

founder and editor-in-chief of *Awa: Revue de la femme noire*, her poems have been collected in two chapbooks, *Poèmes africaines* (Centre d'Art National Français, Paris-Toulouse, 1965), which was awarded the Prix des Poètes Sénégalais de Langue Française in 1964 when in manuscript form, and *Kadda* (Imprimerie Diop, Dakar, 1966). She is represented in *Nouvelle somme de la poésie du monde noir* (Présence Africaine, Paris, 1966), Norman Shapiro (ed.), *Négritude: Black Poetry from Africa and the Caribbean* (October House, Stonington, Connecticut, 1970), G. Bonn (ed.), *Le Sénégal écrit* (H. Erdmann, Tubingen, and Nouvelles Editions Africaines, Dakar, 1980) and in *Women Poets of the World*. She has also published poems and stories for children.

Gcina Mhlophe (South Africa) born Nokugcina ('the last one') in 1959 in Hammarsdale. She used a public toilet in a Johannesburg park, during recess from her factory job, to write. A well-known actress at the Market Theatre, she has also acted at the Edinburgh Festival, and toured Britain, Europe, and the USA. She plays a leading role in the film, *A Place of Weeping*, and she has acted in the following plays: *The Nurse* (1982); *Black Dog*, *Born in the RSA*, for which she won an Obie Award (published in *Woza Afrika: An Anthology of South African Plays*, George Braziller, New York, 1986), and her own, *Have You Seen Zandile?* She is anthologised in *Sometimes When It Rains* (Pandora Press, London, 1987), *Spare Rib* and *A Land Apart* (Faber & Faber, London/Viking Penguin, New York, 1987).

Mwana Kupona binti Msham (Kenya) c.1810–c.1860; pioneer nineteenth-century Swahili poet from Pate Island. Widow of Sheikh Mataka ibn Mbaraka (1779–1856), a famous personality in Swahili political history, who conducted guerrilla warfare against Saiyid Said, the Sultan of Zanzibar. Mwana Kupona had two children by Mataka, a boy, Muhammad bin Sheikh, and a girl, Mwana Hashima binti Sheikh, for whom in 1858, in anticipation of her own death, she wrote her famous 'Poem of Mwana Kupona' for her daughter's social edification.

Micere Githae Mugo (Kenya); poet, critic and playwright.

her education in Canada, she lectured at Nairobi University until her detention by the Kenyan government. After her release, she went into exile in Zimbabwe where she lectures at the University of Zimbabwe. Her volume of poems, *Daughter of My People*, Sing (Kenya Literature Bureau, Nairobi, 1976) has been literally 'detained' since her own imprisonment. She published a play, *The Long Illness of Ex-Chief Kiti* (1976) and collaborated with Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o on the play, *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi* (Heinemann, Oxford, 1976). In 1978 she published *Visions of Africa*, a critical study.

Mailika O'Lahsen (Algeria) b. 1930 in Algiers, her poems have been included in *Espoir et paroles: poèmes algériens* (Seghers, Paris, 1964).

Molara Ogundipe-Leslie (Nigeria) b. 1941, was educated at Ibadan University where she has also been a Senior Lecturer. A well-known literary critic, she has published a book of poems, *Sew the Old Days and Other Poems* (Evans Brothers, Ibadan, 1985) and has been anthologised in *The Penguin Book of Modern African Verse* (1984). She was Head of the English Department at Ogun State University, Nigeria but she is currently Director of the Women's Studies Program at Indiana University – Purdue University in Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA.

Marjorie Oludhe Macgoye (Kenya) b. 1928 in England, obtained an MA from the University of London, and went to Kenya where she married and became a Kenyan citizen at Independence. A retired missionary bookseller, she has been widely published in East African and British journals as well as such anthologies as *Introduction to East African Poetry*, *Summer Fires: New Poetry of Africa* (Heinemann, London, 1983), *Boundless Voices* and *The Heinemann Book of African Poetry in English* (1990). Her novels include *Growing up at Lina School* (OUP, 1971), *Murder in Majengo* (OUP, 1972), and *Coming to Birth* (Virago, London, 1986), winner of the Sinclair Award for Fiction. She has also published *Song of Nyarloka and Other Poems* (OUP, Nairobi, 1977), *The Story of*