



A Literary Friendship: Selected Notes on the Kamau Brathwaite, Gordon Rohlehr Correspondence

AUTHOR Gordon Rohlehr

PAPERBACK

978-1-84523-584-0

220 pages

234 × 156 mm

14 March 2024

£19.99 / \$26.99 / €23.99

SUBJECT

DNC: Memoirs

DND: Diaries, letters and
journals

For fifty years, Gordon Rohlehr was the regular correspondent, sometimes confidant and always the critic who best understood what Kamau Brathwaite's poetry achieved. In revisiting the trajectory of this mutually enriching relationship, what stands out is Rohlehr's independence of view and his willingness to say when he thought his friend was wrong or unreasonable. Moving in its portrayal of a friendship frequently at odds with the political direction of the Caribbean world, this is also an essential record of the making of Caribbean literature.

AUTHOR DETAILS

Gordon Rohlehr was unquestionably one of the Caribbean's finest critics and thinkers, his territory covers both literature and popular culture, particularly Calypso.



Colonial Countryside: Creative and Historical Responses

EDITORS Corinne Fowler, Jeremy Poynting

PAPERBACK

978-1-84523-566-6
210 pages
234 × 156 mm
21 March 2024
£24.99 / \$33.99 / €29.99

SUBJECT

HIS049000: HISTORY /
Essays
FIC003000: FICTION /
Anthologies (multiple
authors)
GM: Museology & heritage
studies
WQH: Local history
DQ: Anthologies (non-
poetry)
NHTQ: Colonialism and
imperialism
FBA: Modern and
contemporary fiction:
general and literary

- Includes acclaimed voices such as Peter Kalu, Karen Onojaife, Jacqueline Crooks, Ayanna Lloyd Banwo, Mahsuda Snaith and more.

Colonial Countryside is a book of commissioned poems and short stories produced by ten global majority writers featuring National Trust houses with significant colonial histories. This includes properties whose owners engaged in the slavery business, in colonial administration or who were involved with the East India Company or British rule in India.

Historians have accompanied these pieces with commentaries detailing the evidence upon which each creative commission was based. The book ends with a photo essay by the project's commissioned photographer, Ingrid Pollard, the Turner Prize shortlisted artist who has pioneered critical interventions into the supposed whiteness of the British countryside.

EDITORS' DETAILS

Professor Corinne Fowler is a research expert at the University of Leicester, and is Director of Colonial Countryside: National Trust Houses Reinterpreted. She specialises in the legacies of colonialism and postcolonialism to literature, heritage and representations of British history. She is the author of *Green Unpleasant Land*.

RELATED TITLE



Green Unpleasant Land

Corinne Fowler
978-1-84523-482-9
£19.99 / \$26.99 / €23.99



A Swarthy Boy: A Childhood in British Guiana

AUTHOR Edgar Mittelholzer

PAPERBACK

978-1-84523-355-6

206 pages

234 × 156 mm

11 April 2024

£24.99 / \$33.99 / €29.99

MARKET

General/trade

SUBJECT

BIO007000: BIOGRAPHY &
AUTOBIOGRAPHY /

Literary Figures

F: Fiction & related items

DNBL1: Autobiography:
writers

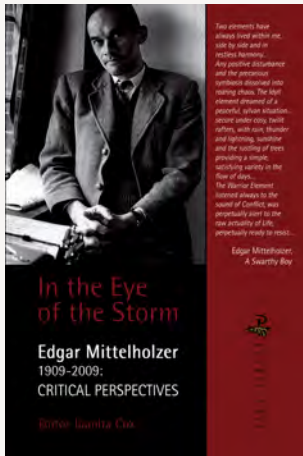
DNC: Memoirs

- The autobiography of acclaimed author **Edgar Mittelholzer**.
- He was born in British Guiana in 1909 and wrote more than twenty novels. He eventually settled in England, where he lived until his death in 1965, a suicide predicted in several of his novels.
- The most recent reissue of his work was *My Bones My Flute*, published by Peepal Tree Press in 2015 (ISBN: 9781845232955).

