

CPI Welcomes Cyril Dabydeen's Anthology: "Myth-Making: From Margin to Centre"

CPI's, summer and fall issues for 2016, continue to hold tremendous promise for the Journal's well-being. The special, summer issue, by **Cyril Dabydeen, well known author and poet**, explicates the journal's movement into the domain of postcolonial poetry. The decision was deliberate. It indicates CPI's desire to expand its repertoire of publications, implied over the years by the presence of a few poems by Townai Duchscher and more recently, Tania Guerrero. Once again, 'the Empire [continues to] write back' (Ashcroft et al, 1989).

Cyril Dabydeen's poetry is an excellent example, of ways in which some individuals/groups from the margins are allowed to sit and partake of different types of tea in the higher education segment of the Canadian labour market. Dabydeen, himself, was a keynote speaker for the 2015 Canadian Association of Commonwealth Literatures and Language Studies (CACLALS). (For further information, see the Anthology's Introduction by Jody Mason, Carleton, then, VP, of the Association for Quebec Literatures, ACQL).

Originally from Guyana, Dabydeen migrated to Canada in 1970. He has worked in several different Canadian milieus in which he has made indelible marks. Examples range widely: from forestry --- planting trees in Ontario; to government, --- advocating and championing equity and human rights issues; to education, --- teaching creative writing at a well known, Ontario University. As importantly, Cyril Dabydeen continues to create poetry, novels, and short stories that make one's 'heart and spirit soar' (Chief Dan George, 1976).

As a former Poet Laureate (Ottawa), Cyril Dabydeen was invited, in spring 2016, to compile an anthology of his poetry for Cultural and Pedagogical Inquiry (CPI). While the anthology unfolded, **David Butts**, a retired medical specialist, by sheer coincidence, also from Guyana, agreed to submit a few of his **photographs** taken during a recent visit to the very large, former colony in northern South America, once called, British Guiana. (One remembers that Butts' photograph in CPI, fall 2015, highlighted visually, Anne Marie Turski's poignant essay of her mother's flight from Eastern Europe). In this issue, David Butts' photographs return to the Americas, in order to spotlight key themes in Cyril Dabydeen's poems.

Making good use of the benefits of an independent, online publication, **Dabydeen** has deliberately selected a few personal, historical, and contemporary **photographs** for inclusion in his anthology. Together, Dabydeen and Butts' photographs heighten key dimensions of the poetry. The photographs situated in the summer issue of CPI's Postcolonial Ballads and Responses, are nostalgic. The decision to begin with a snapshot of his dear friend, Mrs. Phyllis Carter (deceased), who was married to a former Guyanese poet, Martin Carter (deceased), is not unintentional. One notices that the first photograph captures a sense of the timelessness of friendships. In this case, the enduring warmth of Dabydeen's, long standing, friendship with the Carter family.

Importantly too, Cyril Dabydeen has identified several additional photographs of Guyana which he has generously submitted for inclusion in this CPI special issue. The photographs of the land, our home, speak for themselves. (See, too, Nilima Sonpal Valias' photograph, CPI, fall 2015). The photographs, reiterate the inestimable, significance of our home, plant earth. Equally, the photographs showcase the interdependences of land, water, and human agency.

The photograph of a sugar factory in Guyana, for example, reminds us of a shared European colonial past, when 'sugar was king' in the Caribbean, Haiti, and Cuba (Augier et al, 1983; Parry & Sherlock, 1966; Black, 1961). A time when European men enslaved, and enforced the involuntary migration of millions of people from the African continent to the Americas. Some of us, however, opposed such inhumane treatment. Some of us resisted and some continue to challenge manmade structural and systemic inequities, inequalities, and injustices. (See e.g. works by: Lucille Mathurin Mair, 2006; Paulo Freire, 1987, 2002; Clinton Black, 1961; J. H. Parry and P. M. Sherlock, 1966; Maria Wallis, CPI, fall 2016; CIESC, Pre-conference, spring 2016.

Large Symbolic CPI Bouquets for literary contributions, research, and as importantly, for international conference orchestration:

- To **Pamela Mordecai**, Kitchener (Member, CPI Editorial Board), who has been recognized formally for distinguished services in literature. During 2015 and winter 2016, Mordecai was: shortlisted and placed as a finalist, Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Award, for her novel, "Red Jackets"; shortlisted for the Rogers Writer's Trust Fiction Prize. More recently, Pamela Mordecai was the recipient of a Woman of Distinction Award, Zonta Club of Kitchener, Waterloo, affiliated with Zonta International. Mordecai's "de book of Mary", the first part of a trilogy, was published in 2015.
- To **Edward Shazia**, Wilfrid Laurier (CPI Book Review, Editor), for receipt of a major SSHRC award.
- To **Ali Abdi**, UBC (CPI, Co-Founder and Co-Editor), **and his team** who developed and organized the very successful annual, Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Conference at UBC.

A quiet reminder to CPI Readers, Board Members, Reviewers, Authors and Production Team to inform CPI regarding major academic and scholarly activities and achievements. Information submitted will be collated and published annually.

Very Best wishes for summer,

Cecille DePass and Ali A. Abdi (Editors)

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