

The Republic of
Sierra Leone

55th Independence Anniversary

27th April 2016



A Commemoration

By Ade Daramy

55TH Independence Anniversary – Commemorative booklet

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Transcript

Bound for Sierra Leone

Memorandum of Agreement made this Sixth day of October In the year of our Lord One thousand seven Hundred and Eighty six (1786) And in the twenty seventh year of the Reign of His most excellent Majesty King George the Third over Great Britain & in manner and form following (that is to say) We the undersigned do hereby undertake Contract and agree to and with Joseph Irwin (Conductor of a certain intended Settlement or Colony to be situated on the Grain Coast of Africa and to be called "The Land of Freedom" under the Protection of and by the Encouragement and support of the British Government as follows Viz. We the Men Women and Children whose Names are undersigned being Seamen Labourers and of various other descriptions (receiving the Charity from the Humanity of the British Government) for and in Consideration of the several Sums of money already had and received and of the Emoluments Liberties and Priviledges found and provided for such of us as may choose and wish to be happily Settled on the said Grain Coast of Africa and for divers other good causes and Considerations us hereunto severally especially moving Have and each and every of us Hath undertaken agreed and contracted and by these presents Do and each and every of us Doth undertake Agree and Contract to and with the said Joseph Irwin To Assist in Navigating and doing such work as we are severally capable of doing Or as the said Joseph Irwin shall reasonably direct on board of the Ship or vessell called the Bellisarius of London Captain Seal Or on board of the Ship or Vessell called the Atlantic of London (late the Dennis) Captain Muirhead which said Ships or Vessells are now lying in the River Thames bound shortly by Gods Permission from the Port of London to Sierra Leona on the Grain Coast of Africa or on board of either of them And We do also severally undertake agree and contract to go be and continue on board of the said Ships or Vessells or either of them on or before the Twentieth day of October Instant And He the said Joseph Irwin in Consideration thereof (and by the approbation of the Committee appointed for this Charitable purpose) Doth hereby undertake agree and Contract with all and every the undersigned Men Women and Children to find and provide for all and each of them The necessary Cloathing Good Provisions and all other reasonable Necessaries for and during the said intended passage and Voyage And also for Four Months after the arrival of the said Ship or Vessell or Ships or Vessells on the Grain Coast of Africa aforesaid agreeable to a plan published by the late Mr. Henry Smeathman deceased by the direction of the said Committee reference being thereunto had will more fully and at large appear And also shall and will provide for all and every of the undersigned Men Women and Children proper Certificates of their being Loyal Subjects to His said Majesty King George the Third his Heirs and successors to be printed on Parchment and deliver

them in a Tin Box in order to preserve the same As Witness our Hands the day and Year first above written.

Joseph Irwin

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| 1. | John Walter Harris | 31. | Mary Smith |
| 2. | John Wilson | 32. | John Jacob |
| 3. | Louis Latouch | 33. | George Isaac |
| 4. | Charles Stoddart | 34. | Rob[er]t Moore |
| 5. | William Gorman | 35. | Rob[er]t Clayton |
| 6. | John Smith | 36. | Peter Harris |
| 7. | John William Ramsey | 37. | Eliz[abe]th Ramsey |
| 8. | Abra[ha]m Elliot Griffith | 38. | James Harris |
| 9. | John Mandeville | 39. | James Brown |
| 10. | James Strong | 40. | John Wells |
| 11. | Thomas Holder | 41. | John Skinner |
| 12. | James Read | 42. | Peter Grant |
| 13. | William Johnson | 43. | John Steward |
| 14. | Will[ia]m Green | 44. | Dan[ie]l Mooree |
| 15. | Joshua Brown | 45. | Rich[ar]d Gutterow |
| 16. | Joseph Poole | 46. | John Murray |
| 17. | James Johnson | 47. | Tho[ma]s Woodley |
| 18. | George Newton | 48. | James Johnston |
| 19. | Lewis Rose | 49. | Tim[othy] Allenby |
| 20. | Jacob Jackson | 50. | W[illia]m Collinson |
| 21. | Paul Clarke | 51. | David Allington |

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----|---------------------|
| 22. | William Reper | 52. | Pat[ric]k Lawson |
| 23. | Aaron Brooks | 53. | David Davidson |
| 24. | William Green | 54. | Ab[raha]m Lumley |
| 25. | Eliz[abe]th Green | 55. | James Nesbit |
| 26. | Eliz[abe]th Peazer | 56. | Anth[on]y Smith |
| 27. | Ben[jami]n Brown | 57. | Tho[ma]s Nottingham |
| 28. | Joseph Innis | 58. | John Adams |
| 29. | Thomas Peter | 59. | Rob[er]t Young |
| 30. | John Morris | 60. | William Kelly |

Batson's Coffeehouse

Friday the 4th August 1786.

Mr. Andrews

Mr. Peters

Mr. Shaw

Mr. Hanway in the Chair

Read the Minutes of the last Committee and confirmed the same.

Mr. Taylor the Clerk reported that he had read to the Blacks the Paper which Mr. Hanway had put into his hands, viz.

Nothing can be more apparent than the sincerity of Government with regard to the Black Poor. It is at the same time most evident that the Lords of the Treasury reserve to themselves the Right of judging what is most fit and proper to be done respecting the Interests of the State, and the most effectual means of preserving the said Black Poor in whatever Place or Country they shall be settled.

Africa is too well known ^ in the World to be the Country where the Natives professedly make a traffick of buying and selling one another, and in consequence of this inhuman and antichristian Commerce, thousands and tens of thousands are annually transported to work in Plantations in

distant Countries. The English, the French, Spaniards, Portuguese and Hollanders carry on this Trade, and when this false Principle is to be erased is known only to the great God who governs the World.

With regard to the Committee for the Black Poor, it appears that there is no Place on the whole Coast of Africa where there can be any solid Security against Slavery. To depend on Arms what is a Small number of Men to do against a great force? But the notion of carrying Arms beyond a certain limitation implies a hostile Settlement, whereas Government certainly never meant any thing, but what is friendly, founded upon Principles of liberty and Sacred Rights which may, be derived from a Solemn Compact and Agreement for the security of such liberty, and consequently whatever is right to be done it is presumed Government will do.

With respect to the deceased Mr. Smeathman, he had the art of telling his Story very well and represented things in the most favourable light, but in the latter days of his life he avowed his Intention of trafficking in Men, so far that he would buy though he would not sell. The Committee thought that his Judgment misled him, if not his heart; and if he had not changed his mind or said that he would acquiesce in the Sentiments of the Committee, the Committee would have certainly dropped any further connection with him. What his real Designs were when he should have landed in that Country and had nothing farther to hope or fear from the Committee, will be a subject for strong suspicion in the Breast of every Man concerned as long as they live. There were many other reasons why Mr. Smeathman would not have been considered as a fit and proper Person to be intrusted with the conduct of such an Enterprise, but he was the only one that offered, and since his death no one has appeared as a fit substitute, every one acquainted with the country hitherto thoughts of being either actually engaged in the Slave Trade, or entertaining an opinion as if it were not possible to make a Settlement without slaving. Indeed this was the language that Mr. Smeathman held only that he would upon no consideration sell the Man that he should buy, but unluckily nobody believed or had faith in such a Doctrine. To buy and forego all the advantages of selling was not credible. There is another great ambiguity respecting the Coast of Africa. The various accounts given leave many doubts. Mr. Smeathman himself brought from thence a Constitution which lasted him but a little while, and always seemed to be more anxious about his medical knowledge and Medicine Chest than his Tools for husbandry. To all appearance there will be much greater security for liberty and life and the Comforts arising from freedom and health in his Majesty's Dominions in New Brunswick than there can possibly be in any Part of the Coast of Africa. And the more as every comfort and necessary will be provided as setting off both of Food & Raiment; and consequently with suitable labour in a soil professedly capable of producing the Necessaries of life, the comforts of it may be handed down from Generation to Generation under all the advantages of distributive Justice, the exercise of Humanity and obedience to the laws of Christ which may be found in that Country, the peaceful Government of which must be a security beyond any which the most sanguine hope can suggest respecting Africa.

/Signed/

2d. Aug[us]t 1786.

J Hanway

That the Blacks seemed very well pleased and satisfied with the justice of the Remarks but on putting the Question individually to them the number of those inclined to go to New Brunswick was

comparatively small, **being only 67 of whom 5 afterwards retracted.**

Resolved

That from the general view of the Disposition of the Blacks it is not probable that any Decision will be come to, unless they are permitted to go to Sierra Leona carrying with them such a number of Arms as the Lords of the Treasury shall think to entrust them with.

Resolved

That this Committee approves in the fullest manner possible of the Letter written by Mr. Peters to Mr. Steele for a Conference with the Lords of the Treasury as it may be a means of bringing this Knotty Business to some conclusion, it being already trained out to a tedious length.

Resolved

That for the Execution of this Enterprise it is absolutely necessary that the Lords Comm[issioner]s of the Treasury should appoint a fit and proper Person to take the charge of it and to see it executed in the best manner practicable.

Resolved

That the Lords Comm[issione]rs of the Treasury be informed that **there are among the Blacks 23 East Indians who have been brought over in the King's Ships, 23 in the East India Company's Ships and 4 in foreign Ships, and that they seem disposed to mix with the Blacks and to accompany them to Africa in case their Lordships should have no objections, the greatest Part of them having been here 2, 3 and 4 years, some of them 8 years and some 24 years.**

Resolved That a Copy of these Minutes be carried to George Rose Esq[ui]r[e].

