BOOKSHELF 2004

The longer we're in this game, the more we're tempted to classify people according to their replies when we invite them to review books. At the bottom of the hierarchy are those who say yes, receive the review copy, and are – at least in terms of the business at hand – never heard of again. A close second are those who simply never reply to the invitation – no “yes,” no “no,” no suggestions for someone else to contact. Given how long it takes to email a “no thanks,” this strikes us the height of collegial discourtesy. It's in this context that we so deeply appreciate colleagues who do send in their reviews, whether promptly or just under the wire. As in past issues, we take this opportunity to convey our gratitude, and that of our readers, for their faithful contributions to the journal.

In this same vein, we are pleased to announce that this year's Caribbeanist Hall of Shame includes only six delinquents – six books that cannot be discussed in the journal because the scholars who agreed to review them have, despite reminder letters, neither provided a text nor relinquished the books so that we could assign them 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.

- *Slavery Without Sugar: Diversity in Caribbean Economy and Society Since the 17th Century*, edited by Verene A. Shepherd (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2002. ix + 284 pp., paper US\$ 59.95) (R—d A. L—I)
- *The West Indians of Costa Rica: Race, Class and the Integration of an Ethnic Minority*, by Ronald N. Harpelle (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001. xx + 238 pp., cloth US\$ 70.00) (E—d T. G—n)
- *The Sugar Industry and the Abolition of the Slave Trade, 1775-1810*, by Selwyn H.H. Carrington (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2002. ix + 362 pp., cloth US\$ 59.95) (C—r L. B—n)
- *More Than Black: Afro-Cubans in Tampa*, by Susan D. Greenbaum (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2002. 383 pp., cloth US\$ 55.00) (F—x M—d-P—o)

- *Witchcraft and Welfare: Spiritual Capital and the Business of Magic in Modern Puerto Rico*, by Raquel Romberg (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2003. xxviii + 315 pp., paper US\$ 24.95) (S—n G—y)
- *Encumbered Cuba: Capital Markets and Revolt, 1878-1895*, by Susan J. Fernandez (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2002. ix + 203 pp., cloth US\$ 59.95) (L—n G—a)

It is our custom to begin our annual review with literary works (which by tradition do not receive full reviews in the *NWIG*). For a change, we start with works in English. Derek Walcott offers up another rich gift, *The Prodigal* (New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004, cloth US\$ 20.00), jacket graced with his watercolor of a rural Saint Lucian street scene, contents roaming around the broader Atlantic world, from Greenwich Village to Cartagena to the church spires and train stations of Europe and back again to the dolphins and angels of his beloved Caribbean – a joy. *It Falls into Place* (London: Papillotte Press, 2004, paper £7.99) brings together for the first time the shorter fiction of Phyllis Shand Alfrey, which moves between London, New York, and her native Dominica, and delicately mixes a hard-nosed gaze on colonialism with West Indian humor. *The Poetry of Slavery: An Anglo-American Anthology, 1764-1865* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003, paper US\$ 29.95), edited by Marcus Wood, offers a startlingly varied (and consistently interesting) compendium of works ranging from those by canonical authors to now-forgotten figures, black and white. The Macmillan Caribbean Writers Series (Oxford: Macmillan Caribbean) has produced several winners: in *The Annihilation of Fish and Other Stories* (2004, paper £4.95), veteran Jamaican novelist Anthony C. Winkler spins out some lively, belly-laugh-inducing short stories with his trademark sense of the absurd, set among islanders living at home and abroad, and *Dancing Nude in the Moonlight* (2004, paper £5.50) is Antiguan novelist Joanne C. Hillhouse's exploration of the lives of immigrants from the Dominican Republic in Antigua. That same series has also reprinted a trio of novels: *The Humming-Bird Tree*, by Ian McDonald (2004, £5.95), a 1969 award-winning Trinidadian work; *Brown Face, Big Master* (2003, paper £7.95), a 1969 work by Jamaican Joyce Gladwell; and *Brother Man* (2004, paper £4.95), Roger Mais's classic novel in praise of Rastafari, reissued exactly fifty years after its first publication. Wilson Harris works his special magic in two recent books, *The Dark Jester* (London: Faber & Faber, 2001, paper £9.99), yet another remarkable meditation upon history by the Guyanese master, this time bringing together conquest, empire, dreams, and memory, with the ghostly figure of Atahualpa, "the doomed Inca," always hovering nearby. And *The Mask of the Beggar* (London: Faber & Faber, 2003, cloth £16.99) begins with Odysseus's disguise upon returning at last to Ithaca, his mask fissured with Chinese, Indian, African, and European face-parts peeking through, and Quetzalcoatl and other unexpected characters

(from Trotsky to Van Gogh) making appearances in an imaginary Caribbean-Guyanese seaport called Harbourn town that becomes the setting for wide-ranging ruminations on the nature of art.

