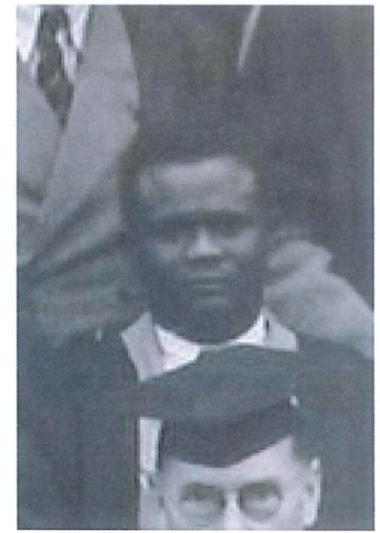




DOWNING COLLEGE'S EARLY BLACK CANTABS



A VIRTUAL ARCHIVE EXHIBITION



This virtual exhibition is based on research carried out by the College Archivist in support of the Black Cantabs Research Society in 2017 and the resulting archive display in the Maitland Robinson Library for Open Cambridge and Black History Month, 2018.

Research was hampered by the poor survival of early student records and photographs and Data Protection obligations. However, the project uncovered details of inspirational individuals who studied at Downing and went on to make significant contributions across the world.

These are some of their stories...

BENJAMIN PERCY QUARTEY-PAPAFIO (1917, Medicine)

Benjamin Percy Quarley-Papafio matriculated at Downing in 1917, aged 25, studying medicine. His father, Benjamin William Quarley-Papafio, was a prominent doctor from the Gold Coast who qualified at Durham and Edinburgh. Percy had cataracts, untreatable at that time, and was unable to complete his medical studies, taking only his first year examinations.

After returning to the Gold Coast, he used his medical knowledge as an advisor to various town councils on health issues and was later also a member of the Legislative Council. He died in 1960, aged 68.



*1917 matriculation photograph
Courtesy of the family of Frank Furniss*



*Benjamin Percy (back left) with his mother
and siblings, 1910
© Dorothy Naa Kwartiokor Barnor nee Quarley
Papafio and Rhodalene Quarley Papafio*

EDMUND LÉON AUGUSTE (1919, Medicine)

Edmund was born in 1900 in Castries, St Lucia. He was awarded the first ever St Lucia University Scholarship in 1918, before applying to Downing College in 1919 to study Medicine. (His Headmaster at St Mary's College, John Desmond Fisher, was himself a recent graduate of Downing.)

Edmund represented the College at boxing, reaching the Bantam Weight final of the inter-collegiate competition in 1921. After graduating, he completed his medical training at the Middlesex Hospital in London, where he continued his boxing representing the Hospital.



*St Lucia Scholarship award holders board (extract)
Courtesy of the National Archives Authority of St Lucia*

RYDER & AMIES, *Hosiery, Tailors and Robe Makers.*
Corner of **King's Parade**, Cambridge. Phone 71
By Appointment: Official Outfitters to the C.U. Boxing and Fencing Club.
ALL COLOURS STOCKED.

C. U. Boxing and Fencing Club,
Novices' & Freshmen's Competitions, November 24, 1921.

RED	BLUE	RED	BLUE			
Welter Weight - Semi-Final.		Feather Weight - Final.				
1. G. E. PARKER (Trinity Hall)	v. M. H. PAY (Fitzwilliam Hall)	A	8. R. W. ALLUM (Jesus)	v. B. L. LAWSON JOHNSTON		
2. C. A. NERY (St John's)	v. M. FOWLER (King's)	B		(Corpus)		
Middle Weight - Semi-Final.		Light Weight - Final.				
3. H. G. JOSEPH (Trinity)	v. H. S. JEROME (Catus)	A	9. W. B. C. GLEN (St John's)	v. W. J. MOODY (Trinity)		
4. H. A. PRIDHAM (Pembroke)	v. E. GREENHILL (Jesus)	B				
Light-Heavy Weight - Semi-Final.		Welter Weight - Final.				
5. G. V. PHILCOX (Catus)	v. W. H. C. BREMNER (Pemb.)	A	10.	Winner of A	v.	Winner of B
6. A. C. R. POPE (Magdalene)	v. D. A. D. SIMPSON (Trinity)	B				
Bantam Weight - Final.		Middle Weight - Final.				
7. E. L. AUGUSTE (Downing)	v. J. C. L. PEREIRA (Selwyn)		11.	Winner of A	v.	Winner of B
		Light-Heavy Weight - Final.				
		12.		Winner of A	v.	Winner of B

