

(ATTACHMENT II)
MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN
APPLICATION FORM
2010

PART A – DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

The Helen Adelaide Wood Collection

(Jamaica)

The Helen Adelaide Wood Collection housed in the Natural History Museum of Jamaica (NHMJ), Institute of Jamaica, consists of approximately 480 original and annotated illustrations of plants and animals from the early 1900 dated and signed by Miss Wood. The illustrations of both native and introduced species including cacti, orchids, birds, caterpillars, lizards have been in the custody of the Institute of Jamaica since 1927.

Over two hundred drawings are bound and numbered in two large folios. Some of the illustrations are in plastic and paper frame kits and others in acid-free paper and quite a number of illustrations are on mounting boards. The items are housed in the rare books cabinets of the Science Library and stored in archival boxes in an air conditioned space.

The original drawings used in the Flora of Jamaica, Volume 1 Orchidaceae by Fawcett and Rendle (1910) are included in this impressive collection.

Provide the collection's significant features and criteria justifying its uniqueness. The text must be clear and precise, since this is the first contact with the application for the judges examining it.

(maximum one page, with illustrations of the document or set of documents)



Two original paintings from the Helen Wood Collection, Natural History Museum of Jamaica, Institute of Jamaica

PART B – DATA ON THE PARTY SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION**(May be the owner or duly authorized custodian)**

Name of the individual or entity that owns the document proposed	The Natural History Museum of Jamaica, Institute of Jamaica
Name of the individual or entity that has custody of the document proposed (Only if different from the owner)	
Nature of the entity (public or private)	Public
If public, specify under what body	Institute of Jamaica, an agency of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture
ADDRESS	
Street / Avenue 10-16	
Neighborhood / District __EAST STREET_____	
P.O. Box __CSO_____ City __KINGSTON_____ State _____	
Country __JAMAICA_____	
Country Code __1876_____ City Code _____ Tel. 922-0620 _____ Extension __308_____	
Tel. _____ Extension __237_____	
Fax __922-1147_____	
E-mail : nhd@instituteofjamaica.org.jm_____	
Website: www.instituteofjamaica.org.jm_____	

PART C - MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE CUSTODIAN

**Summary description
profile of custodian
institution or entity**

(Fill in only in the case of a
private or public-law entity)

(maximum one page)

The Natural History Museum of Jamaica is one of six divisions of the Institute of Jamaica. It is mandated to conduct research on the flora and fauna of Jamaica, to manage and maintain national collections for research and reference purposes and to provide educational outreach to adults and children through museum displays, publications, lectures and other forms of communication. The NHMJ is a focal point for taxonomic studies of the plants and animals of Jamaica and is the focal point for the Clearing-House Mechanism under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Jamaica's focal point to the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) is employed to the NHMJ.

NHMJ's mission is: To research, document, preserve, protect and disseminate information on Jamaica's natural scientific heritage and to function as the repository for Jamaica's flora and fauna.

The NHMJ collaborates with several institutions focusing on the management and conservation of biological diversity. In some cases the NHMJ is consulted on the status of plants and animals and makes recommendations to this end.

Facilities of the Natural History Museum of Jamaica

- The NHMJ maintains a Science Library, which has approximately 10,000 volumes, many of which are rare publications.
- The Herbarium (IJ) stores over 130, 000 plant specimens and is the best in the Caribbean.
- The Zoological collections with over 100,000 specimens are chiefly insects and spiders, but fish, birds, molluscs, reptiles and amphibians are well represented
- The Natural History Exhibition Gallery and Discovery Room display Jamaican plant and animal specimens and interactive exhibits.
- The Jamaica Clearing-house Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity facilitates access to and exchange of information on Jamaican and global biodiversity around the world. Information on Jamaican and global biodiversity can be obtained from the website at: www.jamaicachm.org.jm. It is also the focal point for the Biosafety Clearing House.
- The NHMJ manages two field stations; The Mason River Protected Area in Clarendon and the Green Hills Field Station in Portland.

PART D – SUBSTANTIATION OF DOCUMENT PRESENTED

Provide a complete description of the intrinsic and extrinsic features of the document, indicating the time, place, author, issue(s) addressed, form or style, justifying its:

- **origin**
- **authenticity**
- **uniqueness**

and importance for Latin American and Caribbean history and culture, as well as a summary of its conservation status.

Description of the intrinsic and extrinsic features of the document.

Origin and Authenticity

The Helen Adelaide Wood Collection consists of approximately 480 original illustrations of plants and animals from the early 1900s dated and signed by the artist. The illustrations of both native and introduced species including cacti, orchids, fruits, birds, and have been in the custody of the Institute of Jamaica since 1927.

The Collection is comprised of illustrations done in water colour, pencil and ink. These illustrations represent a wide cross-section of the flora and fauna found mostly in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew, Jamaica around the time that Miss Wood lived.

Mounted on mounting board, framed and enclosed in acid-free paper in archival boxes and folios, these illustrations, some over a century old, are in excellent condition. Notwithstanding some have faded and lost their colour.

Few of Miss Wood’s illustrations are held in museums outside Jamaica including the Natural History Museum in London and the Smithsonian Institution in the United States of America.

Uniqueness and Importance

The Helen Adelaide Wood Collection contains images of plants and animals that were documented over one hundred years ago. This is a record of the country’s biodiversity that is extremely important especially now when the world’s flora and fauna are being threatened. Ms Wood captured images of Jamaica’s biodiversity that might never be recorded in future photographs as some plants have never been seen in nature. The fact that her work is so detailed and in some cases recorded in colour makes it an invaluable treasure to scientists and other researchers.

This historical collection documents rare and endangered species from Jamaica and is therefore a significant record for the region. This collection will be valuable to researchers documenting historical artwork in the Caribbean and is also of much scientific value as many of the artworks are the basis for new species subsequently described.