Meanwhile, in a very different vein, *The Island: Martinique* (Washington DC: National Geographic, 2003, cloth US\$ 20.00), by John Edgar Wideman, is the lightly tossed-off, self-indulgent work of a major novelist that could have had just about any location in the Caribbean as the subtitle. One learns something about Wideman and the way life looks to him as he approaches sixty, but precious little about Martinique – hardly surprising since he seems to have spent most of his brief time there playing around in bed with his new French companion.

Edwige Danticat once again shows her spell-binding talents in *The Dew Breaker* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004, cloth US\$ 22.00), creating an interwoven series of powerful, heart-breaking tales of the Duvalier years and their imprint on the lives of Haitians at home and abroad that bear witness to the horrors of totalitarianism. Two welcome translations from French: Lyonel Trouillot's *Street of Lost Footsteps* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003, paper US\$ 16.95), searing yet lyrical prose recounting Haiti's nightmare and hopes, and Gisèle Pineau's *Exile According to Julia* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2004, paper US\$ 17.95), by one of Guadeloupe's (and the Caribbean's) most interesting emerging novelists.

Still in the Anglophone zone, we'd like to mention a terrific documentary film which we previewed recently in São Paulo, in the presence of Lord Superior: *Calypso Dreams*, directed by Geoffrey Dunn & Michael Horne (www.calypsodreams.com). It's filled with rare historical footage of great calypsonians, as well as touching conversations between Sparrow, Calypso Rose, and many others. Great sound track, guaranteed enjoyment.

Four works of literary criticism not otherwise reviewed in our pages. Fabian Adekunle Badejo's *Salted Tongues: Modern Literature in St. Martin* (Philipsburg, St. Martin: House of Nehesi, 2003, paper US\$ 15.00), is a long-needed introduction to the St. Martin literary and publishing scene. *Vanguardia Latinoamericana: Historia, crítica y documentos*, by Gilberto Mendonça Teles & Klaus Müller-Bergh (Madrid: Iberoamericana, 2002, paper € 24.00) is a rather strangely conceived Spanish-language anthology of works from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and French Guiana that are said to represent the twentieth-century "vanguardia": Carpentier, Lezama Lima, Ballagas, Césaire (and a bit of Glissant), Saint-John Perse, and so on. *Black Subjects: Identity Formation in the Contemporary Narrative of Slavery*, by Arlene R. Keizer (Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press, 2004, paper US\$ 18.95), is a theoretically sophisticated and engaging analysis of diasporic literature, two of whose chapters consider Paule Marshall's *The Chosen Place*, *The Timeless People* and Walcott's *Dream on Monkey Mountain*. Michelle M. Wright's *Becoming Black: Creating Identity*

in the *African Diaspora* (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2004, paper US\$ 22.95), also theoretically sophisticated, with a strong feminist undertone, treats the historical engagements of writers and thinkers from the United States, Europe, and the Caribbean with black subjectivity.

