

## UNESCO Designation Confirms EWMC's Unique Heritage

The validation is official: On November 9, 2000, to celebrate the inclusion of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection (EWMC) in UNESCO's *Memory of the World Register*, a plaque was unveiled at The University of the West Indies Main Library. A small but select gathering witnessed the event.

The *Register*, a "compendium of documents, manuscripts, oral traditions, audio visual materials, library and archive holdings of universal value," is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's commitment to preserve the world's historical and cultural heritage for posterity. "Its establishment is intended to be an inspiration to nations and regions to identify, list and preserve their documentary heritage for the benefit of all humanity."

UNESCO's Trinidad and Tobago representative, Dr. Surendranath Gajraj, alluded to the importance of this national archive that is now counted among an elite international group of collections so named. He stated that the Collection constitutes "the organized memory of a society and the evidence of its specificity in the course of history." He also noted the Collection's availability to all, an important criteria, and the degree to which "access incites protection, and preservation ensures access." Hence, by virtue of its appeal to a broad and general public, the EWMC *itself* reflects Dr. Williams' lifelong work: it is a living repository for study, history and education for the masses.

Such international recognition endorses the EWMC as a legacy of global importance. It authenticates the critical task of preserving this substantive part of Trinidad and Tobago's history, promotes opportunities for private endowment, and sanctions the Collection's further development so that an awareness of its historical imprint may be increased throughout the world.

That imprint clearly resonated with former US President Bill Clinton, in Trinidad and Tobago to deliver the keynote address at CLICO's 2001 World Leadership Series in October. Mr. Clinton commenced his speech by paying tribute to the

vision of Caribbean unity and self-empowerment that Dr. Williams championed for the "Caribbean Nation." That the former President did so is both a testament to Williams' scholarship and the aspirations he held for his country.

As Mr. Clinton stated, "In preparing for this event, I came across a description of the Caribbean region written nearly thirty years ago by Trinidad's 'Man For All Seasons,' Dr. Eric Williams, who actually taught in Washington, D.C. at Howard University for a few years before coming home to become Prime Minister. Thirty years ago he wrote of a region dragged down, held back by conflict, instability, poverty, a feeling of dependence. But then looking to the future, he found hope in the

idealism and intelligence of the Caribbean people, in their pride, their search for a way to cooperate more closely with their neighbors, including the United States, while maintaining their identities and cultures. He wrote that

in looking to the future, there should be no limits to the achievement or to the dreams of the people of Trinidad and Tobago. Thirty years later, the people of this country have come a long way toward fulfilling the aspirations Dr. Williams had for the region."

The EWMC is located at The University of the West Indies in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. It documents the life and times of the former Prime Minister and reflects his varied contributions to his country, the Caribbean and, indeed, the world. Dr. Williams' scholarship comprises a number of important writings. His book, *Capitalism and Slavery*, indelibly contributed to the historiography of slavery. The EWMC possesses the documentary evidence of Dr. Williams' expectations for his native land, while it facilitates a more penetrating analysis of the successes and failures of his administration.

### Native Nobel Laureate Heralds Williams' Early Influence

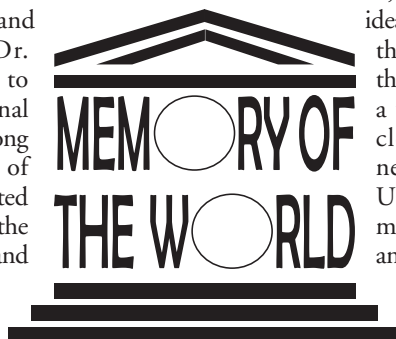
Trinidad and Tobago native Sir Vidia Naipaul won the 2001 Nobel Prize for Literature on October 11. One month to that day, Naipaul spoke at the Miami International Book Fair. He referred to the early influence of Dr. Eric Williams on his budding writing career and explicitly thanked him for the opportunity to travel throughout the Caribbean. This experience, he said, added an important dimension to his development as a writer as it took him outside the bounds of fiction. His acknowledgement, some forty years later, was essentially a reprise of his 1962 Foreword to *The Middle Passage*:

"In September 1960 I went back to Trinidad on a three-month scholarship granted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. While I was in Trinidad the Premier, Dr. Eric Williams, suggested that I should write a non-fiction book about the Caribbean. I hesitated. The novelist works towards conclusions of which he is often unaware; and it is better that he should. However, I decided to take the risk. This book therefore owes its existence to the suggestion of Dr. Williams and the generosity of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago."

### Eric Williams: His Scholarship, Work, and Impact

A conference on February 15-16, 2002, at the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, will explore Eric Williams' multifaceted personality and the continued influence of his scholarship and writings. It will assess his career as leader of Trinidad and Tobago for a quarter of a century, and discuss his contributions to the Caribbean as a whole.

