

*Cultures*, a series from Greenwood Press. This relatively new series, started in 2003, is most notable for its clear and concise approach to multicultural literature. The series provides biographical sketches, essays that provide an overview of significant literary contributions of regions in focus, and analysis of selections from authors covered.

This particular volume is dedicated to Caribbean literature and provides a brief historical overview of economic, political, and social development of the region since the discovery of the islands in 1492 and illustrates the impact of these events on Caribbean literature. Successive chapters introduce fifteen key authors: Michael Anthony, Alejo Carpentier, Michelle Cliff, Maryse Condé, Raphael Confiant, Edwidge Danticat, Zee Edgell, Mangali García Ramis, Jamaica Kincaid, Mayra Montero, V.S. Naipaul, Patricia Powell, Jean Rhys, Simone Schwarz-Bart, and Derek Walcott. Two of these authors won the Nobel Prize in Literature—Walcott (1992) and Naipaul (2001). Each chapter provides a brief biography, a critical assessment of the author's literary contribution, and a careful analysis of one selected work. The volume concludes with a works cited and a detailed index.

The author, Dr. Paravisini-Gebert, is a Randolph Distinguished Professor and has been a faculty member in the Department of Hispanic Studies at Vassar College, New York, since 1991. She is a prolific writer in this area; in addition to a collection of critical essays and a number of coedited titles, she is most notable for her critical editions of texts by Caribbean women, among them Phyllis Allfrey's *The Orchid House* (1997) and *It Falls into Place: the Short Stories of Phyllis Shand Allfrey* (2004). Dr. Paravisini-Gebert also published numerous biographies and is currently working on two simultaneous titles: *Glimpses of Hell*, a study of the aftermath of the 1902 eruption of Mont Pelée in the Martinique, and a biography of the Cuban patriot *José Martí*.

Though very well compiled, researchers interested in more in-depth treatment of Caribbean literature or authors might be a little disappointed with the brevity of the volume. For those researchers, I recommend further readings such as *A History of Literature in the Caribbean* (Arnold, 2001), which provides detailed charting of the region's literary history, down to various genres such as drama and poetry. Similarly, *The Routledge Reader in Caribbean Literature* (Donnell, 1996) covers more diverse literary contributions from classic and contemporary Caribbean authors. Researchers would also find *Fifty Caribbean Writers: a bio-bibliographical critical sourcebook* (Dance, 1986) to be an excellent and more comprehensive resource for biographical information on authors and criticism. Nevertheless, Dr. Paravisini-Gebert's book is an excellent option that combines all areas covered by the three aforementioned titles. *Literature of the Caribbean* is a highly organized volume designed with students in mind and would make a valuable teaching and research tool for undergraduate college and university students, or anyone who has general interest in Caribbean literature.—*Ethan Pullman, Carnegie Mellon University.*

**T.H. Howard-Hill.** *The British Book Trade, 1475–1890: A Bibliography.* London: The British Library; New Castle, Del.: Oak Knoll Press, in association with The Bibliographical Society and The Bibliographical Society of America, 2009. 2 vols. (lxxi, 1,776p.) + CD-ROM index. \$175 (ISBN 978-0-7123-5059-4 [BL]; 978-1-58456-255-9 [OKP]). LC 2009-004233.

The publication of *The British Book Trade, 1475–1890: A Bibliography* at a time when library users and many librarians increasingly expect instant access to all kinds of information reminds us that patience and hard work can result in a product of enduring value. The culmination of some fifty years of effort, this thoughtfully crafted reference tool will make a lasting

contribution to knowledge of British book publishing during its first 400 years of development.

Intended as a conspectus of its subject up to the time when coverage of the *Index to British Literary Bibliography* begins, this work is broad in scope but provides in-depth coverage of its many related topics. Entries pertain to such areas as authorship, bibliography, book collecting, book illustration, bookselling, libraries, literacy, papermaking, printing, publishing, textual criticism, and typography. According to the author, the bibliography documents three "persistent" issues—copyright, freedom of the press, and a surplus of apprentices in the printing industry. Included are entries for 9,346 books, 1,043 chapters in books, and 14,228 items in such periodicals as *Gentleman's Magazine*. Utilizing the holdings of more than 300 libraries in the United Kingdom and the United States, the author examined copies of most of the titles represented in the bibliography and painstakingly read many issues of the periodicals.

The author devoted considerable thought to the format of individual references and to the organization of the entire bibliography. The heavily abbreviated and lightly annotated entries are assigned a unique number and usually contain the shelf-mark of the copy examined by the author as well as that of the British Library (this work is not, however, a census of existing copies). Many of the entries combine references to a series of periodical articles pertaining to the same or similar subjects, a space-saving technique that provides an accessible overview of the development of these writings. The bibliography is divided into four main sections: Bibliography and Textual Criticism; General and Period Bibliography; Book Production and Distribution; and Forms, Genres, and

Subjects. Entries are arranged chronologically within their classified subjects. Thus, in the second section, the user finds entries organized by time period and, within those, by the names of the authors to whom the works pertain (Shakespeare is by far the most heavily represented writer). In the largest section, Book Production and Distribution, the subjects are arranged to reflect the historical development of the production and distribution of books rather than alphabetically. The table of contents aids the user in quickly locating sections pertaining to such subjects as individual printers, papermaking in Lancashire, libraries in Oxfordshire, and religious works—"Catholic and anti-Catholic books," for example. Because many of the works could have been included in multiple sections, the two indexes greatly enhance the usefulness of the bibliography. The author index (308 pages) and the subject index (791 pages) are contained on a CD-ROM slipped into a pocket in the first volume.

That this important historical bibliography, which supersedes relevant sections of such works as Bigmore and Wyman (*A Bibliography of Printing*), will be useful to rare-book curators, reference librarians, and scholars in varied fields is not surprising. T.H. Howard-Hill, who earned doctorates from both Victoria University and Oxford, began his career as a librarian. He taught in the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of South Carolina from 1972 until his retirement in 1999. Among his publications are many concordances to Shakespeare's plays and eight volumes of the *Index of British Literary Biography*. His training, experience, and patience contributed to the quality of this authoritative work of scholarship.—*Maurice York, East Carolina University.*