



THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE CIRCULAR

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The West India Committee Circular



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Leading articles

The Coronation

World leaders turned out en masse for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on 6th May. Most Caribbean nations were represented by their respective Governor Generals and Prime Ministers. Despite increased talk in the Caribbean of nations who currently have the King as head of state becoming Republics, many Prime Ministers who have expressed such sentiments were present, including Ralph Gonsalves of St. Vincent.

Also present were Dr. the Honourable Natalio D. Wheatley (Premier of the British Virgin Islands), Governor Jane Owen and Premier Wayne Panton (Cayman Islands), Acting Governor General Anya Williams, Governor and Premier Charles Washington Misick (Turks & Caicos Islands), Governor General Sir Cornelius Smith (Bahamas), Prime Minister Phillip Davis and opposition leader Michael Pintard (Bahamas), Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew and Governor General Marcella A. Liburd (St. Kitts & Nevis), Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell and Governor General Dame Cécile La Grenade (Grenada), President Dr.

Irfaan Ali (Guyana), President Luis Abinader (Dominican Republic), Governor General Sir Patrick Allen (Jamaica), Acting Governor General Errol Charles (St. Lucia) and Governor General Dame Froyla Tzalam (Belize).

In a ceremony designed to better reflect the diversity of modern Britain, the British Caribbean Community played its part, with Baroness Floella Benjamin, the former TV presenter and Liberal Democrat Peer who was born in Trinidad, holding the King's sceptre, known as the Rod of Equity and Mercy. Baroness Valeries Amos, born in Guyana, joined the Archbishop of Canterbury in the recognition at the beginning of the ceremony and the Jamaican-born Bishop of Dover, the Reverend Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin, presented the Queen Consort with her Rod.

The West India Committee was also well represented at the Ceremony, with President of the Trustees David Rankin Hunt present in his capacity as Herald, and Trustee Sir Rodney Williams in his capacity as the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Committee also contributed to the coronation ceremony itself by arranging for new flagpoles for the flags of Caribbean nations and territories displayed during the ceremony. The Committee is grateful for donations from several WIC honorary life fellows, including Richard Broyd OBE, Patrick Hungerford, Ralph Isham, James Lambert OBE, Roger Orf, Tim Spicer OBE, Thomas De Rosa, which paid for these.

In the parade following the ceremony itself, there was a strong cohort from the military and police forces of the Caribbean, representing the British Overseas territories in the region, and those Commonwealth nations that retain

the King as head of state. These included the Royal Anguilla Police Force, the Royal Montserrat Defence Force (RMDF), the Royal Bermuda Regiment, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force and the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force.

In the Caribbean itself, events to mark the occasion were held throughout the British Overseas Territories, including a 21-gun salute on Montserrat.

Windrush 75

Events took place across the country to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the *HMT Empire Windrush* on 22nd June 1948, which lent its name to the Windrush generation, the migrants from the Caribbean who came to Britain after the Second World War to help with the post-war labour shortage. The events celebrate the great contributions made by the Windrush generation to the United Kingdom over the last seven and a half decades.

Milton Keynes' Friends of the Caribbean Charity hosted a cricket match on 25th June at the Village Cricket Pavillion, which included West Indian Cricketing legends Courtney Walsh, Sir Gordon Greenidge, Devon Malcolm, Philo Wallace, Winston Davis, Chris Lewis, and Steve Stephenson, MBE. Other locations are marking the anniversary in other ways.

East Staffordshire has opted to award the freedom of the borough to several Windrush generation residents of their community. Dr Martin Warner, the Bishop of Chichester, was pleased to welcome Leon Golding, Bishop of Montego Bay, Jamaica, to his diocese during the celebrations. Bishop Golding visited several different events around Sussex, as well as delivering a sermon in Chichester Cathedral.

A Windrush 75 Concert was held at the Royal Albert Hall in London, featuring the Chineke! Orchestra and a variety of other artists, paying tribute to the contributions that the Caribbean Community has made to British Music over the last seven and a half decades. The concert was concluded by Beverly Knight and Craig David. Nearby, the Victoria and Albert Museum has run a Windrush season, with several different talks and exhibitions highlighting artists and designers associated with Windrush and exploring the impact of the Caribbean presence on art, design and culture in Britain. Meanwhile, a carnival parade was held in Brixton, notable for its large Caribbean community.

