

## ABSTRACT

The desirability of regional criticism of regional literature is demonstrated by an examination of critical articles on West Indian literature from a number of countries including England, the United States, Canada, and India. The essay reveals areas of bias which interfere between the critic and his material. In the case of England, this bias seems to be motivated by the historical relationship between Great Britain and the West Indies. With criticism from the United States, the bias may be due to general attitudes towards West Indians.

The history of literary criticism within the West Indies has been reconstructed through numerous journals and newspapers from The Beacon in 1931 to Savacou in the 1970's. This history shows increasing commitment by West Indians to a viable literature and literary criticism of their own. Journals have been assessed in light of their contribution to this commitment.

Additionally, the essay demonstrates that West Indian critics have been attempting to break away from the literary standards imposed by Western models and to define an aesthetic which fits their unique regional situation. Though criticism of the forties and fifties was primarily concerned with establishing a regional literature, the sixties and seventies have seen revolutionary progress towards defining a new cultural matrix.

Volume Two consists of a literary critical index

which was produced through the examination of seventy-eight journals and newspapers. The index is designed with the researcher in mind and access is provided through three different sections - author, critic, and title. In this way, the index can be approached in several ways without any loss of information.

I am indebted to my thesis advisor, Dr. Edward Bugh of the Department of English at the University of the West Indies, for his patience, his meticulous attention to detail and his excellent advice. Dr. Bugh's criticism and suggestions have provided me with a solid foundation.

I should also like to thank Mr. Calvin F. James for his constant encouragement strengthened by belief in my abilities, and Dr. Ann P. Jones who helped to make my research an enjoyable and productive one.

Finally, I wish to thank my son, Clayton Paul Allen, whose understanding and loyal support have been there for me throughout (my research) as a right it should be.