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FIRST CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE

on

UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE LIBRARY COOPERATION

Sponsored by the Association of Caribbean Universities

University of Puerto Rico

Rio Piedras Campus

14 - 17 June, 1969.

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COOPERATIVE ACQUISITIONS:

MATERIALS FROM THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN.

By: Rae Wright  
Acting Chief Librarian  
Institute of Jamaica.

The first Caribbean conference on University and Research Institute Library Cooperation, sponsored by the Association of Caribbean Universities, must have as its major consideration the bibliographic control of caribbean publications in all its phases. This paper is limited to a survey of past, present and possible future cooperative acquisition programmes of materials from the English speaking Caribbean, and is concerned with Caribbean-oriented materials only. It should be borne in mind however that most of the libraries represented here have responsibilities over and beyond their Caribbean collections, important though these are.

The need for any cooperative acquisition programme for Caribbean publications rests on the fact that in the English-speaking area publishing is unorganised and the means of distribution primitive. If there were an organised "book trade" issuing regular and comprehensive lists of recently published material as in the more developed countries of the world,

/libraries

libraries both in the Caribbean area and outside could readily employ conventional methods of acquiring relevant material according to their requirements and resources. In the existing circumstances, it has devolved upon the librarians themselves to devise means for ascertaining what has been published and acquiring it as far as desirable or practicable.

A second implicit consideration for this conference is the question of the priority of Caribbean-based libraries as recipients of materials and services in the proposals to be made. While we are grateful for continued assistance from the more developed countries which are interested in the West Indies, we feel that we must be responsible for our own library development and that in fact we have much to offer our more affluent friends. We acknowledge the help we have received from outside the Caribbean, and one way of expressing our appreciation is to note in the following the part played by non-Caribbean libraries in the brief history of cooperative acquisition ventures in the area.

Although cooperative projects of (a) acquisition and (b) bibliography, indexing and microfilming are being treated separately, and indeed must be in order to get to grips with the problem, the two are interdependent. How can every interested library acquire materials in its field unless it knows what materials exist, and how, in the present state of publishing mentioned above, can it know of their existence if someone has not acquired and listed them? No one library can manage by itself such a dual function over an area of the size and complexity of the Caribbean. The history of attempts by librarians to pool their resources for this job is amply documented in committee reports, conference and seminar proceedings. Some of the librarians at this conference will have been among the pioneers who first stated the problems involved.

/Reference

Reference to SALAIM papers from 1959 onward shows a rather dismal repetition of the difficulties encountered and rarely overcome.

The annual Seminars on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials - SALAIM - were begun in 1956 under the auspices of the Pan American Union Library of the Organization of American States. These seminars have concentrated on publications from South and Central America and have been geared primarily to the needs of U.S. libraries as well as to those of participating "Latin American" countries (Trinidad and Tobago became a member nation in 1967 and Jamaica has just applied for membership). In working papers and proceedings the seminars have produced bibliographical guides and recommendations for strengthening resources at the local level which are of benefit to all libraries interested in the area. The sub-committee on Caribbean acquisitions which was established in the course of time is particularly pertinent to the deliberations of this conference. The West Indies have been represented on the Committee on Biography since 1960 in the person of the deputy librarian of the University of the West Indies, and several librarians, including the Permanent Secretary of SALAIM, have been both specifically and actively interested in the West Indies. In particular, the Seventh Seminar, in 1962, was instrumental in sending an exploratory mission to Puerto Rico to investigate the possibility of a Pilot Centre for Bibliographic Coordination for the Caribbean.

Under the Latin American Cooperative Acquisition Programme (IACAP), which concentrates heavily on South and Central American publications, Stechert-Hafner Inc. lists a relatively small amount of the material which is being published in the English speaking Caribbean. Under the earlier Farmington Plan in the U.S., in 1952 the University of Florida accepted responsibility for American libraries of acquiring West Indian material. This area-specialization led to the University of Florida undertaking a project of micro-filming newspapers in the islands, retaining the master negative and

supplying a copy film to the owner-libraries. Microfilming is, of course, one form of cooperative acquisition. Microfilms of Latin American and Caribbean gazettes prepared by the New York Public Library became available on subscription in 1956, and Library of Congress microfilms of local newspapers are available at low cost. University Microfilms Incorporated have also run an experimental low-cost microfilm copying service in conjunction with the Caribbean Regional Library in Puerto Rico.