Many museums and other exhibition spaces throughout the country have also staged exhibitions highlighting the Caribbean contributions to British society and history, as well as the stories of individuals and families that settled in the local area. The Windrush flag was also flown from many different civic buildings and many NHS Trusts highlighted the contributions made by Caribbean staff in the organisation's formative years.

A reception was also held at Buckingham Palace on 14th June in commemoration of the Windrush's arrival, where the West India Committee was represented by CEO Blondel Cluff CBE. The King also attended a ceremony at St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle in commemoration of the Windrush on the anniversary itself.

The Royal Mint has produced a new 50p coin in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the *Empire Windrush* at Tilbury Docks. Designed by Valda Jackson, an artist originally from Jamaica, it depicts two black West Indians standing against a backdrop of the Union Flag. In addition to the standard

issue 50p piece, there will also be two special editions, in Gold and Silver.

However, despite the celebrations, issues still remain from the Windrush scandal, which began in 2018, and saw many of the Windrush generation prevented from accessing services, such as the NHS, and threatened with deportation due to a lack of documentation. Many of the Windrush generation affected by the Scandal have found that their claims are still being processed by the Home Office. Many have also claimed the process is too difficult, the form consisting of some 44 pages.

Notes of Interest

The Museum of London Docklands is currently staging an exhibition on Indo-Caribbean culture. Following the abolition of slavery in 1834, mass immigration to the Caribbean from India was encouraged, with the vast majority of these immigrants coming under a deed of indenture lasting between three and five years.

A new sub-sea well development project has been approved in Trinidad and Tobago. Aquaterra energy has secured a tender from BP to provide a sub-sea riser system to BP's Cypre Project off the southeast coast of Trinidad/Tobago. This system will support gas exploration in seven development wells, which are about 80m beneath the surface of the sea. Drilling is expected to commence this year.

Bacteria from the *Vibrio* genus have been found in the Caribbean sea amidst Sargassum seaweed blooms and plastic pollution. These flesh-eating bacteria consume both marine plant and animal tissues. This bacteria can be harmful to human life, especially if contaminated seafood or seawater is accidentally consumed. *Vibrio vulnificus* can also infect open wounds. Some new species of the bacteria have also been

discovered for the first time amidst samples collected from the Caribbean.

On 23rd May, the Singapore-based impact investing firm Circulate Capital launched a US\$65 million initiative aimed at reducing plastic pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean. The initiative is supported by several major corporations, including Unilever, Dow and Danone, as well as several individuals. The initiative is designed to spur the so-called circular economy by investing in companies that recycle waste into useable products.

In cricket, West Indies batsman Devon Thomas, from Antigua, has been given a provisional suspension by the International Cricket Council. Thomas has been charged with seven counts of corruption under the ICC's anti-corruption codes, relating to match-fixing and failing to report corruption.

Antigua and Barbuda have held their first restaurant week, although, in practice, the event lasted for a fortnight. Over 30 restaurants across the country took part, with fixed price menus designed to show off their specialties, as well as the nation's unique cuisine. Diners were given a Restaurant Week passport, collecting stamps from each venue at which they ate.

Approximately 20 other businesses took part in the Eat Like a Local programme, which allowed Antiguan, Barbudans and tourists to sample local dishes. Restaurant Week has proved a great success, with many international chefs also getting involved. The 'Week' culminated in a food festival at Nelson's Dockyard, which was free to access for those who had collected at least seven stamps in their Restaurant Week Passport. The event was due to be held in 2020, but was disrupted by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Barbados is expecting a “*severe influx*” of algae over the next three months, following significant amounts of Sargassum seaweed washing up on the island’s beaches. However, it is believed that the amount of algae will be less than last year. Minister of the Environment and National Beautification, Adrian Forde, has confirmed that the beaches will be cleared by manual labour so as to preserve the integrity of the beaches and protect the environment, including turtle nesting grounds.

