



CARBICA News

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NEW SERIES

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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 Tjien Fooh (Director National Archives Surinam)
- Secretary:** Cheryl Sylvester (Technical Services Librarian, St. George's University Grenada)
- Treasurer:** Karla Hayward (Director Bermuda Archives)



From our President

Dear CARBICA members,
Your executive council has been working hard for the community. We had a joint meeting for the MIGAN project and the general business plan of CARBICA in St Martin (French part) at the end of February, so that we could further develop plans of our activities for the rest of the year.

The highlights will be:

- the Brisbane congress in August 2012:- About ten of us (CARBICA members) plan to attend the congress and several presentations proposed by our members on the main theme, "A climate of change", were accepted.
- training sessions on ICA AtoM and on archival description (standards),

in French and English, were conducted which will help implement the ICA AtoM software on the MIGAN website;
- the General Assembly ended with a training session on conservation, which should take place at the end of the year.
I am confident that as many of you as possible will try to attend these events, particularly the General Assembly, which will be a good opportunity for us to revise our own constitution.

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Upcoming Events:

- 2013 coming up!
- 2013 should be a very busy year in the region:
- UWI Archives in Mona celebrates its new repository. Details of activities will be announced shortly.
- The West Indies Federal Archives Centre, Cave Hill Campus of The University of the West Indies, made a proposal, which was accepted, to the ICA-SUV archives to host a conference in June 2013. The theme of the Conference is "The New Age Archivist – Managing archives in the digital world".
- And above all, the Section annual conference, which replaces the CITRA will take place in Rio de Janeiro. Jaime Antunes da Silva, director of the National Archives of Brasil, and president of ALA, has extended an invitation to CARBICA to take part in the program of that event, closer to our region than other ICA conferences. More information about that to come in our next newsletter! D.T.
- CARBICA will launch its new website.



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From our President

I want to congratulate Senator Charles Gibson, one of our past presidents, who joined the new Cabinet of the Government of Belize as Minister of the Public Service and Elections & Boundaries!

We also want to congratulate Ms. Susan Laura Lugo who was appointed by the Governor of the US Virgin Islands as Assistant Director of the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums with the additional title of Territorial Archivist!

We would like to pay tribute to Mrs. Nolda Römer-Kenepa, past president of CARBICA, who chaired the CITRA committee of ICA for the past three years.

News from ICA

In this "climate of change", the archival profession around the world has to meet many challenges. In such context, ICA wants to be more responsive to the needs of the archival institutions and of the individual archivists.

The latest Executive Board meeting, in Bern (Switzerland), on April 19-20, where I represented our Caribbean branch, was the occasion to work on the main issues that will be submitted to the approval of the General Assembly in Brisbane including:-

- how to modernize the network of archives by developing a better constitution to enhance participation, improving communication, boosting of the branches
- how to meet the challenges of open data, open government initiatives and thus, place archives as the essential partners in the development of good governance and democracy.

Constitution(s)

You may have received recently the draft for the new constitution of ICA that will be voted on at the General Assembly in Brisbane. This constitution will have a strong effect on CARBICA, since it focuses more the activity of the branches. Let us hear from you!

Being a CARBICA member and an ICA member

The International Council on Archives, as a whole, is about to offer more services to its members, on a technical and practical ground, on one hand, and on the other, on the policy-making ground, as a support to advocate for archives.

I encourage all of you, if not done, to become a member or renew your membership to ICA while being a member of CARBICA!

Carbica @ACH2012, Curaçao, May 14-18

CARBICA and the MIGAN project were well represented at the annual meeting of The Association of Caribbean Historians!

The conference was organized by a local committee chaired by Mrs. Nolda Römer Kenepa, whom we congratulate for the success of the event.

Ms. Rita Tjien Fooh, Director of the National Archives of Suriname, mentioned the importance of the MIGAN project for the development of the Archives of Surinam, during her presentation that received much attention from the hundreds of researchers at the conference.

Ms. Dominique Taffin introduced the project at the General Assembly of the ACH and drew the attention of historians, teachers and students on the benefits archivists and history professionals would share if they collaborate to the project. Among the suggested ideas, the role of academics to promote the portal and encourage its development, including contributing to the thematic files or by posting useful resources was discussed. The new brochure was distributed MIGAN, and a slide show aired. It is now available on the site of the ACH: <http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/announcements.htm> D.T.

