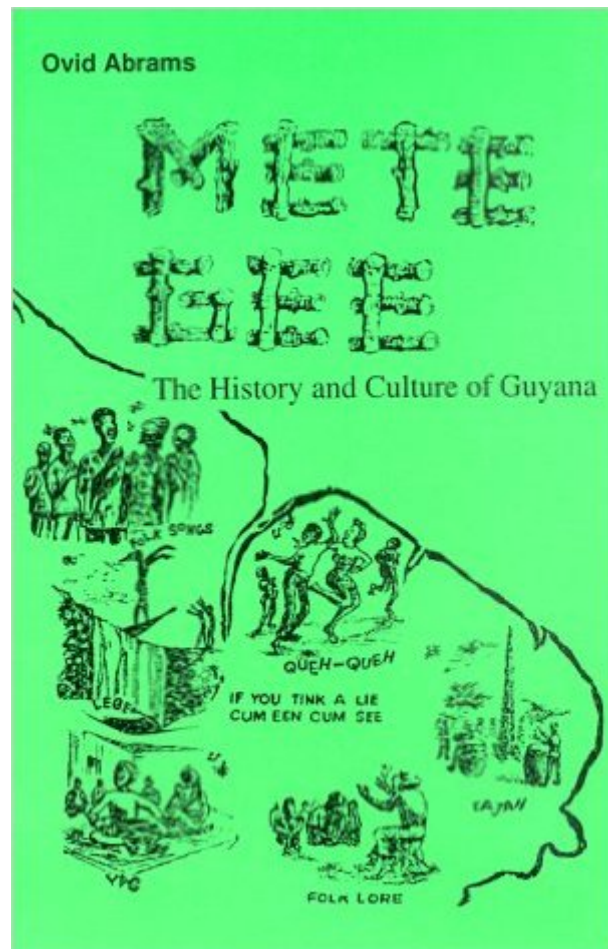


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Metegee: The History And Culture Of Guyana



Book Information

Paperback: 456 pages

Publisher: Eldorado Pubns; 1st edition (October 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0966070747

ISBN-13: 978-0966070743

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,403,975 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > History >](#)

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Customer Reviews

Metegee is a metaphor for the people of Guyana, and for this book by Ovid Abrams, both are a mix. Mr Abrams has a very lucid and plain spoken style, and his collection has much to offer. I did find it enjoyable and informative, and would certainly recommend it. I do take issue with a few things Mr Abrams said. (1) Secondary education was readily available in Georgetown, and was not so costly as to be exclusive. It was also better, or at the very least as good as anything I've seen in both Canada and the US. (2) I don't think that the British ever considered the "indentured" Portuguese their equals. The Portuguese came mostly from the little island of Madeira, either because of famine or political instability, I don't really know, however I do know that both commerce and agriculture were well developed there, and I'm sure that when they came their intention was to work out their contract and go into business for themselves. This is what they did, and they prospered. (3) As far as Obeah is concerned I never knew it as a religion, but rather as something akin to witchcraft. In fact in the late forties there was a famous case in which three people were tried and hanged, because they had sacrificed a young child in an Obeah ceremony. Evidently Mr Abrams is very keen on language and folklore, and that's fine, but there's too much. I didn't find the proverbs and sayings so interesting, and many of the customs, beliefs, superstitions I wasn't familiar with. I do wish he had spent more time saying something about other ethnic groups like the Portuguese and Chinese. I also wish he had said something about the cattle ranchers in the Rupunnuni District.

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