

Professor Trevor Anthony Jackson (1941-2016)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Professor Trevor A. Jackson (1941-2016) was Head of Geology and, subsequently, the Geography and Geology Department of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, Jamaica. He retired from teaching in his old department in 2008, with which he had been associated for over 40 years. Although Campus Coordinator for the School of Graduate Studies and Research and the Disaster Risk Reduction Centre at Mona from 2000-2007 and 2008-2010, respectively, until retirement, it is with the teaching, research and promotion of geology in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean that Trevor's name remains most closely associated. His influence on Caribbean geology has been considerable as a researcher (see below), educator and administrator. He was a champion for the education of geology in the region, and organised many conferences and workshops (including the 15th Caribbean Geological Conference in 1998). He was instrumental in the preparation of two books that became the first local and regional geology texts for the teaching of geology throughout the region. *Rocks and minerals of Jamaica*, co-authored with Anthony Porter and Edward Robinson, was a popular text for level 1 and 2 students as well as teachers from the primary and secondary school levels in Jamaica. *Caribbean Geology: An Introduction*, co-edited with Steve Donovan, is still in use today. In fact, when the book went out of print, Trevor had it converted to digital format where it was made available on CD. Trevor's research interests were principally focussed on the igneous geology of the Antillean region, but he has also worked on economic geology, regional geology, education of geologists, marine geology and sedimentology, amongst others.

Trevor obtained all of his degrees at UWI Mona (B.Sc. 1968, M.Sc. 1970, Ph.D. 1977). He was a research assistant at the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada, between 1970 and 1974 before joining the staff of the Department of Geology, UWI, Mona, as a lecturer in 1974. He was thus a familiar face in the classroom at UWI for over 30 years and a key figure in the development of

education in geology in the English-speaking Caribbean during this interval. He was Head of Department for almost two decades, from 1981 to 1999, during which time he successfully juggled teaching, administration and research. Somehow, he also made time to be closely involved with the Geological Society of Jamaica (GSJ), for which he acted as a council member at various times, as Editor of the *Journal of the GSJ* (1982-1986) and as President (1988-1990). Trevor was an honorary member of the GSJ and a fitting recipient of the L. J. Chubb Award, its highest honour. He was also a Fellow of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences.

Trevor's research was enriched by successful research collaborations with colleagues overseas, many of whom have contributed to the present volume. A thematic issue of *Geological Journal*, 'Crustal and Biotic Evolution of the Caribbean Plate', was published at the time of Trevor's retirement with papers written by many of his overseas collaborators (Donovan, 2008a). The subject matter covered many of the scientific areas to which Trevor Jackson contributed, including plate tectonics, volcanic and other igneous rocks, economic geology and industrial minerals, sedimentology and the geology of Jamaica.

On retirement, Trevor returned home to Trinidad and was appointed to an emeritus position at the Seismic Research Centre at the St Augustine campus of the University of the West Indies. He continued to research the geology of the Caribbean and to publish his results widely. For example, he was part of a group examining the Oligocene geology of Antigua, particularly the relationship between sedimentation and igneous activity. Trevor was an invited speaker at the prestigious Lyell Meeting, 'Islands: Palaeontology, Geology and Tectonics', at the Geological Society in London in October 2011. Trevor was seriously ill for much of 2015 and died suddenly, of an unrelated ailment, in January 2016. He is survived by his wife Jean, children Susan and David, and his grandson, Susan's son Jordan.

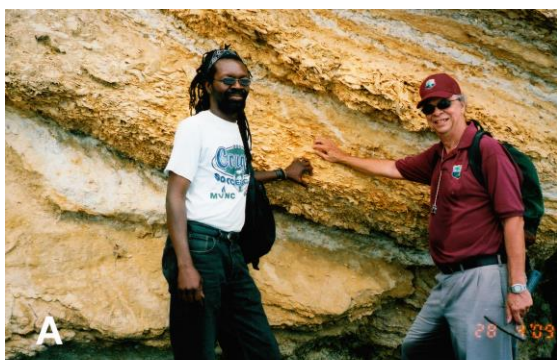


Figure 1. Trevor Jackson in the field. A, Trevor (right) with Dr Donovan J. Blissett at the *Crassostrea virginica* oyster beds in the Round Hill beds, August Town Formation, on Farquhar's Beach, Clarendon, Jamaica. Photograph by S.K.D. (28th April, 2009). B, The small roadside exposure of chloritized tuff at Liberta, parish of Saint Paul, Antigua, is demonstrated by Trevor (after Jackson and Donovan, 2013, fig. 2). This rock has been used locally as a building stone – see behind Trevor's shoulders. Photograph by S.K.D. (May 2013). C, Four happy professors on the field excursion (8th June, 1996) following the De la Beche Meeting, UWI, 1996. Left to right: Trevor, the late Alan Fincham (University of Southern California, LA), S.K.D. and David Barker. All UWI Department of Geography and Geology unless stated otherwise. Photograph by the late Dr. C. M. I. (Trina) MacGillivray.

