
Introduction:

This list began life before the world went on-line. It dates from BPC – Before the Personal Computer became the default tool of the student and researcher.

I began to put it together when those interested in keeping up-to-date with events in Nigeria – including coverage of Wole Soyinka’s publications, productions, activities and statements – had to travel, had to visit libraries and to spend and time in archives. It was a period dominated by the print-media when, for those based in the UK, West Africa - ‘of blessed memory’ enjoyed considerable authority as a ‘journal of record’. Dear dead days, unknown to many; almost beyond recall for others.

The recent years this list has existed in various states and in various forms; it has existed on different computers and in different programmes. In reading through it during 2013/ 2014 - and in using on-line resources to resolve, or try to resolve, queries, I became acutely aware of inconsistencies and shortcomings. I have, however, permitted this ‘virtual document’ to go out in its present form because, although it ‘belongs to yesterday’, it may still prove of some use for the present and future. Furthermore, I have been persuaded that sharing a ‘work in progress’ is more useful than holding it back while trying to make it a slightly longer list.

Soyinka and his work has attracted so much comment, on so many fora, and in so many languages that a list of this sort does not gather more than a fraction of what has been written. The fact that almost all the entries in this list are from English-language sources draws attention to just one of its very many limitations! Nevertheless, I hope that it will prove to be of some use.

I would be grateful for feedback from those who visit these ‘pages’, and I welcome suggestions about how they can be made more useful.


Abbreviations used in this section
ALAB – African Literature Association Bulletin
ALT – African Literature Today
ANA – Association of Nigerian Authors
ANAR – Association of Nigerian Authors’ Review
BALE – Black African Literature in English, a k a Lindfors’ Bibliography, a series of volumes covering different years,
BL – Berth Lindfors, see BALE
CANR – Contemporary Authors New Revised Series (Detroit)
CEAf – Cahiers d’Études Africaines (Paris)
C E and S – Commonwealth Essays and Studies
ComQ – Commonwealth Quarterly
DAI - Dissertation Abstracts International
EACLALS – European Association for Commonwealth Language and Literature Studies.
EJOLLS – Ekpoma Journal of Language and Literary Studies (Ekpoma, Nigeria)
FRSC – Federal Road Safety Corps
GLS - Guardian Literary Series (Lagos)
LHU – Literary Half-Yearly (Mysore)
LC – Library of Congress
Lang and S – Language and Style (Flushing NY).
MLA – Modern Language Association
OSRSC – Oyo State Road Safety Corps
PAWA – Pan-African Writers’ Association (based in Accra)
RAL – Research in African Literatures.
RELS – Review of English and Literary Studiers (Ibadan)
RSC – Road Safety Corps
SAP – Structural Adjustment Programme
WAACLALS - West African Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies Journal. (Short-lived, Canadian financed – I believe.)
WLT – World Literature Today
YWES – Year’s Work in English Studies
Z-A - Zaïre-Afrique (Kinshasa)

See TIMES July 31 G 5a; TLS Sept 23 1042 a 1988*


?Anon. "Cocktail Circuit". The Guardian (Lagos), 15 May, B 3. (Columnist relates how Vera Ifudu introduced Soyinka and Chinweizu: Soyinka said “So, you are the Chinweizu.” Chinweizu replied "So you are the Wole.” Soyinka: "You must take the time to study literature seriously." Chinweizu: "Maybe another kind of literature.")

Anon, and photo by Bayo Ewuoso, in The Guardian, 6 July. Shows Soyinka with Michael Manley, former Prime Minister of Jamaica, Obasanjo, and Alex Ibru, publisher of The Guardian at Obasanjo's farm on 5th - for 5th Anniversary of the paper.

Anon. "Soyinka blasts critics." Daily Times (Lagos), 18 August, 8-9. (Soyinka interviewed on Oyo State TV 'Viewpoint' programme: said he had decided to serve the present administration because of the democratic stance and its transition to civil rule programme.' Also said he regarded criticisms of his position as 'parochial and self-centred', and observed that 'the soul of the average Nigerian is corrupt.")
Anon. "Soyinka calls for prison watch committee." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 19 August, 13. (Statement made when answering questions in Ogun Television's 'Hot Seat'; said that the Committee should have full authority to carry out functions', and that prison conditions were 'like a reply to Rafindadi's detention camp'; too many prisoners die; he had begun to think that his 'stint in prison ... was real luxury compared to the report that has been coming out'. He praised the Council for Civil Liberties and similar organisations for finding out about conditions.)


Anon. "Search for Dele's killers gets boost." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 20 December, 1. (Soyinka spoke at a function to mark the second anniversary of the death of Dele Giwa. The occasion was held at NUJ Light House, Adeyemo Alakija Street, Ikeja, and Soyinka donated N50,000.00 - in addition to the N20,000.00 offered during the first anniversary of the murder, for information about the killers. He also referred to intimidation and persecution of Fawehinmi, Giwa's lawyer. The previous year Giwa had, posthumously, been awarded a trophy donated by Soyinka for investigative journalism.)


Agu, Ogonna. "Soyinka won't be left alone." *The Guardian*, 6 July 1988, p.13. (A very confused article which makes references to Soyinka's involvement with road safety - initially in Ondo (sic) State, the alleged radio station hold up 'on the eve of an election like a fanatic for democracy...' Links Soyinka strongly with Awolowo: 'There was no doubt that he had his admiration for Obafemi Awolowo and would want to fight to see him come to power.' A confused account of Soyinka’s acceptance of the national honour after the Nobel and of the Giwa Events. There tore, on that fateful day, this man of guts craned his neck before the highlights of officialdom and accepted his decoration while the putrid air of a cold murder rose out of the window (sic) and raged in the minds of his countrymen.' This is followed by a valid comparison between the confusion and complexity of Soyinka's plays and his life. JG)


Ajayi, Wale. "Sowande's open letter to Soyinka." *Vanguard*, 14 May, 1988, p.6. (Defends Soyinka against Sowande's suggestion that he "had given way to the politician in him" by accepting the RSC post. Also defends Soyinka against Sowande regarding the cartoon and his remarks about SAP.)

Ajibola, V O A. *Akinniola Keynote Reviews on ‘The Lion and the Jewel’*. Ibadan: Akin Akiniola Associates. (Study aid.)
Akerel, Olu. "Wole Soyinka sings at Nico Noga Hilton Hotel." Sunday Concord (Lagos), 12 June 1988, pp 1, 10. (Report on Soyinka singing with ‘Babs’; songs included "Taxi Driver" and "Mona Lisa"; refers to a lobster dinner and names others present; quotes Soyinka on Chinweizu: 'This man lives on Wole Soyinka ... I don't reckon with him at all.' References to the address to RSC corpers given earlier in the day. This report provoked a reply from, I think, Ogunbiyi, and contributes to the Chinweizu Debate - they had recently met for the first time .JG)


Aliyu, Abdu. "An Open Letter to Wole Soyinka." National Concord (Lagos), 26 April 1988, p. 3. (On his appointment as Chairman of the FRSC.)


Awonif, Michael. "Ake: The Years of Servitude." National Concord, 7 July 1988, p 7. (A report on a visit to Abeokuta, and of encounters with those who knew Soyinka and his mother. One informant said: 'Book has turned him into something else.')

Ayeni, Olugbenga. "A New Line in Leadership." West Africa (London), December 5-11, 2279. (Describes Soyinka's participation in a high-level discussion about Africa's leadership problems; records his reference to Ngugi, who, he said, documented the nationalist struggle and was rewarded by being forced into exile.)


Badejo, Deidre L. "The Yoruba and the Afro-American Trickster: A Contextual Comparison," Presence Africaine (Paris), 147 (3rd Quarterly), -17. (Describes Soyinka's discussion of 'the interdependency between the deities and humanity' as 'instructive'.)

Bamikunle, Aderemi. "Problems of Language in Understanding Soyinka's A Shuttle in the Crypt." African Literature Today (London), 16 (1988), pp. 77-90. (Considers the language in which Soyinka writes verse in the context of C. 20th poetry; draws attention to the criticisms levelled by Chinweizu and the approach adopted by Jones and Moore; sets out to examine Soyinka's choice of words, images, techniques and sentence structure in order to identify obstacles in the way of understanding; provides a very controversial interpretation of parts of "Procession II" (regards indigo as evil, 'burrs' as indicative of vibration); quotes "A Cobweb's Touch in the Dark" and some of the Animistic Spells in order to draw attention to the problems of understanding. He regards several poems as political statements about Nigeria; lists the allusions to writers and events and provides interpretations and explanations. (Sometimes misleading as in his confusion of the sibyl with the Greek sphinx. See also 'burrs'. JG)

Ben-Ifode, Y. "Sowande vs Soyinka: FRSC Joins In." Daily Express (Lagos), 5? September, and ANA Review, 4, 5 (November), 20, 22. (The article takes up some of the accusations against Soyinka made by Bode Sowande in "A Man from Whom Much is Expected").


Booth, James., "Wole Soyinka, by James Gibbs." Review), African Affairs (London), 87, 347 (April), 292-3. (Finds both incisiveness and 'literary blarney' in the study; considers the emphasis on literary debts sometimes 'perverse'; points out that Gibbs 'quite overlooks Soyinka's first marriage to a white woman and the dispute over custody of their son'.)


Caute, David. "Suffering But Not in Silence." Times Literary Supplement (London), 23-29 September, 1988. 1042. (Review of Art, Dialogue and Outrage, describes Soyinka as 'the Fela Kuti of Nigerian letters', sees the 'break with negritude (as) both painful and fundamental', detects a 'rare intelligence', deplores 'lapse' into pan-African demand for a single African language, quotes Gordimer's complaints about Soyinka's style (in a review of Aké), and, after indicating which targets 'outraged' Soyinka, concludes: 'The lesson is basic: 'whatever the provocation, the artist is well advised to suffer in silence.' Caute is confused about National Theatre's production of Bacchae, assumes it was by Ronald Eyre. In fact Joffe. JG)


1988, in which Chinweizu was referred to as "that boy." Defends himself against Soyinka's claim that he "needs (Soyinka) around" by calculating his output and the amount which deals with Soyinka. Suggests that only because of his megalomania does Soyinka see himself as indispensable to Chinweizu and advises the laureate to "stick to intellectual issues in our tournament." (Refers to the personal abuse of Nkem Nwankwo in his attack on Theo Vincent, Vanguard, 27 October 1988.) Maintains that scholarship is badly served by those who bring personalities into play. Claims that Soyinka's desire to stand above criticism and his reactions to hostile criticism suggests an "infantile" demand. Refers to Art, Dialogue and Outrage which he describes as "displaying Soyinka's 25 years of tirades against dissenters" and quotes David Caute (TLS 23-29 September 1988, 1042.) This quote ends with comments on Soyinka's complaints against Rich. Chinweizu concludes by implying a parallel between Soyinka and Bokassa and describes the writer as a "literary tyrant (whose works may not be criticised without the critic being butchered for blasphemy – i.e. contempt of God!)." Maintains that critics have the right to criticise published work. See reactions from Soyinka and Omueru. This shows how Chinweizu - while asking that personalities and insults be kept out of the debate - drags both into his essay, and incorporates a totally inadequate assessment of Art, Dialogue and Outrage. Concludes on a deliberately provocative note.

Chiwengo, Ngwarsungu. "Wole Soyinka, le tigre qui saute." Linguistics et Sciences Humaines (Kinshasa), 28, 1-2 (1988), pp. 133-138. (Includes comments on Soyinka's relations with the Bolekaja critics and on The Interpreters.)

Coe, Jonathan. "Wole's Leftovers." The Guardian (London), 5 August, 22. (Review of Art, Dialogue and Outrage. (Considers the 'really impressive thing about (the) writing is its cogency'; regards Soyinka as having plenty to teach 'our own literary/ critical left wing'.)


Colmer, Rosemary. "The Motif of Resurrection and Forms of Regeneration in the Novels of Wole Soyinka." Kunapipi (Aarhus), 10, 3 (1988), pp. 53-68. (Discusses Soyinka's concept of 'The Fourth Stage', relates it, briefly, to some of his plays where it is often linked with death, and draws attention to resurrection (Lazarus, for example) and regeneration (Orpheus myth) elements in the novels - where life is important; contrasts the manner in which myth is used in Anomy with the emphasis on interpretation in the earlier novel; points out that Anomy is a playwright's novel 'in which the visual sense is deliberately provoked into supplying important messages'; relates Sekoni to Sango and examines the experience of Lazarus in the context of Christian and Yoruba ideas about death and continuity; examines the significance of the painting of the pantheon and the complex associations established through it. NB This is a carefully argued paper which makes an important contribution to the study of Soyinka as novelist.)

Cooke, Michael G. "Foreword," Triquarterly (Evanston), 72 (Fall 1988), pp. 137-38. (Introduction to poems by Soyinka, pp. 139-153.)


David, Mary L. "The Theme of Regeneration in Selected Works by Wole Soyinka." Black

Devine, George. A Sense of Direction, London Faber and Faber, 1988. (Devine, an important influence on Soyinka 1958/9, includes comments on the songs in 11 Men Dead inHola, the background to The Invention, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) at the Court and the directing responsibilities for The Lion and the Jewel at the Court.)

Doherty, Folake, "The Nobel Prize - 2 Years After," Quality (Lagos), 2, 20, (20 October), 22. (Subtitled: '24 months after Wole Soyinka won Africa's first Nobel Prize, Quality went to see how the life of the iconoclast has changed, 'His privacy is gone' - Yemi Ogunbiyi'. Ogunbiyi quoted on the range and number of invitations Soyinka receives: 'He gets invited to such fora as the Council of Europe, where only heads of state are called.' Indicates that Soyinka could earn large sums if he simply gave lectures, but that he puts privacy above wealth: 'His life is bugged a lot, he shows up at airports, and is recognised by Euro-American journalists. Now, he feels a compelling need to travel incognito ...' 'Because what he says carries weight and is widely reported, Soyinka is now', says Ogunbiyi, 'more cautious of his pronouncements'. Categorizes Nigerian reactions to the award into three groups: enthusiasts; those who don't like the award, and those who want to use the award to launch themselves as 'well-known literary critics and social commentators.' This used by JMG in letter to TLS following Chinweizu's article. Doherty - the future Mrs Wole Soyinka.)

Dorsey, David. "Critical Perception of African Poetry," African Literature Today (London), 16, 26-38. (Suggests that African poetry has been analysed in inadequate terms, and sets out to show how the poetry is poetry and African, and to draw attention to its form. Refers to debate about Soyinka's attitude to his blackness in 'To my First White Hairs'; points out that the version of Soyinka's 'Purgatory' in Howard Sergeant's anthology differs from that in Shuttle in the Crypt. Later quotes the same poem to show how poems should be read, and as part of his argument that 'every observable feature of a poem must be examined'.)

Drewal, Margaret Thompson. ed. Special Issue on Africa of The Drama Review (New York University), 1988, 207 pp. (Contains a variety of important essays on ritual performances. Reviewed by Judith Bettelheim, African Arts (Los Angeles), 23, 3 (November 1989).)

Ebewo, Patrick J.. Satire in Selected Plays of Wole Soyinka. Ph D Thesis presented to the Department of Theatre Arts, University of Ibadan. (Basis of a subsequent publication.)


Ejiofor, Ben A. "Rotimi's Blessings at 50." ANA Review '88 (Lagos), 11. (Includes an account of the reading of Lindfors' paper "Rotimi and Soyinka at Ife" and provides the following summary: "Soyinka's contribution to this verbal warfare on the pages of the newspaper was conciliatory and defensive." (!))

Ekeledo, Sam. "Talk Shop for African Writers: Whose Confab?" ANA Review '88 (Lagos), 4, 5
Ekopimoh, Lucy. "'The Nobel Added More to Everything About Him' - Yeside Soyinka, Sister of the Nobel Laureate." Quality (Lagos), 2, 20 (23 October), 23. (The following points emerge: Yeside is blunt, was delighted at the Nobel Award (the news came through on her birthday 'the greatest birthday I have had'); her brother is 'not a complex personality'; his attitude to Christianity 'might' be different because, despite sharing a Christian upbringing, 'he was exposed to the British when he was very young. He might have felt that they are the ones who brought Christianity to Africa to deceive us which is not true anyway.' Reveals that Soyinka used to be called 'Okurin jeje', meaning a very gentle person, but that he left the family at about 14 or 15 and 'did not mature in the family'. She suggests this made him very individualistic, but that it has not prevented him being 'very much a family man. I know he looks after his children. He has about seven children and he is educating all of them.' As far as the extended family is concerned, he is 'not a doting uncle', but when 'together they are always laughing and playing'. Yeside indicates that the family does not gather frequently, but are glad to see one another. She considers that the Nobel has 'added more to everything about him', and enabled him to get on with his house. She concludes: 'He is very bad with money. He cannot hoard money. He operates on the basis of first come, first served. Anybody (whether relation or not) who asks first, gets first, if he has money.' A rare glimpse of Soyinka as a ‘a family man’; some of these points challenged by Laide.)


Elimimian, Isaac I. "Poetry as a Vehicle for Promoting National Consciousness and Development: The Example of Four Nigerian Poets." African Literature Today (London), 16, 111-123, or 112-123. (An unoriginal paper which includes brief comments on "Harvest of Hate"; maintains that Soyinka is a 'traditional poet' in the sense that he relies essentially on the tradition and culture of his people - which Elimimian sees even in "Thunder into Storm"; traces the difference between 'pioneer poets' - Osadebay and Azikiwe, and modern poets - Soyinka and Okigbo, in part, to education.)


Fatunla, Biola. "Dr Sowande's Wranglings." National Concord, 16 September. (Describes Sowande's article as embarrassing: 'People like Bode filled with envy and possessed with jealousy for no just cause, and blowing self acclaimed trumpets as Bode the son of Sowande, Son of Egba, Egba Omo Lisabi.' The Sowande accusations were finally silenced (!) in 1992 by Saluwa's public apology. JG)

Feuser, Willfried F. "Wole Soyinka: The Problem of Authenticity." Black American Literature Forum (Terre Haute), 23, 2 (Fall), 555-575. (See 1987.)


