



'Finding Barrington Part 1: Who is Barrington Young?'

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Reading Race, Collecting Cultures

Collections at the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre



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Finding Barrington. Part 1: Who is Barrington Young?



The Roving Reader Files

Small, but a kaleidoscope of colour. That's the only way I could describe it.

What I'd found was a gem of a book packed with lovingly evocative images of Jamaica – ***Jamaica: Photographs by Ray Chen***. Thanks, Mr Chen! What vistas you've opened up! Beaches, sea, mountains, people... You name it, it's there. And the fruit! Call me a smoothie-head, but whenever fruit's involved, I'm addicted already...



But wait a minute, what's this? Another intriguing dedication on the flyleaf? You know I'm a sucker for a mystery, so take a look at what I'd found:

*Donated by Mr. Barrington Young
September 07*

Who's Barrington Young? And why would he give away such a breathtaking book, a visual feast inviting us to another shore? Not something I'd do...

Barrington Young... Just say it out loud... Has a ring to it, doesn't it? With a name like that, this man has to be somebody. A prime minister or a jazz pianist, a brain surgeon or an astronaut, or what about a footballer? I resolved to do a bit of digging. Who knew what I'd find?

So follow me on a roller coaster of a ride through the rail network of Britain, interracial marriage, and the value of a rigorous education. In my next couple of posts we'll swim like fish amongst fascinating oral history treasures unique to the Centre, not published ones this time, but manuscripts, recordings, and their transcriptions.

Are you ready for another journey? The quest to find Barrington will be our guide...

Jamaica: Photographs by Ray Chen was published in 1995. **Ray Chen** was born into the Chinese community of Jamaica and, although he lives and works in Canada, he counts Jamaica as his home. He is one of Jamaica's leading photographers, having published a number of collections relating to Jamaica, its scenery and its history.