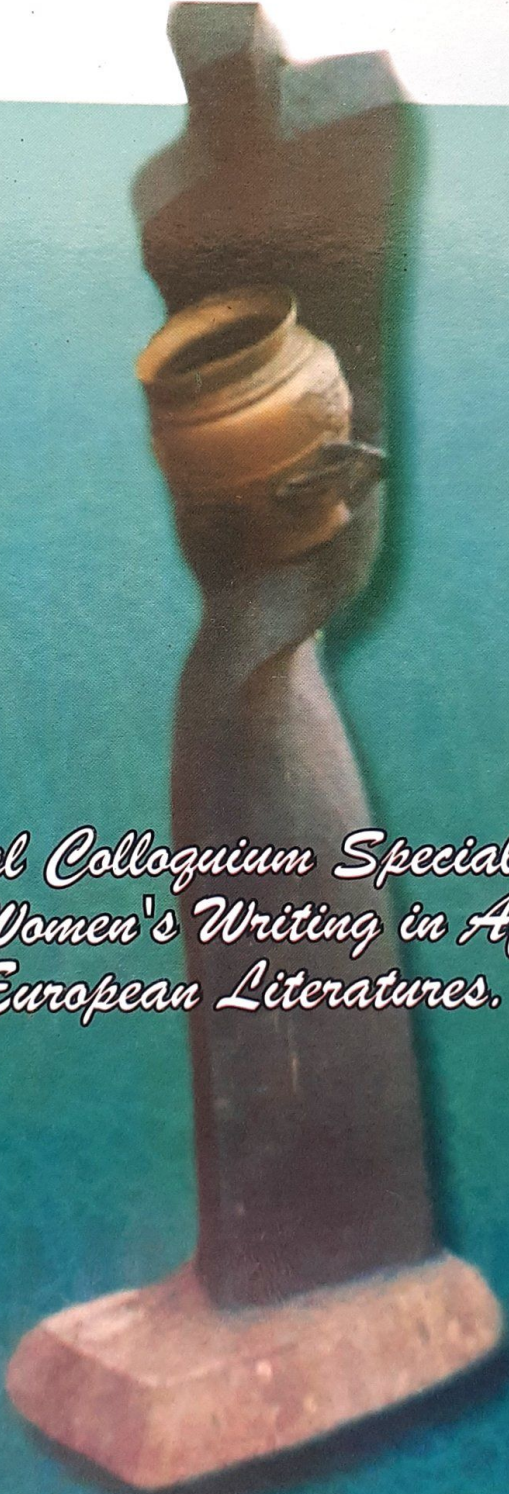


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*International Colloquium Special Edition:
Emergent Women's Writing in African and
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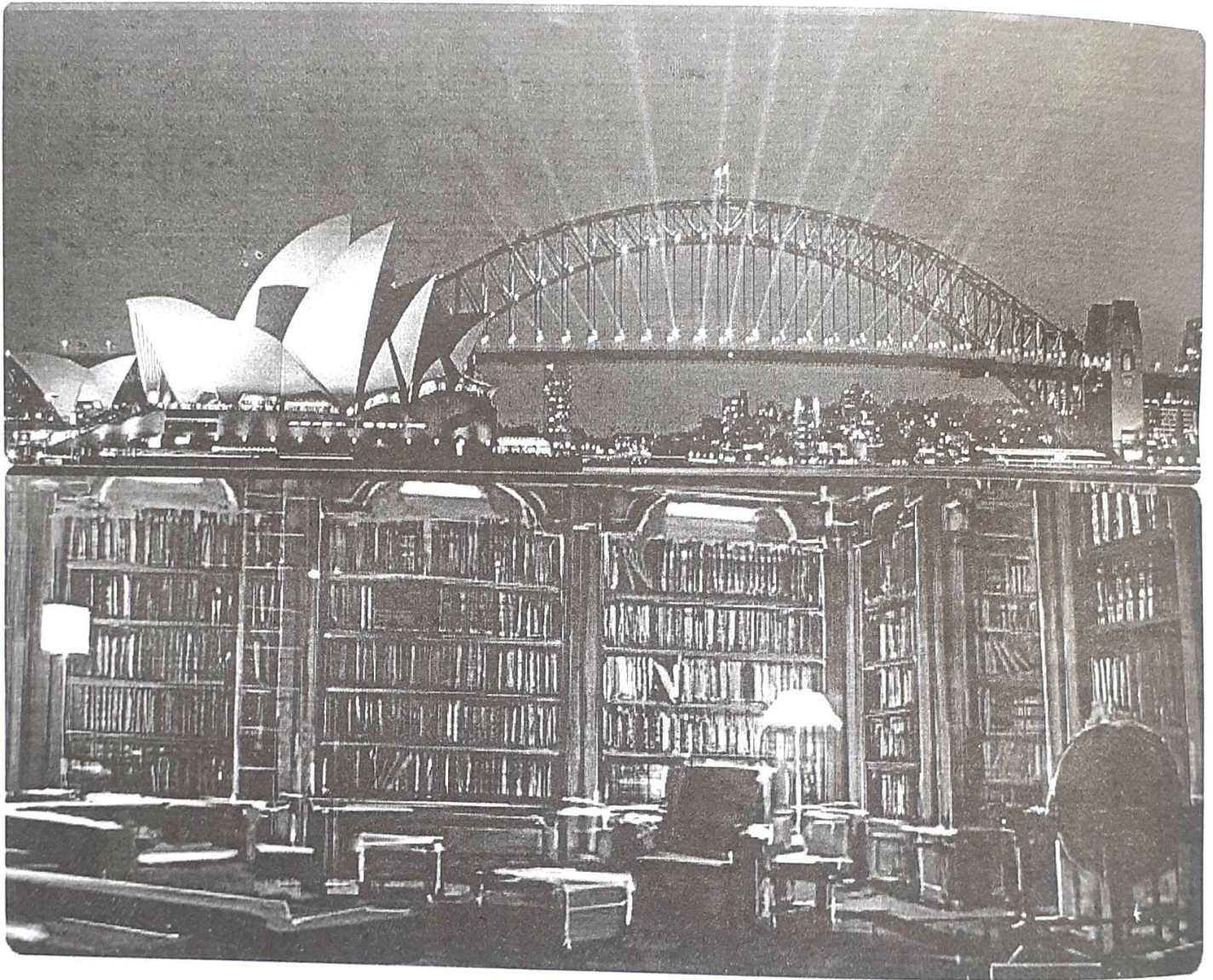
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Editorial.

Nsukka Journal of the Humanities Vol 21, 2013 is a special edition that is dedicated to the University of Nigeria International Colloquium with the theme: *Emergent Women's Writings in African and German Literatures*. This event which attracted eminent personalities from Germany, Russia, the United States and Ukraine was an opportunity for the Faculty of the Humanities to showcase its academic process in the area of Women Studies. This specialized Conference featured authors such as Her Excellency Frau Dorothee Janetze-Wenzel, Prof I.T.K Egonu, Fr. Dr. Dr. Aloysius Ikechukwu Orjinta.C.S.Sp, Prof A N Akwanya, Dr(Mrs) Egodi Uchendu, Dr Charles Omekwu, Dr(Mrs) Ngozi Udengwu, Dr Angela Ozigbo and Mr Fidelis Okoro. Others who later joined the cue with their works were: Odoh George, Anikpe Ekene, Dr.(Mrs)Orabueze Florence, Dr George Tasie, Tonukari Ifuoma Emmanuel, Prof Christian Onyeji, Elizabeth Onyeji, Dr Mowarin Macauley, Dr Ifesieh Emeka, and Mrs Eseoghene Aley. The last five writers are not within our purview but are included because of the delays we experienced from some core writers.