Carbica @ ICA2012

Carbica will also be "down under"! Although the distance from our region to Australia is quite challenging, it is now certain that about ten among our members will attend the International Congress on Archives in Brisbane, August 20-24th.

The full program is now available online : www.ica2012.com.

Dominique Taffin will present a paper about "archives

and post-colonial institutional change: Martinique's experience". Workshops on ICA-AtoM will be organized. D.T.

The MIGAN project

The project MIGAN has established a clear governance. In June and August 2011, the partner institutions of the MIGAN project had gathered to develop the project management and action plan. This resulted in the definition of an organizational chart, consisting of a steering committee involving partners, a project manager, the thematic working groups, and assistants under contract for the conduct of the project (general management, technical assistance and communications). The members of the steering committee are: Avril Belfon, Victoria Borg O'Flaherty, Karla Hayward, Anne Lebel, Helena Leonce, Susan Lugo, Dominique Taffin, Rita Tjien Foooh. The project manager is Dominique Taffin, Archives of Martinique. The project assistant for communication is Armelle Chatelier, independent consultant based in St. Lucia. The consultation for the administrative assistant and technical assistant is in progress. D.T.

The MIGAN steering committee met in St. Martin, 26 and 27 February 2012

The meeting was an opportunity to take stock of the progress of the project. Funds were raised, as planned, and the training programme in 2011 was successfully completed. There was some delay, however, in settling partnership agreements and in general administrative supervision of the project. This hampered the implementation of the technical aspects of MIGAN. The steering committee has revised its schedule and decided on the following:

- Strengthening cooperation between the partners, through a division of labour and a more stringent work schedule;
- Call for a technical assistant to help with site preparation (specifications, study the needs of each partner, writing best practices to meet the requirements of the portal);
- The training plan will be developed by the working group on training
- The communication plan will be developed and revived at the behest of the communications officer contracted by CARBICA

The action plan of the MIGAN project

The action plan of the project is developed on four levels:-

- Overall project management (monitoring conventions, organization of governance meetings, communication, fundraising and accounting)
- Training: a bilingual training session in English and French will be held in September 2012. It consists of two modules: practical use of standards for archival description, the use of advanced AtoM: import and export features, management of digital images. Training on conducting digitization projects will take place early 2013. A training plan is prepared by Max Scriwanek (Curaçao), with the cooperation of Avril Belfon (Trinidad)
- Development of the website: The terms of reference for a technical assistant have been prepared by Anne Lebel (Guadeloupe), Max Scriwanek (Curaçao) and Dominique Taffin (Martinique) the technical assistant will begin work with partners, and then define the specifications of the web portal.
- Data preparation and standardization: the partners have provided a list with a short description of all fonds or collections they want to put online in the portal. They are encouraged to use the site to enter their descriptions : www.migan.org and prepare well for standardization of the data to be uploaded. D.T.

What's new with the MIGAN website

The site MIGAN acquired its own URL: www.migan.org. Log in to find out information about 16 archival institutions in the Caribbean. The site is currently made up by the web application ICA AtoM, a free and open source software for archival description developed at the initiative of the International Council on Archives. This software is fully compatible with descriptive standards ISAD (G), ISAAR-CPF and ISDIAH. It also allows exporting in XML-EAD inventories fonds or series entered under AtoM. MIGAN site is open to all members who wish CARBICA give visibility to their archives. To do this, just ask a user account to Dominique Taffin (taffin@cg972.fr) and to follow or apply for the training. An online tutorial is available at : : http://www.ica-atom.org/doc/File:CARBICA_ICA-AtoM_1.1_tutorial.pdf. D.T.



Events at the West Indies Federal Archives Centre

Barbados - by Cherri-Ann Beckles

Royal Visit

The staff of the West Indies Federal Archives Centre at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus assisted the Cave Hill Main Library with a Royal Exhibition at the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination (EBCCI) to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The theme of the exhibition was, "Looking Back, Looking Forward: Sixty Years of Progress and Achievement through Education." The exhibition highlighted the extensive research being undertaken and The UWI Cave Hill Campus, its historical development and its wider contribution to the educational sector in Barbados. The

Exhibition was officially opened by Their Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex on Thursday, February 23, 2012 and was opened to the public for viewing two days after the Royal visit.

