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JAMAICA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

The theme of this issue is development, the development of libraries in a developing Jamaica. Mr. Cundall's article, which appears on page 1, was written for the 2nd International Library Conference held in London, 1897, and gives an introduction to the history of libraries in Jamaica to that date. It includes a description of the Institute of Jamaica library, which offered the only library facilities of the time. Dr. Cedric Hentschel's article on the role of the British Council in setting up the Jamaica Library Service—the first free public library service—continues this historical appreciation of the library movement in Jamaica. Miss Beryl Fletcher, whose library career began several years before the end of Mr. Cundall's, adds her own reflections on the library world.

A jump into the present shows a newer kind of library, the non-book libraries of the Survey Department and of JBC, as described by members of their staffs.

Future considerations are taken up by Mrs. C.P. Fray, in her paper on Planned Developments for Government Libraries, as presented at the September seminar held by the Association. Sister M. Cordia, of the Science Teachers' Association of Jamaica, also writes of the future, or what could be today's "Science library in the school".

Present and future of government libraries were the keynotes of the Association's seminar. Miss Flo O'Connor offers us a Library Assistant's viewpoint in her review article.

Departments of the Bulletin established in the previous issue are continued: Book reviews, News of the libraries, and official lists. We have also included a 'non-library' article, by the University Archivist, Mr. E.C. Baker, so continuing the broader editorial policy set by the previous editor.

Special thanks are due to the non-librarian contributors, whose papers have added so much to this issue, and to the librarian contributors and helpers, without whose work there would not have been an issue. Every Bulletin editor knows the difficulty of getting people to sit down and write their promised contributions. Special thanks also to the University Library and Bindery for printing this issue.

LIBRARY WORK IN JAMAICA*

by Frank Cundall

In accepting the invitation of the Organising Committee to read a paper before the International Library Conference, I do so with diffidence, for I feel that I can do but little to aid in the important work which will be placed before the meeting. As the committee has left me unfettered as to choice of subject, I have thought I could not do better than say a few words—I much regret that I have to say them by proxy—on library work in Jamaica in general; for, living on a bypath of civilisation, as it were, we in Jamaica must of necessity follow, in the main, the rules laid down in the great centres, modifying them only in so far as our local needs may demand.

The conditions of life in the West Indies are by no means conducive to successful work on the part of the librarian.

In the past, any time that was spared by the sugar-planter or pen-keeper from the making of sugar and rum and the rearing of stock was, for the most part, devoted to political strife with the local administration or the home government, or to amusement of a not highly intellectual character.

In the "great house" of an estate in the so-called palmy days, it was quite the exception to find either a bookcase or pictures. There have, of course, been a few exceptions, but as a rule it was not the planting class which produced Jamaica's few men of letters and book-lovers—e.g. Edward Long, the historian, was a judge and Speaker of the House of Assembly, and Bryan Edwards, the historian, was a merchant; but Michael Scott, the author of the ever-green Tom Cringle's Log, was, it is true, engaged in agricultural as well as mercantile pursuits. Of men of letters who have visited and written in and of Jamaica, the best known are Sir Hans Sloane; "Peter Pindar"; William Beckford, cousin of the author of Vathek; Dr. Wright; Dr. Dancer; William James, the naval historian; "Monk" Lewis and Philip Henry Gosse; but they have only imparted information about Jamaica in England, and have had no influence in forming a taste for literature in the island. Gosse's collaborateur, Richard Hill, a distinguished native of the island, and an ardent student of natural history, laboured also in the cause of literature.

At the beginning of the present century, if we may believe the "gentleman long resident in the West Indies," J. Stewart by name, who published in 1808 An Account of Jamaica and its Inhabitants, literature was but little considered in the island.

"Literature," he says, "is little cultivated in Jamaica; nor is reading a very general favourite amusement. There is a circulating library in Kingston, and in one or two other places a paltry attempt at such a thing, these collections of books not being of that choice and miscellaneous nature which they ought to be, but usually composed of a few good novels, mixed

*Originally published in 2nd International Library Conference, London, 1897, Transactions and proceedings. London, 1898, pp.173-178.

with a much larger proportion of those ephemeral ones which are daily springing up, and which are a disgrace to literature and an insult to common-sense."

He further tells us that two attempts at publishing periodicals, intended to diffuse literary taste and promote useful local knowledge, failed, partly by reason of too high a subscription (16 dollars per annum for twelve numbers), and partly because much of the contents was mere transcript from British journals; but he adds, "It is true that the number of subscribers never was good enough to give a fair encouragement to the work." Doubtless the same remarks might be applied with truth to other similar undertakings.

The earliest libraries of any kind in the island were those of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly, each of which had a collection of books of its own. But they were only intended for the use of members, and the librarians were apparently nothing more than custodians of books. At times the office was held by the sergeant-at-arms, the assistant clerk, or by the messenger. At another time the librarian received £100 per annum, while the messenger received £200.

The library of the Assembly, which may fairly be regarded as the parent of the library of the Institute of Jamaica—for to the former the latter owes a large proportion of its best volumes—consisted chiefly of books treating on law, history, and travel, biography and science, and was intended primarily for the use of the Governor of the island, and all who were connected with the Legislature.

When, in 1872, the seat of government was removed from Spanish Town to Kingston, the library of the House of Assembly was transferred to the new capital, and was first opened as a public library in 1874, in Date Tree Hall, which had been for many years utilised as one of those hostelries—half hotel and half boarding-house—commonly met with in former times in Jamaica. Though it is solid and fairly suitable to the climate as a dwelling-house, it is but ill adapted or adaptable for the purposes of a library; but in it the best that can be done under the circumstances is now being done in the cause of literature.

Other smaller libraries have existed from time to time, but they have lasted only for a comparatively short period, and have exercised no permanent influence on the community.

In 1798 the Kingston Medical Society, which had been instituted four years earlier, had formed a library of sufficient importance to require a librarian. By 1832 the society was apparently defunct, and no traces of its library remain. In 1824 was established, in the parish of St. George, a St. George's Library Society. In 1838 it had seventy-nine members. It existed until 1882, when the books of the society were transferred to the library of the Institute of Jamaica.

In 1836 there was an Athenaeum Club formed in Kingston. Attached to it was an extensive library, composed of the most literary, useful, and entertaining works. In 1838 we first find a record of the St. Elizabeth Library, and in 1840 an entry of a St. James's Library Association. In 1850 the old Jamaica Society, which had been founded in 1827 for the cultivation of agriculture and other arts and sciences, ceased to exist, and the property,

including the library, was distributed amongst the late contributing members. In its stead was formed, "for the improvement of all classes and the development of the talent which exists—but exists in a latent form—in the island," the Colonial Literary and Reading Society. The then Governor became patron. The annual subscription was at first four shillings a month, but was subsequently reduced to half a crown. In the first four months of its existence 438 volumes were borrowed by readers. The library included copies of Bohn's Library, Murray's Home and Colonial Library, and the Family Library. The society did much useful work for many years, but its existence must have been at times precarious, for at its second half-yearly meeting it discussed and settled a possible division of its property amongst members in the event of its dissolution; and at its third a reference was made to the difficulty experienced in collecting subscriptions. However, in the fourth half-year, with a total of 1105 volumes, no fewer than 1689 books were lent out. At the fifth half-yearly meeting, in May 1852, the committee recorded its opinion that "the society has not only made indubitable and substantial progress, but that, speaking advisedly and in all sincerity, it has attained to such a maturity of age and stability of position as, while they almost preclude positive declension, give ample reason for contemplating the permanent existence of their charge."

After many years of usefulness, however, the society was merged into the Kingston Literary and Reading Society. When this broke up, about the year 1878, the books were distributed amongst its members.

In 1852 the local literary societies existing in the various parishes into which the island is divided had received an addition by the foundation of the St. Catherine Literary Society at Spanish Town; and four years later the Trelawny Literary Society was founded in Falmouth, and the St. Ann's Literary and Reading Society in St. Ann's Bay. In 1867 was founded, through the instrumentality of Sir Francis M'Clintock, who was then commodore of the Jamaica station, the Port Royal Literary and Mechanics' Institution, which was supported by the Hon. Richard Hill and other men of literary and scientific attainments. Other societies probably existed during the earlier part of the century of which no records are now obtainable.

But in 1869 the only learned societies recorded in the almanac for that year (one of a series dating from 1751 to the present time, in the library of the Institute) were the Royal Society of Arts and Agriculture and the Kingston Literary and Reading Society, both of which were unfortunately waning.

The lesson which one may apparently learn from the history of the few above-mentioned of the many societies which have existed in Kingston and in other towns in the island during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, is that in a community like that of Jamaica voluntary societies founded at moments of temporary enthusiasm are dependent in great measure on the activity and pecuniary and moral support of a few individuals, and that, so soon as the support is lost, through death or removal, the societies decline. Where the financial conditions are dependent on yearly subscriptions there is no certainty of long life, and, moreover, where the committees of management are self-appointing, there is little likelihood of continuity of policy, without which there can be no permanent success.

Coming from the past to the present, we find that the Institute of Jamaica was founded in 1879 for the encouragement of literature, science, and art, under a board of governors appointed by the Governor, whose duties are to establish and maintain an institution comprising a library, reading-room, and museum; to provide for the reading of papers, the delivery of lectures, and the holding of examinations on subjects connected with literature, science, and art; to award premiums for the application of scientific and artistic methods to local industries; and to provide for the holding of exhibitions illustrative of the industries of Jamaica. The Institute includes, in a new building of its own, a natural history museum, which makes a speciality of collecting examples of local fauna, flora, and geology, the curator of which is in correspondence with many scientists of note throughout the world. But the scientific work of the Institute does not fall within the scope of this paper. In the main building is situated a small art gallery, containing portraits of Jamaica worthies, views of Jamaica scenery, and other objects of local historic interest. On the same (upper) floor are situated a lecture hall (in which meetings are held of members of the Institute and papers are read on literature, science, and art), and the Jamaica and West India Library, which now numbers 1414 volumes. The lower floor is devoted to a reading-room and to the storage of books. The reading-room is open free to the public daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., the ten hours best suited to the community. During the last six years, during which a careful record has been kept, there has been a steady increase in the number of readers—from 11,725 in 1891-92 to 39,573 in 1896-97. The population of the town of Kingston, it may be mentioned, was 46,542 in 1891. So far as records show, the cooler months of the year bring a few more readers than the hotter, but there is no very marked difference. The reading-room is most largely attended in the evening.

All the books in the library are available for reference and perusal in the public reading-room. In addition to this, members of the Institute—by a rule which in 1890 superseded an earlier plan of lending books to any respectable person who deposited £1, the interest on which was manifestly no commensurate return for such loans—have the privilege of borrowing books and periodicals. There are at present, in addition to honorary and corresponding members, about 300 subscribing members, whose subscriptions produce £150 per annum, which makes a useful supplement to a vote of about £2,000, which is yearly granted to the Institute by the Legislature, the municipality of Kingston contributing nothing directly to its maintenance. It is essentially an island institute.

The library at present consists of 10,202 volumes, made up as follows:-

Works on Jamaica and West Indies	...	...	...	...	1,414
Theology	...	...	...	...	289
Philosophy	...	...	...	...	219
History	...	...	...	...	1,396
Biography	...	...	...	...	1,019
Travels	...	...	...	...	588
Law, politics, sociology	...	...	...	...	395
Education	...	...	...	...	272
Art	...	...	...	...	1,184
Science and natural history	...	...	...	...	1,317
Poetry and the drama	...	...	...	...	294
Linguistics and philology	...	...	...	...	85

Prose fiction	...	...	...	...	1,291
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	599
Dictionaries and works of reference	...	...	...	...	396
Reports of societies	...	...	...	...	444
					<u>10,202</u>

The 289 members who, during 1896-97, availed themselves of the lending library borrowed 6343 volumes, or an average of 22 apiece. The books were borrowed in the following proportions:-

					per cent.
Theology, philosophy, etc.	...	...	...	...	1.25
History, biography, travels	...	...	...	...	8.83
Law, politics, sociology, etc.	...	...	...	...	1.10
Art, science, natural history	...	...	...	...	4.89
Poetry and the drama	...	...	...	...	1.42
Prose fiction	...	...	...	...	40.20
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	1.70
Periodicals	...	...	...	...	39.40
West Indies	...	...	...	...	1.21

from which it will be seen that fiction does not bear so high a proportion to the rest as in many public libraries in England and elsewhere. This is due rather to the fact that the novels in the library bear a smaller proportion to other classes of literature than is commonly the case in public libraries, and also because works which are commonly placed in a reference library are allowed to leave the library, the only exception being made in favour of rare works and works of special value.

So far as fiction is concerned, the "last new novel" is asked for in vain. Good standard novels are added to the library, but the main object kept in view is the procuring of all books obtainable on Jamaica, the best publications on the other West India Islands and the West Indies generally, good works of reference, and as many as possible of the current contributions of the higher branches of literature; while the part of the members' subscriptions available for the purchase of books, which in the aggregate is small, is all that is spent on even the best class of ephemeral books.

For many years the library of the Institute was expected to play the double part of a reference library for the whole island and a popular lending library both for Kingston and the parishes.

Jamaica is somewhat peculiarly situated with regard to library work, on account of the difficulty of travelling and the transmission of parcels, albeit the last few years have seen many and great improvements in this respect.

In most countries it is sufficient to have in every good district a central reference library, containing all the more valuable works, with a lending library of lighter literature.

In Jamaica there are numbers of readers living at considerable distances from Kingston, who desire to consult, for purposes of their

occupations, as well as for their intellectual enjoyment, some of the more valuable works in the library. They cannot, in many cases, afford the time to come to town, and they feel it a hardship that the works should not be sent to them. But it would seem that the central, or what one may call the metropolitan, library should have the first consideration; and the risk that a book runs every time that it is sent out of the library by steamer, rail, mail-cart, or mule-back, is too great a one to be lightly undertaken by those who regard the interest of a really solid and useful library in the metropolis of the British West Indies as being of the highest importance.

With respect to means of sending books to places distant from the central library, the first idea that occurs is, of course, that of local branches. In former years branches of the library existed in various towns; but, owing to lack of proper supervision, they resulted in loss of books, and were closed.

During the last few years much consideration has been given by the executive authorities of the library to the question of spreading the advantages of literature to the country districts of the island. A scheme by which boxes of books would be circulated in rural districts—on the lines of the Yorkshire village libraries—was contemplated, but the obvious fact that this, at the best, would only benefit a few isolated readers, and the manifest success during the last few years of the public reading-room in Kingston in attracting the young men of the island, led to the decision to found, if possible, a series of small public reading-rooms, with lending libraries attached, throughout the island.

