



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2007

The Queen's College of Guyana Association (UK)
(Registered Charity No. 801250)

No. 35

ANNUAL SUMMER REUNION: GARDEN PARTY—BARBECUE—DISCO

at St John's Nature Garden, 386 Clapham Road SW9

Sunday 15th July, 2 to 9 pm

Adults £18, Children £6 (over 6 to under 12)

Details of ticket sellers are given in the flyer (mailed separately)

DONATIONS SENT FOR CLASSROOM FURNITURE AND SCOUT TROOP

As reported at last year's AGM, £10,000 had been donated to the school, through QCOSA, to fund the purchase of classroom furniture. 120 sets of fibreglass desks and chairs, manufactured in Guyana, were duly purchased – see photograph of the 4th form French class on page 8. However, more furniture is required, and to this end we recently sent another £5,000 through QCOSA.

In the last *Newsletter* (No. 34, December 2006) an appeal was made to assist the recently re-established Scout Troop. The response was quite poor, but three former, active members of Troop 27 rallied to the cause (all *Life Members*): former Vice-President **Don Cooper**, President **Neville Linton** (the first pupil to be appointed Assistant Scout Master) and **Michael Too-Chung** (former Queen's Scout) contributed £170 by Gift Aid which with the rebate from Inland Revenue & Customs, rounded upwards, amounted to £220. This has been sent via QCOSA.

FUNDING SHORTFALL

Not yet a crisis, perhaps, but the Association's income from the last three events has shown a significant decrease when compared with former years. The Summer Reunion which used to yield a profit of around £1400 (£2050 in 2002) only managed £980 last year, admittedly slightly up on 2005, but the latter event was on the weekend after the '7/7' terrorist atrocity, and attendance was well down. The reduction in profit last year was largely due to the increase in catering costs; the price of admission, held at £15 for a number of years, has been increased to £18 for this year's event (see advertisement above).

The 2006 biennial Dinner-Dance held jointly with the Bishops' High School Association made an overall loss of £1220 which was shared equally with BHSA. The 2004 event had yielded a modest profit to QCA of £589, but at last year's event numbers were well down. The minimum charge payable to New Connaught Rooms was for 200 covers, but BHSA and ourselves only managed to sell 145 tickets. This event could well be discontinued.

Profit on the Annual (Chinese) Dinner was less than half that usually realised (figures for the years 2004–2006 were respectively £1764, £1686 and £775). Numbers were well down (we were back upstairs in the little room, having occupied the main restaurant for the previous five years) and the cost had increased significantly, despite (Vice-President) Ivor Ying's negotiating skills. The ticket price, held at £25 for several years, will have to go up this year.

Hopefully the Carnival Fête (see 'Diary Dates' on the last page), which was very successful in 2005, will help redress matters.

SALVETE

We welcome as a new member **Rennell ('Rennie') V Moore** (QC 1944–52).

VALETE

Basil Bannister (QC 1930s), *d.* 22.3.07 in his 85th year in North Carolina;

Sir Harold Brodie Smith Bollers, OR, CCH (QC 25–33), *b.* 5.2.15, *d.* 26.12.06 in Guyana;

R ('Dickie') Feinmesser (QC c. 43–50), *d.* 25.3.07 after a long battle against cancer;

Dr Loris King (QC 57–65), cardiologist, *d.* 7.1.07 in Fort Miles, Florida;

Joseph Theodore ('Theo') Morris (QC 1960s), former UG lecturer in Political Sciences and Law, *d.* 15.05.07 in Guyana;

Oliver Mortimer Valz, SC (QC 37–43), *d.* 8.4.07, in Guyana, in his 84th year;

Michael Alan Vyfhuis (QC 54–60), former member, *d.* 4.3.07 in Guyana. His ashes were brought back to the UK and interred in Frimley, Surrey. Mark Adamson and Peter Fraser represented the Association at the service.

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

We also extend our condolences to *Life Member* Michael Isaacs on the recent, sad loss of his daughter in her 35th year.

OBITUARY

SIR HAROLD BOLLERS

Many of you will already know of the death of Sir Harold Brodie Smith Bollers, OR, CCH, which occurred on 26 December last. 'Harry', to his friends, was a former Chief Justice, Chairman of the Guyana Elections Commission and President of the Guyana Red Cross Society.

