terribly wrong when she falls pregnant. The dilemma of whether or not to keep the pregnancy, given society’s expectations, flings this young woman into direct confrontation with a life that is beyond her years. She is bent on succeeding: she will keep her baby, and with her

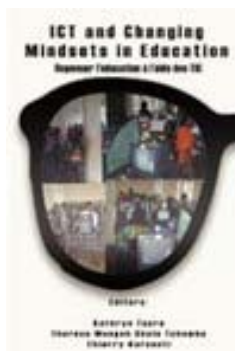


training at a girls' craft center, start a business and bring up her illegitimate child. But Mungeu' can only make plans as she realises before long that the authority to dispose of them does not rest with her alone; there are other powerful forces out there.

ICT and Changing Mindsets in Education

Edited by Kathryn Toure, Therese M.S. Tchombe, Thierry Karsenti

ISBN 9789956558261 | 208 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

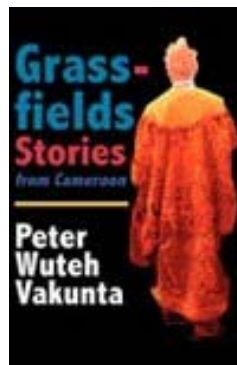


The debate is no longer whether to use information and communication technologies (ICT) in education in Africa but how to do so, and how to ensure equitable access for teachers and learners, whether in urban or rural settings. This is a book about how Africans adopt and adapt ICT. It is also about how ICT shape African schools and classrooms. Why do we use ICT, or not? Do girls and boys use them in the same ways? How are teachers and students in primary and secondary schools in Africa using ICT in teaching and learning? How does the process transform relations among learners, educators and knowledge construction? This collection by 19 researchers

from Africa, Europe, and North America, explores these questions from a pedagogical perspective and specific socio-cultural contexts. Many of the contributors draw on learning theory and survey data from 36 schools, 66000 students and 3000 teachers. The book is rich in empirical detail on the perceived importance and appropriation of ICT in the development of education in Africa. It critically examines the potential for creative use of ICT to question habits, change mindsets, and deepen practice. The contributions are in both English and French.

Grassfields Stories from Cameroon
Peter W. Vakunta

ISBN 9789956558117 | 104 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



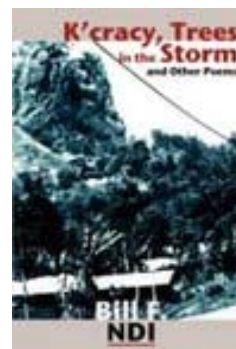
Grassfields Stories from Cameroon is an anthology of short stories. It comprises animal trickster tales, bird survival tales, and human-interest stories. The compendium is a reflection of the mores, cultures, and value systems of the indigenous peoples of the Northwest Province of Cameroon. It is motivated by the author's keen interest in the preservation of Cameroonian oral traditions in written form. These stories deal with the day-to-day life of the sedentary and the globe-trotter. Each story is sufficient unto itself. The author has intentionally avoided chronology in the order of presentation of the stories. Whether you read the stories in the order in which they are presented or dart about as your fancy dictates, you

will feel the abundance of richness and entertainment the book contains. The didactic value of this collection of short stories resides in its suitability to readers of all age groups. The uniqueness of the volume lies in its universal appeal.

K'cracy, Trees in the Storm and other Poems
Bill F. NDI

ISBN 9789956558742 | 124 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

In *K'cracy, Trees in the Storm and Other Poems*, Bill Ndi vociferously bemoans the fate of a world in which the good and the evil are intimate bedfellows; a world wherein miscreants proceed with nauseating impunity to trample on innocence.



Married But Available
Francis B. Nyamnjoh

ISBN 9789956558278 | 376 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



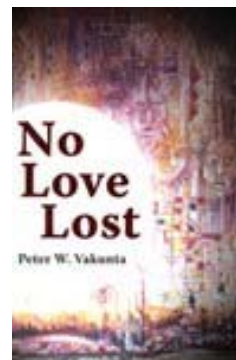
Married But Available ventures into a theme about which people say as much as they withhold. It explores intersections between sex, money and power, challenging orthodoxies, revealing complexities and providing insights into the politics and economics of relationships. During six months of fieldwork in Mimboland, Lilly Loveless, a Muzungulander doctoral student in Social Geography, researches how sex shapes and is shaped by power and consumerism in Africa. The bulk of her research takes place on the outskirts of the University of Mimbo, an institution where nothing is what it seems. Through her astounding harvest of encounters,

interviews, conversations and observations, the reader gets a captivating glimpse into the frailty and resilience of human beings and society. Lilly Loveless comes out of it all well and truly baptized. And so does the reader!

