



# NEWSLETTER

DEC 2008

**The Queen's College of Guyana Association (UK)**

(Registered Charity No. 801250)

No. 38



## Season's Greetings



### SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER



Members are reminded that subscriptions (£12; £5 for full-time students) fell due on 1st October last.

*UK taxpayers are kindly requested to pay their subscriptions by Gift Aid as this increases the payment to the Association by just over 28%. The method is simple – contact Ian Wishart (see last page)*

### QC STUDENT TOPS CARIBBEAN AT CSEC FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Following the examples set by Wainella Isaacs last year and Shirvanie Persaud in 2006 (see *Newsletters* 36, Dec 2007 and 34, Dec 2006), QC student **Yana-Marisa Edwards** has been declared the region's Most Outstanding Overall Candidate at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate examinations (equivalent to GCSE/O-levels) having attained grade 1 passes in 14 subject areas. (As here in the UK, it's the girls who are leading!) Paying tribute to her school, Yana-Marissa said it went beyond the ordinary curriculum. 'They teach us integrity [and] self-preservation ... takes you beyond work and into life itself.'

Other outstanding QC students who, with Yana-Marisa, will receive awards at the Caribbean Examination Council ceremony in Barbados in December are **Suruj Mattai** (best performance in Business) and **Aaron Haralsingh** (best performance in Science). Another high achiever is **Roy Permaul**, who received an award from the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute for his performance in Agricultural Science. QC students had also topped the region in 2003 (Daniel Ram) and 1999 (Amlata Persaud, who was subsequently awarded a Rhodes Scholarship while at Oxford).

At the National Awards Ceremony, **Nazana Weeks** and **Robert Mansell** won prizes for best performer at, respectively, the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) and GCE Advanced Level (which is still offered as an alternative to CAPE), while Yana-Marisa together with **Simanthani Lalaram** and **Farzana Razack** won awards as the top three CSEC performers.

And Association Member **Karl Brown** will be pleased to know that Anna Regina Secondary School, of which he was the first headmaster, ran second to QC in the prizewinning stakes.

UWI Vice-Chancellor, old boy Professor Nigel Harris, comments: 'One little concern of mine is that while QC has been the top performing school at the CSEC, I have not seen us win [regional] prizes at the CAPE level (at least not during my tenure here) – Trinidad wins most of these. I hope we can soon celebrate winners at the CAPE level too.' (Would this be because some students still take GCE A-levels?).

## SALVETE

Dr **Omar J** (formerly **Winston**) **Daniels** (QC 58–64) has re-joined the Association as a Life Member.

## VALETE

**George Allan Paliandy Armogan** (QC 50–57/8), *b.* 1.3.39, *d.* 7.3.08 in Ottawa; **Rahim Bacchus Jr** (QC 69–c.74), Attorney at Law and UWI lecturer (Cave Hill), *d.* 23.9.08 in Barbados in his 51st year; **Donald Dathorne** (QC 53/54–61/62), *d.* 8.7.08 in Toronto; **Oscar Ronald Dathorne** (QC 46–53), academic and author, *d.* 24.12.07 in Tennessee in his 73rd year; Dr **Kenneth F S King** (QC 41–48), *d.* 30.7.08 in Guyana (see obituary below).

To the bereaved relatives, the Association extends its sincerest condolences.

## OBITUARY

### DR KENNETH F STANISLAUS KING, INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT

Ken King entered Queen's in 1941 as a Centenary Exhibitioner and left in 1948 after gaining his Higher School Certificate. At school he became President of the Debating Society and Editor of the School Magazine. After a stint as a Forestry Officer in the Forestry Department, Ken was awarded a scholarship to pursue a degree in forestry at the University of Wales, where he graduated with first class honours. He subsequently went on to Oxford University where he gained a PhD in forestry economics. From there he joined the international Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), rising to a senior position.

He then returned to Guyana as head of GUYSTAC, the umbrella organisation that oversaw the public enterprises other than GUYMINE. Having successfully improved the managements of the enterprises that he oversaw, Ken was, in 1973, invited to become Minister of Economic Development. However circumstances were such that he subsequently decided to return to the FAO.