The youngest of his generation, Harry was the scion of a well-known Guyanese family. His father John (1869–1941) was Chairman of Brodie & Rainer of Water Street at a time when it was the country's largest drugstore. At the age of 10 Harry entered Queen's College, becoming Head of Raleigh House in 1932 and earning colours in football. After QC he read law at King's College, London, gaining an LLB, and by the age of 21 had, at Middle Temple, become a barrister. He practised both in Barbados and Guyana, becoming a magistrate in the latter country in 1945, and Chief Magistrate in 1959. Promoted a High Court (Puisne) Judge in 1960, he was elevated to the post of Chief Justice in 1966, independence year, finally retiring from the bench in 1980.

His position on the bench did not shield him from political controversy as some of his judgements, in politically sensitive trials and actions, had incurred the wrath of the opposition. Controversy followed him after retirement when he was appointed Chairman of the Electoral Commission. He resigned under pressure in 1991.

Harry's latter days were rather sad, with a lingering illness. But he is remembered as a gentleman of the old school who, uncorrupted by graft, served his country to the best of his abilities, although uncomfortable compromises had to be made.

(Based on the obituary in Stabroek News, 2 Jan 2007)

GOLDEN WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

The Association extends its hearty congratulations to Vice-President and Life Member **Ivor Ying** and his wife **Shirley** who celebrate 50 years of marriage on 26 June. Ivor (QC 1943–49) is a founder member and former Treasurer. He and Shirley have been staunch supporters of the Association and its activities: for several years they and daughter **Sharon** have organised and run the food stall at our annual Summer Reunion – and will be doing so again this year. To Ivor and Shirley we wish many future years of happiness.

DR FRANK DOUGLAS WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Dr **Frank L Douglas**, MD, PhD (QC 1959–62) has been chosen to receive the 2007 Black History Maker Award, conferred by Associated Black Charities, an American organisation. Previous awardees include Khofi Annan and Colin Powell.

Frank is Professor of Practice at the Harvard–MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, and Executive Director of the MIT Center for Biomedical Innovation in the MIT Schools of Management, Engineering and Science. A world-renowned innovator in pharmaceutical research and development, he has led the discovery, development and market launch of more than 20 drugs. His many awards include the Heart of the Year Award from the Chicago Heart Association, the Louis B Russell Memorial Award from the American Heart Association, and the Wolfgang von Goethe Medal of Honour from the University of that name in Frankfurt.

Frank came to Queen's in the Remove, having been awarded a scholarship based on his Senior Cambridge results in which he topped the colony. He was active in the Bible Society (President) and the Debating Society (Vice-President), and played the Major-General in the (c. 1960) production of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*. (An 'On Dit' entry in the 1960–61 school magazine reads: 'that on being asked if all 16 girls [the female chorus] were his daughters, Major General Dougie replied, "Of course not. What do you think I am? A factory? One was adopted." ') He was also a competent athlete.

A graduate of Lehigh University, Frank earned his PhD and MD from Cornell University, and completed his internship and residency at the John Hopkins Medical Institution and a Fellowship in neuroendocrinology at the National Institutes of Health. As President of the Student National Medical Association, he was President Jimmy Carter's host at the unveiling of the latter's 1976 national healthcare plan.

Frank has held teaching and administrative posts in medical schools, and is a member of several bodies associated with his profession. He is a member of the boards of trustees at both Lehigh and Wolfgang von Goethe Universities, and sits on the boards of directors of various pharmaceutical companies, including Alantos Pharmaceuticals of which he is Chairman.

Our congratulations to this truly outstanding alumnus and fellow Guyanese.

VENEZUELA IN THE CARIBBEAN

'Expanding its sphere of influence: Venezuela in the Caribbean' was the title of a lucid, informative and thought-provoking lecture delivered by (Association Life Member) Sir **Ronald Sanders***, KCMG, KCN at Chatham House, London, on 17th April. The lecture, part of the Caribbean–Britain Business Council seminar series, identified the key issues of Venezuela's foreign policy pertinent to the anglophone Caribbean, with a focus on the potential repercussions for the region in the light of the antipathy between the US and Venezuela.

