

SPECIAL CARBICA IX EDITION

# Emergency Preparedness and Response Workshop

The ninth General Assembly of the Caribbean Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (CARBICA) featured a two-day Emergency Preparedness and Response Workshop at the Kapok Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad, from November 1-2, 2010.

Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) Director of Preservation Services Lori Foley was the instructor for the enthusiastic group of 45 archives professionals. Attendees reviewed best practices, resources, strategies, and practical applications to increase the effectiveness of planning, management and emergency response and mitigation in the first critical hours of an emergency or disaster.

According to CARBICA President Dominique Taffin, "this training has been organized for CARBICA members to 1) increase awareness of emergency response techniques, 2) specifically, to provide our Haitian colleagues tools to re-



Over 45 national archivists, librarians, records managers and archives staff attended CARBICA IX's workshop conducted by Lori Foley, Director of Preservation Services of the Massachusetts-based Northeast Document Conservation Center.

cover from damage caused by the January 2010 earthquake, 3) thereby creating a shared knowledge pool to federate CARBICA members around the CARTAS project."

Workshop participants also learned the value and uses for hazard and risk assessment, and the cyclical nature of preparedness, prevention, response and recovery.

Foley's rich bibliography of resources underscores how digital tools such as NEDCC's dPlan form, and materials from the Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records Project (IPER) and the Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness (COSTEP) efforts are easily be adapted for use by Caribbean institutions for the protection of regional records and collections.

## CARTAS Project Takes Center Stage

The Caribbean Task Force for Disaster Preparedness (CARTAS) took center stage during a lively discussion in the final hours of the Wednesday afternoon session of the CARBICA IX workshop on emergency response.

Task Force Coordinator Yulu Griffith Klein, an independent archives practitioner, used Skype technology

to participate from her location in the Cayman Islands. She delivered an incisive but well-articulated summary and evaluation of the CARTAS Project goals and accomplishments from its inception in 2004 to-date.

From the outset, the CARTAS objectives have been focused on building infrastructures for rapid post-disaster assessments in the

Caribbean. CARTAS also recognized the need to develop a risk and vulnerability assessment component to the model which, when applied, would reduce risk through knowledge-based action.

International studies since 2004 in the areas of risk, disaster preparedness, and climate and security,

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Inside this issue:

Executive Committee Election Results	2
CARBICA Committees	2
Organization's Web Site	2
CARBICA IX Opening Ceremony	3
Seen at CARBICA IX	4
Patrimoines Martiniquais	4

### Some Useful Resources Online

- Northeast Document Conservation Center  
<http://www.nedcc.org/>
- Heritage Preservation  
<http://www.heritagepreservation.org/>
- American Institution for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works  
<http://www.conservation-us.org/>
- Conservation Online (CoOL)  
<http://cool.conservation-us.org/>

# CARBICA 2010-2014 Executive Committee Election Results

Over 35 CARBICA members from 16 Caribbean nations were on hand during the first day of the CARBICA IX meeting in Trinidad to elect new leadership for the 2010-2014 term.

New officers on the CARBICA Executive Committee (EC) are: President Dominique Taffin, Director, Archives départementales de la Martinique; Vice President, Rita Tjien Foo-Hardhomohamad, National Archivist of Suriname; Secretary, T. Cheryl Sylvester, Technical Services Librarian, St. George's University, Grenada; Treasurer, Karla Hayward, Director of the Bermuda Archives; and Immediate Past President Helena Leonce, University Archivist for the University of Trinidad and Tobago.

Avril Belfon, National Archivist for Trinidad and Tobago, Cheri-Ann Beckles, Assistant Archivist at the University of the West Indies and Archivist for the West Indies Federal Archives, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, Susan Laura Lugo, C.A., Territorial Coordinator for Archives for the



Martinique's National Archivist, Dominique Taffin, will serve as CARBICA President for 2010-2014.

U.S. Virgin Islands, and Nolda Romer-Kenepa, National Archivist of Curaçao, will also serve as EC Floor Members.

In her first address as President before the General Membership, Taffin pledged increased communication and networking opportunities amongst all CARBICA mem-

bers and the Executive Committee. "We must also be CARBICA ambassadors in other professional associations and government organizations, and actively solicit feedback and suggestions to the Executive Committee from our members," said Taffin.

To carry out Taffin's vision, CARBICA leaders have committed to consistent follow-through and collective decision-making, especially for the CARTAS and MIGAN projects scheduled for membership discussion and review during CARBICA IX.

While priorities are being identified, committee responsibilities assigned and timetables established for the busy term ahead, it is important that the Executive Committee hear from the membership. A contact list for the Executive Committee is being prepared for distribution to all CARBICA members but in the interim email any comments and questions for the EC or Taffin at [taffin@cg972.fr](mailto:taffin@cg972.fr).

