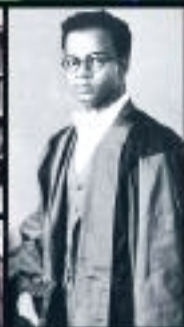


*The Eric
Williams
Memorial
Collection*





The Eric Williams Memorial Collection

The Eric Williams Memorial Collection - the library and archives of the late Dr. Eric Eustace Williams, pioneering Caribbean historian and educator - was inaugurated on March 22, 1998 by Prime Minister, the Honourable Basdeo Panday and current US Secretary of State, Colin L. Powell.



Dr. Eric Eustace Williams

The first Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and Head of Government for a quarter of a century until his death in 1981, Williams led the country to Independence (1962) and Republicanism (1976) and, from the early 1940s, was closely involved in the movement for Caribbean unification and co-operation.

The Eric Williams

Named to UNESCO's prestigious *Memory of the World Register* in 1999, and available for consultation by researchers and postgraduate students, the Collection consists of books and journals (approximately 7,000 volumes), covering a wide variety of disciplines: Philosophy, Religion, History, Economics, Politics, Education, Music and Art. While some rare books of the 18th and 19th centuries enhance its intrinsic value, its greatest strength is in the area of African and African-American history. There is also a broad Caribbean sweep, multi-lingual and very comprehensive.

The papers mainly comprise: correspondence from Heads of State as well as academic colleagues, such as W.E.B. Du Bois and Charles S. Johnson; published and unpublished manuscripts; research notes and photocopies of archival documents; drafts of historical

writings; conference documents and a miscellany of reports; publications on the birth of the People's National Movement, the political party Williams founded. There is also a substantial portion of the over 600 speeches, documents, publications, lectures and books that comprise Williams' bibliography.

The Collection regularly solicits material for deposit from individuals and organizations which, while added to it, remains separately identified.

An Oral History Project, as well as more than 150 calypsoes with trenchant social commentary about Eric Williams' policies and persona, complement this archive, as does a Museum containing a wealth of emotive memorabilia of the period, with photographs that depict the seven decades of Williams' life and career.



Memorial Collection

The Museum is organized around the following themes:

FAMILY:

- Photographs of Williams' early years.
- Love letters and trinkets to his second wife.
- A tribute by his 9-year-old granddaughter
- Letters about the family pets, daughter, Erica's homework assignments and other topics.



The Williams Family: Eric, third from left

SCHOLARSHIP:



Caribbean University Doctorate - 1958

- Certificates, Honorary Degrees, prizes for outstanding academic ability.
- Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish translations of his seminal work, *Capitalism and Slavery*, which "defined the study of Caribbean history, and... initiated modern scholarship on the historical relation between the British West Indies and Great Britain." (Solow and Engerman, 1987)
- Chinese, French and Japanese translations of his other works.

STATESMANSHIP:

- A pictorial testament to Williams' international standing.
- Autographed mementoes and books from Heads of State:
 - Britain's Queen Elizabeth II; France's Charles de Gaulle;
 - India's Jawaharlal Nehru;
 - Israel's David Ben Gurion;
 - Jamaica's Norman and Michael Manley;
 - Nigeria's Kwame Nkrumah;
 - Pope John XXIII;
 - USA's John Fitzgerald Kennedy.
- Chinese Premier, Teng Hsiao Ping's 1975 toast to Eric Williams.



*With US President
Lyndon B. Johnson*

EDUCATION :

- Affectionately called, *The Father of the Nation*, Williams' counsel to the children at Independence, "... you carry the future of Trinidad and Tobago in your school bags," was made the cornerstone of a young boy's commitment to achieve, portrayed in the Ivan John exhibit.



- Feef Williams' exhortation to their parents: "Build the nation of Trinidad and Tobago, bringing in all the races... elevating lowly castes... raising up the poor and the lowly and giving them a positive stake in our society... There can be no Mother India ...there can be no Mother Africa... no Mother England and no dual loyalties. The only Mother we recognize is Mother Trinidad and Tobago, and Mother cannot discriminate between her children."
- Witness his contribution to political education at *The University of Woodford Square*.



INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT:

- "No longer hewers of wood, or drawers of water...." See how Trinidad and Tobago's *New York Times* moniker, "A Tiger in a Sea of Pussycats," was earned through Williams' resource-based economic dynamism.
- Understand how his vision - "Here, at Pt. Lisas, sugar cane gives way to wire rods," fostered the burgeoning social development of his country.

POLITICS:

- Memorabilia depicting Williams' explosion onto the political stage in 1956 - from a corporate admonition about associating with "that drip... Master Williams" to the Roman Catholic Church's injunction against



voting for his party.

- Artifacts of newly independent Trinidad and Tobago, and his first letter to daughter, Erica - "from your Prime Minister Daddy."
- People's National Movement memorabilia.

PRIVATE STUDY:

- A three-dimensional replica complete with bottle of Quink ink and background classical music, so much a part of Williams' persona, vividly adds to the setting's authenticity.

The jacket slung casually over his chair, still with three pens in the pocket - even the half-filled wastebasket and open briefcase, the glorious confusion of his inner sanctum, all speak to a more complete picture of the man, rather than the myth.



Eric Williams' "inner sanctum"



"History...to inform of (the) past as an essential guide to...future action."

Eric Williams, August 31, 1962



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