Last year a branch library, which, it is hoped, may form the first of a series, was opened at Mandeville, a small town in the centre of the island, near the railroad. A sufficient number of books of reference has been furnished, and two sets of books embracing examples of all branches of literature have been lent, and with them book-lists for the use of members. The initial cost of the branch was borne by the Institute, and the local committee is allowed to spend the subscriptions (£20) of its members, who number forty; and it receives in addition a grant to defray the upkeep of the reading-room. It is intended that while the reference books remain, the "sets" of books shall be exchanged from time to time. Judging from the experience gained during the six months of its existence, the Mandeville branch gives every promise of success; the more especially as the one essential feature in these cases, the competent and willing working head, has been found. And a second branch is shortly to be opened at Port Maria, on the north side. The formation of future branches will be dependent on the vote of the Legislature, for it would of necessity be some time before such small libraries—if they have to maintain public reading-rooms—would become self-supporting, even if the books were lent free of charge. Even when some eight or ten of them were founded, it would still leave a very large number of persons living in remote rural districts practically untouched by the influence of literature; but the scheme that is here roughly sketched is all that is possible under existing circumstances. It would be well for Jamaica if she had a few enthusiastic ladies of the type of Miss Verney, of Middle Claydon, for without enthusiasm it is almost impossible to keep alive an interest in library work in small village communities.

One obstacle to the successful working of branches is found in the fact that the local authorities—the fourteen Parochial Boards which govern

the local affairs of the fourteen parishes into which the island is divided—pay no heed to the claims of literature. And wherever a desire is evinced for literary advantages, it is at the instigation of private persons—usually the clergy.

For a country with so scattered a population, with many thousands of inhabitants many miles from a town, the best plan would perhaps be that which has been adopted in the small island of Grenada, where country members of the library, on payment of double fees (2s. per quarter), can obtain their books by post, free of extra charge; but this, of course, entails a loss on the post office.

The cost of sending books by mail coach is almost prohibitive. The liberality of the Atlas Steamship Company and the railway company renders their transmission by sea and rail devoid of cost; but that means is, of course, only open to towns near the seaboard and the railway.

So far as the bulk of the population of the island is concerned, it is not a question of providing literature to those who desire it, but rather of creating a desire for books where none exists.

In the old days planters cared nothing for reading, and the slaves were taught anything but to improve their minds. Small wonder is it, therefore, that the community as a whole is unlitrary. It is, however, unfortunate that it should be so, for one can imagine no recreation more suitable to a planter who has worked hard in the open air all day than the perusal of a good book. If the clerk who has pored over a ledger from early morn to late afternoon seeks enjoyment in the evening at the billiard-table, one is not surprised; but, as change of occupation is the truest recreation, one would expect the planter and pen-keeper to turn with pleasure to their books after a hard day's toil. Of late years, however, several forces have been at work in improving this state of affairs. The elementary schools of the island, some 930 in number, are undoubtedly producing a generation prone to read—a generation unfit for agriculture in a land dependent on agriculture, the planter and pen-keeper say. But this reproach, even if it be true, has been met by the preparation—under the authority of the Board of Education, and with the approval of well-known scientists possessing local knowledge—of Blackie's Tropical Readers, which will tend to produce habits of observance of, and deduction from, incidents in natural life in the island. The volumes of the cheap series of Colonial Libraries, issued by various well-known London publishers, and the numberless cheap magazines, find a ready sale; and, last but not least, the press of the island plays an important part in the cause of literature.

A danger in all this is that people are led to "read something," without much caring what it is. As an antidote, a Jamaica branch of the National Home Reading Union was formed last year, which may in time, it is hoped, bear good fruit.

Two things militate against the formation and maintenance of private libraries in Jamaica, as in most other tropical countries. The one is the climatic conditions, and the other is insect life. In some parts of the island, where the rainfall is heavy, books suffer much from the damp, and bookcases with glass doors are essential; but this is not so in the case of the capital, although glass doors are a great protection against dust, which

is very prevalent in the plain on which Kingston stands. In damp places books would suffer more from being left open than from the damp arising from cases being closed by glass doors, as Mr. Blades points out is the result in England. For protection against insects, bookcases should be of hard wood, such as mahogany, and the shelves should be of cedar (*cedrela odorata*), the smell of which is unpleasant to insects; for which reason this wood is frequently used by cabinetmakers in the manufacture of wardrobes and cupboards. Cases with glass doors are the best protection; but, if bookcases are closed, they should be inspected periodically. If books are to be left to themselves, they are almost better on open shelves than in closed cases. The worst insect enemy that books have in Jamaica is the bookworm (*anobium*); but its presence is somewhat indicative of neglect and absence of the effect of light. When bookworms are met with in the public library it is usually found that they have been brought in by some book of local interest, purchased from a house where little heed has been paid to the care of books, or in some bookcase which has been longer than usual without its periodical inspection.

Another insect enemy of books is the cockroach (*Periplaneta*). Unlike the bookworm, he never damages the inside of books. He confines his attention to the cover. He appears to be fond of bright colours, especially green. He certainly prefers newly-bound to old books, possibly because the paste is sweeter. Book-loving friends have told me that they have noticed that cockroaches attack the books of some publishers more than those of others. I rather suspect it is that they attack the books of some binders, those that use the sweetest materials, more than those of others. For myself, the books in my private library which have suffered more than any others are the Tennysons, in their original bright green cloth. To those who bind for the tropics I would say, Avoid bright colours, and use poison. The cockroach eats paper and cloth much more readily than he does leather, and, strange to say, the better bound a book is, the more he seems to respect it. But when he does attack a book, he will ruin a side of the cover in a single night. Glass doors are a great protection against the predatory cockroach, though, if left to himself, he will breed behind their shelter. A solution of corrosive sublimate applied to the crevices of bookcases, and, if necessary, to the books themselves, is usually found a sufficient preventive; but the best protection in the case of new books is to have them bound with poisoned paste and glue. All new books bought for the Institute library are thus bound, and all second-hand books that do not need rebinding are washed with the poisoned solution. Some old MS. records, that had to be re-bound in the colony, I had bound with brown paper sides, as I had noticed that all insects respect that material. Another insect found sometimes, but not often, in books is the silver-fish (*Lepisma*), or "fish-moth," as he is called in Jamaica; but, contrary to the experience given by Messrs. L.O. Howard and C.L. Marlath, in their Principal Household Insects of the United States (United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, 1896), I have never yet been able to convict him of eating books, although friends have informed me that their experience differs. In any case, however, the fish-moth in Jamaica is not nearly so great a plague as the cockroach. The termite, or white ant, which is such a scourge in some parts of the tropics, does not, so far as my experience goes, interfere with books in Kingston, although in some parts of the island, especially the damper and wooded districts, he does great damage, if books are not frequently inspected. None of the insects touch the wood of the bookcases and their shelves in the library.

The library is lit by electric light, and no harm is done to books by natural heat, so long as they are not left exposed to the actual rays of the sun.

But in spite of insect pests and climatic difficulties, in spite of an unliterary past and a somewhat apathetic present, the future of literature in Jamaica is by no means gloomy; and it may be safely considered as one of the forces of the future in moulding the character of the people of the island.

I have made this paper longer perhaps than the subject demands, but I have felt justified by the belief that much which I have written is true, not of Jamaica alone, but of the whole of the British West India Islands.

CONCLUSION IN THE PAST

The newly appointed representative began a campaign to rouse public interest in the creation of library facilities and toured the island trying to stimulate local initiative. In 1944 his efforts were supported by a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds to finance a survey by Miss Hore, a Canadian librarian. She found the representative in the campaign, and the Provincial Council (Jamaica) had a local government system based on parishes to gain their interest and support. The idea at this stage was to encourage the formation of libraries in the parishes with the eventual purpose of incorporating them into an island service.

Appointed from 1946 and 1947, the Provincial Council (Jamaica) was re-elected in 1950, with kind patronage of Dr. J. A. M. White, and the editor, C. A. M. White.

THE ROLE OF THE BRITISH COUNCIL IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE JAMAICA LIBRARY SERVICE*

by Dr. C. Hentschel and others

If, some time in the future, there is an historical assessment of the work of the British Council, it may well be decided that the most important feature of that work was the contribution made to progress in education in the developing countries and indirectly thereby to the political, social and economic advancement of those countries. This may sound a little pompous but there are a number of 'success stories' which illustrate the important part the Council has played in the development of educational services. One could perhaps say 'Council officers' because much has depended upon the individual or individuals whose enthusiasm, energy and ability provided the essential driving force.

When Hugh Paget became the first British Council Representative in Jamaica he had already prepared a plan for an Adult Education system for the island. In a colony moving towards self-government it was essential to take urgent action to repair deficiencies in the education of the adult population who would be shaping the future nation. However Paget realised that any scheme of formal education would be useless unless people had access to reading material. A great demand for books existed and the Council was inundated with requests for presentations. The only library service was that of the Institute of Jamaica, a cultural centre founded in 1879. The Institute relied for its income on members' subscriptions and a government subvention. It provided a postal loan service to members of affiliated societies throughout the island in addition to library facilities to those who could use them in Kingston. This however was not a free service and only a minority could afford to pay the subscription. In 1940 the Institute extended its facilities to children free of charge, opening a junior centre in Kingston, but the demand was so overwhelming that many children had to be turned away. Outside Kingston local enterprise in the town of Mandeville led to the creation of a free parish library stocked with books collected by voluntary efforts.

CAMPAIGN IN THE PARISHES

The newly appointed Representative began a campaign to rouse public interest in the creation of library facilities and toured the island trying to stimulate local initiative. In 1944 his efforts were supported by a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds to finance a survey by Miss Nora Bateson, a Canadian Librarian. She joined the Representative in his campaign, addressing the Parochial Boards (Jamaica had a local government system based on parishes) to gain their interest and support. The idea at this stage was to encourage the formation of libraries in the parishes with the eventual purpose of incorporating them into an Island service.

*Reprinted from Home and Abroad: British Council Staff Journal, no.7, April 1965, with kind permission of Dr. Hentschel and the editor, C.A.M. White.

In 1945 two reports were published in Jamaica. One was the Bateson Report outlining a plan for library development, the other was the Report of the Community Education Committee, of which Hugh Paget was Chairman and which had prepared a plan for adult education. The relationship between the two problems was stressed in the latter report which said:

"There can be no question that an adequate library service for Jamaica must be the very life blood of any system of Community education which may be devised and that the system should be planned throughout with reference to the library service available and that the library system itself should be based upon the educational needs of the country."

In 1945 it was agreed between the Council and the Colonial Office that the Council should assist with the implementation of the Bateson Report in co-operation with the Jamaica Government. An offer to provide £27,000 a year for ten years on condition that the Jamaica Government contributed £10,000 a year was accepted by the Jamaica House of Representatives at the end of August, 1946. Paget's relentless campaigning both in London and in the London office was achieving results. The way was open for a planned programme of library development and the ground had been well prepared, for the 1946 Reference Book of Jamaica recorded:

"The British Council provides the salary of the Librarian of the Manchester Free Library which was organised and catalogued through the assistance of the Council which has also supplied books to the library to the value of £500. The Council has also contributed to the establishment of the Portland Free Library, the St. James Public Library, the St. Elizabeth Public Library and the St. Ann Parish Library and has assisted them with books and in other ways. The Council has for some time been working towards the establishment of a Jamaica Library System incorporating a main branch library in each parish on the basis of Miss Nora Bateson's Plan.

"The British Council has provided nuclear reference libraries to secondary schools and Practical Training Centres throughout the Island. The Council has also presented libraries to the Jamaica Press Association and to Jamaica Welfare for the use of Community Centres."

So far so good, but things did not always run smoothly. It was 1948 before Mr. A.S.A. Bryant, Librarian of Nuneaton was appointed as Director of the Jamaica Regional Library as the new organisation was called. Sue Judd, formerly British Council Librarian in Finland, was his deputy and when she was transferred to Nigeria she was succeeded by Bill Chape who had been British Council Librarian in Argentina. Both subsequently left the Council, one to become Librarian of the Natal Society Library in Pietermaritzburg, the other to be City Librarian of Perth, Western Australia.

THE JAMAICA LIBRARY LAW IS PASSED

Mr. Bryant's first task was to draw up a plan for the organisation of the library service based on the Bateson Report. It was significant that despite the creation of a central organisation financed jointly by the government and the British Council the scheme also gave a measure of autonomy to the individual parochial boards who were expected to meet the running costs of the parish libraries including the salaries of their staff, each parish

having its own library committee. The central library service provided capital expenditure on buildings, supplied the books, was responsible for the technical services, such as cataloguing, trained the staff and was responsible for overall library policy. In 1948 the Jamaica Library Law was passed, a statutory Library Board was set up and Jamaica Library Service was born.

The early days were not easy. The headquarters of the service consisted of an old house converted with the minimum of expense. Finances were pretty tight: the House of Representatives in passing the Act had altered its wording regarding government contribution from 'not less than £10,000 per annum' to 'not more than £10,000 per annum.' The Council's contribution remained constant despite the view of the Treasury that it was not the function of the Council to undertake tasks which should be the responsibilities of the overseas governments, (the Colonial Office Definition Document of August, 1948 stated 'It is not a function of the Council to establish or maintain general public libraries in the colonies'). The scheme could have foundered at this stage—that it did not is in part due to Mr. Oxbury, then Director of Colonies Dept. who persuaded the Colonial Office and the Treasury that we must honour our commitments. However, the Council's contribution was partly in cash and partly in kind, in the shape of the services of Council librarians. Since there was very strict financial control and all expenses connected with Council aid to the library service had to be set against the £7,000 available per annum the inevitable increases in costs and rises in salaries and allowances meant a corresponding decrease in the subsidy paid to the Library Board. There were some odd angles to this. Bill Chape and his wife had decided, early in their married life, that they would have a large family. This decision directly affected the book supply to the library for, with every increase in Chape's allowances due to the arrival of a little Chape there was a corresponding decrease in the subsidy available for book purchase. Subsequently his resignation to take up a post in Australia was received with mixed feelings for, although he was very popular, the situation had been reached when it was vital to send Jamaican staff to England for training and the only way in which that could be financed was by using the savings on the salary of the Deputy Director resulting from his resignation.

Mr. Bryant who had been responsible for the organisation of the library service from the beginning and who had nurtured it through the early years resigned in 1953 to return to England. His place was taken by Sidney Hockey who as Director of the Eastern Caribbean Regional Library had five years' experience of the vicissitudes of creating library services in the West Indies. Half the ten-year period of Council aid had passed and Hockey realised that he must plan for the eventual handing over of responsibility. He also saw that the sooner Jamaican staff could be trained to take over from expatriate senior staff the sooner, to put it bluntly, the Council's contribution would be relieved of the high cost of the expatriates and would be increased in terms of hard cash. His policy was to concentrate on books and staff, reducing expenditure on headquarters administration to a minimum and concentrating on good fulltime library services in the parishes.

STAFF TRAINING

Staff training was the most urgent problem. As a first step Joyce Lawson Robinson, a former teacher who had joined the library service in 1950, was sent to England on a scholarship to study at the North Western Polytechnic School of Librarianship. She returned after qualifying in 1955 and was

appointed to replace Mr. Chape as Deputy Director. In 1956 four more of the staff were sent to England and from then on two members of staff were sent over for training each year. To speed up the process of training, staff were encouraged to take correspondence courses and were sent to the Eastern Caribbean Library School originally set up by Sidney Hockey in Trinidad. The Jamaica Library Association formed in 1949 maintained a programme of lectures, seminars and conferences which also helped junior staff to gain a wider view of their profession. The most important factor at this stage was the tremendous enthusiasm of the staff. When an extension was built on to the temporary headquarters the all-female staff recruited husbands, boy friends and brothers to work voluntarily over the week-end re-arranging the offices and workrooms so that there should be no interruption in the service. This energy, enthusiasm and local initiative has been a particular characteristic of Jamaica Library Service and one result has been that the organisation has become an essential part of the life of the community at all levels.

