

## About the Authors

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*Chukwuma Azuonye* was formerly a lecturer in oral literature at the Departments of Linguistics and African Languages in the Universities of Ibadan and Nsukka, where he served as acting head from 1986 to 1988. Since 1992 he has headed the Department of Black Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. His scholarly writings, poetry, and short stories have been published in journals and books in Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

*Sori Saba Jaaje Camara* is Professor of Social Anthropology and Ethnology at the University of Bordeaux II in France. His studies of oral tradition, the nature of utterance, and the "Masters of Speech" include *Gens de la parole* (1975, reprinted 1993) and *Paroles très anciennes* (1982). His current research builds on ten years of interviews in eastern Senegal on incantations, legends, and myths, to discern Mandinka conceptions of the nature, function, and status of speech.

*Rachel I. Fretz*, an instructor in the Writing Program at the University of California at Los Angeles, conducted research on storytelling among the Chokwe of Zaïre in 1976, 1977, 1982, 1983, and 1989 for a doctoral dissertation and subsequent writing. In 1992-93, as the recipient of a Fulbright award, she continued her Chokwe research, this time in Zambia.

*Veronika Görög-Karady* is a member of the French CNRS research team "Language and Culture in West Africa." She has two fields of study, West Africa and her native Hungary.

She has published a study of the image of blacks and whites in African oral literature, the definitive French-language bibliography of African oral literature, and numerous collections of African and Hungarian materials including *Contes d'un tzigane hongrois* (Budapest, 1991). She serves on the editorial board of *Cahiers de Littérature Orale*.

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*Zainab Mohamed Jama* trained at the School of Oriental and African Studies before returning to her native Somalia to work for the United Nations Development Program and the World Food Program. In 1983-92 she was a producer for the BBC World Service. Currently she is writing a book on Somali women.

*Rüdiger Schott* has recently retired as professor of ethnology in the University of Münster/Westphalia, Germany. Between 1966 and 1989 he conducted ethnographic fieldwork among the Balsa of Ghana. He continues to publish his results in European journals; a major collection of Balsa tales is in press.