



January 2012

Breaking News: Fire Devastates Museum in the Bahamas

In December MAC was notified about the destruction of the Pompey Museum in the Bahamas. This issue of the MAC Newsletter contains a full story on page 9.

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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.

All Change at MAC



Cyril Saltibus

Firstly, MAC says farewell to Centro Leon as President of MAC and welcomes Le Pavillon Royal Museum, represented by Cyril Saltibus, as the new President. Many new faces were added to the Board at the AGM in Antigua and the new Board is introduced to the MAC Membership on page 3.

Another change is that MAC has now appointed Sands of Time Consultancy to run the Secretariat. Details of the role of the Secretariat are covered on page 4 but in principal the Secretariat will take away some of the more mundane and administrative duties of the MAC Board to allow it to concentrate on the more pressing needs of the association.

This issue also covers latest news from the Museum sector in the Caribbean and where appropriate worldwide when it affects museums in the region. There is the devastating news from Bahamas of the destruction of the Pompey Museum in December and on the other hand the plans for a new museum in Montserrat. There is a full report on the MAC AGM held in Antigua last November and the latest news from ICOM. There is also a taster from the data collected during the survey carried out in museums in the Caribbean in early 2011.

This is the MAC Membership newsletter, so to make sure it is up to date and contains all the news from the region, please submit any information you wish to be included to Nigel Sadler at nigel.sadler@sandsoftimeconsultancy.com.

If you wish not to receive the newsletter or wish other email addresses to receive the newsletter please email Nigel Sadler.

The newsletter can also be downloaded from the MAC website:
www.caribbeanmuseums.com



Dear Members,

According to the ICOM Statutes, adopted during the 21st General Conference in Vienna, Austria, in 2007: A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes from education, study and enjoyment. As President of MAC allow me to further endorse this adoption as we further the influence of our organization in the Spanish, French and English speaking countries of the Caribbean.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Planning Committee for a great job in organizing the 2011 Conference and AGM held in Antigua. The past President and Board, maintained the affairs of MAC for a period of two years and successfully represented us with integrity during this period. I thank them immensely for their selfless service to MAC.

It is no easy task to be President of any organization whose membership is so diverse in its culture, geography and language. Our success will depend greatly on the support of all members and the decisions of our elected Board of Directors. One of our first and most important decisions was the signing of an agreement with Sands of Time Consultancy in January 2012 to assist MAC in the running of its Secretariat for the period 2011 to 2012. This decision will pay many dividends in the future as it takes a load off the volunteers that have done this in the past in addition to their regular museum jobs. Sands of Time Consultancy will take care of the day to day tasks and serve our members to accomplish all our goals and objectives approved by members at our 2011 AGM.

Our Board and Secretariat will continue moving this organization forward by fostering greater ties with other associations, increase our membership base, set policies, create avenues for strengthening our institutional members and create a greater awareness in the Caribbean. We believe that what ICOM is to the world should be a reflection of what MAC must become to the Caribbean.

I ask you to continue to work together in a unified and effective manner to enhance MAC's presence in the Caribbean, to increase the impact of museums and museum professionals in our individual countries as we conserve, research, communicate and exhibit the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment of our islands..

I wish our organization the best for the period 2011 to 2012 during my tenure as President and thank you for the confidence you have placed in my leadership.

A prosperous and historic year to all of you from LePavillon Royal Museum.

Cyril J Saltibus
President

Welcome to the new MAC President

Who is the New President?



Cyril Saltibus,
cyrilsaltibus@gmail.com

Mr. Cyril J Saltibus has served for over 12 years as a member of the technical team of Le Pavillon Royal Museum at Government House, St. Lucia. Also known as “Captain Saltibus”, he is a Queen Commissioned Officer of the British Army Cadet Force (ACF) and served as the Aide-De-Camp to the Governor-General of Saint Lucia during the period 2004 to 2006. With his engineering background, he has held the position of Maintenance Manager at one of St. Lucia’s leading resorts and served in the engineering departments of Windward and Leeward Brewery, Caribbean Metals and Tech2000. He also serves as an Engineering Consultant and Special Events Advisor with Goddard Catering Group (St. Lucia) Ltd. He received his education for the Vieux-Fort Comprehensive School, Sir Arthur Lewis Community College and the American Hotel and Motel Association.