There is a miscellany of works for which we were unable to find willing reviewers (in one case after six attempts), including a book that won the prestigious Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis Award for Caribbean Scholarship – *La ayuda militar como negocio: Estados Unidos y el Caribe*, by Humberto García Muñiz & Gloria Vega Rodríguez (San Juan: Ediciones Callejón, 2002, paper US\$ 22.50). Others are *Idioma, bilingüismo, y nacionalidad: La presencia del Inglés en Puerto Rico*, by Roamé Torres-González (San Juan: Editorial de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, 2002, paper n.p.); *Haitian-Dominican Counterpoint*, by Eugenio Matibag (New York: Palgrave, 2003, cloth US\$ 55.00); *Talking Rhythm Stressing Tone: The Role of Prominence in Anglo-West African Creole Languages*, by Hubert Devonish (Kingston: Arawak, 2002, paper US\$ 20.00); *The European Union and the Commonwealth Caribbean*, edited by Stephen J.H. Dearden (Hampshire U.K.: Ashgate, 2002, cloth US\$ 69.95); *Black Heretics, Black Prophets: Radical Political Intellectuals*, by Anthony Bogues (New York: Routledge, 2003, paper US\$ 22.95); *Democracy Delayed: The Case of Castro's Cuba*, by Juan J. López (Baltimore MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002, cloth US\$ 42.50); *A Fierce Hatred of Injustice: Claude McKay's Jamaica and His Poetry of Rebellion* (New York: Verso, 2000, cloth US\$ 25.00), Winston James's masterful analysis of the poet's early years in Jamaica and his pioneering use of Jamaican Creole, as well as an anthology of his early poems; and *This Land is Our Land: Immigrants and Power in Miami*, by Alex Stepick, Guillermo Grenier, Max Castro & Marvin Dunn (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003, paper US\$ 19.95), a penetrating, accessible overview of the ongoing remaking of Miami.

Two colleagues who fell ill when their reviews were in the pipeline had to focus fully on their health; in citing the titles they would have written about, we wish them both a complete and speedy recovery: *Creating Their Own Space: The Development of an Indian-Caribbean Musical Tradition*, by Tina K. Ramnarine (Kingston: University of the West Indies Press, 2001, paper US\$ 25.00), and *A History of St Kitts: The Sweet Trade*, by Vincent K. Hubbard (Oxford: Macmillan Education, 2002, paper £17.95).

We move now from the general toward the specific. *Challenging the Boundaries of Slavery*, by David Brion Davis (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 2003, cloth US\$ 18.95), an expansion of three lectures delivered at Harvard, is a wide-ranging exploration of its subject. The opening chapter on the origins and nature of New World slavery, perhaps the single best introduction we have ever read, includes such well-chosen nuggets as "By 1820, at least ten million African slaves had arrived in the New World,

as opposed to a grand total of two million Europeans.” *Introduction to the Pan-Caribbean*, edited by Tracey Skelton (London: Hodder Arnold, 2004, paper £19.99), is a slim geography textbook, designed for who-knows-what readership, which consistently misspells Herskovits. *Central Africans and Cultural Transformations in the American Diaspora*, edited by Linda M. Heywood (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002, paper US\$ 23.00), an essential compilation for historically minded Caribbeanists, particularly in its African background chapters, also includes several chapters on Haiti and one on Guyana. In *Slavery on the Frontiers of Islam*, edited by Paul Lovejoy (Princeton NJ: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2004, paper US\$ 69.95), only two chapters are devoted to the Americas, one by David Trotman on nineteenth-century Muslims in Trinidad, the other a broad survey by Lovejoy himself. *Brothers and Strangers: Black Zion, Black Slavery, 1914-1940*, by Ibrahim Sundiata (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2003, paper US\$ 24.95) is an impressive scholarly treatment of modern Liberian history, set firmly within the Atlantic world, that devotes a number of pages to Garvey’s UNIA and its decisive role. The fifty or so pages on Garvey are the only substantial Caribbean links in Wilson Jeremiah Moses’s *Creative Conflict in African American Thought: Frederick Douglass, Alexander Crummell, Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Marcus Garvey* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004, paper US\$ 23.99). Finally, George Reid Andrews’s *Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004, paper US\$ 19.95), a lively historical synthesis of the broader region, includes only Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic within its Caribbean purview.

Several books on Cuba: *The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics*, edited by Aviva Chomsky, Barry Carr & Pamela Maria Smorkaloff (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2003, paper US\$ 26.95), spans five hundred years of Cuban history (though focusing, appropriately, on the past century or so), presenting poems, paintings, photos, cartoons, and diverse academic articles to provide an excellent introduction to the island and its people. *Entrevistas cubanas: Historias de una nación dividida* (Jefferson NC: McFarland, 2004, paper US\$ 29.95), with text by Felipe Arocena and photos by William Noland, offers a down-to-earth panorama of Cubans at home and in Miami today. *Cómo llegó la noche: Memorias*, by Huber Matos (Barcelona: Tusquets Editores, 2002, paper € 23.08), is a memoir by one of Cuba’s most famous political prisoners, Castro’s 1959 brother-in-arms who served a twenty-year sentence and now lives abroad. *Cuba Today and Tomorrow: Reinventing Socialism* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2000, paper US\$ 24.95), by Max Azicri, examines the creative adjustments made by the Cuban regime during the 1990s to deal with post-Soviet realities. *The Cuban Way: Capitalism, Communism and Confrontation* (West Hartford CT: Kumarian Press, 1999, paper US\$ 21.95), by economist Ana Julia Jatar-Hausmann, looks at the same period, focusing more on the impacts of change on real people. *Haydee*