M.C.: D. PORTWAY, Esq. Referee: P. B. GRAIN, Esq. Judges: H. H. B. GRAIN, Esq., and J. COOKE, Esq.
Timekeeper: W. MANNING, Esq.

Price 2d.

*C.U. Amateur Boxing and Fencing Club flyer, 1921
Reproduced by kind permission of the Syndics of
Cambridge University Library, Cambridge Papers J 2310*



*Edmund Auguste in boxing pose
With grateful thanks to the Auguste family*

EDMUND LÉON AUGUSTE (1919, Medicine)



After qualifying as a doctor in 1925, Dr Auguste returned to St Lucia as Medical Officer for the Fifth District in Castries before leaving to take up a new post in the Gold Coast (now Ghana) in 1927.

Dr Auguste lived for the rest of his life in Koforidua in the eastern region of Ghana. He was the first qualified medical practitioner in this remote area and established a weekly surgery in a nearby town on market day to provide medical care for a much wider community. He died in 1970.



Photographs of Dr. Auguste as a young man and in later life, with grateful thanks to his son.

GAPS IN THE ARCHIVAL RECORD

Sadly, we have no photographs of Edmund Auguste during his time at Downing College. Only the recently-discovered 1917 matriculation photograph, featuring Benjamin Percy Quartey-Papafio, has survived between 1914 and 1922. In fact, only a total of eight 'Freshmen' photographs have survived up to and including 1937, making the identification of the College's early Black students difficult during the inter-war period, when the College admitted students from all over the world.

JAMES VIVIAN CLINTON (1920, History and Law)

James was born in 1902 at Axim, Gold Coast. His father was a Ghanaian lawyer of Caribbean ancestry and his mother was the English daughter of the Chief Justice of the Gold Coast. He was educated at a private school in East Sussex and Taunton School, before matriculating at Downing in 1920.

After graduating, James was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn Field, but an illness soon after left him totally deaf, making a legal career impossible. He turned to journalism, working on the *Sierra Leone Daily Mail*, 1932-5, before settling in Calabar, Nigeria, as Editor of the *Nigerian Eastern Mail* established by his father. In 1949 he was awarded an OBE for 'services to Nigeria in the field of journalism'.

After the *Mail* folded in 1951, he held various posts in the Nigerian civil service throughout the 1950s and 1960s and later began writing short stories, often anonymously for women's magazines. In 1971 he published a book for school children, *The Rescue of Charlie Kalu*. He died in 1973.



Clinton in Thrones House, 1918
Courtesy of Taunton School



Clinton as Editor of the
Nigerian Eastern Mail



Staff of the *Nigerian Eastern Mail*, seated 2nd right with his father, with thanks to Dr David Pratten, Oxford University

'COLONIAL SCHOLARS'

From the 1930s Downing College regularly admitted 'Colonial Scholars' studying for a one-year Colonial Service course. Attendees were divided into cadet officers (administrators) and agricultural probationers. The administrators received intensive language instruction as part of the three-term syllabus in Cambridge, while agricultural probationers did a further year at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad (run until 1938 by Downing alumnus Geoffrey Evans).

These courses continued after the war, first as the Devonshire Courses and later as the Overseas Services Course. By 1963, more-flexible programmes on development economics had been introduced and the name changed again to the Course on Development. Government funding ended in 1981 and some courses were taken over by the Department of Land Economy.

*Information from the University Archive's online catalogue
(GBR/0265/CDEV)*



1942 matriculation photograph

Three students matriculated during 1942-3 at different times, two colonial scholars and Remilekun Adetokunbo Fani-Kayode, who matriculated in March 1943, studying Law.

