

From: 25th Anniversary
Pub. Norman
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(1994)

Education, Social and Cultural Development 1992

SIR PHILIP MANDERSON SHERLOCK, O.M., the 1992 awardee, is a giant among men and a legend in his lifetime. His contribution to the educational, social and cultural development of Jamaica has been truly outstanding.

Sir Philip's bibliography provides an impressive list of books, essays, articles, papers and other publications. Of the 64 items held by the National Library of Jamaica, 18 deal with history, 20 with education, 18 with culture and the others with social and general issues. He published a number of readers for young children as well as drama, poetry and Anansi stories and folk tales.

He was just 17 when he took up teaching as a career at Calabar High School and by the time he left in 1927, writing on his own, had passed two degree exams, the B.A. General in first division and the B. A. Honours first class. He then became Headmaster of Manchester High School.

In 1932 he became Headmaster of Wolmer's Boys School. He was only the second Jamaican to hold that post and at 30, was the island's youngest Headmaster.

After twenty years of teaching Sir Philip became the first Jamaican Secretary of the Institute of Jamaica in 1938. His years at the Institute were characterized by his intense desire to bring the Institution to the service of the educational needs of Jamaica. Among his achievements was the revival and development of the Science Programme under curatorship of C. Bernard Lewis the development of plans for a new building to house a lecture hall, art gallery, science museum and archives the opening of the



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Junior Centre at East Street in 1940 and a centre in Half Way Tree in 1941; and a scheme for higher education to include the teaching of English, History, Economics and Latin.

As one member of the Institute the late H.A. Lake commented of Sir Sherlock's deep interest and concern about every aspect of the work: "his enthusiasm embraced any branch of the work, whether it be art, music, natural history, the archives, lectures, science - every aspect received the keenest and most enthusiastic attention of the Secretary."

Among his many experiments Sir Philip describes as "the biggest courses in education" he ever took, his tenure as Education Officer with Jamaica Welfare Limited, a philanthropic organization he joined in 1945 on the invitation of the late Norman Washington Manley. He was able to observe ways in which grassroots-leaderships could help to build the country.

When Sir Philip Sherlock succeeded Sir Arthur Lewis as Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies in 1964, he brought with him several years of service to an institution that he had served since the time of its inception in 1948. He had been the first Director of Extra Mural Studies, Vice Principal and Acting Principal of the University College of the West Indies as it was prior to 1962. He was the founding Principal of the new campus at St Augustine, Trinidad which set up the new faculty of Engineering and trans-

formed and incorporated the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.

He also brought to the University a strong commitment to the cultural development of the Caribbean, to the study and writing of Caribbean History from a Caribbean perspective, and to the identification and analysis of those features of Jamaican life, that give no unique meaning within the framework of an evolving universal civilization. He also brought with him a conviction that the democratic process was inseparable from creative and original expression in all areas of personal and educational development.

Sherlock was part of that school of thought that opposed the notion of the University as an outpost of Empire, and his work there elevated the process of Caribbeanization.

The conceptualization and establishment of the Creative Arts Centre came out of his understanding of the role of the Arts in the formation of civilized societies. After his retirement in 1969 Sir Philip formulated the creation of the Caribbean Universities and Research Institute that embraced Tertiary Institutions in the Non-Anglophone Caribbean, the Virgin Islands and the University of Guyana. Sir Philip Sherlock has been a catalyst and proselytizer who brings about change without chaos. He has been the educator and educational administrator par excellence and the University of the West Indies stands as one of his lasting monuments.



Norman Manley - Man of the People