Santamaría, edited by Betsy Maclean (Melbourne, Australia: Ocean Press, 2003, paper US\$ 11.95), is a series of reminiscences written as homage to this *guerrillera*, arts activist, and first director of the Casa de las Américas. Finally, the *Che Guevara Reader* (Melbourne, Australia: Ocean Press, 2003, paper US\$ 23.95) is here published in a second, expanded edition, edited by David Deutschmann.

Cuban Cinema Classics is a five-volume set (three films per volume), available on DVD or video, featuring a series of classic Cuban documentaries made by Cuba's national film institute (ICAIC) during the revolutionary period. They have been selected, organized into thematic volumes and subtitled in English by Ann Marie Stock, who has also interviewed some of the filmmakers and included these in the series. Each a little gem and excellent for classroom use, the films are *Newsreel 49*, *For the First Time*, *Dolly Back, Now!*, *LBJ*, *Prayer for Marilyn Monroe*, *The Art of Cigars*, *Aesthetics*, *King of the Jungle*, *Looking for Chano Pozo*, *Omara*, *I Am the Song I Sing: Bola de Nieve*, and *The Hands and the Angel: Emiliano Salvador*. The Cuban Cinema Classics series is available, for US\$ 99.00 per volume, through <www.wm.edu/cubancinemaclassics>.

A handful of varied reference works: *The Caribbean Multilingual Dictionary of Flora, Fauna and Food in English, French, French Creole and Spanish*, by Jeannette Allsopp (Kingston: Arawak Publications, 2003, paper US\$ 50.00) is a serious attempt at an improbable lexicographical goal; it's fun to read, but with much to argue about – for example, it confuses Bajan *cou-cou* (made with cornmeal and okra) with French Creole *migan* (typically made with breadfruit and salt pork). *Notable Caribbeans and Caribbean Americans: A Bibliographic Dictionary*, by Serafin Méndez-Méndez & Gail A. Cueto (Westport CT: Greenwood Press, 2003, cloth US\$ 74.95), offers some 160 celebratory mini-portraits of athletes, musicians, writers, politicians, and others, in which Frantz Fanon rubs shoulders with J.Lo, and Tim Duncan with Wifredo Lam (whose name is consistently misspelled), and Guadeloupe's inimitable "gazelle," Marie-José Pérec, is listed under Martinique. *African Caribbeans: A Reference Guide*, edited by Alan West-Durán (Westport CT: Greenwood Press, 2003, cloth US\$ 54.95) is an odd work with an unclear audience – despite its "Afro" title, it is organized by island, many of which simply give a historical-political-cultural overview, usually in fifteen pages or so, without any special reference to "African Caribbeans." *Cuban Music from A to Z*, by Cuban musicologist Helio Orovio (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2004, paper US\$ 24.95), presents over 1,300 entries and 150 illustrations on the performers, genres, instruments, and history of Cuban music – a very useful guide. Olive Senior's monumental *Encyclopedia of Jamaican Heritage* (St. Andrew, Jamaica: Twin Guinep Publishers, 2003, cloth US\$ 75.00), singlehandedly compiled by a leading Jamaican folklorist and writer, is a labor of love, filled with useful mini-essays, accessibly writ-

ten, nicely illustrated, and suitable for school and public libraries – as well as Caribbeanists – anywhere.

