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Grey House Publishing
Sedgwick Press
Universal Reference Publications



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For Immediate Release

August 25, 2006

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Grey House Publishing announces the Second Edition of *An African Biographical Dictionary*

Grey House Publishing is proud to announce the publication of the second edition of *An African Biographical Dictionary*. Previously published by ABC-Clio in 1994, this is Grey House's first edition. A valuable reference, *An African Biographical Dictionary* provides in-depth profiles of important Africans throughout the colorful, varied and often bloody history of the continent.

This new edition contains over 700 entries, including well-known figures such as Chinua Achebe, Kofi Annan, Steve Biko, Cesaria Evora, Diane Fossey, Vasco de Gama, Jane Goodall, Nelson Mandela and Youssou N'Dour, as well as lesser-known but equally important scientists, political figures, artists, writers and more. This thought-provoking and essential volume gives proof of the enormous and multi-faceted changes African nations have undergone in recent history. The author, Norbert C. Brockman, states in the Preface:

“While the first edition [of *An African Biographical Dictionary*] listed 10 pages of political figures, there was slightly more than half a page of scientists and a mere four artists. Not only are the arts, sciences and cultures far more represented in this edition, the men and women themselves reflect the increased globalism of our world...” (*An African Biographical Dictionary*, p. xiii)

Such expansion in the types of figures profiled and emphasis on globalization highlights not only Africa's greater international role, but the importance of understanding the interconnectivity that is arising as industry, arts and sciences expand beyond national or continental borders. It is with this global focus that Brockman brings his considerable expertise and familiarity with the subject matter, thus making this edition the leader among its competition.

This second edition contains 170 new entries, with an additional 349 entries completely updated and re-written from the first edition. The new entries represent the increased presence of Africans throughout various fields, including as religious leaders, business people, educators, sports players, visual artists, musicians, scientists and political actors. Both new and updated entries take into account more recent interpretations of the roles and importance of certain figures, as well as the

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increased amount of bibliographical information available due to the prevalence of the internet and greater scholarly attention to the subject matter.

Each entry begins with the name of the person profiled, with the principal name in capitals. Following the name is the present-day country or countries in which the person was a significant figure, as well as the dates of birth and death. In order to alleviate confusion, the current African state was chosen as a means of fixing the location(s) in which the subject lived and/or worked. After indicating the basic information about the subject, the biographical sketch outlines his or her life and work. In the case of cultural personalities, a brief evaluation of their works is also included. Most sketches close with a short bibliography, listing general references from sources commonly found in university and public libraries. Any biographies or autobiographies are listed in this bibliography, as well as a selection of internet resources (with the disclaimer that not all internet sources are reliable or un-biased and so should be supplemented or verified with additional research).

An African Biographical Dictionary includes the following supplemental information and appendices:

- A list of present-day African nations and their capitals, along with colonial names for those nations
- Political maps in 4-color
- An appendix of political leaders of each nation since its independence from colonial powers, as well as all names used for that nation and the years in which each designation was used. Following this information is the year in which independence was achieved and the last occupying power.
- A list of all entries organized by present-day nation

An African Biographical Dictionary is a vitally important resource in this age of globalization and heightened awareness of international issues. As noted in the preface,

“...Africa has been drawn even more tightly into the global economy...In the past, Africans who operated in Europe or America were often in exile, had taken asylum or moved to the West to escape the limitations of apartheid. Today, there are many African writers, performers and intellectuals who are world figures in their own right...As a consequence, African artists are far more recognized than they have ever been...and scientists and entrepreneurs from Africa are found in the laboratories and board rooms of major institutions...” (*An African Biographical Dictionary*, p. xiii)

The figures profiled in this second edition span the history of this varied, culturally rich continent, allowing the reader to travel through the past and into the present. The expert and comprehensive biographies make it a valuable addition to public, high school and academic libraries, as well as an interesting reference for those in the field of African studies.

An African Biographical Dictionary

Hardcover ISBN 10: 1-59237-112-4 667 pages \$135.00

Hardcover ISBN 13: 978-1-59237-112-9

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Publisher: Leslie Mackenzie