While there, he was asked to direct operations in relieving famine in the Horn of Africa, and became the acknowledged leader of an operation that averted complete disaster.

At great financial sacrifice, he then returned to Guyana to work as a minister in the Hoyte government, subsequently becoming General Secretary of the PNC.

After the PPP won power, he continued to work for the government of the day – his patriotism transcended party-political considerations – becoming Ambassador to the European Union in Brussels, from which position he had to resign due to ill health and return home.

[The foregoing is based on communications from old boys Clarence Ellis (former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Guyana and former Head of the State Planning Commission) and Life Member Laurence Clarke (World Bank executive).]

## AGM HIGHLIGHTS

### Election of Officers

21 persons, including three guests, attended the twentieth post-inaugural AGM held at the High Commission on 14th November. **Neville Linton** was returned unopposed as President, and existing Vice-Presidents **John Rafferty**, **Lloyd Bascom**, **David Man**, **Ronald Hall**, **Clive Lloyd**, Sir **Shridath** ('Sonny') **Ramphal**, **Trevor Phillips**, **Henry Edwards**, **Derek Hugh** and **Ivor Ying** reappointed. The seven members of the Management Committee, all returned unopposed, are: **Mark Dalgety**, **Peter Fraser**, **Praveen Hanoman**, **Jillian Lilico**, **Leila Persaud**, **Rod Westmaas** and **Ian Wishart** (Claire Carballo stood down under the three-year rule). At the first Committee on 28th November, Peter, Ian and Praveen were respectively elected as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, whilst **Mark Adamson**, **Claire Carballo**, **Chris Chunnillall** and **Bruce Nóbrega** were co-opted. (See last page for Committee contact details.)

## **Financial Position**

The Association's monetary assets showed a further fall, from £14,230 (end of 2006–07 financial year) to the current figure of £12,660. Donations to the school amounted to £3437, mainly for computer equipment.

## **Fundraising Events**

Profits arising from fundraising events can be calculated in two ways, depending on how surplus bar stock is treated. For comparison purposes, the value of the surplus stock should be credited to the account of a particular event. However our Independent Examiner prefers that the total cost of purchases for the bar be shown in the annual accounts as an expense against the particular event (no credit for the surplus). On the latter basis, the 2008 Summer Reunion profit was £947 against £374 for 2007. If credit is taken for surplus bar stock, the figures become £1166 and £594 respectively, hence, despite the inclement weather, the profit this year was closer to that of earlier years. Thanks are due to those supporters who donated to the foodstall and who helped on the day: **Beverley Headley, Joan Plummer, Anthony Wishart, Jackie Wishart, and Shirley Ying.**

The turnout for the Carnival Fête, held jointly with Bishops' Alumni Association, was somewhat disappointing, reducing our share of the profit from £748 (2007) to £368. Once again BHSA sold most of the tickets and took 60% of the profit.

## **REPORT ON OCTOBER'S ICQC MEETING**

Committee members **Rod Westmaas** and **Ian Wishart** represented our Association at the Annual Business Meeting of the International Committee of QC Alumni Associations (ICQC) held at the Hilton Garden Hotel, Miramar, Florida on 11th October. A social had been held the previous evening at the same venue, and the Florida Association is to be congratulated on their efficient organisation of the two events.

The meeting began with outgoing ICQC President **Laurie Lewis** in the chair, which, after the preliminaries he then surrendered to the incoming President (President of the host association) **Desmond Lee-Own**. The salient points arising from the meeting are summarised below.

- The new **Computer Lab** is the most modern in the country and perhaps in the Caribbean. All of the recommendations made by the consultant engaged by the school board had been implemented. Laurie thanked overseas associations for their contributions, and extended special thanks to Keith Corsbie (Florida) who had waived substantial amounts of commission on the equipment purchased from Dell. (Florida were responsible for purchasing and shipping the equipment.)
- The **ICQC website** should soon be up and running. It is being funded by Yellow Cabs of Washington DC, a company owned by old boy Vaughn Williams.
- An '**alumni room**' is to be provided at the school for use by QCOSA to store records, hold committee meetings and provide a source of information for students.
- '**Outreach**' programmes have been introduced by QCOSA to orient new students and familiarise existing students with the Association, its history and its contributions (together with those of other 'chapters') to the school.
- **Sports:** QCOSA will endeavour to address the perennial problem of the absence of organised sports at the school. (It is said the school has some talented cricketers playing for Maltenoes.)
- New York had distributed funds for the annual **Vernley Ward Bursary**. (The bursary fully funds the first two years' expenses at the University of Guyana if the awardee is reading natural sciences, or up to US\$1000 p.a. for the first two years if the awardee is studying medicine.)
- New York are the creators and custodians of a **data base** shared with ten Guyanese secondary school organisations.