The exhibition was composed of publications, artefacts, photographs and interactive media, spanning the period from the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952 until the present. The theme was based on the concept of the shift from the learning environment from an old class to today's smart classrooms. Research themes covered included natural science, cultural and environmental studies, history, cricket studies, solar technology, law and medicine among other areas.

As part of the visit, the Earl and Countess also made a special stop in the vicinity of the corner stone laid in 1966 by Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone,

a member of the Royal family. Princess Alice was the first Chancellor of the University College of the West Indies (UCWI).

Visit of the Prime Minister of Barbados

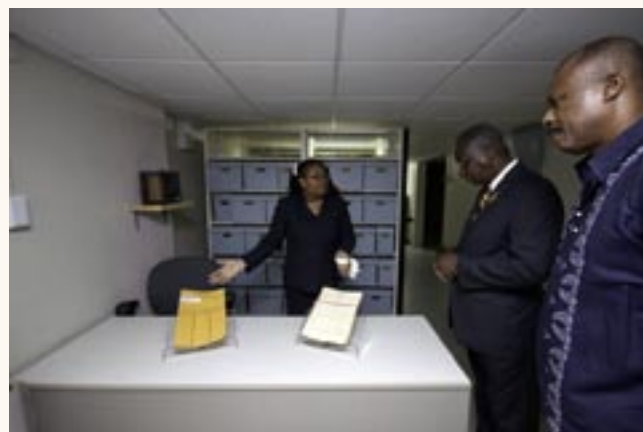
The West Indies Federal Archives Centre also hosted the Prime Minister of Barbados, The Honourable Freundel Stuart on 2nd March 2012. The Prime Minister viewed an interactive display in the Reading Room of the Archives which showcased key documents, photographs and artefacts of The West Indies Federation (1958-1962). He was also invited to tour the repository where he met student assistants working with records in the Conservation/Processing Room as well as sorting and digitising photographs in the Digitisation Room of the Archives.

Further to this, the Prime Minister was shown Judgements from the Federal Supreme Court and other administrative files of the Federal Government. The Assistant Archivist, Mrs. Cherrri-Ann Beckles gave a background to how records are accessioned, processed, arranged and described at the Archives and explained the measures taken to ensure that the environment is appropriate for long-term preservation of multi-media records.

In the final part of the visit, the Prime Minister was invited to view a film on The West Indies Federation which was produced by the National Film Board of Canada at the beginning of the Federal period in 1958. He was then presented by Head Archivist Mrs. Sharon Alexander-Gooding with some memorabilia including a mouse pad with the crest of the Federation, a postcard of the Federal gift-ship the Federal Maple and a commemorative book with a photographic journey of the Federation through official photographs of the Federal Information Service.



Royal Exhibition to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



Mrs. Cherrri-Ann Beckles gave a background to how records are accessioned, processed, arranged and described at the Archives.



Mrs. Sharon Alexander-Gooding with some memorabilia for the Prime Minister.





**Hidden Treasure:
The Santa Rosa Carib Community**

SPECIAL FEATURE



Trinidad and Tobago - by: Helena Leonce

“One cannot step back into time and see the peoples who lived on these islands long before the first foreign ships invaded these shores, but the descendants of the indigenous people are ensuring that the legacy of their ancestors is not forgotten.”¹

Situated in North Central Trinidad, Arima has been for more than a century, considered one of the most “easterly” places of settlement in Trinidad. Additionally, Arima is also deemed to be the home of indigenous civilization, with the lingering contribution of their cultural heritage still existing. Capuchin priests, who came to Trinidad in the hope of converting the Amerindians to Christianity, conquered and claimed Arima in 1757 as part of Spain’s colonizing effort. The Spanish were able to build a church and establish a Mission in the town. They dedicated the Church to an Amerindian girl from Lima, Peru, who was called Rosa. She was eventually canonized as Santa Rosa de

Lima². The remnants of the impact of the Spanish influence is existent in the street names such as “Farfan”, “Sorzano”, “Sanchez”, “De Gannes and “Quesnel”.

