

Citation to Marcus Garvey

The Star February 3, 1988

Award

HERE is the text of the Citation to the Marcus Garvey Centenary Award for Excellence which was presented to Miss Amy Bailey, last Friday night at the Oceana Hotel. It was read by Mr. Carey Robinson, a member of the Marcus Garvey Centenary Committee in the Office of the Prime Minister..

The award was presented by Lady Bustamante, widow of National Hero, the Rt. Excellent Sir Alexander Bustamante. Marcus Garvey is Jamaica's first National hero.

"Miss Amy Bailey, O.D., O.B.E., M.B.E., J.P., humanitarian, social worker, educator and agitator. A champion for women's rights, advocate for the Family Planning Association and stalwart for racial equality.

Miss Bailey was born on November 7, 1895, in the parish of Manchester. She is fifth of eight children born to Mr. and Mrs W.F. Bailey.

Sacrificial service

She attended the Mt. Olivet School and the Shortwood Teachers' College from which she graduated in 1917, and began her first teaching job in 1919 at the Kingston Technical High School, and remained there until her retirement in 1958.

Miss Amy has always been obsessed with what she terms, the development of the inner-self. Teaching for her, has never been merely imparting knowledge, for she saw her students as whole individuals with a life and future of their own.

Of the profession, she believes teaching is a sacrificial service to one's fellowmen and that the returns should not be quantified in terms of dollars and cents but also in the satisfaction of such service to

the progress of nation building.

One of Miss Amy's most outstanding achievements is her pioneering the entry of technical school students into the Civil Service in 1938. Her decisive and bold plea to the then Governor, Sir Edward Denham, bore fruit two weeks later when the Governor announced his decision to allow technical students to sit the Civil Service examinations.

Fight against racism

In 1945, she founded with great self-sacrifice, the Housecraft Training Centre for unemployed teenage girls. With £100 sterling from her £105 sterling savings, she made a deposit on the property which was to house the centre.

As Founder of the Women's Liberal Club, Miss Amy was one of the leading figures in the struggle to attain equal recognition for women in public life.

Miss Bailey was also active in the fight against racism in Jamaica. Through her "not wanted articles" to the *Public Opinion*, and interviews with many business leaders, she was instrumental in the elimination of racism in the work arena.

As a social worker, Miss Amy served many organizations including the Jamaica Save the Children Fund. It was while on her business trip to England for the fund that she met Marcus Mosiah Garvey. Though not a Garveyite, Miss Amy was a supporter of his ideals and in fact, her Housecraft Centre was a meeting house for the U.N.I.A.

In 1971, Miss Amy received the Order of Distinction. Through her dedication, principled upbringing and adherence to her parents philosophies, she confronted and conquered what she perceived to be obstacles to Jamaica's development.

In recognition of her hard work and dedication, she is now the recipient of the prestigious Marcus Garvey Award for Excellence in this the year of his centenary."



-JIS photo

"HOW ARE YOU?": The Rt. Rev. Neville DeSouza (left), Anglican Bishop of Jamaica greets Miss Amy Bailey recipient of the Marcus Garvey Award for Excellence shortly before a dinner in her honour at the Oceana Hotel, downtown Kingston last Friday night. Miss Bailey is a retired teacher of 39 years standing and a social worker who founded the well-known Housecraft Training Centre for teenage girls. At right is the Rev. Fr. Louis Grenier.