Cyril is currently a Counsellor of the St. Lucia National Trust serving in the capacity as its Secretary and is extensively involved throughout the island with conservation projects. He is the present Chairperson of the Southern Chapter of the Saint Lucia National Trust deeply involved with the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) Project, with responsibility as interim Chair on the Board of the Eco-South Tours enterprise. In his private capacity he is the manager of his own company “Seventh Sense Event Resource Management”. He is an employee of Sandals Regency Golf and Spa Resorts in Saint Lucia recently appointed as one of the Resorts three Zone Managers.

Cyril joined the Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) after the establishment of Le Pavillon Royal Museum in 1999 and is now one of its longest serving Board Members. He served as Vice President under the Presidency of Brimstone Hill Fortress and as Treasurer under the presidency of Centro Leon.

How is the Board Selected?

The Board of the Museums Association is selected at every AGM. The Board is made up of 8 Institutional members and 2 Individual members. Institutional members serve for a period of 3 years and therefore each year 2 or 3 Institutional members step down and an election is taken to replace them. Individual members serve for 2 years so each year one steps down and election is held to replace them.

Any staff member or nominated individual can represent the Institutional member on the Board, but it is the institution that is represented and the positions are held by the institution and not the individual. This means that there are the odd occasions when an individual who has been representing an institution leaves that institution and a new individual is then assigned to represent that Institution on the Board.

Once the Board is elected by the membership at the AGM, the Board members meet and will then elect from among themselves the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and occasionally will elect a Board member to lead specific projects. It is generally accepted that the President must be an Institutional member so that they bring with them the support network of their institution.

As there was no AGM in 2010, this meant that at the 2011 AGM in Antigua of the 10 Board members 5 institutional members had to step down as well as both Individual members. Nominations for Institutional members on the board can only be made by other Institutional members, and only Institutional members can vote for Institutional members. Individual members can nominate individual members and only individual members can vote for individual members. Once a nomination is offered it must be accepted by the nominated institution or individual and if it is a seconder is called for as each nomination needs two nominees. Before an election, anybody can decline to stand and on this occasion the Institutional Members of Sands of Time Consultancy and Centro Leon both declined to stand for re election.

Introduction to the Other Board Members



David Hayes, Vice President david_hayes_stx@yahoo.com, St. Croix Archaeological Society
David Hayes is a consulting archaeologist based in St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands. He was a founder of the St. Croix Archaeological Society and continues to work in their museum. He also works in the plantation museums of St. Croix. He has done work on a number of islands in the Caribbean.



Bishnu Tulsie, Treasurer director@slunatrust.org, St Lucia National Trust Director
Mr. Tulsie started his public service career in the teaching profession before joining the public sector in Saint Lucia where he served as the Chief Sustainable Development and Environment Officer. He has a strong background in sustainable development issues, multilateral environmental agreements and in management. He assumed the directorship of the Saint Lucia National Trust in 2004.



Samantha Rebovich, Secretary sam@dockyardmuseum.org, Curator, Dockyard Museum
Samantha is the curator of the Dockyard Museum in English Harbour, Antigua and also works as a Heritage Specialist for the Antigua and Barbuda National Parks Authority. In 2011 she earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Syracuse University with a focus on historical archaeology. Her research interests include heritage preservation, development and history of museums, landscape, and the African Diaspora.



Sherilyne Jones sherilyne@nichbelize.org Director, Museum of Belize and Houses of Culture
Sherilyne Jones is Director of the Museum of Belize & Houses of Culture, National Institute of Culture and History (NICH), Belize. Previously, Ms. Jones worked in the Institute of Archaeology, NICH as a staff archaeologist for 9 years with responsibility for Research & Education programs. She is currently a member of the technical committee for Red Centroamericana de Museos (REDCAMUS).



