

Frieda Cassin, “Scissors  
and Paste,” and *The Carib*

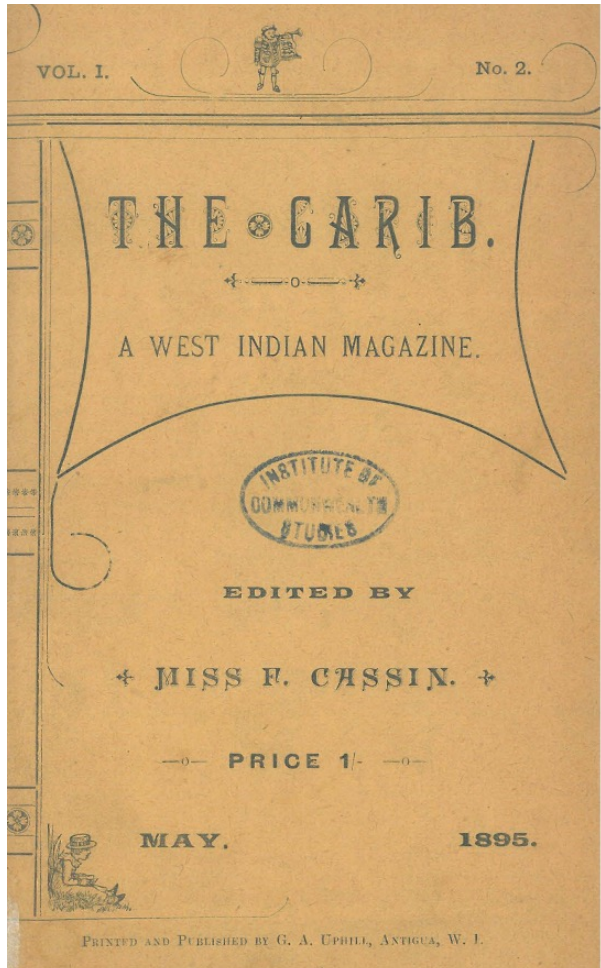


# Frieda Cassin

- ▶ Born Mary Federica Cassin, Cassin was born in Gravesend, Kent, England in 1870
- ▶ She and her mother relocated to Antigua in 1871, where she spent the duration of her life
- ▶ As members of the “creole ruling class,” Cassin’s family were wealthy and well-respected citizens, which opened a multitude of doors for Cassin’s later literary career
- ▶ Cassin is the author of the first Antiguan novel AND the editor of Antigua’s first literary journal

# *The Carib*, Antigua's First Literary Journal

- ▶ *The Carib* was published from April - September 1895
- ▶ *The Carib* was circulated widely throughout the world! Newspapers in the Caribbean, the United States, and England reported on its success
- ▶ Cassin wrote one (confirmed) short story for each issue, in addition to editing the journal
- ▶ It is possible that Peace Carroll was a pseudonym of Cassin's, as Carroll also contributed one short story to each issue, and there is no record of a Peace Carroll on Antigua during the publication dates of *The Carib*



**"THE CARIB." AGENTS FOR THE "CARIB."**

A WEST INDIAN MAGAZINE.

— O — ISSUED MONTHLY, — O —

— CONTAINING —

FICTION,  
ARTICLES,  
POEMS.

— Edited by —  
MISS FRIEDA CASSIN,  
ST. JOHNS, ANTIGUA.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY  
G. A. UPHILL,  
STATIONERY HALL,  
ST. JOHNS, ANTIGUA.

PRICE ... .. 1/-

SUBSCRIPTION:  
3/- quarterly in advance. Postage extra.  
Post Office Orders payable to the Editor.

**Notice.**—See list of Agents for the "Carib" in different islands. Such subscribers as have already sent in their names to the Carib Office Antigua, will be supplied from thence unless they especially notify the fact of their having made arrangements to obtain their copies from the nearest Agents. Subscribers are requested to make such changes at the end of the quarter only, to avoid confusion.

	G. A. UPHILL, Stationery Hall, Antigua.
ANTIGUA.	
	J. SENDERBY BOWEN, Beckwith Street, Barbados.
BARBADOS.	
	A. C. SMITH, St. Georges, Grenada.
GREENADA.	
	MATSON MAXIME MOSROUX, Rue Trebault No. 16, Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe.
GUADELOUPE.	
	ASTON W. GARDNER, Harbour Street, Kingston, Jamaica.
JAMAICA.	
	C. A. BELLING, Kingstown, St. Vincent.
ST. VINCENT.	

