

ABSTRACT

Barnabas John Ramon-Fortuné: an early Trinidad writer

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This work seeks to present an overview of the life and literary works of one of Trinidad's early writers - Barnabas John Ramon-Fortuné. It attempts to determine the extent of his contribution to local literature as well as establish the tradition to which he belonged.

An attempt has been made to place Barnabas John Ramon-Fortuné within the framework of West Indian writers. His life has been documented based upon information received through interviews and consultations with him. An analysis of his poetry has been made using an approach that is based upon the thematic concerns being expressed. His published short stories have been categorised and arranged according to thematic concern, in order to sustain the approach adopted with the poetry, while allowing chronological observations in development and style to be made as well. An analysis of the short stories reveals the issues which most deeply affected Ramon-Fortuné, and establishes the link between his stories and his good poetry.

The thesis concludes (a) that Barnabas John Ramon-Fortuné occupied a key position in the transitional era of local literature; (b) that he was a talented writer whose creative ability lay more so in works of a Socio-political nature. And finally, it places Ramon-Fortuné in the tradition of the short story as the literary genre to which he seems most adapted.

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