

**THE
CARIBBEAN PRESS**

Goals and Objectives of the Press:

The Caribbean Press is the publishing arm of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. The Press aims to provide the public with books on the history and culture of Guyana and the Caribbean; and to provide a platform for encouraging, publishing and promoting the literary and scholarly works of residents of Guyana and the Caribbean. In its initial phases, there will be exclusive focus on **Guyana**, its culture, its history, its writers.

History of the Press:

The Caribbean Press was announced in 2008, following the CARIFESTA hosted by Guyana. President Bharrat Jagdeo called a meeting with many of the participating writers, including Derek Walcott, Austin Clarke, Earl Lovelace, Pauline Melville, Ian McDonald and David Dabydeen, among others, at which he announced his support for the establishment of a Press. The gathering asked David Dabydeen to undertake the arrangements for the establishment of the Press and to start preparing texts for publication. The Press began its actual operations in **2009**, and, to date, has published 57 volumes, with a typical print run of 400 copies per title. Forty-seven other titles are at press or at various stages of preparation for publication.

The books, excluding a small number offered to authors and to Austin's bookshop, are donated to Guyana's schools and public libraries. The books are launched publicly in Guyana on a regular basis, with the media present to publicise their existence and availability. Selected titles, out of copyright or with permission from authors, are available for free downloading on the Press' nascent, easy-to-use and functional website at www.caribbeanpress.org.

Phase One (Guyana Classics Series; Guyana Prizewinners; Parliamentary Speeches; Contemporary writing):

The Press, in its initial phase, has benefited greatly from the goodwill of some of Guyana's best writers and **Guyana Prize-**

winners (Ian McDonald, Mark McWatt, Fred D'Aguiar, Cyril Dabydeen, Elly Niland, Maggie Harris, *inter alia*) who have permitted publication of their work without royalties; and from Guyanese, Caribbean, North American and European scholars (Sister Noel Menezes, Dr. Janette Bulkan, Ameena Gafoor, Professor Trevor Burnard, Professor James Walvin, Professor Clem Secharan, Dr. Chris Campbell, Dr. Letizia Gramaglia, Dr. Lynne Macedo, Professor Peter Nazareth, Dr. Mariam Pirbhai, Dr. Dimitar Angelov, Dr. Harold Leusmann, Dr. Brinsley Samaroo, Dr. Amar Wahab, Dr. Gemma Robinson, Dr. Lucy Evans, Dr. Anne-Marie Lee Loy, Dr. Mark Tumbridge, Dr. Michael Niblett) who have written new scholarly Introductions to texts in the **Guyana Classics Series**, locating them in social, historical and cultural contexts. Dr. Jeremy Poynting and Hannah Barrister have been of invaluable help in the design and printing of books.

In 2010 and 2011 the Press was asked by the Clerk of the National Assembly to publish the **Parliamentary Speeches** of all the Presidents of Guyana. To date, 22 volumes of the speeches of Forbes Burnham, Desmond Hoyte, Cheddi Jagan and Janet Jagan have been published or are in the process of being edited in preparation for publication.

From 2010, the Press began to prepare books submitted to it by **resident Guyanese writers**, and has published a collection of articles and two books of poems by Ian McDonald; a novella by Ashley Anthony, the first by a Guyanese child in the literary history of Guyana; and Cedric Costello's Rasta Lyrics. Six anthologies of poetry written by Guyanese children are being compiled by Revd. Gideon Cecil and his helpers. Two anthologies of Guyanese contemporary poetry and prose are ready for publication pending formal agreements between the editor, Petamber Persaud, and the writers.

Phase Two:

The completion of the Guyana Classics Series means that the Press can now increase titles by Guyana Prizewinners and contemporary resident writers, whilst still working on the Parliamentary Speeches of former Presidents.

The Press will also reprint early post-war issues of *Kyk-Over-Al* to make these invaluable works available to the reading public. The Mittelholzer Lectures given at the University of Guyana over several years will also be published in three volumes.

The present Editors of the Press (Professor David Dabydeen, Dr. Ian McDonald, Dr. Lynne Macedo) are unsalaried, and conduct all editorial work on a voluntary basis since the inception of the Press. (At least one of the Editors, Professor Dabydeen, has asked to be relieved of his tasks, so that he can focus on his own writing.) The Press cannot continue to depend on such goodwill, and will explore the possibility of appointing a Guyana-based Editor to commission and publish Guyanese contemporary literature, under the guidance of an Advisory Editorial Board.

