

Foreword by
WOLE SOYINKA



CELEBRATING
D.O. FAGÚNWA

Aspects of African and World Literary History

Edited by
Ade'lékè Adéèkó & Akin Adéşòkàn

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♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

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Editors

Adéléké Adéèkó & Akin Adéşòkàn

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THE FÁGÚNWÀ STUDY GROUP

The Fágúnwà Study Group started out as a series of conversations among a group of scholars who desire to expand the frontiers of research into Yorùbá culture and its global impact. Fágúnwà was a central figure in those conversations and the original idea was to publish a special issue of a journal on him and his work. The realisation that we were then just two years away from the fiftieth anniversary of his passing focused our thoughts on the possibility of a signal event to mark the milestone. The Fágúnwà Study Group is the informal group that coalesced around the idea of the commemoration, which was marked with the international conference in Akure, Ondo State, in August 2013. This volume of essays is an outcome of that conference. It is our hope that the group lives on beyond the commemoration.

Members of the Fagunwa Study Group are Adeleke Adeekó, Morádéwuń Adéjùnmòbí, Akiñ Adésòkàn, Kúnlé Ajíbádé, Túndé Babáwálé, Délé Láyíwọ́lá, Tejúmọ́lá Ọláńíyan, Wùmí Rájí, Pamela Olúbùnmi Smith and Olúfẹ́mi Táíwò.

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This volume is based on essays presented at the international conference on D.O. Fágúnwà held in Akure, Nigeria, in August 2013. It situates Fágúnwà's work in broad intellectual and disciplinary contexts, viewing literary creation as both a distillation of a variety of disciplines and an ongoing conversation with them. Born 1903 in Òkè-Igbó, Ondo State, to Christian convert parents, Fágúnwà is universally recognised as one of the most well-known figures in the pioneering generation of African writers, although he did not write extensively in any of the African Europhonic languages employed by other famous writers. A visionary author and intellectual, Fágúnwà was concerned with making a 'special contribution to the literary history of the world'.

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'Taken together, the essays collected in this book create a veritable interdisciplinary scholarly discourse on the works of (Fágúnwà), an important pioneer of printed literature in the Yoruba language. I greatly enjoyed reading...this book!'

-Rita Nnodim, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

'This volume of essays, written by seventeen foremost Africanist scholars (will)...be attractive nationally and internationally to teachers and students of African literature, African-language literature, translation, and creative writing. The language of the writing is consistently available to the general public, and suitable for scholarly interrogations. The contributors maintain a recurrent pattern of presentation, enabling a fluid movement from chapter to chapter, thus demonstrating an editorial integrity that gives a holistic dimension to the work.'

-Akintunde Akinyemi, University of Florida.

