

**Papers of Henry
Valentine L. Swanzy**

MS42

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Mid-20th cent

Correspondence of Henry Valentine Leonard Swanzy, editor and broadcaster, principally relating to his work as editor and producer of the BBC [British Broadcasting Corporation] radio programme 'Caribbean Voices', a literary programme which ran between 1945 and 1958. The programme, which was broadcast back to the West Indies, featured poems, stories and other literary material by West Indian writers and provided an important and rare opportunity for writers of West Indian poetry and fiction to have their work publicised.

Letters, which span the years 1945-56, include correspondence between Swanzy and Mrs Gladys Lindo, the BBC's local representative in Kingston, Jamaica, which give detailed information about the format, content and organisation of the programme and provide evidence of the significance of the programme in raising the literary standard of Caribbean writing. The letters between Swanzy and Gladys Lindo include their opinions on the work of many individual writers.

Other correspondence includes letters to and from contributors, some of whom became personal friends of Henry Swanzy. Correspondents include writers and poets such as: Derek Walcott of St. Lucia [awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992]; John Figueroa, Andrew Salkey and Gloria Escoffery of Jamaica; George Lamming, Frank Collymore and Kamau Braithwaite of Barbados; Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul [awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2001] and Samuel Selvon of Trinidad; Edgar Mittelholzer, Arthur J. Seymour and Wilson Harris of Guiana. The collection also includes letters of comment, criticism and appreciation from listeners. The papers indicate the enormous level of

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support and encouragement which Swanzy gave to West Indian writers, by assisting them in their efforts to find publishers for their work and by finding them employment as readers on the programme.

The papers also contain a small number of programme notes.

Henry Valentine Leonard Swanzy was born near Cork in Southern Ireland on 14 June 1915. He moved to England in 1920 and began a career in the civil service after his education at Wellington College and New College, Oxford. He initially worked at the Colonial and Dominions Office from 1937 to 1940 as Assistant Principal in various geographical departments and then, in 1940, at the Dominions Office as Private Secretary to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. In 1941, Swanzy joined the BBC as News Talks Assistant, Empire Department, Overseas Division in 1941. Apart from a period when he was seconded to the Gold Coast (later Ghana) Broadcasting Service as Head Of Programmes between 1954 and 1958, he remained with the BBC until his retirement in 1975. At this point he had risen to the position of scriptwriter in the Central Talks and Features section of the External Services.

In 1946, Henry Swanzy became producer of a weekly radio programme, 'Caribbean Voices', which was broadcast in the British West Indies. 'Caribbean Voices' was a literary programme featuring poems, stories and other literary material by West Indian writers. The programme helped launch the careers of many successful writers, including Derek Walcott, George Lamming and V. S. Naipaul, and included readings of new work and literary criticism. Swanzy also served as editor of the Journal of the Royal African Society.

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Swanzy married twice: in 1946, to Tirzah Garwood, who tragically died of cancer; and to Henriette Van Eeghan in 1952. He died on 19 March 2004, aged 88.

[Reference: The University of Birmingham, Research Libraries Bulletin (Number 6 Autumn 1998); Phillip Nanton and Anne Walmsley (2004), Obituary of Henry Swanzy, The Guardian, 20 March.]

The collection has been arranged into two series. The first series contains correspondence of Henry Swanzy from 1945-1956, arranged chronologically and containing a total of 12 files, one file for each year. The second series contains programme notes and contains two files.

2 standard boxes

Open

Access to all registered researchers.

Some letters in the collection are fragile and should be handled with care.

Copies of the correspondence are held by: The Alma Jordan Library, The University of the West Indies.

Permission to make any published use of any material from the collection must be sought in advance in writing from the University Archivist, Cadbury Research Library : Special Collections. Identification of copyright holders of unpublished material is often difficult. Cadbury Research Library : Special Collections will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Languages: English, French

Swanzy, Henry Valentine L, 1915-2004, editor, broadcaster and BBC Producer

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This collection of Swanzy's correspondence was purchased by the Centre for West African Studies and formally presented for deposit in the Special Collections Department at a small ceremony in June 1997.

Catalogued by Angela Skitt, February 2012. Prepared in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

GB 0162 MSS.Brit.Emp.s.501, Papers of Henry Valentine L. Swanzy, Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies, Rhodes House, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3RG

Nanton, Philip, 'What Does Mr Swanzy Want - Shaping or Reflecting? An assessment of Henry Swanzy's contribution to the development of Caribbean Literature', *Caribbean Quarterly*, 46:1 (2000: March).

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Correspondence of Henry Swanzy in relation to 'Caribbean Voices'

1945-1954

Many letters in the series are annotated by Henry Swanzy, with passages and words marked. There also appear to be annotations on some letters by other, unidentified hands. Letters from contributors to 'Caribbean Voices' in this series often refer to enclosed scripts of stories or poems which were sent to Henry Swanzy for possible use in 'Caribbean Voices'; very few of these scripts are present within the collection.

Letters are arranged chronologically, with a file of correspondence for each year.

12 files

Open

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MS42/1/1	Correspondence 1945	1945
	Two items.	
	1/ handwritten letter addressed to the BBC [British Broadcasting Corporation] from Mrs Florence M. Chabrol Rock of Bridgetown, Barbados, in which Mrs Rock asks which of her poems were broadcast as part of the radio programme 'Caribbean Voices', 14 August 1945;	
	2/ a manuscript poem 'Beautiful Barbados' by Mrs Florence M. Chabrol Rock.	
	1 file	
	Open	
MS42/1/2	Correspondence 1946	1946
	16 items.	
	Two letters from Henry Swanzy to Mrs Gladys R. Lindo, literary agent for the BBC in Kingston, Jamaica, 13 August 1946 and 17 December 1946. One letter from Mrs Lindo to Swanzy, 14 September 1946, in reply to his letter of 13 August. This letter is annotated in ink 'All letters from Cedric Lindo' implying that Cedric Lindo [the husband of Gladys Lindo], rather than Gladys Lindo, is the principal author of the correspondence. These letters include: comments by Swanzy on a novel by Jan Williams, 'These are the Fields', which he feels would be suitable for publication; comments by Swanzy on the work of John Figueroa [Jamaican poet] and Samuel Selvon [Trinidad-born writer]; discussion of the possible inclusion of literary criticism in the programme 'Caribbean Voices', including the development of 'Critics Circle' as a feature of the programme; comments by Mrs Lindo on the diffusion of 'Caribbean Voices' by the local Radio Distribution Company in Trinidad.	

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Eight memoranda from Mrs Lindo to J. Grenfell Williams at the BBC, listing contributions of poems and other literary works sent by Mrs Lindo for possible inclusion in the programme 'Caribbean Voices'. The listed enclosures are not present in the collection, but the memoranda list works by: Reverend J. W. Graham of Jamaica; Oliver T. Rock of Barbados; H. V. Ormsby Marshall of Jamaica; W. E. Gordon of Jamaica; Willy Richardson of Trinidad; Frank E. Dalzell of British Guiana; Flora E. Baker of Trinidad; Pat Mitchell of Jamaica; Miss E. A. Sweeney of Trinidad; Alfred N. Graham of Jamaica; W. S. Arthur of Barbados; Ruby L. Waithe of Trinidad; Mrs L. M. Ware of Trinidad; Mr J. R. Bunting of Jamaica; Egbert Gibbs of Trinidad; Mrs Flora Montserin of Trinidad; Miss Virginia Bayack of Trinidad; E. M. Hutton of Jamaica; Joyce Gittens of Trinidad.

Four items of correspondence with potential and actual contributors to the programme, including: two letters from Henry Swanzy to A. J. [Arthur James] Seymour [poet from British Guiana], the first inviting Seymour for a chat to discuss 'Caribbean Voices', 25 October 1946 and the second informing Seymour that his talk is to be broadcast, 8 November 1946; a handwritten letter to Swanzy from Vivian Hazell concerning the broadcast of some of her work on 'Caribbean Voices', 13 August 1946; a handwritten letter from S. Morris of East Croydon to Swanzy enclosing a 'draft' [not present in the collection] and requesting Swanzy's opinion of it, 28 August 1946.

One internal BBC memorandum from E. R. Edmett to Swanzy informing him of a visit by Mr A. J. Seymour of British Guiana and stating that Mr Seymour had presented the BBC library with two volumes of poems.

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Arranged in chronological order.

1 file

Open

MS42/1/3

Correspondence 1947

1947

49 items. The file includes:

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Mrs Gladys R. Lindo, literary agent for the BBC in Kingston, Jamaica (22 letters) concerning contributions to the programme 'Caribbean Voices', including: discussion of the types of contributions that are acceptable for the programme; comments by Mrs Lindo on methods of publicising 'Caribbean Voices' and 'Critic's Circle'; discussion of the quality of readers on the programme, including Gordon Bell. The correspondence includes opinions of Mrs Lindo and Henry Swanzy on literary contributions submitted by writers and poets. Writers and poets mentioned in the correspondence include: John Mansfield; G. A. Holder of Barbados; Jan Williams; [Edgar Austin] Mittelholzer [of Guiana]; Alfred Graham; Pat Mitchell; Mrs Ormsby-Marshall; Mrs L. M. Ware; Vivette and Micky Hendriks, Mrs Lindo's niece and nephew; Egbert Gibb of Trinidad; Karl Seeley; Hazel Davis; [Oliver] Rock; [William] Arthur of Barbados; Flora Baker; Albinia Hutton; Louise Bennett of Jamaica; Virginia Bayack; [George] Lamming; [Joseph] Penco; [Harold] Telemaque of Trinidad; Mrs [Pat] Garrod; A. J. Seymour [of Guiana]; H. A. Vaughan [of Barbados]; Frank Collymore [of Barbados]; Willy Richardson; Samuel Selvon; Ernest Carr; Clyde Crichlow of Trinidad; [R. L. C.]Aarons; Wilfred Redhead of Grenada.

Two letters from Gordon Woolford to Henry Swanzy, 23 January 1947 and 1 December 1947, and a letter from Swanzy to Woolford, 2 December 1947, commenting on a story by Woolford titled

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'Black Velvet and Lace' and expressing the belief that it is of a higher literary standard.

One letter from Henry Swanzy to Pauline Henriques [author], concerning Miss Henriques's contribution to 'Critics Circle' and arrangements for recording the broadcast, including mention of writers Gordon Woolford and John Figueroa, 11 February 1947.

Correspondence between Henry Swanzy and F. A. Fulford (five letters) concerning the possibility of broadcasting an adaption by a West Indian writer of W. H. Hudson's novel 'Green Mansions', April-May 1947.

