

Abstracts and keywords

**It Is Not the Earth that Brings Its Gift to the Rain, But the Rain that Brings Its Gift to the Earth  
(Congolese Proverb)**

by Francesca Romana Paci

Freshwater is essential to life on the African continent and yet it is not a foremost theme in African literature. Water is present in countless works by African authors, but it never is a main theme. This contribution examines a wide range of fiction and scholarly writings in English and French from multiple countries in search of water, concluding that it is a topic of interest that is sometimes treated as a metaphor of problems and human experiences.

Keywords: Water, African literature, Tswana Solomon Tshekisho Plaatje, Nadine Gordimer, Mariama Bâ

**The Whole World in a Drop of Water: the Poetic Work of Douglas Livingstone**

by Marco Fazzini

Livingstone's major poetical writings were published during some of the most dramatic South African events, such as the bloodsheds that characterised the period from the 1960s onwards, most tellingly the killings in Soweto in 1976. Even so, he did not allow politics to dominate. Livingstone's "other job," that one of the scientist working on the pollution of the Indian Ocean, off the coast of Durban, helped him to mix his metaphysical approach to life with an ironical look at himself and his writing. Purity was the guiding principle of Livingstone's wit, whether toward writing verse, or contemplating the planet in its entirety, which was never far from his thoughts.

Keywords: Douglas Livingstone, water, pollution, South Africa, planet

**Postcolonial Waters: Ecology, Memory, and Identity in Angolan and Mozambican Literature**

by Jessica Falconi

This article offers a brief cartography of the narrative role of water in Angolan and Mozambican literature through a comparative reading of the novels *O desejo de Kianda* by the Angolan Pepetela; *De Rios Velhos e Guerrilheiros. I. O Livro dos Rios* by Luandino Vieira; *Água. Uma novela rural* and *Ponta Gea*, both by the Mozambican João Paulo Borges Coelho. Within the theoretical framework of ecocriticism, the analysis shows that water is crucial to narrating post-colonial Angola and Mozambique.

Keywords: Water, ecocriticism, water spirits, Angolan fiction, Mozambican fiction

**From World to Global Literature: Writing on the Rain in Africa in the Third Decade of 20th-Century Literature**

by Mina M. Đurić

This article activates questions of sur-literary phenomena which may present some of the essential focuses in tracing world literature to its character of globalisation. The central hypothesis of this research suggests the possibilities of water literary studies and the qualities of interdisciplinary, comparative approaches as perspectives of the development of global literary concepts. Analysing texts written on the rain in or regarding Africa by Blixen, Petrović, and Dimitrijević during the third decade of the 20th century, this article marks a potential point from which the aspects of sur-literary concepts have traced the idea of world literature to the lines of global culture.

Keywords: world literature, global literature, the rain in Africa, the third decade of the 20th-century literature, interdisciplinary approach

### **On the Other Side of the Sea: Fishing, Leaving, Fighting in Senegal**

by Elena Giacomelli & Pierluigi Musarò

The article focuses on the sea as a source of support (fisheries); as a place of transit (migration); and as a changing natural habitat (climate change) and how these three factors interact with each other. This article, taking Senegal as a case study and crossing the Atlantic Ocean, goes beyond the same to analyze intersectional dynamics linking fisheries, migration and climate change.

Keywords: Senegal, climate crisis, migrations, borders, fisheries

### **Tribal Warfare and Climate Change in the Jade Sea: Ecopoetics for Future**

by Mattia Fumagalli

In Africa, water has always been considered an element of identity and spirituality, as well as of settlement and survival. At the foot of Mount Kulal, in Kenya, lies Lake Turkana, locally known as “Jade Sea.” In the last fifty years, changing climatic conditions have caused the region’s temperature to increase and the lake to shrink. Water scarcity has triggered a battle for survival among the local populations, with destabilising inter-regional migratory phenomena and tribal clashes. One of those involves the nomadic Turkanas, who are pastoralists, and the Ethiopian Dassanechs, also pastoralists on Lake Turkana. This article uses water as a foil to discuss the ecopoetic relationship of resilient tribes with their changing environment.

Keywords: water, Ethiopia, Kenya, Turkana, climate change

### **The Issue of Water Resource Management in the Niger River Basin in Guinea**

by Mohamed Sacko

This article focuses on the problem of water resource management in the Niger basin in Guinea with the aim of proposing some solutions for a sustainable management of the river. Based on documentary analysis, surveys and observation, the study identifies different causes of the current crisis of the Niger River, from the pressure on its resources, to conflicts, to environmental changes, to socio-economic and demographic factors, to public policies.

Keywords: River Niger, management, natural resources, conflicts, climate change

### **Water Landscapes: Exploration and Missionary Settlement in Africa**

by Luigi Gaffuri

This essay considers the contribution of Italian missionaries to the exploration of the sources of the Nile, and the strategic function of water in the process of evangelization in Sudan between the middle and the last quarter of the Nineteenth century. It focuses on the travel reports of Angelo Vinco and Stanislao Carcereri, and especially on testimony of their activity of proselytism, from which relevant geographical aspects emerge.

