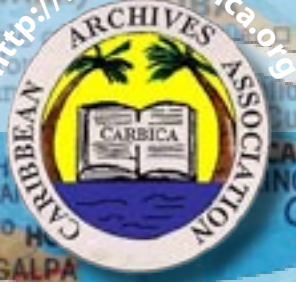




CARBICA News



November 2011
Volume 1, Issue 2

NEW SERIES

Inside this Issue:

- 1: From our President
- 1: Upcoming Events
- 2: Curacao Seminar August 2011
- 4: The Archives Unit of the University of Trinidad and Tobago
- 6: continued from page 1
- 7: Caribbean Archivist elected in US Council of State Archivists (CoSA)
- 8: Belize Archives celebrates International Archives Day

About CARBICA:

The mission of the International Council on Archives (ICA) is to promote the preservation and use of archives around the world. In pursuing this mission, ICA works for the protection and enhancement of the memory of the world and to improve communication while respecting cultural diversity. The Caribbean Regional Branch (CARBICA) is responsible for carrying out the policy and programmes of ICA in its region, where these are relevant to CARBICA members.

The 2010-2014 Officers:

- President:** Dominique Taffin, (National Archivist Martinique)
- Vice President:** Rita Tijen Fooh (Director National Archives Surinam)
- Secretary:** Cheryl Sylvester (Technical Services Librarian, St. George's)



From our President

We are about to finish this year with strong outcomes. I am proud to state that the seminars and meetings held in Curaçao were a great success. Over 25 Caribbean archivists and conservation technicians attended the trainings that were organized in the field of preservation and that of archival description and IT.

We were also happy to meet with the Curaçao archives staff in their brand new building!

The Executive Council has also adopted a paper describing the strategic plan for our organization for the next years, which you will find attached to this newsletter. In accordance with our major concerns in the region, and also with ICA's objectives, CARBICA will devote its activity to the development of archives

and archival institutions along specific guidelines, such as :

- Promote access to archives in the region
- Promote emergency-preparedness and capacity to recover from major hazards
- Promote the long-term conservation of archives created through new technological processes.
- Respond these challenges in a spirit of sustainability.

Our constitution needed to be amended, in compliance with ICA's and to let our organization be more attractive to records managers and archivists, and to reflect our plural identity. We are now ready to submit this work to the General Assembly before the end of 2012.

..... continued on page 6.

Upcoming Events:

- End of January :
Carbica EC meeting ; MIGAN steering committee in St Martin
- March : Executive board of ICA
- August : ICA
- Dates to be confirmed :
 - seminar on training and certification in records and archives management;
 - training session on digitization and long-term preservation of digital objects
 - training session on archival description standards.





CARBICA Seminar August 2011

Curacao - by Max Scriwanek

The National Archives of Curaçao celebrated the official reopening of its monumental renovated building “Bolo di Batrei” (“Wedding Cake”) and the opening of the newly built repository on August 26th 2011. CARBICA activities filled the week prior to this event.

CARBICA, together with the local host – the National Archives of Curaçao – organized two workshops, an EC meeting and a Steering Committee meeting for the MIGAN project. The first workshop, the two day “AtoM” (Access to Memory) tutorial was part of the MIGAN project, aimed to get the archival descriptions of our CARBICA members standardized online on the MIGAN portal. With Jessica Bushey, the Canadian Instructor from the AtoM software manufacturer “Artefactual”, the participants were successfully

guided through this intensive workshop. MIGAN members now have the tools and instructions to exchange relevant content online. The AtoM workshop was attended by participants from Aruba, Barbados, Bermuda, Curaçao, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, St. Kitts, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Some of these participating countries – Curaçao among them - will have to start follow up projects to get their archival descriptions on par with the International Standards.

In the second workshop, the four day Preservation Workshop, with instructors Gerrit de Bruin (conservator National Archives Netherlands), Peter van Dijk, (conservator National Archives Curaçao) and Erwin Gibbes (National Archives Curaçao), participants were given a general introduction to preventive conservation and storage techniques.

