

R. A. Sargent

**Found in the Fog of the Male Myth:
Analysing Female Political Roles in
Pre-Colonial Africa**

African historiography has rapidly grown and matured since the 1960s. However, the documentation and analysis of the pre-colonial past has been very uneven. The political role and actions of women have largely been ignored or denigrated by a male-generated set of myths. Two examples in the political history of the interlacustrine region serve to partially dispel those notions, and the historical contributions of both Akech and Daga illustrate that there were powerful female political figures in pre-colonial Africa.

The brief substantiation of a revisionist history creates a compelling request for a reconsideration of the African past without the overriding male mythology.

**Trouve dans «la brume» du mythe male:
une analyse des rôles politiques de la
femme dans l'Afrique précoloniale**

L'historiographie africaine est en pleine expansion depuis les années 60. Cependant, la documentation et l'analyse du passé précolonial ont été très inégales. Grâce à la domination des mythes de type mâle le rôle politique et les activités des femmes ont été soit négligés soit déconsidérés. Deux exemples tirés de l'histoire de la région interlacustre aideront à dissiper ces partis pris. Les contributions d'Akech et de Daga prouvent qu'il existait des femmes politiques d'une grande importance dans l'Afrique précoloniale.

À la lumière de ces considérations révisionnistes on se doit de réexaminer le passé africain, en le dépouillant des mythes mâles dominants.

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Voice of a Pioneer Honoured



Bill McNeil

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The Canadian Oral History Association 1991 Conference held in Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Ontario, 3-4 May 1991, concluded with a fitting reception for the 75 delegates in historic Campbell House, 160 Queen Street, West. At this event, co-hosted by the Archives of Ontario, COHA President, Wilma MacDonald presented Bill McNeil with an oak plaque inscribed with the words: "Presented to BILL McNEIL, broadcaster and author, in recognition of over thirty-five years of preserving the voices of Canada's pioneers, by the Canadian Oral History Association, May 1991." Bill McNeil, formerly from Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, is host of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's national radio program "Fresh Air," which features his "Voice of the Pioneer". He is the author of *Voice of the Pioneer* (1978); *Voice of the Pioneer, Volume two: More First-Person Accounts from CBC's Best-Loved Radio Program* (1984); *John Fisher: "Mr. Canada"* (1983); and co-author with Morris Wolfe of *Signing On: The Birth of Radio in Canada* (1982).

At the 1991 COHA conference, McNeil chaired the final session, which was devoted to issues related to "Writing and Broadcasting Oral History."