Correspondence between Henry Swanzy and Harold Telemaque of Trinidad, in which Swanzy gives praise and literary criticism of Telemaque's poetry including comments on Telemaque's use of language and technical aspects of his poetry, and in which Telemaque describes the 'enormous' service Swanzy is doing for West Indian artists and outlines a form of rhyming he has used in some of his poems (four letters dated 4 March, 17 March, 11 June and 29 July 1947).

One typescript memorandum to Mr G. M. Stevenson, Overseas correspondence [BBC], from Mr E. R. Edmett, West Indies Section [BBC] and copied to Mr Swanzy, giving literary criticism of verses submitted by Miss Lettice King 'Lena Kent' of Jamaica, using examples by Shelley and Wordsworth, 4 June 1947.

Correspondence between Henry Swanzy and A. J. Seymour of British Guiana, concerning a request by Seymour that Harold Stannard might broadcast a speech to the West Indies for the Convention of the British Guiana Union of Cultural Clubs (five letters - 24 June, addressed to Mr Edmett of the West Indian section of the BBC, 8 July, 16 July,

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8 August, 13 August).

One handwritten letter from Gordon Bell of Barbados to Henry [Swanzy] explaining financial difficulties in getting some poems typed, 14 July 1947.

One handwritten letter from Edith Sweeney of Trinidad, to 'The West Indian Programme Producers' of the BBC, submitting some manuscripts for consideration, 16 July 1947.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Vivette Hendriks (three letters - 19 August, 21 August and 28 August) arranging a meeting.

One handwritten letter to Henry [Swanzy] from John Figueroa, requesting to hear a playback of a broadcast of 'Personal Statement' on 'Caribbean Voices', 17 November 1947.

Arranged in chronological order.

1 file

Open

MS42/1/4

Correspondence 1948

1948

136 items. The file includes:

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Mrs Gladys R. Lindo, literary agent for the BBC in Kingston, Jamaica (41 letters) concerning contributions to the programme 'Caribbean Voices'. The correspondence includes: discussion of literary work submitted by writers and poets; debate over whether readers on the programme should be English or West Indian and the views of Mrs Lindo and Swanzy on the quality of different readers, including John Figueroa, Fernando Henriques, F. A. Fulford, Edgar Mittelholzer, A. E. T. Henry, Michael Vowden, Robin Holmes and Michael Smith; discussions of problems caused by radio diffusion companies

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ceasing to broadcast the programme to Trinidad and Barbados; discussion concerning fees paid by the BBC for West Indian poetry; discussion of whether use of work from French islands such as Martinique and Guadeloupe would have political implications; disagreement over the literary qualities of a poem by Mrs Olga Hoad about 'fish-pie made with yam'; discussion of a complaint received from Radio Diffusion (Barbados) Limited about broadcast of a story by Samuel Selvon 'Behind the Humming Bird'; information about the foundation of a literary club in Jamaica by Mr J. R. Bunting; comments of Mrs Lindo on the Jamaican publication 'Focus'; discussion of writer Vivian Virtue and why he appears to boycott 'Caribbean Voices'; discussions of plans for a new feature on 'Caribbean Voices' called 'Second Hearing'; literary criticism used on 'Caribbean Voices' by Arthur Calder-Marshall and Roy Fuller and information about how these reviews were received by some listeners; a letter by Mrs Lindo introducing Mr. J. R. Bunting, a frequent contributor to 'Caribbean Voices' who is accompanying the Jamaican Olympic team to London (letter dated 1 June); discussion as to whether there might be a market in the West Indies for a yearly collection of the best items from 'Caribbean Voices'.

The correspondence includes opinions of Mrs Lindo and Henry Swanzy on the work of West Indian writers and poets and on literary contributions received for possible use in 'Caribbean Voices'. Writers and poets mentioned in the correspondence include: Reverend Graham; Wycliffe Bennett; Vivian Virtue [of Jamaica]; Victor Reid; Harry Milner of Jamaica; Neville A. Dawes [of Jamaica]; A. J. Seymour [of Guiana]; Louise Bennett [of Jamaica]; Mr J. R. Bunting [of Jamaica]; Samuel Selvon; A. E. T. Henry; John Mansfield; [George] Lamming; Albert Ferriera; R. E. Braithwaite; Gloria Escoffery; Dorothy

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Phillips; Mrs Ormsby Cooper; Roger Mais [of Jamaica]; [R. L. C.] Aarons; Joy de Leon; J. M. Hewitt; Micky Hendriks; Ernest Carr; Raymond Barrow; [Barnabas] Ramon-Fortune; [Harold] Telemaque; Alfred Mendes of Trinidad; Vivette Hendriks; Stephen Haweis; Errol Hill; Byron Fraser; Charles Levy; Edgar Mittelholzer; Mrs Ormsby-Marshall; Eileen Cooper; Michael Smith.

One handwritten letter from Dr Calvin S. Lambert of Christian Relief, YMCA in West Pakistan to Henry Swanzy detailing his travel to Lahore, the number of refugees found there and his relief work, 20 January 1948.

Two letters (one handwritten, one typescript) from Phyllis Bottome of St. Ives, Cornwall [novelist], concerning a request by Swanzy for her to give a talk on Jamaican literature for 'Caribbean Voices', 19 February and 12 March, including comments on a new novel by Jamaican Victor Reid and comments on Philip Sherlock, Literature Professor at the new University in Jamaica.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy and the BBC with Edgar Mittelholzer (seven letters - 4 March, 8 March, 12 March, 16 July, 22 November, 24 November and 5 December) concerning the possibility of Mittelholzer contributing to 'Caribbean Voices' and arrangements for work by Mittelholzer as a reader for the programme.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Harold Telemaque of Trinidad (four letters - 5 March, 3 May, 20 July and 27 August) in which Telemaque submits poems 'Brimless Light', 'Ruin' and 'Let the Little Ones' [poems not present in the collection] and Swanzy gives his views on these, in which Telemaque gives his views on a talk by Roy Fuller on 'Caribbean Voices' and comments on Mrs

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Lindo as the 'ideal contact in the West Indies'.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Robert Herring of 'Life and Letters' (five letters - 6 March, 9 March, 11 March, March [date unknown], 19 April) concerning a talk by Herring 'What I look for in West Indian Literature' for 'Caribbean Voices' and including mention of writers Peter Blackman of Barbados, Edgar Mittelholzer and Eric Walrond.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Frank Collymore of Barbados (nine letters). These include: a handwritten letter in which Collymore describes his new baby, progress with his own writing, his teaching activities and describes Dominica and comments on writers George Lamming and Edgar Mittelholzer (7 March); a letter in which Swanzy requests that Collymore should send some recent work to Mrs Lindo for consideration, comments on Edgar Mittelholzer and comments on poetry by Jamaican writer, Michael Smith (8 June); a letter in which Collymore comments on George Lamming and Edgar Mittelholzer and asks for a commentary of Roy Fuller's talk on 'Caribbean Voices' (30 June); letters in which Collymore asks Swanzy to review his forthcoming book of poems (17 August) and Swanzy agrees (27 August); a letter in which Collymore describes his work producing his publication 'Bim', comments on the use of West Indian readers for 'Caribbean Voices' and explains that each island has its own accent, comments on clichés in his story 'The Snag' and gives Swanzy his impressions of Derek Walcott who is spending a few weeks in Barbados (28 August); a letter from Collymore in which he mentions items for publication in 'Bim No. 9' and mentions he has submitted some work for 'Caribbean Voices' (8 September); a letter from Swanzy enclosing his review for Collymore's book of poems (20 September - review not

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present); a letter from Collymore together with a photograph of his wife and daughter, thanking Swanzy for the review of his poems, giving his views on West Indian readers on 'Caribbean Voices' and in particular Edgar Mittelholzer's reading and giving views on George Lamming's work (25 September).

Internal BBC memoranda concerning a new scheme of fees for West Indian poetry and suggestions of how the change should be communicated to writers (6 April, 9 April, 15 April, 25 March).

One letter from J. R. Bunting of Kingston, Jamaica to Henry Swanzy, thanking him for providing a copy of a talk by Mr Calder-Marshall for use at the inaugural meeting of a creative arts club called 'the Columbus Club' and thanking him for the encouragement to writers provided by 'Caribbean Voices', 15 April.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Roy Fuller (13 letters - 20 April, 22 April, 30 April, 3 May, 4 May, 5 May, 10 May, 27 May, 28 May, 25 June, 9 December, 10 December, 14 December) concerning arrangements for Fuller to provide literary criticism for 'Caribbean Voices' including a piece on the work of [Barnabas] Ramon-Fortune.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Arthur Calder Marshall (six letters - 21 March, 5 April, 6 April, 4 August, 23 September, 8 December) including discussion of whether a novel by McLeish 'Adam in the woodpile' would be suitable for 'Caribbean Voices'.

One typescript copy letter from Henry Swanzy to Miss Alma La Badie, 1 April 1948, with a reply from Miss La Badie, 2 April, concerning her proposal for a West Indian magazine in London.

Two letters from Henry Swanzy to Gordon Bell of Combermere School, Barbados (5

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April, 8 June) concerning the news that the rediffusion of 'Caribbean Voices' by local radio stations has been discontinued in Barbados.

One letter from Henry Swanzy to John Figueroa, asking him to read some poems [for a broadcast of 'Caribbean Voices'], 7 June, and one letter from Figueroa to Swanzy thanking him for a party and asking his opinions on some recent verse, 21 June.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Charles Penney (seven letters - 22 June, 14 September, 15 September, 30 October, 15 November, 19 November, 19 November) concerning contributions by Penney to 'Caribbean Voices' including a request by Swanzy for Penney to read for the programme and preparation of a piece on the history of Calypso in Trinidad.

One letter from Rowell Debysingh of Trinidad concerning a contribution for possible inclusion in 'Caribbean Voices', 30 August and a letter from Swanzy to Debysingh, 18 October.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Geoffrey Drayton of Canada [originally of Barbados], concerning possible contributions of poetry by Drayton for 'Caribbean Voices' (four letters - 24 September, 7 October, 21 October, 19 November).

One letter from Ellsworth McG Keane to Henry Swanzy, enclosing a poem for possible use in 'Caribbean Voices', 6 October, with a reply from Swanzy to Keane giving comments on the poem, 19 October [poem is not present in the collection].

Correspondence relating to a complaint received from Radio Distribution (Barbados) Limited concerning a story by Samuel Selvon 'Behind the Humming Bird' broadcast as part of 'Caribbean

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Voices, including: a letter from Radio Distribution (Barbados) Limited; a copy letter of complaint from a listener; a letter from J Grenfell Williams, Head of Colonial Services for the BBC to Radio Distribution (Barbados) Limited in response to the complaint; two letters by Gladys Lindo in relation to the matter, September-October 1948; a letter from Henry Swanzy to Samuel Selvon explaining that he is unable to broadcast Selvon's story 'Steel Bands Clash' and commenting on the complaints received in relation to 'Behind the Humming Bird' (29 October); a copy letter from Samuel Selvon to Swanzy apologising for the problems caused by his story (11 November).

