



The Language of Dress: Resistance and Accommodation in Jamaica, 1750-1890

Steeve O. Buckridge

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This book is a study of how African slave and freed women used their fashion and style of dressing as a symbol of resistance to slavery and accommodation to white culture in pre and post-emancipation society. Africans brought aspects of their culture such as folklore, music, language, religion and dress with them to the Americas. The African cultural features were retained and nurtured in Jamaica because they guaranteed the survival of Africans and their descendants against European attempts at cultural annihilation. This book illuminates the complexities of accommodation and resistance, showing that these complex responses are not polar opposites, but melded into each other. In addition, the Language of Dress reveals the dynamics of race, class and gender in Jamaican society, the role of women in British West Indian history and contributes to ongoing interest in the history of women and in the history of resistance.

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