Members of the political, educational, diplomatic and business class were also actively involved in the brain-storming sessions: Prof. Malachy Ikwueze DVC Admin., Prof P.E. Chigbu (DVC Academics, Hon Chijioke Edeoga(The Special Adviser to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on National Assembly Matters, Dr Aminu Ladan Sharehu(Director General, National Teachers Institute Kaduna, Dr Burkard Weth, Cultural and Press Attachee and Dr Thomas Helmer of the German Embassy Abuja, Prof Dimitri Dusenko (Ukraine), Prof Lubosch Kasonova(Russia), Dr Ifeanyi Evans Asogwa(Moses Freights Ltd, Barr Peter Okonkwo(Ohamadike) Gubernatorial Aspirant, Hon. Onogwu Festus Chibuike(OMATA President and Councillor), Chief and Lolo Chuddy Oduenyi (CEO Compact Communications Ltd and Chief and Dr. Mrs Emma Ozigbo (Perm. Sec. Ebonyi State and Assistant Director National Teachers Institute, Kaduna respectively), Dr.Mrs C. Umerah (Zonal Co-Ordinator, National Teachers Institute South East Zone, a cross section of the University of Nigeria community etc. The Highlights of the event featured inter alia the official opening of the Modern languages(German) Section in the University of Nigeria Nnamdi Azikiwe Library donated by and via Prof Bjoern Rohstein, Fr. Dr. Dr. Aloysius Orjinta, WUS and Dr Burkard Weth by the German Ambassador, the Arts Exhibition and Gallery at the same venue, of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts, Cocktail Party and Dinner hosted by the Vice Chancellor and his able team of Administrators, Awards to distinguished Gender-Aware business, academic, political and diplomatic class and an academic clinic and interactive session for the University students under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts Students Association (FASA).More details on the events could be gleaned from the Vanguard and Punch Newspapers.

This edition of our journal will surely be of immense benefit to scholars in the field of Gender Studies and Comparative Literature. Opinion leaders and policy makers have a lot to gain from the well researched works that have been included here.

Fr. Dr. Dr. Aloysius Ikechukwu Orjinta. PhD(Munich), PhD(Ibadan), C.S.Sp.

Editor in Chief.

UNN holds int'l colloquium

By EBELE ORAKPO

ON Friday, 7th June, 2013, the Faculty of 23Arts, University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN), played host to dignitaries from all walks of life including the German Ambassador to Nigeria, Her Excellency, Frau Dorothee Janetze-Wenzel, to a one day international colloquium with the theme: *Emergent Women's Writing in German and African Literature*.

In his opening address, the Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof. Uchenna Anyanwu said the colloquium was coming on the heels of the death and burial of literary icon, Prof. Chinua Achebe, noting that Nigeria and Germany enjoy a pride of place in the field of literature. "Citizens of both countries have won Nobel Prizes in literature and Nigeria and Germany have enjoyed cordial, robust and mutually beneficial relationship."

Earlier in a keynote address, the University Librarian, Dr. Charles Omekwu said the aim of the colloquium was to "look at German and African literatures and what we can gain from both considering the contributions of women."

Harping on the importance of women in the society, he said; "a

world without women (www) will be like a face without a smile, a canvass that is tough and rough; a place where things are done in a reckless way. A world without caring mothers, loving wives, pretty sisters and beautiful daughters is not going to be a world to live in."

The chief guest lecturer, Frau Dorothee Janetze-Wenzel spoke on *Emergent Women's Writing in German Literature*. Quoting famous German philosopher, Martin Buber she said; "When all is said and done, it is the ties between humans which give life its value."

"Literature is describing and analyzing the ties between human beings thus helping us to understand and appreciate life. Without women writers' perspectives, half of the sky would be lost."

She argued that although very strong women characters were created by male authors like Mumbi in Ngugi wa



Her Excellency, Frau Dorothee Janetze-Wenzel, German Ambassador to Nigeria

Thiong'o's *A Grain of Wheat* or Wanjia in *Petals of Blood*, or Heinrich Boll's Katharina in *The Lost Honour of Katharina Blum*, it is of vital importance to hear or read what women themselves have to say. Women authors past and present have described and analysed social and political conditions around them and have helped us to understand

human conditions in general or at a particular place and at a particular time," citing Buchi Emecheta's *Bride Price/ The Joys of Motherhood*, Chimamanda Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun*, Christa Wolfs *The Divided Sky* which refers to the division of Germany at a certain time, and 2009 Nobel Prize winner in Literature, Herta Müller as examples.

