



KINGSTON & ST. ANDREW PARISH LIBRARY

The Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Library on Tom Redcam Drive bears the pen name of Thomas Henry, MacDermot, Jamaica's first poet laureate. The library is centrally located near Cross Roads where the major traffic routes of the city converge.

The service to the city began in 1955 when a rented house at Brentford Road was attractively remodelled to accommodate a library and fifteen thousand (15,000) books were provided. The service was so well received that membership had to be closed within the first month of the opening date. Over eighty-nine thousand (89,000) books were loaned in eight (8) months. The library was housed for three (3) years at that location.

With its removal in July 1958 to its own new premises on Tom Redcam Drive the service rapidly expanded and by March 1959 the book stock had grown to sixty-three thousand (63,000). Over four hundred and fourteen thousand (414,000) books were loaned in that period. Housed at the library were a number of collections such as, the Barrister Campbell Law Collection which comprised 300 books and pamphlets donated to the Jamaica Library Service in 1965 by the late E.E.A. Campbell, Barrister-at-Law, scientist and politician. Other special collections were acquired through the generosity of local organisations and foreign embassies.