

# Eric Williams Memorial Collection

# Newsletter

December 2002

## Eric Williams: His Scholarship, Work and Impact

The breadth of scholarly papers presented at the February 15-16, 2002 Conference, *Eric Williams: His Scholarship, Work and Impact*, reinforced Williams' contributions in a manner that may have exceeded all prior analyses. An estimated 1,000 participants attended the host venue at New York City's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (affiliated with the New York Public Library). This degree of support attests to the continued relevance of Dr. Williams' life as a scholar, historian and statesman.

The range of nationalities represented by both scholars and participants mirrored the diversity of the subject matter and the interest it continues to elicit. Thirty-three academics from the US, the Caribbean and China examined a variety of topics, while animated and sometimes controversial audience discussion played a significant role throughout.

The event afforded attendees the opportunity to glean a more profound understanding of the multifaceted role Dr. Williams played in West Indian and world history. It provided a comprehensive exploration of its topic and brought to light issues that have left an indelible imprint on the Caribbean and its peoples.

Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies, Rex Nettleford, was the keynote speaker who introduced an overview of Eric Williams, the man and his legacy. The President of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, His Excellency A.N.R. Robinson, welcomed guests via video-conferencing.

Of great interest to the audience was Chinese scholar Jiang Shixue's (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) exposé on the relationship between Trinidad & Tobago and China since 1806. That year, 339 Chinese immigrants sailed to Trinidad to work in the sugar plantations. From these beginnings, China has paid significant attention to the work of Dr. Williams: four of his books have been translated into Chinese. Dr. Shixue stated that these have been "helpful to Chinese scholars' research on slavery and the development of capitalism."



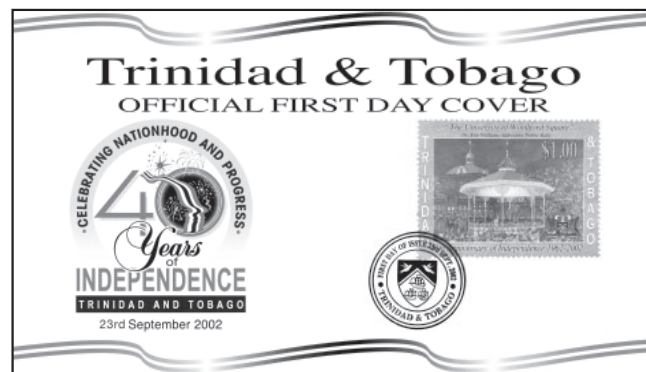
### The Nation's Highest Honour, *The Trinity Cross*

"I wish, and never have wished, no honour, no tribute, no commendation, no commemoration of any sort, no official or public ceremonies when the time comes. I have asked my daughter, who agrees with my decision, to ensure compliance and plead for your goodwill and your respect of what is a deeply personal wish, aimed at nobody, critical of no policy."

*Eric Williams*  
20<sup>th</sup> Annual PNM Convention, 1978

On August 31, 2002, Eric Williams was posthumously awarded his country's highest honour, *The Trinity Cross*.

### Official First Day Cover Stamp



*The University of Woodford Square - 1956*

The Government of Trinidad & Tobago issued a set of four stamps on September 23, 2002, in honour of the nation's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Independence and the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth. One of these celebrates a yet unrivalled era of political enlightenment in Trinidad & Tobago when massive crowds thronged *Woodford Square* (re-named by Eric Williams) in the capital, Port of Spain. There, he delivered his "university-type" lectures on themes ranging from Aristotle to *The Historical Background of Race Relations in the Caribbean*. This special issue stamp is reproduced from the original acrylic painting by renowned local artist, Adrian Camps-Campins.

*See Page 4...*

In 1971, Trinidad & Tobago supported China's bid to regain its UN seat and the two countries established diplomatic relations in June 1974. Six months later, invited by Premier Zhou En Lai, Dr. Williams visited China on the first of two trips. Three student exchanges ensued, allowing Trinidad & Tobago nationals to pursue linguistic studies there. In 1975, the two countries established formal bi-lateral relations.

Several overseas observers attended the Conference: Kunihiro Hama, a Japanese Ph.D. candidate in Latin American Studies at the University of Tokyo; Professor Shin Yamamoto, Yokkaichi University, Japan; and Bénédicte Alliot, Université de Paris, France.

