

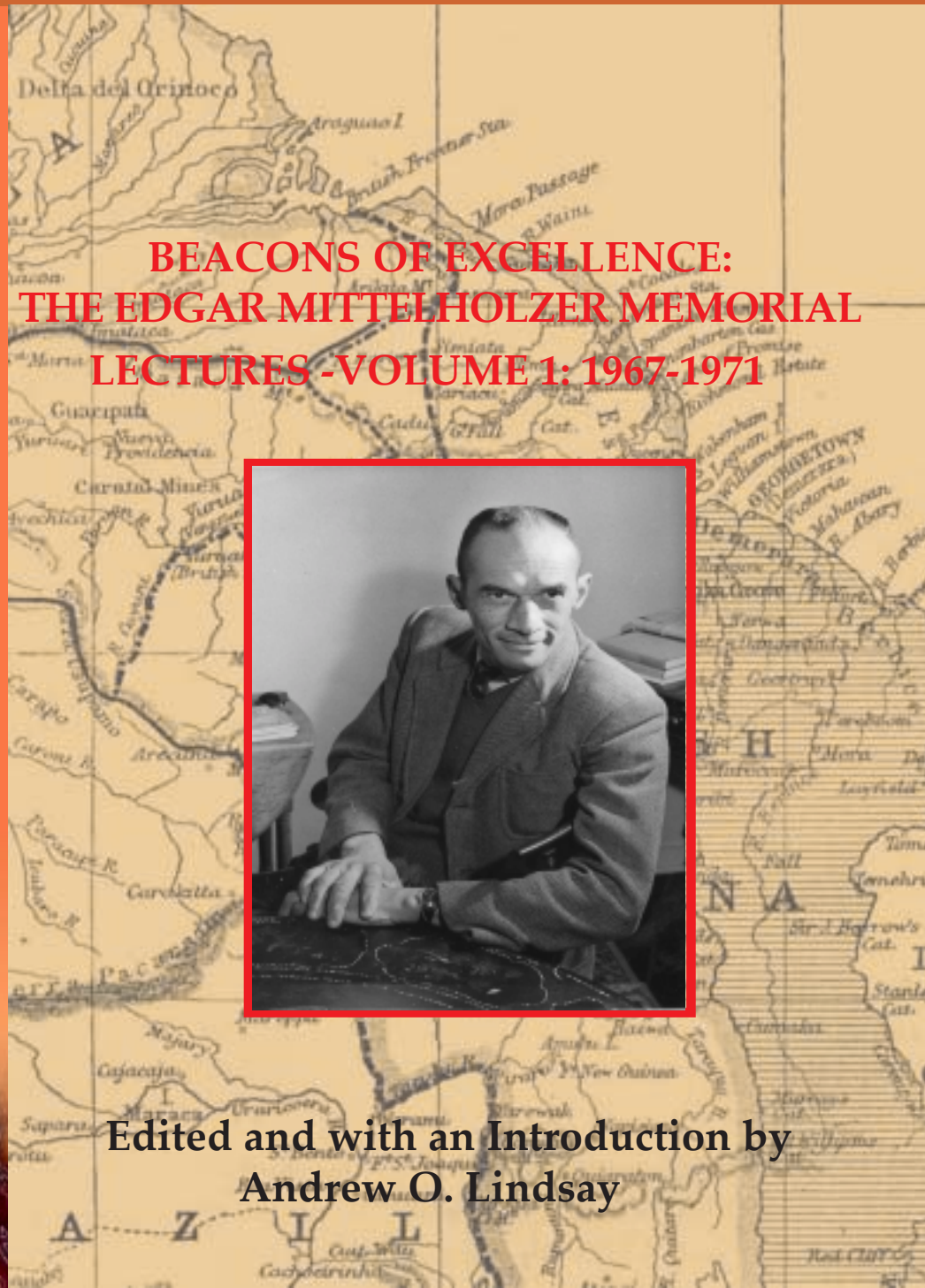
Edited and with an Introduction by Andrew O. Lindsay

BEACONS OF EXCELLENCE: THE EDGAR MITTELHOLZER MEMORIAL LECTURES - Volume 1: 1967-1971

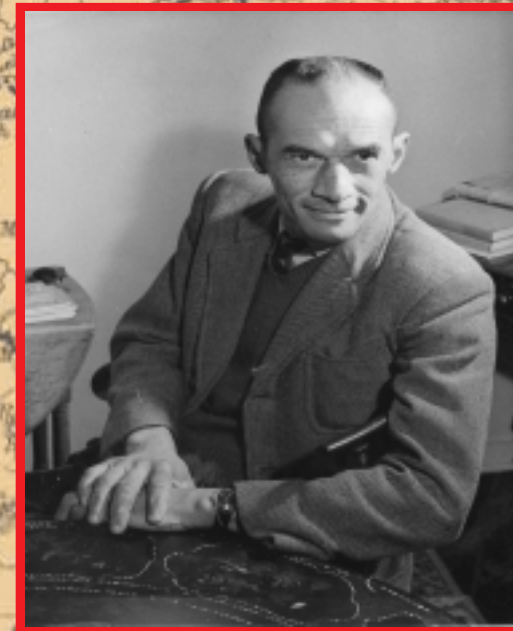
The Edgar Mittelholzer Memorial Lecture Series was inaugurated in 1967 at the suggestion of A. J. Seymour to commemorate the life of Guyana's first novelist. Seymour's rationale was that the Lecture Series would provide "an apparatus whereby Guyanese writers and intellectuals abroad could be invited to come back home at a level of honour in order to serve the country by bringing new ideas to bear upon the community's inquiring minds." Over a period of almost 50 years fifteen outstanding lecturers have helped to turn Seymour's ambition into a vibrant reality. They have delivered lectures on literature, language, identity, Amerindian language and culture, archaeology and more – a vital running commentary on the developing cultural life of this young nation. Although all of the lectures were published at the time, some are hard to find, and until now they have never been brought together in one place.

Editor Andrew O. Lindsay, in his Critical Introduction, places the lecturers in their context and provides a broad overview of their achievements. In preparing this omnibus edition he has done the nation a great service by making available a uniquely Guyanese archival source, one which will surely become an essential reference work for readers seeking to chart the development of our country's distinctive national identity.

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