Brooks on Books African

master list in alphabetical order by the title's first letter

I did not review every book on this list, but I did compile the list. I hope that you enjoy the comments and that they will effectively guide you. I used my own reviews which have been posted to www.tea-a.org and those which appeared in newsletters (from which I took reviews by other individuals). Some reviews are long, some short, some precise, some enigmatic. We live in an imperfect universe. A good source for vetted books on any part of Africa is African Access Review: http://www.africaaccessreview.org/aar/index.html. Tamam shud.

Africa/2007 by Sebastiao Salgado, text by Mia Cuoto

This book is a coffee table volume with evocative black and white photographs that are essays on Mozambique just after independence, Namibia, horrors in Rwanda, travails of living in the Sahel. Cuoto's first chapter begins "The Spark and the Tear." There is an honesty to these photographs that transcends the misery, misery that in some places continues unabated. Salgado is a man of righteousness, and his photographs have a dignity we would all like to imbue into our work. Salgado's works almost always have "social content." The photographer is Brazilian, the writer Mozambiquan.

Africa and Archaeology: Empowering an Expatriate Life/2006 by Merrick Posnansky

Folks who were around Makerere in the sixties may recall archaeologist/prehistorian Merrick Posnansky, director of the Uganda Museum and, later, head of the graduate program there in African Studies. He may also be remembered for being half of a loving union with his wife Eunice, the first Ugandan woman to graduate from Makerere. He has recently penned a memoir, a personal account of his lifelong love affair with Africa.

African Aftermath/2014 by Jonathan Bower (pseudonym of a Wave IV, B TEAr)

My problem reading this book was irritation with the two principal characters who seemed to be in constant encounter: an account "of a troubled union." The East African setting made me assume that the novel was in large degree about the setting. At the end I realized that the novel is more about the clumsy personal relationships that we all got ourselves into in our younger days. Then the book made more sense, and I can acknowledge Bower's skill at rendering a female character and her initiatory sexual adventures (in that sense the book might have been titled "Afterglows in Africa"). If you seek a rendering of the teaching experience in East Africa, give a look at Emilee Cantieri's East African Odyssey: Love and Adventure in the Africa of the 1960s or An African Season by Peace Corpsman Leonard Leavitt.

African History: A Very Short Introduction/2007 by John Parker & Richard Rathbone

Buy this book because it accomplishes the two prime goals of the state of African history at present anyway: information and agency. The “what” and the “who says” of the discipline which has emerged in our life time (as in “Who high jacked our Africa?”). For example, chapter one is titled “The idea of Africa” and has several subheadings such as “The invention of Africa” before going into more traditional headings such as “The lie of the land.” The last chapter is “Memory and Forgetting.” The usual information is related, and the bibliography is fantastic. All in 160 pages. Remembering how hard it is to write a good 500-word paper, the briefness of the book puts premium on content and deft phrasing. This volume is one of over 200 titles in the series, http:// www.veryshortintroductions.com/. Did I say “Buy this book”?

African Love Stories by Ama Aidoo, ed.

There are a few collections of African short stories in print, this one published by Ayebia Clarke and distributed by the trueblood company of Lynne Rienner. "Love Stories" turns out to a large umbrella, and you'll love most of the stories. I especially liked "Transition to Glory" by Chimamanda Adichie and "The Rival" by Yaba Badoe. If you are looking for a personal collection of wonderful short stories in hard copy from all over Africa, please write me.

Africa’s Child/2016 by Maria Nhambu

This is the story of a biracial child raised in an orphanage from age 4 days. It is an autobiography, part 1 of a projected trilogy. It is an amazing story and built on recollections, interviews, and reclaimed journals. It will engage you on every level as you follow Nhambu from infancy to Marian College in Tanzania to the plane for Minnesota. If you seek an example of resilience, look no further than this book. Nhambu’s history gets mixed up with the histories of Catholic orders in Tanganyika/Tanzania, cultural intersections of German missionaries, British colonialists, African dance, and dealing with randy males. For more information on this stellar individual go to http://marianhambu.com/wp/. The missionary order continues in TZ: http://www.missionarysisterspreciousblood.org. Marian College is now Kilikala Girls High School. See https://www.facebook.com/Kilakala-Girls-High-School-119505811442403/. I must say that I had a very strong emotional reaction to reading this book, and I couldn’t just put it on the shelf after having read it. I pickled it up and thumbed through it and carried it from room to room as if by this process of possession I could come in closer contact with this story which I think is most powerful as a story of making sense and making a life (it’s just that it more poignant when the central figure is an orphan).

Africa's Embrace/2013 by Mark Wentling (the first of 3) and **Tales from a Muzungu**/2014 by Nicholas Duncan are 2 new books published by Peace Corps Writers.

Something is clearly happening to us 70 somethings: we are returning to adventures in

our 20s and recounting them. I personally think that this writing is an attempt at trying to understand why we reacted so positively to our overseas experiences when we were so impressionable. TEAArs and RPCVs were a heady group then and now want to re-establish that sense of meaning and mission before they all go off into that good night.

Africa's Embrace is a fantastic book for detail; Wentling must have kept a diary. If you are searching for what it was that you did in Africa, this book will help you jog your memory even if you didn't actually do the things that Wentling did. Bob Gurney's A Night in Buganda will do the same thing. African Aftermath might also help. Our own Emilee Hines's East African Odyssey is lovely. Making meaning, however, is more than recounting details, and I wish Wentling had been more ruminative. The classic book for me in this genre is Robert MacFarlane's The Old Ways; here is rumination at its best.

Africa's Peacemakers/2014 edited by Adekeye Adebajo

The editor has collected elegant essays about Nobel Prize laureates of African descent (which allows him to include Ralph Bunce, Martin Luther King, and Barack Obama). OK, quick, besides Mandela, what other Africans won the award? Even 25 pages on F. W. DeKlerk. You will learn a lot and enjoy the readings in this under-appreciated book.

Airlift to America/2009 by Tom Shachtman.

In a tale of East African before we arrived several people began an effort to bring East African (largely Kenyan) students to the United States in 1959 (and running for 4 years) for their collegiate training. The heroes of this intriguing book are Tom Mboya, the African American Students Foundation/AASF, Bill Schienman, and Cora Weiss. Strong supporting roles are played by Harry Belafonte, JFK, Jackie Robinson, and Frank Montero. In the eyes of the author, Mboya deserves the lion share of credit. Curious to me was the total absence of reference to Karl Bigelow and TEA and the detailing of the role of the Phelps Stokes Educational Conference of 1960. This 2009 book also includes references to the 1960 presidential election as the chief event in the larger context of bringing African students to US universities. The two leading luminaries of the airlift are Wangari Maathai and Mahmood Mamdani. Some of the career of Barack Obama, Sr., is detailed.

All Our Names/2014 by Dinaw Mengestu

This story takes place in two places, Kansas and Uganda. There are alternating stories headed "Isaac" and "Helen." Ultimately, you realize that a character in the "Isaac" section is the Isaac in the Helen sections. When I realized this situation, I hoped for some nifty way of resolving circumstances. Alas, no niftiness. Helen and Isaac simply walk away from each other. The UG sections relate at first to Makerere and later to general unrest in Kampala and Uganda. Another coup that failed. There is the feeling of loss at the end of the book, but I can't say I really cared about either story. A counter view is offered by Malcolm Jones in the NYT: "All Our Names is a book about an immigrant, but more profoundly it is a story about finding out who you are, about how much of you is formed by your family and your

homeland, and what happens when those things go up in smoke. There is great sadness and much hard truth in this novel, as there is everywhere in Mengestu's fiction. But like the best storytellers, he knows that endings don't have to be happy to be satisfying, that mysteries don't need to be explained, that discriminating between what can and can't be known is more than enough. And he is generous enough to imbue his characters with this awareness as well. Neither Isaac nor Helen winds up contented or happy, but their respective pain endows them both with sufficient clarity to tell their stories without a trace of deceit. The victories in this beautiful novel are hard fought and hard won, but won they are, and they are durable."

Americanah by Chimamanda Adichie

Three days after hearing Theroux I heard Adichie at the same bookshop. Another thrill, and so I read this book. Two dueling personalities are at the center of the book Ifemelu and Odinze, nicknamed Zed. Both Nigerian, both cosmopolitan (Kwame Appiah, you be second fiddle now). Aunties and friends galore. The book is at bottom a love story and shows two people survive through life's travails to reunite after several false starts. This story is a endearing, and you too will swoon after reading the last paragraph of chapter 51. Then there is the nifty satire. No one is exempt. Ruminations on hair and race. Get on the bandwagon.

And Home Was Kariakoo/2014 by M. G. Vassanji

First, permit me to say that you should buy this book; it will sing to you if you are of a certain age, it will encourage you if you're not yet. Second, when a book begins with a quotation from Notebook of a Return to the Native Land by Aime Cesaire ("Et si je ne sais que parler, c'est pour vous je parlerai"), it is clear the direction that it will take. It is a book that I heartily recommend, especially for those who taught in Tanzania or have a special relationship to this country. We all have a native land we can return to, and many have another land that we shall always carry in our hearts. It is the exploration of these conflicting loves that makes this book so dynamic. Third, the book is a homage to the past life of the author and an attempt to reconcile homeland with a wandering heart. It is an excellent effort to illustrate how language knowledge gives increased insight into the land, and in this light and others Vassanji takes several jabs at Paul Theroux. This book is a compilation of several trips that this Canadian author has taken to his native land. Thus we learn more about Dar es Salaam, Kilwa, Ujiji, Tabora, Moshi, and Zanzibar. My good friend, Jay Jordan's, Tanga is here, too. Vassanji weaves history and observation wonderfully, much as he did in the book he wrote about the India of his ancestors, A Place Within. From here I would launch into the histories of Asians in Africa, especially the Indian Ocean coast of Africa. I would use Vassanji as a complement to Abdulrazak Gunrah who also writes of the Swahili Coast and what happens when one departs from the native land or even what happens when one finds oneself cast on a distant shore. Chapter 21, "The Old Warriors: Dar es Salaam Again," is brilliant. Indeed, the last 5 chapters build wonderfully. Ultimately, my literary soul stops by Ophelia's grave as Hamlet wonders about to "what base uses we may return." I really like this book, and I really like this author.

The Antipeople/1983 by Sony Tansi

On the strength of the recommendation of Howard French in his book *A Continent for the Taking* I sought out Sony Tansi's books, reading this book first. The chief character is Principal Dadou, Citizen Dadou, the principal of a women's teacher training college in the Congo. Dadou has a wandering eye and a drinking problem. Yealdara is his friend and appetites provider. Dadou eventually runs a foul of "the authorities" and lights out across the river to Angola where he becomes a revolutionary in the guise of a madman. Dadou and Yealdara both survive but on the "banks of the tumid river." I thought I detected hints of Camus throughout the book, but those hints weren't enough to dissuade me of the story's improbabilities. Even revolutionary war is hell.

Atlas of the Transatlantic Slave Trade/2010 by David Eltis and David Richardson

This book is the best book for its subject and is tied directly to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database (www.slavevoyages.org) which is the most complete source of information on the topic. At the heart of the book are the 189 maps that are clear and comprehensive; each map is identified and clearly explained. The maps are not all of the same scale, but they are so similar that it is easy to negotiate from one map to another. Interspersed are charts, quotations from slave and slaver accounts, reproductions of paintings and illustrations, sales samples, allotments of space on boats: all that one would want to know. The contents are divided into 7 parts, each with an introductory commentary. An intriguing fact: as many Africans were sent out of the continent on the eastern side of Africa from Roman times to the present as the 12.7 million taken from the western side of Africa from 1500 to 1900.

Which brings me to four other books on slavery (not a topic I know well) that I recommend. First, The 'Diligent': A Voyage through the Worlds of the Slave Trade/2002 by Robert Harms which is based the journal of a French sailor. The book shows how slavery was an important part of the rise of merchantilism in Europe after 1600 (see reviews, http://arlindo-correia.com/080403.html). Second, The Two Princes of Calabar: An Eighteenth-Century Atlantic Odyssey/2009 by Randy J. Sparks which shows how slaves once captured did not always stay captured and, indeed, lived to sell slaves themselves (see http://www.cla.csulb.edu/ebro/the-two-princes-of-calabar-an-eighteenth-century-atlantic-odyssey/). Third, Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery/2003 by David Davis. The first chapter, "The Origins and Nature of New World Slavery" is an excellent context setter for slavery in the Americas. Davis has written extensively on slavery and contributed to the Atlas. Four, Somebody Knows My Name/2008 by Laurence Hill who follows his fictional heroine, Aminata Diallo, from capture to celebrity. Mary Taras put me onto this book several years, and she has taught it successfully many times. It continues to be one of my "go-to" recommendations for books that show Africa in large context. I am fully aware that there are other fine books on this topic.

The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu ands their race to save the world's most precious manuscripts/2016 by Joshua Hammer

After I visited Timbuktu in 2007 and after I actually had been in the Ahmed Baba Library to witness the great restoration work that has been going on for 40 years, I was attracted to this book even with its foolish title. The early and late chapters pertain to the great work of collecting and preserving, but the author's journalistic eye was also drawn to the saving of the manuscripts in the resistance to a Tuareg-organized insurrection of 2012-2014 in northern Mali and the ultimate capture and then liberation of Timbuktu. The book moves quickly, and it is easy to identify Abdel Kadera Haidara as its hero. This review enables me to repeat my strong recommendation for *The Meanings of Timbuktu* by Jeppie and Diagne which I feel is the most unique book on Africana that I own.

Baking Cakes in Kigali by Gaile Parkin.

In the tradition of No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, this gloriously written tale--set in modern-day Rwanda--introduces one of the most engaging characters in recent fiction: Angel Tungaraza--mother, cake baker, keeper of secrets--a woman living on the edge of chaos, finding ways to transform lives, weave magic and create hope amid the madness swirling all around her.

Barefoot Over the Serengeti by David Read

The author was born in Kenya in 1922 and died in 2015. He was not from the traditional colonial class. He has written a series of books in the vein of amateur anthropology since he's lived with Maasai much of his life. That logic suggests that TEAAr Mike Rainy will soon be issuing his memoir, Mindful in Malepo. This volume covers Read's first 14 pre-school years with an addendum about finding his Maasai playmate 70 years later. You can glean much from Read's website, http://www.david-read.com/index.html, but I wouldn't rush out and buy this book.

BECOMING AN AFRICAN UNIVERSITY: MAKERERE 1922-2000, by Carol Sicherman.

The author is a professor emerita of English, Lehman College, City University of New York and she has written two books and several articles on the Ngugi wa Thiong'o, the Kenyan writer. Quoting a blurb from the publisher, "This book ... tells the story of Makerere's beginnings, its efflorescence during the 1950s and 1960s, its calamitous decline during nearly two decades of tyranny and civil war, and its resurgence following the restoration of peace and relative stability." TEA is mentioned.

Beneath the Lion's Gaze/2010 by Maaza Mengiste

This book is lovely and a crafted novel. It will give you good insight into the 1974 revolution which overthrew Haile Selassie and plunged Ethiopia into chaos. Turns out Pol Pot wasn't the only international despot. BLG is well-researched and touched the author's

immediate family. If you have read nothing about this bit of history, I recommend the book wholeheartedly. My circumstance is compromised by my reading of *Notes from the Hyena's Belly* and *Cutting for Stone*, two other good novels which covered the same territory, so I felt that I had already read BLG. This novel is part of the "how we messed up independence" school of writing and complements *We Need New Names* in that regard. I just received (September, 2015) issue 117 of Transition magazine which focuses on "new African fiction" which hopefully will explore new and more dynamic territory.

Birth of a Dream Weaver/2016 by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

Memoir can be a wonderful vehicle for history and reflection, and not everyone can stretch their reflections out over 3 books covering 23 years. This volume covers the years 1959-1964, Ngugi's years at Makerere which coincided with the arrival of American and British students in the Teachers for East Africa/TEA project. Several of those Americans provided memories and photographs for the book. This memoir focuses on Ngugi's early development as a writer, noting that he entered Makerere as a colonial subject and graduated as a free citizen. The tale is loyal to the title, and looming is the author's confrontation with Kenyatta and Moi. This is a writer who does not go gentle into any good night. I look forward to the next installment.

Black Panther, A Nation Under Our Feet, Book One/2016 by Ta-Nehisi Coates and Brian Stelfreeze

Surely you've heard of Coates, maybe not Stelfreeze, and maybe not the mighty T'Challa of Wakanda, but if you want to be too cool for school, you'll buy this book and get on the graphic arts bandwagon. Wakanda is the most technologically advanced country in Africa and controls the world supply of vibranium. T'Challa has been away but now is back….and the people of Wakanda are restless. Book two will appear in January, 2017, book three in April. NB: you must buy the Black Panther illustrated by Stelfreez to get Coates; other Black Panther super hero comics exist, but only Coates-Stelfreez have Wakanda.

Blood River: The Terrifying Journey Through the World's Most Dangerous Country/ 2012 by Tim Butcher.

A compulsively readable account of a journey to the Congo vividly told by a daring and adventurous journalist. Ever since Stanley first charted its mighty river in the 1870s, the Congo has epitomized the dark and turbulent history of a continent. Daily Telegraph correspondent Tim Butcher was sent to cover Africa in 2000. Before long he became obsessed with the idea of recreating Stanley's original expedition -- despite warnings that his plan was suicidal. With a great website.

The Bolter/2008 by Frances Osbourne

This is the biography of Idina Sackville who left Edwardian England in 1919 with her second husband for Kenya where she soon became everybody's bed partner. She died in 1955 and is buried near Mombasa. The author is the subject's great granddaughter and apparent apologist for a woman who left 5 husbands and 3 children. Give me strength.

Born on a Tuesday/2015 by Elnathan John

The narrator is essentially anonymous though he is named Dantala, and he lives in the Sokoto region of northern Nigeria. He starts out in this novel in 2003 as an 8-year old and ends in 2012 or so. What we witness is the gradual education of a naïf from a small town goofball to a larger town Muslim devotee to one overwhelmed in his own mosque by thugs. The novel focuses on friendships and religious fundamentalism. John overdoes the coming of age part but is brilliant in the latter chapters when chaos arises, and the narrator must run. "I think of all the things I must do: cut my hair, wash with hot water, start writing out my story. Then take a bus and go wherever it is headed." We are lucky to have been born into less turbulence.

Born Wild /1995 by Tony Fitzjohn

Tony Fitzjohn went to Africa and worked with George Adamson for many years before ending up at Mkomazi in Tanzania. I can almost smell Africa while reading this book. He gives very interesting information on how Kenya and Tanzania fell apart after Kenyatta and Nyerere left office and how the wildlife suffered.

Boy, Snow, Bird/2014 by Helen Oyeyemi

Chimamanda Adichie told a bookshop crowd that she never thought of herself as "black" before coming to The States; she was "Nigerian." Oyeyemi might just as well have said the same thing, and you all might just like to read this book and Adichie's *Americanah* together because they constitute these Nigerians's views on race in the USA. Boy Novak comes out of a bad situation living in lower Manhattan. We do not know exactly what and why, but Boy decides at 17 that she must get out one night, and the only bus out is going to central Massachusetts, Flax Hills. On she gets, and off into the unknown. She gets a landlord, a job, and friends. Then she marries Arturo Whitman who already has a child. The child of Boy and Arturo, Bird, however, is darker in skin color than the other child, ironically named Snow. Snow is sent away to Boston seemingly for a short spell. End of Part "one," in 142 pages. Part "two" opens in a different voice, and we find that Bird is speaking and has grown and wants to know Snow whom we now realize was sent away for a long spell. With the introduction of the topic of Emmett Till we have an inkling of what it going on here. We also realize that we have been snookered into a family dynamics issue of families who have members who have "gotten by." Bird wants to know Snow, and skin color seems to be irrelevant. 120 pages. Part "three" finds us at the larger family table sorting things out; Boy

back as narrator. but more passive. Clearly a novel of finding ourselves out, and Boy finds out that her mother was indeed just as different as she Boy is. Part 3 is 40 pages. I thought part one could have been shorter; my reading became more intense with the opening of part two. Oyeyemi is 29, and this book is her 5th novel: stay tuned.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind/2010 by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

I put my oar in to say that all educators should read this book. Why? Because the book documents the path that Kamkwamba took to further his own education and the sensibilities that he had which propelled him to do his work. It also is a great documentation of rural Africa and how people coped with famine and inept governments. Thus it is much more than a book about an invention arising in such an improbable setting. It is a book about the human spirit and prevailing over harsh conditions. You'd have given Kamkwamba a scholarship to Dartmouth, too, even if many of his own country's headmasters refused to give him one to their schools. Available in a young adult version. Read this book.

Brave Music of a Distant Drum/2011 by Manu Herbstein

"Brave Music" is about Ama who grew up in northern Ghana, was married, was abducted, was enslaved, was shipped to Brazil where her son eventually earned a position of respect. His mother dictates her story to him: in short, he was blind but now he sees. This young adult novel is an author-adapted version of *Ama, The Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade* which came out in 2002. Lists, a map, and a glossary help explain the circumstances.

The Bright Continent/2014 by Dayo Olopade

After growing up on books about Africa written by non-Africans , I am now reading similar books written by Africans and Americans of African descent. The Bright Continent is a fantastic book, and you should read it. This journalistic effort addresses matters that reveal many efforts by folks (mostly African) to overcome all those existing matters we know only too well. Olopade grew up in Chicago, attended prestigious schools, and went to work for all the right institutions. In 2012 she moved to Nairobi to gather information from eastern and southern Africa. She revisited west Africa for the same reason. She seems to have run into Ghanaians everywhere. Olopade first establishes the principle of "kanju" which is enterprise in the face of surmountable positions. These positions are usually governmental. She then creates overlying maps of family, technology, commerce, nature, and youth. This book is very readable and I shall not quibble with the criticism of incompletely developed arguments; the book is a compendium of effective practices. Of TEAA interest is Olopade's acknowledgement of her Yale mentor, Ann Biersteker, daughter of Joe. She also references Fran Vavrus's work in Moshi. Many of the author's points will ring true.

Brave Music of a Distant Drum/2011 by Manu Herbstein

This masterful young adult book is based on the author's longer, adult novel, *Ama: A Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade*/2002. Ama was taken as a child from her northern Ghana homeland presumably sometime in the 18th or 19th centuries and ends up on a British/ Portguese plantation near Salvador, Brazil. She is blind and dying and sends for her son who has had a privileged slave upbringing who knows that she exists but barely acknowledges his relationship to her: he is Christian, she is pagan. But she has the story. A good book for the feel of slavery and the horrors that happened, some of which are graphically described. The author has his own interesting personal saga. "Was blind but now I see."

Broken Glass/2010 by Alain Mabanckou

This nouvella sets itself an ambitious task: satire of class and race through the lens of the town drunk. Broken Glass is the narrator of life in Trois-Cents presumably in The Congo. He hangs out in a bar called glamorously Credit Gone West run by Stubborn Snail. His former wife is named Diabolica; each character is named euphemistically, and even Holden Caulfield makes an appearance. Thoughts are connected by commas, no full-stops here. Broken Glass fills his notebook of observations and then leaves. Deft if inconsistent writing.

An Amazon reviewer said it more completely: "This is a quirky book with lots of clever pivots to literature, arts, politics, popular culture, religion, etc. In fact the best parts of the book are when Mabanckou goes off on a jazz like riff where he ties in unrelated things in clever ways. Here's a description of a fist fight between Broken and another damaged patron, other customers gather to witness, "....because I was Mohammed Ali and he was George Foreman, and I was floating like a butterfly, I was stinging like a bee, and he was a flat footed vegetable....." Here's a passage comparing a charismatic shaman to another showman, "...Hitchcock was a real life-size character, a talented man, a guy who could make your spine shiver just with a few birds, or a rear window, he could turn you into a psycho with a single characteristic little trick....." Broken Glass is the name of the narrator. He's a patron/hanger on/employee at the Credit Gone West Bar in the Congo. The bar owner, Stubborn Snail, asks Broken to create a chronicle of the other inhabitants. Since Broken is a former educator who's fallen on tough times he's a natural at interviewing and documenting others while keeping up with his red wine quotient. Obviously the book is rife with metaphor and it's mostly funny in a tragic way until Broken begins to tell his own story. Then it's depressing and everymanish. Mabanckou's sentences begin with small letters. Only names and places start with capitals. He doesn't use periods, words fall over one another separated by commas. Sadness repeats itself and never ends. Tragedy doesn't change, the same stories repeat. This was a difficult book to enjoy though it was clever and insightful and for all I know, in my ignorance, indicative of Africa."

The Caliph's House: A Year in Casablanca (2006) by Tahir Shah

When Shah, his pregnant wife and their small daughter move from England to Morocco, where he'd vacationed as a child, he enters a realm of "invisible spirits and their parallel world." Shah buys the Caliph's House, once a palatial compound, now heavy with algae, cobwebs and termites. Unoccupied for a decade, the place harbors a willful jinni

(invisible spirit), who Shah reluctantly grasps must be exorcised by traditional means. Three retainers, whose lives are governed by the jinni, have attached themselves to the property. Confounding craftsmen plague but eventually beautify the house. The dominant colors, however, are luminous. "[L]ife not filled with severe learning curves was no life at all," Shah observes.

Cockroaches/2016 by Scholastique Mukasonga

Survival books make me feel uncomfortable, but I really want to read firsthand accounts sifted through memory. Rwanda has lived through several holocausts. Mukasonga identifies as a Tutsi, an inyenzi or cockroach, who survived 1994 because she was out of the country. She lost 37 immediate family members in 1964 and 1994. The towns she lived in no longer exist, and she appears uncomfortable with the current national ethic of forgetting. This book is a remembrance of those who died and a witness to the lives they lived before that; it is not a diatribe. Mukasonga left Rwanda in 1992 for France, a husband, a career, and a family. She eventually returned, reluctantly it seems to me, in 2004. She has also written Our Lady of the Nile. The need for witness to history can also be seen in Cedric Nunn's The Unsettled, powerful stuff.

Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness/2010 by Alexandra Fuller.

There have always been a number of books written by Europeans about their lives in black Africa: some history, memoirs, and fiction. For East Africa this genre is best illustrated by Isak Dineson's "recreated" memoir *Out of Africa* and Elspeth Huxley's biography of Lord Delamere's *White Man's Country*. Increasingly books have appeared which offer a more balanced view of things, like Doris Lessing's Alfred and Emily and Peter Godwin's When A Crocodile Eats the Sun. Another former Rhodesian/Zimbabwean, Alexandra Fuller, has written two delightful memoirs of her family and times in Zimbabwe, *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight* and more recently *Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness*. It is the latter book I recommend most highly; the first part of the book is the story of her mother who grew up in colonial Kenya, married there, and then went to Rhodesia to stay in a country run by white people. This couple was pretty dysfunctional and pretty scrappy. They have survived. I hesitate to say more, but I reiterate my recommendation, and read "Dogs" first even though it is second chronologically.

The Collector of Worlds/2008 by Iliya Troyanov.

Men named Richard Burton were not known "to go gentle into that good night." They raged. The Richard Burton of this novel is the nineteenth century chap who started life in the British Army in India, then took his assignment to the Muslim Sind so seriously that he became fluent in Arabic (and Urdu) that he faked his way into Mecca on an apparent hajj. His final incarnation was as African explorer trying to find the source of the Nile although he wasn't personally with Speke when Speke first saw Nyanza and presuming that it must be one source of the Nile dubbed it Victoria Nyanza. This novel by indirections finds directions out

and attempts to portray Burton in ways that history cannot since Burton's religiously suffused wife decided to burn all his notebooks and papers.

Confessions of the Lioness/2015 by Mia Couto

The book begins “God was once a woman” and ends "I am the last lioness.” In between are alternating chapters titled “Mariamar’s Version” and “The Hunter’s Diary.” There is talk of stalking lions that had killed villagers, families with particular histories, and the sense of a novel trying to find its story.