Following the resolutions and recommendations of the second International Conference on the Preservation of Archives in Tropical Climates (PAT-CII) held in Curaçao 2003, the follow up meetings at the CITRA conference in Curaçao in 2006 and the CARBICA meeting in Suriname 2007, it was decided to offer preservation courses on differentiated levels to the members of CARBICA. The first CARBICA workshop for junior restorators was held in 2008



New Repository



Jessica Bushey -Instructor AtoM Workshop



Preservation Workshop



Group Preservation Workshop



Meeting Steering Committee MIGAN Project



Executive Council Meeting

in Martinique. This course was the second in line of these recommendations. The Preservation Workshop was a “hands on” tutorial aimed at assisting conservators with all kinds of preservation activities. It also aimed at providing an active contribution to the preservation of archives and to increase communication on these matters with colleagues or researchers, visiting the reading rooms.

The workshop was attended by participants from Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Curaçao, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Haiti, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. The Curaçao National Archives was thankful and proud to host the Executive Council Meeting and the Steering Committee reunion in its new facilities.





The Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, (middle) and the Honourable Dr. Rupert Griffith, Minister of Tourism (right) at the opening of the Sugar Heritage Museum in Caroni on May 18th, 2011.

The Archives Unit of the University of Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago - by: Helena Leonce

The Archives Unit provides records management services to the University and maintains archival collections that support faculty and student research and classroom instruction. In addition, the Unit embarked on training sessions during the months of June and July, 2009. The first session was entitled Information and Records Management I, and was hosted for the staff of the University of Trinidad and Tobago. The aim of this training was to enlighten staff about the importance of Information and Records Management, Records Retention, Classification of Records and Archiving.

Through the continuation of training sessions, a second training session was held in 2010/2011. This was entitled Records Management II, during which the Unit facilitated training in Vital Records and Disaster Preparedness, stressing on the importance of Records Management in the event of a disaster. In addition, workshops were

also conducted in Records Classification and the Retention and Disposition of Records. This was done to equip staff with hands on training which would enable them to manage their records systematically within their respective departments, thus standardizing the Records Management System at the UTT. The training was also meant to facilitate speedy retrieval of records thus making the system efficient and effective. Within the strategic plan of the Archives Unit, there are plans to conduct a number of training sessions, seminars and webinars to educate members of staff at the various Campuses and Institutes.

The development of the Sugar Heritage Village and Museum is another area in which the Archives Unit is currently involved. In 2003 the Caroni 1975 Sugar Industry was discontinued. As a result, the closure of the industry saw the end of a historic era of sugar cane cultivation in Trinidad; it also saw the separation of the economic



The historic Sevilla House at Brechin Castle, Central Trinidad will be part of a Sugar Heritage Village and Museum.

and social sugar culture that once impacted on the lives of many citizens. The University of Trinidad and Tobago is in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and other organizational bodies to develop a Sugar Heritage Village and Museum, using the records, artifacts and old facilities from the Sugar Industry. These include railway lines, animal driven carts, harvesters and machinery.

“Establishing an Archives Centre”

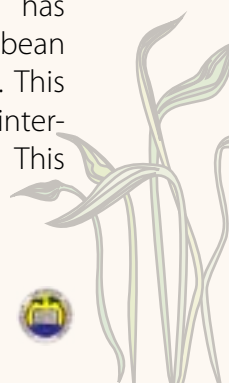
The Centre would be a multifaceted one which will house a recreational park, sporting facilities, a cultural centre, information booth, a hand-craft and an artisan centre. An Archives centre will also be established and would house the valuable records which once belonged to the Caroni 1975 Limited and other relevant records that reflect the rich cultural heritage of the Sugar Industry. The University Archivist has been appointed by Cabinet to serve as a member of the Steering Committee for the establishment of this Sugar Heritage Village and Museum project.

The launch of the Project took place on Wednesday May 18, 2011 at Caroni Head Office, Brechin

Castle, Couva, Trinidad. The Honourable Kamla Persad Bissessar, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, delivered the feature address at this launch. Mrs. Persad Bissessar stated that through this project we can preserve our local and regional history and cultural diversity.