For seven years the organisation had received a fixed annual income of £10,000 from the government and £7,000 from the Council. Despite the fact that the total income was £10,000 less than the minimum recommended by Miss Bateson in 1944 and costs had soared in the intervening years, the service progressed steadily and remained vital and alive although clearly it could not adequately meet all the demands upon it. The greatest demand came from the children and in 1955 Sir Stanley Unwin after visiting Jamaica wrote to Sir Paul Sinker:

"The British Council has reason to be proud of the work it has initiated in Jamaica. The Central Library Service which is now doing a magnificent job was brought into being by a Challenge grant from the Council and will now soon be the responsibility of the Jamaican Government.

"I visited the branch library out at Morant Bay. So proud are they of their library that more than a dozen local dignitaries were there to show it to me and to express their indebtedness to the Council. At Morant Bay, as at the new Cross Roads library in Kingston, the rush of children to join is such that the list of applicants had to be closed for lack of books. I think that the most encouraging thing about the West Indies is the passion of the children to read and learn. There are more children pining to read than there are books to lend them. During my most pleasant talk with Mr. Manley I hammered the point home. I found him entirely sympathetic and he promised me to fight for books for children in priority to money for buildings for police stations and what not which they could if need be do without. He realises that the future of Jamaica rests with the children."

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION DOUBLED

The Jamaican Prime Minister kept his promise. In 1955 the government contribution was doubled, in 1956 it rose to £37,000 and from then onwards both the regular annual income and the capital grants continued to increase. In 1955, within two years of taking up the post of Director, Sidney Hockey was successful in achieving his main object, that of making himself redundant and thereby releasing more British Council funds for the benefit of the library. He said afterwards that he had discussed his plans with Joyce Lawson and the senior staff and they had agreed with him and with perfect confidence had told him at what stage they would no longer need him. Their confidence was justified for in seven years the Council librarians had not only

created a library service they had also created the nucleus of a profession. By 1958 when the new headquarters building, which also housed the Kingston and St. Andrew Library, was opened, the Jamaica Daily Gleaner could say 'each Parish capital now boasts a library: of these libraries nine are new beautifully designed modern buildings. In addition there are two branch libraries, 87 Book Centres and a book bindery operated jointly with the University College of the West Indies. In addition.....the Library Service organises and administers a schools service.'

In 1962 the Jamaica Library Service (Amendment) Act was passed and the Jamaica Library Board composed of representatives of various organisations was abolished and a new Board wholly nominated by the Minister of Education took its place. The last Council librarian had left in 1955, the Council's financial aid had been completed and now the British Council Representative was no longer ex officio a member of the Board. The Library Service had come of age. In just fifteen years an island wide service had been built up, lending 1,300,000 books a year to some 145,000 members and operating through 165 service points including parish libraries, branches and part time centres and an air conditioned mobile library serving outlying areas of Kingston. The schools library service maintained a circulating library in each of the 723 primary schools with 5 mobile libraries visiting each school once a term and carrying out exchanges from a stock of 1,800 volumes on each mobile library. Moreover the Jamaica Library Service had become the centre of much of the cultural activity in the island, notably by sponsoring the annual Parish Festival of Arts. Public lectures, play reading groups and musical appreciation societies in all parishes had become an essential part of the library's services and 'the function of a people's university was being assumed in a real sense.' Expenditure on the organisation, excluding the schools service was well over £100,000 a year. Joyce Lawson Robinson was awarded the M.B.E. in 1959, 'a fitting recognition of the library's contribution to national development.'

INDEPENDENCE AND NEW TARGETS

One does not expect stagnation in a developing country, and it is clear that, since Jamaica achieved full independence in August 1962, the Jamaica Library Service has begun to grapple with new problems and to set its sights on new targets. The Ministry of Development and Welfare has just published a blueprint for a dynamic 'Five-Year Independence Plan' (1963-8). This envisages an annual expenditure of £50,000 on new library projects. The Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library, though functionally constructed and efficiently run, lacks some of the amenities one would expect to find in a city now approaching a population of 400,000. It is hoped to expand in at least three directions: to make space for a major reference library, to extend the junior library, and to provide a meeting hall large enough to cope with general cultural and social activities.

A second major target, noted in the five-year plan, is the establishment of a Secondary Schools Library Service, as a counterpart of the present Primary Schools Library Service.

THE NEED FOR AN INTEGRATED SERVICE

It must not be thought that the machinery of the Jamaica Library Service functions wholly without creaking. Given the pace of expansion, it would be unrealistic to expect otherwise. To a Council officer (and the Representative is still a member—though no longer ex-officio—of the Library Board), many of the problems wear a familiar look. Battle must be joined with the powers that be to extract the funds for capital expenditure. The re-grading upwards of senior posts is beset with administrative obstacles. There is much juggling with virements. A proper pension scheme has not yet been approved by the Government, although library staff do now benefit from a provident fund. One of the major headaches faced by the Board is integration. If finally approved, this would do away with the anomaly whereby professional staff are appointed all over the island from Kingston but receive their salaries from the individual parishes. In the early days the system of virtually autonomous Parish libraries was a useful factor in the development of the service for it harnessed the strong local civic pride and initiative which is a feature of Jamaican life. Some communities who wanted a branch library were prepared to put up their own building with voluntary labour. In Montego Bay Noel Coward and his friends collected books for the library, in Kingston the Friends of the Kingston and St. Andrew Library, an organisation started by Ernest Burbridge when he was serving in Jamaica, raised funds to buy expensive reference books for the library. However the stage has now been reached when only an integrated service can provide the means of attracting good staff by offering reasonable promotion prospects and by making the best use of trained librarians. At present the development of some parish libraries is hampered because the parishes with the greatest need for trained staff can least afford to employ them.

The biggest problem is that of training staff. This is a problem throughout the Caribbean and aggravated by the winding up of the Eastern Caribbean Library School. The answer cannot lie in sending students to Britain, Canada and the U.S.A. for this is far too slow and expensive a business to meet the urgent needs of expanding library services. In September 1962 Mrs. Hazel Bennett, Deputy Director of Jamaica Library Service and President of the Jamaica Library Association wrote to Sir Arthur Lewis, then Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, submitting a proposal that the University should institute a B.A. (General) degree with librarianship as a special subject. Regrettably the University could not find the funds for launching a new School of Librarianship although it recognised the importance of the project, not only to Jamaica but to the West Indies as a whole. It has been suggested that this is something which the British Council could help to set up and it might well prove a worth while project and in its resultant influence provide another success story.

In April, 1964 the London & Home Counties Branch of the Library Association held a conference the theme of which was Commonwealth Librarianship. The speakers emphasised the need for Britain to play an increasing part in helping the development of library services in the newly independent Commonwealth countries. There was a small exhibition of photographs illustrating the theme of the conference and this included an impressive collection supplied by Jamaica Library Service. The librarian of one of the southern counties who was examining this display asked when the library service had started in Jamaica and when he was told 1948 he said:

'It's nearly 115 years since the first Public Libraries Act in England and 45 years since the start of county libraries and my county has nothing to equal this.' He pointed to a photograph of the fleet of mobile libraries of the Jamaica Schools Library Service: 'Who is supposed to be teaching whom about libraries?'."

The moral of this story of course is that the developing countries of the Commonwealth cannot afford to wait 100 years to achieve adequate library services: they need them urgently now. The British Council is still playing its part, for the success of the Jamaica project and the example of Ghana, where Miss E.J.A. Evans, C.B.E., once the British Council librarian, heads the finest library service in Africa, led to the Council being asked in 1959 to take up again the task of assisting and promoting public library development. The problems, difficulties and successes of the first five years of this new project provide a sequel to 'the Jamaica story.'

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT AND A DEVELOPING JAMAICA: REMINISCENCES

by Beryl N. Fletcher

No discussion of libraries and cultural development in Jamaica would be complete without reference to the work of the Institute of Jamaica. Its first home was Date Tree Hall, which has long since disappeared, but it was situated on the site of the present General Library building in East Street. Miss Helena White Morris, who was the Assistant Librarian of the Institute for many years, told me that her grandmother's wedding breakfast had been served at Date Tree Hall, but I do not now recall the date of that event.

The Institute, by means of its lecture programme and exhibitions of arts and crafts, endeavoured to create an interest in many subjects. The records reveal that numerous exhibitions were held; and for the arts and crafts, awards were duly made. The Musgrave Medal, in honour of the founder, has been used for special awards, and when struck in silver or gold, is awarded to persons who have made significant contributions in promoting literature, science or art in connection with the West Indies and particularly Jamaica. Until recently bronze medals have been awarded for other achievements in exhibitions and competitions.

Through the efforts of the Institute of Jamaica, Jamaica participated in international exhibitions as early as 1883 and as far afield as London, Paris, New Orleans, and, of course, in the British Empire Exhibition, 1924.

One of my first assignments at the Institute of Jamaica was to assist in the arrangement of an exhibition on loan from the Royal British Colonial Society of Artists, held in the Board room of the Jamaica Mutual Life Assurance Society on Barry Street, in January 1929. I assisted with compiling of the catalogue and had my first experience of seeing a gallery of paintings as against reproductions in "The Connoisseur" or paintings done by friends of my parents.

The Institute of Jamaica used to hold Members Meetings at which papers were read on matters relating to literature, science and art. Lectures were also given from time to time, often by visiting celebrities. On one occasion I can recall, Sir Hugh Walpole was the guest speaker, and the Lecture Hall, now occupied by the West India Reference Library, was packed. Hundreds of persons, elegantly attired in evening dress, had to turn away disappointed, as every available space had been taken. These meetings were social events, and everyone wanted to be present.

The Board of Governors of the Institute of Jamaica was instrumental in the establishment of a Centre here for the University of Cambridge Local Examinations and the examinations were held for the first time in December, 1882.

The Secretary and Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica was for many years the Island Representative of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal School of Music.

The late Mr. Frank Cundall, O.B.E., was Secretary and Librarian of the Institute from 1891 until his death in 1937. He was succeeded by Mr. Hender Delvas Molesworth, who had joined the staff for about twenty months, after which he returned to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Mr. Molesworth was later succeeded by Mr. Philip Sherlock, now Dr. Philip Sherlock, Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, who was appointed Secretary and Librarian.

Some thirty years ago the library services at the Institute of Jamaica depended on the type of membership. The following paragraphs will illustrate more clearly this stage of development.

Honorary Members (a maximum of 20) enjoyed free membership and were usually elected because of their specialised interest in literature, science and art, or for their special services to the Institute of Jamaica.

Complimentary members, free, were generally Officers of Government.

Corresponding members, free, were persons residing overseas or resident under very special circumstances, who promoted the interests of the Institute of Jamaica. Mr. Cundall had many correspondents who were researchers for him and supplied information in connection with his many writings from time to time.

Individual members at subscriptions of five shillings per annum, also had the privilege of taking out additional subscriptions if they so desired. They could have two books for each one year's subscription, and I can recall many an avid reader leaving the library with eight books at a time.

Deposit members (who were mainly visitors to the island) paid two shillings per month, and deposited one pound with the application form.

Life members paid two guineas.

Juvenile members between the ages of 12 and 16 were loaned a book at a time from the free lending department, which for many years consisted of two large iron book cases in the General Library section, the bookcases holding about three hundred children's books.

Affiliated members were admitted to membership on a yearly basis, free, provided that their subscriptions to their respective societies, associations or clubs had been paid and that their applications were accepted by the Institute. These members could borrow individually from the library—a book at a time and a periodical—or the society could have a box of 50 books at a time in lieu of individual borrowing.

The Box of Books Scheme, operative for many years, served nearly thirty of these social and literary clubs throughout the island. There was also a Teachers' Library Association under this scheme, their boxes containing twenty-five volumes. Lack of funds rendered the collections out of date and the scheme was eventually discontinued.

In the Reading Room, a central section enclosed with a wooden railing downstairs in the main building, tables and chairs were provided for the public, who could attend and read without the home-lending privilege. Many of these readers spent most of the day, and some read and then had a nap as the surroundings were usually peaceful.

The Institute of Jamaica was granted the use of free postage for outgoing mail and this privilege included the book packages and boxes of books sent by rail. In this way, the Institute was able to reach out to the parishes although the service was somewhat limited. There was no cost for transportation, as borrowers were able to return their books by means of specially printed labels which were issued from time to time.

Towards the end of the 1930s the estimated population of Jamaica was 1,050,667 and the total membership of the Institute was 4,425. The number of volumes in the General Library amounted to 36,939; the vote from Government was £2,900.

There was another group which offered a library service, and that was the Kingston Athenaeum, known in the first instance as a Literary Society whose main object was "the promotion of the moral, intellectual and social welfare of its members". It was founded on the 1st of March 1899 in association with the St. Andrew's Kirk, Kingston, but was subsequently reconstituted on an independent basis. The Society kept a subscription library, which was very popular, on the upper floor of No. 7 Church Street. At that time there was a book stock of some 10,000 volumes and just over 900 members. The annual subscription to the library was twelve shillings per annum payable at one shilling per month. Membership was open to anyone.

Another library, which came into being in 1933, was the Phoenix Library at 21 Port Royal Street. This library was opened for "the purpose of making modern literature available to members". Books of the month and selections from the principal book clubs were offered, as well as a sales service of books and magazines. Penguin paperbacks made their appearance on the book shelves; and as they featured fact and fiction, were a handy pocket-size, and sold for only a few pence, they awakened a wider consciousness of the joy of reading, and were extremely popular.

The establishment of social and literary clubs in some of the parishes in past years was another way of trying to stimulate the rural inhabitants to take an interest in reading and community interests. One of these clubs founded in 1915, which was still functioning some thirty years ago, gave as its aims "the provision of a place where the inhabitants of the township could meet periodically for healthy and instructive recreation by debates, lectures, addresses and discussions, and by games, concerts and other convenient forms of entertainment." The clubs were not necessarily based in the chief towns, but apparently were located where ever a suitable place and the necessary personnel were available. I can remember the names Spaldings and Swift River in this connection.

However, the need for books on a far wider scale was met when the British Council undertook to launch the Jamaica Library Service which came into being about 1949 with Mr. Alec Bryant, from Nuneaton, England, as the first Director.

The development of libraries in Jamaica since 1949 is, I think, one of the most outstanding achievements in Jamaica in the last few years, and that is as it should be. We have been told that sixty per cent of our population is illiterate. Such a statement should disturb everyone and fill us with a burning desire to see that this situation is put right. The achievements of the library services indicate that we are making some progress to keep alive and foster the love of reading which opens to all our wonderful world.

