

MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

Sir William Arthur Lewis Papers

(St. Lucia)

Ref N° 2008-45

PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

1. SUMMARY

The Sir William Arthur Lewis Papers is a collection that documents Sir Arthur's career as a scholar and as an economic advisor to many international commissions, and to several African, Asian and Caribbean governments. These papers include biographical data, professional correspondence, country files, organization affiliations (minutes of meetings, reports, etc.), university positions (papers relating to governing the University of the West Indies as Vice Chancellor and other related activities in his capacity as professor), various writings (articles, lecture notes, etc.) and audio-visual materials (lecture series and the 1979 Nobel Laureate ceremony).

Sir William Arthur Lewis was a pioneer in the field of development economics and a leading authority on economic growth. His works demonstrate an interest in varied yet integrated strands in economics and policy-making ranging from an interest in economic planning in industrialized countries to an interest in economic development of developing countries and an interest in the international trading system. In 1979, he became the first Black man to be awarded an academic Nobel Prize (Economics) for his analysis of not only economic growth but also the structural transformation of the economies of Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. His construction of an innovative economic model which fused his understanding of economic history with an analysis of the forms of economic organization of the colonial economies produced a sweeping model for future economic development in what today we call the Developing World (Third World).

Sir Arthur was the founding president of the Caribbean Development Bank. He was also the author of several classic publications on economics and development economics. Among his notable achievements, he served as the United Nations Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, as the Deputy Managing Director of the United Nations Special Fund, and also as the Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies.

It should be noted that in that colonial era (circa 1940s), it was very unusual for Blacks to have achieved this level of academic performance, especially in the field of Economics. In addition, he was the first Black person to hold the position of Stanley Jevons Professor of Political Economy at the University of Manchester (United Kingdom) in 1948. This achievement was certainly a step towards breaking racial barriers.

2. DETAILS OF THE NOMINATOR

a) Name: National Archives Authority of Saint Lucia

Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated: The National Archives Authority is responsible for the preservation and conservation of archival documents of national and historical significance to the country.

Contact Person: Mrs. Margot Thomas, National Archivist

Contact details:

National Archives Authority of Saint Lucia
P.O. Box 3060
Clarke Avenue, Vigie,

Castries
Saint Lucia
Phone: 1 758 452 1654
Fax: 1 758 453 1405
Email: stlunatarch_mt@candw.lc
mariette900@yahoo.com

b) Name: Seely G. Mudd Manuscript Library

Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated: The Mudd Manuscript Library is the repository where the Sir William Arthur Lewis Papers are held. These papers were deposited there because of Sir Arthur's long tenure as Professor at Princeton University.

Contact Person: Mr. David Linke, University Archivist and Curator of Public policy Papers

Contact details:

Seely G. Mudd Manuscript Library
65 Olden Street
Princeton, NJ 08540
USA
Tel: (609) 258-6345
Fax: (609) 258-3385
Email: mudd@princeton.edu

3. IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

Name and identification details of the items being nominated

The collection is called The Sir William Arthur Lewis Papers

Provenance and Acquisition

This collection was donated by Gladys Lewis, the wife of William Arthur Lewis, in June 1992, with an addition in November 1992, to the Seely G. Mudd Manuscript Library at Princeton University.

Description

The Sir William Arthur Lewis Papers document Sir Arthur's career as a scholar and as an economic advisor. This collection consists of his professional correspondence, meeting minutes, reports, and writings. His scholarly papers include materials documenting his administrative work at the University of the West Indies and his lecture notes from his professorship at Princeton University. His advisory papers include correspondence, meeting minutes and reports, predominantly from his work in Ghana and the Caribbean.

Location

The papers are located at Princeton University Library.

Department of Rare Books and Special Collections
Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library
Public Policy Papers
Princeton, NJ 08544
USA

This collection forms part of a larger collection of the works of other leading economists.

The papers are arranged in seven (7) series.

