

## TRIBUTE

### **K. E. Ingram, O.D., M. Phil., B.A., F.L.A., D. Litt. (Hon.)**

As many of you would have heard, Mr. K.E. Ingram, O.D., one of Jamaica's and the Caribbean's most distinguished librarians and an Honorary Member of LIAJA died this morning (October 23, 2007). A founding member of the then Jamaica Library Association, he served as the first Honorary Secretary (1950 – 53) and over the years held other positions including that of President (1956 and 1972). He was the chairman of the organizing committee of the JLA's landmark conference Libraries and the Challenge of Change in 1972. Active on the regional scene, he served as President of ACURIL in 1976.

Most of his professional career was spent at the UWI Library where he worked for 30 years before retiring in 1981 as University Librarian, a position he held for 10 years. So outstanding, however, was his contribution to the entire library profession in Jamaica that when he retired, the UWI Library, the National Library, the JLA and NACOLADS all joined together to host a function in his honour.

Mr. Ingram had special links with the National Library and its predecessor the West India Reference Library as he worked in the latter library in the 1940s where he developed his great interest in West Indian bibliography. In 1979 he became a founding member of the National Library Board of Management and served with great distinction until 1999 when he retired.

The Institute of Jamaica, in its Citation awarding him a Gold Musgrave Medal in 1986, noted that, "as outstanding as was his career as Librarian, it is as a bibliographer that K.E. Ingram has distinguished himself and has left a permanent record of his accomplishments. He has had a life-long quest to identify record and whenever possible obtain for Jamaica copies of primary source materials on our history held by repositories overseas. He has compiled a number of guides which are indispensable tools to researchers and other persons interested in the history of the region. Through his painstaking research in countless libraries and archives chiefly in North America and the United Kingdom, hitherto unknown or inaccessible materials have come to light".

The Citation continued – "Scholarly, witty and urbane, K.E. Ingram is also a poet and his poems have appeared in **Focus**, **Caribbean Quarterly** and other publications. Had he continued to write and publish poetry he might have become one of the major poets of the region. Had this happened, the field of librarianship and historical scholarship would have lost a major figure, who through his career and accomplishments has established a high standard of excellence that is difficult to surpass".

It is very appropriate that in November 2002 the University of the West Indies bestowed on this son of St. Ann an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. LIAJA is honoured to have numbered this outstanding and unassuming scholar and librarian as one of its members and acknowledges with gratitude his contribution to the library profession in Jamaica. To his widow, Mrs. Gloria Ingram, who has been by his side over the years and has been a good friend of LIAJA, we offer deepest sympathy at this time. May His Soul Rest In Peace.

**John A. Aarons**