

DAWORD

The Vienna African Writers (VAW)

Quarterly Newsletter



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University of Vienna
Department of African Studies
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End of the Year VAW Christmas Party

17 December 2015



Venue: Department of African Studies

The VAW end of the year/Poetry Slam Party was attended by twenty-four participants. The event was chaired by Tomi Adeaga and she was supported by the VAW team. All of the participants introduced themselves and they were given the time to get to know each other.

Five participants had registered for the competition, Eric Mwathi, Mathias Müller, Hanna, Sarah Udoh and Davis Nejo. The judges were Mary Bodomo, Chibo Onyeji, and Budunki Chihungi. In line with the VAW guidelines, each of the participants performed three poems. It was indeed a lively competition in which Eric came 1st, Hanna Mikosus came 2nd and Davis Nejo came 3rd. And they won 50 €, 30 € and 20€ respectively. Afterwards, Solomon Ogbodo and Ashura Kayupayupa read poems to the audience and Udoh talked about her work as an author and poet.





Poetry performers Davis Nejo and Ashura Kayupayupa.



Poetry performers Mathias Müller, Hanna and Sarah Udoh.

Chibo Onyeji glances keenly at the camera.



Tomi Adeaga smiles cheerfully.

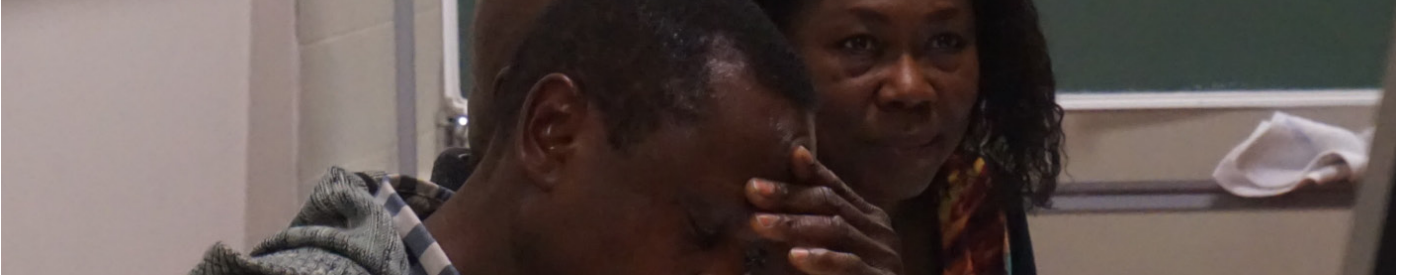


Ashura Kayupayupa and Adams Bodomo share a joke.



Kwame Opoku gestures in conversation.





Judges Mary Bodomomo (right), Chibo Onyeji (center) and Bunduki Chihungi (left) consider the performances of each contestant and discuss their scores.



Our poets in action!

Tomi Adeaga hands the first prize to Eric Mwathi, the second prize to Hanna and the third prize to Davis Nejo.





Professor Adams Bodomo thanked everyone for being part of the VAW club. He then gave three book vouchers to Sarah Udoh, Ashura Kayupayupa and Victoria Rosenberger. There were various other discussions that took place while everyone was having the buffet.

Vienna African Writers (Club) Monthly Meeting

21 January 2016

This first meeting in 2016 was attended by 12 participants and chaired by Tomi Adeaga. It took place at the African Studies Institute of the University of Vienna. As is now our usual practice, the meeting was kicked off with introductions by all participants after which the forum was opened for discussions. Eric Mwathi read a captivating story called "Anecdotes," taken from his new collection of short stories called: Labour Day. Since he is a publisher, participants were encouraged to publish their works of fiction with him. Both Mary Bodomu and Busi Jonathan talked about their upcoming books and they were encouraged to bring them to the next meeting so that they can share them with the audience and get feedback. Solomon Gobodo also read the poem he is still working on with the participants who found it quite interesting and encouraged him to write more poems. Finally, Dr. Kwame Opoku also shared a bit of his analysis of the poetry written on the late Guinean-Cape Verdean revolutionary and author, Amilcar Cabral. He promised to talk more about it during the next meeting that will take place on March 17th 2016.