Contents

- 1) Biographical 1939 – 1989
- 2) Correspondence 1942 – 1990
- 3) Country Files 1892 – 1989
- 4) Organization Affiliations 1946 – 1988
- 5) University Career 1947 – 1989
- 6) Writings 1936 – 1989
- 7) Audio-visual Materials 1979 – 1990

Language(s) of material

English

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from the collection must be requested from the Curator of Public Policy Papers. Any copyright vested in Sir William Arthur Lewis is retained by the donor Lady Gladys Lewis. Researchers are responsible for determining any other copyright questions.

Restrictions

Access is restricted to materials that might embarrass, damage, injure or harass living individuals and statements made by or to Sir William Arthur Lewis in confidence, for the lifetime of the donor, Lady Lewis. A portion of the biographical sketches has been closed per this agreement.

Access

The collection is open for research use, except for materials that might embarrass damage, injure or harass living individuals and statements made by or to Sir William Arthur Lewis in confidence. A portion of the biographical sketches and documents pertaining to a sexual discrimination lawsuit against the American Economic Association has been closed per this agreement with the donor, Lady Lewis, for the lifetime of the donor.

Researchers must sign a user agreement to obtain access to this collection, agreeing to abide by the restrictions to the material and to inform the Mudd Manuscript Library staff of any material in the collection that falls within this restriction.

The papers were arranged and described by Adriane Hanson and Melina Meneguín-Layeranza in 2006.

Bibliography

A full description of the documentary heritage is available at the Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University Library website (<http://www.princeton.edu/~mudd>)

4. JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION/ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA

Authenticity

When the collection was traced, it was found that all the papers were in the possession of Lady Lewis, the widow of Sir William Arthur Lewis. They were subsequently donated by Lady Lewis to the Mudd Manuscript Library in 1992.

World significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability

Sir Arthur was a pioneer in the field of development economics. His contributions to this discipline had a direct impact on the growth patterns and development strategies adopted by newly independent countries not only in the Caribbean but further afield in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Sir Arthur's major concern was how to narrow the economic gap between the economies of the aforementioned regions and those of the advanced industrialized countries. The theories and models he advanced to tackle this problem firmly established the nascent field of development economics as an integral part of the discipline of Economics. His theories were of such importance and relevance that he was awarded a Nobel Prize in the field of Economics in 1979.

Sir Arthur himself built up the collection throughout his working life. The papers under discussion remained in his custody until they were donated by his widow, Lady Lewis, to the Mudd Manuscript Library. As far as we are aware, these papers are the only collection of papers on the subject. Given the nature of these papers, they are of world significance, unique and irreplaceable.

The criteria of (a) time, (b) place, (c) people, (d) subject and theme, and (e) form and style

(a) Time

The period after the World War II witnessed not only a rapid de-colonization process in the ex-colonial territories of Europe, but also attempts at building an economic order that would facilitate post-war economic growth. This was the era, which saw the establishment of the Bretton Woods System (International Monetary Fund – IMF and the World Bank), The General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (today's World Trade Organisation – WTO), and the United States launching a massive economic assistance programme (The Marshall Plan), to resuscitate the war-ravaged economies of Western Europe. The economies of the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America were for the most part marginal to the reconstruction processes outlined above. However, it was recognized that, due in part to the geopolitical strategic calculations of the Cold War, assistance in the form of aid would support the nation-building process of the developing world.

Theories of economic development designed to engineer a growth strategy for these countries were noticeably absent. The origins of modern development economics are often traced to [Paul Rosenstein-Rodan](#), [Kurt Mandelbaum](#) and [Ragnar Nurkse](#). Their interest in the field was however restricted to a study of the likely problems with the industrialization of Eastern Europe in the aftermath of World War II. Only after the war did economists turn their concerns towards Asia, Africa and Latin America. At the heart of these studies, which centred not only on an analysis of economic growth but also on structural transformation and future economic growth in what was then called the 'Third World', are the *Structural Change Theories* associated with William Arthur Lewis.

Structural Change Theories deal with policies which focus on changing the economic structures of developing countries from being primarily comprised of subsistence agricultural practices, to being more modern, more urbanized, and more industrially diverse manufacturing and service economies. For example, Sir Arthur's *Two-sector Surplus Labour Model*, views agrarian societies as consisting of large amounts of surplus labour which can be utilized to spur the development of an urbanized industrial sector. In Puerto Rico, in the 1950s, the application of this model as a recipe for industrial development was so successful that it came to be named the *Puerto Rico Model*, a template for economic development which would be copied throughout the developing world.

