

Recent Books from South Africa – Dec 2022

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Atlases/Maps

The Boer War Atlas / Chris Ash (Foreword) Dr Damian O'Connor
Johannesburg: 30 Degrees South Publishers, 2020
272p. ; b/w & colour illus., maps
Includes Index
9781928359838
\$ 195.00 / HB
2570gm.

This comprehensive military atlas covers every aspect of the Boer War in some 230 full-colour maps, diagrams and detailed ORBATs. Maps covering the conflict on a strategic, operational and tactical level guide the reader through each stage of the war, from Kruger's invasions of Natal and Griqualand West, through the famous battles of the conventional period, to the vast 'drives' of the Guerrilla War phase which broke the back of the Bittereinders and brought the war to an end.

By showing where every operation and battle fitted into the bigger picture, the reader is able to understand how and why any given action was fought, and how the war was ultimately won by Lord Kitchener's men. Utilising standard NATO symbols to represent the various units involved, all the maps in this unique resource were drawn specially for the Atlas, and combine contemporary military maps with modern 1:50000 survey maps to ensure unprecedented levels of accuracy and detail. A detailed time line helps explain how the war unfolded, and the maps are organised into sections which cover the various fronts. The Atlas is also lavishly illustrated with contemporary photographs and drawings, as well as modern-day photographs to show how the battlefields look today, and to illustrate some of the many monuments erected to commemorate the men who fought and died. Though some of the battles covered are well known, this work also provides detail on many others which - though major actions - are almost forgotten today. The operations and smaller battles of the long and bitter Guerrilla War are also exhaustively covered.

Other maps depict the details of the vast lines of blockhouses which were constructed across hundreds of miles of South Africa, and the critical role these played in the latter stages of the conflict. Whether you are new to the war, or a well-read enthusiast, The Boer War Atlas is an indispensable guide to understanding how this highly mis-understood war was fought.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=825875>

Biography/Memoirs

Conversations With Memorable Personalities / Amos Malupenga

Makhanda: NISC (Pty) Ltd, 2022

652p.

9781920033880

\$ 50.00 / PB

1102gm.

From stuff fit for a spy movie to stories that would fill gossip columns, like why Dora Siliya got divorced by her husband, and why Sikota Wina was popular with the ladies; to why the spy chief, Xavier Chungu, was being spied on.

And what really led to the collapse of Fred M'membe's empire – The Post?

In his published book, *Conversations with Memorable Personalities*, journalist and author, Amos Malupenga, takes readers on an epic journey, retracing his own tracks in his illustrious career that spanned over 15 years, mainly at the helm of the country's foremost private newspaper, *The Post*.

The result is a riveting book that covers an array of topics, from espionage to bedroom secrets.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=839266>

Kwame Nkrumah and the Pan-African Ideal : Debates and Contestations / Sehlare

Makgetlaneng

Pretoria: Institute for Preservation and Development, 2021

414p.

9781991205285

USD 55.00 / PB

618gm.

Kwame Nkrumah and the Pan-African Ideal draws on experiences in various decades on the ebbs and flows of African continental integration as a common African continental agenda. It attempts to contribute towards the grasp of critical theoretical position on international political economy and its application on the African socio-political, economic and ideological condition. This work critically engages with the works of Nkrumah, a leading African scholar on the African continental political unity in the political, economic and ideological fields of the struggle to achieve the continental socio-political, economic and ideological transformation in the strategic interests of Africa in its continental and international relations. As a means of demonstrating invaluable knowledge produced by Nkrumah for a critical engagement in the efforts to achieve African continental integration and transformation, this work provides a critical analysis of his position on the African continental integration and how the decisive majority of heads of state and government

from the Organisation of African Unity to the African Union (AU) have waged the struggle against it.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=799935>

History

The Road to Democracy in South Africa, Vol. 9 : The Power and Authority of African Women in Southern Africa and in the African Diaspora During 'Precolonial' and Colonial Times / (Ed-in-Chief) Sifiso Mxolisi Ndlovu

Johannesburg: Skottaville Publishing, 2021

xviii, 414p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9780620960199

\$ 140.00 /HB

998gm.

This book contains the following chapters. African Women, Power and Authority in Pre-colonial and Colonial times: some thoughts By Sifiso Mxolisi Ndlovu and Manelisi Genge. Textile Techno-Tales of the African Diaspora: History of Textile Technology from the Optic of Enslaved Women By Geri Augusto. Using oral traditions and izaga/ proverbs to unpack the gender oppression theory on "pre-colonial" history in south-eastern Africa By Sifiso Mxolisi Ndlovu. Women and political and ritual leadership in Africa since 1800: The Modjadji Rain Queens of Bolobedu By Sekibakiba P. Lekgoathi. Gender Relations, Women and Politics among the "Transvaal Ndebele", ca. 1500s to the early 1900s By Sekibakiba P. Lekgoathi. Warrior Queen Mmanthasi of the Batlokoa in Pre-colonial southern Africa: A Re-appraisal of her Power, Dominance and Leadership Qualities By Chitja Twalai. Queen Mother Sutu MaMthembu Rharhabe and her rise to power By Nomathamsanqa Tisani. Queen Regent Sutu: Women and the anti-colonial struggle for land and independence By Nomathamsanqa Tisani. Queen Mother Labotsibeni Gwamile Mdluli and the Shifting Roles in Swazi Power Relations in Colonial Times By Manelisi Genge. Queen Regent Labotsibeni in colonial politics, c1904-1921 .