Adjourned to Wednesday the 9th. Inst.



Batson's Coffehouse.

Wednesday, the 26th July 1786.

Mr. Andrews

Mr. Shaw

Mr. Peters

Mr. Hanway in the Chair.

Five of the Deputies of the Blacks &c appeared before this Committee and represented that the Blacks in general were not inclined to go to any of the Bahama Islands, apprehending that they cannot find a support there, but that they are willing to go to Sierra Leona, and in confidence of their being able to live there and obtain their Bread in comfort they mentioned a Person now residing in London who is a native of that country, and gives them assurance that all the natives are fond of the English & would receive them joyfully.

Resolved

Resolved

That be desired to attend
 this Committee next Friday at 10 O'clock prepared
 with a Detail in writing of what he knows of
 Sierra Leone; that from thence, if it should be
 thought fit and proper, a Report may be made to
 the Lords of the Treasury for their Resolution in
 case their Lordships should revert to the Plan of
 Sierra Leone as the fittest accommodation for the
 Blacks, or otherwise to adhere to the Design of
 the Bahama Islands.

Ordered

That a distinct List be made of the
 Asiatic Blacks on the Printed Paper, specifying
 their Age and Employment, when they were brought
 into this country and by whom, with a view to
 communicate the same to the Directors of the
 East India Company; also a List of such as
 were

were brought over in the King's Ships, and that
a Duplicate of each be respectively supplied to
the Court of Directors of the East India Company
and also the Navy Board.

Resolved

That a copy of these Minutes be sent
to George Ron Esq^r

Adjourned to Friday the 28th Inst.



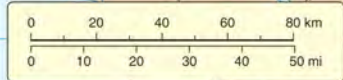
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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



SIERRA LEONE

- ⊛ National capital
- ⊙ Provincial capital
- City, town
- ✈ Major airport
- International boundary
- - - Provincial boundary
- Main road
- Secondary road
- Railroad





Sierra Leone Independence Act 1961

1961 CHAPTER 16 9 and 10 Eliz 2

An Act to make provision for, and in connection with, the attainment by Sierra Leone of fully responsible status within the Commonwealth. [28th March 1961]

1 Provision for the fully responsible status of Sierra Leone.

- (1) On the twenty-seventh day of April, nineteen hundred and sixty-one (in this Act referred to as “the appointed day”), the Sierra Leone Colony and the Sierra Leone Protectorate (of which the combined area is that specified in the First Schedule to this Act) shall together constitute part of Her Majesty’s dominions under the name of Sierra Leone.
- (2) No Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom passed on or after the appointed day shall extend, or be deemed to extend, to Sierra Leone as part of the law thereof, and as from that day—
 - (a) Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom shall have no responsibility for the government of Sierra Leone; and
 - (b) the provisions of the Second Schedule to this Act shall have effect with respect to legislative powers in Sierra Leone.
- (3) Without prejudice to subsection (2) of this section, nothing in subsection (1) thereof shall affect the operation in Sierra Leone or any part thereof on and after the appointed day of any enactment, or any other instrument having the effect of law, passed or made with respect thereto before that day.

2 Consequential modifications of British Nationality Acts.

F1

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

F1 S. 2 repealed by [British Nationality Act 1981 \(c. 61, SIF 87\)](#), [Sch. 9](#)

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Sierra Leone Independence Act 1961. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

3 Consequential modification of other enactments.

- (1) ^{F2}
- (2) As from the appointed day—
- (a) the expression “colony” in the ^{M1}Army Act 1955, the ^{M2}Air Force Act 1955, and the ^{M3}Naval Discipline Act 1957, shall not include Sierra Leone or any part thereof; and
 - (b) in the definitions of “Commonwealth force” in subsection (1) of section two hundred and twenty-five and subsection (1) of section two hundred and twenty-three respectively of the said Acts of 1955, and in the definition of “Commonwealth country” in subsection (1) of section one hundred and thirty-five of the said Act of 1957—
 - (i) the word “or” (being, in the said Acts of 1955, that word in the last place where it occurs in those definitions) shall be omitted; and
 - (ii) at the end there shall be added the words “or Sierra Leone”.
- (3) As from the appointed day, the provisions specified in the Third Schedule to this Act shall have effect subject to the amendments respectively specified in that Schedule, . . . ^{F3}
- Provided that this subsection shall not extend to Sierra Leone or any part thereof as part of the law thereof.

Annotations:

Amendments (Textual)

- F2** [S. 3\(1\)](#) repealed by [Interpretation Act 1978 \(c. 30, SIF 115:1\)](#), [Sch. 3](#)
- F3** Words repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1969 \(c. 52\)](#), [Sch. Pt. VI](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** The text of s. 3(2)(a), Sch. 3 para. 7(a) is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

Marginal Citations

- M1** [1955 c. 18.](#)
- M2** [1955 c. 19.](#)
- M3** [1957 c. 53.](#)

4 Short title and interpretation.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Sierra Leone Independent Act 1961.
- (2) References in this Act to any enactment are references to that enactment as amended or extended by or under any other enactment.

Head of State

Ernest Bai Koroma (born 2 October 1953) is the fourth and current civilian President of Sierra Leone. He has been the President since 2007, having won two Presidential elections (2007 and 2012).

Born and raised in Makeni, in northern Sierra Leone, Koroma spent more than 24 years working in the private insurance industry before entering politics in 2002. From 1988 to 2002, he was the managing director of the Reliance Insurance Trust Corporation (Ritcorp). He is a graduate of Fourah Bay College, the oldest university in sub-Saharan Africa.

He was elected leader of the All People's Congress (APC), which was then Sierra Leone's main opposition party, in 2002. He stood as the APC Presidential candidate in the 2002 election but was defeated by incumbent Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. Koroma was later elected to Parliament, representing his home District of Bombali from 2002 to 2007. In 2005, he was elected the minority leader of Parliament and remained in that position until his election to the Presidency in 2007.



We take this opportunity to highlight the diversity of Sierra Leone, by paying homage to prominent and innovative Sierra Leoneans past and present as well as looking to the future.

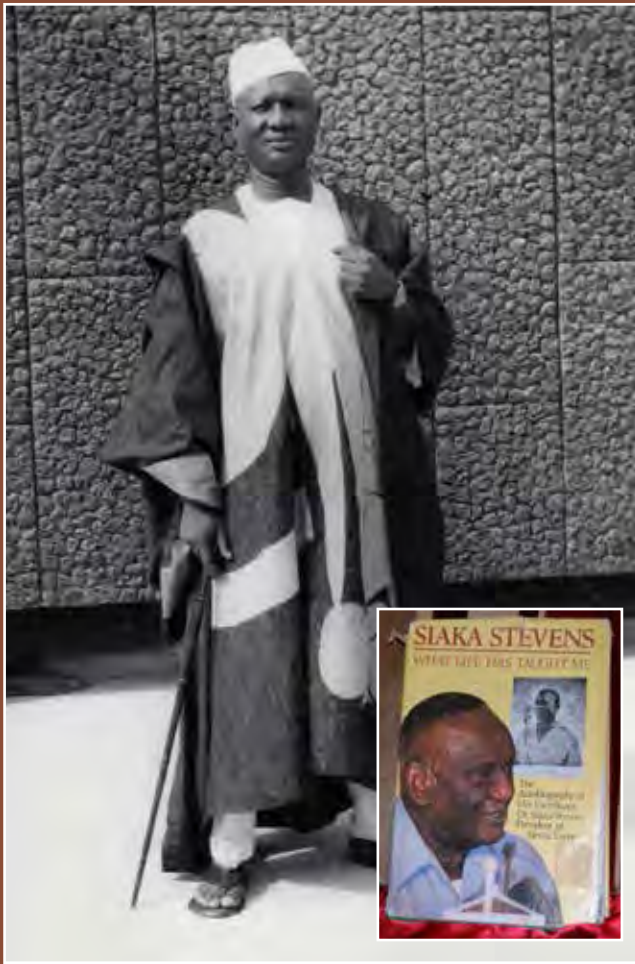
We also take the opportunity to introduce and, in some cases, re-introduce some notable Sierra Leoneans who have made their mark on history and are deserving of their places in the pantheon of great Sierra Leoneans.

It has been said that Sierra Leoneans are always ready to heap praise on those not from our own shores but less willing to do so where our own sons and daughters are concerned. Perhaps this book will help to prick the consciences of us all and encourage us to take a long hard look at our history and culture and to realise that we too have a long, proud and rich history as well as heroes and heroines worth garlanding with honours and preserving in the national memory.