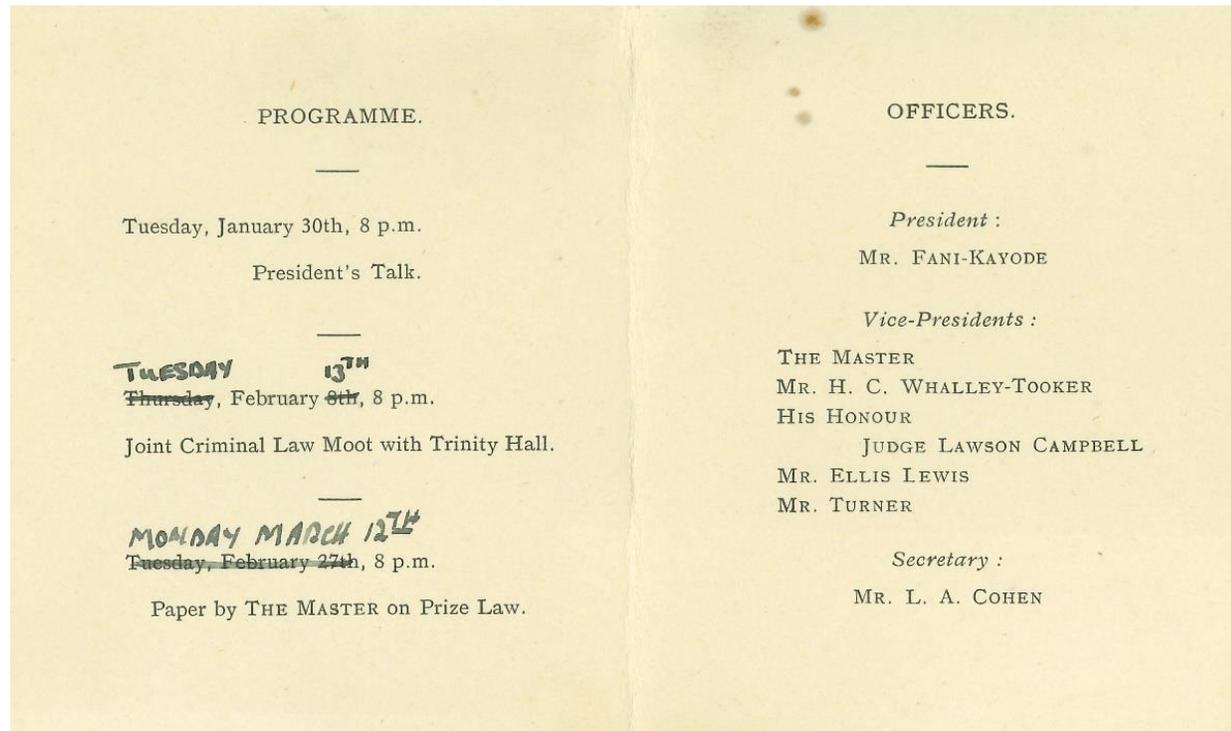
This photograph is likely to show Donald Aston Rowan Campbell, a Colonial Scholar, who was admitted in October 1942. Valence Errol Gale matriculated the following month studying agriculture. DCPH/2/1/8 © Lafayette Photography Ltd

REMILEKUN ADETOKUNBO FANI-KAYODE (1943, Law)

Remilekun Adetokunbo Fani-Kayode was born in Chelsea in 1921, the son of Victor Kayode of Lagos, Nigeria, himself a graduate of Selwyn College, Cambridge.

During the Lent term three meetings were again held. The President, Mr. Fani-Kayode, gave a most interesting talk on "Some Aspects of Mohammedan Law," which also served the purpose of drawing the Society's attention to legal systems and functions of laws motivated by aims different from our own.

The Griffin, Lent 1945, Cranworth Law Society report



Cranworth Law Society term card, Lent Term 1945 (DCCS/4/2/1)

Remilekun arrived at Downing College in January 1943 after ten weeks at sea via New York due to shipping shortages during the Second World War. He matriculated in March 1943, studying Law (BA 1946, MA and LLB 1965). Fani-Kayode was President of the Cranworth Law Society at Downing from 1944 to 1945 and gave his President's Talk in Lent 1945 on 'aspects of Mohammedan Law'.

