



DR. GEORGE BLAKE COLLECTION

ABSTRACT

This significant collection of recordings was created by local doctor and storyteller Dr. Buxom George Blake. The majority of this collection is cassette tapes, where Dr. Blake recorded himself telling stories. The rest include three CDs with stories, numerous issues of Talespin, the Newsletter of the Durham Folklore Society, and personal papers.

Archives Identifier

A022.1

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Biography of Dr. George Blake

Dr. Blake was born in 1922 on Green Island, Jamaica. At age 18, he enlisted in the Royal Air Force in England and was stationed as a meteorologist in Northern Scotland. After the war, Dr. Blake worked as a government clerk in London, England. During this time, he read a book on Buddhism and decided to change his life's path. He studied and became a samanera (novice monk) at the Sinhalese Centre in London. He received his full ordination as a Theravada Buddhist Monk at the Wat Paknam Temple in Bangkok, Thailand in 1956.

From here, he attended the University of Edinburgh, graduating with a degree in psychology, and eventually becoming a clinical psychologist. Moving to Whitby in 1966, Dr. Blake worked at the Whitby Psychiatric Hospital and led to his founding of the Pinewood Centre for Addiction.

Along with Dr. Blake's work in psychology, he was also an incredible storyteller. Dr. Blake founded the Durham Folklore Society in September 1990. As well, he was an original founder of the Storytellers of Canada.

Cassette Tapes

Archival reference number: A022.1.1

Order	Cassette Title	Recorded?	Notes
1	Anancy & Other Stories	Y	Story Puss/Dog/Anancy stops abruptly, and is not finished. Kwaku Babone not finished. Part B plays first.
2	Jataka Tales Vol. 1: Birth Stories of the Buddha	Y	Audio warped in first story.
3	Loaat & Tsara	Y	
4	Various Good Tales (Lethbridge, '97)	Y	
5	Moremi, Parvatibhai, etc.	Y	
6	Stories of Stars & Sky	Y	
7	CBC Radio 740	Y	
8	Later the same day	Y	An interview.
9	Afro-American, Caribbean stories	Y	
10	Rhythms - George	Y	Drumming.
11	Cric Crac Tales; West African Folktales	Y	Part B plays first.
12	Stories from: Myths of the Sacred Tree & Family of Earth and Sky	Y	Ends abruptly.
13	Progressive Relaxation Phases I and II	Y	Instructional/Training video.
14	Ghost Stories	Y	
15	Arts Resource Centre Nov 97	Y	
16	Progressive Relaxation about clear thinking Phase I and II	Y	Music, Lionel Richie, Billy Ocean, the Commodores, Whitney Houston, Aretha Franklin, the Pointer Sisters. Believe that tape and case do not match. Recordings written on cassette do not match the audio.
17	Moremi. Parvatibhai. Come Again.	Y	Last story on side B ends abruptly. Repeat of #5, but is digitized.
18	Stories with songs	Y	
19	Afro-American-Caribbean stories	Y	Last story on side B is not finished, possibly also on side A.
20	The Crane and the Crab	Y	
21	Tales for Linda, Linda, (?)	Y	Side A ends abruptly and is not continued on side B.
22	Cloud 9	Y	Side A and B on separate recordings. Talk and music on birds (A) and mothers (B).
23	Fletcher stories	Y	Side B starts in the middle of a story.
24	My Stories: Khas Khus and others	Y	
25	Him Bawl Yet? Talk	Y	Side A and B on separate recordings. Side B unfinished.

26	Notes on storytelling	Y	
27	Stories: Caribbean, Mary Read	Y	
28	The Prince & The Apsara, Savitri, etc	Y	
29	Jataka Tales Vol. 1: Birth Stories of the Buddha	N	Repeat of cassette #2.
30	Rhythms: Practice recordings	Y	Drumming and music, Caribbean.
31	Didjeridoo	Y	Didjeridoo music.
32	Algonquin Suite	Y	Ambient music. Possible recording of Dan Gibson's music.
33	Harbourfront 21/7/01	Y	
34	Stories	Y	
35	Water or Death, Quan Yin	Y	
36	Boy Child, Sedara, & other tales	Y	
37	Stories: Caribbean	Y	Last story on side B not finished.
38	Ackee, Saltfish, & Green Banana	Y	Music, Caribbean.
39	Stories for Children	Y	
40	Aanancy Stories etc	Y	
41	More Spice, Garshani	Y	
42	Stoned Straight: CBC '01	Y	Interviews on recreational drug use, addiction, hallucinogenic drug-use. Dr. Blake not interviewed.
43	Stories 91	Y	Some songs by Stan Rogers intermixed with Dr. Blake's stories.
44	Jokunno CBC Fresh Air 1994	Y	Interview.
45	Stories (African)	Y	
46	Women Don't Drum	Y	
47	May 21/98: Worldwise-Roots	Y	Storytelling session. On Brock University Radio CFBU 103.7 FM. Dr. Blake mentioned but no appearance by him.
48	Dub: Chris on African History	Y	Speaker on colonization, racism, and African History.
49	Stories: The Wise Little Girl	Y	Last story on side A not finished.
50	Progressive Relaxation I and II: Relieving Stress	Y	Guided relaxation audio.
51	Tiger Stories/Anancy Stories	Y	
52	African Tales & Mary Read, More Spice	Y	Last story written on side A actually last story on side B. Last story on side B not finished.
53	Arthur Hoax, Merlin	Y	Stories by David Foster.
54	Stories: Chinese & Vietnamese	Y	Story The Carabao (Water Buffalo) cuts off abruptly. Audio warped multiple times throughout audio. Really bad tape quality. Do not play cassette, tape gets tangled frequently, and is fragile.