Forbes, Peter. "Scourge of Tin Gods." The Independent (London), 24 August. (Draws attention to Soyinka as critic of ideologues and as an animist; perceives a 'truly Shakespearean spirit presiding over this volume'.)

Gates, Henry Louis Jr.. Ed. Black American Literature Forum (Terre Haute), 22, 3 (Fall 1988) and 4 (Winter). "Introduction", pp. 421-4. (An account of the announcement of the award of the Nobel Prize to Soyinka and of some of the manoeuvrings behind the scenes.)


Gibbs, James. "An Examination of Three of the Short Stories of Wole Soyinka." Short Fiction in the New Literatures in English, ed. Jacqueline Bardolph, Nice; Comite EACLALS, 1988, pp. 263-269. (Considers "Madame Etienne's Establishment' and the two "Tales of Two Cities"; refers to the Johnny Stories and "Egbe's Sworn Enemy"; draws attention to motives which lay behind Soyinka's writing of the short stories.)


Gibbs, James (Gibs, dzejmez). "beskompromisni borac protiv rasizma i totalitarizma." Odjek (Sarajevo), 5 (1-15 March), 21-22. (Soyinka and South Africa; the article contains comments on Soyinka's Stockholm Discourse. Translated from the English.)


Hepburn, Joan. "Mediators of Ritual Closure." Black American Literature Forum (Terre Haute), 22, 3 (Fall 1988), pp. 577-614. (The Strong Breed, Death and the King's Horseman.)

Idowu, Yomi. "Soyinka challenges Abacha ... launches 'Operation Road Sense.'" National Concord, 7 December, 1 and 10. (Concerns a clash with an army spokesman regarding the status and achievements of the FRSC, and details of an 'Operation' - an educational programme. A nation-wide broadcast said Road Accident Immunity Delusion Syndrome (RAIDS) had been in existence before AIDS; spokesman for the National Union of Road Transport Workers spoke of the problems of obtaining spare parts; ceremony ended with a 100 km demonstration drive. (The RAIDS/ AIDS line has the Soyinka touch. JG)
Iji, Edde M.. "Wole Soyinka and Predecessors: Deviation, Conformism and Non-Conformism." The Literary Criterion (Mysore), 23, 1 and 2, 131-142. (Confused and superficial comment on possible influences.)

Ilesanmi, Obafemi. "Soyinka and the Broadway Critics." The Guardian (Lagos), 8 March, . (Using articles from Today (London) and The Times (London), 6 April 1987, Ilesanmi considers Frank Rich's position in New York ('a butcher of Broadway' JG); he also surveys Soyinka's fortunes in the US, and the critics' reactions to William Golding's The Paper Men - as a post-Nobel product. Quotes from a 'recent interview' in Ebony Man: 'In a sense the prize has been a nuisance because it's created more exposure and far more demand than I'm prepared to handle.' Ilesanmi considers Soyinka 'a not very tactful controversialist' and regards his anti-Rich statements as 'counter productive'. Indicates that Horseman resulted in Soyinka being invited to do a play for the Royal Shakespeare Company.)


Inyang, Ibanga. "Still on Soyinka's Nobel Prize." Sunday Concord, 31 July, 5. (On the politics of the award and the support of the Lagos-Ife- Badan Axis for Soyinka. Refers to Soyinka’s fear of 'being hatched from the belly of an air force plane on his way to an ANA conference in Abuja a few years ago.' Refers to 'tribal jingoists', concludes 'To me Soyinka's Nobel award does not mean any more than Richard Nixon's...'(?)


Irobi, Esiaba. "Soyinka in Detail." West Africa (London), 7 March, . (Favourable review of Maduakor's Wole Soyinka: an Introduction to his Writings.)

Ishaq, Abdus-Salam. "Nobel award: Secret behind antagonism." Sunday Concord, 10 July, p 5. (Muddled statement.)


Jones, Eldred. The Writing of Wole Soyinka. London: Heinemann, 3rd edition. (New edition of a classic study; includes new sections on recent writing.)


Kanfer, Stefan. "Balancing Horror and Hope." Time (New York), February 1, 24-25. (An account of the Paris meeting of Nobel Prize winners, includes quote from Soyinka re attitudes to the Third World and a reference to Shylock's plea. See Soyinka Primary Sources.)


King, Bruce. "Wole Soyinka and the Nobel Prize for Literature." *Sewanee Review (Sewanee)* 6, 2 (Spring 1988), pp. 339-345. (N Y Library.)

Kirpal, Viney, "The Structure of the Modern Nigerian Novel and the National Consciousness." *Modern Fiction Studies* (W. Lafayette), 34, 1, (Spring), 45-54. (The paper includes an explanation of the name ‘Iriyise’ (it 'means "The dew" or "inside the bowels of the earth"); provides a symbolic interpretation of *Season of Anomy*.)

Kontagora, Hassan Sani. "Stop Crying, Soyinka." *Hotline News Magazine*, (Kaduna), 22 August - 4 Sept., 4. (Response to Soyinka's address to Road Safety Corpsmen on 4 August, and his complaints. Regional politics may have come into play. JG)


Lindfors, Bernth. "Africa and the Nobel Prize." *World Literature Today* (Norman), Spring 1988, pp. 222-224. (Analysis of significance of the award to Soyinka, and assessment of the merits of other African writers who may - or should - be considered for the prize. Puts forward the claims of Achebe and Gordimer strongly.)


M., G. (Photo: Huguier, Francoise. ‘Soyinka, le Nobel de la route.’ *Liberation*, 17 March 1988, 39. (Opens with an account of Soyinka’s appointment as head of the RSC following his service dating back to 1978, when, with Kole Omotoso and other friends, he formed a think tank (‘groupe de reflexion’). M G gives price of petrol (39 kobos le litre - the car rules). Describes traffic jams., bush taxis, schemes regarding Lagos access for odd and even numbers – the last foiled by duplicate plates., Refers to poor road signs; gives account of Operation TITO, ‘teach in teach out’, with flyers and vehicle inspections, Soyinka very critical of drivers of HGVs. Soyinka lives on the roads since resigning his academic post. It seems Soyinka finds peace in the Abeokuta office. From a recent visit to Japan, he has picked up the idea of huge posters of recent accidents to chill the blood of drivers at the start of motorways. Concludes with flourish: a reference to Ogun.)

Maja-Pearce, Adewale. "Open Combat." *Observer* (London), 31 July 1988, p. 42. (Review of *Art, Dialogue and Outrage*; draws attention to Soyinka's political and literary combativeness; and singles out "The Fourth Stage" as showing his fidelity to his inheritance.)


Momodu, Dele. "Soyinka's Aké translated into Yoruba." National Concord (Lagos), 23 May 1991, p. 5. (Background on Akinwunmi Isola, born Ibadan, 1939, studied French, did a Ph D in Yoruba, keen Pyrate, see Lee Nichols.)


Narasimhaiah, C.D. "Where Angels Fear to Tread: Chinua Achebe and Wole Soyinka as Critics of the African Scene." The Literary Criterion (Mysore), 23, 1 and 2, 222-236. (Narasimhaiah makes valid points about Soyinka's criticism; draws attention to the common cause between Indian writers on drama and Soyinka; suggests that there is a state 'beyond tragedy' and that Soyinka's comments on Song of a Goat are of limited value.)


Obasi, Ely with Mary Ellen Ezekiel, Folake Doherty and Dili Ezughah, "Capone's Cove: The Unique House Wole Soyinka is Building." Quality (Lagos), 2, 20-22, 24. (Journalists given a guided tour of Soyinka's new house outside Abeokuta - 'through a hilly wilderness of forests'. Description of the setting and design: in 4.2 hectares, with an experimental theatre, a cashew farm, and citrus plantation; a sound-proof bedroom from which he can fish - in a pond in which there were currently baby alligators. It was costing eight times what Soyinka originally estimated. He had intended to build it himself after leaving Ife, but he had had to call in architects and structural engineers because of all the travelling he had done. There had been problems with sinking trucks and with workers digging for sand 'right there'. Despite it all,
Soyinka clearly happy and delighted: 'Full of jokes, full of jibes'; though saddened by death of Femi Johnson who was 'part of the whole scheme'. Quotes: 'I've always believed in having one's own independent republic... You can't have peace without privacy. ... It's supposed to be a kind of writers' retreat in which a few writers can come at a time and stay with some three square meals a day, and just forget economic worries for quite a while. ... It's supposed to be self-subsistent. Fish from the fish pond; we have employed a couple of full-time farmers. ... There are about eight bedrooms, but there will not be in residence at any time more than four. .... There should be one technology person to three humanities.'


Ofeimun, Odia. "God bless extremism." Guardian (Lagos), 5 June, 9. (On the absence of Giants from an International Literary Symposium; comments on Soyinka's address: "No to the gun").


Ogunbiyi, Yemi. Perspectives on Nigerian Literature: 1700 to the Present, Volume One., Lagos: Guardian Newspapers. (Contains several articles, previously published in the newspaper, on Soyinka, and one by him - on Irele. Volume abbreviated to "Ogunbiyi 1988.").

Ogunbiyi, Yemi. "The Story on Soyinka is mischievous." Sunday Times, 3 July, 3. (On an account of Soyinka singing in an Abuja hotel.)


Today (London), 16, 3-25.


Omatseye, Sam. "A Seal on the Battle." African Concord, 7 November 1988, p.17. (Soyinka calls press conference on FRSC allegations.)


Omotoso, Gbenga. ‘Soyinka seeks embargo, Nigerian protest at G-8 summit.’ Guardian, 19 May, 1998, 1-2. (This followed the protest at G-8 summit in the UK. Soyinka advocated isolation as inflicted on South Africa.)

Omotoso, Kole. "Literary Personality of the Month." The Companion (Ibadan), (December 1988), pp. 18-20. (On Soyinka’s biography and need for deeper criticism of his work.)

Omuemu, Eti-Osa. "Readers' Rights: Admonition to Chinweizu." Vanguard, 4 December, 1988, pp. 7, 15. (Describes the exchanges between Soyinka and Chinweizu as "little puffs of steam emanating from two, human, smoking, volcanoes." Sees the two men as "renowned intellectuals" who thrive on "the amplification of molehills of differences into mountains of dissent." While acknowledging Chinweizu's stand for the "decolonisation of African literature" he argues - possibly influenced by Gardner - that he "fails to respect reader's sensibilities by trespassing into the domain of the individual's sense of judgement." Argues that Chinweizu sees only black and white, good and bad, and "has a brilliant tunnel vision." Blames Soyinka for not knowing when to be quiet: "Soyinka ought and should be able to accommodate the dissenting views of Chinweizu within the mythic terrain of his mind." Draws attention to areas of common interest: both are Afrocentric; "The only difference between them is on the question of style and the use of language." Suggests Soyinka's work has become more accessible while Chinweizu's "tone of criticism has continued to sound like the melody of a cracked disk." (A well written and dispassionate article by a teacher of English at Benin University.)

Onanuga, Bayo with Dele Momodu, Sam Omatseye and Babafemi Ojudu. "Who's pulling Soyinka down?" African Concord (Lagos), 17 October 1988, pp. 18-30. (A series of articles and interviews, most or all of which the named authors seem to be responsible for. Lists the charges against Soyinka and (FRSC Colleague) Olu Agunloye - as part of a ‘smear campaign’. Concludes 'Most of the allegations are based on outright lies. Some are pure distortions of reality. Soyinka is the catalyst.' Notes Soyinka’s unorthodox administrative style. Names Major ROA Saluwa (rtd) as the one spreading the rumours. Says he had put in claims for N15,000 for work done on behalf of RSC. Soyinka and Agunloye had claimed 2,000. Saluwa had support among the RSC ranks. Article speculates that Saluwa might be acting for a bigger figure. Note Sowande had repeated rumours and that in ?1992 Saluwa made a public apology.)

Onibonoje, Biodun. 'The Lion and the Jewel' with Notes, Ibadan: Onibonoje, 1988, 119 pp. (The volume, in the Parrot Series, contains the full text and some 50 pages of material for students. The notes were partly prepared in the seventies and have been clumsily up-dated in a few cases.

Osahon, Naiwu. "Re: Soyinka sings." *Sunday Concord*, 19 June 1988, p. 5. (Osahon sees Soyinka's statement reported on June 12 as an intellectual resorting to abuse. Makes a sweeping generalisation which seems to accuse Soyinka of 'blackmail, tribalism, intimidation and name calling.' Refers to Soyinka's 'white acclaimed work, titled 'To my first white hairs.' He considers this an aberration, 'structured obviously to divert our patriotic zeal.' Refers to the Nobel Prize as 'another toxic waste being dumped on our minds.' Responses by Ishaq and Abiola.)


Osundare, Niyi. "Theatre of the Beaded Curtain: Nigerian Drama and the Kabiyesi Syndrome." *Okike* (Nsukka), 27/28 (March 1988), 99-113. (Osundare examines Soyinka's aristocratic heroes, asks why is Soyinka is so lenient with his stage monarchs? Clearly wishes the playwright's vision had reached further and that he had 'pitched his tent among the people - the people who always outlast the palace.' NB Osundare refers to the Proceedings of the First Ibadan Annual African Literature Conference. Who published these? This is a crucial document in the controversy between Soyinka and leftist critics, the Opon Ifa groups, the Marxists. *Horseman* is central to it. See Jeyifo, Osofisan and the passing of years. JG.)

Osundare, Niyi. "Upon Reading Ake, Soyinka's years of childhood." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 15 July. (Accompanied by an interview. NB Osundare later wrote a poem about Isara.)


Ramaswamy, S. *Explorations: Essays on Commonwealth Literature*. Bangalore: MCC Publications. (Contains a section on Soyinka and discussion of Yoruba gods. Ref RAL 20/3, 531.)

Raufu, Abiodun. "Of Wasters and the Wasted." *Daily Times*, 16 September 1988, p. 11. (Response to dispute between Sowande and Soyinka; Suggests Soyinka should have stayed out of Government. See Soyinka on 'Wasted Breed’ and response by Adekambi.)


Ricard, Alain. Wole Soyinka ou l'Ambition Démocratique. Paris: Silex. (Chapter headings draw attention to Soyinka's concern with Nigeria, and his emphasis on responsibility.)


Samuel, Kayode. "Soyinka, Solarin and the Four Cs." Vanguard, 6 April 1988, p. 7. (Cooperation, collaboration, competition and confrontation. On Soyinka's appointment as head of the FRSC.)


Sokunbi, Wale. "Soyinka replies critics: 'I didn't keep Road Safety Corps N6 Million in my private account', he says." National Concord, 17 October, p.5. (See longer article, interview etc by Onanuga et al. Accusation made by 'Tunde Ademola' from a fictitious address in Sunday Concord and in other letters which were circulating. Soyinka admits to an unorthodox administrative style. Picks up the Sowande issue, refers to Saluwa as 'not on best terms' with Board because of personal expenses.)

Sokunbi, Wale. "Soyinka replies critics." National Concord (Lagos), 17 October, 5. (Soyinka reacts to suggestions that he kept 6 million naira of RSC money in his own account.)


Sowande, Bode. "Sowande's Open Letter to Soyinka." Vanguard, 5 May 1988, p. 12. (Criticises Soyinka for joining the government and losing contact with ordinary Nigerians. See reply by Soyinka, and responses by Ajayi and Ujunwa.)

Sowande, Bode. "A man from whom much is expected." Daily Sketch (Ibadan), 2 September, p. 5. (Also, in an open letter, Sowande attacks Soyinka; makes various allegations about manipulation of RSC publicity and budget. Soyinka replied in an article about 'Wasters'. See also reactions from Sowande, Ben-Ifode and Sowande again.)


Sullivan, Emily Bradsher. The Forged Iron: Modes and Counter-Modes in the Plays of Wole Soyinka and Edward Bond. DAI, 49, 1988. (Bond was at the Royal Court in the late 50s. JG.)
Syal, Pushpinder. A Stylistic Analysis of 'Idanre' by Wole Soyinka and 'Relationship' by Jayanta Mahapatra, in the Context of Non-Native Literature in English. DAI, 49, 3 (September), p502A, Lancaster.

Taylor, Colin. “Seeing Soyinka: Nobel or not, nobody’s doing his plays.” Theatrum (Toronto), 10 (Summer 1988), 35-38. (Identifies the poetry in the plays as a barrier; suggests that the way he has suffered from “indifferent production,” hints that Soyinka as an inadequate director of his own work.)

Tomoloju, Ben. "Alele-Yah Chorus - The night Soyinka hosted Iyayi." Guardian, 29 December 1988, p. 6. (Party to honour award of Commonwealth Writers Prize. See Uguru 1988 on criticism of Soyinka by Iyayi. Not an enthusiast for the Commonwealth, this may have been a bridge-building exercise. See Iyayi’s death in 2013 and Soyinka’s demand for an inquest. JG)

Ugah, Ada. "Message from Makurdi: the poetry of Soyinka's visit to Benue." Guardian, 23 February 1988, p. 11. (Soyinka helps launch the Benue chapter of the Association of Nigerian Authors.)

Uguru, Josiah. "The Man Died - Is it Wole Soyinka." New African (London), 251 (August 1988), pp. 44-45 (BL 45-6) Uguru quoted Maisidi Yakubu who accused Soyinka of 'collusion with the present government.' And Festus Iyayi on wondering why Soyinka saw nothing wrong in serving under a capitalist system. Picks up the accusations made by Sowande (he 'took his idol to the slabs'), and mentions Soyinka's 'spirited defence at the recent International Symposium on African Literature sponsored by UNESCO and the Nigerian Government in Lagos. Apparently he posed the question: what would be the reaction to a workers' invasion with placards 'screaming "down with parasitic writers"?')

Ujunwa, Azu. "Leave Soyinka alone." Vanguard, 1 June, 1988, p. 6. (A semi-literate defence of Soyinka, described as the "painter, composer, spoiler, builder, whose literary imaginations have spelt his portrait both outside and inside the country professionally," for taking the RSC post. Maintains that Soyinka "would not let down the religion of literature" and expresses the hope that "from time to time the professor would be opening his visual mouth in criticising the government confidently than before.")