REMI AND ROTIMI FANI-KAYODE

Remi Fani-Kayode was a prominent figure in the Nigerian struggle for independence, moving the 1958 motion for independence (from 1960) and serving as Deputy Premier for the Western Region of Nigeria from 1963 until the military coup of January 1966.

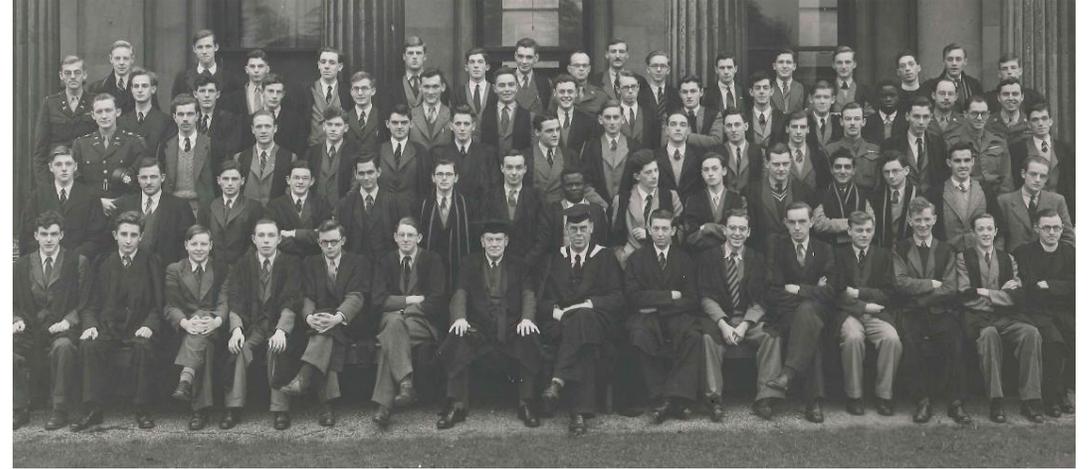
In a surprising coincidence at the time of researching this exhibition, when the Heong Gallery at Downing College hosted an exhibition of African art in 2017, *When the Heavens Meet the Earth*, this included artwork by the photographer Rotimi Fani-Kayode, the son of alumnus Remi Fani-Kayode.

Rotimi Fani-Kayode's 'Grapes' (pictured here with Downing Fellow and Black Cantabs Society Patron, Dr Mónica Moreno Figueroa) remains on loan to the College.



EZEKIEL NORUKIOR IGHO (1945, Natural Sciences)

The family of J. V. Clinton (1920) had close ties with the Urhobo Progress Union in Nigeria which, in 1945, raised funds to send two students from their community to university in England so they could run the newly-established Urhobo College on their return. One of these students, Ezekiel Norukior Igho, matriculated at Downing in 1945, studying Natural Sciences.



1945 matriculation photograph, including Ezekiel Igho (2nd row, centre) and Joseph Ojukwu (4th row) DCPH/2/1/9 © Lafayette Photography Ltd



1947-8 1st Hockey XI including Joseph Okwuabudike Ojukwu (1945) DCPH/2/3/6/12a © Lafayette Photography Ltd

Ezekiel was born in Ohwrode, Urhobo, and was educated at St Phillips' School, Burutu, and the Holy Cross School, Benin City. After graduating from Downing in 1948 (MA, 1953) and obtaining his Diploma in Education in London, Igho returned to Urhobo to take up his position as Vice Principal at the new College (founded in 1947). The other student funded by the Progress Union, M. G. Ejaife (*Durham University*), returned as Principal. Sadly, Ezekiel died less than seven years later.

ALBERT ADOMAKOH (1950, Economics)

Born in a Ghanaian village in April 1924, Albert Adomakoh rose to become Governor of the Bank of Ghana and Director of the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

Albert was educated at Kumasi Government Boys School and, after failing to secure a scholarship to secondary school, studied privately while working in Kumasi as a bank clerk. After passing the AIB's Professional Diploma in Banking and the London Matriculation Examination he was awarded a scholarship by the Ashanti Confederacy Council to pursue an Economics degree in the United Kingdom and matriculated at Downing in 1950.



