



November 2009

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Come and see the sites and experience the tastes of Barbados

Welcome to the third edition of the MAC Newsletter. At present the MAC Board and the hosts in Barbados are busy preparing for the 21st MAC AGM and we are looking forward to meeting as many MAC members and fellow museum professionals as possible. This is a time for Caribbean museum professionals to get together to network and provides a means to learn about what projects the museums are involved with. It also provides an excellent opportunity to see Barbados.

This is **YOUR** newsletter. MAC Board will use it to keep you up to date with our latest news but if you have anything which you would like to share with your museum colleagues in the Caribbean please send the text as a word document and any images as jpgs to: nigel.sadler@sandsoftimeconsultancy.com

As usual this newsletter is to work in tandem with the Museums Association of the Caribbean website:

MAC is an organization to help Museums and Museum professionals in the Caribbean. It relies on the membership to direct and help the elected Board who do all the work voluntarily. This is YOUR organization and the more the membership help, the more active MAC can be.

2009 AGM – Caribbean Curatorship and National Identity

The 21st MAC AGM and conference, hosted by the Barbados National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM Barbados) will take place from November 29 to December 02, 2009. Following on a number of successful initiatives during the commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the British Slave Trade in 2007, the museum community needs to pause and take stock, examining the ways in which the heritage of enslaved is being dealt with in the Atlantic world. Slavery and the transatlantic slave trade have dominated the past of numerous societies in Africa and the Caribbean, and are also an integral part of the history of the European colonizers.

The historic consequences of slavery can hardly be overestimated. It was bound up with the creation of the New World, it resulted in the emergence of a major global Diaspora, it led to the birth of completely new cultures, and it influenced European culture in numerous ways. *Caribbean Curatorship and National Identity* will examine how history is interpreted and heritage is shaped by communal memory for audiences, old and new, local and foreign. The joint symposium is in conjunction with MAC, the National Art Gallery Committee (NAGC), the International Curators Forum (ICF) and the International Council of Museums (ICOM). These symposiums will explore:

- Breaking the Silence
- Reconstructing/Deconstructing Identity: Place and Memory
- Generational Shifts Within The Caribbean Diaspora: Wall Based & Post Black Art

Confirmed keynote speakers are:

- Mr. Lonnie Bunch, Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Mr. Rick West Jr., Founding Director Emeritus of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI)
- Mr. Okwui Enwezor, Adjunct Curator at International Center of Photography, New York
- Florence Alexis, writer, lecturer, historian and exhibition organiser
- George Abungu, Former Director General of the National Museums of Kenya

The general timetable for the AGM is as follows:

Saturday, November 28 - Arrival of delegates

Sunday, November 29 -Arrival of delegates / Board Meeting / Registration / Walking tour of Bridgetown

Monday, November 30 – Registration / Conference symposia

Tuesday, December 01 – Registration / Conference symposia/Reception

Wednesday, December 02 - MAC AGM / Island tour

Thursday, December 03 – Departure of delegates / New Board Meeting

Conference Venue and Accommodation

The conference will be held at the Accra Beach Hotel & Spa (<http://www.accrabeachhotel.com>) and accommodation is available at Blue Horizon Hotel (<http://www.gemsbarbados.com/hotels>), which is conveniently located across the street from the conference venue and across from Rockley Beach.

For full details about the AGM and the booking forms visit:

<http://www.caribbeanmuseums.com/index.php?id=6,64,0,0,1,0>

International Museum Day (IMD) 2009

International Museum Day is celebrated worldwide each year around May 18th. The theme this year was *Museums and Tourism*, which explored museums as tourist destinations, and also demonstrated museums as promoting responsible, sustainable tourism, uniquely situated as they are in the heritage context to connect visitors and communities. Museums in the Caribbean reflected on the role they play in their communities, and raised awareness among visitors and staff about the meaning of responsible tourism. This is how Caribbean museums celebrated IMD 2009:

Barbados

Barbadians and visitors viewed the ICOM Barbados exhibition *From the Antique to the Contemporary: Barbados Furniture 1680-2009* at Lancaster House, St. James. Also on was the National Art Gallery Committee's exhibition *A Conversation between 'Home Drums Beat First' and 'De Bottom Bound to Drop Out'* at Queen's Park & Zemicon Gallery. On Saturday, May 23, the Barbados Museum and George Washington House provided free entry. The Barbados Museum offered fun activities for the entire family and a Garrison Historic Area walking tour.

