Bookshelf 2015

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In order to give *NWIG* readers and contributors (as well as the authors of books reviewed in the journal) a window on the current state of Caribbean book publishing, we offer a brief analysis, based on eleven of the most recent issues of the *NWIG* (volume 85–1&2 [2011] through volume 89–1&2 [2016]). Note that this rundown includes only those nonfiction books that, given our current mandate to review fifty-plus books per issue, were selected out of a much larger number published during the relevant period.

During these five and a half years, we published full reviews of 505 books from 107 publishers. Twelve publishers provided ten or more titles, accounting for 43 percent of the total, with Palgrave Macmillan contributing the most (32 titles). The others, in order, were University of the West Indies Press, University of North Carolina Press, University Press of Florida, Ian Randle, Duke University Press, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Liverpool University Press, University of Virginia Press, Routledge, and University of Mississippi Press. Another 27 publishers contributed four to nine books each, accounting for 32 percent of books reviewed. The remaining 70 publishers provided one to three titles, accounting for 25 percent of the books reviewed.

If we consider the contents of our annual Bookshelf round-up (which, unlike the reviews, includes fiction and poetry), the number of publishers more than doubles (as does the number of books). The Bookshelf essays in our eleven-issue sample have discussed or listed 788 titles from an additional 162 publishers, which brings the total number of publishers we've been dealing with during the period to 269.

Caribbean publishing, then, is widely dispersed, representing a specialty for only a handful of publishers. The majority of books on the region are provided by publishers that bring out only one or two annually.

In terms of disciplines covered in the reviews, history dominated (about 40 percent), with literature, including a consistently strong Francophone component, weighing in at about half that many. Anthropology followed (some 13

percent of reviews), with politics, cultural studies, music/art/dance, archaeology, and linguistics completing the list.

In terms of regions, 25 percent of reviews were devoted to books that considered the Caribbean, or the Atlantic World, as a whole, and nearly as many dealt mainly with the Anglophone Caribbean. Books about Cuba dominate the country list (about 20 percent of books reviewed), followed by Haiti (10 percent), Jamaica (6 percent), and Puerto Rico (4 percent).

Moving on to the current issue, we begin by expressing our gratitude to all the reviewers who have, collectively, provided such a rich resource for keeping up with writing on the region. At the same time, we must lament the fact that some of the people who've accepted a book and promised to review it have, despite a series of gentle reminders over a year or two, never shared their reactions to the book with *NWIG* readers. With our apologies to the authors of books that have therefore not been given their due in these pages, we simply list them here.

Conceiving Freedom: Women of Color, Gender, and the Abolition of Slavery in Havana and Rio de Janeiro, by Camillia Cowling (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013, paper US\$34.95)

Sacral Grooves, Limbo Gateways: Travels in Deep Southern Time, Circum-Caribbean Space, Afro-creole Authority, by Keith Cartwright (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2013, paper US\$24.95)

The Poetics and Politics of Diaspora: Transatlantic Musings, by Jerome C. Branche (New York: Routledge, 2014, cloth US\$125.00)

Desire Between Women in Caribbean Literature, by Keja L. Valens (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013, cloth US\$90.00)

Disease, Resistance, and Lies: The Demise of the Transatlantic Slave Trade to Brazil and Cuba, by Dale T. Graden (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2014, paper US\$35.00)

Cuba under Raúl Castro: Assessing the Reforms, by Carmelo Mesa-Lago & Jorge Pérez-López (Boulder CO: Lynne Rienner, 2013, cloth US\$65.00)

Postscripts: Caribbean Perspectives on the British Canon from Shakespeare to Dickens, edited by Giselle Rampaul & Barbara Lalla (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2014, cloth US\$49.95)

The Haitian Revolution in the Literary Imagination: Radical Horizons, Conservative Constraints, by Philip Kaisary (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014, paper US\$29.50)

Locked In, Locked Out: Gated Communities in a Puerto Rican City, by Zaire Zenit Dinzey-Flores (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013, cloth US\$65.00)

One more to mention. In 2013, Sid Mintz asked whether he could review *Handbuch Geschichte der Sklaverei: Eine Globalgeschichte von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart* (Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2013, US\$129.95) by his friend Michael Zeuske, saying he would read one page of its more than 700 each day until he finished. Sid's death on December 27, 2015 apparently caught him in media res.

There is an unfortunately large number of books for which we valiantly tried to find a reviewer (asking five or more specialists) but found no takers. We list them here:

The Revolution Is for the Children: The Politics of Childhood in Havana and Miami, 1959–1962, by Anita Casavantes Bradford (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014, paper US\$32.95)

War Against All Puerto Ricans: Revolution and Terror in America's Colony, by Nelson A. Denis (New York: Nation Books, 2015, cloth US\$28.99)

José Martí, the United States, and Race, by Anne Fountain (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2014, cloth US\$69.95)

African Diasporic Women's Narratives: Politics of Resistance, Survival, and Citizenship, by Simone A. James Alexander (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2014, cloth US\$74.95)

Afro-Cuban Religious Arts: Popular Expressions of Cultural Inheritance in Espiritismo and Santería, by Kristine Juncker (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2014, cloth US\$74.95)

Transatlantic Caribbean: Dialogues of People, Practices, Ideas, edited by Ingrid Kumtels, Claudia Rauhut, Stefan Rinke & Birte Timm (Bielefeld, Germany: Transcript Verlag, 2015, paper US\$50.00)

The Correspondence of Stephen Fuller, 1788–1795: Jamaica, the West India Interest at Westminster and the Campaign to Preserve the Slave Trade, edited by M.W. McCahill (Hoboken NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014, paper US\$34.95)

Salvage Work: U.S. and Caribbean Literatures amid the Debris of Legal Personhood, by Angela Naimou (New York: Fordham University Press, 2014, cloth US\$55.00)

Becoming Julia de Burgos: The Making of a Puerto Rican Icon, by Vanessa Perez Rosario (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2014, paper US\$25.00)

Haydée Santamaría, Cuban Revolutionary: She Led by Transgression, by Margaret Randall (Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2015, paper US\$23.95)