Criteria for submission to the Press:

Any resident of Guyana, irrespective of age, can submit collections of poetry, novels, collections of short stories, plays, lyrics, works of an experimental nature, or non-fiction, to the Press for its consideration.

The sole criterion for publication will be the quality of the work submitted, which will be determined by at least two of the Editors of the Press, and, if necessary, by a third, independent reader with literary or scholarly qualifications or experience.

Submission Process:

(a) Writers are advised to submit their work electronically to thecaribbeanpress@yahoo.com, in Microsoft Word. If possible, please use double spacing, 12 point Times New Roman, and one-inch margins. Each chapter should be sent in a separate Microsoft Word file.

(b) Number pages consecutively from the introduction (page 1). Do not start each chapter with page 1. You can use Microsoft Word page numbering to insert consecutive numbers.

(c) Your manuscript should contain any of the following:

- Title page (required)
- Dedication (if any)
- Table of contents (required if non-fiction)
- Foreword or Preface (if any)
- Acknowledgments (if any)
- Contributor list (required, if edited volume, such as an anthology of poetry/stories.)

Submission Process by writers without access to computers:

The Press is happy to receive hand-written or typed work, which can be posted to the Caribbean Press, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Main Street, Georgetown, Guyana.

Process of Consideration of Manuscripts:

(a) Upon submission of Work, two Editors will review it within six weeks, and, if necessary, send it to be reviewed by a third, independent reader.

(b) Writers will be told within three months of the suitability of their work for publication, and of the necessity of any revisions.

(c) If a work is deemed suitable for publication, the Editors will ensure that the text is properly copy-edited, and will liaise with the writers on matters relating to front cover design and pagination.

(d) A draft contract will be drawn up between the Press and the Writer which addresses matters relating to copyright, royalty payments, print-run, date of publication, and other rights and obligations of both the Press and the Writer. The final contract will be signed once both Parties are in agreement.

(e) If a work is deemed to be unsuitable for publication, then the Press will be happy to receive re-submission of the improved work and to consider its publication. A report on why the work is deemed to be unsuitable for publication, and what steps can be made to improve it, will be sent to the author.

(f) Where the book is published, the Editors will submit review copies to newspapers and journals and an agreed number of free copies to the author and his/her associates.

Converting a text into a Caribbean Press/Guyana Classic Publication

For the information of volunteers or people seeking to be employed by the Press to assist publication, the following is the process undertaken before printing (the process is standard for Small Presses; major international commercial Presses use other technology):

1. Text needs to be divided into smaller sections of approx. 30-40 pages.
2. Each of these smaller sections runs through the scanner (approx. 30 seconds per page) and is output as .tiff file.*
3. Tiff files are then loaded into Omnipage - OCR package - and reprocessed to remove old page numbering etc. and converted to Rich Text Format (RTF) files.*
4. RTF files are loaded into Pagemaker - Typesetting package - converted into house style and then typesetting, spell checking and proof reading take place. Finally Table of Contents is created.
5. Pagemaker files are then converted in Adobe pdf files for onward transmission to printer.

* Stages 2 and 3 are only necessary for older manuscripts not submitted in Word or other word processing package. Word documents can be converted directly into RTF files.

Payment for Publishing:

All payments for printing and distribution will be the responsibility of the Press. The Press will not publish work on the basis of payment but on the basis of quality, so the writer is under no obligation to finance his/her work, through he/she may wish to contribute, or help the Press to organize his/her book launch, bookshop signing, media interviews, and other promotional activities which will benefit the work. The Press would be happy to discuss with relevant parties the issue of publication subsidies from corporate bodies, should such a need arise.

Further Enquires:

David Dabydeen at (ddabydeen@yahoo.com) will be pleased to address further enquiries.

