Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica

Part One - Books & Pamphlets
Introduction

Cannabis Sativa, commonly called marijuana is an “herbaceous annual plant that is cultivated or grows wild in most tropical and temperate regions of the world” (Lowe & Morrison 1). It is one of man’s oldest cultivated non-food plants and is cultivated for three main reasons: hemp fiber from its stem, oil from its seeds and the psychoactive substances from its flowering tops (Comitas 3). Ganja as it is popularly called in Jamaica is, however, illegal in many countries including Jamaica where it should not be cultivated, reaped nor smoked.

Use in Jamaica

The relationship between Ganja and Jamaica is very strong and therefore the subject of many controversial and heated arguments. Jamaica’s history with ganja is officially noted as starting in the 19th century when Indian indentured immigrants came to Jamaica and popularized its use. It is used in Jamaica for medicinal, folk and cultural/religious reasons. In folk medicine ganja may be brewed or soaked in white rum and is believed to remedy asthma. Ganja assumed a cultural/religious significance in Jamaica through its use in the indigenous Rastafari “religion” where it is smoked and regarded as the “holy herb.” It also has a close link to music and is almost as synonymous to reggae as Rastafarians. In the scientific arena medical preparations have been developed locally by Prof. Manley West and Dr. Albert Lockhart for the treatment of glaucoma and asthma. Doctors Henry Lowe and Errol Morrison are also lead researchers in the medical use of ganja.

Legal Status

Though popularly used in Jamaica, cultivated and exported; the consumption and sale of ganja has been illegal since 1913. With calls for its legalization, the government of Jamaica in 1977 set up a joint select committee to consider the criminality, legislation, uses, abuses and possible medicinal properties of ganja and to make appropriate recommendations. This committee did not recommend legalization but suggest that the law should be amended for decriminalization of personal use (Report on the National Commission on Ganja 2). It also proposed that marijuana be lawfully used for medical purposes. Again in 2000 a National Commission on ganja was formed, headed by Professor Barry Chevannes, to carry out a comprehensive review of the issues surrounding ganja. The commission also recommended decriminalization but its recommendation was never implemented.

World trend indicates gradual softening of laws on ganja. In addition the voices of law reformers have been getting louder. The legalization debate was brought to the forefront in January 2014 when the US state of Colorado legalised the use of marijuana. Concerns are being raised that Jamaica might lose out on the economic benefits that could be derived from the
commercial production of marijuana because of the reluctance of the Jamaican government to
decriminalize. Presently the government has announced that it is actively seeking to reform
Jamaica’s ganja laws.

**Literature on Ganja**

It is against this background that the National Library of Jamaica seeks to create a bibliography
of resources in its collection related to ganja. This will be done in TWO (2) parts; part one lists
the books and pamphlets available and part two exposes numerous selected articles. It is our
hope that researchers and the general public will find this bibliography helpful for researching
the social, political, medicinal and economic aspect of ganja.

In this Part ONE, the resources are organized alphabetically in section one and chronologically
in section two. Literature on ganja dates back to 1951 when Government Chemist W.L Barnett
produced *Ganja*, published by the Government Printing Office. For such a highly controversial
plant there have not been many publications; majority of the literature is to be found in
newspaper articles and other grey literature. The publications however, span medical,
economic, social and cultural outlook and most recently, in 2011 fiction, by reggae superstar
Ziggy Marley titled *Ziggy Marley’s Marijuanaman*.

Each item list the author/creator, title and publication information and the library’s call
number.
Books & Pamphlets


Pam 543.4 Ja Barnett

Beaubrun, Michael H. *The pros and cons of cannabis used in Jamaica*. Mona: U.W.I., 1971

Pam 616.863 Ja Bea

- *Cannabis or alcohol, the Jamaican experience [in Cannabis and Culture]*. The Hague: Molton Press, 1975

616.863 Can

Bilby, Kenneth. *The holy herb- notes on the background of cannabis in Jamaica*. Kingston: University of the West Indies, 1985