Cuba

IMD was covered on national television and all museums of the country offered free entrance to the public.

Curaçao

The Jewish Cultural Historical Museum and the Association of Museums & Heritage of Curaçao jointly celebrated IMD with a special opening on Monday 18th.

Dominican Republic

Centro León organized two special activities: the first one, in collaboration with ICOM-DO and Centro Cultural de España, was a meeting between cultural and tourist promoters and Spanish specialist on museums and tourism, Manuel Ramos Lizana, to discuss the integration of sustainability principles and respect of the cultural and natural diversity; the second one was a full day of artists performing and facilitating creative experiences with the visitors, who were also able to visit the exhibitions free of charge.

Guyana

The National Gallery included this year's theme in the catalogue of their main exhibition.

Puerto Rico

The Museums Association of Puerto Rico presented its portal www.asocmuseopuertorico.org to the press. The portal will include the project Puerto Rico Siglo XXI, a virtual registry of Puerto Rican collections.

St. Kitts

The National Museum celebrated IMD with a Free Admission day. The museum was visited by many students from the primary schools where copies of the Heritage Work Book were presented to them. Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park was open free to the public on Sunday 17th. They mounted a photographic display of scenes on the hill which very few visitors have ever seen. The entire staff of 20 each took one photo of somewhere on the hill which they thought might interest guests. In addition, they showed some graffiti which was done by soldiers garrisoned on the hill, and which are not known by many people.

St. Lucia

The St. Lucia National Trust along with museums and interpretation centres in the country concluded a basic museum curatorial course for their staff, aimed at strengthening their personnel towards the formation of a more systemic approach to the development of St. Lucia's museums. A number of tours were offered by members of the St. Lucia National Trust and Le Pavillion Royal Museum to historic sites during the week.

Sint Maarten

The Sint Maarten National Heritage Foundation had an open house. The special feature for the day was the showing of a documentary about the three Windward Islands dating from 1947.

Defining our Caribbean Cultural Rights – June 18 2009



Some of the participants from the seminar

More than sixty representatives from Curaçao, Bonaire, St. Maarten, Saba, St. Eustatius, Aruba, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago and the Netherlands participated in the Seminar *Cultural Heritage Legislation Dutch Caribbean in a Caribbean Perspective*, an initiative of National Archeological and Anthropological Memory Management (NAAM) in Curaçao.

As the Netherlands Antilles will no longer be from October 2010 NAAM is concerned the effect these constitutional changes will have on the management and regulations of cultural resources in general and in particular the Cultural Heritage of the people of Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten in a Caribbean perspective. The seminar aimed to work on new regulations for cultural heritage of the Dutch Caribbean together with Government Agencies and NGOs.

The day, presided over by Mrs. Suzy Camelia-Römer, was opened by the Minister of Traffic and Telecommunication, Mr. Maurice Adriaens, who hoped that the seminar would contribute to creating an adequate balance between the preservation of heritage and economic development.

NAAM's Director, Ietke Witteveen, reported that progress in the field of cultural heritage legislation of the past four years has been limited to legislation for archaeological and material heritage; the UNESCO Treaty for Intangible Cultural Heritage and that of Cultural Diversity are not receiving attention yet. Mrs. Witteveen recommended that the new countries prioritize creating a register of what has to be protected, and that the cultural rights of the population are incorporated in the Constitutions of Curaçao and St. Maarten.

