R. Price

S. Price

Bookshelf 1999

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BOOKSHELF 1999

It is our pleasure to announce that in this millennial issue, the annual Caribbeanist Hall of Shame has shrunk dramatically and includes but eleven scholars and fourteen books. As always, we list those works that, as of press time (January 2000), have not been discussed because the scholars who agreed to review them have – despite reminder letters – neither provided a text nor relinquished the books so that they could be assigned to someone else. (As has become our custom, we indicate slack reviewers' names with both initial and final letters, in an attempt to forestall false accusations and protect the reputations of the innocent.) And as in past years, we hope this may serve as a kind of backlist "books received":

The Americas in the Age of Revolution, 1750-1850, by Lester D. Langley (New Haven CT: Yale University Press, 1996, cloth US\$ 35.00), and *Sugar Island Slavery in the Age of Enlightenment: The Political Economy of the Caribbean World*, by Arthur L. Stinchcombe (Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, 1995, cloth US\$ 45.00) [C—n F—k];

Los Indios de las Antillas, by Roberto Cassá (Quito, Ecuador: Abya Yala, 1995, n.p.), and *Arqueología lingüística: Estudios modernos dirigidos al rescate y reconstrucción del arahuaco taíno*, by Manuel Álvarez Nazario (San Juan PR: Editorial de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, 1996, n.p.) [J—e O—r];

Economy and Environment in the Caribbean: Barbados and the Windwards in the Late 1800s, by Bonham C. Richardson (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1997, cloth US\$ 49.95) [H—y McD. B—s];

A Day for the Hunter, A Day for the Prey: Popular Music and Power in Haiti, by Gage Averill (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997, paper US\$ 17.95) [G—s F—t];

Sponsored Identities: Cultural Politics in Puerto Rico, by Arlene M. Dávila (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1997, paper US\$ 19.95) [C—d S—a];

- Gender and Nationalism in Colonial Cuba: The Travels of Santa Cruz y Montalvo, Condesa de Merlin*, by Adriana Méndez Rodenas (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1998, cloth US\$ 34.95), and *Impressions of Cuba in the Nineteenth Century: The Travel Diary of Joseph J. Dimock*, edited by Louis A. Pérez, Jr. (Wilmington DE: Scholarly Resources, 1998, paper US\$ 16.95) [R—é P—o];
- Puerto Rico: The Trials of the Oldest Colony in the World*, by José Trías Monge (New Haven CT: Yale University Press, 1997, cloth US\$ 37.50, paper US\$ 13.56) [L—s F—a];
- Caribbean Migration: Globalised Identities*, edited by Mary Chamberlain (New York: Routledge, 1998, cloth US\$ 80.00) [M—y C. W—s];
- Cubans in Puerto Rico: Ethnic Community and Cultural Identity*, by José A. Cobas & Jorge Duany (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1997, cloth US\$ 39.95) [X—r F. T—i];
- Cannibalism and the Colonial World*, edited by Francis Barker, Peter Hulme & Margaret Iverson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998, paper £13.95) [R—d G—e];
- The Dutch in the Atlantic Economy, 1580-1880: Trade, Slavery, and Emancipation*, by Pieter Emmer (Aldershot U.K.: Ashgate, 1998, cloth £49.50) [R—y B—a-S—e).

Literary works (including, of course, only those volumes that have been sent to the journal by their publishers) kick off the books which, for a variety of reasons, are not being given full reviews in the journal. As usual these days, the French Antilles leads in quantity. Raphaël Confiant, alone, contributes three new works. *La dernière java de Mama Josepha* (Paris: Mille et Une Nuits, 1999, paper 23 FF), is a “polar” built around the mysterious death of a Martiniquan-born Paris concière, with the residents in her Belleville apartment house – Beurettes, ambiguous Antillian chabines, Vietnamese, and others – the prime suspects, and with a Martiniquan-born police inspector carrying out the enquête. The ample doses of slang, sex, cruelty, and low-life makes the book a carnivalesque parody of the genre, overflowing with words, and perhaps meant to be read as a tour de force of signifying upon Chamoiseau’s *Solibo*. *Régisseur du rhum* (Paris: Ecriture, 1999, paper 125 FF), continues the somewhat cardboard, didactic *récit* about 1930s life in and around the canefields that Confiant began in *Commandeur du sucre* (1994). And in *L’archet du colonel* (Paris: Mercure de France, 1998, paper 110 FF), a novel that moves between the early nineteenth century (in Saint Lucia, Martinique, and Guadeloupe) and Martinique at the moment of the Tricentenaire in 1935, the usual Confiant themes abound (with a familiar mixing of fictional and historical figures), but the language seems more sober and dutiful – for us, it is less inspired

than his earlier work. In Maryse Condé's *Le coeur à rire et à pleurer: Contes vrais de mon enfance* (Paris: Robert Laffont, 1999, paper 89 FF), we find largely somber scenes from a childhood in bourgeois Guadeloupe, painted in colors that match rather faithfully the personality of the adult writer, with the occasional characteristic glimpse of humor. And Gisèle Pineau's *L'âme prêtée aux oiseaux* (Paris: Stock, 1998, paper 110 FF), visits women's memories of past loves in St. John, Liverpool, New York, Guadeloupe, and Paris.