The present regime in Venezuela had seen the opportunity of filling the vacuum left by America's post-cold war neglect of the Caribbean, and was offering favourable conditions for purchasing petroleum products and aid for social and economic programmes – the Petro-Caribe and ALBA-Caribe initiatives. On the other hand Venezuela still claimed two-thirds of Guyana, and, contrary to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, considered the Aves rock in the Caribbean Sea to be an island thereby generating a maritime jurisdiction which impinged on the maritime entitlements of several Caribbean islands. However several CARICOM countries had signed up to the Petro-Caribe initiative, Guyana cautiously opting to take only half her petroleum supplies via this route. The US had implicitly cautioned Caribbean countries against signing up to the Venezuelan initiatives, but nevertheless continues to refine 60% of Venezuela's crude oil production. Furthermore, the US had backed the Latin American countries (including Venezuela) in their protest at the World Trade Organisation against the preferential access of CARICOM bananas to the European Union.

Trinidad, the first-choice supplier of petroleum products under CARICOM agreements, had accordingly

warned that they could not be relied upon to step in should there be any interruption in supplies from Venezuela. There were also doubts about the future of Trinidad's Petroleum Fund from which the region had benefited: disaster relief in Guyana (floods) and Grenada (hurricane), and restructuring of LIAT. Implicit in all this was that potential beneficiaries source their petroleum supplies from Trinidad.

Concluding his address, Sir Ronald acknowledged that Venezuela has become a more influential player in the Caribbean than hitherto. He did not see CARICOM governments following President Chávez's 'leftist lurch' but felt that they would continue to act in what was perceived to be their own interests, always mindful of the old African proverb: 'When elephants fight, the grass suffers.'

[The full text of the lecture can be obtained as an email attachment in Word on application to Ian Wishart: wishartian1@yahoo.co.uk.]

* Ron Sanders (formerly Singh) attended QC in the 1960s. He currently serves on the boards of directors of companies in the Caribbean involved in communications and forestry. A former High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda, he has served as Ambassador to the European Union and to the World Trade Organisation. His many writings on small states in the international community include his latest book *Crumbled Small: The Commonwealth Caribbean in World Politics* published in London in 2005.

NEW PHYSICS TEXTBOOK LAUNCHED

Old boys **Clarence Trotz** and **Alec Farley** have collaborated to produce a new textbook *CXC Physics*, part of a series commissioned by UK publishers Macmillan (see photograph on page 9). A graduate of Cambridge University, Clarence has taught the subject for over 50 years, currently giving private tuition to students preparing for their CSEC (GCSE/'O' level) and CAPE/'A' level examinations.

After graduation, Clarence returned to Guyana in 1957 to teach at Queen's, becoming headmaster in 1974. In 1980 he was transferred to St Stanislaus as head, and then, in 1982, to the Ministry of Education as coordinator of mathematics and science. He helped put together the first CXC physics syllabus in 1985, and was the first CXC Chief Examiner for that subject from 1985 to 1989, during which time Alec, his former pupil (QC 1955–64), was Chief Examiner for Integrated Science. Alec currently teaches at St John's College in the Bahamas.

Clarence spent two years as head of the Montserrat Secondary School before coming to teach in London in 1991, during which time he became a member and subsequently a Vice-President of this Association. On his return to Guyana in 1996, Clarence became an active member of QCOSA, on whose committee he serves, and was instrumental in specifying the needs for and effecting the rehabilitation of the school's physics laboratory.

OTHER NEWS OF OLD STUDENTS

Dr **David Dabydeen** (*Life Member*), Professor of Literary Studies at Warwick University, has been appointed **Cultural Attaché** at the High Commission here in London, with effect from the autumn.

Wilson Harris has published what he claims to be his last novel: *The Ghost of Memory*.

Dr **Riyad Insanally** (former *Member*) has been appointed an Adviser to the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of American States in Washington. Riyad was formerly Senior Trade Adviser on Sugar, attached to the High Commission on London.

Trevor Phillips, OBE, (*Vice-President* and *Life Member*), previously Chairman of the now defunct Commission for Racial Equality, has been appointed Chair of the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE

The Guyana chapter held a fund-raising 'Dinner with a Difference' on 29 November last, at which Clarence Trotz, alumnus and former Headmaster, gave a presentation entitled 'A Brief History of Queen's College'. It was based on the monumental work of Laurence Clarke, entitled 'Traditions of Excellence', published in 1994 to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the College, and on Clarence's personal recollections as a student (1945–1952) and a member of staff (1957–1980).

We are grateful to Clarence for granting us permission to reproduce his presentation.

