

Third Annual James McCune Smith Lecture

Prof. Kofi Anyidoho

University of Ghana-Legon

A HARVEST OF ANCESTRAL VOICES:

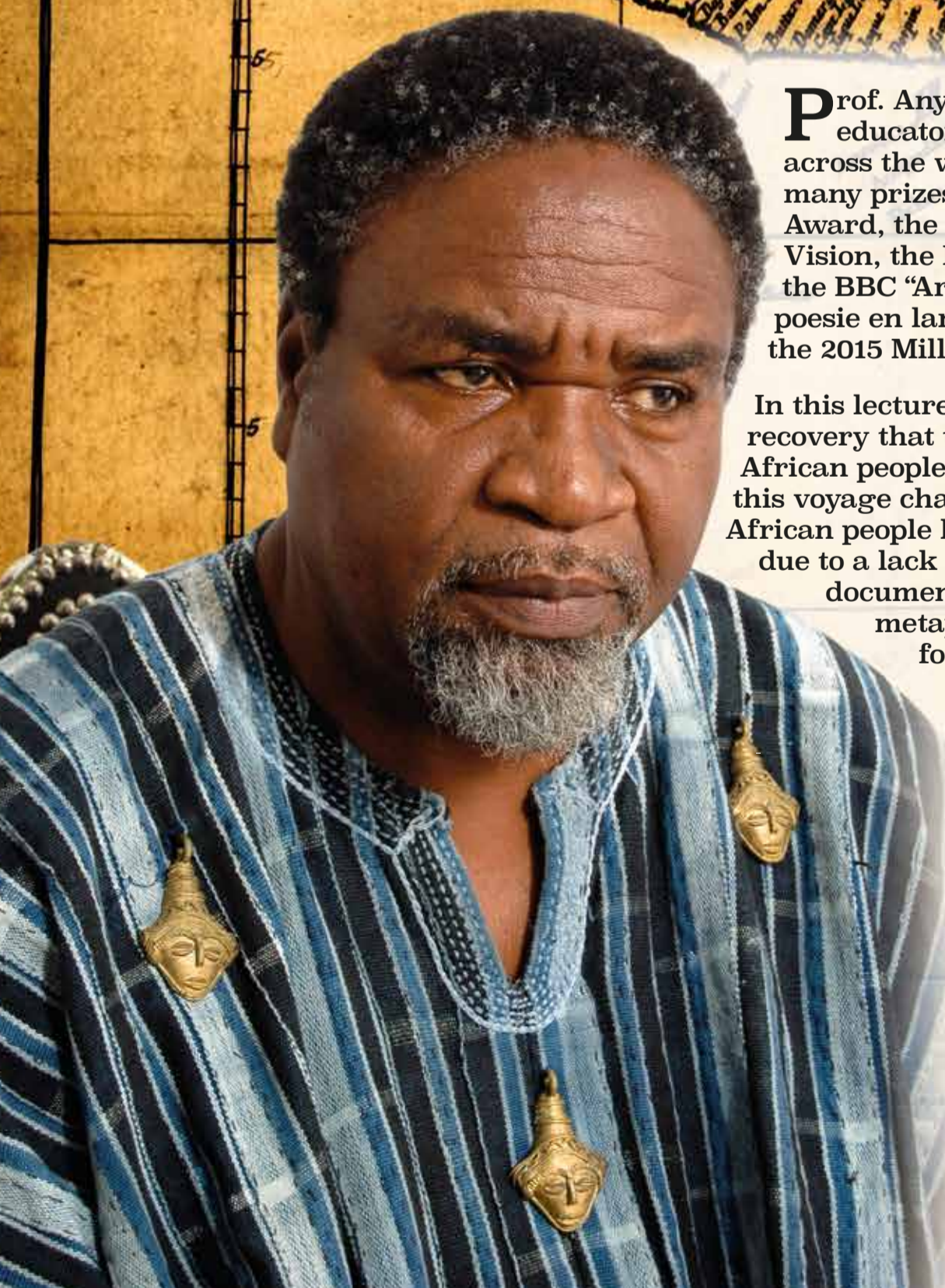
SLAVERY AND THE FUTURE OF AFRICAN PEOPLE

5.15pm, Tuesday 17 October 2017

**Lecture Theatre (Room 301),
Sir Charles Wilson Building**

**This lecture is free but tickets are required:
these can be obtained online at**

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mccune-smith-lecture-by-prof-kofi-anyidoho-a-harvest-of-ancestral-voices-tickets-38111503533



Prof. Anyidoho is a distinguished poet, literary scholar, educator and cultural activist. He has held university posts across the world and in his native Ghana, and he has won many prizes for his poetry, including the Valco Fund Literary Award, the Fania Kruger Fellowship for Poetry of Social Vision, the Langston Hughes Prize, the Davidson Nichol Prize, the BBC "Arts and Africa" Poetry Award, Le grand Prix de poesie en langue nationale [in Togo, for his poetry in Ewe], and the 2015 Millennium Excellence Award (Literature Prize).

In this lecture he will take his audience on a voyage of self-recovery that the history of slavery has made inevitable for African people and for the rest of humankind. Our encounters on this voyage challenge the often held notion that the majority of African people have no clear knowledge of the history of slavery due to a lack of significant and accessible indigenous documentation on slavery. Our voyage takes us on a metaphorical narrative encounter with the past as we follow the trail of a Pan-African group of researchers on an extended field trip that took them across much of Ghana, briefly into Burkina Faso, then south across Togo into the old Empire of Dahome, the so-called Slave Coast of West Africa, now Republic of Benin, into communities still alive with traces of *slave routes*, a trail so long gone.

This lecture series honours James McCune Smith, an African American born into slavery in New York City in 1813. Smith was refused admission to American universities on account of his race, and he spent five years as a student at the University of Glasgow during which time he received three degrees, becoming the first African American to receive a medical degree. After his return to New York Smith became a leading doctor, intellectual and abolitionist.



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