We have a Jamaica Library Association which was founded on the 26th of January, 1950, with the purposes of uniting all persons interested in library work in Jamaica, the training of staff and also to promote a wider knowledge of librarianship. There are sub-committees which undertake special aspects such as the Education Working Party concerned with training of personnel, and the Research and Publications Working Party concerned with research, as its name suggests, into bibliographic study, writing of text books etc. A seminar was held in the summer which was very well received and in the interests of further development of libraries and library interests, I would like to suggest that we have one annually.

The country needs more people with the capacity for leadership, and I believe that library staff have a special role to play in their respective communities. Perhaps we could hear more of our books in reviews on the air; story time could embrace many more subjects than fiction and fancy; i.e. kindness to animals, lives of interesting people, forums, careers and industries in the parishes.

So many people seem to have become complacent because of unfavourable situations which surround them and fail to realise that life is worthwhile and that books and people play a great part in good living.

SURVEY DEPARTMENT - LIBRARY AND RECORDS SECTION

Submitted by E.A. Tate

Our Library and Record Section forms an essential integral part of the Department. It is located on the first floor of our offices at 23½ Charles Street, Kingston.

The value of the facilities provided are, of course, well known to our staff, who from time to time consult the reference library on various aspects of survey work ranging from elementary surveying to advanced problems in Photogrammetry, Geodesy, Spherical Trigonometry and Astronomy, as related to the science of surveying. They also make constant use of the maps, photographs and technical data which form part of the Library.

Many Engineers, private practising surveyors and also members of the public, are aware of the availability of the maps and technical data referred to above, but it is felt that, in general, if more people had a better appreciation of the value of the existing maps and the mass of technical information accumulated over the years, which have been classified and conveniently filed in our Library, even greater use could be made of it.

During the past decade or so, Jamaica has been experiencing an unprecedented rate of development in the social, economic and political sectors of the Island's life. The prerequisite for orderly planning of this general growth is mapping and our Library has been growing steadily by constantly acquiring new maps and photo-cover to meet the needs of the ever expanding rate of development.

Some of the more important facilities existing are:-

- (a) A limited number of technical text books on surveying and mapping, and the relevant mathematical tables. Books are also available on levelling, hydrography and cartography. In addition, there is a wide selection of pamphlets and periodicals on the various aspects of surveying, including aerial methods.
- (b) Photography: Jamaica has been completely photographed from the air several times at various scales. The existing air cover is as follows:-

1942	-	Scale	1:50,000
1952/54	-	"	1:12,000
1961	-	"	1:25,000

- (c) Map Library: The following is a list of maps filed in the Library, copies of which are available from our Stores at the prices indicated:-

(See list)

In addition, all boundary and sub-division surveys which are to be attached to any legal document, whether carried out depart-

mentally or privately, are copied and recorded.

Special plans depicting electoral divisions, parish boundaries, admiralty charts and large scale surveys of various ports, also form part of our collection of maps and charts and copies are available to the public on special request.

Through our Library, the Department tries to meet the needs of the country in so far as developmental plans are required, and also to compile records necessary for the intelligent administration of the affairs of the Island. Ministries, the Police Department, Tax Offices, Public Works Department, Kingston & Saint Andrew Corporation, Town Planning Department, Primary and Secondary Schools are among the Government Departments which find the service referred to above invaluable.

In addition, all private enterprise particularly those engaged in Communication and Transport, the Bauxite and Real Estate Companies, are making full use of our Library facilities from time to time.

List of maps available at the Survey Department
Jamaica

(1)	One sheet Layered Map of Jamaica D.O.S. No. 602 - First Edition	- Scale 1:250,00	@ 5/-
(2)	One sheet Geological Map of Jamaica D.O.S. (Geological) No. 1099	- Scale 1:250,00	@ 6/-
(3)	Topographical Map of Jamaica 12 sheets lettered A-N (omitting I and J)	- Scale 1:50,000	@ 4/6
(4)	(a) Detail Map Kingston - Central Sheets - 3,4,5 & 6 (b) Cane River - 50 ft. contours - 2 sheets	- Scale 1:10,000 - Scale 1:10,000	@ 2/6 @ 10/6
(5)	St. Dorothy Plains - 5 ft. contours - 12 sheets	- Scale 1:5,000	@ 7/6
(6)	Outram Watershed - 4 sheets	- Scale 1:5,000	@ 7/6
(7)	Mid-Clarendon Plains - 11 sheets	- Scale 1:5,000	@ 7/6
(8)	Cave Valley Watershed - 6 sheets	- Scale 1:5,000	@ 7/6
(9)	Pedro Plains	- Scale 1:5,000	@ 7/6
(10)	Annotto Bay	- Scale 1:5,000	@ 7/6

(11) Planimetric Maps of Principal Townships as under -

(a) Kingston & St. Andrew -									
		44 sheets	-	Scale	1:2,500	@	2/6	each	
		72 "	-	"	1:1,250	@	2/6	"	
(b)	Spanish Town	- 24 "	-	"	1:1,250	@	2/6	"	
(c)	May Pen	- 16 "	-	"	1:1,250	@	2/6	"	
(d)	Mandeville	- 32 "	-	"	1:1,250	@	2/6	"	
(e)	Black River	- 8 "	-	"	1:1,250	@	2/6	"	
(f)	Savanna-la-mar	- 8 "	-	"	1:1,250	@	2/6	"	
(g)	Lucea	- 7 "	-	"	1:1,250	@	2/6	"	
(h)	Montego Bay	- 38 "	-	"	1:1,250	@	2/6	"	
(i)	Falmouth	- 8 "	-	"	1:1,250	@	2/6	"	
(j)	St. Ann's Bay	- 7 "	-	"	1:1,250	@	2/6	"	
(k)	Port Maria	- 6 "	-	"	1:1,250	@	2/6	"	
(l)	Port Antonio	- 15 "	-	"	1:1,250	@	2/6	"	
(m)	Morant Bay	- 14 "	-	"	1:1,250	@	2/6	"	

Photographic and/or Ozalid prints of the following maps are also obtainable on written request:-

- | | | | | |
|------|---|---|-------|---------------------|
| (12) | Cadastral Maps | - | Scale | 20 chains to 1 inch |
| (13) | Mile to the inch Parish Maps | @ | £1 | per print |
| (14) | Port Royal - Palisadoes to Harbour View - 20 sheets | - | Scale | 1:1,250 @ 12/- each |
| (15) | Yallahs Valley - 40 sheets | - | Scale | 1:5,000 |
| (16) | Rio Pedro - 2 sheets | - | Scale | 1:10,000 |
| (17) | Harkers Hall - 22 sheets | - | Scale | 1:5,000 |

The cost of prints above varies according to size.

J.B.C.'S RECORD LIBRARY

by Michael Powell

The J.B.C. began operating as a Radio Station in 1959. It now broadcasts sound programmes from 4.45 a.m. to twelve o'clock midnight daily, with an additional hour on Saturdays. From the start, a proper library for records and tapes was essential, and this library has expanded over the years both in the quantity of its material and in the members of its staff.

The main records stocked are those of music, and these cover a wide range. Classical Music, Popular Music, Jazz, Show Music, Folk Music are all kept. We also have Spoken Word recordings, Comedy, Children's records, Serial Plays, and Sound effects. Indeed nearly twelve thousand L.P.'s and 45's are on the shelves.

Both the B.B.C. and the C.B.S. supply the station with valuable transcription programmes. The United Nations Radio, the United States Information Service, the British Information Services, and the British Council are also important contributors of material for programmes.

At all times, records must be quickly available for programmes. Programme Compilers, Announcers, Ministers of Religion, and many others have their daily needs which must be promptly satisfied. So proper cataloguing and filing is an essential.

The records are classified in sections, such as, Classical, Popular and Jazz. The sections are sub-divided into groups. For example, in the Popular Music section the groups include Male Vocalists, Female Vocalists, Vocal Groups, Dance Bands and Combos. In the Classical Section you will find Opera, Ballet, Symphonies, Chamber Music, Choral and Orchestral, to mention a few.

The Library Staff have to be acquainted with the stocks in a general way, but they specialise as individuals in the different categories of music. The selecting of music for programmes heard on the air, cataloguing and filing of records are just some of the duties of the Library Staff.

The Library at the J.B.C. is expanding; the plan is to extend and to intensify the scope and quantity of the music stockpile to meet the ever increasing and discriminating tastes of the modern Jamaican people.

ORGANIZATION, STAFFING AND FINANCE OF GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES:

PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS *

by

C.P. Fray, Technical Librarian, Scientific Research Council.

As you have heard today there are about fifty departmental libraries in Kingston, but very little co-ordination between them. What can be done to improve matters? I for one do not know of any easy answers, but I would like to put forward a few ideas.

To begin with, this seminar itself is a starting point. At least those who have sat through today's sessions presumably recognize that special libraries have two kinds of problems--those they share with all libraries, and those special to themselves. As a start I would like to support the memorandum to Government on the need for a survey and assessment of government libraries. And as something we can do right now, I would like to inaugurate a Special Libraries Division of the Jamaica Library Association, where those concerned with this field can meet for mutual support and aid.

I would like to stress that special libraries and those connected with them are colleagues of, and in no sense rivals to, other types of libraries or librarians.

There seem to me to be three main possibilities with regard to organization of government libraries.

1. Put the whole thing in the hands of the Jamaica Library Service. They already have a highly developed organization and are doing a magnificent job on a shoestring. However, perhaps this is not the best solution because Jamaica Library Service's prime function is to provide public library service, and their resources are stretched to the maximum.

Does Jamaica Library Service really have a place for the type of subject specialist who may be desirable in a special library?

2. The second alternative seems to me to leave things as they are, which, as you will have gathered from today's contributions, is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs.

3. The third choice I see is to set up a special library service for government departments. At one time I thought that this would be too extravagant, but in the last year I have modified my views and now think that in the long run this might be the sensible thing to do.

*Edited from a talk given at J.L.A. Seminar, 29th September, 1965.

To begin with, every ministry with extensive needs should establish a post for a Librarian. Other ministries could share. The Librarian would be responsible for co-ordinating all libraries within his ministry. He would be located either at the head office or at its principal library. In some cases probably one suitably qualified librarian with the necessary number of assistants would suffice. But in ministries such as Agriculture, Health, Development-and-Welfare, and Education, where there are a lot of departments, divisions, and boards which need special library services, the ministerial librarian would have additional qualified staff in charge of these libraries, again with ancillary staff in support.

There would be need for a co-ordinating committee to provide an official channel of communication between the ministerial librarians.

Although this scheme might seem somewhat grandiose, it would almost certainly pay off in improved services within each ministry and improved dissemination of information between ministries. Another advantage is that each ministry would retain control over its own library services and not be dependent on borrowed help.

Most of you probably know that trained librarians are as scarce as hen's teeth, or as chartered accountants, or full-blown statisticians.

Until recently the usual method of training here was to employ someone full-time under a Chartered Librarian (defined by the British Library Association) and give that individual about four years' in-service training interspersed with examinations set by the British Library Association.

For special libraries the advantage of the other system, the American 5th-year postgraduate library course, is that someone with a specialist qualification in, say, geography can be trained as a librarian in one calendar year. This person, however, will not be recognised by the British Library Association as a Chartered Librarian and therefore could not supervise juniors in training by the L.A. examination method except by special permission of the British Library Association.

Librarianship has tended to be a low-status profession, something for the little old ladies and also-rans. Today, with the information explosion and complications of communications, it needs the mentally alert and physically tough. However, this is not the place to discuss computers as related to information retrieval. I feel that there is a very good case for using some mechanization in the production and dissemination of union catalogues, journal lists, etc.; but all I want to say here is that this type of work requires a knowledge of logic, mathematics, and vocabulary, and it also requires good old-fashioned attention to detail. When you are confined to a line of eighty characters in computer programmes it does matter how many spaces you leave between symbols.

It is very important if we are to get competent staff that the terms of service and chances of advancement be attractive to the right calibre of personnel. At the moment there is great confusion. One ministry advertises for a Library Assistant at £350 a year and another uses the same term for a job with the same list of duties but different entrance requirements starting at £600. The Jamaica Library Association is endeavouring to

compile a schedule of job descriptions of all levels and phases of library work.

If there were a special library set-up within the government departments, with sufficient staff mobility by transfer or secondment, it could be a very attractive career. Juniors could receive on-the-job training, and there would be enough senior posts and opportunities for specialists for real professional satisfaction.

A good library is never cheap, but a bad library costs even more. It takes up space, mis-uses staff time, causes great frustration and worst of all it hides information. How often have you embarked on lengthy correspondence trying to obtain information, only to discover months later that it was already in your own files, your departmental library, or just down the road at Ministry X?

The more specialized the collection the bigger the proportion of the library budget that will need to be spent on staff as compared with material. The usual estimate for special libraries is that 70 - 80% of the total budget be allocated to staff. The more specialized the material handled, the more detailed attention it requires. Of course a library in process of building its collection would spend a larger proportion on books and equipment than an old established concern. In science libraries about 80% of the "book" collection will be periodicals and, if these are to be kept, adequate allowance must be made for binding costs. If you have special materials such as maps, films, and phonodiscs you must provide suitable storage and user facilities, i.e. large tables, projectors, players.

It is almost unknown for a library to be allotted adequate space, especially workroom space. Unless you have a fire, the library will never shrink but will expand at a terrifying rate. And don't fool yourselves that any old building will do. To get the most economical use out of every cubic foot it is essential that the peculiar needs of libraries be kept in mind at every step. I can show you an example where the architect was allowed to have his head, with the result that a substantial amount of the actual space is unusable, and until expensive awnings were installed the books got wet whenever it rained.

For anyone planning to set up a departmental library there is a good deal of relevant information available. The Jamaica Library Service are always very generous with help, as are the University and the Institute. In addition there is plenty of published material on special libraries and how they differ from public and university libraries.

What I have just said mostly involves some fairly long-term planning. I do have a suggestion as to how to tackle the immediate problem. I thought of it in the bath yesterday morning and have not had a chance to try it for size.

This is that the Ministry of Finance should set up a peripatetic library team consisting of one professional librarian, one sub-professional, one typist, with a flexowriter, and one or two trainees from within each department that the team visits.

This team would perambulate, staying three months to two years depending on size and complexity of the collection. The team would train intra-departmental staff to carry on, and make recommendations as to what level of permanent posts should be established.

In the larger libraries requiring permanent professional staff, suitable officers could be selected and sent for training abroad or to UWI when a library school is established there, while the team was "in residence". Then on his return the erstwhile trainee would take over, and the team move on to another departmental library.

In the very small libraries sub-professional staff could be trained locally.

The permanent members of the team would be attached to and paid by the Ministry of Finance. The trainees from each department would be paid by their department.

The Ministry of Finance might decide to charge the other ministries for the services of the team. However, supplies such as cards and tapes used by the team should be ordered and paid for by the Ministry of Finance. Office equipment such as filing cabinets and shelving should be paid for by the various departments, but costs could be reduced if standard library equipment was used wherever possible. The professional librarian could advise on this and co-ordinate orders.

The professional librarian on the team must have sufficient status to talk to the boss. Organizing a library is not merely listing the books. Policy must be decided and adequate financing established. Staff, space and equipment for each library must be assessed, and a coherent program for future development worked out. This would include training, production of a staff manual etc.

