

B/p Mo

University honours Caribbean artists

By Rickey Singh

THREE CELEBRATED Caribbean personalities have been honoured by a leading US University for their outstanding achievements in the creative arts as part of a recent conference in New York on "New perspectives on Caribbean studies: towards the 21st century and prospects for Caribbean basin integration."

The awards were made by Hunter College, City University of New York reputed to have the largest single community of Caribbean students of any university outside the Caribbean region.

Recipients were the Calypsonian monarch of the world, Mighty Sparrow; the Barbadian - born novelist and broadcaster, George Lamming and the Jamaican sculptress, Edna Manley.

Sparrow and Lamming were present to personally express their appreciation for their awards in the presence of a distinguished gathering of more than one hundred Caribbean scholars, political figures, writers, journalists, student representatives and officials of various Caribbean and Latin American organisations. The award to Edna Manley was received by her son, Michael, who addressed the closing session of the four-day conference here.

Unique musical form

The citation to Sparrow, whose real name is Slinger Francisco, hailed him as undoubtedly "the greatest Calypsonian of all time, a magnificent practitioner of a uniquely Trinidadian musical form which rose from slavery to give voice to the masses."

Fourteen times either Calypso Monarch or Road March winner, Sparrow, who no longer competes for these high professional laurels continues, as the citation observes, "to capture the aspirations, hopes and dreams of the people through the power of his music and verse, bringing caution to politicians and governments alike...he is the quintessential Westindian artist, living proof that there is a Westindian nation as well as a spirit that transcends the pettiness of racial and political barriers and can overcome..."

While Sparrow rendered *Greenland Rescue*, one of his hits for the 1984 Trinidad Carnival season, Lamming spoke briefly on the importance of the distribution of knowledge in response to the needs of the Caribbean masses.

An Edna Manley sculpture, *The Sun Goes Down in Mahogany*, 11 1/2" high (1/2). The Mighty Sparrow carries the flag of his favourite band at Carnival, Trinidad.



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