An exhibit of memorabilia and photographs about Eric Williams' life and achievements was on loan from the *Eric Williams Memorial Collection* (EWMC) Museum for the duration of the Conference. The EWMC resides at The University of the West Indies (UWI), Trinidad & Tobago campus. Inaugurated by current US Secretary of State, Colin Powell, in March 1998, it was named to UNESCO's prestigious *Memory of the World Register* in 1999.



## Director's Forum

In 2002, Trinidad & Tobago marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Independence from Great Britain with 40 days of celebrations. The Government *Calendar of Events* encouraged visits to the EWMC Museum by members of the public. The inclusion of the Collection on the official programme is testimony to the EWMC being part of the national patrimony, as has long been recognised.

The EWMC Museum was also available to hundreds of aspiring university entrants who toured the campus during its 'Open Days' for high school students. A most touching experience occurred during one particular visit – a teenager was moved to tears.

The Collection continues to grow, thanks to further deposits by Dr. Williams' daughter as well as his former associates. Scholars have increasingly been donating books to the Collection. Thus, alongside Dr. Williams' personal library of some 7,000 volumes, there is now a modest, but current, library essentially focusing on West Indian history.

As we approach the fifth anniversary of the inauguration of the EWMC, we remain confident of its future and committed to its further development.

*Dr. Margaret D. Rouse-Jones*  
*Campus Librarian*

## New Acquisitions

### *Professor Barbara Solow*

Retired from both Boston and Harvard Universities, Professor Solow organised the first Eric Williams Conference in 1984, co-sponsored by the Rockefeller Conference and Study Center in Bellagio, Italy. Her bequest of several books from her private collection greatly enhances the EWMC. These focus mainly on slavery and sugar plantations in the Americas.

### *Jean George*

A retired public servant, Ms. George has generously made available numerous speeches, press releases and newspaper clippings relating to Eric Williams and to many other government officials.

### *Andrew Newallo "Nello" Mitchell*

The late former General Secretary of the People's National Movement (PNM) – the political party founded by Williams – Mr. Mitchell was at one time also its Public Relations Officer. His memorabilia is invaluable for rounding out the already substantial PNM documentation held by the EWMC.

## Media Spotlight

FIU *Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture* (Miami - September):

- *H-Net: H-Atlantic, H-Caribbean, H-Latin America*;  
*Slavery* websites - academic discussion lists (August);
- *Caribbean Contact*  
(Miami - August/September/October);
- *CaribSeek* website - online Caribbean magazine  
(Curaçao - September);
- FIU's *Book Report* Newsletter, e-Newsletter, home page,  
intra-university e-lists (September);
- *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* (September 20/22);
- *The Sunday Herald* (Jamaica - September 15);
- *The Daily Gleaner* (Jamaica - September 16);
- *The Daily Observer* (Jamaica - September 16);
- *The Miami Herald* (Miami - September 12/20);
- *Caribbean American Commentary*  
(Miami - September/October);
- *Caribbean Today* (Miami - September/October);
- Trinidad & Tobago print media;
- Haitian website.

*The University of Woodford Square - 1956 Stamp* (September):

- Trinidad & Tobago print and broadcast media;
- Trinidad & Tobago Consulate Newsletter (New York - October).

*Caribbean Investment Profiles* magazine (Barbados - September).

Eric Williams *Trinity Cross* Award (August):

- Trinidad & Tobago print and broadcast media.

Eric Williams Schomburg Conference, February 15-16, 2002:

- *Caribbean Life* (New York - January);
- *Immigrant's Journal* (New York - January);
- *Everybody's* magazine (New York - January);
- WLIB radio interviews (two, New York - January);
- I-92 FM radio interview (Trinidad & Tobago - January);
- WHAT radio interview, nationally syndicated (Philadelphia - January);
- *The Nation* (Barbados - January);
- IRADAC website, City University of New York (January/February);
- WWRL radio interviews (New York - January/February);
- WVCG radio (Miami - January/February);
- *Caribbean Contact* (Miami - January/March);
- *New York Daily News* - Black History Month supplement (February);
- WBAI radio interview (New York - February);
- *New York Daily News, Caribbeat* supplement (February);
- *Carib News* (New York - February);
- Trinidad & Tobago print media (February);
- WEAA FM radio interview (Maryland - February);
- *Chronicle of Higher Education* website (February);
- WHUR FM radio interview (Maryland - February);
- *Amsterdam News* (New York - February 14/21);
- Schomburg Center website/Newsletter (February/September);
- *Black Diaspora* magazine (March);
- Trinidad & Tobago Consulate Newsletter (New York - April);
- *Caribbean Today* (Miami - June 2001).