Queen's College was founded in August 1844 by the then Bishop of British Guiana, the Most Rev. William Percy Austin. It was conceived as a Grammar School for boys of the Colony and its curriculum was patterned after that of English Public Schools of that period. All its students would doubtless have had a classical education right up to the turn of the century, with a strong emphasis on Latin, Greek and Mathematics. It would seem that the school was, for a period at least, a boarding school, since mention can be found of the term 'day-boarders' in an earlier historical account of the school's early days. The sites used for housing the College in chronological order were: first somewhere in the compound of the High Court (then called the Victoria Law Courts), then at the corner of Main and Murray (now Quamina) Streets, then at Carmichael and Murray Streets (where the Bishops' High School now stands), followed in 1918 by the Old Orphanage at the eastern end of Brickdam (where the Ministry of Health is now situated) together with the Girl Guides Pavilion directly opposite, and then, finally, in 1951, where it now stands – in what was then known as Longden Park in Thomas Lands – where it occupied spanking new premises with six spacious science laboratories and a large well ventilated auditorium and stage. The school started with an enrolment of only 15 boys, but, by the time it had moved to Upper Brickdam in 1918, the roll had risen to well over 100. It is more than likely that the vast majority of current alumni will only know of the Thomas Lands site. Unfortunately, as is well known, a fire in 1997 completely destroyed the middle section and 'heart' of the school which comprised auditorium, staff room, General Office, Principal's Study, dining-hall and cycle shed with 'basement'. A new concrete structure erected on the burnt-out site has, however, replaced only *some* of the facilities that were lost. Although the new staff room is very much more spacious than the one it replaced, and the Deputy Principal now has much more elbow room that was the case before, the new auditorium is somewhat small, much less user-friendly than its predecessor and stage facilities are inadequate. It was a happy event that the east and west wings of the building were left largely intact.

For almost one hundred and twenty years after its foundation the College was a fee-paying institution. And it was for this reason that, at the time of its founding, there was strong opposition to its existence from certain quarters who saw it as an elitist institution, since it was accessible only to those boys who could pay the fees charged. Sensing this criticism, one of its early Principals, Mr William Exley Percival (1877 – 1893), instituted a Percival Exhibition which brought free College education to a few able boys who had been paying students and, some time later, there were the Mitchell scholarships, paid for from the will of a local benefactor. The Government County Scholarships, in which each of the three counties was given a quota of free places at the College based on the results of a national examination, made Queen's College accessible to many talented boys from primary schools who would not otherwise have had the means to attend the college. The Government Junior and Government Senior Scholarships, based on the then Junior Cambridge and Senior Cambridge Local examinations, opened a way for boys from private secondary schools (of which there were many at the time) to enter Queen's College. With all of this, Queen's College was still mainly a fee-paying school. This came to an end, however, when, in 1963, the Common Entrance Examination was introduced and fee-paying was once and for all abolished. In September 1975, which was declared the 'Year of Education', girls were enrolled at Queen's College for the first time. Some of these girls were Common Entrance free place winners (who entered at the level of

Form 1) and others from the Bishops' High School who came in as second and third formers or Lower Sixth entrants. Three years later the entire school had become a mixed institution with girls forming a substantial proportion of the school population.

Over the years, between the 1940's and the present, the school uniform has undergone important and significant changes. Up to the 1940's there was no particular uniform, although every boy, including prefects, was required to wear a cork hat (called by the QC fraternity a 'bug house') with a house flash on the left side. Most boys wore khaki trousers and every one wore a QC tie, that for the preparatory form (called Prep. Form) being knitted and the others made of silk or, later, wool. In the late forties, however, during a short stint as acting Principal, Mr Hilary Beckles decided that all boys would wear white shirts and khaki trousers, shorts for those up to form five (oh yes!) and longs only in the sixth. Shortly thereafter, however, some time in the early fifties, longs were allowed in the fourth form and above, and during the principalship of Mr Doodnauth Hetram, in the middle sixties, khaki gave way to 'tetrex' for boys' trousers. Ties continued to be worn up to the early seventies when, because of the difficulty experienced in purchasing ties from overseas, embroidered school crests carrying the house colour replaced the tie. This crest was worn on the left shirt-pocket. Whereas prefects wore only the prefect's tie for identification up to the early sixties, they were distinguished after that time by black trousers and they continued to wear their house crest. At present, with the reintroduction of the house tie, one finds students wearing both the house tie or the prefect's tie together with the house crest, a practice which, in my opinion, is unjustified since, with the tie so distinctive and now available, there is little need for a crest – it has become superfluous. The cork hat and school cap had long since been dispensed with in the early sixties. It should be pointed out that baseball caps and floppy hats have never been part of the QC uniform.

