

**ARCHIVED AT THE AQUEDUCT:  
PUBLICATIONS OF E. LATUNDE ODEKU COMPILED BY ADELOLA ADELOYE**

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**SUMMARY**

The compilation of the publications of Professor E. Latunde Odeku was painstakingly put together by Professor Adelola Adeloye; a neuroscientist and medical historian of international repute, Adeloye has made and continues to make, very significant and indelible contributions to neuroanatomy, neurosurgery, medical education, and medical history in Nigeria and Africa. The materials archived at the Aqueduct are unique, priceless and unequalled globally. They act as a bridge between different generations of scholarly efforts and achievements. Great minds stand on great minds. Scholarship is driven by scholarship, intellect by intellect, brain by brain; the chain of knowledge and discovery is sustained by well developed archives of human achievements. This gift, the Aqueduct Resource Centre, will become an enduring legacy of the true greatness of a man (Professor Adelola Adeloye) who apprehended the place of history and generational leadership/mentorship in the survival and advancement of all intellectual efforts and thus of humanity itself.

**The Aqueduct**

In December 2007, the archives of neurology published a paper titled *Mapping Africa's way into prominence in the field of Neurology*.<sup>1</sup> The authors of the article, Mayowa Owolabi, James H. Bower and Adesola Ogunniyi, are world-recognized experts in Neurology. The review examined research output from the African continent and concluded that there was a need for African neuroscientists to discover areas of research unique to the continent in order to advance the frontiers of knowledge for all neurologists. This publication caught the attention of Professor Adeola Adeloye, himself a neuroscientist of extraordinary reputation. He initiated a plan for the paper by Owolabi *et al* to be presented to a selected group of neuroscientists and medical historians at one of his buildings in Ibadan, southwest Nigeria.

On a sunny Saturday afternoon, the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2008, Dr. M. Owolabi (Now Professor of Neurology at the Department of Medicine, University of Ibadan) presented a seminar titled *Road Map in Research and Writing in Neurosciences in Africa*. Those in attendance included Professor A. Adeloye, Professor I.A. Grillo, Professor Olumide, Dr. A.A. Adeolu (now professor of Neurosurgery), Dr. T.B Rabi, Dr. A.C. Sagua, Dr. A.A. Adekanmbi, Dr.(Mrs) F.T. Taiwo, Dr. R.O. Akinyemi, Dr. H.A. Obamuyide, Dr. Ezunu, and Dr. O.A. Awojobi (of blessed memory). The venue was a serene building located at number 17, University Crescent, Old Bodija, Ibadan, Nigeria. The building, belonging to Prof Adeloye, had been named the Aqueduct. The seminar became the first of several

that have held at the building. In his own words, Professor Adeloye explained that the reason for the name of the building was because the cerebral aqueduct was an important canal in neuroanatomy. He added that the canal carries brain fluid from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> ventricle, from the front to the back of the brain through the territory of the mid-brain. He said that the controversies surrounding the role of the aqueduct in the pathogenesis of hydrocephalus led him to conduct research in teratology at Cincinnati and Sheffield in 1972 – 73. He shared his paper on the Aqueduct<sup>2</sup> to the selected group of scholars at the seminar and initiated a plan for regular seminars at the building now known as the Aqueduct. A building that that is purposed to become an important place of knowledge for neuroscientists and medical historians - a resource centre.

Discussion at the first seminar, by Prof M.O.Owolabi, at the Aqueduct defined a vision for the resource centre. It was agreed that the centre should be an archive of scholarly materials in the neurosciences, a place of study and meetings for Neuroscientists in Nigeria and Diaspora; a resource centre that hopefully would be administered formally by the University of Ibadan. In his closing remarks on that fateful Saturday afternoon, Professor Olumide opined that someday the resource centre may be renamed the Aqueduct of Adelola Adeloye.

At present, aqueductarians have increased in number and several meetings and seminars of neuroscientists

and medical historians have taken place at the Aqueduct. Priceless scholarly materials, most of them original works of Prof Adeloye, are archived at the Aqueduct. One of these priceless items is the *Publications of E. Latunde Odeku* Compiled by Adelola Adeloye and bound in hard cover leather.

Nigeria's first Neurosurgeon. In a collection of published works that preceded the masterly written biography of Odeku (*An African Neurosurgeon*), the pages of the collection awakens in the reader the spirit of the highly esteemed Neurosurgeon. Latunde Odeku was an extraordinary man in many ways; his



Professor A. Adeloye  
*Benefactor – The Aqueduct*



Professor Mayowa Owolabi  
*First to present a Seminar at the Aqueduct*

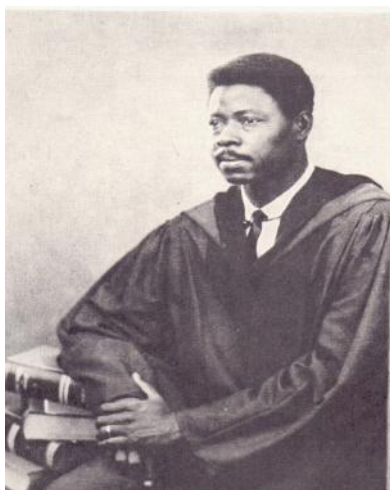


The Aqueduct Resource Centre (Aqueduct of Adelola Adeloye), 17 University Crescent, Old Bodija, Ibadan, Nigeria

