

MICHAEL ANTHONY PAPERS

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ANTHONY, MICHAEL (1932 -). PAPERS, 1957-1989.

23 Boxes

Biography

Michael Anthony was born in the rural village of Mayaro, Trinidad in February 10, 1932. After attending the local primary schools he moved to the town of San Fernando where he enrolled at the Junior Technical School as a scholarship student. Following graduation in 1946 he was employed as a molder at an iron foundry in Pointe a Pierre. He emigrated to England in December 1954 where he held at various jobs while beginning his writing career.

Anthony left England in 1968 for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he was employed at the Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago and worked as an English teacher. Since his return to Trinidad in 1970 with his wife, Yvette and their four children, Anthony has been employed as a writer/researcher with the National Cultural Council as well as working as a local columnist, radio script writer and novelist.

Michael Anthony's literary career began as a poet with the publication of a number of his poems in the Trinidad Guardian between 1952 and 1954. After his move to England, Anthony met fellow Trinidadian V.S. Naipaul who was then producer of the BBC's "Caribbean Voices" radio program and who encouraged Anthony to develop his prose. From 1955-1959 over thirty of Anthony's short stories were accepted for broadcast many of which appeared later in *Cricket in the Road*.

During this period, Anthony met the British publisher Andre Deutsch who, on the strength of his short fiction, suggested that Anthony write a novel. *The Games were Coming* was published by Deutsch in 1963 to favorable critical and commercial responses. While working as a journalist for Reuter's, two additional novels were published by Deutsch in 1965 and 1967.

In 1968 Anthony left for Brazil with the intention of writing about that country. The student riots of 1969 provided much of the material for the resulting novel, *Streets of Conflict* (1976).

Due to the growing popularity of his book in secondary schools and as part of his duties at the National Cultural Council, Anthony was encouraged to write several histories of Trinidad for use in the schools. These include: *Profile Trinidad* and *The Making of Port of Spain*, volumes one and two.

Anthony is best known as a writer about brief but critical events in the lives of children or young adults and his stories are usually told from their point of view. Anthony states: "As regards my aims as a writer, it is simply to tell interesting tales. I do not see myself as being particularly a writer of children's books; in other words I do not feel I am addressing young people especially, but when you look at it, I undoubtedly am."

According to critic Daryl Cumber-Dance, "Because of Anthony's apparent lack of concern with the major racial, sociological, political, and economic issues that engage many Caribbean writers, several critics have tended to dismiss his work as insignificant." However even his critics recognize Anthony's special ability, through a deceptively childlike narrative voice, to evoke striking scenes of time and place, and involve the reader in the universal concerns of his "interesting tales."

For a critical introduction to Michael Anthony's work and a bibliography of critical sources see the entry in *Fifty Caribbean Writers* edited by Daryl Cumber-Dance, New York: Greenwood Press, 1986.

Partial Bibliography of Works By Michael Anthony

Fiction:

- The Games Were Coming*, 1963
- The Year in San Fernando*, 1965
- Green Days By The River*, 1967
- Cricket in the Road*, 1973
- Sandra Street and Other Stories*, 1973
- King of the Masquerade*, 1974
- Folk Tales and Fantasies*, 1976
- Streets of Conflict*, 1976
- All That Glitters*, 1981
- Bright Road to El Dorado*, 1982
- Golden Quest*, 1992
- The Chieftains Carnival*, 1993
- In the Heat of the Day*, 1996

Non Fiction:

Glimpses of Trinidad and Tobago, 1974

Profile Trinidad, 1974

The Making of Port of Spain, volume one, 1978

The Making of Port of Spain, volume two, 1983

First in Trinidad, 1985

Heroes of the people of Trinidad & Tobago, 1986

Parade of the Carnivals of Trinidad 1838-1989, 1989

Scope and Content

The Michael Anthony Papers document the personal and professional life of Michael Anthony from his departure from England in 1968 to 1984 when Anthony was 52 years old. Since his literary career is currently still active, these papers are necessarily incomplete. The collection has been divided into two series, Personal Papers and Professional Papers.