Natasha Leader, schs@sisterisles.kn Executive Director, The National Museum of St. Christopher
With a background in tourism and keen interest in the preservation of memory and history, Ms. Leader is poised to lead the National Museum of St. Kitts, to chronicle the numerous stories that are there to tell. The National Museum was opened in 2002 and the exhibits that are currently being shown are about Carnival, the Indigenous Peoples, Independence and Traditions in Housing.



Brenda Lettsome-Tye, gbrendatye@gmail.com, Acting Director, Department of Culture, BVI
Brenda Lettsome-Tye, Acting Director of Culture in the British Virgin Islands, was a music teacher in BVI schools for 25 years. As Deputy Director she planned International Museum Day annual celebrations since 2008, and currently as Acting Director she preserves and promotes the oral and cultural traditions of the Virgin Islands.



Nimah Muwakil-Zakuri, nationalmuseum117@gmail.com Acting Curator, The National Museum and Art Gallery of Trinidad and Tobago
After 6 years studying in Cuba, Nimah returned home to Trinidad in 2007 and began working as an intern at The National Museum and Art Gallery, and within months was offered the post of Assistant Curator. She is currently acting as Curator/Director at the National Museum and sits on several government advisory committees on museum and visual art development. Nimah is pursuing an MPhil Degree in Cultural Studies at the University of The West Indies.



Mike G. Rutherford, mike.rutherford@sta.uwi.edu Curator of Zoology, The UWI, Trinidad
Mike Rutherford curates the zoological collection built up over the last 90 years by the University of the West Indies in Trinidad. He is also involved in the development of a UWI campus museum covering a wide variety of collections. His research interests include reptiles, terrestrial molluscs and biological recording.

Staci-Marie Dehaney, Institute of Jamaica, is also on the Board

The Secretariat



Nigel Sadler



Sonja Arias

When MAC was formed it was decided that, to ease its management, a Secretariat would be set up. In the early years when the Barbados Museum and Historical Society held the Presidency, they also managed the Secretariat. However, as the post of President changed hands, the Secretariat declined and ended and what was left was each new President taking on the role of the Secretariat as well and an outdated paper archive being held in Barbados but of no use.

Some presidents took on the role of the Secretariat and utilized their staff members but in general the work one would associate with the Secretariat was taken over by Board members on top of their usual roles and this often saw the work marginalized or ignored.

Sands of Time Consultancy stepped down from the MAC Board at the 2011 AGM so that they could present a new proposal to reinvigorate the Secretariat. As this new proposal was to utilize the skills of Sands of Time Consultancy it was deemed that there would be a conflict of interest if Sands of Time Consultancy offered itself for reelection to the Board.

The offer, which has been accepted, is that Sands of Time Consultancy will spend 2 days a month running the Secretariat for MAC. This work will entail maintaining and updating the website every month, producing a quarterly newsletter, managing the MAC Membership, liaising with partners such as ICOM and PIMA on joint projects, supporting the Board members in their tasks and seeking sponsorship and grant funding for projects, especially those highlighted in the 2011 MAC Survey.

The Secretariat will be run out of the Dominican Republic.

Who are Sands of Time Consultancy?

Sands of Time Consultancy is run by Nigel Sadler with Sonja Arias as a Caribbean partner. Both Nigel and Sonja are past Presidents of MAC and are very aware of the needs of MAC as an organization as well as the needs of its membership. Together they cover English, French and Spanish languages and individually have a wide network of contacts.

In the past few years, Sands of Time Consultancy has carried out the Museum Survey for MAC in 2011, reviewed legislation in the Cayman Islands on archaeological provision and how the National Museum could provide an archaeological service, analyzed the staff structure for one museum and made recommendations for a more streamlined structure, provided advice to several museums and organizations in the region regarding their future development and has lobbied in the UK and at ICOM for better support of museums in the Caribbean region.

Nigel Sadler is a board member of ICOM-UK with special interest in the UK Overseas Territories (six of which are in the Caribbean: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands) and in 2011 was also nominated onto the ICOM Disaster Relief Task Force.

Sands of Time Consultancy has also carried out a lot of research on slavery which has led to Nigel Sadler writing several popular books and academic articles.