2. TREVOR ON SABBATICAL – LEICESTER 1991

There are many aspects of Trevor's life and work that we might comment upon, but, instead, we are

inclined to let him say it for himself from an exchange of letters with S.K.D. in the summer of 1991. At this time Trevor was on sabbatical leave at the University of Leicester, working in collaboration with Professor Peter W. Scott, and also on other projects with his research students and others. References to individuals and projects mentioned in the text are explained in a series of endnotes, below. These letters are to be archived in the Science Library, UWI Mona.

(T.A.J. to S.K.D., 1st July 1991.) “Many thanks for Jenny's¹ chapters which seem to have reached in record time. I can now buckle down to the descriptive section on the surface textures, for our paper.²

“... At the moment I am midway between pressing pellets and making glass beads for XRF analysis of the granites from Belize.³ I've had a few minor setbacks with the bentonites in that, as I suspected, there is calcite from the host limestone mixed in with the sample. I propose to remove the calcite using sodium acetate and acetic acid, as soon as Ansel Dunham⁴ returns from the Alps. Apparently he appears to be the only one who might know the technique or knows someone who knows the technique.

“... On evenings I'm doing a bit of light reading by examining Russell Maharaj's⁵ double tome. He certainly has a wealth of data and has done a tremendous amount of work.

“... By the way I completed my contribution to the geochronology paper and posted it to Rafi over a week ago.⁶ ...”

(T.A.J. to S.K.D., 16th July 1991.) “... I have managed to complete my powder pellets and fusion beads for XRF analysis ... My problems regarding the carbonates in the bentonites has been resolved, thanks to Warren Huff.⁷ ... I faxed Huff, who, quite logically stated that [sic] to go ahead with the analyses. According to Huff, I need to determine the carbon dioxide in the sample (which can be done gravimetrically), and combine this value with the CaO from the major element determination, $CaO + CO_2 = CaCO_3$. I then recalculate my values back to 100%, and these results will represent a carbonate free value. I can then play around with the corrected majors plus traces in order to determine the source. Simple really!”⁸

(T.A.J. to S.K.D., 24th July 1991.) “... I have finished ‘The genesis of the silica sands of Black River, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica’² and sent it off for comment from the senior author in Miami. I think it is a bloody good paper, all that is left is for Jenni¹ to sort out and select the plates and to provide me with the original figures. ...

“August should be my analytical month in that all my samples have been prepared for chemical analysis, and the slides for probe work should be ready next week. ...

“Don't forget to send me the info on the degrees awarded to our final year [students].

“I have not heard from Rafi⁶ ...”

(T.A.J. to S.K.D., 9th August 1991.) “... Firstly let me thank you for refining the Tobago paper,⁹ which looks quite good (I just hope the students will enjoy reading it). ...

“... my research is moving along, although I am still to see any data outside of the XRD scans. It takes a while to analyse for the 25-odd elements that I need, but I am hoping that the technician will have completed the analyses by the end of next week. ... I journey onto the microprobe for the first time next Wednesday ...

“My colleague Terry Smith¹⁰ will be visiting me this weekend. We have not seen one another for 10 years ... We also plan to discuss areas of cooperation between UWI and UW's [= University of Windsor] Geology Departments.”

(T.A.J. to S.K.D., 14th August 1991.) “... My co-author of a certain geochronology paper has informed me that it will be finished in 7 days.⁶ He of course avoided stating the next 7 days ... Terry Smith passed through on the weekend ... we managed to decide on a proposal involving Bob Garrett,¹¹ the UWI and UW ... We also went up to the BGS [= British Geological Survey at Keyworth] on Monday, where we chatted with Howard Bateson. Howard mapped in Belize about 20 years ago and produced an excellent IGS [= Institute of Geological Sciences] report on the geology ...

“The reason for finding time to write this letter so soon after my last one is very simple. The Microprobe is down ... postgraduate students ... have now succeeded in damaging the instrument while the technician was on vacation.”

3. PRINCIPAL PUBLICATIONS OF TREVOR JACKSON (listed in chronological order)

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- [Only listing papers that are mentioned in the text that do not appear in the Jackson bibliography (see above).]
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NOTES

- ¹ Mrs Jennifer West-Thomas, M.Phil., one of T.A.J.'s former research students.
- ² Jackson and West-Thomas (1994).
- ³ Jackson et al. (1996).
- ⁴ Professor Ansel Charles Dunham (1938-1998); see *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society*, volume **53**, part 3, May 2001.
- ⁵ M.Phil. student supervised by Rafi Ahmad.
- ⁶ Rafi Ahmad and Trevor had presented a joint paper on the geochronology of Jamaica at the L.J. Chubb Centennial Meeting (**Ahmad and Jackson, 1989**). Sadly, the full paper was never completed for publication.
- ⁷ Professor Warren D. Huff, University of Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, expert on K-bentonites and high-resolution sequence and event stratigraphy across the Iapetus Ocean in the Early Palaeozoic.
- ⁸ Comer and Jackson (2004).
- ⁹ Jackson and Donovan (1994).
- ¹⁰ Emeritus Professor Terrence E. Smith, University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, igneous geochemist and Trevor's mentor at Windsor.
- ¹¹ Dr. Robert G. Garrett, Geological Survey of Canada, emeritus scientist, exploration geochemist.