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Rundown

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RUNDOWN

Our 1993 rundown of books that have not, for one reason or another, been reviewed in the *NWIG* follows the culinary metaphors of its precedents, “Caribbean pepper-pot” (*NWIG* 58:89-98) and “Callaloo” (*NWIG* 66:95-99). Cassidy & Le Page’s *Dictionary of Jamaican English* (Cambridge University Press, 1967) offers, s.v. *rundown*:

A kind of sauce made by boiling coconut down till it becomes like custard (but stops short of becoming oil). In it may be cooked salt or pickled fish, banana, or other ingredients. It is served in a bowl in the middle of the table, into which one dips one’s bread-kind. See *dip-and-come-back*.

Under “dip-and-come-back,” we find thirty-six alternative terms for the dish, including: dip-and-fall-back, dip-and-shake-off, assistant, bread-fruit remedy, dip-dip, dividen-an-flabub, duck-and-shake-back, elbow-grease, frigasi, johnny run-down, kobijong, kuochi waata, malongkontong, mul-grave, pakassa, plaba, plomi, rege, round-the-road, stew-down, swimmer-down, tap-i-a-paas....

Jamaican recipes for fish rundown can be found in both Elisabeth Lambert Ortiz’s *The Complete Book of Caribbean Cooking* (Lippincott, 1973) and Rosamund Grant’s *Caribbean & African Cookery* (Virago, 1989); the latter also starts us on the trail of its historical roots by noting that “‘Run-down’ could have been taken to the Caribbean, from Indonesia by the Dutch. They have a similar dish called ‘Rendang,’ which has almost the same pronunciation.” Charmaine Solomon’s *The Complete Asian Cookbook* (McGraw-Hill, 1976) offers support for this hypothesis in the form of four *rendang* recipes (three from Indonesia, one from Malaysia) that all share the basic ingredient of Caribbean rundown – coconut milk cooked down to a thick sauce. And we were recently told of a related gastronomical

offering that reflects our postmodern condition: the Kuala Lumpur branch of McDonalds now features a hamburger with an especially spicy sauce, under the name of "McRendang."

A number of books have not, despite our best efforts (including reminder letters), been reviewed in these pages, because scholars who agreed to the task have simply added the books to their libraries (making it impossible for us to send them to alternative reviewers). However, like our eighteenth-century friend John Gabriel Stedman (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1790/1988:25), "so far from omitting publick or private transactions," we are "fully determined to insert both the one and the other, that is with initial Letters," and hence we note such works, with the initials of their delinquent reviewers, as a kind of backlist "books received." (This list is accurate as of early January 1993, our press date. We as editors, as well as readers of the journal and the authors themselves, would welcome the submission of these reviews, however tardy.) *History of Religions in the Caribbean*, by Dale Bisnauth (Kingston, Jamaica: Kingston Publishers, 1990, n.p.) [S.D.G.]; *Castro*, by Sebastian Balfour (London: Longman, 1990, paper £6.99) [G.L.]; *Las emigraciones dominicanas a Cuba (1795-1808)*, by Carlos Esteban Deive (Santo Domingo: Fundación Cultural Dominicana, 1989, paper US\$ 5.00) [A.Y.]; *Volksmuziekinstrumenten, getuigen en resultaat van een interetnische samenleving: een organologische studie met betrekking tot Aruba, Bonaire en Curaçao*, by Jos Gansemans (Tervuren: Koninklijk Museum voor Midden-Afrika, 1989, BFR 1194) [R.V.R.]; *Reise nach Surinam: Pflanzen- und Landschaftsbilder der Louise von Panhuys, 1763-1844*, edited by Karin Görner, Klaus Dobat, & Helmut Burkhardt (Frankfurt am Main: Senckenbergische Bibliothek, 1991, paper DM 40.00) [M.L.]; *Dictionnaire wayâpi-français*, by Françoise Grenand (Paris: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, 1989, paper FF 395.00) [M.D.]; *De betovering verbroken*, by Rosemarijn Hoefte (Dordrecht, Netherlands: Foris Publications, 1990, paper NLG 25.00) [J.B.]; *Pidgins and Creoles. Volume I: Theory and Structure. Volume II: Reference Survey*, by John Holm (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Vol. I, 1988, cloth £ 35.00 or US\$ 59.50, paper £12.95 or US\$ 19.95, Vol. II, 1989, cloth £42.50 or US\$ 69.50, paper £17.50 or US\$ 24.95) [M.C.A.]; *Anancy in the Great House: Ways of Reading West Indian Fiction*, by Joyce Jonas (Westport CT: Greenwood, 1990, cloth US\$ 39.95) [E.B.]; *Atlantic Port Cities: Economy, Culture, and Society in the Atlantic World, 1650-1850*, edited by Franklin W. Knight & Peggy K. Liss (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1991, cloth US\$ 42.50) [L.J.]; *In Search of a Better Life: Perspectives on Migration from the Caribbean*, edited by Ransford W. Palmer (New York: Praeger, 1990, cloth US\$ 42.95) [K.C.]; *Vivir en Caimito*, by Fernando Picó (Río Piedras PR: Ediciones Huracán,