Imagining Caribbean Womanhood: Race, Nation and Beauty Competitions, 1929–70, by Rochelle Rowe (Manchester, U.K.: Manchester University Press, 2013, cloth US\$100.00)

Cuba: From Economic Take-Off to Collapse under Castro, by Jorge Salazar-Carrillo & Andro Nodarse-Leon (Piscataway NJ: Transaction, 2015, cloth US\$49.95)

Sklavenhändler, Negreros und Atlantikkreolen: Eine Weltgeschichte des Sklavenhandels im atlantischen Raum, by Michael Zeuske (Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2015, cloth €119.95)

As we have reported in previous issues, publishers sometimes have trouble fulfilling our requests for books to be sent to reviewers, despite our reminders to them. Two books that met this fate, in spite of repeated requests, are *The Strategic Victory: The War against Batista in the Sierra Maestra*, by Fidel Castro (Melbourne: Ocean Press, 2012, paper US\$20.05), and *Crossings: Africa, the Americas and the Atlantic Slave Trade*, by James Walvin (London: Reaktion Books, 2013, cloth US\$35.00). And Harvard University Press responded to our request for the two latest volumes of *The Image of the Black in Western Art*, made as soon as we learned of the publication: “Unfortunately, we no longer have review copies available.”

And there are yet other reasons that books don’t get reviewed. After accepting, nearly two years ago, to write a review of *Intimate Enemies: Translation in Francophone Contexts*, edited by Kathryn Batchelor & Claire Bisdorff (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2013, cloth US\$99.95), a colleague (a non-native English speaker, like many of our reviewers) recently wrote,

Thank you for your message [asking where the review was]. Unfortunately, my research contract at the University of ... expired more than one year ago. That’s why I couldn’t work on the book review anymore. Currently, I am working as a school teacher and I have got no kind of contract with any academic institution since more than one year. Since I still carry on with my passion and my research in the field of Caribbean studies, I would be delighted to write some book reviews, but I ask you to be rightly remunerated for this job. If you have the possibility to do that, I would be glad to send you this book review for you before Christmas. Not everybody is so lucky to work as an academic, especially these days.

We replied that remuneration for him (as for us) for work on *NWIG* was, unfortunately, not in the cards. And sometimes we manage to completely miss a relevant publication. Reading a glowing review of *The Survival of People and Languages: Schooners, Goats and Cassava in St Barthélemy, French West Indies*, by Julienne Maher (Leiden: Brill, 2013), in the most recent *American Anthropologist*, we learned that the book—in the words of reviewer Gladys Saunders—is a masterful analysis of “a small, relatively isolated community, descendants of the founding population of French settlers ... who came to

speak four separate languages and the quest to understand why the survivors maintained their linguistic boundaries for 250 years.”

We now turn to our selective survey of fiction, poetry, and theater—genres that are not given full reviews in the *NWIG*.

Marlon James's *A Brief History of Seven Killings* (New York: Riverhead, 2015, paper US\$17.00), winner of the Man Booker Prize and a number of other awards, is everything it's cracked up to be. As *The New York Times* put it, “It's like a Tarantino remake of *The Harder They Come* but with a soundtrack by Bob Marley and a script by Oliver Stone and William Faulkner ... epic in every sense of that word: sweeping, mythic, over-the-top, colossal, and dizzyingly complex.” We very much liked his first novel, *John Crow's Devil* (2006) but somehow missed his second, *The Book of Night Women* (2009). This one, however, flies to new heights and, to the extent that the gradual Jamaicanization of the Caribbean continues, all of us in the islands are in for quite a ride. Told mainly in a series of blazing interior monologues, and occasional dialogues, by a host of characters—Jamaican dons, gang and posse members, CIA ops and U.S. journalists, Kingston and New York women, and many others—its 686 pages rocket by. You won't be disappointed.

Tiphonie Yanique's multiple prize-winning novel *Land of Love and Drowning* (New York: Riverhead Books, 2014, paper, US\$16.00) is set in the Virgin Islands as they transitioned from Danish to American ownership. Told through a variety of perspectives, with whole chapters in VI speech, it's a stunning tale in which history, folklore, inadvertent incest, and magical realism intertwine in the lives of unforgettable characters. A gem.

The Star Side of Bird Hill (New York: Penguin 2015, cloth US\$25.95) is Naomi Jackson's debut novel, a tender story focusing on two adolescent sisters from Brooklyn sent back home to Barbados for a summer with their root-doctor grandmother. Women without men, strength and heartbreak across three generations.

Nothing's Mat (Kingston: University of the West Indies Press, 2014, paper US\$22.00), by Jamaican activist, independent scholar, and veteran novelist Erna Brodber, tells the story of “Every Black Girl,” a black British teenager who sets out to explore her family roots in Jamaica, decides to stay there, and over the years absorbs much local knowledge. Multiple voices, speaking in various registers of Jamaican English, recount life experiences in which the influence of color is ever-present.

The Angels' Share (New York: Akashic, 2016, paper, US\$15.95), Garfield Ellis's sixth novel, is an uneven, sometimes overwritten story centering on the often-moving relationship of a Jamaican father and his grown son, and also offering some vivid excursions into the Jamaican countryside.

On the Way Back (New York: Akashic, 2016, paper US\$16.95), Caracas-born Montague Kobbé's latest novel, is set in Anguilla and relates an attempt to establish a regional airline based in that tiny island nation-state. There's some excellent local color, but the story is often heavy and less funny than intended.

Prisnms (Leeds, U.K.: Peepal Tree, 2015, paper £8.99) is Garth St Omer's sixth novel, separated from his last one by over four decades, though it was first drafted in the 1980s. Haunting, surprising, sometimes shocking and bitter, it traces the life of an islander who goes to London for medical school, impregnates an African and an aristocratic Londoner almost simultaneously, marries the latter (and is schooled by her to speak upper-class English), leaves for New York when his wife finds out about his African girlfriend, becomes a successful psychiatrist, falls for a black American woman (who teaches him to speak the way he looks from the perspective of his new, adopted country), becomes involved with a Japanese woman who amazes him because, if you hadn't seen her face, you'd think she was a white American, and ends up at a Halloween party where everyone wears masks before all Hell breaks loose. Gender, commitment, identity, accents, exile, insecurities, migration, racism, and much else, with the self-reinventing protagonist's antics often pushing the reader off-balance. Well worth a read.

