



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA

SOCIAL HISTORY PROJECT  
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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Review of the 8th SHP Heritage Symposium

Snapshots of the Symposium

Feature Article: Itral Imple

Exhibition Notice: Making Tracks

Part 2: Interview with Kenneth Ingram

## Editorial

It is with great pleasure that we bring you the 49<sup>th</sup> newsletter of the Social History Project. As usual, we have tried to produce an Edition which highlights the work of the Project and the Department of History and Archaeology over the past few months. The 8th Symposium of the SHP held under the theme *Heritage: Its Management and Preservation* was one of the major events of note for the Department this semester. It was held at UWI, Mona, October 23-25 2008 and is represented in this issue by a report of the activities by Dr. Matthew Smith. We also express gratitude to Dr Smith for his pictures of the opening ceremony and symposium activities.

The SHP would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate the Head of the Department, Professor Waibinte Wariboko, on his recent Professorial Inaugural Lecture titled "Race, the Civilising Mission and Africaness, 1800-1950" on November 14, 2008.

We are also pleased to include a feature article by a visiting Norwegian graduate student Thomas Rognmo, who is conducting cultural research in Jamaica. His entry "Itral Imple" highlights some aspects of his experience working and collecting data on Rastafari in Jamaica. Also included in this edition, is the second of two parts of an interview with the late Prof. Kenneth Ingram by graduate student Jessica Lewis. The first installment of the interview was featured in the May 2008 Edition of the newsletter.

Please enjoy this issue of the newsletter and have a blessed holiday season.

*Dalea Bean*  
Newsletter Editor

Review of the Social  
History Project  
8<sup>th</sup> Symposium  
“Heritage: Its Management  
and Preservation”  
UWI, Mona, October 23-25  
2008.

One of the great successes of the SHP’s activities this year, was the 8<sup>th</sup> symposium held October 23-25 2008. Under the theme, “Heritage: Its Management and Preservation,” the symposium, which was also part of the activities marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UWI, brought together scholars, librarians, archivists, students and members of the general public, for two days of rich presentations and exchanges on many aspects of Caribbean heritage.

The symposium was launched at an opening ceremony on Thursday evening, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The keynote address was delivered by the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, Distinguished Research Fellow at the UWI, who shared reminiscences of his pioneering work on Jamaican folk culture and religion. These memories were vividly illustrated with several items from Mr. Seaga’s personal collection of heritage artifacts. In his fascinating lecture, Mr. Seaga was keen to point out his important role in both the study of Jamaican heritage and, as Prime Minister in the 1980s, its preservation. On Friday, attendees were treated to a full day of presentations that began with a panel on “History and Heritage.” The papers delivered by graduate students and lecturers in the Department of History and Archaeology addressed the history of settlement in Westmoreland (Jeannette Corniffe), the emergence of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (Jonathan

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Dalby), and the historical and archaeological legacy of the UWI campus (in separate presentations by Suzanne Francis-Brown and Sabrina Rampersad).

In the second panel, the importance of “Artifacts and Museums,” was highlighted through presentations on Rastafari art in the 1970s, by Sharon Chacko of the Department of History and Archaeology; the Bank of Jamaica’s Money Museum, by Sandra Moodie, of the Bank of Jamaica’s museum; and the image of the River Mumma in Jamaican identity, by Andrea Jadusingh of the UWI Institute of Caribbean Studies.

The final set of presentations for the day, on the theme, “Heritage and National Development,” appropriately linked the work of historians and archaeologists with government policy (a point highlighted in Mr. Seaga’s keynote address), through papers by Deanne Keating-Campbell of the Tourism Product Development Company, and Andre Minott of the Georgian Historical Society.

Day two of the symposium continued several of the previous day’s discussions on heritage, methodology, preservation, and management. This latter point was the central theme in the first panel of the day, “Cultural Resource Management.” Winsome Hudson of the National Library of Jamaica, and David Harrison, Tony Aarons, and Elizabeth Pigou-Dennis, of the Caribbean School of Architecture at the University of Technology, offered thoughtful reflections on the challenges in maintaining the sources and sites of Caribbean heritage.

