

Recollection of Learning the Loma Script:
An Interview with Vieux Kougbe Onivogui
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The invention of a syllabary for writing the Loma language by Wido Zobo of Boneketa came about in the 1930s, not unique for the region at that time, as others were similarly inspired for neighboring Mande languages. Zobo's script for Loma was taught at the Firestone rubber plantation at Boneketa during the 1940s. While no known original texts survive, the account of the personal experience of one of its early learners, Vieux Kougbe Onivogui, was recorded in 2009 in an interview facilitated by Jacques Onivogui and transcribed by Balla Koevogui from what Koevogui identifies as the Yala dialect used in the recording. Although very young at the time he was learning it, Vieux Kougbe's recollection captures some interesting descriptive details about the conditions under which the script was taught.