

ABSTRACT

Memory and Landscapes: The Works of Four Early Twentieth Century Barbadian Writers

Zoanne Ceceilia Elaine Evans

This dissertation examines the impact of the literary and journalistic contributions of four Barbadian writers born in the early quarter of the twentieth century. Utilizing the writings of W.S. Arthur, Hilton Vaughan, Karl Sealy and A.N. Forde, I present them as precursors with no previous body of West Indian literary texts from which to draw, who contributed to the laying of the foundation for what is now regarded as West Indian literature. Through mimicry and at times outright revolt, they challenged the colonial norms in a creolized society that held fast to racial and class divides and the negative stereotyping of the black working class. Their writing also exhibited the inevitable tension that arose as they tried to create a national literature in what was still a colonial society and their work at times reflected the influence of the very colonial system from which they tried to distance themselves, but still respected. Theirs was thus very much a split consciousness. With their writing forming part of that larger creolization process that continues to inform the Caribbean, I therefore borrow from Stuart Hall's theory that "creolization always entails inequality, hierarchization, issues of domination and subalternity, master and servitude, control and resistance" to show that these issues highlighted by Hall were first borne out in the themes of the literary and journalistic work of these early writers.

Key words: Stuart Hall; W.S. Arthur; Hilton Vaughan; Karl Sealy; A.N. Forde; creolization process