

## Several pay floral tributes to Edna Manley

**M**EMBERS of the government, the diplomatic Corp, the Edna Manley Foundation, students, friends and members of the public paid their respects at a floral tribute at National Heroes Park, commemorating the centenary of the birth late sculptress, Edna Manley.

The ceremony was another in a series of events staged by the foundation, marking the centenary of the artist/sculptress.

With the warm sun bearing down its rays and the haunting strains of the Jamaica Military Band in the background, which played Manley's favourites, floral tributes were made by Canon Weevil Gordon who represented the governor general; deputy prime minister, Seymour Mullings; general secretary of the People's National Party (PNP) and minister of information, Senator Maxine Henry-Wilson.

Tributes were also made by son, Douglas Manley and grandson, Joseph Manley. Olivia "Babsy" Grange who represented the leader of the Opposition also made a floral tribute.

Curator and director emeritus of the National Gallery of Jamaica, Dr David Boxer, principal of the Edna Manley College of the Visual & Performing Arts, Rhema Scarlett, and art student, Kevon Archer also made tributes.

The morning's proceedings was also punctuated by Della Manley, wife of grandson, Joseph Manley, who in her usual calm manner, delivered *Ashes on the Window Sill*, reminiscent of the glowing tribute she paid to former prime minister Michael Manley, at his thanksgiving service more than two years ago.

Teacher and broadcaster, Jennifer Small, who paid tribute to Manley remembered her as a person who loved life.

"Her love of life was enough to influence the vision of a people through art," she said.

Tracing Manley's life back to birth in England and her first exhibition in London in 1928, Small noted that in present times, Manley was regarded as the unofficial "mother of Jamaican fine arts".

Students also paid tribute to Manley as was expressed in a solo by Lori Johnson, student of the Edna Manley College of the Visual & Performing Arts; Kingston College student, Dennis Hendricks, who emphatically delivered H D Carberry's *My People* and the St Hugh's High School Choir's rendition of *Hail to Jamaica*.

The Jamaica Military Band in their own tribute played the hymn *There Were Ninety and Nine*, a favourite of both Manley and her late husband and national hero, Norman Manley.



Joseph Manley, grandson of late artist and sculptress, Edna Manley, lays a wreath at his grandmother's grave yesterday morning at the floral tribute held in her honour at the National Heroes Park. The floral tribute was another in the series of activities staged by the Edna Manley Foundation to mark the centenary of her birth. On Wednesday, the Edna Manley Galleries were officially opened at the National Gallery of Jamaica.

(Photo: Michael Gordon)