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*West Indiana & Special Collections Division at  
the Alma Jordan Library*

*University of the West Indies,  
St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago*

*Prepared by Kathleen Helenese Paul*

*Head, West Indiana Special Collections*

# ***INTRODUCTION***

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WISC is a collection of materials in all formats that have been written or produced by or about West Indians, as well as those materials published or produced on any subject in the West Indies or the Diaspora. It includes also all publications by The UWI St. Augustine faculty and staff.

Special Collections are unpublished source materials (personal papers, archival materials and manuscripts) as well as books and other special items such as first day cover stamps and postcards.

The Collections vary in size and importance and are subject to special conditions regarding access and use. This section also includes the Rare Books Collection.

# ***INTRODUCTION***

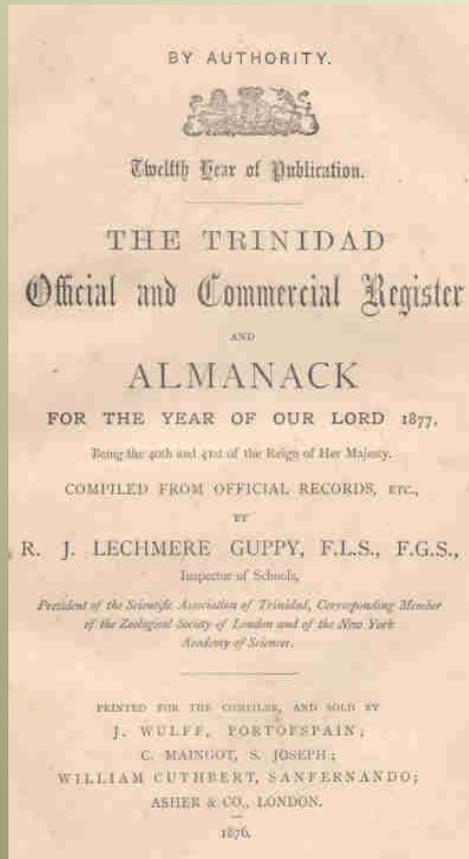
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**There are many varieties of research material in the Division.**

**These include:**

- Almanacs
- Newspapers
- Oral History Tapes and Transcripts
- Maps
- Photographs

# TRINIDAD ALMANACS



The almanac contains historical notes, agricultural forecasts, civil establishment, astronomical and navigational data, regulations governing indentured immigrants, a record of births and deaths and other factual and statistical information. Library Holdings date back to the mid-19th century.

# NEWSPAPERS

The newspaper collection consists of both print and microfilm, as well as the daily newspapers.

The microfilm collection includes:

- Catholic News, from 1892
  - Trinidad Guardian, from 1917
- out of print newspapers such as,
- Port of Spain Gazette, from 1825,
  - San Fernando Gazette, from 1850,
  - Tobago Chronicle 1839,
  - Hindu Maha Sabha 1940-1941,
  - Evening News, from 1951.