Edgar Mittelholzer's autobiography, first published in 1963, which covers the first eighteen years of his life, was his first return in writing to about his native Guyana, of memory and imagination, for a good many years. Born into a household that regarded itself as European, Mittelholzer writes with vivid feeling about what it was like to be a boy whose "swarthinness" was anathema to his bigoted father. In the process, Mittelholzer gives an account of his family that is frank and searching and an account of the role of race, class and gender in small-town colonial life that is unrivalled in its perception. *A Swarthy Boy* is also an attempt to trace the origins of the man Mittelholzer thought he had become, the division he felt within himself between the sensitive soul and the militant fighter, the Idyll and the Warrior – a division that he portrays in a good many of his most intimately observed characters. Despite being written only a couple of years before his fiery suicide, *A Swarthy Boy* was written with zest, not a little humour and some affection for the world he left to become a professional writer in Britain. This new edition has an introduction by Juanita Cox and an afterword by Jacqueline Ward, Edgar Mittelholzer's second wife, who was with him at the time of writing *A Swarthy Boy*.

AUTHOR DETAILS

Edgar Mittelholzer was born in British Guiana in 1909. He wrote more than twenty novels. He eventually settled in England, where he lived until his death in 1965, a suicide predicted in several of his novels.



In the Eye of the Storm: Edgar Mittelholzer - Critical Perspectives

AUTHOR Juanita Cox

PAPERBACK

978-1-84523-128-6
352 pages
216 × 156 mm
25 April 2024
£19.99 / \$26.99 / €23.99

SUBJECT

LIT004100: LITERARY
CRITICISM / Caribbean &
Latin American
DQ: Anthologies (non-
poetry)
DNT: Anthologies: general

- Edited by Juanita Cox, whose research on Mittelholzer's life and writing has played an important role in the rediscovery of this important Caribbean writer.
- Explores Mittelholzer's treatment of race and the divided person, of sexuality, history, heredity and the charge that he wrote pornography.
- Contributors include A.J. Seymour, Michael Gilkes, Joyce Sparer and an important biographical essay from Mittelholzer's widow, Jacqueline Ward.

In the 1950s and early 1960s no Anglophone Caribbean novelist had a higher profile and was more praised than Edgar Mittelholzer. He was the first Caribbean writer to earn his living from writing and his earlier novels in particular found enthusiastic reviewers in the UK and USA. But after his suicide in 1965 his reputation sank and until Peepal Tree began republishing his earlier writing in 2007, for several decades, none of his books were in print. This collection of essays charts both the way Mittelholzer's work was read in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, and shows how a contemporary generation of critics is rediscovering his real merits – the quality of his prose, his literary ambition and the ways in which at least some of Mittelholzer's ideas about the Caribbean speak to a postnationalist generation. The essays in this collection explore Mittelholzer's treatment of race and the divided person, of sexuality, history, heredity and the charge that he wrote pornography. More recent essays discuss his formal inventiveness in exploring analogies for musical forms, the leitmotiv in his fiction, and the diversity of genres he employs in his short stories. Contributors include A.J. Seymour, Michael Gilkes, Joyce Sparer and an important biographical essay from Mittelholzer's widow, Jacqueline Ward. More recent critics include Keith Jardim, J. Dillon Brown, Juanita Cox and Jeremy Poynting. The collection is edited by Juanita Cox, whose research on Mittelholzer's life and writing has played an important role in the rediscovery of this important Caribbean writer.

AUTHOR DETAILS

Juanita Cox is of Guyanese parentage. She is completing a PhD on the work of Edgar Mittelholzer. She currently teaches at the University of North London.



Seepersad Naipaul, Amazing Scenes: Selected Journalism 1928-1953

The best of Seepersad Naipaul's inventive and astonishing journalism.

