

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF CARIBBEAN WRITERS
From Tuesday 25 to Friday November 28, 2008
Organized by RÉGION GUADELOUPE

Chairman : Roger TOUMSON
Professor of University, writer (Guadeloupe)

Coordinated by Ernest PEPIN, writer (Guadeloupe)

Guest of honour : Derek WALCOTT, writer, Nobel Prize of Literature (Sainte-Lucie)

Tuesday November, 25, 2008

Venue : "Lycée Hôtelier" (Gosier)

Hosted by Eric LEFEVRE

OPENING CEREMONY

5 pm – 5.30 pm **Guests welcome**

5.30 pm – 7.30 pm

Opening speech by Mr Victorin LUREL, Honorary President, President of Guadeloupe Regional Council

Opening address

Speech by the Prefect of Guadeloupe

Speech by Mr Jacques GILLOT, President of Guadeloupe Council

Speech by M. Roger TOUMSON, Chairman of the Convention, University Professor, writer (Guadeloupe): overview of the Caribbean literature

i Partners' addresses :

Georges VIRASSAMY, President of University of the French West Indies and Guyana (U.A.G.)

The Chief Education Officer of Guadeloupe

Yolanda WOOD, Director of Casa de las Americas (Cuba)

Dr Jose VEGA, Executive Director of the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture (Puerto-Rico)

Opening Conference

An overview of Creole, French, English, Spanish, Dutch Caribbean literature.

Speakers :

- Jamaica KINCAID, writer (Antigua)
- Hector POULLET, writer (Guadeloupe)
- Frances SANTIAGO, professor of university (Porto-Rico)
- Simone SCHWARZ-BART, writer (Guadeloupe)
- Lasana M. SEKOU, writer (Sint-Marteen)

7.30 pm – 9.30 pm **Dinner – Cocktail party**

Wednesday November 26, 2008

Venue: Creole Beach Hotel [Gosier]

Hosted by Michel REINETTE

9 am - 9.15 am Delegates Welcome

9.15 am – 12.30 am Conference

“Caribbean literature in the world: state of the art and perspectives”

Caribbean literature ranks among the greatest literature in the world. Some Nobel Prize winners such as Saint John Perse, Derek Walcott, V.S. Naipaul, have contributed to recognise a vision, far from being unique, that shows unity.

However, the linguistic, cultural, historical and geographical barriers have not always helped promote the interrelations required for the meeting of creative minds.

Despite the existence of numerous critical texts, this specific situation encourages a status report and an opportunity to reflect on the circumstances and think about the perspectives for our literature. This represents one of the main issues for FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF CARIBBEAN WRITERS. Many participants from different backgrounds will share their ideas and research on this topic. They will take a close look at the inherent complexity of our creations that are constantly challenged by migrant writings on a worldwide scale.

Moderator: Lyonel TROUILLOT, writer (Haiti)

Speakers:

- Jean BERNABE, professor of university (Martinique)
- Merle COLLINS, writer (Grenada)
- Consuelo TOMAS, writer (Panama)
- Catherine LE PELLETIER, journalist and writer (French Guyana)
- Rafael LUCAS, writer (Haiti)
- Ernest PEPIN, writer (Guadeloupe)
- Karla SUAREZ, writer (Cuba)

10.30 – 10.40 Coffee Break

10.40 – 12.30 Discussions with the audience

12.30 - 2 pm. Lunch Break

2.00 – 3.00pm. Round Table 1

“The literary movements: influences and interdependences”

Many movements have punctuated Caribbean literatures history, such as: doudouïsm, indigenism, the negritude, spiralism, creolity and "négrismo". Far from being divided up, they become entangled and tie up hidden complicities according to the periods. Phenomena of echoes and resonances are revealed that constitute the basis of Caribbean literature.

Through aesthetic and ideological choices, influences and interdependences were outlined and should be analysed linked with the question of identity.

Chairman: Max JEANNE, writer (Guadeloupe)

Moderator: Andrès BANSART, writer and University Professor (Venezuela)

Speakers:

- Alfred ALEXANDRE, writer (Martinique)
- Fortuné CHALUMEAU, writer (Guadeloupe)
- Maximilien LAROCHE, writer (Haiti)
- Earl LOVELACE, writer (Trinidad & Tobago)
- Consuelo TOMAS, writer (Panama)

3.00 - 4.00pm. Round table 2:

"Caribbean writing at the crossroad of languages"

Getting round the constraints of the European languages to create a new literary expression, between the "realities" and the imaginaries. What sort of aesthetics appears then, when the shock of the languages takes place?

