

Annual Report 2010

Breaking News: Emergency Planning Training

Due to various delays MAC has been unable to organize the Emergency training in 2010. The plan now is to carry out the MAC Questionnaire to gather data that would be useful in the planning of the training and to hold the training during 2011.

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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.

MAC Apologizes for the long time since the last newsletter but this has been due to several changes in the organization and for MAC waiting on news of some of its projects. The MAC Board has decided that instead of waiting any longer it will use the newsletter to give a detailed informal Annual Report of MAC during 2010, as well as developments in the region that would normally appear in our newsletter.

In 2010 MAC was unable to host its usual AGM as it had been hoping that it could coordinate a joint AGM and an emergency training course but funding for the latter was not forthcoming and this left no time to organize a separate AGM. It is usually at the AGM that the President presents a formal annual report to MAC members and as this was not possible, the newsletter provides a means for an informal annual report. It should be noted that this annual report covers 2010, and already items covered in this have moved along, and these changes will be reported in Newsletter 6, which will be due out as soon as we can confirm a date for our next AGM.

In this issue we cover in detail the attendance of MAC members at the Association of American Museums (AAM) annual meeting in Los Angeles. If MAC wants to raise its profile in the museum sector it needs to attend such national and international meetings. In the case of AAM costs was met through grants and individuals/organizations paying for their staff to attend. This is a commitment that MAC Board members make when elected so that when they attend a conference representing their organization (or as an individual) who has paid for their attendance then they will also attend representing MAC. This was also the case when 2 MAC Board members attended the Federation of International Human Rights Museums (FIHRM) inaugural meeting, Liverpool in September and when two board members attended the ICOM meeting in Shanghai, China in November.

It is important that MAC networks so that not only our worries and concerns as a region are recognized on a wider stage, but also so that we can celebrate success and share good practices found in the Caribbean.

The newsletter can also be downloaded from the MAC website:

www.caribbeanmuseums.com



Sonja Arias © centroleon.org.do

MAC says farewell to Sonja Arias as President as she leaves her post at Centro Leon, and is replaced as President by Catalina Flórez.

Change of President

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 the institutions leaves that institution and a new individual is then assigned to represent that Institution on the Board. MAC has for first time seen the person who has been the President be replaced as she has left the institution she represented.

Once the Board is elected by the membership at the AGM the Board members meet and will then elect between themselves the President, Vice President, Chairperson, 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.

The Board members have worked very closely with Sonja Arias over her term as a Board member and we offer her our best wishes to Sonja Arias in her future endeavours. We know Sonja will not be too far away from MAC (see page 3)

Who is the New President?



Catalina Flórez, Centro Leóns' representative as President of the Board
c.florez@centroleon.org.do

In March 2008 Catalina joined the Centro León as Executive Manager. Her mission is to support all activities undertaken by the institution by the coordination of interchanges between the different institutional areas: culture, education, socio-cultural animation, communications and marketing, as well as to advice in administration and financial management. Catalina has experience and knowledge in the wider Caribbean and she was appointed as Coordination Manager of the institutional program *Constructing the Caribbean: towards its own agenda*.

Catalina Florez © centroleon.org.do

New MAC Questionnaire

MAC is a membership organization and therefore is responsive to calls for action from its membership. Over the last few years the MAC Board has been developing MAC but the practicality of doing this is limited if the membership are not asking questions, seeking support or offering their help to develop the organization.

The MAC Board agreed that the Questionnaire would be a priority of 2011 and In December 2010 started to find the best way forward through conducting a survey to create an online database of museums in the Caribbean, to identify a regional 'needs list' and to develop training programmes. The resulting information will help MAC to prepare a long-term forward plan that would benefit museums in the region.

The information to be gathered is very important that as it will be the basis for two very important developments.