A UNESCO conference on exchange of Caribbean material, held in Havana in 1956, recommended the establishment of national exchange centres in the area (as well as revision of the 1886 Brussels Convention on copyright, which, in association with legal deposit, is another important aspect of cooperative acquisitions but one which will not be gone into here). Machinery was not set up to implement the recommendations. However, under international agreements some government-to-government exchange programmes exist, such as the U.S.-Jamaica exchange of documents dating from 1966.

The earliest cooperative bibliographical project in the area was the Caribbean Commission's "Current Caribbean Bibliography", begun in 1951 as a cooperative effort among certain West Indian libraries and launched partly at the instigation of the Jamaica Library Association. The library of the Commission also acquired materials. In 1961 the Caribbean Commission was succeeded by the Caribbean Organization and moved from Trinidad to Puerto Rico. The bibliography has continued sporadically, hardly ever current since about 1958 but still breathing. At present, the Corporacion de Desarrollo Economico del Caribe (CODECA) has taken over the library and its bibliographical commitments from the now defunct Caribbean Organization (1965).

The Caribbean Regional Library of CODECA has become the focus of cooperative bibliographical activity for libraries in this area. The first conference of Caribbean libraries ever held was convened in Puerto Rico in 1967, at the invitation of the Caribbean Regional Library, and representatives of university, special and public libraries from all the Caribbean territories were invited. This conference proposed that libraries in the area should send catalogue entries as well as the specific materials to the Caribbean Regional Library, but no materials were actually sent. The library is using a computer in its efforts to speed up the appearance of "Current Caribbean Bibliography", which is based on the bibliographical entries sent by contributing libraries. Some of the other functions of a Centre for Bibliographical Coordination as outlined by Mrs. Shepard at the conference are: annual listings of serial publications, with new titles and suspensions; lists of government publications which have appeared during the year; directories of local publishers, printers and book dealers; lists of government agencies and other institutions which have publishing programmes; lists of trade unions, political parties, etc. with up-to-date information on their executive officers and addresses.

A second conference of Caribbean librarians, April 30 - May 2, 1969 co-sponsored by CODECA, made no further recommendations for the central collection of materials by the Caribbean Regional Library, but it strengthened the earlier resolution establishing the Library as a clearing-house of library information for the area.

Bibliographic and microfilming projects will be taken up in detail in later papers. but these few are mentioned here as part of the entwined history of cooperative acquisitions mentioned at the beginning of this paper.

The only type of cooperative acquisition programmes inside the

area known to the author of this paper is that carried out by the University of the West Indies for its three campuses in Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados and for the U.S. Library of Congress.

Several alternatives for cooperative acquisitions have been suggested previously:-

1. A regional centre, such as CODECA, to be supplied with materials by cooperating agents (local libraries or book dealers), the Centre making available really current bibliographies of Caribbeana, and low-cost microfilms or photo-reproductions when originals do not exist in sufficient numbers;
2. A cooperative acquisition and exchange programme among a Consortium of Caribbean Universities as proposed in Dr. Jordon's paper (September 1968) circulated previously to Conference participants;
3. The cooperative financing or underwriting of purchasing agents (book dealers or other agents) who would be trained in elementary bibliographic procedures and who would undertake systematic searching out of elusive publications of both government and small-press operations.

A fourth alternative, which has been developed largely on the basis of discussions at the CODECA-sponsored conference in May 1969, would be a combination of several of the above. For the English-speaking territories, responsibility for speedy acquisition and cataloguing of local materials could be assigned to (1) a "national" library where such already exists in practice if not by title (e.g., the Central Library of Trinidad and Tobago, the Public Library of Barbados, the West India Reference Library of the Institute of Jamaica, the Public Library of St. Thomas, the Public Library of Guyana or the University of Guyana, and (2) the University of the West Indies for territories not otherwise covered. The information would be sent regularly to a bibliographical centre like CODECA,



which would correlate and publish the bibliographical information of the entire region. Either these libraries or book dealers would provide facilities for acquiring copies where possible, or photo-duplication and microfilming would be arranged. This alternative, making use of existing facilities, offers a method for considerable improvement of the present situation without major expenditures or reorganization.