Arranged in chronological order.

1 file

Open

One letter in this file is fragile (dated 20 May 1948).

Language: English

MS42/1/5

Correspondence 1949

1949

109 items. The file includes:

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Gladys R. Lindo, literary agent for the BBC in Kingston, Jamaica (33 items, including two memoranda from Mrs Lindo addressed to J. Grenfell Williams of the BBC). The correspondence relates to contributions collected by Mrs Lindo from West Indian writers for the programme 'Caribbean Voices', schedules of broadcasts sent to Mrs Lindo by Swanzy, queries over payments to writers for work used in the programme, publication of literary criticism talks from 'Caribbean Voices' in the local press of West Indian islands and discussing possible content for the programme, including whether to include reviews of West Indies literary publications such as 'Bim' [Barbadian

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publication] and 'Focus' [Jamaican publication] and whether to resume 'Critics Circle'. Throughout the correspondence, Swanzy and Mrs Lindo discuss the poetry of Derek Walcott of St. Lucia, including talks on Walcott's work by Roy Fuller and Gavin Ewart. During March and April, correspondence includes information about a fire onboard a ship 'Cavina' which destroyed some manuscripts sent back to Mrs Lindo. The correspondence includes opinions of both Mrs Lindo and Henry Swanzy on literary contributions submitted by authors for consideration, including: John Mansfield; Byron S. Fraser; Ruby Williams; Eva Nicholas; [R.] Aarons; Jack Harewood; George Lamming; Rowell Debysingh; Charles Levy; G. A. Hamilton; J. R. Bunting; Roger Mais; Micky Hendricks; Edith Sweeney; Doreen Hamilton; Clem Adams; Ernest Carr; C. M. Hope; Basil MacFarlane; Edgar Boyce; P. D. Lincott; Raymond Barrow; Kenneth Newton; Daniel Joseph; Basil Balgobin; Stephen Haweis; Ulric Simmonds; Samuel Selvon; M. L. Anthony; W. S. Arthur; Lushington; [Louis] Young [Barnabas Ramon-Fortune]; Miss Hollar; Hilda MacDonald; Elsie Hutton, Anna Fuller; John Wickham; A. N. Forde; Karl Sealy; Eugene Bartrum; Mrs Howard; A. K. Elliott; Michael Brown; Egbert Gibbs; Terry Burke; Oscar Hackett and R. Muage of Trinidad; Neil Cameron.

The file also includes:

One letter from Henry Swanzy to Una Marson of Kingston, Jamaica, thanking her for submitting some contributions to 'Caribbean Voices', 3 January.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Roy Fuller (10 letters - 3 January, 7 January, 9 February, 4 April, 8 April, 11 April, 27 April, 14 July, 18 July) concerning talks written by Fuller for 'Caribbean Voices' giving literary criticism of the work of Barnabas Ramon-Fortune and Derek Walcott.

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One letter from Michael Manley to Henry Swanzy passing on a copy of 'Focus' [Jamaican literary publication], 4 January. One letter from Swanzy in reply, thanking him and suggesting the idea of a review of the publication in 'Caribbean Voices' to stimulate contributions to the programme from Jamaica, 10 January. Also one letter from Mrs Edna Manley of Jamaica to Swanzy concerning a misunderstanding relating to delivery of 'Focus' and giving her views that it is not a periodical, but should stand alone as an anthology, 2 February, with a letter from Swanzy in reply, 9 February.

Correspondence between Henry Swanzy and Frank Collymore of St. Michael, Barbados (14 letters- 7 January, 22 January, 9 February, 28 March, 30 March, 27 April, 7 May, 25 May, 29 May, 19 June, 18 July, 19 July, 6 December, 14 December), including: discussion of Frank Collymore's work producing 'Bim' [Barbados literary magazine]; comments on a journalist, George Hunte and his unfavourable treatment of 'Caribbean Voices' and West Indies literature in the local Barbados press; opinions of Collymore on the work of Derek Walcott, George Lamming, Hugh Popham, Elizabeth Woolcott, W. Therold Barnes and readings by Harold Telemaque, Miss Henriques, [Gordon] Woolford and [Willy] Richardson; discussion of a sketch of Derek Walcott produced by Harold Simmons and whether it is a good likeness of him; personal news of Collymore in relation to his work producing plays for the Bridgetown Players.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with John Figueroa (five letters - 14 January, 29 January, January, 24 November, 29 November), in which Swanzy gives his views on poems sent to him by Figueroa including 'The Breather', 'Street Scene' and 'Misty Morning'.

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Three letters of Henry Swanzy to Derek Walcott of St. Lucia (three letters - 9 February, 7 March, 18 November) in which Swanzy requests to use some of Walcott's poetry in 'Caribbean Voices', praises his poetry, asks whether Walcott would consent to some of his poems being sent to a publisher in England and gives detailed literary criticism of Walcott's poem 'An Epitaph for Youth'.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Edgar Mittelholzer (eleven letters - 28 February, 2 March, 21 March, 22 March, 17 May, undated [May], 26 May, 29 May, 15 June, 10 September, 16 September) in which Swanzy comments on submissions of contributions to 'Caribbean Voices' sent by Mittelholzer.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Harold Telemaque of Trinidad (four letters - 19 April, 5 July, 27 August, 7 September) concerning a visit by Telemaque to England and the possibility of Telemaque reading for broadcasts of 'Caribbean Voices'.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with A. C. Pearse of the University College of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago (five letters - 16 March, 22 March, 11 April, 10 May, 18 June) concerning a critical survey of West Indian literary output written by Swanzy for inclusion in a journal produced by the Extra-Mural department of the University.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with L. M. H. Timmermans of University of London Press regarding the possibility of publishing a West Indian miscellany and concerning access to literary material collected for 'Caribbean Voices' for use in the miscellany (two letters - 20 June and 21 June)

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with J. M. Hewitt of Bridgetown, Barbados (three letters - 20 September, 6 October (sent by Swanzy's secretary) and 21 October)

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in which Hewitt requests information about which magazine publishers in Britain might consider publication of stories from West Indian writers.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Erroll Hill of Trinidad (five letters - 16 October, 21 October, 3 November, 16 December, 19 December) in which Hill explains he has recently arrived in England and expresses a wish to meet with Swanzy with a view to taking part in 'Caribbean Voices' and producing radio plays and in which Swanzy comments on a story by Hill 'Ping-Pong'.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Arthur Calder-Marshall (two letters - 31 November and 23 December) concerning criticism and recording by Calder-Marshall for 'Caribbean Voices'.

One letter from Henry Swanzy to C. E. L. Grant thanking him for some poems and explaining that some will be used in a programme, 18 July.

One letter from Gavin Ewart to Henry Swanzy enclosing a script [not present in the collection] for a talk on 'Epitaph for the Young' by Derek Walcott, 24 November.

One letter from Gordon Woolford, writer, to Henry Swanzy giving his apologies for a missed event and concerning contact with the [BBC] copyright department, 16 December.

One letter from Samuel Selvon, writer, to Henry Swanzy requesting help in finding a job when coming to the UK, 20 December.

Arranged in chronological order.

1 file

Open

Language: English, French

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MS42/1/6

Correspondence 1950

1950

104 items. The file includes:

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Edgar Mittelholzer [writer] (11 letters - 3 January, 9 January, 4 May, 16 May, 18 May, 20 July, 25 July, 24 October, 26 October, 2 November, 6 November). The correspondence includes letters in which Mittelholzer encloses contributions for consideration for use in 'Caribbean Voices' [enclosures are not present in the collection], gives information relating to progress and publication of his novel 'A Morning at the Office' and his historical novel 'Children in Kaywana'. The correspondence includes opinions of Swanzy on work by Mittelholzer and discussion of Jamaican writer, Gloria Escoffery, recently in London, who Swanzy asks Mittelholzer to contact as she is 'feeling a little lost in London'.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Samuel Selvon [writer] (six letters - 4 January, 27 April, 5 June, 30 July, 21 August, 11 September). The correspondence includes letters in which Selvon submits manuscripts [not present in the collection] for consideration for use in 'Caribbean Voices', discusses his difficulties in finding work in London and Swanzy provides brief comments on some of Selvon's writing.

Correspondence and related papers of Henry Swanzy with Frank Collymore of St Michael, Barbados [writer and editor of 'Bim' literary periodical] (13 letters, one typescript and one photograph - 9 January, 12 January, 19 January, 19 January, 25 February, 6 April, 16 May, 24 May, 15 June, 15 July, 6 September, 19 September, 20 October). Letters from Collymore include: details of his work producing 'Bim' including difficulties in getting reviews in the press, low sales and difficulties in finding suitable contributions; his opinion on contributions in 'Bim' including poetry by Derek Walcott,

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Gomes [a Trinidad politician], Keith Alleyne [Crowne Attorney of St Lucia] and poetry by E. L. [Kamau] Braithwaite; discussion of the progress and fortunes of poets and writers Derek Walcott, George Lamming, Edgar Mittelholzer, Samuel Selvon and Geoffrey Drayton, including news that Derek Walcott has received a scholarship at the West Indian University and news that George Lamming is coming to London and comments on Lamming's reading voice; information regarding Frank Collymore's personal life and employment, including his teaching career, his work producing plays for the local theatre and news of his daughter, including a small black and white photograph. Letters from Swanzy to Collymore include: Swanzy's views on the latest issues of 'Bim' including pieces by particular contributors such as [Barnabas] Ramon-Fortune, [Ernest] Carr, [Geoffrey] Drayton, George Lamming; information about the help he is trying to provide to the growing number of writers from the West Indies coming to London; comments by Swanzy on attacks on the programme 'Caribbean Voices' by poet Vivian Virtue and writer A. J. Seymour, and by the Jamaican Poetry League; giving his impressions on meeting George Lamming. The file also includes a typescript [by Frank Collymore] of a review 'An introduction to the poetry of Derek Walcott' [Two pages - fragile, with a small section of the second page missing].

