

DAWORD

The Vienna African Writers (VAW)

Quarterly Newsletter



Volume 2, Issue 2, June 2015

University of Vienna

African Studies Department

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Contact:

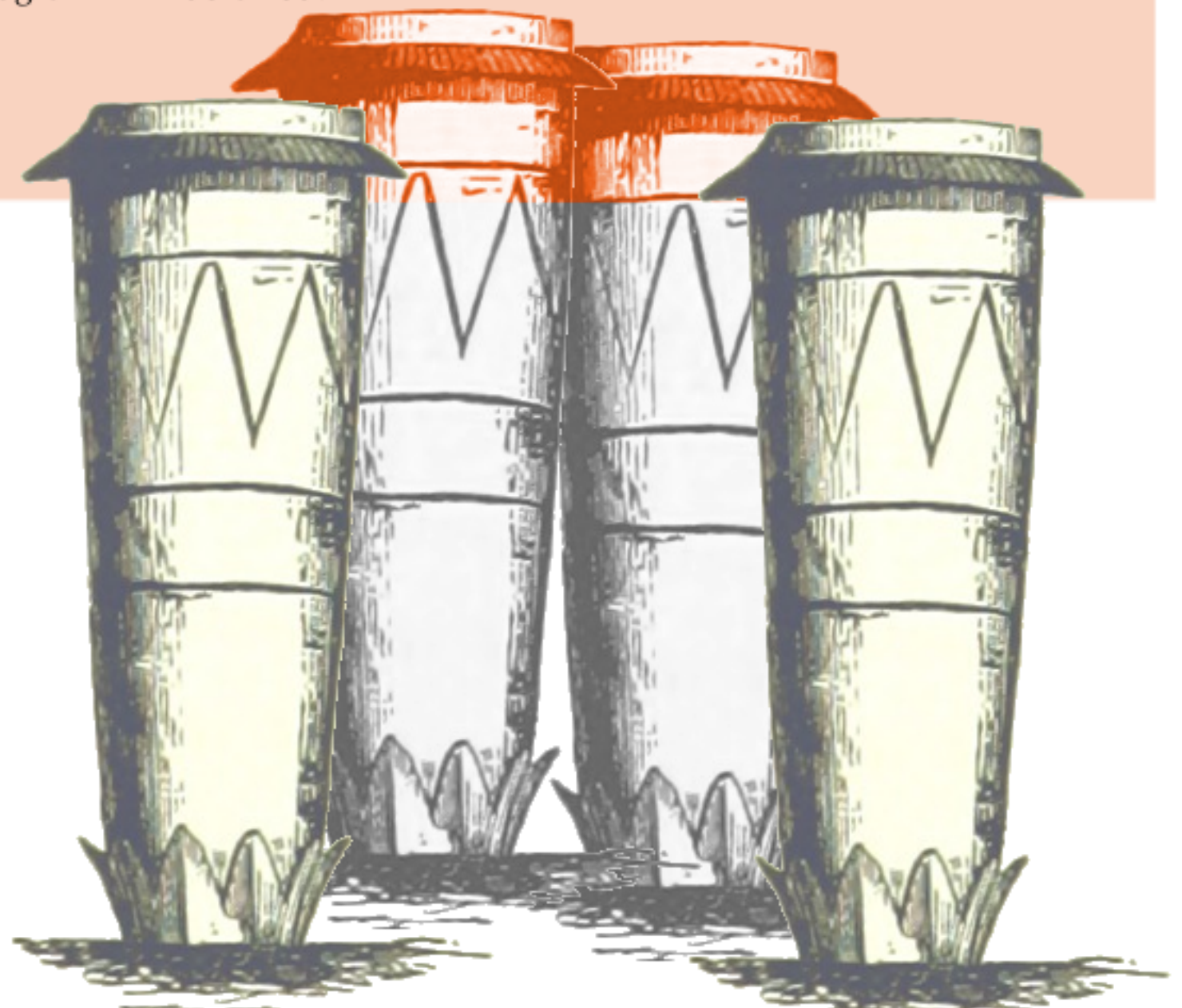
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Poetry Slam Competition

This was the first VAW event in 2015 and it started with a poetry slam competition. It was attended by 25 participants and took place at the Afro-Asiatic Institute. Tomi Adeaga moderated it and welcomed everyone who had come to take part in it. The Radio Afrika crew was present right from the beginning and they filmed the whole event. The judges of the poetry slam competition were: Philo Ikonya, Chihungi Budunki and Sarah Udoh. The competitors were Yayra Sumah, Mfilinge Nyalusi and Ashura Kayupayupa. Sumah won the first cash prize of 50 €; Nyalusi came second and won 30 € and Kayupayupa came third and won 20 €. Afterwards, as is the VAW tradition, members of the audience were invited to talk about their literary projects and other topics related to the African continent. The conversation went on till the end of the program and beyond it. Radio Afrika conducted interviews with the poetry slam competitors and the judges and will let us know when the program will be aired.



