

NEW BOOKS

****In Praise of Black Women: Ancient African Queens**, by Simone Schwarz-Bart with Andre Schwarz-Bart. Published by Modus Vivendi Publications, The University of Wisconsin Press. Available for sale on the internet at www.inpraiseofblackwomen.com; by phone at 773-568-1550, or from many bookstores. Hardcover, 456 pages, 600 color illustrations \$60.00.

"What a beautiful book!! And three more like this to come? We are excited!"

— QBR The Black Book Review

"This enchanting work transports the reader back in time and gives a voice to the little-known black women of the past."

—Publishers Weekly

"Visually stunning. Every page contains high-quality color reproductions, including many full- and double-page spreads, of rarely seen art works and images of African history and culture."

—Library Journal

About the book:

From New York to New Orleans, from Washington, D.C. to Oakland, California, women are celebrating the publication of a very special new book, a project that has involved black women in Africa, Europe, the Caribbean, and the United States from its very beginnings.

In Washington, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) issued a special recognition. In New York City, the president of the New York Coalition of 100 Black Women, Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook, gave a rousing speech of praise. In New Orleans, Michele Moriel, wife of the city's mayor, is organizing a celebration. All of the talk is about *In Praise of Black Women: Ancient African Queens*, the first volume in a four-book series on black women throughout the world, from ancient times to the present. (The remaining three volumes will celebrate heroines of the slavery era in the Americas, modern African women, and modern women of the African Diaspora.)

The book is attracting attention because of its entrancing stories about African heroines that most Americans have never heard of or read about, as well as its lavish illustration with color paintings, prints, and photographs. It weaves together oral tradition, folk legends and stories, songs and poem, historical accounts, and travelers' tales from Egypt to southern Africa, from prehistory to the nineteenth century.

These women rulers, warriors, and heroines include Amanirenas, the queen of Kush who battle Roman armies and defeated them at Aswan; Daurama, mother of the seven Hausa kingdoms; Amina Kulibali, founder of the Gabu dynasty in Senegal; Ana de Sousa Nzinga, who resisted the Portuguese conquest of Angola; Beatrice Kimpa Vita, a Kongo prophet burned at the stake by Christian missionaries; Nanda, mother of the famous warrior-king Shaka Zulu; and many others.

And, the publication of the book is a story of black women working together to make their history known.

About the authors:

Simone Schwarz-Bart, the celebrated Guadeloupean novelist, originally published the books in French-language editions. They attracted the attention of a young black woman from Martinique, Sandra Monihieux Pelage, who dreamed of one day bringing these books to American audiences. Her efforts led her to Rose-Myrman Rejouis, who is an accomplished translator of works in French into English. Schwarz-Bart is the author of six novels and a play which have been translated and published in many languages.

She spent three years with her husband, award-winning writer Andre Schwarz-Bart, researching historical women and illustrations throughout the world. The Schwarz-Barts spent time in the United States at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem during the mid-1980s, doing research for this series of books.

****This Side of Glory: The Autobiography of David Hilliard and the story of the Black Panther Party**. Published May 2001 by Lawrence Hill Books, distributed by Independent Publishers Group, 814 N. Franklin St., Chicago, Ill. 60610. Toll-free number for orders only: 1-800-888-4741. Paperback, 450 pages, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, 36 black and white photographs \$18.95.

"A vivid, insightful record of the Black Panther Party's heyday, long overdue."

—Washington Post

"Powerful...an unflinching, almost painfully honest account."

—San Francisco Chronicle

"The best existing account of the inner workings of the Black Panther Party."

—Eric Foner

"An extraordinary biography...Hilliard writes as if his survival depends on telling painful truths."

—The Nation

About the book:

This Side of Glory gives a rare glimpse of the human suffering that provided such eager recruits for groups like the Black Panthers, and also shows the glory of it, not just for David Hilliard, but for the millions of people who fought for civil rights and found hope in a revolutionary movement.

The Black Panthers' breakfast programs for school children, as well as their free medical clinics have been legitimized by the federal government.

This Side of Glory is the harrowing story of David Hilliard, ex-chief of staff of the Black Panther Party. Written with the participation of other Party members, this book provides firsthand accounts of Huey Newton's infamous shootout with the police, the murder of Fred Hampton, how Panther money was raised and spent, the sexual mores of the Party, and how illegal activities erupted and were controlled.

Hilliard tells his version of a story he believes was often twisted, misrepresented or not reported in mainstream media. Born in the forties, the twelfth child in a poor Alabama family, Hilliard quickly learned the limits of blacks' participation in American life. Witnessing the unfulfilled promises of the civil rights movement, Hilliard was propelled into the rebelliousness of the sixties and the Black Panther Party.

This Side of Glory reveals the Panthers' struggle for adequate housing, employment and education for black people in the face of police brutality and government infiltrations and disinformation. It also tells how the Party began to dissolve in the early seventies as police raids, gun battles, IRS investigations, trials, and prison terms decimated their ranks.

About the author:

David Hilliard is now a Union Representative in Berkeley, California.

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


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