MAC AGM in Antigua, November 2011

The Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) was formed in 1989 to provide a platform where museums in the Caribbean could support each other and exchange ideas. This has mainly been accomplished through the holding of an Annual General Meeting (AGM) but has also included jointly funded projects such as participating part in the UNESCO Slave Route Project in 1999-2000.

The benefits of the AGM are that the museum professionals who attend can have formal and informal discussions on many aspects of museum work, that they get to tour museums in the host country to see how they do things and often there is a tour of the country to show how the country preserves and presents heritage.

The 2011 AGM was hosted by Nelson's Dockyard Museum, Antigua, from 21-23 November under the theme of Museums and Sustainability. In Antigua the delegates were taken on tours of the Nelson's Dockyard Museum, the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda in St John's and the visitor centre at Betty's Hope (a former sugar plantation). These tours were fitted round more formal presentations.

The keynote presentation was made by David Spence, Director of Programmes at Museum of London, who talked about the work of the Museum of London, how it was trying to work closer with museums overseas that could support projects with local London communities and how the Sugar and Slavery Gallery at Museum of London, Docklands had come about. He also talked about what the Museum of London had already done in the Caribbean with the archives in St Kitts and the museums in Antigua and how he was on route to provide support to the new museum development in Montserrat, a United Kingdom's Overseas Territory, through the West India Committee.

Nigel Sadler, Sands of Time Consultancy, and a retiring MAC Board Member, gave a presentation on 'Museums and Sustainability: What Does it Really Mean' before the delegates broke into groups to discuss aspects of sustainability. The Caribbean is a region with a wealth of environmental and cultural diversity but the speed of development threatens the sustainability and whilst museums must be able to be sustainable themselves, they must also be leading players in educating the local community, developers and governments.

Dr. Reg Murphy presented a talk on collections management and Samantha Rebovich led the group in a storage evaluation exercise created and sponsored by UNESCO and ICOM called Re-Org.

The MAC AGM was attended by 22 delegates representing 14 museums from 12 countries.



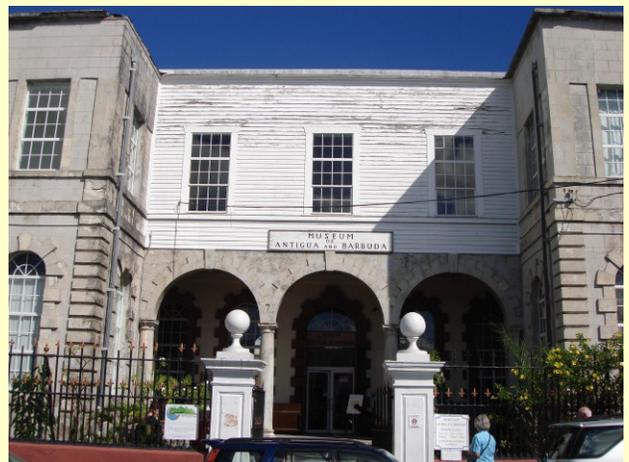
The AGM host was the Nelson's Dockyard Museum



Delegates at the 2011 MAC AGM during the tour



Windmill at Betty Hope Plantation, during tour



Some of the sessions were held at the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda

MAC Survey Results

In January 2011 Sands of Time Consultancy was commissioned to carry out a survey of museums in the Caribbean Region. The aim was to get a better understanding of museums in the region, their strengths and their needs, especially in the area of training and support.

Methodology

Sands of Time Consultancy created a questionnaire that aimed at getting the most information from the museums who responded whilst taking the least time to fill in. Most questions only required tick box responses or yes/no answers. However, where needed free text boxes allowed a museum to expand on their answer. Sands of Time Consultancy used the MAC Museum Directory created in the 1990s as the initial source to identify museums in the region, but this was out of date so a very thorough search was conducted on the internet to find museums in each of the countries in the Caribbean, to record their websites and emails in a data sheet. For the purposes of this survey any country that bordered the Caribbean Sea or an island linked politically to the Caribbean was included.