Four French Antillian works have been published in English translation. Powerful, haunting, and appropriately opaque, *Black Salt: Poems by Édouard Glissant* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1998, paper US\$ 16.95), selections from 1947-79 translated and introduced by Betsy Wing, gives a sweeping introduction to Glissant's poetic project. *Land of Many Colors & Nanna-Ya*, by Maryse Condé, translated by Nicole Ball (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999, paper US\$ 12.00) presents two 1997 novellas that explore the complexity of recovering family histories, one in the French Caribbean, the other in the Jamaica of the Maroons. *Childhood*, by Patrick Chamoiseau (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1993, paper US\$ 15.00), is Carol Volk's lively translation of *Antan d'enfance*, the captivating memoir of Chamoiseau's earliest years. And *Chronicle of the Seven Sorrows* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1999, cloth US\$ 25.00), is Linda Coverdale's translation of *Chronique des sept misères*, Chamoiseau's début novel (1986), which we think remains his finest.

Moving into the Anglophone orbit, we find two collections of short stories. *Looking for Josephine*, by John Stewart (Toronto: TSAR, 1998, paper US\$ 13.56), deals with the bitter-sweet ironies of return – the middle-aged professor, long living in the United States, coming home to a village Trinidad that lives largely in memory; this is an honest, often moving meditation on aging, nostalgia, and a changing island. The four stories in Lasana M. Sekou's *Brotherhood of the Spurs* (St. Martin: House of Nehesi, 1997, US\$ 15.00) move from pre-colonial Ashanti to twentieth-century St. Martin, from cockfighting to a futuristic dream of a united and independent island. Sekou shifts genre in *Big Up St. Martin: Essay and Poem: Colony, Territory, or Partner? The Cubs are in the Field* (St. Martin: House of Nehesi, 1999) to make an impassioned yet reasoned plea for independence soon. In *Empress of the Splendid Season* (London: Bloomsbury, 1999, paper £6.99), Oscar Hijuelos depicts three decades of life among Cubans trying to make a go of it in post-World War II New York City.

The year's reissues and anthologies include George Lamming's *Season of Adventure* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1999 [orig. 1960], paper US\$ 17.95), one of the greatest Caribbean novels. This sprawling exploration of the confrontation between tradition and modernity joins Lamming's *In the Castle of My Skin*, *Natives of My Person*, *The Emigrants*,

and *The Pleasures of Exile* as Michigan paperback reprints. We also note with pleasure the paperback reissue of *The Pond (La Charca)*, by Manuel Zeno-Gandía (Princeton NJ: Markus Wiener, 1999, paper US\$ 16.95), the late nineteenth-century Puerto Rican realist novel, in the translation by Kal Wagenheim that was first published in 1982. In *A Haiti Anthology: Libète* (Kingston: Ian Randle; London: Latin American Bureau; Princeton NJ: Markus Wiener, 1999, paper US\$ 19.95), editors Charles Arthur and Michael Dash have put together an excellent selection of fragments of novels, poetry, social science, photo journalism, and literary criticism (plus useful bibliography) to paint the whole heart-wrenching panorama of Haitian history. *English Trader, Indian Maid: Representing Gender, Race, and Slavery in the New World: An Inle and Yarico Reader*, edited by Frank Felsenstein (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999, paper US\$ 17.95), presents a fine compilation of relevant texts – from Ligon's original version of the story through George Colman's comic opera to American and Caribbean versions – preceded by useful introductions. Finally, in a reissue of *Best Poems of Trinidad*, chosen by A.M. Clarke in 1943 (Dover MA: Majority Press, 1999, paper US\$ 10.95), Tony Martin presents this early anthology of Trinidadian poetry anew, followed by a 1998 interview with the original compiler.