Eleven Caribbean nations - Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Suriname, St. Kitts-Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines - have now signed the Port of Spain Commitment on Digital Integration, signalling a commitment to collective action in pursuit of sustainable digital transformation across the region.

Ms Julia Crouch has been appointed as the new Governor of the British Overseas Territory of Anguilla. A qualified solicitor, Ms Crouch has had a long career in the Civil Service, joining the Foreign Office in 2018 and most recently been posted to Moscow since 2020, serving as the Acting Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Economics and Global Issues. Ms Crouch will take up the position this summer, replacing Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam.

The Cayman Islands Monetary Authority (CIMA) is exploring legal options after the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation seized deposits held at Silicon Valley Bank’s branch in the territory.

In late May, Jamaican teachers went on strike in protest over their salaries, arising from issues with Jamaica’s public compensation review. Many teachers feel that their salaries are being

incorrectly calculated and some teachers have not apparently been paid for the last few months. Protestors argue that if these salary issues are not resolved, many teachers will be forced to migrate.

HMS Dauntless, a Type 45 Destroyer of the Royal Navy, has been sent to the Caribbean to aid in counter drug operations as well as offer support during the hurricane season. *Dauntless* will also head for Exercise Unitas and mark the 200th anniversary of the Colombian Navy. *Dauntless* has had new engines installed as part of the Power Improvement Programme, making her the most powerful Destroyer in the Navy.

Cameron Robbins, 18, of Baton Rouge Louisiana was lost at sea off the coast of Athol Island, the Bahamas on 24th May. On a trip to celebrate his graduation from High School, he and his friends were taking a boat trip at dusk, when Mr. Robbins jumped off the side of a ship for a dare. He vanished from view shortly afterwards. A massive two-day operation conducted by the Royal Bahamas Defence Force and US Coast Guard, using helicopters and surveillance aircraft, failed to find any trace of Mr. Robbins.

China and Cuba have reportedly reached an agreement that the former can establish a military training base on the island. This would mean that Chinese troops would be stationed less than 100 miles from the American mainland. It appears that the old Soviet Spy facility in Lourdes will be reopened for this purpose. This news was originally reported by the Wall Street Journal, but the American Government later said that the Journal’s information was inaccurate.

The Cayman Islands government has approved \$92 million to be spent on upgrades to the

nation's airports, including lengthening the runway to Owen Roberts International Airport. This will allow for larger, long haul planes to land, encouraging tourism from further afield. Tourism currently accounts for 25% of Caymanian GDP.

The West India Committee Report

The West India Committee has now left its offices in Whitehall Court and has switched to a remote working model. Unfortunately, this means that the Committee's library and archive is temporarily unavailable to members of the public. The Committee is seeking a suitable location to house the collection, and we look forward to welcoming visitors again as soon as possible. In the meanwhile, the Committee will still try to answer all research enquiries.

Caribbean Cookery

Jamaican Bulla

First appearing in the 19th Century, Bulla is a traditional Jamaican Cake with many different variations, but made with molasses, flour and baking soda and often spiced with nutmeg and ginger. Cheap and easy to make, it is a popular snack in Jamaica, and is often served with slices of avocado and cheese or butter.



Ingredients

360 g dark brown sugar
55g water
1 tbsp molasses or treacle
1 tbsp vanilla
1 tbsp freshly grated ginger
400g flour
1 heaped tsp baking powder
 $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp bicarbonate of soda
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp salt
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp grated nutmeg
1 tsp ground ginger
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp allspice
2 tbsp melted butter

Method

First grease and line a baking tray with baking/grease-proof paper and then preheat your oven to 200C. In a bowl, mix water, brown sugar, molasses, vanilla and grated fresh ginger.

Sift together the flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and allspice in a separate large bowl. Then mix them together thoroughly and make a well in the centre of the mixture.

Pour the thick syrup and melted butter into the well and mix together until it forms a sticky dough. Turn it out onto a well-floured board and bring the dough together by kneading gently for a few minutes. Once the dough comes together and is smooth, roll it out to about 3-4 cms thickness and cut circles out with a biscuit cutter. Take the circles and place them on the baking sheet and bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes.

Once baked, remove them from the oven and brush with melted butter and then allow to cool.