No Love Lost
Peter W. Vakunta

ISBN 9789956558407 | 132 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

No Love Lost is a tale of troubled times in which the storyteller strives to return to wholesomeness a society whose values have jumped the rail. Set in the 'No Man's Land' of Ongola, the novel unravels the corruption and influence-peddling endemic in this African country. Framed around the travails of an unemployed university graduate, the story is the gripping depiction of one man's vendetta against a society at odds with itself. Among others, the novel explores the themes of identity crisis, political gerrymandering, individual and collective greed, love and marriage, and class exploitation to weave an



enduring tapestry of great human interest. Written against the backdrop of nascent neo-colonialism *No Love Lost* combines the traditional and the modern; the private and the public to demonstrate that the quest for truth and justice behooves all and sundry. The author infuses the narrative with oral traditions to capture the reader's attention in a compelling style. This is a refreshing work by a writer whose heart throbs for his people and their plight.

Precipice
Susan Nkwentia Nde

ISBN 9789956558179 | 192 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



Madam Essin stood watching the young people holding each other. She looked at the young man who was her son. How handsome he looked. When he smiled he had that elusive curve on his lips that reminded her of her husband. She had been unable to resist that curve of the lips even after eight years of marriage. When her husband smiled she had the feeling he was looking down on her in amused condescension. This used to annoy her but she could not resist the charm he exuded. Now here she was an abandoned wife with an estranged son. Her thoughts roved as she watched them, plunging into the past, the present and the future. The girl brought back the past. She wished she could obliterate that past from her life and her son's. In *Precipice*, Susan Nkwentia Nde, in her first novel, has a way of weaving past intrigues and present emotions to keep all guessing about what will be. She opens up her characters for the reader to enter and inhabit their minds and bodies in a compelling story of love and estrangement, happy accidents, quest and survival.

The House of Falling Women
Rosemary E. Ekosso

ISBN 9789956558254 | 328 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



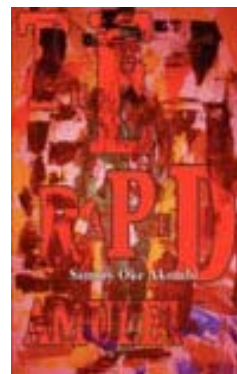
House of Falling Women is the story of a young woman with quixotic ideas about improving the lot of women who finds out that the crusader's cloak is an uncomfortable one. Martha Elive, armed with a university education and a substantial legacy from a Dutchwoman she meets while studying abroad on a scholarship, decides to create an institute for the empowerment of women, only to find that the contradictions to be resolved are more firmly anchored in her psyche than elsewhere. In addition to her unexorcised ghosts and the legacies of a chequered love life, she has to contend with recalcitrant public opinion and moral inertia, the opposition of old-guard reactionaries, and the incomprehension of her small-town parents.

House of Falling Women is a poignant, often hilarious story of the search by a group of women for a new place in society in a world where women are dissatisfied with the old values and bewildered by the new.

The Raped Amulet
Sammy Oke Akombi

ISBN 9789956558247 | 124 pages | 203 x 127 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

An extraordinary story of a young man from Africa who tries hard to reconcile the ways he had grown up with, and those he was experiencing in his host country - Great Britain. The story is set in Coventry, in the English Midlands and is told by Dion Ekpochaba, a postgraduate student at the University of Warwick. Dion, fresh from his motherland, Cameroon, loses an amulet, a cherished heritage of his ancestry and becomes desperate about the loss. He meets an elderly English man, Tom Jones who makes a startling revelation: the amulet had just been



desecrated by his dog and thrown into the depths of a lake in the campus. Dion became so flabbergasted that Tom Jones thought he might have gone out of his mind. The two strangers tried to understand each other to no avail. However, the misfortunes of time turn the tides, resulting in a friendship, which provides grounds for mutual understanding and respect for each other's ways.

