

Acknowledgments



As I reminisce about the people who helped me on the way to this book, I think, first of all, of Victor Olorunsola. Victor and I met as graduate students at Indiana University, Bloomington, in the early 1960s, in the African Studies Program. The last time we met was some twenty years later, in Ames, Iowa, on another university campus, where he was a political science professor. A couple of years later, I learned of his death. His remains came to rest in a burial ground on a slope in the Rocky Mountains—this son of the West African rain forest had become a skiing enthusiast. For me, he was a pioneer Afropolitan.

I am grateful to a number of friends and colleagues whom I have talked with about this book project, or who have read the manuscript, or parts of it, in one version or other, and who have made helpful comments: Akinwumi Adesokan, Thomas Fillitz, Andre Gingrich, Bernth Lindfors, Lorand Matory, Deborah Reed-Danahay, Roger Sanjek, Jesse Weaver Shipley, and Paula Uimonen.

I have also discussed Nigerian writing and its literary anthropology in lectures and other kinds of presentations at the American Anthropological Association; Indiana University; the Hong Kong Anthropological Society; and the Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University. The comments from my audiences on these occasions were interesting and inspiring.

I want to thank Stefan Ene and Thomas Borén of the Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University, for advice and expertise in creating a map of Nigeria connecting directly to the contents of the book.

Let me note that in certain places in the text, I have omitted precise page references for quotations. These are basically quotations included to convey a sense of style and atmosphere (not factual information or

analytical argument), and inserting a standard academic style of referencing here would only seem to distract.

And then, most importantly, my spouse and colleague Helena Wulff has followed and supported this project from beginning to end, while at the same time continuing her own research and writing in literary anthropology. As always, thank you!