The professional, with advice from departmental subject specialists, would tackle the more difficult cataloguing. He would pinpoint gaps and work out book selection policies.

The sub-professional member of the team would supervise the intra-departmental clerks in the sorting of the material already in the library, and set up the necessary recording systems, especially for serials.

He or she would help the professional with the simpler cataloguing, set up binding routines, accessioning and routing systems, etc. He would attend to orders and set up the library accounts system in cooperation with the departmental accountant.

By using a flexowriter typewriter and an experienced catalogue typist, the nucleus of a catalogue for each library can be established fairly quickly. The operator would train intra-departmental typists in the arts of catalogue production. Leaving the repetitious work to be done by manual typing creates serious bottlenecks, disheartens the typists and takes up far too much expensive supervisory time. However, once the backlog is eliminated, most small libraries can keep their catalogue up-to-date with manual typing. Tapes produced on the flexowriter could be used for accessions lists and ultimately for a union catalogue.

Obviously the best place for the peripatetic library team to start is in the departments that are already aware of their needs and have taken some first steps, e.g. Central Planning Unit, Meteorological Service, Ministry of Health. The job can be speeded up by having each department do as much preliminary work as possible in budgetary provision, assigning space, collecting scattered material from cupboards and offices, sorting, providing filing cabinets, typewriters, desks, chairs etc. Where periodical subscriptions exist in any number, the Accounts Department should be asked to dig out the relevant information, so that time isn't wasted trying to find out what has lapsed. The Ministry of Finance itself could help here, as a lot of departments order their journals through them, but pay for the books out of departmental funds.

Any department that wanted the services of the team would have to undertake to follow it up with the appropriate permanent arrangements. It would be wasting the team's and the country's money to have them go in, organize a collection, and then, after their departure, let it revert to its former chaos. A working library needs constant nurture.

A SCIENCE LIBRARY IN THE SCHOOL

by Sister M. Cordia, O.S.F., St. Joseph's Teachers' College,
for the Association of Science Teachers of Jamaica

If we assume that every school from the Infant School upward should have a library, why do we need a separate science library? Every library has a science section (500 according to the Dewey Decimal Classification) and science is only one subject in the curriculum. Why should it have its own library?

Those are very legitimate questions when one is trying to share school finances in equal amounts. It is especially true if only one science is taught in the school.

To try to answer them, let us see first if an equal amount of cash expenditure can remain the same in relation to the rate of the accumulation of knowledge. Science knowledge is increasing so rapidly that even books are second best in the case of recent news. To keep up with the modern methods of research and for assignments adjusted to individual differences, the science room should have at least one daily paper, several science weeklies, a monthly science periodical of good standard, and a good selection of paper backs as well as a selection of reliable well bound books. These periodicals, particularly, increase science's requirements of the funds available.

We have only general science in our school, that is, we teach general knowledge or universal knowledge, which could almost entirely embrace the whole general library. The more general the science, the more varied the papers, magazines and books must be. Many a boy is thrilled about what happens in a test tube, but is not at all interested in an electrical device. That boy may have no desire to pull apart the young leaves of a germinating seed to examine it. We have specialized interests, and we must care for all of them. Pressure is exerted everywhere today to obtain not only trained scientists but also individuals with a solid science background. Within the framework of general science, a great deal more is being expected in the way of performance, comprehension and background.

In the school, science itself requires a specialist teacher as far down as the Junior School. Since children will only get the scientific method by carrying on experiments in groups or individually, or on their own, a science room equipped with apparatus to do this work is essential. If a room can be set aside for the teaching of science, an ideal aid to this room or laboratory would be a science library. The library would then be accessible during school hours (especially while the laboratory is in use) as well as after school hours, for further research work.

Second choice for the science library would be a section of the school library. It should be accessible during school hours, be in the care of the science teacher, and involve the pupils in its working.

We have stressed two points, the need for experimenting and the need for research through reading. While science reading, though highly recommended, can never substitute for actual observation and experience, yet

time for experiments and specific observations is limited on school programmes. A science library available to science teachers and classes can help to remedy the situation. Furthermore this library should be maintained and operated by them as a part of the science programme of the school.

The ideal science library in the school would require not only shelves, magazine holders and racks for papers, but also a cabinet for pictures, diagrams and charts; audio-visual aids such as tapes, film strips, and slides, with various kinds of projector equipment; kits for individual or small group experiments; specimens, brochures, puzzles, quiz books, science games, work books and other devices to stimulate scientific thinking.

As the library grows, it should contain graded reference books, a good general encyclopedia, a dictionary of science, a history of science, a biography of noted scientists. It should be a place where a student can find information on Jamaica and his particular parish. Therefore, it should contain political, geographical and survey maps; studies such as the flora and fauna books; economic and industrial guides of crops and industries; and geological surveys. Maps of the sky at different seasons should be found in the library as well as histories of scientific and natural phenomena. An ideal science library would have excerpts from science journals, newspapers and books of all nations.

With such a science library and with the experimentation provided in the science room, the students of our school would fulfil the ever pressing need for increased knowledge of science. If our science library is used properly by teachers and students, they all learn a new language. This international language in its search for truth is working to remove the barriers of poverty, intolerance and disease.

Some suggestions for periodicals and pamphlets for the Science Library:

1. Audubon Magazine - National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N.Y.
2. Careers in Science - Public Relations Officer, University of the West Indies, Kingston.

Biochemistry
Biology
Chemical Technology
Chemistry
Medical Technology
Physics

3. Current Science - American Education Publishers, 11 West 42nd St., New York, N.Y.
4. Endeavour - Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., Millbank, London S.W.1.

5. Health Bulletin of Jamaica - Ministry of Health, Kingston.
6. Information - Scientific Research Council, Kingston, Jamaica
7. Natural History - American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West, New York 24, N.Y.
8. New Scientist - Cromwell House, Fulwood Place, London W.C.1
9. Popular Science Monthly - 355 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N.Y.
10. Scientific American - 415 Madison Ave., New York 10017, N.Y.
11. Science and Math Weekly - Middletown, Connecticut
12. Science Digest - 200 E. Ontario St., Chicago 11, Illinois.
13. Science News Letter - Science Service, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C.
14. Science Notes and News - Association of Science Teachers of Jamaica.
15. Science World - Scholastic Magazines, 900 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.
16. Today's Health - American Medical Association, 535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago 10, Illinois.
17. Understanding Science - Sampson Low, Marston & Co., Ltd., Potter Row, Great Missenden, Bucks.
18. U N E S C O Courier - Place de Fontenoy, Paris (7^e)

Some more Journal suggestions for School Libraries

by C.P. Fray

CIBA Review (Switzerland)
 Consumer Reports (US)
 Discovery (UK)
 Farm and Home (Jamaica)
 Horn Book Magazine; of books and reading for children & young people (US)
 ICI Magazine (UK)
 Library Journal (US)
 Practical Wireless (UK)
 School Science and Mathematics (US)
 Science (Amer. Assn. Advancement of Science. US)
 Science Progress (UK)
 Shell Aviation News (UK)
 Span (Shell. UK)
 Which? (UK)
 Wireless World (UK)

J.L.A. SEMINAR ON GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES

by Flo O'Connor

"The Role of Libraries in Government Departments"—this was the topic of a seminar held by the Jamaica Library Association at the Trade Union Institute, University of the West Indies, on Wednesday, September 29th, 1965. The seminar was very well attended but one could not help feeling a bit frustrated at not seeing more senior officials of government departments, especially those from the Ministries of Education and Finance. As was brought out by the many points raised at the seminar, these are the officials whose education re the importance of libraries is sadly inadequate.

Mrs. Shelia Lampart, formerly Librarian of the Industrial Development Corporation, now Librarian of St. Thomas Parish Library, opened the seminar with the topic "Advantages to the Department of Well-Organized Library Services". Obviously, these advantages cannot be over-estimated; they are generally under-rated and unappreciated. Mrs. Lampart pinpointed the need for periodicals to be recorded and indexed when received so as to ensure the maximum use of relevant articles. Newly published information is to be circulated to senior officers.

Dr. M.A. Byer, Principal Medical Officer, Public Health Service, in his talk on the "Disadvantages to the Department of Dis-organised Library Service", complemented many points made by Mrs. Lampart. One could not help being dismayed at the obvious waste of material in the Ministry of Health's collection of books (with all due respect, I cannot call it a library). Lack of a qualified librarian or even a full-time library assistant resulted in confusion in the "library". For want of indexing, the contents of periodicals were not made available for quick reference, neither was the collection kept up-to-date, nor orders opened and circulated quickly when received. Interested young doctors would work better and more efficiently with material which keeps them abreast of changes and development in the medical world.

The situation at the Ministry of Health, and other departments, brought out later in the discussions, pointed clearly to the need for high-ranking government officers to realise the importance of libraries and qualified librarians in the government departments. They need to realise that libraries are not places to be used only by their children or by themselves when they need light reading matter, but that well-kept organised libraries in their departments would greatly increase the efficacy of their staff who would be kept in direct contact with the myriad changes being made in their particular field.

Mrs. Rae Delattre of the Institute of Jamaica spoke about the "Facilities at the Institute's Libraries of Use to the Government". The West India Reference Library specialises in "information West Indian". It receives newspapers from other West Indian Islands; collects articles containing information pertinent to the West Indies; has indexed the "Daily Gleaner" since 1956, thus providing a quick reference of events in Jamaica; collects gazettes and government reports from most of the other West Indian islands; provides a photocopying service for the public and answers written as well as verbal inquiries. This library is used a great deal by government

departments, especially JIS and ETV, and the Attorney General's department when members need previous law judgements to bear out their cases or articles to be proffered as exhibits in court. On one occasion a member of staff had to keep guard over an old issue of the "Daily Gleaner" in court as it was used as an exhibit by a lawyer. Incidentally, he won the case! On many occasions phone calls are put through in the middle of a case asking the research assistants to seek for the necessary information.

The photographic collection of the West India Reference Library was used by every organization putting up a display on the Morant Bay Rebellion, as nearly all the photos used in the various displays were reprints from negatives at the W.I.R.L. For the greater part of last year, I saw Sylvia Wynter, who was a familiar visitor at the Library, tape recorder in hand—the result can be seen in the "Ballad for the Rebellion". From these instances it can be seen how invaluable a part an efficient library does play in government departments. Collecting material, especially government reports, can be made difficult by an unco-operative or uninterested attitude of the heads of departments, and in many cases government reports from other W.I. islands are received more regularly than those from Jamaican departments.

Mr. R.G.W. Willcox, Technical Director of the Scientific Research Council, spoke on the "Unsolved Problems of Information Retrieval with Special Reference to Report Literature". This speaker pointed out the need for co-operation between the registrar and the librarian, as often material came in attached to letters and both were filed away by the registrar instead of the report being given to the librarian. Retrieval was made difficult by the frequent changes of staff and the method of filing which did not give the untrained person, or rather, the person unfamiliar with the Dewey method of classification, any idea where to look for the material. He suggested that the filing system should be modified to make "retrieval" less onerous and embarrassing. As a library assistant, I fully well know the difficulties arising from classifying by the Dewey system and at times have felt inclined to agree with the idea of alphabetical arrangement. The merits and demerits of both systems are a continuous source of argument between librarians—let not this empty barrel make any noise.

Mr. B. Cheeseman, Librarian of the Commonwealth Relations Office, London, in his talk pointed out that although there might be a wealth of information in a library it will be completely useless if it is not organised, and he thereby summed up the situation at the Ministry of Health. He pointed out that by having qualified librarians in government departments, proficient economic service would be maintained, and even more economical would be the amalgamation of government libraries with related interests. Librarians needed "freedom of speech" and "rounded interests", i.e. a librarian should be able to speak unhesitatingly without having to confer with a retinue of advisers or be referred to a finance committee. Specialist librarians should be chosen for their knowledge as a general librarian rather than their knowledge of a special subject.

In discussion, Miss Daphne Douglas, Regional Librarian, St. James, pointed out that no library should be individualistic, i.e. it should not depend on the good will of a single person, as when that person changed jobs, the library might become dormant. The library should be treated as "office property" rather than the personal property of the member of staff looking after it. The librarian should be consulted by the head of the department if

there was a paper to be prepared. Miss Douglas also stressed that it was difficult to get overdue books from "the boss" and that psychology was needed in these cases. This point was well taken, especially when one notes that the library in most government departments is put in the hands of one of the junior members of staff who, it is felt, will have the time to look after the books as a sort of incidental duty—something to be done when there isn't anything more important to do.

Miss G. Pottinger and Mrs. C.P. Fray, Librarians of Ministry of Agriculture and Scientific Research Council, respectively, presented papers dealing with "Organisation, Staffing and Finance". Miss Pottinger outlined the "Basic Requirements of Libraries". It was asserted that the progress of a country could depend on the efficiency of the departmental libraries. The need for libraries to keep with the tide of current events and developments in all fields and all countries was re-emphasized. Duplicate matter should be used for exchange purposes with other countries in order to get as comprehensive a collection of published material as possible. Periodicals were invaluable for the immediate usefulness of their information—books, of course, are important but sometimes by the time they are published, new discoveries have been made concerning the subject they treat and periodicals would have this new material. A qualified librarian should be in charge of the library; duties would include the supervision of untrained personnel although every effort should be made to employ trained personnel.

In the paper dealing with "Planned Development" presented by Mrs. Fray, she opined that a special library service for government with librarians in each Ministry and a special inter-library committee to provide communication between all the ministerial librarians seemed to be the most advisable course of action which would ensure maximum utilisation of all the libraries. She also suggested that the post of Librarian in these libraries could be enhanced by the mobility of the staff by transfer or secondment, with in-service training for juniors. A rotating foundation team comprising of a Librarian, flexowriter operator and a library assistant would establish the libraries.

In both these papers we saw the need for qualified staff. The idea put forward by Mrs. Fray for amalgamation of libraries with related interests was hotly debated. All well and good, but where is the qualified staff to man these libraries? If anything is to come of the resolution, first, government officers need to be educated, need to be made aware of the harm they are doing the country by undervaluing the importance of libraries. One hopes that with their new found enlightenment, their thinking will be re-orientated and every effort will be made to put right the wrongs now existing in the libraries in government departments.

The meeting agreed to have the Association draft a resolution to inform the Acting Prime Minister of the need for a survey of departmental libraries to be conducted by an outside agency.

PROBLEMS OF LOCATING AND STORING STATE ARCHIVAL MATERIAL
IN THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES*

by E.C. Baker

Introductory definitions are usually worth while to prevent doubts about what is to be discussed in a paper. Here we can regard location as meaning where I found archival material, where I put some of it and where it should be. (By that I hope you will readily infer that I did not satisfactorily solve all such problems).

State archival material can be regarded as those records worthy of permanent preservation produced by central governments: you will notice that in small countries a good deal of work undertaken by central government would in a larger community be delegated to local government. Those countries we will now consider are the Leeward and the Windward Islands; the furthest north being the British Virgin Islands and the furthest south Grenada. Flying from Jamaica to inspect each collection of material entails by the time one has reached Grenada a journey of about two thousand miles.