The PERSONAL PAPERS consist of Correspondence to and from Anthony, his and his wife's families in Trinidad, London, the United States (mostly New York City) and, in 1978-1979, his daughter, Jennifer at The Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin, Ireland. There is also correspondence between Anthony and friends such as the critic Kenneth Ramchand and Barbadian Athelton Clarke. The correspondence between family and friends from 1968-1971 especially, discusses the social, racial and political climates in England, the Caribbean and Brazil. Included in this series is a holograph notebook, (Diary) Anthony kept as he journeyed ahead of his family, aboard a commercial passenger ship from England to Brazil. The Financial Records include miscellaneous salary receipts from the National Cultural Council (NCC) of Trinidad, documents regarding the purchase of a house, and some insurance papers.

PROFESSIONAL PAPERS. This series consists of General Correspondence to and from Anthony during his employment (1972-1984) with the National Cultural Council of Trinidad (NCC). Correspondents during this period include Eric Williams, Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago, to whom Anthony wrote seeking employment, J.D. Elder, Chairman of the National Cultural Council until 1974, and Carlton Gomes, Minister of Education. Beginning in 1974, the NCC became a division of the Ministry of Education. Much of the correspondence in 1978 regards Anthony's unsuccessful attempts to secure an academic teaching position in the United States.

A major subseries of the correspondence is Anthony's Correspondence with Publishers regarding his writings. By turns intimate, combative and business-like, these letters both

originals from publishers and carbon typescripts of Anthony's letters document Anthony's career as a writer and the evolution of the book publishing industry from 1967-1984. As the main publisher of the majority of Anthony's work, the correspondence with Andre Deutsch, Ltd., is particularly important. This includes letters between Anthony, Andre Deutsch, Diana Athill, Anthony's editor, and the Deutsch Ltd. financial department. Much of this correspondence concerns several misunderstandings about subsequent paperback publications of Anthony's work and royalty statements.

Folders containing the literary and historical texts, arranged by title in the Writings subseries, usually contain several working drafts of each title. Typically, it appears that Anthony would first write his stories and novels in notebooks in longhand, then type a working draft, make corrections by hand, retype and recorrect subsequent drafts. The

arrangement on receipt was disorganized and there does not always appear to be consistent pagination, both within a single draft and between drafts. In arranging these manuscripts an attempt was made to gather all pages of a manuscript draft and group all drafts under the relevant title heading, however, various unidentified pages of drafts may be among the Fragments, miscellaneous folder for both Fiction and Non-fiction.

Provenance

Purchased from Michael Anthony in 1988, 1990, 1992, 1997.

SCM 88-42, 90-11, 92-52, 97-26.

Processed by Mark McMurray/Diana Lachatanere

May 1989

Additions processed by Nadine Molloy/Diana Lachatanere

August 1999

Container List

Box Folder

PERSONAL PAPERS

Correspondence

1	1	1957, 1962, 1968-1969
	2	1970
	3	1971-1974
	4	1975-1976
	5	1977-1978
	6	1979-1980
	7	1981-1982
	8	Diary, 1968
	9	Financial Records, 1971-1980

PROFESSIONAL PAPERS

Correspondence, General

	10	1961, 1967-1969
	11	1970
	12	1971-1972
2	1	1973
	2	1974
	3	1975
	4	1976
	5	1977
	6	1978
	7	1979-1980

Container List

Box Folder

2	8	1981-1984
		Correspondence, Publishers
		Andre Deutsch
3	1	1967-1974
	2	1975-1976
	3	1977-1978
	4	1979-1981
	5	1982-1984
		Macmillian Education Ltd.
	6	1972-1974
	7	1975-1976
	8	1977-1983
		Heinemann Ltd.
3	9	1970-1976
	10	1977-1983
		Longman Group Ltd.
	11	1970-1984
	12	Correspondence, Undated
4	1	Royalty Statements, 1967-1975
	2	Royalty Statements, 1976-1981
	3	Contracts, 1971-1975
	4	Interviews with Michael Anthony
	5	Criticism and Reviews of Anthony's Writings

- 6 Biographical
- 7 Clippings

Writings - Nonfiction

- 8 Book Reviews by Anthony
Addresses and Lectures
- 9 *Mayaro in History*
- 10 Assorted Radio Scripts
- 11 *Annals of Trinidad and Tobago* -
Typescript
- 12 Fragments, Notebook

