

EDITORIAL

The disruption of normal life by the raging COVID-19 pandemic continues unabated in Nigeria. Meetings have been difficult to arrange so the publishing of THE NIGERIAN FIELD has been negatively affected. We are delighted that our Volume 86 (Nos 1 & 2) is out at last for our patient readers and subscribers. But I should say that the Volume boasts of a rich content in our usual arts/environment/science format. In a very lucid style, Prof. John Hall describes sedge collecting in Nigeria through over 300 years, with comments on important and interesting collectors and on the floras documenting their discoveries. Sedges are usually weeds found mostly in damp situations but they are also useful for making household items and are used as food.

The paper by Drs. Nanashaitu Umoru and Stephen Folaranmi focuses on selected paintings of Ademola Ogunajo and inherent creative transformations of the traditional Yorùbá figures, exemplified in the carved wooden sculptures of Lamidi Fakeye. This paper draws parallel analysis from these paintings and their relatedness in form to established canon of Yoruba images. Culture is a depository from which ideas could be drawn, adopted and adapted by the artist, to create his own artistic expression. The study concludes that the Yoruba artistic idiom in which Ogunajo has embedded himself since leaving college affects his artistic expression.

Adedotun Adekile was persuaded to write on the development and growth of his love for gardens, in Kaduna and Ibadan, by Pat Oyelola who was fascinated by Adekile's home garden. What rich colours!

Since the publication of our last volume, we have lost some of our distinguished members. The list includes Chief Raphael Ige Ibigbami, an authority in the academic field of Modern Nigerian art, particularly ceramics, Prof. Jonathan Chukwuemeka Okafor, a globally acclaimed forester and plant taxonomist, Prof. Gabriel Jimoh Afolabi Ojo, a renowned geographer and a past President of the Society. And in April we lost one the great pillars of the Nigerian Field Society, a past President, in the person of Engr. Nat Oyelola. This issue contains tributes to the memory of Chief Ibigbami and Prof. Okafor. There are two book reviews.

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