



Book Trust

BULLETIN

W/LA LIT. - JAMAICAN AUTHORS
OLIVE SENIOR

Summer Lightning strikes

Jamaican Olive Senior has won the Commonwealth Writer's Prize for her first collection of short stories *Summer Lightning*, Longman, 1986 (See *Westindian Digest*, November, 1986).

Chair of the Commonwealth Foundation, the Honourable Robert Standish, said that the decision had been unanimous among the pan-Commonwealth board of judges. He talked of how difficult it is to compare short stories with, say, novels, but

Olive Senior: Commonwealth Prize

said that it was Senior's use of language which particularly commended her book to them.

Senior won £10,000 but could not attend the presentation, being currently on a UNESCO fellowship in the Philippines. Runner-up was *The Matriarch* by Witi Ihimaera of New Zealand.

John Lyons of Trinidad and Manchester, who won the Afro-Caribbean section of last year's Peterloo Poetry Competition (See *Westindian Digest*, June 1987), has been commended in the Poetry Society's National Competition.

"Whilst the current unrest in Fiji has drawn attention to the South Pacific, generally this area of the Commonwealth is relatively unfamiliar to Britons" says Rosalyn Fry of the Commonwealth Institute. Following 1986's *Caribbean Focus*, the Institute are planning *Pacific Way*. "The title", says Fry, "refers not only to the historical voyages which link the islands, but a particular way of thinking which they share and to the increasingly important ecological and political role that the region will play in the 21st Century."

A Thames Television programme on writer Maya Angelou (*Westindian Digest* No 146 P.36) has been nominated for an Emmy Award. The programme, *Maya Angelou in Performance*, was transmitted on Channel Four last year and captured Angelou at south London's Lewisham Theatre in 1986.

Westindian Digest/January 1988