It is good to be given an opportunity to discuss these problems at such a gathering of archivists. I do not wish to be misunderstood however when I go on to say that fortunately the majority of those attending this conference are not archivists: fortunately, because we therefore have that more reason to examine the premises of our raison d'etre and to make abundantly clear in our discussions that state records are not accumulated to provide jobs for archivists or convenient collections for academicians to study but as an essential function of government. For that reason we can be particularly pleased that the Civil Service of the countries we now consider are represented here.

For many years the handbook of those Civil Services has been Regulations for Her Majesty's Colonial Service, which lay down precise procedures for correspondence between Governors and the Secretary of State. It also prescribed to whom copies of periodical returns, reports, and suchlike should be sent. Mostly copies of these went to the Secretary of State for the Colonies but additionally the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew received reports on agriculture and botanical gardens, which was largely the means whereby St. Vincent was able to establish the bicentenary date of its botanical gardens - first in the Western Hemisphere - which it celebrated earlier this year, for records of agriculture in the island itself did not go back for more than a century. Copies of acts as soon as printed were to be sent to as many as fifteen libraries in the British Isles and, from 1921, to the New York State Library in Albany N.Y. The only instruction on the local deposit of administrative correspondence was as follows:

*Paper presented at Caribbean Archives Conference, Mona, Jamaica, September 20-27, 1965. Reprinted with kind permission of Mr. Baker and the Conference Committee Chairman, Dr. E.V. Goveia.

"175. The Governor will cause the Secretary of State's despatches addressed to himself, as well as copies of his own addressed to the Secretary of State, whether confidential or not, to be deposited in the recognised office of record in the colony or in some other safe building belonging to the Government.

176. The Governor is forbidden to withdraw at any time any despatch or other public document so deposited. (1919 edn.)"

It is necessary to consider briefly the constitutional histories of the islands. The first in the West Indies to be settled by the English was St. Christopher where Thomas Warner arrived in January 1624 having been appointed the King's Lieutenant for the islands of St. Christopher, Nevis, Barbados and Montserrat. The inclusion of Barbados in Letters Patent may be in error for Barbuda to which Warner sent a colonizing mission in 1628; he also sent parties to settle in Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, and Anguilla. In 1672 the Virgin Islands were annexed to the Leeward Islands then under the Governorship of Sir William Stapleton. In 1628 Warner had agreed to share St. Christopher with French settlers. Dominica, St. Vincent, Grenada, the Grenadines, and Tobago were ceded to Britain by France at the Treaty of Paris in 1763. St. Lucia was captured by the English in 1796, returned to France by the Treaty of Amiens in 1802, recaptured the following year and finally ceded to England in 1814.

It had become the practice that when Englishmen settled in any territory where no government existed they were entitled to operate the English constitution. Their governor represented the sovereign; an Upper House, the Council, composed of persons nominated by him and a Lower House, the House of Assembly, elected by freeholders of the colony. With a ceded colony the sovereign had power to grant a constitution considered fitting and following the 1763 treaty George the Third granted the Windwards (which included Tobago but not St. Lucia) a similar constitution to that to the settled islands. An overall council and general assembly were soon changed to separate legislatures for each island. A governor-in-chief of the Windwards, at that time called the Southern Caribbee Islands, was appointed in 1764 with headquarters in Grenada and with lieutenant-governors on the other islands, but in 1770 Dominica was constituted a separate government under its own governor and in 1776 St. Vincent followed suit. In 1833 the Governor of Barbados was also appointed Governor-General of the Windward Islands. In 1838 Trinidad and St. Lucia were included in the colony. Trinidad was given a separate government four years later, to be joined in 1889 by Tobago. Governor-generalship of the Windward Islands was associated with the Governor of Barbados until 1885 when a Governor-General of the Windwards was appointed with headquarters in Grenada.

In 1816 the Leeward Islands government was bisected, Antigua, Barbuda and Montserrat being separated from St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla and the Virgin Islands. That arrangement lasted till 1833 when a single Leeward Islands government was re-established with Dominica included for the first time. In 1871 the separate governments of the Leewards agreed to a closer federation with a general legislative council and headquarters in Antigua. Eleven years later St. Christopher, Anguilla, and Nevis became a single Presidency within that federation.

I have not commented on changes and experiments in legislative bodies, periods of suspension and so on, but I think I have said enough to show that tracing just the administrative records is far from a simple straightforward business.

Nevertheless there had been one advantage which has not persisted till today and that is correspondence was centralised and usually kept at one place. Following constitutional changes in 1951, which gave a majority of elected members on legislative councils, a committee system of government was introduced with elected members as chairmen of these committees which dealt in an advisory capacity with the running of departments. This led to a ministerial system of government with the executive council as the government's principal instrument of policy. Ministers are appointed from elected members and assigned responsibilities for government business with a few exceptions, such as the Civil Service, which are the responsibility of an island's Administrator - the posts of Governor of the Windwards and his counterpart in the Leewards having in the meantime been abolished.

Concurrently with this, planned accommodation has been inadequate to house increased staff, and departments tend to be found away from the main nucleus of staff with the responsibility of maintaining their own records instead of sending them to a central registry. The Chief Secretary on one of these islands has thought it necessary within these past few months to issue an instruction on filing correspondence which begins:

"The purpose of a filing system is to ensure that correspondence to and from a Department is kept in an orderly manner, and is easily accessible when required. In some Departments reliance is placed almost entirely on the memory of the officers of the Department, and more often than not on the memory of a single officer; but since officers are liable to transfer from Department to Department, and human memory being as fickle as it is, the absence of a proper filing system often leads to unnecessary delays in dealing with correspondence and sometimes to chaos..."

That is presumably directed at the newcomer to the public service but I am not prepared to say it is entirely unnecessary as a reminder to others.

On another island some notes on handling government papers sent out by its Administrator a year or two ago were clearly intended for the use of the new Ministers. The notes start with:

"Because Ministers are answerable to the Public through Legislative Council for all actions and decisions taken by the Government, (not withstanding that such decisions may have been taken either before they assumed office or by Public Officers without the personal knowledge of the Minister) it is essential in the Government Service that adequate records should be kept. This means that considerably greater emphasis must be placed on written records than in the case of private enterprise. The handling of correspondence is therefore a matter of fundamental impor-

tance and it is desirable that all those who deal with correspondence, especially those in the main Government Offices should be aware of, and should adhere to the rules and conventions which have been evolved in the light of hard practical experience."

From this you will begin to decry what has become one of the most difficult problems on some of those islands today. Whenever I have been invited to talk to a group of public servants, I have been at pains to emphasise that archives concern them intimately in their everyday work: that good office practice and good archive practice can be regarded as synonymous; that orderly papers, prompt and accurate filing and the elimination of extraneous material are going to save them time and trouble and will release space in filing cabinets and cupboards; further, that the archival procedures I recommend are designed to be of immediate benefit to a department in its day to day work.

I imagine that this problem is unlikely to loom large where office staffs are greater with the concomitant of an increased chance among them of continuity of service and more officers not directly subjected to strains which must accompany the running-in of a new system of departmental control, which are bound to reduce the time that can be spent overseeing the work of newcomers. Perhaps, therefore, I should give you a sample picture of what I found. I walk into a room in which about eight officers are employed and who are divided between two separate departments. No one admits to being in charge of the room as such. There are plenty of filing cabinets arranged along the wall farthest from the windows, there are bookshelves adjacent to some of the desks and a number of cupboards recessed into the side walls. The first thing I notice - a sure indication of what is to come - is that papers are piled on the tops of cabinets. In one corner of the room some sentimental has a string of Christmas cards stretched along the wall like a line of washing, although we are now within a few days of Easter. I look at the contents of bookshelves behind one officer. They seem to have nothing to do with the department in which she is working. I ask her why she has those particular publications. She answers, "I met them there."

I learn she has occupied that chair for about twelve months. I clear the shelves: she has now somewhere to put the files and reference material she is using and which are piled on her desk or collecting dust on the window ledge above the shelves. Do I surprise you when I tell you that among the material I have removed are reports of forty years ago, for copies of which I have been searching to complete runs? I also find copies of expensive information publications, such as the Canada Yearbook, which I route to the reference section of the public library where they could usefully have been sent immediately on receipt. The recessed cupboards have been used as dumps to include, in addition to papers, old newspapers, broken furniture and empty coca-cola bottles; the whole providing an excellent terrain for bristletails which have already started to attack papers at the bottom of the collection. Those papers of course include copies of departmental annual reports for which I have been searching elsewhere. Enquiries from the occupants of the room elicit the reply from those who admit to having noticed the cupboards at all that they "met them" like that. Where this sort of thing has obtained it has usually been easy to get an instruction issued appointing an officer in each room to be responsible for its tidiness.

A colleague once said cynically, "Things will be just as bad again six months after you've left." I regret to say that two years later the records in question had, I found, not been maintained in the condition in which I put them, but generally that has not happened. Indeed it would be difficult to reproduce what I found for I am likely to be remembered for the amount of paper I destroyed. Where possible it was used as fuel, but on one island we had a bonfire which, in the course of the fortnight it was burning, consumed thirty tons of rubbish, the accumulation of half a century. The principles which govern the selection of documents for destruction will be discussed in a paper later in this conference so I will avoid going into any more detail than I need to make my points here. The local version of the Regulations to which I referred in paragraph 3, and with a correspondingly larger circulation is General Orders for the Civil Service. Those operating in the Leeward Islands include a paragraph which lays down time limits for the retention of papers not of historical value. The corresponding General Orders for the Windward Islands include no such reference to weeding out unwanted papers. Financial Instructions in operation on all the islands lay down time limits for the retention of accounting documents, a drill easily overlooked in the absence of a regular check and particularly in lack of anyone prepared to see that papers are filed away in a manner to facilitate selection for destruction; as a result an appreciable proportion of the papers I disposed of were obsolete accounting vouchers.

There are no specific instructions anywhere on the weeding of the main bulk of records produced in the public service during the present century, - the files of minuted papers. These papers are usually arranged on what is known as the split file system and in recent years have been filed under about a hundred or so subject headings. On one island a committee of three senior Civil Servants, known as a Board of Survey, has dealt with this problem at infrequent intervals but as the time it could spend this project has necessarily been very limited it can have done little more than consider the titles of files. Records of decisions have been kept and although we may look askance at some their implementation has, nevertheless, by reducing bulk, given a greater chance of survival to files which have been retained. On other islands formidable accumulations of such papers extending over forty years await attention. (In one or two instances bulk destruction, coincident with changes in administration, of blocks of such papers was reported to me). I could do no more in the time available than sample accumulations of minuted papers but I weeded accumulations of 'secret' files for two Administrators and in so doing ensured that some valuable material is retained for the future.

I see only one practical solution to the problem and that is to employ a retired fairly senior public servant to examine these accumulations of minuted papers. His own experience and the general principles for determining the historical value of papers - which I have discussed on the islands - will enable him to get rid of nine-tenths of those papers. The residue can then be sent to the archives room for safe-keeping and space released for future files. I must admit that, in one instance, the space to be released is not valuable, the accommodation in question being scarcely worth the cost of maintenance. On at least two islands are exceptional officers who, although already heavily loaded, are likely to spare enough time themselves to get weeding in progress. I must again emphasize the value of wide experience in the work of the public service in such a task, and the need to treat it as something which cannot be done in a few short weeks but to be regarded as a continuing duty.

As for a similar control of the usually decentralised papers currently being produced under the Ministerial system, I have recommended a technique based on that generally employed by public departments in the United Kingdom since the new Public Records Act came into operation in 1959. But again I must emphasise that officers experienced in the work of the departments concerned are needed to operate the system to get satisfactory results. Copies of correspondence between governors and administrators can be found in the Colonial Office papers at the Public Record Office in London - though I noticed an unexplained hiatus there for Montserrat from 1787 to 1853. That is no reason of course for not doing all we can to preserve papers in situ on the islands, nor is that consideration true of much which we will find in files produced in recent years.

From fairly early in the nineteenth century till the second world war, the basic record for an island was its annual 'Blue Book' which, as you know, gave comprehensive statistical information on population, finance, commerce, social services, legislation, and so on. The early returns were in manuscript on pages of printed forms but from about 1880, to enable copies to be available to a wider public these books were printed, usually locally. For each of the Windward Islands the last Blue Book published was for 1939. The comprehensive book for the Leeward Islands Federation carried on for another three years, failed to appear for 1943 and 1944 and was published, for the last time, to cover the year 1945.

These series were parallel from 1886 with the annual Colonial Reports, published by H.M.S.O. London. To begin with those reports were Command Papers described as 'Report on the Blue-Book' giving statistical information in more easily assimilable form. Following the disappearance of the Blue Book, H.M.S.O. published in 1947 a series of reports for 1946. These were most attractively produced and contained considerable detail. The next reports to appear were for 1948 and thereafter they were published either annually or biennially for the Islands we are considering except for a few lacunae.

It seems that for one reason or another we cannot always rely on having such reports available, which makes locally printed annual reports of the different departments all that much more valuable apart from their usually being more detailed. Many of the departments, such as Agriculture, Police, Treasury, have been producing such reports for eighty years and longer but, recently, with changes in the social scene, rearrangements of departmental functions have been made to create new departments. Routine is upset with consequent delays in producing reports for those departments. I think it fair to say that, with one exception, government printing facilities have been improved on all the islands but methods of recording the work printers undertake have deteriorated.

To complicate matters, a report has occasionally been published in typescript and has sometimes covered two or three years of a department's activities. It has not been unknown for a year to go by for which no report is published. It has proved difficult to establish when that has happened. The record at the printery does not give the complete picture and when I go to the administrative centre I am told that I must not expect complete runs of reports there: obviously such runs would be kept in the originating departments. You can anticipate the rest which is that, only too often, an officer in the department concerned says that clearly complete runs of reports are kept centrally. I have been persuading those in departments hold-

ing runs of reports to have these bound for each five years or so. This helps their preservation and hinders the officer who would borrow a single report and mislay it among other papers.

I have suggested, and it is worth reiterating here, that each officer responsible for the distribution of annual reports should see that two "record copies" go to the record room or a designated central point. If a report is not to be published then a "nil return" should be made and that return should also be made to organisations which figure on any circulation list. It will save librarians a good deal of trouble and prevent unnecessary correspondence. This has led to the further suggestion that the editor of any special report or the secretary of a committee publishing a report should similarly ensure that record copies are sent direct to whoever is made responsible for an island's official archives.

Another important record is the official Gazette. These began to be published usually weekly on the islands between 1860 and 1880. One was published for the Leeward Islands from August 1872 till July 1956 when the Federation was dissolved, to be followed by the Antigua, Montserrat and Virgin Islands Gazette. In January 1879, the St. Christopher government began to publish a parallel Gazette. It seems to have lasted for only four years, but in January 1904 The Official Gazette of St. Christopher-Nevis appeared and it is still being published. In no office have I found complete runs of the Gazette I have named. In only one of the three Islands concerned have volumes been bound and set aside as record copies of the Gazette which began as recently as 1956. The situation is perhaps a little better in the Windwards where each island has published its own Gazette. Dominica's first issue was in April 1865 and continued after the Leeward Islands Gazette made its appearance seven years later and was still being published when Dominica left that federation in 1940. One reason why it has been difficult to reconstruct earlier runs of these publications is that they are frequently referred to as evidence in court and may not have been returned to their original position. Sets kept in a law library have been subjected to the dangers of borrowing by local lawyers, which has led to calls on the record set.