Participants gather in as a round table, chatting, smiling and posing for phtographs.





Adams Bodomo

Kà Té Làng Táá

(© 1995 A.B. Bodomo)

Kààrá má
Kyé wá nyéré má.
Váálá lá fú làng táá béé?
Kà té déè kòng tòò pùorì táá.
Kààrá má
Kyé wá nyéré má.
Váálá lá fú làng táá béé?
Kà té déè kòng tòò zèng kòg táá.
Kààrá má
Kyé wá nyéré má.
Váálá lá fú làng táá béé?
Kà té déè kòng tòò sòng táá.
Kààrá má
Kyé wá nyéré má.
Váálá lá fú làng táá béé?
Kà té déè kòng tòò nòng táá.
Kààrá má
Kyé wá nyéré má.
Váálá lá fú làng táá béé?
Kà té déè kòng tòò tàà táá.
Kààrá má
Kyé wá nyéré má.
Váálá lá fú làng táá béé?
Kà té déè kòng tòò làng táá.
Kààrá má
Kyé wá nyéré má.
N Mábíá,
Nàng è kà té pùorì táá,
À nòng táá
À sòng táá
À tàà táá
À làng táá
Nààngmén yúorí éngá!

Verbünden wir uns

Du siehst mich
Aber du siehst mich nicht.
Bringt uns Unsinn näher zusammen?
Wir können einander nicht grüßen.
Du siehst mich
Aber du siehst mich nicht.
Bringt uns Unsinn näher zusammen?
Wir können nicht nah beieinander sein.
Du siehst mich
Aber du siehst mich nicht.
Bringt uns Unsinn näher zusammen?
Wir können einander nicht helfen.
Du siehst mich
Aber du siehst mich nicht.
Bringt uns Unsinn näher zusammen?
Wir können einander nicht lieben.
Du siehst mich
Aber du siehst mich nicht.
Bringt uns Unsinn näher zusammen?
Wir können einander nicht unterstützen.
Du siehst mich
Aber du siehst mich nicht.
Bringt uns Unsinn näher zusammen?
Wir können einander nicht vervollständigen.
Du siehst mich
Aber du siehst mich nicht.
Mein Bruder, Meine Schwester,
Bitte lasst uns einander grüßen,
Einander lieben
Einander helfen
Einander unterstützen
Einander vervollständigen
Im Namen Gottes!

(Ins Deutsche übertragen von: Bettina Stein)



Daniel R. Bitouh

Gniogn ni à tipíá*

Kiák nu sung sungé pân pâm?
Kiák?
Nua piàn punèm pu pap wà nò.
Nu ti kalaka, punèm puètè ka yók.
Nu ti kalaka punèm puètè ka yók.
O nèmàm piananè mo noyiten
Nu tiendè nè pènd pam banè ku nu sal
Nu tiendè nè pènd pambanè ku nu sal
Nu tiendè nè pènd pam banè piti
Kiák nu sung sungé pân pâm?
Kiák?
Nu tipa nu pian ossok nàmàah?
Nu tipa nu pian ossok nàmàah?
Nu ti kalaka tu kayen passo péém.
Nu ti kalaka tu kayen passo péém.
Pianon, pianon, pianon...
Pianana ni a dimàn aw wò kòn
Pianan, pianan, pianan...
Pionono ni a dimàn aw wé kèti
Kiák nu sung sungé pân pâm?
Kiák?

*Atipia's lamentation
(written in *yangben*).

