

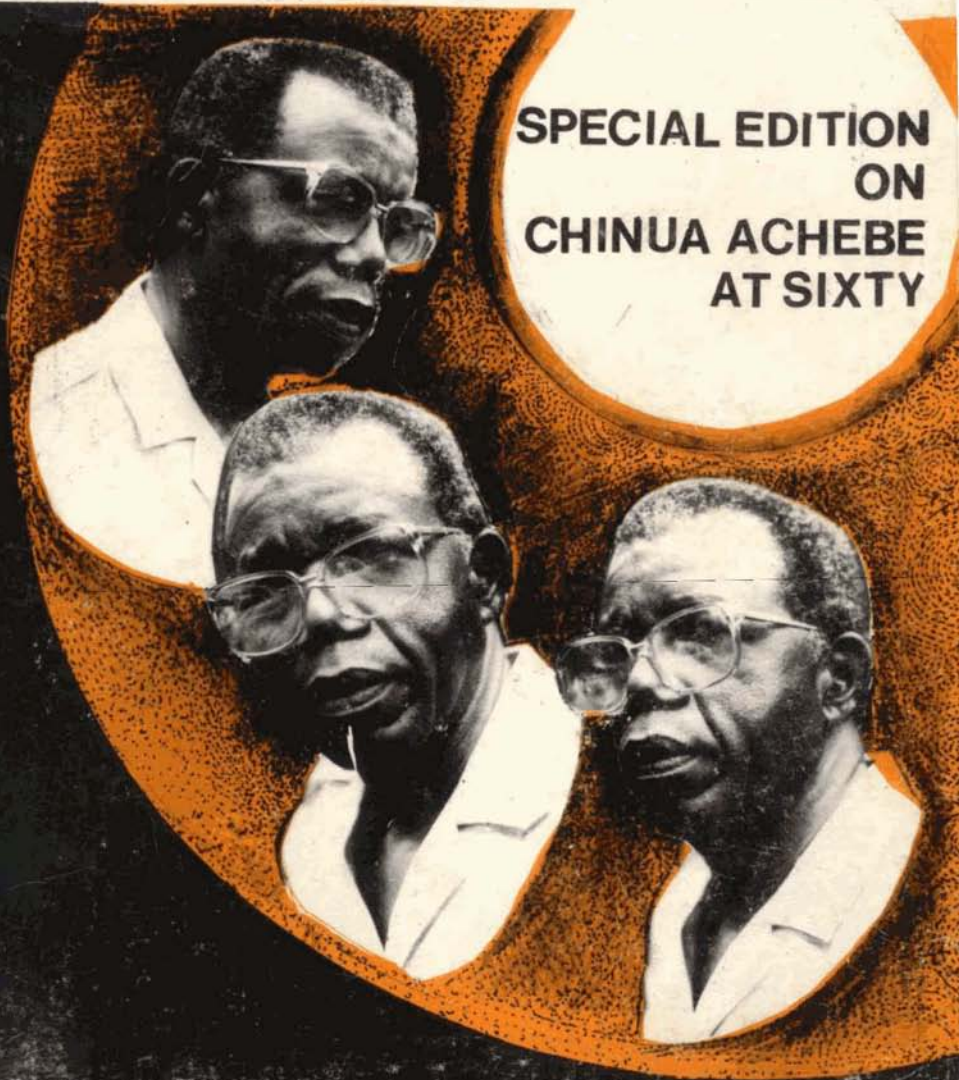


OKIKE

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30

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ON
CHINUA ACHEBE
AT SIXTY

edited by onuora ossie enekwe

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CRITICISM

Chinua Achebe

of *Celestine*

History's Eye-witness: Vision and

Representation in the Works

of Chinua Achebe

Things Fall Apart and the Act

of the Achebe: Identification

of Parallels in *Church*

Growth

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of *Okike* was conceived in 1988 to commemorate Chinua Achebe's sixtieth year (birthday: November 16, 1990). By then, several articles on Achebe had been received, selected and scheduled for publication in numbers 27/28 and 29. It suddenly occurred to me, that, instead of calling for fresh articles on Achebe, it was better to publish the ones in hand, and others that might come afterwards. Subsequently, more articles on Achebe were received. However, excepting Dan Izevbaye's pre-symposium lecture, delivered under the auspices of the Faculty of Arts, University of Nigeria, Nsukka — in preparation for the very successful Achebe Symposium — none of the articles in this issue was solicited. Rather, they were products of independent research, self-motivated, without the limitations of articles written hurriedly to meet deadlines.

This issue comprises several articles by scholars in various disciplines in the Humanities. By bringing perspectives unique to their own areas, these scholars have enriched Achebe studies.

In selecting the poems, I have tried to emphasize poetry that reflects the mood of celebration, occasioned by Achebe's birthday, though none of the poems directly talks about the occasion. Talking about celebration, Achebe's essay in this issue sees literature as a celebration of our common humanity, that is, when it is not perverted.

In keeping with Achebe's international stature, I have included poems by non-Africans, especially his friends or admirers. I have arranged the selection in such a manner as to suggest an evening of poetry reading in which poets from different parts of the world would read their poems as a tribute to him.

Early this year, Achebe sustained serious injuries in a road accident. The entire members of *Okike* Editorial Board wish him quick and complete recovery.

Next year (1991) is significant in the life of *Okike*: the journal will be twenty years old.

Onuora Ossie Enekwe