Ukala, Sam. ‘The false prophet as the bane of the Nigerian society: Wole Soyinka’s Window on religious leaders and the intelligentsia.’ Religion and the Development of a Nation: The State of Nigeria. ed. P. Ade Dopamu, ‘Ilorin: Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions (NASR), 1988, 138-156. (Looks at Jero, Swamp Dwellers, Strong Breed, Lion and Jewel, Road, Dance of the Forests and Kongi’s Harvest.)


1989*
All the Anons are at the front, in chronological order. This seems to work well since ‘Anon items’ often appear in newspapers and a chronological sequence generally helps in giving a sense of an unfolding ‘news story’.

Queries: Who wrote ‘Textual cohesion in Wole Soyinka’s The Interpreters’. Ilorin Journal of Language and Literature, 1, 2 (1989), 173-199. Could it have been Oluwole Adejare?


Anon. West Africa. (London), 6 March. (Reports that Soyinka had denounced the Ayatollah's action in calling for the death of Salman Rushdie for writing Satanic Verses. Soyinka warned: 'If Salman Rushdie is unnaturally and prematurely silenced, the creative world will launch its own Jihad.')

Anon. "Soyinka may sue FRSC member for alleged libel." Daily Times (Lagos), 24 March, p.13. (Soyinka, Chairman of the FRSC, and his assistant Dr Olu Agunloye, the chief executive of the FRSC, were said to be considering suing Major (rtd) Rasasi Salawu for alleging that they had embezzled N 11 million belonging to the FRSC. Salawu said to have circulated letters to 'various arms of government'.)

Anon. "Nazi Shadow over Soyinka Degree." West Africa (London), 17-23 April 1989, pp. 618-9. (Soyinka rejected degree offered by University of Bayreuth because of record of other person honoured. It was Arthur Maria Rabenalt. JG)

Anon. (Special Correspondent), "Apartheid and 'Sopi'." West Africa (London), 24-30 April, 645-646. (An account of the March (American) African Literature Association conference in Dakar. Reports that Soyinka was 'originally' to have given the keynote address but that he was absent. In his absence a motion was carried condemning 'the threats to his life for the defence of Rushdie'.)

Anon. "Death Threat to Soyinka." West Africa (London), 24-30 April, 659. (Report states 'A death threat has allegedly been issued to the Nobel laureate, Wole Soyinka, by students of Bayero University, Kano, over his defence of Salman Rushdie...' The threat was revealed by the National Association of Seadogs, who sent an open letter to the Inspector General of Police, Alhaji Muhammedu Gambo, 'calling for the arrest and prosecution of the students who issued the death threat'.)

Anon. "Soyinka blames riots on varsities." Daily Times (Lagos), 10 June, 13. (Soyinka gave press conference, regretted that 'university communities had been turned into factories for manufacturing lies and slander'. Commented on Solarin's position, and seemed to suggest – I have only a poor quality photocopy - that Solarin was the victim of forgery put out from universities.)

Anon. "Critics Arrested, Fawehinmi Detained." West Africa (London), 26 June - 2 July, 1065. (Account of arrests of journalists and of vocal critics of the structural adjustment programme, (SAP) which led Soyinka to issue a statement, around 20 June, pointing out that the government crackdown was a contradiction.)
Anon. "Soyinka frowns on police action." Daily Times (Lagos), 1 August, 14. Quotes Soyinka as saying in a press release distributed at Abeokuta 'yesterday', that the police action 'in aborting a meeting (of The Sea Dogs symposium) to exchange ideas on the state of the nation was yet another indication of a "government in a state of advanced paranoia".' Called on Babangida to intervene personally to effect Fawehinmi's release from detention. Referred back to his comments on the universities, and called for the "dissipation of atmosphere of uncertainty which pervaded the relation of government and people.")

Anon. "Soyinka faults Ajibola's defence of decree 2." Daily Times (Lagos), 17 August, 14. (A response to Prince Bola Ajibola's defence of Decree 2. Ajibola had cited rescue operations mounted under Decree 2 against a fugitive who allegedly attempted to make away with N 30 million; said Fawehinmi's liberty should be priced at more than N 30 million; said Ajibola's argument was a "specious exercise in begging the question." Also "..denies report on safety corps." He denied newspaper reports that he had said the FRSC 'stinks'. Denies he singled out the Abuja zone as the "most corrupt''.

Anon. "Soyinka to Launch an Essay Foundation." The Guardian (Lagos), 27 August. (Looks forward to launching of Foundation on 28 September, reference to titles and to details of sort of people to be helped by it. It is to be a partly self-supporting, creative community for artists and others.)

Anon. "Transport Woes." West Africa (London), 28 August - 3 September, 1439. (Reports Soyinka's revelations concerning bribery and corruption in the Federal Road Safety Corps and decision to provided identification tags for all Road Safety officials.)

Anon. "Detention Law will Stay." West Africa (London), 28 August - 3 September, 1437-8. (Reports on Soyinka's reaction to Prince Bola Ajibola's defence of Decree 2.)

Anon. "UN panel urges wider sanctions." Daily Times (Lagos), 11 September, 5. (Soyinka a member of the UN Eminent persons group examining the effectiveness of sanctions against South Africa and Namibia. Hearings held in Geneva, 4-6 September; group consisted of Caanan Banana (Zimbabwe), Judith Hart, Edward Seaga (Jamaica), Mochtar Kusuma Atmadja (Indonesia), Anatol Gromyko (USSR) and Flora Macdonald (Canada). Called for stiffer measures, a monitoring mechanism and financial sanctions.)

Cartoon (Yomi Ola). "Wanted: WS (Hero or Villain?)" possibly 6 October 1989. Publication?

Anon. "Double Honour for Nobel Laureate." Daily Times (Lagos), 6 October 1988, pp. 1 and 16-17. (Reports launching of Isara, The Search and Mandela's Earth and Other Poems at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs in Lagos and the award of two honours: the title Commander of the (French) Order of the Legion of Honour and the title Akogun of Isara. Yemi Ogunbiyi announced the award of the titles, the Odemo of Isara, Oba Adeboye Oladele Osindeyinde Igan II, conferred the latter title. Akogun was translated as 'Generalissimo'. Chief A.B. Adebowale launched the books with a N15,000 purchase. Others present included Chief Michael Omolayole of Lever Brothers, Stanley Macebuh, Akin Mabogunje, Professor and Mrs Aboyade, Ayo Banjo and Femi Ososfan. The launching was in aid of the Essay Foundation. Soyinka was characteristically casually dressed "in an embroidered white 'dansiki' over a black pair of trousers, with open sandals.")


Anon. ‘Soyinka hero’s welcome.’ Daily Nation, 16 October 1998, 9. (Includes photograph taken at the airport.)

Anon. ‘Soyinka’s referendum call.’ Sunday Nation, 18 October 1988, 11. (Apparently, Soyinka gave a lecture to the Nigerian Bar Society Hall, in Lagos on Friday, two days after his return to Nigeria. He had been away for 4 years. Called for Bakassi issue to be settled by a plebiscite organised by the International Court of Justice (ICH).)

Anon. "Soyinka's Double Title." West Africa (London), 16-22 October, p. 1738. (Reports on his being made Akogun of Isara and a member of the Legion of Honour at the launch of Isara: A Voyage Around Essay, The Search and Mandela's Earth and Other Poems. The French award was for literary achievements and 'unfailing efforts to uphold the principles of human rights'.)

Anon., ('Our Lagos correspondent'). "What the People Say." West Africa (London), 16-22 October, 1713. (Reports Soyinka's approval of Babangida's announcement that there would only be two political parties in Nigeria.)


Anon. ‘Kongi wears Trekkers So What?’ Tempo Life, 19 November 1998, 4. 9. (Part of preoccupation with Soyinka’s appearance on last visit to Nigeria. Describes his dress when delivering ‘treatise on restructuring’.)

Anon. "Soyinka suspends patrols .. Protests humiliation of road marshals." Daily Times (Lagos), 25 November. (As Chairman of FRSC, Soyinka, addressed a news conference at Abeokuta on 24 November, and announced that he had suspended FRSC patrols because of "alleged incessant brutalisation and humiliation of its officials by the police." On 20th, five marshals had been arrested, stripped naked and detained at the Iyaaganku Police Station, Ibadan. This followed an accident involving Mrs Rasheedat Rasaki, wife of the Governor of Lagos State, after which some money and property was said to be missing. Soyinka said police harassed corpsmen; said he had reported some of the cases of police humiliation to the Chief of General Staff in Lagos.)

Anon. ‘Watch Nigeria, says Soyinka.’ Daily Nation, 8 December 1998, 9. (A report of a forum organised in Rome by NGOs at which Soyinka criticised Nigeria’s decision to hold local elections so soon after the end of a military dictatorship. Spoke of case of Nigerian asylum-seekers being repatriated from Duessledorf [sic]. He said each had a specific reason for seeking shelter and compared the ‘absurd and simplistic’ attitude that suggested it would be safe for them with thinking that all Jews should have been returned to Germany after the Nazi Holocaust.)

Anon.? "The unending tales of Brother Wole." Vanguard 19 December, 1989, p. 6. (Prompted by
remarks made by Soyinka in a televised interview on Morning Ride "last Saturday." "The bearded bard positively steamed from the ears when the matter of his position as Chairman of the Road Safety Corps came up.' He maintained he had accepted an "assignment" not a "job." Columnist wondered what the difference was. Commended Soyinka for his road safety work and added "Though I don't know the ego is all the better for it." Quoted Soyinka that "Nobody, nobody can afford me." Which the author considered "smacked of so much arrogance, it's a wonder his host, Danladi Bako, wasn't pushed right off the” sofa. Counter suggestions made that "it was his country that gave him his identity and that identity is invaluable. Nobody, but nobody is unaffordable by his country.")


Abbas, Femi. ‘Olofinmoyin: What’s so special about Soyinka’s house.’ Sunday Vanguard, 18 October 1998, 28. (Koyode (Kayode?) Olofinmoyin, state military administrator, had visited Soyinka’s house, accompanied by press men, to see what was needed to make it habitable. (It had been damaged by soldiers in Soyinka’s absence.) Abbas is critical, seeing the exercise as window dressing for Abubakar knowing Soyinka might return soon. He notes that MILADS had done much damage to the house on Abacha’s orders.)


Acholonu, Catherine. Interview with Bob Kay Njamenze. "Who was Christopher Okigbo?" Okike (Nsukka), 29 (February 1989), 92-102. (Describes Okigbo and Soyinka at a party in 1965. Asserts that Soyinka, with Solarin, wrote 'Thinking Corner'. Later was sent to Ibadan to collected Okigbo's Jaguar Mark 2, to do that he had to go through Soyinka who seemed to be looking after the car. 32-33.)


Adeniyi, Dapo. "Ashtabula!" Daily Times (Lagos), 4 October, 22. (Review of Isara; draws attention to the extent to which imagination has been freed. Some characters, such as Daodu and Osibo, the pharmacist, remain much as before, others are largely products of imagination and of the feeling that everyone carries his own Ashtabula around with him. Growth to maturity is a central theme.)

Aderinokun, Jimmy and Gbenga Oni. "Nobody is above the law - Soyinka." Daily Times (Lagos), 12 October, 28. (Soyinka interviewed shortly after the launching of "Inside Kirikiri" by Otunba Theophilus Sobowale Benson. (‘TOS’) Some 20 days before, at the launching of "The Diplomat", a new magazine, Benson had called for the arrest of Obasanjo because he had criticised Babangida. This statement - clearly provocative and made in the knowledge that Obasanjo would not be touched, had been criticised by General Adeyinka Adebayo, Chairman of the Egbe Ilosiwaju Yoruba, and described as not in the interests of the nation or the Yorubas. Soyinka equated what Obasanjo had said with what Fawehinmi had said - and, commenting on the two new political parties, he said the 'left' should unite, and avoid marginalisation. On the
release of Balarabe Musa, he said he hoped it would be the beginning of a series of releases - which should include Fawehinmi: 'I don't consider the decree as part of our legal system'.

Soyinka gave Babatope a list of books and referred to the 'Isapagiri Club' - the ex-detainees. Also gave him a bottle of Dettol, meant for skin diseases among detainees, a package of candles because of power failures, a roll of cigarettes and a bottle of brandy - Remy Martini.)


Ajibade, Kunle. "The Logic of Isara." The Guardian (Lagos), 15 October 1990. (A favourable review which emphasises the importance of the question "Have we really travelled, socially and politically, beyond the ethos of our forerunners?")

Akaraogun, Olu. "The memorable cultural revel." Sunday Times (Lagos), 8 October 1989, p. 15. (An account of the launching of Isara, Mandela's Earth and "The Search" at the Nigerian Institute for International Affairs, on 5 October. Isara was well represented, the Odemo was there (Oba Adeboye Osindeinde); Yemi Ogunbiyi was Master of Ceremonies; Stanley Macebuh was one of those on the high table. The royal drummers of Isara played for their Akogun ('generalissimo'). Mike Omolayole spoke about book launchings, Macebuh reviewed Isara - drawing attention to the fact that there had been many Isaras, and that the novel celebrated the mystery in the old way of life. He pointed out ways in which Soyinka and Achebe could be compared. The Odemo recalled the life of Ayodele Soyinka, his education at St Andrew's College, Oyo, and referred to 'Grandfather' - Daddy Ashipa Soyinka'. A diplomat from the French embassy brought a letter announcing that Soyinka had been made a 'Commander of the Legion of Honour'. All launchers requested that no indication of the amount of money they were donating should be made public. Soyinka's 'reply' touched on several issues. He said he partly wrote Isara to pay tribute to his father and referred to the Essay Foundation which he had founded. Bimpe (sp) Aboyade gave a vote of thanks - some of it in fluent Ijebu Yoruba. The publication date of the next collection of essays, "Continuity and Amnesia" was set for 5 January 1990. It MAY have been published in 1991. JG.)

Akeh, Afam, Babadunde Faniyan and Gbenga Oni. "Soyinka replies Obasanjo." Daily Times (Lagos), 6 October, 1 and 16. (Refers to the launching at NIIA (Nigerian Institute and to Soyinka's comments about Obasanjo: said Obasanjo had misrepresented his role in the invasion of the Mid-West in his book My Command; advised the General "to distinguish fact from fiction". Obasanjo had indicated that Soyinka had rung him up and put him under pressure; Obasanjo also linked him with 'the playwright' referred to in Frederick Forsythe's book The Biafra Story who carried messages between Banjo and Awolowo. Since the publication of My Command, Soyinka had, he said, got the author to admit in public that the disclosures were misleading. Soyinka asserted that Obasanjo had more recently returned to the matter in 'disputatious public utterances'. Described Obasanjo as a blunt speaking soldier - turned gentleman-farmer - turned historian-biographer and rhetorician'. Soyinka linked Isara with Ojukwu's Because I am Involved - many had expected him to write about his involvement in the Civil War. Referred to his concern about Fawehinmi.)

Alibi, Idang. "Soyinka at ICALEL '89." Daily Times (Lagos), 27 May 1989, p. 23. (Report from Calabar of Soyinka's paper entitled "Beyond Insularity, Beyond Rushdie: Prescriptions for the Terminal Critic." Soyinka commented on the incestuous nature of 'literature criticism in Nigerian and African literature' and on the 'unprofessional conduct of some Nigerian critics'. The third major point concerned religious bigotry and Ayatollah Khomeini'. Amadi said that there was a need to focus on Nigerian writers: 'What Soyinka advocated may lead to intellectual recolonisation of Africa.')


Ayeni, Olugbenga. "Taming the Road Monsters." West Africa (London), 10-16 July, 1124-5. (On 'the limited achievements of the Federal Road Safety Corps', which is 'ably co-ordinated' by Soyinka 'whose role in the now defunct Oyo State Road Safety Corps was widely acclaimed'. The FRSC is in dire need of financial assistance. Soyinka: 'Considering the size of Nigeria, the FRSC may need about N590m'. There are references to Dr O Agunloye, Director of FRSC operations, and to the small size of the corps: 25 patrol cars, 294 road marshals of whom 214 are Youth Corps members, 50 'old hands' from OSRSC and 30 volunteers. Apparently an average of 250-300 arrests are made daily, there is a campaign dubbed 'Operation Road Sense', a 100 km limit for private cars and a 90 km limit for buses. Soyinka was advocating 'an entrenchment of traffic rules as core subjects in the school curricula'. Dr Kayode Showole regards drunkenness as an important factor in road accidents - but elsewhere Soyinka disagrees. Police data is cited to show that 9,268 were killed annually on Nigerian roads and 28,505 injured. For further information on this see Wimbush, 1989, and for attitudes to Soyinka's position see Sowande 1988.)


Bamikunle, Aderemi. "Nigerian Political Culture in Osofisan's Minted Coins." Commonwealth Essays and Studies (Dijon), 12, 1 (Autumn), 108-16. (Contains references to Soyinka's verse collections of the sixties and seventies, contrasts his fondness for 'allegory' with others' use of direct statements. Also compares Soyinka's use of Ogun with Osofisan's use of Olokun.)


Booth, James. "Reviews of Art, Dialogue and Outrage and Criticism and Ideology: Second African Writers' Conference." African Affairs (London), 88, 353 (October), 593-4. (Refers to Soyinka's 'over muscular metaphysics', 'hyperbolic intensifiers', 'hilarious 'Neo-Tarzanism' piece, and 'strange lack of proportion'. Notes his contribution to the Stockholm conference, to his attack on Chinweizu and to female critics.)


Chinweizu. "Cries for Freedom." Times Higher Education Supplement (London), 17 February, 13. (Without mentioning Soyinka by name, Chinweizu uses the 1986 Nobel Prize to argue that European values are being imposed on African literature. This article provoked letters by Gibbs and, Kenneth Parker in the same publication, 24 February.)


Cooke, John. 'African Diaries.' World Literature Today, 1989, 211f. (Reference to prison writing.)


