

OUR LITERARY AND ARTISTIC HERITAGE
(WHO REVIEWS THE REVIEWERS?)

By: Greta Foreman

CARIFESTA VII held in St. Kitts and Nevis from 17th to 26th August 2000 provided a broad canvas for the showcasing of, among other things, the writing of our Caribbean peoples.

One of the items produced for CARIFESTA and which "sneaked" unheralded into the literary arena is a fascinating offering by **Lorna Callender**, a talented daughter of the soil - a book entitled "Appreciating the Arts of St. Kitts 1992-1998", which is a compilation of reviews written by Lorna. It would be a serious omission if we did not draw attention to this publication by one who, over the years, has been our foremost and only consistent Reviewer of our artistic presentations.

What really makes this book unique is that it is a potted history of a range of the Federation's art forms and artists by one of our very own. The President of the St. Christopher Heritage Society, Clarita V. Richards, puts it best when she says in the Foreword, "This collection must be considered as both an invaluable historical record and an insightful critique of the status of the arts in St. Kitts on the eve of the twenty-first century."

The items run the gamut from Music and Song, Dance, Visual Art, to Poetry, Drama and Arts and Crafts. Do you remember the 10th Independence Anniversary Jazz Concert at the Factory Social Centre, or the Sacred Music Festival of Zion Moravian Church, or the gospel entertainment of the Pentecostal Church of Saddlers which recognized the hearing-impaired?

From Kites and Kite Flying to Mask Making, from Student Art of the Secondary Schools to the mature presentations of some of our well-known talent, she writes about CARIFESTA in Trinidad in 1992 and our Tourism Week Art Exhibition in 1995 which highlighted such names as Dinzey, Kassab, Wilkin, Tatem, Cameron Smith, Richards, Brown. We are reminded of Three Women and Their Poetry in 1996, the 1994 Police Passing Out Parade and old favourites such as the Liamuiga Singers and the Children's Dance Theatre. And there is much, much more.

As Lorna acknowledges, "The enjoyment of Art is quickly forgotten unless it is repeated.....it is not right for the work of these artists to be forgotten." Indeed, it is not. Appreciating the Arts makes sure that our artists are remembered for their contribution to our cultural and artistic heritage. Run to your local bookstore and grab a copy - it's a treasure!

Lorna Callender is Head of the OECS Education Reform Unit based in St. Lucia. She is a former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.