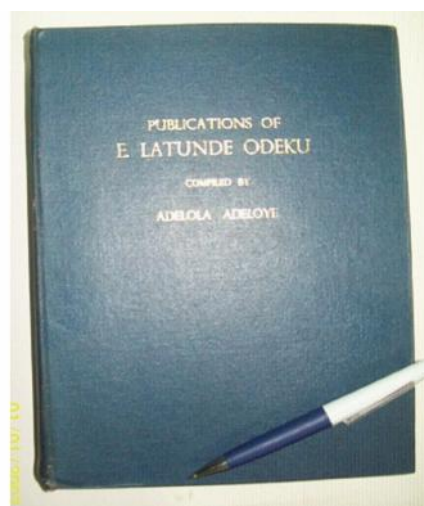
### **Publications of E. Latunde Odeku**

Professor Adelola Adeloye, a most distinguished and highly decorated Neurosurgeon and Medical Historian, meticulously collected the works of his friend, colleague and Mentor, Professor Latunde Odeku in a bounded, unpublished volume which he has kept at the Aqueduct since 1978. Over the short years while they worked together redefining Neurosurgery in Africa, Adeloye had the premonition of immortalizing

achievements transcend the temporal to an everlasting and tangible presence of an impeccable and diligent worker as one turns the pages of the collection. His works speak of the nature of the man who laid a solid foundation for Neurosurgery in Africa, and contributed to the atmosphere of academic and professional excellence that the University of Ibadan and University College Hospital Ibadan have since been known for.



E. Latunde Odeku (1927 - 1974)



### Adeloye's Introduction to the Collection of Publications of Latunde Odeku

In the introduction to the compilation, Adeloye wrote that "I have compiled into one bound volume the published works of the late E. Latunde Odeku (1927 – 1974) Professor of Surgery and Neurosurgeon of the University of Ibadan and the University College Hospital. This is not only to facilitate reference to the works, but also to save some of his papers from being lost. Only one or two copies remain of some so that they had to be photocopied to get enough for the production of these copies. A complete bibliography of his publications is appended. This and a brief account of the life of Odeku are contained in *An African Neurosurgeon* by Adelola Adeloye which was published in 1976. Some papers are missing from the list. Thus, I have not been able to incorporate publications 87 and 91, which can be consulted at source. Also omitted are his contributions to textbooks. These are publications 5 on the corticospinal tract of the macaque monkey in *Correlative Anatomy of the Nervous System* by Crosby *et al*; publication 31 on neurological experiments in Africa in Chapter 15 of *Correlative Neurosurgery* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition by Kahn *et al*, and publication 98 on medical education in *Priorities in National Health Planning* by Akinkugbe *et al*. All these books are readily available for consultation. Finally, his two books of poetry – *Twilight – Out of the Night*, and *Whispers from the Night* are not included. They were printed by Abiodun Printing Works of Ibadan, now known as Abiprint and Pak Ltd., P.O. Box 353, Ibadan, Nigeria." Adelola Adeloye, March 1976. The collection is unpublished and may be the only one of its kind in the World.

### Brief Analysis of E. Latunde Odeku's Publications

The Bibliography contains 101 publications that span the period of 1962 to 1976. The most prolific years

were 1967 (eleven publications), 1969 (nineteen publications), and 1970 (eighteen publications). Eighty one of the publications (81/101, 80.2%) were scientific papers, 11 (10.9%) were general works, while 9 (8.9%) were books. Sixty three (63/101, 62.4%) of the publications were published in journals domiciled within Africa; the rest (37/101, 36.6%) were published in journals outside Africa. The 'article-books-others' titles were ingeniously phrased with an average number of words of 7.3 (range 2 to 18 words). Twenty-five (24.8%) of the publications were interesting and finely detailed case reports, a few of which were on the 'subgaleal inclusion cysts'. Number of authors ranged from one to six, with an average of 2.1. Odeku was single author in 32 (31.7%) of the publications; while Prof Adeloye was co-author in 40 (39.6%). Odeku wrote on a vast range of clinical and other conditions spanning different populations and age groups as shown in the bibliography. The second publication in the bibliography has the title "*Beginnings of Neurosurgery at the University of Ibadan.*"

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Professor Adeloye categorized Professor Latunde Odeku's publications into three; scientific/medical, general, and books.

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### CONCLUSION

The compilation of the publications of Professor E. Latunde Odeku was painstakingly put together by Professor Adeloye. A neuroscientist and medical historian of international repute, Adeloye has made and continues to make, very significant and indelible contributions to neuroanatomy, neurosurgery, medical education, and medical history in Nigeria and Africa. The materials archived at the Aqueduct are unique, priceless and unequalled globally. They will definitely act as a bridge between different generations of scholarly efforts and achievements. Great minds stand on great minds. Scholarship is driven by scholarship, intellect by intellect, brain by brain; the chain of knowledge and discovery is sustained by well developed archives of human achievements. This gift, the Aqueduct Resource Centre, will become an enduring legacy of the true greatness of a man (Professor Adelola Adeloye) who apprehended the place of history and generational leadership/mentorship in the survival and advancement of all intellectual efforts and thus of humanity itself.

Legacies are being developed for posterity by staff of the University of Ibadan, the University College

Hospital, Ibadan, and Alumni. Dr. Abib Olamitoye, the current president of the Ibadan College of Medicine Alumni Association (ICOMAA), Founder and Chairman, Tolu Medical Centre, Lagos, Ibadan Central Hospital, Ibadan, and author/Distinguished Alumni Award Winner of the Ibadan College of Medicine Alumni Association, 2010, has donated and is funding a section containing his books and other motivational books at the E. Latunde Odeku Medical library, located within the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria. Benefactions like this should be encouraged at our Institutions.

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