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Mrs Gladys R. Lindo, literary agent for the BBC in Kingston, Jamaica (26 letters). The correspondence relates to contributions collected by Mrs Lindo from West Indian writers for the programme 'Caribbean Voices' including comments on the quality of contributions received, broadcast schedules and queries by Mrs Lindo to rates of payment for contributions used in the programme. It includes discussions concerning the

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number of West Indian writers moving to London, with particular mention of George Lamming, Samuel Selvon, Louise Bennett, Terry Burke, Alfred Mendes, Albert Gomes, A. E. T. Henry, George Spence, John Figueroa, H. D. Carberry, Vivette Hendriks, Willy Richardson, Lennox de Paiva, Errol Hill, C. E. L. Grant and Gordon Woolford, and Swanzy's efforts to help writers obtain work and settle in the city. The correspondence also includes discussion of the attitude of the Jamaican Poetry League and writer Vivian Virtue to 'Caribbean Voices', comments from listeners in the West Indies passed to Swanzy by Mrs Lindo and Swanzy's concerns over the health of his wife. The correspondence includes opinions of both Mrs Lindo and Henry Swanzy on literary contributions submitted by authors, including: Willy Richardson, Edgar Mittelholzer, Miss Lockart, George Spence, Edgar Boyce, Karl Sealy, Neil Cameron, R. Mague, Barnabas Ramon-Fortune, Basil Balgobin, Vincent Bowle, Victor Reid, Samuel Selvon, Laurice Bird, A. N. Forde, John Wickham, W. S. Arthur, C. M. Hope, [V. S.] Naipaul, Daphne Archibald, Hilda MacDonald, Enid Odle, Derek Walcott, Joseph Penco, Mr Singh of British Guiana, Miss [Inez] Sibley, Mrs Howard, Mrs Ormsby-Marshall, Mrs Warren, Kenneth Newton, Miss Blondel, Justinian Oldwig, Dalzell, Raymond Barrow, W. A. Redhead, C. A. Charles of St. Vincent, Carl Dempster of British Guiana, George Phillips, R. L. C. Aarons, Elsie M. Hutton, A. K. Elliott, Albinia Hutton, George Brewster of Barbados, Cecil Gray, C. J. Walters of Trinidad, Miss LeGendre, E. McG. Keane, Eugene Bartrum and R. Baldwin.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with George Lamming (ten letters - many undated) concerning contributions of poems and talks by Lamming for 'Caribbean Voices', including a story 'Home is Anywhere', bookings for studio

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recordings by Lamming of readings for the programme and comments by Lamming on his own personal circumstances and finances.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with John Figueroa (six letters - 23 June, 11 July, 27 August, 4 September, 3 October and 11 October) including arrangements for Figueroa to be part of a programme 'A West Indian Symposium' with as many West Indian writers as possible taking part and a description by Figueroa of his trip to Europe including areas of Germany, Austria and France.

One letter from Nancy Campbell [novelist] to Henry Swanzy, concerning her time working at a Girl's Industrial School in Port-of-Spain and suggesting that she might be given a short broadcast, 26 July.

One letter from Errol Hill, writer, to Henry Swanzy explaining that he has written to Frank Collymore to obtain permission from Derek Walcott to produce a radio version of 'Henri Christophe', 13 September.

Correspondence between Jan Carew and Henry Swanzy (three letters - 1 October, 5 October and 20 October) in which Carew encloses some poems for consideration in 'Caribbean Voices' [not present in the collection], passes on information that his novel 'Whirlpool' is now in the hands of an American publisher, and that he is working on a dialogue on the future of West Indian Art which he hopes will interest Swanzy.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Miss Terry Burke (three letters - 25 October, 1 November and 11 December) in which Miss Burke requests assistance in learning about radio with a view to returning to Jamaica to work for a new broadcasting station and in which Swanzy expresses regret that he feels she will be

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unable to get any training in broadcasting through the BBC.

Two letters from A. E. T. Henry, writer, to Henry Swanzy, concerning repayment of a debt and a request for a loan, 17 November and 15 December.

One letter from E. [Kamau] Braithwaite to Henry Swanzy, apologising for his poor reading of poems by 'Neville' [Dawes] on the programme ['Caribbean Voices'] and for being unable to contribute to the criticism element of the programme, 18 November.

One letter from Gordon Woolford to Henry Swanzy passing on news that he may obtain a new job in Paris with the Mass Communication department of UNESCO, 16 December.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with writers sending contributions for possible use in the collection, often with literary criticism provided by Swanzy in response. Writers include: Louise Bennett (one letter - 4 December); C. E. L. Grant (one letter - 28 July); Lennox De Paiva (five letters - 5 July, 19 July, 10 December, 21 December and undated); Rudolph Dunbar (four letters - 9 November, 10 November, 29 November, 29 November); Gloria Escoffery (two letters - 2 November, 10 November);

Other correspondents include: John Davenport (one letter - 8 April); Roy Fuller (one letter - 22 May); J. S. Skidmore, Feature Articles Editor for the British Council (one letter - 19 October).

Arranged in chronological order.

1 file

Open

Language: English

Papers of Henry Valentine L. Swanzy

MS42/1/7

Correspondence 1951

1951

119 items. The file includes:

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Mrs Gladys R. Lindo, literary agent for the BBC in Kingston, Jamaica (27 letters). The correspondence relates to contributions collected by Mrs Lindo from West Indian writers for the programme 'Caribbean Voices' including comments on the quality of contributions received, broadcast schedules and comments on the quality of radio reception in Jamaica. The correspondence includes some information relating to the aftermath of Hurricane Charlie in Jamaica [August 1951] and information from Swanzy about weekly 'At Homes' gatherings that he is trying to establish to help West Indian writers in London. The correspondence includes opinions and comment of both Mrs Lindo and Henry Swanzy on literary contributions submitted by authors, including: Louise Bennett [of Jamaica], Barnabas Ramon-Fortune, George Phillips, Bob Jakes, Derek Walcott [of St Lucia], Wilson Harris [of Guiana], E. R. Sewlal, Joan Stephens, Cuthbert Branch, Karl Sealy, Gloria Escoffery [of Jamaica], E. M.[Eric Merton] Roach [of Tobago], Kenneth Newton of Trinidad, Ivy Baxter, Barry Reckford, Eileen Cooper, Clem Adams, Daniel Williams, Mrs O. M. Howard, Wilfred Redhead, V. S. Naipaul, John Wickham, Errol Hill, Terry Burke, Andrew Salkey [of Jamaica], Eula Redhead, Jack J. Gordon, Albinia Hutton, A. M. Clarke of Trinidad [poet], R. E. Melkie of Jamaica, A. N. Forde of Grenada, Daisy Myrie, Norman Rae, Dalzell and Michael Brown. The correspondence also includes discussions of the success of writers Edgar Mittelholzer and George Lamming, including George Lamming's social circles in London and attention to his work shown by Stephen Spender and American writer and journalist, Emily Hahn. The correspondence includes the

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opinions of Swanzy and Mrs Lindo of Edgar Mittelholzer's novel 'Shadows Move Among Them' and information about the sale of a novel by Samuel Selvon 'Never Burns the Sun So Bright' to publishers. The file also includes some enclosures sent to Swanzy by Mrs Lindo: a typescript draft of a talk by Cedric Lindo given to the P. E. N. Club of Jamaica titled 'Writing for the BBC's 'Caribbean Voices'' (11 pages), a newscutting 'P. E. N. Club hears talk on writing for BBC feature', a typescript copy of 'Jamaica P. E. N. Quarterly' and a presscutting 'letter to the editor' of the Jamaican 'Daily Gleaner' [newspaper] by R. B. Le Page.

Correspondence between Henry Swanzy and Frank Collymore of Barbados [writer and editor of 'Bim' literary periodical] (seven letters - 5 January, 31 January, 29 July, 21 August, 10 October, 9 November, 2 December). The letters include information from Frank Collymore on his progress in producing 'Bim', about the number of English people setting up home in Barbados, about his own teaching work at [Combermere] School, news of his family and his involvement in theatre groups in Barbados. The letters from Swanzy to Collymore include his views on the writing of Derek Walcott, A. N. Forde, [Eric Merton] Roach, [Kamau] Braithwaite, Edgar Mittelholzer, Elma Napier and Cecil Gray. The correspondence also includes discussion of Stephen Spender and his involvement in the 'Burgess-MacLean affair' [the disappearance of Donald MacLean and Guy Burgess, suspected of spying for the Soviet Union].

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with George Lamming (five letters - 5 January, undated, 19 July, 25 July, 20 September). This correspondence concerns literary work submitted by Lamming to Swanzy for possible use in 'Caribbean Voices' and the letters from Swanzy include some literary criticism of the work by Lamming

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including suggestions for improvement.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Denis Williams (three letters - 10 January, 16 January and 29 January), in which Williams supplies some poems by [Wilson] Harris to Swanzy [poems not present in the collection] and Swanzy gives his views on them, including comparisons with the work of D. H. Lawrence, comments on Harris's immaturity as a writer and clichés in the poetry.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with John Figueroa (six letters - 12 January, 16 January, 31 January, 8 February, 11 August, 21 October). The correspondence includes: personal news from Figueroa of his difficulty in readjusting to life in Jamaica due to the amount of rum and food he is expected to consume, social activities and fulfilling appointments, comments by John Figueroa on Stephen Spender's interview which was broadcast on 'Caribbean Voices'; comments by Figueroa on the high cost of living in Jamaica; requests for the opinion of Swanzy on literary work sent to him by Figueroa [literary contributions not present in the collection].

A letter from Errol Hill to Swanzy concerning the poor quality of a broadcast of a radio adaptation of 'H[enri] Christophe' [by Derek Walcott], due to lack of rehearsals and poor sound effects. A reply from Swanzy to Hill, dated 15 February, in which Swanzy explains he feels that 'Henri Christophe' was worth producing and commenting that he feels Hill has succeeded with 'Ping-Pong' [a play by Hill].

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Gloria Escoffery [Jamaican writer] (eleven letters - 12 February, 19 February, 2 March, 12 March, 15 March, 20 March, 5 April, 10 April, 22 April, 23 July and 9 August). The correspondence concerns

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contributions by Escoffery to 'Caribbean Voices', including a review of Edgar Mittelholzer's novel 'Shadows Move Among Them' used as part of a discussion piece with Marghanita Laski. The correspondence also includes some discussion of George Lamming and comments by Escoffery of censorship of a story by [Barry] Reckford.

Two letters to Henry Swanzy from Jan [Rynveld] Carew, 21 February and 8 March, describing his progress with writing revisions of a novel and a play on the life of Toussaint, being guest editor of a literary pamphlet 'De Kim' and requesting the return of some of his earlier poems sent to 'Caribbean Voices' for possible publication in Finland.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Edgar Mittelholzer (six letters - 26 February, 8 March, 9 March, 9 August, 10 August and 14 October) in which Swanzy gives his opinions on Mittelholzer's novel 'Shadows Move Among Them' and Mittelholzer explains his motivations behind writing the novel. Mittelholzer also gives information about his work on his new novel 'The Weather in Middenshot' and passes on news that he has been sent an application to be considered for a Guggenheim fellowship.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Marghanita Laski concerning her participation in a discussion of Edgar Mittelholzer's novel 'Shadows Move Among Them' with Gloria Escoffery on 'Caribbean Voices' (three letters - 10 April, 27 April and 8 May).

