

# Marley statue coming

National Library of Jamaica



Jamaican Prime Minister, Edward Seaga (right) bids farewell to sculptor Alvin Marriott, before Marriott's departure for London, England, to finish work on the Bob Marley statue. Looking on is Senator Olivia (Babsie) Grange, parliamentary secretary in charge of information in Seaga's office.

The statue of the late Hon. Robert Nesta Marley, O.M., internationally acclaimed reggae superstar will be unveiled during the World Youth Festival of Arts to be held in Kingston in April next year. The Festival is one of the activities to mark International Youth Year, 1985.

Work on the statue which is being executed by Sculptor Alvin Marriott is in its fourth month and is scheduled to be completed in March next year.

Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga made these announcements during the presentation of awards for the "Jamaica 21 Competition and Commissions" at Jamaica House September 14.

Mr. Seaga noted that the statue, which was started in May of this year, was now at the half-way stage and that clay modelling was scheduled to be completed by mid-December.

He observed that the sculptor "has shown his classical genius by approaching the creation of the statue in the style of Michelangelo, by doing a detailed nude of the figure and then clothing it with

drapery, leaving no room for error."

Mr. Neville Garrick is researcher and consultant to the project.

Island Records and the Bob Marley Foundation are assisting in funding.

Marriott, 81, is one of Jamaica's foremost sculptors, and a recipient of some of his country's highest honours for his works. He received both the gold and bronze Musgrave medals, and won international fame for executing statues of three of Jamaica's most famous National Heroes, Norman Manley, Marcus Garvey and Sir Alexander Bustamante.

Marriott's bust of Garvey is on permanent display in the Hall of Heroes at the OAS Headquarters in Washington, DC, and his statue of Marcus Garvey stands at St. Ann's Bay, Garvey's birthplace.

A close Marley friend and artistic director to the late Marley's Tuff Gong musical and entertainment dynasty in Jamaica, Neville Garrick is a researcher and consultant on the Marriott statue project.

The Marriott statue is

the second of Marley commissioned by the government of Jamaica. The first one was done last year by Christopher Gonzales, and was to have been unveiled at Jamaica's Celebrity Park May 11, 1983, on the second anniversary of the reggae superstar's death.

But, Prime Minister Edward Seaga cancelled the unveiling, because the prime minister said the statue did not bear sufficient resemblance to Marley, to satisfy the requirements for placing it in Celebrity Park.

The Jamaican populace was equally unhappy with the work, and

Seaga promised at the time that a new Marley statue would be commissioned.

The Marriott work will stand eight feet tall, will be cast in bronze, and will depict Marley holding a guitar — a stance in which Marley is best remembered.

Assistance with funding for the statue is being given by Island Records and the Bob Marley Foundation.

Work on the statue is now in its fourth month, and is expected to be completed by next March.