In the second panel, “Historic Landscapes and Environmental History,” a cross-section of issues

relative to the study of the lived environment were addressed in four stimulating presentations. Graduate students in the Department of History and Archaeology, Ritamae Hyde and Ayodele Roseman addressed sacred spaces in Jamaica and Belize, and architecture in Rae Town, Kingston, respectively. Elizabeth Pigou-Dennis gave a historical recreation of downtown Kingston as viewed by one of Jamaica’s earliest writers, H.G. DeLisser, and Cameron Gill presented on his work with Karl Watson, on the St. Anne’s Garrison in Barbados. The final panel of the day, focused on the theory and practice of a critical aspect of Caribbean heritage, oral sources. Professor Maureen Warner-Lewis presented on the experiences of West Indian missionaries in West Africa, through the memory of an interviewee. The importance of oral sources and archival methods, was emphasized by Bernard Jankee of the African Caribbean Institute of Jamaica/Jamaica Memory Bank. Keisa Weise, also from the ACIJ/Memory Bank, presented on her work on Obeah in Jamaica and her experience with oral sources in her research.

Later that afternoon, the symposium was given a fitting closure with a tour of the Heritage sites on the Mona campus, expertly led by Suzanne Francis Brown.

*Matthew J. Smith*

**SNAPSHOTS OF THE  
Symposium  
“Heritage: Its Management  
and Preservation”**



**Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga displays an item from his personal heritage collection during his keynote address.**



**Audience at the Symposium Day 1.**



**Panel on Heritage and Oral Sources**



**Tour of UWI Heritage sites by Suzanne Francis Brown**

Feature Article on Cultural Research: Itral Imple

On the 2nd of June, 2008, I landed at Norman Manley airport in Kingston. My original purpose for coming to Jamaica was to gather material for my thesis which was to be about the connection between the Rastafari movement and the reggae music genre, through fieldwork in Jamaica.

Even though I arrived in Jamaica on the 2nd of June, my journey had started several months before. My fieldwork started on the internet, using the radical, new method known as "snowballing with Facebook". How is this method used? You find people living in the place you're going to (in my case, this was UWI Mona) and then contact everyone you think looks decent, perhaps with an added message explaining who you are, and what you will be doing in the field. If you work hard enough, you will find someone eventually. I did, at the very least.

While none of my Facebook friends were Rastafaris, they did put me on the right track regarding who to interview. I was introduced to Dr. K'nife and his brethren at Taylor Hall, and through a series of reasonings, was able to gather material. I entered the field with a heuristic approach, and I quickly realized that the information which was revealed to me about the Rastafaris who refer to themselves as "Itral Imple" would make an interesting topic for my thesis.

When doing ethnographic fieldwork, self-presentation is crucial, and the various people in the group you are interviewing will perceive you in different ways. Some of the Taylorites accepted my presence there (despite my being a slim blonde and 'pale' Norwegian) and welcomed me, while others seemed to be a bit more skeptical. Like the researchers

Hammersley and Atkinson (2004) state, there are certain characteristics one can't change, like one's ethnicity and complexion. These characteristics, in combination with the way the researcher presents him/herself and the way in which questions are asked will all affect the material which is gathered through interviews.

Quite a few of the previous academic works on the Rastafari movement has emphasized the Rastafaris use of the Bible and the movement's Judeo-Christian roots. Many of the people I interviewed mentioned a "sampling bias" regarding previous research. My work is, as previously stated, not focused on the whole Rastafari movement, but on a distinct group who claim Rastafari, in a distinct time and place. Their worldview is ecocentric, and one of their main concerns is sustainable development. Their ideal way of life is that of the vegan and eating their vegetarian food uncooked. They refer to the Bible (KJV) as "Kinki James Version", and they do not use the term "Jah", since this, according to them, refers to male energy alone. For the Itral Imples, The Holy Trinity does not consist of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, but of Man, Woman, and Child. Furthermore, Rastafari is viewed as being a sort of re-awakening of ancient livities, and not a continuation of the Judeo-Christian tradition. There is little known information on this worldview, apart from a keynote address of Mutabaruka given at the occasion of the Seventh Interdisciplinary Congress of the Society of Caribbean Research in July 2001, at the University of Vienna, published in the anthology "Rastafari, a universal philosophy in the third millenium" (Zips (ed.) 2006). I hope my thesis can contribute to the Caribbean academic community by



showing the diversity which can exist among Rastafaris.

