

Editorial by Claudius Fergus

History in Action is pleased to offer readers this special volume after an unfortunate lapse in publication. In this issue we publish three essays in honour of Professor Emerita Bridget Brereton recognising her major contribution to the historiography of the Caribbean as well as her immense impact on several generations of students of Caribbean history, especially in the social, gender and subaltern genres. The three essays are revised papers presented at an inter-department conference, "Assembling the Fragments," in honour of three retired professors, Bridget Brereton, Barbara Lalla, and Ian Robertson held on 25-27 August 2011 at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. Also in keeping with the new format, we offer you a section on book reviews.

Bridget Brereton began her career as lecturer in 1973. Over the ensuing decades she served in many administrative capacities ranging from Head of Department to Acting Campus Principal; she also gave yeoman service to secondary school teacher; reforming the secondary schools curriculum; the Caribbean Examination Council; Statutory Boards, and Cabinet-appointed committees, including the crucial committee to review the Trinity Cross award, the highest national award of Trinidad and Tobago. The three essays, however, address only her academic career. All three authors were students of Brereton.

The essay by Gelien Matthews was previously published in this journal, but is revised for this volume. Matthews was nurtured by Brereton in the field of Caribbean gender history and focuses her essay mainly on Brereton's impact on this genre and on the wider field of social history. Michael Toussaint's contribution is a review essay which looks at three of Brereton's best monographs; because of its extensive exploration, the Journal will publish his review in two parts, the first of which addresses an overview of Brereton's writings and a critical look at one monograph. Claudius Fergus chose to focus on a slavery-era ditty, which was reproduced in at least two of Brereton's published works and which had a major impact on his approach to studying the subversive culture of the enslaved. Fergus seeks to deconstruct the ditty by incorporating aspects of African cosmology and a historical fiction of the Haitian Revolution.

This issue has three traditional book reviews, two of which are written by Jerome Teelucksingh, also a student of Brereton, and one, a review of Teelucksingh's major work, by Matthew Quest of the University of Tennessee.

Notes on the authors

Gelien Matthews is a lecturer in the Department of History at the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies. She lectures on Caribbean gender. One of her major works is *Caribbean Slave Revolts and the British Abolitionist Movement* (2006).

Michael Toussaint is a lecturer in the Department of History at the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies. He lectures on the African diaspora. He has published several journal articles and book chapters, the most recent being "The Eric Williams' Diaries."

Claudius Fergus is a retired Senior Lecturer and former Head of the Department of History at the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies. His field of lectureship was African history. His major publication is *Revolutionary Emancipation* (2013).

Jerome Teelucksingh is a lecturer in the Department of History at the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies. He has published several monographs; one of the most recent, *Labor and the Decolonization Struggle in Trinidad and Tobago*, is reviewed in this issue of *History in Action*.

Matthew Quest is a Lecturer in Africana Studies at University of Tennessee at Knoxville, USA. His most recent publication, "C.L.R. James's 'Critical Support' of Fidel Castro's Cuba," can be found in the online journal *Insurgent Notes*.