## Members to network and share ideas on CARBICA committees

If you would like to promote your archives through CARBICA, join a committee to share your institutional and professional goals, ideas, challenges and solutions with your Caribbean colleagues.

CARBICA committee priorities and responsibilities are in development right now, and now is when the Executive Committee needs to hear from you. You can commit to do as little or as much as you like, but as a committee member be assured your role will be important and your participation will be relied on.

Some of the project and committee assignments already identified by the Executive Committee for 2010-2014 are:

- Memory of the Islands: Gateway for Archival Networking (MIGAN): development of a web portal to provide access and links to archival resources in the Caribbean, as well as a directory of archival repositories and collections.
- Communications Committee: the CARBICA Web site will be revamped, updated and maintained on a timely basis; the membership newsletter will be revived and published regularly; the organizational logo will be revised;

and Web 2.0 technology and other tools will be used to improve communication, information and resource delivery to members and stakeholders.

- Governance Committee: CARBICA's constitutional and formational documents will undergo a review for consistency, clarity and currency, as well as concordance with ICA requirements.
- Caribbean Task Force for Disaster Preparedness (CARTAS): development of a broad-based hazard mitigation and response strategy for the protection of records and archives in the region, especially rapid post-disaster assessments.

## Organization's Web site will get a fresh, new look

The CARBICA Web site is about to undergo a virtual overhaul, thanks to the oversight and creative direction of Executive Committee member Cheri-Ann Beckles.

Under Beckles, the Communications Committee team has set an



ambitious timetable for review of the organization's Web site structure, design and content as well as its logo and use of other communication tools.

To-date the following members have volunteered to serve on this key committee: Stanley Grif-

fin; Nolda Kenepa-Romer, Avril Belfon and Susan Laura Lugo.

If you have experience with Web site design, Web maintenance, Web 2.0 tools, digital newsletter production, or public relations work, or if you would like to work with a dynamic group of archives and records management professionals to help promote the mission and goals of CARBICA digitally, please email Beckles at [cabeckles@yahoo.com](mailto:cabeckles@yahoo.com).

# Minister Praises Role of Archivists at CARBICA IX Opening

The Opening Ceremony for the General Council Meeting and Conference of the Caribbean Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (CARBICA) held Monday, November 1, 2010, in Port of Spain, Trinidad, was a remarkable media event by all accounts. The phalanx of reporters, photographers and five television cameras gathered at the Kapok Hotel bore testimony to the importance and impact of the work to be undertaken by Caribbean archives and records management professionals during the week-long CARBICA IX meetings and workshops.

But the featured address by Minister of the Arts and Multiculturalism for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, The Honourable Winston Peters, was further reinforcement and persuasive proof of the Government's sincere and high regard for preserving the nation's records and cultural heritage resources.

In the Plenary Session following, Keynote Speaker Dr. Rita Pemberton, B.A., M.A., Dip. Ed., Ph.D., Dip. Int'l. Rels., Head of the History Department and Senior Lecturer for the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus (Trinidad), gave a frank and unabashed assessment of the unfulfilled needs of users of the National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago. Her remarks and suggestions were appreciated by many of the national archivists in the audience who commented on the importance of receiving such feedback from experienced patrons.

In addition to members of CARBICA and its Executive Committee, other members of the local community attended to lend support. Among these were Trinidadian family researcher Shamshu Deen and well-regarded local historian and author Michael Anthony. Both contributed their own observations and experiences as researchers to the lively dialogue which followed in the question and answer session. The morning's presentations were highlighted by cultural performances of calypso and instrumental performances by local culture bearers.

CARBICA stressed the importance of advocacy for records and archives in additional remarks made by CARBICA members Avril Belfon, Government Archivist for Trinidad and Tobago,



*Speakers at the CARBICA IX Opening Ceremony included (L to R) ICA Vice President and National Archivist for Curaçao, Nolda Romer-Kenepa; Minister of the Arts and Multiculturalism for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, The Honourable Winston Peters; University Archivist for the University of Trinidad and Tobago and outgoing CARBICA President, Helena Leonce; and newly-appointed Government Archivist of the National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago, Avril Belfon.*

Helena Leonce, University Archivist for the University of Trinidad and Tobago and outgoing CARBICA President, and Nolda Romer-Kenepa, National Archivist for Curaçao and Vice President of ICA.