			Last story on side B not finished.
55	Peace Forum 15-9-86	Y	Conference recording. Audio is airy, making it hard to hear.
56	Special Treat, etc	Y	

Stories on Each Cassette

Words in italics are culture or country origin of story, if noted in audio.

Order	Cassette Title	Stories/Songs
1	Anancy & Other Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nyami's Agent • Anansi, snake, Lion • Judgement of the wind • Justice • Anansi plays dead • The king's drum • Anancy & 'im story • Puss/Dog/Anancy • Anancy/Toad/Donkey • Anancy and commonsense • Tiger Story/Anancy Story • Spider & his son • Kwaku Babone
2	Jataka Tales Vol. 1: Birth Stories of the Buddha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Buddha Smiled • Prince Five Weapons • goats are stupid • The Resourceful monkey son • The Golden Geese • The face in the moon
3	Loaat & Tsara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Me, Myself & I (<i>African</i>) • Lion and the Ashiko Drum (<i>African</i>) • Anancy, Candle, Fly & Tiger (<i>Jamaica</i>) • Calypso Drumming • Nesada's Rock • The Alchemist (<i>Burma/Myanmar</i>) • Savitri + Harp • Kobi and Mr. Brown – not finished
4	Various Good Tales (Lethbridge, '97)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sneeze • Sedara: The Spirit Child • Garshani • The wise Man takes a wife • The Legend of Mary Read • Shango & Eshu • The man who learned the language of the animals
5	Moremi, Parvatibhai, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moremi & the Ogunguns • Parvatibhai • Come Again in Spring • Shimmering Realm • Man Tiger Fox • Questions & Answers

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marpa • Animals: Cows...hens • Drumming • Chu Yuan • How rainbow got its colour (Celebrate) • Two Brothers
6	Stories of Stars & Sky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sky Maiden • Centipede Girl (Korea) • The Celestial Bear (Mohawk) • The Sun & Moon lake (China) • A Nigerian Moon Tale • The Prince & the Apsara, Urvasi
7	CBC Radio 740	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Interview on family, with guests including Dr. Blake.
8	Later the same day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio interview
9	Afro-American, Caribbean stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philip Sherlock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coomacka-Tree • The warau people discover the earth • Born a monkey, die a monkey • Tiger/Anansé • Tricking all the Kings • the least on the mountain and the least under the • hide anger until tomorrow
10	Rhythms - George	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bom-me-ban-ba-lay • rhythm • rhythms • rhythm #2 Patience D • rhythm #6 Patience D
11	Cric Crac Tales; West African Folktales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wisdom of Aja • Spider's funeral • The wise child & the chief • Rabbit & Tiger • How turtle got a crack back • how tacooma found trouble • the Gift: Konkonsaa • The Tale of Aso Yaa • Drumming
12	Stories from: Myths of the Sacred Tree & Family of Earth and Sky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Orange Grove and the Enchanted Canary • Twelve dancing princesses • Serpent mother • The deer and the snake • the Pheasants and the Bell • Centipede girl • The blossom tree

