

INTRODUCTION

The 2018 issue of *Umẹwạen: Journal of Benin and Edo Studies* features two articles and one book review. The first article, “The travails of King Okojie and the politics of centrifugal and centripetal forces in Colonial Uromi,” by Simon Ehiabhi argues that not all African rulers acquiesced to the dictates of the European colonial administration. He substantiates this showing the resistance and struggle of Onojie Okojie of Uromi, Ishan division, to deposition, imprisonment and exile that resulted in his restoration to the throne of his ancestors. The second article by Uyi F. Omoregbe and Mark Ighile, titled “The Poetry of selected Proverbs in the songs of Akobe: A folkloric Minstrel from Benin Kingdom,” argues that beyond the social and cultural implications of proverbs, there is evidence of an intricate interplay of poetry and other aesthetic resources. He thus concludes that the selected proverbs have creative elements and artistic qualities that justify their appreciation as literary constructs. The issue also includes the reviews of three newly published books, namely Ekhaguosa Aisien’s *Ewuare: The Oba of Benin*, Osayomwanbo Osemwegie-Ero and Simon Owie’s *The Benin Monarchy and Ogiamien Connection: The Historical Facts (2016)* and David Edebiri’s *Ogiamien and the Illusion of Kingship (2017)*.

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