Thomas Rognmo  
Post-graduate student  
Department of Religious Studies  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
University of Tromsø

The SHP encourages you to view the exhibition *Making Tracks: The Story of Jamaican Athletics* presently being shown at the National Library. It showcases Jamaica's track achievements from 1948 to the present through the use of photographs, newspapers, books, audiovisuals and sporting memorabilia.

The recently concluded Olympic Games in Beijing, China emphasize Jamaica's prowess in the track arena and there is no denying that Jamaica outperformed its small geographic size. However it is undeniable that these accomplishments are over 60 years in the making. *Making Tracks* captures the development of our track athletes throughout all these

Interview with Dr.  
Kenneth Ingram on  
Wednesday, April 18, 2007  
by Jessica Lewis: part two

*Q. I am sure you can remember so what do you think are some of the most prized items in the collection?*

A. I find that very hard to answer and I can't remember them all, because I have examined almost all the items certainly in the manuscript field, I tried to think. Well, what I would say is, I could mention two that come to my mind. And one is the John Taylor Manuscript, which I think is very interesting and wonder if anything has come of the publication. Is it going to be published? It has been in gestation for so long?

*JL. I have seen it advertised in the press catalogue but it is yet to go to print.*

KI: But it will go to print. That goes back to the whole period of the NLJ virtually. But I think that is an interesting work. The fact that it has been singled out for printing, for publishing I think that's an indication gives some index of its importance. The other item, but it is not a single item. I would say if I was going to be locked away and not see another thing, I would like to have the extensive collection of Frank Cundall. Because I think that would give some of the most basic information on the building of that collection. So I would put the Frank Cundall correspondence. I think it covers can't remember the exact dates. It doesn't start exactly at the beginning of his appointment. Somewhat later, a little later up to 1937, and it runs into something like 17 volumes I believe of his correspondence. And it's a rich source of information on the National Library itself. Those are the two items that come to my mind. I am sure that there are other items as interesting and valuable.

*Q. Back to your passion for the collection and its preservation. This is manifested in your various publications and the legacy continues in the use of "Ingram's list" in the conservation policy at the NLJ. It is neither of your publications, this is a typed list of recommended manuscripts for conservation by you, which is still in use. How can we try to instill this passion in the generations that will be responsible for the security and preservation of NLJ?*

A. I don't think I can answer that obviously, I think an interest in conservation is closely aligned to an interest in the Historical record as a source of history. And I think perhaps you can stimulate an interest in our history, and particularly not just in our oral history although that is very important too. But in the historical, the written material record as a source of history then perhaps you can generate some interest in conserving that record because you know it is the source. I don't know if I can really answer that question. Conservation is not a subject that you can go out and hope that you can inspire a whole team of young people. They have to use the material, they would have to appreciate the material. Otherwise it becomes a remote and theoretical concern. And I imagine even for many librarians. They have to see the link. Or any kind of research for that matter.

*Q. I think the digital age is making us removed from the written record. Things are born digital and less tangible. Many countries are in the process or have recently built new national libraries- some critics believed that these are obsolete temples. What are your feelings on this?*

A. I don't agree at all, I don't agree at all and it's not that I lack appreciation of the information technology and though I am not *au fait* with it as if I were younger and in the middle of it. I can use a computer and I do use search engines to get information. And with all the proposed Google recording of all the Bodleian Library, all the material that is out of copyright. I think it's wonderful. But it will never replace a book as far as I go. I can't sit at a computer screen and read reams and reams of text, without being absolutely weary and without feeling the need to look back or go backwards. The first thing I want to do is to do a print out or an extract of it. And to look at this is relation to something else. And I couldn't do that without the technology. But the technology could never replace the importance and the value of the looking at the printed text. To compare printed text. I don't buy that agreement. And it's not because I underrate the importance of technology. Indeed I welcome it.

