

“The Mamba”

Journal Of Africa Haiku Network



Edited by:

Adjei Agyei-Baah

Emmanuel Jessie Kalusian



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Foreword

We are delighted to present to you the maiden edition of "The Mamba", the official haiku journal for the Africa Haiku Network (AHN). Our first edition is an assemblage of about 88 poems in Japanese short form: haiku, haiga, senryu and haibun, but mostly of haiku of African origin, focusing on her images, rhythm and general setting, which we have subtly nicknamed "Afriku". It contains all our published works since our inception in May 2015, including already published works of Africans and foreign poets of known international haiku journals.

It has always been the dream of AHN to collect the works of budding African poets practicing haiku whose works are somehow scattered on different publishing platforms and present them as a unique collection in addition to the already known European haiku. The Mamba, being the first haiku collection from Africa, is a historic breakthrough, as it comes to give Africa a place on the world haiku map, after coming late to this micro poetry form which started some centuries ago.

This maiden collection has been put together by our lean editorial board, made up of Adjei Agyei-Baah (Ghana) and Emmanuel Jessie Kalusian (Nigeria) who are the founders of Africa Haiku Network (AHN). The core mission of AHN is to present haiku and its related genres that seek to project/promote the rich African setting, images and rhythms. Hence, AHN has always been delighted in works tailored along that path and direction.

Africa being a continent of many dialects, AHN Editors foresee the likelihood of non-Africans being caught up in a cultural gap due to the local dialect that some poets are likely to employ and as a result would endeavor to make provision for this snag by a way of footnotes for easy understanding and appreciation.

African haiku poets started receiving international publication around 2006. And this clearly presents African poets as latecomers to the haiku art which started somewhere in the 19th century and spread to Africa through the efforts of mostly Japanese ambassadors and more rapidly through the advent of the internet.

It is our hope that "The Mamba" will encourage and delight most African poets and academic institutions, who have not given this poetic genre a consideration, to develop passion for it, explore its volumes of essays written over years, and above all, pursue it as new literary field of research to be added to Africa and world literature.

The Africa haiku (Afriku) journey has just started and it is our hope that readers, writers, critics and lovers of haiku would support our young organization to become a reputable in years to come.

At this point, we once again welcome you to the maiden edition of "The Mamba Edition 1" and hope you find this collection pleasurable and worthy of reading. Readers may feel free to share our PDF file with haiku lovers, reviewers, critics and other haiku societies. Our doors are always open to your thoughts and comments which we believe are indispensable in shaping us towards our core mission.

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Africa Haiku Network Publications
Ghana/Nigeria

Contents

Forewordpg.v	Kwaku Feni Adow (Ghana)
James McRight (South Carolina)	<i>asphalt vapour</i>pg.05
<i>morning sunrise</i>pg.01	<i>fireworks</i>pg.05
Nshai Walumzimba (Zambia)	<i>dry corn</i>pg.05
<i>a house</i>pg.02	<i>near harvesting plantain</i>pg.05
<i>a committee</i>pg.02	<i>boat ride</i>pg.05
<i>nine years</i>pg.02	Emmanuel Jakpa (Nigeria)
<i>leaves run</i>pg.02	<i>harmattan</i>pg.08
Emmanuel-Abdalmasih Samson (Nigeria)	Harriet Hedoti Wiafe (Ghana)
<i>mowing the lawn</i>pg.03	<i>countdown chorus</i>pg.09
<i>Harmattan morning</i>pg.03	<i>two worlds apart</i>pg.09
<i>Harmattan nightfall</i> --.....pg.03	Nana Fredua-Agyeman (Ghana)
<i>choir of woodpeckers</i>pg.03	<i>after rains the life-marks</i>
<i>congregants shiver</i>pg.03	<i>of hidden ant</i>pg.10
Barnabas Ìkéolúwa Adélékè (Nigeria)	<i>drizzle</i>pg.10
<i>a withered stem</i>pg.04	<i>harmattan winds</i>pg.10
<i>rock shelter</i>pg.04	<i>harmattan afternoon</i>pg.10
<i>harmattan fire</i>pg.04	<i>the clouds</i>pg.10
<i>river ripples</i>pg.04	
<i>daybreak</i>pg.04	

