

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grand tale based on author's schoolboy experiences in Africa

Coming-of-age novel recounts adventure-rich adolescence in late-Colonial Tanganyika

(Victoria, BC) – Almost 60 years ago, an asthmatic, 9-year-old English boy sat alone on a train at Dar el Salaam's station in Tanganyika (now Tanzania), wondering and worrying about his immediate future. He was bound for Kongwa Hill School, a remote co-ed boarding school for European children located in an arid outback region, home to the Wagogo tribe, but otherwise undeveloped.

Thus begins the brilliant debut novel by Salt Spring Island writer Anthony "Tony" Edwards. Based in large part on Edwards' own experiences and those of his classmates at Kongwa, **THE SLOPE OF KONGWA HILL: A BOY'S TALE OF AFRICA** is a fascinating account of the journey of a sensitive young boy to a bolder young man. The story recalls the toughness, discipline, sometimes the brutality of British boarding school life, and its concurrence with the ever-present danger from living in East Africa's bundu. Fights and beatings contrast with the excitement of animal and reptile confrontations, torrential storms, locust infestation and other adventures. A terrifying encounter with a black mamba, running away into the bush, hunting for game for the school's meat supply, a narrow escape from lionesses, Boy Scout camp-outs, and a charming forbidden romance during the central character's coming-of-age, combine in a kaleidoscope of never-to-be-repeated experiences, recounted with passion and, at times, delightful humour.

"The happy and not-so-happy times are faithfully remembered and the setting of the great plains of central Tanganyika – in an era before television, cell phones, reliable electricity supply or decent transport – makes for a book that one cannot put down," writes Graeme Berry, an alumnus of that place and times.

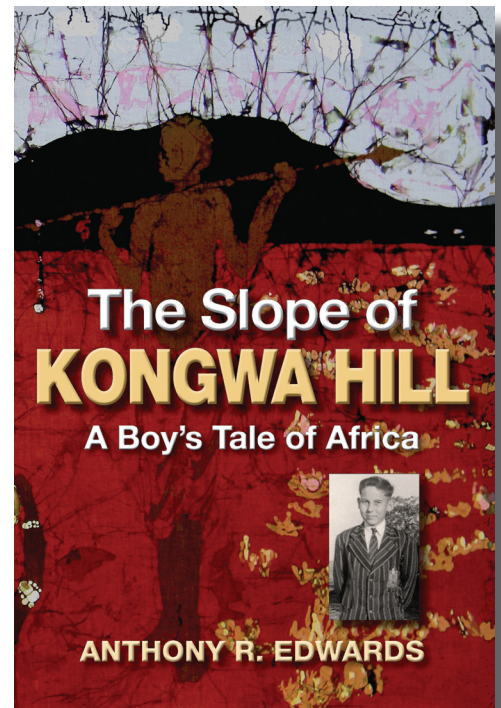
The Slope of Kongwa Hill: A Boy's Tale of Africa by Anthony R. Edwards is published by Agio Publishing House, Victoria (Canada), 2011, 452 pp., trade paperback \$19.95, ISBN 978-1-897435-65-6. Also available in all major eBook formats, including Amazon Kindle.



About the author – Anthony R. Edwards

Edwards was born in London, England, in 1942. He spent many formative years in Africa and was drawn to return in 1962 after completing his college education. Edwards' professional life included photography, television, advertising and anthropological research, working in Britain, Rhodesia, Zambia, South Africa, USA and Canada.

In 2004, Tony Edwards and his wife, Imelda, settled on Salt Spring Island in British Columbia, Canada.



INTERVIEW TOPICS

- Today's readers might be appalled by the caning and harsh discipline – how did you cope with it?
- How long did it take to write this novel?
- Who are your favourite authors, and how did they influence your writing style?
- Tell us about the new school at Kongwa and how you and other alumni are helping.

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