Woman in Battle Dress (San Francisco: City Lights, 2015, paper US\$19.95) is Antonio Benítez-Rojo's final publication, a sprawling historical novel (518 pages) based on the life of Swiss-born Henriette Faber, who posed as a man to receive her medical education in France, served as a surgeon in Napoleon's army, and eventually settled and married a woman in rural Cuba. Unmasked by her wife, she suffered through a spectacular, sensational trial and was finally exiled to New Orleans in 1827. This epic novel, mannered and slow-moving, is carefully translated from the 2001 Spanish edition by Jessica Powell.

Two outstanding Haitian novels in translation. *Ready to Burst* (Brooklyn NY: Archipelago Books, 2014, paper US\$18.00), by Frankétienne, arguably Haiti's greatest writer, is the excellent translation by Kaima L. Glover of *Mûr à crever* (2004). Frankétienne claims that in this book he "speaks to the madness of the sea in heat" and in fact his "tempest of words" takes us from a discourse on the aesthetics of Spiralism deep into the life of Port-au-Prince. *The Other Side of the Sea* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014, paper US\$22.50), first published in Paris in 1998, is prolific Haitian writer Louis-Philippe Dalember's second novel, but the first one translated into English (by Robert H. McCormick Jr.), presented here with an admiring foreword by Edwidge Danticat. This multivocal book, centered on the sea and travel, is dominated by the personality of Grannie, who lived through the 1937 massacre on the Dominican border and reminisces about her life all the way through the Duvalier years. She's later

joined by the voice of her grandson and the stream-of-consciousness murmurings of the Africans in the hold of a slaver bound for Haiti. Filled with compelling, memorable, vivid scenes. We strongly recommend it.

For reasons unknown to us, perhaps mere coincidence, there have been two pioneering English translations of Haiti's first novel, *Stella*, by Émeric Bergeaud (first published in Paris in 1859): *Stella: A Novel of the Haitian Revolution* (New York: NYU Press, 2015, paper US\$ 24.00), introduced and translated by Lesley S. Curtis & Christen Mucher, and *Stella: The Epic Saga of the Haitian Revolution* (Princeton NJ: Markus Wiener, 2014, paper US\$ 24.95), translated by Adriana Umaña Hossman and introduced by Luis Duno-Gottberg & Adriana Umaña Hossman. Both introductions trace the Haitian author's life-in-exile (the novel was written in St. Thomas), the history of the Haitian Revolution and its political aftermath, and the book's literary context, though the NYU version is both fuller and considerably more informative. We also prefer the NYU translation—the French original of this florid and mannered historical novel is available gratis at <http://www.dloc.com/UF00089373/00001/8j>.

Simone Schwarz-Bart, for so long silent in print, has brought out a new novel, *L'ancêtre en solitude*, credited to Simone and André Schwarz-Bart (Paris: Seuil, 2015, paper €18.00). Based on recently-found notes and fragments from the 1960s, when she and her late husband were writing—sometimes together, sometimes apart—their Guadeloupe fictions *Pluie et vent sur Télumée Miracle*, *Un plat de porc aux bananes vertes*, *Ti Jean L'horizon*, and *La mulâtresse Solitude*, the new book returns to familiar themes, forging a narrative that traces three generations of Solitude's descendants through slavery and emancipation. In her avant-propos, Schwarz-Bart recalls, however obliquely, the joys of joint creation—in a recent interview, she reminisces about the two of them writing as they faced each other across their desk. For us, the hurt she describes when their books, particularly *Solitude*, received such a hostile reception (Who was this Polish-French André, winner of the Prix Goncourt for his Jewish novel, who dared to write about a rebel slave woman in Guadeloupe?!) that they both renounced further writing casts a heavy cloud over the content of this, their final novel.

Two we didn't receive but that deserve mention: *The Marriage of Opposites*, by Alice Hoffman (New York: Simon & Schuster, cloth US\$ 27.99), about the nineteenth-century marriage of Camille Pissarro's parents on the Danish island of St. Thomas, and *Make Your Home Among Strangers*, by Jennine Capó Crucet (New York: St. Martin's Press, cloth US\$ 26.99), about a Hialeah-based Cuban family wrapped up in a (fictionalized) version of the Elián González case.

Caribbean Rasanblaj, a special issue (2015) of the on-line journal *e-misférica* edited by Haitian American anthropologist, poet, and performance artist Gina

Athena Ulysse, pulls together essays, poetry, film, art, theater, dance, and more to explore Caribbean composite phenomena, from patchwork quilts to creole languages.

Turning to poetry. *In Your Crib* (Oakville ON: Guernica, 2015, paper US\$20.00) is Barbadian-born, long-time Torontonion Austin Clarke's second collection of poetry. (He has published ten novels, six short story collections, and three memoirs, and has won a multitude of literary prizes.) In this moving plea from the elderly poet to an anonymous youth who shares his neighborhood—an old black man invoking the memory of leading figures, men he's known from the Civil Rights era, admonishing a beltless, hoodie-wearing, Mercedes- and gun-loving, rap-infused youth—there is both anger and regret for not being able to do more. In what he calls “the hurricanes of a Canadian winter,” the poet laments the stinging harsh realities of racial discrimination in what is supposed to be a “multicultural” town. The poem speaks volumes about the issues of race that have bubbled to the surface in 2015 America.

Somersault (Oakville ON: Guernica, 2015, paper US\$20.00) is Bermudian poet Nancy Anne Miller's first published collection, crisply crafting local realities, from mailboxes to the sea, as well as New England-based longings for home.