Sometimes in their capacity as artists, writers upset the French, the English, the Spanish, the Dutch, adopt Creole, to bring to the fore the possible voices of a multilingual Caribbean, fertilized by the colonial history, the implantation of the creative intention in different areas or the crossings connected to the migrations and to the histories of populations.

Chairman: Lucia NANKÖE, Literary Critic (Surinam)

Moderator: Rafaël LUCAS, University professor (Haïti)

Speakers:

- Raphaël CONFIANT, writer and University Professor (Martinique)
- Jean MOOMOU, writer (Guyana)
- Max RIPPON, writer (Guadeloupe)
- Lasana M. SEKOU, writer (Sint-Marteen)
- Senior OLIVE, writer (Jamaica)

4.10 – 4.20 pm. Coffee Break

4.20 pm – 5.30 pm Round table 3:

“Literature, theatre and cinema : the adaptation of texts”

Sometimes the writers' work benefits from a second life, through public readings, stage or film adaptations. Many authors are also playwrights such as Aimé Césaire, Edouard Glissant, Derek Walcott, Maryse Condé, Dany Laferrière or scriptwriters.

Would the adaptation of texts be a solution that they live, beyond the usual boundaries, in places where the word, movement and paper unite to marry the other codes and embrace other audiences? What are the issues of a connection between Literature and Theatre, and how to facilitate the development of this phenomenon? Readers, actors, film directors, publishers... all exchange experiences and points of view.

Chairman : Jean METELLUS, Writer (Haïti)

Moderator: Ian STRACHAN, Writer (Bahamas)

Speakers:

- Alwin BULLY, Playright, Stage Director and Producer (Dominica)
- Humberto GARCIA, Professor of university (Puerto-Rico)
- Harry KANCEL, author and producer (Guadeloupe)
- Euzhan PALCY, Film Maker (Martinique)
- Gary VICTOR , Writer (Haiti)

7pm – 8.30 pm. Show: Theatre, play: “La voyageuse” by Mrs Josette MARTIAL/MARINELLI

Actresses: Misses Marie-Noëlle EUSEBE, Daisy MIOTELLO, Mr Paolo MADUGNO, Philippe DIAKO

Director speech: Jean-Michel Martial

8.30 pm

End of day 1

Thursday, November 27, 2008

Venue: Creole Beach Hotel [Gosier]

Hosted by Michel REINETTE

9am - 12 am. Conference, discussion 2:

"The important themes of Caribbean literature"

Caribbean authors often investigate the question of the problematic identity of the people in their work. The family, the migratory phenomena, the female condition, are recurrent subjects. A collective, shared, embraced, lived or denied history gives the characters a different way of seeing things and to plan the future. To what respect are the writers themselves, distant or immersed observers, witnesses or spectators, concerned about the current societies? What does Caribbean literature testify to? And what function can this literature fulfil today?

Moderator: Jean BERNABE, University Professor (Martinique)

Speakers:

- Louis-Philippe DALEMBERT, Writer (Haiti)
- Mervyn MORRIS, Writer (Jamaica)
- Gisèle PINEAU, Writer (Guadeloupe)
- Eugénie REZAIRE, Professor of university (Guyana)
- Luisa VICIOSO, Writer (Dominican Republic)

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.30 pm Forum of free expression of the Guadelupian writers

Moderator: Jean JURAVER, writer (Guadeloupe)

12.30 – 2 pm Lunch

2.30 – 5 pm Two simultaneous Workshops:

Workshop 1: "Creative writing"

Literature is an art. Actually writing is an act of creation. Within the framework of this workshop, budding or confirmed writers will have the pleasure to share, with any complicity, the joys and sufferings known to achieve a book, the gained or applied techniques and, even maybe, the secrets of a stamp, of a style.

The participants will be invited to write a text thanks to writer supervision. This place of initiation will be conducive to the fruitful exchanges where anyone will take advantage of the experience with a well-known writer thanks to her/his own writing.

Thus they will discover the creation processes through inspirational meeting and writings according to the speaker. So, all participants are encouraged for exchange of experiences on the literary creation.

Leader: Samia KASSAB-CHARFI, Literary Critic (Tunisia)

Speakers:

- Afua COOPER, Writer (Jamaica)
- Zee EDGEEL, Writer (Belize)
- Jean METELLUS, Writer (Haïti)
- Velma POLLARD, Writer (Jamaica)
- Frances SANTIAGO, professor of university (Puerto-Rico)

Workshop 2: "Publishing, translation distribution/selling and the book market: which kind of cooperation?"