Dasenbrock, Reed Way. "Review of Mandela's Earth and Other Poems." World Literature Today (Norman), 63, 3 (Summer), pp. . (Considers that Soyinka is too responsive to criticism in a genre, poetry, which Dasenbrock does not consider Soyinka's forte. Writes appreciatively of the poet's ability to turn 'the rhetoric of dictators against themselves in savage and funny ways', and finds the best poems in the final sequence - where, he says, Soyinka is not trying to marry slogans.)


David, Mary. "Wole Soyinka." Indian Express, 13 February 1989, p. 8. (Letter to the editor in response to poor treatment Soyinka received on arrival at Delhi (November 1988). Includes excerpts from letter by Soyinka denying that organizers of Nehru centenary were responsible.)

Dawes, Gwyneth. "Uniport Theatre; the Challenge of The Road." The Guardian (Lagos), 25 March. (Review of a production directed by Peter Feuser with Bob-Manuel Udokwu as Professor and Uche Ogbonna as Samson which was presented at Port Harcourt on February 7. The production had opened in July 1988 and had been taken to Lagos during December 1988. In the reviewer's opinion, it 'imprints on the audience's memory a picture of wasted humanity on the road and in life and death, the message of Soyinka's classic.' Director subsequently killed in a road accident; accident apparently followed by attempts to smear his reputation. WS wrote a brief appreciation. Peter was Willfried's son. JMG)


Dove, Rita. "In Nigeria, Ohio is Exotic." Review of Isara, The New York Times Book Review, 12 November, 11. Also in Daily Times (Lagos), 16 December, 11. (Identifies a 'crisp, slightly ironic, matter-of-fact' tone in Isara, an investigation into the roots of the happiness of Soyinka's early family life. It 'supplies the essential ingredient missing from history books - not only the Zeitgeist, but the heart that propels the spirit.')


Dunton, Chris. "Wetin Be Dat? The Treatment of Homosexuality in African Literature." Research in African Literatures (Austin), 20, 3 (Fall), 422-448. (The Interpreters.)


Euba, Femi. Archetypes, Imprecators and Victims of Fate: Origins and Development of Satire in Black Drama. Greenwood: Westport. (Reviewed by Ajayi 1993 who draws attention to the
theme of 'drama as epidemic.' He finds the book well foot-noted but faults it for not providing an energetic and detailed analysis of texts. NB Euba played Lakunle in London and worked closely with Soyinka on several projects. JG)

Ezeigbo, Theodora A. Functionality in Literature: Art and Propaganda. Savanna, 1989,

Fabre, Michel. "Select Bibliography on A Dance of the Forests." Commonwealth Essays and Studies (Dijon), Special Issue 1. p.79.


Fatoba, Femi. Playing with Words. Ibadan: RELS Monographs. (In the course of his examination, Fatoba looks at and some of the lines spoken/ sung as Elesin goes into a trance, examines the stopping of the drums in Kongi's Harvest, Baroka’s seduction speeches, the verbal jousting between Sidi and Lakunle, and that between Iyaloloja and Elesin Oba. Comments on the Old Man’s ‘Hole in the zero of nothing’ speech, Jero’s self-introduction, and Chume’s last words in The Trials. Fatoba was a long-serving Staff member at UI, and an actor. JG)


Gibbs, James. "Letter. Times Higher Education Supplement (London), 24 February. (Reply to Chinweizu, questioning his assertions re attitudes to the Nobel award.)


Horovitz, Michael. "True Voices of Feeling." The Sunday Times (London), 5 March. (Review of Mandela's Earth.)

Ibrahim, Jobo. "Soyinka Revised." West Africa (London), 26 June-2 July, 1053-4. (Review of Wole Soyinka ou l'ambition democratique by Alain Ricard, Nouvelles Editions Africaines. Draws attention to Ricard's long acquaintance with Soyinka's work and his interest in its intellectual and cultural background. Points out that Soyinka has never lost his 'blackism' and so never had to prove his African authenticity; Ibrahim refers to the controversy with leftists and to the increased simplicity of Soyinka's mature works; maintains that 'In addition Soyinka was an executive member of the leftists People's Redemption Party'. (In fact his membership of this group has been denied and he described himself as a 'self-suspended member' JMG.)
Ilesanmi, Obafemi. "African Literature and the Asiwaju Factor." The Guardian (Lagos), March 6, 8. (Considers the issue of leadership in African literature - summarises the relationship between Achebe and Soyinka over the years. Comments on Soyinka's support for the award of an Honorary Doctorate to Achebe by the University of Ife and Achebe's observations about Soyinka's 'lackeys' and 'hangers on', refers to Feuser's criticism of Achebe's 'fence sitting' over the attack by Chinweizu et al in the pages of Okike, assess the importance of the Nobel Prize - it is the 'ultimate approbation, prestige, controversy, wealth, spectacle and big business' - and he points to positive Soviet and Chinese attitudes to it.)

Iloegbunam, Chuks. "A Nobel with a Difference." The Publisher (Ibadan), 1, 2 (March 1989), pp. 61-62. (An account of the nomination of Soyinka and of the flight to Stockholm. Clark was left behind because there was no first class accommodation. Party included Irele, Bimpe Aboyade, Femi Soyinka, Jeyifo, Folabo Ajayi, Justice Ademola Candido (Los), Tony Momoh (leader of the team ?) Col. Tunde Akogun; the pilot was Capt. Odidisan.)


'Jerimah' see Yerimah.


Kamlongera, C.F.. Review of The Literary Half Yearly: Wole Soyinka Number, Journal of Humanities (Zomba), 3, (December 1989), 129-131. (Notes that 'What is missing is a full picture of the man himself' and concludes 'Perhaps we can look forward to a Biography of the man now. Of course with his permission."

King, Bruce. "How with the help of Derry Jeffares, I (an American) became a Commonwealth Literature Specialist." A Shaping of Connections, ed. Hena Maes-Jelinek, Kirsten Pieterse and Anna Rutherford, Aarhus: Dangaroo, 19-24. (Contains brief comments on Soyinka at Leeds, on 'Egbe's Sworn Enemy' – surely inaccurate, on Ibadan in the mid-sixties. He refers to Mbari, Black Orpheus and to Soyinka holding-up the radio-station - and to his being in the University staff club 'with a gun tucked into his belt looking for Jimmy Simmons.')


Kowall, Steven C. "Death and the King's Horseman." In Magill, 1989, pp. 377-78.


Loffin, Christine Adams. Race, Nationalism and Colonialism in the African landscape. Ph D University of Wisconsin, 266 page. (Challenges traditional interpretations of African texts by analysing the preconceptions and pre-judgements of Western criticism.' Uses Soyinka's work in Chapter 6.)
Macebuh, Stanley. "Macebuh's Statement on Soyinka's Isara." The Guardian (Lagos), 9 October 1989. (Rpt ANAR, 4, 6 (1989), pp. 10-11. (Maintains that 'In effect...Isara is everywhere, (a) possession of the entire Nigerian community.' Draws attention to book's 'almost totally unabashed celebration of life in an earlier time'. Macebuh suggests that it be treated as 'encapsulated social history' and detects in it a 'voyage around' the 'author's own different yet correlated layers of personality'. Sees in the admiration for the Circle a criticism of the 'rancorous vulgarity' of contemporary discourse. Macebuh delivered the review at the launching of the novel.)


Madueme, Emma. "A Hoax Too Soon." African Concord (Lagos), 11 December 1989, p. 22. (About an item that appeared in the Daily Champion that reported assassins were on Soyinka's trail. There had been a report of an exploding heater. Was this suspicious? Some thought so at one point.)

Maja-Pearce, Adewale. "Words Instead of Lead." Observer (London), 5 February. (Review of Mandela's Earth.)


Masha, Tony. "The Week in Review." Sunday Times (Lagos), 15 October, 3. (Reports that the previous Sunday Soyinka had told newsmen that 'if he found men of like minds he would team up with them' and become involved in partisan politics.)


Momodu, Dele. "As Soyinka Clocks 55 ... Memories of his first teacher." Weekend Concord (Lagos), 8 July 1989, p. 5. (Chief S O Olagbaju, 78, recalled that Soyinka made rapid strides in learning Yoruba, and was able to read from the Bible in Yoruba at 4.)

Momodu, Dele. "Don't Ask me why we fell apart." Weekend Concord (Lagos), 11-12 March 1989, pp. 11, 16. (Second part of an interview with Laide Soyinka, in which she recalls some of Soyinka's brushes with the law; describes the lorry load of armed police under Commissioner Olawaye that was sent to her house - 'Wole was sleeping at Iyaganku', Okigbo was very supportive; lists some of her children's birthdays: Yetade - 06 06 65; Peyibomi 06 07 66, so called because Soyinka said the girl came to give him succour after the 'ugly incident' with..."
Akintola. She describes the "Gowon incident" - says Alhaji M D Yusuf 'was cultured'; recalls report of letter from Bertrand Russell's secretary threatening to check on Soyinka's health (I think this Secretary – Ralph Schoenmann – was the witness at Soyinka's first marriage? JG). Says she saw Soyinka in prison in Lagos and in Kaduna - when she told him the Americans had landed on the moon. Reports that Achebe had read out Soyinka's obituary on Radio Biafra and said Remi Ilori had written 'terrible articles in the past attacking Wole and went so far as saying Wole didn't have a degree'; indicates that the (Northern) New Nigerian surprised them by printing her Open Letter to Gowon about Wole while The Daily Times did not; says she found the expatriate community more supportive than many Nigerians; provides an account of Soyinka's relationship with the University of Ibadan after his period of self-exile: 'There was a problem of promoting him to Professor and he said they were not even competent to assess him. He later wrote them off.' Reports that she supposes Soyinka has 'mellowed down', contradicts the statement by Yeside nee Soyinka - Soyinka's sister - that Wole is 'not complex and that he is almost a saint.' (See Guardian article: 'I said "What is this woman saying"', adds 'As for being romantic, go and ask his girl friends about that. I'm sure there are many of them around. ... He can never be a star to his wife since it wasn't a late marriage. ... Wole has always been surrounded with girls admiring him. If one was not the home-making type may be it would have been over long ago. In fact, I had to shut my eyes to some of these excesses.' Describes her attitude to religion, reports that two of her daughters are born-again Christians, that Wole had not wanted them to be confirmed, that she had survived an horrific car crash and an attack on her house by armed robbers. (Another burglary was subsequently reported. JG.))

Momodu, Dele. "Mum and Dad Not the Best of Friends - Soyinka's Son." Weekend Concord, 18-19 March 1989, pp. 8-9. (Momodu describes meeting Ilemakin Olumide Muyiwa Alabi Soyinka (I 'have about twelve names in all') in the boys' quarters of Professor Femi Soyinka. Ilemakin was born 06 05 71 went to Ogunlesi's Day Nursery, U I Staff School and the International School, at UI, currently reading English. Ilemakin fills Momodu in on Soyinka's other children, Morenike, currently in England after reading English at UI, daughter of a Ghanaian, and Amani, a seven year-old also by a Ghanaian. Recalls meeting his father in Ghana - when Olaokun was also present - and in England in about 1974/75 - when there was a minor fire in the flat below. Comments on the problems of not having a father at home, on staying with his father in Abeokuta, on his mother, on his father's radicalism: 'I share his views to a certain extent. But he hasn't come out ... to postulate exactly how his own envisaged socialist state would be like'; describes his own attitude to Christianity and that of his sisters; says that his father preserves his privacy even in Abeokuta and that he is not different from other Nigerian men regarding women; recalls hunting experiences; describes his father's eating and drinking habits; says he had travelled abroad for medical reasons and - in 1979 - to England, France and Switzerland with his father; describes the 'noise' local university students made about Soyinka's decision to work with the Federal Road Safety Corps as 'very, very unnecessary'. PS Mrs Ogunlesi's School was on the right hand side of the main road from the gate through the UI campus. JG.)


comments and points out that Fagunwa's text does not have tone marks and that this may cause confusion. Abioye had queried certain words because he could not find them in the dictionary; Momodu defends Soyinka's creativity in coining words. See other articles by Solaja and Momodu.

Momodu, Dele. "Saviours as opportunist." *African Concord*, 24 April 1989, p. 32; *ANA Review '89* (Lagos), 26. (Reaction to Solaja's "Translators as saviours", which he describes as crass opportunism, the result of Solaja being a past student of Abioye. Asserts that Solaja had tried to get the 36-page original paper published in *The Guardian*; quotes extensively from a new Fagunwa translator, Dapo Adeneyi, on the problems of translating.)

Momodu, Dele. "Wole Soyinka - Laide Soyinka." *Weekend Concord* (Lagos), 4 March 1989, 9 and 13; continued 11-12 March 1989, pp. 11, 16. (Front page advertises "World Exclusive: My Love Life with Soyinka." Reports that Laide Soyinka was brought up partly in Ibadan, and that she had moved from place to place as a child because her father was a civil servant; she attended St James' School, Oke Bola, and St Anne's, which she left in 1955. She graduated in classics from the University of Ibadan in 1960 and then did a postgraduate diploma in Education. She saw Soyinka in *The Good Woman of Setzuan* and he began taking her out regularly. "He was crazy. He was unusual and very radical. ... He shook the university out of its stupor. ... He was such a good dancer." She acted in *The Trials of Brother Jero* - the penitent woman, and taught at Surulere. She then went into librarianship and moved to Ibadan to be near Soyinka. They got married in a Registry Office - "it wasn't elaborate' and there were few guests: Mrs Fehinti Sonuga, Olumuyiwa Awe, Yomi Onabolu, Mr and Mrs Bola Ige. The couple had three daughters: Moremi, Yetade and Peyibomi, and a son, Ilemakin (born 1971). (Moremi, a lawyer with NICOM, is now Onijala Yetade; Peyibomi got a first in International Relations at Ife and has just done an MA there; Ilemakin is a second year English student at Ife. Compare the account of the wedding with the impression created in *Ibadan*. St Anne’s was de fact a sister school of GCI, H/Master Bullock married H/Mistress Groves. JG.)

Moody, David Clive, *The Broken Bridge*": *Wole Soyinka and the Decolonization of African Literature*. Thesis presented for a PhD Degree, Macquarie University. (Extends the debate about decolonization and other controversies; traces the development of Soyinka's awareness ('dialectical mutation') through an extended study of his works.)


Nwagboso, Maxwell. "The Road to 1992." *West Africa* (London), 4-10 September, 1452-3. (Refers to Soyinka's attempts to chair a symposium on SAP, 29 July 1988, and gives background to the increasing repression in Nigeria.)

Nwagboso, Maxwell. "A Season of Discontent." *West Africa* (London), 17-23 July, 1168-9. (Reports that after the closure of six universities, Soyinka challenged the 'top members of government who had children studying abroad to withdraw them as a demonstration that the government had not intended to be vindictive towards the students of the six closed universities'. Provides further information on the position of Fawehinmi, Sam Aluko, the 'newbreed Nigerians', and the Ransome-Kuti brothers.)


Obasi, Ely. "So Wole Soyinka, too, Must Die?" *Quality* (Lagos), 23 March, 35. (Opens by referring to the BBC's World Service report of 27 February to the effect that a student faction at Bayero University had announced that Soyinka would have to die; wonders why the Nigerian security forces had not arrested anyone in relation to this threat; observes that "Wole Soyinka has not lived like a sissy. The man does have a radical following. And the group is quite substantial. And this group consists of both those that are seen and the unseen. Any discomfort visited on this man, any attempt to cause discomfort to his flesh, for any religious reason, will most certainly invite a definite retaliatory compliment.")

Ofuya, Kunbi. "Textual Cohesion in Wole Soyinka's The Interpreters." *Ilorin Journal of Language and Literature* (Ilorin), 1, 2 (1989), pp. 173-199. This analysis draws on work by Halliday, Hasa, and Fowler, and by others who trace patterns of cohesion between different sections of texts. The paper seeks to show underlying patterns and suggest the reasons for choices of vocabulary.

Ogene, Victor. "The day Pyrates couldn't meet." *Vanguard*, 9 August, pp. 8-9. (The Abeokuta meeting about SAP was rearranged for 27 July - having been postponed from 8th. Soyinka arrived at 11.55 at the Akin-Olugbade Hall in a chauffeur driven Federal Government 505 ash-coal car and requested to be allowed into the venue of the symposium. He was, however, politely told by ACP Odubola who had returned from his frequent trips round the town, that he could not be allowed to go in because the symposium had been cancelled. After being told that the symposium had been cancelled because permission had not been given, Soyinka was driven to Centenary Hall at Ake. Dr. Sina Mafe, the "Caoune" in Pyrate circles, was then contacted. Might be 'Capone' JG.)


Ogundele, Wole. "The Other Soyinka." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 15 July 1989, p. 13. (Refers to the image of Soyinka as 'a donor-faced author' (ié dour-faced: JG) argues that although Soyinka is not 'a masses-oriented playwright, the quintessential experiences of the people are there in his plays'. Observes that the 'libidinal drive' is central - present in 'Telephone Conversation' and *Jero*; remarks the presence of crowds which survive the tragedies of their leaders. Considers
Esu present in the plays and proposes a toast to 'this god of freedom'.


Omotosho, Kole. "House of Yoruba." *West Africa* (London), 8-14 May 1989, 727. (Reports that Soyinka opened an exhibition mounted as a tribute to the life and work of Duro Ladipo in Bayreuth on April 17.)

Oni, Gbenga. "Securitymen bar Soyinka from Sea Dog’s symposium." *Sunday Times* (Lagos), 30 July 1989, p. 1. (The symposium was entitled "State of the Nation" and scheduled for the Akin-Olugbade Social Centre, Abeokuta. But the venue was sealed by police and Soyinka was told that a permit had not been obtained. Sina Mafe, national head of the Association of Sea Dogs was also turned back: he said he would look into the legal implications. ‘Sea Dogs’ a k a Pyrates. JG)

Osagie-Okojie, Doyin. "The unending tales of Brother Wole." *Vanguard* (Lagos), 19 December 1989, p. 6. (Refers to an interview with Soyinka on 'Morning Ride', 16 December, in which he said he had accepted a Government ‘assignment’ not a 'job', and maintained that it had not bought his silence. He 'hit out' at his critics, and said, egotistically in the reporter/columnist’s opinion that ‘Nobody can afford me’. Reporter maintains that his country can, because ‘it was his country that gave him his identity and that identity is invaluable. Nobody, but nobody is inaffordable by his country.’)