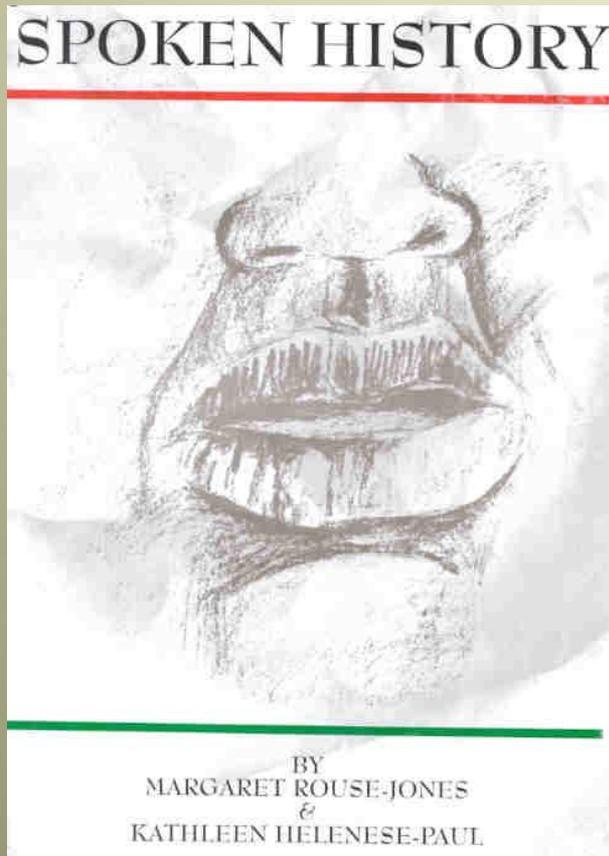
# ***NEWSPAPERS***

- Newspapers in print include:
- Action (1965)
- Caroni News (1966)
- Nation (1958)
- Sun (1977)
- Moko (1968)
- Democrat (1959)



# ***THE ORAL AND PICTORIAL RECORDS PROGRAMME (OPREP)***

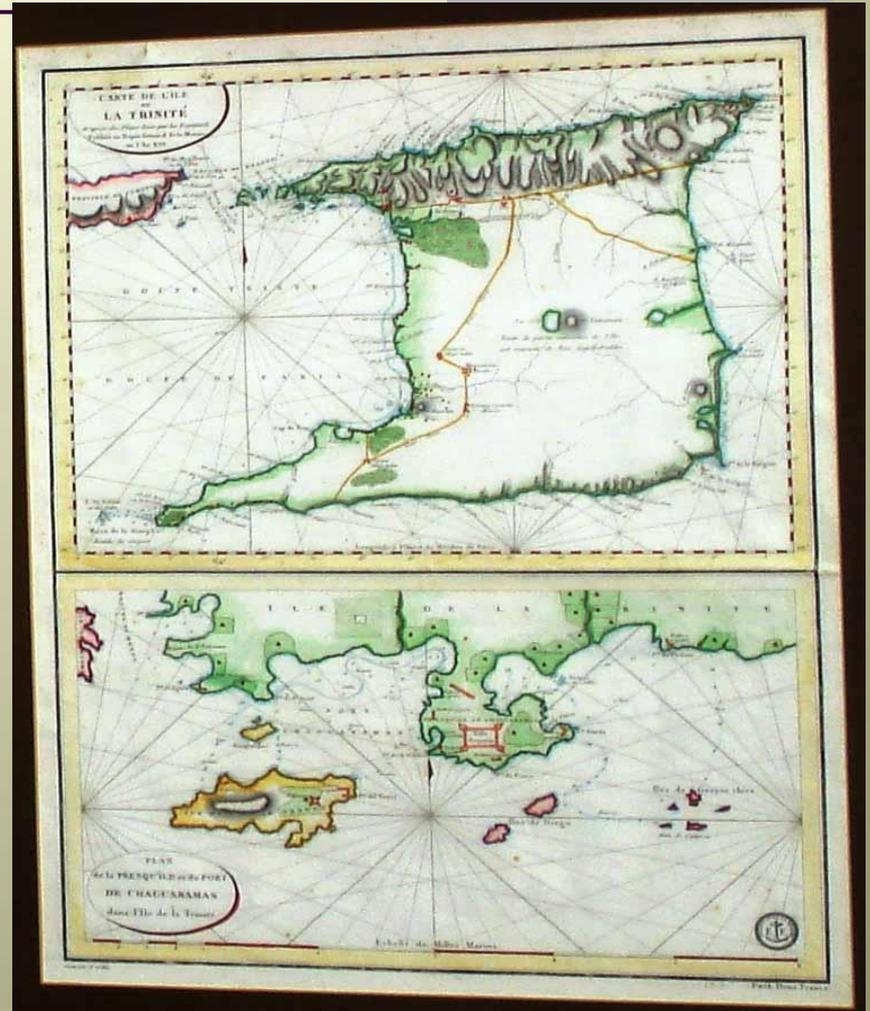
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- The OPREP programme was established in 1981 to gather historical data on Trinidad and Tobago.
- Interviews are conducted with persons who have created history or who witnessed important events.
- The programme also aims to collect photographs of historical interest and to identify other repositories/researchers in oral history relevant to Trinidad and Tobago.
- Publications of the OPReP Newsletter accompany this programme.