Professor Brinsley Samaroo, Chairman of the Sugar Heritage Village and Museum steering committee, who has conducted studies on East Indian Immigration and the sugar industry, said the former health centre on the compound would be dedicated to the sugar archives. The Sevilla House would be converted to a modern sugar museum as part of the National Museum grid. The historic Sevilla House was built in the 19th century and was used as the home for the top executive of the Tate and Lyle Sugar Company, which owned most of the sugar plantations in Trinidad and Tobago. It was one of the main administrative buildings when the Caroni 1975 Limited was created.

Likewise, genealogist Shamshu Deen has worked closely on the value of Indo Caribbean Genealogy and Indian Diaspora Heritage. This will be beneficial for individuals who are interested in tracing their ancestral heritage. This





Brechin Castle, Central Trinidad: the project will see the establishment of a Sugar Museum, an Archive and Documentation Centre and Recreational Facilities.



LOCAL LEGACY: The proposed site for the Sugar Heritage Village and Museum at Brechin Castle, Couva. (Courtesy the Trinidad Express Newspaper: May 19, 2011)

will be possible through the establishment of a Research and Information Centre at the Sugar Heritage Village and Museum.

At the UTT there are also a number of research projects being conducted, among them is the work carried out by Dr. Kim Johnson, who has done extensive research on the steelpan movement in Trinidad and Tobago. He has produced both film and photographs through his research.

“... upgrading our national heritage”...

However, the Sugar Heritage Village and Museum is something to look forward to, since it will produce a new tourism thrust that will help to assist with the upgrading of our natural heritage sites and attractions. It will also serve to promote foreign trade and investment in Trinidad and Tobago. It will be the first of its kind in this country, encouraging a sense of national pride for many.

..... continued from page 1.

From our President

Whereas times are getting hard due to the financial crisis, Caribbean archivists keep struggling to promote awareness to archives, and their best means to succeed is increasing their skills and showing their results : such are the example of the National Archives of Curaçao, or the International Archives Day in Belize, presented in this issue of our newsletter.

Breaking news : the Jamaica Archives and Records Department just launched their online database, created with the help of ICA-AtoM. This initiative shows how the idea carried out by the MIGAN project is pervasive throughout the Caribbean.

In 2012, we will continue straightforward : be prepared to attend the training sessions and experience sharing seminars that CARBICA will organize for the development of the MIGAN project and for the development of continuing training in the region!

I will finish by warmly thanking our executive council members for the hard job they have been doing and to improve communication among us.



Caribbean Archivist elected in US Council of State Archivists (CoSA)

US Virgin Islands - Press Release



PRESS RELEASE – v. 04/08/11

The Council of State Archivists (CoSA) has nominated Virgin Islands Territorial Coordinator for Archives Susan Laura Lugo for election to serve a three-year term on its national governing board. Upon Lugo's election at CoSA's annual meeting in July 2011, the Virgin Islands will be the first U.S. Territory to be represented on the nine-member Board of Directors since CoSA was incorporated in 2002.

CoSA is the nation-wide organization of the heads of state archival and records management programs. Its organizational mission is to strengthen state and territorial archives in their work to preserve America's historical records.

Some of CoSA's current work includes managing a \$2.6 million Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) grant to develop records-related emergency preparedness training for state and local government officials; supporting the work of the State Historical Records Advisory Boards in each state and territory; and advocating the passage of the Preserving the American Historical Record (PAHR) legislation, currently introduced in both houses of Congress, to provide state and territorial funding for preservation and access to historical records.

Lugo is a Certified Archivist and has served in

her present capacity in the Department of Planning and Natural Resources' Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums since January 2008. She earned a B.A. magna cum laude from the University of the Virgin Islands, and a M.S. (Beta Phi Mu) in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She presently serves on the Executive Council of the Caribbean Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives, the Standing Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions' Genealogy and Local History Section, and the Steering Committee for the American Library Association Reference and User Services Association History Section.

