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Roi Ottley

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The Encyclopedia of New York City

Ottley, Roi (b New York City, 2 Aug 1906; d 1 Oct 1960). Writer and broadcaster. Born to immigrants from the British West Indies, he became a reporter for the *Amsterdam News* during the Depression. After being discharged in 1935 by one of the new owners of the newspaper, C. B. Powell, he worked for the Federal Writers Project while conducting research for his book *New World a-Coming* (1943), which called for full racial equality. He was the host of a radio program and during the Second World War was one of the first black writers to work for the established press. Ottley's published writings include *Black Odyssey* (1948), *No Green Pastures* (1951), *The Lonely Warrior* (1955), and (with William J. Weatherby) *The Negro in New York: An Informal Social History* (1967).

Mario A. Charles