

AFRICAN TREASURY SERIES



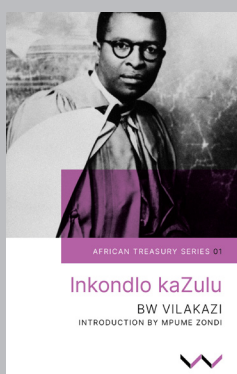
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THE AFRICAN TREASURY SERIES, published from the 1930s onwards, consists of texts written by pioneers of South African literature in African languages. It provided a voice for the voiceless and celebrated African culture, history and heritage. The re-issue of these foundational texts with new introductions supports ongoing efforts to highlight the importance of writing in indigenous languages, and to remember and celebrate these early giants of African literature. The African Treasury Series is now available in ebook and print formats.



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Inkondlo kaZulu

Benedict Wallet Vilakazi

With an introduction by Mpume Zondi

The first book of poems published in isiZulu, *Inkondlo kaZulu* contains superb nature poems and reflections on modern life by the 'father of Nguni literature'.

Language of text: isiZulu

About the Author

Benedict Wallet Vilakazi (1906–1947) was a poet, novelist, and the first black African to be awarded a PhD and to tutor at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. In 2016 he was posthumously awarded the national Order of Ikhamanga – Gold.



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Amal'ezulu

Benedict Wallet Vilakazi

With an introduction by Mpume Zondi

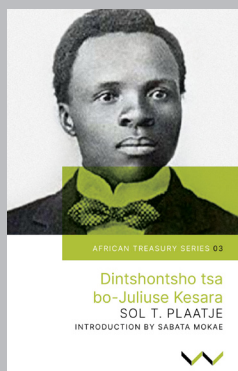
B.W. Vilakazi's second volume of poetry focuses on yearnings for his rural home in KwaZulu-Natal and the hardships experienced by black migrant workers in Johannesburg.

Language of text: isiZulu

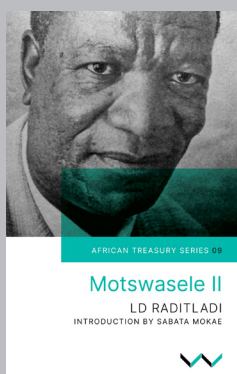
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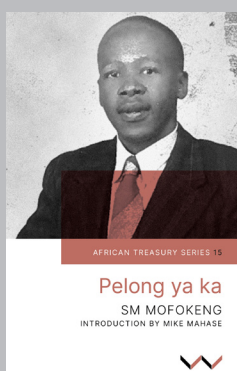
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Dintšhontšho tsa bo-Juliuse Kesara

Solomon T. Plaatje

With an introduction by Sabata-mpho Mokae

Dintšhontšho tsa bo-Juliuse Kesara is a translation into Setswana of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar by the renowned South African thinker, writer and linguist Sol T. Plaatje.

Language of text: Setswana

About the Author

Solomon Tshekisho Plaatje (1876–1932) was a journalist, linguist, politician, translator and writer of novels and historical works, and founder member and first general secretary of the South African Native National Congress, which was renamed the African National Congress in 1923.

Motswasele II

L. D. Raditladi

With an introduction by Sabata-mpho Mokae

The Setswana play *Motswasele II* explores what it means to be a good chief through the characters of two powerful Botswana men, Moruakgomo and Motswasele.

Language of text: Setswana

About the Author

Leetile Disang Raditladi (1910–1971) was a Motswana playwright, poet and journalist. His first book was accepted for publication while he was still in school, and he continued to write literary works while pursuing an active civil service and political career.

Pelong ya ka

S. M. Mofokeng

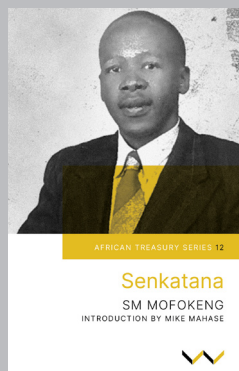
With an introduction by Mike Mahase

Pelong ya ka contains twenty essays and stories on personal themes, filled with observational detail and meditations on the author's life and surroundings

Language of text: Sesotho

About the Author

Sophonia Machabe Mofokeng (1923–1957) received a PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, for his research on African folklore. His works reflect a deep knowledge of Sesotho language and culture, his experience of ill health, and his Christian faith.



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Senkatana

By S.M. Mofokeng

With an introduction by Mike Mahase

Senkatana dramatises an old Basotho legend. The hero, Senkatana, kills a monster that is terrorising people, but is then killed by some of these people.

Language of text: Sesotho

About the Author

Sophonia Machabe Mofokeng (1923–1957) received a PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, for his research on African folklore. His works reflect a deep knowledge of Sesotho language and culture, his experience of ill health, and his Christian faith.

Ukufa kukaShaka

Elliot Zondi

With an introduction by Mpume Zondi

Ukufa kukaShaka is a historical drama. Its plot is based on the events surrounding the assassination of Shaka, the Zulu king, and themes of nation-building.

Language of text: isiZulu

About the Author

Elliot Zondi (1930–2005) was a human resources manager for a multinational company, and subsequently a lecturer in the isiZulu Department at the University of Natal. He wrote two dramas focusing on different periods in the history of the Zulu nation.

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