Three sports histories that illuminate more than sports. In *A Nation Imagined: First West Indies Test Team: The 1928 Tour* (Kingston: Ian Randle, 2003, paper US\$ 24.95), Hilary McD Beckles carefully chronicles the long buildup and then every imaginable detail culled from newspapers, photo archives, and oral testimony about the groundbreaking tour of England, as part of the commemoration of seventy-five years of Windies Test matches and their impact on regional solidarity. *Historia di baseball di Aruba e prome añanan: Di “Bomba” pa XIII Serie Mundial di Baseball Amateur*, by Clyde R. Harms with Efraim “Boei” Brion & Don Juan Perez (Oranjestad, Aruba: Clyde R. Harms, paper n.p.), goes from “bomba,” a kind of local stickball played in the 1930s, to the impact of World War II, through the participation of the Aruban team in the World Series of Amateur Baseball held in Havana in 1952, with myriad photos, boxscores, and other baseball trivia – all in Papiamentu. *Cuban Baseball: A Statistical History, 1878-1961*, by Jorge S. Figueredo (Jefferson NC: McFarland, 2003, cloth US\$ 45.00.), written by a Cuban sportswriter who worked both in Cuba and the United States, is heavily illustrated and filled with data – team rosters and standings year-by-year, all-time records, you name it.

A couple of welcome re-editions: *Main Currents in Caribbean Thought: The Historical Evolution of Caribbean Society in its Ideological Aspects, 1492-1900* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004, paper US\$ 22.00), by Gordon K. Lewis, reprints (now with a new introduction by Anthony P. Maingot) this classic of Caribbean historiography, originally published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 1983, and *Montserrat: History of a Caribbean Colony*, by Howard A. Fergus (Oxford: Macmillan Caribbean, 2004, paper £17.95), is the second edition of this 1994 book (see the favorable review in NWIG 70-3/4 [1996]), significantly revised to take into account, for example, the devastating volcanic eruption of 1995.

A pair on Jamaica: *Language in Jamaica*, by Pauline Christie (Kingston: Arawak, 2003, paper US\$ 15.00), is a brief introduction for general readers to the language situation on the island today. And *Bob Marley: The Man and His Music*, edited by Eleanor Wint & Carolyn Cooper (Kingston: Arawak, 2003, paper US\$ 20.00), includes selected papers from the 1995 UWI conference, “Marley’s Music: Reggae, Rastafari, and Jamaican Culture,” that marked the fiftieth anniversary of the singer’s birth.

There are more than the usual share of Suriname-related publications. *A Mercenary’s Tale*, by Karl Penta (London: John Blake Publishing, 2002, cloth £15.99), reveals that this British helpmeet of Ronnie Brunswijk didn’t much like Maroon cooking (“a plate of rice with a piece of foul-smelling meat on top in a sauce that tasted like Castrol GTX motor oil”) or the large pots containing the severed heads and other body parts of government soldiers

that were used in the Jungle Commandos' "voodoo" ceremonies, but he does serve up an outsider's sensationalist view of numerous incidents in the Suriname civil war. *Clarence Seedorf: De biografie*, by sportswriter Simon Zwartkruis (Antwerp: Houtekiet, 2003, cloth € 15.00), will be of interest to fans of Dutch and Suriname football (soccer). *Tree of Forgetfulness (Boom der vergetelheid, L'arbre de l'oubli, A bon fu frigiti): Memories of the African Diaspora*, by Laura Samsom Rous & Hans Samsom (Amsterdam: KIT, 2003, paper € 29.50), is a coffee-table book with very little text, showing photos from Benin, Suriname, and the Netherlands, and suggesting that "Dahomey" was the source of Suriname's Maroons – who in the world is this meant for?! *Surinam: Switi Sranan*, by Toon Fey (Amsterdam: KIT, 2003, paper € 37.50) is a well-meaning and predictable coffee-table book with a consistently feel-good message – but do we need more ordinary photobooks about the country? *Caribbean Talk: 1000 Proverbs and Sayings from the Afro-Caribbean Diaspora*, by Julian H.A. Neijhorst (Paramaribo: Julian H.A. Neijhorst, 2003, paper € 10.00), is a homespun celebratory miscellany, published on the occasion of Suriname's hosting of Carifesta, drawing on diverse sources and providing English translations. *Over 'natuurgenooten' en 'onwillige honden': Beeldvorming als instrument voor uitbuiting en onderdrukking in Suriname 1842-1862*, by Patricia D. Gomes (Amsterdam: Aksant, 2003, paper € 14.50), is a provocative analysis of the battles about slave emancipation, as seen through representations and stereotypes, in the Netherlands and Suriname. *Susanna du Plessis: Portret van een slavenmeesteres*, by Hilde Neus-van der Putten (Amsterdam: KIT, 2003, paper € 21.50), adds new information to the polemics about this woman which were launched in print by John Gabriel Stedman during her lifetime, and which continue in various publications today; interested readers should see Wim Hoogbergen's review in *Oso* 2004, pp. 184-87. Finally, there is *Elizabeth Samson, Forbidden Bride*, by Carolyn Procter (Las Vegas NV: Joshua Tree, 2004, paper US\$ 17.95), an earnest first novel by a former U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Suriname. Trying to do far too many things at once, this work, set during the height of the Maroon wars, packs in – often word for word – dozens of eighteenth-century incidents taken from *Stedman's Surinam*, *Frontier Society*, *To Slay the Hydra*, and other well-known works on the colony (not to mention Cynthia McLeod's 1993 *Elizabeth Samson*). In our view it is tedious and unsuccessful as literature.