1989, paper US\$ 5.95) [C.R.F.]; *Capitalism and Socialism in Cuba: A Study of Dependency, Development and Underdevelopment*, by Patricia Ruffin (London: Macmillan, 1990, cloth £35.00) [P.J.B.]; *The Narrative of Liberation: Perspectives on Afro-Caribbean Literature, Popular Culture, and Politics*, by Patrick Taylor (Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press, 1989, cloth US\$ 29.95) [S.R.C.]; *Economic Adjustment Policies for Small Nations: Theory and Experience in the English-Speaking Caribbean*, by Delisle Worrell & Compton Bourne (New York: Praeger, 1989, cloth US\$ 47.95) [R.W.P.].

In a different spirit, we mention also two books whose reviewers passed away *in medias res*: *New World Soundings: Culture and Ideology in the Americas*, by Richard M. Morse (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989, cloth US\$ 34.50), which was being reviewed by the late Gordon K. Lewis, and *Mass Media and the Caribbean*, edited by Stuart H. Surlin & Walter C. Soderlund (New York: Gordon and Breach, 1990, cloth US\$ 65.00, paper US\$ 30.00), which was being reviewed by the late Harold J. Lidin.

Continuing down our list of unreviewed books, one consistent gap is striking: those published in France. Over the past several years we have conducted an intensive campaign to secure review copies of relevant books published by Editions Caribéennes, L'Harmattan, Karthala, and other French houses; we have sent out a special French-language version of our standard letter of request, and even enlisted the advice and cooperation of a friend in Paris who now heads a government-sponsored program for the promotion of French books abroad. None of this has weakened the resolve of these publishers to keep their books under lock and key; our Parisian contact writes that "they are sceptical that reviews will actually be published in non-French journals," and we are therefore not in a position to bring them to the attention of *NWIG* readers. (Occasionally, the author of such a work kindly sends it to us for review, which explains the presence of a few French-published books in the pages of this journal.) In fairness, we should probably note that a much smaller number of books (perhaps two dozen) that we have requested from non-French publishers have also been denied *NWIG*.

Turning to works we have received that deserve brief mention, we begin with reference books. The World Bibliographical Series has recently been augmented by two slim volumes: *Montserrat*, by Riva Berleant-Schiller (Oxford: Clío Press, 1991, cloth £24.00), and *Turks & Caicos Islands*, by Paul G. Boulton (Oxford: Clío Press, 1991, cloth £19.00); both appear to be labors of love, and Berleant-Schiller's annotations contain particularly incisive evaluations of the sources. Brian Dyde's popular *Caribbean Companion: The A-Z Reference (A Handbook to the People, Places, Plants, Animals,*

Culture and Major Historical Events of the West Indies) (London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1992, paper £4.50), despite its acknowledged anglophone and nautical biases, is a good read; with occasional exceptions – he's cantankerous on anything smacking of "superstition" – Dyde's varied entries are mostly on the mark. C.N. Dubelaar has compiled a pioneering *Bibliography of South American and Antillian Petroglyphs* (Amsterdam: Foundation for Scientific Research in the Caribbean Region, 1991, paper NLG 35.00) that contains over 2200 unannotated references. And, in a related vein, P. Wagenaar Hummelinck has published *De rotstekeningen van Bonaire en Curaçao / The Prehistoric Rock Drawings of Bonaire and Curaçao* (Utrecht: Uitgeverij Presse-Papier, 1992, paper NLG 63.00), a companion, in the same dual-language, heavily illustrated format, to its sister volume about Aruban petroglyphs, reviewed elsewhere in this issue.