In connection with the above it is pertinent to refer to the opinion of Dr. Jordan ("The development of library service in the West Indies through inter-library cooperation" - Columbia Uni. D.L.S. Thesis, 1966) that without outside aid, public library systems in the smaller territories are likely to be unable to survive or adequately prosper on the basis of their populations, and national income. From this it would be a fair inference that only in the territories with a sufficient population and income would existing library systems be at all able to function as "national" libraries in the collecting and bibliographic control of their own local publications. The general lack of funds and professional staffing in the West Indies might also be mentioned as a consideration.

It has also previously been suggested that retrospective bibliographies be compiled, possibly by these "national" libraries, as a first step to acquisitions, either of original copies if available or by photoduplication. Where out-of-print materials and manuscripts come on the market, some "gentlemen's agreement" of priorities might be established for libraries with conflicting interests, by geographical area, subject specialization, existing complementary collections, and other considerations, always keeping in mind the use of these libraries. An effort should be made to acquire at least one copy of all such material for a Caribbean library.

Any proposal of possible cooperative acquisitions and bibliographic control should be based on more information about present coverage or lack of it in the area. A questionnaire sent out from CODIFICA as a result of the May 1969 conference mentioned above was specifically aimed at collecting and collating just this information in time to be used here and also at the SALAM conference immediately following. It is hoped that this aim was achieved.

The same lack of information prevents any rational estimation of funding that might be required to support a cooperative acquisition programme on any agreed basis. For example, no adequate estimate exists of the average annual output of publications, nor is it yet known how many libraries are interested in acquiring publications of a given region; what the costs of the publications would be if acquired commercially or by libraries; what extra provision of staff would be necessary if libraries were to act as distribution agents.

This suggests that further questionnaires and conferences might be necessary to acquire the information on which to base estimates of funding. It would indeed be ironical if the newest problem in coordinating library activities in the Caribbean were to coordinate the area library conferences suddenly coming fast on each other's heels.

BRIEF NOTES ON CATALOGUING TIMES AND COSTS IN A SMALL  
SPECIAL LIBRARY IN JAMAICA.

by  
O. P. Fray

The writer is engaged in the organisation of a collection of about 1000 documents for a firm of consulting engineers. Two-thirds of this is non-book material, with about 250 hard cover "published" books and about another 70 documents stiff enough or thick enough to stand on the open shelf. Very thin or floppy material is stored in the vertical file.

None of the documents had been catalogued or classified, but the first 200 bound books had been numbered 1 - 200 and were shelved and listed by title in this order. These accession numbers were retained and the numbering continued for all documents whether book or non-book.

#### CATALOGUING -

Cataloguing followed the usual procedures. Full names were used only when readily available, but were not searched for. Corporate authors were sometimes modified to suit user approach. No subject headings were used as this aspect was covered by the classified catalogue. The users were accustomed to approach by title, and title entries were almost always included. Series entries were used to group publications from sources issuing one or more series relevant to the users.

, No library tools were available and the writer would here like to express deep gratitude for the help and use of facilities extended by the Jamaica Library Services Headquarters, and the Library of the University of the West Indies, Mona.

#### CLASSIFICATION -

In view of the specialized nature of the collection, classification was very detailed. The Universal Decimal Classification was

adopted, using the Abridged English Edition, in combination with the full English edition, where relevant sections were available. Some European and United Kingdom documents were pre-classified by UDC prior to publication. In each such instance, the numbers were checked and retained only if in harmony with the collection.

The figures given below are based on the first 500 titles processed. These included all the hard cover books, and over 200 non-book "vertical file" items.

#### EQUIPMENT -

The equipment used, comprised a 12-pitch elite electric typewriter without library symbols, and a library card duplicating machine with stencils to fit.

#### STAFF -

The staff consisted of one professionally qualified librarian, with part-time clerical help trained as touch typists but with no library experience. In practice it was found that the professional, although not a touch typist, could perform the non-professional tasks at slightly more than double the work rate of the clerks. However, the times given below are averaged.