**Adriana Nii Okailley Okine
(Ghana)**
afternoon drizzle.....pg.11
whitewashed face.....pg.11

**Franka Maria Andoh
(Ghana)**
harmattan morning.....pg.12

**Adjei Agyei-Baah
(Ghana)**
dry savannah.....pg.13
Harmattan winds.....pg.13
shea butter market.....pg.13
flickering lantern.....pg.13
household barrel.....pg.13

**Emmanuel Jessie Kalusian
(Nigeria)**
harmattan winds.....pg.14
thunderclap.....pg.14
forest and trees.....pg.14
Lake Bosomtwe.....pg.14
returning bird.....pg.14

**Celestine Nudanu
(Ghana)**
advancing army.....pg.15
lantern spot.....pg.15
*birdsong twittering the goodness
of God*.....pg.15
noon heat.....pg.15
fireside.....pg.15

**Gordon Ayisi
(Ghana)**
gurgling cave.....pg.18
steam train approaches.....pg.18

**Adjei Sarpong
Kumankuma
(Ghana)**
noon.....pg.19
moody morn--.....pg.19

**Catherine Njeri Maine
(Kenya)**
pointing at the moon.....pg.20

**Justice Prah Joseph
(Ghana)**
Zambezi river.....pg.21
beans stew dinner.....pg.21
Christmas feast.....pg.21
village stream.....pg.21

**Jacob Kobina
Ayiah Mensah
(Ghana)**
snail........pg.22
*deep in the flood my father's
in the circle of fireflies*.....pg.22
voice.....pg.22
empty matchboxes.....pg.22
soft afternoon.....pg.22

**Kojo Turkson
(Ghana)**
interchange.....pg.23
discomfort flight.....pg.23
little blacksmith.....pg.23
long afternoon.....pg.23

**Rakotomahefa Diamondra
(Madagascar)**
African summer.....pg.24

**Caleb Mutua
(Kenya)**
leaking roof.....pg.25
campus lawn--.....pg.25
dusty air--.....pg.25
funeral speech.....pg.25

**Prince K. Mensah
(Ghana)**
festival of flies.....pg.26
a haunting day.....pg.26
blue white sky.....pg.26

**Nathaniel Ampadu
(Ghana)**
red corn beer.....pg.27
millet farm.....pg.27
farmer's faint whistle.....pg.27

**Patrick Wafula
(Kenya)**
dark dawn--.....pg.30
full moon--.....pg.30

**Teddy Kimathi
(Kenya)**
Savannah woodlands--.....pg.31

**Roundsquare Chomulet
(Somalia)**
fairy witch.....pg.32
monsoon rain.....pg.32

**Ali Znaidi
(Tunisia)**
feeble breeze wafted--.....pg.33
warm sun........pg.33
pebbles in the pond.....pg.33

Ana Drobot
(Romania)
night time.....pg.34

Emmanuel-Abdalmasih
Samson (Nigeria)
walking in the rain.....pg.35

Anatoly Kudryavitsky
(Poland/Russia)
police stationpg.36

Richard Nduor Oduku
& Adjei Agyei Baah
(Kenya/Ghana)
Sorghum harvest.....pg.37

Maroin Clarke
(Warren point, Northern
Ireland)
rough bark.....pg.38



**James McRight
(South Carolina)**

morning sunrise
Africa sends me a smile
of a child

**Nshai Walumzimba
(Zambia)**

a house
drown in a pond
seashell

a committee
gathers in celebration
dying buffalo

nine years
layered on a log
chopped tree

leaves run
each to a place of rest
*Mooya

Mooya: Is a native word for wind in Lozi language

**Emmanuel-
Abdalmasih Samson
(Nigeria)**

mowing the lawn...
woodpecker hammers
on the tree

Harmattan morning...
I see splashes of greyness
in hairs of bikers

Harmattan nightfall--
my body paid the weather
with many shivers

choir of woodpeckers
hammer on the hollow trees
sound of talking drums

congregants shiver
on their way to church
Christmas morning

Barnabas Ìkéolúwa Adéléké (Nigeria)

