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ROBERTS, Walter Adolphe

Walter Adolphe Roberts was born in ~~Kingston~~^{Kingston,} Jamaica, October 1886.

He was the son of Adolphus S. Roberts, a clergyman and penkeeper, and Josephine Napier.

At the age of 16 he became a reporter on the Daily Gleaner.

He went to New York shortly before he was eighteen and did newspaper work for several years both in New York and San Francisco.

Early in 1914 he went to Paris and was war correspondent in France for the Bryn Daily Eagle until 1917 when he was recalled to the United States to come as assistant foreign editor of that paper.

After the war he was editor of Ainslie's Magazine (1918-21) Hearst's International (1922) Metropolitan Magazine (1923) The American Parade (1925) and various other New York magazines.

He started writing seriously in 1930, adopting as his special field history, politics and literature of the Caribbean region.

Mr. Roberts concerned himself also with the history of the French in Louisiana.

In 1941 he was awarded the Silver Musgrave Medal of the Institute of Jamaica in recognition of his achievements in literature. In 1950 he received the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Order of Merit from the Cuban government in connection with his works

The Single Star, and The Caribbean

A Gold Musgrave Medal - the highest award which can be made by the Institute of Jamaica - was given to Mr. Roberts in 1954 in recognition of his "notable contributions in the fields of History and Literature" and finally in 1961 he received the Order of the British Empire.

In 1936 he founded the Jamaica Progressive League of New York, to work for government for Jamaica, and established the League in Kingston in 1937.

He returned to reside permanently in Kingston in 1949, where he lectured for Extra-Mural Department of the University, and was general editor of the Pioneer

He died in London on September 13th, 1962 at the age of 76.

At his death Mr. Roberts had 25 published titles to his credit and was working his autobiography - These Many Years, and an anthology of the English-speaking Caribbean.

He wrote novels, biographies, travel books and poetry. One poem, The Cat, is well known as is his book "Sir Henry Morgan - buccaneer & governor" 1933, and his narrative history, The Caribbean: the story of our sea of destiny. 1940