

Silver - For Outstanding Merit in the
Field of literature & Library Development
& Historical Documentation

28/9/98

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

HAZEL ELOISE BENNETT

B/N

BENNETT, Hazel

PhD. MS (Library Science) MS (English Lit.) FLA

Born Portland, Jamaica. January 1924. Daughter of Mortimer and Catherine Gray (nee Lecky).

Institutions Attended: Shortwood Teachers' College (Jamaica), Manchester College of Technology (England), Southern Connecticut State College (USA), Columbia University (USA), Chicago University Graduate Library School (USA), Loughborough University (England)

Career: After 5+ years in the classroom, joined the staff of the Jamaica Library Service and worked there for 15 years, serving as Deputy Director for 10 years from 1957 - 1967. Qualified as a Librarian: first as an Associate of the Library Association (UK), then as a Fellow (1963). Acquired a Masters Degree in Library Science USA, (1966) a Masters Degree in English (1974) and a Doctorate in Library Science (1987).

The post of **Deputy Director, JLS**, entailed active involvement in planning and administration of the rapidly expanding island-wide public library service and schools library service, as well as in the training of library staffs to keep pace with expansion.

Joined the School of Education, University of the West Indies in 1967 as **Librarian/Documentalist** (Lecturer Level). Established the

Documentation Centre in Education at Mona, advised on **development of**

- **Teachers' College Libraries** in Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, Dominica, Antigua, St. Kitts.

Lecturer/ Senior Lecturer, Department of Library Studies, 1971 - 1988.

Head Department of Library Studies for two years, 1981-1983. In addition to lecturing, organized summer courses, advised on

restructuring of public library services in the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Prepared draft library legislation for the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Chaired the regional committee and co-ordinated the drafting, final preparation, editing and distribution of the OAS-funded 18 Modules and Lesson Plans for a **Library Technical Assistants Training Course** (1987/88). This was executed by the Department of Library Studies, with the active participation and final approval of librarians from Antigua, Aruba, the Bahamas, Barbados, The British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago and the US Virgin Islands. The modules are intended as guides for the *ad hoc* training of Library Assistants and/or the Certification of Library Technical Assistants in the countries listed above.

Twice President of the Jamaica Library Association (1962 and 1968). The 1968 Presidential address highlighted the need for a **National Library for Jamaica**. As President, also made the presentation to the University of the West Indies, on behalf of the Jamaica Library Association, for the establishment of a degree programme in Library Science at that institution.

Was actively involved in getting the support of governments of the Caribbean islands for the project.

Member of the committee that prepared recommendations for (i) the **National Council for Libraries and Documentation Services** (1973), and (ii) for a **National Information System for Jamaica** (1977).

Papers presented include *Library Resources for Research in Education in the Caribbean*. ACURIL, Puerto Rico (1971)

Libraries and Documentation in Jamaica (1972)