The economic model developed by Sir Arthur in the 1950s reshaped the thinking of international scholars of the time and provided a new practical economic approach for governments in less

developed countries. His life and work demonstrate integration between a productive academic career, as evidenced by a voluminous collection of one hundred and twenty seven (127) pieces of written work since 1936 and his influence as an economic policy advisor. These works encompass a wide range of topics, from the arcane theory and practice of economic development; to a formula to have a more inclusive politics in West Africa; to the problems of the peasantry and labour in the Caribbean, combined with a distinguished career outside academia. From the 1950s to the 1970s Sir Arthur served as Economic Advisor to Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Ghana, as Deputy Managing Director of the United Nations Special Fund, and established the Caribbean Development Bank.

The value of his numerous publications especially, his Magnus Opus, *The Theory of Economic Growth*, demonstrates the workings of a fine mind which sought to locate the necessary non-economic, social, sociological and attitudinal components in economic growth and development. Moreover, his academic achievement was remarkable, given that he was one of the first Black persons to occupy a prominent position in the academic world where few Blacks were given opportunities in those days. To this day, his work is still being studied worldwide.

(b) Place

The Sir William Arthur Lewis Papers document the work that Sir Arthur did in the different countries, e.g. United Kingdom, Africa (Ghana, Nigeria), Sweden, United States of America (Puerto Rico) and the Caribbean, especially in Barbados where he was responsible for the establishment of the Caribbean Development Bank. Of special significance was the work that Sir Arthur undertook to unify the Caribbean countries especially after the failure of the West Indies Federation (1962). He single-handedly tried to unite the islands of the Eastern Caribbean into the “Little Eight”. (Eventually, the majority of these islands formed the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States in 1981.) He also proposed industrialization as the solution to the main constraints faced by Caribbean economies in the face of the deterioration of agriculture in the post-war era. In his book, *Industrialization of the British West Indies*, he contended that agriculture did not have the capacity to provide employment for the masses, and based on the success of his model in Puerto Rico, recommended the introduction of industrialization in an effort to complement agriculture as a means of narrowing the economic gap between the islands’ economies and those of the advanced industrialized countries.

There are two institutions named after Sir Arthur Lewis – the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC) in Saint Lucia and the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) in Jamaica.

In the case of SALCC, a committee was appointed in 1983 by the Prime Minister of Saint Lucia to make recommendations to Government on ways in which fitting tribute should be paid to Sir Arthur in honor of his achievements. In 1985, the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College was established. This is Saint Lucia’s principal tertiary institution, from which over two thousand (2000) students graduate every year. In 1993, the Government of Saint Lucia established the annual Nobel Laureate Week to honour the work of Sir Arthur Lewis and that of Derek Walcott, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992. Some of the activities include the Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Lecture and a wreath-laying ceremony at his tomb located on the campus of SALCC.

The other institution, SALISES, was established in August 1999 at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica. This was the result of a merger of the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) and the Consortium Graduate School of Social Sciences. The mission of this institution is to undertake research and graduate teaching in the areas of social and economic development policy, governance and public policy with special reference to small developing countries. SALISES also has branches on the other two campuses of the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill, Barbados and St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago). The Website address is <http://sta.uwi.edu/salises/institute>.

(c) People

Sir Arthur was born on 23rd January, 1915 in Saint Lucia. He won the sole island government scholarship in 1932 and went on to pursue the Bachelor of Commerce degree programme in 1933 at the London School of Economics. He subsequently pursued academic degrees in Economics and

taught at the Universities of Manchester in the United Kingdom and Princeton in the United States. In 1948, when he took up the position of Stanley Jevons Professor of Political Economy at the University of Manchester, he was the first Black Professor to teach at a British University. He died on 15th June 1991 in Barbados at the age of 76.

Sir Arthur was courted by Heads of Governments of many countries since he enjoyed the reputation of being the “physician to ailing economies”. His contemporaries such as, President Nkrumah of Ghana, Dr. Eric Williams of Trinidad and Tobago, Sir Grantley Adams of Barbados, Norman Manley of Jamaica and José Luis Alberto Muñoz Marín of Puerto Rico viewed him as an individual who could assist in remedying all economic ills.