Four recent works of poetry from House of Nehisi in Philipsburg, St. Martin. *Columbus, the Moor* (2015, paper US\$25.00) is polymath Charles Matz's twenty-page performance text, accompanied by full Spanish, French, and Italian translations, and interspersing “Taino, Latin, and other languages.” Lasana Sekou has edited two anthologies, *Where I see the Sun: Contemporary Poetry from St. Martin* (2013, paper US\$20.00) and *Where I see the Sun: Contemporary Poetry from Anguilla* (2015, paper US\$20.00)—mostly younger voices struttin' their stuff. *Maroon Lives: Tribute to Maurice Bishop & Grenadian Freedom Fighters and Revolution as Poetic Inspiration: Grenada in “Maroon Lives,”* by Lasana Sekou & Fabian Adekunle Badejo (2013, paper US\$20.00), republishes Sekou's seething but thoughtful 1983 “emergency” poetic response to the Grenadian Revolution and its aftermath along with his friend Fabian's contextualization of them.

Providential (New York: Akashic, 2015, US\$15.95) is Colin Channer's debut book of poetry—he's published several novels. Growing up in Jamaica in a family of cops, living and writing in New England, Channer's poems move back and forth, lyrical and strong. Recommended.

She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks, by M. NourbeSe Philip (Middletown CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2015, paper US\$15.95), which won the 1988 Casa de las Americas Prize, has been one of our favorite Caribbean poetry books since its initial publication in Canada in 1989. It's republished here in

a handsome edition with a foreword by Evie Shockley. If you haven't read it, please do. It continues to take our breath away.

Turning to nonfiction, we begin with a pair of books to be enjoyed together: *Negre Mawon: The Fighting Maroons of Dominica* (Roseau, Dominica: Island Heritage Initiatives, 2014, paper n.p.), by Lennox Honychurch, and *Your Time is Done Now: Slavery, Resistance and Defeat: The Maroon Trials of Dominica (1813–1814)* (London: Papillote Press and New York: Monthly Review, 2015, paper £9.99), edited by Polly Pattullo. The first is a history, more popular than academic, aimed primarily at a Dominican audience, but it gives a clear overview of why the British considered Dominica, after Jamaica, to be their major Maroon menace. By 1785, thirteen major chiefs controlled the same number of villages in the mountainous interior, and each had its subchiefs, captains, and other dignitaries. Some had been in the forest for nearly fifty years and the total Maroon population soon reached eight hundred. Unfortunately, little is known of life within these communities, though Honychurch believes we can distinguish Maroon “farmers,” who were active between the mid-1550s and the outbreak of the First Maroon War in 1786, Maroon “firebrands,” who dominated from the time of that outbreak, and the Maroon “philosophers” who followed, once the influence of the French Revolution had been felt on the island. Be that as it may, the book tells much more about the Maroons’ ingenious military defenses than about their social or cultural life. Pattullo’s book, which presents and interprets numerous documents from the effective end of the Maroon era, fleshes out Honychurch’s survey, presenting the Maroons’ own words about their lives and concerns. We learn a great deal about Maroons’ ongoing economic and social relationship with plantation slaves, about their reasons for running away, and about their abiding love of freedom. One third of the 577 Maroons captured or killed in 1813–14 were women, and the trial records reproduced here include their testimony. In 2013, the Emancipation Negre Mawon statue was unveiled, amidst much pomp and ceremony, in Roseau, the capital of Dominica.

Three related Francophone works that give voice to the enslaved in Guadeloupe, Île Bourbon (Réunion), Martinique, and French Louisiana. *Libres et sans fers: Paroles d'esclaves français*, by Frédéric Régent, Gilda Gonfier & Bruno Mailard (Paris: Fayard, 2015, paper €18.50), is, like the Dominica Maroon books, based on trial testimonies—one of the few kinds of testimonies in which the words of slaves, or former slaves, are heard in the French colonies, which had no tradition of slave narratives. Slaves usually testified in court in Creole, although the transcriptions are largely in French. There is much for the historian to tease out about relations with masters and other aspects of daily life, as well as a good deal about marronage. Fragments of slave testimony are complemented by use-

ful analysis and commentary by the authors. Much the same could be said of two other works based on trial testimonies, *Voix d'esclaves: Antilles, Guyane et Louisianes françaises, XVIIIe–XIXe siècles*, edited by Dominique Rogers (Paris: Karthala, 2015), and *Maîtres accusés, esclaves accusateurs: Les procès Gosset et Vivie (Martinique, 1848)*, by Caroline Oudin-Bastide (Presses universitaires de Rouen et du Havre, 2015) which focuses on the trials of two masters accused by their slaves of bad treatment, on the eve of abolition.

Sociétés marrones des Amériques: Mémoires, patrimoines, identités et histoire du XVIIe au XXe siècles, edited by Jean Moomou (Matoury, Guyane: Ibis Rouge, 2015, paper €45.00), is a 781-page compendium of the sixty-one papers presented at a massive 2013 conference in Saint-Laurent du Maroni, with a “synthesis” by RP. Half of the (rather uneven) contributions are devoted to French Guiana.

In *Chronique d'un lieu de pensée: Fonds Saint-Jacques* (Matoury, Guyane: Ibis Rouge, 2015, paper €25.00), Jean Benoist recounts his personal adventure building Père Labat's old stomping grounds into the Centre de recherches caraïbes, which flourished from 1965 until 1988. Presented in large part from Benoist's unpublished diary entries, the book offers often fascinating glimpses into the enormous tensions that existed in the 1960s–80s between metropolitans and Antilleans in Martinique, into the near-impossibility of giving a seminar on the Antilles in the political climate of the 1960s or 1970s in Paris, and much else.

Pirogues de Guyane, by Sophie François (Matoury, Guyane: Ibis Rouge, 2015, paper €20.00), is an excellent illustrated overview of historical and contemporary canoes in Guyane, including construction techniques. In the sections on Maroon canoes and their decoration, Saamakas get short shrift compared to Eastern Maroons, but that reflects present-day realities in this corner of France.

Parlons Mawinatongo: Le taki-taki revisité, by Joël Roy & Mama Bobi (Paris: L'Harmattan, 2015, paper €19.00), is a politically-motivated attempt to rewrite the linguistic (and ethnic) history of the Guianas. Its central claim is that “All these [Maroon] societies needed to create a language, which is pejoratively called *taki-taki* but which we shall henceforth call *mawinatongo*. This language was created and developed on the plantations.” In other words, Goodbye Saamakatongo, Goodbye Ndyuka. Everything is reduced to a single, recent transnational creole (very close to Sranantongo, which has been spoken for centuries in Paramaribo). The book also includes Roy's five-page-long hallucinatory history of Maroon art-as-secret-messages, previously published elsewhere. If this book is any indication, the Association Mama Bobi continues to aggressively pursue its political and cultural ambitions in Saint-Laurent and nearby areas. Its goal seems to be the erasure of the myriad differences between the various Maroon peoples to create a single new one—to precisely what political end we do not know.