#### SERVICES -

Initially it was believed that it would be both quicker and cheaper to buy printed cards wherever possible. Experience modified this opinion. Service from the British National Bibliography was both prompt and inexpensive, but in a retrospective collection the 10-year availability of BNB cards was a serious limitation. There was no time limit on Library of Congress cards, but the rather frequent lack of correlation between publication date and appearance in the IC Catalog, the exacting requirements for the alignment and typing of order slips, the sharp increase in price of cards ordered by author and title and, above all the snail service (two-thirds of

the cards ordered in July 1969 whether by number or by author had not been received by 1st January 1970) evoked a decision to discontinue ordering LC cards except in exceptional circumstances.

Original cataloguing, using a card duplicating machine, cost more than BNB but less than LC. Other advantages were immediacy, as many cards per set as were required, and less typing at the "added entry" stage, as all common information such as classification number, tracings, accession number, location of vertical file etc., was included on the stencil. The number of cards in a "set" ranged from a minimum of 5, up to 11 or 12, with the great majority of titles in the 7, 8 or 9 group. Included in each set was a "book card", which was a catalogue card with provision for date and borrower's signature on the back. These cards were inserted in pockets in each document. A set of cards consisted of main entry, added authors series, if any, title (rarely omitted), 1-4 class cards, shelf list, accession card, book card.

The catalogue was in two sections: alphabetical author and title, and numerical by classification number. The shelf list, accession list and book cards were filed numerically.

It will be seen from Table 1 that professional time was the same for all methods, namely 11-26 minutes per title. In increasing order, clerical time was 19-29 minutes for BNB and LC cards where the number was in the book; original cataloguing 21-31 minutes; LC cards where the number was searched and found 22-32 minutes; LC cards ordered by author and title because of failure to find the number or occasionally because of uncertainty of a corporate author, 26-36 minutes.

Table 11 shows that cost of material was least for original cataloguing (7.1¢), followed by 13¢ for BNB cards, 35.8¢ for LC

cards ordered by number, and 56.6¢ for IC cards ordered by author and title.

Allowing a rate of six dollars per hour for professional time and three dollars per hour for non-professional time, the following figures are derived:-

Materials (catalogue cards & <del>sets</del> <sup>stencils</sup> only)	27.8¢ per set
Labour: professional \$1.60, clerical \$1.34	\$2.94

Cost of covers, book pockets, duplicating ink, amortization of equipment and other overheads are not included.

TABLE 1: TIMES TAKEN TO PREPARE CATALOGUE BY  
VARIOUS METHODS: MINUTES PER TITLE.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>BNB</u>		<u>LC No. in Book</u>		<u>LC order by No.</u>		<u>LC order by author &amp; Title</u>		<u>Original</u>	
	rof.	Clerical	Prof.	Clerical	Prof.	Clerical	Prof.	Clerical	Prof.	Cler.
Examine document; assign accession No.; determine entry; write work slip.	5-10	nil	5-10	nil	5-10	nil	5-10	nil	5-10	nil
Classify	5-15	nil	5-15	nil	5-15	nil	5-15	nil	5-15	nil
Mark document; cover if necessary; paste book pocket; shelve or file.	nil	5-15	nil	5-15	nil	5-15	nil	5-15	nil	5-15
Search for card number.	nil	2	nil	nil	nil	3	nil	5-10	nil	nil
Type order	nil	1	nil	3	nil	3	nil	5	nil	nil
Type stencil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	3-5
Run stencil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	3-5
Receive & check cards for amendments, or proof read stencil; "marry" cards with work slip.	nil	1	nil	1	nil	1	nil	1	nil	1



TABLE 1

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>BNB</u>		LC No. in		LC order by		LC order by		Original	
	Prof.	Cler.	Prof.	cler.	Prof.	Cler.	Prof.	Cler.	Prof.	Cler.
Type added entries	nil	6	nil	6	nil	6	nil	6	nil	5
Sort for filing	nil	3	nil	3	nil	3	nil	3	nil	3
File "above the rod"	nil	1	nil	1	nil	1	nil	1	nil	1
Check filing & "drop" cards	1	nil	1	nil	1	nil	1	nil	1	nil
<hr/>										
	11-26	19-29	11-26	19-29	11-26	22-32	11-26	26-36	11-26	21-31
<hr/>										
TOTAL TIME	30-55		30-35		33-58		37-63		32-57	
AVERAGE TIME	42.5		42.5		45.5		49.5		44.5	

TABLE 1. TIMES TAKEN TO PERPARE CATALOGUE BY  
VARIOUS METHODS; MINUTES PER TITLE.