The seventh volume of *The Cambridge History of Latin America*, edited by Leslie Bethell, is subtitled "Latin America since 1930: Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean" (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990, cloth US\$ 99.95) and contains substantive overview essays by Louis A. Pérez on pre-Revolutionary Cuba, Jorge Domínguez on Cuba since 1959, Frank Moya Pons on the Dominican Republic, David Nicholls on Haiti, and Robert W. Anderson on Puerto Rico. Afro-Americanists (whether linguists, historians, or anthropologists) may be interested in John T. Schneider's *Dictionary of African Borrowings in Brazilian Portuguese* (Hamburg: Helmut Buske, 1991, cloth DM 78.00), the culmination of many years of research on both sides of the South Atlantic. John Gray has compiled three other reference works that devote sections to the Caribbean. The first, *Ashe, Traditional Religion and Healing in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Diaspora: A Classified International Bibliography* (Westport CT: Greenwood, 1989, cloth US\$ 49.95), despite a praisesong of a preface by Robert Farris Thompson, is an unannotated country-by-country list of 6000 somewhat scattershot entries, though the idea's a fine one and deserves further development. The same goes for the other two, *Blacks in Film and Television: A Pan-African Bibliography of Films, Filmmakers, and Performers* (Westport CT: Greenwood, 1990, cloth US\$ 55.00) and *Black Theatre and Performance: A Pan-African Bibliography* (Westport CT: Greenwood, 1990, cloth US\$ 45.00), which pull together a number of widely dispersed references.

Macmillan Caribbean has been publishing a series of visitors' guides to individual islands that are, more often than not, a step above the usual tourist fare. Recent examples include *Jamaica: The Fairest Isle*, by Philip Sherlock & Barbara Preston (London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1992, paper £6.95), *Dominica: Isle of Adventure*, by Lennox Honychurch (London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1991, paper £4.95), *The Turks and Caicos Islands:*

Lands of Discovery, by Amelia Smithers (London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1990, paper £4.50), and *St. Kitts: Cradle of the Caribbean*, by Brian Dyde (London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1989, paper £4.95). This same publisher is also producing another genre of tourist coffee-table book – *Barbados: Portrait of an Island*, by Dick Scoones (1990, cloth £14.95), *The Bahamas Rediscovered*, by Nicholas & Dragan Popov (1992, cloth £19.95); wider than they are tall and awash with color photos, these feature a smattering of history and often-striking images of Caribbean vernacular architecture, multicolored tropical fish, and bikini-clad white female bodies.

Three more serious works on local architecture, with a preservationist bent: *Treasures of Barbados*, by Henry S. Fraser (London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1990, cloth £14.95), is a popular but substantive illustrated survey, written by the president of the Barbados National Trust to accompany a series of television programs designed to raise consciousness about the built environment of the island; *The Barbados Garrison and its Buildings*, by Warren Alleyne & Jill Sheppard (London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1990, paper £3.50), is an informed guide to this set of colonial monuments; and *This Old House: A Collection of Drawings of Trinidad Homes*, by Gerald G. Watterson (Port of Spain: Paria, 1988, paper n.p.), presents some four dozen pen-and-ink sketches accompanied by brief historical annotations.