# MAPS

There is an extensive collection of Caribbean maps dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. These encompass geographical, demographic, topographical, historical, and electoral.



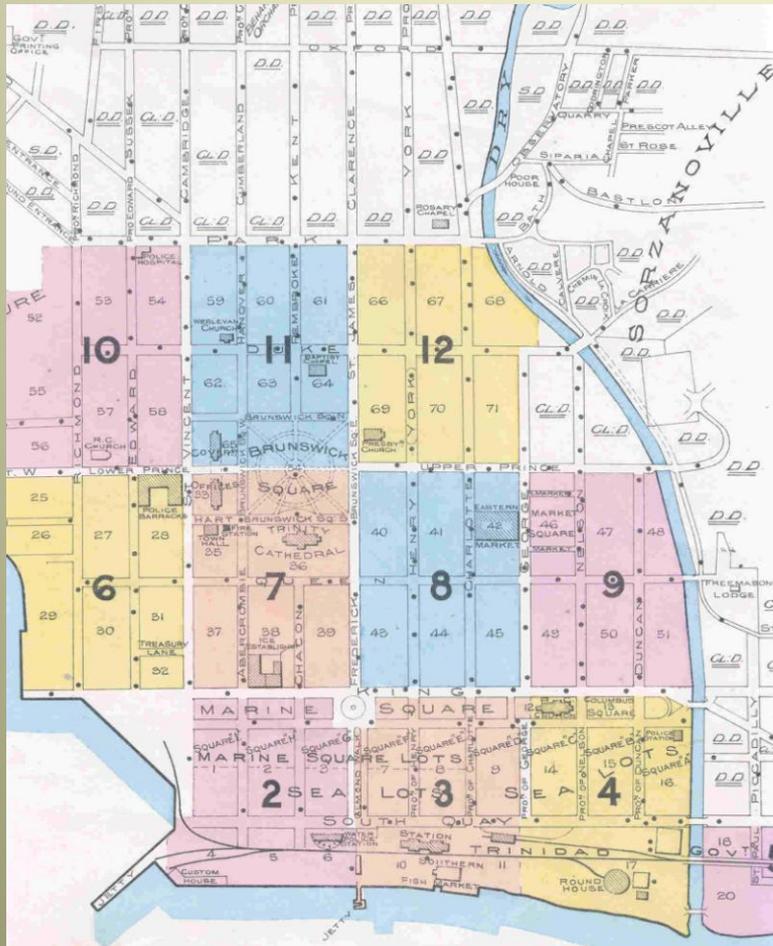
# ***PHOTOGRAPHS***

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- The photograph archives number approximately two thousand (2000) images. This is in addition to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (I.C.T.A.) and other albums, such as the St. Joseph, Port of Spain and East Indian albums.
- The focus of the collection is mainly The University of the West Indies and general history of Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean.

Illustrative materials include Carlisle Chang and Walcott originals, Cazabon and other prints.

# INSURANCE MAPS



- These are very detailed fire insurance maps of the city of Port-of-Spain, surveyed in 1895.
- They include information such as Building type and material, Lot lines, Use (dwelling, church etc.).
- It also gives information on the Fire Brigade establishment and water supply and distribution.
- There is a wealth of information to be gleaned from these maps regarding urban development.

# ***SPECIAL COLLECTIONS***

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- The Division houses approximately 95 special collections. The list can be viewed on the library's web page  
<http://www.mainlib.uwi.tt/specialcollections/weblist.htm#1>
- Summaries of some of the collections have been done by the Special Collections Librarian.
- New additions are catalogued. Guides and inventories are available in the Division upon request.
- Three of our prized collections are the Derek Walcott Collection, the Eric Williams Memorial Collection and the C.L. R. James Collection.