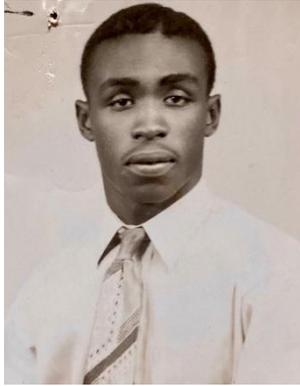
Downing College Choir, Easter Term 1952, including Albert Adomakoh (DCPP/WHI/3/2)



Adomakoh (centre) at the IFC (DCHR/1/2/ADO, courtesy of the Adomakoh family)

Albert played hockey for Downing and also sang in the College Choir. After graduating in 1953, he was called to the Bar in 1955, the same year he completed his professional banking qualifications. Albert was appointed Governor of the Bank of Ghana in 1965, Assistant Director-General at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation in 1968 and Director of Investments for Africa and the Middle East at the International Finance Corporation, 1970. In 2008, he was awarded the Order of The Star of Ghana. He died in 2016.

LLOYD ALGERNON BEST (1953, Economics)



Lloyd Best was born in Feb 1934 in Tunapuna, Trinidad. He was educated at Queen's Royal College, Port-of-Spain before matriculating at Downing College in 1953. He studied Economics and played cricket for the College. After graduating in 1956, he went on to Oxford and briefly to Paris before returning home to the Caribbean, where he taught at the University of the West Indies.

Admissions photograph (Downing College Archives)

In Trinidad he gradually moved from academia into politics, and in 1969 founded Tapia, initially a movement and a journal which metamorphosed into a political party in the 1970s. Although primarily an intellectual and a thinker, he became involved in day to day political life and served two terms as leader of the opposition in the Senate of Trinidad. He was awarded the Order of the Caribbean Community for his public service. The Trinidad and Tobago Institute of the West Indies was renamed The Lloyd Best Institute of the West Indies (now The Lloyd Best Institute of the Caribbean) in his memory.



*1955 May Ball photograph (extract)
Lloyd Best is standing, centre.
DCPH/2/2/8 © Lafayette Photography Ltd*

COLLEGE SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

The research project traced the impressive careers in which many of these men went on to excel after their time at Downing College, often serving their countries at the highest level. It also highlighted how they contributed to the College and University communities in Cambridge, participating in – and leading (in the case of Remi Fani-Kayode) – academic societies, singing in the College choir and playing sports at College and University level. **Prince Adekunle Oyedele Oyenuga** (Archaeology and Anthropology, 1961) and **Peter Alexander Ashikiwe Adione-Egom** (Archaeology and Anthropology, 1963) both successfully represented the College and University at Athletics.



Kunle (*left*) and Alex (*right*), as they were known in Downing, were both educated at King's College in Lagos, Nigeria. Kunle was an international long and triple jumper when he joined Downing and won the long jump against Oxford in 1963. He went on to hold several senior positions in the Nigerian Federal Civil Service.

Alex represented the University in the Freshmen's match against Oxford, again in 1966 and was part of the College's winning inter-college relays team in 1965. After lecturing in social anthropology and working in finance for many years, he moved into journalism.



Sadly, very few athletics photographs have survived in the Archive. Matriculation photograph extracts © Lafayette Photography Ltd.

SIR KEITH AJEGBO (1966, English), Honorary Fellow

Sir Keith Ajegbo was knighted in 2007 following a distinguished career in education.

He was born in 1946 to a Nigerian father and a white mother and was educated at Eltham College in south-east London before matriculating at Downing in 1966 to study English. He represented the College and University at tennis (the Blues team unbeaten during his three years) and, in 1969, captained the Cambridge University team against Oxford (*pictured here, with grateful thanks to Sir Keith Ajegbo*).