Survey Responses

1101 museums were identified in 44 Caribbean countries/territories. 76% of museums were located in Spanish-speaking countries, 15% in English-speaking countries, 6% in French-speaking countries and 3% in Dutch-speaking. Out of 1101 museums identified, email addresses could not be located for 405 (37%) museums, 173 (16%) had an invalid email address, and 523 (48%) had a valid email address. From the active emails, 110 museums/organizations responded, representing 10% of the museums identified and 21% of the museums with active emails. This was a high rate of return for a survey of this nature.

Of the 110 responses, 7 organisations stated that they would not partake in the survey because they had ceased to operate, did not have time to fill the questionnaire in or felt that there was an ulterior motive for the survey project. Therefore the survey collected data from 103 museums or organizations, which does allow assessments to be statistically meaningful and could be presented as percentages. Of the 103 museums 51 were in Spanish-speaking countries, 8 were in French-speaking countries, 5 were in Dutch-speaking countries and 39 in English-speaking countries.

The oldest museum in the survey was the Musée Schoelcher in Guadeloupe, opened in 1887; the newest to open is the Museo Memorial de la Resistencia Dominicana in Dominican Republic, opened in 2011. A couple of organisations also stated that they do not at present have a museum but are hoping to open one in the next two years. 16 museums opened prior to 1970, 49 were opened after 1990 suggesting museums in the Caribbean are generally a new phenomenon.

Type of Governance

43% of museums are government run, 35% were independent, 2% were company and 19% were 'other', but as 'other' was not clarified, it is not clear if they could have been placed under the other 3 categories.

Museum Management

Museum management policies are lacking, with only 52% of the respondents having a Forward Plan. There is a noticeable difference how the language groups approach museum management, with 76% of Spanish-speaking museums having a Forward Plan, compared to only 26% in the English-speaking countries.

Buildings

The 103 Participating museums manage a total of 180 buildings. 60% of museums manage one building, 17% percent manage two buildings and 10% of museums managed 4 or more buildings. 35 of the 146 buildings (24%) which have been given an age were built in the last 25 years, 81 (55%) were built over 100 years ago and the oldest building housing a museum is the Museo Regional Tuxteco in Mexico, which is 450 years old. Considering that 93 out of 136 museum buildings (68%) were recorded with an age are over 50 years old, only 52% of buildings were recorded as having some protected status. 55% of buildings managed by Caribbean museums are historic houses. 24% are in new buildings, whilst industrial buildings are less common, representing only 8%. 23 museums manage 'other' types of buildings including military, fortress, old prison, educational building, private house, old hangar, homestead, and stables.

The most common materials used for wall construction are stone (22%), concrete (20%), wood (18%) and fired brick (17%). For roofs, metal (39%), stone (12%), concrete (10%) and clay tiles (9%) are the materials commonly used, but there is a divide by language with metal being the most used roof material in English-, Dutch-, and French-speaking countries and clay tiles more common in Spanish-speaking countries.

On average, Caribbean museums dedicated over 50% of their space to exhibitions, 7% occupies storage areas for the collections and the shop accounts for 3%, but as 27% of museums do not have shops this would have reduced the average space. 78% of museums can be found in an urban setting.

Staff

The 103 respondents employed 971 paid staff and 432 volunteers, a total of 1403 people. Assuming that the highest qualification is held by the person in charge of the museum, it is heartening to see that 91% of the senior staff have a university or post-graduate qualification. However, it was unclear from if these qualifications were in museum studies.

Collections and Collections Management

Of the participating museums, 23% hold a single collection, with the majority (60%) holding between 2 and 7 types of collections and the remaining 17% having 8 and more collections. This diversity in collections shows the need for MAC to provide some advice on how to manage a wide range of types of materials as well as varied types of collections. The largest collection type held are social history (79 museums), industrial collections (67), art collections (55), archaeological collections (54), costume collections (53), maritime collections (41) and architectural collections (28). 57% of museums also held archives and 62% held library collections.