*The Elusive Eric Williams* - biography (January):

- Trinidad & Tobago print media;
- *Caribbean Contact* (Miami - March);
- Trinidad & Tobago *Review* (May);
- *Sunday Observer* (Jamaica - September 15);
- *BWIA Caribbean Beat* magazine (September 2001).



## Research Reports

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

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, February 15-16, 2002

#### **Williams and the Making of the Caribbean**

*Chair: Linda Heywood, Howard University*

- “Eric Williams, ca. 1943 - Early Political Stirrings of a Scholar Activist”  
Tony Martin, Wellesley College
- “Williams and the 1970 State of Emergency”  
Colin Palmer, Princeton University
- “Eric Williams and the Chaguaramas Dispute, 1957-1960”  
Cary Fraser, Pennsylvania State University
- “The Use of the Heliconia as a Political Symbol in the Caribbean”  
Sandra Barnes, UWI, Trinidad & Tobago (slide presentation)

#### **Eric Williams and Issues of Race, the State, and Political Ends**

*Chair: Carlton Wilson, North Carolina Central University*

- “Eric Williams and the Ethnic, Racial, and Color Stratification of the Caribbean”  
William Darity, Universities of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)/Duke
- “Williams, the State, and Economic Development”  
Selwyn Ryan, UWI, Trinidad & Tobago
- “What’s America for the Goose is Britain for the Gander: Exploring the Relationship between Eric Williams and C. L. R. James”  
Grant Farred, Duke University
- “Eric Williams: Protagonist or Antagonist of Caribbean Integration?”  
Sharon Alexander-Gooding, UWI, Barbados

#### **Eric Williams and National Policy**

*Chair: Winston James, Columbia University*

- “Eric Williams and Public Sector Reform”  
Roland Baptiste, UWI, Trinidad & Tobago
- “Eric Williams and Tobago: Policies and Attitudes”  
Learie Luke, South Carolina State University
- “Eric Williams and the Labor Movement in Trinidad & Tobago, 1960-1980”  
Jerome Teelucksingh, UWI, Trinidad & Tobago

#### **Williams and Caribbean Integration**

*Chair: Saje Mathieu, Princeton University*

- “We Integrate or We Perish: Forbes Burnham, Eric Williams and the Regional Integration Movement”  
Cecilia McAlmont, University of Guyana
- “Williams and the Problem of Economic Autonomy in the Caribbean”  
Gabraelle Lane, Independent Scholar
- “Constructing West Indianness: Williams, Race, Regional Identity, and the West Indies Federation”  
Eric D. Duke, Michigan State University

#### **Eric Williams, The Scholar**

*Chair: Colin Palmer, Princeton University*

- “The Nineteenth Century Origins of Capitalism and Slavery”  
Demetrius Eudell, Wesleyan University
- “Capitalism and Slavery Revisited”  
Dale Tomich, State University of New York, Binghamton
- “Williams, the Free Coloreds, and Abolition: A Reassessment”  
Edward Cox, Rice University
- “The Use and Abuse of Capitalism and Slavery”  
Chris McCauley, University of California, Santa Barbara

#### **Williams the Researcher and Theorist**

*Chair: Watson Jennison, University of Virginia*

- “Williams, the Bibliophile and Scholar!”  
Brinsley Samaroo, UWI, Trinidad & Tobago
- “Williams: Publishing in the *Journal of Negro History*”  
David Barry Gaspar, Duke University
- “Trinidad & Tobago – Intellectuals of International Stature: The Question of Causation”  
Winston James, Columbia University