She noted that women have the chance and the responsibility to promote education and research. Underscoring the importance of education to the German economy, Janetze-Wenzel, quoting German's Federal Foreign Minister, Guido Westerwelle said; "our resources do not lie underneath our feet but between our ears", adding that the most important resources in times of globalization are education and research.

She received some applause when she explained why they did not sing their national anthem. "Our national anthem is very tricky, it is three stanzas and the one that played today is an old one which says *Germany above all*. Germany does not want to be above all,

we want to be equal partners with everybody on the same level. The current anthem says: *Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit* (Unity and Justice and freedom). Germany is lucky and happy to be unified again so we like the text of the third stanza and have made it our national anthem."

The event witnessed the presentation of papers by Prof. I.T.K. Egonu (*Emergent Women's Writing in Africa as seen in the works of Aminata Sow Fall*); Dr. Dr. Alloysius Orjinta, (Chairman, LOC) on *Liberation Feminism and Liberation Literature for Africa*; Dr (Mrs) Egodi Uchendu (*Contribution of African Historian to African Historiography, 1960 to the present*); Dr (Mrs) Ngozi Udengwu (*Challenging the jinx: Pioneer Female Dramatists in Nigeria and Germany*); Prof. Amaechi Akwanya (*Angst in Rilke's Dürer Elegies*) and Mr. Fidelis Okoro (*The female Principle in European Epic Tradition*).

The high point of the event was the presentation of awards for exemplary gender-aware leadership and integrity to Frau Janetze-Wenzel, Dr. Burkhard Weth, Mr. Thomas Helmer (all of German Embassy); Dr. Aminu Sherahu, D-G, NTI, Hon. Chijioke Edeoga (Special Adviser to the President on National Assembly Matters), Prof. Bartho Okolo (VC, UNN) and others.

University of Nigeria, 07.06.2013 Opening Address by *Her Excellency: Frau Dorothee Janetze-Wenzel. The Ambassador of Germany to the Federal Republic of Nigeria* at the University of Nigeria, Faculty of Arts International Colloquium on *Emergent Women's Writing in African and German Literature*.

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The Vice Chancellor, Prof Bartho Okolo, The DVC Admin. Prof Malachy Ikwueze, The DVC Academics Prof P.E. Chigbu, The University Librarian, Dr Charles Omekwu, The Dean, Faculty of Arts, Prof Uchenna Anyanwu, The Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, Fr. Dr. Dr. Aloysius Orjinta. C.S.Sp, The Special Adviser to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Hon. Chief Chijioke Edeoga, The Chairman Nsukka Local Government, Chief Peter Okonkwo (Ohamadike), Chief(Dr) Ifeanyichukwu Evans Asogwa, Chief and Lolo Chuddy Oduenyi, Hon Festus Onogwu, The Director General, National Teachers Institute, Kaduna, Dr Aminu Ladan Sharehu, Chief and Dr(Mrs) Emma Ozigbo, Distinguished members of the Academia of the First University of Nigeria, Ladies and Gentlemen! It is my pleasure to be here in your midst at this august event.

The famous German philosopher Martin Buber once said: "When all is said and done, it is the ties between human beings which give life its value" "Alles wirkliche Leben ist Begegnung".

Literature is describing and analysing the ties between human beings, thus helping us to understand and appreciate life. Without women writers' perspective "half of the sky" would be lost. Even though very strong women characters were created by male authors, e.g. by the Kenyan author Ngugi Wa Th'iongo - Mumbi in "A grain of Wheat" or Wanja in "Petals of Blood" or by Heinrich Böll Katharina in "The lost Honor of Katharina Blum" – it is of vital importance to hear or read what women themselves have to say. I would therefore like to congratulate the German Department on the theme of this conference. Women authors past and present have described and analysed social and political conditions around them and have helped us to understand human conditions in general or at a particular place and at a particular time – e.g. in Buchi Emecheta "Bride Prize" or "The joys of Motherhood" or Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in "Half of the Yellow Sun" with part of its setting here in Nsukka. Examples from German literature are Christa Wolf "The Divided Sky" or recently the 2009 nobel prize winner Hertha Müller in "Atemschaukel". This year's famous literary award, the German Georg Büchner Preis, will also go to a woman: Sibylle Lewitscharoff.