See Page 5...



## Director's Forum

The past year has brought exciting developments to the Eric Williams Memorial Collection which continues to profoundly impact local and overseas visitors, particularly those from the Caribbean region. Professor Jacques Adélaïde-Merlande, former President of the Guadeloupe campus of the *Université des Antilles et de la Guyane*, and Honorary Graduated 2001 of The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, found it a "touching experience to find this tribute to Eric Williams, great Caribbean leader." His comment represents a common theme in respect of reactions to the exhibit, with at least one spectator being moved to tears upon entering the Museum.

Now an integral part of the university's itinerary for official guests, the EWMC Museum is open to the general public at regularly scheduled times. Secondary school field trips are accommodated on a weekly basis. Students from Dr. Williams' primary school *alma mater*, Tranquillity, also have visited.

These excursions serve to increase awareness of Dr. Williams' contributions to nation building, particularly among the generation that has grown up since his death in 1981. Thus, the Eric Williams Memorial Collection promotes both popular education and scholarly research.

Notable to date is the steady growth in the size of the Collection, due to our solicitation of other materials, and the numbers of researchers who consult its holdings. Such developments augur well for its future.

Dr. Margaret D. Rouse-Jones  
Campus Librarian

## New Acquisitions

"You carry the future of Trinidad and Tobago in your school bags."  
Eric Williams, 1962

Ivan John never forgot his meeting with the Prime Minister. On a student dare, the boy skipped school to see him in person. As Dr. Williams alighted from his car during a Port of Spain 'Meet the Manufacturers Tour' Ivan rushed to him. Dr. Williams engaged him in conversation about his educational plans. Ivan, soon to sit the Common Entrance Examination for high school entry, confidently proclaimed that Fatima College (one of Trinidad and Tobago's most renowned secondary schools) was his first choice of high school, though he was not worried - he had two chances to pass.

Williams told the youth words he would remember all his life: "No! It must be *first time, first choice.*"

Ivan graduated from both Columbia and Cornell Universities with degrees in law and medicine. When asked to submit a photograph for the yearbook that best represented his inspiration to achieve, he chose this one.



(Photo: Ivan John Family)

### Janet Jones Collection:

This eight-volume collection of newspaper clippings chronicles more than 40 years and documents Trinidad and Tobago personalities, Eric Williams amongst them. The Collection's importance is underscored by Ms. Jones' role, that of local eyewitness as historian.

### Michael Pocock Collection:

A distant maternal relative of Eric Williams, these 78 items reflect their family's connection to Dr. Jean Louis Valleton de Boissière of Bergerac, France (1777-1853), Eric Williams' great-grandfather five times removed. In Trinidad, he was known simply as John Boissière.

A former owner of the Champs Elysées estate, now the Trinidad Country Club, these documents (1771-1914) highlight its land transactions. The memorabilia include medical diplomas of Dr. John Henry Joseph Valleton de Boissière (1830-1906), half-brother of Eric Williams' great grandfather; an 1852 testimonial, Westminster Hospital, London, U.K.; and a certificate from the Royal College of Surgeons, 1852.



### 2001

## Media Spotlight

- Perspectives – American Historical Association newsletter (March);
- Eric Williams Schomburg Conference, February 2002;
- Association of Caribbean Historians newsletter (May/December);
- H-Net, H-Caribbean, H-Atlantic, H-Latin America websites - academic discussion lists (May/August/November/December);
- New York University's African Diaspora list (May);
- Japan Black Studies Association newsletter (September);
- University of Houston Slavery website – academic discussion list (September);
- *Cercle d'Etudes Africaines Américaines* (France) list/newsletter, (October/December);
- Conference Alerts – internet conference database (October);
- Trini diary – online news (November);
- *Everybody's* magazine, New York (November/December);
- Chronicle of Higher Education website, USA;
- H-Atlantic and H-Caribbean websites (July);
- UNESCO *Memory of the World* website (July);
- Florida International University's (FIU) 3rd Annual Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture (October):
- *Caribbean Contact* newspaper, Miami (September/October/November);
- FIU's African New World Studies website (October);
- FIU's *Book Report* newsletter, university list (October);
- Radio, Miami (October): 105 FM; WVCG; WSRF;

- *Carib Today* newspaper, Miami (October);
- H-Latin American, H-Caribbean websites (October);
- *Miami New Times* newspaper (October 17, 25);
- *Miami Herald* newspaper (October 26);
- *Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel* newspaper (October 26);
- *Barbados Nation* newspaper (December 16).

