

It is official! (Posted on Facebook 5/14/2020)

The Board of Ohio University Press unanimously approved my latest book "Animality and Colonial Subjecthood in Africa: The Human and Nonhuman Creatures of Nigeria" for publication in their "New African Histories Series." I have dedicated the book to some famous animals in Nigerian history: Lekewogbe and Chuku (dogs); Jubilee (horse); Haruna and Imade (gorillas); Alagba (tortoise); and Oni Ile Delesolu (crocodile).

The series editors (Jean Allman, Allen Isaacman, and Derek Peterson) thought that descriptive terms such as "Outstanding," "persuasive," "emotional," "boundary transgressing," and "original" used by the external readers in describing the book are not "hyperbolic." They note that the book is "grounded in a rigorous and thorough reading of the colonial archive and is, stylistically, a pleasure to read. In short, it has the potential to be a real path-blazer."

The readers recommended some useful revisions, which I have started making.

Excerpts from External Reports

Reader 1

"Outstanding book. His sources range from court cases to veterinary records, Colonial Office written files, and newspaper reports, out of which he retrieves numerous individual accounts of animals – presented as 'biographies' – in a collection of engaging, sometimes surprising, and always brilliantly retold stories that are woven into an accomplished narrative about animals as colonial subjects in Nigeria. Out of this comes a story that is emotional and aesthetic as well as political and economic... Through meticulous research in the colonial written archives, Aderinto brings together stories of horses, donkeys, dogs, cats, cows, goats, chickens, leopards and gorillas under varying degrees of human ownership and control and argues that their presence and actions are vital to our understanding of colonialism."

Reader 2

"This book transgresses boundaries...Methodologically it is a solid archival work...It is well-written and interesting enough that the audience will go beyond historians of Nigeria...I am very impressed that an author who lacked much of an interest in animals has built up strong expertise in areas ranging from rabies to horse bits... It was my pleasure to read this promising manuscript. I look forward to seeing it in print. It has the potential to become foundational in the field of African animal history."

Table of Contents

Introduction: Animals and Other Nigerians

Part I: Loyal Companions, Tasty Food, Distinguished Athletes, Political Beings

Chapter 1: A Meaty Colony: Nigerians and the Animals They Ate

Chapter 2: "The Heart of the North": Animal Aesthetics, Imperial Spectacle, and the Political Economy of the Horse and Donkey

Chapter 3: "Dogs Are the Most Useful Animals": A Canine History of Colonial Nigeria

Chapter 4: "The Nigerian Political Zoo": Animal Art, Modernism, and the Visual Narrative of Nation-Building

Part II: Pathology, Empathy, Anxiety

Chapter 5: "Beware of Dogs": Rabies and the Elastic Geographies of Fear

Chapter 6: The Lion King in the Cage: Nature, Wildlife Conservation, and the Modern Zoo

Chapter 7: "Let Us Be Kind to Our Dumb Friends": Animal Cruelty in the Discourse of Colonial Modernity

Chapter 8: "A Great Evil Ritual Murder": The Save-the-Nigerian-Horse-and-Donkey Campaign
Conclusion and Epilogue

Image: Cartoon by Akinola Lasekan, 1958.