# ***DEREK WALCOTT***

- The Derek Walcott collection was acquired over the periods 1983, 1988 and 1993.
- It includes a substantial collection of manuscripts of plays, poems, sketchbooks, photographs, correspondence, music scores, reel-to-reel tapes, paintings and drafts and illustrations of his extended poem *Omeros*, (1992).
- The collection was named to the Memory of the World International Register in 1997.
- The collection is inventoried and is also entered in a database.



# ***ERIC WILLIAMS MEMORIAL COLLECTION***

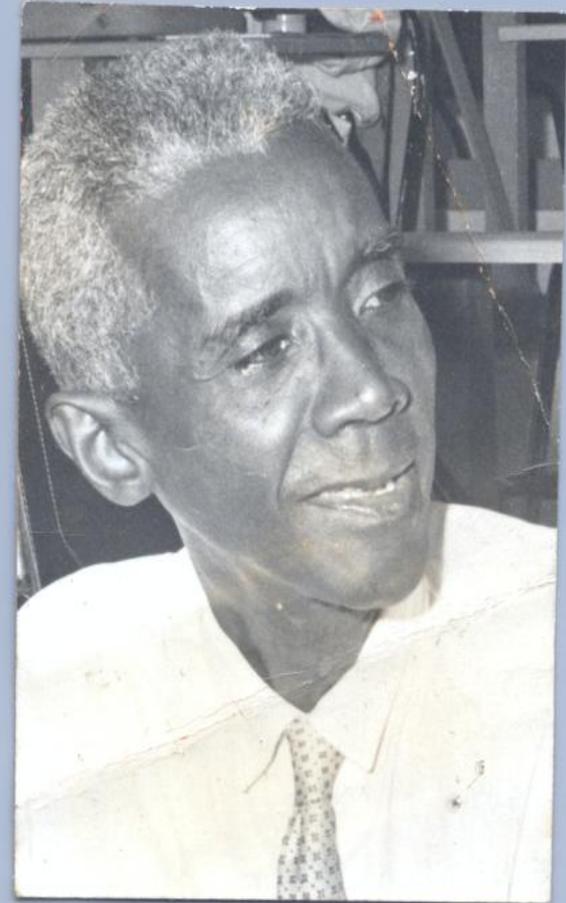
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- The Eric Williams Heritage is of worldwide significance since it documents the life and times of Dr. Eric Williams, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago international statesman and esteemed scholar, during the period 1956-1981.
- The material depicts various aspects of Dr. Williams' life and his contribution to Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean region and the world.
- It was named to the UNESCO's Memory of the World International Register in 1999

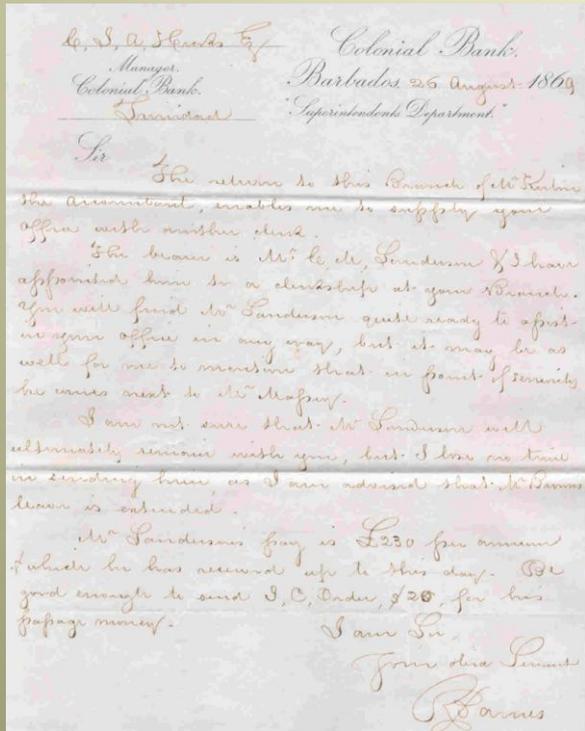
[http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/1999/eng/trinidad\\_williams/intro.html](http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/1999/eng/trinidad_williams/intro.html)