A Continent for the Taking/2005 by Howard French
The Trouble with Africa/2007 by Robert Calderisi

Two exceptionally well written and interesting books, are excellent representatives of this genre as well as troubling accounts of the deep problems facing Africa in the 21st century. Calderisi spent most of his 30 years in international development as an employee of the World Bank and focuses on the problems associated with international assistance and debt relief. Like French's, his book is filled with personal experiences and reported conversations with Africans from all walks of life. Both books provide chilling reminders that corruption and incompetence are rife throughout Southern Africa and that human suffering is unparalleled. They are valuable case studies of failed hopes and lost opportunities.

French, particularly, gives a moving and vivid portrait of the lives of ordinary people that he meets in remote villages and refugee camps, "a brilliant and nuanced meditation on the complexities of contemporary Africa," according to Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Both books, in their unflinching accounts of the corrosive influence of ethnic politics in the hands of ruthless and cynical political leaders, are analytical in part. Calderisi, after a hard hitting analysis of the relationship between external assistance and the present crisis, offers concrete policy suggestions for the future. French, on the other hand, reaches further back into history for his understanding of the present. While Calderisi tends to discount the impact of the long history of destructive European involvement on the continent and focuses on the greed and cruelty of the present generation of African leaders and the complicity, wishful thinking and incompetence of international donor organizations and staff, French relentlessly exposes the extent to which four centuries of invasion and exploitation of Africa by Europe has shaped the present. He exposes the cynicism of American as well as European Cold War and post Cold War policies in Africa, and the hollowness of American calls for democracy and progress.

After hearing Howard French speak in person at Boston University, I was so impressed by his command of content and language that I rushed out to buy this book. The title suggests that French has a jaundiced view of national instabilities, especially in the Congo/DRC and Rwanda. These countries form the focus of French’s analysis although he does write on Nigeria and Liberia and tangentially on Cote d’Ivoire where he was stationed for the New York Times. One of the author’s assets in the field in his fluency in French and Lingala (and just to show that he is no language dilettante he learned Japanese before being posted to

Tokyo in 2003); he is also a daring person, and you get the sense that he knows how to negotiate even the most arduous border crossing or immigration official. His most recent book is *China's Second Continent*/2015 in which he says, fyi, that about 3 million Chinese live in Africa because they really want to. He is currently a teacher of journalism at Columbia in NYC and a practicing photographer.

Cutting for Stone/2009 by Abraham Verghese.

Verghese is a favorite author of mine, and I have special respect for *The Tennis Partner*. Cutting for Stone is his first novel, and the book's central character follows a life path similar to the author: born in Ethiopia of Indian parents, trains to be a doctor, and emigrates to the USA. In real life Verghese is an internist; the central character in the novel is a surgeon. The novel takes place at the end of Selassie's life and the perils of the Mengistu regime, but it concentrates on the lives of its characters apart from politics. Students of medicine will be interested to learn the phrase "Mayflower hospitals."

DARK STAR SAFARI/ 2002 by Paul Theroux

It's a fine travelogue, and his Cairo to Cape Town adventure takes him through East Africa. If you haven't had a chance to look at it, it's well worth the time. His observations and thoughts are current, and it's especially interesting to think about his bits of writing about his earlier PC experience in Malawi in the context of what he finds now. This book is the "grumpy" Theroux.

The Darling/1988 by Russell Banks

This book relates tales of Charles Taylor escaping from a Massachsuetts prison and wreaking havoc in Liberia: "The 'darling' of the story is Dawn Carrington, nee Hannah Musgrave, a political radical and member of the Weather Underground forced to flee America to avoid arrest. At the time of the novel, she is 59, living on her working farm in upstate New York with four younger women, recalling her life in Liberia and her recent return to that country to look for her sons. 'Mainly, we return to a place in order to learn why we left,' she says. For Hannah, the decision was harrowing. She abandoned her sons during a bloody civil war, after the death of her husband, Woodrow Sundiata, a black African Cabinet Minister in President Samuel Doe's government. Banks explores the corruption, greed, and violence, weaving the real story of the horrors of West Africa with the fictional narrative of Hannah and Woodrow."

Darwin's Nightmare/2007 is a documentary set on the shores of Lake Victoria. Plot Outline: The film depicts the effect of fishing the Nile perch in Tanzania's Lake Victoria. The predatory fish, which has wiped out the native species, is sold in European supermarkets, while starving Tanzanian families have to make do with the leftovers. Dads leave their families, kids sniff glue on the streets. There is a disturbing twist to the story which I will leave for potential viewers.

Dave and Trey Go to Africa: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XbgqDBnPxw

This is a video of a 2013 grip to Senegal to play with Orchestra Baobab (famous in its own right) of Dakar taken by pop musicians Trey Anastasio and Dave Matthews. The video combines music and friendship. Quite nice.

The Decline and Fall of the British Empire 1781-1997/2012 by Piers Brendon

Cambridge's account of the fall of the British Empire, and I know that Robert Greenwood relaxing on the sands of some south-of-Mombasa beach would want the Blue to be recognized. Brendon devotes a full chapter to Kenya. Both books have extensive bibliographies and could have had better maps.

Those of you wishing visual histories of empire might consult *Illustrating Empire: A Visual History of British Imperialism* by Ashley Jackson and David Tomkins/2011, *Kenya: A Country in the Making, 1880-1940/2008* by Nigel Pavitt, and *The Last Empire: Photography in British India, 1856-1911*/1976 introduced by the last viceroy himself (no, not, Clive). The first book has a delightful website at http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/johnson so that you can bring your laptop into the bathroom.

Dogs of Fear/1982 by Musa Nagenda

This intriguing little book is now unfortunately out of print, but it is a finely crafted story of Kabana who returns to his western Uganda homeland from secondary school to be initiated. His father Mulangu is fearful that Kabana is losing touch with his traditional values. Mulangu thus wants Kabana initiated "properly." Kabana seems not so keen on the idea but knows that he must if only so that his sister (and chief supporter) Rugaye can marry. After several unavoidable delays Kabana finally reaches his home only to find his father in a rage at his delay and doubtful of his manhood. In the midst of this turmoil the daily life of a herder goes on, and the goats must find pasture. Kabana is sent to do this so that the usual goatherd can assist Mulangu in the selling of coffee. Wild dogs attack the goats and kill two; Mulangu is more incensed, and Kabana knows that he might find some way to defeat the dogs and regain his father's affections. Thus the title and thus the ultimate victory. Through careful research I find that Musa Nagenda is really Moses Howard (TEEA, III), and wild dogs really were, indeed, found in western Uganda although were eradicated soon after Nagenda's time there. I really did love reading this book, and if you want a copy, I'll gladly loan you mine.

Dreams From My Father/1996 by Brack Obama

Yes, this is the President's story of his own life before entering politics. Written in 1996 and re-released in 2004. Told straight up and with the clarity and compassion that you might expect. Included is a section on his visit to Kenya. Ever wonder why he doesn't feel especially close to his father's homeland? The book is a good read and the memoir of choice for most Africans.

Dreams in a Time of War/2010 by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

A memoir of the author's days up to his enrollment in Alliance High School as seen through the lens of his life. There is some nice Kenyan history here as well as insight into the connectedness of USA and Africa. There is even a bit of nostalgia. Some complexity and some subtlety. I liked this book very much although I have not found the same satisfaction from his fiction.

Dust/2013 by Yvonne Owuor

With apologies to Countee Cullen: I doubt not that Owuor is good, well meaning, kind. Despite this hope and despite a Kenyan novelist (rare breed), a story set in Turkana no less, a book that set Tom Mboya's death in 1969 as the destructive seed of independent Kenya, the charismatic character of Trader, death of the book's hero on page 10, and a flood of scenes, this novel fails to cohere and fails to escape a literary preciousness that marks a young sensibility. I sense, though, that she will yet sing.

Early East African Writers and Publishers: Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, Okot P'Bitek, David Maillu/2011 by Bernth Lindfors

This book is available Africa World Press. The website of the University of Texas, where Ben (1A) is professor emeritus, describes the work as, "a collection of essays exploring the emergence of East African multilingual literary production in the mid-20th century. Through interviews with the major writers of the region, Lindfors provides rare accounts into the process by which East Africa, once considered the literary desert of the African continent, became central to the creation of a unique literary scene." I would be derelict in not mentioning that Ben is TEAA's most prolific writer with at least 48 books to his great credit. Most of these books are in the field of African literature, especially the African literature of 1950-2000. I refer you to this website: http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/public-affairs/_files/pdf/life-letters/life_letters_042.pdf from which I now quote: "Perhaps one of his greatest contributions was the recent donation of his personal library to the University of Natal in South Africa. It has taken Lindfors 40 years
to compile a collection of 12,000 books, more than 300 journals, manuscripts, audio and videotapes and transcripts—representing the literature of almost the entire continent.
In 2000, Lindfors received the university's Career Research Excellence Award and the African Studies Associations' Distinguished Africanist Award. He has also been awarded two honorary doctorates, one from the university of Umea in Sweden in 1989, and the other from the University of Natal in 2002.

East Africa: an Introductory History/2013 by Robert Maxon

Allow me to quote from the Amazon website: "In this third edition of East Africa: an Introductory History, Robert M. Maxon revisits the diverse eastern region of Africa,

including the modern nations of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. With revised sections and a new preface, this comprehensive text surveys East Africa's political, economic, and social history from pre-colonial to modern times. Maxon reveals the physical movement and societal development of and between ethnic groups before the 1890s; the capitalistic impact of European colonialism in the early nineteenth century; and the achievement and aftermath of independence in East Africa during the later part of the last century. East Africa: an Introductory History documents the transformation of East Africa from the Stone Age to the first decade of the twenty-first century. The book is ideal for any reader interested in unraveling the intricate history of East Africa, and especially for students coming to the study of this region for the first time. Robert M. Maxon is Professor of History at West Virginia University. He served as an Education Officer in Kenya from 1961-64 and has served as a visiting professor of history at Moi University in Kenya on four separate occasions. Maxon has carried out research in East Africa on numerous visits since 1968." You will also find Bob in the TEAA directory. During his TEA service as a member of Wave 1C, he taught in Chavakali and Kakamega, Kenya. To paraphrase Yogi Berra: "You can learn a lot just by reading."

East African Odyssey/2003 by Emilee Hines

This is the story from a TEAA stalwart of one young teacher's travels and adventures from the Congo border to the Indian Ocean, from Victoria Falls to the remote Northern Frontier of Kenya. Teaching in Kenya, she interacted with and came to respect her African students and British colleagues. This is a love affair with East Africa and its people-African, Asian, and European. It is exciting, inspiring, sad, and, most of all, unforgettable. Yes, and Emilee had several dates along the way.

The Education of a British-Protected Child/2012 by Chinua Achebe

A recently published volume and a kind of summing up collection of essays which reflects both his passions and his perspectives. It is not an angry book, but one which leaves you resolved. The first chapter, the book's title, and the last, "Africa is People," are especially compelling.

Elephant Country/2014 by Vicki Croke

I include this book for two reasons: elephants and early life adventure. Both of those topics are congruent with our own experiences. At the age of 23 with survival of the trenches and also a camel corps in WWI in his rear view mirror, Billy Howard left England in 1920 for the forests of Burma. He didn't know jack about either Burma, teak forests, or elephants. To do his job he had to learn Burmese. Except for leaves he never left Burma until 1945 and in the meantime carved out an exemplary career as a manager of teak forests and elephants. Nicknamed Elephant Bill he was the hero of a small operation in western Burma/eastern India. I think you'll like this story.

Emma's War/1996 by Deborah Scroggins

A personal story and powerfully told. Emma was a Brit who fell in love with a southern 'rebel' and went a bit native, and the guy she fell for is now vice-president of the Republic of the South Sudan.

Empires of the Monsoon/1996 by Richard Hall

I do not know how I stumbled upon this book, but I am very glad I did. It is a brilliant, comprehensive history of the Indian Ocean merchants and the nations that ultimately controlled the area. The book is comprised of short chapters—55 in all—which focus on the role of monsoons in the pre-steamship days. Sheer imperialism arrives with the big boats. One of the glories of this book is the way the author constructs understandable contexts and perspectives for the history. Hall does a masterful job of detailing the Portuguese entry into the Indian Ocean and the barbarity of their conquests. Also explained is the origin of the myth of Prester John and how this fictive character fueled Christian hatred of Muslims. I recommend this book most highly. Similarly, Ben Lindfors recommends *Commerce with the Universe: Africa, India and the Afrasian Imagination,* a book by Gaurav Desai.

Every Day is for The Thief/2007 & 2014 by Teju Cole
Open City/2011 by Teju Cole

Teju Cole's new book is actually his first, written in 2007 and published in Nigeria. His second book is titled Open City published in 2011. Both are fiction written in the first person with an authorial voice that reads like journalism because they seem so much like urban noir that they must be true. Of course, they are true in the sense if that epic quotation from chief in cuckoo's nest: "it's true even if it didn't happen." "Every Day" is reflection on a Nigerian-American returning to Lagos to visit relatives and to get a fix of his home country: "One goes to markets to participate in the world." The subjects of the narrator's reflections, and the casual authenticity of the dialogue make you feel that he is reporting on his own life. Which I suspect he is only these specific events didn't happen. The book is short and propels right into the second book, equally articulate.

Open City contains the philosophical thoughts of a young Nigerian-German in New York City. Well, that's the easy thumbnail report. It is elegant, it is thoughtful, it is profound. James Wood is so much better than I am: "This busy campaign for allies does a disfavor to Teju Cole's beautiful, subtle, and, finally, original novel. *Open City* is indeed largely set in a multiracial New York (the open city of the title). Cole is a Nigerian American; he grew up in Lagos, came to America in 1992, at the age of seventeen, and is a graduate student in art history at Columbia University. The book's half-Nigerian, half-German narrator walks around New York (and, briefly, Brussels), and meets a range of people, several of them immigrants or emigrants: a Liberian, imprisoned for more than two years in a detention facility in Queens; a Haitian shoeshiner, at work in Penn Station; an angry Moroccan student, manning an Internet café in Brussels. This narrator has a well-stocked mind: he thinks about

social and critical theory, about art (Chardin, Velázquez, John Brewster), and about music (Mahler, Peter Maxwell Davies, Judith Weir), and he has interesting books within easy reach —Roland Barthes's Camera Lucida, Peter Altenberg's Telegrams of the Soul, Tahar Ben Jelloun's The Last Friend, Kwame Anthony Appiah's Cosmopolitanism…. Julius is not heroic, but he is still the (mild) hero of his book. He is central to himself, in ways that are sane, forgivable, and familiar. And this selfish normality, this ordinary solipsism, this lucky, privileged equilibrium of the soul is an obstacle to understanding other people, even as it enables liberal journeys of comprehension." The entire review is at http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2011/02/28/the-arrival-of-enigmas [the article's title is a reference to V. S. Naipaul's wonderful autobiographical novel *The Enigma of Arrival* which I can also recommend highly.].

Cole is also famous for his penetrating essay on white philanthropy in Africa which you can read in the Atlantic magazine: http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/03/the-white-savior-industrial-complex/254843/. This essay starts with 7 shorts tenets that Cole sent out over public media and which went viral. Indeed it seems that the viralness of the comments prevented their now-look-at-it-this-way flavor to come through. In the longer essay Cole examines various comments and fleshes out his own argument that the white savior complex really ought to look to itself before casting stones overseas. One provision of Cole's argument takes me back to anti-Vietnam activities of questioning USA involvement and withholding tax dollars for the military. I guess what Cole means is that Americans should be as rigorous with their own government's policies as they are generous with dollars for orphans and wounded elephants. Cole is very convincing in all of his guises. Nothing is easy, that's for sure.

This essay on white privilege is a continuation of Peggy McIntosh's 1989 foundational essay, "Unpacking the Knapsack of White Privilege." This thinking emerged from her work at Wellesley College and reflecting on male privilege: http://amptoons.com/blog/files/mcintosh.html. Just as everybody should listen to Chimamanda Adichie's TED talk on "The Dangers of a Single Story," they should also read McIntosh's essay.

The Expedition to the Baobab Tree/1981, reprinted 2014 by Wilma Stockenstrum, trans. by J. Coetzee

"With bitterness, then. But I have forbidden myself. With ridicule, then, which is more affable, which keeps itself transparent ands could not care less; and like a bird into a nest I can slip back into a tree trunk and laugh to myself. And keep quiet too, perhaps just keep quiet so as to dream outward, for the seventh sense is sleep." Thus begins this short and mysterious and beguiling book. Channel "The Yellow Wallpaper" and Waiting for the Barbarians, and you have a flavor of this stream of consciousness book which can be read as anti-colonial and feminist at the same time (actually, my forthcoming dissertation will be exactly that). The narrator tells her life in darkly clothed episodes: she lives and then folds her wings and dives deep. Another victory for the Archipelago Press.

Explorers of the Nile: Triumph and Tragedy of a Great Victorian Adventure/2011 by Tim Jeal

Jeal has fashioned a career out of writing about those who went into Africa trying to locate the origin of the Nile River. Prior to this book he wrote biographies of Livingstone and Stanley. Has written other books including fiction, but the Nile and its stories are his passion. Inspired to update Alan Moorehead's two fine 1960s books, Jeal brings the Nile adventure into focus and shows how the explorers suffered and survived (generally), wrote and spoke, and ultimately let loose imperialism in its many guises, many of which we found when we arrived in East Africa. I liked how Jeal meshed the stories together and then took some intellectual risk in showing how searching for the source of the Nile involved a lot of people not many of whom landed in history book and furthermore messed up the boundaries of several countries, especially UG. He even contends that the UG mess led to Kenya Colony being created which led to Mau Mau.....well, you get the picture. East Africa's own domino theory. He goes give useful historical background to what is now northern UG, a micro mess of the first order.
The book is very readable (as are Moorehead's), and you will enjoy it (let's face, you've forgotten all those explorer details and need a refresher). Maybe the Brits will have him to dinner and serve Tusker.

The Eye of the Storm: A Photographic Journey Across Uganda/2002 by David Pluth, Pierre-Francoise Didek, Susan Kiguli, Nicholas Michel, a bilingual edition (Fr and En)

Still looking for captivating East African authors, I stumbled across the UG poet Susan Kiguli as an author of this book. The book successfully documents all aspects of the country in 9 chapters. Thus one gets a reasonably accurate ands comprehensive picture of contemporary UG augmented by Michel's chapter introductions and captions and Kiguli's poetry. Such as

The butterflies still visit

The tree where we used to sit
Still stands.
Passing by it
Each morning
As I walk to work,
I always see you under its shade
Singing in your clear voice
That made me float
In the calm waters
Of a sea of love.

It is a really a nice book.

Far From Home/2011 by Na'ima B. Robert

This book is like a 12 year-old's history of Zimbabwe. It is very self-conscious when it begins, but it does level off, and I finished reading it with interest. The tale told is of Zimbabwean family traduced in the 60s by a white family. Forty years later this same white family is kicked off "its" land in the Third Chimurenga in the early 2000s. Before creating his own family a white policeman, Ian Wilson, raped Tariro, and a child was born of this rape. Tariro ultimately goes into the bush to fight for land and returns to begin again on the land that had been taken from her family in the 60s. She also goes to UK for her aunt's Ph.D. graduation and has a long heart-to-heart with Ian's white daughter. Yes, somewhat improbable, but if you read the biography of the author, you wouldn't be surprised.

The First Wife: A Tale of Polygamy/2002/2016 by Paulina Chiziane

Rami is the first wife, Luisa second, Saly third, Julietta fourth, Maua fifth. A sixth woman shows up later. Rami is jolted to find out about Luisa even if Luisa already knew about Rami…and so on. This story documents the trials of these women and efforts they make to confront himself. There is the chicken gizzard and a lot of broken glass. There is a lot of detail and a lot of reflection on the plight of women. Last sentence: "He doesn't fall, but he flies into the abyss, toward the heart of the desert, toward a hell without end." A bit long, but I liked it very much. The first novel by a Mozambique woman and translated at the behest of the Archipelago Press.

The Fishermen/2015 by Chigozie Obioma

Greek tragedy in Nigeria begins "We were fishermen my brothers and I…." Five brothers, Mom, Dad, and one sister are "invaded" by the local madman. Each chapter begins with a drawing of a fishing hook and an association: "Ikenna was a python." The center cannot hold, and the writing is powerful. The narrator, Ben, is in a very awkward position. This book was short-listed by The New Yorker in its July 20, 2015 edition and later long-listed for the Booker Prize.

Foreign Gods, Inc./2014 by Okey Ndibe

The title refers to a NYC company that buys ethnic art—think Congo nail fetishes—and sells them to adoring and ignorant Park Avenue primates. Now take a failed Amherst College graduate—think Uhuru Kenyatta— who cannot parlay his college degree into a good job because of his accent [yes, I know, UK didn't have those problems] who becomes so desperate that he decides to return to Nigeria to steal his village's god artifact to sell in NYC at FGI. The graduate is Ike, he of the horrible decisions. The plot, I regret to say, is predictable as are the exchanges with immigration officers at Nigerian airports. Ike's continual failures reminded me of Rohinton Mistry's A Fine Balance. The book is redeemed by Ndibe's excellent dialogue in several languages and Ike's thoughtful exchanges with his Uncle Usuakwu. Earnest the book certainly is, satirical, too.

From Citizen to Refugee: Uganda Asians Come to Britain/1973/2012
by Mahmood Mamdani

Mamdani is an intellectual in the tradition of Ali Mazrui. We should all read him. Mamdani is a third generation Ugandan of Indian origin. He was born in Mumbai and grew up in Kampala. Both his parents were born in the neighboring Tanganyika Territory (present day Tanzania). He was educated at the Government Primary School in Dar es Salaam, Government Primary School in Masaka, K.S.I. Primary School in Kampala, Shimoni and Nakivubo Government Primary Schools in Kampala and at Old Kampala Senior Secondary School. He received a scholarship along with 26 other Ugandan students to study in the United States, i.e., The Airlift. The scholarships were part of the independence gift that the new nation had received. Mamdani joined the University of Pittsburgh in 1963 and graduated with a BA in political science in 1967 (subsequent MA from Tufts-Fletcher School and Ph.D. from Harvard). This book is the story of the 1972 expulsion of Asians from UG by Amin. I had heard the story but not the kind of details that this book narrates. It was published originally in 1973 and then again in 2012 in a new introduction. Mamdani landed on his feet, has two great academic appointments, and is married to Mira Nair. God is great.

Frontiers/1992 by Noel Mostert

Mostert looks at the expanse of history and notes two instances following the European age of discovery: the westward move from the American colonies and the eastward move of British settlers in the eastern Cape in South Africa. The massive book devotes most of its space to the latter movement. I dove into this tome following a reading of The Heart of Redness by Zakes Mda who uses history to review the Xhosa cattle-killings of 1856-57 and the fledgling idea of a culture city in the Transkei area of his native South Africa. I read the first 145 pages which like the first 118 pages of The Mind of South Africa to orient me in the author's thesis and exegesis. I then turned to chapters 32 and 33 to try to understand the context of the cattle-killing. If you seek a history of the Xhosa and the Wild Coast (and if you have the time to read the whole 1,000+ book), this is the title for you. If you seek background to the Mda novel, this book will reveal why hysteria, think Arthur Miller's The Crucible and Guyana's Jonestown of 1978, is so difficult to comprehend.

Ghana Must Go/2014 by Taiye Selasi/Tuakli-Wosornu

Ghana Must Go is the story of 6 family members in search of…well, that's the rub: they just want to be themselves. But as a story of migration, GMG recalls *The Grapes of Wrath* which told the story of family members and others in search of a common destiny. GMG is the story of disparate destinies. The novel opens up with the protagonist dying on his front lawn just having left his slippers at the doorway. Kweku Sai is actually lovingly drawn even if his previous actions were inconsistent and his wife and children suffered. The mother of the book (and Kweku's first wife) is Fola who wishes to identify first as Yoruba (significant only if you know Nigerian groups), and it is she against whom all the characters

define themselves. The only exception is Olu, the eldest child and the one raised to be a double of his father. Indeed, all the children could have come, skin color aside, from Lake Wobegone because they are each exceptional. Taiwo and Kehinde are twins, the former being modeled after the author (both decidedly female). She an aspiring lawyer who leaves it all for an older man; Kehinde is painter who sells well. Sadie just wants to be an individual and is tired of the family kvetches. The novel's central part is made up of the sentiments and actions of individual family members, and at the end they all come to visit their mother in Accra, Ghana, to mourn the death of Kweku. "Ghana Must Go" is indeed a sociological statement that Ghanaians living in Nigeria should go home and let Nigeria be dysfunctional on its own; but the phrase has little meaning for the novel. Googling the author and her parents and their story only serves to make this novel more confusing than it already is. Fola is valiant as the mother, just as Selasi's mother is valiant in her job; affection went out to Kweku who I guess just should never have married Fola. For family dynamics, this book is powerful and should generate much discussion.

A Gift from Childhood/2012 by Baba Diakite

This author is one of my favorite authors of children's books set in Africa (cf, http://www.africaaccessreview.org/aar/awards.html). In this book Diakite speaks to adults and tells tales of his youth in a village. Diakite was born in the city of Bamako, Mali, and spends his first 4 years there but then is sent to his grandparents in the village to become reeducated in the ways of his tradition. The real deal. Diakite with his wife and two daughters now divides his time between Bamako and Portland, Oregon, and you can bet that his daughters have spent time in the village. He founded the Ko-Falen Cultural Center in Bamako and will gladly sign you up for one of his January tours to the land of Sundiata.

God's Crucible: Islam and the Making of Europe, 570-1215/2008 by David L. Lewis

Africa, the route of Arab Islam's westward expansion is described in this book. Along the way, North Africa provided Berber warriors who played a key military role as they and the Arabs marched and rode through the lands south of the Mediterranean before sailing the Gibraltar Strait to Spain in 711, there to gain and keep Islam's multi-century foothold in Europe and make possible the powerful and progressive Islamic role to which the book's title refers. If you are as unfamiliar as I was with the intellectually enlightened and religiously tolerant Islamic regime in Andalusian Spain - at a time when the rest of Europe was enduring the violence and ignorance of what we euphemistically call the Dark Ages - you may, as I did, take heart (in our own fraught decade) from this book's accounts of Moslem-Jewish-Christian collaboration in government (with Moslems as senior partner) and in the extension and transmission of ancient and contemporary scientific, mathematical and especially medical knowledge. History may be written by the winners, but the Andalusian Arabs had their victories, historians and scribes too, not to mention a sophisticated economy and huge library holdings, in dramatic contrast to their contemporaries across the Pyrenees. It was therefore possible and indeed came to pass that Arabs too recorded what happened, making it available to us in our own time. So if your high school, like mine, featured a Euro-centric

syllabus of "world history" and you missed this stuff, here's an engaging read that equalizes the account.

Going Up Country/2010 edited by John Coyne

A college classmate produced a DVD called Waging Peace about the Peace Corps (http://www.mediaprojects.org/films/american-history/waging-peace-peace-corps-experience/). He was one of 22 Williams College classmates of 1963 who were invited to join the PC. Seventeen went, and 3 of us joined TEA. This book was published in 1994 and contains 6 essays by RPCVs writing about Africa. I recommend this collection to you, especially the essays by Leonard Levitt (TZ) and Mary-Ann Smith (CAM).

A Guide to the Bird of East Africa/2008 by Nicholas Drayson

This book is one of fiction which tells the tale of a relationship between a Mr. Malik and a Ms. Rose Mbikwa in Nairobi. Who in the Asadi Bird Club can identify the most birds in one week? And then dance with the fetching Rose at the Nairobi Hunt Club Ball? Charming.