(d) Subject and Theme

The main thrust of the work of Sir Arthur centred on *Development Economics* and it is for the work that he did in this area that he received the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1979.

(e) Form and Style

The documentary heritage consists of various formats. In the collection, there are hand-written and typed documents, audio-visual material, and personal documents (including but not limited to photographs, correspondence, invitations).

Rarity

Sir Arthur himself built up the collection throughout his working life. The papers under discussion remained in his custody until they were donated by his widow, Lady Lewis, to the Mudd Manuscript Library. As far as we are aware, these papers are the only collection of papers on the subject. Given the nature of these papers, they are unique and irreplaceable.

Integrity

The Sir William Arthur Lewis Papers have high integrity and constitute a complete collection which encompasses his life achievements and work in the form of manuscripts, personal correspondence, writings, awards and commendations and other related materials.

Threat and Management

The collection is well-preserved at the Seely G. Mudd Manuscript Library. The papers are arranged in archival acid-free boxes and are stored in the Library’s archival repository. There are temperature and humidity controls in place and the collection is secure from theft through electronic surveillance. The Library has a preservation policy in place for the protection of all its manuscript collections and the Sir William Arthur Lewis Papers have been guaranteed a safe home.

5. LEGAL INFORMATION

Owner of the documentary heritage

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA

Custodian of the documentary heritage

Seely G. Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University

Legal Status

The collection was officially donated to Princeton University by Lady Gladys Lewis in 1992

Category of ownership

Gift/Donation

Accessibility

The collection is opened to bona fide researchers. A portion of the biographical sketches and documents pertaining to a sexual discrimination lawsuit against the American Economic Association has been closed per this agreement with the donor, Lady Lewis, for the lifetime of the donor.

Researchers must sign a user agreement to obtain access to this collection, agreeing to abide by the restrictions to the material and to inform the Mudd Manuscript Library staff of any material in the collection that falls within this restriction.

Copyright Status

The copyright is retained by the Donor, Lady Gladys Lewis.

Responsible administration

Princeton University Library
Department of Rare Books and Special Collections
Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library
Public Policy Papers
Princeton, New Jersey 08544, USA
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Email: mudd@princeton.edu

Three (3) Referees who know about the collection

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6. MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage? YES

The collection is well preserved at the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library. The papers are arranged in archival acid-free boxes and are stored in the Library's archival repository. There are temperature and humidity controls in place and the collection is secure from theft through electronic surveillance. The Library has a preservation policy in place for the protection of all its manuscript collections and the Sir William Arthur Lewis Papers have been guaranteed a safe home.

The collection is opened to bona fide researchers. Researchers must sign a user agreement to obtain access to this collection, agreeing to abide by the restrictions to the material and to inform the Mudd Manuscript Library staff of any material in the collection that falls within this restriction.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Saint Lucia Memory of the World Committee has, since its establishment in 2006, played a pivotal role in ensuring that Saint Lucia submits a nomination on the 2008 International Memory of the World Register. In this regard, members have fully participated in the process and have pledged their full support for the submission of the Sir William Arthur Lewis Papers.

In addition, the widow of Sir Arthur Lewis, Lady Gladys Lewis, was informed of the Committee's intention; she agreed with the proposal and provided additional information as to the location of the collection.

The Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University, was also informed of the initiative. They enthusiastically gave their full support and have agreed to be co-sponsors of the nomination.

PART B – SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

7 ASSESSMENT OF RISK

8.1 Describe the risks and threats

There are no threats to this collection as it is already under protection at Princeton University.

8 ASSESSMENT OF PRESERVATION

8.1 Detail the preservation context of the nominated documentary heritage.

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PART C – LODGEMENT

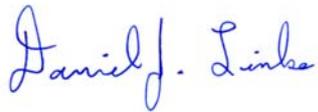
This nomination is lodged by:

National Archives Authority of Saint Lucia and the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library



(Signature 1)

10th April, 2008



(Signature 2)

16th April, 2008