Several reprints of Caribbean classics deserve note: *Trinidad Carnival* (Port of Spain: Paria, 1988, paper n.p.) republishes the rich, illustrated double issue of *Caribbean Quarterly* (1956) devoted to Carnival, with a new introduction by Kim Johnson; *A Rada Community in Trinidad*, by Andrew Carr (Port of Spain: Paria, 1989, paper n.p.), makes available once again this pioneering study of Afro-Trinidadian religion; and *Dances of Haiti*, by Katherine Dunham (Los Angeles: Center for Afro-American Studies, UCLA, 1983, paper n.p.), is a revised version, with a new preface by the author, of her pre-war monograph, first published in Mexico and later in France (with a foreword by Claude Lévi-Strauss, translated here). Guy Endore's little-known 1934 novel of Haitian slavery and rebellion, *Babouk* (New York: Monthly Review, 1991, cloth US\$ 28.00, paper US\$ 9.00) has been resurrected with a fine historical afterword by David Barry Gaspar & Michel-Rolph Trouillot, and an acerbic little foreword by Jamaica Kincaid. *Pidgins and Creoles*, Loreto Todd's slim primer of 1974, has been reissued with light updating (London: Routledge, 1990, paper US\$ 17.95). And then there's a work of humor, first published in 1979: *Jamaica Holiday: The Secret Life of Queen Victoria. Her Majesty's Missing Diaries*, "edited and loyally illustrated" by Jonathan Routh (London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1989, cloth £9.99), in which numerous paintings illustrate the queen's trials and triumphs in colonial Jamaica. Oh those English!

Three works of folklore scholarship have come our way. *Singing the Master: The Emergence of African American Culture in the Plantation South*, by Roger D. Abrahams (New York: Pantheon, 1992, cloth US\$ 25.00), focusing on the U.S., is a brilliant exploration of the harvest celebration of corn-shucking that allows him to situate much of African-American culture-building in the yard between the Big House and the slave quarters. *African Folktales with Foreign Analogues*, by the late May Augusta Klipple (New York: Garland, 1992, cloth US\$ 77.00), is an Aarne-Thompson tour de force, completed as an Indiana dissertation in 1938, and finally published here with a useful preface by Alan Dundes; despite its methodological limitations, it's a major resource for Caribbean folklorists. *Junkanoo: Festival of the Bahamas*, by E. Clement Bethel (London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1991, paper £7.95), is an accessible, illustrated history of this celebration with focus on the first half of this century.

We have received several books written for a youthful audience. *Jenunu: légende wayana*, told by Alaepa (Twenke, 97370 Maripasoula, French Guiana: CAWAY, 1992, paper n.p.) is published in two versions, French and Wayana, with paintings by Wayana children. *Pirates of the West Indies*, by Clinton V. Black (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989, cloth n.p.), offers chapters on the escapades of notorious pirates and appears to be pitched at a high school level. *The Truth about Columbus: A Subversively True Poster Book for a Dubiously Celebratory Occasion*, by James W. Loewen (New York: New Press, 1992, paper US\$ 12.95), debunks standard American history textbooks to raise questions for high school students and teachers. *The Lucayans*, by Sandra Riley & Alton Lowe (London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1991, paper £7.95), is a self-described "fictionalized history On an unconscious level, you [the reader] will understand the symbols and archetypes," and to help you there are lots of paintings of Columbus and the naked souls who greeted him, apparently with upraised arms, executed in a style of Sunday school textbook realism that must be seen to be believed; where is Gérard Dépardieu when we need him?

Miscellanea, worthy of mention, beginning with some works on Suriname. Several courageous publications on the human rights situation have appeared: *Memre Moiwana* (Paramaribo: Moiwana'86 Mensenrechtenbureau Suriname, ca. 1990, paper NLG 10.00) documents the November 1986 murders of more than fifty unarmed Ndjuka civilians by a government military unit; *In Memoriam Herman Eddy Gooding* (Paramaribo: Moiwana'86 Mensenrechtenbureau Suriname, ca. 1992, paper NLG 9.50) analyzes the background and aftermath of the August 1990 murder, thirty meters from the office of Commander Bouterse, of the police inspector charged with investigating this incident; and *Mensenrechten 1991 Suriname* (Paramaribo:

Moiwana'86 Mensenrechtenorganisatie Suriname, 1992, paper NLG 20.00) provides a judicious overview of the human rights situation from 1980 to January 1992. *Gadu Buku* (Colorado Springs CO: International Bible Society, 1991, paper Sf 15.00), a complete Saramaccan translation of the New Testament, is the fruit of more than two decades of work under the leadership of the anonymous but indefatigable Summer Institute of Linguistics team of Naomi Glock and Catherine Rountree. The Dutch Reformed Church has published a rather superficial, multi-authored guide to the country's religions, *Suriname: land met veel gezichten* (Kampen: J.H. Kok, 1991, paper NLG 23.50). *Fotografie in Suriname 1839-1939 / Photography in Surinam 1839-1939* (Amsterdam: Fragment, 1990, paper NLG 40.00) is the catalogue of an important exhibition held at the Museum voor Volkenkunde in Rotterdam – serious scholarship and remarkable photographs. *Pinaren in het paradijs: Suriname na de onafhankelijkheid*, by Daniel Koning (Amsterdam: Fragment, 1991, paper NLG 39.90) is a predominantly somber black/white photo-essay based on three visits between 1982 and 1990. *Het gezags- en bestuursstelsel in het binnenland van Suriname*, by H.R.M. Libretto (Paramaribo: De West, 1990, paper Sf 16.00) is the publication of the author's 1983 master's thesis in the Law Faculty of the University of Suriname, outlining history and normative structures of government in the interior. *Verdronken land, verdwenen dorpen: de transmigratie van Saramaccaners in Suriname 1958-1964*, by Carlo Hoop (Alkmaar: Bewustzijn, 1991, paper NLG 32.50), based on fieldwork and archival study, is the first book-length treatment of the history and social consequences of the forced displacement of more than five thousand Maroons to create cheap electricity for the multinational aluminum industry. In "*De Bosnegers zijn gekomen!*" *Slavernij en rebellie in Suriname* (Amsterdam: Prometheus, 1992, paper NLG 34.90), Wim Hoogbergen reworks for the second time in two years his rich 1985 dissertation; based on the 1990 English abridgment of that Dutch text, this latest version is a bit snappier, and apparently intended for a more general Dutch-speaking public.

More miscellanea: *Foundations of a Movement: A Tribute to John La Rose on the Occasion of the 10th International Book Fair of Radical Black and Third World Books* (London: The John La Rose Tribute Committee, 1991, paper n.p.) includes homages by numerous literary figures, many from the Caribbean, who have participated in these annual activist and cultural gatherings. *Caribbean Slave Society and Economy: A Student Reader*, edited by Hilary Beckles & Verene Shepherd (Kingston, Jamaica: Ian Randle, 1991, paper US\$ 19.50) reprints thirty-seven (mainly historical) scholarly articles in convenient form. The second volume of the late St. Clair Drake's *Black Folk Here and There* (Los Angeles: Center for Afro-American Studies,

UCLA, 1990, paper n.p.) continues the story from early Christian times, through the Muslim world, into the Medieval period and finally into seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Western Europe. Michel Fabre's *From Harlem to Paris: Black American Writers in France, 1840-1980* (Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 1991, cloth US\$ 35.95) focuses heavily on the U.S.-French connection, but speaks to the experience of many Caribbean writers as well. *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* (New York: Pathfinder, 1991, paper £5.25) reproduces the speeches of Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro, presented from the same platform in Matanzas in July 1991. *Dominican Republic: Beyond the Lighthouse*, by James Ferguson (London: Latin America Bureau, 1992, cloth £15.99, paper £5.99), is an *engagé*, snappily written introduction to the present-day realities of what the Dominican tourist board calls "the land Columbus loved best." Two moving, multi-authored, oral history documents, illustrated with period photographs, have come our way from the Caribbean diaspora: *The Caribbean at War: "British West Indians" in World War II* and *"Sorry, No Vacancies": Life Stories of Senior Citizens from the Caribbean* (London: Notting Dale Urban Studies Centre, 1992, paper £2.50 and £2, respectively). *The Mermaid Wakes: Paintings of a Caribbean Isle by Mr. Canute Caliste of Carriacou, Grenada* (London: Macmillan Caribbean, 1989, cloth £8.95) features captivating scenes of daily life (from whaling and cuadrilles to cricket and the killing of Maurice Bishop) by a self-taught artist. Finally, we have only now been sent Guillermo A. Baralt's *La Buena Vista 1833-1904: estancia de frutos menores, fábrica de harinas y hacienda cafetalera* (San Juan: Fideicomiso de Conservación de Puerto Rico, 1988, cloth US\$ 30.00), a visually attractive and scholarly study that, had we received it in more timely fashion, would have been sent out for normal review.

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