

ARIEL

A Review of International English Literature



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A Note on Louise Bennett

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Understanding *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*

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ARIEL

A REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LITERATURE



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ARIEL is a journal devoted to the critical and scholarly study of the new and the established literatures in English around the world. It welcomes particularly articles on the relationships among the new literatures and between the new and the established literatures. It publishes a limited number of original poems in each issue.

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In Memoriam

Barbara Christian

1943-2000

Readers of *ARIEL* will be saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Barbara Christian, Professor of African American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and a member of the International Advisory Board of this journal. She was born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and received her PhD from Columbia University in New York City. Professor Christian will be remembered as a remarkable scholar, administrator, teacher, and activist, who made important contributions to our understanding of the tradition of black American writing. Her study, *Black Women Novelists: The Development of a Tradition, 1892-1976*, was one of the first books to explore the tradition of black women's writings and to draw attention to novelists such as Zora Neale Hurston and Nella Larsen. Her article "The Race for Theory," first published in a special issue of *Cultural Critique* on minority discourse and reprinted several times, was the starting point for wide-ranging discussions on questions of race and literary theory. Dr. Christian was the author of several other books and almost 100 published articles and reviews. At the University of California, Berkeley, where she was the first black woman to be granted tenure and promoted to full Professor, she helped to establish and later chaired the Department of African American Studies; more recently she chaired the doctoral program in Ethnic Studies. Her insightful critical voice and her many gestures of encouragement, especially to young scholars of colour, will be greatly missed.