

**J. P. Clark and the Decolonization
of the Colonial and Postcolonial
African Modernity**



Editors
Hope Eghagha
Solomon Omatsola Azumurana

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ONIPEDÉ FESTUS
MOSES

EDITORS

**HOPE EGHAGHA
SOLOMON OMATSOLA AZUMURANA**



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Azumurana

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Dedication

This collection is, once again, dedicated to the
eternal memory of Emeritus Prof. J. P. Clark
for his prodigious creativity

Acknowledgements

This edited volume is the outcome of the Second J. P. Clark International Conference which was held at the Faculty of Arts, University of Lagos, Nigeria from October 9th – 11th 2024. The conference, which was organized by the Department of English, University of Lagos was themed "J. P. Clark and the Studies in Humanities: Decolonizing the Colonial and Postcolonial African Modernity." The aim of the conference was to draw global and national attention to the different works of J. P. Clark in terms of how Clark deploys them to participate in the ethos of national consciousness and the criticism of the postcolonial African condition as in the case of the other founding fathers of African Literature. Although a renowned writer both locally and internationally, the organizers of the conference felt that Clark's works have not received the critical attention they deserve.

In this collection, therefore, are the works/essays presented in the said conference – the ones which scaled the peer-review process. This is with the exception of the keynote address delivered by Prof. Hope Eghagha (contained in chapter one of this volume) and the interview of Prof. Ebun Clark by Prof. Patrick Oloko (in chapter two). In this wise, we are very grateful to the family of Late Emeritus Prof. J. P. Clark, who in the first instance insisted on and generously supported the organization of the conference to mark the fourth memorial of their patriarch; and in the second instance, the production of this book to mark his fifth memorial.

Equally, we express our profound gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, University of Lagos, Prof. Folasade Tolulope Ogunisola (FAS; OON) for providing the enabling platform for us to host the conference. Without her kind permission, it stands to reason that the conference would not have taken place. Moreover, although she could not be present at the opening ceremony of the conference, she graciously sent a representative in the person of Prof. Ayodele Alesunwa – to whom we are also indebted for

always identifying with us and our programmes. She attended the opening ceremony of the conference, representing the Vice Chancellor and in her capacity as the DVC, Development Services. We also sincerely appreciate the support we received from our colleagues. Without the active support of our colleagues, the conference would not have held.

We also thank the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Prof. Mudashiru Ilupeju for being with us right from the gestation stage of the conference to its full realization and for being present at the opening ceremony of the conference. He sat with us all through the opening ceremony. The Institute of African and Diaspora Studies (IADS) under the Directorship of Prof. Muyiwa Falaye also deserves special mention for supporting us. We also deeply appreciate the following dignitaries: Prof. Egun Clark, Elaiye Clark, Prof. Peju Layiwola, Sefi Ransome-Kuti formerly Seffi Atta and Comrade Abdullahi – all of whom came together with the editors of this volume under the umbrella of JP Clark Memorial Group to brainstorm on the shape the conference was going to take. Not to be ignored is Muhammed Abdullahi, the son of Comrade Abdullahi, who did the first draft of the transcription of Prof. Egun Clark's interview.

Our profound gratitude also goes to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Members of the conference: Profs. Hope Eghagha (the co-convenor of the conference); Dr. Solomon Omatsola Azumurana (LOC Chairman); Dr. Deji Adedara (Secretary); Dr. Omon Osiki (member); and Mr. Joshua Ngbakor – all of whom worked tirelessly to make the conference a success. We also deeply thank Profs Patrick Oloko, Victor Ariole, Augustine Nwagbara, Oladipo Ajiboye, Felicia Ohwovoriole, and Chris Anyokwu for accepting to chair various panel sessions.

This book, however, would not have been possible in the first place without the participants in the conference who presented their works. We are also very grateful to these participants,

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The greatest acknowledgment and thanks, however, goes to He who has preserved and sustained our lives.

Hope Eghagha

Solomon Omatsola Azumurana