The first is to create a full directory of the museums in the region, their collections and their strengths. The second is to create a greater understanding of the needs of the museums in the Caribbean so that MAC can develop a training strategy for the region. It is important to know what our members, and museums, see as their needs for training and support as this will strengthen our request for funding to run training course. Most funding agencies require us to prove that there is a need for the courses we want to often and the results from the Questionnaire give us this tangible information.

Museum contact information as well as general information regarding its collections and services will be used to create a directory of Caribbean museums which will be online on the MAC website. All other information will be held by the MAC Board to allow it to plan. Some information may be shared with other relevant museum bodies, such as ICOM, but will not be made available to a wider audience. Statistics generated from the survey will be made available where it does not identify individual museums.

The survey is being carried out by Sands of Time Consultancy on behalf of MAC. Sonja Arias and Nigel Sadler, both former Presidents of MAC will be carrying out the data collection and analysis for Sands of Time Consultancy.

So how will museums in the region benefit? We can not say at the moment how individual museums will benefit. However, what we can say is that for 20 minutes of your time filling in the questionnaire there will be no cost to your museum. What we are hoping is that by identifying our needs and sourcing funding we will be able to offer free or heavily subsidized training, and the priority of places will be given to museums that responded to our questionnaire.

Update:

The Survey was carried out throughout January and February 2011 and will data collected, recommendations and the way forward will make up part of the next newsletter.

Publications in 2010



MUSEUM International N°245-6 Shared Heritage Shared Futures

Heritage in Conflict and Consensus: towards an international agenda for the twenty-first century *Elizabeth Chilton & Neil Silberman*
Chap. 1: Heritage from Conflict to Consensus
Chap. 2 Diasporic Communities and Religious Heritage in a Globalized World

This special issue of MUSEUM International offers a glimpse of the provocative and stimulating discussions that took place in November 2009 at an international work-shop entitled 'Heritage Conflict and Consensus'. The workshop highlighted the work of scholars and heritage professionals connected with projects in the European Union; the United States; Israel, Palestine and Jordan; India and Southeast Asia; South Africa and Mauritius; and African American and Native American communities of Canada and the United States – all scenes of sometimes bitter conflicts over the right to possess and interpret archaeological and human remains



British West Indies Style: Antigua, Jamaica, Barbados, and Beyond
 by Michael Connors, Ph.D. (ISBN: 978-0-8478-3307-8 (0-8478-3307-0)
Publisher: Rizzoli), released in October 2010.

Caribbean Houses is a lavishly illustrated account of the development of historically significant houses in the West Indies. Author Michael Connors, a West Indian decorative arts scholar, examines venerable houses that remain as a testimony to the rich history and vibrant lifestyle that was, and continues to be, an important part of Caribbean culture. The book gives the reader a unique view of houses that combine the tradition of European styles with the vernacular island forms and decorative motifs. The lavish new photography captures the stunning exteriors and provides a rare look into the interiors of these historic houses, with exotic tropical hardwoods, indigenous stone, and a blending of local crafts and handiwork with antiques and contemporary furnishings. With the disappearance of so much of the Caribbean's historic domestic architecture, the colonial residences that still exist represent an important historical record of the Caribbean's material culture.

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

Latest News 1

Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park - Fort George Museum, St. Kitts

Hazel Brookes

The Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park Society plans to open a new exhibit in the Fort George Museum later this year and is currently working on the exhibit with the working title, '**The Protective Forces of St. Kitts Nevis and Anguilla; and the involvement of locals in 20th Century wars.**' They have contracted Museum Consultant Hazel Brookes to research, design and mount the exhibition with the assistance of the museum staff.

The historical story of the men and women who in the past, and presently, protect these islands will be told. Beginning with the Kalinago and culminating with the present day Defence Force, the military of the Federation and including those who served overseas in the two world wars this story is long overdue.

One of the barrack rooms is being prepared for the exhibition; this involves the structural and physical aspects of re-plastering and whitewashing the ceilings, laying down new wooden floors, building panels and installing overhead lighting. Special locally made furniture is being designed to hold uniforms and a trench-like structure is being constructed for enhanced visitor interaction.

