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Marriott home after work on 'W. Indian Athlete'

Mr. Alvin Marriott, famous Jamaican sculptor returned to the island, on Sunday, after a 10-month stay in England, working on a statue of a West Indian athlete to be placed in front of the National Stadium now under construction.

He will undertake a commission from the Federal Government almost immediately to do a special "decoration for the new secretarial building of the world meteorological Office in Geneva."

This will take the form of a medium low table, the top of which may be taken up with a carving of The West Indies

coat-of-arms, says a Press release.

Writing to Alvin Marriott from Federal House, R.O. Jordan of the Federal Ministry of Communication and Works, said that the Director of the Institute of Jamaica had recommended that the top might be made of Jamaica Serge Island Marble in which event the West Indies' coat-of-arms could be carved on one or more side panels of the table.

During his work on the statue for the national stadium, Mr. Marriott said he received valuable assistance from British Guianese former athlete Ivan Mayers, who used to run with McDonald Bailey and others. Mayers posed for him and thus helped him to reproduce faithfully even the sinews of the athlete. Towards the end, Jamaican Arthur Wint had himself come to the studio and posed, thus helping to put the proper finishing touches to the statue.

Mr. Marriott revealed that he had received encouragement and help from some of Britain's greatest artists — among them Feibrush, the famous painter who had commissions from all over the United Kingdom for massive murals for various cathedrals.

Feibrush had expressed appreciation of the statue and of Mr. Marriott's ability to cope with it, since its 45 degree angle made its execution particularly difficult. Another great artist, John Hutton who specialized in glass engraving, had loaned Marriott studios in St. John's Wood, famous art centre.

Exhibition in England

There is to be an exhibition of his last work of Mr. Marriott's in England early next year, and the company engaged to cast the statue in aluminium, Messrs. Morris Singer & Company, had arranged to finish their work a month or so ahead of schedule in order to permit the exhibition. This exhibition will be another bit of advertisement for the ninth Central American and Caribbean Games in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Marriott said that the Hon. Garnet Gordon, Trade Commissioner in London for the West Indies, had attended a champagne party thrown by Mr. John Taylor of the firm making the medallions for the games and had become so enthusiastic about the statue that he had suggested the exhibition. Mr. Taylor himself had been a regular visitor to the studio and had showered the finished statue with champagne at the party.

Mr. Marriott said he would concentrate first on finishing the U.C.W.I. commission to complete the ceiling of the chapel there and then he would prepare an exhibition of his works and then undertake any other commissions pending.

Shortly before returning to Jamaica Mr. Marriott visited Rome, Florence, and Paris where he saw works of the great masters.

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