a withered stem
poking passers-by
the beggar's arm

rock shelter
the shepherd's song
sings back to him

harmattan fire...
i share my hat with
a squirrel

river ripples
the man I am keeps
staring at me

daybreak
a cock's crow drowns out
a cock's crow

Kwaku Feni Adow (Ghana)

asphalt vapour. . .
afternoon raindrops
return to the sky

fireworks
a year from sight
disappear

dry corn
she plaits silk
into a doll

near harvesting plantain
leaning on a prop
old age

boat ride
throwing a glint in my eye
the river's sun





**Emmanuel Jakpa
(Nigeria)**

harmattan
cracking green buds
from a tree

**Harriet Hedoti Wiafe
(Ghana)**

countdown chorus
amid firecrackers-
a new year slips out of old

two worlds apart
an infant drawing
on a sleeping mother

**Nana Fredua-Agyeman
(Ghana)**

after rains the life-marks of hidden ant

drizzle...
the drying-line shelters
a housefly

harmattan winds
following the grasshopper
one step at a time

harmattan afternoon
even the grass bear
witness

the clouds
are now my height
merry Christmas

**Adriana Nii Okailley Okine
(Ghana)**

afternoon drizzle
scream of a mother chases
her playing children

whitewashed face
monsoon winds
leaves its trail...

Franka Maria Andoh (Ghana)

harmattan morning
wispy clouds visit
the earth

Adjei Agyei-Baah (Ghana)

dry savannah
the dotted castles
of anthills

Harmattan winds
crossing the border
with leaves

shea butter market
sellers hold the sun
in water sprinkles

flickering lantern
the length and breadth
of our shadow

household barrel
the secret bathing
of the moon

Emmanuel Jessie Kalusian (Nigeria)

harmattan winds
opens door
to no-one

thunderclap
the village priest hears
his name

forest and trees
I visit my ancestors
with no dry gin

Lake Bosomtwe
a single boat
in my binoculars

returning bird
motionless cloud
lags behind

Celestine Nudanu (Ghana)

advancing army
bound with a single sash
no, just a broom

lantern spot
wiping the memory
of you

birdsong twittering the goodness of God

noon heat
a lizard bask in
yesterday's raindrops

fireside
kids chatter
fills mother's cooking pot



**Gordon Ayisi
(Ghana)**

gurgling cave
bats stream to their
hunt

steam train approaches
the sustained bray
of an ass

**Adjei Sarpong
Kumankuma
(Ghana)**

noon
I stand in my own
shadow

moody morn--
clouds cast thick shadows
from above

**Catherine Njeri Maine
(Kenya)**

pointing at the moon
the baby stops crying
as she watches the moon

**Justice Prah Joseph
(Ghana)**

Zambezi river
water and blood flow
down my vein

beans stew dinner
father's fart stirs calm air
into storm

Christmas feast
a child fights over
missing meat

village stream
my children play
on loose bough

**Jacob Kobina
Ayiah Mensah
(Ghana)**

snail...
morning begins
at my doorsteps

deep in the flood my father's voice

in the circle of fireflies
my father adds
new moons

empty matchboxes
scattered in the mud
my new community

soft afternoon
baby patting the stars
from its cot

**Kojo Turkson
(Ghana)**

interchange
the hybrid design
of my palm

discomfort flight
a chick locked in the clutch
of a crow

little blacksmith
a monkey hammering
kernels on the ground

long afternoon
a mango hangs
on a ripe sun

Rakotomahefa Diamondra (Madagascar)