615.7827 Ja Bil


615.7827 Ja Cam


Pam 362.295 Ja Rep


616.863 Can

Commissiong, John W. *Ganja*. Kingston: University of the West Indies, 1978

616.863 Ja Com


178.8 WI Dra

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362.109729 Hea


306.1 Ja Dre


Pam 178.8 Ja Far


Pam 633.53 Ja Far


Pam 362. 2957 Ja For


616.89509 Ja Har


Pam 016 Ja Jam


178.8 Ja Lep


633.79 Llo

615.7827 Ja Low


615.321 Ja Jam


F Ja Mar

Nahas, Gabriel G. *Keep off the grass: a scientist’s documented account of marijuana's destructive effects*. New York: Reader’s Digest Press, 1976

615.9523962 WI Nah


Pam F WI Par


Pam 641.3 Ja Rob


616.863 WI Ros


616.863 Ja Rub


616.863 Can


616.863 Can

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616.863 Can


615.7827 Zim
Chronological List of Sources

  Pam 543.4 Ja Barnett

  178.8 Ja Lep

  Pam 633.53 Ja Far

  Pam 178.8 Ja Far

Beaubrun, Michael H. *The pros and cons of cannabis used in Jamaica*. Mona: U.W.I., 1971  
  Pam 616.863 Ja Bea

  178.8 WI Dra

  616.89509 Ja Har

  Pam F WI Par

  616.863 WI Ros

  616.863 Can

Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)


Bilby, Kenneth. *The holy herb, notes on the background of cannabis in Jamaica*. Kingston: University of the West Indies, 1985

Forsythe, Dennis. *The law against ganja in Jamaica*. Kingston: Zacka Publisher, 1993


Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)

Pam 362.295 Ja Rep


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PART II – NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

This section of the bibliography provides select articles from the two major newspapers in Jamaica; The Daily Gleaner and The Jamaica Observer. Focus was placed on these two newspapers mainly because of accessibility and ease of search. Both are current with island-wide distribution and cover a variety of angles in the literature on ganja. It is the National Library’s plan to include at a later date, articles from other newspapers such as, the now out of print, Public Opinion and Daily News. For now, this edition of the bibliography on ganja features select articles, especially those on the legality, use, and social and economic effect of ganja. Articles relating to arrests for ganja possession, ganja seizure and burning and letters to the editor were generally excluded. It is for this reason why there are so few articles prior to the year 2000 and so many in the twenty first century.

In locating articles, searches were done for the term “ganja” and “marijuana” in the Gleaner online newspaper archive from 1834. Many of the articles prior to the 1950s were unclear and scattered. Online searches were done for the Jamaica Observer, which began publication in 1993. However, this did not return many useful articles therefore manual searches from the year 2000 to 2013 were done. Both newspapers are comprehensive in tracking local and international developments on ganja. Therefore, our selection of articles did not exclude international news.

The turn of the twenty-first century saw acceleration in the number of articles on ganja. This may be a result of the National Commission on ganja, 2000, which explored the idea of decriminalizing ganja. Public interest on the topic was high with many using the newspapers to express their views. As developments regarding ganja were increasingly turning towards decriminalisation, greater number of articles appeared in the local papers. This shift is obvious when compared to decades like the 1970s and 1980s when many of the articles were on efforts to clamp down on the ganja trade.

Entries are divided into two main sections according to the title of the newspaper and are arranged chronologically. The list is not exhaustive.

Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)
The Daily Gleaner

Up to 1950s
Will amend law on ganja. The Friday Gleaner, 7 November. 1913: 2.

50£ Ganja fines in the Spanish TN. RM. Court. The Friday Gleaner, 1 July. 1932: 13.

Sullivan, Margaret. Portland declares war on ganja. The Tuesday Gleaner, 11 September. 1934:16.

At the Belle Castle anti ganja meeting, The Friday Gleaner, 14 September. 1934: 19.

McKay, Edna G. The ganja menace. (Letter to the Editor) The Thursday Gleaner, 30 November. 1939: 3.


1950s
The leaf of death. The Sunday Gleaner, 23 April. 1950:3.

Ganja smoking at the mental hospital. The Saturday Gleaner, 1 July 1950:3


Johns, Vere. We must stamp out ganja. The Monday Gleaner, 1 June. 1951:1.


The menace in our midst. The Sunday Gleaner, 17 June. 1951:1


Court ruling on ganja possession. The Tuesday Gleaner, 25 March. 1952:5.


Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)

Is ganja really a dangerous drug? The Sunday Gleaner, 16 November. 1958:1


Ganja puzzle. The Wednesday Gleaner, 26 November. 1958:3

1960s

150,000 ganja plants found at Roswell. The Thursday Gleaner, 7 July. 1960:3.