100 Years ago

The Dominican Economy, arguably the worst performing in the British West Indies following the First World War, saw notable signs of improvement, in part due to the rising market price of lime juice.

It was noted that since the USA had adopted prohibition in 1919, its sugar consumption per capita had increased significantly by almost 20 pounds.

Committee Secretary Algernon Aspinall presented a Louis XV writing desk to Princess Mary on behalf of the people of Trinidad and Tobago. The desk, made of Satinwood and Mahogany, was constructed by Trinidadian craftsmen and formed part of Princess Mary's wedding gifts from Trinidad and Tobago.

The West Indian Cricket Team arrived in Britain at the end of April for a tour, being initially greeted by excellent weather but later suffering from the coldest May on record.

The West India Committee's service bureau fielded many different questions from different individuals in Britain and the Caribbean, ranging from someone who wished to know the different climatic conditions of the various islands as he had been ordered by his doctor to visit the West Indies for his health, to someone who wished to know what firms manufactured machines to treat coconut fibres.

At its 170th half-yearly meeting of the Colonial Bank, it was reported that the corporation had £4,975,000 in liquid assets and investments, having made a net profit of £53,129 since the previous meeting.

The annual General Meeting of the West India Committee was held at the Committee Rooms

on 31st May at 3pm. Mr. Robert Rutherford, the Chairman, called for a new total membership of 3,000. It was also resolved to continue working to support the Imperial Preference and, if possible, to secure an increase in them to further reduce the duties of sugar. The report and accounts for 1922 were unanimously approved.

The epidemic of Alastrim in Antigua was successfully stamped out, and the quarantine on the island was lifted on 7th April, less than three months after it first appeared on the island. It was brought to the island by Mrs. Bartley from Dominica, who had been improperly vaccinated, and had likely been infected beforehand in any case.

A member of the Committee executive, Sir Edward Davson, was appointed Vice-chairman of the Imperial Council of Commerce.

The projections of Barbados' sugar crop were reduced in late May from 75,000 tons to under 65,000 tons, due to several months' lack of rainfall. There had also been several cane fires due to the hot and dry weather.

On 20th June, a dinner was held at the West Indian Club in honour of Mr. E.C. Eliot, the new administrator of Dominica. Mr. Eliot was an experienced civil servant, having previously served in Tobago and British Guiana, where in the latter location he had served as the secretary of the Georgetown Cricket Club.

A report was delivered to Parliament on the system of currency in the West Indies. Although they had consulted prominent businessmen and officials, they had not taken the views of the local Governments and peoples. Thus, they did not submit final recommendations for changes, but outlined the pros and cons of the current system and alternative ones.

From the Library

Trinidad Yearbook 1919

This quarter we highlight the Trinidad Yearbook 1919. The majority of the British Colonies in the Caribbean produced an annual yearbook; these contained information about the country, ranging from economic information to a list of government officials, and a directory of local businesses.

