

Acquisition Trip: Guyana
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Mission: The primary reason for this trip was to acquire publications for the Library of Congress. In concert with that mission, a pilot program to collect (on a cost-recovery basis) monographs and serial samples for Cooperative Acquisition Program participants was initiated with the University of Texas being the sole guinea-pig this time around. In my 3 , days of collecting, I made a total of 41 contacts: 26 institutions, 11 bookstores and record shops, and 4 publishers. Total receipts for LC came to 964 items. Given the narrow parameters allowed by the University of Texas (nothing prior to 1996) only 31 items (17 purchases; 14 gifts) were acquired for their collection. 95 kilos were shipped altogether.

Significant results: I was able to track down and purchase 411 issues of the Official Gazette and 352 issues of the Acts, filling in many gaps in those runs for the Law Library. Begging and/or permanently borrowing (*with* permission) the 1998 Guyana Telephone book was the only way to acquire this already out-of-print directory. There were many substantial works of Guyanese literature published in England that were not listed in my JANUS printout of works about Guyana. Upon further checking in MUMS, a last minute fax >from the Rio Office confirmed my suspicions and arrived just in time for me to purchase the 11 fugitive volumes moments before hopping on the plane to Miami.

General observations: To save government funds, this buying trip was combined with official travel to the SALALM conference in Puerto Rico, R&R travel to Florida and consultations and conferences in Washington DC. All in all, a five-week marathon of a trip. My guardian angel was looking over me, for on the Barbados-Georgetown leg of the trip my seat mate happened to be a feisty, well-connected, sixty-something Scottish transplant to Guyana over 40 years ago who not only gave me a ride into town after we arrived, and called me several times with useful tips about authors and institutions to contact, but also offered me the use of her car and driver for the duration of my stay! Mr. Deodat (tel: 51792 or 55676) was an excellent discovery and I highly recommend his services (unless of course he has successfully emigrated to Canada as was his plan!). It cost approximately US \$50 a day for his services an incredible bargain compared to the other Guianas and Brazil.

The 1998 Guyana telephone book lists 17 bookstores for the entire country: 3 are religious in nature, one specializes in imported childrens materials and the others seem to be generic. There are 9 publishing firms listed. Most of the bookstores I went to had good stocks of imported books from the U.S. or England. Sadly, the Guyanese materials were usually tucked away on the bottom shelves in the distant corners.

I learned a very valuable lesson about how NOT to ship materials from Guyana. I unwittingly depended on the State Dept. assistant who sent the materials through the US Despatch Agent in Miami. Not only did we get stuck with an expensive shipping bill and ICASS charges, but our materials got snagged in Brazilian Customs for about 2 months and required extra payments to get them released. Next time I'll send the fruits of my labor via air cargo to Miami and re-send all packages through APO Miami myself.

Once again, many thanks to Carmen Muricy for assembling the vade mecum, to Tony Pierce and Ardie Bausenbach for producing JANUS printouts of Guyana materials and Sue Mundell for supervising the serials checking.

Places visited:

Book Stores, Record Shops, Publishers:

Argosy, 129 Regent St. Although Terry Peet found some monos of interest here during his trip, I did not.

Guyana Stores, 19 Water Street. A good stop. Purchased several monos and serial samples for both LC and U.Tx.

Michael Fordes Book Shop, 41 Robb St. Another good stop. Purchased several journal issues and English imprints of Guyanese literature.

Universal Bookstore, 41 Water St. had slim pickings.

Austins Book Service, 190 Church St. Has a good stock of journals. The managing director/owner promised to save back issues of monthly serials for LC when I told him I'd be back in 3 years.

The Bookseller, 78 Church St. Purchased 7 monos here.

Christian Literature Center had nothing to offer us.

House Proud, a good stop. Bought 2 issues of Kyk-over-al and 1 mono from England for LC and 4 monos for U.Tx.

University of Guyana Bookstore closed down due to dispute between operator and the University.

Musical Spotlight Record Bar, 31 Av. of the Republic. Only a burned-out shell remains of this former shop.

Full Range, on intersection of North and Regent. Purchased one locally produced, non-pirated copy of Guyana popular music for LC and U.Tx. Most of the music available is imported from Trinidad & Tobago.

Red Thread Press deals with womens issues and is barely hanging on by a thread. The director expressed lots of optimism, but had no significant publications to speak of as yet. I saw stacks of pamphlets about breast feeding, boiling water and household tips, but nothing with our scope.

Guyana Review Press, PO Box 10386, has just about the only regularly published and internationally delivered journal for the country. I was able to buy many back issues of the journal and initiate a subscription for the next year as well as purchase several issues of Emancipation and a sample of Holiday, a childrens magazine.

Catholic Standard: We drove round and round trying to locate the offices of this newspaper to no avail. Will try again on the next trip with preliminary calls.

Government Agencies, Institutions and NGOs:

Bank of Guyana: Confirmed that we are on their mailing list and asked them to change the address from HAS to the Rio Office. LC already had their latest Annual Report (1996) and the head librarian, Ms. Pamela Knight (former USIS library fellow to Tulsa, OK in 1994/95) promised to mail the 1997 as soon as its published. Picked up one monthly Statistical Abstract for March 1998 and rejected as out-of-scope their International Financial and Economic Developments.

