Thought and practice in African Philosophy

Thought and practice in African Philosophy (Review article) [English]
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This book [Thought and practice in African philosophy] is a compendium of twenty-five articles chosen to reflect various aspects of African philosophy. It is comprehensive in its nature as if it seeks to exhaust all that can be said about African philosophy. The articles are grouped into five broad categories, namely: (a) approaches and methodologies, six articles; (b) problems of missionary and colonialist thinking, five articles; (c) gender and culture in Africa, three articles; (d) sage philosophy, four articles; and (e) philosophy, ethics and politics, seven articles. The editors have drawn their contributors from diverse localities, from inside and outside of Africa. While the contribution of Africans to African philosophy is crucial and irreplaceable, it is important that African philosophy should draw philosophers from outside of Africa as well. This is a sign of its maturity. We share the same argument as Kwasi Wiredu (1991: 93) when he criticised Paulin Hountondji in his insistence that for any work to be part of African philosophy, its author must be an “African.” In other words, we are of the view that “Africanists,” i.e. African philosophy practitioners from outside the African continent, can be legitimate African philosophers. Thus, from the point of view of authorship of the essays in this book, African philosophy is definitely an intercontinental enterprise. [First paragraph]

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