This new exhibit will increase the galleries of the Fort George Museum to six and add to the overall story told at this amazing World Heritage Site as well as the Society's mandate to continue to develop the park and its facilities.

For further information about the park please visit the Brimstone Hill website at www.brimstonehill.org



Brimstone Hill Fortress

Federation of International Human Rights Museums inaugural meeting, Liverpool

On the 15th and 16th September the international Slavery Museum in Liverpool, UK, hosted the inaugural meeting of the Federation of International Human Rights Museums (FIHRM). Nearly 100 delegates from 20 countries attended to debate aspects of the works of museums that cover exhibitions on Human Rights. One of the core debates was whether museums could remain neutral when covering such subjects, and in fact more positively maybe these museums should become active campaigners and encourage visitors to campaign as well. The meeting concluded that FIHRM had a future and plans are now underway to formalize the organization and prepare for the next meeting.

The Caribbean was well represented with Luisa De Pena, Director of 'Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance' presenting a paper and Hazel Brookes, representing Chepstow Museum and St Kitts, and Victoria O'Flaherty, Director of the National Archives St Kitts and Nevis having poster exhibitions on their work. Nigel Sadler was also present representing MAC.

For more information visit www.FIHRM.org

Latest News 2



Mrs Evelyn J Henville, the new Executive Director for the Nevis Historical Conservation Society.

Executive Director for the Nevis Historical and Conservation

Mrs Evelyn J. Henville, MA was appointed as the Executive Director for the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society (<http://www.nevis-nhcs.org/>). Mrs. Henville has worked as an elementary and high school teacher, as Senior Education Officer in charge of the Department of Education on Nevis and briefly as Deputy Post Mistress on Nevis.

She has also worked in the USA. In Atlanta she was Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity, where she raised over \$2.5 million for new home construction. In Florida she was Director of Recruitment & Retention for Brevard Public Schools.

In June 2008 Mrs Henville returned to St. Kitts & Nevis and manages her family's non-profit organization, **Caribbean Foundation for Children, Inc.**, whose mission is to serve families of Florida and the Caribbean. The Foundation focuses on children in need with specific emphasis on health, and education.

Mrs. Henville began participating in additional non-profit work which included serving on the board of directors for the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society (NHCS). In April 2010 when the position of Executive Director for the NHCS became available Mrs. Henville applied and was hired.

As Executive Director of NCHS Mrs. Henville states:

“Our people must know their past in order to craft their future and one of the most important and visible ways for us to know and participate in our past is to develop our heritage, know our history, conserve and preserve our human materials, and present our museums. Therefore it is imperative that we

- 1) Encourage the Caribbean public to become more involved in our museums, increase our membership and build a strong volunteer base
- 2) Develop the Society's fundraising capabilities
- 3) Make our Museums more relevant to the average Caribbean citizen by putting their history to the forefront of the Museums, and
- 4) Create a comfortable workplace for the Museum staff.”

St. Maarten Heritage Foundation and Museum

St Maarten Heritage Foundation and Museum have recently launched their new website.

Why not take a visit at:

www.museumsintmaarten.org

St. Maarten Heritage Foundation and Museum
 St. Maarten National Heritage Foundation
 Frontstreet 7, Pobox 631
 Philipsburg
 St. Maarten
 tel: (599) 542 4917

New Appointments

MAC Attends the Association of American Museums (AAM) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, May 23-26, 2010

Images from AAM Conference



MAC Delegation at AAM (Luisa De Peña, Marie Thérèse Saint-Natus, María Belissa Ramírez, Sonja Arias, Vicky Jáquez, David Hayes and Jason Ramsay).



Sonja Arias, Julien Anfruns, Hiromi Shiba



David Hayes (MAC Secretary) and Sonja Arias (MAC President)

In January MAC was approached by Erik Ledbetter, Director, International Programs and Ethics, American Association of Museums asking MAC to support a grant application to the ICOM Fellowship to provide funding for three MAC nominated attendees for the AAM conference in Los Angeles. This grant was part of an ICOM program to support projects of national committees, international committees and regional alliances related to the implementation of ICOM's Strategic Plan for 2010.