Golden Boy/2014 by Tara Sullivan

This young adult novel dramatizes the difficulties of albinism which happens to be a major curse in sub-Saharan Africa and even more so in Mwanza, TZ. The book's central character, Habo, is 12 and living with his family when they have to move from the Arusha area to Mwanza so that the mother and older children can find shelter with mom's sister and work. Habo meanwhile stumbles onto a terrible character named Alasiri who is an elephant poacher and generally mean guy. They meet again in Mwanza where waganga seek body parts from albinos for their muti. Alasiri finds Habo and tries to capture and kill him but fails. Habo runs away from Mwanza to Dar es Salaam where he feels he will be safer (regrettably Mwanza's reputation is real in the real world). Habo can live on the streets only so long, and one day he tries to steal a man's dinner. This man is Kweli (Swahili speakers smile) who grabs Habo and then hears part of his tale. Kweli is a blind and a wood carver; Habo doesn't tell his whole truth. As you no doubt have predicted, Kweli takes Habo in, gives him food and shelter, and teaches him his craft. Alasiri re-enters the novel as someone trying to get Kweli to carve poached elephant tusks. Habo fears he will be discovered, and I leave you to find out what happens.

The author has her own dynamic story, and I recommend that you go to http://tarasullivanbooks.com to find it out. The subject matter of Golden Boy is moving, and you can go to http://www.asante-mariamu.org to find out more and/or donate.

Half of a Yellow Sun/2006 by Chimamanda Adichie.

The author's second novel, set in Biafra, Nigeria, in the 1960s. A fine novel depicting the twins Olanna and Kainene and their lovers, Odenigbo and Richard, and their cooks,

Ugwu and Harrison. I admired each at different times in the novel. Now there are some tough passages, but don't let that put you off reading the book; it is long, but don't let that put you off reading this book. The tranquil scenes take place in the sections labelled "The Early Sixties"; and the difficult scenes take place in the sections labelled "The Late Sixties." The book that never gets written but whose title suggests the trauma of Adichie's novel is "The World Was Silent When We Died." This sense of trauma is, however, redeemed by the wonderful character of "My good man."

Harare North by Brian Chikwava. Review by Aminatta Forna in *The Guardian*.

Harare North is what Zimbabweans call London, a reference to the number of Zimbabwean immigrants who have chosen or been obliged to settle in the city. Johannesburg is Harare South. Brian Chikwava's unnamed asylum-seeking narrator arrives in Harare North with nothing to his name but a survivor's instinct. His is a parasitical existence, first in the house of his cousin and his wife, neither of whom wants him there. When the coldness of his reception finally moves him on, he goes to stay with his only other contact in London, an old school friend who lives with other Zimbabweans in a Brixton squat. Here the reason for the tension that existed between the protagonist and his cousin becomes evident. The young man is a pro-Mugabe thug, a member of the Green Bombers youth brigade, on the run from the police and his own people. In his narrator Chikwava has created an utterly compelling anti-hero, who exploits and manipulates everyone around him while retaining a superb grandiosity ("I am a principled man!") and sense of entitlement. This is a brave thing for any writer, especially a first-time novelist, to attempt, but Chikwava pulls it off. At first the central character comes across as lazy, naive, cunning, loyal and disloyal by turns, the average teenage lout. Only gradually does Chikwava reveal the extent of his cold machinations. Chikwava's great skills are his humour and his ability to create a powerful and original voice. Sekai, the cousin's wife, is a "lapsed African" who doesn't cook for visitors, keeps a dog instead of having children and looks at the narrator with a "pointy eye". But behind the humour are powerful themes. The connection between personal choices and wider events; the narrator's refusal to acknowledge what is happening in his country, even as the bulldozers prepare to move into his mother's village; the exploitation of asylum-seekers and illegal immigrants in London, including by members of their own community. The Brixton household, indeed the whole of Harare North, mirrors the Zimbabwean state, with pro- and anti-Mugabe factions, self-absorbed middle classes and those just trying to get by, like Shingi, by taking employment as BBC (British Bottom Cleaner) workers in old people's homes. Chikwava's narrator is mesmerising, an amoral chancer who meets his match not in a person, but a place - in Harare North.

EBG here: the only off-putting aspect of this book is its lack of narrative drive and its intentional colloquial English. Powerful this book definitely is.

Heart of Darkness/2010 by Joseph Conrad, Catherine Anyango, David Mairowitz

This volume is a GRAPHIC NOVEL version with adapted text including segments of Conrad’s 1890 Congo diary: Conrad provided the original text, Mairowitz selected passages,

Anyango illustrated. The text and the enterprise invite multiple interpretations. This version is murky, does equate Marlow with Conrad, and highlights the harlequin. This book was published by SelfMadeHero in the UK.

The best history of that era is still *King Leopold's Ghost* by Adam Hoschschild, and another view of the Congo activities is offered in *Dream of the Celt*/ 2012 by Mario Vargas Llosa. The Celt is Roger Casement whose activities are almost as shadowy as Conrad's. Casement is a multi-faceted study (Congo, Peru, Ireland) in his own right. Someone out there might want to write a paper comparing Marlow and Casement.

Hitchhike the World: Book I: America, Europe, Africa (Paperback) by William A. Stoever, TEA II

Whether hitching or taking local buses, many of us went on the road in the 60s and 70s in search of....well, there's the rub. I'm not so sure what we all went in search of, but we like the chickens were trying to get to the other side of the road. Book 1 resonated for me especially because Bill Stoever, like myself and hundreds of other young Americans, found himself in East Africa with the Teachers for East Africa/TEA project. Many of us travelled but few kept journals, and most memories are just blurs. A segment of the population will respond knowingly to chapter 16. Bill has set a fine standard here, building no doubt on our colleague's Don Knies's foundational work, *Walk the Wide World*, which appeared in 1958. I eagerly await Bill's sequel.

Homegoing/2016 by Yaa Gyasi

I loved this book which is the tale of two threads of a Ghanaian family starting in 1764 in rural whatisnow Ghana to the 1990s in Harlem, NY. Fire and water figure prominently. Each character in the lines goes through one kind of a trial or another. The trials are narrated directly, abuse is unvarnished. Evils of slavery existed on both side of the Atlantic. It is as if with each year artists are finding ways to unpack racial contention more precisely. You "feel" this novel as well as read it. The novel ends with Majorie and Marcus, a stone and "Welcome Home." It is geographical identity in reverse: one goes home, one doesn't come home. You'll think about or look at Cape Castle in a different way after absorbing this book. I got on the *Americanah* train early, and I suggest you do the same with *Homegoing*.

The Horizon History of Africa/1971 edited by Alvin Josephy, Jr.

I rediscovered this book published by American Heritage in the process of going over books which I have purchased over the past 50 years. It's amazing what you find. Anyway, this volume (available only from used book dealers) has 12 chapters on various parts of African history each written by an expert. The chapters and the Philip Curtin-written introduction all accompanied by maps, photographs, and original documents called "Africa Speaks." The writing is elegant. If you were going to lead any class or discussion of African history, this is the book that you should build it around. I am now looking for a book of similar stature to illuminate the years 1970 to 2017.

Hour of the Red God/2013 by Richard Crompton.

This mystery is set in Nairobi in 2007 in one week in late December, the week the election actually did occur. Mollel is a Maasai policeman working with Kiunga, a Luhya, in a section commanded by a Luo on a case against a Kikuyu. At the heart of the case is a murder of a Maasai prostitute, and that is the narrative drive of the book. By setting the case at the time of the 2007 election, Crampton is able to comment on the election is ways that Mukoma wa Ngugi ignored in his mystery, Black Star Nairobi. Doesn't make you want to revisit Uhuru Park any time soon.

How to Teach English (Oxford University Press) and a book which is about to be reissued, **The Teacher's Friend** by Brian Sesnan

Both are pedagogical books, both aimed at the volunteer, or reluctant teacher, or the teacher with virtually no one to help her as she has been plunged in at the deep end. *The Teacher's Friend*, which I wrote for UNESCO-PEER (so I get no royalties!) has appeared in French, Portuguese and Somali editions in different parts of Africa. *How to Teach English* is, weirdly, coming out in a Korean edition. Since it was meant for English-speaking Africa I find this rather strange! There is also a longer book originally called *Guidelines on Education and Training for Refugee*s which will reappear soon as Africa's Education in Question, or something like that. I have found Brian's book difficult to track down, largely I think because many were written for the UN. He has devoted his post-TEA life to UN educational work all over the world.
Brian is referenced in *Refugee and Immigrant Students: Achieving Equity in Education*

I Do Not Come to You By Chance/2009 by Tricia Nwaubani

Augustina opens and closes this novel which is more about her son, Kingsley, and her brother, Boniface aka Cash Daddy. It is a delightful read and shows family dynamics under pressure and the world of easy money in 419-land (419 is the universal reference to Nigerian internet money scammers). Kingsley is the firstborn and obligated to provide for his family after his self-righteous father gets sick and then dies. Cash Daddy seems to be the answer to Kings's dreams, but the ethically centered people of his life, most notably his mother, are appalled. Ultimately, Kings…..well, I know you want to read this book yourselves.

Infidel/2007 by Ayaan Hirsi

Having dared myself I took up this book with the imperious Hirsi staring out at me on the cover. In the background were the causal glimpses of what many of us thought were the most beautiful women in East Africa, memories of the indomitable Farah from *Out of Africa*, and the elegant Iman. Throw all of that stuff out. This is the story of difficult circumstances told with perspective; it is on the one hand a traditional autobiography and on the other a memoir of finding voice and finding safety. It was not an easy journey, and you start to

understand how Hirsi comes to her declarations about personhood and Islam. I enjoyed the book very much. Together with current 2015-2016 articles from The New Yorker this book makes a very good case for a strident feminism in the Muslim world. This shit's for real. See also http:// www.theahafoundation.org/.

I REFUSE TO DIE: MY JOURNEY TO FREEDOM begins with Koigi wa Wamwere's personal account of growing up in Kenya's Central and Rift Valley provinces under British rule in the 50s. He goes on to describe his activities in the post-colonial period, activities which eventually led to his flight to Norway during the Moi regime. Wamwere is a current MP in Kenya, and he was our host for lunch at Parliament during the reunion. He has a new book entitled, Negative Ethnicity: From Bias To Genocide. In June, 2005, eighteen of us were hosted at Bunge, Kenya parliament, by Koigi wa Wamwere whom Gene Childs had been put in touch with by Jackie Klopp of Columbia. wa Wamwere met a few of us at Mountain Lodge earlier when he was in the entourage of President Kibaki. We joined MP wa Wamwere for lunch before going to Kenyatta U. I REFUSE TO DIE is very compelling to read. He has been likened to Robert Kennedy, and the comparison is apt. wa Wamwere was imprisoned by both Kenyatta and Moi, neither of whom come off well as politicians. wa Wamwere has written another book called NEGATIVE ETHNICITY

Imagine Africa, volumes I and II

In, say, 2007, a group of artists, authors, and intellectuals gathered at the Goree Institute in Dakar, Senegal, to discuss and reflect. They wanted to create a vehicle for a dynamic vision of the African continent. This ongoing discussion (and others) can be viewed at http://www.goreeinstitut.org/index.php/fr/. One of the first manifestations of this spirit was a small book 6" tall and 8" long, a kind of giant postcard. The book was 232 pages and produced by a collective called Pirogue, a creative expression of the Goree Institute. A website was established and a book, introduced by Breyten Breytenbach, was published in 2011, and titled imagine africa; the artwork on the cover features 3 figures in color, 2 upright and the righthand one bent at the waist. The Pirogue Collective no longer has a website and the first publisher no longer exists or has morphed into the Archipelago Press which can be contacted at https://archipelagobooks.org/. imagine africa II, sized like its predecessor, was published in 2014 and introduced by Georges Lory. The artwork on its cover shows 3 panels in color primarily of faces. The books are copyrighted by an organization called "Island Position." You can purchase both volumes at reasonable prices from the Brooklyn, NY, firm, Archipelago Books. Archipelago Books has greater range than just Africa, and I recommend that you peruse its website. In fact, if you want the books, just contact Archipelago Books, basi.

Caution: if you go online, do not confuse these books with one called Imagine, Africa! by van der Merwe.

Each volume contains prose, poetry and artwork. Each work seeks to represent all parts of Africa, and works not originally in English are translated side-by-side with the original. Several of the writers are widely known, and readers seeking a wider breadth should use these volumes to discover writers previously unknown to them. Some pieces are long (20+

pages, some are short). Both books contain treasures. I cannot recommend these books highly enough.

volume 1/2011 contains many essays that give readers an over view of continent comings and goings since 1960. Start with the introduction “Africa Lives!” by Breyton Breytenbach, a monumental figure of the anti-apartheid movement in his native South Africa and now world citizen writer, painter, and activist. The second essay is brilliantly written by Malian Herve Ludovic de Lys, titled “Sleeping Beauty!” An author also new to me is Trudy Stevenson, a British-Zimbabwean diplomat who has a firm sense of perspective of the years of hope and dismay. Stephen Ellis a Dutch academic comments on the same territory. Kenyan Shailja Patel writes a poetry-prose piece on the 2007 KE elections. I found Chari-Pierre Naude’s poems and Andre Naffis-Sahely’s fables haunting. Lovers of Ngugi’s prose will be heartened by a long short story called “Pan African Flight.” You should buy this book.

volume II/2014 contains a rich variety of prose, poetry, and photography. Georges Lory’s introduction invokes the contributions of Africa to mankind: language especially poetry and the systems of thought that language is, music, the youth of its population, and a long practice of dialogue, truth and reconciliation programs and the ideal of Ubuntu. Lory dedicates the volume to the idea of revolution. There are several pieces translated from the Portuguese such as Paulina Chiziane’s long story, “Who’s in Charge Here?” Francis Beney’s poem “The Ife Mask” creates a continental narrative from one work of art. For me one the most powerful pieces is the collection of photographs by South African Cedric Nunn based on his maternal grandmother, “Madhlawu.” Kenyan Billy Kahora contributes a disarming short story called “treadmill Love.” Breyten Breytenbach returns with several poems.

In Arabian Nights: A Caravan of Moroccan Dreams (2009) by Tahir Shah

Shah continues the story he began in his acclaimed memoir The Caliph's House, the tale of his family's move to Morocco, this time focusing on the traditional wisdom stories of Arabia, best known in the West through A Thousand and One Nights. Inspired by his family's long tradition of storytelling ("We have this gift," says his father, "Protect it and it will protect you"), Shah frames his search for identity with traditional Arabian tales, but also with the stories of the men who tell them. As such, he creates a bright patchwork quilt of stories old and new, including his own childhood memories, held together by an engaging cross-country travelogue.

In the House of the Interpreter by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

This memoir, second in a series, details aspects of Ngugi's life at Alliance High School in Kikuyu, Kenya, very near Nairobi in starting in 1955. Ironically for us, the school's mission was based on Tuskegee and Hampton. The headmaster in Ngugi's time was Edward Francis (1940-1962) whom Ngugi sees as an enigmatic force in the school. The book goes back and forth between activities and ruminations at Alliance and the strong background of Mau Mau which Ngugi cannot escape. In July of 1959 Ngugi is on his way to Makerere in

Kampala, the subject of his next memoir. As much as I love the subtext of the title, the book does not capture a mood like Dreams in a Time of War. But the author is growing up in very dynamic times, and we rarely get a view of a society in transition as we do from this articulate man.

In Search of King Solomon's Mines: A Modern Adventurer's Quest for Gold and History in the Land of the Queen of Sheba (2012) by Tahir Shah

King Solomon, the Bible's wisest king, possessed extraordinary wealth. The grand temple he built in Jerusalem was covered in gold from the porch to the inner sanctum, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. Long before H. Rider Haggard's classic adventure novel King Solomon's Mines unleashed gold fever more than a century ago, many had sought to find the source of the great king's wealth. In this new adventure - "a hybrid of Indiana Jones and Herodotus" - Tahir Shah tries his hand at the quest.

It's Our Turn to Eat/2011 by Michaela Wrong

A powerful book by a journalist well-seasoned in African affairs, this book is an indictment of Kenya's Mwai Kibaki and his Mount Kenya Mafia. It is also, although less so, an indictment of a passive citizenry which seems bent on accepting corruption. A coterie of outspoken citizens does exist but has been powerless to effect sufficient change to make, for instance, the education and health of the citizenry a priority. The book outlines Kenya's history and ethnic dimensions. When I encouraged fellow TEAAer and Kenya resident Mike Rainy to buy the book, he responded thus: "Too right Brooks, I imported two copies. But M. Wrong really documents 2003-2006 and now in 2009 trust for top leaders is at an all time low for Kenyans at only 18% for the PM, 17% for the VP, 14% for Pres. Kibaki and only 11% for Hussein Ali, our Commissioner of Police. 71% of Kenyans are worse off than just a year ago. And although the US Embassy imported and gave away over 5000 copies of It's Our Turn to Eat, there are about 40 million Kenyans! During Kibaki I we could still be shocked, now during Kibaki II, now referred to as Mabaki, we are mainly just tired and demoralized." Wrong names names including one of my former students.

Kenya Refuses http://thenewinquiry.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/KenyaRefusesSupplementFinal.pdf

I have been waiting for the independent souls of Kenya to voice their responses to the elections of 2013 in which the winners seemed to have won only because non-Kenyans were intent on requiring compliance with the International Criminal Court's/ICC's indictment of Kenyatta and Ruto. A victory without integrity. Well, this collection is one response. I recommend in particular "Silence is a Woman" and "Kenya Will Never Was." "The Politics of Contempt" is strong, too.

The King History Forgot/2013 by Robert Scully

Bob's African novel is now in print and in e-book format. The Web page is: http://www.roberttkscully.com. Bob sharpened his teeth on the importance of oral tradition for African history while teaching at Kibabii Secondary School, north of Bungoma, in the mid-1960s. During his first term teaching he discovered, to his astonishment, that the text for his African History course was titled, The Coming of The Europeans, which was the focus then. Soon after, he attended a "Teachers of African History" conference in Nairobi. Bob had just digested Basil Davidson's The Lost Cities of Africa and some of Bethwell Ogot's studies of the Luo to prep for the conference. Again, dumbfounded when a veteran history master at an established Nairobi Secondary School got up and pontificated how "one cannot teach Black African History since there is none." Next term at Kibabii folks began organizing a local history society and next holiday students did field work assignments with elders at home. From this came stories which Bob later published in Azania, History in Africa, and elsewhere about the Bukusu tribe's Chetambe and Lumboka Forts, destroyed by C.W. Hobley in the 1890s, and Chief Machanja's trip to Mumia to retrieve Bukusu captives. Not long afterward, Kibabii students were recording firsthand accounts of 19th Century local history and sitting with wazee such as Mukisu Kakai, Kikala Mururumbu and Ngichabe Nabutola, survivors of Hobley's rampage through Bukusuland. In Phalaborwa, South Africa in the 1970s, Bob discovered much oral tradition to be recorded which led to this book. Lovers of the oral tradition should read the works of another TEAAr, Harold Scheub.

Kwani Trust: Kwani? series, Kwanini? series

www.kwani.org

Established in 2003, Kwani Trust is a Kenyan based literary network dedicated to developing quality creative writing and committed to the growth of the creative industry through the publishing and distribution of contemporary African writing, offering training opportunities, producing literary events and establishing and maintaining global literary networks. Its vision is to create a society that uses its stories to see itself more coherently.

Story Moja books published by No Boundaries

www.storymojaafrica.co.ke

Storymoja was formed in 2007 by a collective of writers who are committed to publishing contemporary East African writing of world-class standard. A reading nation is a smarter nation: "To read our own stories helps us understand ourselves and that knowledge empowers." To that end, Story Moja sources widely to identify good local writers, help them publish and distribute the work locally and internationally. It also commissions writing based on interviews with those affected by issues that shape society.
Check out https://www.facebook.com/StorymojaFestival.

You probably have to go to Nairobi to buy books by these publishers. In 2011 I did buy 3 short, small format books: "Weight of Whispers" by Yvonne Owuor, "Tracing the Scent of My Mother by Muthoni Garland, and "Halfway Between Nairobi an Dundori" also by Garland. I recommend the first 2 highly. As with the Archipelago Press in Brooklyn, publishing houses may provide another tracking source for good literature from Africa. In the case of these 2 publishers, from Kenya. I suspect that there is a similar phenomenon in

Uganda; Tanzania may be farther behind. However, the fabulous book on Dar es Salaam, Street Level, was published by we dont reed Publishers [yes, that name is correct] in Dar.

A Labyrinth of Kingdoms: 10,000 miles through Islamic Africa by Steve Kemper

Like many of you I had heard of Heinrich Barth as a member of the explorers's list, but he came fuller into my ken when I visited his house in Timbuktu in 2007. There I saw several posters and reference to a museum in Germany (Heinrich-Barth-Institute at the University of Cologne). Thus I bought this 2012 biography which may tell you more than you want to know but does describe Barth's arduous 5-year trip to West Africa. How would you like to be stuck on the shores of Lake Chad in 1851 with no money, no food, no gifts to give/bribe, no Big Macs, and lousy coffee? Talk about one who walked the walk! He was the first white man to visit Timbuktu, leave Timbuktu alive, and return home alive. There is a fabulous website that you must review: http://www.retracingheinrichbarth.co.uk/. Tells you all you need to know if you don't fancy reading the book. I repeat, it is a fabulous website.

Lamu: Kenya's Enchanted Island by Carol Beckwith, Angela Fisher, David Coulson, Nigel Pavitt.

The way it used to be and a little of what it is now. Elegant photos.

The Last Train to Zona Verde/2013 by Paul Theroux

Several months ago I heard Theroux charm the pants off his audience at the Harvard Book Store. Theroux is Medford (MA) H. S.'59—very good year for high school graduates. He was erudite, playful, and witty. I'm thinking "Where's the curmudgeon?" He says that he just likes to travel to see and draw his own conclusions. It is very likely that he has a public speaking persona and a writing persona. Like all observers he often makes mistakes, like wondering why so many Africans have cell-phones without realizing their tremendous communication and financial uses. This book was meant to trace a route from Cape Town to Timbuktu, but Angola withered him, and he returned to Cape Town and then home to Hawaii. He has made up with Vidia and recommended *The House of Mr. Biswas* to us. And he says that we should travel with books completely unlike the lands we visit because we often need a retreat (my wife read Jane Austen on our 12-day, 1973 boat from Bombay to Mombasa).

The book itself is enchanting and opinionated in the Theroux way, but he is much more generous than in previous books, that is until he gets to Angola. But I must say that he documents his pessimism quite well. One of Theroux's riffs is about the growing urbanization of African countries and the desperate feel that he sees these cities developing.

La Grand Traversee de L'Afrique/The Great Adventure of Africa 1896-1899: Fashoda, Congo, Djibouti, French-English bilingual edition, 2010 by Eric Deroo

Your intrepid finder of esoteria has located the book which promises to be the definitive volume of photographs which document Jean-Baptiste Marchand's Congo-Nile

expedition. Marchand hired for his mission, among others, an anthropologist, photographer, and career soldier named Col. Albert Baratier who did just that but then his photographs disappeared, and Baratier died as a major general in 1917, "mort pour la France." The pictures resurfaced and were put in a most elegant book: I find that Deroo is a prolific documenter of French international imperialism; the Wikipedia entry reveals the extent of his writings and films. And then I found the Marchand Monument in Paris which I visited in April of 2015 (http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monument_à_la_mission_Marchand).

I have read this book, and I tell you historians and photographers out there, it is AWESOME. You'll want to frame the book's cover. There are 61 pages of text, written in both English and French, 8 pages of biographies in French, and then 200 pages of Baratier's photos reproduced from their mounted pages in his own album where the captions are all in French. These photographs are spectacular and help us understand the amazing travail that this expedition represented. This book is one fine book; it will not be online! And it puts Peter Beard to shame.

This book reminds me of another impossible place in Africa, the one detailed in Michael Fay's elegant large book, *Last Place on Earth (v. 1&2),* hardcover – September 1, 2005 by Mike Fay (author) and Michael Nichols (photographer). This book qua book will knock your socks off; it consists of two volumes in one cardboard box. These two volumes document Fay's incredible, I mean incredible, walk—yes, walk— through a major part of the Congo Basin called the Megatransect (http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0010/feature1/).

It is commonplace to assume that one can travel from A to B. There are maps, there is GPS, and there is satellite phone. Car, bus, train, plane. Easy to go and come back. These 19th century explorers had only hear-say, and those stuck in the Sudd of southern Sudan couldn't even see where they were going. Food? Ever try unflavored mutoke in Uganda? Try it for 45 days. Illness? Shoes? Bugs? Friends? Distrustfull townspeople? The mind reels.

Ladivine/2016 by Maria N'Diaye

The easy part is to say that this is a book about the sensibilities, both real and imagined, of three generations of women: Ladivine Sylla, Clarisse Riviere, and Ladivine Berger. I was immediately grabbed by the stellar depiction of a lack of feelings that Clarisse had for her mother. I was uncomfortable but intrigued. The same depiction continued between Clarisse and her daughter, Ladivine. And then, as Emily Dickinson wrote in a totally different context, I could not see to see. I loved this author's *Three Strong Women*; I had a sense of direction. I failed to find that sense in N'Diaye's subsequent book.

The Last Gift/2011 by Abdulrazak Gurnah

This is a novel of discovery, revelation, and guilt. I recommend it in the way that I recommend *Season of Migration to the North* by Tayeb Salih: the novels are profound but elusive. They reveal the pain of dislocation; in the guise of immigrant stories they demonstrate how difficult it is to explain self, to be loyal to memory, and to discern what elements of shared existence really matter. Abbas is from a small village on Zanzibar who

flees an awkward situation, but we do not know that until half way into the novel. Maryam is a foundling, fostered by an Indian couple who start to treat her as a servant. They meet and start a life with daughter Hannah and son Jamal. But who are these people, and does the past really define them?

You can search previous pages to find my comments on other of Gurnah's novels, and I am now starting to think that he writers them to explain himself, to his readers and to himself. Many TEAArs taught on the coast,. and I think that you especially will enjoy Gurnah's novels and perhaps deliberate on some level what will be your last gift (cf, the ending to Ellison's *Invisible Man*).

The Last Train to Zona Verde/2014 by Paul Theroux

This book traces Theroux's 2012 trip to Cape Town and environs and then north to Windhoek then east to Nyae Nyae land (with kudos to the Marshall family) and then north into Angola which was not a pleasant land to travel in. He ultimately decides to answer his own question "What am I doing here?" and packs in the trip. I didn't much blame him.

Everybody should read chapter 17, "What Am I Doing Here?"

Laurens van der Post

At heart I am a romantic. I went to Africa in 1964 in part because I thought I could recapture the adventures I had read about in *The Swiss Family Robinson*. I had been seduced in college by Frederick Turner's thesis about the loss of the frontier, and I wanted a frontier (I also wanted indoor plumbing). It was not that I wanted a world of ox-carts so much that I thought a nice, log fire could be the center of my universe. When I arrived at my first posting in central Kenya, I discovered Laurens van der Post: "Sometimes there is God so quickly" says Tennessee Williams's Blanche DuBois in another context. I can't remember which book I read first, but Venture to the Interior stayed with me a long time, and then *The Lost World of the Kalahari*. This guy was great, his world alluring, I was in deep. I read everything, I bought first editions. Van der Post lived to be 90 and died in 1996. He appeared to be a man for all seasons: writer, anthropologist, Jungian, debonair, diplomat, equally European and African. What did I know? Not as much as David Jones who gathered lingering questions about van der Post's credibility into a book titled; Storyteller: The Many Lives of Laurens van der Post published in 2001. This book documents the fabulist nature of its subject, his failed marriages, his seductions, his desires always to travel first class, his possible plagiarisms. And despite words to the contrary the book has that distasteful feel of intentional discrediting. But I get the point: the world of Laurens van der Post was one of creation, not actual experience; and you cannot continue to print books, appear in film and public, and deliver sermons if your premises are faulty. Laurens delivered "a truth" but far from "the whole truth." In reality his books were very well received, and he was a positive (if paternal) light on parts of Africa, World War II, and Carl Jung for 30 years. Jones acknowledges as much although his statement that he had not made up his mind before beginning the book rings a little disingenuous. I do like, though, the contention that biographers must write about both the light and the shadow of their subjects, and self-promotion in any guise is difficult to

take. In the end I think that Laurens van der Post was an Afrikaner James Gatz, the man who became the great Gatsby, the man who would be king because he had a particular vision of the world he wished to live in. A glorious vision with a bad ending.

