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Vakoka Vakiteny...

...is a young and professional publishing company producing literature for children and youth in Malagasy language.

...is owned and run by a dynamic team of young Malagasy.

...contributes to growth and development in Madagascar - culturally and materially.

...promotes the joy of reading and develops the understanding for literature and art in a modern Malagasy environment.

Layout: content: Sophie and
Mparany Rakotondrainy

Vakoka Vakiteny News

Dear friends of Vakoka Vakiteny.

In this volume of the newsletter there will be some news, but also more in-depth and follow-up information about some of our projects. There have been activities in Madagascar as well as in Norway, and when we look at this last school year in total, we can be more than satisfied. All in all the year that was supposed to be calm in terms of activities turned out to be a quite active year after all.

Still we feel eager to come back to Madagascar soon and start with fresh activities! But before we head southwards there will be some last activities in Germany which we are looking really forward to.

Mparany Rakotondrainy

Manager of **Vakoka Vakiteny**

Activities in Madagascar

Since last time there have been some activities in Madagascar. Mostly Mrs Hanta has been occupied with 'Hiverina aho, Dadabe' and negotiations with the print house (see p. 4 of the newsletter).



But she has also had time for meetings with another publishing house and book store, Prediff. It now turns out to be a very fruitful cooperation between Vakoka Vakiteny and Prediff. There will be an exchange of books which means that we will be able to use Prediff's books when we have small readings for children, and Prediff will likewise use our books. We are also considering becoming members of the association for Malagasy publishing houses which would expand our network. Further, Vakoka Vakiteny will in near future visit to five schools in Antananarivo in order to talk about literature and the use of books.

Toliara—Tuléar; a wonderful Christmas gift

In our last Newsletter we informed about the preparation of a new book about the city of Toliara and its surroundings by Klaus-Christian Küspert. This book is the fruit of many years, during which the author lived and worked in the Toliara region, and made a lot of trips to the most remote places of the area. It is dedicated to all the friends of this fascinating city and its surroundings, be it to reviving and deepen their own experiences and memories, be it to let themselves fascinate by something new. The book with the title “Toliara – Tuléar” will contain short trilingual texts (English, German and French) and many fascinating pictures taken by the author himself and by some of his friends.

“Toliara – Tuléar” will be edited and distributed by Vakoka Vakiteny, and the main target groups are tourists and international friends of Madagascar. All surplus from the sale of the book will be given to Vakoka Vakiteny for enabling us to print new children’s books to be distributed for free to Malagasy children and schools. Through this Klaus-Christian Küspert intends to contribute to our work, and of course we hope that many of our friends and supporters will purchase some copies of this book, By this way they will both enjoy themselves and their friends and support our efforts for the children on Madagascar in a particular way.

Still the French texts are not properly translated, but we hope that this work can be finalised during the summer. Then the final correction of the texts and the layout will be accomplished and the negotiations with the print house can start when we are back on Madagascar in August. It will probably be a challenge to find a print house that is able to print the book with its many excellent photos in a satisfying quality. Our aim is to release “Toliara – Tuléar” before Christmas, so that many friends of Madagascar will consider it as a wonderful little Christmas gift to their families. In our next Newsletter we hope that we can give some more details about the book’s price and the way it



The fruits of this Baobab species, *Adansonia rubrostipa* (left), are only found in Toliara and some neighbouring villages. The stones are surrounded by a porous, slightly sour pulp from which one can make a refreshing juice by adding water and sugar. Fresh coconuts are available everywhere in Toliara, and fish in coconut sauce is a west coast speciality.

Die Früchte dieser Baobab-Art, *Adansonia rubrostipa* (links), gibt es nur in Toliara und einigen benachbarten Dörfern zu kaufen. Die Kerne sind von porösem, säuerlichem Fruchtfleisch umgeben, aus dem man mit Wasser und Zucker einen erfrischenden Saft herstellen kann. Frische Kokosnüsse gibt es überall in Toliara, und Fisch in Kokossoße ist eine Spezialität der Westküste.

French Text



Mokary, rice fritters, freshly baked in hot fat, are very popular and extremely filling.

Mokary, Reisfrittlchen, in heißem Fett frisch heraus gebacken, sind sehr beliebt und überaus sättigend.

French Text

40



Tsaramaso, Voanjobany, Kabara, Tsiassia ... Legumes in all forms and colours in the market of Sakama.

Tsaramaso, Voanjobany, Kabara, Tsiassia ... Hülsenfrüchte in allen Formen und Farben auf dem Markt von Sakama.

French Text



Tsinefo and Mokonazy are fruits of the hot and dry areas of the island. The taste, however, takes some getting used to. They are meaty-dry with a large stone inside.

Tsinefo und Mokonazy sind Früchte der heißen, trockenen Gebiete der Insel. Ihr Geschmack ist allerdings gewöhnungsbedürftig. Sie sind mehlig-trocken und haben einen großen Kern.