#### **Williams, Women, Scholarship and Political Change**

*Chair: Jeffrey Kerr-Ritchie, State University of New York, Binghamton*

- “Eric Williams: The Social Construction of a Movement Intellectual”  
Maurice St. Pierre, Morgan State University
- “The Black Woman in Williams’ Capitalism and Slavery”  
Hilary Beckles, UWI, Jamaica
- “Williams, Claudia Jones, and the Politics of Change”  
Lydia Lindsey, North Carolina Central University
- “Williams and His Impact on Caribbean Historiography”  
Selwyn Carrington, Howard University

#### **Eric Williams and the Larger World of Scholarship**

*Chair: Selwyn Carrington, Howard University*

- “Williams and the Chinese Optic”  
Jiang Shixue, Institute of Latin American Studies, Beijing, China
- “The Function of History: Williams, Woodson, du Bois, and the Counter-Narrative of History”  
Derrick E. White, Ohio State University
- “The Portrait of Dr. Eric Williams in Earl Lovelace’s Salt”  
George Ramos, UWI, Trinidad & Tobago

Chinese versions of Eric Williams’ books:

Capitalism and Slavery,  
History of the People of Trinidad & Tobago,  
From Columbus to Castro: The History of the Caribbean, 1492 - 1969,  
Inward Hunger: The Education of a Prime Minister



## Visitors of Note

2002

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|----------|--|
| December | Ryo Takagi, Ambassador, Japan  |
| November | Regla Diego, Pinillos, Cuba<br>Lucia Chen, Taiwan<br>Oryu Yoko, Japan<br>Patrick L. Mason, Florida State University<br>Alan Tomlinson, University of Brighton, UK<br>Miriam Hughston, Museum of Modern Art, New York<br>Mitchell Wolfson Jr., The Wolfsonian Museum, Miami, Florida  |
| October  | Carmen Marquez Monte, Universidad Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain<br>Arcesio Zapata Vinaso, Colombia<br>Selina Romero, Nicaragua<br>Javier Pinedo, Chile<br>Oscar Wingartz, Mexico<br>Alberto Rodriguez Carucci, Universidad de los Andes, Venezuela<br>Shirley Jackson, University of the District of Columbia<br>Marcia Roof, Howard University<br>Sandra John, UN Economic Commission – Latin America/Caribbean |
| August   | J. Lorand Matory, Harvard University<br>Sebathu P. Chiyapo, Botswana   |
| July     | Dawn Taylor, University of California, Davis<br>Sir Trevor McDonald, ITN Broadcaster, UK   |
| June     | Carmen Sanguinetti, University of Technology, Jamaica<br>Linda Rosa Lugo, University of Central Florida  |
| March    | Azad Osman, Mauritius  |
| February | Dominique Aurelia, Université des Antilles et de la Guyane, Martinique   |
| January  | Ulrich Nitzschke, Ambassador, Germany<br>Johanna Dopson, Embassy of France<br>Maria Palacios, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina  |

2001

- |          |  |
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| November | Luisa Vigo-Cepeda, University of Puerto Rico<br>John Aarons, National Library, Jamaica |
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## Highlights

# Accomplishments

### October

Dr. Eric Williams' contributions as a scholar-activist and historian and the high esteem in which he was held by African America, formed the topic of an unprecedented panel at the 2002 Convention of the *Association for the Study of African-American Life and History* (ASALH) in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Learie Luke, South Carolina State University, chaired the well-attended session on *The Papers of Eric Williams: Challenges and Opportunities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Three other scholars participated: Selwyn Carrington, Howard University; Tony Martin, Wellesley College; and David Barry Gaspar, Duke University. As at the Schomburg, audience exchange was both lively and provocative.

Originally called the *Association for the Study of Negro Life and History*, the ASALH was founded in 1915 by the distinguished American historian, Carter G. Woodson. Dr. Woodson, Dean of Howard University's College of Liberal Arts, was also editor of its premier scholarly publication, *The Journal of Negro History*, in which Williams' essays were frequently published.

### September

The Fourth Annual Florida International University (FIU) *Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture* was held on September 20, 2002. The round-table discussion, *Women, Politics and the Caribbean*, featured (pictured left to right) former First Lady of Jamaica, Mrs. Beverley Anderson-Manley; Attorney General of Barbados/Minister of Home Affairs, Hon. Mia Mottley; Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of National Security of the Bahamas, Hon. Cynthia Pratt; and Colin Palmer, Dodge Professor of History, Princeton University, as moderator.