Leaving Before the Rains Come/2014 by Alexandra "Bobo" Fuller

I heard Alexandra Fuller speak in Boston in January and found her to be a strong advocate for speaking out and personal voice. I encourage you to hear her. She has written 4 books, most notably Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight. She has a wonderful ability to write the "truth" of personal encounters. Her latest book is Leaving Before the Rains Come. She grew up in Zimbabwe and now lives in Wyoming. This new book has that same sense of personal voice and disconcerting perspective that animate her two memoirs. Stories of her father and mother abound and this time with her now former husband whom she realizes she married out of an idealistic attempt to find "normalcy" and routine. She called it "a glandular decision," but it really emerged from a sense of inadequacy which has been redeemed largely by finding her voice while living in Wyoming. The book is really endearing.

Let the Dead Lie/2010; **Blessed Are the Dead**/2012; **Present Darkness**/2014 by Malla Nunn

"Let" is the author's second book; *Blessed Are the Dead*/2012 is her third. These follow *A Beautiful Place to Die*. *Present Darkness*/2014 is her fourth. They are set in South Africa in the early 1950s. All feature Emmanuel Cooper who is a blend of several ethnicities of South Africa. This mix reflects the author's own ethnic blend and allows commentary on South African mores. In both of these books Cooper is bedeviled by his WWII experiences and hears the voice of his Scots commander giving him advice. And, yes, Cooper always gets himself in trouble, especially with his superiors in the police where he is a detective and works with Samuel Shabalala, his Zulu police partner. In "Let" the conundrum is a dead 11 year old white boy hustler. So what's that all about? Good people like the comely Lana Rose and the wise Dr. Zweigman help EC survive and solve the case. These same people appear in "Blessed" which begins with EC having slept again with Lana who is actually about to marry Cooper's boss, Col. Van Neikerk. Exit Ms Rose and off to the Drackenbergs to figure out why a fetching young Zulu girl was murdered. Into the land of bigoted British and land loving Afrikaners. Dr. Z pairs with Dr. Dalglish and boy savant Gabriel Reed to determine that the murderer is an exasperated and conniving wife. But whose? Present Darkness finds us again on the margins of Johannesburg underbelly with an attack on a white family presumably by black teenagers, one of whom is Aaron Shabalala, the son/nephew of Cooper's sidekick.

You'll like these books, but you'll have to go Australia to meet the author. Meanwhile I await her visit to Boston because I would like to meet her.

Little Suns/2015 by Zakes Mda

Mda continues to mine Xhosa clan history for fiction. In this novel the character Malangana is the central character in two time periods: 1879-1881 in the time of a British

officer's murder (documented historical truth) and 1903-1904 in the time of Malangana's search for his love, Mthwakazi (fictional truth). It is a strong and poignant tale about love, loyalty, and pride. Chief Mhlontlo and the horse Gcazimbane figure prominently, and the setting is the general Umtata area of the Eastern Cape. TEAArs will be charmed to know that Mda here (and elsewhere) acknowledges the collected tales of Harold Scheub, IC, and directs attention to Scheub's book, *The Tongue is Fire*.

Lightening Bird: One Man's Journey into Africa/1981 by Lyall Watson

The subject is an epileptic Englishman named Adrian Boshier and the author is a South African academic with degrees in biology, ethology, and anthropology. Boshier lands in RSA and apprentices himself to Raymond Dart; he loves going walkabout and is ultimately ordained by a northern Letho group as a diviner. A fascinating read. Unfortunately, Boshier died at 38 and had written only academic journal articles. See http://katherinelyallwatson.wordpress.com/tag/adrian-boshier/ and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyall_Watson.

Looking for Transwonderland/2013 by Noo Saro-Wiwa

This book was written by the daughter of Ken Saro-Wiwa who lost his life fighting for good. His most famous fight was in support of Ogoni people in Nigeria who sought reparations for the environmental degradation of the Nigerian oil industry. He was an honorable man, and his daughter seems to carry on that tradition in this book which recounts a five-month visit to Nigeria in 2011. This book will resonate for anybody who has visited Nigeria in the last 50 years: great people, lousy living conditions. It brought back all that mess that I and my wife experienced in 1973. The book represents in part the author's accommodation to her birthplace (she lives in the UK). It is, it seems to me, a balanced and intelligent portrayal of Nigeria today, a country that everybody wishes were not such a challenge to visit or live in. The book is very well written.

The Lotus People/1995 by Aziz Hassim

Looking at history often results in finding little "micro-climates" of human endeavor. This is the case with Azziz Hassim and the Indians of Durban, South Africa, many of whom are descendants of the first indentured sugar cane field workers who arrived in 1860. That story is the focus of Hassim's 2nd novel detailed below. In The Lotus People Hassim paints a complex picture of virile, street-savvy men in the early 20th century, who still show a deference to the cultural practices of arranged marriages, negotiating their way through this, a sensitivity to the role of women, the extended family or ancestral history. Ruling largely in the inner domestic space, the women are also strong and resilient, supporting their men in their refusal to cower to the indignities of apartheid society. As the men are quick to point out, the women are "the real fighters they do not pussyfoot around." The Lotus People chronicles the struggles of a single family from the earliest days of arrival from India. Beginning with a small-scale hawking business the grandfather, Yahya Ali Suleiman, faces

many difficulties in the land of his adoption. The author balances generational continuity and difference by telling of the life of the grand old patriarch as well as that of the father, Dara and the sons, Sam and Jake, as each responds to the peculiar times and circumstances in which each lived. In spite of many handicaps the family manage to set up large emporiums in the Grey Street complex. Hassim's books are the kind that many of you may not pick up, but if you do, you will be treated to a vibrant universe.

Love Is Power, or Something Like That: Stories/2009 by A. Igoni Barrett

I'm still reading a few more stories, but so far I find myself unable to engage these stories.

Lyrics Alley/2010 by Leila Aboulela

This novel is slow but grows on you in somewhat the same way that the Cairo Trilogy grows on you. It is the story of members of the Abuzeid family who live in Umdurman, Sudan, with forays into Khartoum, Cairo, and Alexandria. It reveals how northern Sudan is culturally related to Egypt. The hero of the story is Nur Abuzeid who becomes paralyzed from a swimming accident and cannot marry Soraya to whom he was engaged. He finds a career as a poet. It is the story of contentious wives Waheeba and Nabilah. It you seek a "subaltern" view of Sudan and Egypt in the 1950s, you couldn't do much better than begin with this book. Aboulela is a Caine prize winner who grew up in Khartoum.

Mad Dogs and Englishmen

Thesinger/1994 by Michael Asher
My Kenya Days/1994 by Wilfred Thesinger
Walk The Nile/2015 by Levinson Wood

There is a long and generally honorable line of Englishmen and Englishwomen who have gone trekking to various parts of the world, so much so that Noel Coward couldn't resist writing a song about them in 1931. Wilfred Thesinger/WT was born in Ethiopia in 1909 and was so enamored of Haile Selassie as an honorary member of the British Empire that that vision never left him. Eton, Oxford, Sudan Political Service, walk across Arabia, walk the Karakorams, walk the NFD. He lived in Maralal, Kenya, on and off from 1960 to 1996. He died in England in 2003. He was an aristocrat who lived with commoners and was very unhappy in the last 40 years of his life and not an easy person to like in the first 53. WT is highly respected for his walks, his books, and his photography. I've been a big fan, but My Kenya Days is a disappointment.

Having travelled with a person who knew WT, I was directed to Asher's biography. This book captures that confounding sense of WT's privilege and determination. As it were: "Let's walk from Isolo to North Horr, but excuse me while I have a drink with the British DC." He wanted to be known as the "last explorer," but he really was the "last Victorian." Ironically, Asher born in 1953 is himself an explorer of note and walked across the Sahara with his wife for a honeymoon. He has written extensively about exploring and adventure.

He spent many years in the Sudan and now, too, lives in Kenya where he is both author and secondary school teacher. I read his In Search of the Forty Days Road, about being out in the midday sun.

So just when you thought there were no more treks to take, Levinson Wood decides to walk the entire length of the Nile River (starting in Nyungwe Forest in Rwanda) in 2014 and gets advice from Michael Asher along the way. Lev is a relative pup, born in 1982, university educated and British army trained. Not content with merely walking the Nile, he then walked the Himalayas in 2015. Along the Nile Wood walked with several "local" guides who I came to admire more than the new friends who show up in the narrative: Ndoole Boston, Moez Mahir, and Mahmood Ezzeldin. There is history mixed in with coping with various personalities and bureaucracies. Actually, I traversed the Bayuda Desert myself in 2005 in a Toyota Land Cruiser with driver and GPS. I enjoyed this book very much.

The Magic of Saida/2013 by M. G. Vassanji

One might argue that the Asians and the coast do not get any respect in East African literature. This book proves us all wrong and is a fine book about a man named Kamalu Punja whose parents represent two strains of Indian Ocean coast: Sidis/Sheedis and slaves. Kamalu is currently a doctor in Canada who returns to his native Kilwa in southern Tanzania to trace his roots and to find his childhood playmate, Saida. He gets more than he bargained for as he travels through time and place to uncover his identity and historical connections. Vassanji continues to unpack his book of secrets. I recommend that you read this book along side Gurnah's Paradise.

"Mandela's Smile"/2008 by Breyten Breytenbach
http://harpers.org/archive/2008/12/mandelas-smile/

I came across this essay when trying to find out why the author is so revered by certain South Africans. I recommend it to you because the author wants to hold Mandela's proverbial feet (even as Madiba turned 90) and the feet of Africa's current political leaders to the socialist promise of independence revolutions which have been largely ignored by the sequence of rulers in virtually all countries in the past 50 years. Breytenbach, our agemate, is an old-fashioned lefty (activist, author, painter) who was outspoken in the anti-apartheid movement and who left South Africa about 20 years ago.

Maps/2012 by Aleksandra & Daniel Mizielinski

I am a huge map guy and a huge children's lit guy. This book is awesome, unique, wonderful. It is an illustrated atlas that your grandchildren will fall in love with, that you will fall in love with.

The Marble Room: How I Lost God and Found Myself in Africa/2012 by Bill Hatcher

As a geography teacher at an all-girls' boarding school, he's expected to broaden his students' horizons, but instead it is his own worldview that is challenged—by encounters with local shamans, dangerous ascents on Mount Kenya, Kilimanjaro, and Mount Meru, and especially a friendship with a Muslim student. Filled with breathtaking accounts of death-defying mountain climbs and the spectacular beauty of the African landscape, this memoir is both a tale of adventure and self-discovery—and proof that even the most naïve and insular American can achieve a spiritual awakening.

Mau-Mau's Children/2010 by David Sangren, TEA wave III

Read this book, buy this book. What a great idea to return to Giakanja Secondary School 30 years after leaving to interview your former students who had lived through a transformational time in Kenya's history to find out how they had fared. Quite well, as it turns out. This very readable book interweaves history with biography in a very compelling way. Enough so to nudge me to dive into my supply of slides to see what pictures I had taken in term 3 of 1967 when I completed my TEA contract at Giakanja myself. David brings out many of the nuances of teaching in Central Province that had eluded me at the time. Mau-Mau's Children is the perfect complement to Ngugi's two memoirs, Dreams in a Time of War and In the House of the Interpreter. I note that David cites other TEArs in his bibliography: David Court and Kevin Lillis.

The author comments: "Mau Mau's Children: The Making of Kenya's Postcolonial Elite, may be of interest to newsletter subscribers. It is based to a considerable extent on interviews with my former Kenyan (Nyeri-Gikuyu) students whom I taught as a TEAer 1963-67. I interviewed nearly all of them 30 years later, exploring their lives during Mau Mau, their education in primary and secondary school (where I knew them), getting their first jobs, career and financial development, marriage and family, and the world of their grown children. While I draw heavily on the experiences of these former students, I strive to place them in the context of their cohort--Kenyan secondary students of the 1960s. As the subtitle suggests, I see them as Kenya's first postcolonial elite. Perhaps other TEAers, who all taught during this same time period, would like to compare their experiences/recollections to mine."

The Meanings of Timbuktu by Shamil Jeppie and Souleymane Diagne.

Non-fiction. This elegant book attends to the charge of the title by exploring scholarship associated with Arabic writings in West Africa. The content goes beyond literature. There are two chapters on Swahili culture in East Africa. This book is a gem.

Measuring Time/2011 by Helon Habila

This book is the story of twins, Mamo and LaMamo, although the former gets the bulk of the chapters. The setting is a fictional village in Nigeria north of present-day Jos. Mamo considers himself timid and his brother vigorous. LaMamo goes off in the 1990s to fight in whatever war he can find (he ends up disillusioned in Liberia); Mamo becomes a writer, school teacher, and local favorite. My sense is that Habila wanted to create parallel lives, but

neither has sufficient power to captivate the reader. Habila is a good writer, and this is a good book but not on par with his first, Waiting for an Angel.

Measuring Time by Helon Habila, review by Hari Kunzru: The defining emotion of the West African novel seems to be existential despair. From Chinua Achebe's stories of corruption and social collapse to Ken Saro-Wiwa's Nigerian child soldier Sozaboy, a vein of pervasive hopelessness runs through the writing of a region that has witnessed the slide of postindependence dreams into civil war and chaos. In Helon Habila's first novel, Waiting for an Angel, Lomba, a young Nigerian journalist imprisoned during the despotic regime of Sani Abacha, writes poetry in his cell and narrates the story of the events leading to his arrest. The unforgiving Lagos of this book echoes the Accra of Ayi Kwei Armah's novel The Beautyful Ones Are Not Yet Born, perhaps the purest distillation of West African anomie, whose nameless petty-official protagonist wanders listlessly through an urban landscape that is invested with a nightmarish, Kafkaesque bleakness.

The Meursault Investigation/2015 by Kamel Daoud

This novel is both a correction to and a complement of Camus's The Stranger which you should probably read before reading Daoud's short book. Start with the obvious, Camus never identified the "Arab" whom Meursault killed, an omission that Daoud's narrator makes very clear throughout the novel and makes clear that this omission is a colonial denigration that needs correction. The book also portrays the existential aloofness of Meursault as if the sands of Algeria are fundamentally unkind. The book shares the same sense of The Stranger that readers who do not like them are philistines.

Middle school books

I must begin by saying that while the reading level of these books is aimed at middle schoolers, the content is very much adult. Indeed, I have found that middle school books are generally very clear with good visuals and thus make a great place for adults to start to learn new topics. The books contain valuable visuals, maps, and bibliographies.

i. **'Greedy' Leopold II, Butcher of the Congo**/2008 by Tod Olson

Here is a fantastic book on Africa aimed at middle school readers (grades 4-7). This 128 page book is part of the "Wicked History" series published by Scholastic; there are 19 titles. This book covers the Leopold nightmare with a great cover, excellent context, good maps, charts, and bibliographies. Really, you ought to try it and then pass it along to your grandchildren who will be happy that you ordered more titles in the series (like *'Fearsome' Hannibal*, *'Barbaric" Attila*, and *'Lethal' Mary Tudor*). And they're cheap.

ii. **The Royal Diaries: Nzingha, Warrior Queen of Matamba**/2000 by Patricia McKissack

This small book replete with notes, photographs, and maps tells the tale of this important person from Angola in 1595-1596 as a way of documenting life in this little-studied part of Africa. This volume is one of several in the Royal Diary series published by

Scholastic to give substance to powerful women. Real history fleshed out with historically accurate fiction. The author and her husband are well-known authors of over 100 books on the African-American experience. See also *The Royal Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay: Life in Medieval Africa*.

iii. **Mansa Musa and the Empire of Mali**/2013 by James Oliver

This volume is a great introduction to the topics of ancient African history, the empire of Mali, the great trek of Mansa Musa to Mecca and back, the introduction of a unique adobe style of architecture for which West Africa continues to be well-known, and useful graphics and glossary. The book's pedigree is curious. While it is informative, most of the references are from 1980s scholarship, and there is no description of the author or even a publisher to write to. It would have been nice to have had greater substantiation of claims so the book lacks the credibility it might otherwise have.

iv. **The British Museum Pocket Explorer: African Civilizations**/2010 by Nicholas Badcott

Another useful middle school book which covers the entire continent with brief statements and good visuals related to the histories of the various regions. Also a fold-out map that is very authoritative. There is also a reference to interlinkbooks.com which will lead you to similar titles.

The Mind of South Africa/1990 by Allitser Sparks

South Africa has always been the elephant in my room of understanding Africa (Egypt is the other one), and I am slowly trying to get my mind around this large topic. Covenant by James Michener has some value, but I have just discovered this book whose first 5 chapters lay out immaculately the background of contention among the 4 prominent ethnic groups which largely comprise the country. My sense is that this historical background is necessary to understand current tensions. Jumping forward in time the 2 books about South Africa that staggered me emotionally were My Traitor's Heart by Rian Malan and Country of My Skull by Antje Krug.

My African Horse Problem/2008 by William Miles

This funky little book will mean much more to those who have lived in Africa than those who have not. Bill Miles was a PCV in Niger in 1977-79 and used that experience as a platform for extended research stays in other parts of the world in the 80s and 90s, kind of like an extended bar mitzvah. He has written extensively about Hausaland and teaches nearby at Northeastern University. The book outlines the many and complex associations with people and traditions, and one element that I particularly liked was the transcription of extended greetings. Reminded me of observing two older people greet each other in Baganda (when was the last tine you heard "bulungi"?). Miles's son, Sam, accompanies his father on a 2000 trip to sort out a legacy issue, a horse. One great line, "The fault of the visitor lies in his leaving."

My First Coup d'Etat and Other Stories/2012 by John Dramani Mahama

After reading Mahams's op-ed reflection on the life of Nelson Mandela in December, 2013, I said to myself, "that man can write." Going to amazon.com I ordered this book. It is delightful writing about personal and political adventures in Ghana in what the author calls the "dead decades" of the 1960s and 1970s, decades when national fortunes seem to go backwards not forwards and arbitrary power held sway. So now we have several recent books which give a reasoned journalistic view of modern African countries: Looking for Transwonderland (Nigeria), One Day I Will write about this Place (Kenya), and the Aya stories (Cote d'Ivoire). Mahama is the current president of Ghana.

Mystery/adventure

There is some good reading in the less serious side of books about the Bright Country. Two South African mystery novels which intrigued me were *Salamander Cotton* by Richard Kunzman (Kunzman has written two others) and

A Beautiful Place to Die by Mala Nunn (fear and trembling in apartheid land, hard to put this book down). Nunn has written several others, all good.

Robert Wilson writes mystery with a West African location. *The Instruments of Darkness*: "This is Africa, where everybody has mastered the art of waiting. Wilson's first African mystery/suspense novel, introduces Bruce Medway, a fixer, negotiator, and manager who lives on the coast of West Africa and does the odd service for his expatriate clients."

The Big Killing: "In the second Bruce Medway book, the boozing big guy is broke, bored, and killing time in Ivory Coast, awaiting an errand from the millionaire who holds his marker." Wilson is pretty much a tough guy writer.

Black Star Nairobi/2013 by Mukma wa Ngugi. It's Ishamel Fofona and David Odhiambo is a newly formed detective agency in Nairobi. This time they have to go to Mexico and California to solve a mystery which is thinly drawn. Along, too, are Muddy the femme fatale and Mo the investigative reporter. I had high hopes for this book because Mukoma chose 2008 as the date, the date of the second Kibaki election, the election for which the current president and vice-president of Kenya have been indicted by the ICC. Mukoma does address the issue a little bit when he has O's wife, a Kikuyu, being refused burial in O's Luo area. The mystery in this novel revolves around a group of people, both American and Kenyan, who think to destabilize the country and then seize control. Indeed, this group thinks to go around the world creating chaos and supplying order. Metaphorical?

A Dark Redemption/2012 by Stav Sherez. Well, the New Yorker liked this book, and I did too. The novel begins with a cameo view of 3 British male 20-somethings taking the wrong turn on a Ugandan holiday. We've all made wrong turns in the dark on dirt roads, but this turn turns out badly. Fast forward to the present, and we have a Ugandan university student found gruesomely murdered in her bed-sit. Detective Carrigan is on the case, but he has some UG history that is not immediately explained. If you read this engrossing book, you'll find all the answers. The shadow knows….

Nairobi Heat/2011 by Mukoma wa Ngugi. Black Wisconsin police detective finds a young white woman dead on the front steps of an African man with impressive credentials peace activist Joshua Hakizimana—who saved hundreds of people from the Rwandan genocide. Detective Ishmael (yes, that is his name) receives a tip that answers exist in Nairobi, Kenya. Why not? We all would have gone. We are then treated to scenes of various Kenya underbellies, many escapes from nefarious types, the necessary killing of some bad types, the exotic femme fatale, and the ultimate triumph of justice (it is this triumph that attracts my wife to this genre). An interesting sociological view of Nairobi. If you like this book, try Black Star Nairobi/2013, hot off the presses.

Hour of the Red God/2013 by Richard Crompton. This mystery is set in Nairobi in 2007 in one week in late December, the week the election actually did occur [The 2007–08 Kenyan crisis was a political, economic, and humanitarian crisis that erupted in Kenya after incumbent President Mwai Kibaki was declared the winner of the presidential election held on December 27, 2007. Supporters of Kibaki's opponent, Raila Odinga, alleged electoral manipulation. This was widely confirmed by international observers, perpetrated by both parties (but mainly the Kibaki side) in the election. (wikipedia)]. Mollel is a Maasai policeman working with Kiunga, a Luhya, in a section commanded by a Luo on a case against a Kikuyu. At the heart of the case is a murder of a Maasai prostitute, and that is the narrative drive of the book. By setting the case at the time of the 2007 election, Crampton is able to comment on the election is ways that Mukoma wa Ngugi ignored in his mystery, Black Star Nairobi. Doesn't make you want to revisit Uhuru Park any time soon.

Random Violence/2008 by Jassy Mackenzie. This volume is the first of 4 in a series starring Jade de Jong, private investigator, who knows no fear. She has returned to Johannesburg from the UK to execute the man she feels responsible for her father's death 10 years prior. She finds out a lot more in this fast-paced, engaging murder mystery. The second title is

My Brother's Keeper (not Jade, available currently only on Kindle); #3 is

Stolen Lives with Jade; #4, *The Fallen* with Jade; #5 is

Pale Horses. The other de Jong mysteries are equally fast paced but do not have the power of the first. Nevertheless, I couldn't wait to race through each of the three that I have so far read.

A Sinful Safari/2003 by Michael Kilian. Pleasant fluff, part of the author's mysteries set in the 1920s. Benford Green, former WWI pilot and current Greenwich Village art dealer, goes on safari with his co-worker, Sloane Smith, on her uncle's dime. Into the Happy Valley social scene come these 4 Americans. A good chance to drop the appropriate names into the plot: Beryl Markham, Karen Blixen, Deny Finch-Hatton, and the vile Idina of the many husbands (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Idina_Sackville). Uncle's wife is killed with person B as they stood embracing and naked one early morning. Strong hints of Hemingway's "The Short, Happy Life of Francis Macomber." The hunter this time did indeed do it, but he has paid good money to kill a miserable person. Great cover.

A Night in Buganda/2014 by Bob Gurney

Bob has been teased by his memory in ways that many of us have been. The more forward among us have committed their thoughts to the TEAA Story Project, and you can read them all at http://www.tea-a.org/nyea/hyperbook.html. Bob taught in Kampala and went back to UK to study languages and writes poetry in English, Spanish, and French. Ten years or so ago, Bob started writing down his memories of his UG experience and a few of his UK-UG inspired memories and stories. He enlisted a few mates and has been putting his Africa book together for some time and self-published this book. So here's a very real dilemma for many of us: what was that magic that many of us experienced in East Africa in the 60s and how does memory authenticate or justify a life that craves some form of meaning?

My review of the book—

Experience was. Memory is. In the house of memories there are many rooms, and in going through those many doors there are recollections of pleasure, mystery, foreboding, and pain. Bob Gurney lives in such a house, and he has slowly been going through the rooms populated in this case with friends who were also in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania in the mid 1960s. Despite regular meetings at The Museum Tavern in London, details of incidents do not often rise to the surface, and thus there are many qualifiers in the text about remembering correctly, forgetting names, and embarrassment. The title echoes Dineson's Out of Africa: "I had a farm in Africa," as if the very words could bring back years of experiences. Many of us had a night in Buganda, some at the City Bar, the Gardenia Restaurant, the halls of residence at Makerere University. My primal night experience in Buganda was waking up on my first night in Uganda at three am, wondering just what I was doing there one day into a three year contract. It is trite but true to say that for many Westerners there is something very powerful about a night in Africa.

The short chapters of this evocative book are episodes of memory covering a variety of experiences. Some relate to the many individuals the author met, fellow Europeans, Africans, and Asians. There is the Kingu of Sebei, Saul Olek, Moira, Babu, and Clive. Gurney is at home with all. There are the locations: Namilyango, Kitante, Kololo Hill. The Kampala Club presents Gurney with a persistent problem of colonial life: discomforting racist assumptions and remarks. Better just stay away, but it is not always possible to do so. There are chapters whose very titles signify contentious thought: 'The Spirit of Africa', 'What Do You Write About Africa?' and 'The Mercenary'. In short, there is something for all readers who will find, as I have, that now is the time to write my own book. A Night in Buganda makes a very good template, and I would definitely mention the fruit bats of Wandegeya and the vibrant personality of Margaret from the north.

In a similar vein Mike Rainy forwarded to me and Ward Heneveld the thoughts of Ian Parker, now 80 and living with his children in Australia after a life in Kenya. It put me in mind of the magisterial essay by Brit now American James Wood in the London Review of Book titled "On Not Going Home." (http://www.lrb.co.uk/v36/n04/james-wood/on-not-going-home) What exactly is "home," and where is it if you're not sitting in it right now? What is it (and don't go Robert Frost on me)? I grow old, I grow old…." Do you know Eliot was 20 when he wrote The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock? Yep, worn out at 20 and never got to The Gardenia.

Number 1 Ladies Detective Agency/15 titles by Alexander McCall Smith

This extraordinary series is my antidote to the Afrodisaster books that are so plentiful. Smith writes with extraordinary grace, and his tales are not condescending. It's all at http://www.randomhouse.com/features/mccallsmith/main.php and the site listed below.

The Handsome Man's Deluxe Restaurant: I am a huge fan of Sandy Smith (known to google as "Alexander McCall Smith") and recommend him to you most highly: http://www.alexandermccallsmith.co.uk. I have heard him speak on 3 occasions, and he is even more delightful in person than he is in print. He has a wealth of interests and talents; one of them is The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series now in its 15th iteration, *The Handsome Man's Deluxe Restaurant*, which features the entrepreneurial goals of Mma Makutsi. I use these books often when teaching about Africa because they give a delightful view of the continent and not the other kind with which we are all too familiar. Do not be deceived about their impact.