Keywords: Italian missionaries, evangelization in Sudan, exploration and geographical aspects, sources of the Nile, function of water

### **Praying to the Sound of the Waves: El Hadj Omar Tall on the Atlantic Coast in Southern Senegambia**

by Monica Labonia & Mamadou Lamine Sané

On the Senegambian Atlantic coast of Southern Senegambia, the eponymous sanctuaries: *Keñekeñe jáamén* located in Gunjur and Kafountine are dedicated to El Hadj Omar Tall. Nowadays, a multitude of devotees of the Tijâniyya go there. Their identical denomination in the *Manding* language and their landscape similarity invite us to reflect on how the characterization of the geographical environment of these sites constitutes an innovative approach to understanding the Tijâniyya brotherhood.

Keywords: Omar Tall, Tijâniyya, Southern Senegambia, environment, sanctuary.

### **The Ethiopian Renaissance Dam: Blue Nile's Water as a Source of Prosperity and Conflict**

by Emanuele Oddi

The paper explores the link between the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and the medieval legend, which attributed the ability to divert the flow of the Blue Nile to the Ethiopian rulers. Nowadays, myth has (partially) become reality. Blue Nile water, a peaceful element in the past, is at the root of internal conflicts and international disputes. The paper combines historical and Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) methodology.

Keywords: Ethiopia, GERD, dam, Zagwe, Egypt

### **“The Day We Were Bound for Malta”: The War Poetry of the African Auxiliary Corps in the Mediterranean During the Second World War**

di Ettore Morelli

African soldiers took part in the Second World War as recruits of European empires, but their contribution still fails to attract a wider recognition in the countries where they fought. The article studies the deployment of the African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps from modern Botswana, Lesotho,

and eSwatini in the Mediterranean and Italy. It focuses in particular on their war poetry and on the shipwreck of the *Erinpura*, where hundreds of them lost their lives.

Keywords: Second World War, African soldiers, Erinpura, African Auxiliary Pioneer Corps, war poetry

Dossier - Cantieri

### **Droughts in the Somali-inhabited Areas of the Horn of Africa and Climate Change**

by Jama Musse Jama

The Horn of Africa is yet again faced with a catastrophic drought worse than the one in 2011 as after three years of failed rains, more than 23 million people according to the WFP, face severe hunger. Mortality and malnutrition rates also remain a serious cause for concern. The mostly agropastoral Somalis who make their home in Somaliland, Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Djibouti are among the most affected populations by this anticipated catastrophe.

The climate-induced drought facing the Horn of Africa is aggravated by the fact that no one speaks out for the Somali people, at least from Somaliland and Somalia, at the tables where major decisions on this global collective responsibility are discussed.

### **Harnessing the Power of Art and Community to Tackle Water Problems in Nairobi:**

An interview by Africa e Mediterraneo with Kairos Futura

by Kairos Futura and Africa e Mediterraneo

Kairos Futura is an artist-led organization tackling ecological challenges in Kenya. Their project Nairobi Space Station addresses water scarcity and pollution in the Kenyan capital, where many don't have access to clean water. The initiative involves community organizations in implementing affordable, bottom-up solutions to this problem, while also educating them on environmental responsibility. By activating art to combat environmental degradation Kairos Futura promotes accessible bottom up sustainability.

Keywords: water scarcity, Kairos Futura, activism, community activism, sustainability

### **Composting: a Response Against the Desiccation of Fertile Soils in the Desert Areas of Tunisia**

by Paolo Agostini

In areas like the desertic oasis of Tunisia, circular economy is not merely an option: it is a necessity, considered the scarcity of natural resources and the rapid disappearance of the existing ones. The project "*Les Oasis de El Ouidane*" was born to implement a collection system of the organic waste in the small municipality of Degache, and to build a composting site where this fraction can be treated and transformed into compost.

Keywords: Composting, circular economy, separate waste collection, waste management, resource efficiency

**Musei**

## **Processes of Heritage-making of Slavery Memory in West Africa: The Case of the Cacheu Slavery Memorial (Guinea-Bissau)**

by Claudio Arbore

The Cacheu Slavery Memorial project aims to develop the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the region of the same name, closely linked to the birth of the Atlantic world and the slave trade, with the objective of promoting local development through the economy of culture and tourism practices, from diasporic and international to local. The tourist attractiveness of the Slavery Memorial is developed at different scales (local, regional, international) thanks to the trans-scale capacity for action that the NGOs promoting the project can develop. The Cacheu memorial attempts to reconstruct the logic of memory and history in the relationship between the memory of places and the creation of places of memory.

Keywords: memory, slavery, identity, local development, Guinea-Bissau