The Lecture, recognised appropriately by both Miami City and County Mayors, other elected officials, and endorsed by the Consuls General of Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, Bahamas and Jamaica, attracted its best audience yet. More than 400 people were treated to a telling exposé of the Caribbean political "glass ceiling" – its gender specifics and the attempts being made to surmount the problem. For the second consecutive year, students from the University of Miami's



Department of English received extra credit for attending what has become an important event on the academic calendar.



This year, the following schools visited the EWMC:

#### *Trinidad & Tobago*

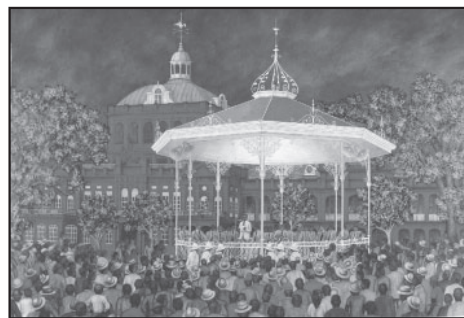
- Anjuman Sunnatul Jaamat Ass'n. Girls, San Fernando
- Barrackpore Secondary Composite
- Bishop Anstey's High
- Bishop's Centenary College
- BSCS
- CAPS
- Curepe Junior Secondary
- El Dorado Secondary
- Fyzabad Composite
- Gasparillo Composite
- Holy Faith Convent, Couva
- Hillview College
- Holy Faith Convent, Penal
- Lakshmi Girls Hindu College
- Lucia's Private School
- Malick Secondary Comprehensive
- Malabar Composite
- Moruga Composite
- Naparima College
- Pt. Fortin Senior Secondary
- Princes Town Senior Comprehensive
- Tunapuna Secondary
- Queen's Royal College
- St. Augustine Girls High
- San Juan Secondary Comprehensive
- Shiva Boys Hindu College
- Southeast Port of Spain Secondary
- St. Augustine Senior Comprehensive
- St. Charles High
- St. George's College
- Tableland High
- Woodbrook Government Secondary

#### *International*

- Guadeloupe, French West Indies
- Soufrière Comprehensive Secondary, St. Lucia
- US Virgin Islands

### September

Mr. Camps-Campins' *The University of Woodford Square - 1956* is reproduced on greeting cards complete with photographs and information of historical importance relating to Eric Williams. These, along with Limited Edition, signed and numbered prints of the painting are available for sale to benefit the EWMC. For orders, contact: [ewc.suilan@juno.com](mailto:ewc.suilan@juno.com). Stamp and First Day Cover orders, contact: TTPost, Philatelic Bureau, National Mail Centre, P.O. Box 1, Piarco, Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.



*The University of Woodford Square - 1956*  
Adrian Camps-Campins

"Dr. Eric Williams started in a way which, to my mind, is unique in the history of Caribbean politics.... He turned .....the history of the Caribbean into gossip."

*George Lamming, novelist, Barbados*

"As a distinguished historian ... there was no better narrator who could take the theme to the streets, create a university in a public square, and turn the world upside down in an unprecedented act of popular empowerment. Every citizen of the new Nation-State became a student of history. The tutor Prime Minister wrote the nationalist script and starred in the production that was the making of a nation."

*Hilary Beckles*  
*Principal and Pro-Vice Chancellor, UWI Barbados*

"He summoned an entire people to school and taught so well and so imaginatively and with such passion that the people were still electing him 25 years after he held his first class."

*John Hearne, novelist, Jamaica*

"I have never seen or heard of any political forum (in non-revolutionary periods) where addresses of the level of Dr. Williams' speeches have been consistently listened to by popular audiences... for three, four, five hours at a time...."

*C.L.R. James, Marxist intellectual Trinidad & Tobago*

The "University" of *Woodford Square* was "a centre of free university education for the masses, of political analysis and training in self-government, for parallels of which we must go back to the city-state of ancient Athens. The lectures have been university dishes served with political sauce. They have given the people of Trinidad & Tobago a vision and a perspective..... they have reinforced their own aspirations..... for human freedom and for colonial emancipation. They have taught the people what one French writer of the 18th century saw as the greatest danger, that they have a mind."