Osofisan, Femi. "The hazards of eloquence." *Sunday Times* (Lagos), 30 April 1989, p. 5. (Account of the slandering of Soyinka. Refers to the allegations made against Soyinka and Agunloye, and to the feeling that Soyinka compromised himself by accepting to work for the FRSC while Babangida was Head of State. This article elicited an 'Open Letter' from Soyinka and may have contributed to one of the sketches in *Before the Deluge*. See Gibbs, 1992.)

[chk date]: Osuntokun, Akin. "Between Obasanjo and Soyinka." Vanguard, 11 December 1989, p.6. (Refers to Soyinka having corrected a "wild statement credited to him." Refers to his having exposed his flank "when he failed to resist a course of an open flirtation with government." Sees Soyinka as an apologist for an unpopular government and "the Nobel prize played the role of a deus ex machina. It heightened the utility of any role the Nobelist effects to play." Describes Obasanjo as "an altogether difficult man to quantify." who has "managed to become a ranking member of the international establishment.")

Otufodunrin, Lekan. "No attempt on my life' - Wole Soyinka." Daily Champion, November 1989. (Refers to events at Soyinka's house on 16 November, and to a recent encounter on the Lagos/Ibadan Expressway. Headline may refer to boiler explosion. JG)

Owusu, Kofi. Fictionalizing as fiction-analyzing: A study of select 'critical' fiction by Ayi Kwei Armah, Wole Soyinka, Ama Ata Aidoo and Chinua Achebe. Ph D University of Alberta. (Concerned with levels of reading African literature.)


Ricard, Alain. Wole Soyinka ou l'ambition democratique. Paris: Silex and Les Nouvelles Editions Africaines. (Monograph in which Soyinka's political principles are examined.)


Sabor, Peter. "Wole Soyinka and the Scriblerians." World Literature Written in English (Guelph). 29, 1 (Spring 1989), pp. 43-51/52. (MLA bibliography has 51; BL has 52.)

Samuel, Kayode. "Wole Soyinka: The critic and his critics." Sunday Vanguard, 13 August 1989, p. 7. (A piece inspired by the interview Soyinka gave to African Concord, published about 8 August. In the interview Soyinka "entered a robust rebuttal to allegations that he has lately taken a French leave from hard-hitting social criticism." Opens with references to De Gaulle and Richelieu, and to Soyinka as "a frequenter of the Paris intellectual haunts." Concedes that many of his critics are included among "The infantile left, covetous academics, Soyinka's
disillusioned ex-comrades and those he elsewhere tagged "mouthers and phrase-mongers." Thinks Soyinka should have recognised insiders who work for change and should be able to recall the 'Third Force.' But did the Third Force ever exist? JG)


Saro-Wiwa, Ken. *On a Darkling Plain: An account of the Nigerian Civil War*. London: Saros, 1989. (On page 12, Saro-Wiwa quotes Soyinka: 'To keep Nigeria one Justice must be done to all.' I think the 'to all' is Saro-Wiwa's addition - prompted by his own concern for the Ogoni. JG)

Schipper, Mineke. *Beyond the Boundaries: African Literature and Literary Theory*. London: Allison and Busby, 1989. (Schipper includes a passage on Aké in considering narrative strategies and asking "Who speaks?" and "Who sees?" - argues that the older Wole tells, the younger Wole sees. 109.)

Siegfried, Woldert von. "Eine Umstrittene Honorarprofessur." *Suddeutsche Zeitung* (Munich), 8-9 April. (Reports that Soyinka declined to accept an honorary degree at Bayreuth because Arthur Maria Rabenalt, a film-maker who had produced Anti-Semitic work during the Nazi period, had also been given an honorary degree.)

Sogolo, Godwin. "Soyinka's Marshal Orders." *The Guardian* (Lagos), 4 December, 13. (Refers to RSC as 'Wole Soyinka's para-military Federal Road Safety Commission' and to events following an accident after which, on 'orders from above', some road safety marshals were arrested. Soyinka then ordered the withdrawal from road operations of all marshals. In the final paragraph, Sogolo praises Soyinka but rebukes him for taking issue with the state: 'There is everything wrong with the head of a government establishment using the very instrument of government in protesting against the same government."

Solaja, Kunle. "Translators as saviours." *African Concord* (Lagos), 3 April 1989, p. 31, and ANA Review '89 (Lagos), p. 26 - where it is erroneously attributed to Olaoye Abioye. A reaction to Momodu's criticisms of Abioye's paper on *Forest of a Thousand Daemons*, seems to pick up a few dubious translations and to favour some Latinate and clichéd forms which Soyinka may have deliberately rejected. Momodu replied.)


Taiwo, Akinyemi. "Soyinka gives pass mark to Babangida administration." *The Guardian*, 4 December 1989. (Opens by referring to what Soyinka had said on a Radio Lagos Newsmaker programme 'last week': he said he was 'no longer enthusiastic about Third Republic politics' because a Government agency will write the parties’ manifestos. He applauded 'side-lining' of old politicians, gave a 'pass mark' for the regime's responsiveness, commented on the economic position, condemned the system whereby the government appointed university Vice-Chancellors, chided critics who claimed he had been given the road safety job to keep him
quiet. He said: 'I have no time for them. It is my idea that led to the creation of the road safety commission in Africa.' He said that 120 cases of police harassment of marshals had been recorded and called for proper investigations. The case of the treatment of marshals following an accident on 8 November in which Mrs Rasheedat Rasaki, second wife of the Lagos State Governor, was killed and after which documents and money were said to be missing. Patrols were off the roads for five days but returned on 28 November. In Benin, the FRSC has set up a complaints committee for members of the public with cases against the Commission.)


Thorpe, Michael. "Review of Art, Dialogue and Outrage." World Literature Today (Norman), 63, 4 (Autumn 1989), 730. (Draws attention to Jeyifo's 'excellent introduction', Soyinka's 'eclectic standpoint' and the numerous 'typographical (or other) errors'. Describes the volume as a 'rare, vigorous and cogent writer's apologia."

Thorpe, Michael. "Soyinka's Clay Foot." World Literature Today (Norman), 63, 1 (Winter 1989), pp. 39-41. (Thorpe contrasts the independence and balance of Soyinka's remarks on the role of the writer in 1967 with subsequent attitudes: the decision to exclude Animal Farm from the Baltimore Festival; his approving references to his East German literary honours and to the Cuban theatre, and the failure 'to think through the terrible contradictions in his Nobel lecture. Briefly: Regarding the Orwell play see Soyinka embroiled in a censorship row in the USA in his role as an ITI office holder. He attacked Sir Peter Hall and was seen as following a Soviet line regarding censorship. Thorpe's criticisms are well founded and well put. JG."


Timothy-Asobele, S.J.. "After Soyinka's Calabar declaration: A case for book review periodicals." The Guardian (Lagos), 10 July, 16. (Regards literature as a 'mighty agent of intellectual liberation' and adds 'witness the renewed interest in literary creativity in Nigeria since Wole Soyinka won the 1986 Nobel Prize for literature.' Refers to Soyinka's Calabar Declaration which appeared in Guardian on 15 May 1989 and to Tomoloju 1989; argues the case for a 'specialized review cum-journal devoted specifically to reviews of literary works.' Author has written on various literary traditions.)

Tomoloju, Ben. "Cultural Dialogue: Digesting Soyinka's Calabar Declaration." The Guardian (Lagos), 15 May 1989, 17. (Summarises Soyinka's address entitled "Beyond Insularity, Beyond Rushdie: Prescriptions for the Terminal Critic," delivered in Calabar on 3 May, in which he stressed the importance of dialogue, criticised the local press for not paying attention to important work from outside Nigeria - and for despicable syntax, dealt with comments by Chinweizu and Osofisan, and made remarks about the Rushdie Affair. Tomoloju adds a few observations made by others at the conference.)


Studies (Dijon), Special Issue 1 (1989), pp. 68-78. (Also published elsewhere.)

Willis, Robert J. "The Lion and the Jewel." In Magill, 1989, 1, pp. 981-85. (or 893 see BL.)

Wimborne, Naomi. "A Poet Fights Nigeria's Heavy Road Carnage." The Western Mail (Cardiff), 20 July 1989. (Datelined 'Abeokuta', the article contains background on the road safety campaign and includes fairly extensive quotation from Soyinka. Soyinka was involved with the Oyo State Road Safety Corps from 1976 to 1983 when the Corps was 'broken up in the last days of a corrupt civilian government by politicians who saw it as an obstacle to their election rigging manoeuvres'. In February 1988, Soyinka became Chairman of the Federal Road Safety Committee. The budget is N20 million ($2.9 million), but the equipment is less than OSRSC had. Wimborne notes that 9,077 people died on Nigerian roads in 1988 and 24,413 were injured. Soyinka said: 'The roads are a very obvious symbol of our current national psyche'. He believes that the oil-boom turned Nigeria into 'a nation of instant expectation' - people can't tolerate any obstacle in getting from A to B; he believes 'it is possible to create pockets of integrity which would serve as models worthy of emulation' and the Corps has had some success in breaking up rings of forgers and has procedures to trap bribe-givers and takers.

NB Soyinka's whole strategy depends on 'pockets', cf Eman and the Pyrates. See Naomi Wimborne-Idrissi. Wimborne, Naomi. JG.


1990*

NB There are a number of leads that could be checked: Check These include Sunday Times, 18 March 1990, on Isara; TES 31 August 1990, 16a, on Mandela and 'Diary Note', Times (London), Oct 9, 18a.

Anon. Cartoon. "Now that the man has won the Nobel ..." Third World, 1, 2 (1990).


Anon. "Soyinka's Horseman Comes alive again." Guardian Express (Lagos), 24 January 1990, 5. (Pre performance material on the February 6-11 production of Horseman, 'Eleshinoba as the play is popularly referred to' by Bayo Oduneye, "Uncle B.", as he is known. Article lists cast and crew, reports Oduneye's satisfaction with company, with backers, and with the advertising on radio and TV. Summarises the attraction and the qualities of the play; 'the predominant theme weighs the tragic consequence of cultur (sic) imperialism, especially in those days between Europe and Africa. It further highlights the conflicts of ideology and social principles attendant
to the white man's attempt to disregard the cultural and traditional values of Africans.)

Anon. "A bank's romance with the theatre." *Daily Champion* (Lagos), 2 February 1990. (Reports that a forum at the Sheraton Hotel, Lagos, the previous Tuesday had marked the official introduction by the Nigeria International Bank Ltd of its sponsorship of *Horseman*. Draws attention to the involvement of the managing director, Amirapu Somasekhar, in the project. He is quoted as saying that his bank 'is seeking a larger and fuller role as a corporate citizen', and has already promoted an exhibition by Bruce Onabrakpeya and established prizes in five universities. Proceeds from ticket sales go to charity.)


Anon. "NIB's discomfiture." *Sunday Champion* (Lagos), 18 February 1990. (Reports the 'discomfort' of the ticket holders who arrived early and yet had to wait outside the theatre, indicated that the sponsorship was 'close to half a million naira' and that 'still some of the artists grumbled about inadequate remunerations.)

Anon. "Soyinka sends ram as gift to Achebe." *Sunday Punch* (Lagos), 18 February 1990. (Soyinka sent the ram on the occasion of an International Symposium at Nsukka marking Achebe's 60th birthday. Reported that an Achebeana Collection had been formed at Nsukka. NB Some years later, Soyinka reflected on the rumours that had been circulated about the ram gift. Soyinka made clear that it was sent partly because he could not attend the event. JG)

Anon. "Untold story of Professor Wole Soyinka's sizzling romance with Folake Doherty." *Climax Magazine* (Lagos), 21 February 1990, p. 6. (Doherty was educated at Idia College, Benin City, and at the University of Ife, where she had read English. She had worked at *The Guardian* and had been in Stockholm for the presentation of the Nobel Prize. The article includes information from Doherty's erstwhile colleagues and neighbours - she lives in Allen Avenue - and speculation that she was pregnant by Soyinka. There were rumours of imminent marriage.)

Anon. "Wole Soyinka Quits." *Sunday Times* (Lagos), 25 February 1990. (Reports that Soyinka had submitted or had lodged somewhere - a resignation letter re FRSC, no date given; information provided on new licence, blood group and eye-test regulations for drivers. NB Soyinka resigned at beginning of 1992. JG)

Anon. "Nigerian High Commissioner..." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 26 February 1990. (Photograph of Soyinka with Michael Manley in Jamaica 'recently'. Soyinka has written and spoken about his visit(s) to Jamaica. JG)

Anon. "I'll remain a road marshal - Soyinka." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 27 February 1990. (Reports that Soyinka had deposited a resignation letter, date not known, with the Central Bank indicating separation from Federal Road Safety Commission. Soyinka indicated that he does not believe in the 'personalisation of any organisation'; warned marshals to be upright and indicated that he would remain a voluntary marshal.)

Anon. "The Soyinkas: Are they still married." *Weekend Concord* (Lagos), 3 March 1990. (Reports that the Soyinkas 'lived together as husband and wife until 1981 when the marriage
was dissolved at an Ile-Ife Magistrate Court on the grounds of "incompatibility". Refers to a 'turbulent period' in the marriage after Soyinka's release from detention in 1971. The couple's four children have 'dual homes'.


Anon. "Un Prix Nobel a Dijon." *Le Bien Public* (Dijon), 23 March, 17. (On Soyinka's visit to Dijon. Article quotes J-P Durix and Soyinka, the latter on the need for Africa to have a 'universal' language as affecting his decision to write in English.)

Anon. "Ake on Screen." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 31 March. (Report of plans to film *Ake*, those involved included Dr Folabo Ajayi, Dapo Adeniyi, Wole Soyinka, Kalu Okpi and Dejumo Lewis, as producer and director. These plans seem to have come to nothing. There was later talk of a film being made in 2012/3. JG)


Anon. "Coup suspects..." *West Africa* (London), 14-20 May 1990, 817. (Reports that Soyinka had spoken to Babangida 'barely twelve hours' before the coup attempt on April 22nd and had raised some of the issues mentioned by the dissidents. Indicated that some of the complaints required 'close scrutiny and remedial action'; warned that 'security agencies should not act in an opportunist fashion', suggested that the trial of the plotters would show that religion was 'not critical in the fundamental animation of the tragic episode'.)


Anon. "Rumbles of Footprints at theatre workshop." *Guardian Express*, 11 July 1990. (Report on controversy surrounding a workshop which included productions of *Home to Roost* and *Conference* 'both written by Soyinka'. No details of the latter available. The former is a *Before the Blow-out script*; the latter unknown to me at this time. JG.)

Anon. "'Solarin has not betrayed his principles' - Soyinka." *Daily Times*, 13 June 1990, p.3.

Anon. "Soyinka Sues "Prime People" for N10 m." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 18 June 1990. (Claims his former wife libelled him by representing herself as 'his only legal wife."


Anon. "Soyinka for Oslo Conference on 'politics of hate'." *The Guardian* (Lagos), 15 June. (Soyinka expected to participate in a conference in Oslo, August 26-29.)
Anon. "Soyinka on corruption." *West Africa* (London), 16-22 July, 2121-2. (Summary of Soyinka's contribution at a forum, 'Dialogue', at which he drew attention to the need to prosecute corrupt military governors, his objections to Decree 9 and the fact that he had made representation about corruption to Babangida.)

Anon. "UI's late theatre season begins tomorrow." *Guardian Express*, ( ), 18 July, 5. (Outlines plans for the season, which includes *The Road*.)

Anon. "Soyinka's *The Road* may be shown in Lagos soon." *The Daily Times* (Lagos), 4 August 1990. (Dr Yemi Ogunbiyi, Managing Director of the paper, indicated possibility of a Lagos performance, noted that 'the lessons on causes of road accidents by commercial drivers' and so on 'should be brought to the public light'. Dr Olu Agunloye, chief executive of the FRSC, spoke about tradition of using theatre to forward the Commission's work, and observed that 'such a play is in line with the objectives of the FRSC. A member of the audience said 'To me the most important lesson the play tried to teach was that people should not crowd around an accident victim'. Also see "Drama Fiesta at Ibadan", *Daily Times*, 14 July, which carries details of the UI Theatre Arts season of which the production was a part.)

Anon. ‘*The Road on Stage.*’ *Sunday Concord*, 19 August 1990. (The play ran for a week at UI Arts Theatre. Contradictory opinions: 'Watching *The Road* on stage is a piece of tragic-comic revelation that will make one ask why people take the play to be difficult … Humorous as the play is it will take a brain racking exercise to decode it.' Critic regrets that the songs 'are rendered in Yoruba'. Complains about the padding (loose) used by Particulars Joe, commended the acting of Femi Ogunjobi as Samson. Says the play was first produced in ‘Stratford, England, in 1965’. This is an easily made mistake. It was at ‘Stratford East’. JG There were plans to take this production, directed by Femi Osofisan to Lagos, before the end of 1990.)


Anon. ‘Soyinka’s “Childe Internationale”.’ *The Punch*, 5 September 1990. (‘The kiddies too deserve some fun and for just N2 ‘… *Childe Internationale* put on by Baaloy Productions, with National Arts Theatre, at Cinema 2, National Theatre, at 12 noon and 2 pm daily. Directed by Oritseneyima Kwamee. Adults N5.)


Anon. ‘Soyinka takes another award.’ *Daily Times* (Lagos), 13 September 1990. (Refers to a statement issued at Abeokuta ‘yesterday’, that Mr and Mrs Rastrelli would host Soyinka’s family to a private dinner at their residence. Soyinka would go to Palermo, Sicily, to receive the Premio Modello Internazionale, a prize for the greatest writer of a continent. There is a reference to a broadcast of *A Scourge of Hyacinths*, and hints that Soyinka might, after his return, spend time outside the country in connection with the Essay Foundation. It had taken over responsibility for the Okigbo Prize for Poetry. Article refers to the award earlier in the year of the Benson Medal by the Royal Society of Literature, UK. Note: Premio letterario internazionale Mondello, JG.)