### 2000

- Association of Caribbean Historians newsletter (May);
- *Black Meetings & Tourism* magazine, USA (September);
- Associated Press (September);
- FIU's 2nd Annual Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture/EWMC Museum exhibit (October):
- FIU's *Book Report* newsletter, university list, *Beacon* newspaper (October);
- *Miami Herald* newspaper (October 17);
- *Ft. Lauderdale Sun Sentinel* newspaper (October 22);
- Trinidad & Tobago print media;
- *Caribbean Contact* newspaper, Miami (October);
- Foundation for Democracy in Africa website, St. Thomas University, Florida (November);
- Radio, Trinidad and Tobago: Power 102 FM (December);
- Association of Caribbean Historians newsletter (December).

### 1999

- Association of Caribbean Historians newsletter (December).



## Research Reports

# The Scholar Activist by Prof. Tony Martin

It was a time of segregated U. S. education. Black professors could not teach at white universities; many white educational institutions did not admit African American students. Having recently arrived from Oxford, Eric E. Williams was assistant professor of Social and Political Science at Howard University, Washington, D.C.

In that milieu, Howard had a near captive market for the best and brightest academics in African America and prided itself on being the "Capstone of Negro Education." It boasted such famous professors as Rayford Logan, E. Franklin Frazier, Alain Locke, Ira de A. Reid and William Leo Hansberry.

Williams plunged immediately into a steady round of publications in the *Journal of Negro History* and the *Journal of Negro Education*. His first book, *The Negro in the Caribbean*, appeared in 1942. He won several research fellowships and lectured widely around the country. His contacts were diverse, ranging from members of the U.S. and British governments' Anglo-American Caribbean Commission (AACC) to the activist and U.S.-based West Indies National Council. He spoke for A. Philip Randolph's March on Washington Movement, the major civil rights mobilisation of the World War II years. So it was that very shortly, Eric Williams shone within the star-studded environment of Howard.

In 1943, he chaired the Programme Committee for Howard's Division of Social Sciences, and was the main organiser of "The Economic Future of the Caribbean" conference that was held in Howard's Douglass Hall. It attracted the same eclectic participant mix that characterised Williams' academic and activist work. It would, years later, be seen as a harbinger of his American-style approach to party politics: that of coalescing seemingly disparate elements.

British colonialists were well represented at the conference. Sir John Huggins, governor of Jamaica and resident member of the AACC, (newly formed in 1942) was a principal speaker. A wartime government-to-government entity, the AACC unified the Caribbean behind the Allied war effort with Williams soon to become its highest-ranking Caribbean official. His notorious ejection from the Caribbean Commission in 1955, the AACC's successor, became the catalyst for entry into his country's politics.

The AACC's U.S. secretary S. Burns Weston also spoke, as did diplomats from Haiti and Cuba, two of the Caribbean's only three independent nations at that time. Howard professors Frazier and Logan presented papers, while Wellesley's Leland H. Jenks sent one, *in absentia*. By this time, Williams was secretary of the Caribbean Research Council's Agricultural Committee, an AACC subsidiary.

Present as well were A. Augustin Petioni, a Harlem doctor and president of the West Indies National Council, and Jamaican W. Adolphe Roberts, founder of the influential Jamaica Progressive League. Both spoke and were prominent in the activist English-speaking (U.S.-based) Caribbean community. Petioni, a founder of the Trinidad Cooperative Bank - known popularly as "Penny Bank" (a premier example of Afro-Trinbagonian entrepreneurship) was a former crusader in Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association. He was a signatory to the latter's seminal *Declaration of Rights of the Negro Peoples of the World* in 1920. Lastly, Williams recruited Dom Basil Matthews, a prominent US-Caribbean community member, a pioneer Ph.D. from Trinidad and Tobago and a Benedictine monk. He would later help fuel Williams' political aspirations, losing to him in a series of celebrated public debates early in Williams' burgeoning political career.

While Puerto Rican lawyer and pro-Independence nationalist, Gilberto Concepción, and Cuba's commercial attaché, Felipe Pazos, represented the Spanish Caribbean, there was no advocate for the French and Dutch islands. The Haitian ambassador, however, spoke from the floor.

The conference focused on the British and American AACC members who emphasized the beneficial welfare aspects of their work. Others identified the reasons for the Caribbean's economic and social problems: colonialism, monoculture, dearth of democracy and extant racism. The confederation of various groupings was seen as a means to effect economies of scale and undertake political self-determination. Calls resounded for economic unions, for federations of the Caribbean's Spanish-speaking territories, the Greater Caribbean, the northern British territories (headquartered in Jamaica), and their southern counterparts (based in Trinidad and Tobago).