One positive aspect to over 50% of museums being opened in the last 21 years is that museums are not hindered with antiquated record management systems. This would account for why two thirds of the museums operate a computerised management system, which range from in-house designed database using Microsoft Access or Excel to a recognized internationally utilized, specially designed museum database. 10% of museums have no system in place to record and manage their collections. This raises questions about how they find objects and also how museums can prove legal ownership of their collections. It is clear from the training needs that museums want to prioritise collection management, which suggests they have identified these weaknesses themselves. The survey has highlighted that many museums are lacking one or more of the recognized essential museum policies. In some cases this is acceptable: if a museum does not take in loans or lend their collections, all they will need is a statement to that purpose and therefore will not need a procedure for an activity they do not carry out.

Emergency Plans

70% of responding museum report having an Emergency Plan but as 30% did not have an emergency plan in place suggests there is some complacency within the museum sector. 55% of respondents reported that their museum had suffered an emergency of some kind. 100 emergencies were reported by the 103 respondents, the most and least common being hurricanes and volcano, respectively. Some museums reported no emergencies whilst others reported several. It should be noted that even though a museum reported an emergency, many did not lead to serious damage to the museum or collections. Of the 72 museums that said they had an emergency plan in place, 53% reported having undergone an emergency. Of the 31 museums without an emergency plan, 19 (61%) have had an emergency.

Training Needs

Looking at all the 277 training needs listed, 65 (24%) museums identified collections management as a priority closely followed by conservation (14%), front of house (15%) and administration (14%).

Income Generation

66% of museums charge admissions, 35% hire out their venue, 63% run a museum shop whilst funds are also raised through donations (26%), grants (12%), membership programmes (8%), training (7%), consulting (5%) guided visits (5%), cafeteria (5%) and charging for events (5%)

The full data was presented to the MAC Board in a thorough report and an executive summary with recommendations. A brief report was also presented at the 2011 AGM in Antigua to those attending. The full findings of the Survey will eventually be placed on the MAC website.

The International Council of Museums



Nigel Sadler and David Hayes, the formal MAC Delegation at ICOM 2010 Shanghai



Caribbean museum workers at ICOM 2010 Shanghai



ICOM meeting about to start at the UNESCO offices in Paris, 2010

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) has over 28000 worldwide members. Membership to ICOM is through one of the national bodies such as ICOM-Barbados, ICOM-Jamaica or ICOM-Dominican Republic, but the Caribbean also has a problem in that islands which are still territories of the USA, UK or France have to join via the national body of ICOM-UK, ICOM-France, ICOM-USA. Until recently these national bodies did not realize that they represented the overseas territories and therefore provided no support. In 2008 MAC representatives met with members from most of these national bodies and put the case forward for better support. In 2011 former MAC President, Nigel Sadler, was elected to the board of ICOM-UK to represent the UK overseas territories, of which 6 are in the Caribbean region.

ICOM also consists of regional alliances such as ICOM-LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) and specialists groups which any ICOM member can join. Then there are the Affiliate members (which include MAC, Pacific Islands Museum Association and the Commonwealth Association of Museums) which have a voting right.

For MAC to get more international support, we need more MAC members to join ICOM and for MAC itself to make sure it has representation at the annual ICOM meeting in Paris and the triennial Conference. MAC has been an active member of ICOM since 2004 and has had a delegation at the triennials in Seoul (2004), Austria (2007) and China (2010) and at the annual Paris meetings in 2008, 2009 and 2011.

Museums Emergency Programme (MEP) and Disaster Relief Task Force (DRTF)

Over the last few years, the MAC Board has been working very closely with the ICOM Secretariat in trying to bring the MEP to the Caribbean. It is now an ICOM priority and funding is being sought for 2012. One of the reasons for the delay is that ICOM are making MEP and DRFT work closer together. DRTF is a committee made up of nominated ICOM members and it is their job that if a country requests help after a disaster to follow the media and make contact with affected museums to keep the Secretariat informed of the situation and what is needed. The DRTF do not enter a disaster area, they just monitor and report. For example DRTF monitored the situation in Haiti in 2010 and produced several reports for ICOM. In 2011 former MAC President Nigel Sadler was nominated onto the DRTF.

Because ICOM is trying to create a greater partnership between MEP and DRTF, a new MEP is being formulated and the Caribbean will be the first region that the new format will be tested in. The aim is to make it more flexible to the participants: an MEP in India for example will have different parameters than one that is aimed at covering an area full of small island nations like the Caribbean.

