

A Centenary Conference
“New Perspectives on the Life and Work of Eric Williams”
St. Catherine’s College, Oxford University
September 24-25, 2011

Saturday, September 24 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
Sara Hart Kimball Professor in the Humanities
Stanford University

Session 1

Slavery and the Industrial Revolution

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 University

“Slavery, the British Atlantic Economy, and the Industrial Revolution”

Knick Harley, St. Antony’s College, Oxford University

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”

Joeseph 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

3:45 pm Tea Break

Session 4**Williams the Historian**

4:00 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

“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

5:45 pm Conference Closing