13	Progressive Relaxation Phases I and II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive relaxation phase I • Progressive relaxation phase II
14	Ghost Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoobie Jambree • Meraon Maid (Khus Khus)
15	Arts Resource Centre Nov 97	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savitri • The Prince and Apsara (<i>India</i>) • Women don't drum • Roosters Don't Shake Hands
16	Progressive Relaxation about clear thinking Phase I and II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music: Lionel Richie, Billy Ocean, Whitney Houston, the Commodores, Aretha Franklin, the Pointer Sisters • Progressive Relaxation and clear thinking Phase I • Geo Blake Training Tape • Progressive Relaxation Phase II <p><i>Writing on cassette does not match with actual audio.</i></p>
17	Moremi. Parvatibhai. Come Again. Repeat of #5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moremi & the Ogunguns • Parvatibhai • Come Again in Spring • Shimmering Realm • Man, Tiger, Fox • Questions & Answers • Marpa • Animals- Cow, hens, pig, snail, etc • Drumming • Chu Yuan • How rainbow got its colour (Celebrate)
18	Stories with songs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The milkmaid and the weaver • The Heroes: Abdul • The sneeze – Jataka • Brer Anancy and Brer <u>Jackass</u> • The Crow/Snake/Jackal • The master thief (Germany)
19	Afro-American-Caribbean stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You never know what trouble is until it finds you • Talk (<i>Ashanti</i>) • Big Gut, Big-Head Stringy-Leg • Black Jack, White Jack – may be unfinished • Weak in the day and strong at night • The one legged turkey (<i>St. Lucia</i>) • Three killed Florie, Florie killed ten (<i>St. Vincent</i>) • the man makes and the woman takes (<i>Florida</i>)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the knee high man tries to get sizeable (<i>Alabama</i>) • Getting commonsense (<i>Jamaica</i>) • being greedy chokes Anancy (<i>Jamaica</i>) • The Devils doing (<i>American South</i>) • Tricking all the kings – not finished
20	The Crane and the Crab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crane/Crab • Buzzard/Monkey - song • A women for a 100 cattle (<i>African</i>) • Tom Finch: Complaint • How the moon came to be (<i>Australian Aboriginal</i>) • How sun came to be (<i>Australian Aboriginal</i>) • the first fire (<i>Australian Aboriginal</i>) • Why kangaroo have a pouch (<i>Australian Aboriginal</i>)
21	Tales for Linda, Linda, (?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance of stories
22	Cloud 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk and music on birds (side A) and mothers (side B)
23	Fletcher stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Eulogy • Ackee Woman • Special Treat • Mary Read
24	My Stories: Khas Khus and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khus-Khus • the Nutmeg Princess • Tmmnolmmno • Calcutta Monkey • The Three pigs
25	Him Bawl Yet? Talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brer Anancy 'Im Bawl Yet • no title (<i>Ashanti</i>) – unfinished.
26	Notes on storytelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading personal notes from "Storytelling: Process and Practice".
27	Stories: Caribbean, Mary Read	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Legend of Mary Read • Departure (?) (The holdout) • Tongue Tied
28	The Prince & The Apsara, Savitri, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prince & the Apsara • Savitri • Shango & the medicine of Eshu • Tom Finch's Complain • The Magic Drum • The man who learned the language of animals
29	Jataka Tales Vol. 1: Birth Stories of the Buddha	<i>Repeat of cassette #2.</i>
30	Rhythms: Practice recordings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drumming and music, Caribbean.

31	Didjeridoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didjeridoo music.
32	Algonquin Suite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambient music. Possible recording of Dan Gibson's music.
33	Harbourfront 21/7/01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drumming • Looat & Tsara • Hunter and Crocodile • Wise Man Wise Wife
34	Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The man who wanted to be King (<i>African</i>) • Spider and his son • The Dowry • the Race • The rabbit/Antelope
35	Water or Death, Quan Yin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water or death • Quan Yin
36	Boy Child, Sedara, & other tales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boy Child • Sam Sharpe • Drum & Canoe • Sedara: the Abiku • Rivers of Babylon • Human & Bush spirit • The hunter of souls • Jigbo, son of Oluwo • Sirjuputto – the Drum
37	Stories: Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Parrots Story • Tiger Story Anansé Story • Man Makes and the woman takes • TALK • Brer Anancy/Brer Tiger • The word the devil made up • Capuchin Story
38	Ackee, Saltfish, & Green Banana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music, Caribbean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liza • Judy drowned • river ben come dang • shango • song of the banana man • Ackee woman • Jolamao
39	Stories for Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calcutta Monkey and Anancy (<i>Jamaica</i>) • The race between donkey and frog • Race between rat and beetle • The dog Sultan and the bandits • An old man and an ass • The plight of old Sultan • Sultan and the wolf