Si Dieu était tout un chacun de nous?
Samuel Ebelle Kingue

ISBN 9789956558636 | 76 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



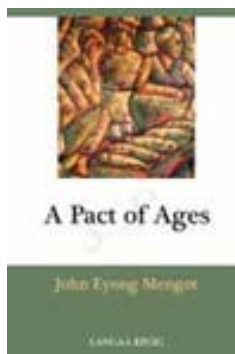
If Each One Of Us Would Be God? Is a hypothesis that rejects the logic of religious institutions with their ability to limit the evolution of human consciousness, since the reality of our existence within religions is defined as fixed. If each one of us would be God, we would return into the deepness of our absolute consciousness and be in contact with our true selves. This challenging statement awakens the conscious deadening of a Supreme human being, as the search for our spiritual identity has nothing to do with the collective degree that is dictated by religious rules, which creates dependency. It is a process of individualism that makes each one of us responsible for our own being. We can be in contact with God from

the moment we become conscious of All and Nothing. As God is primarily All and Nothing (love and hate, good and evil), to be able to connect with All (Love), we must transform ourselves into All and Nothing and deepen our understanding on inner brightness and darkness, which pushes us to carry valuable moral judgements on our own acts.

If Each One of Us Would Be God? courageously opens up the debate over Biblical statements. However, in order to fully understand the Bible's dialectic, the duty of each one of us remains the deepest search of the fundamental truth of oneself to accomplish our spirituality.

A Pact of Ages
John Eyong Mengot

ISBN 9789956558995 | 148 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



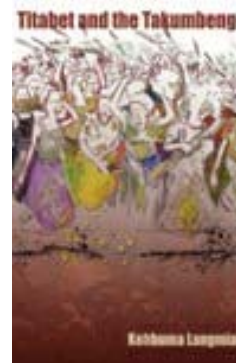
A Pact of Ages is the love story of the twin princess Omosivbhé and her lover Ofuobi rendered awry by her spirit twin sister Amakaribhé with whom they entered into a covenant to share everything before coming into the human world. The practice where slaves are groomed in the palace to accompany the king or queen to join the ancestors is the leitmotiv. The narrator tells us how these slaves are slashed or wounded with special knives and concoctions and incense rubbed on their bodies as a rite of purification before being buried alive with the dead king or queen. Will the White Man of God succeed in putting an end to these practices? Will the village Priest -

custodian of customs - convince his people to see the white man in his true colours? Will he bring them to reject the white man's God? This is a tale in which the natural and the supernatural intermingle to depict the timeless, spaceless, and ageless nature of the charms, beliefs and practices of an African society.

Titabet and the Takumbeng
Kehbuma Langmia

ISBN 9789956558131 | 56 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

The unprecedented political upheaval of the 1992 first ever-multiparty presidential elections in Cameroon is relieved in this play. Following the controversial elections, Bamenda - the stronghold of the main opposition party, the Social Democratic Front (SDF) - was plunged into a tense and intense civil disobedience campaign. The violence which ensued pitted SDF militants who claimed their victory was stolen against regime loyalists. The government reacted by imposing a curfew on Bamenda. The army that was dispatched to keep the peace



committed ferocious kidnapping, rape, theft and torture, driving women, children and men into the arms of terror. Titabet the protagonist emerges as the leader of the oppressed. He and the sacred women's cult of Takumbeng were the only hope for the people. The sacred cleansing cult and Titabet's courageous resistance apparently brought an end to what would have been too devastating a tale to narrate.