*Eric E. Williams, 1967*

# On the Horizon

## 2005

- In honour of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Williams' *tour de force*, Capitalism and Slavery, a symposium, hosted by the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, will offer participants and attendees an opportunity for continuous dialogue, reflection and assessment.

It is significant that the event is being planned by the book's original publisher, and since many of its aspects have been thoroughly articulated over the years, ground-breaking presentations are being actively sought. The implications for education, and the critical role that Capitalism and Slavery has played in reshaping the historiography and teaching of the history of slavery, will be vital parts of the exchange.

## 2003

- The newly-opened, multi-million dollar *African-American Research Library and Cultural Center* at the Broward County Library in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, will exhibit portions of the EWMC Museum in conjunction with their portrayal of African-American notables.
- *El Instituto Moro* and the Mexican Association of Caribbean Studies are negotiating with the EWMC to publish two of Eric Williams' books in Spanish, Capitalism and Slavery and From Columbus to Castro: The History of the Caribbean, 1492-1969. The former, a re-publication, was previously issued in Havana, Cuba. The latter will be a first.
- The Miami-Dade County, Florida, Public Schools Division of Social Sciences will incorporate lesson plans on Eric Williams in its state-mandated African-American curriculum. A draft has been submitted to the relevant authority and the EWMC awaits detailed parameters. The programme will be expanded to other areas in the US – New Jersey being the next target state, having recently followed Florida's lead.
- Professors Barbara Solow and Stanley Engerman (University of Rochester), editors of British Capitalism and Caribbean Slavery: The Legacy of Eric Williams, have confirmed that their book will be reprinted in paperback at the request of Cambridge University Press. Originally published in hard cover in 1987 and long out of print, the book is a collection of papers presented at the Boston University co-sponsored Conference on Eric Williams held in Bellagio, Italy, in 1984.
- The Society for Caribbean Research and the Post-Colonial Research Group at Belgium's University of Antwerp is hosting its 8<sup>th</sup> Interdisciplinary Congress in September, entitled *Injustice and Insubordination: The Caribbean Writer as "Warrior of the Imaginary."* Colin Palmer, Dodge Professor of History, Princeton University, will offer his paper, *Eric Williams and the Anti-Colonial Struggle*.

- The *Journal of African-American History*, formerly Carter G. Woodson's prestigious *Journal of Negro History*, will feature three papers on Eric Williams by Professors David Barry Gaspar and Selwyn Carrington, Duke and Howard Universities, respectively, and Tony Martin, Wellesley College. Erica Williams Connell will write an Introduction.

## Accomplishments (continued)

Throughout each year, news about the *Eric Williams Memorial Collection* and its activities is disseminated to every US college and university with an African Studies programme. This includes the 17 campuses of City University of New York; individuals and corporations in Trinidad & Tobago, the Caribbean, the US, UK and Europe; broadcast, print and cyber media in the Caribbean and US; and the following Associations: Caribbean Historians; French Black Studies; Collegium for African American Research (Europe); Third World Studies; Mexican Caribbean Studies; Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars; African Diaspora (New York University); Japan Black Studies; Black and Asian Studies (UK); Yale University's Lehrman Center; Institute of Latin American Studies, Beijing, China.

The Collection also posts its annual newsletters to its website: [www.mainlib.uwi.tt/eric.html](http://www.mainlib.uwi.tt/eric.html). This augments the long-established Eric Williams site maintained by the University of Florida, where the following Williams speeches are available: <http://palm.fcla.edu/ew/>.