*Q. The underlying principle however is that national libraries are not showing their worth. They are not showing that they are worthy of government funding. Mr. Bandara wrote about National Library vs. University Library and proposed that perhaps the national collection could be merged with the West Indies collection at the university and there would not be a dual dispersion of funds. Thus the heritage would be preserved under the university umbrella. How do you feel about that?*

A. Well I have to try and disengage emotionally, in answering that. I think under different circumstances that might have been applicable; had there not been a WIRL, and hadn't the university (UWI henceforth) come along as it did and started a West

Indies Collection. But given the fact that WIRL and its rich collection was there and had been started long long before the UWI, and given the fact the University would have needed and does need to have research material at hand. The people using UWI are not always going to want to come down to WIRL it doesn't mean that WIRL is not being used after all the university element is one important element, but not the only one. There are lots of researchers outside of the UWI who need to consult West Indian Research material. I would have said that there would have been a strong argument for that if you are thinking of national libraries outside the strictly local national library. The British library is not just material relating only to Britain. It is a vast, universal collection. But if we were collecting outside this field and building collection, outside the field of West Indian, Caribbean and Africana and building up collections in history and literature, then we would need to cooperate and say let the UWI collect this sort of material. I don't think this can be applied to the restrictive confines of the NJL which is basically Jamaica, West Indies, Caribbean and related areas, Africa, slavery and so forth. I don't think at this stage it would be a justification for merging the two collections or ceasing one. And as I say University needs are always not the same as National Library user's needs in the proper sense in which National Library users should be considered. If I am not going over too far. I am not an elitist by any means as I have indicated, but I do think that when it comes to letting school children use the National Library, I have never been in favour of that. And whatever may be the particular circumstances in Jamaica, we may be not wealthy and we have a lot of educational and social problems

to cope with that perhaps Britain and France and Germany don't have. But whatever there may be, there are ways in which we can sort of modify. That if the National Library knows that a particular subject is being taught in a school. Then arrangements could be made, to photocopy certain types of material- after all, they don't need to have the whole national collection- and make it available to the schools. I don't think it is wise, to turn it into a sixth form or any other library for essay writing. That's my view. But I say let it be open to every serious user. Let everyone who wants to use it fill out a form and say what it is they are doing and why they want to use it. And the National Library should have the duty and the power to assess that application. So I hope I haven't strayed too far off the point.

*JL. I see the difference you are trying to make.*

A. The difference in approach to usage. And again, university libraries are not bound to open their doors to any and everybody. The National Library is bound to open itself to any serious user and the University library may do so.

*Q. I am on my last set of questions, I am going to ask you to turn your mind back to NACOLADS. As a member of the committee of NACOLADS, the National Council on Libraries, Archives and Documentations Services, you were a part of the formulation of the plan to development the NL. Why at that time was it necessary of the WIRL collection to be the nucleus of a new National Library?*

A. How did this whole idea come about?

*JL. Yes*



A. As far as I recall there had been, some agitation for a National Library, when the Jamaica Library Association was formed that was one of the first organizations outing for it. In 1972, there was the Prime Minister's Exploratory Committee on the Arts of which I think Henry Fowler at the time was the first Chairman. And that also saw the need for a National Library. The fact that we were a newly independent country and that perhaps fact the WIRL was too exclusive and to meet the new social and cultural expression.