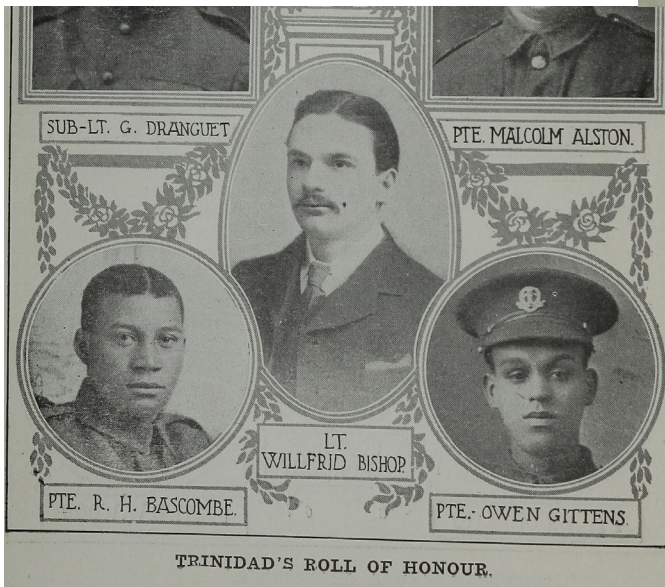
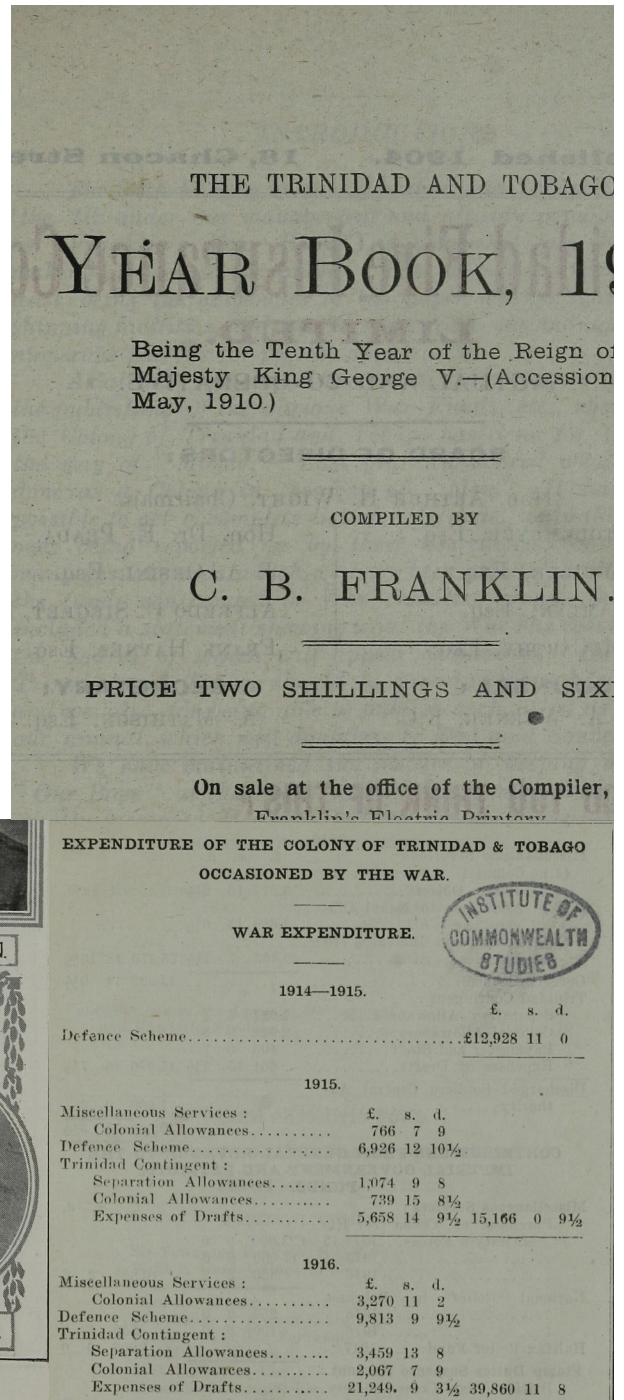
The Trinidad 1919 Yearbook is, however, unique, being the first published after the end of the First World War. It contains information about the expenditure incurred by the then colony due to the war, as well as money raised by various funds to support the war effort.

The compilers also included a Roll of Honour, featuring both photographs and short biographies of those Trinidad and Tobagoans who lost their lives whilst serving during the war, rendering it a powerful and unique record of their contributions.

The original record has been digitised and is available to view through the West India Committee Heritage Portal. The book itself will be displayed at the Museum of Wiltshire during

November, as Private Valleton Redman, who has an entry on the Roll of Honour, served with the Royal Fusiliers during the War and died on Salisbury Plain.

The Yearbook is available to view online through the Committee's Heritage portal [here](#).



THE WEST INDIA COMMITTEE

The West India Committee is a UK registered charity that works to improve the welfare of the people of the Caribbean and the societies in which they live and work, both domestically and globally. Please complete this form by hand and post it to The West India Committee, Suite 53, 4 Whitehall Court, Westminster, London, SW1A 2EL.

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Please only give us your telephone number/e-mail address if you are happy for us to contact you this way with updates about how your gifts are helping and how you can donate and help in other ways.

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Gift Aid allows us to claim back 25p of tax for every £1 you give

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