

# Bibliodiversity

*Newsletter of the Alliance of Independent Publishers*  
November 2007 – Issue No. 8 - ISSN 1778-4018

## Editorial

After a long pause – due to the organisation and holding of our International Assembly of Independent Publishing – we are inviting you once again to dip into our special mouthpiece, *Bibliodiversity*. Speaking in three tongues, addressing each and every member of the Alliance, most importantly, speaking *about* you, our newsletter aims to be a special means of communication for our entire network, rounding off the Web site.

But here as elsewhere, the Assembly has had its impact. We are thus offering you a more comprehensive format, featuring an all-new column, called **Solidarity**. It will provide “in brief” updates on the linguistic networks and the publishing organisations belonging to our movement. **Solidarity** will also mention the heteroclitic contexts in which certain members of the Alliance are working – especially those who do not belong to a linguistic network. We thereby hope to draw attention to the fact that while the linguistic networks are a central feature of the Alliance, they are by no means the only possible form of organisation. There is room for many other dynamics within our Alliance: inter-linguistic groups, translation-based publishing projects etc. Müge Gursoy Sokmen, of the Metis publishing house (see the **Portrait** column) would hardly disagree!

To keep abreast of current affairs, check out the **Event** column, for a report on a special operation that we are carrying out in partnership with the Salon du livre et de la presse jeunesse

(Children’s Book and Press Fair) held in Montreuil, a suburb just east of Paris. We set up a joint stand exhibiting the works published by ten Alliance publishers, in order to celebrate “Multiple Africa” and introduce visitors to the top-quality literature for young children in Africa. Illustrations from the works published by these guest publishers adorn this entire issue of *Bibliodiversity*, providing a glimpse of the sheer opulence of these magnificent books.

Better late than never, we wanted to highlight two great co-publishing operations in the **New Realeses** column: *Une aiguille nue* (*A Naked Needle*), by Nuruddin Farah published simultaneously by seven publishers, *Le Mouvement mondial des femmes* (*The Global Women’s Movement*) by 10 publishing houses. These two titles illustrate the diversity of co-publications instigated by publishers, with Alliance backing.

We could hardly wrap up this editorial without mentioning how busy the Latino-American publishers and their organisations have been. With the cultural season in full swing, Alliance members are working at full throttle; distributing several hundred copies of the *International Declaration of Independent Publishers*. We invite you to celebrate with us the recent founding of the **Peruvian Alliance of Publishers**. Germán Coronado (Ediciones Peisa, Peru) explained that “this new association of publishers has been founded to reflect what happened in Paris last July”. We are absolutely delighted to hear it.

*Etienne  
Galliard*



# Event

## Young Africans of diverse origin

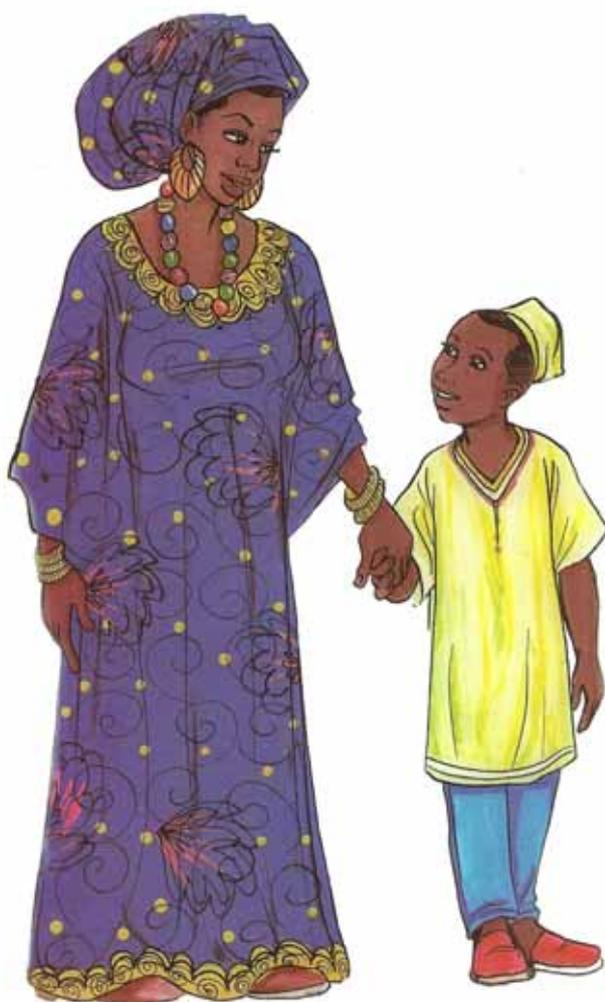
**What:** a joint “Multiple Africa” stand and three debates