'*Trouw aan de blanken*': *Quassie van Nieuw Timotibo, twist en strijd in de 18de eeuw in Suriname*, by Frank Dragenstein (Amsterdam: KIT, 2004, paper € 12.50), is a welcome little book, published under the auspices of the recently established NiNsee (Nationaal Instituut Nederlands Slavernijverleden en Erfenis, "National Institute for the History and Heritage of Dutch Slavery"). It is cast in the mode of a straightforward, narrative history, as if written for a high-school-level readership. Compiling and condensing much of the previously published materials on Quassie, surely one of the most fascinating

Surinamers of the eighteenth century (who, among other things, discovered the medicinal properties of the plant later named after him, *Quassia amara* – consistently misspelled in this book), it also adds new bits and pieces from the archives. In our view, the book nevertheless suffers from a bias against oral history and from an old-fashioned, and methodologically suspect search for African equivalents in words and names. Indeed, there is considerable irony in the combination of Dragenstein's attempt to write politically correct history and his insistence on calling the Saramaka leader Ayako by a name (Quakoe) that he derives from written documents (and that, to make matters worse, refers to an entirely different person). In other words, Dragenstein's disdain for oral history (including details confirmed repeatedly by archival documents) renders his narrative of Saramaka history incomprehensible to the very people that his revisionist ideology should be targeting. Another sign of sloppiness comes up in Dragenstein's discussion of the name used for Quassie by Saramakas, "Kwasimukamba," which RP first reported twenty-five years ago in a long article in the *Bijdragen* (a reference missing from Dragenstein's bibliography). Dragenstein asserts that *mukamba* (which is in fact a common Central African place and personal name) means "whiteman," and gives as his source for this information *First-Time*, but here he has apparently confused *mukamba* with *kibamba*, the word that, as RP reported, Saramaka forest spirits use for "whiteman." RP's subsequent fieldwork with Saramakas has been revealing much additional information about Quassie/Kwasimukamba which will, once published, expand in sometimes startling directions the interesting picture Dragenstein attempts to sketch in here.

For the last twenty years, Michiel van Kempen has been our most thoughtful and prolific critic of Suriname literature. In 2002, he defended his nearly fifteen hundred-page dissertation, which took the story up till 1975. Now he has published an updated, more accessible version, in two volumes, handsomely boxed and richly illustrated, covering the whole history: *Een geschiedenis van de Surinaamse literatuur, band I: 1596-1957, band II: 1957-2000* (Breda, the Netherlands: De Geus, 2003, cloth € 125.00). In more ways than one can count, the book is overwhelming (what erudition!). Including more than 100 pages of bibliography, it is a monument, but also a delightful and engaging read, from oral literature, including dance, theater, and song (Carib, Arawak, Trio, Ndyuka, Saramaka, Creole, Hindustani, and Javanese) to all forms of written literature since the end of the sixteenth century. The whole of the second volume is devoted to literature since 1957 and, like the earlier volume, includes numerous word portraits of writers. Getting this book out in English would, in one fell swoop, bring Surinamese literature into critical dialogue with other Caribbean (and world) literatures. Are there any imaginative and courageous Dutch foundations out there?

