

INTRODUCTION

This issue of *Umewaen* has three articles, a book review and an obituary piece. The first article two articles cut across oral literature and women's studies. The first by Kola Eke and Edafe Mukoro's "The Bini Minstrel and Praise Poetry: The example of Sir Victor Uwaifo" examines the praise song-poems of Sir Victor Uwaifo (through two song-poems entitled: *Iye na gbon* and *Do Amę Do*) and his mastery and firm grasp of Benin oral culture and worldview. This is followed by "Narratives on Edo Women in History: Reflections on Frank Rajah Arase's *Iyore* and Irene Isoken Salami-Agunloye's *Idia, The Warrior Queen of Benin*" by Emily Oghale God'spPresence. This essay examines how history has captured the experiences of Edo women in the royal palace of the Benin Kingdom in juxtaposition with their representation in film and drama. The third article by Idahosa Osagie Ojo and Eghosa Ekhatator titled "Pre-Colonial Legal System in Africa: An Assessment of Indigenous Laws of Benin Kingdom" analyzes indigenous legal concepts (and their role in the maintenance of peace and harmony in the Benin Kingdom). The remaining The last three pieces in this issue are a book review of *Benin Studies under the Scalpel: Essays in Honour of Dr. Ekhaguosa Aisien* by Anne Luther and two obituary pieces on our beloved late editorial board members, Late Professor Peter P. Ekeh and late Professor Joseph Nevadomsky, written by our Editorial Board members Professor Eghosa Osaghae and Professor Jean Borgatti respectively.

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