The ten houses now existing within the school were not, of course, all established at the same time. The first two, known as 'A' and 'B' houses were first run by Messrs E. O. Pilgrim and A. Leechman respectively. They were introduced in 1916 when the population of the school was 70. When the population rose to 155 in the year 1920, another house, 'C' was introduced under a Mr C. Peterkin. The House names we know today, Percival for 'A', Raleigh for 'B' and Austin for 'C' were first used in 1922, these names being used in honour of W. E. Percival, sometime Principal, Sir Walter Raleigh, Elizabethan explorer to the Guianas, and Rev. W. P. Austin, founder. In 1932, when the roll increased to 180, 'D' House was formed and named D'Urban after the then newly appointed governor of British Guiana, Sir Benjamin D'Urban (the two D's are not connected!) and in 1945, when the population rose to 400, 'E' and 'F' were added, the former being named after the revered E. O. Pilgrim, the longest serving member at QC ever, and F. T. Weston, former Senior master, who had died in service in World War 2*. Having moved to new premises in Thomas Lands, the school increased markedly in size and, with a roll of over 600, four new Houses were introduced, designated 'G', 'H', 'K' and 'L' respectively and named Moulder (after E. R. D. Moulder, first Old Boy, Guiana Scholar and youngest Principal), Woolley (after Sir Charles Woolley, Governor at the time the new school was erected, who opened the new building), Cunningham (after another Old Boy, Sir John Cunningham, who had achieved the highest office in the British Navy) and Nobbs (after Capt. H. Nobbs, the longest serving Principal ever who would also have had some responsibility for the new school building). House colours were first used in 1933 when there were four houses. The colours for the respective houses are still the same as they have always been except for Woolley whose colour over the years seems to have changed from a light green to dark green and Nobbs where white, the original colour, has been changed to orange. These colours are clearly in evidence tonight on the tables.

Shortly after Mr Vyvyan Sanger-Davies assumed the headship in 1953, the preparatory form (which had been under the complete charge of the late Miss Lynette Dolphin) was abolished. Thereafter there were changes in form structure and nomenclature, with Mr Sanger-Davies favouring the Lower Fourth and Upper Fourth terminology rather than IVB and IVA which had been used under Capt. Nobbs, his

predecessor. Up to this time, students were placed in forms designated A, B or C (three streams) according to ability as indicated by County Scholarship and entrance examination marks. This was the beginning of 'streaming' and 'setting' of students, streaming pertaining to the academic 'bent' the student displayed, 'classical' or 'modern', as Mr Sanger-Davies described them or 'general' if a student showed neither. With setting, students of about the same ability were placed into one group for mathematics only right up to form V. It was under the Sanger-Davies headship, too, that opportunity was first given to students both outside Queen's and within to pursue science courses with a view to embarking upon a science career, having had what might be described as a purely arts training up to then. He created the Fifth Remove (later called 'Fifth Science') in which the student, having already passed at GCE (Ordinary Level) in English, mathematics and at least three other subjects, would do in one school year an intensive Physics, Chemistry and either Biology or Technical Drawing course leading to the GCE Ordinary Level). Upon passing well, he (there were no girls then!) more often than not entered the Sixth form to prepare for the Advanced Level which would lead to a University course in the scientific field of his choice. The ambition of many present day medicos, engineers and science-related professionals would have been frustrated but for the introduction of this innovation in the early sixties.

Up to this time, the lowest form in the school had been Form II. With the assumption as Principal of first, Mr Hetram, and then Mr Clement Yhap, however, the classical and modern concept was abandoned and, beginning at the fourth form level, one saw 'setting' introduced more widely in which, by suitably grouping students, it was possible to offer them a pretty wide range of subjects for their fifth year examination which, by this time, had become the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level). The Oxford and Cambridge School Certificate had been discontinued in 1966. This method of setting students according to their subject choices has, apparently, now fallen into abeyance and streaming is once more being followed, where a student must choose from a fixed grouping of subjects which, of course, severely limits subject choice. It is worth mentioning that, with the advent of girls in the school in September 1975, the curriculum of the school was greatly widened. Apart from the traditional so-called academic subjects, one saw the introduction of 'practical' subjects like home economics, shorthand, typewriting, industrial arts and agricultural science. The physical facilities and equipment needed for these new subjects had been requested and supplied in anticipation of the advent of girls into the school. The school was much more 'multilateral' now that it had ever been before, and boys and girls had an equal opportunity to choose freely from these newly-introduced subjects. Nowadays, thirty years later, computer education seems to be holding sway and a lot of time and money is being invested in the promotion of the computer 'cause'. One must be careful, however, not to go overboard with this new 'fad' at the expense of the old, established and traditional subjects which have long since proved their worth in gold. We must carefully weigh the time-table allocation being given to this subject against its utilitarian value after school and in higher education. One gets the impression that rather scant attention is being given to some traditional subjects, the result being that these subjects are losing their appeal and their significance. There are already signs of this.

