

Recent Books from The Gambia – Jan 2024

Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd
Blk 231, Bain Street
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex
Singapore 180231
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

Anthropology

The Fulbe / Saajo Saabali
Kanifing: Fulladu Publishers, 2023
68p.
9789983941913
\$ 18.00 / PB
94gm.

The Fulbe comprises cultural legends of an ethnic group in Africa, whose language is Pulaar/ Fulfulde. The book indicates who this particular ethnic group that call themselves Fulbe are, their language and current status. It also contains speculations about their origin. The Fulbe is intended to serve as extra reading material on Fulbe oral history.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867110>

Biography/Memoirs

Who is Who? In The Gambia: And Who Was Who? / (Eds) Victor C. Ofunye, Foday Jawara & Saibo Singhateh
2nd Edition
Serekunda: Baobab Books, 2023
vii, 179p.
9789983942002
\$ 60.00 / PB
324gm.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867111>

Sweat is Invisible In The Rain: A Memoir / Chernok M. Njie
Ibadan, Nigeria: Pan-African University Press, 2020
xx, 332p.
Includes Index ; Bibliography
9781943533435
\$ 70.00 / HB
628gm.

Sweat is Invisible in the Rain is a memoir of living in two homes, one on either side of the Atlantic. Cherno Njie describes his childhood and youth in Banjul, the capital of the small African country of The Gambia, and his later life after moving to the United States in the 1980s to earn his university degree. The Njie family compound was an idyllic home: brothers and sisters, uncles and aunties, friends and strangers. Cherno tells how he carried the memories of his home and the lessons of his mother and father to Austin, Texas, where he studied at the University of Texas at Austin. His life and successful career in Texas, though far from Gambia, was nevertheless rooted in that country. After the Gambian elections of 2011, which long-standing president Yahya Jammeh allegedly won, he explains his growing resolve at the time to contribute to Jammeh's defeat. This came to a head when he participated in a coup plot that failed on December 30th, 2014. Njie gives his side of the story, his account of the coup, and what has since happened. Though Sweat is Invisible in the Rain is a story of two homes, it is a story of one life.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867112>

Life As A Hyphen / Ismail D. Badjie (Ed) Sulayman Njie
Gambia: FyeN Publishing Services, 2023
150p.
9780999330760
\$ 70.00 / HB
282gm.

Ismail Badjie's collection of essays and short stories offers a deeply personal exploration of his life experience as a man straddling two worlds (Africa and USA). Ismail navigates the complexities of his dual identity with wit, candor, and a relentless pursuit of self-discovery. He encourages readers to step outside their comfort zones, challenge deeply ingrained beliefs, and explore the uncharted territories of their own inner worlds. Drawing on his life experiences, Ismail shares valuable lessons that offer a deep insight into his personal journey into fatherhood, the healing of his inner child, confronting his patriarchal upbringing, and grappling with the complexities of his culture. Ultimately, Ismail's writing celebrates the beauty of true love, perseverance, and devotion, urging us to embrace the power of vulnerability, resilience, and self-discovery. A thought-provoking and inspiring read, Ismail Badjie's collection of essays and short stories is a testament to the transformative power of storytelling and the enduring human spirit.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867113>

The Professor and I: The unofficial Biography of Professor Dr Christopher Balogun Lynch / Nana Ofori-Atta Oguntola
United Kingdom: Vinasha Productions, 2020
132p.
9798664859751
\$ 40.00 / PB
230gm.

'The Professor and I' tells the story of the inventor of the B-Lynch Suture, the only invention in gynaecology and obstetrics in the past fifty years.

It narrates the journey of how a seventeen year old boy arrives on a boat from Sierra Leone to the United Kingdom and proceeds to become a leading medical practitioner and inventor impacting the lives of millions of women around the globe.

His story is one that must not be hidden, not disappear into nothingness but be told for posterity. It is a story that is not always pretty but it is human.

This book additionally charts the relationship he has with the author from the onset of this project and in the end shows us that 'Greatness is not the absence of flaws'.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867114>

The Price of Duty: 994 Days in The Gambian Junta Dungeon / Ebrima Ismaila Chongan
(Balangbaa)

Serekunda: Baobab Books, 2020

260p.

9789983960785

\$ 35.00 / PB

300gm.

'The Price of Duty' by Ebrima Ismaila Chongan, the last Commander of the Gambia National Gendarmerie before it was amalgamated into the Gambia Police Force.

