

FEMALE HISTORIANS AND THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA: 1955 - 2017

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ABSTRACT

When the Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN) was founded in 1955, only one expatriate female historian, Jean Margaret Bradshaw, was among the seven signatories to the Memorandum of Association. The first indigenous professional female historian in Nigeria, Professor Bolanle Alake Awe, emerged in 1960. Since then, various Departments of History have been established across Nigerian universities and other tertiary institutions, with female historians and students teaching and studying History. Although there is a relative paucity of female historians in comparison to male historians, majority of the few female historians, as shall be analyzed in this paper, have not been consistently active in the HSN. This accounts for why in sixty-two years of its founding and existence, only a few female historians, prominent amongst who are Professor Egodi Uchendu, Dr Winifred Akoda and Dr Mfon Ekpootu, have served in the Council of the HSN. The paper, using the example of active female historians in the HSN, illustrates how greater participation by female historians in its affairs will contribute to building a more vibrant Historical Society of Nigeria.

KEYWORDS: *Female, Historians, Nigeria, 1955-2017.*

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29. See the Original Memorandum of Association (1955), and the Current Constitution of the Historical Society of Nigeria.
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33. A quotation by American Writer and Humorist, Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835 – 1610), who used the pseudonym Mark Twain as the author of his writings.