In 1813, British Governor Ralph Woodford ordered non- Amerindians to leave the Mission of Arima, supporting the Cabildo of Arima and aimed towards maintaining Arima as “Amerindian Territory”. The Arima Mission grew over time since most of the Amerindians were relocating from pervious Missions of San Agustin (now called St. Augustine), Arauca (Arouca) and Tacarigua. Over time, residents of the Mission were referred by authorities as “Indio” genericaly and later as “Carib”. Many of the names of the Indians were Spanish such as Rosa, Jose, Juan or Maria and surnames bearing religious meaning that represented ‘The Cross’, ‘Resurrection’ and ‘Ascension’.

1. Maharaj, Sateesh. “Celebrating Amerindian Heritage.” Trinidad Express 17 October. 2010: 1.
2. Reyes, Elma. The Carib Community. Arima: Santa Rosa Carib Community, 1978:11



Left: The Santa Rosa Roman Catholic Church, Arima.

Center: Members in the procession in the streets at the front of the church.

Right: The Statue of Santa Rosa being carried by volunteers to be placed on the truck to lead the procession.

(i) Tales Untold: Santa Rosa and Arima

The feast of Santa Rosa de Lima has many conflicting stories to how it began. Mr. Ricardo Bharath Hernandez, Chief of the Santa Rosa Carib Community, gave two accounts as to how this tradition started. The first story involved three hunters, Poonya, Raymundo and Pooyoung, who ventured into the woods. The story continues with these men following a river and coming upon a girl who they claimed to be dumb. The hunters took her back to the village to visit on Calvary Hill. Legend has it that the girl disappeared three times and on each occasion they would search for her and bring her back to the village. The priest informed the villagers that she was Rose of Lima, the first canonized saint of the 'New World'.

The individual found in the forest was said to be her spirit and instructed the village to commemorate her by constructing a statue in her image. It is also assumed that after the statue was built the saint disappeared and was never discovered again. In response to this, the older members of the Community have rallied for centuries to re-

spective Governments and institutions to have a shrine constructed in her honor; however, this plight has fallen on deaf ears.

Another legend, according to Mr. Hernandez, explains that a silver cross was given to Princess Anacona, the daughter of the Great Amerindian chief Hyarima. This cross given to her by a dying priest in the 1800s, symbolized the saint and called for the termination of hostilities between the indigenous people and the Catholic Church, who under the Spanish Government shared administration of the island. The then mayor of Arima F.E.M Hosein in 1931 produced a plan referred to as "Hyarima and the Saints" use some of the stories and historical information surrounding the Saint and the Borough of Arima. This molded the cultural epoch of the city and later led to the formation of a group that has not only become recognized locally but also regionally and internationally as well.

To date the Feast continues to be one of the most significant celebrations in the Church's calendar. It is here that the Catholic Community comes together to celebrate the Saint and her





The youth members showing their full support



A dedicated member of the Santa Rosa First People Community

contribution to the Borough of Arima. During this Feast they reflect on her life and acknowledge her value to the Santa Rosa Catholic Church of Arima. This even begins with a procession by members of the Carib Community from the Carib Centre to the Church. There is a church service commemorates the Feast, incorporating aspects of indigenous ritualism and Roman Catholic tradition. There is a procession through the Borough of Arima, where a statue of the Saint is adorned with flowers and carried on the back of a truck throughout the streets of Arima, closely followed by the congregation. Soon after the procession, members of the Carib Community along with their supporters venture to the Carib Centre, located at Paul Mitchel Street Arima, for a day of activities that include dancing to Parang music and sharing in their cultural traditions.

(II) Santa Rosa Carib Community

Over time the word "Carib" has fell out of use. The French missionary Raymond Breton, who was visiting Dominica in 1642 had recorded that the Carib referred to themselves as 'Callinago'. It has led to the adoption of the word 'Kalinago' by historians and anthropologists alike. The Santa Rosa Carib Community has existed since the early 1700s where their emergence can be traced to the Mission period. The cultural continuation is

both a struggle and achievement over the years; however, they strive to maintain the progression of the life of the Community to ensure that this cultural heritage is being preserved. Considering that the term 'Carib' is not widely applied today, the Chief of the SRCC ,Mr. Bharath Hernandez stated that they are called the Santa Rosa Carib Community for two main reasons:

- (i) The Community represents Arima and the history of Saint Rosa Lima; therefore they try to keep the originality that was passed to them by their ancestors.
- (ii) They are Amerindian and are seen as indigenous 'Caribs'. Being referred to as 'Carib' represented the survival and revival of their tradition as an indigenous group.