ACTION	BNB	IC number in Book	
	Prof. Clerical	Prof. Clerical	Prof. Clerical

TABLE 11. COST OF CATALOGUING MATERIALS PER TITLE,  
USING AN AVERAGE OF 8 CARDS PER SET.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BNB</u>	<u>LC No. in Book</u>	<u>LC ordered by No.</u>	<u>LC ordered by author &amp; title</u>	<u>Original</u>
Cards	@ 2d ea 13¢	15+28 <u>43¢</u> US	15+28 <u>43c</u> / US	40+28 <u>48¢</u> US	@ 30/- per M (incl. 20% duty from UK) 2.4¢ Ja. =
Stencils					@ 56.25 per M (incl. 25% duty from US) 4.7¢ Ja. =
<hr/>					
Jamaican Currency	13¢	35.8¢	35.8¢	56.6¢	7.1¢

NOTE: Cost of card wastage on duplicator probably slightly exceeds costs of stationery and postage to US and UK. Waiver of customs duty would reduce cost of blank cards and stencils as duty on this type of material ranges from 20% to 25%.

A C U R I L

FIRST CONFERENCE 1969

RESOLUTIONS.

BE IT RESOLVED

ACQUISITIONS

1. That ACURIL prepare and circulate to all Caribbean area libraries a questionnaire on the lines indicated in the report of the Conference's Working-Party on Acquisitions with a view to eliciting information on which to base a co-operative acquisitions programme.
2. That ACURIL apprise the Association of Caribbean Universities of the need for a Co-operative Caribbean Acquisitions programme and seek funds through the Association or independently to support such a programme.
3. That ACURIL express thanks to all known donors of official publications to member libraries and urge that this policy be continued, extended where necessary, and adopted in those territories where it does not now apply.
4. That ACURIL urge and pursue the enactment and/or enforcement of appropriate copyright and legal deposit legislation in each territory throughout the region so as to ensure regular and comprehensive collection of the local publications or each such territory.
5. That ACURIL recommend to member libraries as an essential, the appointment of separate staff for Caribbean acquisitions where such staff does not already exist, to improve on the collecting and preservation of all material of potential research value whether issued privately, commercially or officially.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

6. That ACURIL make known to the appropriate Agency of the Puerto Rican government its deep interest in, and concern for the future of the Caribbean Regional Library, indicating its pleasure in the assurance given verbally by the Secretary of State that the library will maintain its identity and will be adequately supported so long as it continues to be held in trust by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
7. That ACURIL urge SALAM to support this expression of interest and concern.
8. That an appropriate letter of commendation be sent in each case to the person or group responsible for producing some current record of bibliographic production in each of the Caribbean countries.

9. That in countries or areas without a Current National Bibliography the public library or another library with major responsibility for acquiring local publications should be encouraged to prepare regular acquisition lists to be circulated to ACURIL members.
10. That ACURIL encourage the preparation of annual author cumulations to acquisitions lists which are regularly published in classified order.
11. That all local libraries be urged to report their bibliographic data regularly and promptly to the Caribbean Regional Library.
12. That all libraries reporting to the Caribbean Regional Library be urged to submit their entries in the standard form recommended which is compatible with the Library of Congress MARO 11 Project.
13. That ACURIL urge SALALM to encourage librarians in the United States to report to the appropriate SALALM committee their publications or activities concerned with the Caribbean area, especially unpublished research such as theses.
14. That ACURIL urge SALALM to make available as a separate its annual reports on bibliographic activities.

#### EXCHANGES

15. That ACURIL recommend to SALALM that North American universities and research centres be asked to make their university press books available to their libraries for purposes of exchange with libraries outside the United States.
16. That member libraries be encouraged to pursue the widening of exchange programmes with other institutions in the region especially in the French departments, Martinique and Guadeloupe where special acquisition problems are posed by currency restrictions.

#### MICROFILMING

17. That ACURIL act to stimulate the production of a union list of microform titles for materials originating in the Caribbean area to include holdings of titles and location of master negatives.
18. That ACURIL seek to determine what other materials need to be preserved in microform and recommend priorities for the order of preservation.