In this book Chongan talks of his attempts to avert the unfolding coup, his betrayal by trusted colleagues, arrest, imprisonment, torture at the infamous Mile II Prisons, and his subsequent exile; which is an ironic family legacy.

Chongan's story is at the same time melancholic and humorous, but always inspiring. It reflects an indomitable will to survive against great odds.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867115>

Assan Musa Camara: Servant of the People / Jeggan Colley Senghor

Kanifing: Fulladu Publishers, 2019

270p.

Includes Index

9789983960914

\$ 40.00 / PB

334gm.

The book "Servant of the people" narrates the life story of a politician who was both a member of the decolonization era and of the transitional generation of leaders.

He traced his family roots and the rural environment which played a major role in shaping his world view, noting that the search for education brought him into another world of foreign values which he also succeeded in dominating.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867116>

A Date With Destiny / Demba A Jawo

Kanifing: Fulladu Publishers, 2019

160p.

9789983960693

\$ 40.00 / PB

196gm.

This book serves both as an autobiography and memoirs of the author, Demba Ali Jawo, while he served as cabinet minister in the government of Gambian President Adama Barrow. It contains the experiences of a simple village boy who managed to weather the storm under very trying circumstances to reach the pinnacle of public service. The book depicts an interesting convergence of tradition and modernity, showing how Mr. Jawo, despite all the hurdles and challenges that life threw his way, managed to transition himself from a simple Fulani herds boy to become one of the Gambia's most formidable and respected journalists, eventually leading the Gambian media fraternity for many years and culminating in him becoming a cabinet minister in the transitional government formed following the defeat of the dictatorial regime of former Gambian leader, Yahya Jammeh in 2016.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867117>

The Duty To Disobey: My Encounter with Yahya Jammeh's Witch Doctor / Mustapha Cesay Kanifing: Fulladu Publishers, 2023

196p.

9789983942279

\$ 40.00 / PB

240gm.

'THE DUTY TO DISOBEY- My Encounter with Yahya Jammeh's Witch Doctors' is Mustapha Ceesay's testimony on his resistance and defiance to the excesses of the former Gambian president Yahya Jammeh. Staying true to his values and religious beliefs and upbringing, former Sergeant Ceesay refused to obey blind instructions of Jammeh through his witch doctors who were sent to the Police Headquarters in Banjul to screen officers for loyalty to him.

This refusal to swear allegiance to Jammeh at an idol shrine and be washed by Jammeh's witch doctors led to his demotion in rank and banishment four hundred kilometers away from the police headquarters where he worked for many years. Ceesay gave vivid narration on the events of January 14, 2009, and its ensuing effects on him, his family, and the The Gambia. Mustapha ended up fleeing the Gambia, his country of birth and ancestry and now lives in the United States of America with his family.

A chilling narrative on the former police officer's encounter and experience of the excesses of the Jammeh dictatorship that will leave the reader bewildered.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867118>

Ecology/Environment

Field Guide to Wildlife of The Gambia: An Introduction to Common Flowers and Animals (786 Colour Photographs) / David Penney

Second (Revised) Edition

Manchester, UK: Siri Scientific Press, 2012

160p.

9780956779526
\$ 75.00 / PB
324gm.

The Gambia, located on the coast of tropical West Africa supports a diverse range of habitat types, from forests to mangrove swamps, savannah grasslands and coastal ecosystems. It has a rich and diverse flora and fauna, which for some groups such as birds and mammals is relatively well known. However, for groups such as arachnids and most insect orders very little information is available. In this relatively small volume, the author provides close-up macrophotographs and notes on the biology of more than 700 non-marine species, including those most likely to be seen by the vigilant nature lover during a short visit to the country. Many of the species represent the first records for the country and several will almost certainly be new to science. The aim is for Field Guide to Wildlife of The Gambia to be used for identification in the field, so text has been kept to a bare minimum. It is a must for anybody with even a passing interest in wildlife of The Gambia and West Africa in general. The author is a zoologist and world expert on spiders. He has also written several other titles on Gambian wildlife, including butterflies and arachnids. This second edition has an extra 40 pages and almost 250 more photos.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867119>

Economics

Evolution and Revolution of Takaful in West Africa and Beyond / Momodou Musa Joof
Serekunda: Zamfa Enterprise, 2020
xxiv, 160p.
Includes Bibliography
9789983941630
\$ 30.00 / PB
174gm.