But I would also like to congratulate you, the students of the German department on the very good choice you have made when deciding to learn the German language and to study "facts" about Germany. Germany is a very strong partner here in Nigeria and globally. Germany is the largest economy in the European Union and the fourth largest in the world with a gross domestic product of 3342 billion US Dollars (Nigeria: 240 billion US Dollars). Important sectors in the German economy are automobile construction, mechanical and electrical engineering, chemicals, environmental technology and nano technology. One of the secrets of the German success is the fact that alongside with international companies small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the economy and provide roughly 70 per cent of the jobs.

Germany is not endowed with remarkable natural resources. The Federal Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle therefore said in a recent speech that our resources do not lie underneath our feet but between our ears. The most important resources in times of globalization are education and research. We have the chance and the responsibility to promote and to employ education and research well. In Germany there are about 370 institutions of higher education of which 140 are entitled to award doctorates. In addition, about 200 universities of applied sciences are concentrating on more technical courses. German research institutions and private enterprises are investing billions of Euro into research (DFG almost 3 billion). As a result, Germany is the leading European country when it comes to patent registration. However, Germany has one problem – which might be your chance. The German population is not growing, but stagnating or getting smaller. Only about 20 % of our population of 80 million is younger than 20, in Nigeria about 60 % of the population of 170 million are younger than 20. This means that Germany has an aging society and has to take all kind of measures to ensure that the younger generation will not be overburdened by paying for a growing number of retired people within the social system. This might have the consequence that in the future we will be looking for young intelligent people who know German and Germany from Europe but also from other parts of the world.

Today German Foreign Policy is first and foremost striving to build solid partnerships. The preamble of our constitution says: to strengthen Europe and to secure peace in the world. I think that Cultural relations and education policy are particularly important in achieving these goals. Cultural and education policy is part and parcel of German foreign policy and has always stood for what we today refer to as “sustainability”. Perhaps the insight is not quite so old that we wish to attain our goals through partnerships not only with countries, but also with people.

Via the dialogue between people, German cultural relations and education policy seeks to create sound foundations for the international relations and prevent conflicts. In this manner, it makes a crucial contribution to the most important goals of our foreign policy: safeguarding peace and freedom, securing respect for human rights and promoting cooperation and partnership in Europe and throughout the world. It is true that German cultural relations and education policy also wishes to present a positive but at the same time true-to-life image of modern Germany. A Germany that stands for openness and tolerance, for freedom and values, for commitment and innovation and cultural diversity.

You may be asking whether we have not set our sights too high with our goals for cultural relations and education policy by also seeking to work towards peace and civil rights and liberties in this context. We are all aware that a lot of work is still ahead. But success has been scored, too.

In achieving these goals we are supported globally by 150 Goethe Instituts, one of which is located in Lagos; 1500 Schools of Partnership (Pasch) which are teaching the German language and by over 40000 foreign students who are fully or partly funded by the German Academic Exchange Service or other German organizations and whose Alumni are building important networks.

Nigeria is a very special friend and partner of Germany. Two years ago the Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Abuja and last year in April President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan went to Germany. Our foreign ministers met several times and have inaugurated the Nigerian German Binational Commission which is working on political issues, economics and particularly energy issues as well as culture and migration. The trade volume is just under 3 billion Euro. Cooperation on renewable energy, micro finance in agriculture, the introduction of value chains, and dual or technical education is particularly close.

Knowing German or learning German makes you part of our networks. It is useful for your career. It helps you in your contacts with Germans and in your research. It might help you to find employment. It will certainly help you to make friends. I wish you that German and German literature also helps you to understand what is important in your lives.

Best wishes for your future careers and a very successful conference

Thank you

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