

# Adult Education – Past, Present and Future

A seminar in honour of Emerita  
Professor Lalage Bown



Lalage J. Bown  
was born in Surrey,  
U.K. in 1927.

The eldest of four  
children, she was  
destined for a strong  
start in life. Before she  
was born her mother had  
agreed to marry her  
father – on the condition  
that if they had any  
daughters, they would be  
entitled to education  
opportunities equal to  
any sons.



Also born in 1927

Cesar Chavez: Civil  
Rights Leader.

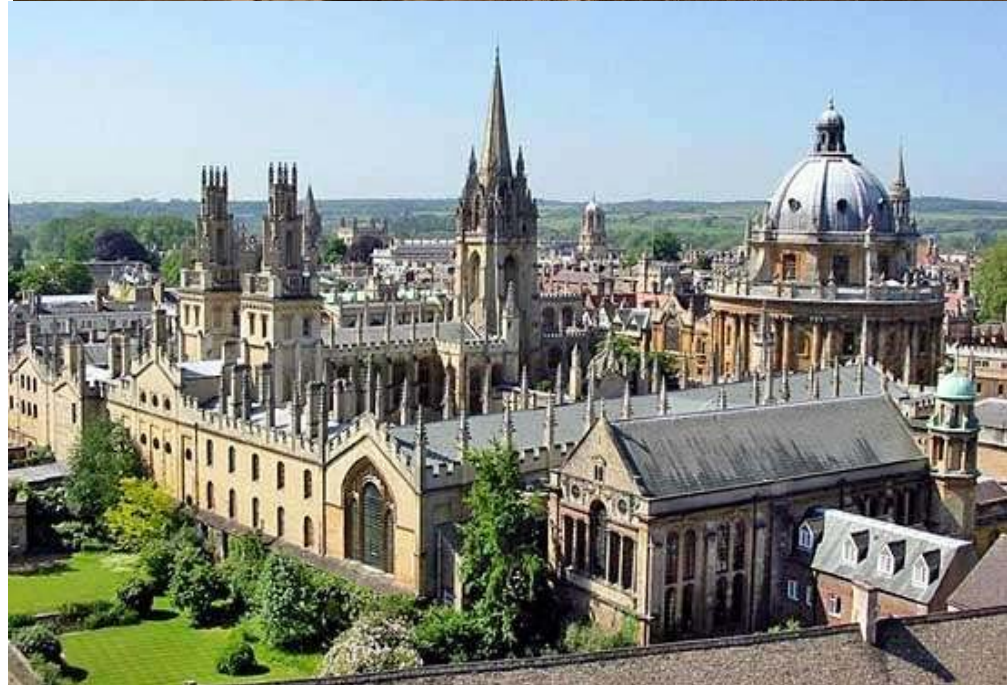
Coretta Scott King:  
Civil Rights Leader.

Roger Moore: Actor

Eartha Kitt: Singer



- She attended Cheltenham Ladies' College and the University of Oxford, where she took a degree in Modern History (1949) and then continued on to an M.A. (1952).
- Margaret Thatcher was a contemporary at Somerville College!



