

Caribbeana: Problems and Issues of the Seventies

INTRODUCTION

At the recent Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association meetings in Saskatoon (June 1979), a special session in "Caribbeana" was organized to commemorate the untimely death of Richard Frucht, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Scholars from a variety of disciplines (anthropology, sociology, administrative studies-management) got together to pay tribute to Richard and his work and to discuss some of the major problems and issues that he examined in his many years of Caribbean scholarship. While the papers presented dealt with a wide range of research topics, thematically they were all united by their consistent focus on the material conditions of minority group relations in post-colonial Caribbean societies. Thus, it is befitting that this collection be dedicated to the memory of Dr. Frucht, an anthropologist whose own investigations centred primarily on how the material conditions of life — technology, economics, and the division of labour — structured the social and class relations of whites and blacks in Nevis, St. Kitts, and Anguilla.

More generally Dr. Frucht was interested in the political and economic dimensions of class struggle. He examined the organization of working class production strategies, migration patterns, and remittances from overseas. He was concerned with the relations between plantation systems and the structure of the family and had just begun a major field project on the agrarian system in Guyana. The five papers that are included in this Caribbean collection reflect his research and theoretical interests and at the same time they incorporate the results of first hand fieldwork in Jamaica, Guyana, and Barbados.

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