On to works of literary criticism not otherwise reviewed in the journal. *The Poetics of Derek Walcott: Intertextual Perspectives*, edited by Gregson Davis (special issue of *The South Atlantic Quarterly*, spring 1997, vol. 96 no. 2) gathers a series of excellent essays, including the transcription of a talk by Walcott about *Omeros* and Romare Bearden. In *Countermodernism and Francophone Literary Culture: The Game of Slipknot* (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 1999, paper US\$ 18.95), Keith L. Walker offers a close (postcolonial) reading of the work of Aimé Césaire, Léon Gontran Damas, and Gérard Etienne (as well as several Francophone authors from beyond the Caribbean). *Rayonnants écrivains de la Caraïbe: Haiti, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyane: Anthologie et analyses*, by Régis Antoine (Paris: Maisonneuve & Larose, 1998, paper 148 FF), offers some one hundred snippets from some fifty authors, sandwiched together with mini-biographies and *explications de texte*. Michiel van Kempen's *Kijk vreesloos in de spiegel, Albert Helman 1903-1996: Notities, nota's, noteringen* (Amsterdam: In de Knipscheer, 1998, paper, NLG 25.00) is a carefully drawn portrait, by the most accomplished critic of Suriname literature, of Suriname's greatest writer, Lou Lichtveld/Albert Helman.

We have received a number of photo books. *Vodou: Visions and Voices of Haiti* (Berkeley: Ten Speed Press, 1998, paper US\$ 19.95), by photographer Phyllis Galembo, presents some of the most spectacular (albeit posed) photos ever taken of *vodouisants* – haunting and visionary, the images far outshine the text. *Cuba—Going Back*, by Tony Mendoza (Austin: University

of Texas Press, 1999, paper US\$ 22.95) is an unflinching account by a well-to-do Cuban-born photographer (currently teaching at Ohio State) who returned to his memory-island for a three-week visit after an absence of thirty-six years. Fine photos and informal interviews with people in many walks of life combine with the author's prose to project a resolute but honest anti-Castro picture. *Habaneros: Photographs of the People of Havana*, by Kenneth Treister (Miami: Ediciones Universal, 1997, cloth US\$ 29.95), presents stark b/w photos, taken during a 1997 visit, largely of once-grand single-family mansions now broken up into multi-family apartments – peeling paint, dark ruined interiors, and “impoverished people.” *Images of the Spanish-American War, April-August 1898*, by Stan Cohen (Missoula MT: Pictorial Histories, 1997, paper US\$ 29.95), celebrates “one of America's most popular conflicts” by presenting some eight hundred photos, drawings, news clippings, sheet music, and other memorabilia in scrap-book fashion, interspersed with a generally triumphalist text. *Martinique d'Antan* and *Guadeloupe d'Antan*, each by Anne & Hervé Chopin (Parma: HC Éditions, 1997 [99 FF] and 1998 [119 FF] respectively) present 170 (M) and 220 (G) postcards from the early twentieth century, illustrating numerous aspects of the way it used to be – street scenes, various *métiers*, natural wonders, and so on. *Des lettres en Guyane*, by Yves Bergeret & Hervé Bacquet (Paris: Passage d'encre, 1998, n.p.) offers evocative photos, ink drawings, poems, and *carnets de voyage* by two French artists in western Guyane. Their *Guyane: Des espaces et des hommes* (no place: Editions A Die – OCRG, 1998, 100 FF) presents an unfortunately superficial text combined with absolutely marvelous color photos of lived-in spaces and painted signs (mailboxes, woodcarving advertisements), especially by/of Maroons on the outskirts of St. Laurent. Finally, *Indiens de Guyane: Wayana et Wayampi de la forêt*, by Jean-Marcel Hurault and Francoise & Pierre Grenand (Paris: Autrement, 1998). Called by Claude Lévi-Strauss in his preface “un petit ‘trésor’ de l'ethnologie guyanaise,” this book, which regroups more than seventy of Hurault's black and white photos (dating from the 1940s to the 1960s) with texts by the Grenands, bears stunning witness to a world on the wane.

On to the realm of art. *Contemporary Art from Cuba: Irony and Survival on the Utopian Island/Arte Contemporáneo de Cuba: Ironía y sobrevivencia en la isla utópica* (New York: Delano Greenidge Editions, 1999, paper US\$ 35.00), edited by Marilyn A. Zeitlin and with substantive (bilingual) essays by Gerardo Mosquera, Tonel (Antonio Eligio Fernández), and Zeitlin, is the catalogue of an exhibition organized by the Arizona State University Art Museum and currently touring the United States, that presents the work of younger Cuban artists, aged 24-39 – an eye-opener! *Art in Barbados: What Kind of Mirror Image?*, by Alissandra Cummins, Allison Thompson & Nick Whittle (Kingston: Ian Randle, 1999, cloth n.p.), pub-

lished in association with the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, presents a valuable survey of modern and contemporary art in Barbados, from the 1930s to the present, discussing the work of more than one hundred artists, with copious color plates.