Relying on her background of service in professional archives and library organizations in the region, Lugo will advocate for increased awareness of archives in the Virgin Islands and the wider Caribbean. She is a past President of both the St. Thomas-St. John Library Association and the St. Thomas Historical Trust, a founder and past President of the Caribbean Genealogy Library in St. Thomas, past Chair of the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Heritage Archives Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists and she served as Caribbean representative to the Florida/Caribbean chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

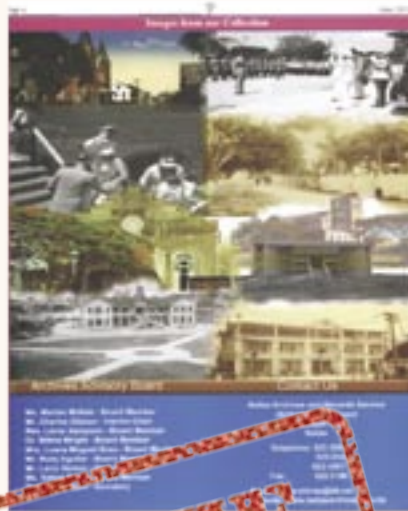
This is not the first time Virgin Islands archives leadership has been recognized nationally. In 1996-1997, former Director of the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums of the Virgin Islands, Jeannette A. Bastian, served on the Steering Committee of CoSA's predecessor entity, the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators. Dr. Bastian is now a Professor at Simmons College, and Archives Program Director and Acting Dean of its Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

For further information on CoSA, see www.statearchivists.org.



CARBICA Strives to:

- (a) establish, maintain and strengthen relations between institutions and individuals concerned with the custody, organization and administration of archives in the Caribbean area;
- b) foster co-operation between all institutions, professional bodies and persons who are concerned with the custody, the administration, the organization or the use of archives;
- (c) promote all measures for the preservation of all material of documentary value and, to this end, to make practical recommendations to the authorities of Caribbean countries;
- (d) study problems concerned with the conservation of archives in tropical countries;
- (e) encourage the description of archival material and to facilitate the exchange of information relating to archives and to act in ways which make material in Caribbean archives more widely known;
- (f) encourage in all countries in the Caribbean the establishment of archives and to promote the professional training of archivists in the Caribbean region;
- (g) promote the more frequent use of archives and to encourage greater ease of access to archival material;
- (h) periodically hold a Caribbean Archives Conference;
- (i) contribute to a better mutual understanding among the peoples of the Caribbean;
- (j) develop or recommend professional and institutional standards to improve the quality and consistency of Caribbean archives; and
- (k) promote the implementation of records management programs regardless of media format in all Caribbean countries.



Belize Archives celebrates International Archives Day

Belize - by Marvin Pook

BELIZE

On June 9th, 2011 the Belize Archives and Records Service (BARS) joined archivists and archival institutions within the Caribbean and across the world in celebrating International Archives Day.

As part of this celebration, the BARS launched a newsletter: "Flashback". The purpose of this newsletter is to make the public more aware of the institution and its extraordinary collection of materials on Belize. The Belize Archives intends to publish subsequent issues which will feature valuable and informative articles on its rich collections of records, photographs, and videos.

In interviews with the local press, the Director emphasized the point that while there are important records on Belize in London, Jamaica and elsewhere, there is no question that the

BARS is the custodian of the most extensive set of primary records on Belize in the world and should be seen as an invaluable national treasure.

The BARS Facebook page was also launched primarily to extend our outreach and publicity by showcasing news articles on current events in our Department along with informative historical photographs and records.

Lastly, the Department hosted an Open House to give visitors the opportunity to get a glimpse of our holdings of photographs, maps, plans, books, tapes, thousand of handwritten documents, videos, and stamps, just to name a few.

The Belize Archives and Records Service continues to work diligently to fulfill its mandate to collect, preserve and provide access to records of Belize's national heritage.

CARBICA News is the Newsletter of the Caribbean Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives. It is published two times a year and distributed to CARBICA members by mail. Communications Committee Editors : Cherri-Ann Beckles, Avril Belfon, Stanley Griffin, Susan Laura Lugo, Nolda Römer Kenepa, Max Scriwanek, Cheryl Sylvester, Dominique Taffin. Please submit your content to: cherri-ann.beckles@cavehill.uwi.edu Layout : Max Scriwanek.

Membership Fees:
Category A: US\$ 150
Category B: US\$ 100
Category C: US\$ 75
Category D: US\$ 50

Membership Contact:
Karla Hayward, Treasurer (Director Bermuda Archives).
khayward@gov.bm
T: + 441-295-2007
F: + 414-295-8751



<http://www.carbica.org>