THE CULTURAL POLITICS OF SUGAR

CARIBBEAN SLAVERY AND NARRATIVES OF COLONIALISM

With the expansion of trade and empire in the early modern period, the status of sugar changed from expensive rarity to popular consumer commodity, and its real and imagined properties functioned as central metaphors for the cultural desires of West Indian Creoles. Keith Sandiford's study examines how the writings of six colonial West Indian authors explore these properties to publicise the economic value of the consumer object, and to invent a metaphor for West Indian cultural desires. Sandiford defines this metaphorical turn as a trope of ‘negotiation’ which organises the structure and content of the narratives: his argument establishes the function of this trope as a source of knowledge about the creolised imagination, and about its social and political idealism. Based on extensive historical knowledge of the period as well as recent postcolonial theory, this book suggests the possibilities ‘negotiation’ offers in the continuing recovery of West Indian intellectual history.

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Caribbean Slavery and Narratives of Colonialism

KEITH A. SANDIFORD
Colonialism
Keith A. Sandiford

The Cultural Politics of Sugar: Caribbean Slavery and Narratives of Colonialism

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First published 2000

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeface Baskerville 11/12.5 pt System 382 [cr]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Sandiford, Keith Albert, 1947–
The cultural politics of sugar: Caribbean slavery and narratives of colonialism / Keith A. Sandiford.
p. cm.
Includes bibliographical references and index.
isbn 0 521 64233 7 (hardback)

Hb 911.446 .S46 2000
306 .95729 –dc21 99-045511

isbn 0 521 64233 7 hardback
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