

B/W
Sherlock
Philip

The Gleaner

Sir Philip Sherlock

SIR PHILIP Sherlock, who died yesterday, has been a towering figure in Jamaican life for several decades. Educator, historian, social worker, poet and philosopher, his multifaceted talent, from which he contributed generously to the enrichment of the nation, made him a truly great Jamaican.

One of the two distinguished sons of a Methodist Minister of religion (his brother was the late Rev. Hugh Sherlock O.J. another patriot) Philip Sherlock lived a life of scholarship throughout his many days.

His exemplary public service began in the schoolroom when, after graduating from Calabar High School, he started a teaching career: first at his old school and later at the prestigious Wolmer's Boys' School where he was headmaster.

But Philip Sherlock was not destined to confine his tremendous talent to the classroom. He soon found another outlet for his intellect when he took on the challenge of running the Institute of Jamaica, the island's cultural centre, and thereby establish himself as a cultural icon.

His crowning achievement – indeed, his monument – is the University of the West Indies which he worked with passionate zeal to establish and which he guided with dedication and distinction for many years as its illustrious Vice Chancellor.

A knighthood from the British Monarch was a deserved reward for a lifetime of service to his country in the pursuit of excellence. National honours and international recognition also decorated his career.

His life has now ended at the grand old age of 98. A proud nation honours his passing.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF JAMAICA