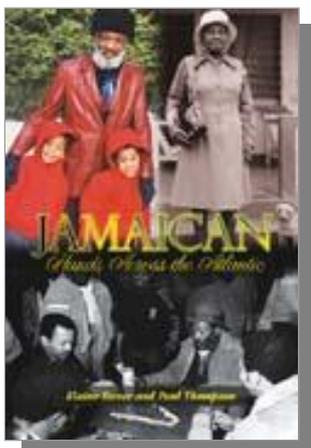


Jamaican Hands Across the Atlantic

Elaine Bauer and Paul Thompson

Elaine Bauer is an Anthropologist researching on black-white couples and their families. She is a Fellow at the Young Foundation, London. Paul Thompson is Research Professor in Sociology at the University of Essex. He is founder-editor of *Oral History* and founder of the National Life Story collection at the British Library. His many books include *The Edwardians*, *Growing Up in Stepfamilies*, and *The Voice of the Past*



In this vivid and readable text, Elaine Bauer and Paul Thompson provide a wealth of new insights into the pivotal role played by the Jamaican family in transnational migration. Using extensive interview material and oral testimonies, they track the complex pathways by which the family connects different experiences and generations, sustains networks and links pasts and future across the vicissitudes imposed by separation, time and space.
Stuart Hall

Leaving aside the forced migrations of the slave era, Jamaican migration goes back over a century initially within the Caribbean to countries like Panama but it was the post-1945 trek to Britain that signalled a new phase in Jamaican and West Indian migration. Large scale migration of Jamaicans to North America began later in the 1970s and there are now reported to be over a million Jamaicans in New York alone. Although there have been valuable studies of West Indians in Toronto and New York, none have looked at the triangular family connections between Britain, North America and Jamaica.

This book is a study of some 45 families originating in Jamaica who also have members in both Britain, the US and Canada. Oral interviews with these families provide insights into the dynamics of transnational families. The authors conclude that Jamaican transnational families are important as key witnesses to understanding the experiences of migration, global living with family members scattered between continents, the instability of parents' shifting relationships and encounters with both racial mixing and racism.

Further, because of the modernity of their family structures, they provide important clues for the future of the majority of white families of the twenty-first century both in difficulties and in solutions. **The book is written in an accessible style and is rich in vivid quotations from family members.** It will appeal to several readerships including the broad audience interested in Caribbean families and culture, Black Cultural Studies, Race and Diaspora Studies.

reading and interests, book difficulty and interests, and literary quality and interests; 2) personal determinants of interests which are taken to be age, sex, intelligence previously reported most interest, but only when such books are as accessible, as well-advertised, and as readable as other books. In other words, availability and accessibility can trump interest. Research approaches to studying Marginalia has proved an unexpectedly rich resource for investigating ordinary reading. Cathy Davidson's ac These opportunities can come through family members, teachers and friends who can create the reading landscape and encourage them to look wider and further. A famous writer once said that it's easy to recognise the people who don't read fiction, as their outlook on life is narrower and less imaginative, and they find it hard to put themselves in other people's shoes. It's a generalisation, but with elements of truth. Literature teachers often recommend reading "the classics". But what classics, whose and which era? In a way it doesn't matter " the key point is that one can't escape from a need for shared references and reading experience.

Answer Keys. Part 1. The earliest books of the ancient world were written on papyrus and skins of young animals. These books took the form of a long strip, rolled from one cylinder to another. These writings were known to the Romans as volumen from which comes the word volume. Though paper has been known in China since the first century, the secret of papermaking came to Europe much later. Books were quite common in ancient Rome: we know that there were many booksellers and the first public library was founded there about 39 B. C. Only the rich could buy books or make their slaves copy books from important libraries. Good books are only those books that everyone likes and understands. Undoubtedly, reading seems to play a vital role in the existence of the humanity, because it tends to broaden people's minds and raise the best traits of character. But, in fact, not all literature is so beneficial to book worms. I totally disagree with the statement above. I believe that the usefulness of a book cannot be estimated by its popularity. For several years now, various electronic books and websites presenting articles as well as worldwide news are increasingly predominating in our so-called "e-tech" world. Therefore, the prospective of printed newspapers or books is being abandoned and replaced by modern alternatives such as e-books or Internet. It seems to me that despite the great comfort arising from an online book, the printed newspapers or books in fact will not lose their relevance in the near future. Firstly, numerous people may encounter with the major issue of access to the Internet.