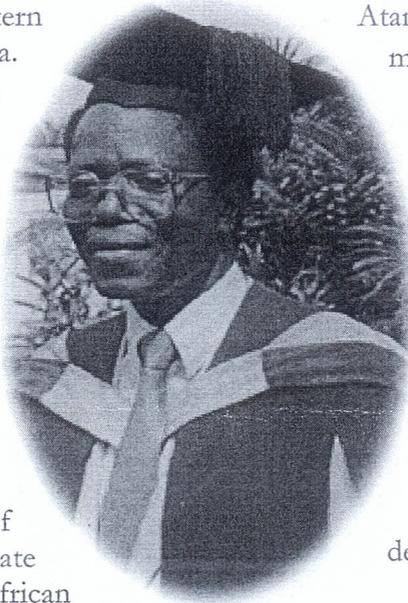


# Professor Joseph Adebowale Atanda

Professor Joseph Adebowale Atanda (1931-1996) was a man of many parts: a community leader (in Eruwa and the entire Ibarapaland), a historian, an educationist, an administrator, and above all, a nation-builder. Atanda was associated with the University of Ibadan from 1967- 1991 and attained the title of Professor in History. His primary area of research interest was African History, specializing in Nigeria with emphasis on Yorubaland in Western Nigeria and Buganda in East Africa. A secondary area of research interest concerned the survival and the achievements of Africans and their descendants transported to the West Indian Islands and the Americas during the European Atlantic trade with West Africa. At the University of Ibadan, apart from serving as a Lecturer, Atanda was a representative of the Faculty of Arts on the Board of Studies and faculty Board of Education, a member of the Senate Committee for The Institute of African Studies, and an Associate Head of the Department of History. During his career, he also lectured at Ogun State University, Ago-Iwoye, Makerere University, Uganda, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A, and University College of Belize, Belize.

Professor Atanda was a revered scholar, teacher and administrator, whose contributions to historical education, particularly his enthusiasm for the teaching and writing of aspects of Nigerian History and Culture, as well as Baptist Mission Studies, are quite extensive and impressive. His extended areas of research interest and initiative included Indirect Rule and Change, Traditional Political

Institutions, Inter-group Relations, Power Politics, as well as Church and Mission History. To Nigerian historians, his writings are a mine of information on many areas of the history of Yorubaland. Atanda's intellectual strength and contributions were of great moment to many causes, including the development of the Ibadan School of History, and the growth of the Historical Society of Nigeria.



Atanda served in government for many years as Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Commissioner in the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development in Oyo State. He was Chairman, Ibarapa Local Government from 1976 to 1979. In all these, Atanda served with his characteristic dedication and industry.

Joseph Adebowale was the third of five children born to Taiwo and Mojoyinola Atanda in Eruwa, Oyo State, in Western Nigeria. Until his death, in 2006, he remained a rallying point and pillar of support to his family. Atanda was a great mentor, not only to his biological children, nieces and nephews but also to his numerous non-biological, nevertheless, his children, all of whom acknowledge his fatherliness.

In the 2013 J. A. Atanda Memorial lecture, one of his students, S. Ademola Ajayi, described him fondly as "the quintessence of all that is noble in mankind, uncompromising