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THE CARIBBEAN AND THE WILD COAST

Suriname: a bibliography, 1980-1989. JO DERKX & IRENE ROLFES. Leiden, the Netherlands: Department of Caribbean Studies, KITLV/Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology, 1990. x + 297 pp. (Paper NLG 25.00)

La Caraïbe politique et internationale: bibliographie politologique avec références économiques et socio-culturelles. MICHEL L. MARTIN. Paris: L'Harmattan, 1990. xvii + 287 pp.

Suriname. ROSEMARIJN HOEFTE. Oxford and Santa Barbara CA: Clio Press, 1990. xxx + 229 pp. (Cloth US\$ 45.00)

Although in North American academic circles interest in Suriname (or the Wild Coast, as the area was originally called) has always been marginal, the same cannot be said for the Dutch, for whom the former colony continues to hold an enduring fascination. Not only have the Dutch studied the country's historical beginnings assiduously, but Suriname's controversial relationship with the former mother country assures it a definite place in contemporary social and political thought.

In this context, the bibliography compiled by Derkx and Rolfes, covering the period from 1980 to 1989, continues an existing trend and extends previous work. Indeed, it is the third survey on Suriname published by Leiden's KITLV/Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology within the last twenty years. The previous two were compiled by Gerard A. Nagelkerke; the first, published in 1972, dealt with the 1600s to 1940 and the second, published in 1980, covered 1940 to 1980.

The approximately 2,000 items listed, most of which are in Dutch and English and reflect the KITLV's own holdings, are numbered consecutively

and arranged in a single alphabetical or dictionary file. Included are monographs, periodical literature, chapters in edited volumes, theses, and miscellaneous reports. Monographs add the call number of the KITLV's library for easier retrieval.

Subject access is provided by the index which lists joint authors, editors, and organizations as well. It also has a limited number of cross-references. In addition, the compilers have made available a list of abbreviations and a list of pseudonyms. Lacking however, is a list of indexed journals which would have made this publication even more useful.

A major section of *Suriname: a bibliography, 1980-1989*, is devoted to the literature on Suriname communities in the Netherlands, which makes the volume of added interest to sociologists and cultural anthropologists.

The compilers have tackled a well-defined task and handled it with aplomb. The resulting bibliography represents a major contribution to scholarly research on the region and is highly recommended for academic libraries with Caribbean and/or Latin American collections.

It also serves as a worthwhile companion volume to Rosemarijn Hoefte's *Suriname*, published in 1990 as part of Clio Press' World Bibliographical Series. This series, which is primarily aimed at an English-language audience, provides, in a uniform format, basic historical, economic, political, and social data on all countries in the world. Hoefte's *Suriname* is its 117th volume.

In the thirty-page preface, Hoefte provides the reader with a basic, well-written introduction to the country, emphasizing its peoples, cultures, customs, religions, and social organization. The main text is arranged by title in broad subject categories which, whenever warranted, are sub-divided into smaller sections. The general chapter on Languages, for instance, includes separate divisions on Amerindian, Creole, Sarnami, Surinamese-Javanese, Chinese, and Surinamese-Dutch. In addition, there are chapters on Professional Periodicals, Reference Books, and Bibliographies. Hoefte also tackles such diverse subjects as Overseas Populations, Women's Studies, and the Environment.

Although most of the information is geared towards an English-speaking readership, some recent studies in Spanish, German, French, and Dutch are also listed. In these cases, the original title is accompanied by the appropriate English translation. Unfortunately, no literature in any of Suriname's so-called "native" languages (i.e., Sranan) is mentioned.

Hoefte lists monographs, published theses, periodical articles, and chapters in edited volumes. All 731 entries are numbered consecutively and provide in concise form the following information: title, author, place of publication, publisher, date, number of pages, and illustrations. In the case of

articles, the title of the journal, the volume and/or issue, and pagination are also cited.

Although coverage is selective rather than comprehensive, Hoefte does far more than simply list sources. Citations are accompanied by informative annotations of at least a paragraph, written in a clear, succinct, style. As a minor point, some of the annotations border on the excessive and would have served the same purpose if they had been shorter.

The index lists authors, titles, and subjects in a single alphabetical file and refers the user back to the number of the particular bibliographic entry. Ample cross-references are given throughout. *Suriname* is an indispensable tool for graduate and undergraduate students alike.

Taken together, Derkx & Rolfes and Hoefte have succeeded in creating a complete, and highly readable, account of contemporary Suriname bibliography.

In contrast to these two solid and well-documented works, Michel L. Martin's *La Caraïbe politique et internationale: bibliographie politologique avec références économiques et socio-culturelles, 1980-1988* simply does not fit into the same league. Not only did Martin fail to define his subject matter clearly, he chose to cover the entire Caribbean archipelago (as well as Bermuda, Belize, and the three Guianas) using highly unruly parameters. Although the focus is political, by electing to include "some" economic and social references, he unnecessarily opened himself up to criticism.

By arbitrarily selecting only a few items on, for example, the Cuban presence in the United States, Martin has opened a can of worms. As every Miamian would argue, one simply cannot dispose of this issue by mentioning only a partial list of available sources! It would have been wiser to steer clear of this volatile and controversial issue and stick to strictly political concerns. Indeed, the amount of literature on the subject of Caribbean communities abroad certainly warrants a separate volume.

The other major problem encountered with this volume is more technical and concerns the absence of an index. As it is, the text has been divided into four main sections, three of which have been further sub-divided by country or region (I. General citations on the Caribbean.- II. Citations on the dependent territories.- III. Citations on the sovereign states.- IV. Periodicals, documents and serials). Books (and articles) are listed alphabetically under each. The Table of Contents is the only access point to the main body of literature.

This arrangement leaves much to be desired. For example, Latortue's "Neoslavery in the cane fields" is to be found under *Relations internationales*, a subsection of the chapter on Haiti. For one unfamiliar with the book's contents, this particular entry will forever be inaccessible. In works orga-

nized along these lines, both an author index and a subject index are truly indispensable tools.

Hidden in the multiple sub-categories languish many gems – works which hitherto have not been widely publicized (most notably the many fine French references) and which have now been made available to the general public for the first time. In addition, coverage of some areas, such as the Netherlands Antilles, is very spotty with only the most general sources listed. Martin did make an attempt to translate the exotic foreign (Dutch, Russian, etc.) titles into English, which greatly facilitates the task of the U.S. researcher. Also useful is the attached list of journals.

In conclusion, the two bibliographies on Suriname clearly represent significant contributions to the existing scholarship on a little known country; Martin's ambitious project is not quite up to par and, in this bibliographer's view, would have benefited from some additional work.

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