We have seen an unusual number of works that, in spite of being devoted only in part to the Caribbean, may be of interest to *NWIG* readers. *Savage Theory: Cinema as Modern Magic*, by Rachel O. Moore (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2000, paper US\$ 17.95), our first *NWIG*-reviewed book with a millennial date, is noteworthy here for its opening image: Clark Gable performing literal "cinematic magic" to counter the "voodoo" of the "Djukas" (actually, Matawais) in 1930s Suriname, as seen in MGM's *Too Hot to Handle*, winner of the 1938 Oscar for best film. The film presents one of the best examples anywhere of how far Hollywood went out of its way to coach exotic peoples to act like Tinseltown savages – in this case taking a large film crew to Dutch Guiana to teach Matawais to wear feathers and jewelry that might look more at home on the set of an Italian opera, to dance in caveman (as opposed to Maroon) fashion, to babble in a nonsense tongue, and to practice rites for the camera that had never been seen before or since, except in other Hollywood films (usually of Africa but perhaps also Haiti).

The African Diaspora: African Origins and New World Identities, edited by Isidore Okpewho, Carole Boyce Davies & Ali A. Mazrui (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999, cloth US\$ 59.95), presents thirty-three original essays, many by well-known scholars, representing various shades of opinion – from Afrocentric to Atlanticist – and including a number of Caribbean examples. *Blackness in Latin America and the Caribbean: Social Dynamics and Cultural Transformations* (Volume II: Eastern South America and the Caribbean), edited by Arlene Torres & Norman E. Whitten, Jr. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998, paper US\$ 24.95) brings together a rich selection of previously-published papers by a variety of scholars, living and dead, with introductory essays (and one new chapter) by the editors. *Identity and Struggle at the Margins of the Nation-State: The Laboring Peoples of Central America and the Hispanic Caribbean*, edited by Aviva Chomsky & Aldo Lauria-Santiago (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 1998, paper US\$ 21.95), brings together important essays on late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century bottom-up history, covering in its Caribbean chapters Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico. *Picturing Imperial Power: Colonial Subjects in Eighteenth-Century British Painting*, by Beth Fowkes Tobin (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 1999, paper US\$ 18.95) is a cultural studies-style exploration of the history of colonialism, including a provocative chapter on "Taxonomy and Agency in Brunias's West Indian Paintings." *Pan-Africanism and Its Detractors: A Response to Harvard's Race-Effacing*

Universalists, by Opoku Agyeman (Lewiston NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 1997, cloth US\$ 69.95) is an unrestrained Afrocentric diatribe directed at the thought of Kwame Anthony Appiah (particularly as expressed in his *In My Father's House*), with briefer forays against Harvard's Afro-American Studies Department and its *poteau-mitan*, the versatile Henry Louis Gates, Jr. *Plantation Societies in the Era of European Expansion*, edited by Judy Bieber (Brookfield VT: Ashgate, 1997, cloth US\$ 112.95) forms part of a projected thirty-one-volume set, under the general editorship of A.J.R. Russell-Wood; these collections of previously-published articles, reproduced by an off-set type process, preserve the original typefaces and formats of each article, essentially offering readers a set of bound photocopies for something over \$100. *Trade Conditions and Labor Rights: U.S. Initiatives, Dominican and Central American Responses*, by Henry J. Frundt (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1998, cloth US\$ 55.00) contains two (of thirteen total) chapters that focus on the Caribbean.

In *Monsters and Revolutionaries: Colonial Family Romance and Métissage* (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 1999, cloth US\$ 64.95, paper US\$ 21.95), Françoise Vergès explores the political history of Réunion in a powerful text that cries out for comparison with the French Antilles. *The Origins of American Slavery: Freedom and Bondage in the English Colonies*, by Betty Wood (New York: Hill & Wang, 1997, paper US\$ 18.00), relates the seventeenth-century English experiments with different forms of labor in St. Kitts and Barbados to those that took hold in the mainland colonies. *Green Guerrillas: Environmental Conflicts and Initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean*, edited by Helen Collinson (Montreal: Black Rose Books, 1997, paper US\$ 19.99) presents useful reflections on Caribbean environmental struggles from Barbados to Cuba. *Beneath the United States: A History of U.S. Policy Toward Latin America*, by Lars Schoultz (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1998, paper US\$ 19.95), is an even-handed overview that nevertheless serves as persuasive indictment of U.S. relations with its neighbors to the south, including those in the Caribbean. *Close Encounters of Empire: Writing the Cultural History of U.S.-Latin American Relations*, edited by Gilbert M. Joseph, Catherine C. Legrand & Ricardo D. Salvatore (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 1998, paper US\$ 19.95), is a theoretically ambitious work that includes chapters on Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. *US Imperialism in Latin America: Bryan's Challenges and Contributions, 1900-1920*, by Edward S. Kaplan (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1998, cloth US\$ 55.00), examines William Jennings Bryan's shift from advocacy of a "good neighbor policy" *avant la lettre* to the practice of "dollar diplomacy" (especially as regards Haiti and the Dominican Republic) once he became secretary of state in 1913. *Gobernar colonias*, by Josep M. Fradera (Barcelona: Ediciones Península, 1999, paper n.p.), gathers several histor-

ical essays, some previously published, reflecting on the nature of European – particularly Spanish – colonialism. In *Hidden Lives: Voices of Children in Latin America and the Caribbean* (London: Cassell, 1998, paper US\$ 18.95), activist author Duncan Green attempts to give voice to underclass children in five South American countries and Jamaica, which he visited during the course of 1995.