***Clockwise from top left:** Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel welcomes the President of Sierra Leone to the Pentagon, March 28, 2013. (Credits: DoD photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley/ Released); Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, right, escorts Sierra Leone President Bai Koroma to a joint meeting with Malawi President Joyce Banda and Cape Verde Prime Minister Jose Maria Neves in the Pentagon on March 28, 2013. (DoD photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley, U.S. Navy. [Released]); President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama pose for a photo during a reception at the Metropolitan Museum in New York with, H.E. Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and his wife, Mrs. Koroma, Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009. (Official White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson); President Koroma (right) shakes hands with Brazilian President Ignacio Luis Lula Da Silva during President Koroma's visit to Brazil in August 2009 (Credit: State Department, Brazil); Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel hosts joint meetings with West African leaders Cape Verde Prime Minister Jose Maria Neves, Pentagon (Credits: Dept of Defense photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley)*





Clockwise from top left: Sir Siaka Stevens; Front page of Sir Siaka Stevens' autobiography 'What Life Has Taught Me' (inset); Sir Siaka Stevens greets Commonwealth Secretary, Sir Shridath Ramphal at CHOGM, Lancaster House, London, 1977; Double First: Sierra Leone's first Prime Minister, Sir Milton Margai (right) arrives at Lancaster House, London accompanied by Sierra Leone's first High Commissioner to the UK, Dr William Henry Fitzjohn, London September 1962; Sierra Leone's second Prime Minister (and brother of the first), Sir Albert Margai shakes hands with British Prime Minister, Sir Harold Wilson at CHOGM, Marlborough House, London, 1965.

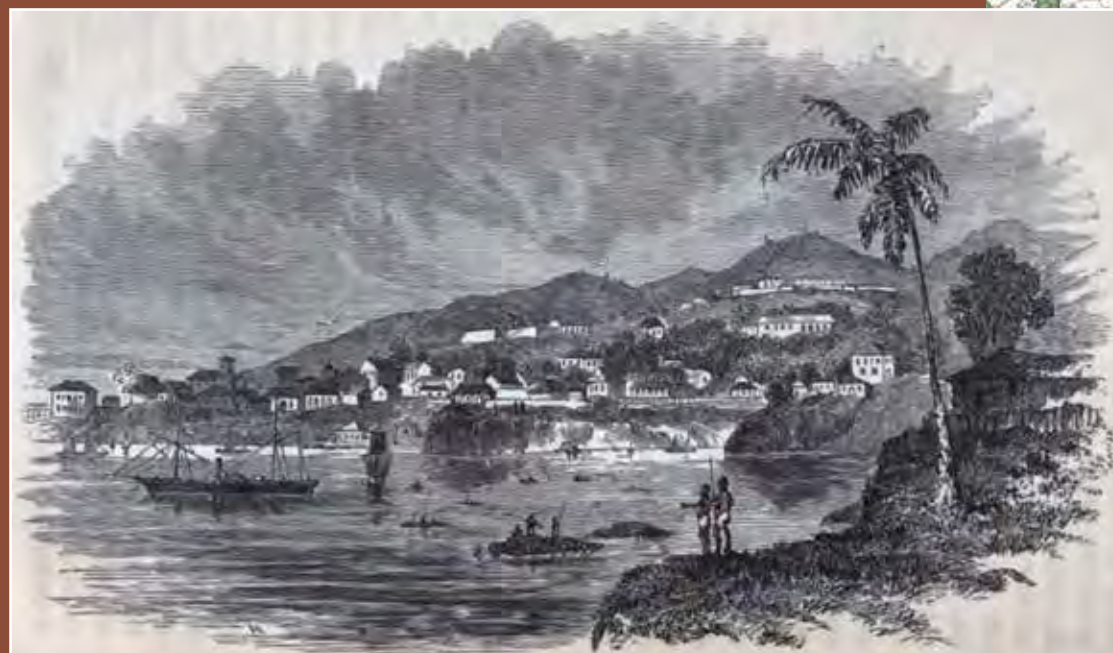
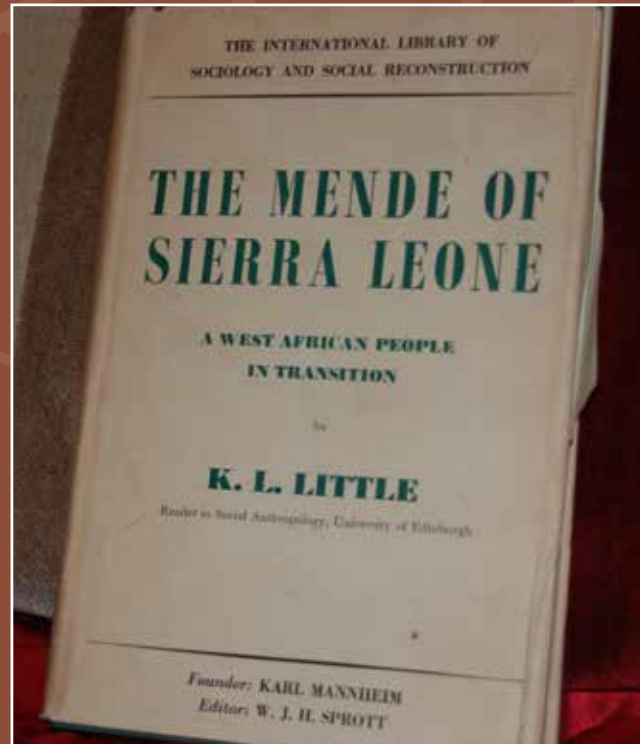
Ancient Sierra Leone

(THE REMARKABLE RICHNESS AND ENDURANCE OF SIERRA LEONEAN CIVILIZATION)

There was a time, not so long ago, and well into the 20th Century, when Sierra Leoneans were taught that the country was 'discovered' and named by Portuguese explorer Pedro Da Cintra. No one doubts that the country's current name derives from the explorer's visit to the country's shores, however, no one nowadays talks about this country or any other in Africa being 'discovered' by an outsider. The people, the region and the place existed, even if the country with its present borders was yet another colonial construct or had yet to be visited by outsiders (European explorers). What is beyond dispute is that the area of present day Sierra Leone was one where many nations ('tribes', to outsiders) converged, traded and fought over territory before Pedro da Cintra, the whole of Africa had been circumnavigated more than once and the Phoenicia fleet sent out by Pharaoh Necho II in 600 BC) and Carthaginians had come as far as Sherbro (in Sierra Leone), with Hanno's voyage there dating from 520 BC. When the Romans captured Carthage, killed most of its people and destroyed most of the historical records, much of the detail about these voyages was lost to posterity.

Today, what remains long after all of these 'nations' have merged to form what we now know as Sierra Leone is that all of these peoples have a strong sense of history and tradition, even as they move into modern times. For many, their traditions and customs have survived and thrived in spite of efforts to obliterate these by successive colonisers.

As luck would have it, what started as either trade or pillage has conspired to preserve a lot of the rich tradition and culture of Sierra Leone. Unfortunately, the majority of what has been preserved has survived and been preserved outside of Sierra Leone. So it is that every major museum in the western world has exquisite artefacts from Sierra Leone, while very few remain on home soil. The Portuguese, the first among the Europeans to come to the country's shores, were also the first to acknowledge the richness of the culture they encountered. For those who have only a passing acquaintance with African history, their perception may be that it was slavery that brought Europeans to Sierra Leone's shores.



Opposite: Book cover on K Little's study of the Mende of Sierra Leone; Postcard showing a drawing of Freetown in the early days of settlement; **This page:** A saltcellar (22.5 cm in height). Ivory; carved by a Sapi artist in Sierra Leone: 15th – 16th century. Now in the Vienna Museum fur Völkerkunde. It features a figure on the back of an elephant and it is believed it may depict a chief, due to his headdress and shield; A saltcellar (21 cm in length – with the lid missing) Ivory: carved by a Sapi artist in Sierra Leone: 15th – 16th century AD; A saltcellar. (29 cm in height); Ivory: carved by a Sapi artist in Sierra Leone: 15th – 16th century AD. Although it appears exquisite, part of the piece has been damaged. The missing piece is presumed to depict a person of high rank, most probably a chief, sitting on a ceremonial throne. An inventory of the Modena Museum taken in 1866 describes it as an "ivory bowl formed from a single piece, with a foot and engraved lid". Now in Modena, Galleria Estense.

(All of the above images are reproduced from 'Arts of Africa – 7000 Years of African Art', published by the Grimaldi Forum, Monaco.)



Above: In the 1960s, a series of ancient tools and artefacts were discovered and handed to the National Museum. These artefacts are shown above including : Prehistoric pottery shards, Prehistoric clay pots held by a staff member at the Sierra Leone National Museum; Nomoli figurine from the Mende peoples of Sierra Leone. Property of the National Museum; Double-headed nomoli; Female figurine from the Temne people of Sierra Leone; Arrowheads Sierra Leone National Museum;



Tourism

(SIERRA LEONE AS AN UNDISCOVERED GEM FOR TOURISTS)

In 2008, the media all-rounder (TV and radio presenter, journalist and novelist) Clemency Burton-Hill, writing in the Observer penned a piece titled 'Paradise regained' (www.theguardian.com/travel/2008/mar/09/sierraleone.africa), extolled the virtues of some of Sierra Leone's greatest tourist destinations, suggested that it was a true, undiscovered gem. She ended her piece thus: "*Sierra Leone may not yet have the package tourist infrastructure of other coastal beauty spots, but this must surely count in its favour. So long as you're up for a bit of adventure, it's one of the most rewarding – and beautiful – countries to visit in the world.*" We are not about to argue with her.

First-time visitors to Sierra Leone often ask the question "why doesn't this country get many more tourists?" The simple as is that Sierra Leone has been notoriously poor at 'selling itself' as a tourist attraction. It is therefore encouraging that President Koroma has encouraged the Ministry of Tourism to grasp the task of bringing Sierra Leone 'back' to the world's attention as a desired tourist destination.