March 19th 2015

VAW Club monthly meeting



April 23rd 2015



The VAW monthly event took place at the African Studies Institute. It was attended by 14 participants.

The moderation of the event was taken over by Tomi Adeaga and everyone was called upon to talk about various topics related to literary production.

The conversation was so lively that it went on late into the night.

At the event, the following questions were raised:

1. A poetry festival should be held every 2 years (Chibo Onyeji)
2. A concept should be put in place as to how VAW can help its regular members to publish their book manuscripts.
3. Workshops should be organized for budding poets and writers.
4. A mentorship project should be put in place.

This should be in form of a database (email form) in which members can ask questions that will be responded to by other members who may wish to do so.

5. There should be prizes for book productions that should be Africa based and also boost VAW's standing.

We can think of how to get funding for the prizes.

All these questions will be addressed by the VAW team over time and shared with members of the club.



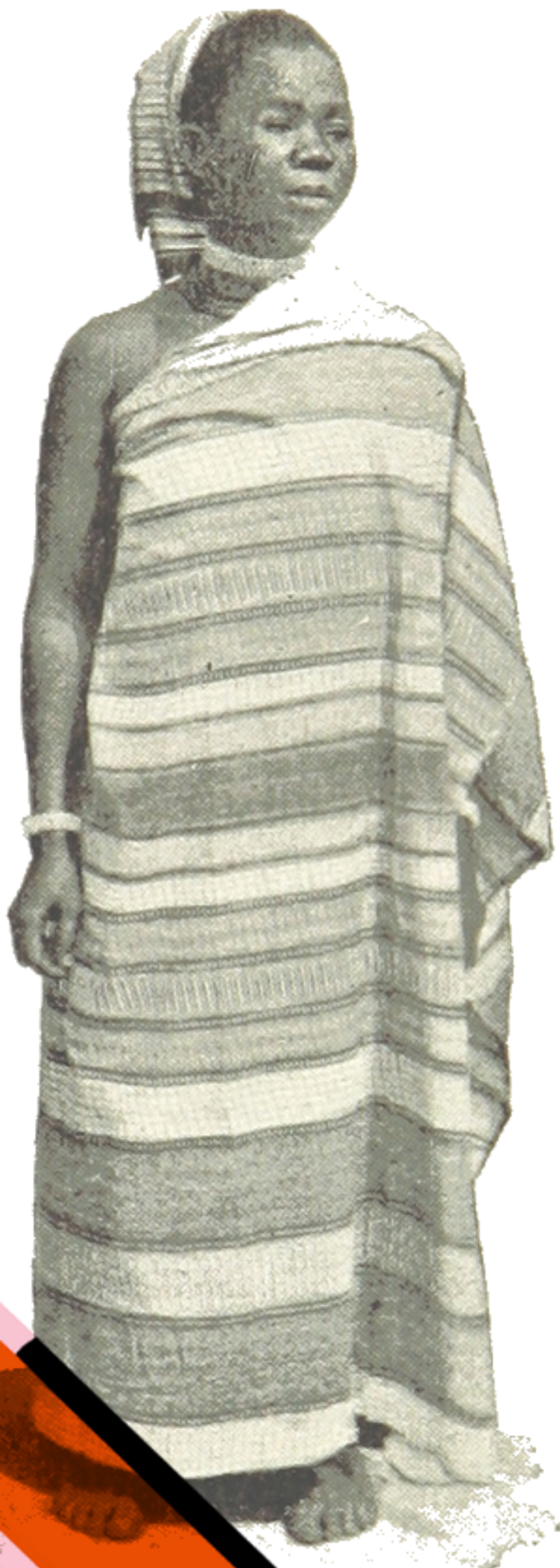
VAW members engage in active discussion over issues of translation, the publishing market and other concerns relating to African literature.

