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CHRISTIAN FILOSTRAT MASTERFULLY CRAFTS *THE BEGGARS' PURSUIT*, A TENSE POLITICAL THRILLER

(CHERRY HILL, NJ) (31 January 2008)—In Christian Filostrat's debut novel, good confronts evil in an array of power centers around the world, with a mix of diplomatic corps and ruling elites in Africa, the U.S., and beyond. Washington, D.C., Kinshasa, Paris, Brussels, and Abu Dhabi provide picturesque and exotic backdrops for a contemporary political thriller filled with danger, intrigue, and romance. Filostrat's clever inclusion of the negritude proponents' activities in Paris, circa 1936, and the Tutsi genocide in Rwanda make this a true-to-life adventure, a compelling roman à clef novel.

The cast of characters and plot are fascinating. Ambassador Molu Sakeseba, handsome, naive, and loyal, blames himself for the recent trouble, although he fiercely protects his country's interests. But Washington is angry with Dictator Motutu for his role in the Tutsi genocide, and the State Department's next ambassador to Democratic Republic of the Congo is proof. When Motutu summons Sakeseba home to replace the ailing foreign minister, he ignores warnings from America's diplomatic corps and Fatou-Anne Cerusu, the wise Senegalese foreign minister. He kisses his wife and daughters good-bye and flies to Abu Dhabi, his first stop to his destiny before heading home to Africa. In Kinshasa security chief Maka Mgonu and the Dictator's trap await his arrival.

A lifelong student of the oral tradition and the literature of Africa, Christian Filostrat's writing benefits from having resided in several countries on the continent. His immersion in the culture while studying languages, socioeconomic and political trends unique to the region is apparent. Filostrat's opportunity to observe and meet several heads of state makes his characterizations and scenes complex and enjoyable. He draws on his experiences, his compilation of tales, proverbs, and traditions of the African peoples, and his appreciation for the African narrative. In writing this story, Christian Filostrat succeeds in marrying tradition, paranoia, and machination, entwined in the exigency—crisis—of survival.

Published by Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers (AHLPL), *The Beggars' Pursuit* is available in two editions: ISBN 978-0-9770904-5-7, hardcover, US \$36; ISBN 978-0-9770904-7-1, softcover, US \$20. Readers and organizations may buy copies online, or from retailers and wholesalers. For more information contact AHLPL at 856-382-0629 or on the Web at <http://www.ahlpub.com>.

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