African summer
elephants trumpet
in the dusty plains

Caleb Mutua (Kenya)

leaking roof...
watching the drops widen in
the collecting basin

campus lawn--
fresh mushrooms assemble
at a corner

dusty air--
the white-haired quarry man
sighs with relief

funeral speech
i put down my sorrows
in a haiku

**Prince K. Mensah
(Ghana)**

festival of flies
in the Serengeti
the jungle King is dead

a haunting day
ravens play with destiny
on loose wire

blue white sky
tarantula scours green earth
river rushes by

**Nathaniel Ampadu
(Ghana)**

red corn beer
old man's moustache
dripping wet

millet farm
the clangs from tilling hoes
dissolve in birdsongs

farmer's faint whistle
writhing snake
snaps twigs in its way



**Patrick Wafula
(Kenya)**

dark dawn--
the moon the only spot
of light

full moon—
cumulus clouds slowly
form a wolf

**Teddy Kimathi
(Kenya)**

Savannah woodlands—
an African elephant
balances a tree trunk

Roundsquare Chomulet (Somalia)

fairy witch
opens her mouth—
a frog jump out

monsoon rain
rinse the beggar's eyes
clearer petitions

Ali Znaidi (Tunisia)

feeble breeze wafted—
a free air-conditioner
to the poor's delight

warm sun...
remnants of fog
dissolve into her breath

pebbles in the pond
scarring the face of water
a broken mirror

**Ana Drobot
(Romania)**

night time
all my friends
are black

**Emmanuel-Abdalmasih
Samson
(Nigeria)**

walking in the rain
umbrella sings counterpoint
August concerto



**Anatoly Kudryavitsky
(Poland/Russia)**

police station
a map of Africa
behind bars

**Richard Nduor Oduku &
Adjei Agyei Baah
(Kenya/Ghana)**

Sorghum harvest
swallows maneuver between
reapers and scarecrows



**Maroin Clarke
(Warren point, Northern
Ireland)**

rough bark
this longing to touch
the elephant's trunk



Sorghum harvest

Index

James McRight (South Carolina)

- » morning sunrise

Nshai Walumzimba (Zambia)

- » a house
- » a committee —Previously published: *The 17th HIA Haiku Contest (Honorable Mention)*

- » nine years

- » leaves run

Emmanuel-Abdalmasih Samson (Nigeria)

- » mowing the lawn
- » Harmattan morning...
- » Harmattan nightfall--
- » choir of woodpeckers
- » congregants shiver

Barnabas Ìkéolúwa Adélékè (Nigeria)

- » a withered stem
- » rock shelter —Previously published: *Heron's Nest Vol. XVII, Dec., 2015*
- » harmattan fire...
- » river ripples —Previously published: *A Hundred Gourds 5:1 December 2015*
- » daybreak —Previously published: *Cattails, September, 2015*

Kwaku Feni Adow (Ghana)

- » asphalt vapour... —Previously published: *Indian Kukai #12 (3rd Place)*
- » fireworks
- » dry corn
- » near harvesting plantain
- » boat ride

Emmanuel Jakpa (Nigeria)

- » harmattan —Previously published: *Shamrock haiku journal No. 15*

Harriet Hedoti Wiafe (Ghana)

- » countdown chorus
- » two worlds apart

Nana Fredua-Agyeman (Ghana)

- » after rains the life-marks of hidden ant
- » drizzle...
- » harmattan winds
- » harmattan afternoon
- » the clouds

**Adriana Nii Okailley Okine
(Ghana)**

- » *afternoon drizzle*
- » *whitewashed face*

**Franka Maria Andoh
(Ghana)**

- » *harmattan morning*

Adjei Agyei-Baah (Ghana)

- » *dry savannah* —Previously published: *Brass Bell haiku Journal*, September, 2015
- » *Harmattan winds*
- » *shea butter market* —
Previously published: *Boston Poetry Magazine*, May 2015
- » *flickering lantern*
- » *household barrel*

**Emmanuel Jessie Kalusian
(Nigeria)**

- » *harmattan winds*
- » *thunderclap*
- » *forest and trees*
- » *Lake Bosomtwe*
- » *returning bird*

Celestine Nudanu (Ghana)

- » *advancing army*
- » *lantern spot*
- » *birdsong twittering the goodness of God*
- » *noon heat*
- » *fireside*

Gordon Ayisi (Ghana)

- » *gurgling cave*
- » *steam train approaches*

**Adjei Sarpong Kumankuma
(Ghana)**

- » *noon*
- » *moody morn--*

**Catherine Njeri Maine
(Kenya)**

- » *pointing at the moon*

Justice Prah Joseph (Ghana)