An important state archive is its collection of acts, and ordinances. With these we should associate commissions, patents and similar instruments together with local regulations, by-laws, statutory rules and orders. Usually manuscript copies of the acts were made in a separate series of books continuing till past the mid-eighteenth century, although some of the earliest will be found only in assembly minute books. Collections of these early acts were later printed in chronological order in volumes of which the earliest usually appeared during the first few decades of the eighteenth century. In the latter half of the eighteenth century, it began to be the practice to print copies of each act, and some of these were put aside and bound annually. About this time ordinances began to be passed appointing commissioners to prepare volumes of Statutes in Force. At about fifty year intervals, those volumes have to be brought up to date. I notice that, in Montserrat, Charles Griffin, the commissioner who was appointed "under and by virtue of 'The new edition of the statutes ordinance 1920'" to produce such a volume, notes that there is no copy in the colony of an Act, passed in 1734 which he lists as "No. 1". (In Acts of Assembly passed in the Island of Montserrat from 1668 to 1740 inclusive, printed by John Baskett, London, 1740, this act is shown as No. 135 in a series, and 54 acts are listed before that series begins). Nor could

Mr. Griffin obtain anywhere a copy of an 1819 act "for Preventing the Landing of Improper Persons on this Island"; it sounds apocryphal anyway. But one unfortunate, and avoidable, result of recent revisions has been that these have been done largely on a scissors and paste basis and two sets of printed laws have thereby been practically destroyed each time. (Not that the revisers themselves have escaped: four have died in the course of the, as yet unfinished, current revision of St. Vincent Laws).

A good deal of work is still to be done on most of the islands to complete a collection of all such records and to ensure that there is no risk of them being depleted by future borrowings. Nor can they be considered apart from House of Assembly records. Particularly in their early days, such bodies approved measures which had to be disallowed when examined by the Privy Council in London. Nowhere have I found the records of Councils and Assemblies in an entirely satisfactory order. Nor has the problem been made easier by none too well documented suspensions, adjournments sine die, and changes in titles and constitutions. In the 1850s the practice began of producing printed copies of some of the Assemblies' minutes. Latterly manuscript records have been replaced by typescript. Delays have been produced on occasion during the legislative changes of recent months. A request for verbatim reports of proceedings was met at the cost of too great a strain on available clerical resources. I am sure that comparatively current records are tending to get out of hand on at least one island - a serious matter at any time but particularly so just now when important developments in self-government are taking place. The islands cannot afford to jeopardise these records.

We now have to consider legal records under the immediate jurisdiction of the registrar, who in most instances doubles his post with that of registrar-general for births, marriages and deaths. Generally, the main body of these records is the deed copy books, invariably the oldest records to be found. The earliest volumes include copies of a very wide range of legal instruments. Most of the information in them is not to be found elsewhere for the deeds of which they are copies have been dispersed long ago. Usually I have had to spend a lot of time trying to establish series when putting volumes into order. The leaves of a number have become brittle with 'brown rot'. These volumes are legally available for searches by lawyers but only on one or two islands, where cadastral surveys are long overdue, is there any recourse to earlier volumes with, I regret to report, inevitable damage, the searcher not being much concerned with anyone else's requirements in the future.

In the past, registrars have taken considerable care of their records or the books would not be with us now. I wish I could say the same today but I cannot claim not to have met the officer who, in dealing with the several functions he is called upon to perform, has overlooked that the protection of the records in his care is of prime importance. I hope we can regard him as a rara avis. Registrars there are who can certainly be counted among those keenly appreciative of the work we do and who have availed themselves wholeheartedly of the assistance we can give. I have never missed an opportunity to talk to registry staff about this aspect of their work.

I must, however, in all honesty to this conference report that I have had some distressing experiences in locating these particular records. On occasion damage has been caused by an inadequate comprehension that certain material is only of temporary significance. I refer to court exhibits, which

can range from pathological specimens to pieces of heavy agricultural machinery and, among them, blunt and, more frequently, sharp instruments bulk large. To find such material stacked in the same room as permanent legal records means that the registrar is missing the wood for trees. In one instance, I found distrained furniture piled on deed books. No wonder the registrar had complained that his strong-room was too small! Much of the distrained material was worthless, such as an insanitary old mattress which might as well have been left in the yard for all the legal difference it would have made. Confronted with such situations, I have drawn the attention of the nearest Puisne Judge to the problem and, with his approval, have disposed by appropriate means of these threats to archives. The last such item I disposed of in the particular blitzkreig I have in mind was a skull of a young lady who had come to an untimely end, which I passed to the local hospital for tutorial purposes.

Court records have not been particularly well preserved. There are exceptions for particular courts, which vary from island to island. Courts in Ordinary of the earliest days were soon submerged in a number of courts which reflected the complications of the English legal system of the early nineteenth century and lagged noticeably behind it in simplifying reforms. Some courts had, it would seem, but a brief existence and there were periods on at least one island when adequate records were not maintained. A few French legal records survive and the influence of the French system prior to the Third Republic can be detected in the Windward Islands, particularly in St. Lucia which had been administered as a dependency of Martinique from where a proclamation was issued in 1681 whereby the custom of Paris and the Ordinances of the French Monarchy were made applicable to St. Lucia. The records that resulted were burnt in a fire which destroyed the town of Castries in 1796.

There is a range of records, many of which are normally regarded as appropriate to local government, but, in the comparatively small communities these islands represent, have to be considered as state records: they include education, hospitals, the police and prisons. What has survived of these records varies quite a lot, depending on local conditions in the past. Where an attempt has been made to preserve all papers, casualties have been fairly heavy but against that I visited one hospital whose staff seems to have made no attempt at any time to preserve its records. I found myself discussing with a chief of police what should be preserved of his central records only to come to the conclusion that, apart from registers of previous convictions and occasional specimens of routine log books, all the information worth retaining was to be found in the printed annual report of his department. We then discovered that there had been a year for which a report had not been issued, nor could we find in his office a complete set of those reports which had been issued.

It is not too early to consider the preservation of new forms of records but we need do no more than comment on them in passing. The Windward Islands Broadcasting Service which has been running for eight years and is paid for by the islands' governments has now filed more than two hundred sound tapes which are of historical value. Half of them are recordings of local music. You will be pleased to learn that one or two are concerned with cricket matches. Commentaries on state occasions and on the introduction of new social services, speeches by ministers and governors, and the like, should prove of considerable interest to our successors. Public relations departments have lately appeared and, one at least, has already started to prepare its own pictorial film records of the historic sites and life of the island,

dissatisfied as it might well be with what had been produced, on behalf of "tourism", by a commercial company. I can scarcely recommend that the banal effort I was shown should be preserved except possibly as a 'specimen'.

Accommodation for records was provided in the past in the government office and in the court house on each island. As records accumulated, the court house had a strong room built on or into it. I have shown that inappropriate material had of late years found its way into a number of these rooms. Clearing that out has given more space but only on a minority of the islands can accommodation for legal records be regarded as adequate for more than the next year or two. Administrative records are in much the same case. On two of the islands, the administrator found space in Government House for certain records. One island is Montserrat where no adequate accommodation was allocated for records in the quite recently built administrative offices. This latter point is also true of Antigua. In Dominica, a strong room was provided for records in offices built about ten years ago but only this year has it been put to that purpose. A new building is now being opened in St. Christopher with two rooms for records. A considerable collection of these is on shelves in the Court House building where they are no safer than anything is in a timber structure. I worked out the necessarily elaborate drill for transferring this to the new building but have only now learnt that the registrar, who was particularly interested and was to carry out the transfer, has resigned from his post. There are no doubt others who are quite capable of doing the job properly but again that doesn't apply to everyone. A few years ago, for example, an officer there, when carrying a brittle deed copy book of 1737, dropped it on the floor, from a height of less than three feet, whereupon its leaves disintegrated into thousands of small fragments.

I have already touched upon the problem of personnel when the total staff is small. Our colleague, Michael J. Chandler, with that and accommodation problems in mind, put forward a tentative possible solution (in Archives No. 28, 1962) on which he expects me to comment. His proposal was made soon after the dissolution of the West Indies Federation in 1962, when there appeared to be some support for a federation of the "Little Eight". He was writing from Barbados and suggested that the islands I have been considering might use the accommodation he had planned in Barbados as a repository for their older records. He is now bringing that accommodation into service. It is excellent and our admiration of what has been achieved is, I feel, the greater by reason of his having adapted existing buildings that are not without historic interest. He rightly says that the annual expenditure which would be involved "does not seem great in relation to the amounts spent on education, libraries and museums." In the Leewards and Windwards, half the population is under 15 years of age, the libraries cost little enough and at present nothing is spent on museums. But that is now rather beside the point for, in the interim, chances of any sort of federation have markedly diminished.

Rather than archives should deteriorate further through indifference and neglect, it would be well if they could be sent to Barbados. In the present context, this is a policy of despair, for with the development of a greater measure of self government and an increasing awareness of local legislators that 'a fresh start' is only a figure of speech and that the future is an extension of the past, a greater interest in the retention and creation of adequate records has grown, and I have found opposition from those who have

any faith in the future well-being of their country to any suggestion that others should look after their records. In 1954, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, who failed to find such interest in Antigua, sent a considerable quantity of records, with the concurrence of the Antigua Council, to England where they are now in the care of the Public Record Office. Members of Council have lately spoken about the possibility of recovering those records. Public Record Office officials have made it clear to me that, whilst they do not particularly want those records, they will certainly not attempt to put in train any arrangements to return them as long as I am unable to assure them that adequate care of, and accommodation for archives have been arranged in Antigua.

"TRUJILLO: THE LAST CAESAR"—

Book Review by Susan Vanderwal

If it can be argued that objective history is almost impossible, detached biography is absolutely so. No matter how much time or space stands between subject and author, the latter must inevitably become involved with the personality of the man of whom he writes, his problems and his solutions to them. Certainly the reader who picks up Arturo Espaillat's TRUJILLO: THE LAST CAESAR would hardly expect to find an unbiased account of the former leader and his administration. Espaillat was himself no un-important part of that administration—he served as Sub-Chief of the Army (1954), Brigadier General and Undersecretary of Defense (1955), Consul General in New York and his country's delegate to the United Nations (1956), Major-General and Secretary of State for Security (1957). In 1961 "the last Caesar" was assassinated. Three weeks later his son Ramfis, General Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Jr., imprisoned "his former good friend", tortured him and released him. Espaillat wrote this book in exile in Canada.

Published in 1963, it deserves perhaps more attention today in view of subsequent and recent events in the unfortunate republic. This is particularly so as it is not really a conventional biography. The reader will learn little of the details of the dictator's birth, family history or even of his career. What Espaillat presents is more an impressionistic account of an era; but this is a valid approach, surely—Trujillo both ruled and owned the Dominican Republic for 31 years. It was his era.

With the author's background and practical participation in mind perhaps it should be noted here that he is not an apologist for the regime, but neither is he "ashamed or regretful" of his part in it. Whilst he might well be labelled 'anti-American', possibly not without just cause, he promulgates no particular personal or political line. One is left with an image of him as a volatile and alert participant in the affairs of history and politics which are of interest to him only in so far as he is involved with them.

But it is the formidable personality of the Generalissimo which rightly dominates most of the book. The other less likely protagonist is the United States of America. The two came together from the very beginning, when Trujillo was groomed as a leader for the new Dominican army under the tutelage of the U.S. Marines who occupied the country in 1916 and stayed till 1924. He was a receptive student, apparently, and by 1930 he was Chief of Staff. Then, in the best Latin American tradition, he ousted the president, took over the government, crushed the regional leaders and inaugurated a total dictatorship.

There can be no doubt that this brought a degree of peace, productivity and progress to a country which had lacked all three for a long time. If the means were not always compatible with the end—"he shot people who disturbed the peace"—perhaps this is understandable in the context of a long tradition of crippling internal anarchy. However, though complete power was his aim, and later its maintenance his preoccupation, Trujillo's methods were not always violent. His position was based from first to last on the peasant and the little man to whom he both promised and gave considerable benefits. A more subtle technique was his standing as god-father to many thousands of his

youngest citizens. This not only meant a baptismal gift of \$100 for the parents, but more loyal support for Trujillo, for in Latin America it is not done to conspire against your comrade, the god-father of your child.

The prosperity which the new roads and industries brought was not confined to the peasants and workers. The population increased, and for the first time a professional and middle class was able to develop. And most of its members, like those of the old upper class who were left, supported Trujillo—some because they respected what he was trying to do for the nation, others presumably because their interest coincided with his. In the end most of them had turned against him; but as far as the more prominent, at least, were concerned, this was on personal rather than ideological grounds. Trujillo was killed by his own officers and staff and outside conspirators; his popular support remained until his death.

The outsiders, whose identity Espaillet thinly conceals, were American officials. Some of the allegations he makes against America and various American individuals in the course of the book would be extremely difficult to prove; others may spring from bitterness towards a nation whose foreign policy in regard to his country and its neighbours appears to him to be unfair, inconsistent and hypocritical. Whatever one might think of his theory that Cholly Knickerbocker, working through Joseph Kennedy, was the real instigator of some of the late President's activities in the Caribbean, his contention that the State Department suffers from a "compulsion to meddle in Dominican internal affairs" can hardly be dismissed so easily. Certainly the United States seems to put a very broad interpretation upon "its interests" and the "steps necessary to protect them"; but this is a chronic feature of the Dominican scene, both before and after the era of Trujillo.

There are a lot of questions which Espaillet's book does not answer, but it does raise some very pertinent ones. That Trujillo was the real ruler behind a facade of democratic symbols, that he and his family made fortunes out of sharp and nefarious practices, is hardly news. But superficial and sketchy though it is, Trujillo: the last Caesar compels one to wonder about strange vacillations in American policy, bribery and pay-offs in semi-official circles, some of the less apparent factors which helped Castro acquire Cuba, and international politics and comparative conditions in the Dominican Republic and some of its Caribbean and Latin-American neighbours.

This book is not scholarly; there is no documentation. The writing shows that Espaillet mastered American slang and journalese well during his time at West Point and the Consulate General. If it is not quite the "explosive...scorching memoirs" the dust jacket would have one believe, the facts are often both bloody and brutal—the author has no wish to avoid the sensational. If it is not a good biography of the dictator, it is better than most of the others. One closes in agreeing that Trujillo "was one hell of a man"—and provoked into thought.

TRUJILLO: THE LAST CAESAR, by Arturo R. Espaillet. Chicago, Henry Regnery, 1963, 192p. \$4.95, 35/-.