- New York will establish and run a **mentoring programme** offering guidance to students. Rod Westmaas is one of the volunteers offering services as a mentor. The programme aims to advise, nurture and motivate students.
- The **Washington Association** is defunct, although there remains US\$5000 in the bank which the account's authorised signatories can disburse.
- There is an on-going problem of **friction between the headmistress and her deputy**. The Board had recommended removal of the former.
- A list of desired **major projects** was reviewed, comprising:
  - large water tank and system
  - cupboards for teachers in staff room
  - second computer lab
  - language lab
  - additional facilities for auditorium (including AC)
  - repairs to old and provision of new pavilion for playing fields.

It was agreed that ICQC defer consideration until the projects had been costed. Also, it was noted that the setting up of a language lab required preliminary study, prior to costing, to select the appropriate equipment – it was not an off-the-shelf item.

Gerald Alleyne (Toronto) distributed copies of the latest draft update of **Norman Cameron's History** (one per Association) soliciting contributions. Additional material includes various photographs, an appendix and reminiscences by Clarence Trotz. (Corrections to Cameron's original text, previously provided by Ian Wishart have not been included.)

It was agreed not to hold a celebration next year in Guyana for the **school's 165th anniversary** as this was not a special anniversary (in any event, Guyana had declined to organise the celebration).

It was UK's turn to host **next year's meeting**. If UK cannot do it, New York will. (UK have agreed to host.)

There was agreement to have Chapters have a look and study the Constitution with a view to changing if necessary. Chapters were asked to nominate two representatives each to sit on the review committee.

On behalf of the Toronto Association, Gerald Alleyne presented framed certificates of appreciation to Laurie Lewis and to Gordon Wilson (New York) for their many years of service to their respective associations and to ICQC.

## INSTALLATION OF CLEM SANKAT AS PRINCIPAL OF UWI'S ST AUGUSTINE CAMPUS

by Riyad Insanally\*

I was immensely privileged to attend, on October 10, 2008, the installation ceremony of Queen's College old boy, Professor Clement K Sankat (QC 62-69), MSc (UWI), PhD (Guelph), CEng, FIAGrE, FAPETT, as the seventh Principal of the St Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies in Trinidad & Tobago.

The ceremony was at once colourful and dignified in its academic pomp, and moving and illuminating for the glimpses it afforded into the soul and mind of this distinguished son of Guyana and adopted son of Trinidad and Tobago.

The proceedings, chaired by the University Registrar and QC old boy **William Iton**, provided ample opportunity for highlighting Clem's continuing records of achievement as a scholar, engineer, teacher, administrator, and family man, with due tribute being paid, both implicitly and explicitly, to his intellectual and cultural formation as a Queen's College old boy and as a Guyanese.

Another old boy, Professor **Nigel Harris**, UWI Vice-Chancellor, presented Clem for installation to the Chancellor, Sir George Alleyne. In his presentation, Nigel spoke of Clem's time at Queen's as having laid the base for his later success. In conveying warm greetings and congratulations on behalf of the entire Queen's College family, he also pointed out that Clem had done well despite being a member of Nobbs House and was unfortunate not to have been in Weston. Other old boys present, including **Wayne Iton** (William's twin brother), **Vickram Oditt**, **Ian Robertson** and Clem's brothers **Vincent** and **Stanley** would have had their own views on this tease. (I may have missed some other alumni in the crowd; if so I extend my apologies for any omissions.)