Atipias Klagelied*

Warum streitet ihr, meine Kinder?
Warum?
Ihr besitzt die Reichtümer eures Vaters.
Wenn ihr nicht aufpasst, wird dieser Reichtum schwinden.
Wenn ihr nicht aufpasst, wird dieser Reichtum schwinden.
Mein Mann Pianana sagte euch:
Vermeidet jene Kerle, die euch trennen wolln.
Vermeidet die Wege jener Leute, die euch trennen wolln.
Vermeidet die Wege jener Leute, die euch trennen wolln.
Warum streitet ihr, meine Kinder?
Warum?
Habt ihr kein Mitleid mit mir?
Habt ihr kein Mitleid mit mir?
Wenn ihr nicht aufpasst, wird dieser Reichtum schwinden.
Wenn ihr nicht aufpasst, wird dieser Reichtum schwinden.
Pianono, pianono, pianono...
Pianana ist dein Großbruder
Pianana, pianana, pianana...
Pionono ist dein Kleinbruder
Warum streitet ihr, meine Kinder?
Warum?

*German translation. The English translation is coming.



Writers' Corner: Eric Mwathi

My Passion as a Poet, Author and Anthologist

After studying Diplomatic Studies in Vienna, International Relations in Wales, and going back to Vienna to read Global Studies and Global History, my greatest passion still lays in creative writing, and the fine arts. This had the effect that while starting to work for NGO's and Market Research Institutions, I still found the time to widely experiment with writing works of fiction. That considered, I found out that the most beautiful part in literature was found in poetry and poetic metre. Poetry includes a unique mixture of elegance, flexibility, and rhythm that cannot be found in other forms of creative expression to the same extent. One cannot rhyme in music, painting, or prose. The works of Shakespeare, Goethe or Dante would be unimaginable without poetry.

Even though I was probably the worst "metrist" in my high school English class, metre's importance became known to me when I experimented with poems in different metrical variations, which are variations that have been developed for over three millennia and which therefore can be experimented with in an almost infinite number of ways. To increase my knowledge of non-Greek prosody, I took additional online courses on Welsh and Japanese metre, and also took courses on the writing of children's poems and on sonnet variations.

My knowledge in forms of poetry also made me interested in different forms of short fiction that authors like Kafka, Chekov or Turgenev experimented with, such as the anecdote, the sketch, or the Bauerngeschichte (village tale), all of which I have experimented with as well.

I was happy to write prose and poetry for myself, but found it worth trying to get my poetry published and succeeded in doing so under publications such as Staxtes Greek Literary Magazine, Tigershark Press, and Tongue Magazine.

It was not always easy to find magazines willing to publish my work which was why I also decided that it was important for me to make it easier for other writers to find a place where they can publish their works too. So, after running an informal literary magazine from a blog, I changed it into a more sophisticated digital online magazine, which now has over a hundred followers, before my first book of poetry, named *Black Psalms*, became a bestseller on Amazon:



Black Psalms

Poems
NEW EDITION

by Eric Mwathi

Edited by Robert Chamberlain

Eccentric Press

This publication followed a collection of poetry in dactylic hexameters, which are metrical lines that Homer also used to write the *Odyssey*, *Iliad* and his *Homeric Hymns*. This collection of poetry of mine is what I called *Epylia and Heroic Crowns*, which was greatly commended by friends and by the metrical critic, Timothy Steele:

Epylia and Heroic Crowns also includes the sonnet redoubtlet, which are fourteen sonnets in which the fifteenth sonnet consists of the last line of the previous fourteen sonnets in the poem. After that, I called my latest book of poetry *Frottola*, which I think is my best collection of poetry so far:

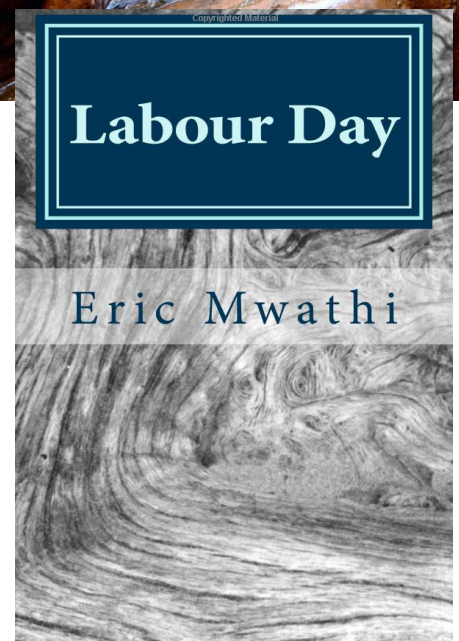
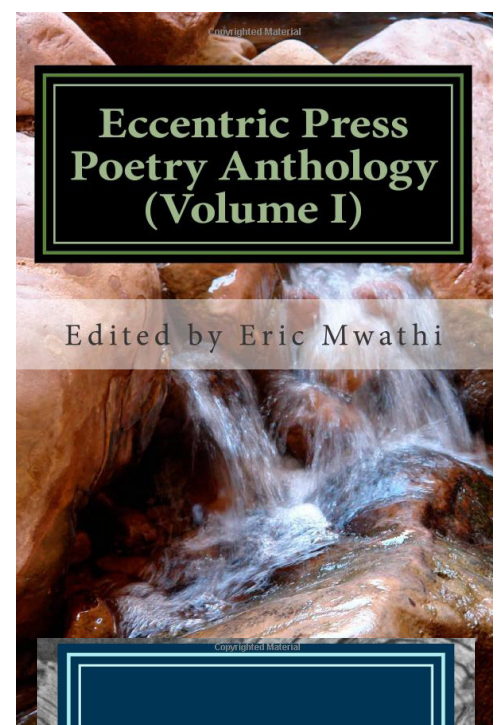
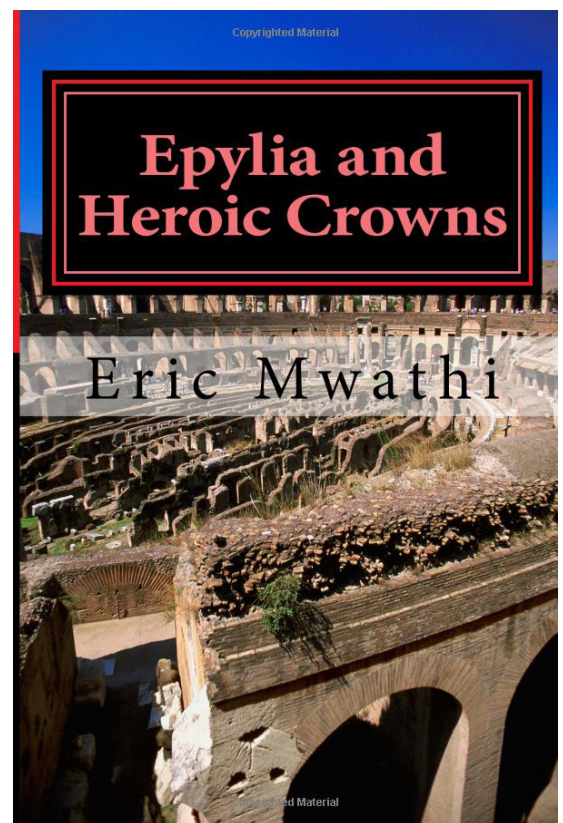
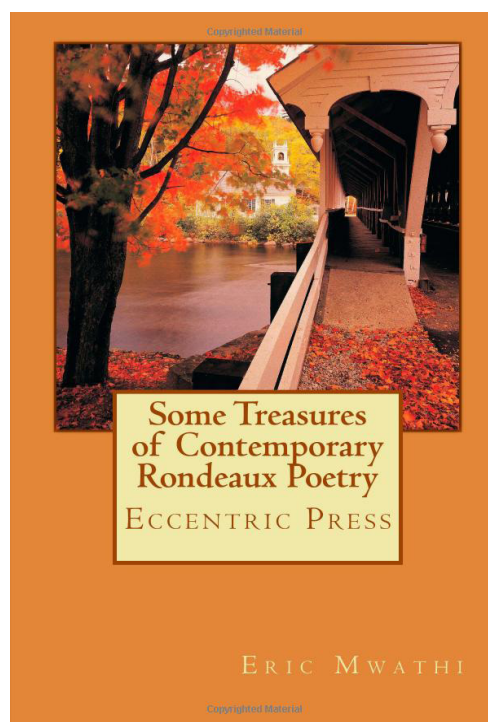
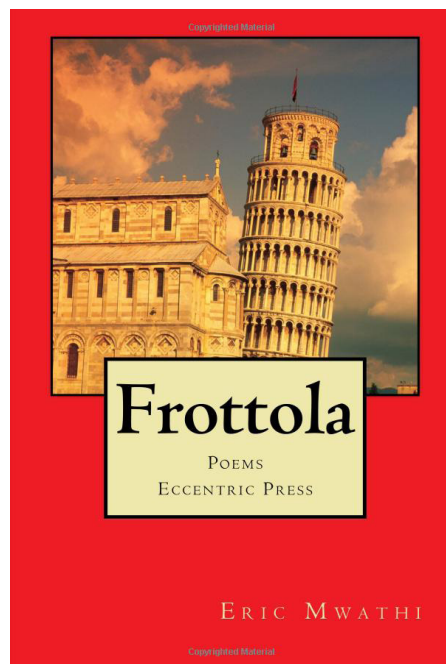
During the time in which I had written poetry I had also published the *Eccentric Press Anthology*, because Eccentric Press is the name of my literary label:

After publishing that anthology mentioned, I thought that since there are anthologies with poems in all kinds of poetic forms, and almost none which specialise on Rondeau Poetry (poems with refrains that have been largely invented in medieval France) I decided to publish an anthology of contemporary Rondeau poetry:

For those who are interested in reading my latest work, my next work will include my first collection of short stories in a book called *Labour Day*:

I still occasionally accept poems when I advertise calls for submissions for a new anthology on my publishing label's website called eccentricpress.com and truly hope to hear from you and your work.

- Eric Mwathi





Sarah Udoh-Grossfurthner

Just An Ordinary Guy, another great work by Sarah Udoh-Grossfurthner:

To purchase visit the url:

[https://www.amazon.de/gp/aw/d/B019FOO50M/](https://www.amazon.de/gp/aw/d/B019FOO50M/ref=mp_s_a_1_1?qid=1452247278&sr=8-1&pi=AC_SX236_SY340_QL65&keywords=just+an+ordinary+guy)

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&keywords=just+an+ordinary+guy



How To Submit Your Work!

Daworo Guidelines

Daworo is a quarterly newsletter distributed in print at the Grand Poetry Slam event organized by the Vienna African Writers Club.

Deadlines: We take submissions up to 10 days after each literary event. Please take note of our event schedules by liking our Facebook page or by signing up to the mailing list.

Submissions: Submissions should be emailed to:

Hasiyatu Abubakari
hasiyatu.abubakari@univie.ac.at
University of Vienna Department of African Studies

Format: Please label your email in the subject line as “Daworo Submission” with your name and type of item.

[e.g. Daworo Submission – Item Type – First Name, Last Name]

Physical Submission: If you attend an event and have an announcement, it will be noted down along with your contact information. If you submit a hard copy of your writing, you will also need to submit an electronic copy before the deadline.

Number of Submissions: You may submit as many items as you wish.

Types of Work Accepted: Poetry, Prose, VAW-member announcements, event announcements, literary contributions (e.g. book reviews, book launches and book readings), and photographs of our events.

Types of Work Not Accepted: Commercial Advertisement, announcements unrelated to African literary arts, organizational announcements not in partnership with VAW.

Content Standards: All submissions must be your original work and should relate to African literary arts. African writing is conceptualized as any form of writing that addresses and expresses African themes and conditions in African languages or in any other languages. Work by Africans and non-Africans alike are welcome. We also appreciate photographs in HD.

Editing: Edits made by Daworo will be published only with the author’s permission.

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Mailing List: For event reminders and calls for submissions, please sign up to our mailing list by contacting: Ms. Caroline Pajancic
caroline.pajancic@univie.ac.at
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Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Vienna-African-Writers-Club-The-VAW-Club/804750209580687>

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