Tropicopolitans: Colonialism and Agency, 1688-1804, by Srinivas Aravamudan (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 1999, paper US\$ 20.95), is a highly theorized incursion into eighteenth-century European texts about the tropics, including a long chapter on *Oroonoko* (plus a couple of Stedman-Blake engravings) and an analysis of divergent readings of the figure of Toussaint. *Black Venus: Sexualized Savages, Primal Fears, and Primitive Narratives in French*, by T. Denean Sharpley-Whiting (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 1999, paper US\$ 17.95) is quintessential cultural studies, describing itself as “a unique theoretical blend of Fanonian and Morrisonian insights and feminist investigations of visibility, sexuality, and the cinema ... [arguing] that black women, embodying the dynamics of racial/sexual alterity, historically invoking *primal fears* and desire in European (French) men, represent ultimate difference (the *sexualized savage*) and inspire repulsion, attraction, and anxiety, which gave rise to the nineteenth-century collective French male imaginations of Black Venus (*primitive narratives*).” Peter Mason’s *Infelicitities: Representations of the Exotic* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998, cloth US\$ 39.95) presents a theory of the creation (and maintenance) of “the exotic,” including a number of early modern Caribbean examples. *Racial Politics in Contemporary Brazil*, edited by Michael Hanchard (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 1999, paper US\$ 17.95) will prove useful for comparative purposes to Caribbeanists. In *The Emperor’s Giraffe and Other Stories of Cultures in Contact* (Boulder CO: Westview Press, 1999, cloth US\$ 25.00), Samuel M. Wilson gathers brief essays (most previously published in the magazine *Natural History*) on culture contact, many set in the Caribbean and ranging from encounters between Columbus and Guacanagarí to the politics of contemporary West Indian cricket. *De bagage van Blomhoff en Van Breugel: Japan, Java, Tripoli en Suriname in de negentiende-eeuwse Nederlandse cultuur van het imperialisme*, by Susan Legêne (Amsterdam: Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen, 1998, paper NLG 59.00), is a theoretically ambitious, not-always-well-informed attempt to read the culture of Dutch nineteenth-century imperialism through the texts, images, and collections made by selected participants in the colonial venture in, among other parts of the far-flung empire, Suriname.

Turning to historical works for which we were unable to find (or did not solicit) reviewers, we begin with works of reference. Despite a distinguished editorial board, *The Historical Encyclopedia of World Slavery*,

edited by Junius P. Rodriguez (Santa Barbara CA: ABC Clio, 1997, 2 volumes, cloth \$195.00) disappoints in both coverage and accuracy. Choice of entries seems quite random. There are brief essays on Stanley Elkins but not Melville Herskovits or Fernando Ortiz, Elizabeth Fox-Genovese but not Sidney W. Mintz or Manuel Moreno Fraginals; there are no entries under Maroons or Resistance; the entry on Palmares gets the date of its conquest wrong and confuses Ganga Zumba with Zumbi; there is an entry on Trelawny Town Maroons but none on other Jamaica Maroons; there is an entry on Moravian slaves that makes no mention of the Danish Virgin Islands or Suriname. Overall, this work compares poorly to its recent competitors, the *Macmillan Encyclopedia of World Slavery* and Oxford's *A Historical Guide to World Slavery* (which were reviewed in "Bookshelf 1998"). Compiled by Michael Anthony, one of Trinidad's premier novelists, *Historical Dictionary of Trinidad and Tobago* (Lanham MD: The Scarecrow Press, 1997, cloth US\$ 84.00) is a six-hundred-plus-page, no-nonsense reference book aimed at highschool level and beyond, which is better on calypsonians than writers but contains a good deal of useful information (though the bibliography is weak). *Puerto Rico Past and Present: An Encyclopedia*, by Ronald Fernandez, Serafín Méndez Méndez & Gail Cueto (Westport CT: Greenwood, 1998, cloth US\$ 59.95) is a more impassioned work, aimed at mainland U.S. readers. It offers up-to-date supplementary readings at the end of each entry and provides a fine introduction to the island's history, personalities, and politics. It has a stronger voice than the Anthony volume, making it more fun to consult or simply read through.