The Power in the Writer
Collected Essays on Culture, Democracy and Development in Africa
Mwalimu George Ngwane

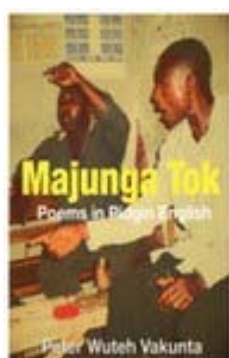
ISBN 9789956558377 | 196 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



The book examines the creative industries of Cameroon and Africa and makes bold the cultural triumphant assertion that Africa is home to some of the most diverse cultural patrimony and the most versatile creative professionals. It also discusses indigenous development models and questions the rationale for Eurocentric democratic paradigms which have partly contributed to the demise of a concrete democratic development entitlement in most African countries. Ngwane weaves both the cultural and political strands into a search for a homegrown development web which he calls 'glocalisation'. Ngwane's essays, most of which have animated debate and discourse in national newspapers, online blogs and International journals are lucid in their arguments, poignant in their ideological focus, rich in their non-fiction craftsmanship and urgent in their message delivery. The essays will make good reading for students of Africa studies, Development studies, Politics and Culture.

Majunga Tok
Poems in Pidgin English
Peter W. Vakunta

ISBN 9789956558612 | 76 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



Pidgin English is the chief medium of communication for the great majority of Cameroonians. It sustains a world view, culture and way of life. Pidgin embodies concepts that would at best be partially expressed in formal English. A critical understanding of Pidgin English requires not only a thorough grasp of the socio-cultural matrix from which the words and expressions originate but also an immersion in an Afro-centric worldview.

Majunga Tok: Poems in Pidgin English is the poet's attempt at capturing these speech patterns of ordinary Cameroonians in written form. Pidgin English, also called

broken English, is a lingua franca spoken not only in Cameroon but also in many West African countries, including Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia amongst others. This poetry anthology is inspired by the poet's desire to salvage a language that has been subjected to multiple forms of denigration because it is oral. In Cameroon, for instance, Pidgin English has been the target of myriad attacks from self-styled linguistic purists who claim that Pidgin is a bastardized variant of Standard English and, therefore, should not be allowed to thrive. The controversy and denigration directed at Amos Tutuola and his Pidgin English creative genius are vivid examples. This condescending attitude of speakers of Standard English stems from the fact that Pidgin is often associated with illiteracy.

Under The Broken Scale of Justice
The Law and My Times
Nyo' Wakai

ISBN 9789956558285 | 204 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

This book explores the latent and sometimes overt undercurrents that have shaped the judicial history of Cameroon since the United Nations Trusteeship period. It is an insightful account by a critical observer privileged to serve as

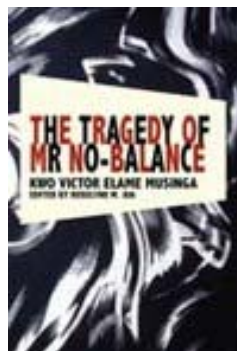
Director of Public Prosecutions and a judge in a post-independence context characterized by dual and often conflictual legal systems inspired by French and English colonialism.

Justice Nyo'Wakai demonstrates how the conflict of judicial concepts, procedures and usages have led to the Francophone judicial system trying to impose itself on the Anglophone judicial system in Cameroon. Often reduced to toothless bulldogs by new constitutional dispensations informed largely by the French colonial legacy and Francophone realities, Anglophones have bemoaned the independence of the Judiciary identified with their Anglo-Saxon heritage. In the face of such domination and the highhandedness of the Executive, only mature cool headedness and the ability to bend over backwards on the part of Anglophone legal practitioners have contained the explosive situation and allowed for a gradual evolution of the Judicial System in Cameroon.



The Tragedy of Mr No Balance
Edited by Kwo Victor Elame Musinga & Roselyne M. Jua

ISBN 9789956558988 | 64 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

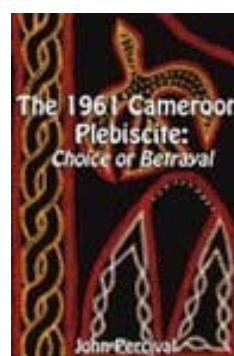


The Tragedy of Mr No-Balance spotlights corruption. Musinga skillfully blends humour and simplicity to expose its depth in Cameroon. Mr No Balance asks job applicants to either 'throw water up' or 'oil my lips'. The playwright uses the illiterate Bih to expose his corrupt practices and to demonstrate that the downtrodden of the society can contribute to the fight against corruption. He proposes an effective police network and an impartial judiciary for corruption eradication. This play is a must watch for anyone who is frustrated because of corruption and hopeless about its eradication.

