

Then how come that Akuba's stepfather was not prepared to stay with the stepdaughter. Had it been him who had a child, would he have expected Akuba's mother to live with that Child?

There is also the resilience of women, from Mampa who accept to bring up Akuba, as well as her mother whose determination to have her daughter educated could not be dimmed by an unfeeling husband. In the end, perseverance did it. Women must not be daunted by the obstacles. They can succeed.

In 'Some Global News: A Short Far-Voice Report,' the international dimension is brought into the picture and how human beings virtually behave the same way.

In 'Lice', the author touches on a major social problem, the tendency for men to abandon their children to their wives and leave the

upbringing of such children to the women. The frustrations and the thought of your man in

the arms of another woman, all these can affect the moral and psychology of women to think negatively.

But as happened with Sissie, how can a mother kill herself and her daughter out of frustration. So, even after Sissie had poured petrol on the head of Baby and herself, she could not bring herself to see their death, hence the decision to put off the lighted match before it caused havoc.

'How should she go about it? Ah, she knew. She should light baby's head first. Then her own. She struck the match. Loud coughing came from beyond the door. Of course, it was Kofi who had coughed. There was also a sound of him turning restlessly in his sleep. He coughed again. Sissie heard it. The match box and the lighted stick fell from Sissie's hands. She sat on the edge of the bed. After a second of being perfectly still, she moved with the greatest effort she must have ever made in her whole life, and brought her foot on the glowing match. Then she threw herself back on the bed and burst into tears'.

'Choosing - a Moral from the World of Work,' is another with philosophy, a great lesson for those with talent. We must always have to make a decision and a choice.

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Ama Ata Aidoo

Not yet the hour of signs

Sola Olorunyomi

WHEN the automobile came, techno-adicts promptly proclaimed that the bicycle's hour of signs had arrived, but somehow after about a century the 'iron horse' continues to redefine its own imperatives. The allusion seems to underscore Bellagio's new initiative which attempts to weigh the impact of the new information technology on the old letter press mode of publishing; and for those conversant only with Bellagio's fellowships to scholars and writers, this must be indeed a welcome development.

Somehow though, 'the

Philip G. Altbach and Damtew Teferra Eds., KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION IN AFRICA: THE ROLE OF SCHOLARLY JOURNALS, Bellagio Publishing Network Massachusetts and Oxford, 1989, 137 PP.

Philip G. Altbach and Damtew Teferra Eds., PUBLISHING AND DEVELOPMENT: A BOOK OF READINGS, Bellagio Publishing Network; co-published with Obor. The International Book Institute, Inc., Massachusetts and Oxford, 1989 190 pp.

'Bellagio Studies in Publishing, 9-publishing'-foregrounds the 'Bellagio Studies in Publishing, 8 -Knowledge' - which merely contextualises the African experience in publishing;

hence, I have taken liberty with this more convenient sequence to draw my observations. Publishing contains nine chapters including 'Current Trends in Book Publish-

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ing' (Philip Altbach); 'Multinationals and Third World Publishing' (Gordon Graham); 'The Economics of Book Publishing' (Datus C. Smith Jr.); 'International Copyright' (Paul Gleason); and 'Distribution: The Neglected Link in the Publishing Chain' (Amadio A. Arboleda).

Others are 'Educational Publishing and Book Provision' (Pernille Askerud); 'The Transition from State to Commercial Publishing Systems in African Countries' (Paul Brickhill); 'Electronic Publishing: New Technologies and Publishing' (Czeslaw Jan Grycz); 'Publishing in the Third World: Issues and Trends for the Twenty-First Century' (Altbach); coupled with an engaging introduction on 'Publishing, Independence, and Development' by the editors.

Basically, the contributions provide us with key readings concerning book publishing in the third world, the role of multinational corporations viz 'the needs of a small industry publishing in low per capital income countries,' as the introductory note states, and the struggle between independence and dependence in the book industry. All contributors are in agreement to the fact that new technologies have radically transformed the book publishing process and distribution, with much of the third world standing peripheral to the major centres of publishing. Graham identifies three factors that have led to the entry of multinationals into the publishing industry namely as: the proliferation of information beyond the capacity that the printed word could efficiently handle, the intervention of the stock market, and the presumption of both buyers and sellers of books that the book would progressively decline as the major vehicle

of communication.

The moment for concern in book piracy, Gleason suggests, is that phase of the emergence of printing-press pirates who are invariably beyond sanction once they operate outside of the laws of a given country, a situation which explains the need for bilateral copyright legislation. A number of posers are raised by Altbach concerning the status of the Third World in the Import/Export of Publications. For instance, he asks: why is the cost of foreign books so high in the Third World; should more books be reprinted in third world countries under license from the original Western publisher; what are the implications of book imports for indigenous Third World publishing; and, how can imports be discouraged and indigenous publishing be advanced without at the same time restricting access to information? These are posers which, one hopes, would invariably have to be taken up both by government agencies and NGOs at the level of policy formulation.

With this background properly laid, one begins to get a better appreciation of knowledge, whose main theme is the role of scholarly journals in Africa.

Altbach explores 'The Role and Nurturing of Journals in the Third World,' Paul Tiyaambe Zeleza - 'The Challenges of Editing Scholarly Journals in Africa,' Teferra - 'The Significance of Information Technology for African Scholarly Journals,' while Jacob Jaygbay considers 'The Politics of and Prospects for African Scholarly Journals in the Information Age.'

SINET: An Ethiopian Journal of Science, is the focus of Legesse Negash's contribution, while Hans M. Zell gives an insight into the world of 'African Journal Publishers in a Digital Environment'. Ana

Maria Cetto's and Octavia Alonso-Gamboa's joint paper is the only exception in exploring though the same theme from the Latin American and Caribbean experience. Zell adds an interesting appendix on journals' marketing on the internet.

Often though, contributors are quite repetitive of one another, with each -irrespective of specified topic - belabouring the reader on basic information on digiscript, E-mail service, computer, and the nature of the internet. One of the strong points of this collection is the editing process which the author identifies as a serious draw back in the scholarly journal process on the continent. The main problem here, he suggests, is the review process, which is poorly developed 'both in terms of referring and communication with authors' (p.29).

It is with the Latin American and Caribbean experience that we are brought into the common problems of Africa and this region. The authors note the problem posed by the language situation whereby scholars have increasingly found themselves having to submit articles in other languages - mainly English - in order to tap into a wider international outreach.

However, the general conclusion drawn is that in spite of the limitations of the traditional print medium of journal publication, it still stands as a tested form of knowledge dispersal and this tradition should be continued, while at the same time 'domesticating' the information super highway in a manner that would best serve African scholars.

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