Legal Adviser of the Netherlands Antilles, Mr. Timmers, gave an overview on legislation in which the Maritime Management Act, the Monuments Act and the Treaty of Malta got special attention. Mr. Lionel Janga, acting head of DROV, detailed the importance of the digital *Mapa di Balor Kultural Histórico*, the Cultural and Historical Value Map of Curaçao of NAAM for spatial planning. To get a better view of coming legislation of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, Mrs. Gerda de Bruyn of the Dutch National Service for Cultural Heritage indicated the Treaty of Malta will probably be implemented as early as 2011 in those islands. There was criticism from Legal Affairs Bonaire, who had not been consulted in this matter and was itself working on the Treaty of Malta. This underlined the value of the seminar, as the experts could become more acquainted and conduct exchanges.

Mrs. Torres presented on the development of Act 112 of Puerto Rico, which ensures the protection of cultural patrimony but is now threatened with abolition in favour of the building industry. Mr. Sheriff Faizool indicated that in Trinidad & Tobago legislation is part of cultural resources management, but the enforcement is lacking.

Archaeology in St. Maarten (Jay Havisser), St. Eustatius (Grant Gilmore) and Curaçao (Claudia Kraan) also got attention. Havisser ROB-VROM gave an overview of the history of archaeology in St. Maarten and gave examples of heritage preservation in a practical manner. In his work in St. Maarten, and earlier in Bonaire, he pays a lot of attention to the involvement of the youth. Claudia Kraan (NAAM) showed how, by means of clear rules, such as the policy document *Maneho di Arkeologia* and the Cultural Value Map of Curaçao, efficient cooperation becomes possible with project developers, once they have a building permit. Three young people from Bonaire of the foundation Bonaire Archeology (BONAI) finally showed with verve how they are involved in projects for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage in Bonaire.

The day concluded that the Treaty of Malta is a good hallstand for all the Antillean Islands, provided there is space for the island reality, individuality and necessities with the implementation acts. It was recommended Governments, project developers and independent organizations like NAAM to come together in an early stage with the *Mapa*, the Cultural-Historical Value Map, in hand in order to search for alternative building plans. Also that involvement of youngsters, the public at large and education is essential for protection of our heritage.

Recent Work in Curaçao



Andre Rancuret, Workgroup Archaeology NAAM, Prof. Dr. Jerzy Gawronski, BMA, Amsterdam Commissioner of Culture Curacao, M. Alcalá Wallé, Ieteke 'Inchi' Witteveen, Director NAAM and Lionel Janga, Head of DROV.

Launching the digital Map of Cultural and Historical Sites in Curaçao

Recently the Commissioner of Education of Curaçao, Mrs. M. Alcalá Walle, received the first copy of the *Mapa Kultural Históriko di Korsou*, the cultural and historic map of Curaçao.

This *Mapa* is the result of the cooperation between the National Archeological and Anthropological Memory Management (NAAM) and the *Bureau voor Monumenten en Archeologie* (BMA) of the Municipality of Amsterdam, and it forms an integral part of the policy document for archaeology, called *Maneho di Arkeologia Kòrsou*, which was drawn up last year at the request of the Commissioner. The head of Archaeology of BMA, Professor Dr. Jerzy Gawronski, was present on this festive occasion.

A couple of years ago, NAAM initiated the drawing up of a digital inventory of the cultural heritage together with the Archaeology Working Group of Curacao in order to prevent having to give archaeological assistance time and again on an *ad hoc* basis, as in the case of excavations and building activities in various locations.

The map indicates digitally where -insofar as known- important sites are located and will serve as a policy instrument when planning development projects in Curaçao. Besides, the map provides more knowledge of the past that can serve as a source for Curaçao's collective memory, nation building and identity. The fact that as long as 5000 years ago, people were living around, for example, Schottegat, is unknown to many people today. Many sites have already disappeared due to modern development, but also due to a lack of awareness of the importance and the added value of cultural heritage with regard to spatial and tourism development.

