



The Liberian Literature Project

[Liberian History, Education and Development, Inc.]

2012

Theme: A Nation in Literature Dialogue: an Emerging of Liberian Literature Renaissance

Call for Submissions: THE LIBERIAN LITERATURE ANTHOLOGY PROJECT 2011

Liberian literature today remains neglected in several respects. Since Liberia's declaration of independence in 1847, most Liberians know very little or next to nothing about the legends, epics, creation myths, folktales, and historic heroes and sheroes of indigenous Liberian culture. Traditional Liberian oral literature encompasses the worldview, philosophical perspectives, economic endeavors and an endless list of other cross-ethnic cultural bonds, collectively embracing the values and cosmological order of traditional communities. Within the Liberian school system, literature and history are presented from an Anglo-Eurocentric perspective that emphasizes the culture and achievements of Westerners. This one-sided view impedes a positive view of indigenous Liberian culture, traditions, customs, mores, philosophy, medicine, law, and governance, and thwarts the unifying flow of behavioral patterns, creeds, linguistic architecture, sociopolitical structures, ancestral wisdom, art, and spirituality across ethnicity. As a consequence, internalized contempt for our cultural way of life is prevalent in contemporary Liberia, especially among the young post-war generation, which in turn inflames divisions, prejudice, injustices, bigotry, cultural discrimination and ethnocentrism.

In part, the absence of a collective national literature underscores the lack of a common identity, which has resulted in self-inflicted tragedies over the past 164 years, particularly in the last 25 years of horrific violence. Liberians must acknowledge that the study of other literature is not irrelevant, but such studies must not take precedence over a national literature to educate our children about Liberian history and culture within the context of our rich heritage and the centrality of the unifying and transformative power of art and literature in African societies.

The Liberian Literature Project 2012 is an arm of the ongoing National History Project 2012 set forth by the Liberian History, Education & Development, Inc. (LIHEDE) organization. We at LIHEDE believe that a nation that does not know its history, culture or language has nothing of worth and beauty to pass on to successive generations, and is thus doomed and condemned to perpetual warfare and poverty. The Liberian Literature Anthology Project 2012 is one significant step to depart from this self-defeating historical trend.

The goal of the Liberian Literature Anthology Project 2012 is to produce a national or collective literature anthology series that draws on the traditional literature of each ethnic subgroup in Liberia—the Kwa (Bassa, Dei, Grebo, Krahn [Wee], Kru [Kroa]), Mande, Dahn [Gio], Kpelle, Loma, Mano [Mahn], Vai, and Kissi. We are seeking literature that thematically relates to:

1. Liberian Mythology drawn from sacred narratives with truth value;
2. Liberian Legends set in the post-creation world;
3. Liberia Folktales of cultural wisdom told as fiction;





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4. Liberian Artwork reflecting the above (myths, legends and folktales) as rendered in paintings, sculpture, masks, or carvings to include artistic photography of same.

The book will first be published in English to be later translated into Liberian languages, as well as in simple English as deemed necessary. Depending on the breadth of submissions, versions will be available for different grade levels, ranging from Pre-K to university.

Abstract deadline: 06/30/11

Full text deadline: 10/15/11

Publication date: 02/01/2012

Please send your abstract of no more than 500 words and some information about yourself of 50-100 words as an attachment in MS Word or PDF form to the editors:

info@lihede.org

Editors will send authors and artists an email confirmation within 48 to 72 hours of receiving proposals. All submissions will be reviewed by the editors, but only those accepted for possible inclusion in the anthology will be further contacted. Word count for the final submission is 2,500 to no more than 7,500 words, the general length of a short story. With your submission, you are giving LIHEDE permission to publish your work. Each author and artist will receive royalties of 50% of gross revenue received by LIHEDE from sales of the anthology after all direct material publication and distribution costs. Each author and artist will retain copyright for their work beyond its use in the anthology. While all submissions are peer-reviewed and subject to the editors suggesting revisions, we expect polished work that has minimal need for grammatical or technical editing.

Venue: Alumni Event Center, N.C. A&T State University, 200 N. Benbow Rd., Greensboro, NC

Date: May 28, 2012

Time: 7:45 am to 12:00 am

Event Fees:

Registration: \$150 [breakfast, lunch, and dinner included]

Book Display/Autograph: \$50.00 [table will be provided]

Transportation/Accommodation: Piedmont Triad International Airport * Ramada Inn Coliseum



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For more information about the Liberian Literature Project, please go to:

www.lihede.org