Furthermore, regarding their Recognition by authorities in 1976, under the then Ministry of Culture, the Santa Rosa Carib Community developed into a formal organization to, '*bring about an improvement in the lifestyle of Arima's Caribs, but that would also lead to their adding and enriching the nation cultural and economical development.*'³ This was eventually followed by a 'Day of Recognition' which is observed annually on the 14th October. On this day various indigenous rituals and ceremonies are performed such as the ancient

smoke ceremony to summon the descendents of their tribe. There is a grand celebration that is held at the Santa Rosa Park in Arima, where the festivities include a variety of indigenous food, craft, music and dance.

Additional steps were taken to assist the SRCC in becoming a more structured and recognized group. For example, on May 8th 1990 Cabinet decided that the Community became inducted as representatives of the indigenous Amerindians of Trinidad and Tobago which is under the name the Caribbean Organization for Indigenous People. It was also agreed upon that the Amerindian Project Committee be appointed to advise government authorities on the development of the Community. This marked a memorable day for many in the Community because it represented a chance to be heard as a true representative of the indigenous Amerindians of the nation.

As with any organization or group there are numerous wants and needs that will facilitate their subsequent growth and development. For the SRCC, these needs are expressive but can be narrowed into three main issues:

(i) Complete recognition by the society (locally, regionally and internationally) as a 'legitimate' cultural continuation. This is not in comparison to their day of recognition or being a part of the Caribbean Organization for Indigenous People. More so it is a plight to be identified with other groups in the Caribbean, to learn how they too have developed and gained from being a treasured asset to their country.

(ii) More research should be conducted and published to the wider Community to spread the cultural traditions of this Community. This will assist with the continuation and revival of local culture, of which many citizens are still not quite educated on.

(iii) The acquisition of more land being made available for the construction of additional heritage sites throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Their main objective is to build an 'Amerindian Village' which would not only serve to educate members of the society but also act as a major form of tourism to the country.

(iv) The need for support from both the private and public sector to ensure the future preservation of this indigenous group.

Additionally, the SRCC displays a close knit organizational structure that explains their definite structure. There are 600-700 descendents in the Arima environs and according, to Mr. Ricardo Bharath Hernandez out of this, approximately 100- 130 are active members who willingly take part in the various traditions and rituals. In becoming a member, the organization structure is not complex yet it is well defined in certain aspects.

There are three levels towards becoming a member of the SRCC, these include:

(1) Through Ancestry and bloodline. This will allow for 'automatic' entry into the Community as a full fledged member. Most of the members today in the group belong to this category as the older generations are passing on their culture to the younger ones.

(2) There are those members who are not of Amerindian ancestry but have initial rights within the Community. This will allow them to participate in the rituals and ceremonies of the group.

(3) There is also a category that includes Honorary Members who do not belong to Amerindian Ancestry but have assisted the SRCC in various aspects, whether it is financially, socially or politically, helping to promote sustainable growth and development.



The Community is led by the President/ Cacique (Chief) Mr. Ricardo Bharath- Hernandez. Mr. Ricardo Bharath Hernandez is appointed in a position that is for life and his responsibilities entail acting as an official ambassador for the Community. He rallies for support and encourages the survival and revival of their cultural heritage. Other leading members are the secretary, Ms. Jacqueline Khan, the Shaman/ Medicine man, Mr. Christo Adonis, Research and Public Relations Officers and the Carib Queen. The previous Carib Queen, Valentina Medina passed away on April 23rd 2011 and was buried on the 29th April, 2011, following a ceremonious send off.



The Late Carib Queen, Valentina Medina

The new Carib Queen Ms. Jennifer Cassar was chosen based on her adequate knowledge and experience about the history and traditions of the Carib Community. The Queen's major role is ensuring that the preparations are in place for the Santa Rosa Festival. Mr. Ricardo Bharath Hernandez said the Queen, whose office was for life, also acted as the official representative for the Carib Community and made appearances at various events, fulfilled the duty of Community consultant and functions as the chief public relations liaison for both visitors and students.

