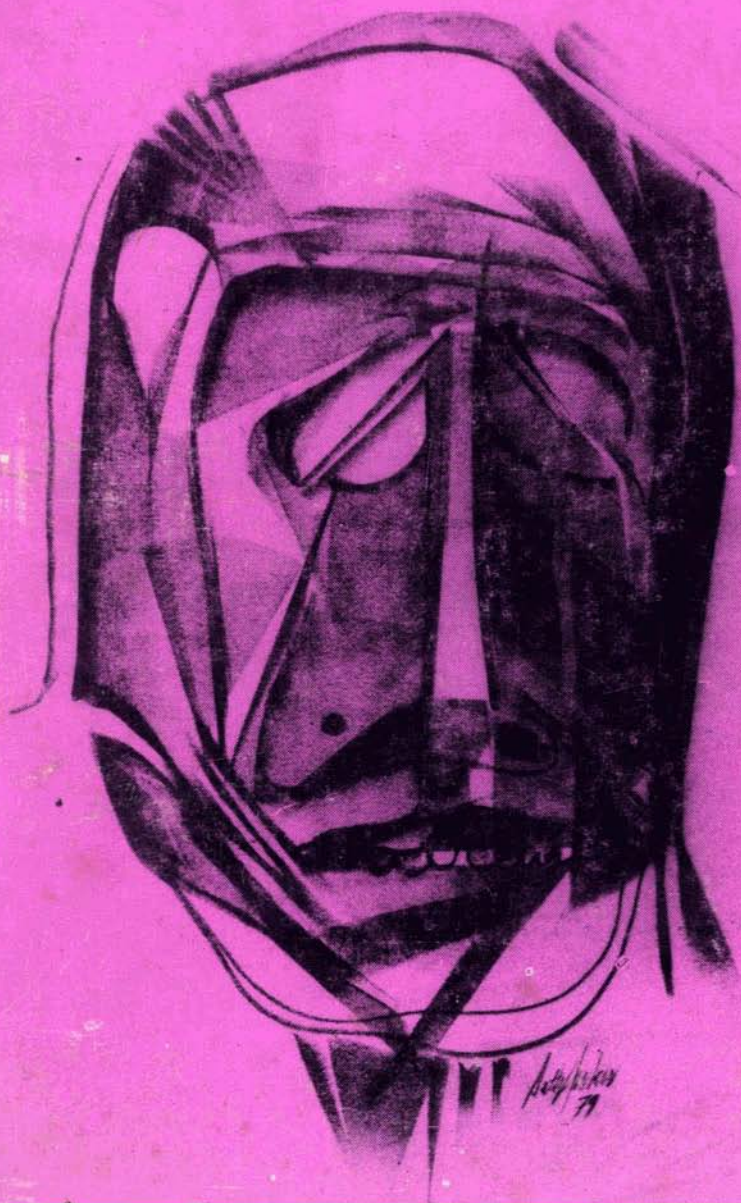




# OKIKE

AN AFRICAN JOURNAL OF NEW WRITING

FOUNDING EDITOR: CHINUA ACHEBE 25/26



OKIKE

An African Journal of New Writing

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An African Journal of New Writing

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# OKIKE

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Seth Anku

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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Our readers and contributors must be wondering why *Okike* has not appeared since 1984. It is, therefore, necessary for us to explain this unfortunate development.

There are two main reasons for our failure to appear. The first relates to the problems confronting Nigerian publishers and printers as a result of the present economic slump. High cost of paper and other printing materials has placed a strain on the meagre resources of *Okike*.

The second problem emanates from the active processes of growth and expansion of *Okike* as it strives to be more relevant to the Nigerian society. In the past few years, two publications have evolved from *Okike*. They are the *Okike Educational Supplement* that is aimed at improving the quality of literary studies among the Nigerian youth, and the bilingual *Uwa Ndi Igbo*, "a broadly-based humanistic and scientific publication." Apart from over-stretching the editorial personnel of *Okike*, the new publications have exacerbated the financial pressure which we have already mentioned.

We have had to deal strictly with these problems in order to ensure that *Okike* appears regularly (three times a year). The main solution has been to let the two new publications operate independently of *Okike*, thereby relieving the latter of the financial and editorial burden which such publications entail. Having done so, we are confident that *Okike* will appear more regularly, although we will first try to satisfy our commitment for 1985.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank our readers and contributors who have sustained us with their goodwill and faith. We assure them that *Okike* is alive and strong (as the contents and design of this double issue attest). It is our task to ensure that *Okike* remains a springboard for up-and-coming writers and a continuing source of renewal and strength for the established ones.

**Onuora Ossie Enekwe**  
EDITOR



NOT FROM THE

Our first step  
is to understand the  
the history of the  
of the world  
as a result of the  
of the human  
of the world  
The world is  
of the world  
the world is  
that is the  
of the world  
humanity is  
the world is  
dated the first  
We have  
found that  
solution has  
independently  
and cannot  
for we are  
already  
We  
control  
We  
design  
control  
control



*Jude C. Ogu*

**AFRICAN POLITICAL DANCERS**

Masked dancers  
 Occult dancers  
 You dance with ease  
 Masked dancers  
 You dance with style  
 Occult dancers  
 You throw up dust  
 Into the drummers' eyes  
 And the sullen spectators  
 Dank with sweat under the sun  
 Squat behind the sore-eyed drummers  
 Watching but not comprehending.

But  
 Masked dancers  
 Occult dancers  
 You sing with white voices  
 And dance with black legs  
 You dance like lions  
 Jigging to lambs  
 You dance like hawks  
 Hopping to chickens  
 And you scare the spectators  
 Into a scamper  
 When you dance and jig and hop.























































































































































































































































