It is well known that the standard of education and the training of character offered at Queen's have always been of the highest quality. This was recognized not only in this land, but in the rest of the Caribbean and beyond. Not only was its quality of instruction second to none, but its Staff has always nurtured discernable talent shown by its students whether it was academic, merely literary, or of a sporting nature. To this end there have been, up to the recent past, a number of societies and inter-House sporting competitions all year round. This has resulted in Queen's College winning the vast majority of Guyana Scholarships (when they were in effect) as well as literary and sporting competitions among schools. Indeed, a few of our sportsmen have played at the national level on occasions. The Queen's College Cadet Corps, inaugurated in 1889, although aborted shortly after that, was restored in 1932 and grew stronger and stronger until, sadly, it was summarily abolished in 1975. As many here will know this corps formed the nucleus of the Guyana Defence Force command when it was formed after independence in 1966. Little wonder, then, that many of the individuals of Guyanese birth who have distinguished themselves in

the fields of education, law, politics, diplomacy and entrepreneurship in Guyana and abroad have been alumni and alumnae of Queen's College. To cite examples would not only be invidious, but also unnecessary, since the list is legion. Sad to say, however, the craving that there once was at Queen's for sport and extracurricular activity among houses and forms has waned, if not died completely. It seems that that surge of interest and frenetic activity in matters cultural, like music, art, and the performing arts, so characteristic of the sixties and the seventies, has all but disappeared from Queen's College. One must therefore presume that, generally, students, both boys and girls, either have no interest in matters of this kind, or, if they do, they cannot find the time to pursue them, since this is taken up by other pursuits of greater and more immediate importance to them. The Houses seem now to have little significance except when athletic sports are approaching. There seems to be a crying need for the house spirit to be revived. Is there anything that we, old students, can do to help to revive it?

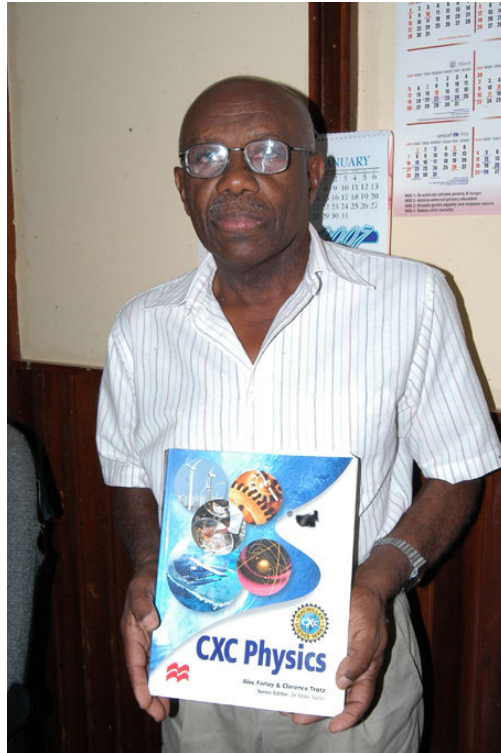
No school of the standing or reputation of Queen's College can fail to have traditions and practices peculiar to itself. Who among us can forget the 'bumping' and 'head-tapping' of the period right up to the early seventies when the school became co-educational? And which of us can forget the active banter between students and the generally mild, but sometimes quite severe and effective, reprimands of well-meaning masters and mistresses or, for that matter, the canings administered for misdemeanours and indiscretions committed? These might well be regarded as the 'glory days' of Queen's College. The level of intellect displayed then was high, humour was often subtle, but telling, and discipline, although not rigid, was constant and strict. The ethos of Queen's College was alive then and it must continue to live on. All Queen's College alumni must live up to their school motto 'Fideles ubique utiles' – 'Loyal and useful everywhere' and it is the duty of those who now hold the reins of control to strive their utmost to uphold these time-honoured traditions and maintain old standards in the face of the multitude of constraints which they now face.

"Semper fideles, semper utiles. Reginae Collegium!"

