“New Perspectives on the Life and Work of Eric Williams”

Capitalism, Slavery and Statesmanship

A Centenary Conference
St. Catherine’s College, Oxford University
Co-sponsored by the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University

September 24 & 25, 2011
Saturday, September 24

Session 1
Slavery and the Industrial Revolution

9.00 am
Welcome
Roger Ainsworth, Master, St. Catherine’s College

9.15 am
Chair: Patricia Mohammed
University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago

Keynote Address
Arnold Rampersad, Emeritus
Sara Hart Kimball Professor in the Humanities
Stanford University

9.45 am
Chair: Barbara L. Solow, Boston University (ret.)

“The Triangular Trade in Global Perspective”
Ronald Findlay, Columbia University
Kevin O’Rourke, All Souls College, Oxford

“Slavery, the British Atlantic Economy, and the Industrial Revolution”
Knick Harley, St. Antony’s College, Oxford

Comment: David Eltis, Emory University

Audience Participation

11:15 am   Coffee Break

Session 2
Abolition and the Decline of the West Indies

11:30 am
Chair: Barbara L. Solow, Boston University (ret.)

“From Dissertation to Capitalism and Slavery: Did the Williams Thesis Undergo Mutation?”
William A. Darity, Duke University

“Abolition and the Decline of the Old Colonial System: Jamaica, the West India Interest, and the Dismantling of the British Slave Trade, 1783-1807”
David Beck Ryden, University of Houston

Comment: Seymour Drescher
University of Pittsburgh

Audience Participation

1:00 pm   Lunch Break

Session 3
The Wider Impact of Slavery

2:15 pm
Chair: Barbara L. Solow, Boston University (ret.)

“The Impact of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean Slavery”
Nathan Nunn, Harvard University

“Capitalism, Slavery and the Brazilian Coffee Economy in the Long Nineteenth Century”
Rafael Marquese, Universidade de São Paulo

Comment: David Richardson, University of Hull

Audience Participation

3:45 pm   Tea Break
Sunday, September 25

Session 1
Eric Williams and Atlantic History

9:00 am
Chair: Colin Palmer, Scholars-in-Residence Program, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

“Capitalism and Slavery Revisited: The Williams Thesis in Atlantic Perspective”
Dale Tomich, State University of New York Binghamton

“The Industrial Revolution in Atlantic Perspective: County History and National History”
Joseph Inikori, University of Rochester

Comment: Stanley L. Engerman
University of Rochester

Audience Participation

10:45 am  Coffee Break

Session 2
Politics and Culture

11:00 am
Chair: Selwyn Carrington, Howard University

“Eric Williams and the Imagination of an Anti-Colonial Society”
Lydia Lindsey, North Carolina Central University

“Eric Williams as a Man of Culture”
Selwyn R. Cudjoe, Wellesley College

Comment: Patricia Mohammed
University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago

Audience Participation

12:45 pm   Lunch Break

Session 3
Economy and Caribbean Integration

2:00 pm
Chair: Rita Pemberton
University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago

“From Brown Sugar to Steel: Eric Williams and Industrial Policy”
Selwyn Ryan, University of Trinidad and Tobago

“Eric Williams and the Challenge of Caribbean Integration: Ideas and Praxis”
Colin Palmer, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Comment: Selwyn Carrington, Howard University

Audience Participation

3:30pm  Tea Break

Session 4
Williams the Historian

3.45 pm
Chair: Kate Quinn, University of London

“Eric Williams’s ‘Last Testament’: ‘The Blackest Thing in Slavery Was Not the Black Man’”
Brinsley Samaroo
University of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago

“Eric Williams and the Construction of a Caribbean History”
Franklin Knight, The Johns Hopkins University

Comment: Rita Pemberton
University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago

Audience Participation

5:15 pm   Conclusion
Acknowledgements

Dr. Colin Palmer
Scholars-in-Residence Program
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Dr. Barbara L. Solow, Boston University (ret.)

St. Catherine’s College, Oxford University

W.E.B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University

Celebrating 100 Years
Eric Eustace Williams, 1911-2011