

SHORT REVIEWS

Elizabeth Ball Carr, Da Kine Talk: From Pidgin to Standard English in Hawaii, University Press of Hawaii, 1972, xvii, 191 pp.

This book is a welcome addition to the rather scanty material so far on Hawaii, one of the richest unexplored mines of information for linguists concerned with contact situations. It is an insider's view from somebody who has been concerned with the subject for more than twenty years; it is a general introduction containing a great deal of information on the phonology (including extensive treatment of prosodic features) and lexis of both Hawaiian Creole and Standard Educated Hawaiian. It is full of examples of both lexical items and connected text; although aimed at the non-linguist, it is linguistically informed. There are many more specialised studies now in progress at the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii, but Professor Carr's book begins to do what Frederic Cassidy's popularly-learned Jamaica Talk did for the Caribbean. It contains, moreover, observations on many features of great interest to students of creole languages in general.

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H. F. De Ziel (ed.), Johannes King, 'Life at Maripaston', monograph 64 from Verhandelingen Voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1973, VI, 142 pp.

The publication of this (very well-produced) volume, with a preface by the editor, is an important event for students of Creole languages. Part I (pp. 51-142) is the text of an autobiographical account, written in Sranan, by the Surinam Matuari Bush Negro Johannes King, who was born in 1898 when nearly 70 years old. He was a native speaker not only of a related Bush Negro language which had no written form, but also of Dutch; he taught himself to read and write, and his own spelling (which is unfortunately for linguists not wholly retained here) reflects interference from his own language. We now have, therefore, a partially written text, but not very extensive, early text in Sranan, with a long introduction and summary in English. King's account is one of the first autobiographical works in Sranan. I have not yet had time to study it in detail, but it is quite clearly a text that will amply repay close study.