**Where:** Stand D 49, at the Children’s Book and Press Fair held in Montreuil, France

**When:** from 28 November to 3 December 2007

**Why:** to raise the profile of young children’s books published in Africa and elsewhere

**Features:** An Alliance of Independent Publishers and Children’s Book and Press Fair co-production



Year after year, the Children’s Book and Press Fair (Montreuil, France) has been growing and forging an international dimension. This event, created by the local authorities (the Seine-Saint-Denis Council – which is itself sufficiently rare to be worth a mention) had “playing” as its theme this year.

Working with the organisers, the Alliance of Independent Publishers set up a stand focussing on African children’s literature, in the international area of the show. Thus, African publishers from Benin, Mali, Togo, Rwanda, Madagascar, Guinea Bissau, South Africa and the Republic of Guinea will be present or represented at stand D 49. But Africa is more than a continent, it influences and lives everywhere; which is why we decided to invite along French and Brazilian publishers who feature African cultures prominently in their catalogues.

On this joint stand, we give readers a chance to check out children’s books in French, Portuguese and English, in national languages or bilingual versions. It is also possible, naturally, to meet the publishers, who sometimes double up as authors, story-tellers or illustrators.

A unique opportunity for the various visitors to find out about the sheer wealth of oft-amazing publications, and to back the editorial development of these creative publishing houses having opted for diversity in continental identity, culture and language to delight readers beyond all frontiers.

## The publishers

Jacana Media publishing house – **South Africa** – with the publisher Russell Clarke (*books in English*)

Ruisseaux d'Afrique publishing house – **Benin** – with the publisher and author Béatrice Lalinon Gbado (*books in French*)

Pallas publishing house – **Brazil** – with the publisher Mariana Warth (*books in Portuguese*)

Vents d'ailleurs publishing house – **France** – (*books in French*)

Ku Si Mon publishing house – **Guinea Bissau** (*books in Portuguese and French-Guinean bilingual books*)

Prediff publishing house – **Madagascar** – with the publisher Marie-Michèle Razafinstalama (*Malagasy-French bilingual books*)

Donniya publishing house – **Mali** (*books in French and Bambara-French bilingual books*)

Ganndal publishing house – **Republic of Guinea** (*books in French*)

Bakamé publishing house – **Rwanda** (*books in Kinyarwanda and bilingual books*)

Graines de pensée publishing house – **Togo** – with the publisher and author Paulin Assem (*books in French*)



## The debates

***Publishing in Africa***, a Beninese publisher, Béatrice Lalinon Gbado meets the public, **Wednesday 28 November from 3.30 to 4.30 pm** at the English bookshop stand, followed by a visit to the Multiple Africa stand.

***Multiple Africa: diversity in language, writing and illustrations***, **Saturday 1 December from 10.00 to 11.00 am** in the International Area. The diversity of works about Africa presented using the accounts of three publishers operating in different languages

(French, English and Portuguese). How are the text and illustrations chosen? What are the variations and adaptations from one country to another and from one theme to another?

Participants: Russell Clarke (Jacana Media), Mariana Warth (Pallas publishing house) and Béatrice Lalinon Gbado (Ruisseaux d'Afrique publishing house). Moderator: Laurence Hugues, Alliance of Independent Publishers.

***Presentation and promotion of African literature: how and where to find children's books published in Africa*** **Monday 3 December from 10.00 to 11.00 am** in the International Area. A presentation of the sheer diversity of African output: how to find out about these books and where professionals in the North can find them. Where are books published in Africa to be found?

Participants: Béatrice Lalinon Gbado (Ruisseaux d'Afrique publishing house). Moderator: Viviana Quiñones, La Joie par les livres.