Fire at the Pompey Museum of Slavery and Emancipation, Bahamas

The Pompey Museum of Slavery and Emancipation, which is operated by the National Museum of The Bahamas/ Antiquities, Monuments and Museum Corporation was destroyed by fire during the early hours of the morning on Friday 2nd December 2011. The fire extensively damaged the interior of the two storey building and the western and southern exterior walls, leaving much rubble and debris in the aftermath.

The museum is located in the historic Vendue House at the juncture of Bay and George Streets. Originally used as a market place for the town of Nassau, the building constructed of cut-limestone blocks dates to around 1769. Slaves were among the commodities sold from Vendue House. The museum was opened at this site in 1992 and an exhibition entitled The Road to Freedom: Slavery in The Bahamas was mounted. On September 4th 2001 the building was damaged in the Bay Street Fire. As a result of the fire, it was evacuated. At the time of the fire, staff and ancillary services demonstrated their preparedness as over 97% of all of the collections on display and stored were saved. The museum was restored and reopened in June 2004 and two major exhibitions have been mounted over the years, A Slave Ship Speaks: The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie followed by the Lest We Forget: The Triumph Over Slavery created by the Schomburg Institute for Research in Black Culture to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the new world.

Over the years the Pompey Museum has amassed a significant collection of rare books on the subject of slavery and related topics. Its object collection includes slave shackles of different kinds, a whip, cloth dolls, coins and West African trading beads of note. There was also a mural depicting Parliament Square and Bay Street during the 1850s. The mural was created during the 1960s to adorn the walls of the newly opened branch of City Bank located on the ground floor of the Adderley Building. This regrettable was totally destroyed by fire along with all of the information panels and all of the historic documents. The wooden artifacts, including a slave bed and musket were badly charred and they along with other wooden pieces will need conservation. On display were two cloth dolls, although damaged one survived the fire. The Department of Archives is assisting with cleaning of the book collection, some of them are wet and others were covered with soot and smelled of the smoke. The metal objects including slave shackles, a double transportation slave collar, and crab style runaway collar are being cleaned and have minimal damage. Over all, 90% of the objects were saved even though a small percentage of them are damaged and all of the books in the special collection were saved even though some of them have some water damage.

The staff of the National Museum of The Bahamas was on hand to secure the objects and special thanks to the maintenance crew who packed and transported the objects to safety. The Fire Department especially the officers who entered the building and retrieved the objects are to be commended. We at the National Museum of The Bahamas are especially grateful for the outpouring of support and concern expressed by Bahamians at large and in the very near future we plan to provide an opportunity for further public involvement through a Restore Pompey Museum Campaign.

Press release prepared by The Antiquities, Monuments and Museum Corporation (www.ammcbahamas.com) Collins Avenue and Shirley Street, P.O. Box E.E.15082 Nassau, Bahamas.

When Disaster Strikes: The Pompey Museum Fire



The interior of The Pompey Museum after the fire



A badly burnt slave doll taken from the museum after the fire



A fire fighter tries to put out the raging fire as it burns through the rooftop of the museum



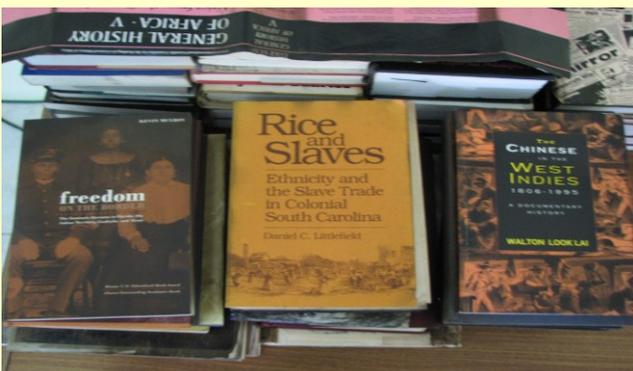
A severely charred wooden slave bed post that was salvaged after the fire



Museum Curator Kim Outten-Stubbs talks to the press as Dr. Gail Saunders Deputy Chairman of the AMMC looks on



Conservation efforts for the shackles and chains from the fire



Slave books recovered from the museum



The shackles and chains being laid out to dry after cleaning

**MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM
MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF THE CARIBBEAN (MAC)
2011 - 2012**

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:

Bishnu Tulsie
Director
Saint Lucia National Trust
Pigeon Island national Landmark
P. O. Box 595
Castries
Saint Lucia

Latest News

Upcoming Events

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

2012

The Fifth International Conference on the Inclusive Museum is to be held at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados, from 2 to 5 August 2012.