It wasn't always the case that the country was 'off the tourist radar' even though it had fallen off that radar long before the civil war intervened to put several nails in tourism's coffin.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, it was not uncommon to see cruise ships operated by the world famous Cunard Line docking in Sierra Leone and disgorging tourists for a few days of fun and frolics in Freetown.

In this chapter, we look at some of the stunning, world-class tourist attractions that are undeservedly among some of the least known in the world.

Some of Sierra Leone's neighbours and near-neighbours (Gambia and Senegal, to name but two) have made great strides in encouraging what is now called 'heritage tourism'; that is where the tourist visits a place that is closely linked to their ancestry and heritage. Considering the pivotal role Sierra Leone (as an area) played in both the propagation and abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, it should be swamped with 'heritage tourists', as every African-American, descended from slaves owes their DNA to the West African region.

Some of the heritage gems worth visiting are mentioned here:

THE (GOVERNMENT) WHARF STEPS AND OLD GUARD HOUSE

Despite sometimes being referred to as 'Portuguese Steps', they were not built by the Portuguese. In fact, the earliest European 'visitors' to our shores left very few monuments to their presence. The steps were built during Governor Charles McCarthy's tenure (1818).

THE GATEWAY TO THE OLD KING'S YARD

When the British Parliament passed the 'Act of abolition of the slave trade' on 25 March, 1807, this did not end British involvement with Sierra Leone; quite the opposite, it signalled an increased presence in the country, leading to the establishment of a colony.





For a start, the British navy based itself in Sierra Leone to intercept ships that were trying to prolong the evil trade.

A compound to accommodate rescued slaves was constructed at King Jimmy Wharf. This site was referred to as the King's Yard where both freed slaves and recaptives (those rescued from ships at sea) could be assessed and housed until they could be resettled. As many of them were in need of medical help, it was also known as an asylum. Some who were to play significant roles in Sierra Leone's history were among those who passed through the asylum including Samuel Adjai Crowther and John Ezzidio, the latter was later to be a Mayor of Freetown. The remnants of the Gateway to the King's Yard, with inscription intact can still be seen above one of the entrances to a part of the Freetown's main Government hospital, Connaught Hospital.

ST JOHN'S MAROON CHURCH

Built in 1822, this church is many things

— beautiful, still functioning and iconic. It was built by the Maroons who arrived

in the colony in 1800 as black returnees from Jamaica, with a reputation as accomplished stone masons (and 'troublemakers', according to the British). Interestingly and ironically, many who had arrived in Sierra Leone from Nova Scotia (Latin for 'New Scotland', in Canada) had left because the Governor of that province, Sir John Wentworth, had been trying to force them to become Christians. It is among the oldest churches in Sierra Leone and is hard to miss as it is close to the very centre of Freetown.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL - Yet another edifice whose significance is as much historic as religious and also one that is close to the centre of Freetown. The cathedral's foundation was laid in 1817 by Governor McCarthy and the full structure was completed in 1828. The grandeur of the church is beautifully preserved and it is easy to imagine, as one enters it today, how grand and imposing it must have looked when newly built.



(Above) Boat at Siaka Stevens and Sanders Street Junction Freetown (G Andersen) (right) NTB – Lakka Beach Peter C. Andersen **Opposite:** Hawker on Lumley Beach, 1945.



The history of the church serves to show something of the pivotal role Sierra Leone played in how the British administered their colonies in what was called British West Africa. For, not only was it the grandest church in British West Africa, it was also the head church of a diocese which stretched to The Gambia, the Gold Coast (now Ghana), Lagos (but not the rest of Nigeria) and as far as the Islands of Madeira, the Canaries, Mauritania and Morocco!

ST CHARLES' CHURCH, REGENT

The church was named in honour of the much respected, Governor Charles McCarthy, and has the honour of being the first stone church to be built in West Africa.

It has often been remarked that there is a special significance that this structure was built at the top of a steep hill, far away from the shores of the Atlantic: it was said memory of capture or freedom at sea was still fresh in the memories of the settlers.

Following the settlement of Sierra Leone as a colony and Freetown as a place for freed slaves and recaptives (as those freed from slave ships were called), the majority adopted or converted to the religion of their rescuers or benefactors. This meant structures had to be established to cater for the spiritual and educational welfare of these emerging communities. In 1816, the government financed the building of a stone church the Regent, one of the Liberated African Villages.

THE COTTON TREE, CENTRE OF FREETOWN

Not only does this tree stand in the centre of the oldest part in Freetown, it is often used in photographs and graphic images as iconic shorthand for both Freetown and sometimes Sierra Leone.

Local legend has it that this was the gathering place of the Black Poor when they landed in Sierra Leone in 1787. It is said that they rested and prayed underneath the shade of the tree, giving thanks for their deliverance.

This historic tree remains an imposing and natural tourist attraction to this day and is close to several important buildings including the Law Courts, the President's Office and National Museum, to name a few.

(Editor's note: a word of warning to the tourist, even as a Sierra Leonean, I was threatened with arrest when I tried to take a photograph of the President's office; ask the military or police whether it is safe to do so).

The beaches

There are not many things that Sierra Leoneans can say allows them to scoff at the rest of the world but one thing which does, and which causes Sierra Leoneans a wry smile is why the country never features when 'the world's most beautiful beaches' are listed in various travel brochures. Common (Sierra Leonean) consensus is that the compilers have "obviously never been to Sierra Leone". Often times, such lists are accompanied by photographs of the beaches in question. These are likely to draw from Sierra Leoneans comments such as "...but, it's not even as beautiful as..." (Here, you can fill in the name of the beach of your choice). The best remark I heard in this regard was from a friend who said to describe some of our beaches as beautiful would leave one open to a charge of understatement.

Of the ones closest to the capital along the Freetown peninsular and worthy of a visit are York Beach with its black sand, the beach at No.2 River and Lumley Beach, with its long unbroken stretch of golden sand, if you don't want to travel too far from the capital. The tourist can take their pick from these delights:

THE FREETOWN PENINSULA

Worth driving along and stopping off at beach after stunning beach, in case anyone needs convincing. Here, one can come across further evidence of British connections as you drive past villages with names like Kent, York and Sussex.



TURTLE ISLANDS: Think of the term 'idyllic beachside community' and your mind will probably conjure up an image brought to reality by this collection of eight islands off the southwest Freetown peninsula. Until the inevitable tourist scrum likely to ensue once discovered by tourists, they are inhabited by fishing communities. A boat ride from Freetown will take you there.

ECO-TOURISM: The English broadcaster and naturalist, **David Attenborough** made one of his earliest documentaries about the birds of Sierra Leone. The country still supports a thriving bird life to this day and is a must-visit for any serious bird-watcher. In September 1954 David Attenborough, cameraman Charles Lagos, Jack Lester and Alf Woods, both from the Zoological Society of London, went to Sierra Leone. They spent three months intently surveying the landscapes of Sierra Leone in search of nature's rarest animals. Although predominantly searching for *Picathartes gymnocephalus* (the White-necked Rock fowl). The programme, 'Zoo Quest to West Africa' first broadcast in 1955, was recently made available for viewing as part of the BBC online archive series.



The programme will be available online on this link until 2038:
www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00y207k

TIWAI ISLAND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

In a sign that Sierra Leoneans do not have to wait or rely on outsiders to help them preserve various under-threat habitats, Tiwai Island is guarded and administered by a Sierra Leonean NGO, which has rehabilitated the island after years up to and just after the war. Today, it is one of the key places to visit for the conservation minded tourist as it is home to lots of exotic flora and fauna. It is home to chimpanzees and the white-breasted guinea fowl. Visit: <http://tiwaiisland.org>

TACUGAMA CHIMPANZEE SANCTUARY

One of the 'jewels in the crown of eco projects', Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary is close to Regent Village (itself worth a visit for its Olde Worlde charm), is only 30 minutes from Freetown. Easily spotted as it lies along the Regent/Bathurst mountain road, this is now an internationally renowned sanctuary for orphaned chimpanzees.

Visit: <http://www.tacugama.com>

GOLA FOREST RESERVE

This is the largest area of lowland rain forest remaining in Sierra Leone, and is one of the most important sites for the conservation of threatened wildlife in the country. As such, it was decided by the governments of the two counties that share the forest, Sierra Leone and Liberia, that the area needed protection; hence the decision to give it official protected status.

The reserve straddles the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia and in 2009, at the European Development Days conference in Stockholm, Sweden, President Koroma and Liberia's President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf announced their countries' joint administration of the area: www.golarainforest.org

Top: (Left to right) Young troubadours on New Year's day, 2011 (Ade Daramy); National Park – Outamba Kilimi 2 Hippos; NTB – National Railway Museum at Cline Town – (Peter C. Andersen); NTB – Kent looking toward Banana Island (Peter C. Andersen) **Left:** A chimpanzee couple chill out (Peter C Andersen).

