

CONTENTS

Preface v

Introduction xi

1 DEATH, DYING AND CUSTOM

Some African Examples

P-J. Ezeh 1

Introduction.....	1
Death and Society.....	2
As in Life, So in the Afterlife	3
Death and Ideology.....	5
Conclusion	7
References.....	8

2 CELEBRATING TRAGEDY

Art and Theatre in the Anatomy of Death and Funeral in Africa

Chuu Krydz Ikwuemesi 11

Thanatology in Africa.....	13
Evolution and Essence of Burial and Funeral.....	21

The Politics and Sociology of Death 24

Burial and Funeral as Art and Theatre 29

Conclusion 46

Notes and References 47

References..... 50

Internet sources 51

3 INTERROGATING IGBO MEMORIALIZATION OF THE DEAD
The Conflation of Tradition and Modernity,
and of Continuity and Change
Chike Aniakor 53

The Era of Ancestral Charter 56

The Era of Post Ancestral Charter..... 64

Conclusion 70

Bibliography 70

4 OUR FINAL OUTFIT
Performance and Display of Dogon Funerary Textiles in
Mali’s Bandiagara Region
Jessica Hurd 73

Classifying Dogon Funerary Textiles..... 75

Origins of the Wolo-débé 85

Reading Dogon Funerary Blankets 88

Wealth, Power, and the Wolo-débé	91
Symbolic Raw Materials	93
Wolo-débé as a Symbol of Mutual Responsibility.....	98
A Cloth Effigy Representing the Spirit of the Living	100
A Cloth Effigy Representing the Cadaver	103
Concluding Remarks	107
Endnotes.....	108

5 PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION, AND THE SOCIETY OF THE LIVING AND THE DEAD IN EBIRA

John Picton 119

John Picton.....	119
1. Pictures at an exhibition?	119
2. Cloth and the burial of the dead:	125
3. Counting the years	129
4. The ancestors re-embodied	135
5. The locus of performance; Okene, Kuroko and Opopoco compared	139
6. Authority in performance	147
7. Pictures at an exhibition revisited.....	149

Acknowledgements	152
References:.....	153
Illustrations:	154

6 AESTHETICS, EMOTION, AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY
IN THE EUE KINKA FUNERAL
Michael Frishkopf 157

The Character of Eve Performance	157
Eve music and dance in Eve funerals.....	162
Fieldwork.....	164
Eve Ritual.....	167
The Eve Drum.....	170
Eve dance.....	170
Eve percussion music.....	172
Eve song.....	177
Lebene's Kinka Drum.....	181
Ritual: the Lebene Kinka Funeral.....	183
Conclusions.....	185
Eve Aesthetics and Social Solidarity	191

References	192
Endnotes.....	193

7 THE AKAN FUNERAL AS A PERFORMANCE
OF THE SOCIAL ORDER
Mariano Pavanello 195

Introduction	195
Akan funerals, Nzema ezEne	196
The Akan funeral as a display of rank and wealth	197
Aesthetic, religious or political?	200
The display of the social order	201
Two episodes from my personal ethnography	206
The aesthetics of politics – a conclusion.....	207
Notes	209
References.....	212

8 PERFORMANCE OF ỤMUADA/ỤMUOKPU AT FUNERAL
CEREMONIES IN ANAMBRA STATE
Felicia N. Ibemesi 215

Introduction	215
“Nwanne ozu na-asa ozu ahụ”¹ : The Social and Political Functions of Ụmuada, in Nkpor, Neni and their Neighbours	216

Certification of the Members of the Bereaved Family and Communication with the Dead and the Living	217
Performances of Umuada during Wake-keep and Burial Ceremonies	220
Conclusion	222
Notes	222
Bibliography	223
Oral Interviews with Umuada from Nkpor, Umuoji, Neni, Adazi-Ani	223
Appendix	223
Some funeral songs under four main Themes.....	223
A. Solidarity songs in Igbo Literal meanings in English	223

9 FUNERARY PORTRAITURE ON EWE TOMBS
IN TOGO AND GHANA
C. Angelo Micheli 227

Some historical traits and cultural aspects	229
Death and funerals	231
Kpetata, the painted funerary monuments of the Ewe	233
The art of funerary portraits	245
The funerary portrait: memory of the dead, and link with the living.....	263

From photo portrait to tomb image.....	281
References.....	289
Endnotes.....	291
10 THE POETICS OF WAILING AND ULULATION AMONG THE IGBO OF EASTERN NIGERIA	
Chinyere L. Ngonebu and Adaora G. Nwodo 295	
Introduction.....	295
Wailing and Ululation in Igbo Land	295
The Dirges.....	296
Dirge 1.....	297
Translation.....	297
Dirge 2.....	298
Translation.....	298
Dirge 3.....	298
Translation.....	298
Dirge 4.....	299
Translation	300
Dirge 5.....	301

XXIV . CONTENTS

Translation	301
Dirge 6.....	302
Translation.....	302
Dirge 7.....	303
Translation.....	304
Dirge 8.....	304
Translation.....	305
The Poetics of Wailing and Ululation in Igbo Funeral Rites.....	306
The Vocals	306
Diction	306
Literary and Stylistic Devices.....	309
Structure	311
Conclusion	313
Notes	314
References.....	314

11 "I'LL WALK THROUGH DE GRAVEYARD"
Foundations of Transition Performances in
the African Diasporic United States
Grey Gundaker 317

Introduction.....317

A Performative Philosophy of Transition.....319

Background: History and Theory.....324

Transatlantic Performance and a Performed Protest
against Improper Burial.....330

I'll walk through de graveyard: Mobilized Material Arts.....332

Bibliography.....338

Endnotes.....340

Contributors 345

Index 348