Anon. "What African Writers haven't done - Soyinka." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 15 September 1990, 2. (Award of Ghana Association of Writers (GAW) fellowship; comments on African leaders, ECOWAS and PAWA.)
Anon. ‘Soyinka gives panacea for recurring coups.’ *The Guardian* (Lagos), 26 November 1990. (Records that Soyinka spoke shortly before leaving for a cultural and artistic tour of Germany and the United States, of the need for compulsory military training, humanisation of the military, and faith in the sanctity of human life.)


Anon. "Another Feather for Laureate." *African Guardian* (Lagos), 8 October 1990, p. 42. (Honoured as Commander of the Order of Merit by Italy’s Ambassador to Nigeria.)


Anon. "Soyinka's papers: IBB intervenes." *Daily Times*, 31 October, pp. 1 and 4. (See also Ogunleye 1990; Fagbalu 1990; Olukuye 1990. Soyinka wanted the solution to involve the Essay Foundation; Osifisan, speaking at ANA conference, considered the intervention an important boost for the arts. JG.)

Anon. "FG to have Soyinka's Papers." *African Guardian* (Lagos), 12 November 1990, p. 19. (Nigerian Head of State intervenes to purchase papers for the nation.)

Anon. "Baby boy for Wole Soyinka." *Vintage People*, 14-21 December. (Child born 'a few weeks ago'; lists Soyinka's other children.)

Abati, Reuben. "Wole Soyinka and The Road." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 11 August. (Information about a production by Femi Osifisan sponsored by *The Daily Times*, presented at Ibadan, August 2-11. Femi Fatoba played Professor, Femi Ogunjobi Samson, etc.. The play conceived as a ritual; the humour much appreciated.)

Abati, Reuben. ‘Recent Nigerian Dramatists: Context, Attitudes and Patterns (1).’ *The Guardian*, 3 November 1990, 8. (GLS 2049), followed by (2), on 10 November, p. 18. (GLS 2049) and 3 on 17 November, 12. (Concentrates on the ‘post-Osifisan’ generation, the one that emerged in the late eighties. Includes comments on Biyi Bandele-Thomas, Tess Onwue, and on children’s theatre. Penultimate paragraph includes: ‘… perhaps the most central achievement of recent Nigerian drama is the emergence in literary form, of a concern for children’ Abati refers to Yahaya S. Dangana’s *The Barber’s Nine Children* and *The Emir’s Secret*, and Irene Salami’s *Short Plays for Juniors.’ Notes danger of reducing level for children.)

well as the two titles under review, Ackroyd looks at Soyinka's view of Africa and at the whole idea of being an African writer. In *Isara*, he finds no indication whether the Christian or non-Christian groups attract greater weight. Regards the poetry as 'Highly derivative of English models'.

Adams, Paul, *Vanguard* cartoon shows Soyinka marching with gun, and balloon text: "Military training programme for all ... Forestall coups ... carry arms." Under picture "Onward 'Civilian' soldiers... ")

Adeboye, Lanre and Dapo Adeniyi. "Death on Stage." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 3 February 1990. (Refers to Oduneye's production as the fifth in Nigeria since Soyinka directed it in 1975. Indicates that the performances began at 2 pm each day of the run, and that it ran from 7 – 11 Feb. The performance on the 6th was a Command performance. Oduneye had already directed it and said 'one of our objectives will be to find contemporary relevance for this historical piece'.)

Adekoya, Segun. "Soyinka and the Poetry of Power." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 18 July, 18 and 25 July. (A review of Mandela's *Earth and Other Poems*. Traces links with *Ogun Abibiman* through theme of struggle for freedom and 'high lyrical quality'. Regards Soyinka's experiences in prison as informing poems about Mandela's imprisonment. Sees 'the great potential of black people for self-annihilation or betrayal of their race, (as) the theme that runs through the second part of the book.' Describes 'After the Deluge' as a 'cauterizing satire'; relates 'Dragonfly at my Windowpane' to Soyinka's controversy with the 'troika' critics; contrasts the ending of 'Caryatid' with the 'universal dream' at the end of 'Idanre'; concludes by describing the collection as 'a good read'.)


Adelugba, Dapo. I think Adelugba wrote on theatre in Ibadan for *The Nigerian Stage* (Ilorin), but have not been able to confirm this or find details. JG..

Adelugba, Segun. 'Osofisan unveils mysteries of Soyinka's play.' *National Concord*, 16 August 1990, 5. (Describes the content of a six week drama season, that included *The Road*, together with *Yungba Yungba* (Osofisan), dir. Sunbo Marinho; *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts*, dir Sowande, and *Rhythm of the Wind* by Mark Ademiju, dir. Peter Tade Adekunle. Includes comments on Osofisan’s careful blocking. Notes the cadences of Professor’s lines ('that sometimes sound like nursery rhymes'), the reconstruction of a perhaps sadly vanished past, the 'comic bunch’ of layabouts, and the cheers drawn from the audience.)

Adeniyi, Dapo. "Soyinka at 56." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 14 July 1990, 17. (Summarises output, refers to plans to film *Ake*, and for Bruce Onobrakpeya's 'birthday portrait'.)


Adjaye, Joseph K. "Wole Soyinka 1986." In Nobel Laureates in Literature: A Biographical Dictionary. New York: Garland, 1990, pp. 418-426. (States that Soyinka writes 'exclusively in English, and .that he graduated in 1954. Adjaye makes several mistakes in dating early works and productions; he thinks Soyinka was 'charged' with 'conspiring with secessionist Biafra' and that the totem in A Dance is a flagpole. He states that Ngugi charges Soyinka with lacking 'a clearly identifiable commitment to political activism'.)

Adler, Anthony. "The Lion and the Jewel." Reader: Chicago's Free Weekly, 7 December, vol. 20, no. 16. (Review which has reservations about the play on grounds of 'political correctness', see other reviews by Bommer, Weiss and Smith. JG)

Afolabi, Omotayo. "Review of The Lion and the Jewel." West Africa (London), 15-21 January 1990, 77. (Suggests that 'poor performances may have been responsible for some of the weaknesses' in the London production.)


Aghedo, Nayaba. “Wole Soyinka’s Death and the King’s Horseman.” Arts Illustrated Weekly (Lagos), 8-14 March 1990,

Aghedo, Nayaba. "Nobel Legacies." City Life (?), 22 November. (Trailed as a look 'at the man, his philosophy and his work'. Refers to Soyinka 'working closely with ... G Wilson Knight', as holding a 'semi-official post as Road Safety Commissioner', and as 'entitled 'The Watchdog of the People"'. Quotes Badejo on the relevance of Horseman and the importance of respect for other peoples' cultures.)

Aghedo, Nayaba. "The way it is!." Caribbean Times (London), 4 December. (One of a collection of pieces by Aghedo on the Manchester Horseman; uses same material elsewhere, re irony of cotton exchange venue, Soyinka's 'tell-it-how-it-is' style, 'magnificent' performances and so on.)


Ajibade, Kunle, "A Star Snuffed," African Concord (Lagos), 11 June, 53. (The article provides a brief account of the achievements of Peter Feuser, road accident victim, who had directed The Road in 1988. Soyinka's reference for him is quoted. Peter was the son of Willfried. JG)

Akinpelu, Mayor. "Wole Soyinka's new wife is pregnant." Vintage People, September 28-October 1990, p. 4. (On Soyinka's family, courtship and marriage.)


Akomolafe, Olu. "Awovarsity Theatre, An Historical Perspective." The Nigerian Stage (Ilorin),
1, 1 (March), 54-60. (Refers to Soyinka's role in theatre life at the University of Ife, mentions his Chairmanship of Oduduwa Hall, and the decline of Ori Olokun during his period at Ife; does not allude to the Guerrilla Theatre Unit.)


Atalese, David. 'Soyinka gives recipe for coups.' Daily Times, 26 September 1990. (Soyinka, 'speaking with newsmen in his office' in Abeokuta, called for compulsory military training. Described the army as a close(d) club and called for it to be humanised. Dismissed the predictions that he would die unless people fasted and prayed for him, adding: 'But if I die the prophet should be held responsible.' Came out against wage increases - led to inflation perhaps, and described the governor of Katsina state who had flogged a contractor as 'barbaric'.

Atalese, David. "Why I didn't register with any party - Soyinka." Daily Times (Lagos), 31 March 1990. (Reports on a press conference given at Abeokuta at which Soyinka gave reasons for not joining a political party – I e reservations about NEC's decision to write the manifestos; also spoke about the 'atrocities and other crimes' in the universities, which he blamed on the children of the elite. Spoke about the Pyrates and the disbanding of the National Association of Seadogs in 1983.)

Axworthy, see Nwamuo

Ayoola, Tosin. "Teaching Soyinka a few tricks." West Africa (London), 9-15 April, 606. (Reports that Oduneye 'made a success of what is commonly regarded as the most difficult of Soyinka's plays', and, see discussion in Art, Dialogue and Outrage, that 'New York critics mercilessly hacked his directorial efforts to pieces'. Draws attention to the celebratory element in the production and 'an age old Yoruba tradition that when the king dies, his horseman must be sacrificed'. Suggests that NIB provided N150,000 in subsidy - cf reports of a larger sum, and that tickets were (re) sold at five times their face value.)

Bailey, Paul. "Piecing his father together." The Sunday Times (London), 18 March 1990, H 7. (Considers the reasons for Soyinka's decision to write a novel ('spaciousness'); regards fact and fiction as merging in the story of Mariam and Tenten ('The Search'); describes the rest of the book as more loosely narrated and the prose as 'leisurely', considers Sipe's debt collecting episode 'delicious'; finds some longueurs, but also 'wonderful passages'.)

Baker-White, Robert. Popular theatre and literary text in contemporary drama: The dialectic of appropriation. Ph D Stanford University. 298 pages. (Argues that in Soyinka's version of The Bacchae the classical text is contrasted strikingly with 'contemporary forms of ritualistic popular performance'.)

Bamigbetan, Kehinde with Ide Eguabor and Reuben Mouka. "Soyinka is naive, says army boss ... over his anti-coup arms call," also "Thumbs down for Soyinka's pet dream." Vanguard, 13 October 1990, pp.1, 8-9. (Subtitled "The 'hos' drown the 'ayes' on the question of whether Nigerians should own guns to deter coup plotters." Refers to Soyinka reiteration of his views to Vanguard at Abeokuta: to the effect that every Nigerian should be given military training and "the next civilian regime should make a law that would empower every Nigerian the
opportunity of having a gun." (sic) The article quoted Col Fred Chijuka on the naivety of the plan and asked what sort of weapons would be owned by the citizens. Later in the article Soyinka is quoted on the need to "demystify the feeling of superiority triggered by the soldiers' monopoly of weapons." Tunji Olapa saw wider gun ownership as "calling for anomie.")

Bandele-Thomas, Biyi. "The British Premiere of a 20th Century Classic." Home News (Lagos), 29 Nov - 4 Dec 1990, 13. (Favourable review of Manchester production of Horseman. Compares it with those by Osanyin and Oduneye in Lagos. Comments on Iyaloha's 'quaint' pronunciation of Yoruba. Considers that Badejo's decision to translate lines into Yoruba during the trance scene worked well. NB: Author is noted playwright. JG)

Banham, Martin. "Initiates and Outsiders: The Theatre of Africa in the Theatres of Europe." The University of Leeds Review, 33 (1990), 25-49. (Banham's Inaugural Lecture includes comments on Horseman and The Lion and the Jewel, before moving on to Aidoo, Ngugi, and Rotimi.)

Barber, Karin. "Drums and Shame." Times Higher Educational Supplement (London), 14 12 90. (Favourable review of Horseman at Manchester; Barber was taken to task by J. Michael Walton (THES 21 12 90) for referring to the production as the first in the UK. Walton said Chris Kamlongera had directed it at Hull. NB Confusion over Kamlongera's nationality. JG)

Bardolph, Jacqueline. "Language and Voices in A Dance of the Forests." A Dance of the Forests, Dijon: Special Issue of Commonwealth Essays and Studies, 49-58. (Draws attention to the somewhat timeless and placeless language.)

Bello, Kehinde. ‘Soyinka plans to influence choice of president.’ Vanguard, 22 August 1990

Biddle, Jo. "Empire's death throes." West Lancashire Evening Gazette (Blackpool), 23 November. (Manchester's Horseman "is a challenging play stunning the audience with its vibrancy and complexity").

Bodunrin, Adebayo. ‘No politics for Soyinka in the 90s.’ Vanguard, 23 August 1990, 1,8. (In the context of rejecting Voodoo Democracy, the idea of government involvement in writing manifestoes, Soyinka said ‘No politics for me throughout this decade’. Words he later ate. JG) Quoted/ misquoted as saying: ‘Nigerian socialists are tall in rhetorics but brief in action.’ Spoke about his commitment to socialism, the need for ideological re-orientation, and the pretence in Benin's revolution. (Kerekou declared himself a Marxist. Asked about violence on the roads, Soyinka said the marshals had been insured and ‘been trained on how to ward off aggressive attacks from drivers and armed robbers…’ The Corpsmen had no guns.)


Brisenden, Alan. "Tradition and the Playwright: Volpone and The Lion and the Jewel." In (Un)common Ground, ed Andrew Taylor and Russell McDougall, Adelaide: CRNLE, Essays and Monograph Series, no. 4, 44-52. (Brisenden links Soyinka's play with Jonson's, the commedia dell'arte and Alarinjo theatre. He argues that it shows 'the folly of immaturity accepting unexamined cultural change, of underestimating the cunning of the experienced and of believing the unlikely stories of the powerful'.


Bryce, Jane. "Review of Isara: A Voyage Around Essay." West Africa (London), 21-27 May, 1986. (Describes the book as 'a semi-fictional memoir of his father' and quotes Wemuja's 'We dey go carry his'ry' as encapsulating the spirit of the work; glosses 'ex-Iles' as 'literally, from-home'; describes Ashtabula as signifying both an American town and 'an idealised realm of opportunity and self-fulfilment'; defines the quests in which the characters are involved and describes the finale as a 'set-piece' in which 'personal, social and political history merge in a crescendo of climactic storytelling, where the sheer drama of the events is breathtaking.' Sees the image of the new Oba, a Trade Unionist, as showing the relationship between reactionary forces and those who recognise the need for change.)

B., J. (Jane Bryce?). "Wole Soyinka 'Spikes the Wall' in London." West Africa (London), 26 March-1 April, 521. (A fourteen-line account of Soyinka's contribution to the Guardian Conversations at the ICA, during March. Mentions the impact on him of the Nobel Prize - it 'disrupted (his) normal creative tempo', and the ironies which link Berlin, as setting for the Conference which partitioned Africa and as a focus of political developments; refers to the importance Soyinka places on Mandela and his description of Africa as 'Mandela's Earth'.)


Chinweizu. "After a long silence." Vanguard, 22 July, 1990, p.7. (Describes activities undertaken since 1986 which had included lecturing on Afrocentrisim and writing. Says Nigeria had failed to "consciously adopt an Afrocentric, Black World historical outlook." "I have therefore returned with a renewed dedication to the job of propagating Afrocentrism, of beating the drum for democracy, development and Black Renaissance; of defending the secular state; of campaigning for decolonisation and re-Africanisation in every department of our culture."

Concludes with a PS "I hear that my friend, our Grand Commander of Scatological Abuse has been making a relentless nuisance of himself. When lashing his critics he seems to dip his tongue in the gutter for words like 'puke', 'pus', 'maggots', etc., (Shouldn't that earn him the Supreme Chichidodo of Africa?) I hear our jargon-spewing grey-haired boy (or is it girl?) has been raging and rampaging - abusing Vice Chancellors; abusing journalists (smashing the fingers that made him?) and frantically trying to incite a Nigeria - USA war, all to divert attention from his public career he would rather we didn't hear about, and to assuage his tunescent, spoilt-brat ego! Haba! Well about a year ago, our Great Intellectual Fascist was invited to a literary conference in Budapest; but he ran away when he was told I was also invited. Maybe, his harried victims should let him know that Chinweizu is back." Clearly this constituted a significant exchange in the Chinweizu – Soyinka Affair, spat, controversy. JG)

Coe, Jonathan. "Riches in a box." The Guardian, 15 March. (Review of Isara. Draws attention to Soyinka's attitude to language - a 'sense of raw physicality', 'an unflinching respect for words which (require) that economy be prized over sentimental "gestures"'. Coe enjoys the humour of the 'large-scale comic incidents...' and sometimes by telling turns of phrase...it celebrates the life of the mind, and nails down a moment of history, with wit accuracy and intelligence which our own writers would do well to emulate'. cf Coe: 1988.)


Coventry, Michael. "Cultural Misreading." Observer (London), 2 December 1990. (Refers to the 'astounding claims' which have been made for Horseman (Manchester), draws attention to the absence of an explanation for Elesin's failure. The opening incantations are obscure and undramatic, the structural plotting clumsy, and the message of cross-cultural insensitivity increasingly banal. ... The least you can say, and it is a lot, is that Soyinka is attempting a new, expansive form of tragedy.' Contrasts this with the Coward, Pinter, (Martin?) Crimp tradition.)


Dare, Olatunji. "A Mugger called Feuser." The Guardian, 29 May, 9. (Takes objection to Feuser's description of him as a 'sickly scribbler' because of 62 words he had written on Soyinka. Points out that the words which Feuser quoted were 'tongue in cheek', concedes the possibility that his parody might have been 'poorly executed' but finds the description of him 'libellous', an inexcusable blunder. Provides a context for the original statement, and suggests that 'sick' 'sits better on Feuser's Aryan forebears'.)

Dasenbrock, Reed Way. "Review of Isara: A Voyage Around "Essay"." World Literature Today (Norman), 64, 3 (Summer 1990), 517-8. (Explores relationship between Isara and Aké: former seen as involving 'more an effort of imagination than of memory', and notes important thematic links. Both books seen as part of a discussion with Chinweizu et al.; this one considers view of tradition as needing to be transformed so that it can survive. '...A wonderful book. ... more intellectually demanding if less evocative than Aké and fully worthy of being placed next to it."