THE FULL CUPBOARD OF LIFE: Faithful readers of Alexander McCall Smith's charming series featuring the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency will get exactly what they are expecting from his latest novel, *THE FULL CUPBOARD OF LIFE*. In fact, these fulfilled expectations make the reading a little disappointing. The charm of his earlier books is found in the small, surprising revelations about Botswana customs and the quirky points of etiquette which are dear to heroine Precious Ramotswe as well as to those Africa-philes among the readers. In this 2003 work McCall Smith uses the same formula to amuse us in his low-key style, but he has perhaps used up his store of eccentric observations in the first four volumes. The story is engaging as long as one has not grown tired of reading catch phrases such as "traditionally built lady" and "tiny white van" which are a trademark of the series. Non-critical readers will enjoy Mma Ramotswe's intuitive way of dealing with the difficult cases which come to her detective agency. As usual, the thorniest mysteries are traceable to the vagaries and caprices of human nature. Since a major plot thread of the series is tied up in this volume, it may be that McCall Smith has also decided that the story has run its course.

On Black Sisters Street/2009 by Chika Unigwe with a dynamic epigram by Brian Chikwava

Books on the boy soldiers of West Africa and on African female prostitutes in European cities make for uncomfortable reading (think also Chris Abani's *Becoming Abigail*). However, there are humans truths in these tales and none more so than this powerful novel by a Dutch academic from Nigeria whose future writings should prove engaging. This story is focused on Sisi but contains the painful journeys of Ama, Efe, and Joyce all who have been sent to Antwerp by the reprehensible Senghor Dele of Lagos. But they were first thrown into discomforting mindsets by uncaring men, fathers and lovers. Sisi's story is told in an inventive way that allows for us to know her destiny and ultimately that of the other women. This book—which echoes some of the same details as *The Orchard of Lost Souls*—is now on my new top ten list.

One Day I Will Write About This Place/2012 by Binyavanga Wainaina

Yes, you can read It's *Our Turn to Eat* by Michaella Wrong about the corruption of Kabaki I (we are now in the time of Kabaki II without much change) or *Kenya: Between Hope and Despair, 1963-2011*. Both good books about the politics that we all sense but cannot detail. Bill Jones has already praised this book of Wainaina's (where else can you buy a first rate book with first rate art on its covers?), and I want to add merely that much of the power of the books was its contemporaneity; i.e., the book is about NOW, today. It revealed to me anyway the circumstances of Kenya in the 21st century. Can't say, though, that it is great writing.

The Orchard of Lost Souls/2013 by Nadifa Mohamed

Some books come straight at you, and one must be a strong writer to create this sensation of fierce goodness in the face of overwhelming negativity. I felt this power reading this book, the interweaving stories of Deqo, Kawsar, and Filsan who find themselves in various circumstances of the 1988 civil war in Somaliland. Somalia was created in 1960 from various colonial segments but never could turn itself into a cohesive whole. Since the 1990s Somalia has essentially been at least 3 territories: Somaliland and Punt in the north and Somalia in the south. Somaliland has been the most cohesive and productive but not without its tensions. This novel pre-dates the creation of Somaliland but does document the disasters that led to it. Deqo is a 10-year own refugee, Kawsar is an aging and ultimately disabled elder woman, and Filsan is a Somalia soldier who is driven to despair by the actions of her own army. One doesn't have to look far for feminism in African literature, and I am reminded of another novel, *Three Strong women*, by Marie Ndiaye. Dare I read *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi?

Our Lady of the Nile/2014 by Scholastique Mukasonga

As we TEAArs know education was the lift off for many of our students; what we may not have known was the hidden tensions among students, some tribal, some not. Mukasonga comes from the former camp. Our Lady is the premier secondary school for girls in Rwanda, and the formal education is less the story than the sociological education. Mukasonga would go on in Cockroaches to explain just what she noticed in the Hutu-Tutsi divide, a divide that tine has revealed to be less precise than was thought in the 1950s. What is intriguing to me is that as much description of attitude and behavior that exists in this novel, the author is not prescriptive as she might have been. What the novel describes is how tribal tension works not why or might be done to mitigate the tensions. Another victory for the Archipelago Press.

The Unsettled/2014 by Cedric Nunn
with introductory essays by Zakes Mda and Jeff Peires and a concluding essay by Neelika Jayawardane

This collection of black and white photographs documents the landscape and mindscape of Xhosaland in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. The book's subtitle is "The Hundred Year War of Resistance by Xhosa Against Boer and British." Nine different wars were fought between 1779 and 1878 as the Xhosa were pushed farther and farther east and north from lands that became increasingly hostile. And full of memory. The photographs evoke as well as document. This volume is part 1 of a trilogy aimed at historical reclamation;

volume 2 will focus on the dispossession of the Khoikhoi and San as First Nation people; volume 3 will focus on slavery (not the trans-Atlantic kind). Nunn was born in 1957 and started his work in 1982 documenting apartheid. This is work of history and memory.

My Xhosa sidebar. In 2006 or so I started reading the novels of Zakes Mda and was immediately taken by his strong use of history and imagination. Joining a book group at Boston University's Africa Outreach Project I re-read The Heart of Redness and suggested to the group that we invite Mda, who teaches in Ohio, to BU. We did, and he spoke in March, 2016, and among other things explained the origins of the novel's ambiguous ending. But back to the Xhosa: the novel's main business is historically accurate—a prophet told her people to slaughter all their cattle, and the white men would leave. Believers did, non-believers didn't. The Brits didn't leave, and famine followed (driven in part by a rinderpest epidemic which broke out in the 1890s). Intrigued further, I read parts of Noel Mostert's major work *Frontiers* where I learned about the works of Harold Scheub and Jeff Peires. Schueb is a former member of my Africa teaching program, Teachers for East Africa/TEA, and now the leading mind from the USA on matters Xhosa and South African tribal story telling. Peires is a former academic and now an ANC member of the South African parliament. Peires wrote a definitive book on the Xhosa wars, *The Dead Will Arise* in 1989, from which Mda borrowed for his 2000 novel. Little Suns continues this search for history, relating history from 1880 and fiction from 1904.

I also read the first chapter of Nelson Mandela's autobiography A Long Walk to Freedom where he talks about his connection to Xhosa royalty and his upbringing in Qunu in what was then called Transkei, near the town of Umtata.

And, no, I cannot "click."

Out of Eden/2004 by Stephen Oppenheimer

While written for all audiences, this book demands attention and re-reading. It is the story of the dispersal of humanoids from Africa/Eden around the world taking the history through the peopling of the Americas. Such tidbits as humans first traveled out of Africa 120,000 years ago only to die out; they tried again 85,000 years ago and ultimately made it to Australia via Yemen and India. Humans seem to have reached Europe only 46,000 years ago and to southern Chile 12,500 years ago. The author is a trained doctor and academic. In 2002, Oppenheimer worked as consultant on a television documentary series, The Real Eve. The "Eve" in the title refers to Mitochondrial Eve, a name used for the most recent common ancestor of all humans in the matrilineal (mother to daughter) line of descent. Following the series, Oppenheimer published a book on the same theme, titled *Out of Eden* in the UK and republished as *The Real Eve* in the US. This work focuses on Oppenheimer's hypothesis that modern humans emerged from East Africa in a single major exodus numbering no more than a few hundred individuals. This lone group of wanderers, he suggests, became the ancestors of all non-Africans, their descendants having since radiated into a plurality of physical characteristics, languages, ethnicities and cultures as seen today.

The Oxford Handbook of African Archaeology/2013 edited by Peter Mitchell & Paul Lane

This 1,000 page handbook covers the state of current archaeological findings across the continent. It may not be a book for your home library, but you may very well wish to consult this book on such topics as archaeology and migration in Africa, early hominins and the beginning of human culture, the middle stone age of eastern Africa, archaeologies of Bantu expansion, the emergence of states in Great Lakes Africa, the Swahili world, and the archaeology of colonial encounters in eastern Africa. The articles are about 8 pages in length with 3 pages of bibliography. How many of you saw the rock paintings of Singida or Kondoa districts in TZ? The Kerma burial sites at the northern Dongola Reach? Ivory caravan sites along the Pangani river? Well, then, this book is for you, a whole new dimension for bathroom reading.

Permanent Savings/2002 by Ahmed Muhidin

You won't have run in to this book unless you check the website for Old Africa Books, but this slim volume is the story of Roble Beledwyne of Korondille, Kenya, in the NFD who suffers drought and abandons his daughters to go to Moyale to beg for his existence. This improbable story takes on a life of its own just as Roble takes on a life and turns disaster into survival but dies with his substantial permanent savings helping no one. Shows you that old Kenya hands are not always the colonial kind.

Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty2011 by Banerjee, Abhijit V. and Esther Duflo.

Some economists hold that huge infusions of aid are necessary to overcome the challenges of disease, soil infertility, poor education, etc. that exist in poor countries. In an opposing camp are economists who believe aid only corrupts, undermines local institutions, and creates a self-perpetuating culture of dependency. They believe instead that with free markets and properly controlled incentives, poor people will find their own way out of poverty.

The authors of Poor Economics challenge these two conventional views by analyzing specific projects and strategies through the use of randomized control trials in a multitude of countries and situations. The early chapters are dedicated to examining issues of hunger, health, education, and family size. Later chapters deal with money lending, microfinance, and entrepreneurship. Interestingly, some of the studies in education were carried out western Kenya, where TEAA has made several grants to schools. In one study, providing textbooks to students did not improve performance much, probably because students were such poor readers of English that the textbooks were of little use to them. In another study, it was found that a way to help girls stay in school was to give them school uniforms. The book is extremely readable and engaging, a “must read” for TEAA steering committee members and those with similar interests. The authors cofounded and direct the Poverty Action Lab at MIT.

The Race to Fashoda: European Colonialism and African Resistance in the Scramble for Africa/1987 by David Lewis

Intrigued by the cover of the Jeal book I went back to another book with a dashing cover, Lewis's book on Fashoda, written when he was an aspiring historian who had done extensive research on the Dreyfus affair of 1898 (his book appeared in 1974), had become used to French archives, and wanted to give Africa some voice in the years of the Scramble. Lewis is renowned for his Pulitzer Prize winning biography of W. E. B. DuBois (his most recent book is *King: A Biography*; the man is prolific). Fashoda became in our generation the name of the little place where the French met the British on the shores of the Nile to decide which country would dominate the Scramble for Africa (as if such a meeting could have such a significance). The action takes place is some of the bleakest landscape in Africa: the confluence of the Congo and Nile River basins, an area now generally part of South Sudan, called not facetiously the "spoilt world." The major players are Jean-Baptiste Marchand, Tippu Tib and his son Sefu, Herbert Kitchener, The Madhi and Abdullahi the Khalifa, Menelik, and Stanley. Indeed, Lewis does the service of finding many names of peoples and places that the colonial gloss has not recognized. However, Lewis's goal of giving agency to Africans was only partially realized, in part because Fashoda no longer represents the emblem in African history that it once did and also because the geography of the book continues to be spoiled. Indeed, Fashoda is in an area that 100 years later became the scene of refugees from southern Sudan trying to find asylum in Ethiopia only to be turned around. Hell, Menelik himself had wanted to move Ethiopian border to the White Nile.

But if you seek to read a book written by a master historian who is unafraid of detailing events that many consider irrelevant today, then read this book. You'll need maps, and 5 are sprinkled throughout the book, but they never seem to be in the right place. Modern day maps will not help you. You also will find help in Thomas Packenham's *The Scramble for Africa: The White Man's Conquest of the Dark Continent from 1876 to 1912*.

Both the Jeal book and the Lewis book inspired me to look up Marchand, and then I stumbled across the Deroo book.

The Red Pencil/2015 by Andrea Pinkney

This young adult novel is the story of Amira from Darfur written in verse form. Even though the book has had a warm welcome, it is very self-consciously a young adult work that seems to rely more on the story of the creation of the book than on a narrative line. A better YA book in my view is *Golden Boy*/2014 by Tara Sullivan (dramatizing the difficulties of albinism which happens to be a major curse in sub-Saharan Africa and even more so in Mwanza, TZ). As the title of Pinkney's book suggests, the story is Amira's Darfurian homeland culture and her efforts to survive hazards and then thrive in a school. If it's this kind of survival you'd like to read about, I refer you to The Sky High Road/2015 by Mzee Moses Howard.

Remembering Africa (2011)—all 12 pounds of it—

This tome is by Robert Vavra who started in 1995 to interview various Europeans who had either been part of the colonial period or had written about people who had East Africa at

their hearts's core. These interviews often devolved around not only people but the books they appeared in. If you love *Out of Africa*, Martin & Osa Johnson, Beryl Markham, George Schaller, and Elspeth Huxley, you'll love this book. Academics, of course, have turned their noses.

Revenge of Kali/2005 by Aziz Hassim

This book tells another part of the story of the ways that Indians became part of the South African world of Natal and Durban. Hassan's first book is called The Lotus People, and he plans a third [lamentably he died before he could do so]. In 1860 the British allowed indentured servants from India to farm the sugar fields of Natal (the resident Zulus refused). There seems to have been slavery style sweeps of people from Tamil Nadu which deposited their cargo at Durban. These folks were then whisked away to sugar plantations and overseen by other Indians on behalf of their British overlords. It was not a pretty picture and lasted for about 20 years. This book tells of that history and the way in which the descendants of those virtual slaves became part of the back alleys of Durban, many in petty crime. One of the scams of post-WWII time was to sell contraband delivered by boat crews. To my amazement one of the boats mentioned was the S. S. Karanja, the name of the very boat that my wife Jeanie and I sailed on from Bombay to Mombasa in January of 1973. Then I went online to find the history of this P. and O. boat which went into service first in 1948.

Running for Black Gold – Fifty Years of African Athletics/2009 by Kevin Lillis

The half-century since Abebe Bikila won the Olympic gold medal in world record time in Rome in 1960 has been a golden period for African athletics. Over 100 African athletes have won 57 Olympic gold medals, 89 IAAF World Championships gold medals and established 54 athletics world records. Most, but not all, come from the Eastern African highlands of Kenya (predominantly) and Ethiopia with additional notable successes from Morocco as well as the rest of Africa. Running for Black Gold offers an incisive narrative of this African growth to prominence and backs it up with a comprehensive range of eclectic information and data about individual country performance. Africans have not had significant success in sprinting and the book reflects on their prominence of African athletes in middle and long-distance events.

The book sets out to answer the following questions: What does the performance-related evidence – as opposed to the hearsay -- reveal about the overall performance of African athletes over this half century? What are the emergent patterns and trends? Which countries dominate the performance rankings? Which individual athletes emerge as the supreme multiple medallists in "running for black gold?" The conclusion summarises the overall trends and patterns of performances - identifying the leading countries and individual athletes.

Kevin Lillis is career professional international educationist and amateur sportsman, with a comprehensive background in Africa. He holds a doctorate from the university of Sussex. He was a TEA in Tanzania (Mkwawa HS and Lyamungu) and Kenya (Lenana HS and Ministry of Education) in the 60s and 70s: has worked at London University inter alia

and (with DFID) in Southern Africa, the Caribbean and Nepal, and as a consultant world-wide!

Say You're One of Them/2008 by Uwem Akpan.

These are stories of children and teenagers in various parts of Africa, people in extreme situations. Akpan has a gift for dialogue and for setting conditions that are at once realistic and compromising. He is brilliant at connecting the reader to what feel like genuine dilemmas that exist for far too many vulnerable people in Africa. The endings of the stories are not always successful from a literary point of view, but I came away repeatedly feeling that I had been given a realistic view of nasty conditions.

The Secret History of Las Vegas/2014 by Chris Abani

OK, I love Chris Abani, and if you haven't read *GraceLand* you're missing a great book. This Secret History book continues Abani's interest in the underworld, "Downwinders," in this case, downwind of atomic explosions in Nevada. Think of all the mess in the world that can be thus explained. Abani did. Combine that with the mess from apartheid. Abani's universes demand that you not ask why but that you get caught up in the human dramas of such clashes. And go hear him, too: edgy like Junot Diaz. If you visited bars in Mombasa, you can certainly read this book.

A Singular Woman: The Untold Story of Barack Obama's Mother /2011by Janny Scott.

When you come to think of it, there are some mighty puzzling things about Obama's mother, the extraordinary Stanley Ann Dunham. What propelled a seemingly ordinary daughter of middle-America high school graduates to become a respected and beloved anthropologist and a mother of biracial children? What was she like and how did she affect the future president? This biography addresses the puzzles and unveils a remarkable life with ancestral resonances. By showing what is most admirable about anthropology fieldwork and its deployment in international development assistance, the book provides object lessons relevant to our continuing efforts in East Africa. Along the way the author, a talented and conscientious journalist, reveals some of her own methodology as she tracks down 200 people to help in her quest.

Sir Vidia's Shadow/1998 by Paul Theroux

As I thought about dalliances at Makerere, I inevitably thought of The Gardenia in Wandageya. I wondered if there were any online reflections of this establishment, renown to men, unknown to women. Anybody who writes about the Gardenia in Kampala in the 1960s is worthy of reading. And there it is, pages 72-75, in this volume. East Africa figures prominently in pages 3-110 of this memoir devoted to the well-known relationship between Theroux and V. S. Naipaul. This section takes place in 1968; there are 5 chapters set in

Uganda and Kenya. Good reading, good memories. If you are merely curious, don't bother; if you partook, you'll be enchanted.

The Sky High Road/2015 by Moses L. Howard

Moses is the only TEAAr to have written books over 40 years. This volume revisits Uganda and belies a narrative skill that includes authentic detail. Jason and Katura have a wealth of experiences in this young adult novel that reveal the kinds of pressures that youth face in unstable lands. What rings truest is the sense of agency that the characters have and that they are—well, most of them are—good people. As the acknowledgments declare, this author has at least one more book in him. Who of his peers can say the same?
See http://www.amazon.com/Moses-L.-Howard/e/B001HOL1WE/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1

Sleepwalking Land/1992, in translation, 2006 by Mia Cuoto

Having discovered Cuoto in Salgado's book above and having discovered that he won the coveted Neustadt Prize in 2013, I figured it was trine I read one of his novels. Sleepwalking Land is a study in the affects of longtime civil war on people, in this case Mozambique. The book is basically a dialogue between an old man and a young boy who find themselves surviving in the remains of an old bus near the shore. It is a kind of Waiting for Godot universe. The book does take some patience and concentration to read, and the reward is coming closer to understanding just how devastating war and poverty can be: "Even the wretched will be the owners of your fear, for you will live in the kingdom of brutality" (210).

SNAKEPIT/2010 by Moses Isegawa

This author also wrote the much acclaimed first novel, Abyssinian Chronicles. This second novel is set in the Amin decade of the 1970s. Bat Katanga is a Ugandan just returned to his homeland after two years in Britain where he had gone for further studies. A position in one of the ministries puts him in a position of power where he functions as an able administrator until tempted by a lucrative bribe. The novel is steeped in the corruption, paranoia, power politics and violence of the Amin years, but does not seem to be grounded in personal experience to the same extent as was "Chronicles" with its description of life in a Catholic boarding school run by an order of brothers, but those who are interested in this dark period in Uganda's past may enjoy the read.

Sorcerer's Apprentice: An Incredible Journey into the World of India's Godmen (2001) by Tahir Shah

Sorcerer's Apprentice is the amazing story of Shah's apprenticeship to one of India's master conjurers, Hakim Feroze, and his initiation into the brotherhood of Indian godmen. Told with self-deprecating wit, panache, and an eye for the outlandish, it is an account of a

magical journey across India. Feroze teaches the author the basics of his craft, such as sleights of hand, immersing his hands in boiling oil and lead, and - Aaron's old trick from the Bible - turning a rod into a serpent.

Tahir Shah is the author of fifteen books, many of which chronicle a wide range of outlandish journeys through Africa, Asia, and the Americas. For him, there's nothing so important as deciphering the hidden underbelly of the lands through which he travels. Shunning well-trodden tourist paths, he avoids celebrated landmarks, preferring instead to position himself on a busy street corner or in a dusty cafe and observe life go by. Insisting that we can all be explorers, he says there's wonderment to be found wherever we are - it's just a matter of seeing the world with fresh eyes. Tahir Shah lives at Dar Khalifa, a sprawling mansion set squarely in the middle of a Casablanca shantytown. He's married to the graphic designer, Rachana Shah, and has two. His father was the Sufi writer, Idries Shah. http://www.tahirshah.com/about-tahir/

South African Voices by Harold Schueb

The volumes shown below are Schueb's Xhosa and Zulu transcriptions of oral narratives, histories, and poems that he collected in the late 1960s and in the 1970s in South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. Click here for the website that has to do with these three volumes. South African Voices, the three volumes, print versions, and the voices of the storytellers, were placed on the internet in the summer of 2006. The Memorial Library of the University of Wisconsin has just completed the digitization of his entire collection, consisting of some 8,000 performances, 3,000 photographs and slides, and motion pictures. These will ultimately also be put on the web and made available worldwide, at no charge.

The book on two Zulu women, one of them, Lydia umkaSethemba, was one of Africa's greatest storytellers. Her stories were collected in 1868 by Henry Callaway. One hundred years later, in 1972, he worked with a Zulu storyteller whose name is Asilita Philisiwe Khumalo. In this book, he includes stories, in English translation, by the two storytellers, with commentary analyzing the stories and comparing the two storytellers' work.

South African Voices: A Long Time Passed. Xhosa transcriptions of oral performances of Nongenile Masithathu Zenani. Madison, WI: Parallel Press, 2006.

South African Voices: Created in Olden Times. Xhosa transcriptions of oral performances of Nongenile Masithathu Zenani. Madison, WI: Parallel Press, 2006.

South African Voices: The Way We Traveled. Oral History and Poetry. Transcriptions of Xhosa and Zulu oral performances. Madison, WI: Parallel Press, 2006.

Storytelling Songs of Zulu Women: Recording Archetype Rites of Passage and Mythic Paths. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2006.

The Spiral House/2012 by Claire Robertson

The book promises an intriguing link in white South African history between the late 18th century and the mid-20th century: the stories of Katrijn who narrates the first and Sister Vergilius who is the subject of the second. Both of the women are disenfranchised and want to leave the restrictions of the society they have landed in. These dual stories years apart

remind me of Three Weeks in December which had narrative lines that I could follow, that I wanted to follow. This book became a weird caricature of its title.

Stones for My Father/2011 by Trilby Kent

A good source for vetted books on any part of Africa is African Access Review: http://www.africaaccessreview.org/aar/index.html, and I encourage you to check that website from time to time for appropriate books for young readers like, say, your grandchildren. One of the recommendations was this book which is fine for the adult audience, too. The book dramatizes the trials of the Second Boer War (1899-1902) through the eyes of 12-year old Corlie Roux, a young Boer in the Transvaal whose father has died and whose mother turns stoic and then belligerent. A well-written, strong book for someone who already has a sense of South African history. The cover photograph is haunting. If you want to read another book set in the same circumstances, read *Ladysmith* by Giles Foden who has made a career of writing historical novels set in niche moments of African-European history.

The Strength in What Remains/2011 by Tracy Kidder

This very readable book is a journey, actually a series of journeys. The journey of Deo, a young Burundian college medical student who escapes mayhem and comes to New York, the journey of 3 kind New Yorkers who help him, the journey of Deo back to Burundi and Rwanda to understand his past and his life, and the journey of Tracy Kidder to validate all of this humane activity. It is hard to say that this volume is the best account of this unaccountable time, but this book does help you feel what it must have felt like to escape violence and to confront survival in all of its modes. In that sense Strength is similar to What is the What, an accomplished American author trying to find the words which will actualize experiences for which no words are adequate. The book is divided into two sections, one comprehensible, "Flight," and one, Gusimbura, that is not (a term in the Kurundi language that reflects the unwillingness of victims to recall and, thereby, relive the violence and pain of their recent history. By virtue of this unwillingness, the people of Rwanda and Burundi create distance between themselves and the painful experiences they have endured).

THE STORMS OF MAY/2005 by Edward Hower (TEA 1963-66)

Hower's 9th book, a novel, centers around a returned PCV couple trying to run a group home for five delinquent girls in a gritty suburb of New York City. I must apologize for not following our colleague's career more closely: "Edward Hower has published eight novels, two books of stories, and, most recently, What Can You Do: Personal Essays and Travel Writing. His work has appeared in The Atlantic Monthly, The New York Times, Smithsonian, American Scholar, and elsewhere. He has been awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and two Fulbright grants to India. After Hower graduated from Cornell University in 1963, he lived in East Africa for three years, where he taught high school, sang in local nightclubs, and wrote his first novel, The New Life Hotel. Later, he earned a masters degree in Anthropology from the University of California, doing field work

among Los Angeles street gangs. Like many writers, he has held a variety of jobs: a salesman, a counselor at girls' reformatory (the subject of his second novel, Wolf Tickets), and a general of the Egyptian army (a non-singing role he performed in the New York City Opera Company production of Handel's Julius Caesar). More recently, he has taught at several American universities and has given writing workshops in Tobago, Greece, Sri Lanka, Britain, Nepal, and Key West, Florida. Many of these classes he has co-taught with his wife, the novelist Alison Lurie. He has lived in Ithaca, New York since 1975, and has two grown children, Dan and Lana." See more at http://www.edwardhower.com

The Sun By Night/2006 by Benjamin Kwakye

This novel about a crime in Accra is told in a non-linear way that ultimately frustrated me, but then I stumbled on first reading of The Famished Road, too. The following proverb opens Book One: "You have picked a quarrel with Earth, but you eat from the earthenware pot."

Ray Gold Responds

It was never the intention of TEA and TEEA to impose educational practices or any other part of American culture on the students and other recipients of the educational services these projects were designed to deliver. In his very touching letter, Gene Child's retrospective assumption infers that the projects' teachers were sent to East Africa to play the role of cultural fundamentalist and thus were given project license to impose American thought and deed on their students. As pointed out at great length in A Teaching Safari, many American TEA teachers initially chose to play their role in this way. However, in due course, they came to realize that they could be effective change agents only after fitting into the East African education system well enough for their students and colleagues to accept them as bona fide members of the system. That is to say, they learned that achieving this status was a necessary condition for students and others to regard them as mandated by the system to even offer any changes. At that, these were only relatively minor changes which worked when they fit rather seamlessly into the traditional East African educational scheme of things.

Settling for committing themselves to such a change scenario was not part of many teachers' initial game plan, but most experienced a sense of accomplishment when the changes they introduced worked well enough to be at least as satisfying as their progress in learning to `teach to the exam' and otherwise meet the formal requirements of their role. To be sure, most project participants experienced many disenchantments and unrelieved frustrations regarding working and living in East Africa and some, like Gene, felt their disappointments more in retrospect than when an active project participant. However, my strong impression is that the great majority regard their East African experience as one of the highlights of their lives. They wish they had been able to accomplish much more than they did, but they take much satisfaction from recognizing that they did manage to do some innovating which helped them to reach out to their students and which even may have made the East African education system a bit more receptive to modern concepts and methods. I hope and trust that, on further reflection, Gene, too, will find that the satisfactions he felt as he was leaving TEEA were based at least as much on fact as on fancy, unlike the impression he gave in his letter to Ed Schmidt.

The Thing Around Your Neck/2011 by Chimamanda Adichie.

This book is a collection of short stories and has a melancholy feel to it. All is not well in the two-culture world, and these stories document that situation very well. The best story

in my view is the one that connects Adichie directly to Achebe and is called "The Headstrong Historian." There are many fine stories in this collection, and readers sensitive to Nigerian history and cross-cultural tensions will find them especially rewarding. It is not often that an author garners as much attention as Adichie has with her first 3 books. I look forward to seeing her in person. For now the best place to see her is http://www.bellanaija.com/2009/10/11/chimamanda-adichie-ted-the-danger-of-a-single-story/.

Three Strong Women/2013 by Marie Ndiaye

This book is African to the extent that each of the three stories has characters connected to West Africa. This book is brilliant. It is not easily read because interior monologue dominates each story, and the author is masterful in linking the monologues to the particular circumstances of the story. I sensed bits of Henry James, Albert Camus, and William Faulkner. I repeat, THIS is a novel. It is fiction carefully and delicately articulated. Three strong women dominate each story not so much with their physical power as with the dominance of their sensibilities. You really won't know what hit you when you pick up this book and start reading. The women are named Norah, Fanta, and Khadu Demba, and they are like big birds with beating wings. The victories here are fragile, and you see how delicate our conditions really are.

