

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The African e-Journals Project has digitized full text of articles of eleven social science and humanities journals. This item is from the digital archive maintained by Michigan State University Library. Find more at:

<http://digital.lib.msu.edu/projects/africanjournals/>

Available through a partnership with



Scroll down to read the article.



KOKORO



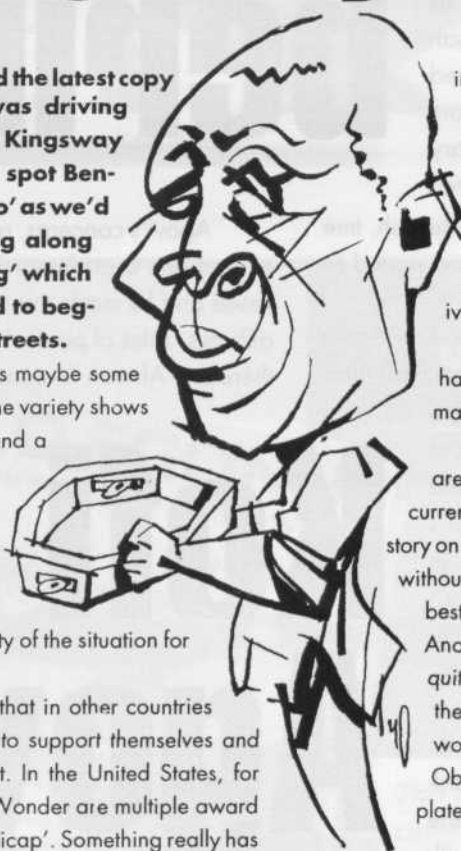
I on Kingsway Road

I had just purchased the latest copy of GR (Vol. 1 No.4) and was driving home with a friend along Kingsway road when we happened to spot Benjamin Aderounmu, or 'Kokoro' as we'd always known him, walking along the busy road 'doing his thing' which these days has been reduced to begging for alms along Lagos streets.

The last time I saw him was maybe some fifteen years ago on TV on one of the variety shows at the time. It was really a pity and a shame to see him reduced to this state. I was so ashamed for him, myself and the country in general that I couldn't bring myself to stop to offer him alms as that would have served to underscore the reality of the situation for me.

It just seems a great shame that in other countries artists, blind or sighted, are able to support themselves and other dependants through their art. In the United States, for example, Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder are multiple award winning artists in spite of their 'handicap'. Something really has to be done to redress the situation otherwise what encouragement would there be for upcoming artists if their forebears are left to eke out a living begging for alms?

On a brighter note, allow me to commend you on the ever improving quality of your publication. I have been following GR from inception in 1995 and had decided to purchase a full year's supply before sending in any comment (although it did take you more than a year to release four issues). These main



improvements have caught my eye -

- i. Improving literary and intellectual depth of the articles
- ii. Switching from New Roman to Universe typeface
- iii Increasing number of pages.
- iv. Improved paper quality

With these and other improvements, GR has succeeded in carving niche for itself as a major voice for African Art internationally.

My only complaints, minor though they are, are the absence of the usual short story in your current issue and the fact that you did an entire cover story on '25 years of film in Africa' in your second issue without any mention of the late Hubert Ogunde who bestrode the industry like a colossus in the Eighties. Another suggestion I would like to make, which I'm quite sure you are already considering, would be the inclusion of colour in the magazine. This would have served to really portray the beauty in Obiora Udechukwu's works (Vol.1 No.4) and the plates used in the 'making photographs' article.

Anyway, in spite of these minor 'glitches' I have to once again compliment you on your ever improving magazine. Keep up the good work and long live Glendora Review.

Obi Eze

Satellite town, Lagos

February 1, 1997