*Images from left to right:
Sarah Udoh-Grossfurthner,
Helmuth A. Niederle, Chibo
Onyeji, Adams Bodomo,
Tomi Adeaga, Philo Ikonya,
Victor Eghe Okundaye*



The Tree of Life

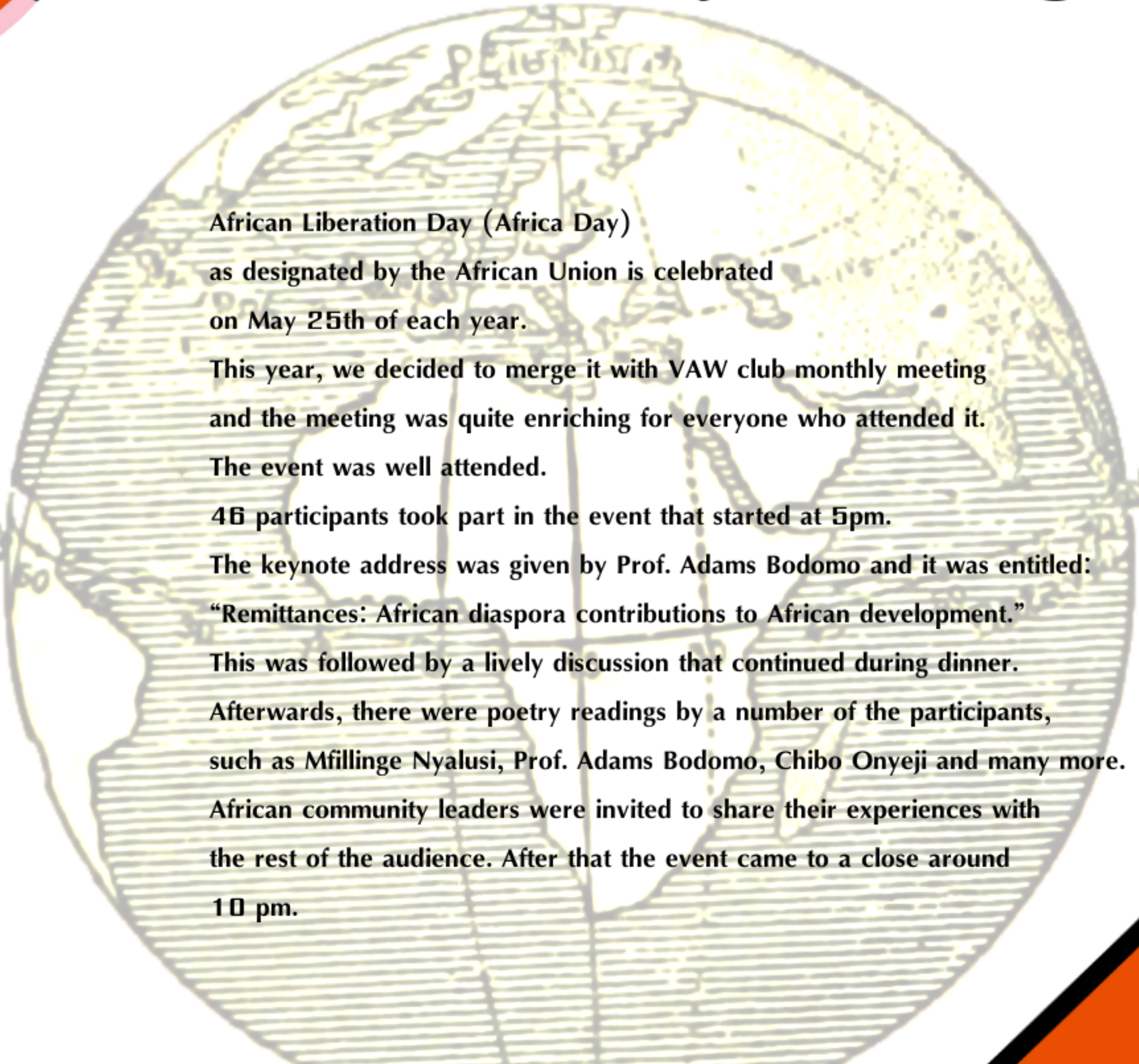
A Poem by Victor Eghe Okundaye



With a series of ear-breaking sounds
Signalled by fire and brimstone
The thunder wakes up the other powers of the universe
The cloud swirls above in the sky
Changing shapes and colours as the minutes tick by
The wind blows with a whistling intensity
Adding spiritual melody to a forceful gale
And then the rain, in a million tiny drops from above
Hits the earth as the dust rises in a ceremonial appreciation
The African gods of Shango, Olokun, Orunmila and Ogun have spoken
Mother nature, made up of the earth, water, air and fire
Have converged in a mystical concert
A new life is born, but not of flesh and blood
Rooted in the earth and fed by the rain
Energized by the sunrays and comforted by the soft wind
A young tree rises from the once dusty soil
With a green foliage, fresh and fragile like the yolk of an egg
The seed of life has germinated
To blossom in diversity and for eternity
I am like a flower in the bud
My shape is unknown
My colours yet unseen
Human insects ready to pollinate me
To see the beginning of my existence
I am the tree of life
I am the African Child



Africa Day/VAW Club monthly meeting



**African Liberation Day (Africa Day)
as designated by the African Union is celebrated
on May 25th of each year.**

**This year, we decided to merge it with VAW club monthly meeting
and the meeting was quite enriching for everyone who attended it.
The event was well attended.**

46 participants took part in the event that started at 5pm.

**The keynote address was given by Prof. Adams Bodomo and it was entitled:
“Remittances: African diaspora contributions to African development.”**

This was followed by a lively discussion that continued during dinner.

**Afterwards, there were poetry readings by a number of the participants,
such as Mfillinge Nyalusi, Prof. Adams Bodomo, Chibo Onyeji and many more.**

**African community leaders were invited to share their experiences with
the rest of the audience. After that the event came to a close around
10 pm.**

May 21st 2015



Yayra Sumah, Martina Jefcoat and Victor Okundaye chat whilst enjoying the African food.



Victoria Rosenberger makes a new acquaintance.



Hasiyatu Abubakari poses with a student, Yohanna, who is pursuing the African Studies B.A. degree.