Heavier penalties planned for ganja. The Tuesday Gleaner, 1 November. 1960:7.

House passes law amendment stiffening ganja penalties. The Friday Gleaner, 6 January. 1961:1

A slander on Jamaicans. The Tuesday Gleaner, 10 January. 1961:3.


Wins appeal against ganja conviction. The Tuesday Gleaner, 14 February. 1961:5.


United Nations told of new smuggling technique... dope from Jamaica. The Saturday Gleaner, 8 July. 1961:5.


See no reason to disturb ganja conviction. The Tuesday Gleaner, 19 September. 1961:9

Police destroys ganja plants in Rosewell. The Wednesday Gleaner, 13 June. 1962:9

Drive in St. James against ganja. The Friday Gleaner, 6 July. 1962:8.


Prime Minister asks people's aid in clean-up. The Sunday Gleaner, 17 April. 1963:8

Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)
Government launches campaign to wipe out ‘this evil and dangerous drug’. The Sunday Gleaner, 17 April. 1963:5


52,000 plants destroyed in Buff Bay area. The Monday Gleaner, 29 April. 1963:8.

The curse of ganja. The Tuesday Gleaner, 30 April. 1963:5.


Anti-ganja plan drafted. The Friday Gleaner, 10 May. 1963:7.


Ganja bill gets first reading. The Wednesday Gleaner, 4 December. 1963:5.


Senate gets bill today. The Friday Gleaner, 7 February. 1964:6.

Senate debating ganja bill. The Saturday Gleaner, 8 February. 1964:5.


Ganja bill back in house today. The Tuesday Gleaner, 18 February. 1964:1.


Use of ganja does not cause people to commit crime. The Wednesday Gleaner, 6 January. 1965:3.

Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)

Davis, Allan. **Jailed for ganja possession.** The Monday Gleaner, 8 November. 1965:3.

**No Indian weed.** The Thursday Gleaner, 23 June. 1966:3.


Wassermann, Ursula. **West Africa’s drug-takers.** The Sunday Gleaner, 6 November. 1966:3.


**More and more Americans turning to ganja.** The Friday Gleaner, 15 December. 1967:3.

Gregory, Colin. **Of this and that.** The Monday Gleaner, 3 July. 1968:1.


**Ganja does not include male of species cannabis sativa, court decides.** The Saturday Gleaner, 28 June. 1969

**Ganja is ganja, say Justice Parnell.** The Wednesday Gleaner, 6 August. 1969:18.


1970s

**Farm labour scheme –a channel for ganja to the United States.** The Thursday Gleaner, 22 January. 1970:5.


**A panel on youth and ganja.** The Sunday Gleaner, 1 March. 1970:5.

Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)


Killing ganja. The Tuesday Gleaner, 7 April. 1970:5.

Ample evidence to support verdict- Court finds 3 came from US ganja –buying enterprise. The Saturday Gleaner, 1 August. 1970:2.

Gambling, guns and ganja. The Saturday Gleaner, 12 September. 1970:5.

Children are being used to push ganja here, says prime minister. The Thursday Gleaner, 4 February. 1971:2.


$115,384 United Nation project to find natural enemies of ganja. The Tuesday Gleaner, 9 May. 1971:1.


Smith, Sharon. Indictment of ganja. The Wednesday Gleaner, 21 March, 1979:8


Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)
1980s


Ganja intrigue. The Sunday Gleaner, 13 April. 1980:3.


Morris, S.M. Ganja drug traffic, legalize it then tax it. 3 March. 1985:2.


Williams, Lloyd. State of the illegal ganja industry in Jamaica. The Tuesday Gleaner, 23 August. 1988:


1990s


Seitter, R. No to legalizing ganja in Germany. The Monday Gleaner, 2 March. 1992:3.


Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)
Wint, Carl. The ganja debate- Jamaicans must know the implications. The Sunday Gleaner, 27 October. 1996:8A.

Zadie, Neufville. Ganja finds sets off security alert. The Friday Gleaner, 19 March. 1996:1A


2000s

Increase in heart attacks risk after smoking pot. The Friday Gleaner, 3 March. 2000:3.


Local professors challenge ganja theory. The Friday Gleaner, 5 January. 2001:3.


Lampart, Ronald. Slavery all over again. The Sunday Gleaner, 12 August. 2001:7G.


Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)
Anthony Gomes. **Flawed arguments for cannabis use.** The Saturday Gleaner, September 15, 2001. (A4)


National Commission on Ganja...**Views against decriminalization.** The Friday Gleaner, 21 September. 2001:A2.


Ho Lung, Richard. **Ganja: we will regret it.** The Friday Gleaner, 11 January. 2002:B7.

**Medics ok ganja- UK experts pave way for ease in law.** The Saturday Gleaner, 16 March. 2002:2.


Anderson, Glenda. **Ganja still a burning issue in JA.** The Sunday Gleaner, 14 July. 2002:1A.

Daley, Veron. **Ganja studies likely- committee to push for research centre.** The Wednesday Gleaner, 17 July. 2002:A2.

Lampart, R.G. **Marijuana: the bitter truth.** The Friday Gleaner, 26 July. 2002:B16.

Reuters. **Canada’s ganja activists plan home delivery.** The Friday Gleaner, 20 December. 2002:A6.


Associated Press. **Ganja on sale in Dutch pharmacies.** The Tuesday Gleaner, 2 September. 2003:1A.

Thompson, Eulalee. **Ganja RX.** The Wednesday Gleaner, 10 September. 2003:C1.

Associated Press. **Supreme Court clears way for patients to use marijuana.** The Wednesday Gleaner, 15 October. 2003:B12.


Rattray, Garth. **For your highs only.** The Tuesday Gleaner, 2 December. 2003:A4.


Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)


Simpson, Trudy. 180,000 ganja users in Jamaica. The Tuesday Gleaner, 3 May. 2005:1A.


Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)


Smith, Stephen. Attitudes to ganja should be reviewed. The Tuesday Gleaner, 15 January. 2008:A6.


2010-

Campbell, Howard. Land of wood, water and a lot less weed. The Sunday Gleaner, 10 October. 2010:A3.


Was ganja commission high on optimism? The Wednesday Gleaner, 29 August. 2012:A5

Virtue, Erica. Ganja must run in prison! No lighting up! The Sunday Gleaner, October 14, 2012. (A5)


Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)


JA could benefit from medicinal ganja. The Friday Gleaner, 9 August. 2013:12.


St. Vincent PM wants regional governments to discuss legalizing Marijuana. The Tuesday Gleaner, September 10, 2013. (D5)


Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)
Haughton, Andre. **Much to gain from legalizing ganja.** The Wednesday Gleaner, 12 February. 2014:A6.

**Westmoreland ganja farmers to launch own association.** The Friday Gleaner, 14 February. 2014:A4.


**Decriminalisation of ganja long overdue-JLP.** The Tuesday Gleaner, 25 February. 2014:A2


McCoy, Ed. **Argue for ganja law knowledgeably.** The Tuesday Gleaner, 4 March. 2014:A8.

Associated Press. **CARICOM leaders to debate marijuana legalization.** The Monday Gleaner, 10 March. 2014:D3.


**Task force sees bright future for ganja industry.** The Tuesday Gleaner, 8 April. 2014:A4.


King, Andrew. **Don’t miss the marijuana boat.** The Thursday Gleaner, 24 April. 2014:A8.

Serju, Christopher. **Ganja decision should not be based on votes.** The Monday Gleaner, 11 August. 2014:B1.

Silvera, Janet. **Caribbean told to proceed with caution on ganja decriminalization.** The Saturday Gleaner, 20 September. 2014:1A.

Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)


**Jamaica Observer**

**2000**


*Chevannes to head ganja commission*. The Sunday Observer, 1 October. 2000:5.

*PM, Ganja Commission head to meet this week*. The Sunday Observer, 8 October. 2000:3.


Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)


Chevannes hopes national alliance will attend ganja hearings. The Tuesday Observer, 7 November. 2000: 4.


Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)


Don’t ignore medicinal value of ganja- Chevannes. The Tuesday Observer, 30 October. 2001:5.


Anthony Gomes. Ganja talks. The Tuesday Observer, February 24, 2004 (8)

Committee say yes to small amounts of ganja for private use. The Thursday Observer, February 26, 2004 (2)


Ganja: a Select Bibliography of Resources at the National Library of Jamaica (2015)

US Supreme Court outlaws medical use of marijuana. The Tuesday Observer, 7 June. 2005:3.


2010-


That Ganja debate in parliament. The Sunday Observer, 29 September. 2013:3D.

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