Eric Williams' paper on "The Economic Development of the Caribbean up to the Present," was already, even in 1943, vintage Williams. It revolved primarily around "King Sugar" and bemoaned the small markets and metropolitan-biased trading relationships that bedeviled regional agriculture. He seemed to disapprove of foreign capital while at the same time praising the AACC's work. Williams proposed federation as a means to rationalize insular economies and to encourage inter-island cooperation.

The conference proceedings were published in 1944 as *The Economic Future of the Caribbean*. Co-editors were Eric Williams and E. Franklin Frazier, Chair of the Social Sciences Division at Howard.

*Tony Martin is Professor of Africana Studies at Wellesley College, USA.*

## Visitors of Note

### 2001

January	Kamari Maxine Clarke, Yale University, USA
March	James Giblin, University of Iowa, USA Silvia Prati, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
April	Roderick McDonald, Rider University, USA Antonio Gaztambide, Universidad de Puerto Rico Paul Thompson, University of Essex, U.K. Rosemaryn Hoejne, Royal Institute of Linguistics and Anthropology, Netherlands Franklin Knight, Johns Hopkins University, USA Milla Riggio, Trinity College, USA Conferees, Association of Caribbean Historians
May	Harold Clarke, Jr., Florida Memorial College, USA
August	Rotary Club International
September	Conferees, C. L. R. James Conference
November	Conferees, International Library Association

### 2000

August	Laurence Clarke, World Bank, USA
October	Ellie Mannette, West Virginia University, USA
December	Juan Lievano, Ambassador of Colombia Muxe Nkondo, University of Veida for Science and Technology, South Africa

## Highlights

# Accomplishments



UWI Pro-Vice Chancellor Hilary M. Beckles

### 2001 October

Hilary M. Beckles, Pro-Vice Chancellor of The University of the West Indies and a leading Caribbean historian, delivered the Third Annual Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture at FIU, Miami, to a packed audience. The series is part of the African New World Studies Distinguished Africana Lecture Series. Beckles' lectured on *The Global Politics of Reparations: Before and After Durban* was also attended by thirty University of Miami Caribbean Literature students. They received credit for their written reviews of this lecture.



An Oral History Project of interviews with Dr. Williams' numerous colleagues and opponents continues as a record for posterity of their experiences with him. Although resources are limited, several suitable individuals have agreed to participate. The calibre of the interviewer is crucial to maintain the integrity of the project, and interviewers must proceed with oral history principles in mind. Otherwise, the result negates the fundamentals of such an endeavour.

Funding, too, is critical and we gratefully recognise the grants already made to this programme from companies in Trinidad and Tobago and Florida International University, Miami. Their generosity has allowed us to complete some 75 oral histories. This undertaking takes on renewed urgency given the advanced age of Dr. Williams' contemporaries.

### August

The University of Florida's newly-redesigned Eric Williams website (<http://palmm.fcla.edu/ew/>) debuted this month. Future content will include out-of-print speeches and other materials.



Production of a full-colour brochure on the EWMC is now available through The University of the West Indies or at: [ewc.suilan@juno.com](mailto:ewc.suilan@juno.com).

### May

To date, the following Trinidad and Tobago schools have visited the EWMC:

Tranquillity; International School; Arima Senior Comprehensive; Fyzabad Anglican Secondary; St. Joseph's Convent (San Fernando); St. Martin's Girls High School; North Gate College; CIC; Siparia Senior Comprehensive; Presentation College (Chaguanas and Arima campuses); Iere High School; Southeast Government Secondary; Mayaro Composite; North Eastern College; Marabella Senior Comprehensive; Toco Composite; Sangre Grande; CGSS; Pleasantville Senior Comprehensive; Corinth Teachers College; Cowen Hamilton Secondary.

The Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago has earmarked a contribution to facilitate transportation for schools located in rural areas.

### March

The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago invited the 1998 Nobel Laureate in Economics, Cambridge University Professor Amartya Sen, to deliver the 15<sup>th</sup> Eric Williams Memorial Lecture. His speech *Identity and Justice* endorsed Eric Williams' vision of Caribbean unity, a vision that celebrates and includes the individual's ethnic heritage while it promotes national unity. Professor Sen spoke of the fundamental richness of the Caribbean's diversity, acclaiming it an asset rather than a deficit. He encouraged the region to continue its quest to discover its shared identity.

### January

Saluted by The University of the West Indies at its 2001 *Building the Legacy* Annual Fundraiser in New York City, Eric Williams was hailed as a "Caribbean luminary who has left his indelible mark on the...region and the world."