PAPERBACK

978-1-84523-563-5

400 pages

234 × 156 mm

2 May 2024

£29.99 / \$40.99 / €35.99

SUBJECT

DNP: Reportage,
journalism or collected
columns

JB: Society and culture:
general

- 1928 to 1953's Trinidad - bought alive by the father of V.S. Naipaul

An unrivalled and very entertaining picture of the various and sometimes bizarre strands of Indian lives in colonial Trinidad. Seepersad Naipaul is a pioneer, combining insight with high style, however strange or mundane his subject.

With contextualising essays by the editors, this collection of Seepersad Naipaul's journalism is a treasure trove of Trinidad's social history, particularly the making of the Indo-Trinidadian community. It is also a celebration of the talent of a writer whose turn of phrase makes the case for journalism as art, and of Seepersad Naipaul as an outstanding intellectual.





Children of the Ghetto

AUTHOR Kevin Le Gendre

PAPERBACK

978-1-84523-564-2
234 × 156 mm
13 June 2024
£19.99 / \$26.99 / €23.99

SUBJECT

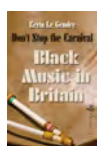
MUS020000: MUSIC /
History & Criticism
AVM: History of music
AVLP: Popular music

Volume 2 of this outstanding history of Black British music covers the period from the late 1960s through to the end of the 1980s, explores the points of transition from the playing of Black musics in Britain that originated elsewhere to the emergence of an indigenously Black British music that responded to the situation of being born, or at least growing up in Britain, of the experience of the virulent racism in schools and in the wider society when, after Enoch Powell's 'rivers of blood' speech, dockers marches and the regrouping of racist and fascist organisations, both white xenophobes and Black settlers realised the latter were here to stay. Le Gendre sees the emergence of the 'indigenous' in the blending of Caribbean and rock and pop in the music of the Peddlars, Eddie Grant and the Equals, Blue Mink, the jazz-blues rock fusion of CCS, the jazz, reggae funk of Cymande; the experimental music of mixed Black and white groups such as Rip, Rig and Panic and African Head Charge; the Britishing of West African music in Osibisa, the British reggae of Dennis Bovell, Matumbe, Misty in Roots, Aswad, Linton Kwesi Johnson, and Lovers Rock; and in jazz, Courtney Pine and the Jazz Warriors. There are discussions of the impact of gatekeepers such as the BBC on Black musics, the opportunities and limitations offered by clubs and other music venues, and the debates around the performance of Black musics by white British performers.

AUTHOR DETAILS

Kevin Le Gendre is a journalist and broadcaster and writer with a special interest in black music. Deputy editor of Echoes, he contributes to a wide range of publications that include Jazzwise, MusicWeek, Vibrations and The Independent On Sunday and also appears as a commentator and critic on radio programmes such as BBC Radio 3's Jazz Line-Up and BBC Radio 4's Front Row.

RELATED TITLE



Don't Stop the Carnival

Kevin Le Gendre
978-1-84523-361-7
£19.99 / \$26.99 / €23.99



Time Cleaves Itself

AUTHOR Jeda Pearl

PAPERBACK

978-1-84523-588-8
206 × 135 mm
4 July 2024
£10.99 / \$14.99 / €12.99

SUBJECT

POE005020: POETRY /
European / English, Irish,
Scottish, Welsh
POE012000: POETRY /
Caribbean & Latin
American
DCF: Poetry by individual
poets
DCF: Poetry by individual
poets
FXE: Narrative theme:
Environmental issues / the
natural world
FXQ: Narrative theme:
Displacement, exile,
migration
FXR: Narrative theme:
Sense of place
FXK: Narrative theme:
Health and illness

In Jeda Pearl's debut poetry collection, *Time Cleaves Itself*, a disabled Scottish woman of colour invites you into the split and re woven threads of her intersecting, in between worlds as she navigates belonging and claiming space.

Landscapes and bodyscapes are brought into focus through lenses of race, illness, disability and womanhood. Ancestral languages of Scots, Patois, Geordie and English critique ableism, colonialism and Scottish exceptionalism; they ask 'Who gets the trees?', honour Caribbean and Scottish heritages and move from the bed as universe to fantastical and science-fictional imaginings.