San Fernando in History (Unpublished)

Miscellaneous Research Material

- 13 Assorted
- 14 Television Script
- 5 1-4 *Glimpses of Trinidad and Tobago* -
Typescript
- 5-7 *Profile Trinidad* - Typescript
- 6 1-3 *Profile Trinidad* - Typescript
- 4-7 *San Fernando in History* - Notebook
- 7 1-6 *The Making of Port of Spain, Volume I*
- 8 1-2 *The Making of Port of Spain, Volume I*
- 3-5 *The Making of Port of Spain, Volume II*

Container List

Box Folder

8	6	<i>The Making of Port of Spain</i> , Volumes I and II, Notebooks
9	1-2	<i>The Making of Port of Spain</i> , Volumes I and II, Notebooks
	3-4	Notebooks, Miscellaneous
10	1-3	Notebooks, Miscellaneous
	4-5	Fragments, Miscellaneous
11	1-2	Carnivals We used to Know 1946-1987 Volumes I and II Notebooks
	3-5	<i>Parade of Carnivals</i> - Typescripts
12	1-3	<i>Parade of Carnivals</i> - Corrected Drafts
	4-6	<i>First in Trinidad</i> - Typescript and Galley
13	1-2	<i>Heroes of the People</i> - Galley and Notebooks
	3	<i>Heroes of the People</i> - Notebook
	4	<i>Heroes of the People</i> miss. (Fragments)
	5	<i>Heroes of the People</i> (Typescript)
	6	Notebook
		Writings - Fiction
14	1-3	<i>The Games are Coming</i> - Typescripts, Notebooks and First American Edition

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
14		Corrected
	4	<i>The Year in San Fernando</i> - Notebook
	5-6	<i>Green Days by the River</i> - Notebooks and Corrected Book
	7	<i>Cricket in the Road</i> - Notebook and Typescript
	8	<i>Sandra Street and Other Stories</i> - Typescript
15	1-2	<i>King of the Masquerade</i> - Notebook and Typescript
	3-6	<i>Streets of Conflict</i> - Notebooks and Typescript
16	1	<i>Streets of Conflict</i> - Typescript 1976
	2	<i>Folk Tales and Fantasies</i> - Typescript
	3-5	<i>All That Glitters</i> - Typescript 1981
	6	<i>All That Glitters</i> - Notebooks 1981
		Michael Anthony - page 8
17	1	<i>All that Glitters</i> - Typescript
	2	<i>Bright Road to El Dorado</i> - Typescript (1982)
	3	<i>Bright Road to El Dorado</i> - Corrected Typescript (1982)
	4	<i>Bright Road to El Dorado</i> - Holograph Notebooks
	5	<i>The Sound of Marching Feet</i> - Typescript
	6-7	<i>The Sound of Marching Feet</i> - Notebooks
	8	<i>Tehuca</i> - Notebooks, Typescript Fragments
18	1	<i>This Day Will Not End</i> - Notebooks
	2	<i>The Stranger</i> - Notebook and Typescript

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
18	3	<i>The Chieftains Carnival</i> - Proofs
	4	<i>The Golden Quest</i> - Typescript 1992
	5	<i>The Heat of the Day</i> - Notebook, First Draft
(1996)		
19	1-5	<i>Flames in the Night</i> - Typescript
20	1	<i>Bright and Better Day</i> - Galleys 1987
	2	<i>Bright and Better Day</i> - Manuscripts 1987
	3	<i>Bright and Better Day</i> - Typescript 1987
21	1	<i>Town and Villages</i> - Typescript 1988
	2-3	<i>Town and Villages</i> - Manuscript Notebook, 1988
22	1	Poetry
	2	Radio Script
	3	<i>Daaga</i> , Television Screen Play
	4	Miscellaneous Short Fiction - Notebooks
	5	Typescripts
	6	Fragments, Miscellaneous
		Oversize Papers
23	1	<i>The Making of Port of Spain</i>
	2	1981 Calendar Notes
	3	<i>Bright Road to El Dorado</i>