### 2000

#### November

Eric Williams was inducted into the Queen's Royal College Inaugural Hall of Honour, posthumously conferred with its medal so designating. This venerable 142-year-old high school is Trinidad and Tobago's oldest and most respected, having produced most of the nation's great leaders, in all fields of endeavour.

The EWMC's first annual newsletter was mailed to every US African Studies Department or Diaspora Programme. It was also forwarded to scholars and corporations in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean, the UK, Europe, Japan, Australia, Taiwan, Africa and to the Japan Black Studies Association. Future newsletters will be sent to members of the Association of Caribbean Historians, the Collegium for African American Research (Europe), and the Cercle d'Etudes Africaines Américaines (France).



*From Columbus to Castro: The History of the Caribbean, 1492-1969 – Japanese Edition (2000)*

### October

The FIU's Second Annual Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture on October 16 featured Kenneth Kaunda, former President of Zambia, one of the great architects of African Independence. He presented *Orphans of Africa: The Ignored Casualties of AIDS*. In tandem with the lecture, selected portions of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection Museum were on display at FIU's Green Library. Both events attracted numerous enthusiastic students.

*FIU Bookstore display, October 2001*



## Highlights

# On The Horizon

### Eric Williams: His Scholarship, Work, and Impact

An exploration of Eric E. Williams' multifaceted personality, the continued influence of his scholarship, and the accomplishments and setbacks gleaned from his quarter-century leadership of Trinidad and Tobago, will be the focus of "Eric Williams: His Scholarship, Work, and Impact." This conference, February 15-16, 2002, will be held at the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

The sessions will provide an insight into Williams' legacy in history, politics and education that far exceeds his well-deserved recognition for the world-renowned Capitalism and Slavery. That this conference, almost 21 years after his death, will analyse Williams' contributions in their totality, and their impact in a universal context, serves to further illuminate his vision and erudition.

Notable among the presenters will be Jiang Shixue, from the Institute of Latin American Studies, Beijing, China, with his paper on "Williams and the Chinese Optic." Other scholars hail from some of the most prestigious academic institutions in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and elsewhere: Wellesley, Howard, Columbia, Princeton, Duke, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, State University of New York - Binghamton, Rice and The University of the West Indies.

Co-sponsored by the Schomburg Center and Princeton University, the Conference will be coupled with a two-week exhibition of portions of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection Museum. The Schomburg Center is the premier international site for the study of Black History and Culture.



*Williams and the Making of the Modern Caribbean* is the tentative title of a soon-to-be-published intellectual biography of Eric Williams. Written by Colin Palmer, Dodge Professor of History, Princeton University, he deems Williams "one of the central figures in the shaping of the 20th-century Caribbean, from both an intellectual and political perspective". The book draws on material recently released by the Eric Williams Memorial Collection, as well as the Public Records Office, London, England.

## In Memoriam

March 29, 2001, marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Dr. Williams, affectionately called *The Father of The Nation*. While local media recognised the occasion appropriately, the Eric Williams Memorial Committee hosted an Ecumenical Service that was attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps. Comprised of a group of citizens, this Committee is headed by Reginald Vidale and has long commemorated the date.



*Eric Williams Memorial Service, 1981  
(Photo: Trinidad Guardian)*

*Nothing is lost  
The cheery smile  
The charming voice  
In memory's clear recall  
Are ever fresh, ever near  
Envisioned in mind's eye  
He has not gone at all.*

*What dies?  
A body tired and worn  
Not what he was  
Or said or did.  
These thoughts and acts,  
Your heritage,  
Belong to life.  
They are not hid.*

*By passing time, not left  
By wayside  
Lost, unclaimed,  
But safe within your  
heart remain  
To bless and heal and hold  
A bright, unfaltering flame.*

*Helen Oscar Winfield  
(EWMC Museum)*

The Majority Press will republish The Economic Future of the Caribbean in 2002 with a new Introduction by Professor Anthony Martin, Wellesley College and a Preface by Erica Williams Connell. Probably the least well-known of Williams' contributions, the book remains a useful source for Caribbean economic and political history.

Originally published in 1944 by Howard University Press and edited by Eric Williams and E. Franklin Frazier, it comprises papers from the conference of the same name that Williams organised and which took place at Howard University, Washington, D.C. in 1943.

Although the notion of Pan-Caribbeanism clearly predated Williams, his consciousness of that idea, at the academic level at least, was unmatched. This is evidenced by the conference's comprehensive list of participants who addressed that all-inclusive vision, and by his first book, The Negro in the Caribbean (1942). Williams' research for it required extensive travel, and he was easily able to assess the region's archives in their original Spanish and French, without translation.