Here, lyrical acts of observation unfold with defiance, tenderness, rhythm and the occasional side-eye. The accordion of time stretches across poems that deliver a sonic meditation on memory, grief, disability, belonging, empathy and resilience.

AUTHOR DETAILS

Jeda Pearl Jeda Pearl is a Scottish Jamaican writer. In 2022, she was shortlisted for the Sky Arts RSL Award and longlisted for the Women Poets' Prize. Art installations include Windrush Legacy Creative Reflections (2023), Caledonian Biotech Library, 3033 (Scottish Storytelling Centre, 2022) and Acts of Observation (Collective, 2021). Performances include StAnza, Hidden Door, Push the Boat Out, Cymera and Edinburgh International Book Festival. Her poems and short stories are published by New Writing Scotland, Open Book, Not Going Back to Normal, Shoreline of Infinity and Aesthetica.



Godzilla and the Song Bird

AUTHOR Manzu Islam

PAPERBACK

978-1-84523-587-1

432 pages

11 July 2024

£15.99 / \$21.99 / €18.99

SUBJECT

FIC019000: FICTION /

Literary

FIC105020: FICTION /

World Literature / India /

20th Century

FB: Fiction: general and
literary

Set in the period before and through the Bangladeshi war of independence, this novel has at its heart the continuing friendship between three boys with a love of cinema, whose loyalty into adulthood has surprising outcomes. Bulbul, the central character, is a journalist who witnesses and experiences the clash between individual struggles for meaning in a world torn apart by war, genocide and religious exclusions.

RELATED TITLES



Burrow

Manzu Islam

978-1-900715-90-4

£9.99 / \$13.99 / €11.99



Song of our Swampland

Syed Manzurul (Manzu) Islam

978-1-84523-170-5

£12.99 / \$17.99 / €15.99



Peepal Tree Press



Look At You

AUTHOR Amanda Smyth

PAPERBACK

978-1-84523-589-5
19 September 2024
£10.99 / \$14.99 / €12.99

SUBJECT

FBA: Modern and contemporary fiction:
general and literary
FXN: Narrative theme:
Identity / belonging
FXQ: Narrative theme:
Displacement, exile,
migration

Written with the empathy and the rigorous, taut prose of a Raymond Carver, this is a moving, sometimes shocking and sometimes funny account of a girl's growing up in a divided family, moving between Trinidad and England and piecing together a sense of self.

'Amanda Smyth writes like a descendant of Jean Rhys...a born novelist' ALI SMITH

'Smyth's writing is as lushly beautiful as the landscape she describes' THE TIMES

'Like Alice Walker, Smyth vividly and empathetically re-creates gender and racial tensions' ELLE MAGAZINE

AUTHOR DETAILS

Amanda Smyth is Irish Trinidadian, and author of three novels. *Fortune* (2021) was shortlisted for the James Tait Black Prize, and *Black Rock*, won the Prix du Premier Roman Etranger. An Oprah Winfrey Summer Read, and Waterstones New Voice, she has been nominated for an NAACP award and shortlisted for McKitterick Prize. Her fiction and poetry have appeared in *New Writing*, *London Magazine*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Harvard Review* and *BBC Radio 4*.

RELATED TITLE



Fortune

Amanda Smyth
978-1-84523-519-2
£9.99 / \$13.99 / €11.99



Sweet Li Jie

AUTHOR David Dabydeen

PAPERBACK

978-1-84523-591-8
10 October 2024
£12.99 / \$17.99 / €15.99

SUBJECT

FIC019000: FICTION /
Literary
FIC094020: FICTION /
World Literature / China /
20th Century
FBA: Modern and
contemporary fiction:
general and literary
FXQ: Narrative theme:
Displacement, exile,
migration

Set in Wuhan Province and British Guiana on the eve of the First World War, the novel brings together the concurrent settings of early post-feudal life in Wuhan and post-emancipation British Guiana. It is a novel which explores the complexities of dwelling in servitude in these societies in the first decade of the 20th century.

