

## UNA MARSON

Social Worker, Poet, Playwright, Journalist and Broadcaster

Una Marson was born in St. Elizabeth in 1905 and was educated at Hampton High School. Once out of school, Marson worked with the Gleaner as a Secretary and Reporter.

In 1928 Marson broke new ground with the publication of "The Cosmopolitan", being the first woman to own and edit a magazine. This monthly magazine featured articles and poems by local writers.

By the 1930's Marson went to England and was soon associated with the League of Coloured Peoples, where she served as Assistant Secretary from 1933-35 and as editor of the magazine "Keys".

Marson's first international appearance was in 1935, where she was a delegate to the 12th Congress for International Alliance of Women in Istanbul, Turkey. Marson was the only black participant.

Marson was also associated with the Ethiopian Delegation and accompanied H.I.M. Haile Selassie to the League of Nations in Geneva, to bid for assistance after the Italian invasion.

Disillusioned with the League of Nations. Marson returned to Jamaica in 1937 and resumed her literary and social activities, forming the Readers and Writers Club, the Kingston Drama Club and the Jamaica Save the Children Fund. This fund was dedicated to the economic development of children and families. In 1930 Marson was awarded the Silver Musgrave Medal of the Institute of Jamaica.

By the end of 1938 Marson had returned to England. During the War years Marson was employed with the British Broadcasting Corporation (B.B.C.) where she produced the popular West Indian radio programme, "Calling the West Indies."

After the War, Marson returned to Jamaica and spearheaded a publishing company, the Pioneer Press, serving as its general editor from 1949-53.

For the next decade, Una Marson travelled from Washington to Israel in the quest to enhance literary societies and social conditions in communities.

While on assignment in Israel in 1965, Marson took ill. Three weeks after returning home Una Marson died at the age of 60.

## PUBLICATIONS

Tropic Reveries

Heights and Depths

The Moth and the Star

Toward the Star

Anancy Stories and Direct Verses

In addition to several children stories

## PLAYS

At What A Price

London Calling

Pocomania

National Library of Jamaica

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF JAMAICA