# Solidarity

## *Networking, organisations and beyond*

### *Networking*

#### **French-language network**

We would like first to express our solidarity with the **Donniya publishing house in Mali**, recently struck by lightning. The computer network especially suffered from this terrible event. We wish this dynamic Malian publishing house the very best for a “prompt recovery”.

The French-language network has welcomed **several new members**: the Côte d’Ivoire University Press (Puci), Zellige publishing house (see [www.eminasoleil.fr](http://www.eminasoleil.fr)) and the Sextant publishing house in France ([www.editionsdusextant.fr](http://www.editionsdusextant.fr)), and lastly the Alif publishing house ([www.alifeditions.com](http://www.alifeditions.com)) in Tunisia. We extend a very warm welcome to them all; each of these publishing houses has or will have a note of introduction on our Web site ([www.alliance-editeurs.org](http://www.alliance-editeurs.org)).

#### **Two new pan-African co-publications**

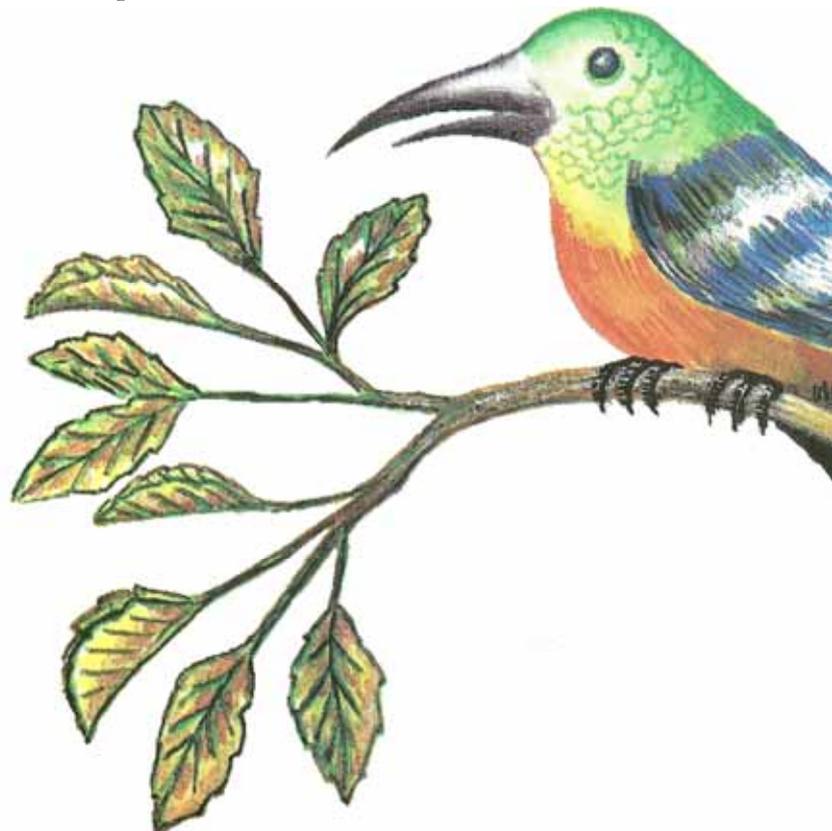
are under way, along the lines of the wonderful operation involving *L’Ombre d’Imana* (*Imana’s Shadow*) by Véronique Tadjo. A committee of African publishers and bookstore owners selected the novels, namely *Sozaboy* by Ken Saro-Wiwa (published by Actes sud in France) and *De l’autre côté du regard* (*Being looked at*), by Ken Bugul (*Le Serpent à plumes*).

Laurence Hugues and Serge Dontchueng Kouam will be at the **International Book Fair in Dakar** (FILDAK – Senegal) to be held from 4 to 9 December. An opportunity for many meetings (pan-African co-publications, forging contacts with new members, taking stock of Global Issues with the co-publishers on site etc.), distributing the Declaration and finding out about the Senegalese publishing scene.

#### **Spanish-language network**

This is our first opportunity to officially announce the arrival of the network’s **new members**: Ediciones Peisa (Peru), Editorial el Conejo (Ecuador) and La Marca editora (Argentina). Remember that the following publisher organisations have also joined the Alliance – as you no doubt know if you attended our Assembly: EDIN in Chile, EDINAR in Argentina and the AEMI in Mexico (for more details on these organisations, please see the linguistic networks section on [www.alliance-editeurs.org](http://www.alliance-editeurs.org)).