Three Weeks in December/2013 by Audrey Schulman

A great page turner with an East African setting. The book is comprised of two parallel stories with each central character coming from Maine. Story #1 is based on the man eating lion story of Tsavo in 1899; story #2 is entirely fictitious based on an ethnobotanist's search for a magic vine eaten only by silverback gorillas in Rwanda. There is a back story in each case, issues of contemporary culture. This book is published by Europa Editions which also did the edgy detective novel, *Zulu*. Speaking of edgy detective novels from South Africa, let me also recommend *Bloody Harvests* by Richard Kunzman who also wrote Salamander Cotton

333 Saints: A Life of Scholarship in Timbuktu/2013 by Alexandra Huddleston

I am on the list serv of The Library of Congress Africa and Middle East Division (http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/div.html) which informs me of wonderful talks at their center in DC. Thus I learned of this book which documents the phenomena of its title by a researcher who spent a year in Timbuktu and took sensitive photographs which make up the bulk of this volume printed by a small press Kyoudai Press in Santa Fe, NM.

Taking Sides: Changing Views on Controversial African Issues/4th edition/2009 edited by William Moseley

Moseley was a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali in the 1980 and came away from his service to become an academic realizing that all issues were not clear. As a teacher he

understood the value of debate and thus constructed this book around such debates as (1) “Is Africa a Lost Cause/”; “Are NGOs more Effective than Gov’t Agencies?”; “Is Food Production Capable of Keeping Up with Population Growth?”; “Is the Use of European Languages as the Medium of Instruction in African Educational Institutions More Negative Than Positive.” All the big issues are here, 20 in total awaiting your turn to step up to the mike.

The Teeth May Smile but the Heart Does Not Forget: Murder and Memory in Uganda/ 2009 by Andrew Rice.

It is ostensibly the story of Eliphaz Laki's 1972 murder at the hands of two henchman working the will of Yusuf Gowon, an officer in the army of Idi Amin. It is son Duncan Laki who initiates the solving of this crime. The crime is solved; the killers go free. Always in the background is Yoweri Museveni, idealistic rebel turned dictator. The book covers a lot of history starting with the surviving soldiers of Emin Pasha in southern Sudan and concluding with the state of current Uganda politics of indecision. Combined with It's Our Turn to Eat, readers get a good view of the current circumstances in Kenya and Uganda, and it's no wonder that many people are mad as hell. Knowing all the good people that TEAA works with in East Africa, I am dismayed at the political framework within which these people must work. Fortunately, our good works run below the radar of the unjust leadership of Mwai Kabaki and Yoweri Museveni. A story of who killed whom in Amin-era Uganda with the suggestion that Museveni can be implicated in the current chaos of Ugandan politics.

Timbuctoo (2012) by Tahir Shah

Tahir Shah's *Timbuctoo* is a fast-paced, entertaining, insightful and fictionalized look at the tale of the American Robert Adams, the first "Christian" man to reach Timbuctoo in the early 19th century and live to tell about it. It is truth surrounded by artifice and will have you consulting Google without satisfaction. The quality of writing and the richness and largess of the characters' personalities will keep the reader hooked and make the book incredibly hard to put down. Tahir Shah is the author of fifteen books, many of which chronicle a wide range of outlandish journeys through Africa, Asia, and the Americas. For him, there's nothing so important as deciphering the hidden underbelly of the lands through which he travels. Shunning well-trodden tourist paths, he avoids celebrated landmarks, preferring instead to position himself on a busy street corner or in a dusty café and observe life go by. Insisting that we can all be explorers, he says there's wonderment to be found wherever we are - it's just a matter of seeing the world with fresh eyes. http://www.tahirshah.com/about-tahir/

The Tongue is Fire/1996 by Harold Schueb

One of the joys of reading widely is to come across books which interest but would otherwise be unknown by a larger audience. A subset of this joy is to read books by TEAArs, and Harold Scheub is one of our distinguished members. He gained some of his expertise the old-fashioned way: he walked and talked. The subtitle of this book is “South African

Storytellers and Apartheid." This book is a homage to the craft of storytelling and to a lifetime's work of putting storytelling into perspective. What a way to anticipate Mandela's later life. Schueb has produced many books and most recently *Trickster and Hero: Two Characters in the Oral and Written Traditions of the World* (2013).

Transition magazine, since 1961

This is the magazine many of us read in East Africa. It ultimately died in 1976 or so (founder Rajat Neogy died in 1995 in San Francisco, see http://www.nytimes.com/1995/12/11/world/rajat-neogy-57-founder-of-journal-on-africa.html) and was revived by Skip Gates at Harvard in 1991. Transition is headquartered in the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, cf, http://hutchinscenter.fas.hardvard.edu. The magazine is published by Indiana University Press, and you can subscribe in various formats and is archived by JSTOR (at jstor.org/journals). If you want to subscribe to the print edition and/or seek past copies, go to iuorder@indiana.edu. Transition is ultra-current and so way ahead of the curve that you'll be hipper than even the most down grandchild.

Travels with Herodotus/2008 by Ryszard Kapuscinski

You will not regret reading this book, even taking into account the time you could have spent doing something else, because, in Portia's phrase, you are twice blest [isn't it nice to erudition at work!], once in having been such a person as would up and go to live and work in a distant land, and then again, having gone, enriched by being there. And so, as you read this book, there will be three travelers, not only Herodotus and the renowned Polish foreign correspondent and author, but also your own earlier (and perhaps current) self. Writing in 2007 near the end of his life, Kapuscinski tells how in the 50s and 60s he came to know the world, cultures and people, and how his ancient Greek forerunner helped him from across the millennia. He will also fill you in on why Herodotus is famous. I am so awed by this book, so eager to convince you to read it, that I'm turning to one whose business it is to advertise books. The back cover of the paperback states this: "Revisiting his memories of traveling the globe with a copy of Herodotus's 'The Histories' in tow, Kapuscinski describes his awakening to the intricacies and idiosyncrasies of new environments, and how the words of the Greek historiographer helped shape his own view of an increasingly globalized world. Written with supreme eloquence and a constant eye to the global undercurrents that have shaped the last half century, 'Travels with Herodotus' is an exceptional chronicle of one man's journey across continents." Kapuscinki has written many books of non-fiction, several of them about Africa: https://www.theguardian.com/media/2007/jan/25/pressandpublishing.booksobituaries.

Tropical Fish/2010 by Doreen Baingana.

Baingana is Ugandan, and I was hoping for a little more punch in these connected short stories than I got. There is a sense that the author was trying to touch all the bases in this collection: adolescent female reveries, schooling at Gayaza, dating black and white men, professional career, going to LA, going back to Entebbe. "A Thank You Note" was the most

powerful story for me; in letter form it is an appreciation of friendship even though both the writer and the recipient are dying of AIDS. Interestingly, the narrator returns to Uganda; Baingana has stayed at U Mass.

Twain and Stanley Enter Paradise/2015 by Oscar Hijuelos

This book is a work of historical fiction which focuses on the real-life friendship of two 19th century personalities and the woman they each found ravishing, Dorothy/Dolly Tennant, herself a personality and painter of note. Stanley and Twain did know each other, and the author creates a completely believable friendship complete with diary entries, fanciful conversations, and curious possibilities all in the service of humanizing the central characters and making a reader think that there is more to Stanley than his conquistador reputation. I liked this novel very much in large part because it shows that fiction, especially dialogue, can inform historical reputations and the human condition. The last chapter is very touching. For good measure I re-read the "Afterword" of Tim Jeal's long 2007 biography. Those who seek further information might well do visit the Musee Royal de l'Afrique Centrale in Tervuren outside of Brussells when it re-opens in mid-2017: http://www.africamuseum.be/home. It might also be the only place to learn about Stanley's adopted son, Denzil, and Denzil's adopted son, Richard. The line ran out: in Pirbright, Stanley's headstone (beyond his and Dorothy's information) reads "Denzil Morton Stanley 1895 - 1959, Helen Liddell Stanley (Helen and Denzil married in 1922) 1891 - 1979, Richard Morton Stanley 1934 – 1986." Where be their quiddities now?

The juncture of fiction and history is also a large part of *Dream of the Celt* by Mario Vargas Llosa which is about Roger Casement whose reports (published ironically the year of Stanley's death) vilified Leopold's activities in the Congo and Stanley's perceived enabling of those atrocities.

Unbowed/2006 by Wangari Muthai

Her autobiography. If you have not read it, now might be the time.

Understanding Contemporary Africa, 5th edition/2013 by April Gordon & Donald Gordon

This book has gone through multiple editions indicating that it is in heavy use. The book is composed of extended essays of 30-40 pages each with a bibliography. Here is your chance to understand finally the moving ITCZ. Sample subjects are "The historical Context": "Population, Urbanization, and AIDS"; "Women and Development"; "African Literature." One hopes that each essay is updated for each edition (not so with African lit) or new authors found.

Unfinished Empire: The Global Expansion of Britain/2013 by John Darwin

This book is one of several that this Oxford don has written on the topic of empire, especially the British empire. I first came across Darwin on the HMS Beagle, no, no, sorry wrong chap (oh, good, you're reading). Actually upon reading After Tamerlane which documents the Mongol empire and is one of several books I've read which concentrate on the

history of lands east of Suez as a way of reminding us that Genghis Khan has had as much to do with world history as Charlemagne or Richard II. The opening and closing chapters could easily be called required reading.

The Decline and Fall of the British Empire 1781-1997 by Piers Brendon is Cambridge's account of the same phenomenon, and I know that Robert Greenwood relaxing on the sands of some south-of-Mombasa beach would want the Blue to be recognized. Brendon devotes a full chapter to Kenya. Both books have extensive bibliographies and could have had better maps.

Those of you wishing visual histories of empire might consult *Illustrating Empire: A Visual History of British Imperialism* by Ashley Jackson and David Tomkins/2011, *Kenya: A Country in the Making*, *1880-1940*/2008 by Nigel Pavitt, and *The Last Empire: Photography in British India, 1856-1911*/1976 introduced by the last viceroy himself (no, not, Clive). The first book has a delightful website at http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/johnson so that you can bring your laptop into the bathroom.

Unknown Soldier: Haunted House/2009 by Jonathan Dysart and Alberto Ponticelli and its informative website, http://www.joshuadysart.com/wp/.

I am indebted to a short NYT article which alerted me to this book which focuses on the ongoing war in northern Uganda, the government vs. LRA. We now have a hero in UG instead of political villains. Language and drawings are raw, a few "f" bombs, but if this situation isn't profane, I don't know what is. The sequel is titled Unknown Soldier: Easy Kill by the same pair plus Pat Masioni. This book has less cohesion than its predecessor. Therefore, I recommend that you turn first to the end of the book to "A Chronological History of the War Between the LRA and the UPDF." The book's first section is "Between Here and There" followed by "Easy Kill" I, "Easy Kill" II, "Easy Kill" III, "Easy Kill" IV, "Easy Kill" V, "The Long Way Home," and "The Way Home." Some of the language and drawings are raw, but that's the genre. Still who would have thought that this little, resistant bit of African history would end up in this mass culture vehicle? Ex Africa aliquid novi, baby.

Vive Nelson Mandela DVD.

At another point on the continent, is South Africa. A 95 minute history of Nelson Mandela. It is inspiring and decidedly encouraging.

We Need New Names/2015 by NoViolet Bulawayo

Edgy, as in Juniot Diaz. Here is a narrator, Darling, who takes no prisoners. A ten-year old Zimbabwean girl, she lives in Paradise with her friends Bastard, Chipo, Godknows, Stina, Bornfree, and Mother of Bones because her family's house was bulldozed by the Mugabe government. Darling tells tales of Prophet Revelations Bitchington Mborro, Fat Mangena, and Tshaka Zulu. She emigrates to Destroyedmichygen /Detroit to live with her aunt Fostalina and uncle Kojo: thus begins the downside of moving to a new country (as opposed to the success story of House on Sugar Beach by Hellene Cooper). I don't know how you

would end a novel of this energy easily. One thing is for sure: don't ever steal guavas off a tree.

Helon Habila writes the following: "What stops the book collapsing under its own thematic weight is a certain linguistic verve, and the sense that this is a really talented and ambitious author who might at any moment surprise the reader by a plot twist, some technical bravura, or a thematic transcendence that will take the story beyond its gratuitously dark concerns to another, more meaningful level. For really, what is the purpose of suffering in literature, especially in a coming-of-age novel, but to serve as midwife to spiritual and psychological growth?"

See: http://www.newzimbabwe.com/showbiz-11276-NoViolet+Bulawayo+%E2%80%98We+Need+New+Names%E2%80%99/showbiz.aspx

We Should All be Feminists/2014 by Chimamanda Adichie

As readers of this vibrant Nigerian author know, Adichie has a keen eye for social commentary. The book, a short one and an adaptation of a TED talk, illustrates how observers not native to the USA still have keen insights about American dynamics. And let me rush to say that the contents of this book are not limited to the USA. We all know the arguments, but Adichie says it clearly and authoritatively, so the book is strategic for those of you getting into the fray. And if you are into this fray, you absolutely must know Peggy McIntosh's seminal essay, The Backpack of White (Male) Privilege written in 1989: http://www.uakron.edu/centers/conflict/docs/whitepriv.pdf.

We Won't Budge/2003 by Manthia Diawara

This memoir was inspired by the brutal death of Amadou Diallo in New York City in 1999. Diawara sees in Diallo's plight his own story and the stories of many immigrants from West Africa. His sense of outrage is forcefully told. The author emigrated early in his life, first to Paris and then to USA. He has earned several degrees and now is a professor at NYU. The title is a tribute to Salif Keita's anthemic protest song Nou Pas Bouger. The book contains scenes and activities and ruminations located in Washington, D.C., Bamako, and Paris.

WHAT IS THE WHAT/2007 by David Eggers

This exciting novel gives a fictionalized account of what the lost boys of Sudan had to endure; it is a what-was-it-like-on-the-ground type of book. It opens with a robbery and a tying-up which is what we in lit studies call a 'conceit,' a kind of metaphor that is supposed to carry allegorical weight. Very powerful.

Wizard of the Crow/2006 by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

I finally finished reading this book which I had started in 2008. Well, actually, I read the first 200 pages, skimmed the next 300 pages, and flipped the final 200. I found the book

tiresome and the satire transparent (one character is named "Machokali"). If you know anything about Kenya politics since independence and especially since Moi, you will recognize all the situations and start looking for chapter summaries. The idea of the book is fine, but I found the text uninspiring, and I tried to like it. Here is another summary: "The narrative, then, is a journey without a destination, and its characters are improv artists. This ambitious, long-mulled attempt to sustain the spell of oral narrative in an era of electro-visual distractions leaves the Wizard where the reader finds him, up in the air." Does have a great cover, though.

Zanzibar/2002 by Giles Foden

Readers of my past reviews will recognize this author, most famous for *The Last King of Scotland*. In Zanzibar Foden fleshes out his take on the US embassy bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in 1998. It was written largely before the 9/11 events in the US. There are several main characters: Nick Karolides, and American marine biologist assigned by US-AID to Zanzibar; Miranda Powers, an American diplomat assigned to Dar and a romantic possibility for Nick; Quiller, an aging CIA type who flies in the face of bureaucracy; Khaled, a resident of Pemba island who joins Al Qaeda in ill-thought out hopes of revenging his parents murders and drinking the terrorists's kool-aid rhetoric on 'attacking' the West. Lamentably the characters are too formulaic. The book is insightful in its surmises on the thinking of Al Qaeda operators and thinking and the equally opinionated thinking of Americans trying to counter them. Here are some out-takes from The Guardian review of the book by Anthony Holden: "Based around the bombing of US embassies in Africa in August 1998, specifically that in Dar-es-Salaam, Zanzibar offers prophetic insights into the minds of Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda cohorts far shrewder, I would guess, than most of the countless works of terrorist fiction no doubt now in production with the benefit of hindsight….He is a master of ambiguity where it is welcome, and discomfort where it is not. Above all, he knows how to use individual lives to dramatize and explain external events that impact on us all. Which is one way of defining the purpose of high-minded but very compelling fiction."

Subheadings, I—VIII

I. <u>Top books on Africa written by Africans-post Things Fall Apart/1958</u>

FICTION

1. <u>Nervous Conditions</u> by Tsitsi Dangarembga

This book is my recommendation to replace Things Fall Apart as everybody's go-to African novel. It is a powerful portrayal of a young girl in the midst of her primary and secondary school years as she becomes painfully aware that traditional gender politics constrain her life more than colonial ones. Tambu is the girl, and other women around her are her foils. Nervous Conditions as a title has colonial overtones, but the real culprit is patrimony.

2. <u>Three Strong Women</u> by Marie Ndiaye

This book is African to the extent that each of the three stories have characters connected to West Africa. This book is brilliant. It is not easily read because interior monologue dominates each story, and the author is masterful in linking the monologues to the particular circumstances of the story. I sensed bits of Henry James, Albert Camus, and William Faulkner. I repeat, THIS is a novel. It is fiction carefully and delicately articulated. Three strong women dominate each story not so much with their physical power as with the dominance of their sensibilities. You really won't know what hit you when you pick up this book and start reading. The women are named Norah, Fanta, and Khadu Demba, and they are like big birds with beating wings. The victories here are fragile, and you see how delicate our conditions really are.

3. Half a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Adichie

The author's second novel, set in Biafra, Nigeria, in the 1960s. A fine novel depicting the twins Olanna and Kainene and their lovers, Odenigbo and Richard, and their cooks, Ugwu and Harrison. I admired each at different times in the novel. Now there are some tough passages, but don't let that put you off reading the book; it is long, but don't let that put you off reading this book. The tranquil scenes take place in the sections labelled "The Early Sixties"; and the difficult scenes take place in the sections labelled "The Late Sixties." The book that never gets written but whose title suggests the trauma of Adichie's novel is "The World Was Silent When We Died." This sense of trauma is, however, redeemed by the wonderful character of "My good man."

4. GraceLand by Chris Abani

I have heard Chris Abani speak 3 times and am always impressed by the depth of his views more than the profanity of the actions of his characters. The title has all kinds of reference to this Elvis who seeks the promised land is Presley's home country. The book takes place in Lagos, Nigeria, a place I personally couldn't wait to get out of in March of 1973. Like Calcutta in India, Lagos seems to be all of life in a grain of sand.

5. Joys of Motherhood by Buchi Emecheta

The title is ironic and the writing is fine even if rumors proliferate that much of Emecheta's writing has been heavily edited.

6. Americanah by Chimamanda Adichie

I heard Adichie at the same bookshop as Theroux. Another thrill, and so I read this book. Two dueling personalities are at the center of the book, Ifemelu and Odinze, nicknamed Zed. Both Nigerian, both cosmopolitan. Aunties and friends galore. The book is at bottom a love story and shows two people survive through life's travails to reunite after several false starts. This story is endearing, and you too will swoon after reading the last paragraph of chapter 51. Then there is the nifty satire. No one is exempt. Ruminations on hair and race. Get on the bandwagon.

7. Waiting for an Angel by Helon Habila

Waiting for an Angel starts out quietly sad, with Lomba already in prison, writing love poems for a prison superintendent in an effort to improve his lot. Whether he succeeds or not is speculated on but never really known, for the rest of the book is a flashback, told in first- and third-person accounts by Lomba and several others, including a 15-year-old boy sent to live with his aunt in Lagos as punishment for smoking marijuana. At times the reader learns about students fleeing their college; at other times about a small foods store and its twisted

inhabitants. The jumps between time and place unfortunately do irreparable damage to the narrative's flow, but the prose is clean, the details sordid but evocative, and the desperation very real. The political unrest deepens and the death count rises as the demonstrations turn violent.

8. Ways of Dying by Zakes Mda

The book is set in South Africa during a period that seems to span the end of the apartheid regime and focuses exclusively on the lives (and deaths) of poor South African Blacks in rural villages and urban shanty towns. Mda has a voice that is uniquely his own. Toloki, the protagonist, is a self-declared professional mourner who ekes out an existence at the edge of society. Some aspects of his life are almost grotesque in form, and the deaths that surround him are often horrifying, yet somehow this an optimistic and human book.

9. Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Adichie

Family dynamics that are pretty much universal. Teenage girl figures out that her aunt's life is much more attractive that her father's. Besides the aunt grows purple hibiscus plants which do not seem able to bloom in Lagos.

10. The In-Between World of Vikram Lall by M. C. Vassanji

I am trying to get you all to read this author. This book is a fictional portrayal of a character who must be Jomo. The Jomo-character is squeezing Asians for money, and Vikram finds himself in one hot seat after another. Vassanji has recently most recently a novel called The Magic of Saida which I suggest you read with Paradise listed below. The coast is more than just Lamu or Malindi.

11. Beasts of No Nation by Uzodinma Iweala

This book is my choice for the boy-soldier phenomenon, and one book is all you need.

12. Paradise by Abdulrazak Gurnah

So what about the lives of those coastal people? I have usually thought about the coast as being merely hot and different, but an interest in the history of the Swahili Coast and my 2005 visit to Kilwa has peaked my wish to understand that area more fully. ("Born in East Africa, Yusuf has few qualms about the journey he is to make. It never occurs to him to ask why he is accompanying Uncle Aziz or why the trip has been organised so suddenly, and he does not think to ask when he will be returning. But the truth is that his 'uncle' is a rich and powerful merchant and Yusuf has been pawned to him to pay his father's debts. Paradise is a rich tapestry of myth, dreams and Biblical and Koranic tradition, the story of a young boy's coming of age against the backdrop of an Africa increasingly corrupted by colonialism and violence.")

13. Woman at Point Zero by Nawal El Saadawi

This Egyptian writer in this slim and powerful book has put it all in the title.

NON-FICTION

1. Dreams in a Time of War by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

A memoir of the author's days up to his enrollment in Alliance High School as seen through the lens of his life. There is some nice Kenyan history here as well as insight into the connectedness of USA and Africa. There is even a bit of nostalgia. Some complexity and

some subtlety. I liked this book very much although I have not found the same satisfaction from his fiction.

2. Dreams of Trespass by Fatima Mernessi

If you thought life in a harem was dreadful, then you should read this delightful volume by a woman who became a renowned Moroccan academic and feminist. Turns out that kids jump over the fence in all cultures.

3. In Arabian Nights: A Caravan of Moroccan Dreams by Tahir Shah

Shah continues the story he began in his acclaimed memoir The Caliph's House, the tale of his family's move to Morocco, this time focusing on the traditional wisdom stories of Arabia, best known in the West through A Thousand and One Nights. Inspired by his family's long tradition of storytelling ("We have this gift," says his father, "Protect it and it will protect you"), Shah frames his search for identity with traditional Arabian tales, but also with the stories of the men who tell them. As such, he creates a bright patchwork quilt of stories old and new, including his own childhood memories, held together by an engaging cross-country travelogue.

4. African Perspectives on Colonialism by Adu Boahen

This compact book by a Ghanaian academic details the claim that "the Europe that [Africans] were about to encounter [at the end of the 19th century] was not the same Europe that they had been dealing with since the fifteenth century."

5. A Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela

Mandela's political autobiography by one of the legends of the 20th century.

6. The Africans by Ali Mazrui

One of the gifts of this book is to emphasize the triple religious heritage of the African continent and to use that metaphor as a way of reviewing history. There is a series of videos, source books, and work books that accompany the picture-laden text. Some of us heard Mazrui lecture at Makerere, and some of us have gone out of our way to hear him in this country.

7. The Meanings of Timbuktu, Shamil Jeppie & Souleymane Diagne, Eds.

This esoteric book is a charm and puts matters highlighted by materials found in Timbuktu in larger perspectives. A great collection of scholarly chapters that relate to North African happenings, this volume includes a magnificent chapter, "Paper in Sudanic Africa," which is as concise history of paper as you would want (you may know that paper started in China, but you may not know how knowledge of its manufacture spread throughout the world). Part V concentrates on the heritage of Arabic and Swahili writing. This really is a unique book and just makes you feel good that it exists.

8. The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

All educators should read this book. Why? Because the book documents the path that Kamkwamba took to further his own education and the sensibilities that he had which propelled him to do his work. It also is a great documentation of rural Africa and how people coped with famine and inept governments. Thus it is much more than a book about an invention arising in such an improbable setting. It is a book about the human spirit and prevailing over harsh conditions. You'd have given Kamkwamba a scholarship to Dartmouth, too, even if many of his own country's headmasters refused to give him one to their schools. Read this book.

9. #KenyaRefuses, editors, Shailja Patel and Aaron Bady
http://thenewinquiry.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/KenyaRefusesSupplementFinal.pdf
I have been waiting for the independent souls of Kenya to voice their responses to the elections of 2013 in which the winners seemed to have won only because non-Kenyans were intent on requiring compliance with the International Criminal Court's/ICC's indictment of Kenyatta and Ruto. A victory without integrity. Well, this collection is one response. I recommend in particular "Silence is a Woman" and "Kenya Will Never Was." "The Politics of Contempt" is strong, too.

II. Top books on Africa written by non-Africans—post 1958

FICTION

1. Waiting for the Barbarians by J. M. Coetzee*
This small book is a powerful allegory of racial dynamics/the oppressors and the oppressed in a fictive part of what I assume to be southern Africa. The writing is sparse kabisa. Colonel Joll is from the Third Bureau, the narrator is intimidated, winter is setting in, and the girl is there. The barbarians are at the gate…or are they inside the gate?
2. What is the What by Dave Eggers
Starting with a conceit of being tied up in his own apartment, the narrator spins his tale—technically fiction but reality based—that draws us in completely. It is the tale of the "Lost Boys" of the southern Sudan and their travails to survive.
3. The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series by Alexander Smith
Some may feel that this series is too good to be true, but I have found that for folks not familiar with Africa receive these books positively because they portray the kind of humanity and resourcefulness which we all treasure. These books are great cures for the disaster-lit that so many people feel is authentic Africa.
4. The Darling by Russell Banks
The Darling relates tales of Charles Taylor escaping from a Massachusetts prison and wreaking havoc in Liberia: "The 'darling' of the story is Dawn Carrington, nee Hannah Musgrave, a political radical and member of the Weather Underground forced to flee America to avoid arrest. At the time of the novel, she is 59, living on her working farm in upstate New York with four younger women, recalling her life in Liberia and her recent return to that country to look for her sons. 'Mainly, we return to a place in order to learn why we left,' she says. For Hannah, the decision was harrowing. She abandoned her sons during a bloody civil war, after the death of her husband, Woodrow Sundiata, a black African Cabinet Minister in President Samuel Doe's government. Banks explores the corruption, greed, and violence, weaving the real story of the horrors of West Africa with the fictional narrative of Hannah and Woodrow."
5. Baking Cakes in Kigali by Gaile Parkin
In the tradition of No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency, this gloriously written tale--set in modern-day Rwanda--introduces one of the most engaging characters in recent fiction: Angel Tungaraza--mother, cake baker, keeper of secrets--a woman living on the edge of chaos,

finding ways to transform lives, weave magic and create hope amid the madness swirling all around her.

NON-FICTION

1. King Leopold's Ghost by Adam Hochschild

A definitive and authoritative view of the Belgian king's devastation of the Congo River basin from 1880 to 1910. Irish nationalist Roger Casement plays a key role. Very well-written, so well so that many Africanists were pissed that a mere journalist accomplished what they did not.

2. The Shadow of the Sun by Ryszard Kapuscinski

This brilliant journalist from Poland lived in all of the places he writes about, and his writing has the feel of depth and compassion. This book is only one of five that he wrote.

3. African Civilization Revisited by Basil Davidson

One of the early promoters of the depth of African history, Davidson committed his life to creating a record of enterprise and achievement as he was compelled to prove AJP Taylor completely wrong.