A portrait of how I developed the Takaful Business Model, its propagation, and popularization; beginning from The Gambia and the millions of Africans who have embraced its practice and reaping the dividends. The contents of this book unveil the strategies adopted to dismantle the structural and allied constraints in its development in this part of Africa.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867120>

Hakilo (Translation in English) / Yusupha Jaiteh
Gambia: Yusupha Jaiteh (Self-Published), 2022
12p.
\$ 15.00 / PB
22gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867121>

History

STEPS for the Progress of the BLACK RACE : Guides for Black Man's Redemption / Richard Danso Nimako (Ed) Isaac Awuku

Ghana: Advent Press, 2021

288p.

Includes Index

9789988314682

\$ 30.00 / HB

526gm.

This book is a book of identity, a perfect one that dwells on the Black race. The challenges of Black people are strenuously conveyed for the curious mind. The skill in which the author digests the issues confronting the Black race makes it a delight to read. His extensive travel across the world has placed him in a privileged position to share his rich and practical experiences with his readers.

Despite the negative picture painted across the globe about the Black race, the author persuades the reader with a forceful impact and unrivalled feats chalked by some Black people in the past. Their successes serve as the rallying point for propelling the youth of today for the attainment of tomorrow's economic, psychological and spiritual emancipation.

It is hoped that the mentality and perspective of the reader would completely change after reading till the last page of this book that highlights the brave Asante Queen Mother, Yaa Asantewaa, who organised the Asante women to fight against the British towards the end of the 19th century when the men had fled. Metaphorically, it draws home the point that female equality, which is recently trumpeted across the globe, had long been the story of the Black woman, reiterating the point that Black people had always set the examples in many fields when it mattered most.

Furthermore, the lesson from the great Queen Mother's story justifies the clarion call to all Black women to get on board in the struggle ahead for racial identity, because the Black race cannot develop without their involvement.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=846141>

Arabic/Islamic Education in Gambia: Its Pioneer and Others Actors / Muhammad I S

Gassama

Kanifing: Fulladu Publishers, 2018

86p

9789983960419

\$ 25.00 / PB

110gm.

The pioneers discussed in this book were among the pioneers who shaped the trajectory of the transformation their communities underwent. They also influenced not only the lives of their contemporaries but also those of the emerging generations of Arabic/Islamic scholars within the Gambia and far afield. They succeeded in their formidable educational mission through the formation of traditional citadels of learning known as "majaalis" or "ajlisoolu"

in Mandinka and "daara" in Wolof. These centres, whose products are prominent Arabic/Islamic scholars, are instrumental in the entrenchment and consolidation of Arabic/Islamic education within the community at all levels.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867122>

A Legend: Seyfo Mama Tamba Jammeh (c.1880 – 1987) : Paramount Chief of Illiassa / Ambassador Alieu Kebba Tambah Jammeh & Hassoum Ceesay
Serekunda: Baobab Printers, 2023

viii, 128p.

9789983942019

\$ 40.00 / PB

168gm.

There are many reasons to justify the assertion that Mama Tamba Jammeh, Chief of Illiassa from 1928 to 1962 was one of the greatest traditional rulers of modern The Gambia. He embodied tradition, modernity, sagacity and innovation. At a time when only European Colonial officials were capable of owning and driving cars, Mama Tamba owned lorries and cars which plied the roads and causeways he built in his area; when Europeans thought Africans were incapable of increasing the yields of their crops, he boosted rice production in his district making it the first Gambian region to be self-sufficient in food. This is his biography.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867123>

Linguistics

A Dictionary of Gambian Fula: Pulaar – English, English – Pulaar / Fodeh Baldeh
Kanifing: Fulladu Publishers, 2020

xviii, 208p.

9789983960679

\$ 60.00 / PB

276gm.

This dictionary comprises the following features:

- Sections on Pulaar – English and English – Pulaar
- Pulaar orthography and pronunciation guide
- Numerous headwords, phrases and meanings
- Numerous examples in the Pulaar Fuladuu dialect and English
- Multiple synonyms in the other Gambian Pulaar dialects

Elements of the Pulaar grammatical system.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867124>

Literature

Sallymata / Raki Jallow

Gambia: Raki Jallow (Self-Published), 2020

viii, 116p.
9789983940671
\$ 25.00 / PB
148gm.

