

Calypso music : identity and social influence : the Trinidadian experience ${\tt Charles,\,C.N.}$

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Glossary of Terms¹

arawak Indigenous Indian tribe of the Caribbean

a) Neo-African song genre and dance

b) Type of African drum

belair (bélé) Afro-French Creole dance and song genre

broken English Colloquial lingo of Trinidad and Tobago – a

mixture of Spanish, French Creole, and English

that utilizes faulty grammar and syntax, contains

words that have been mutated or otherwise

altered, and are sometimes difficult to trace to

any one of the three languages

calipso, calyso, careso, cariso (kaiso)

calinda (calenda, kalenda, kalinda)

Names by which calypso was previously called

(a) Call-and-response type of songs

accompanied by drumming, and sung during

stick fighting

(b) Stick fighting duel (Fr. bois bataille)

cannes brulées, canboulay, camboulay Recreation of fire drills, symbolic of the burning

of sugarcane at harvest time during slavery, that

are performed during carnival in commemoration of Emancipation

carib Indigenous Indian tribe of the Caribbean

chantuelle, chantwel, (shantwel, shatwel) Lead singer of calindas and lavways

cock-man Casanova, playboy, womanizer

extempo, extempore (picong) Verbal competition in song

fte Public indoor or outdoor party with dancing and

singing

gayelle Stickfighting arena in Trinidad and other parts

of the Caribbean

ghouba, giuba (juba) Neo-African song genre

jamette (mutation of Fr. diametre) The underclass sector of society, or a member of

that group

¹ Words not found in the Standard English dictionaries are italicized unless they appear in this glossary. Other words that appear in the text of the calypsos referenced, but are not found in the Standard English dictionary, derive from Broken English. See footnote 4 on page 51.

jooking Delivering pelvic thrusts simulating the sex act

juba See ghouba

jump-up Street dancing to calypso music during carnival

kalenda, kalinda See calinda kaiso See calipso

lavway (mutation of Fr. la voix) Processional masquerade song of the chantwels

mamagism Act of cajoling someone

mardi gras (Fr./Patois-Grand Tuesday) Last day of carnival when costumes are

displayed in their grandest splendor

mas (Trinidad-tr. lingo for masquerade) Costumed topical portrayals

mulatresse Woman of mixed (black and white) ethnicity

negre de jardin (Fr.) Negro field slave negue jardin (Fr. Creole) Negro field slave

patois Common name for Fr. Creole and other dialects

picong (tr. lingo) Alternate name for extempo

road march Most popular lavway/calypso performed in the

streets during carnival

sanimanité (mutation of Fr. sans humanité) a) Term designated to calypso genre in which

competition is characterized by exchanges of insults and ridicule rendered in song rhyme

b) Term interjected at, and signaling the end of

each sortie of 'sans humanité' calypsos,

literally meaning without pity, or without mercy

shak-shak (of Afr. origin), also chac-chac African musical instrument of the percussion

(Fr. Creole) family, the same as the maracas (Sp.)

sortie Verbal attack sung during picong competition

tamboo-bamboo (Fr. tambour-bambou) Percussion ensemble consisting of various

lengths of bamboo struck against the ground or

beaten with sticks

vaps (singular noun - a vaps) Whim or feeling of being propelled into action

wining Sensual gyration of the hips simulating

copulation while dancing

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