## History Revisited

# Back in Time...

*“The most important thing about power is to know when not to use it.”  
Eric Williams, circa 1957-8*

Autocratic in manner, but democratic in practice, Eric Williams studiously avoided falling into the trap set for his government in 1971. The scenario: a heated election contest in which two opposition parties had joined to fight the party Williams founded - the People’s National Movement (PNM). Their alliance proved tenuous when one unilaterally declared an election boycott virtually on the eve of Nomination Day.

The resulting “No Vote campaign” ensured that the PNM won all 36 seats, with eight being unopposed. This created an unhealthy monopoly in the House of Representatives.

Williams, far from taking advantage of the situation, well understood what this boded for the country. Intent on safeguarding against executive excess, he deliberately put measures in place to ensure that the absolute power of his own, and future governments, would not be unfettered.

He established various Advisory Committees comprising different interest groups in the country. In this way, the Cabinet benefited from a wide range of views on matters of national importance: political, economic, cultural or social. Committees were given access to Cabinet notes and documentation, and legislation that was normally introduced in the House of Representatives was first debated in the Senate. This body encompassed Opposition, Independent and PNM members and, therefore, allowed a variety of opinions to flourish.

Simultaneously, Williams initiated constitution reform through an Advisory Committee chaired by the Chief Justice. It was a time when his government could have grossly abused its Parliamentary superiority, when Williams could have engineered an increase in his constitutional authority. But he chose to do exactly the opposite. He divested himself of several significant powers he had held under the 1962 Independence Constitution, resulting in greater constitutional latitude for the soon-to-be Republic’s President. In addition, the role of the Leader of the Opposition was expanded

and emphasised.

Under the Republican Constitution of 1976, the President now possessed unequivocal constitutional clout that he was able to exercise *in his own deliberate judgment*. This was in stark contrast to what had previously existed.

In addition, and even more noteworthy was the recognition of the consultative functions of the Leader of the Opposition with respect to national appointments. Where a certain cosmetic consultation between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition had been perceived as the order of the day, the latter’s Office was now enhanced. This underscored the inclusion, rather than the exclusion, of this essential bulwark of the democratic process.

In some ten instances under the new Constitution (ranging from the appointments of the Chief Justice and the Auditor General to all of the Service Commissions) Williams endorsed the prevailing view: to restructure the Prime Minister’s powers and to limit the extent of his patronage under the Westminster form of government.

One pertinent – and current – example was in the appointment of the Elections and Boundaries Commission. Under the 1962 Independence Constitution, the Head of State acted *in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister*, as Head of Government. The 1976 Republican Constitution allowed appointments by the Head of State *at his own discretion* after he had consulted with *both* the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition.

Thus, in relinquishing to the President many of his powers of appointment to positions of national sensitivity and importance, and in curtailing the Prime Minister’s ability (under the Independence Constitution) to effect such appointments, Williams displayed his true colours – that of the committed democrat.

*Research: Raquel Sukhu*

# Contributors

## NATIONAL

- Agostini’s, Ltd.
- Amalgamated Security Services, Ltd.
- Angostura, Ltd.
- ANSA McAl
- Bank of Nova Scotia
- Bermudez Biscuit Company, Ltd.
- British Petroleum, Ltd.
- BWIA West Indies Airways
- Caribbean Steel Mill
- Central Bank
- China Society
- Citibank
- CL Financial, Ltd.
- Complete Computer Systems Technology
- Computer and Controls, Ltd.
- Fui Toong On Association
- Government of Trinidad and Tobago
- IBM
- International Communications Network
- IT McLeod Partnership
- L. J. Williams, Ltd.
- Errol and Yvonne Mahabir
- Methanol Company, Ltd.
- National Gas Company, Ltd.
- National Insurance Property Development Company, Ltd.
- National Lotteries Control Board
- National Petroleum Marketing Company, Ltd.
- Neal and Massey Holdings, Ltd.
- Nestlé, Ltd.
- Petrotrin, Ltd.
- Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Corporation, Ltd.
- Price Waterhouse
- Radio Vision, Power 102 FM Radio
- Republic Bank, Ltd.
- Royal Bank
- Emile Sabga
- Tourism and Industrial Development Company, Ltd.
- Trinidad Cement, Ltd.
- Jack Warner
- West Indies Stockbrokers, Ltd.
- William H. Scott, Ltd.
- Ronald Jay Williams
- Yorke Structures, Ltd.