The distribution of the **International Declaration of Independent Publishers** is being taken seriously within the Spanish-language network and in Latin America in particular. Over 200 copies of the Declaration are being distributed in Argentina, 200 in Chile, and 200 in Mexico,



preparing for the International Book Fair in Guadalajara. Our thanks to all the publishers and their organisations for promoting this important text!

### **Portuguese-language network**

From 25 to 28 November, a conference on African literature will be taking place in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). Jacques dos Santos (Cha de Caxinde, Angola) and Cristina Warth (Pallas editora, Brazil) will be presenting their publications and will speak about the work of the Portuguese-language network of the Alliance.

### ***Independent Publisher Organisations***

**Welcome to the *Alianza Peruana de Editores* (Peruvian Alliance of Publishers)** – The Peruvian publishers who attended the Paris Assembly in July (Germán Coronado, Ediciones Peisa and Álvaro Lasso, Estruendomudo), took part in founding the Alianza Peruana de Editores in Lima, last September. The creation of this Alliance, which brings together around 20 independent and university publishers, is directly in line with the International Declaration of Independent Publishers (Paris, July 2007): “We call upon independent publishers everywhere in the world to join forces – whether at the national, regional, or international level – creating associations and other collective bodies which will permit us to better defend our rights, and to make our voices heard”. Germán Coronado stated that “This new association of publishers has been founded to reflect what happened in Paris last July”. The founding statutes of this Peruvian Alliance are available on the blog <http://alpe.wordpress.com>. We extend a warm welcome to this national association of independent publishers, and wish them great success in protecting and promoting bibliodiversity. Joining its counterparts

(AEMI in Mexico, EDIN au Chile, EDINAR in Argentina, LIBRE in Brazil), the creation of the Peruvian Alliance of Publishers confirms once again the joint organisational capacity of independent Latino-American publishers.

**Editores de Chile** – A seminar entitled “Towards an integration policy for Latino-American publishing: public policies, concentration and Bibliodiversity” was held on 22 October 2007, at the Palacio de la Moneda Cultural Centre in Chile. This meeting, organised by the association Editores de Chile (EDIN) was inaugurated by the Chilean Minister for Culture. Several members of the Alliance contributed, including André Schiffrin, Paulo Slachevsky and Antonio Quijoga.

**The Alliance of Independent Mexican Publishers (AEMI)** is organising a debate on “Networks and alliances in the world of publishing” at the biggest Book Fair in central America, held in Guadalajara (Mexico, from 24 November to 2 December 2007). Pablo Harari (Trilce, Uruguay), Paulo Slachevsky (he’s on all fronts! Lom publishing house, Chile) and Marcelo Uribe (Era publishing house, Mexico) will make their voices heard there.

**True to tradition, the Brazilian Publishers League** (LIBRE) will be organising the Primavera do Livro, from 28 November to 3 December in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). At this event, a Portuguese translation of the book by Gilles Collet, *Independent Publishers: moving from the age of reason on to the attack?* will be officially presented to the public and to publishing professionals. After *Protéger le livre (Protecting Publishing)*, this is the second title in the collection “Etat des lieux de l’édition (The State of Publishing)” the fruit of a partnership between the Alliance and the LIBRE.

**The Italian Federation of Independent Publishers** (FIDARE) has distributed 500 copies of the Declaration at several events

held in Italy. Thank you and congratulations to Anita Molino, whose drive no longer needs to be proven.

## ***Beyond***

**Tightening censorship in Iran** – In an article published in the *Guardian* on 16 November 2007, Robert Tait, the British daily's correspondent in Tehran, relates the current censorship crackdown on the Iranian publishing world. Several thousand new titles have been indexed by the Iranian Ministry of Culture – which controls all publications. Recently banned titles include international best-sellers like the Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown as well as popular home-grown fare. Sales outlets have been ordered to withdraw books already on sale to the public, or face closure. The crackdown has not spared the classics, including William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* and dozens of works by Iranian authors. The Ministry of Culture wants to turn the page of the relative open reformist period and intends to ban all books which, apparently, "pollute the atmosphere in Iran". The Ministry of Culture apparently declared that it is henceforth necessary to close down publishing houses offering young generations a degrading vision of themselves and of Islam.