The SRCC is keen on the survival and revival of their culture. They share in a variety of activities that shape who they are as a group and through this they are able to impart this knowledge to the general public to raise awareness. Mr. Ricardo Bharath Hernandez explained that at the Carib centre they stress on the preservation of the "cassava culture", which includes the preparation of cassava bread and other byproducts such as farine (Powdered cassava). The Community is also pushing for the establishment of the Cassava Project within their proposed Amerindian Village. This project is intended to mechanize the mass production of cassava farine and bread for sale in the local, regional and international markets.



Dressed in their Ceremonial wear at the Funeral

They use traditional instruments such as the matapíor sebucán (strainer) wareware (fan), manare (sifter), and aripo (griddle). It is also important that they maintain the knowledge and expertise in the practice of weaving using certain materials such as the terite reed or the mamu vines to produce baskets, head pieces, mats, fans along with certain apparatuses like the "finger catcher" (a woven, springy item that captures the finger). Occasionally classes are held at the centre where members of the SRCC would teach classes in weaving for visit-

ing groups of students. Members of the group are always willing to be interviewed by foreign and local researchers and journalists and educate them on the Amerindian heritage of Trinidad and the struggles they endured in order to maintain their cultural presence.

Traditional preserving methods of indigenous home construction are also encouraged, where walls are made from tapia (grass, pebbles and mud), and roofs are thatched from palms and coconut branches and floors that are made of compressed earth "washed" over (lipé) with mud. Another element that they seek to revive and preserve is the art of herbal medicine, hunting harvesting of vegetables, fruits and materials used for building, which they refer to as the "arts of the forest". Considering also that Arima is the home of Parang music, they try to maintain close knit ties through the establishment of two (2) Parang bands: Los Niños de Santa Rosa, led by group Secretary Jaqueline Khan until 1999 and Los Niños del Mundo, led by Shaman Cristo Adonis. Their main platform of reclamation and translation of cultural interchanges are all rooted in their historical framework as a Community. Their Feast of Santa Rosa and Heritage week are two examples of how they have retained some aspects that their ancestors have left behind, helping to define what it means to be Amerindian in Trinidad



Parangeros entertaining the gathering



The Memory of the World Programme

Saint Kitts - by Viki O'Flaherty

"Heritage belongs to all."

It was on this premise that the Memory of the World Programme of UNESCO was developed. It aims to facilitate preservation, encourage universal access and increase awareness of the existence and significance of documentary heritage.

The impetus for the programme came from a growing awareness of the danger in which the documentary heritage existed and the difficulties of accessing it. Lack of resources is a constant issue for most archives and libraries where many of these collections are housed. Many of us in the Caribbean know how difficult it is to create the right environment for the longevity of the different media on which the documentary heritage is created. We are also aware of the dangers posed by the geography of the region, its earthquakes and its hurricanes.

Occasionally we have even experienced social upheavals during which repositories might have been targeted. Through its register the programme attempts to shed light on the significance of the heritage and encourage its protection. An item of documentary heritage can be a single document a group of documents, such as a collection, a holding or an archival fond and can run the gamut from books and manuscripts to prints and maps to music and film and websites.

The programme operates on three levels, national, regional and international. At this point national committees exist in Barbados, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and





Tobago. UNESCO encourages the creation of such national committees to help build interest in preservation at the local level. The national committee gives recognition to documentary heritage that is of importance to a particular country. The regional committee includes both Latin America and the Caribbean and received nominations that have significance for the region as a whole or to a significant portion of it. The Caribbean is represented by Winsome Hudson of Jamaica, Joan Osborne of Trinidad and Tobago, Victoria Borg O’Flaherty of St. Kitts-Nevis and Margot Thomas of St. Lucia.

Finally there is the International register. Documentary heritage that makes it this far has to have significance to the world because of some major event or personality with international impact that it was associated with.