* See article by Fred Weston, son of F T Weston, in NL34.



The new furniture (see article on page 1) in use during a 4th form French class [Courtesy Dominic Gaskin]



CLARENCE TROTZ displays a copy of his book (see article on page 4).

LITERARY CORNER

THE OXFORD COMPANION TO BLACK BRITISH HISTORY

edited by

David Dabydeen, John Gilmore and Cecily Jones

[OUP, £30]

A useful addition to the works on Black British history, this book is the usual mixture for this series: articles on individuals, institutions, themes, ideas and historical periods. The individuals are mainly of African, Caribbean or Black British descent, but there are a number of White British – the abolitionists quite properly figure prominently among these – and two prominent West Indians of Asian descent: the Trinidadian writer Samuel Selvon and the Guyanese lawyer Rudy Narayan.

Chronologically, it starts in Roman times (one of the historical periods) and continues to the present, though one needs to be dead to qualify for a biography. QC old boys include Sir John Carter and Dr Peter Millard, and [*Vice-President*] Ron Hall is mentioned in the article ‘Medicine’. Of the Guyanese included, John Edmonstone who learnt taxidermy from the naturalist Charles Waterton and taught it at Edinburgh to Charles Darwin, and Dr Edward Nelson will probably be the least well known. Among the more prominent are Edgar Mittleholzer, Bernie Grant, Beryl Gilroy, Aubrey Williams, Rudolph Dunbar and Ken ‘Snakehips’ Johnson.

Not, of course, to be read through, this will remain the standard reference work on the subject for some time.

Peter Fraser

[The editors are all faculty members at the University of Warwick. (QCA Life Member) David Dabydeen is Professor of Literary Studies, John Gilmore is an Associate Professor in the Centre for Caribbean Studies, and Cecily Jones is a Director of the Centre and lecturer in Sociology. Peter Fraser is among the contributors.]

SPORTSMEN AND SPORTSMANSHIP

(Selected articles of the late Pryor Jonas)

edited by

Dr Joyce Jonas

Older alumni (most of us?) will remember old boy and former master the late **Pryor Jonas** who taught mathematics, but whose first love was undoubtedly sport, particularly cricket (see obituary in *Newsletter* No 32, December 2005). The brainchild of **Vic Insanally** of Guyenterprise, the book is a compilation of Pryor's articles selected with the help of Professor **Winston McGowan**. At the book launch held on 3rd April at Castellani House, Georgetown, Pryor's widow Joyce, who edited the publication, paid particular tribute to Vic and Winston (both old boys) for their efforts in bringing the project to fruition. She thanked the community for the tremendous goodwill, financial support and encouragement she had received, and reminded the gathering that Pryor had always maintained that every young Guyanese should be involved in sport which helped to develop attitudes and values that would help them be better members of society.

Complimentary copies of the book were presented to various libraries including that of Queen's College. It may be obtained by emailing sportsman_sportsmanship@hotmail.com.

GUYANESE ACHIEVERS UK

by

Vidur Dindayal, JP (*'Friend' Life Member*)

[ISBN 1-4251-0542-4, Trafford Publishing, 317 pp, softback, £21]

The book contains potted biographies of Guyanese who have made their mark in the UK. Included among over 60 entries, some famous, some not so, are Baroness Amos, Leader of the House of Lords, Air Commodore David Case, Lord (Waheed) Alli, (*Association Vice-Presidents*) Clive Lloyd and Trevor Phillips, Professor Cynthia Pine (Dean of Dental Studies, Liverpool University), Lord (Herman) Ousley, Sir Dexter Hutt, celebrated conductor the late Rudolph Dunbar and (*Committee and Life Member*) businessman Mark Dalgety.

The book may be purchased from the publishers, www.trafford.com/06-2300, tel 0845 230 9601.

GLIMPSES OF VICTORIAN BRITISH GUIANA

compiled by **Inge Veecoek***

(69 pp, softback)

Inge Veecoek's researches in the British Library's Newspaper Library have resulted in an entertaining compilation of cartoons selected from late 1890s issues of *The Argosy*. Grouped in sections such as Plantation Management and The Demon Rum, the cartoons satirise the social attitudes of the period.

Dedicated to Sister **Mary Noel Menezes**, RSM, formerly Professor of History at the University of Guyana, 'without whose help and encouragement this work would not have been possible', the book contains a potted history of Guyana, together with an appendix of Sources which includes translations of those parts of the captions in Creolese and Scottish for readers unfamiliar with those dialects (one cartoon in which a Scottish overseer is giving evidence in court against an indentured labourer who didn't turn up for work, has the magistrate asking for an interpreter).

