

## Acknowledgments



This study has had a long gestation, from research long ago to insights gained over the last few years. Initially I published a study of the crisis surrounding accusations of slavery against Liberia in 1929. Several years later, I was a contributing editor to *The Marcus Garvey and Universal Negro Improvement Association Papers*. I knew Liberia the place; I knew less of Garvey and the circumstances that had produced him. The editor of the papers, Robert A. Hill, sent me tons of material whetting my appetite to know more. I thank him very much for that impetus. My growing interest in the Diaspora led me to wonder why African American emigrationism had been seen by many as an impractical, if glorious, detour on the road toward participation in a multiracial society. Ten years ago Randall Kennedy of the Harvard Law School suggested to me that I pursue the question. Time and other projects pulled me in other directions, but the questions remained. This book is my answer to some of them, and it hopes to raise other questions, especially with regard to human rights and the frameworks in which we view them.

I conducted research in Liberia, Great Britain, the United States, and Spain. In Liberia I went through the National Archives before the overthrow of the Tolbert regime and have not retraced my steps. The same is true of the United Kingdom. I have returned to Spain several times. The Archivo General de la Administración Civil del Estado in Alcalá de Henares, which was closed to me earlier, is now open. In the late 1980s I was also given access to previously closed archives in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

I thank all those who aided my early efforts, especially Joel Jutkowitz who helped me first get into print on Liberia and labor. As an Africanist who has “drifted” toward the Diaspora, I want to thank all of those who have helped me along the way. African American collections have been invaluable in bridging that “middle passage” between the formerly artificially separated fields of Africa and its Diaspora. The Moorland-Spangarn Research Center at Howard University was more than helpful. I thank chief librarian Jean Church and Ida Jones, Donna Wells, and Clifford Muse for their assistance, especially with my insistent requests for photographs. I thank Leila Torres of the center for her moral sup-

port. The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York gave me a whole new insight through its Lester Walton Papers, and a short return trip to the Chicago Historical Society provided valuable insights into the ongoing relationship between Walton and his confidant, Claude Barnett of the Associated Negro Press. I thank Lonnie Bunch for expediting my visit to the Historical Society archives. Walter Hill of the National Archives very kindly supplied me with the complete guide to the archives's Liberian and Garvey material compiled by Jacquelyn A. Kyles.

I have been able to count on Wilson Jeremiah Moses, Pan-Africanist scholar par excellence, who acted as an example and moral support. Some old friends have remained a constant in this evolving work. Among other things, it is to Hans Panofsky, bibliophile and unintentional mentor, that I owe my knowledge of the fate of the Liberian diplomat Antoine Sotille. I very much appreciate that it was Arnold Taylor, professor emeritus of Howard University, who long ago lent me photocopies of the J. P. Moffat Papers. Joseph Harris, Taylor's colleague and mine, has been an inspiration as he persisted with hard questions on how we speak about *Diaspora*. Elliott Skinner, emeritus professor at Columbia University, and I had interesting conversations about sources, and I look forward to his forthcoming volume on African Americans and foreign policy since the mid-1920s. Jane Martin, emerita of Boston University, has been steadfast over the years in providing valuable information and contacts. Indeed, she kept me aware of the Liberian dimension of the story. Elizabeth Elderedge, former student and fellow Africanist, was incredibly steadfast in those times when it was most needed. John Yoder, whom I knew as a graduate student, was more than generous in supplying me with his manuscript on current conditions in Liberia. Svend Holsoe, a man with a long association with Liberia and founder of the Liberian Studies Association, was marvelous in letting me use his photographs, which are now at the University of Indiana. Adele Logan Alexander of George Washington University offered her time and contacts for obtaining papers. She went the extra mile; I am obliged to her for gaining access to the journal of William H. Hunt, and I thank Phyllis Gibbs Fauntleroy for letting me use the Hunt journal.

I am very fortunate to have been at the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute in 2003 as a Du Bois Research Fellow. As one colleague described it, it is an "intellectual playground" in which people from various disciplines meet, mingle, and challenge disciplinary boundaries. Kudos go to Henry Louis Gates and his wonderful team. The business of preparing a manuscript is a daunting one, at least for this writer. At Harvard I had an incredibly efficient and hardworking fact checker and factotum in Ash-

ley Aull. Reference librarian Barbara Burg's electronic wizardry at the Widener Library was invaluable. I want to thank Milagros Denis, my research assistant at Howard University. Also, typing is not done by automatons; many thanks to Geraldine Shearod, my typist at Howard. A special thanks to Bessie Hill, administrator of the History Department at Howard University. Her steadfastness and efficiency left me with the time to produce this work.

More than thanks, more than anything, I acknowledge the support of Eleanor Stewart, who oversaw this project as if it were her own. She critiqued, she edited, and she mailed. She made it happen.