



CMS House: Broad Street.

Gillian Hopwood 1954

## “A PHOTOGRAPHER'S ODYSSEY”

An exhibition of photographs of Lagos Island in 1954

taken by

Architect Gillian Hopwood

The Wheatbaker Hotel

Ikoyi, Lagos

Exhibition runs from 20 March to 9 April 2015

## “A PHOTOGRAPHER'S ODYSSEY”

From the Foreword to the book contributed by

Babatunde Fashola SAN  
Governor of Lagos State

*“Lagos is an enigma and this book, “A Photographer's Odyssey”, captures the development and essence of this every changing City-State to a large extent and over a 60 year period. Growing up, most Lagosians at some point listened to tales told to us by our parents and grandparents as they reminisced with each other about the Lagos of their time.*

*That Lagos is vastly different from the Lagos of today, but this book recreates it. The steady transition of Lagos over the decades has been chronicled in this book, with photographs which were taken decades apart showing the changes that have occurred in the city over time.*

*This book now also helps to create a torch passing moment between my generation and that of my children. The story telling has not stopped. My children can now see photographs of some of the things I described to them.”“A couple of years ago, when I read Sandbank City – Lagos at 150, written by the same authors, I was pleased with by the level of research and detail put into it. That book and this new volume, present a pictorial Lagos as no other text does.*

”From the Preface to the book contributed by

Mosun Ogunbanjo  
Founder MOE+art Architecture, Lagos

*“Through the camera lens of Gillian Hopwood we can feel the palpable nostalgia of the authors whilst simultaneously being aware of the detached documentation of facts recorded by seasoned historians. The frank, naked and non-judgemental nature of the photographs leaves the reader to reach his or her own conclusions regarding present day Lagos, whilst the side notes capture the richness of a moment in time.”*

## “A PHOTOGRAPHER'S ODYSSEY”



Leaving England in 1954

Gillian Hopwood came to Lagos in 1954 together with her husband, John Godwin, to work as young architects for Architects Co-Partnership. Both graduates of the Architectural Association School of Architecture London. They started their sojourn in Lagos in a rented flat in Brickfield Road, Ebute Metta.

Before embarking on the adventure of a lifetime, Gillian's father gave her a new camera to document her journey. She read the instructions during her two week sea passage and began using her new camera during Sunday walks along the tree lined streets of old Lagos. After taking pictures she would return home to their rented flat, and develop the film literally “in a small cupboard in the bedroom which was the darkest place I could find, and cooling the chemicals in the kerosene refrigerator in the kitchen,” she remembers.

In 1955 Gillian and John moved from Ebute Metta to Lagos Island and eventually opened their own practice; they built a five storey house on Boyle Street, which housed both their home and architectural firm, Godwin and Hopwood. They have lived and worked in Onikan for more than 60 years.

Gillian and John have written several books documenting the growth of Lagos, and today, present an amazing treasure of 39 photos of Eko as it was in 1954.

*This series of photographs is being presented for the first time in its entirety, and they are available for sale.*



**AREA 1** Carter Bridge and Ebute Ero

**AREA 2** Isale Eko. The Central Mosque and Tinubu Square

**AREA 3** Marina, Cathedral Church of Christ and upper Broad Street

**AREA 4** North, City Hall, the Brazilian Quarter and Holy Cross Cathedral

**AREA 5** Onikan, Government House and the Race Course.

## Area 1

### Carter Bridge and Ebute Ero



#### **1.1** Crossing to the Island

A tug on its way to Ebute Ero.  
Taken from Carter Bridge



#### **1.2** Holy Trinity Church, Ebute Ero

The foreshore with the second  
church built in 1929



#### **1.3** Ebute Ero Wharf

A barge with goods for sale or  
onward transport by canoe



#### **1.4** Ijora 'B' Power Station

Under construction, opened by  
HM The Queen in 1956

## Area 2

### Isale Eko Central Mosque and Tinubu Square



#### **2.1** Adeniji Adele Road

The foreshore used by Canoes trading on the lagoon. Carter Bridge in the background



#### **2.6** The Central Mosque – Victoria Street

Replaced in 1984



#### **2.2** Balogun Square – SW

A large open square with trading houses, shop and store on ground floor, living above



#### **2.7** The Henry Carr House – Tinubu Square

Built by Henry Carr OBE, a Nigerian in Government



#### **2.3** Iga Idunganran – Entrance

The original entrance to the Oba's Palace, built by the Portuguese. Now rebuilt twice.



