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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CARIBBEAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH FROM SURINAME, THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, ARUBA, AND THE NETHERLANDS

by Alice C. van Romondt

Introduction

In 1904 H. van Kol, a member of the Dutch Lower House of the General Assembly, wrote the following in his introduction to his book *To the Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela* (Amsterdam: Sijthoff, 1904):

In preparation [for my voyage], I have browsed through all the books about the West Indies I could lay my hands on; and it struck me, that while just a few good books have been published in English, French literature contains little of significance with regard to this topic, and Dutch literature is downright pitiful. It is not my discretion to judge to what extent these sketches, written on a heaving ship or after exhausting journeys in a tropical and humid climate, might alleviate this lack. The lack of sources, besides my own notes, may serve as an excusable circumstance, in case [my book] does not show what could have been produced if more time had been available and if closer examination of the subjects could have taken place. To increase our knowledge concerning these countries and peoples, to gather information on the economic situations, to cast a glance to the future of these races and regions—those are the goals that I pursue rather than to provide a fascinating book of travels.

Now 93 years later, the state of affairs described above has changed somewhat! Due to *Callaloo's* initiative, a large public may now become acquainted with what has been published in English. The knowledge concerning these countries and peoples can indeed be “increased” and broadened. Who knows? This special issue of *Callaloo* may encourage other creative minds to write and to publish about the fascinating “Dutch-speaking” Caribbean.

This bibliography has been compiled with the assistance of Pedro de Weever, a graduate student at Howard University from St. Maarten; Susan de Lange, Chief-Librarian-Documentalist of the Arubiana-Caribiana Collection; Miroushka Orman, Librarian-Documentalist of the National Library of Aruba; Lieneke Frerichs, Documentalist of the Foundation for the Production and Translation of Dutch Literature; and Jo Derkx and Irene Rolfes, Documentalists of the Department of Caribbean Studies, the Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology in Leiden.

Translated by Frank A. Williams

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