Over 16 Caribbean countries are expected to be represented at the meetings in Trinidad, which will include membership meetings, Executive Committee meetings and breakout sessions, a two-day workshop on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response, a one and a half day workshop on Electronic Records Management, a visit to the National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago and a half-day session on the CARBICA project for Memory of the Islands: Gateway for Archival Networking (MIGAN). The last CARBICA General Assembly took place in 2006 in Curaçao, then still part of the Netherlands Antilles.

## CARTAS

- ➔ Join the CARTAS Yahoo Group: Send an email to [caribbeanarchivistaskforce-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca](mailto:caribbeanarchivistaskforce-subscribe@yahoogroups.ca)
- ➔ Add the Skype ID for CARTAS: [yulugriffithklein](https://www.skype.com/people/yulugriffithklein)

(Continued from page 1)

all confirm and support the relevance of CARTAS.

***"Projects and programs as a whole do not reinvent the wheel. They just re-align it."***

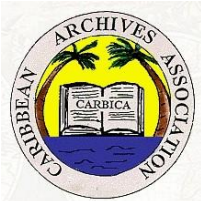
In particular, Klein pointed to the barriers caused by an absence of response and financial support from the general membership, especially national archivists whose institutions and governments might directly benefit from the services and disaster response to be coordinated by CARTAS in the event of an emergency.

"Moreover, the inability to meet with emergency management agencies and personnel over the past several years has severely hampered the project's progress," Klein noted in her remarks.

She advocates CARTAS being an enduring program of CARBICA and not just a project and suggests a new approach to securing funding will be required to achieve sustainable status.

And, while she has sometimes felt frustration at the pace of progress, she also finds inspiration in a colleague's observation that "projects and programs as a whole do not reinvent the wheel. They just re-align it."

Klein acknowledged the work of other CARTAS Project participants have included: John Aarons, University Archivist, University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica; J. Kimlon Seymour, Director, Cayman Islands National Archive; Osei Morris, Architect (St. Vincent); Victoria O'Flaherty, National Archivist, St. Kitts; and Charles Gibson, former Director of Archives, Belize. She also encourages CARBICA members to continue the conversation by subscribing to the CARTAS group (N.B., a Yahoo address is required) and to register for a Skype account and add the Skype ID for CARTAS to the contacts list.



## CARBICA

Caribbean Regional Branch  
of the  
International Council on Archives

c/o Archives départementales de la Martinique  
19 av. Saint-John Perse  
97200 Fort-de-France  
Martinique  
Email: [taffin@cg972.fr](mailto:taffin@cg972.fr)  
URL: [www.carbica.org](http://www.carbica.org)

**Questions on the newsletter?**  
**Contact: Susan Laura Lugo, C.A.**  
[susanlauralugo@gmail.com](mailto:susanlauralugo@gmail.com)

**Send us your newsletter ideas!**  
**We'll be revising formats, soon!**



→ See more images at: <http://www.dropbox.com/gallery/3543095/1/CARBICA%20IX?h=1f4984>

URL = <http://www.patrimoines-martinique.org/>

## Portail de la Banque Numérique des Patrimoines Martiniquais



### *Spotlight on Martinique*

On October 29, 2010, the National Archives of Martinique proudly announced the launch of its Web portal Banque Numérique des Patrimoines Martiniquais (roughly translated as the Digital Heritage Bank of Martinique) (BNPM) .

As the Web site states (in French), this digital tool is a portal to information resources on the cultural heritage and history of Martinique. It is reliant on the geographic information system (GIS) of Martinique (known as SIGMA) and

represents a successful partnership of a number of information providers and system developers.

With user-friendly navigation tools and search functions based on the principle of interoperability between databases, BNPM offers many possibilities for researchers and represents a real advance in the Caribbean model for access to such information.

Under this unique partnership, led by the General Counsel of Martinique, the project seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- To facilitate and improve access by the public to history and cultural heritage;
- To ensure data continuity between database types and record formats;
- To allow for the planning and management of digital content creation standards and formats in the Caribbean;
- To contribute to tourism development in Martinique;
- To create a tool for comparative studies of trends in land use and occupation of

space in Martinique; and

- To sustain the rich and historical heritage of Martinique in all its manifestations and facets.

Among the types of records which now may be easily viewed from this site are historic photographs, declarations of births, marriages and deaths of slaves, beginning with 1832, and so-called “acts of individuality,” also known as records of the newly-free, which record the assigning of a surname to freed slaves upon emancipation in 1848. Many more will be added in the months ahead.

Take a moment to explore this new resource and to appreciate the depth and breadth of its implications!

. Congratulations to President Dominique Taffin and the National Archives of Martinique!

*If your institution has a project or event to share with the CARBICA membership, let us know so that we can put the spotlight on YOU!*