Language, Culture and Identity in St. Martin, by Rhoda Arrindell (Philipsburg, St. Martin: House of Nehisi, 2014, paper US\$25.00), is a language-based study, depending largely on questionnaires about such issues as ethnic identity (highly varied and context-dependent), the status of the local creole (variable), and related concerns. Arrindell has a doctorate in linguistics and served as Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, and Youth Affairs in Philipsburg, but the study ultimately lacks focus.

Waar ligt Boven-Suriname?, by E.H. Ray Landveld (Amsterdam: Sasoni Buku, 2014, cloth €31.00), is a strange self-published mixture of amateur ethnography, history, well-cooked citations, and political opinion by a Saamaka from the village of Ganze who lives in the Netherlands. Clearly sincere in the love of his homeland, he borrows large swaths of early Saamaka history, without citation, from *First-Time* and *Alabi's World*, adds brief ethnographic descriptions under such rubrics as “language and education” and “social life” (each two pages), “balata,” and “the Maroon house” (one page each), and so forth, jumping with no explanation from a long list of “Governors of Suriname” to “Male-female relations.”

In Survival in Paradise: Sketches from a Refugee Life in Curaçao (Bloomington IN: iUniverse, 2014, paper US\$17.95), retired San Francisco State literature professor Manfred Wolf recounts his boyhood, including his German Jewish family's hair's-breadth escapes from the Nazis to the Netherlands, France, Spain, and Portugal before landing in Suriname and, for a longer time (filled with school-day memories), Curaçao. The memoir ends with first impressions of the United States, as a college freshman at Brandeis.

Raza y trabajo en el Caribe Hispánico: Los inmigrantes de las Indias Occidentales en Puerto Rico durante el ciclo agro-exportador, 1800–1850 (Sevilla: Escuela de Estudios Hispano-Americanos/San Juan: Office of the Historian of Puerto Rico, 2014, paper €10.00, US\$12.00), by Jorge Luis Chinae, is the translation of his 2005 English-language book (see *NWIG* 81[2007]:130–32), now revised and augmented with a 69-page biographical appendix of 1,500 West Indians who immigrated to Puerto Rico from the non-Hispanic Caribbean between 1800 and 1850.

The Half That's Never Been Told: The Real-Life Reggae Adventures of Doctor Dread, by Doctor Dread (New York: Akashic Books, 2015, paper US\$16.95), tells how Gary Himelfarb, from Bethesda, Maryland, became DD and, after youthful adventures in South America and his discovery of Jamaica, eventually built RAS Records into the world's largest reggae label, how it later went bust, how he settled into the wholesale fish business in D.C., and much more. One hopes that his various tales about working with reggae greats will excite true fans.

C.L.R. James's *The Life of Captain Cipriani: An Account of British Government in the West Indies*, and the pamphlet *The Case for West-Indian Self Government*

(Durham NC: Duke University Press, 2014, paper US\$ 23.95), two polemics written about 1930 and 1933 respectively, are now republished with an excellent introduction by Bridget Brereton that demonstrates their purpose as, in James's words, "to bring before all who may be interested the political situation in the West Indies today."

We've received only publicity for *The Sonar System*, by Ras Mykha (London: One Love Books, 2015, cloth US\$ 20.00), described as "a children's picture book set on the distant world of Tesfa, part of a sonar system where, instead of a sun, the planets revolve around a gigantic speaker and the people spend their time building sound systems and listening to music."

The year 2014 saw publications about two innovative projects involving the art and culture of Maroons, Amerindians, and others who live in the Guyana Shield. *Linked Heritage: An Exhibition from the Amazonian Museum Network* (Cayenne: Musée des cultures guyanaises, paper n.p.) contains curatorial essays on museum collections in Cayenne, Paramaribo, and Belém and whets the appetite for consultation of fuller information from the on-line Amazonian Museum Network (<http://amazonian-museum-network.org>, accessible in Dutch, English, French, and Portuguese), which provides detailed information on objects in the collections. This interesting project is unfortunately marred by real howlers, some of which come from the (commendable) decision to offer translations of the essays; confusing the Dutch word *kom* ("bowl") with the English word "comb" produces the nonsensical assertion that "Gourds were used to produce combs for daily use." Two sections of the on-line site give general information on "Buschinengé" and Amerindians. This is where the heaviest density of misinformation occurs, at least for the Maroon groups. Alukus are said to have settled in eastern rather than western Guyane, the Saamaka language is said to be "very close to English," women are said to be eligible for the position of paramount chief, the "supreme deity" is said to be called Papa Gadu, and on and on ... a hallucinatory patchwork of fact and fiction that cites our own publications as its main source.

A more lavishly illustrated paperback, *La Route de l'Art* (Cayenne: Édition ONE, paper €24.00), adopts a narrower geographical focus, covering the rich ethnic mixture of artists from western French Guiana. Stunning photography by David Damoisson accompanies texts by artist Patrick Lacaisse that take us deep into the creativity of hundreds of individual artists, from Creoles and Amerindians to Hmong and Maroons. Detailed descriptions of the materials, techniques, styles, and meanings of sculpture, pottery, textiles, basketry, featherwork, ironwork, personal adornment, music, and performance arts are followed by essays on dozens of individual artists. A real treasure trove.

Nicola Lo Calzo's *Obia* (Heidelberg, Germany: Kehrer Verlag, 2015, cloth €29.90) is an album of seventy-four colorful art photos of Maroons in Suriname and Guyane, with what read very much like afterthought one-page-long texts by Françoise Vergès, Jean Moomou & Simon Njami.