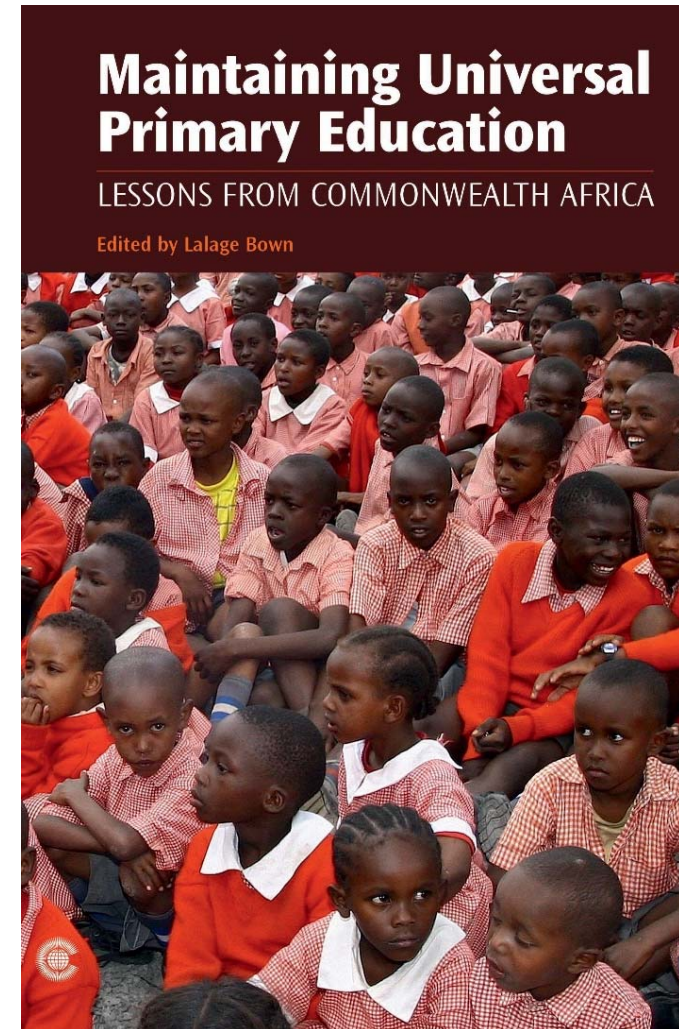
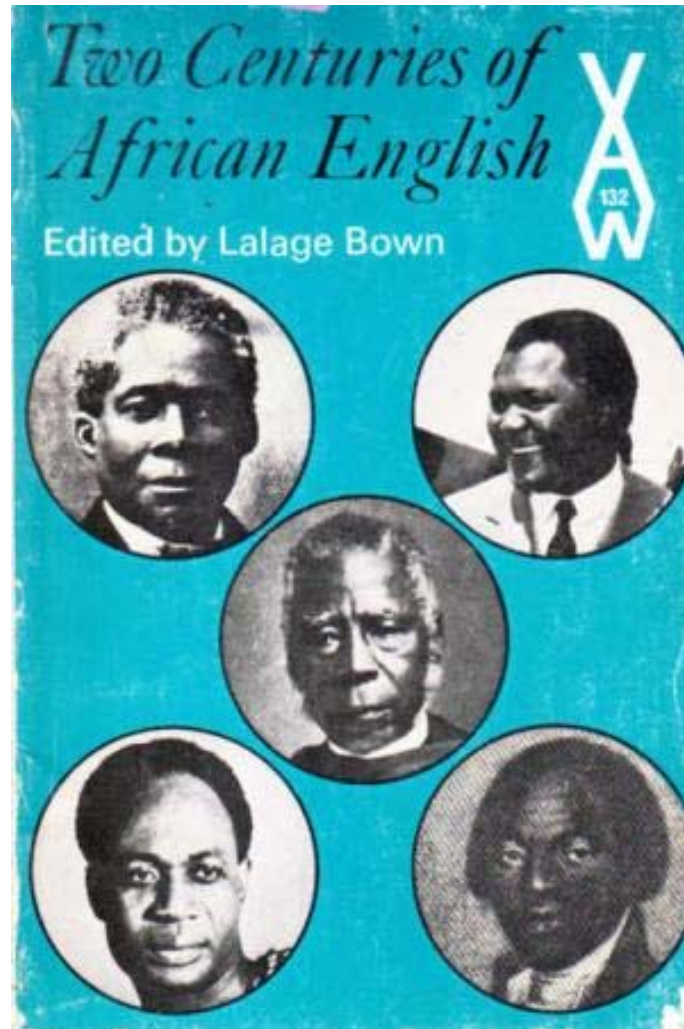


- “Now Miss Bown, supposing you were to get the job and you were in the jungle in a car and your car broke down, how do we know you wouldn’t have a fit of hysterics? She simply replied “Well sir, if you don’t give me the job, you’ll never find out, will you?” (aged 22 University of the Gold Coast)



- First female professor of adult education in the Commonwealth (University of Zambia, 1966-1970)
- First female professor of adult education in the UK (University of Glasgow, 1981-92)







Imagine yourself on a warm West African evening  
Live horns and saxophones of Nigerian hi  
life pulsating  
Cold green bottles of Star beer set out  
Mostly young men, some from the army,  
some traders some journalists

This is the 'midnight seminar' of the  
University of Ibadan's  
Extra-mural studies Department  
And opening up the late evening  
conversation about philosophy, politics  
and science  
Is our young Extra-Mural Tutor, Lalage  
Bown

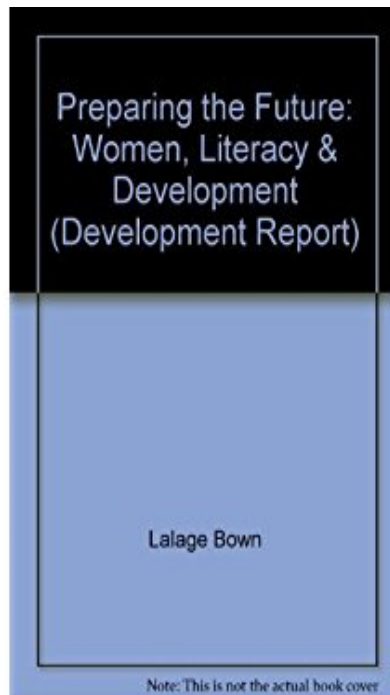
**Drum Beats of Learning: For Lalage by Budd Hall**





- In 1981, she left Africa after 30 years and returned to the UK, where she joined the University of Glasgow as Head of the Department of Adult and Continuing Education.





- In the 1990s, Lalage pulled together her experiences on the effects of literacy on adult women into a groundbreaking report, ‘Preparing the future women, literacy and development: the impact of female literacy on human development and the participation of literate women in change.’







University  
of Glasgow



# The Chain



“Her warmth, eloquence and passion. A wonderful person indeed”.  
Peter and Maureen Jarvis



‘I await the day when in Glasgow there are more women in the Court, a woman Clerk of Senate, maybe sir a woman Principal’.

Charge to graduates 2002 when awarded DLitt