Two letters from Swanzy to Stephen Spender relating to a talk/interview given by Stephen Spender on Caribbean writing for 'Caribbean Voices', 8 May and 9 August. With handwritten notes relating to the interview with Stephen Spender, annotated by Swanzy.

One letter from Elsie Barsoe of Jamaica

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to Henry Swanzy, expressing her sympathy on the death of Swanzy's wife and giving news of her return to Jamaica, 22 June.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Neville Dawes, writer, concerning a request by Dawes to interview Swanzy and view 'Caribbean Voices' archive material and concerning Dawes' progress with his own writing (four letters - 5 July, 9 July, 1 November, 30 November).

Four letters from Samuel Selvon to Henry Swanzy, some signed 'SS' and addressed to 'HS', in which Selvon sends manuscript work for consideration by Swanzy [not present in the collection] and gives news on the progress of his novel 'Proof of a Brighter Sun' (four letters - 13 August, 30 August, 7 October, 19 December).

One letter from Henry Swanzy to Peter Abrahams giving details of writers and poets Edgar Mittelhozer, George Lamming, Derek Walcott, A. J. Seymour of British Guiana, Harold Telemaque of Trinidad, Victor Reid of Jamaica and West African writers, V. C. Nchami and C. O. D. Ekwensi, 22 November.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Professor Bonamy Dobree of the University of Leeds concerning a request from Professor Dobree that Swanzy might act as external examiner for a student writing an MA thesis on West Indian literature (three letters - 30 November, 4 December and 5 December).

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with writers sending contributions for possible inclusion in 'Caribbean Voices', including: Ronald C. Moody (three letters); Terry Burke (two letters); Lionel Ferguson (two letters); Barry Reckford (one letter); Norman Rae (two letters); Willy Richardson (two letters); Gordon Woolford (one letter); C. E. L. Grant (two letters).

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Other correspondents include: A. E. T. Henry (one letter from Henry, 30 October) concerning repayment of a loan to Swanzy; Johanna Feltham Wraal (one letter - 22 November) informing Swanzy that they intend to reprint an article by him in a Dutch journal; Fernando Henriques (two letters - 15 July, 17 July) concerning a request by Henriques for Swanzy to act as a referee for him for a job application.

Arranged in chronological order.

1 file

Open

Language: English

MS42/1/8

Correspondence 1952

1952

198 items. The file includes:

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Frank Collymore of Barbados (ten letters - 11 January, 27 February, 26 April, 20 May, 26 June, 9 July, 10 July, 7 August, 19 August, 7 September). The correspondence includes: discussions of Derek Walcott's production of 'Harry Dernier'; comments by Swanzy on his Thursday evening social gatherings for West Indian writers; discussion of the production and content of 'Bim' [a literary periodical edited by Collymore]; personal news from Collymore of his family, health and theatre productions; comments by Collymore on a novel by Samuel Selvon; an account by Swanzy of his trip to Jamaica and his impressions of the University College of the West Indies and his impressions of Derek Walcott; comments by Swanzy on a thesis on West Indian literature by Stanley Sharp; news passed from Collymore to Swanzy that Geoffrey Drayton had attracted the attention of a publishing house; discussion of Edgar Mittelholzer's novel ['Children of'] 'Kaywana'; personal news from Swanzy of his marriage; comments by Swanzy on work featured in 'Bim' by

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J[ohn] Wickham, John Harrison, Derek Walcott, Samuel Selvon, Elma Napier, Edgar Mittelholzer, C. Herbert Keane, A. N. Forde, poems by E. M. Roach and Wilson Harris; comments by Collymore on the promotion and activities of journalist George Hunte. The correspondence is accompanied by six newspaper cuttings sent by Collymore to Swanzy, including a poem 'A West Indian Village' by Richard Murphy and comments and letters to the press concerning 'Bim'.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Mrs Gladys R. Lindo, literary agent for the BBC in Kingston, Jamaica (26 letters) and two letters from her husband, Cedric Lindo, to Henry Swanzy. Some letters from Mrs Lindo to Swanzy also include short personal notes from Cedric Lindo. The correspondence principally relates to contributions collected by Mrs Lindo from West Indian writers for the programme 'Caribbean Voices' and administration of the programme, including comments on the quality of contributions received, poor reception in the West Indies and broadcast schedules sent by Henry Swanzy to Mrs Lindo. The correspondence also includes the exchange of personal news and discussion of literary groups in Jamaica including Wycliffe Bennett's Poetry League. The correspondence includes opinions and comment of both Mrs Lindo and Henry Swanzy on literary contributions submitted by authors, including: Roger Mais; Derek Walcott'; Mrs Howard; Karl Sealy; Clarke; Richards; Daniel Williams; [Carl] Dempster; Rose Auguste; Harold Pirtheesingh; Miss Odle; Miss [Inez] Sibley; C. K. Nelson; Cyril Charles; Hugh Blackman; Jan Williams; W. S. Arthur of Barbados; Wilfred Redhead; Clinton Black; Edgar Boyce; C. R. Otley; John Grimes; Naimol; Terry Burke; Elsie Hutton; Aston Mullings; Harold Telemaque; E. M. Roach; Reynold Cross; Owen Campbell; Roy Taylor; Milton

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Wilson.

The correspondence between Mrs Lindo and Henry Swanzy also includes: discussion of Derek Walcott; comments on Samuel Selvon's novel 'A Brighter Sun'; news that Vivian Virtue now appears to support 'Caribbean Voices'; information about Thursday evening 'At Homes' held by Swanzy for West Indian writers in England; discussion of a misrepresentation of a talk by Swanzy given at the Jamaica P. E. N. Club as a public attack on Jamaican commercial radio; discussions of the views and literary criticism of 'Eric Coddling' [Cedric Lindo]; news of Edgar Mittelholzer's receipt of a Guggenheim Fellowship; discussion of a new radio programme 'Voice of Jamaica' broadcast by Radio Jamaica; comments from A. J. Seymour of British Guiana about the 'patronising tone' of critique on 'Caribbean Voices' (passed to Swanzy by Mrs Lindo); the views of Mrs Lindo on Edgar Mittelholzer's novel 'The Weather in Middenshot' and views of Swanzy on novels by George Lamming and Edgar Mittelholzer.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with L. E. Braithwaite [Kamau Braithwaite] (six letters - 3 April, 6 July, 6 October, 18 November, 24 November, 12 December. The correspondence includes the views of Braithwaite on George Lamming and Gloria Vaz reading for 'Caribbean Voices' and on the work of Wilson Harris, Owen Campbell and Ken Maxwell; also comments by Swanzy on a poem submitted to him by Braithwaite.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Edgar Mittelholzer (eleven letters - 9 April, 17 April, 22 April, 4 June, 6 June, 12 June, 28 July, 30 July, 16 September, 24 November, 18 December). Letters to Swanzy from Mittelholzer include: detailed comments by Swanzy on Edgar Mittelholzer's novel 'Children of Kaywana',

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including comments on Mittelholzer's narration, characters and timing; comments by Swanzy on Mittelholzer's novel 'The Weather in Middenshot'; news of his marriage and his work in Africa; a request for any suggestions Mittelholzer might have in finding suitable work for Gordon Woolford. Letters from Mittelholzer to Swanzy give news about his progress with his novels, personal news of his resignation from the British Council, his move to Montreal and his award of a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Neville Dawes (five letters - 23 January, 14 [April], 22 April, 13 December, 17 December) principally concerning items submitted by Dawes to Swanzy for possible use in 'Caribbean Voices', including literary criticism of his work by Swanzy. The correspondence also includes comments by Dawes on his opinion of Edward [Kamau] Braithwaite's 'new criticism' approach.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Harold Telemaque of Trinidad (two letters - 29 August, 19 November) concerning contributions sent by Telemaque to Swanzy for possible use in 'Caribbean Voices', but also including the exchange of personal news between Telemaque and Swanzy and comments on the success of writers Edgar Mittelholzer, George Lamming and Samuel Selvon.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Samuel Selvon (12 letters - 11 January, 17 January, 21 January, 3 April, 24 September, 13 October, 19 November, 1 December, four undated). The correspondence primarily concerns items submitted by Selvon for possible use in 'Caribbean Voices' with literary criticism provided by Swanzy, but also includes personal news from Selvon that he has become a father and views by Swanzy on Selvon's novel.

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Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with John Figueroa (two letters - 5 March, 13 May), including Swanzy's opinions on a play adaption of 'The Cocktail Party' [T. S. Eliot] by John Figueroa.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Noel Vaz (four letters - 11 January, 19 February, 27 February, 7 April) concerning the use of an extract of a play by Roger Mais 'Hassim' in 'Caribbean Voices'.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Roy Fuller (seven letters - 15 January, 29 January, 29 February, 7 March, 11 September, undated [mid-september], 17 September] concerning critique produced by Fuller for 'Caribbean Voices' including pieces on the poetry of Derek Walcott and Wilson Harris.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with George Lamming (four letters - 21 January, undated, 5 May, 10 December) concerning 'childhood reminiscences' written by Lamming used in 'Caribbean Voices' and including detailed comments by Swanzy on George Lamming's novel ['In the Castle of My Skin'] which he describes as 'masterly'.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Derek Walcott (six letters - 11 February, 6 July, 9 September, 19 September, 20 October, 30 December). Letters from Derek Walcott include a lengthy letter dated the 11 February outlining how he felt when hearing his '25 poems' first broadcast on 'Caribbean Voices', giving details of his influences including [Stephen] Spender, Dylan Thomas, [W. H.] Auden, commenting on his development as a writer, his work on 'Christophe' and his opinions on the BBC production of it, his views on the value of 'Caribbean Voices' and comments on frequent contributors, including Samuel Selvon, George Lamming and C. Hope. The correspondence includes information about efforts by Swanzy to get Derek

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Walcott's novel 'A Passage to Paradise' placed with a publisher. The file also includes a five page draft typescript critique of Derek Walcott's 'A Passage to Paradise' written by an unknown author.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Arthur-Calder Marshall (six letters - 13 February, 19 February, 24 April, 8 June, 4 July, 10 September), including letters concerning pieces of literary criticism prepared by Calder-Marshall for 'Caribbean Voices', information about Calder-Marshall's move to the country and his wife's health.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Robert Le Page of the University College of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica (six letters - 24 April, 22 May, 20 June, 27 June, 15 September, 1 November), including: comments by both Swanzy and Le Page on Samuel Selvon's novel 'A Brighter Sun'; views of Swanzy on a novel by Derek Walcott ['A Passage to Paradise']; information about the University College of the West Indies including details of a strike; comments on a commission to establish a University in Rhodesia; comments by Swanzy on George Lamming's success in selling a novel to a publishers; comments by Swanzy on his work as an external examiner for the MA thesis of Stanley Sharp [on West Indian contemporary literature].