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=838032>

Men Across Time : Contesting Masculinities in Ghanaian Fiction and Film / Theresah

Patrine Ennin (Series Eds) Adigun Agbaje & Fred Hendricks

African Humanities Series

Makhanda: NISC (Pty) Ltd, 2022

xiv, 136p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9781920033927

\$ 50.00 / PB

280gm.

Men across time: Contesting masculinities in Ghanaian fiction and film examines the various constructions and manifestations of masculinities from precolonial, colonial, independent and post-independent Ghana as portrayed in selected Ghanaian fiction, film and music videos. Two main questions are engaged here:

- What predominant masculine images are present in Ghanaian texts?
- In what ways has the passage of time affected the subversion of dominant masculine images, contested hegemony and created room for the presence of alternative masculinities?

This book submits that in questioning the various masculine modes of behaviours portrayed in these texts, and negotiating their own masculine identities, the male characters showcase the mutations that are taking place within masculine representations over time and aver that other models of masculine expression are possible.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=839267>

Literature

Due South of Copenhagen / Mark Winkler
Cape Town: Umuzi (Penguin Random House South Africa), 2020
200p.
9781415210475
\$ 40.00 / PB
206gm.

A letter bearing news of boyhood friend Karl Udengaard's death sets Maximilian Fritz on a path of disconcerting reminiscences on his last day as editor of a community newspaper. Growing up as the son of a petrol-station owner in a Lowveld town, twelve-year-old Max is bashed around and bullied – until the arrival of Karl Udengaard. Karl teaches Max how to toughen up, while Max's feelings for Gunna Udengaard, Karl's enigmatic mother, rage in secret.

Tragedy severs Max's ties with the wealthy Udengaards. As the decades-old memories unravel, he begins to comprehend his own complicity in his and their misfortunes. Due South of Copenhagen is a masterful tale of the scope of intimate connections between people, small-town living during the height of South Africa's Border War, and what it takes to put the past to rest.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=833689>

Mad Honey / S.J. Naudé
Cape Town: Umuzi (Penguin Random House South Africa), 2021

240p.
9781415210673
\$ 40.00 / PB
250gm.

From South Africa to Iceland, rural Belgium and the Alps, the stories in Mad Honey radiate out to encompass the globe. In Cape Town, a couple raise their son in leafy suburbia, while their cleaner's child must face the inequities of their country head on.

Amid Reykjavik's frozen landscape, a woman takes mad honey with the man who has left her for another, and spends a chilling night with a violent Russian and his companion. And in New England two lovers face the cruelty of a host who lacks all humanity, while a mother takes pity on a street child she finds on a platform at Park Station. Crowning this collection is a story cycle featuring a young Namibian and his Japanese friend, who spend a claustrophobic night in a chateau with a dark pool of glowing eels – this after being pulled into a tragedy on the ski slopes of Italy.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=833691>

Suitcase of Memory / A'Eysha Kassiem
Cape Town: Kwela Books, 2021
264p.
9780795709913
\$ 35.00 / PB
254gm.

Bastian Bredenkamp is dead. But even the dead have secrets. From the grave, Bastian weaves together the extraordinary tale of his life. Bastian, the only heir to the Goedleven farm, suffers from a rare condition that allows him to remember everything that has ever happened to him. When Khadeejathree comes to work for the family, Bastian is introduced to her daughter Rashieda, and a world he'd been sheltered from. But to love Rashieda means telling his secret: he is not who he appears to be.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=834422>

Mermaid Fillet : A Noir Crime Novel / Mia Arderne
Cape Town: Kwela Books, 2020
224p.
9780795709760
\$ 35.00 / PB
204gm.

The only human ever born wearing Jordans receives a DM on Twitter after a gang-related hit. The mission: Find the Tamagotchi, or else! This is the story of a banggat, a main ou, a genuine ou, a malnaai and a Twitter user. A story where dark and fantastical experiences are intricately woven to tell the tale of a network of wannabe gangsters, a wife fanning herself with her husband's money in the Northern Suburbs and a sturvy twenty-nine-year-old living in Woodstock.

'Baby, did you just say emotional labour like seven times?'

'Ja, why?'

'You just sound so woke right now.'

'What the fuck is woke?'

In this Cape Town, there's a Goddess who casts raging red storms when female bodies are abused. It's a place where women try to redefine their space in society and highly coveted mermaid tails are traded for R 4 000/kg. Mermaid Fillet is a noir crime novel about violence, feminism and how you dala what you must.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=834390>

The Fall / Jen Thorpe

Cape Town: Kwela Books, 2020

320p.

