

JAMAICA Revised Edition

Volume 45: WORLD BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SERIES

Jamaica is one of a chain of islands, known as the West Indian archipelago, which encircles the Caribbean Sea and which form the uppermost points of a submerged mountain range linking North and South America. Jamaica's earliest indigenous people, the Tainos, became extinct during the period of Spanish colonial rule which was ushered in by Columbus' 'discovery' of the island in 1494. Spanish hegemony gave way in 1655 to some 300 years of British colonial rule which included nearly two centuries of plantation slavery. The country finally gained independence from Britain in 1962. Notwithstanding its relatively small area, Jamaica has made some notable contributions in the international arena. Perhaps best known are its accomplishments in the world of sport, popular music (reggae) and in its development of distinctive forms of dance-theatre and folk-music in concert. Throughout the island's history, but particularly in the 20th century, Jamaicans have emigrated in substantial numbers in search of employment and economic advancement. As a result, a sizeable Jamaican diaspora exists throughout the world but especially in Britain, the United States, Canada, Costa Rica and Cuba.

This select, annotated, multi-disciplinary bibliography, aimed principally at English-language readers, deals with every aspect of Jamaica's history and culture from its prehistory to the structural adjustment programmes and economic liberalization policies of the 1990s. It seeks to draw attention to those characteristics, qualities and events which distinguish Jamaica as a country and account for its particular contribution to world history. Fully revised and updated, this new edition contains some 1,180 annotated entries covering books, articles and periodicals, with an emphasis on contemporary material. The volume provides a key reference source on Jamaica for the general reader, the researcher, the tourist and the business person alike.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

K. E. Ingram is a retired Jamaican librarian who has had some fifty-five years' association with collections of primary and secondary source materials for the history of the West Indies, and particularly Jamaica. He has served as Librarian of the West India Reference Library of the Institute of Jamaica (which subsequently became the National Library of Jamaica) and as University Librarian of the University of the West Indies. Moreover, he has been a consultant to a number of libraries in the United States in the field of Caribbean bibliography and is the author of three guides to manuscript sources for the history of Jamaica and the West Indies, as well as a number of other publications in the fields of historical studies and professional librarianship.

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