

## **The Spirit Machine and other new short stories from Cameroon edited by Emma Dawson**



The *World Englishes Literature Fiction* volumes are compilations of short stories which range from 3,000 to 10,000 words in length. The idea motivating such an anthology of short stories is to offer the reader an accessible and manageable 'taste' of a country's contemporary fiction writing in English. The short story also allows a country's writers to explore a variety of contemporary themes and concerns as well as exhibiting the linguistic diversity of the land in question.

Most of the writers presented in the country anthologies will not be 'known' to the Western reader and also possibly not even to many readers in their own countries. This is a basic aim of the series: to promote new, emerging writers, often unknown to the West, writers who have not been 'endorsed' by Western publishing houses, but whose writing tells wonderful new stories in wonderful new ways.

*The Spirit Machine* is the first in CCC Press's World Englishes Literature Fiction imprint. This series focuses on the production of new writing in English from various countries around the globe. The writing is newly sourced, edited and presented with a critical introduction.

Each country anthology of new writing goes through a sequence of processes; firstly, a call for short stories is launched electronically through email lists of writers, writing groups, universities and other relevant organisations. Once submissions have been received and read, a journey to the respective country is arranged by the editor in order to meet with the writers who have submitted their work as well offer an opportunity for others who have not yet heard of the project to come along and learn about it.

Making the journey to the country in question is paramount and this is what makes the CCCP's country anthologies different from other anthologies of new writing in English. The editor's journey to meet the writers is one that is made in order 'to listen' and not 'to tell'. The World Englishes Literature imprint as a whole explores being beyond the postcolonial, by 'listening' to those who know, who are writing the literature *now*. This stance diverges markedly from anthologies compiled using already published (and recognised) literature, as well as anthologies which are compiled from 'the Western armchair'.

The critical introduction to the country anthologies benefits from this act of 'listening' and, in doing so, aims to present an accurate portrait of the writing emerging from the country in question. The visit to the country also affords the editor an opportunity to research the history of the place and culture, emerging criticism and contemporary literary events, all of which concern themselves with writing in English. All discussions with writers, readers, teachers and other interested parties who contribute to the debate on writing in English are audio-recorded in order for the material to be reproduced in a sensitive and accurate manner.



### **About the editor**

Emma Dawson currently lectures at Keele University. She works at the intersection of postcolonial writing, pedagogy and the emergent field of World Englishes literature. She has published a number of academic articles in the field, and her Ph.D addressed the teaching of World Englishes literature in schools in England. As a result of her studies she published *Read Around*, a ground-breaking series for secondary schools (CCC Press, 2008). She is the general Editor of CCCP's World Englishes Literature imprint, and in its fiction series is currently editing anthologies of short stories from Nigeria, Uganda and Kenya (forthcoming, 2009).

