



# SAINT LUCIA NATIONAL TRUST

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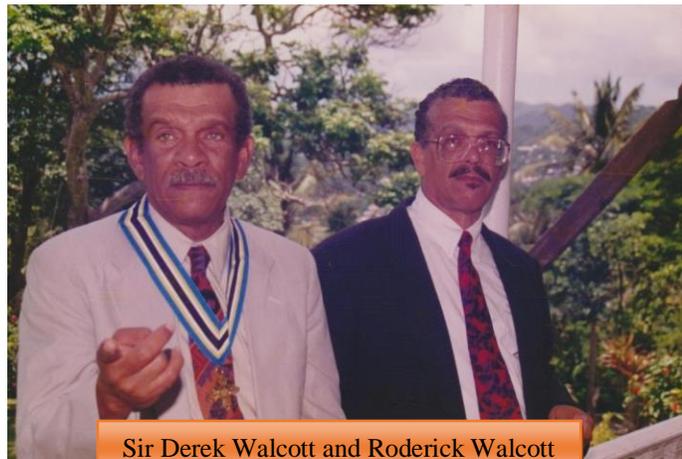
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## Promoting Museums for Equality in 2020

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International Museum Day is celebrated globally on May 18<sup>th</sup>. This is an annual celebration coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM). The theme this year is “Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion”. International Museum Day 2020 aims to become a rallying point to both celebrate the diversity of perspectives that make up the communities and personnel of museums, and champion tools for identifying and overcoming bias in what they display and the stories they tell.

The Trust participated in this event by celebrating the work of two cultural icons: the Walcott brothers. Sir Derek and Roderick Walcott were writing Kwéyòl into their plays and poems in the 1960’s, when speaking Kwéyòl was frowned upon. This was their way of fostering diversity and inclusion in their community, essentially changing the narrative and representing the history of the culture and language of the people of Saint Lucia. Saint Lucia still has a few challenges with inclusion in the



Sir Derek Walcott and Roderick Walcott

practice of its cultural heritage despite the Walcott brothers’ efforts to give our culture a voice and portray it in a positive context. Two pieces of the Walcott brothers’ work were featured by the Trust. One was a poem: “Ma Kilman” by Sir Derek Walcott, and the other a play: “The Banjo Man” by Roderick Walcott, O.B.E.

Ma Kilman was first published in 1976. This poem was dedicated to Eric Branford and is taken from Sir Derek Walcott’s Sea Grapes Collection of Poems. The collection signaled the start of Sir Derek moving away from the Standard English way of speaking to incorporating the French

creole language more into his work. There was no orthography to draw from in the 1960s, therefore he used a loose French creole to write this poem. It is well-written however we can see that the Kwéyòl language was not as developed as it is now. Sir Derek and Roderick Walcott were considered revolutionaries of their time by writing and speaking creole in their plays and poems.

Roderick Walcott was a panman, playwright and dramatist. He is regarded as one of the founders of modern Caribbean Theatre. The Trust chose an excerpt from his play “The Banjo Man”, which was staged by Saint Lucia for the first CARIFESTA in Guyana in 1972. The play featured the local flower festivals of La Rose and La Marguerite. His collaboration with Charles Cadet produced many folk songs that have now become classic Saint Lucian songs. Writing Kwéyòl into their work was a truly valiant effort to preserve our cultural heritage.