

Acknowledgments

It has become a stock-in-trade for editors to acknowledge all the people who contributed to or supported their book project. As the editors of a book that was more than five years in the making, has twenty-two authors, and features more than three hundred images, we face an enormous challenge in naming all who helped us. What follows, therefore, is offered with apologies, in the knowledge that it must be incomplete.

As the joint editors of this book, we share overlapping networks of persons and institutions without whom this project would not have been possible. We would like first to thank the thirty authors included in this publication. We knew from the outset that inviting them to contribute would yield a collection of individual essays grounded in significant new scholarship; more importantly, however, the book developed into a wonderful collaborative project. This collaborative spirit was confirmed in the two-day workshop we attended in Jamaica, where we read and commented on each other's papers in a critical yet supportive manner. This made the process for us, as editors, a delight, like a conversation among friends. Our colleagues and participating institutions in Jamaica were extraordinarily generous in welcoming the members of the workshop into study rooms and storerooms and in sharing the riches of their collections and ideas.

By taking seriously the promise to explore objects, the material and visual culture of any period or place, as this book does, we engaged and are indebted to a network of institutions and persons who are the caretakers or owners of these collections. As the preservers of one of the largest archives of materials, including photographs, maps, prints, and drawings, covering the period we explore, the National Library of Jamaica, under the directorship of Mrs. Winsome Hudson, deserves our especial thanks. We thank in particular Mrs. Yvonne Clarke and her special collections team, who granted the editors and contributors access to the collections and made possible an extensive campaign of photography. Without their support, this book would not have been possible. Other institutions in Jamaica to which we must give thanks include the National Museum of Jamaica and the National Gallery of Jamaica, both departments of the Institute of Jamaica. We particularly thank Dr. Veerle Poupeye and her staff for making possible a study session with collections in

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It goes without saying that every book, every piece of academic writing, is built on the works of earlier scholars. We have managed to include in this book some of the most important scholars on this period in British imperial and Jamaican history. As editors, then, our task was made easier. In addition to these scholars, we want also to thank the numerous other scholars who have been interested in this history; while not named here, their works appear in this book's extensive bibliography.

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