The entertainment chosen for the evening also told us a lot about Clem Sankat, the man. The ceremony began and ended with a rendition of *O Beautiful Guyana* by the UWI Festival Arts Chorale – a song Clem admitted to remembering vividly from his time in the School Choir under **Lynette Dolphin**, and one that could not but tug at the heartstrings of the Guyanese contingent in the audience. And interspersed among the speeches were Lord Realtor's rendition of his classic *Gavaskar* calypso, the Chorale's performance of David Rudder's immortal *Calypso Music* and the nostalgic folk song *Mangoes*, and Indian dance by the Shiv Shakti Dance Troupe.

It was clear throughout that we were in the presence of an authentic Guyanese and a real Caribbean man, a man firmly rooted in and comfortable with his culture and environment, a brilliant and thoughtful academic, and a warm and compassionate human being, admired and respected by his peers, and, perhaps most significantly, loved by his students, as was unambiguously stated by the UWI student representative.

As a slightly younger, but ageing, Queen's College old boy, and as a Guyanese, I was proud to bear witness to a celebration of the best our school, our country and our region have to offer, in the person of Clem Sankat. I also make so bold as to say that my feelings were shared by all present, and will be shared by our far-flung, but united, community.

\* *Riyad, QC 1970–77, is a former member of this Association. He now lives in Port of Spain.*

### **REMEMBER THE CARIBBEAN WW2 AIR CREW**

There were 6,000 ground crew and 400 air crew from the Caribbean in the Royal Air Force, of whom 103 were decorated, yet the UK public is scarcely aware of their involvement in the airwar of 1940–1945. These forgotten men came from afar to put their lives at stake for freedom and it is high time that a permanent archive be set up in their memory. To this end, a website has just been set up – [www.caribbeanaircrew-ww2.com](http://www.caribbeanaircrew-ww2.com) – to give an overview of the lives and careers of these men. Surviving crew, their relatives, friends and descendants are encouraged to add to this body of information. Anyone who has a story to tell, information to share, or pictures to show is heartily invited to contribute.

*Cy Grant*

[See review of Cy's book 'A Member of the RAF of Indeterminate Race' in Newsletter 34, Dec 2006].

### **UK CHANCELLOR INTRODUCES GIFT AID TRANSITIONAL RELIEF**

At the beginning of the current tax year, the basic rate of income tax was reduced from 22% to 20%. This had the effect of reducing the tax reclaimable by charities on donations (which in our case include annual subscriptions) made by Gift Aid from 28.2% to 25%, a difference of 3.2%. However, the Chancellor announced in the 2008 budget that he intended to introduce a Transitional Relief of 3.2% for Gift aided donations to charities for the next three years. Once the necessary legislation is passed in July 2009, HM Customs & Revenue will make the necessary payments directly to charities. So we will not lose out, at least for three years. Taxpayers are not affected by the change, and higher rate tax relief is still available to donors at the difference between the higher rate of tax (40%) and the basic rate (20%) – thus preserving the anomaly whereby a higher rate donor's tax relief exceeds the amount reclaimable by the charity.

## **BOOKS**

### ***A HISTORY OF THEATRE IN GUYANA 1800–2000***

by Frank Thomasson\*

[Hansib]

Frank Thomasson's study of 200 years of theatre in Guyana (dating from the pre-emancipation days before the three colonies became British Guiana) is a fascinating work which includes compilation of related articles extracted from local journals dating back to the early 19th century. His survey establishes itself as a pioneering and indispensable segment in the history of Guyana. It makes the case for the importance of the theatre in the culture, with its diverse origins, of the Guyanese people in helping them to understand and appreciate the lives and concerns of each other.

This valuable study encompasses the performing arts which the different ethnic groups brought with them. Added to this was the beginnings of the European theatre in 19th century Georgetown, which gave rise to the emergence of theatre organised by the Indo- and Afro-Guyanese middle classes in the early 20th century, to the vibrancy of a diverse and socially committed theatre in the 1950s, leading to independence.

Thomasson's extensive definition of theatre embraces not only the emergence of serious repertory theatre, but also forms of entertainment and state-run public extravaganzas. He explores the national and regional examples of encouragement of theatre, from Booker's sponsorship and support of theatre groups and competitions on the sugar estates [one suspects that Frank was a leading proponent, if not the instigator, of that policy], to the inclusion of drama in the extra-curricular activities of the leading schools, and the birth of the National Theatre and Carifesta. The longest section of his history is devoted to a detailed study of the Theatre Guild of Guyana, the longest existing and most 'professional' of the repertory groups in the country.