Dennis, Ferdinand. "Fighting Cultural Imperialism." West Africa (London), 26 November - 2 December 1990, p. 2896. (Reports that Babangida had prevented the purchase of Soyinka's papers. Speculates that the approach might have been initiated by Henry Louis Gates Jnr. Refers to the New York Times magazine article of April 1990 on Gates, which, presumably, mentions Soyinka.)


Durix, Jean-Pierre, "Introduction." A Dance of the Forests, Dijon: Special Issue of Commonwealth Essays and Studies. (Durix edited the collection which was prompted by the selection of the play for a post-graduate education qualification.)

Eko, Ebele. ‘Traditional African Drama: The Dynamics of Integration.’ In Literature and Black Aesthetics, ed Ernest N. Emenyonu, 328-336. (Includes a section on A Dance.)

Enaibe, Edmond. "Before the toast to Death..." The Republic, 20 February 1990, 13. (The article is not signed, but Enaibe is the editor of the Arts page on which it appears. Praises Bayo Oduneye (Director), Femi Ogunjobi (Eleshin sic), and Ajayi Olatide (Praise Singer/ Olohuniyo). But expresses concern over various aspects of the publicity and organization of the Lagos
Horseman. Reports over-flowing houses at National Theatre Cinema Hall 2, says people were turned away despite having tickets. Condemns the way NIB took - or was given - all the credit and Diamond Productions was neglected. Implicitly blames NIB for the confusion over tickets, and suggests there might have been cause for concern regarding the way Insight Communications (Ltd) handled elements of the publicity.)


Ezenwa-Ohaeto. "African Theatre Review: Celebrating Soyinka." Daily Times (Lagos), 5 September, 18. (Review of the Soyinka issue of ATR. Refers to Gibbs in the following terms: ‘he refuses to accept that the Nobel Prize winner makes prejudicial use of facts’.)

Ezenwa-Ohaeto, Review of Fiction in New Literatures, ed J. Bardolph, Guardian on Sunday 25 November. (Lists areas covered.)

Ezenwa-Ohaeto. "Secret scholars." West Africa (London), 30 April-6 May, 702. (Misquotes and quotes Awe on the Pyrates Confraternity, founded in '1935', describes how Soyinka was voted Captain; Awe says how he took the name Long John Silver and recalls the original principles of the Pyrates; quotes Soyinka, perhaps second-hand, on the 'breakaway groups', and then comments on the position of secret societies in Nigeria's deteriorating universities.)

Ette, Mercy. "Reliving History on Stage." Newswatch (Lagos), 19 February 1990, 20. (Very enthusiastic account of performance of Horseman on Wednesday 7th; praises director, several performers and author; reported unfavourably on Euba as Pilkings didn't have the stature (perhaps this should be taken quite literally, JMG) – and thinks Ajai-Lyceett as Iyaloja was 'impeded by a Victorian accent'; reserved particular praise for Olatide as the Praise-singer.)

Fabre, Michel, "Soyinka's Use of Yoruba Mythology in A Dance of the Forests and "Select Bibliography on A Dance of the Forests." Dance of the Forests, Dijon: Special Issue of Commonwealth Essays and Studies, 24-36 and 79. (Fabre's article suffers from lack of access to Yoruba material.)

Fagbulu, A.M. "Nigeria, Truth and Soyinka." Daily Times, 4 December, 1990, p. 15. (Contribution to the debate over the Soyinka papers.)

Fagbulu, A.M. "For Soyinka's Works to Survive." Guardian (Lagos), 1 December 1990, p. 12; Daily Times (Lagos), 4 December 1990, p. 15. (His papers ought to be preserved in foreign archives. See Kuye.)

Fiebach, Joachim. "Wole Soyinka and Heiner Muller: Different cultural contexts, similar approaches." In The Dramatic Touch of Difference: theatre, own and foreign, ed. E. Fischer-Lichte, J. Riley, Michael Gissenwehrer, Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag, 1990, 263-273. (Opens: ‘Soyinka’s Madmen and Specialists is a text on basic cleavages in society.’ Examines Muller’s The Mission (Der Auftrag, 1979) ‘a rather unique play on revolution’. Compares Soyinka and Muller, their interest in conflict; contrasts their approaches to dramaturgy; noting Soyinka’s use of ‘dialogue framed’ performance texts and Muller’s use of collage; also notes convergence. Draws on Houlberg’s article on plastic masks in Egungun costumes (African Arts, 1978) to challenge ideas of identity. Summarises: ‘I have indicated that Soyinka’s attitude might be interpreted as a modern version of African trickery, but it could also be understood as a
contemporary variant of attitudes governing pre-colonial African reversal rites and festivities which acted out the vision of changing conflict laden, paralysing sociocultural structures’. 271-2.


Garuba, Harry. "Soyinka's Isara and the Myth of the Magic Box." Daily Times (Lagos), 16 June 1990, p. 11, and 23 June, p. 11. (An examination of the historical and mythopoetic framework of the story. Close reading indicates that from the start Soyinka establishes 'a different order from the factual', that order is 'imaginative or fictional biography'. Garuba’s attempts to establish mythological connections are over ingenious. But he writes well on Soyinka's use of mythology and on the meaning of 'Ashtabula'. Refers to Abiola Irele's review of the book in African Commentary and the significance of the fact that the white horse used by Akinsanya was previously the property of 'Brazilians'.Commends the final fifty pages as 'an enduring feat of prose narrative'. Contrasts the handling of characters - and lack of satire - with work of V S Naipaul, and draws attention to the way Soyinka has created a 'genre of social history'.)


Gbadesire, Gbenga. "How Wole Soyinka (56) & Folake (28) fought all odds to get married." Vintage People (Lagos), April 27- May 1990, 3, p. 29. (Says that Soyinka initially didn't want to get married, partly because of uncertainty about reactions of his grown-up children, and because of opposition from her parents. Reports that he had bought her a Nissan Sunny and a duplex in Opebi Road, Ikeja, and that he gave her money to invest in Classique. (Suggestion of investment in the publication denied, see 'Gutter and Junk Journalism', 1991.) Refers to Folake resigning from Quality in solidarity with May Ellen Ezekiel, and getting a job on Home Front through Greg Oborg-Oshotse. The couple were together at Oslo (?Stockholm) and after that, apparently, started living together - 'when the professor is not at Abeokuta.' Soyinka had written to editors of 'some magazines' indicating that he did not want to be discussed in their pages.)


Gibbs, James. "Caribbean and African Writing in the BBC's Written Archives." The Yearbook of English Studies (London), 20, 152-61. (Lists the work Soyinka wrote for the BBC between 1953 and 1960, indicates his income from broadcasting. Suggests the importance of contacts with the Corporation.)


Handley, Malcolm. "Drama of Africa is stage shaker." Daily Post (Liverpool), 24 November 1990. (Review of Manchester Horseman; favourable comments on the achievement of the play and references to the 'intricate plot' and powerful performance by George Harris.)


Hansen-Ayoola, Gbenga, Snr. "Ake and I ... A personal experience of literature recorded in 1987." The Guardian (Lagos), 6 August, 1990, p.19. (An account of problems encountered in obtaining a copy of Aké, and a response to it - for instance to its dramatic qualities.)


Haynes, John. "Giving a twist to the Circle." Reviews of Isara and Mandela's Earth and Other Poems, Times Literary Supplement (London), 23-29 March, 307. (Haynes describes Isara as 'a beautiful, loving book, impelled by what is still a traumatic nostalgia' and as a 'work of piety'
concerned with 'the quest for cultural and personal authenticity'. Interprets the final 'welcome to Ashtabula' in terms of 'The Epic of Gilgamesh' and the recognition that 'the treasure you have travelled so far to discover was all the time at home'. Of the poems, Haynes says the volume suffers from a combination of shrillness and over-deliberateness but welcomes the 'less clotted' quality. He suggests that the 'best poems are closest to casual speech'. Haynes lists some of the criticisms made about Soyinka and his work, including 'indulging incipient racism with his philosophy of the "African Personality"' and being 'a cultural exhibitionist'.

Helbig, Jack. "The Lion and the Jewel." New City, 29 November. (Review of Chicago Court Theatre production, sees naturalism and linear story-telling as parts of modern western theatre.)

Hemming, Sarah. "A Nervous Roar." The Independent (London), 11 January 1990. (Hemming enjoyed the London production of The Lion and the Jewel, but did not think that the actors fulfilled their potential.)

Hendry, Joy. "An enriching experience." The Scotsman, 8 December. (Review of Manchester Horseman, in which there is a reference to 'Pickings' and to Olunde having been a student at Cambridge. Concludes with a description of 'a supremely moving, indeed an unforgettable production of an uncompromising and vibrant play which makes much European theatre look pale by comparison.')

Holder, Jeremy. "A custom to oppose." Bolton Metro News (Bolton), 29 November. (In Bolton's 'biggest free newspaper' - an account of 'African tribal ritual and British colonialism' becoming entwined - Manchester Horseman. Refers to the 'sing-song Yoruba tribe dialect' and 'The African cast.' Soyinka, says Holder, 'makes the English rather pig-headed... as reluctant colonialists'.)

Hulme, Alan. "Death and the King's Horseman." Manchester Evening News (Manchester), 23 November. (Hulme tended 'to side with those who left at the interval' - 'a significant number'. Refers to the plot - there is to be 'a native ritual suicide', to 'drum-bashing and chanting that isn't too easy to hear or to follow'. 'The play pushes the obvious and surely widely accepted view that one culture ought to try to understand and respect another', 'rather crudely plotted', the performers had 'commitment', the production 'simplicity and clarity'.)

Hunt, Albert. "A masterpiece in black and white." The Guardian (London), 24 November. Refers to 'Pilkins', sees Soyinka as scathing about the whites and inviting 'African audiences to question themselves too'. Describes 'the dirge at the end' as making 'one of the most powerful moments I have ever experienced in the theatre' and says the play 'puts exciting political theatre back on the agenda'.)

Ikhile, Tony. "Italian government honours Soyinka." The Independent Newspaper ( ), 14 September 1990, pp. 1 and 14. (On Award of the Order of Merit of Italian Republic. Mr Rastrelli spoke of Soyinka having diagnosed social ills and having prescribed cures. Award also made because of links established in the work between Europe and Africa, and because of commitment to democratic principles.)

Ilesanmi, Obafemi. "An interview with James Gibbs." The Guardian, (Lagos), 26 May, 15, 2 June 17, and 9 June. (The questions elicited information on bibliographies, specific works, and critics.)


Kargbo, Kolosa. "The Horseman, the Stallion and the Riddle of Death." *Prime People* (Lagos), 23 February - 1 March 1990. (Praises simple set, sensitive lighting, sober costumes and fine dirging. Regards 'dignity' as a key word in summarising the action of the play, considers that Dede Mabiaku as Olunde went for the 'boyish' approach and 'trivialised the role'. Condemns Albert Odulate's playing of Amusa for effect. Suggests that Ola Rotimi could have done better with the crowd scenes, that the enunciation of Ajai-Lycette was out of place, but that Euba's Pilkins (sic) was a revelation. Describes Nkechi Ezechi (Jane) as a 'passable foil for his brash actions'. Concludes with high praise for Ajayi Olatide as the Praise Singer and for the choice of Soyinka's play at a time of SAP: describes it as 'a modern day master's parable of excess'.)

Keogh, Bob. "Theatres." *Yorkshire Post* (Leeds), 24 November. (Review of Manchester' Horseman. Considers it 'Offers plenty of humour and exotic colour as well as a tragic and humane message.' Thinks the actors 'brought an element of parody but sensibly not over comic' to the Pilkins.)


Kingston, Jeremy. "Ponderous word-pounding." *The Times* (London), 24 November. (Review of *Death and the King's Horseman* at Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre, produced by Phyllida Lloyd with George Harris (Elesin Oba), and Claire Benedict (Iyaloja). Refers to 'the bombardment of picturesque rhetoric' and to 'the very poor drama (made by the) ponderous revelations'. He is positive about the opening market sequence, the early dancing and the rage of Iyaloja at the chained Elesin.)

Kingston, Miles. "Radio: No benefits from the fringe." *Independent* (?on Sunday). 26 August. (Review of Ferdinand Dennis 'Journey Back to Africa')(R4); Kingston quotes ?Chinweizu: 'When Eliza Doolittle is created, Professor Higgins is always overjoyed.'; and Soyinka on Tarzanists: 'That is what I expect him to say'.)


above. An eloquent statement delivered by the French Ambassador when, in Lagos on 11 January, presenting Soyinka with the title of Commander in the Order of the Legion d'Honneur.)

Lido, Grevel. "In to the realm of the ancestors." *Times Literary Supplement*, 7 December. 1990. (Review of Manchester's *Horsem an*. Thinks Phyllida Lloyd's production took the play closer to ritual than Soyinka 'himself ever seems to have envisaged'. Considers his stage directions 'somewhat naturalistic'. Describes in some detail the unusual opening of the Manchester production. He has high praise for the first act, but finds the second part disappointing. Feels the Pilkingses added the right note of 'macabre humour'; found the scene between Olunde and Jane 'fairly laboured', and, in retrospect, says issues raised in the first part should have been explored further. An extended and thoughtful review. JG)


Macaulay, Alastair. "Death and the King's Horseman." *Financial Times* (London), 26 November. (The racism of the British characters is the most obvious thing about the play and is probably true enough to history for us to raise no protest about it.' Considers that, after a promising first scene the 'threnodic nature of the Nigerian scenes' evaporates.)


Malomo, Jide. "Towards a Profit-Oriented University Theatre Company: the case of the Unibadan Performing Company." *The Nigerian Stage* (Ilorin), 1, 1 (March), 44-51. (Refers briefly to Soyinka's role in the creation of the School of Drama Acting Company in 1967, and to the work at the O'Neill Center.)


Maruf, Sadaf. "A clash of cultures." *Mancunian Arts* (Manchester) 29 November, 1. (Describes *Horsem an* in terms of 'a tribal chief's' attempt to commit suicide and the 'delicate balance' between and within cultures. Refers to the 'unsympathetic, arrogant and patronising attitude the colonialists took towards the African "natives"'.)


Mel, Nelfoufer de. Response to History: The re-articulation of post-colonial identity in the plays of Wole Soyinka and Derek Walcott, 1950-1976. Ph D thesis University of Kent, 378 pages. (Considers the difference of 'alter/native' traditions and underlying similarity of strategies used by the two writers.)


Nelson, Guy. “Death and the King's Horseman.” Manchester Metro News (Manchester), 30 November. (Favourable local review of a 'pulsating' production of 'a special play'.)


Nwobi, John. "Pilgrimage to Death's Doorway." Vanguard, 16 August, 1990, pp. 8-9. (Production of The Road, directed by Osofisan.)

Obafemi, Olu. ‘Ritual as Revolutionary Vision in Wole Soyinka’s Drama.’ Review of English and Literary Studies, 7, 2 (1990) 61-80. (Makes use of PhD theses by Sekoni and Sowande in a study that concentrates on Horseman, Road and Madmen, inexplicably dated 1967, 1965 and 1971 respectively. Examines the playwright’s ‘revolutionary vision of society’ and his use of the ritual form of theatre.’ Begins with reference to A Dance ‘built around a funeral masque ‘commissioned’ for the independence celebrations’. 62. Comments on links between past, present and future, and summarises Ogun’s qualities (‘Soyinka accepts, near totally, this mythological portrait …’) Links Eman and Olunde with the Ogunian tragic hero. Notes
connections with Nietzsche and Wilson Knight, quotes from ‘The Fourth Stage’, and refers to the individual emphasis on the ‘revolutionary grandeur of Ogun’. In considering Horseman, he points out that Elesin ‘bungles his role’. Obafemi carefully analyses Elesin’s movement towards transition. He distinguishes between ‘Olunde’s act of will’ and Elesin’s belated ‘suicide’. (But is this historical?) He suggests that ‘Elesin is not a total failure’ because the Bride’s pregnancy ‘ensures the continuity’. (Can ‘we’ believe in the pregnancy? JG!) When moving on to The Road, Obafemi carries forward his interest in the implications of the play, and quotes Jeyifo on ‘The hidden class struggle’. He draws attention to Professor’s exploitation, and his defiance of ‘the natural process of fate’. In writing on Madmen, he refers to various critics and the degree of despair they have found in the work, draws attention to Jones, Moore, Irele and Sowande. Re Latter notes there is no despondency about the possibility of social regeneration. Sees the creative vision in terms of Ogun and Obatala; links earth mothers with Ogboni, says they ‘are characters derived from the traditional Ogboni cult’ 74. They imbue Si Bero with ‘Obatala’s enduring patience’. Old Man alone reveals evidence of the ‘revolutionary will to confront the evil forces represented by his son’. Dr Bero ‘embodies the Ogunian contradictions.’ Links the Old Man with Segi, both confront; Old Man has gained ‘transcendental knowledge of the nature of absurdity’ and challenges ‘absurdity with its own tools’. Suggests that Dr Bero had first tried to get his father to commit suicide, ‘hanging him the poisonous berries…’to gain ultimate power, Bero will have to commit patricide, and killing his father means completely severing his relationship with humanity. Old Man thus sacrifices his life to prove the absurdity of an obsessive search for the material essence of life at the expense of the spiritual,’… he ‘acts’ killing the cripple to provoke Bero to kill him.’ 76. Maintains that the play was ‘actually drafted in prison.’ Links it with ideas of tragedy in The Man Died (90) [A major and provocative statement. JG]


Obiechina, Emmanuel N. Language and Theme: Essays on African Literature, Washington D C: Howard University Press, pages. 250. (A few pages on 'select plays' particularly Horseman; refers to critics who dub the play 'feudalistic'.)