# *C.L.R. JAMES*

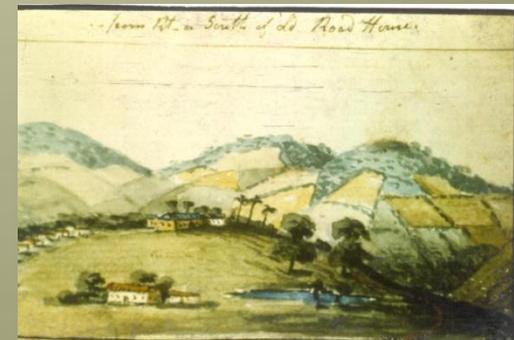
- A Caribbean intellectual, C.L.R. James made significant contributions in the fields of sport criticism, Caribbean history, literary criticism, Pan African politics and Marxist theory. His writings on race and on black rebellion turned James into an international icon of black radicalism and black nationalism. Text to add and image



# DIGITAL COLLECTIONS



A major role of the Campus Libraries at St. Augustine is producing and making accessible electronic archives of unique Caribbean primary resources of enduring scholarly interest. This first E-archive project focused on the digitization of the Colonial Bank Correspondence, 1837-1885 and the Sir William Young Diaries, 1897-1815.



# ***E-ARCHIVES***

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Digitization the Libraries' Special Collections began in 2002.

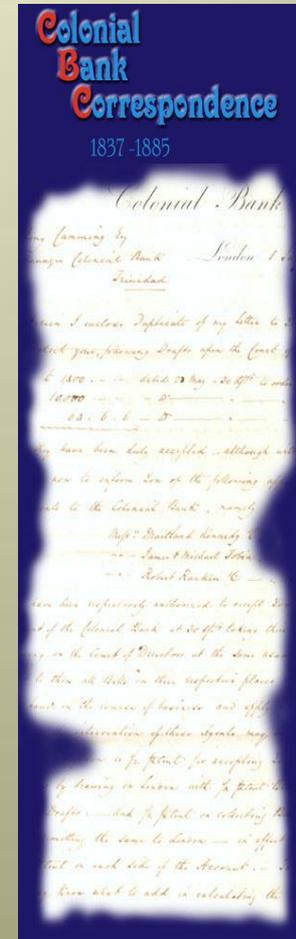
The archive can be searched at

<http://uwispace.sta.uwi.edu/dspace/handle/2139/10>.

Among the collections available are the abstracts of the UWI theses and the Michael Goldberg collection.

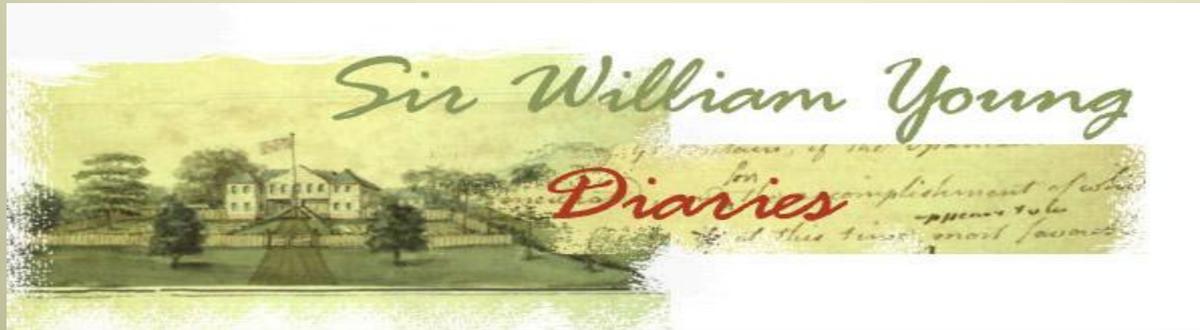
# **COLONIAL BANK TRINIDAD & TOBAGO - THE COLONIAL BANK CORRESPONDENCE 1837-1885**

- The collection of letters consists of the incoming correspondence to the Colonial Bank in Trinidad from its inception in 1837 to 1885.
- It comprises a total of 1848 items, the majority of which are letters from the Court of Directors in London to the Manager in Trinidad.
- The correspondence affords an insight into the economic and social history of Trinidad, the banking needs of the sugar planters and the precarious nature of sugar production in the nineteenth century.