[The foregoing is based on the publisher's announcement describing the work.]

Cost £18 (including p&p) from Frank Thomasson, 34 Wells Road, Wookey Hole, WELLS, Somerset BA5 1DN (cheques payable to Frank Thomasson).

*\*Frank Thomasson is a former Personnel Director of Booker Sugar Estates Ltd and a Theatre Guild stalwart, as was his wife Aileen (Morgan), a BHS old girl. He is a 'Friend' member of this Association.*

## **REVIEWS**

### ***CARIBBEAN WARS UNTOLD: A Salute to the British West Indies***

by Humphrey Metzgen and John Graham

[University of the West Indies Press, ISBN: 978-976-640-203-7]

This highly readable book aims at redressing the widespread ignorance of the contributions made by Britain's former West Indian colonies to her hard-won military victories over the centuries, and particularly in the two World Wars.

The Introduction begins with an account of the sinking of the *Lady Nelson* and the *Umtata* by a German U-boat in Castries harbour on 10 March 1942 – an event well remembered by my wife who was a young child at the time. Had the U-boat sighted and torpedoed the unlighted ammunition ship hidden on the other side of the harbour (erroneously described in the account as an oil tanker), the outcome could have been disastrous for the town.\*

The early chapters cover the discovery of the region, the economic imperatives leading to settlement by the European powers, the introduction of slavery, and inter-European rivalry which led to the formation of local militias in support of the regular garrisons. The first mention of the courage of black soldiery (slaves armed by their British masters) is in the (unsuccessful) defence of Nevis against the French invasion in the early 18th century. "Memories of this service, which was to be repeated in other conflicts throughout the century,

influenced the decision to form black regiments in the Caribbean nine decades later.” Also noted is the military competency of the Maroons in Jamaica, whose guerilla tactics successfully resisted defeat by regular troops for seven years until a treaty was eventually signed.

In the war with republican France in the 1790s, Britain despatched several thousand troops under General Sir Ralph Abercromby to protect its Caribbean sources of wealth – and deny the French theirs. Abercromby was impressed by the “fortitude, loyalty and physical robustness” of his black labourers and auxiliaries and became the leading advocate for raising black regiments. Mosquito- and water-borne diseases, the causes of which were unknown at the time, were killing over 40% of white soldiery, and local blacks were proving to be more resistant. The establishment of twelve regiments was authorised by the British government, but the prospect of armed and trained black soldiers met with predictable opposition from the planters, who were also averse to selling their fittest slaves to the army. The result was that it became easier to fill the ranks with men bought in West Africa or taken off foreign slave ships that the Royal Navy had seized. Thus was formed the West India Regiment (WIR). After the capture of St Martin, a British lieutenant general paid this tribute to one of his units:

I have particular satisfaction in being able to add that the 8th West India Regiment, formed within the last three years, and composed almost entirely of new Negroes, who had never before seen an enemy, engaged with a degree of gallantry, and behaved in a manner, that would honour any troops.

WIR troops were paid at the same rate as European troops, given the same food, and housed in the same barracks; but being less prone to tropical diseases and not having to be transported from Britain, were more economical. However, though the men had a certain status as soldiers, they were still legally slaves, and were seen as such outside the barracks. But the planter-controlled governments of Barbados and Jamaica would not allow black troops to be stationed on their territory.

The WIR continued to be deployed in various conflicts in the Caribbean, the US (the war of 1812), and West Africa where two Victoria Crosses were won by black soldiers: Private Samuel Hodge of Tortola (in 1840) and Lance-Corporal (later Sergeant) William James Gordon of Jamaica (in 1864), both in The Gambia. (The official citation of the latest West Indian VC, Private Johnson Beharry, who won the award in the current conflict in Iraq, is included as a separate appendix.)

The chapter “The Emancipation Era” repeats a common misconception, namely that “Britain made slavery illegal within its empire in 1833”. As Joseph Hanlon notes in his article in *The Guardian* of 25 January 2007, 1833 was the year slavery was abolished in the West Indies. It was to persist in British West African territories for almost a century afterwards, being gradually abolished between 1874 (Gold Coast, now Ghana) and 1928 (Sierra Leone).