Writing is indeed an art! What propels in the mind is what is reflected in the outlook of the person. An author never writes in a vacuum, hence Raki so beautifully depicts a society whereby people take it for granted. Sally is bound to emerge successful, no matter what might have served as an obstacle. She met Tijan whose fine features were very magnetizing. thus was the nature of such. Unfortunately, Sally was not a sellout or an idle girl to be messed about by silly boys. Having detected that Tijan was out to foil her dreams and the lucrative plans she had laid in the future, Sally quitted Tijan with remorse and a bitter lump of pain settled in her heart. Not knowing that the future was all of hers. She became a winner that remained happy for the rest of her life. She never regretted meeting Tijan as he taught her a lesson that hardened her up to fulfil her life's trajectory. It is a Must-Read Book! - Michael Hamadi Secka,
December 2020.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867125>

Don't Judge The Book By The Cover / Modou Lamin Age-Amusaf Sowe

New Edition

Brikama Newton, WCR: Manjo Printing, 2023

88p.

9781234567897

\$ 25.00 / PB

124gm.

IAAAS African Literature Winner November 2021.

At what age does a child understand? The answer is seven. Don't Judge the Book by the Cover, as the name implies, tells the story of 7-year-old Fatou Sowe, who turned out to be a good speller overnight, as early as the age of seven. Most people understand that the word "boy" is spelled "boy" rather than "Fatou." Fatou, who has always been good to neighbors and guests alike, wakes up one day to discover she has turned into a good speller with the help of a magic pen. This beautifully illustrated storybook has been created to support learners who, after acquiring the basics of reading and writing, have struggled to organically grasp the rules that govern spelling in the English language.

To everyone's surprise, Fatou can now spell the world's most difficult words-and in just a few minutes! But will her extraordinary talent last? The short story centers on the themes of girl-child education in African societies, African traditions, poverty, and the shared values of love, forgiveness, and unity.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867141>

Performing Arts - Theatre

Stepping Out of The Valley / Michael Jatta

Kanifing: Fulladu Publishers, 2023

52p.

9789983942286

\$ 20.00 / PB

70gm.

Stepping out of the Valley begins by echoing the concerns for climate change, its effects on farmers, and some contributions to help eradicate them. The earth can exist without people, but people cannot exist without the earth.

The play also looks at the cultural aspects of life: food, clothes, musical instruments, festivals, tropical trees like the baobab and dikta, and the indigenous names of settlements. Stepping out of the Valley concludes with the challenges of handling money, housing, and space for children, garages etc.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867142>

The Memorandum / Charles W. Sarr homas

Banjul: Sarr Digital Publishing, 2012

136p.

\$ 25.00 / PB

168gm.

A social commentary. The setting is Tyberia, a contemporary African society. The main character, Tijan, courageously champions the cause against bribery and corrupt practices but is faced with difficult circumstances designed by the main antagonist, Sumanguru. A marital offer of one's daughter to a perfect stranger (for ulterior motives) is just one of the many such designs. Other themes include breach of confidence and social prejudice. The notes on dramatic construction and interpretation provide valuable reading for the young or aspiring student of drama.

It's amusing; it's real! African social drama at its best! – The Spectator

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=179970>

Politics/Current Affairs

Outlook on Administration and Governance in the Gambia / Dembo M Badjie

Kanifing: M.S Designs and Printing, 2017

Revised Edition

80p.

9789983960068?

\$ 25.00 / PB

200gm.

Outlook on Governance and Administration in the Gambia primarily seeks to address the changing faces of administration in the Gambia in terms of Procedures, processes, and practices. It provides useful insights into a system of government and how to ensure the administrative order is followed for effective and efficient implementation of policy

decisions of the government by the civil service, which is the administrative arm of government. Furthermore, the book aims to provide proper guidelines to the present and future generations of public servants and politicians in understanding the machinery and functions of government. It is hoped that it will therefore enhance their performance in national development. It serves as a reference book for students of public administration, management and government. Furthermore, it gives public servants not only a basic knowledge of administration in the Gambia but also on some reflections on the anomalies and distortions/misconception on how government works in the Gambia. It is a short but must-read book.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867143>

A Case for Tackling New Trends in Migration / James F. Mendy

Banjul: James F. Mendy (Self-Published), 2022

64p.

\$ 20.00 / PB

86gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867144>