## INTERNATIONAL

- Bilmor, Ltd.
- Boston College
- Brandeis University
- Brown University
- Callaloo, University of Virginia/Johns Hopkins
- Cornell University
- Florida International University
- Friends of Trinidad and Tobago
- Howard University
- Princeton University
- Research Institute for the Study of Man
- Schomburg Center, New York Public Library
- Texaco
- W. E. B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University
- Wellesley College



## Reference Library

# A Selection of Books

1. **The Negro in the Caribbean** by Eric E. Williams (1942) ISBN 1-8813-1668-8
  - Presents a panoramic view of the Caribbean and its population and gives meaningful perspective to its historic past. The book identifies the problems of the day and challenges the people's interpretation of their future.
2. **Capitalism & Slavery** by Eric E. Williams (1944). With a new introduction by Dr. Colin Palmer ISBN 0-8078-4488-8
  - Details the correlation between the slave trade and the Industrial Revolution and propounds that the former was abolished for economic and not solely humanitarian reasons. This landmark study is based on Dr. Eric Williams' doctoral dissertation.
3. **Education in the British West Indies** by Eric E. Williams (1951) ISBN 1-8813-1684-X
  - Represents the basic ideas outlined by Dr. Eric Williams, for higher education in the colonies, to the sub-committee of the commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1943.
4. **History of the People of Trinidad & Tobago** by Eric E. Williams (1962) ISBN 1-1881-3668-8
  - Celebrates Trinidad and Tobago's declaration of Independence on August 31, 1962, and details in full its colonial history.
5. **Documents of West Indian History: From the Spanish Discovery to the British Conquest of Jamaica** by Eric E. Williams (1963) ISBN 1- 8813-1666-1
  - Corrects the deficiency where few colonialists wrote their own history. The book attempts to forge the cultural integration of the Caribbean with its "common heritage of subordination to and dictation by outside interests."
6. **British Historians and the West Indies** by Eric E. Williams (1966) ISBN 1-8813-1664-5
  - Focuses on the Jamaican rebellion of 1865. This book examines British writers and "British attitudes to West Indian history...shows that many assumptions are false and that much historical objectivity is no more than barely disguised prejudice."
7. **From Columbus to Castro: The History of the Caribbean 1492- 1969** by Eric E. Williams (1970) ISBN 0-3947-1502-0
  - Details the history of the entire Caribbean and its peoples, separated by the language and culture of their colonisers. This book defines "a profoundly important but neglected and misrepresented area of the world."
  - Japanese Edition (2000), Vols. 1 and II ISBN 4-00-026538-5 ISBN 4-00-026539-3
8. **British Capitalism and Caribbean Slavery: The Legacy of Eric Williams** Edited by Barbara Solow and Stanley Engerman (1987) ISBN 0-5213-3478-0
  - Emanates from the 1984 Bellagio, Italy, Conference on Eric Williams, Co-sponsored by Boston University and the Rockefeller Conference and Study Center.
9. **Eric E. Williams Speaks: Essays on Colonialism and Independence** Edited by Selwyn R. Cudjoe (1993) ISBN 0-8702-3888-4 (paper) ISBN 0-8702-3887-6 (cloth)
  - Reproduces Dr. Eric Williams' most important political writings and underscores his use of language to add to the emotional power of his political analyses and arguments.
10. **Callaloo**, Vol. 20 No. 4, University of Virginia/JohnsHopkins Journal (1998) ISSN 0-1612-492
  - Features - for the first time ever - an entire issue on a political writer, Dr. Eric Williams. This scholarly African American journal of arts and letters debuted in 1976.
11. **Caribbean Issues**, Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 UWI Journal (1998/1999) ISSN 1-0270-361
  - Papers from the 1996 UWI/Harvard University co-sponsored Conference on Eric Williams.
12. **Capitalism & Slavery: Fifty Years Later – Eric E. Williams – A Reassessment of The Man & His Work** Edited by Heather Cateau & S. H. H. Carrington (2000) ISBN 0-8204-4171-6
  - Reassesses Dr. Williams' work, revisits his *magnum opus*, Capitalism & Slavery and embraces new developments and trends in the historiography.
13. **The Elusive Eric Williams** by Ken Boodhoo (2002) ISBN 976-637-050-8, ISBN 976-95057-1-4
  - Based on interviews commissioned exclusively for the purpose of establishing an Eric Williams Memorial Collection Oral History Project, the book purports to put a private face on the public persona of Williams, a man of great complexity - in the writer's view "obsessive secrecy" - and baffling contradictions.

## Scholarships and Prizes

### The Eric Williams Memorial Scholarship

2000: MELISSE THOMAS-BAILEY

This scholarship is valid for two years (M.Phil.) or three (Ph.D.). Applicants must be CARICOM nationals with university degrees (as least Upper Second Class or its equivalent) in history, economics or political science. The candidate will be required to pursue full-time studies for the M.Phil. or Ph.D. degree at UWI, Trinidad and Tobago.

