

CONTENTS

PREFACE	xix
INTRODUCTION	xxiii
The Language Continuum	xxv
The Oral Tradition	xxvii
Before Emancipation	xxix
From Emancipation to Black Liberation	xxxv
The Literary Tradition	xliii
The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries	xliii
The Twentieth Century	li
Conclusion	lxiii
NOTE ON THE TEXT	lxv
THE ORAL TRADITION	I
<i>Anonymous</i>	
Work-songs, I and II	3
Dancing Songs, I and II	3
Guinea Corn	4
Songs, I and II	4
My Deery Honey	5
Freedom a Come Oh!	6
Song of the King of the Eboes	7
Negro Song at Cornwall	7
A Negro Song	7
A Popular Negro Song	8
Quaco Sam	8
Sangaree Kill de Captain	9
War Down a Monkland	9
Two Man a Road	10
Mas' Charley	10
I Have a News	10
There's a Black Boy in a Ring	11

Contents

Them Gar'n Town People	11
Itanami	12
<i>Michael McTurk</i>	
Query	13
Deh 'Pon Um Again	13
<i>Edward Cordle</i>	
Lizzie and Joe Catch a Thief	16
Lizzie and Joe in Court	17
Lizzie Discourses on the Small-pox	18
<i>James Martinez</i>	
Dis Time No Stan' Like Befo' Time	19
My Little Lize	21
<i>Marcus Garvey</i>	
Keep Cool	22
Centenary's Day	23
<i>Slim and Sam</i>	
Sandy Gully	24
Johnny Tek Away Mi Wife	24
<i>Anonymous</i>	
Sly Mongoose	25
Dis Long Time, Gal	26
Linstead Market	26
Dog Shark	27
Sammy Dead Oh	28
Glory Dead	28
Trouble Oh	29
<i>Rastafarian chant</i>	
Zion Me Wan Go Home	30
<i>Louise Bennett</i>	
Back to Africa	31
Colonization in Reverse	32
Dutty Tough	33
Excitement	34
Independance	35
Independence Twenty-One	37
<i>Bruce St John</i>	
Bajan Litany	39
Subtlety	39
Wisdom	40
<i>'Lord Kitchener'</i>	
Miss Tourist	41

<i>'The Mighty Sparrow'</i>	
The Yankees Back	43
Get to Hell outa Here	44
<i>'The Mighty Chalkdust'</i>	
Brain Drain	46
<i>Marc Matthews</i>	
Guyana Not Ghana	48
<i>Delano Abdul Malik De Coteau</i>	
Oui Papa	49
Motto Vision 1971	50
<i>Paul Keens-Douglas</i>	
Tell Me Again	56
Wukhand	58
<i>F. 'Toots' Hibbert</i>	
Never Get Weary	61
<i>Peter Tosh</i>	
African	62
<i>Jimmy Cliff</i>	
The Harder They Come	63
<i>Legon Cogil and Carlton Barrett</i>	
Dem Belly Full	64
<i>Bob Marley</i>	
Trenchtown Rock	65
<i>Christopher Laird</i>	
The Sea at Evening	66
<i>Frederick Williams</i>	
De Eighties	68
<i>Bongo Jerry</i>	
Mabrak	69
<i>Eddy Grant</i>	
War Party	72
<i>Lillian Allen</i>	
Belly Woman's Lament	73
I Fight Back	74
<i>Linton Kwesi Johnson</i>	
Bass Culture	75
Reggae fi Dada	75
<i>Mutabaruka</i>	
Free Up de Lan, White Man	79
Revolutionary Poets	80
The Change	81

Contents

You Ask Me	82
<i>Oku Onuora</i>	
Last Night	83
Pressure Drop	83
Reflection in Red	84
<i>Brian Meeks</i>	
Las' Rights	87
The Coup-clock Clicks	88
<i>Michael Smith</i>	
Black Bud	90
I an I Alone or Goliath	91
<i>Valerie Bloom</i>	
Trench Town Shock (A Soh Dem Sey)	94
Wat a Rain	95
THE LITERARY TRADITION	97
<i>Anonymous</i>	
From <i>A Pindarique Ode on the Arrival of His Excellency Sir Nicholas Lawes etc.</i>	99
<i>Francis Williams</i>	
From <i>An Ode to George Haldane etc.</i>	101
<i>Nathaniel Weekes</i>	
From <i>Barbados, I and II</i>	102
<i>James Grainger</i>	
From <i>The Sugar-Cane, Books II and IV</i>	104
<i>John Singleton</i>	
From <i>A General Description of the West Indian Islands</i>	
Book II	106
Book III	107
<i>Anonymous</i>	
From <i>A Poetical Epistle etc.</i>	110
From <i>Jamaica, a Poem in Three Parts etc.</i>	111
<i>J. B. Moreton</i>	
Ballad	112
<i>James Montgomery</i>	
From <i>The West Indies</i>	113
<i>M. J. Chapman</i>	
From <i>Barbadoes</i>	115
African Dirge	116