# Group 1: The Logistics of Founding a New Publication

- ▶ How does Cassin describe the process of founding *The Carib*?
- ▶ What difficulties does she note in the early stages of *The Carib*'s production (hint: financial, social, literary etc.)?
- ▶ Does she mention any victories?
- ▶ Find at least one brief passage to share with the class that supports your findings.

## Group 2: *The Carib's* Purpose and Function

- ▶ Why did Cassin found *The Carib*? What function did she hope it would serve?
- ▶ Does it seem, based on this article, that *The Carib* was living up to Cassin's hopes? If not, why not?
- ▶ How is *The Carib* different than a newspaper?
- ▶ Find at least one brief passage to share with the class that supports your findings.

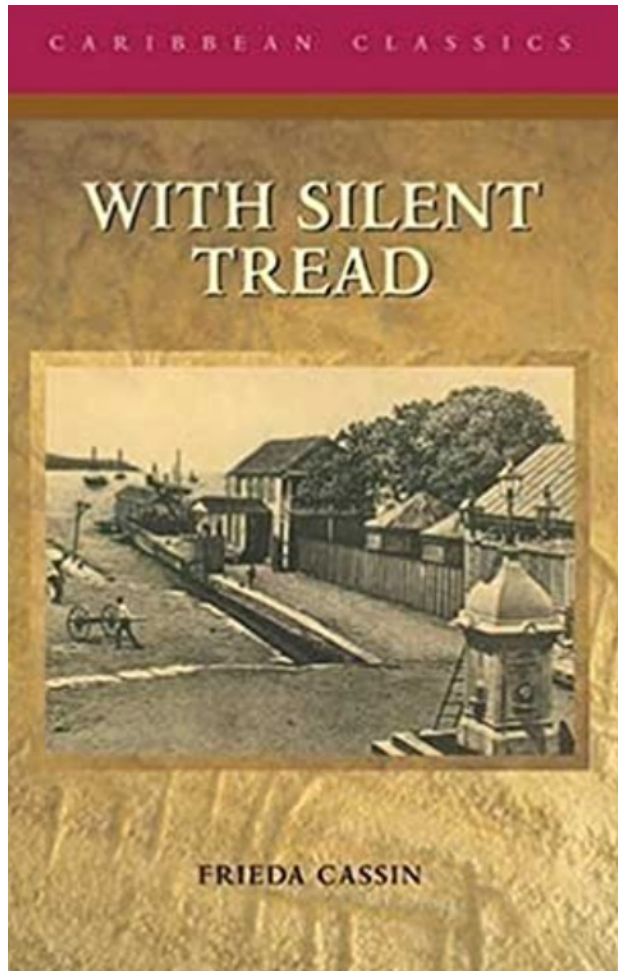
## Group 3: *The Carib's* Reception

- ▶ Who reviewed *The Carib*? Where were these reviewers located? Why might this be important?
- ▶ What comments did reviewers offer *The Carib* (and Cassin)? Did it seem that they supported the journal, or critiqued it? What does Cassin seem to think of these reviews?
- ▶ What does Cassin say about her hopes for the journal's reception in the West Indies?
- ▶ Find at least one brief passage to share with the class that supports your findings.

# Group 4: *The Carib* in a Transatlantic World

- ▶ Where were *The Carib's* subscribers located? Why might people in different parts of the world be interested in West Indian literature? Why did Cassin want *The Carib's* readers to be transatlantic?
- ▶ What transatlantic references does Cassin make? Why might she do this?
- ▶ What other evidence can you find in this article to indicate that *The Carib* was intended to be a transatlantic text?
- ▶ Find at least one brief passage to share with the class that supports your findings.





## Looking Ahead:

- ▶ For our next class meeting, you will be reading Cassin's novel, *With Silent Tread*
- ▶ As you read, look for some of the themes we discussed today
- ▶ Some questions to consider: Where is Cassin offering a social commentary? What does she critique? Why might she have written this? How can we read *With Silent Tread* as a transatlantic text?