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Una Marson of Kingston, Jamaica (three letters - 25 April, 13 May, 20 May and one press cutting relating to a 'Pioneer Press Prize Contest), including discussion of an idea suggested by Marson that Pioneer Press material could be used in 'Caribbean Voices.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with writers sending contributions for possible inclusion in 'Caribbean Voices', often with literary criticism by Swanzy of work sent to him. Writers include: J. S. Miller

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Forward (one letter - 5 January); Clifford Sealy (two letters - 14 January, 21 January); Frank Pilgrim (two letters - 28 February, 4 March); V. S. Naipaul (one letter - 7 March); Andrew Salkey (five letters - 18 April, 26 June, 17 July, undated, 15 September); Mr C. Thompson of the Education Office, Kingston Jamaica (one letter - 13 May); Geoffrey Drayton (two letters - 27 May, 5 June); K. N. Maxwell of Jamaica (two letters - 24 June, 30 June); Richard Murphy of County Galway (three letters - 8 July, 17 July, 19 July) including biographical details about Murphy and poetry awards he has received; Branston Clarke of British Honduras (one letter - 19 July); Kenneth P. Newton of Trinidad (two letters - 9 September, 31 September); Wilson Harris of British Guiana (two letters - 15 September, 25 October) in which Harris gives details of some of the themes he has explored in his poetry; Barry Reckford (four letters - 8 October, 13 October, 15 November, 20 November); Terry Burke of 'The Jamaica Times' (two letters - 8 November, 20 November);

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Gordon Woolford (five letters - 25 April, 19 May, 23 September, 24 September, 6 November). Woolford writes concerning his own ill-health and recovery, his attempts to find work in the writing field and his own contributions for use in 'Caribbean Voices'. The file also contains one letter from Henry Swanzy to Sir Eustace Woolford of British Guiana in which he appeals to Sir Eustace to provide assistance to his son, Gordon Woolford, due to his recent ill-health, 17 June.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Stanley Sharp [of the University College of the West Indies] (five letters - 29 June, 28 July, 12 October, 6 November, 18 November) in which Sharp gives his opinions on a paper on West Indian

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literature sent to him by Swanzy, comments on Derek Walcott's writing and suggests an anthology of West Indian verse.

Other correspondents include: Frank Singuineau [Trinidadian actor] (one letter - 15 January); Alma La Badie (two letters - 25 January, 6 February); Jonathan Cape Limited, one letter to Swanzy giving their views on 'A Passage to Paradise' by 'a young student from St Lucia' [Derek Walcott] and that they are unable to publish it, 12 September; Messrs Lehman Limited, one letter from Swanzy asking them to consider a manuscript by Derek Walcott ['A Passage to Paradise'] for publication, 7 November; Conrad J. Charles of St. Vincent (two letters - 3 April, 29 July), a listener to 'Caribbean Voices' who expresses his pride at hearing the literary efforts of fellow West Indians; Johanna Feltham Kraal of 'West Indische Gids', a Dutch periodical (two letters - 8 April, 18 April); Errol Hill to Swanzy (one letter - 11 April) giving his views on a play and explaining he would be happy to work on an abridged radio version; W. MacLurg of the Jamaica Broadcasting Co. Limited, one letter to Swanzy accepting a statement by Swanzy that he 'did not make derogatory remarks about Radio Jamaica at the P. E. N. Club meeting', 16 April; S. L. Johnson, a West Indian nurse studying as a pre-nursing student in Amersham, Buckinghamshire (one letter from Johnson to Swanzy, 19 May, which Swanzy has annotated 'W. I. Nurse, met on plane coming back from Jamaica'); Ramjas Tiwari (two letters - 29 May, 3 September); Bonamy Dobree of the University of Leeds (two letters - 4 June, 16 June) concerning arrangements for Swanzy to mark a thesis [on West Indian literature]; W. H. Irvine of the Cambridge West Indian Society (four letters - 7 June, 12 June, 6 October, 15 October); James F. Mathias of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, one

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letter to Swanzy asking for his opinion on the abilities of 'Mr Jay Rynveld Carew' [Jan Rynveld Carew] who has applied for a fellowship, 10 December (no reply from Swanzy is present within the collection).

Arranged in chronological order.

1 file

Open

Language: English

MS42/1/9

Correspondence 1953

1953

185 items. The file includes:

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Arthur Calder-Marshall (four letters - 5 January, two undated, 27 July) concerning a review by Calder-Marshall of a novel by Roger Mais ['The Hills were Joyful Together'] produced for 'Caribbean Voices'.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Frank Collymore of Barbados (nine letters - 16 January, 2 March, 26 March, 6 May, 3 September, 28 October, 27 November, 17 December, 21 December). Subjects discussed include: a special programme of 'Caribbean Voices' in celebration of Frank Collymore's 60th birthday; George Lamming and reviews of Lamming's first novel; news of Collymore's participation in theatrical productions in Barbados; news that Collymore is negotiating a house for Edgar Mittelholzer who intends to settle in Barbados; production and content of 'Bim' [a literary periodical edited by Collymore] including literary work of Derek Walcott, [Gloria] Escoffery, [Eric Merton] Roach, [John] Harrison and Daniel Williams; comments on the decision not to send Derek Walcott to England to study in Bristol; Edward [Kamau] Braithwaite's style of literary criticism and poetry; preparations in Barbados for celebrations of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II; Samuel Selvon's health; the death of

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Seepersad Naipaul; family news including the birth of Swanzy's son; Swanzy's forthcoming trip to East and Central Africa.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Mrs Gladys R. Lindo, literary agent for the BBC in Kingston, Jamaica (26 letters). The correspondence relates to contributions collected by Mrs Lindo from West Indian writers for the programme 'Caribbean Voices' and administration of the programme, including comments on the quality of contributions received and broadcast schedules sent by Henry Swanzy to Mrs Lindo. The correspondence includes opinions and comment of both Mrs Lindo and Henry Swanzy on literary contributions submitted by authors, including: Eileen Cooper; Hugh Morrison; Edgar Boyce; Ian Ramsey; Wilson Harris; [Aston] Mullings; Barbabas Ramon-Fortune; R. S. Malcolm; Peters; Chandisingh; Rob Taylor; Alfredo Grahame; Owen Campbell; Elsie Hutton; R. E. Cross; Eula Redhead; W. S. Arthur; Cyril Charles; Kenneth Newton; Clinton Black; Barbara Ferland; John Wickham; R. B. Sears; Andrew Salkey; Loewenthal; Lee; [J. E.] Compton; Derek Walcott; Ken Maxwell; Daniel Williams; George Phillips; Mrs Montgomery; Mrs Howard; Evan Jones; Wilfred Spence; V. S. Naipaul; Euton Jarvis; Edgar Rose; Dummett; Winifred Spencer; Linton Tidd; Albert Ferriera; Karl Sealy; Mrs Ormsby-Marshall; Mr Darnsley-Arscott. The correspondence between Swanzy and Mrs Lindo also includes the following topics: discussion of Edgar Mittelholzer's novel 'The Weather in Middenshot' and Mittelholzer deciding to settle in Barbados; discussion of the local press coverage in the West Indies of Swanzy's six monthly summaries of 'Caribbean Voices'; press reviews of a novel by George Lamming 'In the Castle of My Skin' and the opinions of Gladys and Cedric Lindo on the novel; a novel by Roger Mais 'The Hills Are Joyful Together'

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and a review by Arthur Calder-Marshall of the novel; the appointment of J. E. Clare McFarlane as Poet Laureate for Jamaica, including a news cutting with an image of McFarlane wearing his poet laureate crown; the health of Samuel Selvon, a visit made by Swanzy to see him in hospital and a mistake by the 'Jamaica Times' in falsely reporting the death of Selvon; news of Derek Walcott not being able to come to England to study; the birth of Henry Swanzy's son; Swanzy's forthcoming trip to East and Central Africa.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Cedric Lindo [husband of Mrs Gladys Lindo] (two letters - 23 July and 3 August) in which Swanzy congratulates Cedric Lindo on a new job at the University College of the West Indies and Cedric Lindo gives his thoughts on the job and moving to a small cottage above Kingston.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with L. E. Braithwaite [Kamau Braithwaite] (six letters - 24 February, 30 March, 2 April, two undated, 7 December). The correspondence contains: Swanzy's views on Braithwaite's style of literary criticism, his views on Braithwaite's poetry which he describes as 'scholastic poetry, tight and inorganic'; responses by Braithwaite to Swanzy's criticism of his work; disagreement between Swanzy and Braithwaite concerning the poetry of Eric Merton Roach; discussion of Samuel Selvon and a desire by Braithwaite to provide some assistance to the Selvon family at Christmas.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Wilson Harris of British Guiana (six letters - 13 March, 2 April, 29 June, 15 August, 3 November, 1 December), in which Harris sends poems to Swanzy for consideration [poems not present in the collection] and writes about his inspiration and the themes within the poems, and Swanzy

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gives his opinion and criticism of the poetry.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Bob Le Page of the University College of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica (four letters - 2 April, 26 May, 9 November, 27 November). The correspondence includes: discussion of the novels of Samuel Selvon and George Lamming and the poems of E. M. [Eric Merton] Roach and Derek Walcott; information provided by Le Page about his academic work at the University College including his views on a new Principal and the arrival of John Figueroa; news concerning the possibility of Derek Walcott undertaking his diploma in education at Bristol; Swanzy's news of his forthcoming trip to East and Central Africa and his current feelings about his Caribbean and West African radio programmes.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Edgar Mittelholzer (five letters - 15 April, 10 June, 26 July, 6 November, 20 November). The correspondence includes: information from Mittelholzer about his move to Barbados; his pleasure at the success of George Lamming's book; news of the progress of his latest novel 'The Life and Death of Sylvia'; his views on Roger Mais' novel; news of Frank Collymore; information about the progress of his novel 'Hubertus' and other projects including a play 'Fears and Mirages'. Swanzy's letters to Mittelholzer include: information about reviews of George Lamming's novel; news that Samuel Selvon is in hospital with Tuberculosis; personal news of married life and the birth of his son; news of Gordon Woolford; disagreement with Mittelholzer's views on a novel by Roger Mais.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Neville Dawes (five letters - 22 April, 22 May, 27 August, 29 September, undated)

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[November or December]). Letters from Dawes to Swanzy include: comments by Dawes on his adjustment to life in Jamaica; views by Dawes on some writing by Evan Jones [sent to Swanzy, but not present in the collection] and whether it might be suitable for 'Caribbean Voices'; a request for information about the work of E. M. [Eric Merton] Roach; information about his own writing which he would like Swanzy to consider for the programme. Letters from Swanzy include: comments on Dawes' poems which he hopes to broadcast; views on the literary work of Barbara Farland; information about E. M. Roach.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Harold Telemaque of Trinidad (three letters - 7 May, 22 October, 29 December) which includes personal news of Telemaque that he is now 'Inspector of Schools' which allows him more time for writing, a request by Telemaque for Swanzy's help in producing an anthology of West Indian poems for use in schools and congratulations from Telemaque to Swanzy of his marriage and the birth of his baby.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Noel Vaz (four letters - undated, 21 May, 16 October, 23 October) which includes Swanzy's comments on a story by Vaz, and Swanzy's views on a poem by Andrew Salkey including his reasons for not being able to use it on 'Caribbean Voices'.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Samuel Selvon (13 letters). The correspondence covers a period when Selvon was in hospital with Tuberculosis and it includes discussions of Selvon's health and the health of his wife, arrangements for Swanzy to visit Selvon and comments about literary work sent by Selvon to Swanzy for possible use in 'Caribbean Voices'.