4. Country of My Skull by Antjie Krug*

Krug is a poet and a journalist who was hired by South African radio to record and prepare for broadcast the deliberations of the Truth and Reconciliation hearings in RSA in the 1990s. It feels like she got all the many tensions just right, so much so that she often had to take leave of her assignment just to collect her thoughts. She does for the T&R what Michael Herr did for Vietnam in Dispatches.

5. My Traitor's Heart by Rian Malan*

Some of the same angst that went in to Country of My Skull goes into this book which is a series of essays alternating between black people and white people in South Africa. Hard hitting and authentic (I assume).

6. Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight and Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness by Alexandra Fuller*

These two memoirs are fabulous at depicting dysfunction and love. Fuller's mother so hated "Dogs" that the daughter had to write a second book relating her mother's growing up in Kenya. Drink in the first book is replaced by Le Creuset cookware in the second. Go ahead and prove me wrong.

7. It's Our Turn to Eat by Michaela Wrong

A powerful book by a journalist well-seasoned in African affairs, this book is an indictment of Kenya's Mwai Kibaki and his Mount Kenya Mafia. It is also, although less so, an indictment of a passive citizenry which seems bent on accepting corruption. A coterie of outspoken citizens does exist but has been powerless to effect sufficient change to make, for instance, the education and health of the citizenry a priority. The book outlines Kenya's history and ethnic dimensions. When I encouraged fellow TEAAer and Kenya resident Mike Rainy to buy the book, he responded thus: "Too right Brooks, I imported two copies. But M. Wrong really documents 2003-2006 and now in 2009 trust for top leaders is at an all time low for Kenyans at only 18% for the PM, 17% for the VP, 14% for Pres. Kibaki and only 11% for Hussein Ali, our Commissioner of Police. 71% of Kenyans are worse off than just a

year ago. And although the US Embassy imported and gave away over 5000 copies of It's Our Turn to Eat, there are about 40 million Kenyans! During Kibaki I we could still be shocked, now during Kibaki II, now referred to as Mabaki, we are mainly just tired and demoralized." Wrong names names including one of my former students.

8. Mau-Mau's Children by David Sangren

Read this book, buy this book. What a great idea to return to Giakanja Secondary School 30 years after leaving to interview your former students who had lived through a transformational time in Kenya's history to find out how they had fared. Quite well, as it turns out. This very readable book interweaves history with biography in a very compelling way. Enough so to nudge me to dive into my supply of slides to see what pictures I had taken in term 3 of 1967 when I completed my TEA contract at Giakanja myself. Sangren brings out many of the nuances of teaching in Central Province that had eluded me at the time. Mau-Mau's Children is the perfect complement to Ngugi's two memoirs, Dreams in a Time of War and In the House of the Interpreter. I note that Sangren cites other TEArs in his bibliography: David Court and Kevin Lillis.

9. The Scramble for Africa by Thomas Packenham

Probably the most complete, single-volume history of the continent.

10. Abina and the Important Men by Trevor Getz and Lucy Clarke

This textbook was recently created by an Africanist to document the plight of a woman who was effectively sold from one Ghanaian to another into slavery in the Gold Coast in the 1870s. It is based on documentary evidence, graphic prose, and study guides. I heard the author talk about the book at Boston University and was very impressed. Show it to your local high school.

11. Butabu: Adobe Architecture of West Africa by James Morris

I slipped in this personal favorite because I am so enamored of this style of architecture that I want to popularize it. Well, really, I can’t, but you will read this book with great appreciation.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. Unknown Soldier: Haunted House by Jonathan Dysart and Alberto Ponticelli

I am indebted to a short NYT article which alerted me to this book which focuses on the ongoing war in northern Uganda, the government vs. LRA. We now have a hero in UG instead of political villains. Language and drawings are raw, a few "f" bombs, but if this situation isn't profane, I don't know what is. The sequel is titled Unknown Soldier: Easy Kill by the same pair plus Pat Masioni. This book has less cohesion than its predecessor. Therefore, I recommend that you turn first to the end of the book to "A Chronological History of the War Between the LRA and the UPDF." The book's first section is "Between Here and There" followed by "Easy Kill" I, "Easy Kill" II, "Easy Kill" III, "Easy Kill" IV, "Easy Kill" V, "The Long Way Home," and "The Way Home." Some of the language and drawings are raw, but that's the genre. Still who would have thought that this little, resistant bit of African history would end up in this mass culture vehicle? Ex Africa aliquid novi, baby.

2, Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama

Yes, this is the President's story of his own life before entering politics. Written in 1996 and re-released in 2004. Told straight up and with the clarity and compassion that you might

expect. Included is a section on his visit to Kenya. Ever wonder why he doesn't feel especially close to his father's homeland? The book is a good read and the memoir of choice for most Africans.

3. The Aya series by Marguerite Abouet and Clement Oubrerie

These are graphic novels which relate youthful life in Abidjan, Core d'Ivoire, and you thought that kids only hooked up in SoCal! Your teenage grandchildren will think you're hip beyond words if you give them any of these books (there are 3 so far in English, 5 in French).

*Southern African whites, categorize as you wish

III. Three East African writers

A. **Ngugi wa Thiong'o** http://www.ngugiwathiongo.com/

Ngugi wa Thiong'o (formerly James Ngugi), currently Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Irvine, was born in Kenya, in 1938 into a large peasant family. He was educated at Kamandura, Manguu and Kinyogori primary schools; Alliance High School, all in Kenya; Makerere University College (then a campus of London University), Kampala, Uganda; and the University of Leeds, Britain. A many-sided intellectual, he is novelist, essayist, playwright, journalist, editor, academic and social activist.

Weep Not, Child, 1964
The River Between, Heinemann 1965
A Grain of Wheat, 1967
This Time Tomorrow (3 plays, including the title play, "The Reels", and "The Wound in the Heart"), c. 1970
Homecoming: Essays on African and Caribbean Literature, Culture, and Politics, 1972,
A Meeting in the Dark (1974)
Secret Lives, and Other Stories, 1976, Heinemann, 1992
The Trial of Dedan Kimathi (play), 1976
I Will Marry When I Want) 1977
Petals of Blood, 1977
Devil on the Cross, 1980
Writers in Politics: Essays, 1981
Education for a National Culture, 1981
Detained: A Writer's Prison Diary, 1981
Barrel of a Pen: Resistance to Repression in Neo-Colonial Kenya, 1983
Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature, 1986
Mother, Sing For Me, 1986
Writing against Neo-Colonialism, 1986
Njamba Nene and the Flying Bus, 1986 (children's book)
Matigari, Heinemann 1989
Njamba Nene's Pistol (children's book), 1990
Moving the Centre: The Struggle for Cultural Freedom, Heinemann, 1993,

Penpoints, Gunpoints and Dreams: The Performance of Literature and Power in Post-Colonial Africa (The Clarendon Lectures in English Literature 1996)
Wizard of the Crow, 2006
Something Torn and New: An African Renaissance, 2009
Dreams in a Time of War: a Childhood Memoir, 2010
In the House of the Interpreter: A Memoir, 2012
Birth of a Dream Weaver, 2016
Clearly the most famous of this group, our age-mate.

B. **M. G. Vassanji** http://www.mgvassanji.com/

A thoughtful writer who grew up in Tanzania and then emigrated to Canada. M G Vassanji was born in Kenya and raised on Uhruru Street in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania [sidebar: see http://darsketches.wordpress.com/ and the book Street Level by Sarah Markes. Great stuff]. Before coming to Canada in 1978, he attended MIT and the University of Pennsylvania, where he specialized in theoretical nuclear physics. From 1978-1980 he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Atomic Energy of Canada, and from 1980 to 1989 he was a research associate at the University of Toronto. During this period he developed a keen interest in medieval Indian literature and history, co-founded and edited a literary magazine and began writing stories and a novel. In 1989, with the publication of his first novel, The Gunny Sack, he was invited to spend a season at the International Writing Program of the University of Iowa.
The Gunny Sack (1989)
Uhuru Street (stories, 1990)
No New Land (1990)
The Book of Secrets (1993)
Amriika (2000)
The In-Between World of Vikram Lall (2003)
When She Was Queen (2005, stories)
The Assassin's Song (2007)
Mordecai Richler (2009, biography)
A Place Within: Rediscovering India (2008)
The Magic of Saida (2012)
The Magic of Saida/2013 by M. G. Vassanji. One might argue that the Asians and the coast do not get any respect in East African literature. This book proves us all wrong and is a fine book about a man named Kamalu Punja whose parents represent two strains of Indian Ocean coast: Sidis/Sheedis and slaves. Kamalu is currently a doctor in Canada who returns to his native Kilwa in southern Tanzania to trace his roots and to find his childhood playmate, Saida. He gets more than he bargained for as he travels through time and place to uncover his identity and historical connections. Vassanji continues to unpack his book of secrets. I recommend that you read this book along side Gurnah's Paradise.
And Home Was Kariakoo, 2015

C. **Abdulrazak Gurnah** http://www.kent.ac.uk/english/people/profiles/gurnah.html

Probably obscure to you, Gurnah grew up on Zanzibar and emigrated to the UK. He now teaches at the University of Kent in the UK.
Memory of Departure (1987)
Pilgrims Way (1988)
Dottie (1990)
Paradise (1994)
Admiring Silence (1996)
By the Sea (2001)
Desertion (2005)
The Last Gift (2011)

So what about the lives of those coastal people? I have usually thought about the coast as being merely hot and different, but an interest in the history of the Swahili Coast and my 2005 visit to Kilwa has peaked my wish to understand that area more fully. In 2005 I found Gurnah's Desertion ("In 1899, an Englishman named Martin Pearce stumbles out of the desert into an East African coastal town and is rescued by Hassanali, a shopkeeper whose beautiful sister Rehana nurses Pearce back to health. Pearce and Rehana begin a passionate illicit love affair, which resonates fifty years later when the narrator's brother falls madly in love with Rehana's granddaughter. In the story of two forbidden love affairs and their effects on the lovers' families, Abdulrazak Gurnah brilliantly dramatizes the personal and political consequences of colonialism, the vicissitudes of love, and the power of fiction.") Then I read Memory of Departure which led to Paradise ("Born in East Africa, Yusuf has few qualms about the journey he is to make. It never occurs to him to ask why he is accompanying Uncle Aziz or why the trip has been organised so suddenly, and he does not think to ask when he will be returning. But the truth is that his 'uncle' is a rich and powerful merchant and Yusuf has been pawned to him to pay his father's debts. Paradise is a rich tapestry of myth, dreams and Biblical and Koranic tradition, the story of a young boy's coming of age against the backdrop of an Africa increasingly corrupted by colonialism and violence.") and By the Sea ("On a late November afternoon Saleh Omar arrives at Gatwick Airport from Zanzibar, a far away island in the Indian Ocean. With him he has a small bag in which there lies his most precious possession - a mahogany box containing incense. He used to own a furniture shop, have a house and be a husband and father. Now he is an asylum seeker from paradise; silence his only protection. Meanwhile Latif Mahmud, someone intimately connected with Saleh's past, lives quietly alone in his London flat. When Saleh and Latif meet in an English seaside town, a story is unravelled. It is a story of love and betrayal, of seduction and of possession, and of a people desperately trying to find stability amidst the maelstrom of their times.") (descriptions courtesy of amazon.com). So I come to praise Gurnah and suggest the you read Paradise and Desertion first.

IV. The books on Africa I Would Buy for My Friends

1. *No. 1 Ladies Detective* series, any title. Smith has done masterful work creating a real figure with skills and stories that belie the bleak situations with which your friends are all too familiar.

2. *Americanah* by Adichie is a wonderful love story about cosmopolitan Africans who are home in Princeton, NJ; London, England; and Lagos, Nigeria. Satirical to the hilt. If folks balk at the length give them *We Should All be Feminists*.

3. *Every Day is for the Thief* and *Open City*, both by Teju Cole, illustrates how a wise first person narrator can take you anywhere.

4. The memoir by Ngugi wa Thiongo, *Dreams in a Time of War*, relates details of the circumstances in East Africa that I found myself in in 1964-1967 although I did not did not recognize them at the time. Then tell your friends, hey, I had a beer once with Ngugi in Nyeri.

5. I am a huge fan of Chris Abani and feel that his book *GraceLand* gives a good view of Lagos and the need to get out of Lagos (Lagos is the one city that I have been in which I couldn't wait to leave). Abani tells all his tales straight up and is both compassionate and convincing.

6. For history and perspective two books stand out. *King Leopold's Ghost* is a masterful book about one of the most despicable episodes of Europe in Africa. The writing is excellent, and Hochschild is constantly being referenced years after the book came out. *African History: A Very Short Introduction* by John Parker & Richard Rathbone accomplishes the two prime goals of the state of African history: information and agency. Chapter one is titled "The idea of Africa" and has several subheadings such as "The invention of Africa" before going into more traditional headings such as "The lie of the land." The last chapter is "Memory and Forgetting." The usual information is related, and the bibliography is fantastic. All in 160 pages.

7. *Waiting for the Barbarians* by Nobel laureate J. M. Coetzee is a powerful allegory. It is short, the writing is concise to a fault, and it leaves you thinking.

8. The Aya stories from Cote D'Ivoire by Abouet and Oubrerie show contemporary life in graphic/comic book format. They began in 2007, and there are now 4 titles in English: *Aya*, *Aya: Love in Yop City*, Aya: Life in Yop City, and *The Secrets Come Out*. One of the few sources for understanding contemporary teen-age life in any part of Africa. Get hip.

9. The first half of *We Need New Names* is exhilarating even though the lives it portrays are not. For an outstanding example of personal voice in literature you need go no further than this novel. We await Bulawayo's next volume.

10. Find a good blank map of the African continent and give to friends and challenge them to fill in correctly any 20 countries. If they do, you take them to lunch; if they don't, the bill's on them. http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/africa/afoutl.htm (make sure that it has Eritrea and South Sudan). This exercise works perfectly well without a map; just have folks list the countries, cities, rivers, mountains, and islands that they know.

V. The books on Africa That Few Know About That I Would Buy for My Friends

1. Segu by Maryse Conde

This book of historical fiction takes place in 1797 in the area that would become part of Mali and a cultural center at that. Dousika Troare and his family are caught up in the history that will transform their region. Let's face, we have no idea of what daily life was like in late 18th century West Africa; this book gives us some ideas. The author is prolific.

2. Camping With the Prince by Thomas Bass

Science done in Africa by Africans is not a topic that gets a lot of publicity (although the current palaver over concussions was begun by an African doctor in USA). This delightful read will introduce you to: a camp of nomads on the Kenya-Uganda border where an economist helps design a famine early-warning system; in Nigeria, a scientist (including a virologist son of a Nigerian chief, the "prince" of the title) searches for new viruses in a disturbed environment; at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (Nigeria), soil experts are developing various crop cycles to keep the land productive. For two years, Bass traveled through Africa, attaching himself to scientific expeditions. He went diving in Lake Malawi to observe Cichlid fish mating, visited an ecological project in Mali, and observed a pest-control center in Kenya.

3. Stones for My Father by Trilby Kent

Indeed a gem. Corlie Roux's farm life in South Africa is not easy: the Transvaal is beautiful, but it is also a harsh place where the heat can be so intense that the very raindrops sizzle. When her beloved father dies, she is left with a mother who is as devoted to her sons as she is cruel to her daughter. Despite this, Corlie finds solace in her friend, Sipho, and in Africa itself and in the stories she conjures for her brothers.

4. The Radiance of the King by Camara Laye

This novel would be one of the bookends for my course on the literature of Africa. At the beginning of this masterpiece, Clarence, a white man, has been shipwrecked on the coast of Africa. Flush with self-importance, he demands to see the king, but the king has just left for the south of his realm. Traveling through an increasingly phantasmagoric landscape in the company of a beggar and two roguish boys, Clarence is gradually stripped of his pretensions, until he is sold to the royal harem as a slave. But in the end Clarence's bewildering journey is the occasion of a revelation, as he discovers the image, both shameful and beautiful, of his own humanity in the alien splendor of the king.

5. Waiting for an Angel by Helon Habila

Waiting for an Angel starts out quietly sad, with Lomba already in prison, writing love poems for a prison superintendent in an effort to improve his lot. Whether he succeeds or not is speculated on but never really known, for the rest of the book is a flashback, told in first- and third-person accounts by Lomba and several others, including a 15-year-old boy sent to live with his aunt in Lagos as punishment for smoking marijuana. At times the reader learns about students fleeing their college; at other times about a small foods store and its twisted inhabitants. The jumps between time and place unfortunately do irreparable damage to the narrative's flow, but the prose is clean, the details sordid but evocative, and the desperation very real. The political unrest deepens and the death count rises as the demonstrations turn violent.

6. The Making of The African Queen by Katherine Hepburn

You will find yourself loving this book in spite of yourself. It is charming; you'll wish that you were on the crew. Katharine Hepburn tells the tale of how she survived the African jungle and actually loved it. She describes how the cities look, how it feels to be in the jungle, explaining that taking a shower there is like angels touching your body. She doesn't hold back. She told off John Huston often, refused to help Lauren Bacall with the food, carried the mirror around and often thought what the hell she was doing there. Reading about it is fascinating, and the photographs are marvelous. You can buy the hardcover version online for 1 cent.

7. Ladysmith by Giles Foden

Under siege for 120 days during the Boer War (1899-1901), the motley inhabitants of a South African town go to pieces in Foden's meticulously researched but ultimately unfocused historical novel inspired by letters written by Foden's great-grandfather, a British trooper in the war. Though the Boer forces surround Ladysmith, home of a British garrison, the townspeople don't expect the fighting to last long. But the siege wears on for months, and the people of Ladysmith become accustomed to horrific wartime hardships. In addition to the destruction and carnage of the ongoing shelling, a combination of too much livestock and too little food and water cause pestilence and famine. The difficulties and indignities exact a heavy psychic toll as well. Foden has written 3 other books based on events in Africa including *The Last King of Scotland*.

8. Leopold II, Butcher of the Congo by Tod Olson

Once again I have stumbled onto a <u>fantastic</u> book on Africa aimed at middle school readers (grades 4-7). This 128 page book is part of the "Wicked History" series published by Scholastic; there are 19 titles. This book covers the Leopold nightmare with a great cover, excellent context, good maps, charts, and bibliographies. Really, you ought to try it and then pass it along to your grandchildren who will be happy that you ordered more titles in the series (like 'Fearsome' Hannibal, 'Barbaric" Attila, and 'Lethal' Mary Tudor). And they're cheap.

9. Time of the Butcherbird by Alex LaGuma

Hlangeni's people must be moved to a Bantustan from the land near an arid town in the South African Karoo for the benefit of mining interests. No other South African writer has given such a rounded picture of all the people in a small community inexorably moving towards tragedy. And it's only 120 pages long.

10. Butabu by James Morris and Suzanne Blier

Mud and wattle grows up. These adobe buildings, many of them enormous, showing sublime sculptural beauty, variety, ingenuity, and originality are still found in the Sahel region of western Africa--Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Ghana, and Burkina Faso. Unfortunately, they remain unknown to most of the Western world. James Morris spent four months photographing these hidden jewels, from the great mosque at Djenne--the largest mud building in the world--to small houses in remote communities. *Butabu* shows these works as both aesthetic treasures and as architecture with contemporary relevance. Text by Suzanne Blier covers the history of earthen architecture, the technology that creates it, and the symbolism of its form.

P.S. Things that were said before Donald Trump: The Kenya Settlers Cookery Book and Household Guide by St. Andrew's Church Woman's Guild, Nairobi

The cookbook part I get. Well, actually I didn't have to because I had a cook. But if I had been out in the bundu peke yangu I jolly well would have used the first part of this book. The second part of the book is devoted to words and phrases that were meant to communicate with the "settled," the Kenyans whom one hired. The caustic and preemptory quality of the language suggested illustrates colonialism as well as anything else. My copy, the 12th edition (and perhaps the last), was printed in 1958, and, yes, you can still find the book online.

VI. Middle school books: I must begin by saying that while the reading level of these books is aimed at middle schoolers, the content is very much adult. Indeed, I have found that middle school books are generally very clear with good visuals and thus make a great place for adults to start to learn new topics. The books contain valuable visuals, maps, and bibliographies.

i. The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind/2010 by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. I put my oar in to say that all educators should read this book. Why? Because the book documents the path that Kamkwamba took to further his own education and the sensibilities that he had which propelled him to do his work. It also is a great documentation of rural Africa and how people coped with famine and inept governments. Thus it is much more than a book about an invention arising in such an improbable setting. It is a book about the human spirit and prevailing over harsh conditions. You'd have given Kamkwamba a

scholarship to Dartmouth, too, even if many of his own country's headmasters refused to give him one to their schools. Available in a young adult version. Read this book.

ii. **Far From Home**/2011 by Na'ima B. Robert. This book is like a 12 year-old's history of Zimbabwe. It is very self-conscious when it begins, but it does level off, and I finished reading it with interest. The tale told is of Zimbabwean family traduced in the 60s by a white family. Forty years later this same white family is kicked off "its" land in the Third Chimurenga in the early 2000s. Before creating his own family a white policeman, Ian Wilson, raped Tariro, and a child was born of this rape. Tariro ultimately goes into the bush to fight for land and returns to begin again on the land that had been taken from her family in the 60s. She also goes to UK for her aunt's Ph.D. graduation and has a long heart-to-heart with Ian's white daughter. Yes, somewhat improbable, but if you read the biography of the author, you wouldn't be surprised.

iii. **Golden Boy**/2014 by Tara Sullivan. This young adult novel dramatizes the difficulties of albinism which happens to be a major curse in sub-Saharan Africa and even more so in Mwanza, TZ. The book's central character, Habo, is 12 and living with his family when they have to move from the Arusha area to Mwanza so that the mother and older children can find shelter with mom's sister and work. Habo meanwhile stumbles onto a terrible character named Alasiri who is an elephant poacher and generally mean guy. They meet again in Mwanza where waganga seek body parts from albinos for their muti. Alasiri finds Habo and tries to capture and kill him but fails. Habo runs away from Mwanza to Dar es Salaam where he feels he will be safer (regrettably Mwanza's reputation is real in the real world). Habo can live on the streets only so long, and one day he tries to steal a man's dinner. This man is Kweli (Swahili speakers smile) who grabs Habo and then hears part of his tale. Kweli is a blind and a wood carver; Habo doesn't tell his whole truth. As you no doubt have predicted, Kweli takes Habo in, gives him food and shelter, and teaches him his craft. Alasiri re-enters the novel as someone trying to get Kweli to carve poached elephant tusks. Habo fears he will be discovered, and I leave you to find out what happens.

The author has her own dynamic story, and I recommend that you go to http://tarasullivanbooks.com to find it out. The subject matter of Golden Boy is moving, and you can go to http://www.asante-mariamu.org to find out more and/or donate.

iv. **Maps**/2012 by Aleksandra & Daniel Mizielinski. I am a huge map guy and a huge children's lit guy. This book is awesome, unique, wonderful. It is an illustrated atlas that your grandchildren will fall in love with, that you will fall in love with.

v. **'Greedy' Leopold II, Butcher of the Congo**/2008 by Tod Olson. Here is a fantastic book on Africa aimed at middle school readers (grades 4-7). This 128 page book is part of the "Wicked History" series published by Scholastic; there are 19 titles. This book covers the Leopold nightmare with a great cover, excellent context, good maps, charts, and bibliographies. Really, you ought to try it and then pass it along to your grandchildren who will be happy that you ordered more titles in the series (like *'Fearsome' Hannibal*, *'Barbaric" Attila*, and *'Lethal' Mary Tudor*). And they're cheap.

vi. **The Royal Diaries: Nzingha, Warrior Queen of Matamba**/2000 by Patricia McKissack. This small book replete with notes, photographs, and maps tells the tale of this important person from Angola in 1595-1596 as a way of documenting life in this little-

studied part of Africa. This volume is one of several in the Royal Diary series published by Scholastic to give substance to powerful women. Real history fleshed out with historically accurate fiction. The author and her husband are well-known authors of over 100 books on the African-American experience. See also *The Royal Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay: Life in Medieval Africa*.

vii. **Mansa Musa and the Empire of Mali**/2013 by James Oliver. This volume is a great introduction to the topics of ancient African history, the empire of Mali, the great trek of Mansa Musa to Mecca and back, the introduction of a unique adobe style of architecture for which West Africa continues to be well-known, and useful graphics and glossary. The book's pedigree is curious. While it is informative, most of the references are from 1980s scholarship, and there is no description of the author or even a publisher to write to. It would have been nice to have had greater substantiation of claims so the book lacks the credibility it might otherwise have.

viii. **The British Museum Pocket Explorer: African Civilizations**/2010 by Nicholas Badcott. Another useful middle school book which covers the entire continent with brief statements and good visuals related to the histories of the various regions. Also a fold-out map that is very authoritative. There is also a reference to interlinkbooks.com which will lead you to similar titles.

ix. **The Red Pencil**/2015 by Andrea Pinkney. This young adult novel is the story of Amira from Darfur written in verse form. Even though the book has had a warm welcome, it is very self-consciously a young adult work that seems to rely more on the story of the creation of the book than on a narrative line. A better YA book in my view is Golden Boy/ 2014 by Tara Sullivan (dramatizing the difficulties of albinism which happens to be a major curse in sub-Saharan Africa and even more so in Mwanza, TZ). As the title of Pinkney's book suggests, the story is Amira's Darfurian homeland culture and her efforts to survive hazards and then thrive in a school. If it's this kind of survival you'd like to read about, I refer you to *The Sky High Road/*2015 by Mzee Moses Howard.

x. **The Sky High Road**/2015 by Moses L. HowardMoses is the only TEAAr to have written books over 40 years. This volume revisits Uganda and belies a narrative skill that includes authentic detail. Jason and Katura have a wealth of experiences in this young adult novel that reveal the kinds of pressures that youth face in unstable lands. What rings truest is the sense of agency that the characters have and that they are—well, most of them are—good people. As the acknowledgments declare, this author has at least one more book in him. Who of his peers can say the same? See http://www.amazon.com/Moses-L.-Howard/e/B001HOL1WE/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1

xi. **Stones for My Father**/2011 by Trilby Kent. One of the recommendations from a favored website was this book which is fine for the adult audience, too. The book dramatizes the trials of the Second Boer War (1899-1902) through the eyes of 12-year old Corlie Roux, a young Boer in the Transvaal whose father has died and whose mother turns stoic and then belligerent. A well-written, strong book for someone who already has a sense of South African history. The cover photograph is haunting. If you want to read another book set in the same circumstances, read Ladysmith by Giles Foden who has made a career of writing historical novels set in niche moments of African-European history.

xii. **Brave Music of a Distant Drum**/2011 by Manu Herbstein. This masterful young adult book is based on the author's longer, adult novel, *Ama: A Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade*/2002. Ama was taken as a child from her northern Ghana homeland presumably sometime in the 18th or 19th centuries and ends up on a British/Portguese plantation near Salvador, Brazil. She is blind and dying and sends for her son who has had a privileged slave upbringing who knows that she exists but barely acknowledges his relationship to her: he is Christian, she is pagan. But she has the story. A good book for the feel of slavery and the horrors that happened, some of which are graphically described. The author has his own interesting personal saga. "Was blind but now I see."

