

ABSTRACT

It is the purpose of this research paper to throw some light on some of the earliest creative writing in Trinidad, especially in the genre of the short story, since it marked the beginning of a rich tradition on which later and more successful writers were to build. The social factors which gave rise to, and influenced this literary movement, are first examined, an early publishing venture is described, and a critical look is taken at these pioneers and their works. The paper also records the small but significant contribution of a gifted female writer of the period, Miss Kathleen Archibald. The roots of indigenous West Indian writing do not lie in the fifties, but can be traced to the beginning of this century when these islands, like so many other former colonial countries, began to awaken from an inertia of centuries into the realisation that they possessed a distinct identity.