Research topics: Caribbean History, Caribbean Economic Development, Caribbean Politics. Scholarship value: US \$6,000 (approx.). To apply, write: Assistant Registrar, Postgraduate Section, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Closing Date: May 1, 2002.

### The Eric Williams Prize for History

Department of History, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, annual award.

#### Course: Capitalism and Slavery

2000: NOT AWARDED  
2001: HAYDEN FRANKLYN

#### Courses: Imperialism, 1763-1918; Imperialism Since 1914

2000: TERCENCIA JOSEPH  
2001: ABIOLA ROBERTSON



## Of Interest

The Alumni, a publication of Oxford University's St. Catherine's College, devoted a double-page to the 1998 inauguration of the EWMC.

Photographs of the events and people that occupied Eric Williams' life continue to be published, posthumously. In Four Decades of New China's Diplomacy (1989), a retrospective of the late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, is a "coffee table" book that chronicles this timeline of the Republic's history. The late Prime Minister Williams is shown being greeted by Chinese Premier Zhou En Lai, February 1975 in Beijing.

Continued references to Capitalism and Slavery attest to the enduring appeal of this seminal work:

- Amazon.com (April 2001) reports that Williams' work holds a "Place of Honor" as one of the three best-selling titles in the Slavery category.
- Debate on 'The Williams Thesis' remains on "the cutting edge of slave trade research in academic circles."  
(The New York Times Book Review, November 1997)

### Museum Commentary

"What a moving and inspiring collection!"

*Amartya Sen, Trinity College, Cambridge, U.K.  
1998 Nobel Laureate, Economics*

"I vow to defend your promise and to honour our people!"

*Leslie Paul, Student*



Lecturing at "The University of Woodford Square"  
(Photo: UWI Library – Trinidad and Tobago)

### Passing the Torch...

Scott D'Arcy, of Miami, Florida, USA, "wanted to get in touch with my roots." As an American of Trinidad and Tobago parentage, Scott chose to make Eric Williams the subject of two separate school projects during Black History Month. The first (in 6th grade) at Panthers Run Elementary School, the second (in 7th) at Silver Lakes Middle School.

Dayna Johnson of Toronto, Canada, focused her 7th grade project on Dr. Williams at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Elementary School. Dayna, too, has lived abroad all her life.



"To someone like myself who was a teenager in Trinidad when Eric Williams burst onto the public scene there around 1955, certain of these pieces have an emotional power far beyond their considerable force as political analysis and argument. Single-handedly and single-mindedly, Eric Williams transformed our lives. He swept away the old and inaugurated the new. He made us proud to be who we were, and optimistic, as never before, about what we were going to be, or could be. 'Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,' and nothing that has transpired since in Trinidad can negate Williams' gift to his people, or his triumph of intellect and spirit."

*Arnold Rampersad,  
Sara Hart Kimball Professor of English  
Stanford University, USA*

**"Until the lions have their historians, tales of the hunt will continue to be about the hunter"**  
*African Proverb*

*This newsletter is an annual publication of the EWMC, edited by Helen Kitty Smith and Erica Williams Connell. It is intended to highlight the activities of the Collection, to promote dispassionate intellectual research and investigation, and to assist in fulfilling the EWMC's mission statement: "Historia Exemplum Proponit" (History Provides the Blueprint)*

#### ERIC WILLIAMS MEMORIAL COLLECTION

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, ST. AUGUSTINE, REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
TEL: (868) 662-2002 OR (868) 645-3232 • FAX: (868) 662-9238 • email: widmail@library.uwi.tt

#### Hours of Operation

##### MUSEUM

General Public: last two Saturdays monthly, 9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. • Schools: Friday, 9:00a.m. - Noon *Reservations necessary*  
For group tours, contact Banwari Experience: banwari@tstt.net.tt or www.tradetnt.com/banwari

##### LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Research scholars (*Special Collections terms and conditions apply*)

SEMESTER		VACATION	
Monday to Thursday	8:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Monday	8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Friday and Saturday	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Tuesday to Friday	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
		Saturday	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Dr. Margaret Rouse-Jones <i>Campus Librarian</i> Ext. 2008 email: mrousejo@library.uwi.tt		Kathleen Helenese-Paul <i>Special Collections</i> Ext. 3361 email: khelenes@library.uwi.tt	Dr. Glenroy Taitt <i>Special Collections</i> Ext. 3506 email: gtaitt@library.uwi.tt



Erica Williams Connell  
Tel: (305) 271-7246

P.O. Box 561631  
Fax: (305) 271-4160

Miami, FL 33256-1631 USA  
email: ewc.suilan@juno.com