

B/N - DOUGLAS, Daphne

DAPHNE ROWENA DOUGLAS

MS Pitt., FLA.

- For services in the field of
Library and Information Science

Miss Daphne Rowena Douglas, recently appointed to the chair of Library Studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona, has served with distinction in the field of Library and Information Science.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Edson Douglas, Miss Douglas showed early/of intellectual vigour. Her early /signs education was at St. Hilda's High School, Brown's Town and Sutherland Commercial School, St. Andrew. Her professional education began in 1954 with a Jamaica Government Scholarship to the Eastern Caribbean Regional Library School, Trinidad, where she completed requirements for election as an Associate of the Library Association, (ALA) of the United Kingdom. In 1957/8, a Jamaica Library Service scholarship took her to Leeds College of Commerce School of Librarianship, England, which led to her election as a Fellow of the Library Association (FLA). Later she was awarded a three month Unesco fellowship to the Danish School of Librarianship (Aug.-Nov. 1968) to pursue studies in library education. In 1974 she attained the Master of Library Science degree (MLS) from the University of Pittsburg where her Outstanding work culminated in her election to membership of the International Library Service Honor Society, Beta Phi Mu.

Miss Douglas' distinguished career in the field of librarianship has been marked by academic excellence coupled with natural drive. She entered the Civil Service in 1944, and following the establishment of the Jamaica Library Service in 1949, was attracted to the profession of librarianship then being promoted in Jamaica. This led to her first professional qualification and her appointment as Librarian in the Colonial Secretariat (1951-1956). *In 1956 she joined the Jamaica Library Service as cataloguer and because of her significant performance was seconded to the Library of the Institute of Jamaica as Chief Librarian (1961-1963), and to the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations as Librarian/Registrar (1963-1964).

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On her return to the Jamaica Library Service she was posted to the St. James Parish Library as Regional Librarian (1964-1969), and subsequently transferred to JLS Headquarters where she served in a number of capacities viz, training Officer, Head of Schools Section and as Principal Librarian. On the establishment of the Department of Library Studies, University of the West Indies, she was appointed a lecturer in 1971, then Head of the Department from 1976 to 1980 and from 1982 to date.

Miss Douglas' natural gift as a teacher and her interest in the promotion of the profession were demonstrated from early days when as a member of the Jamaica Library Association team, she voluntarily coached students for the Library Association examinations. A dynamic member of the Jamaica Library Association she served on the Executive, as Chairman of the Education Working Party for many years and as President in 1977.

It is therefore not surprising that Miss Douglas has taken an active part in the development of the regional Association of the University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) culminating in her being President - Elect for 1984-5.

She has also contributed to the field of librarianship at an international level having participated in international meetings and conferences and having undertaken special assignments for Unesco and the OAS.

At the national level Miss Douglas was appointed to the National Council on Libraries, Archives and Documentation Services, (NACOLADS) in 1976 and has served with dedication and commitment. She has been Chairman of the Automation Working Party, a member of the Policy and Planning Committee and from 1981 Vice-Chairman of NACOLADS.

Her sustained and outstanding contribution to cultural development in Jamaica in the field of Librarianship was officially acknowledged in 1980 when she was awarded the Centenary Medal of the Institute of Jamaica.

Her dedication to the advancement of the Profession is indicated by the research projects she has undertaken and out of which useful publications have emanated.

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Included among these is a paper on the Department of Library Studies, University of the West Indies, Mona, published in the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science. A pioneer in examining the feasibility of automating library systems in Jamaica, Miss Douglas has published a document entitled The Automation of Regional Bibliographies and the Question of Standardization.

She has recently conducted a study on public documents and non-conventional materials in the English-speaking Caribbean, on behalf of Unesco and is currently spear heading the development of curriculum and teaching materials for a programme for Regional User Training Seminars in the Caribbean also for Unesco.

The Library profession in Jamaica welcomes this opportunity to salute Miss Douglas on this well-deserved appointment and wishes her continued success and happiness.

Miss Douglas is recognized as an excellent teacher especially in the area of Cataloguing and Classification. Over the years her interest in the welfare of the students has won her their affection and esteem.

R.L.J.
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