Black Rebels: African-Caribbean Freedom Fighters in Jamaica, by Werner Zips (Princeton NJ: Markus Wiener; Kingston: Ian Randle, 1999, paper US\$ 22.95) is the English translation of a book first published in German in 1993 and favorably reviewed in *NWIG* 70:358-60. In the new foreword, Franklin W. Knight, surveying "the colonial societies of the European New World," mentions the existence of long-lived Maroon communities in Jamaica, Saint-Domingue, Brazil, and Ecuador (forgetting Suriname) and then offers up the astounding claim that "only in Jamaica did the Maroon communities survive until the political independence of the country" (viii). *The Rise of the Phoenix: The Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Society in Caribbean Economy and Society, 1840-1990*, by Cecilia Karch with Henderson Carter (Kingston: Ian Randle, 1997, paper n.p.) is a work of serious local business history set within the broader economic history of the West Indies. *The Dominican Republic: A National History*, by Frank Moya Pons (Princeton NJ: Markus Wiener, 1998, paper US\$ 21.95) appears to be a reprint edition of the 1994 English translation, revision, and extension of the author's 1992 foundational text, *Manual de historia dominicana*.

The past “commemorative” year in the French Antilles spawned diverse historical publications. In *D’une abolition, l’autre: Anthologie raisonnée de textes consacrés à la seconde abolition de l’esclavage dans les colonies françaises* (Marseille: Agone, 1998, paper 86 FF), Myriam Cottias presents a collection of some two hundred relevant texts, carefully chosen and introduced. *Dix semaines qui ébranlèrent la Martinique 25 mars-4 juin 1848*, by Édouard de Lépine (Paris: Maisonneuve & Larose, 1999, paper 130 FF), is at once witty, ironic, and polemical in trying to set straight some major controversies in Martiniquan historiography. De Lépine carefully dissects the relatively-recent but now widely accepted belief that on May 22, 1848, Martiniquan slaves liberated themselves days before the news of the Second Republic’s April 27 emancipation decree reached their shores. (He notes that many Martiniquans now seem to believe the events of May 22 caused those of April 27 and that they feel superior to, for example, Guadeloupeans on that basis.) In a land where, the author rightly claims, everyone now fancies himself a historian (or, we might add, an anthropologist), historical facts and context matter particularly, and de Lépine insists on placing Martiniquan events within the broader framework of both French colonial policy and emancipation struggles in other Caribbean societies. The book also includes chapters stressing other inter-Caribbean ties, for example the welcome that St. Lucians and Dominicans gave Martiniquan maroons during the decade and a half when their islands were free and Martiniquans were still enslaved (with a subtext about the ways Martiniquans today look down upon their poorer brethren from these neighboring, now independent societies). And it ends with a polemical and controversial analysis of the ongoing debate about the 1999 passage of a law in the French National Assembly solemnly declaring slavery to be a crime against humanity. All in all, there is much to ponder here for anyone interested in the recent politics of memory regarding slavery and emancipation in the island that de Lépine characterizes derisively as struggling to become “the world champion of ‘the duty to remember’.” Georges B. Mauvois’s *Un complot d’esclaves: Martinique 1831* (Lamentin, Martinique: Editions Les Pluriels de Psyché, 1998, paper, 120 FF) is a fine example of local history, a careful analysis of the historical minutiae surrounding the events of 1831 in and around St. Pierre, the most important city of the Lesser Antilles. By unraveling these events – which have sometimes been seen as a planter-driven protest against the instauration of the ideals of the July Monarchy – Mauvois argues the plausibility of an insurrection hatched by slaves and free coloreds and, in so doing, goes a long way toward demonstrating that the eventual emancipation of Martiniquan slaves was part of a long process of servile resistance, one too often forgotten in the current debates about this or that date for the commemoration of final emancipation.

Several miscellaneous publications on Cuba. *Investment in the New Cuban Tourist Industry: A Guide to Entrepreneurial Opportunities*, by Mark M. Miller & Tony L. Henthorne (Westport CT: Greenwood, 1997, cloth US\$ 59.95), is an upbeat how-to book for potential investors from the United States. *Cuba: Mensen, politiek, economie, cultuur*, by Emily Hatchwell & Simon Calder (Amsterdam: Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen, 1998, paper NLG 19.90), translates a 1995 English guidebook that provides a good overview of social life and history. We were unable to find reviewers for *From Welcomed Exiles to Illegal Immigrants: Cuban Migration to the U.S., 1959-1995*, by Felix Masud-Piloto (Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1996, cloth US\$ 53.50, paper US\$ 21.00), *Cubans and the Mass Media in South Florida*, by Gonzalo R. Soruco (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996, cloth US\$ 39.95), and two books that give gripping evidence of how close we came to a shooting war in 1962 – *The Kennedy Tapes: Inside the White House During the Cuban Missile Crisis*, edited by Ernest R. May & Philip D. Zelikow (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 1997, paper US\$16.95), and *Missiles in Cuba: Kennedy, Khrushchev, Castro and the 1962 Crisis*, by Mark J. White (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 1997, paper US\$ 12.95).