- Address to the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual PNM Convention  
Chaguaramas, Trinidad  
September 29 - October 1, 1972
- *Perspectives for the West Indies*  
San Fernando, Trinidad  
May 30, 1960
- *The Approach of Independence*, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual PNM Convention  
Trinidad  
March 8, 1960
- *Perspectives for Our Party*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual PNM Convention  
Trinidad  
October 17, 1958
- *Economic Problems of Trinidad & Tobago*  
The "University" of Woodford Square  
Trinidad  
July 5, 1955

*The Legacy lives on  
in the Diaspora.  
Caribbean students from  
Richard R. Green  
Middle School  
Bronx, New York  
Schomburg Conference  
February 2002*





## History Revisited

### Back in Time...

*“What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? Or fester like a sore – And then run?”*

*Langston Hughes*

As Trinidad & Tobago celebrated 40 years of its Independence in 2002, Eric Williams’ exhortations to his people are instructive. The following excerpts have been combined for continuity:

“On August 31, 1962, a country will be free, a miniature state will be established, but a society and a nation will not have been formed. After August 31, 1962, the people of Trinidad & Tobago will face the fiercest test in their history - whether they can invest with flesh and blood the bare skeleton of their National Anthem, ‘Here, every creed and race find an equal place.’ *That* is their challenge. They may fail..... But merely to make the attempt, merely to determine to succeed, would be an enormous tribute to their capacity, a powerful inspiration to frustrated humanity.....

“Together, the various groups in Trinidad & Tobago have suffered, together they have aspired, together they have achieved. Only together can they succeed. And only together can they build a society, can they build a nation, can they build a homeland....

“There can be no Mother India, for those whose ancestors came from India....there can be no Mother Africa, for those of African origin, and the Trinidad & Tobago society is living a lie and heading for trouble if it seeks to create the impression, or to allow others to act under the delusion, that Trinidad & Tobago is an African society. There can be no Mother England and no dual loyalties.....There can be no Mother China, even if one could agree on which China is the Mother; and there can be no Mother Syria or no Mother Lebanon. A nation, like an individual, can have only one Mother. The only Mother we recognise is Mother Trinidad & Tobago, and Mother cannot discriminate between her children.....

“What use [then] will you make of your independence? What will you transmit to your children [forty] years from today? Other countries have ceased to exist in that period. Some, in much less time, have become.....a prey to anarchy and civil war.

“The first responsibility that devolves upon you is the protection and promotion of your democracy. Democracy means more, much more, than the right to vote..... Democracy means recognition of the rights of others....equality of opportunity for all....the production of the weak against the strong....the obligation of the minority

to recognise the right of the majority. Democracy means responsibility of the Government to its citizens, the protection of the citizens from the exercise of arbitrary power and the violation of human freedoms and individual rights. Democracy means freedom of worship for all and the subordination of the right of any one race to the overriding right of the human race.....That democracy is but a....mockery and a....fraud...[if it] is based on a ruling group’s domination...[and] intolerance [of] others because of....race, colour, creed, national origin....or other irrationality. Democracy means freedom of expression and assembly.....At home and abroad – the symbol of it is our Parliament.....Democracy, finally, rests on [an even] higher power.....It rests on an informed and cultivated and alert public opinion.

“The Nation is on the march. There is no turning back. The road from now on leads forward and only forward. Your responsibility, therefore, is a...heavy one. If you shirk it, you betray our Nation. If you fail..., you jeopardise our Nation. I have given to the Nation as its watchwords, *Discipline, Production, Tolerance*. They apply as much to you, the young people, as to your parents. The discipline is both individual and national....We must produce in order to enjoy....

“United at home in the common effort to build a...Nation...you, the children, yours is the great responsibility to educate your parents, teach them to live together in harmony...To your tender and loving hands, the future of the Nation is entrusted. In your innocent hearts, the pride of the Nation is enshrined. On your scholastic development, the salvation of the Nation is dependent... *you* carry the future of Trinidad & Tobago in your school bags.

[So I call upon you *all* to] “build the Nation of Trinidad & Tobago, bringing in all the races, acknowledging all their contributions, elevating lowly castes; dignifying despised colours, achieving a syncretism here and a new autonomy there, raising up the poor and the lowly and giving them a positive stake in our society...”

“The humblest antecedents are not inconsistent with greatness of soul.”