Helen Wood is one of the artists represented in the Smithsonian Catalog of Botanical Illustrations: “Helen Adelaide Wood (fl. ca. 1910) contributed at least one salted print and three watercolors to Britton and Rose's The Cactaceae (1919-1923). We know little about her, except that she evidently collected plants in Jamaica. We can only speculate that her involvement in the Cactaceae project came about through an acquaintance with Nathaniel Lord Britton (1859-1934), who also did field work in Jamaica between 1906 and 1908.”

Examples of illustrations by Helen Adelaide Wood in the Smithsonian Catalog are *Opuntia jamaicensis* and *Opuntia spinosissima* and can be viewed at <http://botany.si.edu/botart/wood.htm> . Several museums across the world are making known their historical collections that contain artwork. The Helen Adelaide Wood Collection may be one of the few in the region.

PART D – SUBSTANTIATION OF DOCUMENT PRESENTED

Provide three bibliographic references for the proposed documentary heritage and data from three experts who can provide opinions on its value and importance.

Include the ownership status, access conditions, major legal issues, including copyright.

(Include illustrations of the document or parts of the collection proposed for nomination)

(maximum three pages)

Provide Bibliographic References

1. Britton, N. L., and J. N. Rose. *The Cactaceae Descriptions and Illustrations of Plants of the Cactus Family: Volume 1 & 2*. Vol. 2. Washington: Carnegie, 1920. Print.
2. Farr, Thomas H. "Early Years of the Natural History Division." *Jamaica Journal* 18.2 (1985): 19-28. Print.
3. Fawcett, William, and Alfred B. Rendle. *Flora of Jamaica, Containing Descriptions of the Flowering Plants Known From the Island*. Vol 1: Orchidaceae. London: British Museum, 1910. Print.
4. Goodman, M. S., and L. A. Powell. "The Budding of Mangoes." *Department of Science and Agriculture, Jamaica Miscellaneous Circular 1 (1921): 1-3*. Print.
5. Griggs, Robert F. "Some New Species and Varieties of Bihai." *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club* 42.6 (1915): 315-330.

Experts who can provide opinions on its value and importance

Laurence J. Dorr
Curator, Department of Botany, MRC-166
National Museum of Natural History
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC , USA

Ownership Status and Access

NHMJ is the exclusive custodian of The Helen Adelaide Wood Collection. The Collection is available for research by NHMJ research staff, post graduate students, other bona fide researchers, local, regional and international and any other person whom the Director in her discretion, may permit to have access, subject to NHMJ's existing rules and regulations governing access to the collection.

Legal Issues: Copyright

The copyright of all materials in the Collection rests with Natural History Museum of Jamaica, Institute of Jamaica, custodian of the collection.

PART D – SUBSTANTIATION OF DOCUMENT PRESENTED

Include a brief administrative history or biography of the producer/creator.

(Include illustrations of the document or parts of the collection proposed for nomination)

(maximum three pages)

Biography of the Producer/Creator

Prior to the Science Museum, Miss Wood worked at the Department of Agriculture, Jamaica, where she drew a variety of the flora of Jamaica. It is not known however whether she had formal training in drawing or painting but she possessed considerable artistic talent.

Helen Adelaide Wood joined to the Science Museum at the Institute of Jamaica on July 1, 1912 as Museum Assistant and her varied duties included leading guided tours of the Natural History Gallery, responding to written queries on natural history and the daily maintenance of the Institute's Zoo. The IOJ is still conducting research to ascertain her date of birth but it is estimated that she was born around the later part of the 1800s and died on November 25, 1927.

Miss Wood also had international recognition as her drawings appear in several non- Jamaican publications (See references above). The collection includes her original drawings of orchids that were used in the Flora of Jamaica, Volume 1, Orchidaceae by Fawcett and Rendle (1910). Several of her drawings have also been highlighted in several exhibitions held at the Institute of Jamaica.



Illustration of the orchid *Broughtonia sanguinea* by Helen Adelaide Wood (NHMJ Collection)

PART E – MANAGEMENT PLAN

<p>Is there a management plan for custody, preservation, safety and access to the proposed document?</p> <p>(<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>) Yes</p> <p>(<input type="checkbox"/>) No</p> <p>If so, please attach a summary of the plan.</p> <p>If not, please report on conditions of custody, preservation, safety and access.</p> <p>(maximum one page)</p>	<p>The NHMJ recognizes the value of the Helen Adelaide Wood and has it included in the rare collection. The plan for the rare books collections include acquiring resources to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure archival quality storage cabinet. • Conserve the material to ensure no further deterioration • Digitize the collection to make it more accessible to the public. • •
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PART F – RISK ASSESSMENT

Additional information to complement the nomination.

<p>Describe in detail the nature and scope of threats to the document or set of documents.</p> <p>(Natural risks, surroundings of the building, environmental conditions inside and outside the headquarters building, pollution, support fragility, other relevant data)</p> <p>(maximum one page)</p>	<p>Natural History Museum of Jamaica is located in a commercial residential community. However the Institute of Jamaica provides round the clock security and a caretaker lives on the premises. The buildings are also under 24 hour surveillance. Natural threats include threats from hurricanes, earth quakes but the organization has a disaster management plan. The Collections are housed in controlled temperature and maintained at approximately 16 degrees Celsius.</p>
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PART G - BIDDER

Person responsible for submitting the application:

Name : Tracy Commock, Director, Natural History Museum of Jamaica

I accept all conditions of this Invitation and its Regulations, assuming full responsibility for the truthfulness of the information submitted to MOWLAC.

City ___ KINGSTON _____ Date 20 /08/ 2010

Signature