



Henry S. K. Mwaniki

The main purpose of this work is to preserve the Chuka's cultural past that has been eroded to the point of extinction. It is a databank for multi-discipline studies. It is a follow-up of *Embu Historical Texts* published in 1974. The foundation themes are origins, movements, settlements and the cultural life of the Chuka. Each Historical Text brings out the informants' recollection. Each text is an unedited literal English translation. This way, the elusive oral source is fixed. Chuka was selected as it is

the core of Mt. Kenya Zone and the most 'aboriginal' having remained 'closed' until the colonial forces opened it up in 1908. The work is composed of fifteen chapters out of which one is, actually, Tharaka, ^{Comparison} for and contrasting.

The knowledge cuts across all disciplines of knowledge. The work caters for numerous interests and is suitable as a reader for the general society and source book for researchers and scholars. The changes from the cultural practices to modernism are revealed in form of betrayal to, and invasion by, foreigners especially British Colonialists.

The thoroughness of the author results into an absorbing, educative and authentic product. This work is a must read for students of history, literature, government and African indigenous knowledge. Regrettably little work of this nature has been done in East Africa.

Prof. H.S. Mwaniki Kabeca was born in Embu around 1944. He attended Kibogi and Kianjokoma Primary schools, Kamama for Intermediate and Kangaru for higher school education. He obtained a B.A. (History) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from the University of East Africa and a M.A. (History) from the University of Nairobi. He got his Ph.D. (History) from Dollhouse University, Canada.

Mwaniki Kabeca is an indefatigable researcher and scholar of oral history. He has published: *Ndai, Nihimo na Ng'ano Iri Ukua wa Aembu*, *The Living History of Embu and Mbeere to 1906*, *Embu Historical Texts and Categories and Substance of Embu Traditional Songs and Dances*. He researched for the Chuka Texts when he was lecturing at Kenyatta University, compiled the materials when he was lecturing at Egerton University and finalized the same for publication as the Academic Registrar, Kenya Methodist University.

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