*Q. The NACOLADS plan defined the new NLJ's functions as to serve:*

- *As the Storehouse of National Memory*
- *To quicken the national search for self identity and political awareness*
- *To stimulate and assist through the provision of essential information materials and services, the search for new solutions, to satisfy national aspirations and for the need for social and economic reconstruction.*

*The first two are straightforward but could you clarify the last one?*

A. I can't say what was exactly in their minds of the formulators. But I imagine to my mind there were some peripheral considerations. I suppose, the first thing was the creation of the audiovisual archive and the proposed national musical collections, because music in Jamaica is very closely associated with Jamaican concepts of culture. Those were probably two things that were probably not collected in the old WIRL. It was felt it was too much confined to the conventional books, maps, manuscripts and it was felt perhaps that we needed to widen

the horizons. And one of the first committees created was a committee called a "Cultural Committee", and perhaps one of the areas in this new, sort of cultural thrust would have been in the exhibitions. I don't see it affecting the basic thrust and policies of any library at that time, you still had to collect books, you still had to collect manuscripts and that basic collection was at the core of the National library. But there were other aspects- music, audiovisual records, publication, catalogues and exhibitions. The exhibitions themselves showed an interest in awakening social consciousness in Jamaica. Some of those early exhibitions, I remember there was one on Libraries and Literature, Religion in the History of Jamaica, I remember one on Marcus Garvey, so that sort of emphasis was there and indeed ....I have a story and I don't know if I am perhaps wise in telling this story. I know some of the new thinking was very critical. For instance there was a historical gallery on what is now the ground floor of the national library. There was a feeling that this was, you know, that this was old colonial history and relics and why wasn't the whole floor devoted to Marcus Garvey? And at the time, there was an area devoted to Marcus Garvey. But the fact is that the collection cleared out eventually and most of it ended up in the basement of the IOJ. The floor is necessary now I know. The feeling was that the floor space was being used for historic relics and we ought to be focusing on modern things such as Marcus Garvey. It was actually said that the whole thing should have been a Marcus Garvey Museum! And the fact is that wasn't enough material to fill whole floor. If there was indeed enough material then that might have been a justification. Sometimes there is a little

exaggerated talk behind some of that, perhaps. I am not saying entirely.

*JL. It does seem like a lot of words. I understand what you mean now though.*

A. New aspects and forms of information. Obviously music was a neglected area. But there wasn't really that much to collect prior to 1960s.

*Q. Mr. Ingram, I am on my last question, I would like to know as a bibliographer and knowing the collection, what would be your recommendations for further bibliographic work in the collection of NLJ or West Indiana on a whole?*

A. I would like to ask. What happened with the Jamaica National Bibliography? Does it still come out?

*JL. Yes it does, however not since 1998. A retrospective compilation up to 2002 is being worked on now.*

A. So I would say that is one area. What about the National Bibliographic Database (NBD) of which there was so much talk? The IDRC project, the idea to bring into one database. Wasn't the idea to do a database of not only the collections of the National Library of Jamaica but other collections in the country?

*JL. That is true. I believe that through the distribution of CDSIS software it was hoped that users would deposit their records. I see the database, but I am not sure what is happening with it.*

A. So I would say that if anybody asked me about a bibliographic development given the fact that you have a start there, that is another area. And what about the AIRS, the index of the Gleaner, isn't that something that

would be very useful to and not unfamiliar to the National Library of Jamaica. I think I have answered your question to some extent. But after all what is bibliography but the organized searching to expose information for the user. I would like to see someone continue the work on manuscripts though I think I have covered most of the manuscripts if not all. And there would have been new acquisitions. I hope that somebody would follow that up, you know. I would hope that the work wouldn't just end there. The plantation maps were covered by Professor Higman, in a publication don't know how complete, still it's a useful beginning. So I would say that the documenting the material that you have there. And bringing up to date the National Bibliographic database. And you have the catalogue of the West India Reference library which is published and that also needs to be updated. I would say that the documenting of the material that you have there and bringing up to date things like the NBD. And the JNB also needs to be updated, I can't think of anything novel, but I am sure there are other things from a more bibliographic point of view. I hope I answered to some extent, some of the concerns you have in mind. And perhaps triggered a little bit thought in you as to where, how you might look forward.

*JL. Thank you very much Mr. Ingram.*

A. I am very grateful and I very glad to do anything I can do to help the cause of librarianship and the National library and you too Miss Lewis, you've been so pleasant.

**THE SOCIAL  
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NEWSLETTER**

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