19. That ACURIL act to establish improved access to micro-filming centres, and that each such centre within the Caribbean area be assigned definite responsibility.
20. That ACURIL seek to promote the provision of microfilming facilities in the Southern Caribbean to serve as a centre for that area.
21. That ACURIL act to ensure that microfilming centres in the Caribbean area conform to accepted standards of quality in their preservation operations.
22. That titles preserved in furtherance of the above resolutions be reported to the National List of Microform Masters.

PERSONNEL

23. That ACURIL promote a survey of library manpower needs in the Caribbean area with special reference to the region's university and research institute libraries; the survey to be undertaken on an intensive basis by a team of two, one being from the North American mainland and one from the Caribbean.
24. That the new Library school at the University of Puerto Rico be urged to make its facilities available for training personnel for the entire region.
25. That the University of the West Indies be urged to establish a library school at the earliest possible date.
26. That member libraries and library schools be encouraged to identify opportunities which may exist for professional librarians on the Foreign Area Fellowship Program or other grants to collaborate in formal training; or other library activities.
27. That ways be explored to make possible the exchange of librarians both within and outside the area.
28. That ACURIL collect and disseminate information about library training programs in the region, in the United States and in South America.

GENERAL

29. That ACURIL appoint Standing Committees to pursue its broad objectives and the implementation of resolutions taken at this first conference and subsequent conferences as follows:-

1. Acquisitions - English-speaking areas
  2. Acquisitions - Spanish-speaking areas
  3. Bibliography
  4. Indexing
  5. Microfilming
  6. Personnel
30. That ACURIL extend an invitation to all libraries qualified under its initial terms of reference to join the Association.
31. That ACURIL invite SALAM to meet occasionally in the Caribbean.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

32. That ACURIL express profound gratitude to the Association of Caribbean Universities for sponsoring this first Conference on Caribbean University and Research Institute Library Co-operation, and to both the President of the Association, Don Jaime Benitez and the Secretary-General, Sir Philip Sherlock, for their inspiring addresses to the Conference.
33. That ACURIL express its special thanks to the University of Puerto Rico for serving as host institution to the Conference and to Dra. Ethel Betancourt, Director of the Office of Academic Affairs, for her address of welcome on behalf of the President of the University.
34. That ACURIL express its deep appreciation to the Government of Puerto Rico for its formal and gracious recognition of the Conference.
35. That special gratitude be expressed to the Steering Committee which organized the Conference in a short time and under difficult circumstances.
36. That ACURIL extend its profound thanks to those who prepared papers for the Conference in spite of short notice, and to all delegates, observers and their parent institutions for their participation.
37. That the Conference Chairman, Mr. William Gocking, be specially commended and thanked for conducting its business throughout the sessions.



## COOPERATIVE ACQUISITIONS

### MATERIALS FROM THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN

#### ABSTRACT

The need for a joint approach to the problems of cooperative acquisitions and bibliographic control is stressed. A brief survey is given of past activities where plans have been made for cooperative projects. Proposals at present under discussion by a variety of groups are outlined. Emphasis is placed on the need for possible solutions to be designed in such a way that libraries of the area and their users are the primary beneficiaries.

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BOOK POWER on EAST STREET

THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES,

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FOLLOWING is the second article of a weekly series written by four members of the library staff at the Institute of Jamaica and has as its purpose:

- (1) to encourage ALL Jamaicans to make use of the Institute's wealth of materials -- books, periodicals, manuscripts, maps, pictures, etc., in our special fields.
- (2) to promote reading generally and especially to interest the non-library user by introducing aspects of the national culture as well as world-wide topics.

In the nearly five centuries of Jamaica's recorded history half a dozen or so women have left at least their names clearly written some by their exploits, some by their position, one apparently purely by bad luck. Some of them have written their own stories, some have been written about by others.

The first of the autobiographical ladies whom we have documented at the Institute of Jamaica called herself the "German Princess". She wrote "News from Jamaica in a Letter from Port Royal.... to her fellow Collegiates and Friends in New Gate" in 1671. She was in fact a common criminal. "Mary Moders otherwise Stedman, now Carleton", who had been convicted of theft in England and transported to Jamaica.