Sporting and Cultural Legends

(FOCUS ON ACHIEVEMENTS IN ART, PHOTOGRAPHY, THEATRE AND DANCE)

To those who only know of Sierra Leone because of the 10-year civil war, it is sometimes hard, if not impossible, to convey to them the rich entertainment and cultural life that there has always been throughout the country's history. No country has only a political history and every country has a cultural and artistic history that sometimes runs in parallel with and occasionally, against the political history in the form of protest songs or songs that prick the pomposity of the political elite. In this regard, Sierra Leone is no different and has a rich and unjustly neglected history. Too often, a country's history and its great sons and daughters are measured in the lives of politicians.

This chapter looks at some of the Sierra Leoneans who have left their mark in the arts on the nation as well as internationally. To Sierra Leoneans, these are cultural, historical and educational icons and, it is time the rest of the world came to know about them. In common with many post-independence capitals, the newly-emerging middle class had disposable income and among the ways they spent that income was to 'entertain'. In the '60s, night life in Freetown was swinging. There were nightclubs with bands playing Sunday to Sunday at places

like 'Flamingo', 'La Gondole', 'Sugar Dandy', 'Pasaris', 'Yellow Diamond', 'Brookfields Hotel', 'Palm Beach', 'Yellow Submarine', 'Cape Club', 'Ratcliffes', 'Tijuana' etc.; other smaller clubs like 'La Tropicana', 'Moulin Rouge', 'Omar Khayam', etc. having discos. There were moonlight picnics at the Prisons Tennis Court at New England; Brookfields Tennis Court; Victoria Park; Atlantic Club; etc. Organised dances at the (old) Town Hall; Gooding's Hall; YWCA; FBC; Cape Club; MMTCC; Brookfields Hotel; Railway Union Hall; Paramount Hotel; Yellow Submarine; British Council; Ports Canteen; etc. There was a regular Saturday afternoon 'Free Jazz Session' at the Yellow Diamond Club, at Krootown Road; where all musicians (local, current, foreign, retired) were welcomed to pick up an instrument that was idle and join in whatever music that was being played by those on the stage – a fun-time for all; vibrant interaction between audience and musicians; very relaxing and enjoyable to musicians; created a bond amongst the current musicians; an appreciation of unknown talent from retired, foreign, and visiting musicians. One of the moments that is sadly missed, nowadays. It is hardly mentioned in the history books that the legend, Louis Armstrong, paid a visit to Sierra Leone. Unfortunately, Satchmo's tour of West Africa was to end in tragedy, when the singer Velma

Middleton, part of the great man's ensemble, collapsed on stage 25 January 1961 and died from a heart attack at Hill Station Hospital, 16 days later on 10 February 1961.

The tour lasted four months and was sponsored by the US State Department and Pepsi Cola – an early instance of corporately sponsored tour. Middleton's death put paid to any chance of the tour returning for Sierra Leone's independence celebrations of April that year.

Due to the large population of Lebanese in Sierra Leone, it was not uncommon to have great stars of the Arab film world appear in Sierra Leone when their films premiered in the country.



Ishmael Beah, sandwiched between on his extreme left singer Angeliqe Kidjo and on the right by Semhar Araia, founder on the Diaspora African Women's Network (DAWN) at an inaugural ball for President Obama's first win; Sierra Leone traditional musician at the British Museum, London, Independence Day, 2013. **Opposite:** Sir Milton Margai visits the National Museum Dr. M.C.F. Easmon, Dr. Davidson Nicol and Education Minister Amadu Wurie taken at the Freetown Museum in 1962. Gary Schulze is on the extreme left.

Robert Wellesley-Cole, Author – 1907-1995 - The writer of 'Kossoh Town Boy', regarded by many as the greatest book by a Sierra Leonean, was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone on 11th March, 1907, eldest son of Wilfred and Elizabeth Beatrice Wellesley-Cole. His



great grandfather, a Nigerian Prince, early in the nineteenth century was rescued from a trans-Atlantic kidnapping, and settled as a free citizen in Freetown.

Robert was educated at the Government Model School, which he went to in 1914. In 1919, he became head boy and number one pupil on the register of the Secondary school which Government then started on the campus formally opened in 1925 by Edward, Prince of Wales as the Prince of Wales school. From there he went onto the Grammar school, where in 1922, as head boy he passed the Cambridge Senior school leaving certificate in Division one with 4 distinctions, second amongst thousands in the British Empire, including the Dominions, India, Britain and the West Indies.

In 1924, he went to Fourah Bay College, then affiliated to Durham University securing a degree in Maths and Classics and was appointed assistant lecturer in Maths. In 1928 he obtained a London university Philosophy degree by correspondence course.

He came to England in 1928 to obtain a degree in Medicine, subsequently specialising in surgery, at Newcastle – on – Tyne Medical School. In six years of training he obtained First class honours in every professional exam, including his finals, winning 13 class prizes, plus a special post-graduate one for Philosophy.

In 1932 he married Anna Brodie of the Brodie clan, cousin of Andrew Bonar Law, Prime Minister, 1922.

In 1943 he obtained his Doctorate in Medicine M.D. He became the first black person to be elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1944.

From 1942 to 1958 he was a member of the Colonial office Advisory Committees on the Welfare of Colonial peoples in the U.K. {Chairman Lord Farrington}; the Colonial Economic Development Council {Chairman Lord Portal}; and the Colonial Advisory Medical committee {Chairman Lord Listowel}.

After practising as a GP and Surgeon in Newcastle and divorcing his first wife, he married Amy, daughter of the Hon. Claude Hotobah-During, Barrister and member of the Legislative Council, in 1950 and moved to Nottingham where he continued to practise. There he specialised as an Eye Surgeon and had his own Nursing Home.

From 1962 to 1964 he was invited by the Nigerian Government to be Senior Surgeon Specialist, first in Ibadan, then in Akure.





He returned to Freetown in 1964 until 1975 as Consultant Surgeon Specialist , Connaught Hospital.

He retired to London that same year with his family where he continued to write. 'An Innocent in Britain'[Autobiography] was published in 1988. 'Kossoh Town Boy'[Cambridge University Press, 1960] a school text book has officially sold over 100,000 copies.

The Wellesley-Cole collection was donated to SOAS by him in 1989 and 1991, which includes unpublished works. He is survived by his four children and grandchildren.

Ebenezer Calendar – (1912-1985) – Legendary Singer-Songwriter To describe Ebenezer Calendar as a musician, even a great one is to miss the point by several miles. National Icon or National Treasure perhaps come closest to capturing what he means to Sierra Leoneans. His songs are so popular and commonly sung that they have long been embedded as part of the country's rich, cultural fabric.

He was born in Freetown on November 19, 1912 to a Jamaican father and a Sierra Leonean mother.

His music was an ever-present as part of the locally produced music of the 1950s and early 1960s. His song 'Fire Fire', is one of dozens till sung to this day. It is no exaggeration to say every Sierra Leonean has either sung along to or heard one of his songs being sung.

Among his numerous contributions to the cultural life of the country, he performed with the Sierra Leone National Dance Troupe at the Commonwealth Arts Festivals of 1965 and 1966. On April 19, 1983 he was awarded the Certificate of Honour by the President of Sierra Leone for his meritorious service in the field of indigenous music. When he died in 1985, music groups from all over Freetown converged on his home at the foot of Mt. Aureol and played his songs continuously for twenty-four hours. Thousands gathered to mourn, celebrate and remember a man whose music had left an indelible mark on the music landscape of Sierra Leone.

Salia Koroma – Minstrel/ Poet/ Consumate Musician

Salia Koroma was born in Segbwema although his parents had come from Kpa-Mende country. The Salia legend as told by the man himself has him confronting his father about his desire to go to school and being handed an accordion with the words "This is your school."

He soon overcame his disappointment at not going to 'regular school and became a something of a genius of the instrument. His father had travelled the land making a name and some money as an accomplished accordionist and wanted his son to follow in his footsteps. In spite of his father's undoubted talent, Salia always claimed he was self-taught wrecking numerous instruments on the way to proficiency. His father must have had some prescience about the young man's future as he always bought him a new one

Salia first established a reputation first in what was called 'Mende land' (i.e. the areas where the Mendes were in the majority) and eventually the whole country fell under the spell of this musical genius. After serving as court musician to several chiefs, he moved to Rotifunk where he was installed as court entertainer to Chief Albert Caulker. On moving to Freetown he joined the Sierra Leone Police Force, staying until the outbreak of the Second World War. Even while in the force, he continued to entertain. He was a great raconteur and an alert man even late in life and would tell interviewers that he still remembered his Police Force number (377).

Geraldo Pino – February 1939 – November 2008 In every decent biography of Afrobeat legend, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, one name is always mentioned as the man who made him 'turn his head and music around'. That man is Sierra Leone's Geraldo Pino.

[Editor's note: I conducted the last-ever filmed interview with Geraldo Pino in London a few months before he died – in that interview he looked back over his life and musical career. Ironically, he had come to honour the memory of the man he inspired to go on and do great things – he was in London to do a 'Tribute to Fela' show at the Barbican].