#### **2.8** Upper King Street

Named for Dr King the road leads to the Palace of the Oba



#### **2.4** Ilojo Bar – Tinubu Square

A fine example of a Brazilian building. Still standing and still in need of restoration



#### **2.9** Victoria Street

View from the Ereko St junction towards Tinubu Square



#### **2.5** St Anna's Court – Tinubu Square.

This fine building was demolished in 1960



## Area 3

### Marina, Cathedral Church of Christ and upper Broad Street



#### **3.1** Fish Jetty

Used by Marine Dept and small craft plying between the Marina and other jetties



#### **3.2** Elder Dempster Offices Marina

ED ran the Mail Boats from Liverpool to Lagos



#### **3.3** Bank of British West Africa

1893, then 1904, now newly built. Then again in 1975



#### **3.4** Apapa Docks from the Marina

The Marina foreshore was a welcome evening walk



#### **3.5** The 'Old' Secretariat

Erected in 1895 for the office of the Governor and other Ministries.



#### **3.6** The General Hospital Marina

The original buildings still stand and are in use.



#### **3.7** CMS House Broad Street

Leased then to one of the few private dentists in Lagos. Now part of the site of Bookshop House



#### **3.8** St George's Hall Broad St.

The Masonic Temple opened in 1907 by the then Governor, Sir William Egerton



#### **3.9** The end of the Marina

The football stadium is on the left, behind the trees houses for government and military staff



#### **3.10** Five Cowrie Creek

The first bridge over the creek, replacing canoes charging five cowries for the crossing

## Area 4

### North, City Hall, the Brazilian Quarter and Holy Cross Cathedral



**4.1**  
**The Archbishop's Palace**  
Archbishop Taylor, a legendary figure, lived here



**4.6**  
**Oke Popo Marina**  
The old Carter Bridge can just be seen in the background



**4.2**  
**Holy Cross Cathedral**  
Rebuilt in 1932 leaving the original towers which were demolished in 1955



**4.3**  
**Yoyo Araromi House – Tokunboh Street**  
The tram line used to run down the centre of this street



**4.4**  
**The Oshodi Tapa Memorial – Oshodi St**  
One of the few streets still recognisable



**4.5**  
**Zarpas Bus Garage – Oke Popo Marina**  
Mr Zarpas lived here, with his buses.



## Area 5

### Onikan, Government House and the Race Course



#### **5.1** The Central Legislative House

Located on the perimeter of the Race course, now TBS



#### **5.6** Onikan Road

This was the only access road to Ikoyi.



#### **5.2** King's College

The building was being extended to give extra accommodation



#### **5.7** The British Council Library Ajasa Street

The library and flat for the Representative



#### **5.3** St Saviour's Church

The new name for the Colonial Church which had just been extended.



#### **5.8** The 'Kit Kat' Moloney Street

First a branch of John Holt, then a noisy night club



#### **5.4** The Island Club Gate

A modest gate without security guards



#### **5.9** House for the Director of Antiquities

Kenneth Murray lived here. Artefacts stored in compound



#### **5.5** The Island Club Garden

The only Club building. Parties were outside on the lawn



#### **5.10** House for a Senior Medical Officer

Dr M A Majekodunmi lived in this house.



Gillian Hopwood in Lagos 2015.



GH with friends, Mrs Pandit Nehru's visit to Lagos 1963

For the past sixty years, Gillian has been involved in several community groups in Nigeria. She was a member of the Business and Professional Women's Group at the invitation of Mrs Ayo Manuwa. When the Motherless Babies Home was founded she served as Hon Treasurer and Architect for the conversion of the houses located at the end of the Marina which were allocated to B+P in 1963 by the Prime Minister of the Federation, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

She joined Soroptimist International in 1981 when invited by Mrs Adetoun Bailey, serving as Programme Action Officer and President of Eko Club, then as President of the National Association of Nigeria in 1990. She supported her husband, John, when he and a group of friends founded LEGACY in 1995, a society with the aim of preserving and restoring old buildings in Nigeria. She holds the title of Erelu Baakole of Owu and was made a member of the Order of the Federal Republic in 2012. She and John were granted Nigerian in 2013

Here she is pictured with members of the Business and Professional Group of Nigeria and ladies from the Indian High Commission on the occasion of Mrs Pandit Nehru's visit to Lagos 1963.

Books written by Gillian Hopwood, together with her husband John Godwin:

“A history of the Lagos Yacht Club” 1982  
Published by the Lagos Yacht Club

“Sailing in Lagos” 2006  
Published by the Lagos Yacht Club

“The architecture of Demas Nwoko”  
111 Pages, published by Farafina in collaboration with Bookcraft

“Sandbank City - Lagos at 150” 2012  
262 Pages, published by Kachifo Ltd under its Prestige imprint

“A Photographer's Odyssey Lagos 1954 – 2014”  
265 Pages, published by Kachifo Ltd under its Prestige imprint



St Anna Court: Tinubu Square

Gillian Hopwood 1954



For more information please contact the Photo Exhibition Curator  
Sandra Mbanefo Obiago at [africanartspectrum@gmail.com](mailto:africanartspectrum@gmail.com)