

## ● HISTORIAN AND POET

Sir Philip is a historian who is interested in the movement of man through the history of ideas and technology, and the way in which these things affect the human mind and environment. As a writer of Jamaican history, he is a pioneer in the field. He was influenced by Marcus Garvey who was one of the first to preach that black Jamaicans had a proud history. Sir Philip has subsequently written several books dealing with different aspects of Jamaican history, and edited Anansi folktales.

As a poet, Sir Philip was revolutionary too; he wrote of Jamaican themes and Jamaican scenes, not only the beauty of foreign lands that Jamaicans had grown accustomed to reading about. He wrote of slaves and trees and of the people he loves so much.

He has been broadcaster, journalist, administrator, educationist, writer-historian and also legislator. As a public servant, he was for seven years Member of the Legislative Council, receiving the C.B.E. in the 1952 Coronation Honours. The Legislative Council described him as a person of 'sympathy' with a quiet and pleasant manner. He knew how to calm troubled waters.

Sir Philip Sherlock was born on February 25, 1902. He is the son of the Rev. Terrence Sherlock, Methodist Minister, and his wife, now deceased. He hails from a family who has contributed significantly to Jamaica's development — his brothers Frank and Hugh, and his sister Alma. He and his wife Grace have three children. He has been the recipient of several awards and honours — C.B.E., K.B.E. and was one of the first three Jamaicans to become Fellow of the Institute of Jamaica in 1979 — the other being the Hon. Edna Manley, and Mr. C.L.R. James, the Trinidadian author.

After his tenure as Vice Chancellor of the U.W.I. he continued working at his goals, one of which was to see the Caribbean united. As Founder and Secretary-General of the Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes (U.N.I.C.A.), he attempted to find a common ground for communication among the peoples involved.

He gave up the post in 1980, but has devoted himself to fund-raising for UNICA and other causes.

Sir Philip does not seem to have aged. Witty, urbane, and with a piercing intelligence he continues to serve the region. Earlier this year, for example, he accepted the Jamaican Government's request to head a Task Force to consider the effects of the new Education Cess on Jamaican students of U.W.I. and the College of Arts, Science and Technology.

It is a tribute to his courage, objectivity and sympathy that the Report of his committee and the recommendations have been accepted by the Government, and appear to have stilled what was becoming a most explosive and long-drawn out issue.

Those who have been taught by Sir Philip, and those who have worked with him, cannot have failed to have been affected for good by the kindly and fatherly interest which he showed and meant.

He is indeed the prototype of the Caribbean man, one who is ideal for all our seasons!

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF JAMAICA