He told me that he was born Gerald Pine in Freetown on February 10, 1939 and that his father was a lawyer mainly based in Nigeria. He said following the deaths of his mother and sister he disappointed his father by deciding against following him in to the legal profession. In the year of Sierra Leone's independence (1961), he turned to music instead co-founding the Heartbeats. The group's mastery of American pop covers quickly caught on with local listeners, and soon the Heartbeats emerged as one of the highest-paid bands in West Africa, regularly headlining Freetown nightclubs like the Flamingo, Palm Beach, and Tiwana. When television came to Sierra Leone in 1962, the Heartbeats even starred in their own show. Around this time, Pine adopted the stage name Geraldo Pino, an alias inspired by the famed Congolese musicians Franco and Doctor Nico, all of them being fans of Latin-American, particularly Cuban music. The Heartbeats founded their own Pino Records label in 1963, issuing a series of singles including «Maria do ya Lef for Waka," "Heartbeats Merengue," and "Zamzie." Just as Fela Kuti had his own 'hit by a bolt of lightning moment' on seeing Geraldo Pino, the latter told me in an interview that his such moment came on seeing James Brown on the TAMI Show while the Heartbeats were touring Liberia. After that, he said, there was no turning back. He was determined to emulate

the King of Soul's outrageous and dynamic stagecraft. He did so and left every other West African band choking in his dust. The Heartbeats toured West Africa almost continuously between 1965 and 1967, and the stagecraft and previously unseen gigantic and impressive-sounding PA system, which Pino told me he bought in Italy, meant they had no competition. The Heartbeats split in 1969 and he recruited members of the Ghanaian psychedelic band the Plastic Jims as his new backing band. That same year Pino also purchased his own television station and hotel in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, and in the years that followed he rarely left the area, making a handful of exceptions to play live dates alongside internationally renowned stars like Jimmy Cliff, Rufus Thomas, and Manu Dibango.

He settled in Nigeria and never went back to Sierra Leone. When I interviewed him, his last words on the videotape were "I'd love to go back and put on a performance, if only someone can arrange it." It was not to be.



Sooliman Ernest Rogers (popularly known as SE Rogie – 1926 – 1994) was the third man in the triumvirate of great, undisputed Sierra Leonean musical legends – the others being Ebenezer Calendar and Salia Koroma. Unfortunately, all three have passed away. Rogie could be described as having two large bites of the cherry called stardom. His first was in the early 1960s, when he was a musical sensation in post-independence Sierra Leone. His biggest hit was 'My Lovely Elizabeth', a song that has endured to this day. This was the song that broke him beyond the borders of Sierra Leone, becoming a West African hit.

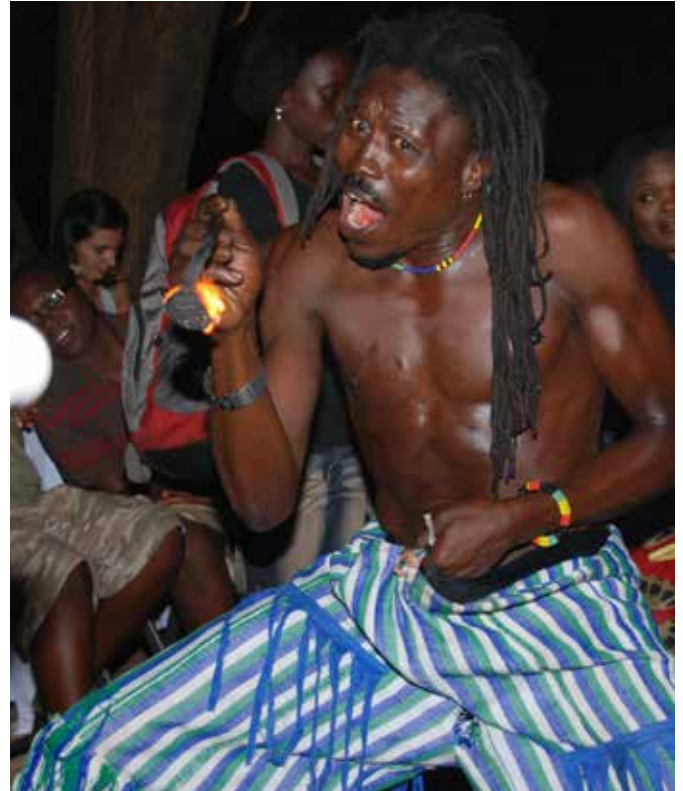
As his type of music got pushed out by the fashion for bands fashioned along the lines of the British and American or Congolese bands, Rogie moved to America, where he had a second career giving talks in schools and colleges on his music, which he dubbed 'palm wine music'. Having semi-retired, Rogie was shocked to discover that his music was gaining popularity in England after being championed by Radio 1 DJ, Andy Kershaw. Rogie came over to play sold-out concerts and festivals and have his records enter the charts, something he could not have imagined happening in his 'wilderness years'. He died after collapsing on stage at a concert in Russia in 1994, where he had gone not long after completing his final album 'Dead men don't smoke marijuana'.

Other notable art-related people and events:

Lisk-Carew photographers – brothers Alphonso and Arthur Lisk-Carew founded their photographic business in 1905 and were responsible for taking hundreds of photographs and postcards that captured many aspects of pre-independence Sierra Leone. The quality of their work led to them being appointed photographers for the visit of the Duke of Connaught 1912 – the year the Duke opened Connaught Hospital, named in his honour;

Sir Samuel Lewis – barrister, the first mayor of Freetown and the first West African to receive a Knighthood.

Dr William Renner – A Sierra Leonean who, in 1910, published, in the British Medical Journal, the first ever



study into cancer in Sierra Leone and one of the first such studies done by an African.

The Heart of the matter (Graham Greene, written, set and filmed in Sierra Leone – the first feature film made in the country);

Travels with my aunt – Novel by Graham Greene, which features a central Sierra Leonean character called *Wordsworth*.

In 1607 Hamlet and Richard III were performed aboard the British ship *Dragon* off the coast of Africa of Sierra Leone for the benefit of the local Kings. ***It is recorded as the first performance of any Shakespearean plays outside Britain.***

Pollock and the Poroh Man, HG Wells – a short story by the master writer set mainly in Sierra Leone.



(Above) Fire-eater and magician at the Madengn Beach Festival 2011; (Left) Film maker Kieran Hanson (centre, squatting) and some cast and crew of a film he was making in Sierra Leone.

[Sierra Leonean Musicians]



*[Yesterday,
today and
forever]*

The established & the new breed

Who are they?

Bunny Mack

In addition to the musicians mentioned above, Sierra Leone has produced many who have gone on to achieve fame far beyond their country's border. None more so than Cecil Bunting MacCormack, known the world over as "Bunny Mack", mainly as due to the enduring fame of his song, "Let Me Love You" (sometimes referred to as My Sweetie", due to the opening lyric). He died in London in July 2015. He is shown above, in a flyer for one of his last full concert appearances at London's famed Jazz Café (see the flyer - Bunny is in the centre, flanked by two other very popular Sierra Leone musicians, King Masco on the right and De Champ, on the right). Bunny is an all-time great of Sierra Leone and African music.

Daddy Sai



In addition to all the other legends and all-time greats mentioned previously, there are many Sierra Leonean musicians setting the pace and keeping the flame alive. These include: Sugar Lulu, Kao Denero K-Man, Dallas Banton, Abdul Tee-Jay, Pupa Baja, Shady Baby, LAJ, Jimmy B, Dry Eye Crew, Silvastone, Lady Felicia, Khadi Black, Heyden Adama, Vicky Fornah, Azania, Refugee All-stars, Sorie Kondi, Famous, Zainab Sheriff, A Bizzy, LXG, to name a few...

Artists

Singer: Emmerson Bockarie



Innocent



NIGHT OF WORDS

AN EVENING OF SPOKEN WORD AND STORYTELLING BY WEST AFRICAN ARTISTS TO RAISE FUNDS
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**KADIJA
GEORGE) SESAY**



**USIFU
JALLOH**

STORYTELLING FOR SIERRA LEONE

1. KINGS PARTNERSHIP 2. ADVOCAD SIERRA LEONE 3. THE SIERRA LEONE EBOLA EMERGENCY FUND

Idris Elba



Dad from Sierra Leone. Mum: half Sierra Leonean, half Ghanaian.
Grew up in council estate in East London.

Hollywood movies, including a film with Beyonce.

Now playing lead character in British drama – Luther.

His words: "I don't get recognised that much yet in London, but when I do I get a real sense of achievement. ... I started off on Crimewatch playing a guy who chopped his girlfriend up and put her in the freezer."

What he said when someone asked him about his experience in America:

"I spent two years of auditioning for everything... and then The Wire came up."

Plans for Sierra Leone: build a clinic or a movie studio.



Ellen Thomas



Born in Freetown Sierra Leone.

Emigrated to UK when she was 9 years old.

Nominated and won many awards.

Mainly British roles, including EastEnders and guest starring in dramas such as Doctor Who.

Her words:

"I believe that our background and circumstances may influence who we are, but we are ultimately responsible for who we become."



Sierra Leonean innovators – Future Technology

FOCUS ON ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sierra Leone has an unmatched history in education and innovation – the first university in sub-Saharan Africa (Fourah Bay College – founded 1827), the first 'modern style' secondary school in sub-Saharan Africa, (the Church Missionary Society (CMS), now Sierra Leone) Grammar School and the distinction of having the world's first self-adhesive stamps (10 February 1964). As you will see from this chapter, highlighting Sierra Leonean innovators, it also has an exciting present and equally exciting future.