VII. Publishers of note for supporting African fiction

i. Archipelago Press, Brooklyn, NY

This small, non-profit press has published several titles about Africa that I have loved. The Press is serious about publishing works that others might not and giving special emphasis to authors from Africa. The Press hit a homerun by publishing in hardback form all the *My Struggle* books by Karl Ove Knausgaard. I recommend without reservation the two titles *Imagine Africa*, the books by Scholastique Mukasonga, and *The First Wife*. As readers we rarely have insight into the publishing world, and here is a publisher to get behind. You can find more information including how to donate at https://archipelagobooks.org

ii. Akaschic Books, Brooklyn, NY

This small press, also in Brooklyn, seeks to promote "reverse-gentrification of the literary world." That is no small order. Mission aside this publisher has dedicated itself to contemporary African poetry, and there are now 3 sets of these books printed. The series is edited by Kwame Dawes and Chris Abani. The series is aimed at poets who have not yet published book-length collections of poems. Thus this series has now produced 23 collections of 12 poems by each poet. Now you can support African literature which is at the cutting edge and be hip over 70. Akaschic pubishes many books not related to Africa: http://www.akashicbooks.com

iii. African Writers Series

TEAArs grew up on the Heinemann African Writers series with their distinctive orange bands (those books published in the 60s, 70s, and 80s are now collectibles!). The series is actually alive and well now published by Pearson at http://www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/international/Africa/Secondary/EnglishLiterature/African%20Writers%20Series/AfricanWritersSeries/AfricanWritersSeries.aspx

iv. African Access

A good source for vetted books on any part of Africa is African Access Review: http://www.africaaccessreview.org/aar/index.html, and I encourage you to check that website from time to time for appropriate books for young readers like, say, your grandchildren.

VIII. ***New Adult Reads | Africa Access 5/24/16 http://africaaccessreview.org***
New Adults' refers to titles marketed to adults that are also appealing to older teens

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. Americanah : a Novel. : Knopf, 2013.
Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. Half of a Yellow Sun. New York: Anchor , 2003.
Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. Purple Hibiscus. Chapel Hill: Algonquin, 2003.
Abouet, Margaret and Oubrerie, Clement (illus.). Aya . Montreal: Drawn & Quarterly / Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2007 (3 volumes in English)
Ba, Mariama; So Long a Letter. Heinemann, 1981.
Badoe, Adwoa. Between Sisters. Toronto: Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, 2010.
Banda-Aaku, Ellen. Patchwork. Johannesburg: Penguin Books, 2011.
Cooper, Helene. The House at Sugar Beach: In Search of a Lost African Childhood . New York : Simon & Schuster, 2008.
Dangarembga, Tsitsi. Nervous Conditions. Seattle: Seal Press, 1988.
Emecheta, Buchi. The Slave Girl. George Braziller, 1980.
Fugard, Athol. Master Harold … and the Boys. Knopf, 1982.
Githiora, Wambui. Wanjira. Pennington Press, 2007
Huchu, Tendai; The Hairdresser of Harare. Harare, Zimbabwe: Weaver Press, 2010.
Kamkwamba, William and Mealer, Bryan. The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind : Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope. New York, NY: William Morrow, 2009.
Magona, Sindiwe. Mother to Mother. Boston: Beacon Press, 1998.
Mahama, John Dramani. My First Coup d'Etat and Other True Stories from The Lost Decades of Africa . : Bloomsbury, 2012.
Malepe, Lesego. Matters of Life and Death. Columbus, MS: Genesis Press, 2005.
Maraire, Nozipo. Zenzele: A Letter for my Daughter. New York: Crown, 1996.
Niane, D.T. Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali. Dearborn Trade, 1960.
Oyeyemi, Helen. Icarus Girl: A Novel. New York: Nan A. Talese / Doubleday, 2005.
Selasi, Taiye. Ghana Must Go. New York: Penguin, 2013.

added by Brooks Goddard

Gyasi, Yaa. Homegoing, 2016
Muhamed, Nadifa. The Orchard of Lost Souls, 2013
Obiomna, Chigozie. The Fishermen, 2015.
Maria Nhambu, Africa's Child, 2016
Manu Herbstein, Brave Music of a Distant Drum, 2012

IX. TEAA authors I'm sure that I have missed some books by TEAA authors; see disclaimer at the beginning of this document.

i. **African Aftermath**/2014 by Jonathan Bower (pseudonym of a Wave IV, B TEAr) My problem reading this book was irritation with the two principal characters who seemed to be in constant encounter: an account "of a troubled union." The East African setting made me assume that the novel was in large degree about the setting. At the end I realized that the novel is more about the clumsy personal relationships that we all got ourselves into in our younger days. Then the book made more sense, and I can acknowledge Bower's skill at rendering a female character and her initiatory sexual adventures (in that sense the book might have been titled "Afterglows in Africa"). If you seek a rendering of the teaching experience in East Africa, give a look at Emilee Cantieri's *East African Odyssey: Love and Adventure in the Africa of the 1960s* or *An African Season* by Peace Corpsman Leonard Leavitt.

ii. **Dogs of Fear**/1982 by Musa Nagenda

This intriguing little book is now unfortunately out of print, but it is a finely crafted story of Kabana who returns to his western Uganda homeland from secondary school to be initiated. His father Mulangu is fearful that Kabana is losing touch with his traditional values. Mulangu thus wants Kabana initiated "properly." Kabana seems not so keen on the idea but knows that he must if only so that his sister (and chief supporter) Rugaye can marry. After several unavoidable delays Kabana finally reaches his home only to find his father in a rage at his delay and doubtful of his manhood. In the midst of this turmoil the daily life of a herder goes on, and the goats must find pasture. Kabana is sent to do this so that the usual goatherd can assist Mulangu in the selling of coffee. Wild dogs attack the goats and kill two; Mulangu is more incensed, and Kabana knows that he might find some way to defeat the dogs and regain his father's affections. Thus the title and thus the ultimate victory. Through careful research I find that Musa Nagenda is really Moses Howard (TEEA, III), and wild dogs really were, indeed, found in western Uganda although were eradicated soon after Nagenda's time there. I really did love reading this book, and if you want a copy, I'll gladly loan you mine.

iii. **Early East African Writers and Publishers: Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, Okot P'Bitek, David Maillu**/2011 by Bernth Lindfors

The website of the University of Texas, where Ben (1A) is professor emeritus, describes the work as, "a collection of essays exploring the emergence of East African multilingual literary production in the mid-20th century. Through interviews with the major writers of the region, Lindfors provides rare accounts into the process by which East Africa, once considered the literary desert of the African continent, became central to the creation of a unique literary scene." I would be derelict in not mentioning that Ben is TEAA's most prolific writer with at least 48 books to his great credit. Most of these books are in the field of African literature, especially the African literature of 1950-2000. I refer you to this website: http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/public-affairs/_files/pdf/life-letters/life_letters_042.pdf from which I now quote: "Perhaps one of his greatest contributions was the recent donation of his personal library to the University of Natal in South Africa. It has taken Lindfors 40 years to compile a collection of 12,000 books, more than 300 journals, manuscripts, audio and videotapes and transcripts—representing the literature of almost the entire continent.
In 2000, Lindfors received the university's Career Research Excellence Award and the African Studies Associations' Distinguished Africanist Award. He has also been awarded two

honorary doctorates, one from the university of Umea in Sweden in 1989, and the other from the University of Natal in 2002.

iv. **East Africa: an Introductory History**/2009 by Robert Maxon

Allow me to quote from the Amazon website: "In this third edition of East Africa: an Introductory History, Robert M. Maxon revisits the diverse eastern region of Africa, including the modern nations of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. With revised sections and a new preface, this comprehensive text surveys East Africa's political, economic, and social history from pre-colonial to modern times. Maxon reveals the physical movement and societal development of and between ethnic groups before the 1890s; the capitalistic impact of European colonialism in the early nineteenth century; and the achievement and aftermath of independence in East Africa during the later part of the last century. East Africa: an Introductory History documents the transformation of East Africa from the Stone Age to the first decade of the twenty-first century. The book is ideal for any reader interested in unraveling the intricate history of East Africa, and especially for students coming to the study of this region for the first time. Robert M. Maxon is Professor of History at West Virginia University. He served as an Education Officer in Kenya from 1961-64 and has served as a visiting professor of history at Moi University in Kenya on four separate occasions. Maxon has carried out research in East Africa on numerous visits since 1968." You will also find Bob in the TEAA directory. During his TEA service as a member of Wave 1C, he taught in Chavakali and Kakamega, Kenya. To paraphrase Yogi Berra: "You can learn a lot just by reading." Maxon has also published *Britain and Kenya's Constitutions, 1950-1960*/2011 and *Kenya's Independence Constitution: Constitution-Making and End of Empire*/2011 and continues to mine Kenya for further research.

v. **East African Odyssey**/2003 by Emilee Hines. This is the story from a TEAA stalwart of one young teacher's travels and adventures from the Congo border to the Indian Ocean, from Victoria Falls to the remote Northern Frontier of Kenya. Teaching in Kenya, she interacted with and came to respect her African students and British colleagues. This is a love affair with East Africa and its people-African, Asian, and European. It is exciting, inspiring, sad, and, most of all, unforgettable. Yes, and Emilee had several dates along the way. Cantieri has written many other books with other geographical settings.

vi. **Harry's Last Tax Cut**/2007 by Jim Weikart Jim invented the detective Jay Jansen, tax accountant and accidental detective and then had him work his way through 2 books. In this book Weikart combines a Riverside Drive location, bisexuality, Moonies, and intrigue. Only someone who taught in Bukoba, TZ, could do all this. http://jimweikart.com/index.html

vi. **Hitchhike the World: Book I: America, Europe, Africa** by William A. Stoever. Whether hitching or taking local buses, many of us went on the road in the 60s and 70s in search of....well, there's the rub. I'm not so sure what we all went in search of, but we like the chickens were trying to get to the other side of the road. Book 1 resonated for me especially because Bill Stoever, like myself and hundreds of other young Americans, found himself in East Africa with the Teachers for East Africa/TEA project. Many of us travelled but few kept journals, and most memories are just blurs. A segment of the population will respond knowingly to chapter 16. Bill has set a fine standard here, building no doubt on our

colleague's Don Knies's foundational work, *Walk the Wide World*, which appeared in 1958. I eagerly await Bill's sequel.

vii. **How to Teach English** (Oxford University Press) and a book which is about to be reissued, **The Teacher's Friend** by Brian Sesnan. Both are pedagogical books, both aimed at the volunteer, or reluctant teacher, or the teacher with virtually no one to help her as she has been plunged in at the deep end. *The Teacher's Friend*, which I wrote for UNESCO-PEER (so I get no royalties!) has appeared in French, Portuguese and Somali editions in different parts of Africa. *How to Teach English* is, weirdly, coming out in a Korean edition. Since it was meant for English-speaking Africa I find this rather strange! There is also a longer book originally called *Guidelines on Education and Training for Refugee*s which will reappear soon as Africa's Education in Question, or something like that. I have found Brian's book difficult to track down, largely I think because many were written for the UN. He has devoted his post-TEA life to UN educational work all over the world.

Brian is referenced in *Refugee and Immigrant Students: Achieving Equity in Education.*

viii. **The King History Forgot**/2013 by Robert Scully

Bob's African novel is now in print and in e-book format. The Web page is: http://www.roberttkscully.com. Bob sharpened his teeth on the importance of oral tradition for African history while teaching at Kibabii Secondary School, north of Bungoma, in the mid-1960s. During his first term teaching he discovered, to his astonishment, that the text for his African History course was titled, The Coming of The Europeans, which was the focus then. Soon after, he attended a "Teachers of African History" conference in Nairobi. Bob had just digested Basil Davidson's The Lost Cities of Africa and some of Bethwell Ogot's studies of the Luo to prep for the conference. Again, dumbfounded when a veteran history master at an established Nairobi Secondary School got up and pontificated how "one cannot teach Black African History since there is none." Next term at Kibabii folks began organizing a local history society and next holiday students did field work assignments with elders at home. From this came stories which Bob later published in Azania, History in Africa, and elsewhere about the Bukusu tribe's Chetambe and Lumboka Forts, destroyed by C.W. Hobley in the 1890s, and Chief Machanja's trip to Mumia to retrieve Bukusu captives. Not long afterward, Kibabii students were recording firsthand accounts of 19th Century local history and sitting with wazee such as Mukisu Kakai, Kikala Mururumbu and Ngichabe Nabutola, survivors of Hobley's rampage through Bukusuland. In Phalaborwa, South Africa in the 1970s, Bob discovered much oral tradition to be recorded which led to this book. Lovers of the oral tradition should read the works of another TEAAr, Harold Scheub.

ix. **Kings And Clans: Ijwi Island And The Lake Kivu Rift, 1780-1840**/1992 by David Newbury By reconstructing the history of kings and clans in the Kivu Rift Valley (on the border of today's Rwanda and Zaire) at a time of critical social change, Newbury enlarges our understanding of social process and the growth of state power in Africa. Newbury has spent years in this area and has returned often. More recently Newbury published *The Land beyond the Mists: Essays in Identity & Authority in Precolonial Congo and Rwanda.* The author is a former head of the African Studies Association and the editor of several books including the intriguingly titled *Defeat Is the Only Bad News: Rwanda under Musinga, 1896–1931*.

x. **Mau-Mau's Children**/2010 by David Sangren. Read this book, buy this book. What a great idea to return to Giakanja Secondary School 30 years after leaving to interview your former students who had lived through a transformational time in Kenya's history to find out how they had fared. Quite well, as it turns out. This very readable book interweaves history with biography in a very compelling way. Enough so to nudge me to dive into my supply of slides to see what pictures I had taken in term 3 of 1967 when I completed my TEA contract at Giakanja myself. David brings out many of the nuances of teaching in Central Province that had eluded me at the time. *Mau-Mau's Children* is the perfect complement to Ngugi's two memoirs, *Dreams in a Time of War* and In the *House of the Interpreter*. I note that David cites other TEArs in his bibliography: David Court and Kevin Lillis.

The author comments: *Mau Mau's Children: The Making of Kenya's Postcolonial Elite*, may be of interest to newsletter subscribers. It is based to a considerable extent on interviews with my former Kenyan (Nyeri-Gikuyu) students whom I taught as a TEAer 1963-67. I interviewed nearly all of them 30 years later, exploring their lives during Mau Mau, their education in primary and secondary school (where I knew them), getting their first jobs, career and financial development, marriage and family, and the world of their grown children. While I draw heavily on the experiences of these former students, I strive to place them in the context of their cohort--Kenyan secondary students of the 1960s. As the subtitle suggests, I see them as Kenya's first postcolonial elite. Perhaps other TEAers, who all taught during this same time period, would like to compare their experiences/recollections to mine."

xi. **The New Life Hotel** by Edward Hower. *The New Life Hotel* is the story of three people caught up in a whirlwind of political and emotional upheaval in contemporary East Africa. Gordon, a young white schoolmaster, comes to the newly independent nation of Marembo hoping to find some purpose in his life. He falls in love with a half-caste barmaid, Adija, who works at the New Life Hotel, a local bar. Her energy and beauty seem to him to mirror possibilities of the young continent, and he throws himself deeply into their love affair despite the shocked disapproval of his colleagues at the local boarding school. But Salome, the earthy, strong-willed owner of the New Life Hotel, also loves Adija. She has already spent years fighting for her country's independence from colonial rule, and sees great danger in Adija's attraction for the foreign teacher. *The New Life Hotel* is also a center of political intrigue, and the lovers' story soon becomes entangled with tribal rivalries and plots to destabilize the new government, with tragic results. Hower is the author of 8 other books.

xii. **A Night in Buganda**/2014 by Bob Gurney. Bob has been teased by his memory in ways that many of us have been. The more forward among us have committed their thoughts to the TEAA Story Project, and you can read them all at http://www.tea-a.org/nyea/hyperbook.html. Bob taught in Kampala and went back to UK to study languages and writes poetry in English, Spanish, and French. Ten years or so ago, Bob started writing down his memories of his UG experience and a few of his UK-UG inspired memories and stories. He enlisted a few mates and has been putting his Africa book together for some time and self-published this book. So here's a very real dilemma for many of us: what was that magic that many of us experienced in East Africa in the 60s and how does memory authenticate or justify a life that craves some form of meaning?

My review of the book—

Experience was. Memory is. In the house of memories there are many rooms, and in going through those many doors there are recollections of pleasure, mystery, foreboding, and pain. Bob Gurney lives in such a house, and he has slowly been going through the rooms populated in this case with friends who were also in Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania in the mid 1960s. Despite regular meetings at The Museum Tavern in London, details of incidents do not often rise to the surface, and thus there are many qualifiers in the text about remembering correctly, forgetting names, and embarrassment. The title echoes Dineson's Out of Africa: "I had a farm in Africa," as if the very words could bring back years of experiences. Many of us had a night in Buganda, some at the City Bar, the Gardenia Restaurant, the halls of residence at Makerere University. My primal night experience in Buganda was waking up on my first night in Uganda at three am, wondering just what I was doing there one day into a three year contract. It is trite but true to say that for many Westerners there is something very powerful about a night in Africa.

The short chapters of this evocative book are episodes of memory covering a variety of experiences. Some relate to the many individuals the author met, fellow Europeans, Africans, and Asians. There is the Kingu of Sebei, Saul Olek, Moira, Babu, and Clive. Gurney is at home with all. There are the locations: Namilyango, Kitante, Kololo Hill. The Kampala Club presents Gurney with a persistent problem of colonial life: discomforting racist assumptions and remarks. Better just stay away, but it is not always possible to do so. There are chapters whose very titles signify contentious thought: 'The Spirit of Africa', 'What Do You Write About Africa?' and 'The Mercenary'. In short, there is something for all readers who will find, as I have, that now is the time to write my own book. A Night in Buganda makes a very good template, and I would definitely mention the fruit bats of Wandegeya and the vibrant personality of Margaret from the north.

In a similar vein Mike Rainy forwarded to me and Ward Heneveld the thoughts of Ian Parker, now 80 and living with his children in Australia after a life in Kenya. It put me in mind of the magisterial essay by Brit now American James Wood in the London Review of Book titled "On Not Going Home." (http://www.lrb.co.uk/v36/n04/james-wood/on-not-going-home) What exactly is "home," and where is it if you're not sitting in it right now? What is it (and don't go Robert Frost on me)? I grow old, I grow old…." Do you know Eliot was 20 when he wrote The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock? Yep, worn out at 20 and never got to The Gardenia.

xiii. **Running for Black Gold – Fifty Years of African Athletics**/2009 by Kevin Lillis. The half-century since Abebe Bikila won the Olympic gold medal in world record time in Rome in 1960 has been a golden period for African athletics. Over 100 African athletes have won 57 Olympic gold medals, 89 IAAF World Championships gold medals and established 54 athletics world records. Most, but not all, come from the Eastern African highlands of Kenya (predominantly) and Ethiopia with additional notable successes from Morocco as well as the rest of Africa. Running for Black Gold offers an incisive narrative of this African growth to prominence and backs it up with a comprehensive range of eclectic information and data about individual country performance. Africans have not had significant success in sprinting and the book reflects on their prominence of African athletes in middle and long-distance events.

The book sets out to answer the following questions: What does the performance-related evidence – as opposed to the hearsay -- reveal about the overall performance of African athletes over this half century? What are the emergent patterns and trends? Which countries dominate the performance rankings? Which individual athletes emerge as the supreme multiple medallists in "running for black gold?" The conclusion summarises the overall trends and patterns of performances - identifying the leading countries and individual athletes.

Kevin Lillis is career professional international educationist and amateur sportsman, with a comprehensive background in Africa. He holds a doctorate from the university of Sussex. He was a TEA in Tanzania (Mkwawa HS and Lyamungu) and Kenya (Lenana HS and Ministry of Education) in the 60s and 70s: has worked at London University inter alia and (with DFID) in Southern Africa, the Caribbean and Nepal, and as a consultant world-wide!

xiv. **The Sky High Road**/2015 by Moses L. Howard

Moses is the only TEAAr to have written books over 40 years. This volume revisits Uganda and belies a narrative skill that includes authentic detail. Jason and Katura have a wealth of experiences in this young adult novel that reveal the kinds of pressures that youth face in unstable lands. What rings truest is the sense of agency that the characters have and that they are—well, most of them are—good people. As the acknowledgments declare, this author has at least one more book in him. Who of his peers can say the same?
See http://www.amazon.com/Moses-L.-Howard/e/B001HOL1WE/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1

xv. **South African Voices** by Harold Schueb

For more on this extraordinary scholar see http://news.wisc.edu/at-80-harold-scheub-keeps-the-storytelling-tradition-alive/

The volumes shown below are Schueb's Xhosa and Zulu transcriptions of oral narratives, histories, and poems that he collected in the late 1960s and in the 1970s in South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. Click here for the website that has to do with these three volumes. South African Voices, the three volumes, print versions, and the voices of the storytellers, were placed on the internet in the summer of 2006. The Memorial Library of the University of Wisconsin has just completed the digitization of his entire collection, consisting of some 8,000 performances, 3,000 photographs and slides, and motion pictures. These will ultimately also be put on the web and made available worldwide, at no charge.

The book on two Zulu women, one of them, Lydia umkaSethemba, was one of Africa's greatest storytellers. Her stories were collected in 1868 by Henry Callaway. One hundred years later, in 1972, he worked with a Zulu storyteller whose name is Asilita Philisiwe Khumalo. In this book, he includes stories, in English translation, by the two storytellers, with commentary analyzing the stories and comparing the two storytellers' work.

South African Voices: A Long Time Passed. Xhosa transcriptions of oral performances of Nongenile Masithathu Zenani. Madison, WI: Parallel Press, 2006.

South African Voices: Created in Olden Times. Xhosa transcriptions of oral performances of Nongenile Masithathu Zenani. Madison, WI: Parallel Press, 2006.

South African Voices: The Way We Traveled. Oral History and Poetry. Transcriptions of Xhosa and Zulu oral performances. Madison, WI: Parallel Press, 2006.

Storytelling Songs of Zulu Women: Recording Archetype Rites of Passage and Mythic Paths. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2006.

xvi. **THE STORMS OF MAY**/2005 by Edward Hower

Hower's 9th book, a novel, centers around a returned PCV couple trying to run a group home for five delinquent girls in a gritty suburb of New York City. I must apologize for not following our colleague's career more closely: "Edward Hower has published eight novels, two books of stories, and, most recently, What Can You Do: Personal Essays and Travel Writing. His work has appeared in The Atlantic Monthly, The New York Times, Smithsonian, American Scholar, and elsewhere. He has been awarded a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and two Fulbright grants to India. After Hower graduated from Cornell University in 1963, he lived in East Africa for three years, where he taught high school, sang in local nightclubs, and wrote his first novel, The New Life Hotel. Later, he earned a masters degree in Anthropology from the University of California, doing field work among Los Angeles street gangs. Like many writers, he has held a variety of jobs: a salesman, a counselor at girls' reformatory (the subject of his second novel, Wolf Tickets), and a general of the Egyptian army (a non-singing role he performed in the New York City Opera Company production of Handel's Julius Caesar). More recently, he has taught at several American universities and has given writing workshops in Tobago, Greece, Sri Lanka, Britain, Nepal, and Key West, Florida. Many of these classes he has co-taught with his wife, the novelist Alison Lurie. He has lived in Ithaca, New York since 1975, and has two grown children, Dan and Lana." See more at http://www.edwardhower.com

xvii. **A Teaching Safari: A Study of American Teachers in East Africa**/1993 by Raymond Gold. Gene child writes: We ordered the book, *A Teaching Safari, A Study of American Teachers in East Africa* by Raymond L. Gold because of a recommendation on the TEAA site. The book is a sociological study commissioned by Columbia University of the first wave in 1961 of the TEA project. I expected reinforcement of my positive feelings about what we had done in wave six of the TEEA teacher training project in East Africa. Au contraire, the book has caused me to completely reevaluate my reactions to the experience.

Thirty years ago on returning from Kenya and the TEEA project, my feelings were very positive about the experience. I was unsure about how much good I had done for the Kenyan pupils, but knew that it had been a life changing experience for me. It amazed me that the pupils didn't question their obligation to help pay school fees for even distant relative children. That was an unquestioned part of their extended family obligations. By observing the pupils' relations with their extended families (their tribes) I was made aware of my own obligations to the `tribes' of which I was a part in the United States (my suburban neighbors).

It was no longer an option to return to my walled suburban setting each day after work without contributing to the larger community of which I was a part. I could not just satisfy that great American individualistic ideal, `Do your own thing, to hell with everyone else.' Volunteer activities within the larger community were an unquestioned obligation. Probably the greatest value of a Peace Corps experience is on the altered perspective of the volunteers involved, not the foreigners with whom they worked. The TEA, TEEA experience was the same. Looking back, I see that I was so enthralled with American teaching methods I was unaware of how inappropriate they were in the Kenyan setting. It was a mystery to me why the students were so distant and reserved. I was being that jovial, friendly, sensitive fellow

who had been so successful teaching in Colorado. I related well to my students in the US and they responded in kind. It was just assumed that what worked in the US would work in Kenya. It didn't! They wanted the facts man, just the facts! Quickly I discovered the students knew lots of textbook physics but had very little practical understanding of everyday applications. We did lots of hands-on activities with simple apparatus at every opportunity. I was not going to teach to simply pass an examination. We were learning to actually hook up series and parallel circuits. When observing practice teachers I was appalled that there was only one physics textbook in most schools. There was certainly no hint of any laboratory equipment.

After reading *A Teaching Safari*, it is obvious to me that what I was asking my pupils to do at Kenyatta College in 1970 was of little more value to a future secondary school teacher in Kenya than teaching underwater basket weaving to Navajos in the US. We have returned to Kenya twice, once in 1989 and again in 2003. Still, there is only one physics text in each school from which the teacher copies each day's lesson, and almost no laboratory equipment. The primary difference we observed is that now there are 80 to 90 students in each class instead of the 40 we observed many years ago. They are doing the best they can with the limited money available. So much for being an agent of change. It strikes me that what we were trying to do for education in Kenya in the TEA and TEEA projects in the 60s was very similar to what the US is trying to do today in Iraq; impose the American way on them. It was education then, Western Political Fundamentalism now.

Ray Gold Responds

It was never the intention of TEA and TEEA to impose educational practices or any other part of American culture on the students and other recipients of the educational services these projects were designed to deliver. In his very touching letter, Gene Child's retrospective assumption infers that the projects' teachers were sent to East Africa to play the role of cultural fundamentalist and thus were given project license to impose American thought and deed on their students. As pointed out at great length in *A Teaching Safari*, many American TEA teachers initially chose to play their role in this way. However, in due course, they came to realize that they could be effective change agents only after fitting into the East African education system well enough for their students and colleagues to accept them as bona fide members of the system. That is to say, they learned that achieving this status was a necessary condition for students and others to regard them as mandated by the system to even offer any changes. At that, these were only relatively minor changes which worked when they fit rather seamlessly into the traditional East African educational scheme of things.

Settling for committing themselves to such a change scenario was not part of many teachers' initial game plan, but most experienced a sense of accomplishment when the changes they introduced worked well enough to be at least as satisfying as their progress in learning to `teach to the exam' and otherwise meet the formal requirements of their role. To be sure, most project participants experienced many disenchantments and unrelieved frustrations regarding working and living in East Africa and some, like Gene, felt their disappointments more in retrospect than when an active project participant. However, my strong impression is that the great majority regard their East African experience as one of the highlights of their lives. They wish they had been able to accomplish much more than they

did, but they take much satisfaction from recognizing that they did manage to do some innovating which helped them to reach out to their students and which even may have made the East African education system a bit more receptive to modern concepts and methods. I hope and trust that, on further reflection, Gene, too, will find that the satisfactions he felt as he was leaving TEEA were based at least as much on fact as on fancy, unlike the impression he gave in his letter to Ed Schmidt.

xviii**. The Tongue is Fire**/1996 by Harold Schueb

One of the joys of reading widely is to come across books which interest but would otherwise be unknown by a larger audience. A subset of this joy is to read books by TEAArs, and Harold Scheub is one of our distinguished members. He gained some of his expertise the old-fashioned way: he walked and talked. The subtitle of this book is "South African Storytellers and Apartheid." This book is an homage to the craft of storytelling and to a lifetime's work of putting storytelling into perspective. What a way to anticipate Mandela's later life. Schueb has produced many books and most recently *Trickster and Hero: Two Characters in the Oral and Written Traditions of the World* (2013).