The second half of the book covers the two World Wars and their social, political and economic consequences. In the first conflict a British West Indies Regiment (distinct from the WIR) comprising eleven battalions was raised, and largely employed, much to their frustration, as labour units. However one contingent saw action as part of General Allenby’s forces, clearing the Turks from Palestine and pursuing them into Syria via the Sinai desert and the Jordan valley, earning praise from their commanders. WIR troops also saw action in East Africa. General demobilisation post-war eventually resulted in the disbandment of the WIR in 1927. In the Second World War the Caribbean Regiment, comprising units from the North and the South Caribbean Forces, had a far lesser role, and was never in the front line.

Perhaps the region’s most significant contribution in WWII was the three thousand West Indians who enlisted in the RAF between 1940 and 1942. The RAF was the only service at the time which looked beyond colour to recognise competency, and a significant number of recruits not only became air crew, but were ultimately commissioned – there was, of course, no problem of a black officer having to command white troops. (See item ‘REMEMBER THE CARIBBEAN WW2 AIR CREW’ on page 5).

But the book does not deal exclusively with recruitment into the armed forces. The contribution of civilians (an early example being Mary Seacole in the Crimean War) including munitions workers and merchant seamen is also recounted.

For the generation of West Indians at home, and their descendants abroad, this book will help foster an awareness of the sacrifices of their forebears and a pride in their achievements.

*Ian Wishart*

*\* I recently read an account of the incident, in a book of wartime reminiscences, by a member of the crew of the ammunition ship which was en route from the US to the western desert via the Cape of Good Hope and the Suez Canal.*

#### ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

**Humphrey Metzgen** is a former corporate executive at Times Newspapers and now a leading personality in the Caribbean media world. He is a former regimental colleague of John Graham's.

**John Graham** is a retired major general of the British Army with a research interest in the naval and military history of the West Indies. As a major, John was adjutant in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who arrived in Guyana shortly after the suspension of the constitution in 1953. He and his wife Rosemary (*née* Adamson, BHS old girl and sister of Mark Adamson live in Barbados.

[Proceeds from the sale of the book go entirely to the publishers.]

### ***SHRIDATH RAMPHAL: The Commonwealth and the World***

ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

edited by Richard Bourne

(Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London)

[Hansib, £16.99 / US\$34.00, ISBN 978-1-906190-20-0]

This is a book of essays by people (see list below) who know 'Sonny' well both from his work at the Commonwealth Secretariat, where he was Secretary-General for fifteen years, and in the wider world of international politics and diplomacy. Sonny's accomplishments are described in the context of the political, economic and social circumstances in which he carried out his work; the book accordingly provides a useful historical record of the events in which Sonny was intimately involved. The essays are grouped in five sections: personal reflections, southern Africa, the Caribbean, the Commonwealth and the global citizen.

In his role as Secretary-General, Sonny was central in the negotiations and principal draftsman of what became the Lusaka Accord which led directly to the solution of the Rhodesian crisis with the establishment of Zimbabwe. (In so doing he made an enemy of Thatcher's Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Lord Carrington, who was later instrumental in denying Sonny the post of UN Secretary-General). His lesser though still important role in the various negotiations that led to the release of Nelson Mandela and the dismantlement of apartheid in South Africa is also recounted. (At his 80th birthday dinner held at the Royal Commonwealth Society on 6th October, Sonny was severely critical of the present situation in Zimbabwe, having worked so hard to bring in democratic, majority rule.)

In Caribbean affairs Sonny remains a committed federalist, having been centrally involved in drafting the planned independence constitution of the West Indies Federation back in 1961. His 'acute disappointment' at the collapse of the Federation did not lead to complete disillusionment in the possibility of Commonwealth Caribbean co-operation, and Sonny became a crucial player in coaxing the countries to pursue a course which led to the establishment of CARICOM. As Anthony Payne observes in his essay, despite its shortcomings, CARICOM remains 'the custodian of the idea of West Indian nationhood.'



