

# Edna Manley dies

B/N EDNA MANLEY

Edna Manley, famed sculptress, wife and mother of two Jamaican Premiers, died in Kingston on February 10. She was two weeks short of her 87th birthday which would have fallen on February 28.

English born Mrs Manley, the widow of National Hero and Premier of pre-independent Jamaica, Norman Manley, was also the mother of Michael Manley, Prime Minister from 1972 to 1980, now leader of the opposition People's National Party (PNP) founded by his father.

Mrs Manley was also the mother of Mr Douglas Manley, a social scientist who served in Michael's cabinet.

The Manleys were married in 1921 in Britain, returning to Jamaica two years later. While Norman Manley built up his reputation as a brilliant advocate, Edna developed her own renown as a sculptress, as a patron and teacher to young artists.

She published and edited *Focus*, an anthology of short stories, poems and essays by young Jamaican writers.

Mrs Manley gave her first major international show in London, which won her rave reviews. She has been consistently praised for her work.

Probably her best known work is a piece in wood titled *Negro Aroused* done in the early 1940s and becoming the symbol of Jamaica's new awakening and social revolution after disturbances that rocked the island in 1938.

When Norman Manley and others founded the PNP in 1938, Mrs Manley came to the thick of the political process joining her husband on the hustings and until recently was regularly seen at PNP conferences and other party functions.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga expressed his sympathy to Michael Manley and other members of the family.



Market Women - Sculpture by Edna Manley.

With the concurrence of the Manley family, the Prime Minister announced that Mrs Manley would be accorded an official funeral.

In keeping with the policy stated by the Prime Minister in 1981, that wives of National Heroes should be buried beside their husbands, Mrs Manley was interred in the National Heroes Park following a service at the Kingston Parish Church last Sunday.

The Prime Minister issued a statement from Jamaica House in which he said, "The nation has lost someone who has placed her indelible stamp on the political, social and cultural life of the land which she had made her own.

"It was as a sculptress that Mrs Manley gained greatest renown, not only dominating the local scene in which she set standards of excellence, but bringing recognition and credit internationally."

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