Although the letter (written by her or one of the five or six journalists who published in collaboration with her) is unimportant factually, it gives "a drolling romantic account of her voyage thither, arrival there and several fabulous fancies". (Kirkman: "The Counterfeit Lady".) Kirkman's biography, containing fabulous fancies of its own, is considered by Bernbaum ("The Mary Carleton Narratives, 1663-1673: A Missing Chapter in the History of the English Novel") to be an early phase of the realistic novel, bridging the gap between

the many popular criminal biographies of the day and Defoe.

Mary Carleton herself appears to have been quite a charmer. She talked a jury into acquitting her of a bigamy charge; she talked Mr. Charleton and his family into believing she was a high-born lady; she may or may not have talked herself into a high place in Jamaican society. Eventually however, back in England she was again caught stealing, was convicted and hanged.

#### LADY PIRATES -

ANNE BONNEY and Mary Read are almost too well-known as lady pirates, swashbuckling buccaneers in Captain 'Calico Jack' Rackman's crew. In contemporary prints they are indeed shown wearing cutlasses buckled over the shoulder, which one assumes they swashed about with on occasion (Oxford Dict: strike violently). The rest of their costume varies according to the artist. One pictures the ladies in rather restrained feminine garb, ankle-length skirts and plain blouses. Another puts them in wide-legged trousers and long tunic jackets, which sounds a good deal more chic than it looks.

Adolphe Roberts, Clinton Black and just about every writer on pirates beginning with Charles Johnson in 1724 have had their say on this pair.

Mary Read's career of masquerading as a man began in early childhood. Born too long after her mother was widowed, she was kept hidden in the country until, when she was about four, her lawful older brother suddenly died. Her mother simply passed Mary off as the boy, fooling even the grandmother who supported the child. When Mary was 13, the grandmother, her only source of support, died. Mary, after a short try as a "footboy", went to sea. Tiring of that, she joined the army, where she eventually fell in love with one of her comrades and married him.

Unfortunately, her husband soon died. Mary joined the army again, then left it to sail for the West Indies. Her ship was seized by Calico Jack, who, impressed by Mary's swordsmanship, offered her a place among his crew, unaware she was not a man.

Anne Bonney, also illegitimate, was adopted by her own father and disguised as a boy to conceal her identity from his wife, who knew of a female offspring. The plan was not successful for very long, and Anne's father then took her mother and herself off to America to live. He succeeded admirably as a planter, but Anne's temperament did not settle down so well. She was said to have stabbed a servant to death.

Anne was attracted by the sea and hung around the waterfront dressed in men's clothing. Finally she married a disreputable sailor named Bonney. Her disgusted father threw her out. Mr. & Mrs. Bonney wound up in the Bahamas, where they met Rackham. He and Anne immediately took to each other and joined forces. Rackham abandoned his short-lived repentance and retirement from piracy, Anne abandoning her sailor.

When Mary Read joined the crew, she and Anne were for a time unaware of each other's identity. Ultimately, when the crew was captured and condemned for piracy, both the ladies won a postponement of execution because of their pregnancies. Mary died of fever in prison, but Anne was reprieved, perhaps through her father's influence and disappeared into oblivion.

The next lady to speak for herself disarmingly entitled her autobiography "Apology for the Conduct of Mrs. Teresia Constantia Phillips". It was privately printed in 1748 and was intended as a blackmail against her second husband: it was subsequently reprinted in several editions.

Mrs. Phillips, who had five husbands in all, came to Jamaica under the protection of a Member of the House of Representatives. She was appointed Mistress of the Revels, a post paying 100 guineas per season for arranging theatrical performances and superintending the Governor's entertainments and balls. (Wright "Revels in Jamaica 1682-1838")

She went through the form of marriage with husband No.1 in England to avoid arrest for debt; had her second marriage annulled by her Dutch husband No.2, bullied No.3, whom she acquired in Jamaica, into handing over his worldly assets before dying; bought a handsome carriage with the proceeds of No.4's short tenure, but met her match in No.5, whom she had to support until at length she decided he was an incumbrance. Self-styled the 'pride of England' Constantia had a mirror set up at the foot of her bed as she lay dying, to watch how ugly she became.

The bad-luck lady is Annie (or Annee) Palmer, legendary white witch of Rose Hall. Her defenders have tried to clear her name, but no one really thanks them for their trouble. We refuse to say anything more about Annie. Why not come in and read up the pros and cons for yourself?

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