

First Word

The second issue of *Umewaen: Journal of Benin and Edo Studies* features three articles. The first article by Kathy Curnow, titled “Sense-making in Benin Kingdom Oral Traditions: Repetitive Recall of Actual and Traditional Enmity between the Oba and the Ogiamiẹn,” examines the traditional conflict between the Oba and the Ogiamiẹn title holder that is sometimes reenacted during the coronation ceremonies. Curnow employs Edo *Ominigbon* divination codes of *Ohun Ighitan* to provide an explanation for this conflict and its resolution. This is followed by Osasonor G. Ekhatör’s “*Akobie: An Aspect of Childhood Ritual, Indigenous Education, and Childhood Socialization in Benin Kingdom*” is a pioneering work on a religious character made and used by children for ritual play among Benin children. The article focuses on documenting this nearly extinct practice and its religious, educational, and socialization functions in Benin kingdom. The third article titled “Between Exploitation and Profit-making: Travails of Women in Oil Palm Products Expansion during WW II” by Fred Ayokhai is a historical examination of the role and contribution of the women of Benin Province to the drive to expand the production of oil palm products during the WWII under the British colonial administration. He also addresses the impact of the women’s resistance to being exploited on the expansion drive. This issue also includes reviews of two new books, Okpamen Oronsaye’s *Summon my Ehi to Ugbine* and Samuel Akintan’s *A History of Idanre (Ufe’ke) from Earliest Times to Present*.

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