<i>William Hosack</i>	
From <i>The Isle of Streams</i> , Stanzas x–xiv	117
Stanzas XLV–LI	118
<i>Robert Dunbar</i>	
From <i>The Cruise</i>	121
From <i>The Caraguin</i>	121
<i>Henry Dalton</i>	
The Emigrant Ship	124
<i>Horatio Nelson Huggins</i>	
From <i>Hiroona</i> :	
The Introduction	126
Canto XII, §§ 23–6	127
<i>Egbert Martin</i>	
Trade	130
National Anthem	131
<i>Thomas MacDermot</i>	
From <i>San Gloria</i> (from Columbus's Soliloquy)	132
Cuba	132
A Market Basket in the Car	133
<i>Donald McDonald</i>	
A Song of Those Who Died	134
Breakfast in Bed (Influenza in War-time)	135
A Citizen of – the World	135
<i>Alfred Cruickshank</i>	
God or Mammon	137
Let Us Be Frank	138
The Convict Song	138
<i>W. Adolphe Roberts</i>	
On a Monument to Martí	140
Peacocks	140
The Maroon Girl	141
A Valediction	141
<i>Claude McKay</i>	
Fetchin Water	142
Subway Wind	143
The White House	144
If We Must Die	144
Baptism	145
<i>Jean Rhys</i>	
Our Gardener	146
Obeah Night	147

Contents

<i>Frank Collymore</i>	
Ballad of an Old Woman	151
Monkeys	152
Triptych	152
<i>J. E. Clare McFarlane</i>	
On National Vanity	153
<i>Philip Sherlock</i>	
Jamaican Fisherman	154
Pocomania	154
Dinner Party 1940	156
A Beauty Too of Twisted Trees	156
<i>Una Marson</i>	
Kinky Hair Blues	158
Brown Baby Blues	159
Gettin de Spirit	160
Politeness	160
To Wed or Not to Wed	161
Repose	162
<i>Vivian Virtue</i>	
Waifs	163
The Hour	163
<i>A. J. Seymour</i>	
From <i>The Guiana Book</i>	165
From <i>For Christopher Columbus</i>	168
The Well	169
I was a Boy	170
<i>Phyllis Allfrey</i>	
The Child's Return	171
Love for an Island	171
<i>Eric Roach</i>	
Love Overgrows a Rock	173
Piarco	174
At Guaracara Park	175
<i>George Campbell</i>	
History Makers	177
In the Slums	177
Holy	178
<i>Barbara Ferland</i>	
Ave Maria	180
Orange	180
Expect No Turbulence	181

<i>John Figueroa</i>	
Birth is . . .	182
Portrait of a Woman (and a Man)	182
At Home the Green Remains	184
<i>Wilson Harris</i>	
Charcoal	185
Laocoön	185
<i>A. L. Hendriks</i>	
Hot Summer Sunday	187
Boundary	187
The Migrant	188
Will the Real Me Please Stand Up?	189
From 'D'où venons nous? Que sommes nous? Où allons nous?', VI	190
<i>Basil McFarlane</i>	
Arawak Prologue	193
<i>Gloria Escoffery</i>	
Twins	195
No Man's Land	195
Farewell to a Jovial Friend	196
After the Fall	196
<i>Louis Simpson</i>	
Jamaica	198
Arm in Arm	199
The Battle	200
The Inner Part	201
Back in the States	201
A Fine Day for Straw Hats	202
Working Late	204
<i>James Berry</i>	
My Father	205
Ingrown	206
Back to Hometown Kingston	206
From Lucy: Holiday Reflections	207
Distance of a City	208
Fantasy of an African Boy	209
<i>Jan Carew</i>	
Our Home	211
The Cliffs at Manzanilla	212
Faces and Skulls	212