The board decided that this would be a good venue for MAC to raise its profile and it was decided that one of the sponsored positions should be taken up by the MAC president, Sonja Arias. It was also decided that a second place be taken up by a delegate from Haiti so that the situation in Haiti could also be reported and this position was offered to ICOM Haiti for them to nominate a suitable candidate. The third place was opened up to MAC members.

Thanks to an ICOM fellowship, the MAC delegation was composed by Marie Thérèse Saint-Natus (Educational Director at Parc Historique de la Canne à Sucre, Haïti), Jason Ramsay (Keeper of Collections at Institute of Jamaica) and Sonja Arias.

The theme of the annual meeting, *Museums Without Borders*, attracted 5,000 museum professionals from all over the United States and abroad. Special sessions with an international focus and simultaneous translations into Spanish and Mandarin Chinese promoted interesting cross-cultural exchanges among participants.

This year's theme was explored through a variety of sessions covering a wide array of disciplines related to the museum professions: collections stewardship, facilities and risk management, finance, governance, human resources, interpretation and education, marketing and public relations, and institutional planning. Two keynote sessions by writers Julia Alvarez and Amy Tan left attendants deeply inspired. Evening events provided great opportunities to visit local museums such as the Getty Center, the Museum of Latin American Art or the Fowler Museum at UCLA.

Other MAC members present were David Hayes (MAC Secretary, St Croix), Hiromi Shiba (Caribbean University, Puerto Rico), Luisa De Peña, Vicky Jáquez and María Belissa Ramírez (Museo Memorial de la Resistencia, Dominican Republic), and Lourdes Ramos (Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico).

Breaking the Barriers and Bringing Forth the Ties That Bind

Jason Ramsey, Institute of Jamaica

What do you get when you gather over 5000 experienced museums personnel from around the globe? You end up with five days of “cultural cross-referencing”, swapping of experiences, stories and a plethora of ideas, basically a “Museum without borders”. This move by the AAM for me signaled the same fall as the Berlin Wall, where barriers, whether it be cultural, social and geographical were destroyed in an attempt to unify West Berlin with East Germany and East Berlin. My attendance signified for me a small chip in that Wall.

The five days involved sessions, café workshops, exhibitions and social gatherings (not parties), geared at breaking down a barrier of disconnection between museums worldwide and to bring together various views, ideology and perspectives framed within a conceptualized museum setting. Although it was not the first of its kind, it was my first convention and offered to me more than just an opportunity for site seeing, but a chance to broaden an already existing and what little knowledge I had on museums and its operations especially on a global level. It was exhilarating to meet museums professionals and exchange, well in my case gather as much as possible, theoretical and practical frameworks and current research.

In attending the conference my main aim was to attend as much sessions as possible, especially those that dealt with the area of conservation and preservation. This meant that I had to do “session hoping” as the day was jam packed with probably over fifty (50) sessions happening per day, on the hour. For me the most intense session visited looked at working with emotionally sensitive objects. The conservation sessions alleviated some of my fears in terms of conservation practices that we administer at the Institute of Jamaica, as well the global methods for correct conservation. Just imagine my relief to hear key note presenters speaking on preventative conservation techniques and to note that we are on par with other museums in some of the technical conservation methods. The sessions further offered viable solutions for organisations with limited funding to improve on their storage environmental conditions providing for longevity of the nations objects. We also examine the role of Conservation Assessment Program and Museums Assessment Program, which involved the general conservation assessment (unlike a detailed collection survey), provides an overview of all of the museum’s collections as well as its environmental conditions and policies and procedures relating to collections care. The program supports a two-day site visit by conservation professional to perform the assessment. For museums located in historic structures, the program supports a two-day site visit by a preservation architect. Assessment reports are then provided. This would be valuable to our organization, which would provide a museum of our size better insight of the running’s of larger museums.