9780795709579

\$ 40.00 / PB

400gm.

When Thuli reveals her secret – that she can see into the near future – to journalist Helen, the latter is skeptical. But as Thuli believes she's seen that #FeesMustFall protest leader, Hector, will be assassinated, Helen looks into the matter. What she finds is odd behaviour by the police on campus. Police sent by President Noné, who wants no trouble from pesky students while she launches her zoo of magical creatures. If what Thuli say is true, they have only seven days to change the future ...

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=833690>

The Glass House / Chinenye Emezie

Cape Town: Penguin Random House South Africa, 2021

312p.

9781485904472

\$ 40.00 / PB

394gm.

Let me tell you a story. It's about a war. This war is not the type fought with guns and machetes. It is a family type. A silent war. The type fought in the heart. It began long before I was formed.

Udonwa's family is at war – a war of relationships, played out under the tyranny of a monster dad.

Age twelve, Udonwa has a peculiar love of her father, Reverend Leonard Ilechukwu, who favours her but beats his wife and his other children. She sees his good side: after all, he pays the school fees in advance, and tells her that she, named 'the peaceful child', is the one most likely to become a doctor in the family.

But luck doesn't last forever. When her newly married eldest sister suddenly takes her from their family compound in Iruama, Nigeria, to live with her in Awka, Udonwa experiences violence first-hand.

Later, pieces of a sinister picture emerge that shake her life to the core. No longer the person she thought she was, Udonwa launches into a period of extreme change, and parts of her life spiral into chaos as she finds herself torn between her love for her father and an underlying need to free herself.

This vivid family saga, set in Nigeria, is engrossing, deeply unsettling and finally uplifting.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=834421>

Two Tons of Fun / Fred Khumalo

Cape Town: Penguin Random House South Africa, 2022

272p.

9781415210888

\$ 40.00 / PB

346gm.

A charming coming-of-age novel set in a Johannesburg township

I caught a glimpse of my mother busy stuffing her own loot into a bag. On seeing me, she grinned. 'Are you on a sight-seeing trip, girl? Come on, roll up your sleeves and work!' She was a huge woman with the agility of a thin girl. Think of the well-endowed Queen Latifah moving like Sho Madjozi.

A car has collided with a Coca-Cola truck in Alexandra. The overturned trailer is spilling its contents, which residents are carrying off in their plastic 'Shangaan Gucci' bags. With two other bystanders, Lerato Morolong, age fourteen, helps the injured truck driver. The woman who drives them to hospital is Professor Ngobese, matriarch of the family at Number 80, the only house in the neighbourhood with a street address, aka Those White People.

Here begins Lerato's relationship with the Ngobeses – Auntie Gugu and her daughter Janine, who becomes Lerato's bf and one half of the dancing duo, Two Tons o' Fun (because life's too short to spend in a tent dress).

As Lerato's story unfolds, you'll meet her quick-fingered, beer-loving, man-eating mom June-Rose, who's not afraid to use the knife she keeps in her bra, and has passed on her tough survivor's spirit to her daughters, especially 12-year-old Florence. When June-Rose brings home yet another man, Florence runs away with dire consequences. Revelations emerge, such as the truth about Lerato's father, who lost his way in the conflicts at the end of apartheid.

Rich and humorous, this vibrant coming-of-age story sees a young woman uncover her skill as a writer, explore her sexuality, travel, and finally understand her mother.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=834423>

Performing Arts

Yabbing and Wording : The Artistry of Nigerian Stand-up Comedy / Izuu Nwankwo (Series Eds) Adigun Agbaje & Fred Hendricks
Makhanda: NISC (Pty) Ltd, 2021
xiv, 200p.
Includes Index ; Bibliography
9781920033859
\$ 45.00 / PB
376gm.

Yabbing and Wording: The artistry of Nigerian stand-up comedy is a long-overdue academic interrogation of the novel stand-up practice in Nigeria as performance. 'Yabbing' comes from the Nigerian Pidgin English verb, 'yab', which means a satirical jibe thrown at individuals, groups or institutions. Nigeria's Fela Anikulapo-Kuti used this effectively in his recorded and live music performances against successive military regimes. 'Wording' derives from the English term 'word' and refers to a game in which parties exchange insults. It is a modern-day coinage for traditional forms of joking that existed across Nigeria and elsewhere in precolonial times.

In this book, Nwankwo identifies 'yabbing' and 'wording' as outstanding indigenous elements within contemporary stand-up practice in Nigeria. On the one hand, these local joking patterns inform how comedians fashion their narratives. On the other, they mitigate offence and how the audience responds to ridicule in joke performance venues. The book's strength is its academic perspective and the inclusion of as many examples of stand-up and comedians as possible, to give a panoramic view of the practice. It also traces the historical path of the development of professional stand-up comedy in Nigeria. Its closing chapters detail the global outreach of Nigerian stand-up while also anticipating its future developments.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=839268>