**The 1961 Cameroon Plebiscite
Choice or Betrayal
John Percival**

ISBN 9789956558490 | 160 pages | 229 x 152 mm | B/W Illustrations |
2008 | Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

The United Nations-organised plebiscite on 11 February 1961 was one of the most significant events in the history of the southern and northern parts of the British-administered trust territory in Cameroon. John Percival was sent by the then Colonial Office as part of the team to oversee the process. This book captures the story of the plebiscite in all its dimensions and intricacies and celebrates the author's admiration for things African through a series of reminiscences of what life was like in the 1960s, both for the Africans themselves and for John Percival as a very young man. The complex story is also a series of reflections about the effect of the modern world on Africa.



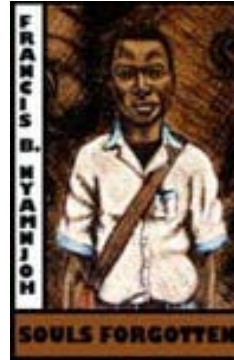
It is a thorough, insightful, rich and enlightening first-hand source on a political landmark that has never been told before in this way. In a vivid style with a great sense of humour, Percival's witty, cogent, eyewitness and active-participant account deconstructs the rumours and misrepresentations about the February 1961 Plebiscite which was a prelude to reunification and to the present day politics of 'belonging' in Cameroon.

**Souls Forgotten
Francis B. Nyamnjoh**

ISBN 9789956558124 | 360 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

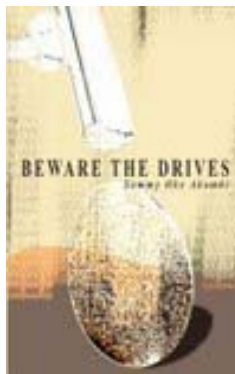
One day, Mama Ngonsu told her son:
"Normally, a child grew up and stayed around to help his parents. The world has changed, and things are no longer as they used to be. Things must not be normal all the time, otherwise life would not be life."
When Emmanuel Kwanga gets a University scholarship, he travels from the lake and hills of Abehema to the Great City. Everyone in the village has invested in

him their hopes for the good life. When the life they've imagined is cut short by the University guillotine, Emmanuel Kwanga must struggle to make sense of what the good life means - for himself and for Abehema - in a world where things are no longer as they used to be. This novel is about coming of age and coming to terms in Mimboland. It is also about the fragility of life and the strength of the human spirit. The filth and screaming splendor of the city and the perplexed tranquility of the village are juxtaposed, as the tension and conviviality between tradition and modernity are lived and explored. Roads and drivers, dreams and public transport link different geographies. Faltering along or speeding away, these spaces of risk, frustration and solidarity are filled with popular songs as vehicles for understanding events and relationships. With every crossing of the Pont de Maturité the story flows, and its mysteries surge. In this novel, the worlds of the living and the dead intermingle, as do the natural and the supernatural, the visible and the invisible.



Beware the Drives
Sammy Oke Akombi

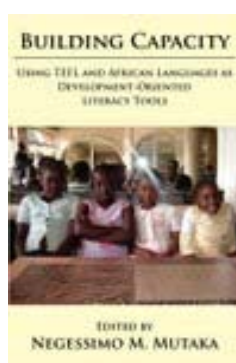
ISBN 9789956558858 | 76 pages | 203 x 127 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



This collection of verse, which has mostly short poems, some of which are two-liners, is an outcome of several years of keen observation of the very nature of man. The observation brought this writer to the conclusion that man is dominated by fear and in his effort to conquer it, he resorts to unbridled aggression. Such aggression has been very instrumental in much of the success that humanity has been able to achieve, so far. But at the same time, the same aggression in man's nature has been responsible for the pleasure he takes in the ruthless destruction of his own kind, the environment in which he cushions himself, plants and animals.

