

# Contents

|   |      |
|---|------|
| List of Plates and Figures  | viii |
| Preface   | ix   |
| <b>PART I: ESSAYS</b>   |      |
| CHAPTER ONE: Agyeman Premeh before the Exile, <i>T. C. McCaskie</i>                         |      |
| Introduction  | 3    |
| Kinship, Royalty and the Birth of Agyeman Premeh  | 3    |
| Agyeman Premeh's Childhood  | 6    |
| Agyeman Premeh, Yaa Kyaa, and Civil War   | 9    |
| Agyeman Premeh, Asante, and the British   | 15   |
| CHAPTER TWO: Agyeman Premeh in the Seychelles, 1900–1924,                                   |      |
| <i>A. Adu Boahen</i>  |      |
| Introduction  | 21   |
| Daily Life at Le Rocher: Asante in Microcosm  | 23   |
| Education, Christianity, and Modernity  | 26   |
| Agyeman Premeh, Asante, and Repatriation  | 29   |
| Homecoming  | 40   |
| CHAPTER THREE: Agyeman Premeh's Return from Exile,<br>1924–1931, <i>Emmanuel Akyeampong</i> |      |
| Introduction  | 43   |
| Our King is Back! But What Kind of King?  | 44   |
| British Colonial Rule in Asante   | 47   |
| Renegotiating ‘Kingship’ in Colonial Asante: Agyeman<br>Premeh, 1924–31                     | 49   |
| Conclusion  | 55   |
| CHAPTER FOUR: Agyeman Premeh as Author: Textual History,<br><i>Ivor Wilks</i>               |      |
| Literacy in Asante before the Exile <sup>†</sup>  | 57   |
| Literacy and the Exiles   | 59   |
| History of the Text of <i>HAK</i>   | 62   |
| Genesis of the New Edition  | 66   |
| Establishing a Text of <i>HAK</i>   | 68   |
| <i>HAK</i> , A Related Text, and Other Pieces   | 69   |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>PART II: THE SEYCHELLES WRITINGS</b> <i>transcribed and presented by Nancy Lawler, T. C. McCaskie and Ivor Wilks</i> | 83  |
| Conventions   | 83  |
| <b>CHAPTER FIVE: Historical Pieces</b>  |     |
| The Arrival of Ankyewa Nyame at Asantemanso   | 85  |
| Ankyewa Nyame and the Gathering of the Clans ( <i>Mmusua</i> )  | 86  |
| The Reigns of Akyampon Tenten, Twum, Antwi, and Kwabia Anwanfi  | 89  |
| The Reign of Oti Akenten  | 91  |
| Osei Tutu at Denkyira   | 93  |
| The First Domaa War   | 96  |
| The Reign of Obiri Yeboa  | 97  |
| Osei Tutu Succeeds Obiri Yeboa  | 100 |
| Osei Tutu Defeats the Domaa   | 101 |
| Reorganisation of the Kumase Army   | 102 |
| The Defeat of Asiedu Papaa Kesee  | 103 |
| The Dispute with Denkyira   | 104 |
| Okomfo Anokye and the Preparations for the Denkyira War   | 105 |
| The Denkyira War  | 107 |
| The Elmina Tribute  | 109 |
| The War with Adanse   | 110 |
| The Denkyira Rebellion  | 110 |
| The Attack on Kaase   | 111 |
| The Attack on Tafo  | 111 |
| The Attack on Amakom  | 112 |
| Osei Tutu and the Succession  | 113 |
| <b>CHAPTER SIX: Ethnographic Pieces</b>   |     |
| Introduction  | 115 |
| The Akan "Cities"   | 115 |
| The <i>Ntɔrɔ</i> and Soul-Washing   | 116 |
| The Calendar  | 117 |
| The Origins of Apafram  | 118 |
| The Origins of <i>Atɔpere</i> and the Adanse-Denkyira Conflict  | 119 |
| The "Reserve" Asantehenes   | 122 |
| The Funeral of an Asantehene  | 123 |
| The Division of Revenues  | 125 |
| The Akwamu Factor in the Rise of Asante   | 125 |
| <b>CHAPTER SEVEN: Office Lists and Genealogies</b>  |     |
| Office Lists: Introduction  | 127 |
| The Genealogies   | 129 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| The Pre-Asante Rulers   | 129 |
| The Descendants of Manu   | 131 |
| The Census of “Royals”  | 138 |
| <b>CHAPTER EIGHT: Memoirs</b>   |     |
| Introduction  | 147 |
| The Petition of 1913  | 147 |
| The Memoir of 1922–23   | 150 |
| History and Apologia  | 159 |
| <b>CHAPTER NINE: Reporting to the Living, Accounting for the Dead</b> |     |
| Agyeman Premeh’s Report of 1925                                       | 175 |
| The Disposition of the Dead   | 182 |
| The Matter of the “Brass Pan”   | 185 |
| <b>PART III: WORKS CITED</b>  | 193 |
| <b>PART IV: CONCORDANCE</b>   | 197 |