NEW PUBLICATIONS (1964-65) FROM THE LIBRARIES

1. JAMAICA. Ministry of Education Library.- Catalogue: supplement, Jan., 1964. 10p. (Catalogue issued 1963.)
2. _____.- Author index of selected articles on education in Jamaica. 1964. 15p.
3. JAMAICA LIBRARY SERVICE.- Books and pamphlets on international affairs donated to Jamaica Library Service through the Jamaican Council of International Affairs. 1964. 27p.
4. WEST INDIES. University Library.- A select list of works on the British Caribbean. 1964. 13p.
5. _____.- West Indian literature: a select bibliography. 1964. 32p.
6. DELATTRE, Rae.- A guide to Jamaican reference material in the West India Reference Library. Institute of Jamaica, 1965. 76p.
7. INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA. West India Reference Library.- Jamaican accessions: 1964. 1965. 26p.
8. ROBERTSON, Glory.- Members of the Assembly of Jamaica: from the general election of 1830 to the final session January 1866. Institute of Jamaica, 1965. 59p.
9. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COUNCIL. Library.- Revised standing list of serials currently received. 1965. 10p.

NEWS OF THE LIBRARIES

Jamaica Library Service

STAFF

Two members of staff qualified as Associates of the Library Association in 1964--Miss Gloria Clarke, Acting Senior Librarian, Clarendon and Mrs. Jean Jackson (nee Bevan), Acting Librarian, Westmoreland.

SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS

The Jamaica Library Board Scholarship for 1965 was awarded to Mrs. Gloria Royale of the St. James Parish Library. Mrs. Angela Gray, who received a British Council Scholarship for 1965, left the island in July and is now at the Liverpool School of Commerce.

Miss Joyce Wallen, Regional Librarian, St. Ann was awarded an internship for one year by the United States Department of State, and is now attached to the Contra Costa County Library, California.

The following members of staff on their own initiative attended library schools in England:

Miss Gloria Clarke)
Mrs. Jean Jackson) now qualified
Mrs. Lorna Neita
Mrs. Hope Alphonse
Miss Reive Robb

NEW BUILDINGS

The provision of new library buildings continued at a steady pace, and a welcome feature of the year's activities was the efforts made by citizens of two communities to help themselves.

Over a period of years, the residents of Santa Cruz, through their Citizens Association, held various fund raising activities, and worked diligently towards the goal of providing their own library building. On November 11, the new Santa Cruz Branch Library was officially opened by the Acting Prime Minister, the Hon. Donald Sangster.

In Browns Town, where a branch library has existed for over 13 years, the residents are now making concerted efforts towards providing their own building through which the library may more adequately serve the needs of this community.

The Hanover Parish Library building was also completed during the year. The First Section of the building was opened in March 1964, and in May

1965 the new wing was completed and officially opened by His Excellency, the Governor General, Sir Clifford Campbell, G.C.M.G.

SERVICE POINTS

Four new Book Centres and five new Bookmobile stops were established, and 7 Book Centres were converted to Branch Libraries. The Service now operates 232 Service Points as follows:

Parish Libraries	13
Branch Libraries	25
Book Centres	140
Bookmobile stops	54

VISITORS

Among the distinguished visitors for the year were: Professor Floyd Arpan, Professor of Journalism at Indiana University, United States of America; Mr. W.J. Murison, County Librarian of Yorkshire; Mr. Leo Bradley, Librarian of British Honduras Library Service; Dr. John Hartog of the Aruba Public Library; Mr. Douglas Grant of Oliver and Boyd (Publishers); and Mr. Benn of Ernest Benn & Co. (Publishers).

EXHIBITIONS

The Annual Independence Exhibition and Presentation of Awards to the 1965 National Literary Competition Prize Winners took place on July 30, 1965. The exhibition entitled "The Progress of a People—Industry", traced the history of Jamaica's industrial development to date, and was officially opened by the Hon. Edwin Allen, Minister of Education. This exhibition is now being shown in Comprehensive and Senior Schools throughout the island.

An Exhibition on the Morant Bay Rebellion was mounted at the St. Thomas Agricultural Show (Lyssons) on October 11, 1965 and was later shown in the Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library.

The closing of International Co-operation Year was marked by an exhibition arranged by the Jamaica Library Service on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs. This exhibition was officially opened by His Excellency, the Governor General, Sir Clifford Campbell, G.C.M.G., Tuesday, December 7.

GIFTS

Mr. E.A. Campbell, Barrister-at-Law presented his collection of law books, numbering over 300 volumes, to the Jamaica Library Service in June of this year.

A donation of books, pamphlets, prints, and stamp albums was received through the American Embassy from the U.S. Navy—Operation Handclasp. This material was distributed to Parish Libraries, Schools, Youth Clubs, and other organisations, and the Service records its sincere appreciation of these and

several other donations received throughout the year from various individuals and organisations.

STAFF COURSES

Four training courses for members of staff were held during the year. Three of these were for the pre-professional, partly qualified and qualified staff and the fourth covered children's librarianship. A Conference involving Librarians from all Parish Libraries and Headquarters was held in March. The venue for this and the courses was the National Stadium.

Institute of Jamaica

This was a very busy year for the West India Reference Library. Since it was the centenary of the Morant Bay Rebellion, much research had to be done in order to mount an appropriate display for the Commemoration. The same exhibition of manuscripts, maps, prints and photographs was mounted, first in Morant Bay Court House and then in the Art Gallery of the Institute of Jamaica.

A very important event was the 1st Caribbean Archives Conference which was held at the University of the West Indies. Miss Judith Richards was delegate from the Institute of Jamaica, and there were 4 other members of staff in the capacity of advisors attending the Conference with her.

The Librarian of the West India Reference Library took the opportunity of inviting several of the visiting delegates, Dr. J. Hartog, Dr. A.E. Gropp, Mr. W.I. Smith, Mr. E.C. Baker, to advise on manuscript preservation. This visit proved very beneficial to our manuscript librarian.

PUBLICATIONS

During the year the West India Reference Library brought out three publications. Miss Glory Robertson, Acting Librarian of the West India Reference Library, compiled Members of the Assembly of Jamaica from the general election of 1830 to the final session January 1866. Miss Patricia Dunn, Cataloguer of the West India Reference Library, compiled Jamaican Accessions 1964. Mrs. Rae Delattre, Acting Chief Librarian, compiled A Guide to Jamaican Reference Material in the West India Reference Library.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDY LEAVE

Mrs. Rosalie Williams was awarded a British Council Scholarship for the academic year 1965-66. Rosalie had on her own initiative left Jamaica in September 1964 to attend the University of Strathclyde.

Miss Audrey Leigh has been granted a one-year study leave to complete her professional studies at the Liverpool School of Librarianship.

VISITING LIBRARIANS AND ARCHIVISTS

The following librarians and archivists were visitors to the Institute of Jamaica:

In June, Miss Flora Blizzard, Trinidadian Librarian now at Guelph, Canada.

In August, Mrs. Valerie Nelson, Librarian of the Jamaica Mission to the United Nations.

In September, Dr. Arthur E. Gropp, Librarian of the Pan American Union; Dr. J. Hartog, Librarian, Public Library in Aruba; Mr. E.C. Baker, U.W.I. Archivist; Mr. W.I. Smith, Chief of the Historical Branch, Canadian Public Archives.

Mr. William Murison, County Librarian of Yorkshire, was also a visitor to the Institute of Jamaica in September.

PROMOTIONS

Miss Judith Richards, F.L.A., Librarian of the West India Reference Library, has been promoted to the post of Acting Deputy Chief Librarian. Miss Glory Robertson, M.A., Research Assistant, is now Acting Librarian in Miss Richards' post.

STAFF TRAINING

The first two weeks in February were devoted to In-Service Training for the junior members of the staff of the libraries of the Institute of Jamaica. Lectures were given in cataloguing, binding, etc. There were also extensive tours of the various libraries and displays of equipment.

GIFTS

A large number of schools and institutions have presented their records and publications to the library. Of particular value are the case histories and records presented by the Jamaica Children's Service Society Ltd. This materials has been placed on limited access in the Manuscripts Collection.

The French Charge d'Affaires, M. Jean-Paul Schricke, on behalf of the French Government, presented to the General Library for the people of Jamaica fourteen art books on Braque and Villon.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Miss Eugenie Campbell, Librarian of the General Library, left the Institute in February to join the staff of the Jamaica School of Theology. Mrs. Alberta Gaskin has ceased to be Cataloguer and Acting Librarian of the General Library. She may return as a Special Library Assistant.

Three Research Assistants joined the staff of the West India Reference Library. Miss Susan Stratigos (now Mrs. Vanderwal), Mr. Colin Davis, who has since left to join the staff of USIS, and Miss Alvona Lyn.

Scientific Research Council Library

The Scientific Research Council Library has had a major change during the past year. The Information and Library Services has been dissolved and there are now two separate entities. The library also now has its own written policy.

At present the library has two projects: general library services and the Jamaica Journal List.

It is the aim of the Library to keep track of its operational costs. All major operations such as cataloguing, control and routing of serials, reference work and preparation of bibliographies would be worked out on operational costs.

Although a considerable amount of cataloguing has been done, there are still several thousands of reprints and pamphlets to be processed.

Draft I, Part I (A-E) of the Jamaica Journal List was completed and circulated to libraries. There are still some libraries that have not returned their completed copies. Work on the cards for Part II (F-P) and Part III (Q-Z) has been completed and it is hoped that these will be printed and circulated early this year.

The 1965 Annual General Meeting of the Jamaica Library Association was held at the Scientific Research Council. This meeting was well attended.

Changes in library staff have been: Mrs. Fay Penso resigned as Library Assistant at the beginning of October. She has been succeeded by Miss Flania Orr. Miss Cynthia Kelly, also Library Assistant, has returned to work after a long illness.

University of the West Indies

Mr. K.E. Ingram, Deputy Librarian, went on a year's leave of absence from 1st April. For some time Mr. Ingram has been gathering material for the preparation of a guide to manuscript sources for the history of the British Caribbean in British and United States libraries and archive repositories. By means of grants from U.S.I.S. and the University Mr. Ingram has been enabled to undertake an extensive tour of the U.S. and Britain in furtherance of his project.

Miss Norma Segré, Assistant Librarian, grade I, went on secondment to the University Library in Barbados from February to May to strengthen the staff there during the absence of Miss S. Rogers, on a four-month library internship in the U.S.A.

Mrs. Claire Collins resigned the temporary appointment which she had held for two years and filled with distinction.

Miss Jean Amiel who acted as Assistant Librarian, grade II, for a year was awarded the University's first scholarship in Librarianship and she left in September to attend the School of Librarianship and Archives, University College, London.

Mrs. June Morley, B.Sc., who arrived from London in May has taken up a temporary appointment with the Library and will be here until next March.

Recent appointments are: Mrs. Albertine Jefferson, B.A.(Soc.) M.S., from Trinidad Central Library and Mr. C.A.R. Lashley, B.A., from Jamaica Archives.

Among other recent notable acquisitions of the Library is a facsimile copy of the Hypnerotomachia Poliphili of Francesco Colonna originally printed by the great Aldus Manutius of Venice in 1499. This is one of the most celebrated books of the fifteenth century, famous for its beautiful woodcuts, its type and presswork. The facsimile is published by the Eugrammia Press, London.

The appointment of a librarian for the Institute of Education has now been approved. It is expected that within the year the organization of the library will be well underway.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Frank Cundall, O.B.E., F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S.; 1858-1937. Secretary & Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica 1891-1937.

Cedric Hentschel, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.G.S., British Council Representative in Jamaica.

Beryl N. Fletcher, Asst. Supervisor, Junior Centre, Half-Way-Tree, Institute of Jamaica.

E.A. Tate, A.R.I.C.S., Deputy Director of Surveys, Survey Department.

Michael Powell, Chief Library Officer, J.B.C.

Mrs. C.P. Fray, M.R.C.V.S., M.S., Librarian, Scientific Research Council.

Sister M. Cordia, O.S.F., in charge of Science Teaching, St. Joseph's Teachers' College.

Miss Flo O'Connor, Library Assistant II, West India Reference Library, Institute of Jamaica.

E.C. Baker, M.B.E., B.A., University of the West Indies Archivist.

Mrs. Susan Vanderwal, B.A., Research Assistant, West India Reference Library, Institute of Jamaica.

Miss Rema Falconer, B.A., Research Assistant, West India Reference Library, Institute of Jamaica.

This issue of the Bulletin was edited by Mrs. Rae Delattre, M.S., Acting Chief Librarian of the Institute of Jamaica, with the assistance of members of the Research & Publications Working Party.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION EXAMINATION RESULTS

Winter 1964

Entrance Examination

Miss Daphne Gray	-	Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library
Miss S.B. Hinds	-	Institute of Jamaica
Mrs. Mavis Lyons	-	Headquarters, Jamaica Library Service
Miss June Vernon	-	Headquarters, Jamaica Library Service

Part I

Mrs. Hope Alphonse	-	Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library
Miss R. Robb	-	Headquarters, Jamaica Library Service

Part II

Mrs. Jean Bevan-Jackson	-	Westmoreland Parish Library Papers B 32 C 106
Miss Gloria Clarke	-	Clarendon Parish Library Papers B 11 12+ C 507+
Mrs. J.M. Ewbank	-	University of the West Indies Paper B 12
Mr. C. Lashley	-	University of the West Indies Papers A 1 B 11, B 12, B 91 C 605+
Mrs. S.E. Masters	-	University of the West Indies Paper A 2

+ Merits were obtained in these papers.

Summer 1965

Entrance Examination

The following persons were successful in the examination:-

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Miss Myrtle Allen | - | Headquarters, Jamaica Library Service |
| 2. | Miss Winsome Gibson | - | Manchester Parish Library |
| 3. | Miss Marcia Hale | - | Headquarters, (Schools) |
| 4. | Miss Flavia Orr | - | Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library |
| 5. | Miss Glenor Shirley | - | Manchester Parish Library |
| 6. | Miss Marcia Vaz | - | Kingston & St. Andrew Parish Library |

Professional Examination Part I

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Miss Gloria Allen | - | Hanover Parish Library |
| 2. | Miss A.A. Leigh | - | Institute of Jamaica |
| 3. | Miss Sylvia Linton | - | St. Catherine Parish Library |
| 4. | Miss Norma Orr | - | Currently on Scholarship abroad |
| 5. | Miss June Williams | - | Manchester Parish Library |

Professional Examination Part II

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Mrs. Jean Bevan Jackson | - | Westmoreland Parish Library
Papers B 11, B 12 |
|-------------------------|---|--|

Mrs. Jackson completed the Professional Examination Part 2 and is now a Chartered Librarian.

Miss Gloria Clarke also qualified as an Associate of the Library Association. Mr. Lashley completed his studies in England and is also now a Chartered Librarian.

JAMAICA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Allen, Miss G.
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Black, Clinton
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Davis, Miss Norma
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Gidden, Miss Dorothy
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Grenier, Fr. L.

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Henry, Mrs. J.
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Hines, Miss Joan
Hurwitz, Prof. S.J.

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James, Miss Elaine
Jones, Pat
Josephs, Miss M., B.A., A.L.A.

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Kenton, Miss Norma
Kerr, Miss E.
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Parkin, Miss B.

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Roberts, Mrs. C., B.A.
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Robinson, Mrs. L.
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St. Catherine Parish Library
St. Elizabeth Parish Library
St. James Parish Library
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