Les abandonnés de la République: Vie et mort des Amérindiens de Guyane française (Paris: Albin Michel, 2015, paper €22.50), by Alexandra Mathieu, Yves Géry & Christophe Gruner, is an impassioned account of the horrors imposed on Amerindians along the Lawa in today's Guyane: mercury-poisoning and other toxic pollution from goldmining higher up the river, alcoholism, suicide, and the other results of France's policies of forced assimilation over the past half-century. These policies are based on a combination of raw greed and the principled insistence that indigenous and tribal rights, as protected for example by ILO 169, are contrary to French ideas about republicanism, which disallows recognition of ethnic distinctions in the name of equality and *laïcité*. Quoting numerous interviews with anthropologists, tribal leaders, and political activists in Guyane, it traces a devastating picture of the effects of various brands of evangelization, the coming of inappropriate schools and medical facilities, and other civilizational offerings to Amerindian communities. The State's refusal to recognize and respect cultural difference lies at the heart of this unfortunately familiar *cri de coeur*. Given the disappointment experienced by the Saamaka People, as well as many indigenous peoples in South America, in turning international jurisprudence to their concrete advantage, the book's conclusion that only international help can bring change might be overly optimistic.

Entre 2 mondes: Amérindiens & Européens: Sur les côtes de la Guyane, avant la Colonie (1560–1627), edited by Gérard Collomb & Martijn van den Bel (Paris: CTHS, 2014, paper €45.00), is an excellent collection of early travel accounts—French, English, and Dutch—along the Wild Coast, from the mouth of the Orinoco to that of the Amazon. The editors provide a scholarly introduction to the Arawakan and Cariban peoples the Europeans encountered, as the two unequal parties engaged in a century-long process of feeling each other out, before the Europeans finally arrived in force during the mid-seventeenth century, changing this part of the world forever.

Les indiens d'Amazonie face au développement prédateur: Nouveaux projets d'exploration et menaces sur les droits humains, edited by Simone Dreyfus-Gamelon & Patrick Kulesza (Paris: l'Harmattan, 2015, paper €36.00), includes four chapters on the Guianas, one of which (by RP) analyzes the Saamaka defense of their territory.

Connected, Transparent and Committed: Serving the Surinamese Society for 150 years, edited by Peter Sanches (Arnhem: LM Publishers, 2015, cloth €25.00/

Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2015, cloth \$ 45.00) is a commemorative book issued by the Surinaamsche Bank that includes substantive essays by several local scholars on such topics as the country's history, mining, education, the history of bank notes, and contemporary art.

Quaco: Leven in slavernij (Zutphen: De Walberg Pers, 2015, paper, € 8.95) is an educational graphic novel by Eric Heuvel (drawings) and Ineke Mok (text) based in part on John Gabriel Stedman's *Narrative* (and diaries), in which his "boy," Quaco, periodically appears. Mok carried out research over several years, tracing Quaco's post-Stedman life in the castle of Rosendael in the Netherlands as well as in Java, where he apparently ended his days as a free man. The story is told through Quaco's eyes, from his capture on the coast of Guinea and the Middle Passage, through his life as Stedman's personal slave and on to the East Indies, and it includes set-piece images modeled on Blake's "March thro' a swamp" and "Skinning of the Aboma Snake," as well as an aged slave's gift to Stedman of the famous "Creole-Bania" (banjo). The volume ends with more than a dozen pedagogical pages on the book's sources, the slave trade, slavery, and rebellion. It claims to be the first graphic novel in Dutch devoted to the theme of slavery.

NWIG's managing editor and Suriname specialist Rosemarijn Hoeft has once again provided coverage of a number of Dutch-language books, for which we are, as always, very grateful:

Bouwen aan de Wilde Kust: Geschiedenis van de civiele infrastructuur van Suriname tot 1945, by Hillebrand Ehrenburg & Marcel Meyer (Arnhem: LM Publishers, 2015, cloth € 37.50), is an extensive, nicely illustrated socioeconomic history discussing the building of plantations, (rail)roads, and waterways; the spatial development of Paramaribo; the growth of small holding and rice culture; and the opening up of the interior. A welcome addition to the historiography of Suriname.

In *Verhalen van vrijheid: Autobiografieën van slaven in transnational perspectief 1789–2013* (Hilversum: Verloren, 2015, paper € 25.00), Marijke Huisman traces slave autobiographies in the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Netherlands, to analyze the role of these narratives in the production of knowledge about slavery and the slave past. *Fansi's stilte: Een Surinaamse grootmoeder en de slavernij* (Amsterdam: Atlas Contact, 2015, paper € 19.99) is the first non-fiction history focusing on a single Surinamese family in Suriname and the Netherlands. Tessa Leuwsha uses the past of her own grandmother, the child of a white English missionary and a black Surinamese man, to explore the legacies of slavery in Suriname.

Two books on Jews. Julie-Marthe Cohen edited *Joden in de Cariben* (Zutphen: Walburg Pers, 2015, cloth € 34.50), a richly illustrated volume accom-

panying the exhibition of the same name in the Joods Historisch Museum in Amsterdam (2015) and at Fort Zeelandia in Paramaribo (2016). It includes articles by Jonathan Israel, Jessica Roitman, Wim Klooster, Jaap Jacobs, Jonathan Schorsch, Aviva Ben-Ur, Natalie Zemon Davis, Wieke Vink, and Josette Capriles Goldisch on the history of Jews in the Caribbean, plus eight interviews with Dutch Caribbean Jews on topics from *yaya's* (nannies) to women's emancipation. Even if you are not fluent in Dutch, this book is a treasure because of its many historic photos. Prompted by the Amsterdam exhibition, Ben Ipenburg expanded his research on Jews in Suriname in *Joden in Suriname: 400 jaar Surinaames Jodendom—aankomst, gloriëtijd, neergang* (Elburg: Frontiserion 2015, paper €24.90), which studies the history of Jews and Jewry in a theological context.

For *Praatjes voor de West: De Wereldomroep en de Antilliaanse en Surinaamse literatuur 1947–1958* (Haarlem: In de Knipscheer, 2015, paper €24.50), Jos de Roo unearthed the Caribbean archives of the Dutch radio organization Wereldomroep to reconstruct 267 literary contributions in Papiamentu, Sranan Tongo, English, and Dutch, aired in the late 1940s and 1950s. De Roo also shines new light on the Surinamese-Creole nationalist movement, adding fresh insights to the extant literature.