# New Releases

## Cut to the quick

**Title:** *Une aiguille nue (A Naked Needle)*

**Author:** Nuruddin Farah; French translation from the English by Catherine Pierre-Bon; preface by Abdourahman A. Waberi

**Published in:** France, Switzerland, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Senegal, Canada, Benin

**Language:** French

**Collection** Terres d'écritures (Literary Lands)

**Features:** 256 pages; sale price adapted to local conditions in each country (solidarity-focussed co-publication); format: 14.5 x 22 cm

“Born in 1945 in Baidoa, in what was then Italian Somaliland, Nuruddin Farah grew up in Ogaden, a Somali province in the east of Ethiopia, before leaving to study in India in the mid-1960s. Back home again, he made his mark, as from 1968, as a teacher in Mogadishu and above as the first-ever novelist to write in both English and Somali. This rare double feat was to usher him into exile from Mohammed Siyad Barre’s military junta which came to power in 1969. In *Une aiguille nue*, with a finesse matched by its brazenness, there is an explicit reference to none other than James Joyce’s *Ulysses*. Nuruddin Farah’s love story is rounded off with a meander through the city, as well as an in-depth analysis of his characters’ psyche, each of whom casts their relations in a fresh light. This serves to increase the reader’s empathy, who

inevitably finds himself identifying with this or that member of the community. One of the keys to the towering success of Farah’s novels: the novelist’s strength in taking us gently yet firmly by the hand, helping us to identify with individuals who remain timeless. Out of time because it’s them, but it could well be us.” - *Abdourahman A. Waberi, extract from the preface.*



Remarkably translated by Catherine Pierre-Bon, housed in a cover with a stunning design, this solidarity-focussed publication by seven French-language publishers clearly points the publishing way for the Terres d'écritures (Literary lands) collection. A collection moulded by demand, books set to become classics, forcefully reasserting the universal nature of literature.

## Women in movements

**Title:** *Le Mouvement mondial des femmes (The Global Women's Movement)*

**Author:** Peggy Antrobus

**Published in:** Belgium, Benin, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Republic of Guinea, Mali, Morocco and Switzerland.

**Language:** French (also in English, published by Zed Books)

**Collection:** Enjeux Planète (Global Issues)

**Features:** 305 pages; sale price adapted to local conditions in each country (solidarity-focussed co-publication); format 12.5 X 19.5 cm

What do radical intellectual feminists, support groups for female victims of the war, mothers' and working women's associations have in common? At first glimpse, not much. Yet, for several decades, women from all over the world have been working to forge ties, organise exchanges and give a coherent structure to their combat. While many barely know of its existence, the women's movement can today count on experience, power and extraordinary networks.

This book, the fruit of decades of meetings, negotiations, listening and thinking, retraces the origins of the global women's movement, studying it in its sheer diversity and invites all female activists to talk to each other.

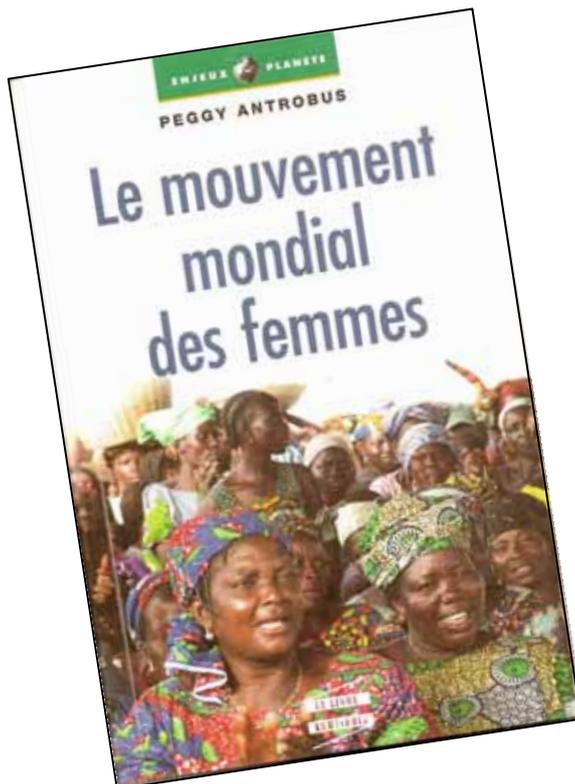
This is the message of a pioneer to new generations of female activists. Peggy Antrobus puts the global women's movement in its rightful place within the alternative globalisation movement and places women's initiatives in the world and in history.