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One letter from Derek Walcott to Swanzy asking him to consider a sequence of thirteen sonnets for use in 'Caribbean Voices', 25 June. With a copy of Swanzy's reply explaining that he will be using some, but not all, of the sonnets on 20 September, 29 July.

One letter from Doreen Goodwin Grason to Henry Swanzy, 24 July, passing on a 'tropical' poem by an Irish Colonial, 'Paddy' Burke for possible use in 'Caribbean Voices'. The typescript poem 'Forest Evening' by Paddy Burke is included with the letter. One letter from Henry Swanzy in reply apologising that he is not able to use the poem, 29 July.

Correspondence of Mr J. Grenfell Williams, Head of the BBC Colonial Service, with Ms Jane Graham (four letters - 19 August, 21 August, 24 August, 4 September) concerning a tape recording of a story about the island of Nevis by John Thompson Ware of Trinidad, sent to Mr Grenfell Williams by Jane Graham for possible use in 'Caribbean Voices'. Also one letter from John Thompson Ware addressed to the 'Programme Director of the West Indies Programme division' giving his details of his story, 8 August. This letter is accompanied by a concert programme for musician 'Jan de Vareske' [John Thompson Ware].

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with John Figueroa (four letters - 5 October, 6 November, 29 November, 10 December), in which Figueroa comments on secular education, his enjoyment of 'Caribbean Voices', gives news that Derek Walcott is to be on his tutorial group [at the University College of the West Indies], congratulates Swanzy on the birth of his son and gives news of the visit of the Queen to Jamaica. Swanzy passes news to Figueroa of his visit to Samuel Selvon in hospital and comments in response to

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Figuroa on secular education and the standard of Jamaican writing.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Barnabas Ramon-Fortune of Trinidad (four letters - 28 October, 7 November, 2 December, 8 December) concerning use of a story by B. Ramon-Fortune 'The Kite' in a special edition of 'London Calling', literary agents who may be able to help Ramon-Fortune, Samuel Selvon's illness and a forthcoming trip by Ramon-Fortune to England when he intends to travel South East England by foot, bicycle and train.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with writers sending contributions for possible inclusion in 'Caribbean Voices', often with literary criticism by Swanzy of work sent to him. Writers include: Albert S. Ferreira (two letters - 22 October, 24 November); Andrew Salkey (three letters - 19 January, 19 February, 23 February); Terry Burke of the 'Jamaica Times' (one letter - 6 February); Errol John (two letters - 3 March and undated) in which Swanzy provides literary criticism of a work by John 'The Troubled Dust'; Milton Wilson (two letters - 29 September, 23 October); Mrs Edwina Melville of British Guiana (two letters - 20 October, 7 November); Margaret Lee (four letters - undated, 29 September, 2 November, 6 November); Enid J. M. Lowenthal (two letters - 29 July, 31 August); Cynthia Wilmot of Jamaica (one letter - undated); Vera Bell of Jamaica (two letters - 31 October and 27 November); R. O. A. Robinson (two letters - 2 December, 10 December); J. E. Compton (four letters - 13 March, 24 March, 4 November, 30 November); Norman Rae (four letters - 1 April, 2 April, 19 April, 21 April) including criticism by Swanzy of manuscripts, 'Captain Carlsen' and 'Poem'; V. S. Naipaul (four letters - 10 April, 13 April, 17 August, 31 August); Barry Reckford (three letters - 13 April, 20 April, 22 August) in which Swanzy gives his favourable views on a story by

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Reckford 'High Brown'; Ian M. Ramsey (two letters - 14 April, 23 October); Geoffrey Drayton (one letter - 20 April); Ken Maxwell (one letter to Swanzy - 20 May).

Other correspondents include: W. H. Irvine of Cambridge West Indian Society concerning arrangements for Swanzy to speak at a meeting of the society (three letters - 8 January, 14 January, 23 February); Mrs C. Penney (one letter); George Lamming (two letters - 21 January and 26 January) including a request by Swanzy that Lamming should prepare a programme of greeting for Frank Collymore's sixtieth birthday; Miss Alma La Badie (two letters - 6 February, 10 February) concerning Miss La Badie's magazine 'You and I'; Pauline Henriques (one letter - 16 February); Gloria Vaz (three letters - 30 March, 13 May, 18 December) concerning work by Gloria Vaz reading stories for broadcasts of 'Caribbean Voices'; Roy Fuller (two letters from Swanzy - 30 March and 30 September) concerning critique by Fuller for use on 'Caribbean Voices'; Lloyd Reckford (two letters - 29 September, 30 September) concerning a play produced by Reckford [for 'Caribbean Voices']; Mrs K. Davis (one letter from Swanzy - 17 April) asking whether she would like to read a story for 'Caribbean Voices'; Ken Purser (two letters - 29 April, 1 May) in which Swanzy requests the return of manuscripts lent to Purser for study; Mrs Joan Carew (three letters - 10 July, 23 July, 2 August) in which Mrs Carew gives her views on a broadcast of 'Voices of the Caribbean' on the Third Programme and cuts made to the programme when broadcast for the Home Service; Flight Sergeant D. London (three letters - 28 November, 1 December, 2 December) asking for information about work by writers he had heard on 'Caribbean Voices'.

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The file also contains one typescript poem by Barbara Farland titled 'Modigliani's Le Petit Paysan', with an attached rejection slip from the BBC's 'The Listener'.

Arranged in chronological order.

1 file

Open

One letter in this file is fragile (letter from Henry Swanzy to Bob Le Page dated 27 November).

Language: English

MS42/1/10

Correspondence 1954

1954

94 items. The file includes:

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Frank Collymore of Barbados (five letters - 25 March, 7 April, 24 August, 29 August, 1 October). Letters from Collymore to Swanzy include: congratulations from Collymore to Swanzy on the birth of his son; comments on a play by Edgar Mittelholzer 'Fears and Mirages'; Collymore's own personal news including details of a holiday, rival factions in the Bridgetown theatre scene and financial difficulties in the production of 'Bim' [literary periodical edited by Collymore]; his reaction to news that Swanzy is leaving 'Caribbean Voices' to work on the Gold Coast; details of an employment problem resulting in Gordon Bell being suspended from Combermere School; news of the arrival of his daughter; news that Edgar Mittelholzer is writing reviews for the 'Advocate' [Barbados newspaper] which are 'stirring things up'. Letters from Swanzy to Collymore include: details of his trip to Africa and his current feelings about 'Caribbean Voices'; news of Samuel Selvon's recovery from illness; news that he is leaving for the Gold Coast to look after radio programmes for the new independent broadcasting service;

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comments by Swanzy on the content of 'Bim'.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Mrs Gladys R. Lindo, literary agent for the BBC in Kingston, Jamaica (14 letters), with Gladys and her husband Cedric Lindo (one letter from Swanzy) and with Cedric Lindo (one letter). The correspondence relates to contributions collected by Mrs Lindo from West Indian writers for the programme 'Caribbean Voices' and administration of the programme, including comments on the quality of contributions received and broadcast schedules sent by Henry Swanzy to Mrs Lindo. The correspondence includes opinions and comment of both Mrs Lindo and Henry Swanzy on literary contributions submitted by authors, including: Colville Young; Mrs Ross of Belize; Edgar Boyce; Enid Kelly Lowenthal; Aston Mullings; Chandisingh; A. M. Clarke; Weller; Hopkinson; Cecil Gray; [John] Wickham; Barry Reckford; Naomi Gibbins; Kenneth Newton; R. O. A. Robinson; Eula Redhead; Edwina Melville; John Grimes; Adolph Roberts; G. R. Coulthard; Owen Campbell; Ken Maxwell; Archie Lindo; Cyril Charles; 'Richard Gayeaux'; Miss [Inez] Sibley; V. S. Naipaul; E. M. [Eric Merton] Roach; Jan Williams; Louise Dummett; William Arthur; Laurice Bird; Lisa Salmon; Mr Small; Nita Shapland; 'Gladys Nation'; Miss Daniel

The correspondence includes: news that Cedric Lindo visited British Honduras and met with writers Raymond Barrow and 'Philip Phumbles'; news of the movements and progress of writers including Derek Walcott, Gloria Escoffery, George Lamming, Gordon Bell, Edward [Kamau] Braithwaite, Hugh Morrison, Edgar Mittelholzer and Barnabas Ramon-Fortune; comments on a novel 'Brother Man' by Roger Mais including the opinions of both Gladys and Cedric Lindo; comments by Mrs Lindo on 'Philip

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Phumbles' and his political and literary personalities; comments on a six monthly review of 'Caribbean Voices' broadcast by Swanzy and how this was received in the British Council offices in Jamaica; discussion and passing of news about the health of Samuel Selvon; the standard and low quantity of literary contributions from Trinidad and ways in which contributions might be encouraged; comments by Mrs Lindo on a letter received from Edgar Mittelholzer which she felt demonstrated a 'lack of modesty'; personal news of Swanzy that he is leaving Caribbean Voices to go to work on the Gold Coast (letters from 30 July onwards); information passed to Swanzy from Cedric Lindo as to the general opinion in Jamaica on George Lamming's novel 'The Emigrants' (letter dated 4 December).