Copies at £3.80 + £1.10 p&p may be obtained from Inge, tel 020 8579 4049, email vee8di@waitrose.com, who has kindly offered to donate 10% of book sales to the Association (please quote this *Newsletter* when ordering).

* *Inge is the wife of old boy David Exley Percival Veecoek whose grandfather James came out from England in 1861 as second master (deputy head) – the first master to be specifically recruited from the UK.*

THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH AS SHE IS SPOKE

The world wishes to communicate with us in English, but their signs have far more interesting things to say than their authors intended.

In Germany's Black Forest: IT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN THAT PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT SEX, FOR INSTANCE MEN AND WOMEN, LIVE TOGETHER IN ONE TENT UNLESS THEY ARE MARRIED WITH EACH OTHER FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Cocktail lounge, Norway: WOMEN ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR.

Hotel, Yugoslavia: THE FLATTENING OF UNDERWEAR WITH PLEASURE IS THE JOB OF THE CHAMBERMAID.

Budapest Zoo: PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUITABLE FOOD, GIVE IT TO THE GUARD ON DUTY.

Doctor's office, Rome: SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hotel, Acapulco: THE MANAGER HAS PERSONALLY PASSED ALL THE WATER SERVED HERE.

Information booklet on use of hotel room air conditioner, Japan: COOLES AND HEATES. IF YOU WANT CONDITION OF WARM AIR IN YOUR ROOM, PLEASE CONTROL YOURSELF.

Men's toilet, Japan: TO STOP LEAK, TURN COCK TO RIGHT.

On land near the British Club, Singapore: NO TRESPASSING WITHOUT PERMISSION.

Tokyo hotel's rules and regulations: GUESTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SMOKE OR DO OTHER DISGUSTING BEHAVIOURS IN BED.

Swiss restaurant menu: OUR WINES LEAVE YOU NOTHING TO HOPE FOR.

Tokyo bar: SPECIAL COCKTAILS FOR THE LADIES WITH NUTS.

Bangkok temple: IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER A WOMAN EVEN A FOREIGNER IF DRESSED LIKE A MAN.

Hotel brochure, Italy: THIS HOTEL IS RENOWNED FOR ITS PEACE AND SOLITUDE. IN FACT, CROWDS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD COME HERE TO ENJOY ITS SOLITUDE.

Hotel lobby, Bucharest: THE LIFT IS BEING FIXED FOR THE NEXT DAY. DURING THAT TIME WE REGRET THAT YOU WILL BE UNBEARABLE.

Hotel, Zurich: BECAUSE OF THE IMPROPRIETY OF ENTERTAINING GUESTS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX IN THE BEDROOM, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE LOBBY BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

A laundry in Rome: LADIES LEAVE YOUR CLOTHES HERE AND SPEND THE AFTERNOON HAVING A GOOD TIME.

Airline office, Copenhagen: WE TAKE YOUR BAGS AND SEND THEM IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

And not to be outdone, contributions from the English-speaking world.—

On a toilet hand dryer: DO NOT ACTIVATE WITH WET HANDS

In a cemetery: PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING FLOWERS FROM ANY BUT THEIR OWN GRAVES.

Outside an antique shop in Nelson, British Columbia: FOR SALE, ANTIQUES, NEW AND USED.

DIARY DATES

- 7 JUL BHSA day trip to Chester (contact Claire Carballo, 020 8883 2157)
- 15 JUL QCA 19TH SUMMER REUNION, usual venue**
- 26 AUG QCA-BHSA CARNIVAL FÊTE, Lola Jones Hall, Tooting Leisure Centre**
- 8 SEP St Rose's Alumni annual lunch, Vincent House, W2
(near Notting Hill Gate, contact Pam Walters 01787 227316)
- SEP 2007 ICQC Reunion and General Meeting, Guyana.** Tentative dates are 26 - 30 Sep
- 9 NOV QCA AGM, Guyana High Commission**
- 24 NOV BHSA Christmas shopping trip to Boulogne (contact Claire Carballo, 020 8883 2157)
- 30 NOV QCA 20TH ANNUAL DINNER, New Loon Fung Restaurant, Gerrard St, W1**
- 9 DEC BHSA Carol Service, Wesley's Chapel, City Rd, EC2

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