Sonny's diplomacy was severely tested in the aftermath of the Grenada invasion (the events surrounding which are comprehensively narrated in Ron Sanders's essay), nevertheless he was instrumental in the healing process between the two Caribbean factions, and, recognising the concerns of small states as to their vulnerability to a *coup*, appointed a group of eminent persons to produce a study of the problem. The resulting report, *Vulnerability: Small States in the Global Society*, became a seminal work, recognised in international forums.

Shortly before the end of his service as Commonwealth Secretary-General, Sonny was asked by the heads of CARICOM governments to lead a commission, comprising leading regional figures, with the brief to plot a future course for the region. After a great deal of work involving extensive travel to interview people of the region and in the West Indian diaspora, a report entitled *Time for Action* was duly published. Unsurprisingly, it was rejected by the heads of government, reluctant to see retired ex-leaders interfering in national affairs. One wonders why the heads of government had bothered to commission the study in the first place.

Also recognised is Sonny's sterling work in serving on four international commissions (the only person to serve on all four): The Brandt Commission on trade and development, the Palme Commission on security, the Gro Harlem Brundtland Commission on the environment and development and (as co-Chair) the Ingvar Carlsson commission on global governance.

One of Sonny's greatest achievements must surely be as midwife of the first Lomé Convention which moulded the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific countries) into an effective negotiating group.

Two errors need to be corrected. Whilst Nigeria nationalised BP in 1979, they did not nationalise Shell (see p. 53) which still operates in that country, and Sonny would surely not have written 'prognosticated' for 'procrastinated' (quote at bottom of p. 67).

This is a very readable book, which could easily have been titled 'Shridath Ramphal Global Citizen and Statesman', for that is what Sonny became, and remains.

*Ian Wishart*

The essayists:

**Richard Bourne.**

**Moni Malhoutra**, former Assistant Commonwealth Secretary-General.

Professor **Rex Nettleford**, Emeritus Vice-Chancellor, University of the West Indies.

**Patsy Robertson**, former Jamaican diplomat and Director of Information at the Commonwealth Secretariat.

**S K Rao**, Director-General of the Administrative Staff College of India.

Sir **Ronald Sanders** (Sonny's son-in-law), international business consultant and writer; former Antigua & Barbuda High Commissioner to the UK and Ambassador to the WTO.

Professor **Anthony Payne**, Professor of Politics at Sheffield University and author of books on the Caribbean.

**Derek Ingram**, doyen of Commonwealth journalism and founder of the Commonwealth Journalists' Association.

**Guy Arnold**, author of books on Africa.

Professor **James Manor**, Emeka Anyaoku Professor of Commonwealth Studies, London University, author of books on South Asia.

**Kaye Whiteman**, journalist; former head of Information Division, Commonwealth Secretariat.

Professor **Bishnodat Persaud**, Former Director of Economic Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat.

**Vincent Cable**, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats and former Special Adviser on Economic Affairs to the Commonwealth Secretariat.

## SALVATION THROUGH AMALGAMATION

Turmoil in the world markets has led to several corporate mergers. The following are rumoured to be in the pipeline:

Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W. R. Grace Co. will become Hale Mary Fuller Grace.

Polygram Records, Warner Bros, and Zesta Crackers will join forces as Poly Warner Cracker.

Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will become ZipAudiDoDa.

FedEx is expected to join its competitor UPS to become FedUP.

Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become Fairwell Honeychild.

And finally, lingerie retailer Victoria's Secret and Smith & Wesson will merge under the new name, TittyTittyBangBang.

*(Another one from Allan Lee (QC 46-54) who lives in Toronto)*

## DIARY DATES (PROVISIONAL)

- 8 MAY**            **SPRING EVENT** (film to be announced)  
**12 JULY**          **SUMMER REUNION**  
**28 AUG**          **ICQC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING** (members only)  
**30 AUG**          **CARNIVAL FÊTE**  
**13 NOV**          **AGM & SOCIAL**  
**27 or 29 NOV**    **ANNUAL DINNER or LUNCH**

Please note we are not planning to hold a dinner-dance in 2009. Dinner-dances raise little for the Association despite the comparatively high cost of tickets. Members, however, are asked to suggest alternatives that do not suffer from that defect.

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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