More and more, translation of works appears as essential to their distribution in the Caribbean and in the rest of the world. Promotional strategies are to be considered so that the works are available to the largest number. This workshop aims to validate the common solutions to set up an efficient plan enabling a real Caribbean book market to bloom. The publishers are the central point to this problematic. How to buy the rights? How to give more visibility to its funds and increase the possibilities to see the work translated? Therefore, all the protagonists of the industry should rather think about some possibilities of cooperation and development for a distribution both wider and more massive.

Leader : Mariella AÏTA, Literary Critic (Venezuela)

Speakers :

- Odile BROUSSILLON, Chief Executive of LAMECA (Guadeloupe)
- Tony DELSHAM, Writer (Martinique)
- Régine JASOR, Editor (Guadeloupe)
- Lucia NANKÖE, Literary Critic (Surinam)
- Rodney SAINT-ELOI, Editor (Haïti)
- Yolanda WOOD, Director of Casa de las Americas (Cuba)

2pm - 5pm Meetings with secondary schools, in partnership with Chief Education officer, at Espace Régional Raizet (Abymes)

The writers :

- Andrés BANSART (Vénézuéla)
- Raphaël CONFIANT (Martinique)
- Merle HODGE (Trinidad)
- Jamaica KINCAID (Antigua)

Meet the secondary school pupils from eight different educational establishments :

- Lycée Gerville REACHE (Basse-Terre)
- Lycée Générale et Technique de Providence (Les Abymes)
- Lycée Professionnelle du Lamentin (Lamentin)
- Lycée Générale et Technique Poirier de GISSAC (Sainte-Anne)
- Lycée Générale et Technique des Droits de l'Homme (Petit Bourg)
- Lycée Professionnel ARRON (Baie-Mahault)
- Lycée Générale et Technique de Baimbridge (Abymes)
- Lycée Générale et Technique Faustin Fléret (Morne-à-l'Eau)

6.30 pm - 8.30pm

Evening around Aimé CESAIRE

This evening event is dedicated to a man of letters and commitment. His recent death has reminded everyone of his monumental influence he exerted through his uncommon progression, his prolific work; his inspired speech and through his boundless voice. Thanks to him, the movement of Negritude has received a great legacy and an ongoing impulse. In addition, he contributed so much to the literature in the world and to the development of the Caribbean literature that neither his admirers nor detractors are indifferent to. The testimonies and the reflections on this great poet will succeed one another during this evening.

A documentary film by Euzhan PALCY "La force de regarder demain" will be screened, taken from the pack " Aimé CESAIRE, une parole pour le XXIème siècle "(Aimé Césaire, a voice for the XXth), in partnership with the event " the Month of the Documentary Film".

Tribute : Presentation by Daniel MAXIMIN, Writer (Martinique)

Speakers:

- Ernest PEPIN, Writer (Guadeloupe)
- Roger TOUMSON, university Professor (Guadeloupe)
- Luisa VICIOSO, Writer (Dominican Republic)
- Derek WALCOTT, writer, Nobel Price (Saint-Lucia)

8.30 pm End of day 2

N.B: The conferences discussions and round tables are open to the public at large. The workshops are restricted to writers.

Friday November 28, 2008

8 am – 4 pm Cultural program:

Visit of Bois Debout House, where Alexis SAINT-LEGER, Saint-John PERSE lived (Capesterre Belle-Eau)

Visit of Fort Delgrès, meeting at LAMECA, meeting at the Region Guadeloupe (Basse-Terre)

1 pm – 2.30 pm Lunch

3.30 pm Return to the hotel

6 – 7.30 pm. CLOSING CEREMONY

Venue: Department Residence [Gosier]

Hosted by Jean-Marc THIBAUDIER

Summary of the deliberations, by Ernest PEPIN, Writer (Guadeloupe)

Speech by Roger TOUMSON, chairman of the Convention (Guadeloupe)

Presentation of the Caribbean writers Association

Official and formal signature of Caribbean writers Charter

Reading of Saint-John PERSE's texts by Ariel CAMEJO (Cuba) and Gilbert LAUMORD (Guadeloupe)

Speech by Derek WALCOTT, writer and Nobel Price (Saint-Lucia)

Closing speech by the President of the Regional Council, Mr Victorin LUREL

7.30 pm – 11pm Official dinner

First International Conventional of Caribbean Writers organised by :

- Regional Council of Guadeloupe

With the support of:

- The European Union
- The Prefecture of Guadeloupe

In partnership with:

- Casa de las Americas (Cuba)
- The Education District of Guadeloupe
- University of the French West-Indies and the French Guyana
- Association of the Caribbean states

Simultaneously translated into English, Spanish and French

Michel REINETTE, Journalist (France) will drive the debates

Available places on registration: form of registration on-line on the First International Conventional of Caribbean Writers website: www.ecrivainsdelacaraibe.org