The Rise of Women's Rights in Curaçao: The Potential of the Women's Convention to the Empowerment and Equal Rights of Women in Curaçao, by Adaly Rodriguez (Amsterdam: Caribpublishing/SWP, 2015, cloth Naf 89.00), a 505-page dissertation on the implementation and realization of fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in the U.N. Women's Convention of 1979 in Curaçao, includes summaries in Dutch, Papiamentu, and Spanish.

In *De troepenmacht in Suriname: De Nederlandse defensie in een veranderende koloniale wereld 1940–1975* (Amsterdam: Boom, 2015, paper €24.90), Ellen Klinkers relates the history of the Dutch army in Suriname from World War II to independence in 1975 in the context of changing constitutional relations. It includes more than a hundred illustrations.

Finally, *Saoto, berkat en dawet: Een kijkje in de keuken van Javaans-Surinaamse warungs*, by Lisa Djasmadi, Hariëtte Mingoën & Matte Somopawiro (Arnhem: LM Publishers, 2015, paper €17.50), highlights the most visible aspect of Surinamese-Javanese culture in the Netherlands—small restaurants serving Surinamese-Javanese dishes. This richly illustrated volume includes twenty portraits of *warung* holders as well as recipes.

We end this year's Bookshelf by listing information on titles that we have noticed but neither examined nor requested for review—in some cases because their Caribbean content is restricted to a chapter or two, in others because they didn't seem sufficiently compelling given *NWIG* space limitations,

or for a variety of other reasons. Together, they testify to the large number of books being published that at least touch on the Caribbean.

Critical Terms in Caribbean and Latin American Thought: Historical and Institutional Trajectories, edited by Yolanda Martínez-San Miguel, Ben. Sifuentes-Jáuregui & Marisa Belausteguigoitia (Basingstoke, U.K.: Palgrave, cloth US\$100.00)

Anywhere But Here: Black Intellectuals in the Atlantic World and Beyond, edited by Kendahl Radcliffe, Jennifer Scott & Anja Werner (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2014, cloth US\$27.28)

The Traditions of Liberty in the Atlantic World: Origins, Ideas and Practices, edited by Francisco Colom González & Angel Rivero (Leiden: Brill, 2015, cloth US\$120.00)

Les Amériques du milieu: Amérique centrale et Caraïbes entre fragmentation des nations et ambitions régionales, by Philippe Lestrillart (Paris: Karthala, 2015, paper €28.00)

African Diaspora in the Cultures of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States, edited by Persephone Braham (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2014, cloth US\$70.00)

The Rise of the South: Challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean, by Augusto de la Torre, Tatiana Didier, Alain Ize, Daniel Lederman & Sergio L. Schmukler (Washington DC: World Bank, 2015, paper US\$29.95)

Beyond the Line: Cultural Narratives of the Southern Oceans, edited by Michael Mann & Ineke Phaf-Rheinberger (Berlin: Neofelis Verlag, 2014, cloth US\$67.00)

Histoire et civilisation de la Caraïbe (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Petites Antilles). Tome 1: Le temps des genèses, des origines à 1685 (the first of five volumes), by Richard Chateau-Degat, Georges B. Mauvois, Jean-Pierre Sainton, Raymond Boutin & Lydie Ho Fong Choy Choucouthou (Paris: Karthala, 2015, paper €32.00)

What is Slavery? by Brenda E. Stevenson (Cambridge: Polity, 2015, paper US\$19.95)

The Atlantic Slave Trade in World History, by Jeremy Black. (London: Routledge, 2015, paper \$34.95) [textbook, 174 pp.]

Transatlantic Memories of Slavery: Reimagining the Past, Changing the Future, edited by Elisa Bordin & Anna Scacchi (Amherst NY: Cambria Press, 2015, cloth US\$109.99)

Slavery, Migrations, and Transformations: Connecting Old and New Diasporas to the Homeland, edited by Toyin Falola & Danielle Porter Sanchez (Amherst NY: Cambria Press, 2015, cloth US\$114.99)

A New History of Jamaica: From the Earliest Accounts to the Taking of Porto Bello by Vice-Admiral Vernon, by Charles Leslie (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015, paper US\$35.99) [repro of the London edition of 1740]

Legacies of British Slave-Ownership: Colonial Slavery and the Formation of Victorian Britain, by Catherine Hall, Keith McClelland, Nick Draper, Kate Donington & Rachel Lang (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014, cloth £69.99)

Colonial Cuba (Episodes from Four Hundred Years of Spanish Domination), by Raúl Eduardo Chao (Miami: Ediciones Universal, 2014, paper US\$39.00)