*Eric E. Williams*

*“Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfill it, or betray it.”*

*Frantz Fanon*

### Contributors

#### NATIONAL

- Amalgamated Security Services, Ltd.
- Angostura, Ltd.
- Associated Brands, Ltd.
- bpTT
- BWIA West Indies Airways
- Caribbean Steel Mill
- CARICOM Secretariat
- Citibank
- CL Financial, Ltd.
- Emile Elias & Co. Ltd.
- Joseph Esau
- First Citizens Bank
- Fui Toong On Association
- Government of Trinidad & Tobago
- Inncogen, Ltd.
- International Communications Network
- I.T. McLeod Partnership
- Lensyl Products, Ltd.
- Errol and Yvonne Mahabir
- Edmund Narine
- National Gas Company, Ltd.
- National Insurance Property Development Co. Ltd.
- Peter Peña
- Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Corp. Ltd.
- Radio Vision, Power 102 FM
- Republic Bank, Ltd.
- Royal Bank
- Emile Sabga
- Sportsman’s Members Club
- Titan Methanol Co.
- TT Trans Cable, Ltd.
- Jack Warner
- William H. Scott, Ltd.
- Ronald Jay Williams
- Yorke Structures, Ltd.

#### INTERNATIONAL

- Brown University
- Florida International University
- Princeton University
- 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 and 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 & 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 and Slavery: Fifty Years Later – Eric E. Williams – A Reassessment of The Man and 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 and 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

2002: JEROME TEELUCKSINGH

This scholarship is valid for two years (M.Phil.) or three (Ph.D.). Applicants must be CARICOM nationals with university degrees (at 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 & 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 & Tobago. Closing Date: May 1, 2003.

### The Eric Williams Prize for History

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

Course: *Capitalism and Slavery*

2002: DENISA THOMPSON

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

2002: LOUELLA JOSEPH



## Of Interest

- Eric Williams compiled and edited Howard University's first Social Sciences textbook, the three-volume Documents Illustrating the Development of Civilization (to 1948).
- Dr. Eric Williams appears here in a cameo clip in the video, *Here I Stand* - about the singer-scholar and ardent Pan-Africanist, Paul Robeson.
- The substantial role Dr. Williams played in encouraging the English-speaking Caribbean States to join the InterAmerican Development Bank (IADB), and in spearheading their membership in the Organization of American States, was recognised in the catalogue Introduction to *The Arts in Trinidad & Tobago*. The May 2002 exhibit was held at the IADB in Washington, DC.



Eric Williams, circa 1930's

### Museum Commentary

"An excellent presentation of material of great significance."

John Rowett  
Rhodes Trust, Oxford, UK



"Thank you very much for treasuring what is truly ours."

Kimberley Corriea  
student, Trinidad & Tobago

### Passing the Torch...

- In October, Erica Williams Connell lectured to a Florida International University graduate class as part of a seminar, *Survey of Caribbean Thought*, which utilises Capitalism and Slavery as a required text. She spoke on Eric Williams' broad perspectives, his world view on education and liberation, roles of class and race, and the Caribbean's place in the world.
- Eric Williams' books have long been compulsory reading for numerous university courses: *Slavery and Anti-Slavery: Europe, Africa and the New World, c.1500 - c.1865* - New York University, London, UK (Fall 2002/Spring 2003); *History I and II* - Brown University (Fall 2002); *The History of the Caribbean from 1838-1970 - Emancipation, Social, Economic and Political Change* - Howard University (Fall 2002); *History of Racial Formations in the Americas* - Princeton University (Spring 2002); *National Histories, National Literatures* - University of Florida (Spring 2002); *Caribbean History* - City University of New York (Spring 2002); *Foreign Cultures - History* - Harvard University (Fall 2001).
- The "Colonial Section" of FIU's qualifying examination for its Ph.D. programme in Atlantic Studies contains a question about Dr. Eric Williams and his important work, Capitalism and Slavery.

**"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 Kitti 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**  
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#### EWMC ASSISTANTS

Christine Cohn - American University; Eric D. Duke - University of Michigan; Clare Newstead - University of Washington; Daphne Delapenha; Judy Galt

#### MUSEUM HOURS

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

#### LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE HOURS

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

##### SEMESTER

Monday to Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

##### VACATION

Monday 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 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  
Campus Librarian  
Ext. 2008  
[mrousejo@library.uwi.tt](mailto:mrousejo@library.uwi.tt)



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#### WEBSITES

[www.mainlib.uwi.tt/eric.html](http://www.mainlib.uwi.tt/eric.html) (*Maintained by UWI*)  
<http://palmm.fcla.edu/cew/> (*Maintained by the University of Florida*)

For prior issues of the EWMC Newsletter, contact:

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