Foday Melvin Kamara

The 54 year-old entrepreneur studied automotive engineering in Germany before returning home to Sierra Leone. Having started by using steel to make shovels and door hinges, he used the profits from this venture to launch his company, Fomel Industry and National Industrialisation Centre (FINIC). This company would go on to manufacture the products that have put Mr Kamara and Sierra Leone on the map. It is astonishing that a country not known for any modern manufacturing products should now produce an international class food dehydration machine designed by the owner, Mr Kamara. The dehydration machines are a godsend for Sierra Leone's farmers as it allows them to dry and preserve a wide range of agricultural produce. Mr Kamara also designed and his company also manufactures the first and so far, only made in Sierra Leone condom-dispensing machine.

The business which he started with \$100 he has saved while a student, is today worth an estimated \$1 million.

Kelvin Doe (born 26 October 1996), also known as DJ Focus

In 2012 and 2013, a country that had gained international infamy for the use of child soldiers during its war, suddenly had a young man all over the internet that all Sierra Leoneans could be proud of.

Almost overnight, thanks to the ubiquitous YouTube and other social media, the world got to know of young Kelvin Doe from Sierra Leone.

The young man hit the headlines when his story was featured on CNN and an article in the Huffington Post. Dissatisfied with the representation of youths on the plethora of radio stations in the country, he designed, built and operated his



own radio station, broadcasting under the name DJ Focus; all this, by the age of 13!

In the interviews he can be seen explaining how he became a finalist in the Innovate Salone competition with an electricity generator used to power the station which he built from scrap metals.

This led to him being invited to the US where he was to become the youngest person to participate in the "Visiting Practitioner's Program" at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). He went on to be a guest speaker at TED Teen. He lectured undergraduate engineering students at Harvard, as well. And, in May 2013, Kelvin signed a \$100,000 solar project deal with Canadian High Speed Service Provider Sierra WiFi.

David Moinina Sengh

At the beginning of 2014, the internationally renowned Forbes magazine named its '30 under 30' (<http://www.forbes.com/pictures/ellld45eemkm/david-moinina-sengh-26/>) for the year and among them was this 26-year old – a PhD student at MIT's media lab, where he works on a project to improve prosthetic limbs, runs the Innovate Salone project and he is to be credited with discovering Kelvin Doe at one of the workshops he ran in Sierra Leone. He subsequently invited Kelvin to the US and the rest is history.



The Innovate Salone project, aimed at encouraging innovation among Sierra Leone's secondary school children, has proved to be an overwhelming success. In the first workshops organised, 300 students attended to work on 72 projects. These tapped into some of the most pressing concerns of the nation and young people including health, agriculture, household chores, crafts and entertainment.

Some of David Sengh's prosthetic designs were tested in 2013 on US Army veterans amputated below the knee.

Professor Monty Jones: born February 5, 1951 in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

In 2007, Professor Monty Jones was named as one of the 'Hundred Most Influential Persons in the world' by TIME Magazine.

In a country where rice is the staple food, Professor Monty Jones holds an especially notable first. He is the first Sierra Leonean and first West African to be awarded the prestigious World Food Prize. Especially notable is the fact that the professor won his award (which he won jointly) based on his discovery of the genetic process to create the New Rice for Africa (NERICA). This breed of rice gives higher yields, shorter growth cycles and more protein content than its Asian and African parents. At a time of food shortage and when food security is more and more assuming an increased level of importance, the impact of such a discovery cannot be overestimated. He is a renowned plant breeder and the Executive Director of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

The professor added another notable 'notch' to his list of accolades when, in early 2014, he was installed as President of the European Market Research Centre (EMRC) based in Brussels. As with many of his accolades, Professor Jones is the first Sierra Leonean to hold the post.

Professor Jones obtained a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the nation's premier higher agricultural education establishment, Njala University College, University of Sierra Leone in 1974. This was followed by an M.Sc. in Plant Genetic Resources in 1979, a PhD. in Plant Biology (1983) from the University Of Birmingham, UK. The latter establishment awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree in (DSc) in July 2005. He is currently the Chairman of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR).



AWARDS AND HONOURS:

- In September 2001, received the National Order of Merit, Côte d'Ivoire from the Ivorian President.
- In 2004, named a co-recipient (with Prof. Yuan Longping of China) of the World Food Prize for his work in developing New Rice for Africa (NERICA).
- In 2010, appointed Professor Extraordinary by the Executive Committee of the University of the Free State, South Africa. In October 2010 awarded the main prize of the Niigata International Food Award in Japan.
- In 2011, awarded the Insignia of the Grand Officer of the order of the Rokel by the President Koroma for his work on NERICA.

Looking back – Sierra Leone Celebrates

(HOW THE COUNTRY CELEBRATED 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE)

In 2011, Sierra Leone celebrated its Golden Jubilee of independence from British rule. Recognising the importance of this milestone, the president commissioned a committee to oversee a series of commemorative year-long events.

To harness a the national mood of expectation, the President set up the Sierra Leone 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Committee and Executive Secretariat in Freetown in 2010. The committee and secretariat had a remit to plan, manage and carry out events and other activities throughout 2011, both in Sierra Leone and internationally. The chairman of the National Planning Committee was the respected historian, Professor Cecil Magbaily File.

In an address setting out the aims of the committee, the chairman stated that the celebrations would:

"...project those unique values that stand out in our society and have contributed to the survival and recovery of Sierra Leone up to the present. The driving force of the celebrations will be Sierra Leone-ness."

The objectives of the national and international committee were as follows:

1. To working with the Sierra Leone High Commissions and Embassies to publicise and carry out well planned events celebrating the 50th Independence Anniversary.
2. Engage and bring Sierra Leoneans together, celebrating our shared heritage.
3. Promote and publicise the work of the Sierra Leone High Commissions, Embassies and the work of the High Commissioners and Ambassadors.

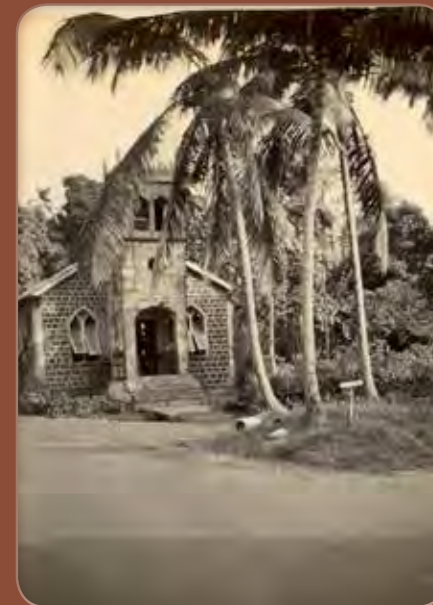
The series of year-long events were launched by the president at a colourful event at the national stadium on New Year's Day, 2011. The event featured massed bands representing almost every secondary school, all the major community organisations as well as the National Army and National Police bands.

For many, the highlights included:

- A national song contest, which generated over 100 high quality entries and was won by the singer Innocent;



Armoured vehicles parade through the streets of Freetown, circa 1945; The commanding officer takes the salute; Sierra Leonean troops around 1944-45; Regent Road, Lumley Village, 1945.



(Clockwise from top left) British Expeditionary Force in Freetown 1919; Sierra Leone secretariat in 1945 – large parts of the building were destroyed during the rebel war in 1999; Sierra Leonean military engineers from the West Africa Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (WAEME) 1945 outside their workplace, which is next to what is now the President's office; Church at the junction of Regent Road, Lumley, 1945

– the church is still standing.





- A national fashion show in Freetown featuring some of the country's best designers;
- Golden Jubilee Anniversary Booklet (*in collaboration with Sierra Leone 50th Anniversary Committee and Gateway Media*);
- The lantern parade, which featured floats that would have done justice to Rio's famous carnival;
- The Chief's Durbar in Bo, echoing an event held in 1961 to honour Her Majesty, the Queen, when she visited Sierra Leone.

Later that year, the President visited London for a Town Hall meeting with Sierra Leoneans, at which he was formally presented with a copy of the official 50th anniversary commemorative book by Mr Anthony Hussain, CEO of the book's publishers, Lowndes.



(Clockwise from top left) UK-based Sierra Leonean dance troupe perform in the main hall at the British Museum, London, 27 April, 2013; Contributing photographer, Peter C Andersen receives his copy of the book from Franklyn Johnson; Youngest member of the UK-based Sierra Leonean dance troupe perform in the main hall at the British Museum, London, 27 April, 2013; Ms Bintu Alhadi, then-Legal Adviser to Guaranty Trust Bank is presented with her copy of the Book; President Koroma prepares to take the salute at the National Stadium as Sierra Leone celebrates 50 years of independence, 27 April 2011

Made in Sierra Leone

(A PROFILE OF CORPORATE ENTITIES MANUFACTURING IN SIERRA LEONE)

A recurring theme in this book is about how Sierra Leone undersells itself to the outside world. It is not only as a tourist destination, with areas of outstanding natural beauty that the country fails to blow its own trumpet, this is also the case with agricultural produce. Here are some examples of world class Sierra Leonean produce that the world should know about.

Bahsoon Coffee
This ground coffee, comes in a very unprepossessing package but houses the most exquisite coffee you will ever taste. The majority of the coffee packaged by the Bahsoon Company comes from the centre of Sierra Leone's coffee growing district, Kailahun. This is not a case of exporting the raw product; once the raw cherry is picked and dried, some are cleaned and packaged for export. Those not exported are milled and sold in Sierra Leone and it is not unusual to see Sierra Leoneans who live abroad returning with their

suitcases stuffed with bags of the delectable locally ground coffee to take as presents for family and friends.