- Sex, Power, and Slavery*, edited by Gwyn Campbell & Elizabeth Elbourne (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2014, paper US\$ 39.95) [one chapter on nineteenth-century Cuba; the other twenty-five appear to be about non-Caribbean regions]
- A Narrative of Events: Since the First of August, 1834, by James Williams, an Apprenticed Laborer in Jamaica*, by James Williams (New York: Dover, 2015, paper US\$ 3.50)
- The Early English Caribbean, 1570–1700*, edited by Carla Gardina Pestana & Sharon V. Salinger (London: Routledge, 2014, cloth US\$ 625.00) [4 volumes, 1888 pages, with “rare pamphlets” about the formative years of the English Caribbean]
- Pillaging the Empire: Global Piracy on the High Seas, 1500–1750*, by Kris Lane (New York: Routledge, 2015, paper US\$ 44.95) [second edition with new materials added since the 1998 original]
- The Pirate King: The Incredible Story of the Real Captain Henry Morgan*, by Graham A. Thomas (New York: Skyhorse, 2015, cloth US\$ 24.99)
- The Cross of War: Christian Nationalism and U.S. Expansion in the Spanish-American War*, by Matthew McCullough (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2014, paper US\$ 29.95)
- Imprisoned in the Caribbean: The 1942 German U-boat Blockade*, by Ligia T. Domenech (Bloomington IN: iUniverse, 2014, paper US\$ 18.95)
- We Come from Jamaica: The National Movement 1937–1962*, by Ewart Walters (Ottawa: Boyd McRubie Communications, 2014, paper n.p.)
- Cuba: From Economic Take-Off to Collapse under Castro*, by Jorge Salazar-Carrillo & Andro Nodarse-León (Piscataway NJ: Transaction, 2015, cloth US\$ 49.95)
- The Last Soldiers of the Cold War: The Story of the Cuban Five*, by Fernando Morais (London: Verso, 2015, paper US\$ 19.95)
- Listen, Yankee: Why Cuba Matters*, by Tom Hayden (New York: Seven Stories Press, 2015, paper US\$ 23.95)
- The Cuban Missile Crisis: A Critical Reappraisal*, edited by Len Scott & R. Gerald Hughes (London: Routledge, 2015, cloth US\$ 145.00)
- Struggles for a Past: Irish and Afro-Caribbean Histories in England, 1951–2000*, by Kevin Myers (Manchester, U.K.: Manchester University Press, 2015, cloth US\$ 105.00)
- Marchands et négociants de couleur à Saint-Pierre (1777–1830): Milieux socioprofessionnels, fortune et mode de vie*, by Abel A. Louis (Paris: L’Harmattan, 2015, paper € 29.45) [2 vols.]
- Félix Éboué: De Cayenne au Panthéon (1881–1944)*, by Arlette Capdepuy (Paris: Karthala, paper € 26.00)
- The Geo-Politics of LNG in Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela in the 21st Century*, by Daurius Figueira (Bloomington IN: iUniverse, 2014, paper US\$ 17.05)
- Crisis and Promise in the Caribbean: Politics and Convergence*, by Winston Dookeran (Farnham, Surrey U.K.: Ashgate Publishing, 2015, cloth US\$ 119.95)
- Haiti and the Dominican Republic: Conditions, Issues, and U.S. Relations*, edited by Otis Thorpe (Hauppauge NY: Nova Science, 2015, cloth US\$ 210.00)

- How American Reggae Redefined Jamaican and Caribbean Reggae: A Theroretical Study of the Relationship between Mass Communication and Cultural Domination*, by Humphrey A. Regis (Lewiston NY: Edwin Mellen Press, cloth US\$199.95)
- The (Re-)making of a Black American: Tracing the Racial and Ethnic Socialization of Caribbean American Youth*, by Chonika Coleman-King (New York: Peter Lang, 2014, paper US\$ 40.95)
- Negroes, Mulattos, and the Dominican Nation*, by Franklin J. Franco (New York: Routledge, 2015, paper US\$ 49.95) [translation of the 1960 original]
- Postmodern Tales of Slavery in the Americas: From Alejo Carpentier to Charles Johnson*, by Timothy J. Cox (London: Routledge, 2014, cloth US\$147.00)
- Diasporic Marvellous Realism: History, Identity, and Memory in Caribbean Fiction*, by María Alonso Alonso (Leiden: Brill Rodopi, 2015, cloth US\$ 71.00)
- Sounding the Break: African American and Caribbean Routes of World Literature*, by Jason Frydman (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014, paper US\$ 24.50)
- Édouard Glissant, penseur des archipels*, by Aliocha Wald Lasowski (Paris: Pocket, 2015, paper €11.20)
- The Negritude Movement: W.E.B. Du Bois, Leon Damas, Aime Cesaire, Leopold Senghor, Frantz Fanon, and the Evolution of an Insurgent Idea*, by Reiland Rabaka (Lanham MD: Lexington Books, 2015, cloth US\$130.00)
- Le lion réincarné: Un conte contemporain: Ce que dit le marronnage*, by Joël Roy (Paris: L'Harmattan, 2015, paper €19.00)
- Calypso and Other Music of Trinidad, 1912–1962: An Annotated Discography*, compiled by Craig Martin Gibbs (Jefferson NC: McFarland, 2015, paper US\$ 75.00)
- Miss Lou: Louise Bennett and Jamaican Culture*, by Mervyn Morris (Kingston: Ian Randle, 2014, paper US\$12.95)
- Pop Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean*, by Elizabeth Gackstetter Nichols & Timothy R. Robbins (Santa Barbara CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015, cloth US\$89.00)
- Havana Hardball: Spring Training, Jackie Robinson, and the Cuban League*, by César Brioso (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2015, cloth US\$24.95)
- Caribbean Food Cultures: Culinary Practices and Consumption in the Caribbean and its Diasporas*, edited by Wiebke Beushausen, Anne Brüske, Ana-Sofia Commichau, Patrick Helber & Sinah Kloss (Bielefeld, Germany: Transcript-Verlag, 2014, paper US\$50.00)
- Zombies: A Cultural History*, by Roger Luckhurst (London: Reaktion, 2015, cloth £16.00)
- Current Perspectives on the Archaeology of African Slavery in Latin America*, edited by Pedro Funari & Charles E. Orser Jr (New York: Springer, 2014, paper US\$ 54.99)
- French Colonial Archaeology in the Southeast and Caribbean*, edited by Kenneth G. Kelly & Meredith D. Hardy (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2015, cloth US\$60.15) [two of ten chapters on the Caribbean]
- Historia de los ciclones y huracanes tropicales en Puerto Rico*, by Luis Caldera Ortiz (Lajas, Puerto Rico: Editorial Akelarre, 2014, paper n.p.)

Small-scale Gold Mining in the Amazon: The Cases of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Suriname, edited by Leontien Cremers, Judith Kolen & Marjo de Theije (Amsterdam: CEDLA, 2013, paper €15.00.)

Beyond Sun and Sea: International Strategy and Entrepreneurship in Caribbean Firms, by Gordon Shirley & Maxine Garvey (Kingston: University of the West Indies Press, 2015, paper US\$60.00)

L'Ambivalence identitaire dans la société martiniquaise: Essai psychanalytique d'une aliénation, by Josette Nonone (Paris: L'Harmattan, 2015, paper €17.50)

Medicine and Public Health in Latin America: A History, by Marcos Cueto & Steven Palmer (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015, paper US\$29.99)

L'usage des plantes médicinales aux Antilles et en Guyane: Les remèdes anciens au fil du temps, edited by Françoise Pagney Bénito-Espinal (Paris: Karthala, 2015, paper €25.00)