Nominations to this register could originate from one country as in the case of the Neta Barrow Collection of Barbados and the Constantine, Williams, James and Walcott collections of Trinidad and Tobago and the Lewis papers of St. Lucia and First Catechism in Papiamentu. They can also be a collaborative effort by a number of countries or institutions like the Registry of Slaves which had the support of a number of Caribbean Countries and the United Kingdom, the Records of the Indian Indentured Labourers, the Silver Men records, the Dutch West India records which embraced Caribbean countries but also other parts of the world like Fiji and Brazil.

These nominations help to show case the rich history of the region and shows citizen and visitor alike that there is a greater depth to its cultural expressions.

National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago Celebrates our Nation’s Golden Jubilee

Trinidad and Tobago - by Avril Belfon

The National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago (NATT) as any other archival institution understands the need to fully embrace and explore the core function of outreach and public education. This year Trinidad and Tobago celebrates its fiftieth anniversary as an independent nation (1962-2012). This Jubilee year presents a special opportunity for the archives to share with the national community its rich and vibrant history through the wealth records it holds.

It is in this vein that the National Archives will host a year of activities commemorating Trinidad and Tobago’s Golden Jubilee. The programme of events, which is geared towards a wide cross section of the citizenry, is entitled “Fifty Years Come and Gone, How Yuh Feel”. The title was inspired by a local calypso sung by the Lord Funny. The activities include a number of panel discussions and exhibitions which will encourage participants to evaluate and reflect on the pre and post independence journeys and the ways in which they have affected their lives. The jubilee year also presents a unique opportunity to celebrate the inscription of two of the National Archives collections, the Registry of Slaves of the British Caribbean 1817-1834 and the Documentary Heritage of the Indian Indentured Labourers, into the UNESCO Memory of the World International Register.



The National Archives has conducted three major events thus far.

1. 50th Independence Anniversary Celebration Launch, Carnival Lecture and Exhibition.

On the 15th of February 2012 the National Archives kicked off its year of commemorative events with a Launch. The Archives also hosted a Carnival lecture panel and exhibition that focused on the Post Independence Carnival Experience. The Panel featured Prof. Gordon Rohlehr, Emeritus Professor of Literature in the Department of Liberal Arts of the University of the West Indies, St Augustine and Mr. Kenwyn Murray, lecturer at the University of the West Indies St Augustine and Director at the Art and Design company ZIGWA. The exhibition featured what are believed to be a few pivotal years in the celebration of the festival spanning the decades of the post independence era including such years as:

1972 - when due to an outbreak of Polio, the Carnival celebration was moved from February to May of that year resulting in a very rainy "Mas in May"

1986 - when calypsonian David Rudder became the first Triple Crown winner having copped the

Young King, Calypso Monarch and Road March Competitions and Machel Montano at age eleven (11) became the youngest Calypso Monarch Finalist.

2. Celebration of the Inscription of the Registry of Slaves of the British Caribbean 1817-1834 on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

On the 29th March 2012 the National Archives took another opportunity to celebrate and showcase its rich store of records, specifically the Trinidad and Tobago Slave Registers. Dr. Rita Pemberton, Head of the Department of History (Ag.) at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine offered an insightful treatise on the importance of the Registry of Slaves to researchers and historians. Entertainment by distinguished artist Ms. Ella Andall invoked and heightened the spirit of the event. The registers remain on display at the National Archives until the 2nd May 2012.

3. Spiritual Baptist/ Shouter Liberation Day Lecture and Exhibition

The National Archives on the 2nd April, 2012 hosted a lecture panel and launched its month long Spiritual Baptist/ Shouter Liberation Day Exhibition. The event included a public lecture and panel discussion that featured Dr. Michael Toussaint, Lecturer at the Department of Histo-

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.

ry, the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine; Archbishop Alson Wilson, Ecclesiastical Head of the Spiritual Baptist Ministries and Bishop Ray Brathwaite, Bishop of the Spiritual Baptist Ministries. Both the lecture and exhibition centred on the theme "Fifty Years Come and Gone, How Yuh Feel?: the Evolving Perception of the Spiritual Baptist/Shouter Religion in Trinidad and Tobago". These events are only the beginning and have set the tone for the rest of the year which will include activities in communities and schools as the National Archives seeks to fulfill its vision to support the cultural and intellectual life of all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.



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