Inter-American Institute for Cooperative Agriculture: Just stumbled upon this source by chance but was graciously received by the director, Jerry LeGra. An excellent source for studies about agriculture and rural activities in Guyana. Purchased some 10 studies and received one gratis.

Bauxite Industry Development Company Ltd. Everyone was out to lunch except the administrative assistant who assured me that nothing had been published for public consumption since the 1977.

Caribbean Community Secretariat: It took four stops all over town before I was able to track down the Caricom documentation center which had moved several times in the last few years. Although on the books we have an exchange program with Caricom, I was only able to pry 3 titles gratis and had to purchase 3 others. Got the latest issue of Caribbean Perspectives and the last two annual reports.

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry: Their Guyana Business has ceased publication. Although I was given 4 "mimeographed" issues of their Bulletin, it was rejected.

Guyana Human Rights Association: Although I waited and waited for the appropriate person (i.e, the directorthe only person with the keys to the storage cabinet for their

publications) to appear he never did. I received 2 pamphlets and was told to write with a request for the other recent publications. Ill follow through.

Guyana Manufacturers Association Ltd. LC already had the latest report available. Ms. Nathoo, the executive director said that shed send the 1997 report in July/Aug. Ill follow up with a letter.

Tourism Association of Guyana: Received Historical Guyana monograph, the Annual Report of the Association, 2 posters and several brochures as gifts.

Guyana National Cooperative Bank: Received 2 gifts of their latest publications Report and Accounts 1990 and Report of the Auditor General for 1993.

Guyana National Printers Ltd.: Although it was useful to make a stop at the national printers in Suriname and French Guiana and the managing director in Georgetown tried to be very helpful, this is not a necessary stop for us in the future.

Guyana Office for Investment: After two trips here and lots of waiting, I acquired a set of pamphlets that were ultimately rejected.

Guyana Sugar Corporation Ltd, Communications Dept. Verified that LC already had the latest annual report (1995) and extracted a promise that later issues would be sent upon publication . However, the chair of the corporation, Ian McDonald is a "must meet" person for anyone going to Guyana. Besides being a wealth of information about his adopted country, he is the momentum behind the literary journal Kyk-over-al. Received 2 donated older issues and purchased the latest issue.

Guyana Telephone and Telegraph: Although the 1998 phonebook had been available for a very short time, it was already out-of-print and unavailable for purchase. Consequently I had to beg copies from other sources.

Ministry of Agriculture, Dept. of Lands and Surveys: Contacts there said that a new gazetteer would be coming out within the next month. Will write to obtain. Purchased one map dated 1996. The Annual Report and Bulletin are no longer being published.

Guyana Water Authority: Picked up the annual report for 1996. Will write to obtain other years.

Ministry of Education and Cultural Development: Got their annual report for 1994. Only item available.

Statistical Bureau, Ministry of Finance: Received gratis 4 issues of Statistical Bulletin and purchased the Report on Household Income and Expenditures. Learned that the Statistical abstract of Guyana and Indices of monthly retail sales are no longer being published.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Received one issue of Takuba News gratis. Purchased back issues for 1997 and 1998 and started a subscription. Learned that the Guyana Journal, formerly published by the Ministry of External Affairs, has ceased.

Ministry of Health: Received as gift their Annual Report >from 1993 (latest available).

Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security: Received as gifts one copy of the latest Annual Report 1996 and a copy of Act 32 (1997) concerning occupational safety.

National Assembly: Before I could even open my mouth, the affable Clerk of the National Assembly, Frank Narain, warmly welcomed me as the new National Democratic Institute librarian they were anxiously awaiting. Guess we librarians do all look alike... We had quite a chuckle when I said I was from a democratic institution, but not the one he was thinking of. After two trips here, I was able to purchase several hundred issues of the Acts for the Law Library. I learned that the National Assembly Debates has changed title and is now commercially published by FCE Systems, not the Assembly. The new title is Inside Parliament. I picked up several sample issues.

National Library: The National Bibliography was suspended >from April 1991-1995. I was given 2 copies each of the National Bibliography for 1996 and Jan/March 1991 (one for LC, one for U.Tx.)

Guyana Information Services, Office of the President: Received 5 issues of Hinterland Highlights, 2 posters (one of the President and her cabinet members), 13 other serial samples. Verified that Guyana news, Guyana today and Guynews are no longer being published.

Peoples National Congress: Lots of security around this place had to do some fast talking to get into here without an appointment! Obtained 6 sample issues of New nation.

University of Guyana: (Amerindian Research Unit) Meet with Janet Forte, coordinator and author of several books on Guyanese Amerindians. She donated 2 copies of her book Material culture of the Wapishana people (one for LC, one for U.Tx). (University Library) received 47 items for LC (including 22 issues of Inside Parliament) and 7 for U.Tx.

Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology: Although I tried to get materials via our official exchange, the director was out sick and the assistants working did not have the authority to donate via exchange. So, I had to purchase 2 back issues of Archaeology and Anthropology and an Arawak-English dictionary.