Turning our view to the rest of the Dutch Caribbean empire, *Wereldoorlog in de West: Suriname, de Nederlandse Antillen en Aruba, 1940-1945*, by

Liesbeth van der Horst (Amsterdam: Verzetsmuseum/Hilversum: Verloren, 2004, paper € 10.00), was written to accompany an exhibition in the Verzetsmuseum, Amsterdam. This illustrated history carefully documents the effects of the war on the Dutch colonies (with striking pictures of American GIs and Suriname *meisjes* as well as Coca-Cola everywhere) and the roles they played in defending themselves and the motherland. *Oog op Aruba Bonaire Curaçao: Geschiedenis, cultuur en natuur van de ABC-eilanden*, text Jeannette van Ditzhuijzen, photography Bertie and Dos Winkel (Rijswijk, the Netherlands: Elmar, 2003, cloth € 27.50), is a coffee-table miscellany of forts and other historic buildings, underwater shots of tropical fish and coral, mangroves, birds, animals, and more. *Portraits of Bonaire: Paintings and Stories*, with paintings by Henk Roozendaal and stories by Guus Gerritsen (Gent, Belgium: Snoeck-Ducaju & Zoon, 2002, cloth € 25.00), is an affectionate bilingual Dutch/English offering to Bonaire made by two Dutchmen, who independently, in middle age, chose to make their lives there.

While we await a full review, we signal the publication of a remarkable critical edition of one of the fundamental texts on Caribbean slavery and missions, Christian Georg Andreus Oldendorp's *Historie der caribischen Inseln Sanct Thomas, Sanct Crux und Sanct Jan, insbesondere der dasigen Neger und der Mission der evangelischen Brüder unter denselben. (Kommentierte Ausgabe des vollständigen Manuskriptes aus dem Archiv der Evangelischen Brüder-Unität Herrnhut)*, edited by Gudrun Meier, Stephan Palmié, Peter Stein & Horst Ulbricht (Berlin: Verlag für Wissenschaft und Bildung, 2000-2. Part I, 764 pp. + 38 plates; Part II, published in three separate volumes, 2171 pp.). This monumental project, begun in the 1980s, at last makes Oldendorp's original available, with detailed commentaries by specialists in a number of domains.

Three on French Guiana, all from Ibis Rouge Publications. Marie Polderman has brought forth her enormous (721-page) doctoral thesis defended at Toulouse, *La Guyane française 1676-1763: Mise en place et évolution de la société coloniale, tensions et métissage* (Matoury, French Guiana: Ibis Rouge, 2004, paper € 40.00), which contains a wealth of detailed data never before published. *La Guyane française (1715-1817): Aspects économiques et sociaux. Contribution à l'étude des sociétés esclavagistes d'Amérique* (Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe: Ibis Rouge, 1999, paper € 24.39), by Brazilian polymath Ciro Flamarion Cardoso, has been published in full nearly thirty years after it was written as a doctoral thesis in Paris; this prize-winning, theoretically ambitious book remains the essential source for understanding the economic underpinnings of eighteenth-century French Guiana. And *Migration et sida en Amazonie française et brésilienne* (Matoury, French Guiana: Ibis Rouge, 2004, paper € 22.00), by anthropologist and AIDS specialist Frédéric Bourdier, carefully analyzes the relationship between migration and infection in the northern Amazon, from Belem to Cayenne. Ibis Rouge has also brought out

Sandrine Colombo's *La route des rhums* (2002, paper € 17.00), with photos by Sophie Hayot, a handy guidebook (historical, touristic) to the nineteen distilleries still functioning in Martinique, Guadeloupe (and Marie-Galante), and Guyane, and Martine Couadou's *Serpent, manitou et ... dorlis: Bestiaire symbolique martiniquais* (2000, paper € 13.57), which recounts Martiniquan folk beliefs concerning animals, seen and imagined, that inhabit the islandscape.