Two on religion. *Decolonizing Theology: A Caribbean Perspective*, by Noel Leo Erskine (Trenton NJ: Africa World Press, 1998, paper US\$ 19.95) is a revision of this Jamaica-born theologian's 1981 book of the same name. *Winti Culture: Mysteries, Voodoo and Realities of an Afro-Caribbean Religion in Suriname and The Netherlands*, by Henri J.M. Stephen (Amsterdam: Henri J.M. Stephen, 1998, paper n.p.), a version of the self-taught author's several similar books in Dutch intended to introduce Afro-Suriname folk religion to a broader audience, also contains some materials that will be of interest to specialists.

Continuing in the (former) Dutch colonial orbit, *Wraak der wijsheid: Het verlangen van Suriname*, by Theo Para (Amsterdam: De Bezige Bij, 1998, paper NLG 22.50), presents a critical analysis of the political history of Suriname since the 1980 coup, arguing the enormous (and very much ongoing) destructive influence of Desi Bouterse on the well-being of the country. *Dede pikiña ku su bisina: Papiamentu-Nederlands en de onverwerkt verleden tijd*, by Florimon van Putte (Zutphen, Netherlands: Walburg Pers, 1999, paper NLG 24.50), is an analysis, and a history, of the political struggle for the use of Papiamentu as language of instruction in Netherlands Antilles schools. *Catalogus Collectie Antilliana* (The Hague: Dienst Bibliotheek en Archief, 1998, paper NLG n.p.) is the printed card catalog of more than 4000 works on the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba (including all disciplines plus fiction, poetry, and videos) at the public library of The Hague.

Some miscellaneous works worth mention: *A Guide to the Birds of the West Indies*, by Herbert Raffaele, James Wiley, Orlando Garrido, Allan

Keith & Janis Raffaele, with illustrations by Tracy Pederson & Kristin Williams (Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998, cloth US\$ 49.50), is the first comprehensive field guide in sixty years devoted to the birds of the Caribbean (including all the islands from the Bahamas through the Greater and Lesser Antilles plus San Andrés and Providencia – excluding only Trinidad and Tobago, the A.B.C. islands, and Margarita, whose bird life so closely resembles the nearby continent). It is a masterpiece of the genre, covering 564 species, with locality checklists, special sections on conservation, and myriad color plates. In *Grammaire du Créole Martiniquais en 50 leçons* (Paris: L'Harmattan, 1999, paper 128.70 FF in Martinique), Pierre Pinalie and Jean Bernabé help French speakers translate their native tongue into Creole phrases through careful attention to the intricacies of word order, parts of speech, grammatical rules, and the key role of punctuation to dispel ambiguities (pp. 29, 65 *et passim*); readers learn, for example, that the hyphen is what will allow them to distinguish *fanm kouyon tala* (“that idiotic woman”) from *fanm kouyon-tala* (“the wife of that idiot”) in this largely oral language. Two vibrant collections – featuring essays on theater, popular culture, language, and identity, plus varied contemporary poetry – from the Rockefeller Foundation-sponsored University of Puerto Rico annual symposia: *Segundo simposio de Caribe 2000: Hablar, nombrar, pertenecer*, edited by Lowell Fiet & Janette Becerra (San Juan PR: University of Puerto Rico, 1998), and *Caribe 2000, simposio III: Un convite de poetas y teatreros: Voz y performance en la(s) cultura(s) caribeña(s)*, edited by Lowell Fiet & Janette Becerra (San Juan PR: University of Puerto Rico, 1999). *Guyana, the Lost El Dorado: A Report on my Work and Life Experience in Guyana, 1925-1980*, by Matthew French Young (Leeds: Peepal Tree Press, 1998, paper £12.99), is a memoir of a lifetime spent in the interior of Guyana as diamond prospector, plantation overseer, planter, explorer, gold-digger, rubber-tapper, line-cutter, surveyor, road-builder, artist, hunter, and much else – ending with his eye-witness account of the immediate aftermath of the Jonestown massacre. *The Life of Una Marson, 1905-65*, by Delia Jarret-Macauley (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1998, cloth £19.99), is a straightforward biography of this Jamaica-born feminist, poet, social reformer, and BBC journalist who spent much of her career in England, the United States, and Israel. *The Caribbean: History, Politics, and Culture* (1998), by Thomas G. Mathews, collects this historian's previously-published pieces (1952-97) on the region; there is neither a place of publication, a publisher, or a price. Finally, a most idiosyncratic and Afrocentric work, Diane M. Spivey's *The Peppers, Cracklings, and Knots of Wool Cookbook: The Global Migration of African Cuisine* (Albany: SUNY Press, 1999, cloth US\$ 29.50), which – amidst imaginative recipes ranging from “Incendiary Vaginas” to “Atalpa Uchu” – argues for the diffusion of

African foodways to pre-Columbian Olmecs and on to Chavin, as well as to Dravidian India, the Khmers, and well beyond.