Odumade, Dupe and Jumoke Owolola. "I am Soyinka's only legal wife - Chief Laide Soyinka." Prime People (Lagos), 25-31 May 1990, pp. 1 and 4-5. (Front page reads 'Now, the true story: Wole Soyinka's wife explodes - He has just one wife - me. Others are mothers of his children.' Mentions that one of her daughters and (new wife) Folake were colleagues at UNIFE; Children unhappy about the marriage; 'Frolicking around with women is his way of life.' This, and the article, formed the basis of Soyinka's N10 million suit. Article contains extensive quotes from Laide, the Otun Iyalode of Omu-Ijebu, speaking in a relaxed manner. Includes information on marriage of Peyibomi to Oloja Aire Willy in December 1989, and on Laide's plans to go into politics. Refers to Olaokun and Morenike, latter begotten 'when he went to Ghana for a performance' - See Ibadan and reference there to 'his Independence child'; Laide claims Soyinka had a child by one of Folake's course-mates, born 1983.)

Offoaro, Chinedu. "The intelligentsia: The trouble with Nigeria." Daily Times (Lagos), 8 August 1990. (Reports that Chinweizu had resumed his column in The Sunday Vanguard of 22
July and had, without mentioning Soyinka's name, referred to the controversy between him and the Nobel prize-winner. Offoaro provides a summary of the controversy, reports that Soyinka avoided a conference in Budapest because Chinweizu was there. (In this he was quoting Chinweizu; Soyinka denied it. JG) Lists other conflicts between members of the intelligentsia, including that between Kenule Beeson (ie ‘Ken’) Saro-Wiwa and Emeka Ojukwu, and condemns the Nigerian intelligentsia for denying the nation positive benefits. That had obvious political dimensions. JG


Ogede, O.S. "Review of Perspectives on Nigerian Culture." *Africa*, 60, 4, 554-558. (Contains brief summary of Soyinka's paper on Abiola Irele and their times together during the early sixties.)


Ogundele, Wole. "Witness and Testimony." Review of *Mandela's Earth and Other Poems*, West *Africa*, (London), 21-27 May, 846. (Draws attention to political and satirical elements; regards obscurity as confined to the final section of the book, poems in that section he describes as 'psychological explorations'. The language he says is 'spellbinding', and he singles out the 'range of styles' and the transformation of inherited tradition for particular mention.)

Ogundipe, Taiwo. "Soyinka's obsession." *Sunday Times* (Lagos), 17 June 1990, 12. (Describes the lengths Soyinka had gone to in order to meet Mandela in Nigeria. He had endured a 2-hour delay in the UK on the M5, and had had to pull strings to get the domestic flight from Lagos to Abuja. Article includes quotes on Soyinka's sense of humility in the presence of Mandela. Date of meeting not indicated.)

Ogunleye, Imoukhuede. "The Wole Soyinka papers: My views." *Daily Times*, 14 November 1990, 16. (Muddled both in use of idiom and in relation to the issues involved. Article includes: 'I hear (the Americans) have made him an offer any man could not refuse.’ Later we read: ‘What will be the fate of our children who would have to acquire those texts at great trouble?’ Thinks there are books being shipped to America after Soyinka’s death. ‘Wrote of their being kept in a vault ‘out of the reach of the blackman’. However, he suggests that if kept in Nigeria they might, in ten years, ‘be history’. Points to possibility of a conflagration, and wonders at Soyinka’s silence.)

Okegbenro, Gboyega. "Kongi's rich harvest at Idi Cove: Weds Folake Doherty, his 28 year-old jewel." *Prime People*, 27 April 1990, pp. 18, 30. (Refers to a wedding in 'Paris, France attended by 'only 32 guests’. Described duties carried out at gate of house near Abuja by FRSC personnel; quotes Soyinka on having approved the 'form Mrs Wole-Soyinka' for Folake’s use; the journalist collects details of the traditional ceremony and the protective attitude of neighbours.)

Oko, A. *The Tragic Paradox: A Study of Wole Soyinka and his Works*. Details not available,


Oladepo, Tunde. "State Burial for Ogunde." *Guardian Express* (Lagos), 5 April, 1. (The sub-headings are "Ogun state begins burial plans" and "Soyinka shocked". Soyinka quoted as being shocked, as having 'learnt from' Ogunde, as feeling that he has lost 'both a father and a teacher'. Article refers to Soyinka's plans to adapt one of Ogunde's songs for a play he 'was working on'. Soyinka referred to Ogunde as a 'giant' whose passing left a gap. Quoted Shakespeare on the world as a stage.)


Olagunju, Sola. "Soyinka's complaints of harassment sent to Washington." *Sunday Times* (Lagos), 15 July 1990, pp. 1, 15. (Soyinka angry about the way he and other Nigerians were treated by customs officials at JFK Airport in New York City.)

Oloja, Martin. "The 'Horrors' of Abuja." *Guardian* 30 April 1990, p. 11. (Response to a speech by Soyinka at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan.)


Olugbile, Femi. ‘The critic as executioner.’ *Vanguard*, 23 August 1990, 9. (In what is probably a reference to Chinweizu, Olugbile writes: ‘One particular critic has made a career of heaping intellectual and personal abuse on Wole Soyinka and anyone who may be disposed to put in a good word for him.’)


Oluruntoba-Oju, Taiwo. "Satire from Horace to Soyinka." *The Guardian* (Lagos), 23 June, 26, and following week., Latter not seen. (Refers to Soyinka's satirical writing, includes a reference to an essay, no details provided, entitled "The Limits of Bigotry". Draws attention to satire in *A Dance and Madmen*, but is only prepared to suggest that perhaps there is Swiftian influence on the latter.)


Omatseye, Sam. "Puncturing Wole Soyinka's Ego." *Sunday Concord* (Lagos), 15 July 1990, p. 10. (Suggests that Soyinka's public pronouncements are often prompted by personal pique.)

Omole, Olukayode. "Elegant Variation and Characterization in The Interpreters: A stylistic

Omotoso, Kole. "Soyinka in London." *West Africa* (London), 2-8 April 1990, p. 542. (Reacts to a report in the Lagos *Guardian* that Soyinka was visiting London to speak on the personality of Chinua Achebe - by pointing out that such was not the case. Briefly refers to points raised in the ICA talk, to Open University plans to present *Madmen and Specialists* on television, and to reading Gibbs's article about Soyinka and the BBC.)


Osahon, Naïwu. Cartoon. *Third World First* (Lagos), 1, 2, 59. (Shows two men talking while Soyinka crosses behind them with two women; caption: 'Now that the man has won the Nobel, I hope he will start writing for us at home.')


Othihiwa, Odafe. "Soyinka chides varsity chiefs for terrorism ... in campuses." *Daily Times* (Lagos), 14 March 1990. (Soyinka had reacted to a cover-story in a week-end magazine about secret cults by saying Vice-Chancellors were to blame for the level of terrorism on campuses. Soyinka accused administrators of cowardice and of failing to act. He defended ‘the Pyrate Confraternity, an arm of the National Association of Seadogs, of which he is the founder’. He said the Pyrates were not a secret society and had constantly purged themselves of undesirable elements. Added that he was ‘the spiritual leader of the Pyrates Confraternity’, and reminded the journalist that while a university teacher he had got a number of students dismissed for despicable acts. When it was suggested that he should be held responsible for campus cultism because of his role in founding the Pyrates, he replied with heavy sarcasm.)

Otufodunrin, Lekan. "Coup d'etat: Wole Soyinka's Narrow Escape." *Punch*, 6 October 1990, p. 5. (On Soyinka's experience in Trinidad and Tobago during May 1989 when he was attending the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation of Slaves. He left Nigeria after meeting Babangida on 21 April, and after the coup of 22 April 1989, but was held for nearly a week by the coup makers in Trinidad. In the Caribbean, he was being driven with Mrs Oluwole to dinner at the Nigerian Ambassador’s house, when they heard fighting. Soyinka thought the Columbia drugs cartel had moved in. At the Ambassador’s house, he rang Lagos to be told of the execution of 42 'coup plotters'. Meanwhile the local TV showed what he took to be people ‘not different from the Maitatsine people in Nigeria’ – they were the local coup makers. In fact, they seem to have been, as Soyinka points out, ‘Black Muslims’. He says the looting was destructive and depressing. The airport was closed and ‘we’ were ‘virtual prisoners .. It was a real hostage situation’. It seems Soyinka was in a hotel with Sharidath Ramphal, former Commonwealth Secretary, who suggested that ‘those of us who considered ourselves eminent should meet and issue a statement. I told him to count me out because when the coup plotters start taking hostages they will go for us. I opted for a low profile … It was a traumatic experience for me because all along Trinidad and Tobago stands for legalism, calypso and cricket.’ Soyinka ; gave
an interview to the Nigerian press given in his Lalubi site office.)

Otufodunrin, Lekan. "Lamentation for Nigerian universities." The Punch (Lagos), 10 February, 12. (Reports Soyinka's speech entitled "Beyond the Berlin Wall", delivered as part of the 4th Convocation ceremony at Ogun State University, Agolwoye. It appears to have been quite different from the March ICA address and to have concentrated on drawing attention to the deplorable state of Nigerian universities. Soyinka referred to the wall of amnesia around the university; to the university as his primary constituency; to the good and bad in the universities; condemned the politicisation of appointments of Vice-Chancellors; deplored the physical conditions on campuses and the lack of resources; proposed that universities close down for a year and revive democratic traditions, recommended that members of congregations should take turns to experience student living conditions, condemned Decree 47 which stipulates punishment for any student involved in a riot.)


Pullen, Nick. "A power that brings new vision and energy." The Daily Telegraph (London), 4 January, 11. (Favourable review of the Manchester Horseman, which is described as 'a neglected masterpiece'. Refers to negotiations to transfer the 'magical production' to London. Contains considerable detail on Phyllida Lloyd, her ingrained feminist politics, her collaborative approach, and the 'stunning piece of theatre' she has created.)


Salako, Bunmi, ed. My UI. Ibadan: Book Craft, 1990. (Includes contributions by several who refer to Soyinka in recalling their student days at Ibadan. See Ben Obumselu, who recalled ‘The Cock Tail Party’ and letter about Windsor Christmas, also Macebuh, Ogunbiyi, Odugbemi,
Ofeimun, Saro-Wiwa.


Schmidt, Michael. "A tragic clash of cultures." The Daily Telegraph (London), 28 November, 14. (Describes Horseman as 'an explosive marriage between Nigerian folk and ceremonial drama and European theatrical conventions.' Considers Simon Dormandy as, in the Manchester production, turning 'a caricature of a part into a rounded character'; finds the second scene 'hilarious and threatening'; compares the action of the play favourably with Antigone; describes the text as 'richly poetic' but found the drum accompaniment made some of it unclear 'to the untuned English ear'; said the play was carried by 'the ritual and the strange grace of the dancing and music'. Final comments draws attention to perceived weaknesses: the opening and ceremonial scenes were too long and the English characters 'too unsubtle to be credible'.)

Sheridan, Jayne. "Death and the King's Horseman, Royal Exchange, Manchester." Halifax Evening Courier, 6 December. (Favourable review which compares the play with Hamlet, partly because it deals with procrastination, the relationship between father and son, and the importance of kingship. Adds: '... the rhythmic movements of the African actors, the magnetic quality of the music, the flamboyance of the costumes and the warmth of the humour, transport the play through time and centuries to become an international modern masterpiece.')


Sorunke, Lanre. ‘Stop prophets of “doom” – Soyinka tells FG.’ National Concord, 26 September 1990. (Report of a press meeting. Soyinka had responded to the prophecy that he would die made by Prophet Kola Dagunduro. He said he was considering legal action.)

Soyinka, Chief Laide, quoted extensively in 'I am Soyinka's only legal wife.' Odumade and Owoola, 1990.

Stern, Leslie L. “Soyinka’s Use of the Yoruba Conception of Man.” English 32 (Spring 1990).

Stewart, Gregor. "A racist slur." The Reporter (Manchester), 13 December, 39. (Stewart, Press Officer at the Royal Exchange, took up Neville Williams' remark that the production of Horseman was not 'everyone's cup of jungle juice' - as did three other published correspondents.)


Thornber, Robin. "Death in Oyo." The Guardian (London), November 22, 34. (Mostly background to the production (Manchester, Horseman) and director (Phyllida Lloyd). Observes: 'The gender roles... are unlikely to enthuse the women's movement - a chorus of women services the charismatic, promiscuous male leader - but it is a healthier, more holistic view.' Draws
attention to the 'largely male ethos' at Manchester's Royal Exchange.)


Ukala, Sam. "Go Gently through Professor to the Road: A perspective on Wole Soyinka's The Road." *EJOLLS*, 3 (1990), pp. 47-61.


Wainwright, Jeffrey. "Deadly ceremony." *The Independent* (London), 26 November 1990. (Review of Manchester's Horseman: 'Sometimes the playhouse stage so seizes the mind that the reality and significance of our sensations are more immediate to us than the seats we are in.' Notes that 'Here it is the whites ... who are to provide the comic relief', and describes the satire of colonial arrogance as 'sharp'. Summarises the plot and comments that the challenging of assumptions asks 'how we deal with death'. 'The process', Wainwright continues, 'is utterly consuming ... this is a tremendous company bringing us a transfixing work of modern world drama."

Walton, J. Michael. "Second Death." *Times Higher Education Supplement* (London), 21 December. (Response to Karin Barber's comment (THES 14 12 91) that the Manchester Horseman was the British premiere. Refers to that directed by 'Nigerian' Chris Kamlongera at Hull in July 1983. Kamlongera is Malawian. JG)

Wardle, Irving. "Slings, arrows and outrage." *The Independent* (London), 25 November 1990. (This review of Horseman, begins with a reference to the 'disastrous' London production of The Bacchae. It refers to previous productions in which Caribbean actors struggled with 'Soyinka's biblical speech rhythms', considers this 'a noble African event' .. (It is) thrilling to see a group of actors so released by their material.' After a reference to a 'tribal king', Wardle writes: 'The terms of the tragedy are dictated by the Yoruba attitude to death. Death itself is not terrible. What is terrible is to die in the wrong way ... a measure of the play's power is that it compels you to witness the events from the African viewpoint.' Regards the British characters as 'culturally blinkered' and adds 'that is how you would expect an African author to present them ... Soyinka's juggling between the starved Home Counties idiom and the poetically rich Yoruba speech is a stylistic tour de force, but as the action closes in it becomes wholly African.' Compares Elesin's plight with that of Oedipus or Antigone, and the market women with the Greek Chorus; concludes: 'Soyinka may have let Euripides slip through his fingers; but here he achieves the full impact of Greek tragedy.' (The reference to Euripides is to The Bacchae. JG)

Weiss, Hedy. "Theatre Builds 'Global Village'." *Chicago Sun-Times* 14 November, 51. (Review of Court Theatre (University of Chicago) production of The Lion and the Jewel.)


Wilkinson, Jane. "Metatheatrical Strategy in A Dance of the Forests." In A Dance of the Forests, Dijon: Special Issue of Commonwealth Essays and Studies, 68-78. (Provides a close reading, which regards the title as the first 'metatheatrical element'.).

Williams, Neville. "In darkest Africa." South Manchester Reporter, 29 November. (This 'generally favourable review' appeared in a paper distributed to 50,000 homes and businesses in Chorlton, Didsbury, Levenshulme, Withington, Burnage, Ladybarn and Fallowfield. It is couched in clumsy and offensive terms - see letter by Gregor Stewart listed above. It refers to the Manchester Horseman as about 'paganism' and to Africa as 'the dark continent'. Considers Soyinka has 'a deep understanding of the forces that lurk in Africa and a feeling for a dramatic and unusual plot'. Refers also to a 'buffoonish thirties-style district officer... a good story ... some stylish singing. ... But when it deals with ideas and poetry it is complex and hard to follow ...like most Shakespeare plays it would be much better for knowing (the script) first ... makes some good points and manages to make some fun at what is now accepted as the worst side of British rule. But all in all not everyone's cup of jungle juice.' (In response to Stewart's letter, Williams wrote, re 'jungle juice' - 'While astounded that anyone should find the phrase racist I have no wish to advance the cause of racism and to anyone offended gladly withdraw the phrase.')


Wright, Derek. "The Festive Year: Wole Soyinka's Annum Mirabilis." The Journal of Modern African Studies (Cambridge), 28, 3 (1990), pp. 511-519. (Examines the evidence concerning Soyinka's activities during 1960, and considers the extent to which the plays draw on observed ritual. Comments particularly on 'the new school of 'neo-ritualist' critics' and draws attention on the manner in which Soyinka 'makes ... cavalier play ... around Yoruba ideas."

Wright, Derek. "Two Soyinka Plays for the Eighties." CRNLE Reviews Journal (Flinders), 2 (1990), 106-112. (Placing the work in the context of Soyinka's 'shot-gun writing', Wright draws attention to the appeal and the limitations of Requiem for Futurologist. The essay includes the following: 'It was no accident that in the 1985 published version Godspeak's demise is predicted for New Year's Eve, 1983, the date of Shagari's downfall.' Wright regards the play as slight; doubts that it can stand beside The Road and Horseman as - he says - Soyinka wants it to. Provides valuable comments on Play of Giants - its trenchant political satire and its inability to bring the targets of satire to life - to distance them from reality and make them dramatic: '... like so much politically engaged art (it) is dramatically unengaging. It is also curiously unpenetrating.... it is concerned to deride and debunk, not to analyze.' Wright looks forward to a return to subjects with a 'greater dramatic viability.'

Yussuf, Alaba. "Wole Soyinka's Ex-wife Speaks!". Vintage People (Lagos), May 18-24 1990, pp. 9, 14 and 24. (Basically same material as in Odumade and Owoola article. Claims to be based on an interview between Vintage People and Laide Soyinka in her university office. Laide reported as saying her 'own brother, Olu Akarogun, gave (Soyinka) his first serious media exposure in the Nigerian media in the 60's'. (A reference to Spear interview, JG.) Notes entanglement of newspapers and marriages in WS's life. Refers to Folake's marriage and children, to Olaogun's daughter, Sade, and to Emeke doing Part III at OAU. Laide reported as denying suggestions that she had divorced Soyinka in 1981.)