# ***SIR WILLIAM YOUNG DIARIES, 1807-1815***

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Sir William Young was governor of Tobago, 1807-1815. A collection of his memoranda, accounts, invoices, and other documents relating to his properties, and his historical, statistical, and descriptive account of the island of Tobago in his diaries provide valuable primary source material for research into the era. The works are well illustrated with watercolour sketches and maps done by Sir William Young himself.

# ***CARINDEX***

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- CARINDEX forms part of a larger indexing programme of the St. Augustine Campus Libraries, which aims to bring the published output of the region's journal and report literature under full bibliographic control.
- **CARINDEX: Social Sciences and Humanities** is a guide to the Social Sciences and Humanities literature published in the English-speaking Caribbean.
- Published semi-annually, it covers periodical articles, conference proceedings, reports of selected organizations and theses presented to The University of the West Indies. Works of fiction, poems and book reviews are also included.

# ***CARINDEX***

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- **CARINDEX: Science and Technology** is a guide to the literature of science, technology and agriculture, produced by researchers in the English-speaking Caribbean.
- It covers periodical articles, conference proceedings, reports of selected bodies and theses presented to The University of the West Indies. **CARINDEX** aims to make globally accessible, the published and grey literature in science, technology and agriculture from the Caribbean.

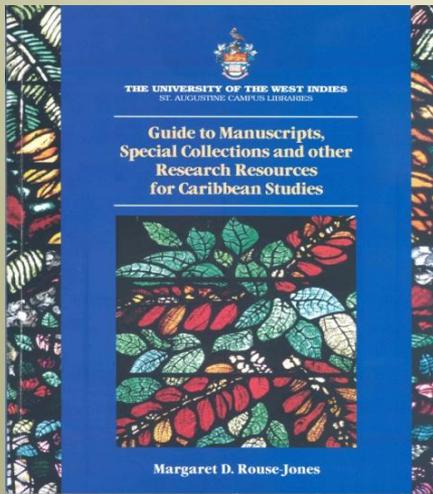
# ***ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO CARINDEX***

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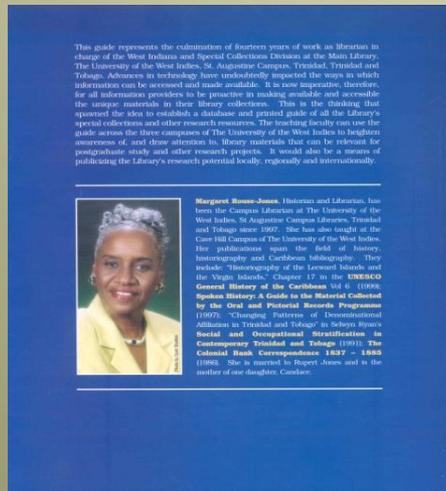
The CARINDEX bibliographic database is not currently available online but available in-house. However, it is targeted to be online by the end of 2009.

The entries represent 70 Caribbean journal titles.

# GUIDE TO MANUSCRIPTS



- In 2004, Dr. Margaret Rouse Jones, the former Campus Librarian published ‘Guide to Manuscripts and other Special Collections and other Research Resources for Caribbean Studies’. This is historic in that it is the first work that gives details of the collections.



- She was Head of the Division for 14 years and saw this as a means of publicizing the collections which she felt were not sufficiently exploited.

# ***CONTACT INFORMATION***

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- Please visit our online tutorial

at: <http://www.mainlib.uwi.tt/findinfo/tutorials/index tutorials.htm>

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