"Today the global women's movement stands at the crossroads between protecting

hard-won gains and being swept away by the tidal wave of globalization. It is my belief that feminist politics and praxis hold the key to addressing the threat this terrifying conjuncture poses for human security everywhere." Peggy Antrobus was born in Jamaica. As a student in economics she got involved in socioeconomic development. Her work with NGOs and the discovery of feminism transformed her vision of

economics and politics for life. She got involved in the UN, in the Women and Development Unit (WAND), and in the network Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN).

*The Global Women's Movement*, by Peggy Antrobus, is the 11<sup>th</sup> title in the Enjeux Planète (Global Issues) collection. Available in bookstores, it bears the "Fair Trade Book" label, and is published by 11 French-language publishers. Sale price: 19 euros in France (L'Atelier publishing house), 7 euros in Morocco (Tarik publishing house) and 5 euros in Cameroon (African University Press).



# Portrait

## The woman, the goddess and the bird

Müge Gursoy Sokmen does not beat around the bush. In general, her message is loud and clear and she campaigns ardently for her cause: tearing down barriers, crossing borders, dialogue between cultures. Values which crop up plentifully in the Metis catalogue, a publishing house based in Istanbul (Turkey). In the beginning – in the 1980s – Metis was no doubt a student start-up, a project for committed young people. 20 years later, they are still around and going strong.

The breadth and density of the catalogue is striking. 800 titles published, a clear and coherent editorial line mainly devoted to literature (including Marguerite Yourcenar, Salman Rushdie and Georges Pérec), critical, activist essays (by Walter Benjamin, Edward Said, Judith Butler and Tzvetan Todorov) and psycho-analytical theory (all the fundamentals!). International authors, for sure, but a host of Turkish authors too.

Metis is managed by Müge: a passionate woman – sometimes, you could get the impression that she’s angry. She has become the mouthpiece, within the Alliance, of those who don’t necessarily publish in one of the five international languages (represented by our linguistic networks). We have had some very lively discussions with her on this matter. She repeated in Paris last July what she had already pointed out in Dakar; by relying too heavily on the logic of the linguistic networks, the Alliance may end up excluding those who don’t publish in French, English, Spanish, Portuguese or Arabic. Müge would also like us to encourage inter-linguistic co-publications

more. We can hardly contradict her on these points; we agree entirely with her. All we need to do is put it into practice.

Müge participates actively in the Alliance’s English-language network – because she also publishes English works sometimes. In Paris, she was the one who put forward the most publishing projects to her counterparts, from “The World Tribunal on Iraq” to a work by Edward Said, reminding us that she readily shares her causes. Anyone can take part, the ball is in our court. That’s the woman.



The name of the publishing house – beyond its immediate meaning – also refers to a Greek goddess, Zeus’s first wife, an incarnation of wisdom and caution. To escape from the attentions of her ardent lover, she would practise the art of constantly changing shape. “To contribute to the sum of all infinite shapes that knowledge and know-how can take” is no doubt one of the ambitions of Metis, one of Müge’s motivations. That’s the goddess.

As for the bird – the Metis logo – it remains a total mystery.



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The Alliance would like to thank their partner organisations and institutions for their support: see <http://www.alliance-editeurs.org/fr/partenaires.php>

***Bibliodiversity 8*** was drawn up by the permanent team of the Alliance of Independent Publishers.

The illustrations reproduced in this issue of *Bibliodiversity* were taken from young children's books presented at the Children's Book and Press Fair held in Montreuil. Page 1: *Rêve noir d'un lapin blanc (The black dream of a white rabbit)* (Vents d'ailleurs, France); page 2: *Maman (Mummy)* (Ruisseaux d'Afrique, Benin); page 4: *Ubutungutungu* (Bakame, Rwanda); page 6 and 10: Pallas editora (Brazil).