Adams Bodomo smiles with fellow colleague Fatoumata Stahl-Diakite.



Victoria Rosenberger and Mfilinge Nyalusi laugh at one of Kwame Opoku's witty remarks.



Participants enjoy the variety of food offered during the break.



VAW members, new-comers, professionals, students and community leaders discuss their work and share their perspectives with the audience.





Adams Bodomo gives an emphatic speech about the importance of celebrating Africa Day, the impact of his research on African diaspora remittances, and many more engaging topics that sparked discussion.



Participants pose at the end of the event for a group photo.



Kwame Opoku reads out his commentary and analysis of poems that participants presented to the audience.

Chibo Onyeji

OLILEANYA UDUMMIRI

Mkpurụ ụbọchị olenole
Na ngwuchwa okochi
Mgbe o na-afodu obere
Ka udummiri lughachi
Okporouzo anyi dum
Ma nkwu na ukwa na ihe
Na-ejuputa n'etum
Na-eche ka mmiri lota
Saa ha ihu okara afu
Ikwu na ibe na-ehuru
N'olileanya udummiri
Na-eche ka mmiri lota
Wujulata elu na ala.

Chibo Onyeji



DIE REGEN ERWARTEN

*Wenn es nur mehr eine kurze Frist
bis zum Ende der Trockenzeit,
wenn nur mehr wenig geblieben ist,
dann sind die Regen nicht mehr weit.
Auf allen unseren Straßen und
den Palmen und Brotfruchtbäumen
liegt Staub und alles wartet
auf die Rückkehr der Regen, um sich
das Gesicht zu waschen nach einem halben Jahr.
Land und Leute sinnen auf
und erwarten die Regen, ja
beten um die Rückkehr der Regen,
die Himmel und Erde besänftigen.*

Ins Deutsche übertragen von:

Harald Pichlhofer, Smart Eze und Chibo Onyeji

(From Chibo Onyeji: Nsibiri, edition innsalz, 2001)

Summer

*We will be back with events and activities in October
and wish you a happy summer break with the following poem!*

Leisure Time

A time to sleep late

A time to lie in bed till late

A time to make strong white coffee

A time to sip slowly and eat sticky toffee

A time to forget about all cares the world over

A time to roll and take a stroll

A time to toss crickets to a fowl

A time to watch waddling ducks and ducklings at their game

Rowing in a small boat is the best.

Water splashing all over at leisure.

Waves rocking the small container up and down.

At a distance a sardines diving as a swimmers at their best.

After a long tiresome and rewarding time of work,

Nothing is as refreshing and rewarding as leisure time.



Sibusisiwe Jonathan

Editorial Board:

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African
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