In order to make the inventory map, sources such as the results of archaeological and anthropological (places of memory) research were used, but also the soil and geological map of Curaçao and historic maps, such as the detailed topographic map from 1911 of J. Werbata. In all, 2700 elements of human habitation have been mapped, and that gives us a beautiful and successful picture of 5000 years of human habitation. They belong to the pre-Colombian period (such as rock drawings), the Afro-Caribbean heritage and the colonial past. The maritime history has also been mapped.

The rounding-off of the values map concentrates on establishing the cultural and historical values of different parts of Curaçao, based on this inventory. The values map will be made available to spatial planning agencies, but also to educational and tourist projects. With the rounding-off of the *Mapa Kultural Históriko di Kòrsou*, Curaçao has acquired a renovating instrument for proper management and a survey of our cultural heritage.

Recent Work in Guadeloupe



Exhibition of the photographs of Philippe Monges which was held at the Schoelcher Museum from May 27 to October 30, 2009



Schoelcher Museum

Places of Memory. Memory of the Places. Traces of the African and slavery

How do we understand the legacy of millions of enslaved Africans who were transported from Africa during the 400 years of the slave trade? How is the labour and suffering of the enslaved reflected on the sugar plantations? How can one study the tropical forests and the old refuge place of chestnuts? In Senegal and Ghana, in Martinique and Guadeloupe, in Bordeaux, La Rochelle, Nantes and Le Havre, the traces of slavery are visible.

In his work, Philippe Monges explored the places of history: forts, the old river where the enslaved washed, the unloading dock, dwellings and the cemetery. He traversed and questioned the urban landscapes - streets, quays, shores. Forty stereotypes were presented in the museum rooms and the external court. The voyages of Philippe Monges were superimposed on those of Victor Schœlcher and the objects collected by Schœlcher dialogues with the stereotypes taken by the photographer.

A patrimonial tour dedicated to the history and the memory of slavery in Guadeloupe

The Conseil Général, owner of several historical sites emblematic of the history of slavery, intends to have a driving role in their development. The Conseil Général also wishes to tie in with regional groups and private owners in the recording of sites of memory within Guadeloupe. At present the visibility and interpretation of the places of memory and the history associated with slavery in Guadeloupe is scarce. With a lack of access to records it is hard to locate these sites and understand the history. The idea to create a tour of the places of memory linked to the history of slavery has evolved from the findings of a committee which has now been given the task to list the historic sites, to create the tour and produce the text for the relevant sites. Information for the tour will be provided in a booklet containing a map of the tour and a short description of each of the sites. A more detailed publication will also be produced gathering together the historical documents used to create the understanding of each of the sites. This tour will make it possible to local and foreign visitors to better understand the history of slavery in Guadeloupe. In addition, this work will support the UNESCO 'Slave Route Project' and it is hoped that UNESCO will provide support for this initiative.

St Croix – Update on the Theft of the Rum Still

In Issue 2 of this Newsletter, we recorded the unfortunate news of the theft of a very important piece of industrial heritage in St Croix. Below is the latest update from MAC Board member and renowned industrial archaeologist from St Croix, David Hayes.

The Cruzan Rum® Still at Whim

In the 1960s Cruzan Rum loaned the Society the 1933 pot still that they had used for many years. It was partially installed behind the cook house. In 1978 the Wall family donated the money to install it properly in a raised position as it would have been during its use. It became an iconic image out by the windmill. Over the last ten years, after various hurricanes had blown parts of it down the 5 tons of copper was stolen for its scrap value. The final theft, over the weekend of September 5, took the mash retort. This weighed about two tons was 8 feet (2.4 meters) across and 14 feet (4.3 m) high. It was secured with a three inch (8 cm) steel pipe that the thieves hacksawed through before tipping it over onto a truck, probably a flatbed car recovery truck. Ten days later the four iron rings that sealed the parts together, some bolts, the feed stopcock and the flange with the piece of steel pipe were found in Campo Rico, less than a mile from the museum in full view of several homes. At more than \$2/pound (US\$5/kilo) for raw copper and more than \$1/pound (US\$ 2.50/kilo) for scrap the thieves made themselves

