

Albert Huie

The honour of the Silver Musgrave Medal is to be awarded today to Albert Huie who is perhaps Jamaica's most beloved artist. The patient, persevering and inspired work of Mr. Huie will, we are sure, earn for him in future even higher mementos of appreciation. The *Gleaner* wishes to join in what we are sure will be general congratulations to a fine and distinctive leader in the arts of the West Indies.

Huie has lived, and started his painting, in a time when it was, as it still is in some respects today, fashionable to be primitive. Yet he has

sought always to prove competence, struggling through the overlay which craftsmanship sometimes imposes upon inspiration; reaching forth always to a perfection which will perhaps always elude him, but which never fails to leave a stamp of real virtue upon his work.

As one critic has truly said Mr. Huie is one of those rare artists in a small community, the artist who lives by his work. But even in what one may call the pot-boiling of his existence, the churning out of lino cuts and Christmas cards, Albert Huie always seems to manage to show integrity and to command respect as well as attractiveness.

He has studied under many artists and has true companionship with the art movement as such in Jamaica as well as with art at large. We share the view of those who think that his most recent character study of a girl (the honour of owning which belongs to Dr. Ken McNeill) may well be the finest piece of work of its kind done by a Jamaican. Certainly Huie has never stagnated, though he has always paused to consolidate. We trust that he will have a very long life of creative and competent work to the greater honour and glory of the arts and of those who are supremely faithful to it.