Contents

<i>Martin Carter</i>	
University of Hunger	214
<i>From I Come from the Nigger Yard</i>	215
Till I Collect	216
There is No Riot	216
For a Man Who Walked Sideways	217
The Great Dark	217
As New and as Old	218
Bent	219
Our Number	219
<i>Evan Jones</i>	
Genesis	220
Walking with R.B.	221
November, 1956	221
The Song of the Banana Man	222
The Lament of the Banana Man	224
<i>Shake Keane</i>	
Shaker Funeral	226
Coming Back	228
From <i>Volcano Suite: Soufrière</i> (79) 1	230
<i>Daniel Williams</i>	
We are the Cenotaphs	232
<i>Andrew Salkey</i>	
Remember Haiti, Cuba, Vietnam	235
Soufrière	235
Clearsightedness	236
Postcard from Mexico, 16.X.1973	237
A Song for England	238
Dry River Bed	238
<i>Henry Beissel</i>	
Pans at Carnival	241
<i>Derek Walcott</i>	
A Far Cry from Africa	243
From <i>Another Life</i> , Chapter 20	244
Forest of Europe	247
The Spoiler's Return	249
<i>Edward Kamau Brathwaite</i>	
Horse Weebles	255
Starvation and Blues	257
Schooner	260
Harbour	261

<i>Edward Lucie-Smith</i>	
The Wise Child	264
Your Own Place	264
The Hymn Tunes	265
Imperialists in Retirement	266
<i>Abdur-Rahman Slade Hopkinson</i>	
The Madwoman of Papine	268
Tycoon, Poet, Saint	269
December 1974: a Lament	271
<i>Ivan Van Sertima</i>	
Volcano	272
<i>Edward Baugh</i>	
Colour-scheme	273
Truth and Consequences	273
The Carpenter's Complaint	274
Country Dance	274
<i>Howard Fergus</i>	
Forecast	276
Ethnocide	276
Lament for Maurice Bishop	277
<i>Claire Harris</i>	
Framed	278
Policeman Cleared in Jaywalking Case	278
<i>Mervyn Morris</i>	
Brief	281
The House-slave	281
The Early Rebels	281
To an Expatriate Friend	282
For Consciousness	283
Valley Prince	283
Family Pictures	284
One, Two	285
Peace-time	286
<i>LeRoy Clarke</i>	
Where Hurricane	287
<i>E. A. Markham</i>	
Don't Talk to Me about Bread	290
An Old Thought for a New Couple	291
Rewrite	291
Late Return	292
Grandfather's Sermon and Michael Smith	296

Contents

<i>Dennis Scott</i>	
Homecoming	299
Grampa	300
Uncle Time	301
Epitaph	301
For the Last Time, Fire	302
Mouth	303
Version	304
Weaponsong	305
More Poem	305
<i>Anthony McNeill</i>	
Don	306
The Victors	306
Residue	307
Saint Ras	307
Dermis	308
A Wreath for the Suicide Heart	309
<i>Judy Miles</i>	
Suicide?	310
Seasons Greetings, Love and Revolution	311
<i>Kevyn Arthur</i>	
Gospel	312
I Saw Three Ships	313
<i>Pamela Mordecai</i>	
Tell Me	314
For Eyes to Bless You	315
Shooting the Horses	315
<i>Roger McTair</i>	
Guerillas	317
Politics Kaiso	318
<i>Olive Senior</i>	
Ancestral Poem	320
Epitaph	321
<i>Wayne Brown</i>	
Noah	322
Ballad of the Electric Eel	324
England, Autumn	325
The Bind	326
<i>Faustin Charles</i>	
Fireflies	327
Sugar Cane	328

<i>Cyril Dabydeen</i>	
Rehearsal	330
Words and Legacy	330
The Fat Men	331
Fruit, of the Earth	332
<i>Marlene Philip</i>	
Oliver Twist	333
Salmon Courage	334
<i>Lorna Goodison</i>	
The Mulatta as Penelope	337
For Don Drummond	337
<i>John Robert Lee</i>	
Return	340
Kite	341
third world snapshots	342
<i>John Agard</i>	
Waiting for Fidel	343
Pan Recipe	343
<i>Victor Questel</i>	
Tom	345
This Island Mopsy	346
<i>Grace Nichols</i>	
Waterpot	348
Without Song	349
Old Magic	349
<i>Kendel Hippolyte</i>	
good morning	350
Jah-Son/ another way	351
<i>Dionne Brand</i>	
From Epigrams to Ernesto Cardenal in Defense of Claudia	356
From Military Occupations	357
<i>David Dabydeen</i>	
Slave Song	363
Men and Women	364
<i>Fragano Ledgister</i>	
On Parade	365
The Cities Have Fallen	365
<i>Frederick D'Aguiar</i>	
Letter from Mama Dot	367
On Duty	368

Contents

BIOGRAPHICAL AND EXPLANATORY NOTES	369
GLOSSARY	431
INDEX OF POETS	441
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	443