**Building Capacity
Using TEFL and African Languages
as Development-oriented Literacy Tools**
Edited by Ngessimo M. Mutaka

ISBN 9789956558087 | 204 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



Building Capacity promotes the vision that the teaching of African languages can best achieve its aim of boosting the economic and cultural development of the Africans, if they are made to work in synergy with a revamping of the course contents of international languages that will be taught within the frame of a development-oriented literacy curriculum. Great emphasis is put on the oral skills in the use of African languages, as they are to serve as a link between the community and the school for the ultimate revitalization of the positive aspects of African cultures in a world beset by globalization. The book is supplemented with a sample of texts in the appendix intended as a bridge between formal texts taught in classrooms and literacy texts that can raise the genuine interests of the local populations in that they address their immediate needs. Among the possible topics language teachers are encouraged to explore in their classes are those concerning economic development, but also such issues as health, education, the environment, food security, and conflict resolution.

Disturbing the Peace
Emmanuel Achu

ISBN 9789956558841 | 184 pages | 216 x 140 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback

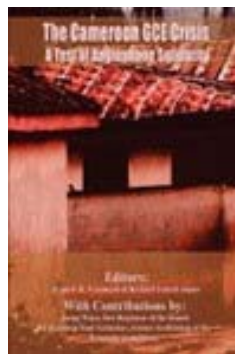
If Minna has a successful career, a loving husband, wonderful children - all well-deserved - is it compulsory that she must also toil for a reckless sister who has diametrically opposed priorities? Her biased mother thinks so. What if the sister dumps her child on Minna's veranda and vamooses and in trying to find the sister to give back her child, there appear some strange persons and a cult intended on grabbing the child? A decision has to be made and made fast. How could Minna ever envisage that in trying to help her careless sister and baby while

taking care of her own family she would end up antagonising everyone in spite of her desperate battle to spread love to all? Just where are her priorities? How prepared is she for the unexpected conclusion to her simmering travails? Hell definitely breaks loose in this emotionally charged family saga in which Emmanuel Achu carves a world where such opposites as love and hate, sympathy and apathy, despair and hope, fear and courage, friendship and enmity reside as bedfellows. *Disturbing the Peace* is definitely a lyrical treat where you would be shocked to discover that being responsible can equate to being cursed.



**The Cameroon GCE Crisis
A Test of Anglophone Solidarity
Edited by Richard Fonteh Akum & Francis B. Nyamnjoh**

ISBN 9789956558155 | 376 pages | 229 x 152 mm | 2008 |
Langaa RPCIG, Cameroon | Paperback



This book richly documents the battles fought by the Anglophone community in Cameroon to safeguard the General Certificate of Education (GCE), a symbol of their cherished colonial heritage from Britain, from attempts by agents of the Ministry of National Education to subvert it. These battles opposed a mobilised and determined Anglophone civil society against numerous machinations by successive Francophone-dominated governments to destroy their much prided educational system in the name of 'national integration'. When Southern Cameroonians re-united with La République du Cameroun in 1961, they claimed that they were bringing into the union 'a fine education system' from which their Francophone compatriots could borrow. Instead, they found themselves battling for decades to save their way of life. Central to their concerns and survival as a community is an urgent need for cultural recognition and representation, of which an educational system free of corruption and trivialisation through politicisation is a key component.

8. Finances

Langaa received remittances of about 1500 British Pounds from African Books Collective for the sale of its books by Print on Demand for 2007/2008. We hope that with more titles, this amount would increase to the benefit and satisfaction of Langaa and its authors.

9. Conclusions

- Centre was set up as planned.
- Equipment and computers acquired as planned.
- We published 37 titles, above the 30 mark that was set for the year. Amongst this number, there were also non-Cameroonian authors.
- We witnessed a very high increase in manuscript submissions and publications requests from both Cameroonian and non Cameroonian authors.
- Two research projects were able to kick off.
- We have also witnessed an increase in visits to the centre, congratulatory messages and calls for collaboration.
- We received 1500 British Pounds from African Books Collective, Oxford, from the sale of Langaa books by Print on Demand.
- We are still unable to fully run without financial support. However, this is expected to change in 2009.
- In 2009, we intend to increase output to 50 books and begin a special series for academic publishing.
- We also plan to increase accommodation at the centre so as to move gradually towards sustainability.
- We have also began negotiations with the Dordrecht City Council in the Netherlands for funding publications on local culture and writer exchange.
- The number of French language and, especially indigenous language publications will increase.

