

Everyman's classics

EVERYMAN Millenium Library described as representing the finest tradition of British book design and production, is printed on wood-free, acid-free paper. Everyman's Millenium Library comprises two hundred and fifty outstanding examples of world literature in English spanning the classics, European works in translation and Commonwealth writers, in addition to mainstream English literature of all periods. The library includes some new titles of regional significance such as *Mabinogion* and Scottish Chaucerians, and modern African classics including Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*.

The first batch of Everyman's classics has already been distributed to secondary schools in the United Kingdom. One thousand and five hundred sets of books will also be presented to schools, colleges and British Council libraries in a total of forty-five Commonwealth and developing world countries.

The gift of the Everyman Millenium Library has been made possible by a Millenium Commission grant, Everyman's Library, generous donations from various British charities, and with the help of the British Council.

The editions sighted in some West African branches of the British Council library recently will be delivered in batches of fifty every six months until spring 2000.



Ifowodo, fifth on first row, among participants at the Rotterdam poetry festival.

Ifowodo's Free Word Award

THE 'Free Word Award' for 1998 was received by the young Nigerian poet, Ogaga Ifowodo. Awarded by the organisation, *Poets of All Nations* in the Netherlands, it is an award given in the main to writers in distress, particularly to those

African Theatre

A NEW Journal *African Theatre* an annual publication, will offer a focus for research, critical discussion, information and creativity in the field of African drama and performance. The editors, Professors Martin Banham (University of Leeds) James Gibbs (University of the West of England) and Femi Osofisan (University of Ibadan) note that the publication's outlook for each issue would be to concentrate on a specific theme, carry full reviews of outstanding productions of, and publications on, African theatre as well as include the text of one previously unpublished play from an African writer.

The maiden issue on 'Theatre in Development' (date of publication: September 1998) features reviews and essays around the work of national playwrights including Alemseged Tesfai, Zakes Mda and Alec Dickson. Field reports also focus on organisations, among which are *The Performance Studio Workshop* in Lagos and *The Eritean Community Theatre*.

Two succeeding numbers of *African Theatre* have been committed to 'playwrights and politics' and 'Southern African Theatre & Performance.' Maximum length of contributions: five thousand words. Editorial address - *African Theatre*, 8 Victoria Square, Bristol BS8 4ET, UK.

in gaol or in danger of death for opinions arising through their creative enterprise.

Ifowodo was arrested in November 1997 near Nigeria's border with Benin Republic along with a fellow writer and journalist, Akin Adesokan, on his way from the United Kingdom where he had been in attendance at the special Commonwealth Session on Nigeria in Edinburgh.

The incriminating item on Akin Adesokan's person had been a photo-card of Ifowodo with Wole Soyinka, at the time Nigeria's most prized exile.

Following his imprisonment between November 1997 and April 1998, Ifowodo was adopted a honorary member of the PEN centres in Germany and Canada as well as the recipient of the Barbara Goldsmith Freedom-to-write award.

Born in May 1966, he was a national student activist while at the university and is currently a lawyer and human rights activist under the Civil Liberties Organisation in Lagos.

His first collection of poetry *Homelands and Other Poems* was published in 1998 as a Kraftgriots title, a literary imprint of Kraft Books in Ibadan. The main poems however have appeared in anthologies, journals and in the literary columns of Nigerian newspapers.