

The Daily Gleaner

Editorial

Commendable

The nation must be proud at the success of Miss Olive Senior, who has won the Commonwealth Writers Prize of 1987 for her book of short stories, "Summer Lightning."

This is no mean achievement as she emerged the winner from some eight writers in the Commonwealth who had been short-listed from scores of entries. The final eight came from Africa, Eurasia, Southeast Asia, South Pacific, Canada and the Caribbean. The Commonwealth Foundation, which awards the annual prize, has stated that the judges were unanimous in their decision that Miss Senior's work was the best, followed by Wita Iltimaera, a Maori of New Zealand, whose novel "The Matriarch" was of much distinction.

It is pleasing to note that the judges were impressed by the power and realism of the short scenes of "Summer Lightning" set in the rural

areas of Jamaica, and which deal with issues such as snobbery, ambition, jealousy, faith and love.

Miss Senior has been, for some time now, one of our more promising writers. Her **A to Z of Jamaica's Heritage**, which we were proud to publish, has been another example of her dedication to research and realism in her writing. She has been editing the Institute of Jamaica's **Jamaica Journal** with panache and efficiency. Her achievement is of great significance, and we applaud her on this milestone in what is proving to be a distinguished career.

It is our hope that Miss Senior's success will inspire our young writers to interpret Jamaica in literature — novels, short stories and poetry — an aspect of our culture which has tended to lag behind other areas such as the dance, drama, music and the plastic arts.

Opinions on this Page, except for those in the Editorials above, do not necessarily reflect the views of the GLEANER