several thousand dollars and destroyed an important piece of St. Croix's history. The still was reported to be one of the first legal new stills in the US after prohibition. It also rebuilt the Cruzan brand for more than thirty years. It provided work for many people on this island, the base for many a demijohn of guaveberry and fuelled many a party.

The loss of this important artifact shows the need for more education about the heritage of St. Croix so that more people will understand that without a physical past, the present can be insecure and the future a place of anarchy.

Thefts

The Caribbean has suffered from the theft of its cultural heritage for many centuries. In recent years thefts have often been ignored as local populations do not understand the need to protect their cultural heritage, and the need to see the items as more than just their financial value. If you can help locate the stolen still, or any other items that you believe have been stolen from museums or historic sites in the Caribbean, please contact MAC.

If you have any stories about thefts or requests for assistance that you would like to make to the museum community, please send an article to MAC for inclusion in the newsletter



The still base, a sad site now without the stolen Rum Still



The still as it used to look

All images on this page supplied by David Hayes

World Heritage and Tourism: Managing for the Global and the Local

3-4 June 2010, Quebec City, Canada

As of 2009, approximately 900 sites are registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list. For many sites, inscription on the *World Heritage List* acts as a promotional device and the management challenge is one of protection, conservation and dealing with increased numbers of tourists. For other sites, designation has not brought anticipated expansion in tourist numbers and associated investments. What is clear is that tourism is now a central concern to the wide array of stakeholders involved with World Heritage Sites. We increasingly need to understand the multi-layered relationships between the diverse range of Sites and tourism and tourists and to focus on how tourism is effectively managed for the benefit of all.

This conference seeks to explore a series of critical and fundamental questions being raised by the various 'owners', managers and local communities involved with World Heritage Sites in relation to tourism: Why do tourists visit some World Heritage Sites and not others? What is the tourist experience of such Sites? How successful are Sites in the management of tourists? What roles do local communities play in Site management? How can the 'spirit of place' be protected in the face of the sheer volume of tourists? How can some Sites maximize the potential of a sustainable tourism for the purposes of poverty alleviation and community cohesion? How effective are communication strategies in bringing stakeholders together? What management skills are needed to address the needs of different stakeholders, different sites and different cultures?

We encourage papers from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives and welcome submissions which address theoretical, empirical, methodological, comparative and practical perspectives on the fullest array of themes associated with the management of UNESCO World Heritage.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Original papers are invited to consider subject areas including, but not limited to, the following themes:

- Marketing in the management of World Heritage Sites;
- The pragmatics of managing tourists;
- Financing World Heritage;
- Community involvement in Site management;
- Relations between intangible cultural heritage and Site management;
- The role of the private tourism sector;
- The nature of tourist experience and behaviour at World Heritage Sites;
- Shaping local, regional and national identities through Site inscription;
- Issues of governance and transnational regulation;
- Legal rights and notions of 'ownership';
- The management of World Heritage 'values';
- The geo-politics of inclusion and exclusion;
- Methods of Site evaluation;
- Managing spiritual values and biodiversity;
- The role of UNESCO and the political economies of designation.

Please submit your 500 words abstract (in French or English) including a title and full contact details as an electronic file to Professor Maria Gravari-Barbas (Maria.Gravari-Barbas@univ-paris1.fr) or Laurent Bourdeau (laurent.bourdeau@fsa.ulaval.ca) as soon as possible but no later than **15 December 2009**.

