

An Editorial Note

In soliciting articles for this special number no restriction was imposed on contributors other than that papers concern themselves with Caribbean literature *written in English*. No particular unifying theme was put forward. The papers here, then, broadly reflect the current interests of critics of Caribbean literature. Almost all of the submissions dealt with established writers. One would have liked to see even preliminary articles on the new Caribbean novelists and poets, but, understandably, critics are hesitant to undertake studies which may prove premature.

The response to the call for papers was very pleasing. We received many commendable submissions. Unfortunately, a special number, particularly one limited in size, could not possibly include them all. Some had to be held over for subsequent issues.

The Priestley-Kerpneck report on *Undergraduate Studies in English in Canadian Universities* (1976) refers to "an unspoken political aura or affiliation" generally characteristic of courses in Commonwealth literature. This is not the place to discuss such a contentious issue (which provoked heated discussion at the recent Learned Societies Meetings in Fredericton, New Brunswick). Whatever the approach to Commonwealth literature in some university courses may be, it is obvious from the essays published here that politics is not an exclusive or necessarily inherent concern of that literature or of the critical approach to it.

Many helped in getting this issue together, and I should like to express my appreciation to them, particularly to George Wing (during whose editorship the idea of this special number was conceived), James Black, Saad El-Gabalawy, and Christopher Wiseman.

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