Leonard Percival Howell and the Genesis of Rastafari is a ground-breaking addition to Rastafari studies. The articles in this collection explore Leonard Howell and the origins of the Rastafari movement in the 1930s, his thinking on African redemption and the divinity of Haile Selassie, his reclamation of an African ancestral identity, and his persecution at the hands of the British colonial government and the post-independence Jamaican government. Richly documented with archival sources and interviews, Leonard Percival Howell and the Genesis of Rastafari is a must-read for both the serious Rastafari scholar and the casual reader interested in the Rastafari history.

The book is published by the University of the West Indies Press and is edited by Clinton Hutton, Michael Barnett, D.A. Dunkley and Jahmani Niaah and includes chapters by the editors and by Louis Moyston, Miguel Lorne, K’adamawe K’niife, I-Nation, James Robertson, Edward Dixon, Christopher Charles, Allan Bernard, and the late Petrine Archer.

The launch for Leonard Percival Howell and the Genesis of Rastafari will be hosted by the Department of Sociology Psychology and Social Work, the Department of Government, and the Rastafari Studies Centre, Office of the Principal in collaboration with the University of the West Indies Press on Monday, February 29, 2016, at the Undercroft, UWI Mona Campus, at 6 p.m.

Guest presenter at the launch will be renowned Garvey and pan-African scholar Professor Rupert Lewis. There will also be Kumina drumming from the Howellites, and Nyabinghi chanting from Ras Ivi and the Nyahbinghi Chanters, as well as a Leonard Howell tribute song from the acclaimed cultural artist History Man.

Copies of the book will be on sale.