Policy books have often been tough to get reviewed and we have come up short for the following. Despite contributions by a number of well-known authorities, several reviewers declined to take on *Caribbean Public Policy: Regional, Cultural, and Socioeconomic Issues for the 21st Century*, edited by Jacqueline Anne Braveboy-Wagner & Dennis J. Gayle (Boulder CO: Westview Press, 1997, cloth US\$ 69.00). *Latin America and the Caribbean: Prospects for Democracy*, edited by William Gutteridge (Brookfield VT: Ashgate, 1997, cloth US\$ 72.95), is a reader collecting previously published essays, including four on the Caribbean – by Tony Thorndike & George K. Danns, Desmond Thomas & William Gutteridge, and Antoni Kapcia (two, on Cuba). *Policy Reform for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean*, edited by Michele Garrity & Louis A. Picard (Amsterdam: IOS Press, 1996, paper n.p.), focuses on structural adjustment in Jamaica and Trinidad with contributions that were first presented at a 1994 symposium in Jamaica. *Accounting Services and Growth in Small Economies: Evidence from the Caribbean Basin*, by David L. McKee, Don E. Garner & Yosra AbuAmara McKee (Westport CT: Quorum Books, 1998, cloth US\$ 65.00), is a survey of accounting services in the Commonwealth Caribbean, the Hispanic Caribbean, and selected French and Dutch jurisdictions.

Other books grew into “Bookshelf” entries as we sought reviewers and were repeatedly turned down, and we merely note them here: *Radical Caribbean: From Black Power to Abu Bakr*, by Brian Meeks (Barbados: The Press University of the West Indies, 1996, paper US\$ 12.00); *Assimilation / Generation / Resurrection: Contrapuntal Readings in the Poetry of José Lezama Lima*, by Ben A. Heller (Lewisburg PA: Bucknell University Press, 1997, cloth US\$ 35.00); *Una utopia inconclusa: Espaillat y el liberalismo dominicano del siglo XIX*, by Mu-kien Adriana Sang (Santo Domingo: Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo, 1997, paper n.p.); *Der Wille zur Nation: Nationsbildung und Entwürfe nationaler Identität in der Dominikanischen Republik*, by Frauke Gewecke (Frankfurt am Main: Vervuert, 1996, paper n.p.); *Imperiale Gegenwelten: Haiti in den französischen Text- und Bildmedien (1848-1870)*, by C. Hermann Middelanis (Frankfurt am Main: Vervuert, 1996, paper n.p.); and *Women Plantation Workers: International Experiences*, edited by Shobita Jain & Rhoda Reddock (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998, paper US\$ 14.99).

We end on a musical note. *World Music: The Rough Guide*, edited by Simon Broughton, Mark Ellingham, David Muddyman & Richard Trillo (New York: Penguin, 1995, paper US\$ 22.95) includes one large chapter on Caribbean sounds, divided into eight sections (from “Cuba” through “Zouk Takeover” to “Ska and Reggae Developments in Britain”). As with other

types of guidebooks, it's hard not to wince at mistranslations, garbled history, and stereotypes – of which this book has plenty – but there's also an awful lot of rough musical history and a good discography that makes it a lively read. *De man met de piccolo: Biografie over zijn vader Eddy Snijders*, by Ronald Snijders (The Hague: Conserve, 1998, paper NLG 29.95) chronicles the musical life and times (1923-90) of this composer, flautist, and trumpeter in classical orchestra, military band, and Suri-Latin *conjunto*. Tim de Wolf's *Discography of Music from the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, Including a History of the Local Recording Studios* (Zutphen, Netherlands: Walburg Pers, 1999, NLG 39.50), a labor of love spiced with period photos, is a model of the genre – we learn about everything from the continuing *mariachi* tradition in the tiny Aruban village of Sabaneta (where 1930s Mexican sound films first inspired the Van der Linden family to create an Antillian version) to the better-known artists and labels of Curaçao. Finally, Rounder Records has released five rich and wonderful CDs in the "Caribbean Voyage" series of the Alan Lomax Collection (1962), under the general editorship of Kenneth Bilby and Morton Marks – *Caribbean Sampler* (with notes by Kenneth Bilby & Morton Marks), 1999; *Dominica – Creole Crossroads* (with notes by Morton Marks & Kenneth Bilby), 1999; *East Indian Music in the West Indies* (with notes by Peter Manuel), 1999; *Carriacou Calaloo* (with notes by Lorna McDaniel & Donald R. Hill), 1999; and *Brown Girl in the Ring: Game and Play Songs*, 1997 – each a treasure in its own right.

RICHARD & SALLY PRICE
 Anse Chaudière
 97217 Anses d'Arlet
 Martinique
 <rixsal@wm.edu>