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A pioneering book, the founder of a veritable literary history, the work of Juvénal Ngorwanubusa opens the doors to one of the most secret and misunderstood countries of the Francophonie. Towards the end of the 19th century this country's great oral traditions shifted towards the written French word; meanwhile, Germany's encroaching colonial forces faced a fierce resistance led by King Mwezi Gisabo. Consequently its reality and collective identity were slower to develop and mature when compared to those of other francophone spheres.

A work of history and anthology, French-language Literature in Burundi carefully explains the three major phases of this literary history. The effort to collect and transcribe its great poetic and proverbial traditions first by European ecclesiastics, then by Africans, constituted the first foundations of a French literary memorial of a people. The country regained its independence as this incomplete literature began to emerge and flourish. The last forty to fifty years have seen a progressive surmounting of a new

stage: fiction has taken up the contradictions and advances of History and the constitution since the beginning of the 21st century; a new literary field emerges. A book that endures. A book that demonstrates, once again, the plurality and the singularity of the francophone cultures.