

Editorial Introduction

The maiden issue of this journal was published in 1975 by the East African Literature Bureau. The editors of that issue were some of the most distinguished authorities in the history of Uganda. They were: Semakula M. M. Kiwanuka, Benon Ruggyema and Samwiri Karugire with a lot of input by A.B Kasozi, Phares Mutibwa, and B. Nyeko. At the time it was first published, its vision was ‘not to increase the number of journals in African history, but as a useful forum for historical research.’

Unfortunately, a few years after its publication, the political environment in Uganda became unsafe for academicians and most of the brains that had been behind its launch were forced to flee into exile outside Uganda. In the late 1980s, Godfrey Okoth and Mwambutsya-Ndebese tried to revive publication and published issues annually from 1988-1991, but its publication was unable to be sustained partly due to reasons related to the economy at that time.

This issue which is an initiative towards its revival was inspired by the enthusiasm of the celebrations of one hundred years of Makerere University’s existence. It not only aims at paying tribute to its founders, but also to offer a forum for sharing of the work of the Department of History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies, and accordingly, the journal has expanded its mandate beyond history to include the other fields. This issue includes five book reviews on recent publications focused on Uganda’s history, two special reports on critical developments on Ugandan archaeology and history writing, and four articles touching on different aspects of Uganda’s history.

We would like to express our gratitude to our colleagues in and outside of Uganda for their useful guidance, including our board of editors for their efforts, the generous colleagues who anonymously reviewed the articles, as well as Makerere University Library, Makerere Directorate for ICT Support, and the staff of Makerere University Press who worked to make this issue a reality.

We trust that the re-publication will not only educate but also stimulate scholarship and interest in the undocumented aspects of Uganda’s history.

Dr. Deo Katono

Editor-in-Chief, *Makerere Historical Journal*
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