Publication opportunity: Papers accepted for the conference will be published in the conference proceedings, subject to author registration. Best papers from the conference will also be considered for publication in a special issue of the [Journal of Tourism and Cultural Change](#).

**MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM
MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF THE CARIBBEAN (MAC)
2009 - 2010**

Please check the appropriate categories in both columns:

- New member
- Institutional membership (US\$100 annual dues)
- Renewal
- Associate membership (US\$50 annual dues)

Last name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

If applying for institutional membership, please give a short description of your organization:

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Website: _____

By signing this form, I agree to abide by the ICOM Code of Ethics.

Signature _____

Annual dues are payable at the Annual General Meeting & Conference. If you are not attending, you may send this form along with payment (check drawn to US Bank) to:

Cyril Saltibus
Treasurer
Museums Association of the Caribbean
c/o Le Pavillon Royale
Saint Lucia
cyrilsaltibus@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

If you have information, or are organising an event please send details for inclusion in the next newsletter.

2009

November/December

MAC Annual General Meeting

See page 2 in this Newsletter for full details

2010

June

World Heritage and Tourism Conference

See page 8 in this Newsletter for full details

November

ICOM Conference in China

Watch this space for more information

To be confirmed

Emergency Planning for Museums Training Course

Future International Museum Day (IMD) Themes

2010 IMD theme is the same theme as the Shanghai conference – Museums and Social Harmony

2011 IMD theme is Museum and Memory

2012 IMD theme will be selected at the 2010 Shanghai conference

2013 IMD theme is Museums (memory + creativity = Social Change), which is the theme for the conference in Rio de Janeiro

Latest News

MAC Directory

Work continues on updating the MAC Directory (last updated in 1994!). We are compiling an inventory of ALL museums/heritage institutions in the Caribbean region in particular MAC members but inclusive of any interested institutions as well. To this end, the most recent list with addresses is included on the MAC website. We urge all museums to visit the website and check this information, then contact us to confirm or change their entry. In the near future there will be a request for additional information on each institution to help MAC identify the strengths and needs of museums in the region.

Image and identity – Guyanese Art Now

In a recently published book on the Caribbean integrationist, legislator, journalist and novelist, A.R.F. Webber, the author Selwyn Cudjoe, in beginning a chapter entitled 'Colonies in Search of A Nation', quotes from Benedict Anderson's *Imagined Communities* (1983):

Nations inspire love, and often profoundly self-sacrificing love. The cultural products of nationalism – poetry, prose fiction, music, plastic arts – show this love very clearly in thousands of different forms and styles.

Such an observation, shared instinctually by many of us without being as clearly expressed or understood, bears repeating particularly when cultural institutions strive constantly to illustrate and enhance the value of their 'cultural products' to the larger society, not to mention the value of the artists responsible for these products in all their variety.

The acceptance of artists, to whatever degree in their society, reflects on that society's taste, judgement and understanding and can be a measure, as much as anything else, of its evolution. Further, the everyday achievements of our collective lives, ephemeral and fleeting as they are, leave behind most notably the objects and structures of creative and artistic activity, which then come to represent the age in which they once occupied a particular, if specialized place, as part of personal, social or economic ritual.

Art galleries and museums can therefore play a powerful role in our self-definition, though in actuality they are only one part of many manifestations of a society, of a community of citizens, of a nation. The National Gallery of Guyana, as an Institutional Member of the MAC Board, therefore joins with its colleagues on the Board and the MAC general membership in welcoming friends and colleagues from the ICOM Executive, the ICOM Barbados National Committee, and the International Curators' Forum, as we consider the challenges and goals ahead of us at our AGM but especially via our Conference theme, *Caribbean Curatorship and National Identity*. Welcome!

If you want further information about MAC, want to become a member of the Association, want to receive this newsletter, know someone who would be interested in receiving this newsletter or to have information that you would like to share through this newsletter, please contact Nigel Sadler