<http://onmuseums.com/conference-2012/sessions/>

To be confirmed

Museum Emergency Planning Training Course run by ICOM
MAC AGM – The MAC Board are still waiting for proposals but the AGM is likely to be held in October or November

International Museum Day (IMD) Themes

IMD is held on or around May 18th

2012 IMD theme is Museums in a Changing World. New challenges, New inspirations. (<http://imd2012.icom.museum>)

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

Contributing Articles to the Newsletter

Would you like to write an article for the newsletter? We are looking for articles on the work being carried out by museums in the Caribbean, requests for help, or on any information that you think your colleagues would find of use. For articles please submit no more than 400 words, and if possible three or four images.

Please send your articles to:

nigel.sadler@sandsoftimeconsultancy.com

The deadline for receipt of articles is a full month before the publication date. The 2012 provisional publication dates are:
April 26th July 31st October 31st

The 2013 provisional publication dates are:

January 31st April 31st July 31st October 31st

However, publication dates might change to fit in the need to release information to the members.

Latest Publications

If you know of any publications coming out that will be of interest to museum professionals in the Caribbean, please send details for inclusion in the newsletter

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

ICOM Conference in Brazil

ICOM Conference in Rio, Brazil, 2013

ICOM will be holding their conference in Rio, Brazil, 10-17th August 2013. Even though this is over 18 months away, MAC would like to start planning for it. Several MAC members will be attending and MAC would like to know of other Caribbean museums planning to attend. If possible, MAC may host a Caribbean meeting whilst in Rio.

PIMA Partnership

MAC has been working with the Pacific Islands Museum Association (PIMA) in creating sustainable partnerships. PIMA has received a substantial grant. The program is part of the European-Union funded and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) managed 'Structuring the Cultural Sector for Improved Human Development' project. Some of this money has been earmarked for an exchange program where a museum worker from the Caribbean and a museum worker from the Pacific Islands undertake a two week placement at each other's museums. PIMA and MAC have recently announced that the two lucky candidates are Kerron Hamblin from the Barbados Museum and Historical Society and Edward Wale, a conservator from the Solomon Islands.

There will be more about these placements in upcoming newsletters as well as other developments between MAC and PIMA.

New National Museum Planned in Montserrat

Officials have commissioned a new National Museum in Montserrat. Director of Tourism at the Montserrat Tourism Board, Ms. Ernestine Cassell, comments: "The start of building work on the new National Museum in Little Bay is a clear indicator that Montserrat is well on its way to re-development following the years of volcanic activity. It's a vital part of our tourism product and represents another important milestone in Montserrat's history."

The Montserrat National Trust will be responsible for setting up the exhibitions once the building is completed. The National Museum will have exhibition areas, a souvenir shop, meeting room, café and activity area and will be equipped to accommodate those with disabilities.

Display Cases Conservation Material **Exhibition Design** Policy Production
Insurance Collection Care Emergency Recovery Fundraising
Publications **LIGHTING** Project Management Research Image Archives

Would you like to Advertise your Products and Services?

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Does your company supply products to museums in the Caribbean or carry out services for the heritage sector? Would you like to promote your products or services to the many hundreds of museums and heritage organisations in the Caribbean region?

During 2012 the Museums Association of the Caribbean's newsletters will be distributed to over 200 museums in the regions and will be placed on the MAC website.

If you would like to discuss promoting your company in the newsletter please contact nigel.sadler@sandsoftimeconsultancy.com for rates.

Alternatively, if you would like to discuss how your business can support MAC and help museums in the region develop please contact us.

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