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the peasant's wise daughter
40	Aanancy Stories etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aanancy and Him Story • Puss Dog and Aanancy • Aanancy, toad, and Donkey • Aanancy and Commonsense • Kwaku Babone • The Magic Drum
41	More Spice, Garshani	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Spice • Garshani
42	Stoned Straight: CBC '01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • radio interview
43	Stories 91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stan Rogers – songs • The Serivan – Jataka • The Magic Drum • Spiders Web • snake Magic • The Snake Chief • Tortoise and the Baboon
44	Jokunno CBC Fresh Air 1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview
45	Stories (African)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Snake Chief • Spider and the Lion • The Man who learned the language of the animals • Jataka Devad hamma • Shango and the medicine of Eshe • The seduction of Rishiyasringh
46	Women Don't Drum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women don't drum • The Prince and the Apsara (<i>India</i>) • Savitri • The Seduction of Rishi Asringa
47	May 21/98: Worldwise-Roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session of stories from different storytellers.
48	Dub: Chris on African History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaker on colonization, racism, and African History.
49	Stories: The Wise Little Girl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wise Little Girl (<i>Russia</i>) • the Master Thief • Getting commonsense (<i>Jamaica</i>) – not finished • The Merchant's daughter and the slanderer (<i>Russia</i>) • the Chess Game (<i>Zan</i>)
50	Progressive Relaxation I and II: Relieving Stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided relaxation audio.
51	Tiger Stories/Aanancy Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiger Story, Aanancy Story
52	African Tales & Mary Read, More Spice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Man who learned the language of animals/ Ohia (<i>Akan</i>) • The Legend of Mary Read

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Spirit Child • Orunmila's Visit to OWO • More Spice • The Cowtail Switch (<i>West African</i>) • The Wisdom of Aja (<i>West African</i>) – not finished
53	Arthur Hoax, Merlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur, a Holy Hoax, a Holy Stone • Merlin
54	Stories: Chinese & Vietnamese	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Shadow & the Absence • The Da Trang Story • The Love Crystal • The Mount of Waiting • The Silver River (The Milky Way) • The Carabao (Water Buffalo) – cuts off abruptly • The Double-headed Phoenix • The Mosquito Story (<i>Vietnam</i>) • The Nosy Neighbour • The Sparrow • The Man in the Moon (<i>China</i>) • The Festival of pouring water • First Discuss the Price when the pig is dead • Whence came the Ox • The Origin of Opium Smoking • A Jar full of Ants • The empress of heaven – not finished
55	Peace Forum 15-9-86	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference recording on peace.
56	Special Treat, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Treat • The Fly (<i>Vietnam</i>) • Li Chi Slays the Serpent (<i>China</i>) • Bye Bye (<i>Haiti</i>) • The Merchant's Daughter (<i>Russia</i>) • John & the Devil (<i>West Indian – Cric Crac</i>) • The Devil with the Three Golden Hair (<i>Germany</i>)

CDs

Archival reference number: A022.1.2

Order	Title of CD	Story titles
1	How Rainbow got its Colours & other stories (African)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How Rainbow got its colours• Red Buffalo woman• Me myself and I• Loaat and Tsara (The Lion & the Ashiko Drum)
2	Durham Folklore Society	Audio recordings of Dr. Blake reading issues of Talespin, Vol 9 – 11.
3	The Voice of Dr. B. George Blake	Two CDs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Audio Archive• The Legend of Harriet Tubman

Talespin: The Newsletter of the Durham Folklore Society

Archival reference number: A022.1.3

Newsletter	Year	Volume, Number
	1998-1999	Vol 9 No. 1 – Sept/Oct
		Vol 9 No. 2 – Nov/Dec
		Vol 9 No. 3 – Jan/Feb
		Vol 9 No. 4 – Mar/April
		Vol 9 No. 5 – May/June
	1999	Vol 10 No. 1 – Sept/Oct
		Vol 10 No. 2 – Nov/Dec
	2000	Vol 10 No. 3 – Jan/Feb
		Vol 10 No. 4 – Mch/Apl
		Vol 10 No. 5 – May/June
		Vol 10 No. 6 – July/Aug
		Vol 11 No. 1 – Sept/Oct
		Vol 11 No. 2 – Nov/Dec
	2001	Vol 11 No. 3 – Jan/Feb
		Vol 11 No. 4 – Mch/Apl
		Vol 11 No. 5 – May/June
		Vol 12 No. 1 – Sept/Oct
		Vol 12 No. 2 – Nov/Dec
	2002	Vol 12 No. 3 – Jan/Feb
		Vol 12 No. 4 – Mar/April
		Vol 13 No. 2 – Nov/Dec

Papers, personal

Archival reference number: A022.1.4

Papers, personal	Item	Description
	<i>Moses: The Legend of Harriet Tubman</i> by B. George Blake Storyteller	Booklet of the story of Harriet Tubman by Dr. George Blake.
	February 16-18, 2001 Metro newspaper.	Newspaper is folded open to an article on a festival with storytellers and storytelling.
	Funeral announcements	Numerous funeral announcements for Dr. George Blake.