

Editorial

The new requirement to submit full papers rather than initial abstracts has seen an improvement in the quality of submissions. The new objective is to expand each issue and maintain on-schedule publication. Readers should look forward to Special Issues featuring conference papers in addition to papers from History graduates who have produced groundbreaking work invariably destined to be locked away from the wider society. These previously unexposed academics (not yet into publishing) will be encouraged to partner with, or seek first reviews from, more senior and seasoned academics to ensure that their contributions are of an acceptable standard of scholarship.

Although compact, this issue has maintained the main features of *History in Action*: its multidisciplinary content, its appeal to international scholars, and a selection of book reviews by established scholars.

Notes on contributors

Dahlia James-Williams is pursuing an MPhil in Cultural Studies in the Department of Literary, Cultural and Communication Studies of the UWI, St. Augustine Campus. Her paper, "Links between Shamanism and Saladoid/Barrancoid Effigy Vessels," complements ongoing work on the Saladoid/Barrancoid peoples, the first ceramic cultures of Trinidad and the Caribbean archipelago, by Basil Reid as well as earlier archaeologists such as Arie Bomert, Peter Harris and Irwin Rouse. Her paper focuses on two sites in Trinidad, Blanchisseuse on the north coast and Golden Grove in the northern Caroni plains. Her study attempts to extrapolate aspects of Saladoid/Barrancoid worldview from their ceramic culture.

Cyrelene Amoh-Boampong is a lecturer in African history at the Department of History of the University of Ghana, in Legon, Accra. Her article, "Defying Merchant Capital in the Gold Coast," documents the remarkable [[journey of cocoa from FP to the GC. The initiative was]] initiative of Tetteh Quarshie, the Ghanaian who clandestinely spirited away five cocoa seeds from Fernando Po (now called Bioko, lying off the coast of Gabon). The essay is a celebration of African entrepreneurship against the negative forces of colonialism. It tells how the visionary Quarshie painstakingly developed his first seedlings in the then British colony of the Gold Coast without any assistance from British financiers or the colonial government. Quarshie began selling cocoa pods to other native farmers. By the first decades of the twentieth century, Ghana became the world's leading producer of cocoa; although strangled by price manipulations by British cartels, cocoa industry remained firmly in the hands of natives.

Rhoda Reddock is Professor of gender studies and Deputy Principal of the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies. She is the author of *Women, Labour and Politics in Trinidad and Tobago: A History*, and editor and co-editor of several volumes. In this issue she reviews the book, *Caribbean Heritage*, edited by Basil A. Reid and published by the University of the West Indies Press (2012). Reddock sees this volume as an important and timely contribution to

reawaking the debate, while shedding its own light, on the cultural legacy of the Caribbean.

Gelien Matthews is a lecturer in the Department of History at the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies. She is the author of *Caribbean Slave Revolts and the British Abolitionist Movement* (2006). In this issue Matthews reviews *Revolutionary Emancipation: Slavery and abolitionism in the British West Indies*, by Claudius K. Fergus and published by Louisiana State University Press (2013). Matthews sees the book as “an insightful and piercing addition to the longstanding polemical on abolitionism in the English-speaking Caribbean.”

The members of the editorial committee are: Dr. Claudius Fergus, Dr. Basil Reid, Dr. Sherry Ann Singh, Dr. Michael Toussaint, Dr. Gelien Matthews, and Mr. Frank Soodeen.

The next volume will be published in December 2014. Contributors should see the guidelines at <http://www.mainlib.uwi.tt/epubs/historyaction/index.htm> before submitting articles.