Born in Cape Coast (now Ghana) in 1866, Joseph Ephraim Casely Hayford’s versatility stretches across being a lawyer, journalist, writer, politician, and a pan Africanist. Growing up, Casely Hayford attended Wesley Boys’ High School and also Fourah Bay College, Freetown. In Freetown, he was attracted to and fascinated by the teachings and ideas of Edward Wilmot Blyden, who was a pivotal figure in the history of Pan-Africanism.

As a journalist, Casely Hayford worked with Western Echo, and later with Wesleyan Methodist Times. Aside being a journalist, he was an unrepentant pan-Africanist. A major force in the fight against imperialism in Africa, Casely Hayford’s teachings and ideologies reinforce and support the unalloyed propagation of Africa’s ways of governance, Africa’s ways of living, which also cuts across land management, the belief in indigenous culture and traditions, etc. In his books, Casely vehemently engages the tropes of the British’s denigration of the African people and their self-acclaimed superiority over the African people. Casely believes that Africans should be respected and be left alone to rule and exercise their rights without oppressive measures from the colonialists. Describing him in his article titled Pan‐Africanist ideology and the African historical novel of self‐discovery: the examples of Kobina Sekyi and J. E. Casely Hayford, Kwadwo observes that:

Casely Hayford, who was born in 1866 and died in 1930, was also considered a unique figure in the history of Gold Coast nationalism and Pan-Africanism. It has been argued that no other Pan-Africanist was more popular or committed to his cause than he was in his day (Kawdwo 2017, 143).

An author of many books, Casely’s novel titled Ethiopia Unbound, published in 1911, is one of the earliest novels written in English by an African. In the book, the author depicts, through his deft handling of language, the flaws of colonialism and the clarion call for Africans to create their institution where African thoughts and ideas will be taught. Casely furthers this critical arguments by stating the need for Africans to practice their traditional religions. Hollis accentuates in his review of West African Countries and Peoples by James Africanus Horton; Ethiopia Unbound, by J. E. Casely Hayford that ‘By 1911, when Ethiopia Unbound was first published, Casely Hayford had already emerged as an outstanding Gold Coast nationalist’ (Hollis 1970).

Casely Hayford founded the National Congress of British West Africa in 1920. He also formed the West Africa’s Nationalist Movement. Brittany writes that ‘In 1920, along with T. Hutton Mills, Casely Hayford founded the National Congress of British West Africa (NCBWA), a major political movement in West Africa that worked toward African liberation’ (Brittany 2017). He also met with W.E.B Du Bois and Booker T. Washington. Through his continuous works for the proclamation of Africans’ rights and Independence, Casely wrote other books that continue to establish and foreground his undying interests in land issues, African religion, etc. The titles of his other books include Gold Coast Land Tenure and the Forest Bill (1911); The Truth about the West African Land Question (1913); William Waddy Harris: The Man and His Message (1916), United West Africa (1919); and The Disabilities of Black Folk (1929).

J.E. Casely Hayford married his wife, Adelaide Casely Hayford in England on September 10, 1903. Adelaide Casely Hayford was also a passionate believer in nationalism and women’s rights. Rina, in her article titled Adelaide Casely Hayford Cultural Nationalist and Feminist writes that ‘Mrs. Hayford understood the feminist precept that a woman must be economically independent to retain her self-respect. At the same time she sought to teach domestic science to prepare the girls for the responsibilities of being wives and mothers’ (Rina 1981, 42).

Casely Hayford died in 1930.

**Annotated Bibliography**

Hayford, Casely. Ethiopia Unbound. London:  C.M. Phillips, 1911.

              This book is regarded as one of the earliest novels written by an African. In the book, the author confronts the idea of                         establishing an institution where African ideas and thoughts will be taught. He also rages against the self-acclaimed superiority of the               colonialists.

Hollis R. Lynch. “Studies in Race Emancipation.” Review of West African Countries and Peoples by James Africanus Horton; Ethiopia Unbound, by J. E. Casely Hayford. Hollis R. African Historical Studies, Vol. 3, No. 2 (1970), pp. 511-512. Boston University African Studies Center, 1970.

                            This article is a review of two books, among which there is Ethiopia Unbound by Casely Hayford. In the review, Hollis                                 accentuates the character of Casely Hayford as someone whose roles and personality as a pan-Africanist had been known before Ethiopia Unbound was published. He also explores the tropes that dominate the book.

Kwadwo, Osei‐Nyame. “Pan‐Africanist ideology and the African historical novel of self‐discovery: the examples of Kobina Sekyi and J. E. Casely Hayford.” Journal of African Cultural Studies, 12:2, 137-153. DOI: 10.1080/13696819908717846. 1999.

                              This article compares and contrasts the lives of Kobina Sekyi and J.E. Casely Hayford through the lens of their novels.                                  Both authors were well-known and widely read in their times. Kwadwo also explores the roles played by these authors                                 in their quest for Africa’s Independence, etc.

Rina, Okonkwo. “Casely Hayford Cultural Nationalist and Feminist Author(s).” Phylon Vol. 42, No. 1, (1st Qtr., 1981): 41-51. Clark Atlanta University, 2015.

                             In this article, Rina delves into the life of the wife of Casely Hayford and her roles in creating a system livable for African women. Through her many initiatives and efforts, she was able to establish school and help a lot of women toward financial stability/economic empowerment. Through her life, bits of Casely Hayford’s life are discussed.

Rogers, Brittany. “Joseph Ephraim Casely Hayford (1866-1930).” [https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/hayford-joseph-ephraim-casely-1866-1930/ (Links to an external site.)](https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/hayford-joseph-ephraim-casely-1866-1930/). 2009.

                           This is an online article written by Rogers. The article traces the life of J.E. Casely Hayford. Some of the events                                             that happened to his life seep through the article, too. His belief in pan- Africanism, his achievements as a                                                      lawyer, a journalist, etc. are also discussed.