Africa Felix Juice
When Sierra Leoneans travel abroad, they regularly complain that the fruit juices are “not as sweet as the ones we have back home”. Now, thanks to Africa Felix Juice, those words will no longer be met with puzzled looks or raised eyebrows. Established in 2011, the company now packages and sells fruit juices



made from Sierra Leone mangoes, pineapples and papaya (called paw paw locally). These are advertised under the slogan “the sweetest thing”. So, the next time you doubt the word of a Sierra Leonean about how sweet the fruits are from his country, you can rest assured that this time, he has the product to back it up. At the time of this book, the majority of the produce is consumed locally but the company is making great strides to start exporting its produce. Sierra Leone is the most recent stop in the company's expansion having already set up identical processing plants in Ghana, Ethiopia and India.

Project Sierra Leone
A fashion brand that trades under the banner “Ethically made just for you”, which sources from local artisans, handbags, kaftans and placemats that are quite stunning in their beauty. The project was started in 2010 by Sierra Leonean Maggie Kadi, who returned home for a holiday after 17 years away.

Walking through market stalls, she was struck by the brilliance of some the locally made artefacts on sale and resolved to give them wider exposure. She negotiated with the artisans to get fair prices for them and an equitable split and allowed them to set their own prices. The project is thriving and growing.

FINIC'S food dehydrator
In a first for Sierra Leone and the brainchild of a Sierra Leonean, Foday Melvin Kamara, the FINIC (Fomel Industry & National Industrialization Centre) Dehydrator (there are three types of machine al designed and manufactured in Sierra Leone) solves a long term problem in Sierra Leone; that of drying fruit and vegetables on an industrial or commercial scale. The dehydrator allows farmers to dehydrate a wide range of agricultural produce including cacao, cassava chips, cassava flour, ginger, onions, mango chips, pepper, and rice flour. The equipment operates by using biomass (wood, agricultural waste, cacao pods, cassava peels etc) as fuel to generate the heat required. In a country where drying before the rain season comes can mean make or break for farmers, such a machine is proving to be priceless.

Sierra Leoneans are justifiably proud of Mr Kamara and consider him something of a genius. An amazing fact is that Mr Kamara, who studied automotive engineering in Germany, started FINIC in 1997 with just \$100.





In 2011, he was honoured by His Excellency, the President for what the President called his 'exemplary entrepreneurship and engineering skills.'

The First Step Economic Zone (SEZ)

Set in 20 hectares of land, FIRST STEP has established a Special Economic Zone in Newton, in close proximity to the main ports in the capital. The zone is host to scalable factory facilities, with access to guaranteed electric power, water, and other utilities. In addition, the zone leases space to businesses wishing to export value-added products from Sierra Leone.

It is expected that the attractive facilities and conditions linked to operating in the Zone will attract more national and international entities to take advantage of the opportunity provided.



Diamond fields in Kono from the air; (Top) the docks in the east of Freetown (Both pics by Peter Andersen).

Sierra Leone: Food and Drink

Made in Sierra Leone continued...

Morvigor (Sierra Leone) Ltd eyes overseas expansion

Morvigor tea is manufactured in Sierra Leone, with almost all the raw materials including the Moringa Oleifera plant sourced there too.

Dr Eva Roberts, who specialises in anaesthesia established Morvigor (SL) Ltd, five years ago, to produce Morvigor tea, a herbal tea rich in nutrients such as vitamins A, C and protein. Since then the company has been one of the most successful small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Sierra Leone, initially creating six jobs, a figure which has increased by over 150% in the past two years.

Morvigor's journey started when Eva Roberts won Sierra Leone's version of Dragon's Den - the African Foundation for Development's (AFFORD SL) Business Bomba Competition. The company received a business grant of 75 million Leones (approximately \$15,000). In 2012 Morvigor also received \$265,000 equity funding from West African Venture Funds, enabling it to scale up production and introduce four new varieties of tea. By mid-2014, the company's turnover had increased by 20% compared to the same period in the previous year. Although this dropped during the Ebola crisis, the company has now returned to its previous growth pattern.

(Above text is by Unisa Dizo-Conteh of AFFORD)

Some Food Specialities of Sierra Leone:

Groundnut stew: Stew made from peanuts, meat, tomatoes and onions.

Cassava bread: Bread made from the flour from the starchy root of the cassava plant.

Okra stew: Stew made from the vegetable often referred to as 'lady's fingers'.

Cassava and potato leaf stews: A little like spinach, these leaves are mixed with various spices and fish stock and served with fish, goat or chicken.

Fish balls: Traditional Krio dish usually served in the beach areas of Freetown where fish comes straight out of the ocean and into the pot.

Ebeh: Thick stew of cassava, yams, onions, chicken, stock, chilli and other spices traditional to the Mende tribe.

Benny cake: Sesame seed and sugar biscuit.

Coconut cake/Koknat Cake: Biscuit made from fresh coconut, flour and sugar.

Pepper soup: Very spicy soup made from hot chilli peppers and tomato paste with fried onion and garlic. Usually

served with fish or meat.

Jollof rice: Rice, which ends up 'orangey-coloured' due to the tomatoes used in the making.

A few samples



Facts about Sierra Leone



Official name: The Republic of Sierra Leone

The nation's flag is a tricolour of green, white and blue, descending in three equal sized stripes. The green symbolises agriculture, mountains, and natural resources; white represents unity and justice; blue the sea and the natural harbour in Freetown.

Geographical Location: Western Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, between Guinea and Liberia.

Area size: total: 71,740 sq km

Land coverage: 71,620 sq km

Water coverage: 120 sq km

Land boundaries: 958 km

Border countries: Guinea 652 km, Liberia 306 km

Coastline: 402 km

Climate: tropical; hot, humid; summer rainy season (May to December); winter dry season (December to April)

Terrain: Mangrove swamps occur along the coast, with thickly wooded hills on the Freetown peninsula, and grasslands, woods and savannah on the interior plains. The central inland area, formerly forested, has been cleared for agriculture. Forest – including mahogany and teak – covers 38% of the land area, having declined at 0.7% p.a.(1990–2010). Arable land comprises 15% and permanent cropland 1% of the total land area.

Topography: Sierra Leone has some 402km of coast along the Atlantic Ocean, with magnificent beaches. Apart from the hilly Freetown peninsula (officially known as the Western Area)

the coastal belt is flat, with a width of up to 110km. The land rises to the Guinea highlands in the east, with mountain peaks up to 1,917m. There are eight main rivers; the estuaries of two of them can be navigated by ocean-going vessels.

Natural resources: diamonds, titanium ore, bauxite, iron ore, gold, chromite

Land use: arable land: 7.95%, **Permanent crops:** 1.05%, other: 91% (2005)

Population: 5,363,669 (July 2011 estimate)

Ethnic groups: Temne 35%, Mende 31%, Limba 8%, Kono 5%, Creole 2% (descendants of freed slaves and recaptives who were settled in the Freetown area in the late-18th century; also known as Krio), Mandingo 2%, Loko 2%, other 15% (includes refugees from Liberia's recent civil war, and small numbers of Europeans, Lebanese, Pakistanis, and Indians) – (figures from the 2008 census)

International relations: Sierra Leone is a member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, African Union, Economic Community of West African States, Non-Aligned Movement, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, United Nations, The Commonwealth and World Trade Organization.

Main towns: Freetown (capital, Western Province; pop. 836,600 in 2010), Bo (Southern, 215,400), Kenema (Eastern, 169,900), Makeni (Northern, 102,600), Koidu (Eastern, 91,600), Lunsar (Northern, 23,900), Port Loko (Northern, 22,700), Pendembu (Eastern, 19,700), Kabala (Northern, 18,800), Waterloo (Western, 17,800), Kailahun (Eastern, 17,500), Segbwema (Eastern, 16,000), Magburaka (Northern, 16,000), Koindu (Eastern, 15,900) and Bonthe (Southern, 10,200).

Transport: There are 11,300km of roads. The railway system (nearly 600km in length) closed in 1974. Freetown is the main port with a deep-water quay. There are smaller ports at Pepel, Bonthe, Niti and Sulima. Several rivers are navigable by small craft. The main airport, is Lungi Airport, a short ride across a river from Freetown.

Religions: Muslim 60%, Christian 30%, indigenous beliefs 10%

Languages: English (official, regular use limited to literate minority), Mende (principal vernacular in the south), Temne (principal vernacular in the north), Krio (English-based Creole, spoken by the descendants of freed Jamaican slaves who settled in the Freetown area, very much now the lingua franca and a first language for upwards of 10% of the population but understood by 95%)

Type of Government: Constitutional Democracy

National holiday: Independence Day, 27 April (1961) – Independence from the UK

Industries: diamond mining; small-scale manufacturing (Beverages, textiles, cigarettes, footwear); petroleum refining, small commercial ship repairs

Exports: in 2006, these stood at US\$216 million, by 2011, the figure had grown to an estimated \$381.5 million.

Main commodities: diamonds, rutile, cocoa, coffee, fish, foodstuffs, machinery and equipment, fuels and lubricants and chemicals.

(Below: diamonds from Sierra Leone, 1950s)



Opposite: A Sierra Leonean woman wearing the head-tie typical of the country.



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