

# Caribbean Literature

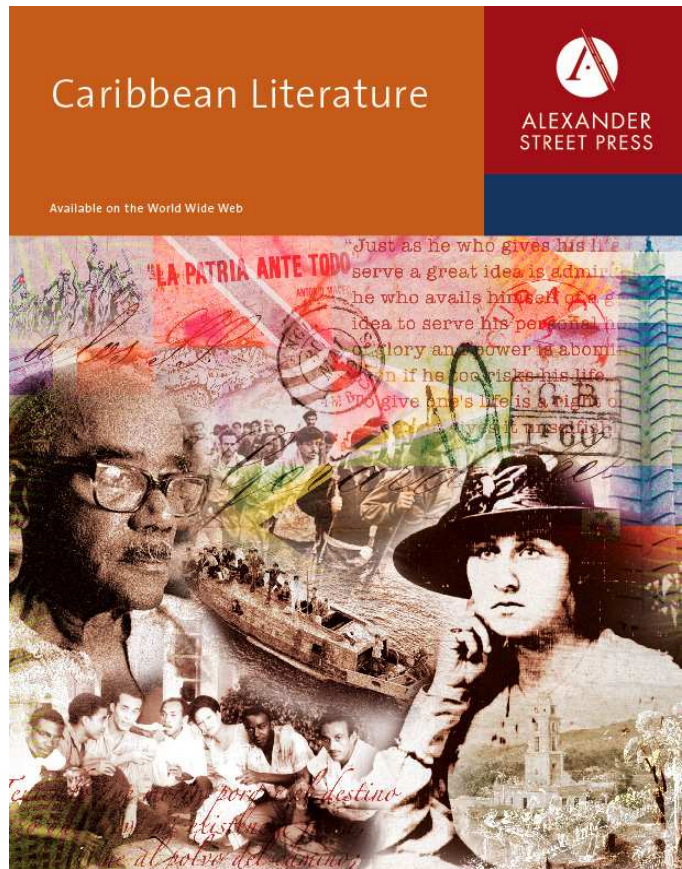
The literature of the Caribbean is exceptional, both in language and subject. More than a million and a half Africans, along with many Indians and South Asians, were brought to the Caribbean between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries. Today, their descendants are active in literature and the arts, producing literature with strong and direct ties to traditional African expressions. This literary connection, combined with the tales of survival, exile, resistance, endurance, and emigration to other parts of the Americas, makes for a body of work that is essential for the study of the Caribbean and the Black Diaspora—and indeed central for our understanding of the New World.

And yet the works are often hard to find or altogether lost. Thomas MacDermot's *Becka's Buckra Baby* (1904) is said to mark the beginning of modern Caribbean writing, but today this work is listed neither in WorldCat nor Amazon, and many of the major libraries of the world have no copies. Other seminal works published by Jamaica's first indigenous publishing house, such as MacDermot's *One Brown Girl And ¼* (1909), E.A. Dodd's *Maroon Medicine* (1905), and W.A. Campbell's *Margarite: A Story of the Earthquake* (1907), also are not easily accessible. Even today, authors from the region struggle to get their works published.

*Caribbean Literature* from Alexander Street Press will remedy these barriers to scholarship, with more than 100,000 pages of poems, drama, novels, stories, and related material at completion—carefully located and secured from archives and rare book libraries, licensed from local publishing houses, and received from the authors themselves. At last, scholars will have a stable, unified, cross-searchable collection for studying these important works.

In Alexander Street's *Caribbean Literature*, students and scholars can find, view, and analyze the interplay of language and culture, for an understanding of the struggle between indigenous and European languages. For the first part of the twentieth century Caribbean writers defined themselves and their culture in the languages of their colonizers. But after independence, with a new self-determination and pride of origin, authors increasingly used local styles and vocabularies. With a newly created concordance, *Caribbean Literature* allows all the various languages, European and local, to be analyzed together for the first time. Freed from the piecemeal efforts of paper anthologies, scholars will explore and analyze works in English, Spanish, French, and Dutch—alongside the largest collection of local language and dialect yet assembled. The collection will include more than 10,000 pages of works written in languages such as Papiamentu, French Creole, Jamaican Creole, Belizean Kriol, Singlish, and Sranam Tongo. Translations of major works, dictionaries, and reference materials are included.

Through themes of innocence, exile and return to the motherland, resistance and endurance, engagement and alienation, self-determination and domination, *Caribbean Literature* provides a powerful new tool for postcolonial studies, and to Caribbean literature's importance in the context of all literature.



## EDITORIAL SELECTION

The collection of fiction, poetry, manuscripts, archival content, interviews, photographs, and other formats reaches from 1900 to the present, representing writers from the entire Caribbean region, including Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana. Where possible, the complete written works of authors, including previously unpublished manuscript materials are included. The collection also features works of several Nobel Prize winners.

Authors from independent states after World War II (Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados), such as George Lamming and V. S. Naipaul, are targeted for inclusion. The editors are also locating harder-to-find examples from the Dutch islands, including important authors such as Cola Debrot and Charles Corsen. Alejo Carpentier (Cuba), Guillermo Cabrera Infante (Cuba), Roger Mais (Jamaica), Derek Walcott (St. Lucia), Edgar Mittelholzer (Guyana), A.J. Seymour (Guyana), Leon-Gontran Damas (French Guiana), Rene Depestre (Haiti), Edgar Cairo (Suriname), Dionne Brand (Trinidad), Sam Selvon (Trinidad), Jean Rhys (Dominica), Denis Henriquez (Aruba), E. Kamau Brathwaite (Barbados), and Hugo Pos (Suriname) are among the hundreds of writers represented.

Supporting the study of the writings themselves are interviews, in which the writers share their thoughts about literature and life, putting context around their works; audio files; reference materials; and journals, including *Kyk-over-AI*, *The Beacon*, and others. Dictionaries targeted for inclusion include *Dictionary of Caribbean English Usage* by Allsopp (ed.) and *Dominica's English-Creole dictionary*.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Some of the sources we've consulted in creating the bibliography are:

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- *Caribbean Literature: a bibliography*, by Marian Goslinga. Lanham, Maryland/London: Scarecrow Press, 1998.
- *Fifty Caribbean Writers*, ed. Daryl Cumber Dance. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1986.
- *Anglophone Caribbean Poetry, 1970-2001: an Annotated Bibliography*, by Emily Allen Westport Williams. Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2002.
- *Diccionario de Autores Latinoamericanos*, by Cesar Aria. Buenos Aires: Emece, 2001.

## PUBLICATION DETAILS

*Caribbean Literature* is available on the Web, either through one-time purchase of perpetual rights or through annual subscription. A library that purchases perpetual rights may request an archival copy of the content. At completion the collection will contain 100,000 pages of text with associated images. Free trials are available.

Other titles in *Alexander Street Literature* include *South and Southeast Asian Literature*; *Black Short Fiction and Folklore*; *Black Women Writers*; *Latin American Women Writers*; *Latino Literature*; *Scottish Women Poets of the Romantic Period*; and others. Libraries can access *Alexander Street Literature* through a single purchase or subscription, at discounted rates, with all the literature cross-searchable through a unified interface. Please contact us for details.

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