- » *Zambezi river*
- » *beans stew dinner*
- » *Christmas feast*
- » *village stream*

**Jacob Kobina Ayiah Mensah
(Ghana)**

- » *snail...* —Previously published: *Shamrock Haiku Journal Issue 12*
- » *deep in the flood my father's voice* —Previously published: *Shamrock haiku Journal Issue 11*
- » *in the circle of fires*
- » *empty matchboxes* —
Previously published: *Ambrosia Journal of Fine Haiku Issue 4 Summer 2009*
- » *soft afternoon* —Previously published: *Frogpong Volume 32, Number 3 Fall, 2009*

Kojo Turkson (Ghana)

- » *interchange*
- » *discomfort flight*
- » *little blacksmith* —Previously published: *Asahi Haikuist Network*, January 2016
- » *long afternoon* —Previously published: *2nd Place Mainchni Haiku Contest 2016*

**Rakotomahefa Diamondra
(Madagascar)**

- » *African summer* —Previously published: *Heron's Nest Volume XVII, Number 3: September 2015*

Caleb Mutua (Kenya)

- » *leaking roof...*
- » *campus lawn--* —Previously published: *"The Anvil" 2011*
- » *dusty air--*
- » *funeral speech*

Prince K. Mensah (Ghana)

- » *festival of flies*
- » *a haunting day*
- » *blue white sky*

Nathaniel Ampadu (Ghana)

- » *red corn beer*
- » *millet farm*
- » *farmer's faint whistle*

Patrick Wafula (Kenya)

- » *dark dawn--*
- » *full moon* —Previously published: *Annual Poets' Choice Competition of the Shiki Kukai*

Teddy Kimathi (Kenya)

- » *Savannah woodlands* —
Previously published: *Cattails*, September, 2015

**Roundsquare Chomulet
(Somalia)**

- » *fairy witch*
- » *monsoon rain*

Ali Znaidi (Tunisia)

- » *feeble breeze wafted* —
Previously published: *Boyslut*,
July, 2011
- » *warm sun...* —Previously
published: *Haiku universe*,
September, 2015
- » *pebbles in the pond* —
Previously published: *Ink Sweat and
Tears*, July 2012

Ana Drobot (Romania)

- » *night time*

**Emmanuel-Abdalmasih
Samson (Nigeria)**

- » *walking in the rain*

**Anatoly Kudryavitsky
(Poland/Russia)**

- » *police station* —Previously
published: "Morning at Mount
Ring" Doghouse Books,(2007)

**Richard Nduor Oduku
& Adjei Agyei Baah
(Kenya/Ghana)**

- » *Sorghum harvest*

**Maroin Clarke
(Warren point, Northern
Ireland)**

- » *rough bark*

The Mamba's Submission Guideline

We are looking forward to Africa themed haiku i.e. haiku about African sights and sounds.

- » Haiku must contain clear images, settings and juxtaposition.
- » Haiku must be concise and as brief as possible. (Though 17 syllable haiku are welcome)
- » We encourage experimentation with haiku; therefore one-liners will be considered.
- » We have zero tolerance for plagiarism, profanity, use of vulgar words and politically biased verses.
- » We accept senryu as long as they stick to the human-nature principle.
- » We encourage the use of African season words as opposed to the Japanese kigo.
- » We accept haiga as long as enough copyright evidence is provided for the haiku and picture respectively.
- » Please submit 5 haiku, 5 haiga and 5 senryu at a time.

Submission Window will be open: October 15th, closes January 15th for February Issue; re-opens May 15th to August 15th for September Issue respectively.

The Mamba Journal will be published twice a year: February 15th and September 15th each year.

All submissions must be sent to: africahaikunetwork@gmail.com
With the subject line "The Mamba Submission"

Submitters must include:

- » *Full Name/pen name | Country | City.*

Poems and personal details must be sent in the body of the mail as attachments will not be opened. Submitters should note that two or three weeks may elapse before he/she finally gets a reply from the editor.

Signed

*Emmanuel Jessie Kalusian
Adjei Agyei-Baah*