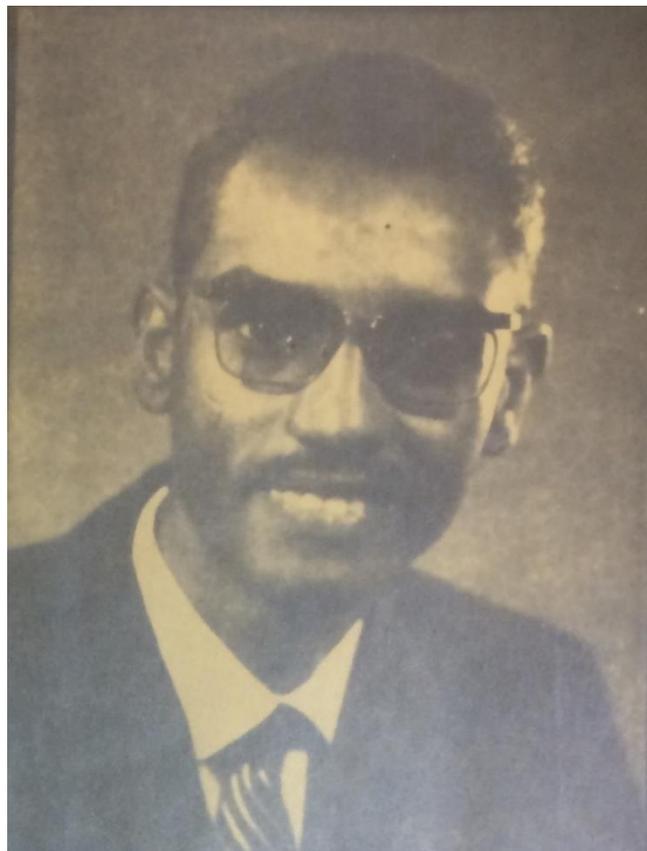


For 20 years, Sir Keith was Head of Deptford Green School, a comprehensive in North Lewisham with a multicultural intake from an economically deprived area. He raised the school's academic achievement and created its reputation for citizenship education. In 1995 he was awarded an OBE for services to education, served as a government adviser from 2006-2009 and was the lead writer on the Curriculum Review 'Diversity and Citizenship'. He is now Chair of Blueprint for All (an organisation helping the careers of young people from diverse backgrounds), a Trustee of the Charitable Foundation of the All England Lawn Tennis Club and Trustee of a small education charity working in Rwanda.

Sir Keith was elected as an Honorary Fellow of Downing College in 2019.

Sir Keith Ajegbo on his admission as an Honorary Fellow, October 2019

MAHGOUB OBEID TAHA, Research Fellow (1966-1968)



Dr Mahgoub Taha, 1966 (DCAR/1/8/1/3/44)

*Dr Mónica Moreno Figueroa
(© Seila Montes)*

The first Black Fellow elected at Downing College is believed to have been Dr Mahgoub Taha, appointed as a Research Fellow in Physics in 1966. He resigned two years later to take up a position at the University of Khartoum (later promoted to Professor) and also at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Italy.

The Black Cantabs Research Society

Current Black-mestiza Downing Fellow in Social Sciences and University Associate Professor, Dr Mónica Moreno Figueroa (*right*), is Patron of the University of Cambridge Black Cantabs Research Society, which was co-founded in 2015 by Downing Black alumna Nnenda Chinda alongside Njoki Wamai (*Queens' College*). The Society has been subsequently led by Nafisa Waziri (*Hughes Hall*), Surer Mohamed (*Queens'*) and since 2020 by Rumbidzai Dube (*Lucy Cavendish*).



Acknowledgements

Sadly, it has not been possible to include all the College's early Black students identified during the research project here, but full details have been shared with the Black Cantabs Research Society and are available from the College Archivist on request.



Thank you to all those - in many countries across the world - who have helped make this exhibition possible. In particular, thank you to Sir Keith Ajegbo and the families of Benjamin Percy Quarthey-Papafio, Edmund Léon Auguste and James Vivian Clinton for sharing family photographs and information – and to Dr David Pratten and Calixte George for their assistance. I am also grateful for the help and advice of Dr Mónica Moreno Figueroa.

Jenny Ulph, College Archivist

Black Cantabs Research Society Dinner at Downing College, 2016, reproduced with kind permission of Jerelle Joseph.