Three books highlight the often neglected Amerindian side of the Caribbean past and present. *The Great Encounter: Native Peoples and European Settlers in the Americas, 1492-1800*, by Jayme A. Sokolow (Armonk NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2003, paper US\$ 25.95), is a bland, politically correct history written for a general audience, with nothing new for Caribbeanists. In contrast, Matthew Restall's *Seven Myths of the Spanish Conquest* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003, paper US\$ 14.95) is a largely successful unpacking of encounter and conquest, also intended for a general audience, but written by someone who is actively engaged in university teaching and communicates his revisionism with persuasiveness and verve. *In Darkness and Secrecy: The Anthropology of Assault Sorcery and Witchcraft in Amazonia*, edited by Neil L. Whitehead & Robin Wright (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2004, paper US\$ 22.95), continues and broadens Whitehead's investigations into dark shamanism and assault sorcery among Amerindians in the Guianas, reviewed in *NWIG* 78(3/4), by covering similar practices in the Brazilian and neighboring lowland areas of South America. It's provocative and engaging.

Several miscellaneous works, which we group promiscuously. *Bread Made from Yuca: Selected Chronicles of Indo-Antillean Cultivation and Use of Cassava 1526-2002* (New York: Interamericas, 2003, paper n.p.), edited by Jane Gregory Rubin & Ariana Donalds, features photographs and prose by Marisol Villanueva about manioc in Puerto Rico and elsewhere in the region, and, along with excerpts from Oviedo and others, constitutes a paean to this tropical American staple and the cultures that grew up around it. *The Cycle of Racial Oppression in Guyana*, by Kean Gibson (Lanham MD: University Press of America, 2003, paper US\$ 23.00) is an essay on the roots of racism in Guyana and its effects on contemporary politics. *Bahamian Culture and Factors which Impact Upon It: A Compilation of Two Essays*, by Donald M. McCartney (Pittsburgh PA: Dorrance, 2004, paper US\$ 9.00), is a slim pair of ruminations by a Bahamian educator on local culture and history. *The Costa Rica Reader: History, Culture, Politics*, edited by Steven Palmer & Iván Molina (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2004, paper US\$ 22.95) provides an excellent introduction to the country, without slighting the Caribbean coast and its West Indian connections. *Writing JFK: Presidential Rhetoric and the Press in the Bay of Pigs Crisis*, by Thomas W. Benson (College Station: Texas A&M Press, 2004, paper US\$ 14.95), analyzes presidential image-making (damage/spin control), using the Bay of Pigs invasion as his case study. *At the Rainbow's Edge: Selected Speeches of Kenny D. Anthony*

1996-2002, edited by Didaeus Jules & Tennyson S.D. Joseph (Kingston: Ian Randle, 2004, £ 25.00), presents nearly four hundred pages, grouped under such rubrics as Domestic Politics, Regional Integration, International Issues, and so forth, by the head of the Labour Party and, since 1997, prime minister of St. Lucia, offering a wide window on island politics. *Caribbean Elegance*, by Michael Connors with photography by Bruce Buck (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2002, cloth US\$ 39.95), is a chef-d'oeuvre of coffee-table imperialist nostalgia, devoted largely to often magnificent wooden furniture. It illustrates, characteristically, chairs that were designed with "excessively long arms" so that the "weary planter's ... boots could be removed" by his putting his feet up on them – but it is never specified by whom (hint: it wasn't his wife).

Two conference proceedings: *Governance in the Age of Globalisation: Caribbean Perspectives*, edited by Denis Benn & Kenneth Hall (Kingston: Ian Randle, 2003, cloth \$50.00), presents over thirty contributions to a 2002 conference at UWI-Mona, ranging from a large number by card-carrying political scientists to Carolyn Cooper's lively account of representations of governance in Jamaican popular culture. And *Land in the Caribbean: Issues of Policy, Administration and Management in the English-Speaking Caribbean*, edited by Allan N. Williams (Madison: USAID/Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2003, paper n.p.), offers the proceedings of a workshop held in Port-of-Spain in 2003 that included representatives from thirteen CARICOM states (including Suriname).

We end with two light books for a general audience by Owen Platt: *One Big Fib: The Incredible Story of the Fraudulent First International Bank of Grenada* (New York: iUniverse, 2003, paper US\$ 18.95), and *The Royal Governor... and the Duchess: The Duke and Duchess of Windsor in the Bahamas, 1940-1945* (New York: iUniverse, 2003, paper US\$ 13.95), the first chronicling how an American con man's evangelical passion combined with a prime minister's greed to create a tangled web of offshore chicanery (an incredible story if even half true), and the second a reprise of royal muck that several other authors have already rather fully raked.

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