The writer of the Gleaner editorial commenting on her death implies that even in her last years Una Marson found herself isolated and unable to establish contact with the younger group of intellectuals. The editorial writer attributes this to the fact that her long absence in the United Kingdom during World War II put her out of touch with events in Jamaica and particularly so with this group who ad­geme their prominence during her absence abroad.

The facts, in my opinion, hardly bear out this view: for although Una Marson was a product of that time and underline the par­son’s daughter and schooled at Hampton—her mother was woman’s place was far in advance of many of her contemporaries. It was an early day when such were put of step with the times.

She was, for instance, an active feminist. Her friend, the German­sheer was ever heard of and
although never a racist, she, along with Dr. Harold Moody were fighting the cause of coloured people in South­ern London long before such a thing as a Race Relations Board was ever thought of.

In the late ‘20’s she branched out on her own field of publishing & brought out a monthly magazine, ‘The Cosmopolitan’. It ran for about two years and although never a financial success it broke new ground: It was the first magazine to be edited and published in Jamaica by a Jamaican woman.

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This journalistic effort was merely a fraction of the work of a broader ranging touch, Una Marson was to undertake in the years to come.

Migrating to England she soon found herself in company with Dr. Harold Moody (a member of the well known Jamaican family of that name) and his League for Coloured People. She also identified herself with the feminist movement in that country; and in 1935 was chosen to be a delegate to the 12th Congress, International Women’s Rights, held in Washington DC.

Leaving Jamaica once again she resided for many years in Washington DC where she continued writing. But as usual, the call of home was strong and she returned to Jamaica and resumed her duties with the Jamaica Save the Children Fund.

Death

But not for long. Early 1964 she accepted an invitation from the Israeli Government to go to Israel to attend a seminar at the Mount Carmel International Training Centre for Community Service at Haifa. She also attended a Women’s Peace Conference held in Jerusalem.

She went to England to spend the Christmas and New Year holidays with friends. While there she was invited to return to Israel for three months. She took up his assignment in January, in which she was awarded a British Council Research grant and paid another visit to London to make arrangements in connection with this. She returned to Haifa to complete her assignment and there fell ill.

Deciding to come home for a brief rest before returning she entered St. Joseph’s Hospital.

Her condition, however, grew worse and she died on May 5, burial taking place on 10th May at the Halfway Tree Parish Church Cemetery.

In this brief profile there is hardly space for an assessment of her considerable literary output. It was of varied quality.

Surprisingly, nothing written by her was included in the Independence Anthology of Jamaica Literature.

Una Marson was a colourful, vibrant personality who, in spite of the ill-health that plagued her for most of her adult life, dared and accomplished much. She was a pioneer in many fields.

For this, if for nothing else, she deserves to be remembered, especially at a time when the cause of women’s rights is the headline.