French Text

Tsinefo (*Ziziphus spina-christi*)

41

Hunger for Energy — Hunger auf Energie — La faim de l'énergie



Every day tons of charcoals are brought into the city on various means of transportation. Charcoal is not only cheaper than gas or electricity which is costly because it is produced with diesel generators, but charcoal is also an important part of traditional cooking, which many people do not want to give up. The consequences are devastating: the whole area around the city is already deforested, and the charcoal has to be transported to the customers from more and more remote areas.

Alltäglich werden Tonnen von Holzkohle mit den verschiedensten Transportmitteln in die Stadt gebracht. Holzkohle ist nicht nur billiger als Gas oder der mit Dieselgeneratoren aufwändig produzierte Strom, sondern auch ein wichtiger Bestandteil der traditionellen Essenszubereitung, den viele Leute nicht missen möchten. Die Konsequenzen sind verheerend: Das gesamte Umland der Stadt ist bereits entwaldet, und die Holzkohle muss von immer weiter entfernten Gebieten herangeschafft werden.

French Text

86

The fatapera is used all over Madagascar - a simple metal frame, which is filled with charcoal. The pots are placed directly on the glowing coals. Most individuals, but also many street kitchens and the traditional Hotely use the fatapera exclusively.



Der fatapera wird auf ganz Madagaskar verwendet - ein einfaches Blechgestell, das mit Holzkohle gefüllt wird. Die Töpfe werden direkt auf die glühende Kohle gestellt. Die meisten Privatleute, aber auch viele Straßenküchen und traditionelle Hotely benutzen ausschließlich den fatapera.

French Text



The charcoal traders sell their goods in bulk or in sacks. Often, charcoal is brought privately from far away as an «additional load» in trucks and on the roofs of cars.

Die Holzkohlenhändler der Stadt verkaufen ihre Ware lose oder in Säcken. Oft wird die Holzkohle auch als „Beiladung“ in Lastwagen und auf Autodächern privat mitgebracht.

French Text

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From Manombo to Andavadoaka - Von Maombo nach Andavadoaka De Maombo a Andavadoaka



Past glory!

The former Norwegian mission station in Manombo has seen better days. It lies solitarily on a hill with a magnificent view over the sea. Manombo is like many other places along the coast, marked by stagnation and the patina of decay. This may be due to the catastrophic infrastructure, the lack of qualified jobs and the extreme climatic conditions. Visitors are required to have a lot of patience and endurance for the travel through sand, dust and thorny bush without appropriate accommodation.

Vergangene Herrlichkeit

Die ehemalige norwegische Missionstation in Manombo hat bessere Tage gesehen. Sie liegt einsam auf einem Hügel mit grandioser Aussicht über das Meer. Manombo ist, wie viele andere Orte entlang der Küste, geprägt von Stillstand und der Patina des Verfalls. Das mag an der katastrophalen Infrastruktur, an fehlenden Arbeitsplätzen und den extremen klimatischen Bedingungen liegen. Dem Besucher verlangt die Reise hierher durch Sand, Staub und Dornbusch einiges an Geduld und Leidenfähigkeit ab.

French Text

56



On the sea shore between Manombo and Morombe ancient baobab trees tower over the dry spiny bush.

A life without shade and drinking water. A fishing village of the Vezo near Andavadoaka.

Am Strand zwischen Manombo und Morombe überragen uralte Baobabs den trockenen Dornbusch.

Leben ohne Schatten und Trinkwasser. Eine Fischersiedlung der Vezo bei Andavadoaka.

