

B/N

Cooke, Howard Sir.

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1991 Mico gold

F. H. Sir (G.G.)  
medal recipient

**His Excellency, The Most Honourable Sir Howard Felix Hanlan Cooke, ON., CD., Governor General of Jamaica.**



Dr. Deloris Brisett, First Vice President of the Mico Old Students Association presents the Mico Gold Medal Award to Sir Howard Cooke, Governor General of Jamaica at a special banquet on Monday, December 30 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel. Winston Sill photo

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*PHO*

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**A** large group of educators thronged the Pegasus Hotel, Kingston on December 30, 1991. The occasion, the Gold Medal Award Banquet for the 1991 Mico Gold Medal recipient. The recipient, The Most Honourable Sir Howard Cooke, Governor General of Jamaica.

Founded in 1836, Mico Teachers College is an institution of higher learning. According to Mr. R. A. Shirley, principal of the College, the Mico gold medal is awarded to the person who has offered service of the highest distinction to Jamaica. This service, he noted, must include teaching. At the inception of the award 35 years ago the recipient had to teach for a minimum of six years, that has changed and now three years is mandatory. "Sir Howard gave 23 years to the teaching profession, far more than that required."

Mr. Shirley went on to stress "the recipient must have clean hands." He must have given quality service to others. His attainment and character must be impeccable. The Governor General had given service of the highest merit.

### Howard Cooke

Educator, politician, sportsman, businessman, churchman and statesman. Howard Cooke was born in Goodwill, St. James on November 13, 1915. Having received his early education at elementary and private schools, Howard Cooke entered the then Mico Training College in 1933 and though the youngest of his batch, was nominated "Senior Man"; a position he held for all three years. He was an outstanding student both academically and as a sportsman. He played cricket and football and captained the football team in his final year. In later life he gave yeoman service to both the Jamaica Football Commission as well as the Jamaica Cricket Board of Control (JCBC) of which he is a Life Member. In his final year at Mico he was awarded the Duff Memorial Prize in recognition of his good all-round performance.

He was invited to join his Alma Mater in the capacity of Junior Master shortly after his graduation. He also taught at the Mico Practising School.

**H**oward Cooke served as Headmaster at several schools: Belle Castle All-Age School in Portland, Port Antonio Upper School also in that parish as well as The Montego Bay Boy's School (now Corinaldi

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Ave., Primary School). In all three communities he became deeply involved in community and cultural activities. A vocal member of the Jamaica Union of Teachers, he has served as President of that body. His tenure as J.U.T. president was marked by a strong commitment to the promotion of education islandwide and unity within the teaching profession.

After spending 23 years in the classroom Howard Cooke entered active politics and as a representative of the parish of St. James was elected to the then Parliament of the Federation of the West Indies in 1958. He was a Member of the Jamaican Parliament from 1962 to 1980. He was elected President of the Senate in 1989 from which position he ascended to the high office of Governor-General of Jamaica in September 1991.

This multi-faceted, multi-talented Jamaican has also had a successful career as a Life Underwriter, most recently with Alico Jamaica Limited. He has always been an active churchman and is a Senior Elder and Lay Preacher of the United Church of Jamaica and Grand Cayman.

Renowned for his calm and dignified demeanour, Howard Cooke has given over 50 years of service to his country, almost half of which has been spent in the classroom. He is truly an outstanding Jamaican, a true Miconian and a gentleman who richly deserves the accolade of the 1991 Mico Gold Medal Award for outstanding service.

Sir Howard Cooke is the 35th person to receive this award. Other recipients include; the late J. J. Mills (1927) the late Sir Clifford Campbell (1963), and Dudley Thompson, Jamaican Ambassador to Nigeria (1984). Interestingly only one woman, Carmen Laffy (1986) has received the Mico Gold Medal Award. But Mr. Shirley expects this to change now that women account for 70% of the college population.

### On the cover

In photo at left Chief Justice Edward Zacca invests Howard Cooke with the insignia of the Order of the Nation. The Order of the Nation is a honour reserved for Governors-General of Jamaica. The investiture took place at the Swearing In ceremony for the new GG, at Kings House, on Thursday, August 1. In photo at left, the Governor General in the company of Mrs. Cooke (left) and others. The occasion was a banquet at Curphey place to mark the observation of the Battle of Britain.