

TRADING TALES – A CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: CARIBBEAN

The Commonwealth Games provides a unique opportunity for Scotland to explore its cultural heritage with the wider Commonwealth. Glasgow's Mitchell Library hosts a vast collection of original archival material relating to Scotland's shared history with the Caribbean, forged in many ways in the 1750s by the North Atlantic Slave Trade. The Caribbean has dispersed archives and resources though not, as yet, coherent collections on this topic.

The British Council is working with the Mitchell Library (Glasgow, Scotland) and a local Caribbean partner to convene an ambitious residency programme for writers of historical fiction from both places to explore this relationship. Two Caribbean writers from the Commonwealth will take up residence at Mitchell Library for three weeks, with a creative brief to explore and respond to the archive of original source material from the time period. One Scottish writer will head to Trinidad for three weeks, one spent in the company of literature networks in Port of Spain and a further two of independent travel to visit dispersed resources across the Caribbean region and do the same. Writers will publically explore the relationship between the two places and the craft of weaving history into their stories.

CALL FOR WRITERS

British Council and **Mitchell Library** are looking for two experienced writers of historical fiction to be resident at the Mitchell Library in Glasgow for **three weeks in August 2014 (Monday 11 – Sunday 31 August 2014)**. The residency is to explore the archives held by the library, with a special but not exclusive focus on the relationship between Scotland and the Caribbean (they are invited to take the North Atlantic Slave Trade of the 1700s as a starting point).

If selected, you will be asked to produce some creative work at the end of your trip that explores the archives and that might have some reflection on the relationship between Scotland and the Caribbean. You are encouraged to use original archival material for inspiration as much as possible, but you are also expected to engage with the people and places of Scotland. Work will be disseminated throughout the residency in a variety of ways to engage as many people as possible. Your work created throughout the residency will be published online after the residency has ended.

There may be opportunities during your time in Scotland to speak about your work at events and to engage with audiences, particularly around historical fiction and engaging with archival material.

THE SELECTED WRITER WILL:

- Be resident in the Commonwealth Caribbean, of near Caribbean descent or have other significant Caribbean connections
- Have published at least one work of historical fiction (published can refer to online material, publication in journals and magazines, and other forms of wide public dissemination)
- Be available for the duration of the project, approx. 21 days throughout August 2014 (11-31 Aug), ideally with some availability throughout September 2014 when a reciprocal Scottish writer will visit the Caribbean
- Be able to demonstrate the quality of their work objectively, with references from agents, publishers or other writers, as well as with samples of your work
- Have demonstrable experience of public events and of speaking about their work in public
- Have an interest in or experience of exploring the archives at the Mitchell, of excavating the histories of a place and ideally – but not solely – to explore the relationship between the Caribbean and Scotland
- Be able to write to a deadline
- Be experienced in blogging and social media
- Be well networked – both online and in person
- Be independent and a confident traveller
- Be confident and able to communicate with a wide variety of people
- Be personable and outgoing
- Be organised
- Be prepared to take part in events, should they come up

YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- Payment of £800 (consisting of £500 stipend and a £300 event fee)
- A grant to cover accommodation, subsistence and local travel for the full 3 weeks
- Return flights from the Caribbean to Scotland
- The chance to have your work read and discussed internationally
- Media opportunities as part of the programme
- The opportunity to explore one of the most famous archives of original archival material relating to an important period of Scottish / Caribbean history.

To apply you'll need to submit your CV and a 500 word statement explaining why you are interested in this opportunity and what particularly interests you about the relationship between the Caribbean and Scotland. Send to UK_Residency@britishcouncil.org . Please outline your particular experience for the role.

This brief will close at 12pm on Sunday 13 July 2014 and is open to any writer of historical fiction. Late entries will not be accepted under any circumstances. This is a call for expressions of interest only and decisions are final. A decision will be made by Wednesday 16 July 2014.

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