CARIBBEAN PRESS (<http://caribbeanpress.org>)
(Titles in red presently at printers; titles with asterisk being
GUYANA CLASSICS LIBRARY)

- Ashley Anthony:** *The Mysterious Association
and the Virtu Gems*
- *Joseph Beaumont:** *The New Slavery*
- Churaumanie Bissundyal:** *The Dumb and the Brave*
- *Barrington Brown:** *Canoe and Camp Life*
- *Trevor Burnard:** *Hearing Slaves Speak*
- Forbes Burnham:** *National Assembly Speeches
Vol. 1
National Assembly Speeches
Vol.2
National Assembly Speeches
Vol 3*
- A.J. Mc. R. Cameron:** *The Berbice Uprising, 1763*
- *N. E. Cameron:** *Guianese Poetry, 1831-1931*
- *Jan Carew:** *Black Midas
Wild Coast*
- *Martin Carter:** *Selected Poetry*
- Cedric Castello:** *Rasta Lyrics*
- *Cecil Clementi:** *The Chinese in British
Guiana*
- *Cyril Dabydeen:** *Short Stories*

*David Dabydeen:	<i>The Intended</i>
Lynette Dolphin,ed.:	<i>One Hundred Folk Songs of Guyana</i>
*Fred D'Aguiar:	<i>Mama Dot</i>
*Robert Grieve:	<i>The Asylum Journal Vol. 1 The Asylum Journal Vol. 2</i>
*Maggie Harris:	<i>Selected Poems</i>
*Wilson Harris:	<i>Eye of the Scarecrow Heartland</i>
*Roy Heath:	<i>The Shadow Bride</i>
*William Hillhouse:	<i>Indian Notices</i>
Odeen Ishmael:	<i>The Guyana Story Vol. 1 The Guyana Story Vol. 2</i>
Cheddi Jagan:	<i>National Assembly Speeches, Vol. 1 National Assembly Speeches, Vol. 2 National Assembly Speeches, Vol. 3 National Assembly Speeches, Vol. 4 National Assembly Speeches, Vol. 5 National Assembly Speeches, Vol. 6 National Assembly Speeches, Vol. 7</i>

- Janet Jagan:** *National Assembly Speeches,
Vol. 1
National Assembly Speeches,
Vol. 2*
- *Edward Jenkins:** *The Coolie, His Rights and
Wrongs
Lutchmee and Dilloo*
- *Egbert Martin:** *Selected Poetry*
- *Ian McDonald:** *Mercy Ward
A Cloud of Witnesses
A Love of Poetry*
- *Mark McWatt:** *Interiors*
- *Noel Menezes:** *The Portuguese of Guyana
British Policy towards the
Amerindians in British
Guiana*
- *Paloma Mohamed:** *Duenne*
- *Edgar Mittelholzer:** *Corentyne Thunder
A Morning at the Office
The Life and Death of Sylvia
Shadows Move among them*
- *Elly Niland:** *Selected Poems*
- Camille Pearce, ed.:** *International poems for
Children
International poems for
Young People*
- Petamber Persaud, ed.:** *Anthology of Contemporary
Guyanese Short Stories Vol 1
Anthology of Guyanese
Contemporary Verse Vol 1*

*Sasenarine Persaud:	<i>Unclosed Entrances</i>
*Walter Raleigh:	<i>Discoverie of Guiana</i>
*Theophilus Richmond:	<i>The First Crossing</i>
*Walter E. Roth:	<i>Animism and Folklore of the Guiana Indians</i>
*Denis Williams:	<i>Other Leopards</i> <i>The Third Temptation</i> <i>Giglioli in Guyana 1922 - 1972</i>
Alan Zheng (translator):	<i>Clementi – The Chinese in British Guiana (abridged ed.)</i> (Translation into Mandarin)

Titles that the Caribbean Press will commit to publish:

Single authored works by Guyanese writers(children and adults) resident in Guyana, as they become available.

Anthologies of Contemporary Guyanese Poetry and Short Stories will also be commissioned, annually, with a focus on writers resident in Guyana.

Books in Preparation/ Books to be Published:

Egbert Martin: *Scriptology*

Twenty Five Caribbean Poems for Children

Anthology of Caribbean Stories for Children

Six Anthologies of Contemporary Poetry by Guyanese Children, to be edited by Revd. Gideon Cecil

Four collections of Children's *Short Stories* by Janet Jagan
(reprints)

Three collections of the essays of Janet Jagan

Six volumes of the National Assembly Speeches of
Desmond Hoyte

Four additional volumes of the National Assembly Speeches
of Forbes Burnham

Paloma Mohammed's children's short story, *Marlee the Manatee*.

Two Anthologies of *Guyanese plays*, ed. Al Creighton

Two Amerindian (Arawak and Wapishana languages)
Dictionaries.

Seven volumes of *Kyk-Over-Al* (reprints from 1945-1961)

Three volumes of *Mittelholzer Lectures*, ed. Andrew Lindsay.