The novel is told chiefly through the eyes of a travelling textile merchant, Jia Yun, who leaves Wuhan to join the great exodus of migrants fleeing poverty in China, most of them indentured to work in the canefields of Demerara.

Through a series of letters intended for his sweetheart, Li Jie, Jia Yun gives a vivid account of the conditions of life for Indians, Africans and other ethnic groups living under British rule in the last years of indentureship. Whilst the sections of the novel set in China capture life in rural Wuhan under a crumbling feudal regime.

Sweet Li Jie is also a novel which highlights the complex interpersonal relations and intimacies that develop between the novel's characters – for example, between the landlord, Wang Changling and his servant, Bayou in Wuhan and between Jia Yun and his Afro-Guyanese guide, Harris in Demerara – revealing their struggles for personhood and interdependence in the face of vulnerability and uncertainty.

RELATED TITLES



Counting House

David Dabydeen
978-1-84523-015-9
£8.99 / \$12.99 / €10.99



Intended

David Dabydeen
978-1-84523-013-5
£8.99 / \$12.99 / €10.99



Kipling Plass

AUTHOR Berkley Wendell Semple

PAPERBACK

978-1-84523-592-5
1 November 2024
£12.99 / \$17.99 / €15.99

SUBJECT

FIC091000: FICTION /
World Literature /
Caribbean & West Indies
FBA: Modern and
contemporary fiction:
general and literary
FXB: Narrative theme:
Coming of age

Heartbreaking, shocking, lyrical and sometimes grimly funny, *Kipling Plass* has to survive as teenager abandoned by his mother after her mental breakdown. Set in a multiracial Guyanese village in the 1980s, at the height of that country's economic collapse, as social structures give way, the novel confronts the tensions between social solidarity and dog-eat-dog individualistic ruthlessness. In the midst of this, *Kipling Plass* narrates his and his teenage friends' struggles for both physical and emotional survival, amidst their own confusions of sexual and social identity.

AUTHOR DETAILS

Berkley Wendell Semple was born in Guyana. He has published three collections of poetry, *Lamplight Teller*, awarded a 2004 Guyana Prize for Poetry, *The Solo Flyer*, and *The Central Station*, and has edited a book of student poems. His poetry and fiction have appeared in *Callaloo*, *The Hampden-Sydney Review*, and *The Caribbean Writer* for which he was awarded a Daily News Prize for poetry, and in many other publications. Since 2010 he has written audiobook reviews for *Sound Commentary Journal*. Berkley Wendell Semple is a school administrator and librarian. He lives in New York City. His poetry collection, *Flight and Other Poems* was awarded the 2022 Guyana Prize for Best Book of Poetry.



Mortality

AUTHORS Kwame Dawes, John Kinsella

PAPERBACK

978-1-84523-593-2
234 × 156 mm
28 November 2024

SUBJECT

DCF: Poetry by individual poets
DCC: Modern and contemporary poetry (c 1900 onwards)

The sixth collection of this profound dialogue between two major poets from opposite sides of the world takes on the subject most of us try to avoid. Provoked by such things as near fatal accidents, family intimacies at points of crisis, the threat of rising temperatures and forest fires in Western Australia, poems confront the reality of physical rot, the fact that history is essentially the record of countless generations of the dead, but also celebrate the arts of mortality: the elegy, artistic ambition and the creation of a self to live by.

AUTHORS' DETAILS

Kwame Dawes is the author of over thirty five books, and is widely recognized as one of the Caribbean's leading writers. He is Glenna Luschei Editor of *Prairie Schooner* and a Chancellor's Professor of English at the University of Nebraska.

John Kinsella's many books of poetry include *Jam Tree Gully* (WW Norton) and *Drowning in Wheat* (Picador). Widely published, he has collaborated with many artists, composers, writers and poets. He is a Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge University, and Professor of Literature and Sustainability at Curtin University.

RELATED TITLE



unHistory

Kwame Dawes et al.

978-1-84523-532-1
£19.99 / \$26.99 / €23.99



Peepal Tree Press