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Edward [Kamau] Braithwaite (12 letters - 11 March, 17 March, 25 March, April, 6 May, 5 July, 30 July, 27 September, 4 October, 3 October, one undated, 1 November, and a covering note originally attached to a manuscript). Letters from Braithwaite include requests for the opinion of Swanzy on his work, a request for Swanzy to act as a referee for his scholarship application to the British Council, discussion of his dilemma about whether to accept a job in Sierra Leone or the Gold Coast, his own comments on his work 'Boy at the Sea' and comments on how much Swanzy will be missed when he has moved to the Gold Coast. Letters from Swanzy include his opinion of poems and stories by Braithwaite.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Edgar Mittelholzer (three letters - 8 April, 17 April, 27 October), including: Swanzy's views on Mittelholzer's novel 'Sylvia'; news of George Lamming including the reception to his novel ['The Emigrants'] and that he has applied for a Guggenheim fellowship; news of Samuel

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Selvon's operation; comments by Swanzy on Peter Abrahams and corruption on the Gold Coast; news from Mittelholzer that he has 'joined the ranks of the critics' by writing book reviews for the 'Sunday Advocate' in Barbados; news from Mittelholzer on his completion of his novel 'The Aloneness of Mrs Chatham'; details of the publishers reactions to his novel 'The Mad MacMullochs' which proved 'too hot to handle'; details of a three-act play written by Mittelholzer. The correspondence is accompanied by a newscutting titled 'Wilderness of Words' by Edgar Mittelholzer, which includes a review of George Lamming's novel 'In the Castle of My Skin' and a cartoon drawing of Mittelholzer.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Neville Dawes (five letters - 18 February, 16 April, 26 May, 14 August, 4 October) in which Swanzy gives his views on literary works by Dawes', in which Dawes recommends to Swanzy the work of Carol Morrison a poet who he believes is a 'discovery', and in which Swanzy passes on news of new names in the literary world including Edward Braithwaite, Ian MacDonald, Stuart Hall and the news that he is moving to the Gold Coast.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Vidia S. Naipaul (three letters - 19 February, 4 June, 8 June), including comments on Swanzy's trip to Africa, congratulations from Naipaul to Swanzy and his wife on the birth of their child, a request for help from Naipaul to Swanzy in the form of a reference for a job and comments by Naipaul that his 'future is as bleak as ever'.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with Samuel Selvon (six letters - 13 May, 15 May, 21 May, 3 June, 8 June, 24 June), including: exchange of news about Samuel Selvon's health and recovery from Tuberculosis and his discharge from hospital; discussions on Selvon's

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difficulties in finding a job and suitable housing for his family after discharge from hospital; news passed from Swanzy to

Selvon of George Lamming and Edgar Mittelholzer.

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with John Figueroa (six letters - 8 May, 21 May, 10 August, 31 August, 15 November, 19 December) including: a description by Figueroa of the difficulties he has faced in the first year of the education department at the University College of the West Indies, including differences in the students' background and attitudes, brief comments on Derek Walcott and on the teaching staff; comments by Figueroa on the high cost of living in Jamaica; discussion of the health and recovery from illness of Samuel Selvon; discussion of the idea of a 'Caribbean Voices' anthology; comments by Figueroa on Swanzy leaving 'Caribbean Voices' and how much the programme will lose through his departure.

One letter from Henry Swanzy to Guy Wint of the 'Manchester Guardian' asking for any assistance Wint can provide in finding work for Samuel Selvon and V. S. Naipaul, 9 June. One letter to Swanzy from Roy Lewis of the 'New Commonwealth' in response to an appeal for help in finding work made by Swanzy on behalf of Samuel Selvon, 28 June.

One letter from Henry Swanzy to Miss Margery Perham asking if Oxford [Nuffield College] would consider using a gift from Carnegie to help creative writers in the West Indies and Africa and giving examples of writers who could benefit from assistance including Samuel Selvon, Derek Walcott, E. M. Roach, Wilson Harris and V. S. Naipaul, 14 July. With a reply from Miss Perham to Swanzy explaining she does not feel the grant can be used in that way, 16 July.

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Correspondence of Henry Swanzy with writers sending contributions for possible inclusion in 'Caribbean Voices', often with literary criticism by Swanzy of work sent to him. Writers include: R. O. A. Robinson (one letter - 10 February); Harold Telemaque of Trinidad (one letter - 18 February); Mrs Edwina Melville of British Guiana (four letters - 4 March, 23 April, 9 June, 8 July) including comments by Mrs Melville on how beautifully her work was read on 'Caribbean Voices' by Gordon Woolford; Elsie Barsoe of Jamaica (one letter - 17 March); Andrew Salkey (24 June, 29 June); Barnabas Ramon-Fortune of Trinidad (four letters - 4 August, 16 August, 8 September, 1 November); Ian McDonald (two letters - 1 November, 4 November).

A letter from Mrs Eileen Ormsby-Cooper to Swanzy congratulating him on his new duties in the Gold Coast, but expressing the opinion of many West Indians that he will be missed and giving her views on his contributions to West Indian writers, 17 August. With a reply from Swanzy, 31 August.

One letter from Derek Walcott to Swanzy giving news that he is working in Grenada and doing teaching and painting, that he has got married, giving Swanzy news that A. N. Forde [writer] is going to England and that Errol Hill has started a series of Caribbean plays to be published through the Extra-Mural department [of the University College of the West Indies], 5 November.

Other correspondents include: C. D. Williams (one letter - 3 January), requesting a copy of a poem 'Banana Man' by Evan Jones; R. F. Williams of the Banana Board, Kingston, Jamaica (one letter - 27 February) concerning 'Song of the Banana Man' by Evan Jones which he hopes to use for a mural; Flight Sergeant D. London (one letter - 1 January) returning a script of 'Caribbean Voices'

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lent to him by Swanzy; E. John (one letter - 2 January) thanking Swanzy for some scripts; the British Council Universities Section Education division (one letter - 9 March) asking for a reference from Swanzy for Mr. L. E. [Kamau] Braithwaite who has applied for a scholarship; Lloyd Reckford (one letter - 9 March), including comments by Swanzy on a play by Barry Reckford which he believes is not suitable for broadcasting due to sexual elements and use of language; H. T. Stephens (one letter to Swanzy - 28 June) asking to be considered for further opportunities for reading for 'Caribbean Voices'; Roy Fuller (one letter from Swanzy - 23 July); Pauline Henriques (one letter, 10 November) wishing Swanzy good luck in his new job.

Arranged in chronological order.

1 file

Open

Language: English

MS42/1/11

Correspondence 1955

1955

Eight items.

1/ Handwritten letter from 'Neville' [Dawes] of St. Andrew, Jamaica to Henry [Swanzy] commenting on Swanzy leaving for 'W. A.' [West Africa], discussing his own work including writing and trying to obtain a job teaching in Africa and commenting on George Lamming being in Jamaica staying with John Fig[ueroa], 11 January.

2/ Typescript signed letter to Henry Swanzy from Kenneth Newton of San Fernando, Trinidad [a contributor to 'Caribbean Voices'] requesting advice on placing a work 'Iereian Scums' with a publisher and outlining the plot of the story, 3 March 1955.

3/ Typescript signed letter to Henry

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Swanzy from Cedric Lindo of Kingston, Jamaica, enclosing a summary of a talk given by Cedric Lindo to a 'P. E. N. Club' meeting [see item 4], expressing pleasure that Swanzy is finding his life in Accra interesting, commenting on work by Ken Ablack and Vidia Naipaul presenting 'Caribbean Voices' and giving details of staffing changes in relation to production of the programme and passing on the news that Roger Mais [writer] had died, 4 July 1955.

4/ Typescript 'Writing for the BBC's 'Caribbean Voices' by Cedric Lindo, being a summary of a talk given to members of the Jamaica Centre of the International P. E. N. Club on 5 April 1955.

5/ Handwritten letter to Henry Swanzy, Accra, West Africa, from John [Figueroa] of St. Andrew, Jamaica, commenting on time spent with George Lamming in Jamaica and Trinidad, passing on news that Roger Mais had died, commenting on an article he had written for the 'Daily Gleaner' [a survey of West Indian authors and their work] and requesting advice regarding a possible job, 12 July 1955.

6/ Newspaper cutting from the 'Daily Gleaner' [Kingston, Jamaica], a 'Survey of W. I. [West Indian] authors and their work' by J. J. Figueroa, 4 July 1955.

7/ Handwritten letter to Henry Swanzy, Accra, West Africa, from John [Figueroa] of St. Andrew, Jamaica, thanking Swanzy for some advice on a teaching position, passing on news of the death of the wife of Hugh Morrison [writer], commenting on the forthcoming marriage of Neville Dawes and Carol Morrison and on Derek Walcott, 26 July 1955.

8/ Typescript letter to Henry Swanzy, Accra, Gold Coast, from 'Sam' [Selvon] thanking him for comments about his second book and mentioning reviews in the press, passing on news that he has

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been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and mentioning the running of 'Caribbean Voices' by Ken Ablack and Willy Edmett, 19 July 1955.

Arranged in chronological order.

1 file

Open

MS42/1/12

Correspondence 1956

1956

Four items.

1/ Typescript letter from Frank [Collymore] of St. Michael, Barbados to Henry Swanzy, Accra, Gold Coast, passing on personal news including information about his children and the effect of a hurricane, commenting on the latest issues of 'Bim', passing on news of writers [Edgar] Mittelholzer, George Lamming, [Samuel] Selvon and John Hearne, and information about the theatre and his work at [Combermere] school in St. Michael, 11 January 1956

2-4/ Typescript letters to Henry Swanzy from 'Books Abroad' [an international quarterly literary publication of the University of Oklahoma Press] concerning publication of an article by Swanzy on the literary situation in the Caribbean in the Summer 1956 issue, 27 March 1956, 14 May 1956 and 29 June 1956.

Arranged in chronological order.

1 file

Open

MS42/2

Programme notes

[Mid-20th cent]

1 file, 1 item

Open

MS42/2/1

'Edgar Mittelholzer in Caribbean Voices: 1946-54'

[Mid-20th cent]

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Typescript listing Edgar Mittelholzer's contributions to the programme, as a writer and reader, with some handwritten corrections in ink.

1 item

Open

MS42/2/2

'Caribbean Voices' programme notes

[Mid-20th
cent]

Handwritten notes [by Henry Swanzy] on programmes of 'Caribbean Voices' from 1946-1954, giving the dates of each broadcast and the names of authors and works featured. 80 pages. Pages three to eight are written on the back of draft pages of a literary work by Swanzy 'Ichabod'.

1 file

Open