French Text

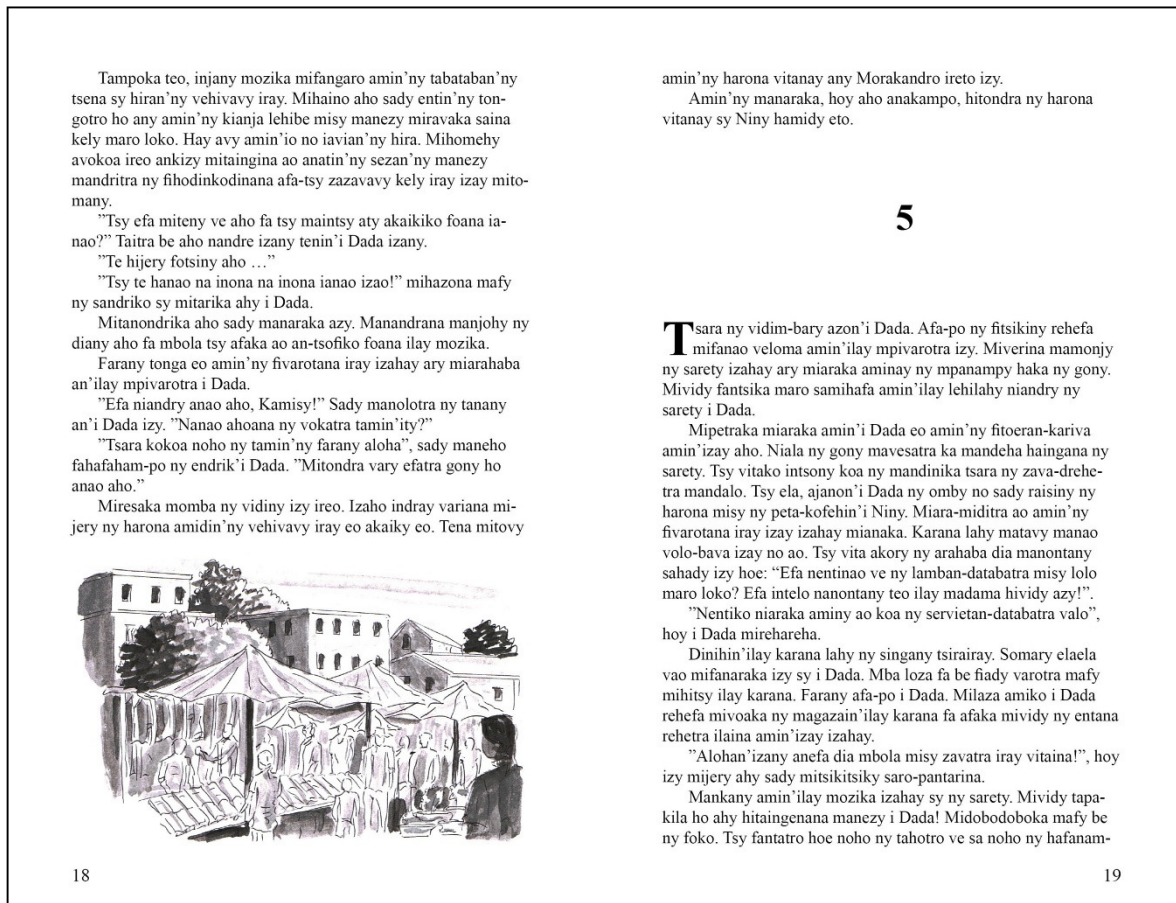


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Further corrections for *Todisoa*

The print of the book 'Hiverina aho, Dadabe' ('Ich kehre zurück, Dadabé') that was expected to be done this month is now finally decided to be proponed. The test print was finished on schedule, but the quality was not as expected. More importantly we decided to do one more correction of the entire manuscript. For this task we are very proud of having Mrs Esther Randriamamonjy as a proof-reader. She is a famous Malagasy author and member of the "Academie Malagasy", an association consisting of people who preserve the Malagasy language and take decisions about grammar, vocabulary and changes in the language. Therefore it is a great honour to us that she has accepted to rework the final draft of the manuscript. She is also a friend of the author Mrs Siege and we owe her for this cooperation.

Mparany will manage the print when he goes back to Madagascar in the end of August. This will also save us a lot of sending manuscripts back and forth. However, this also means that we don't have a finished book in summer. We will do an as authentic home print as possible and bring this along with the original German book.



Pages 18 and 19 of the Malagasy version. We have included small black and white pictures in each chapter

Summer events

As already mentioned in the last newsletter there will be an arrangement on the 22nd of July in Baden-Baden organised by Mrs Wasserburger from the Mäx und Moritz bookstore. We are really looking forward to this big event!

The annual meeting of the Association for School and Children's Books in Madagascar will be on the 17th of July. We are again invited to make a small presentation about last year's events and production.

Presentation for the Association for Norwegian - Malagasy Friendship, 12th May

On Saturday May 12th we were very honoured to be invited to join the Association for Norwegian - Malagasy Friendship on a social day with grilling in Vollen in Asker outside Oslo. We were able to present our work and our books and were surprised and delighted how much positive response we got from people. We received extremely much encouragement from people and many of them bought books from us. In addition some of them offered to store some of our books in their home to be able to sell a small quantity among people with affiliations to Madagascar in Norway. Almost all people in this association speak Malagasy and many of them have also experienced the lack of children's books in Madagascar. This day strengthened us in our belief that it is important to provide Malagasy children with quality literature, and it also encouraged us to continue. People also commended us for our perseverance and courage in the face of difficulties. The suggestions we got for further work were very valuable and we will keep them in mind while going on with the production. Fortunately we were also very lucky with the weather and all in all we had a wonderful day!

In January Sophie also had a short presentation about the importance of literature in children's mother tongue on a social event in Vestre Aker church in Oslo organised by the Norwegian Mission Society. Also here we got a lot of encouragement from the audience.



The members of the association present in Vollen in Asker



Mparany and Sophie together with the president of the association, Bjørn Sverre Lie