The session entitled Working with sensitive objects, portrayed the scant regard that we may tend to have for our objects from time to time and the connection we should have with sensitive objects. Amy McEwen points that at times it is difficult to separate one’s self from the objects with which you work, and as such those who work around sensitive objects must be careful in how they immerse themselves as to caring for the objects. She made reference to the 9/11 collection and the counselling sessions that were administered to each staff and donor that came in to contact with the various relics of the tragic incident. It is impossible at times to separate from the artefacts, as they tell a history of ones past and reflects what the future will possibly hold. This session helped me to develop a deeper appreciation for the sensitive artefacts within our collection, especially our slavery collection, as more than just relics of the past and how best we can portray these to the audience as more than just torture implements. They carry with them stories of hardship, slavery, punishment and in and of itself the fight for freedom.

Museums as Borders can be applied to more than just the setting in LA. The museum acts as a way of connecting those within our community and the world with a brief look into the past. It is the institution that connects, reflects and represents history. Museums cannot be confined to a space or border as it bridges the gap between oneself and history. I am proud to have attended the conference and must say well done to the American Association of Museums for breaking the barriers and bringing forth the ties that bind.

The AAM 2010 Convention: An Enriching Experience for a Foreign Fellow

Marie Therese Michaelle Auguste Saint-Natus, Sugar Cane Historical Park

Great was my surprise to be informed by ICOM-Haiti, following MAC's correspondence from Sonja Arias, that there was the possibility of attending the AAM convention in Los Angeles. This mark of attention to a Haitian ICOM member was particularly rewarding and encouraging after the hardships of the January 12th earthquake in Haiti. Thanks to the determination of the MAC President, Sonia Arias, Monika Graves and Bahar Parvin of AAM, I was able to go through all the necessary steps for registration and travel.

The AAM organizers made sure all fellows from the Caribbean traveled in the same plane and I got the stewardess on the plane to call Sonja, our devoted delegation coordinator, and all three of us, Sonja from Dominican Republic, Jason from Jamaica and I, got to meet before we got to Los Angeles. I had not realized that it would be so cold in L.A. I tried in vain to buy a coat at the airport, but picked up one at the hotel store.

On Sunday I arrived early at the conference to taste the general registration atmosphere and get an idea of town. I happily walked to the Convention Center and was oriented to the right sections by Mr Ford, the President of AAM himself. I was surprised to see how AAM staff members and volunteers knew me already. Around mid-day, Sonja Arias and Monika Graves made sure Jason, I and many other fellows got a good orientation, excellent information, and they recommended some sessions to us although leaving us free to choose and attend as many sessions as we wanted. This is indeed what I did, tempted by many titles and wanting to get as much information as possible back home.

I looked for presentations which presented new ideas, new visions and new strategies totally unknown to me. I also searched for presentations on museology or on personal development. I liked the sincerity with which people were presenting their own problems that were so universal and which could fit everyone. I enjoyed the sessions that made it clear and urgent, the need for all to cope and work together. I realized I was not sometimes selling myself at best by attending the session on branding. I became more conscious of how important the tone and patience are important in resolving and avoiding conflicts. It became clearer to me how risk-taking is an important necessity at times.

I enjoyed the advice and techniques sharing sessions where a large number of professionals were providing practical advice based on their own experiences. Such sessions were extremely enriching and diversified.

I was able to get acquainted with new professional projects and I particularly appreciated the presentation on futuristic museums in the Middle East and Asia. The MARP presentations were also really structured in terms of administration and evaluation of museums. They impressed me and I thought our museum – and especially its board -- could really benefit from this program. These MARP instruments were well thought out, the technical assistance given seemed extremely professional and well planned, encouraging people to do more with respect and high level motivation. I even met a St Croix archeologist who was a consultant delivering such training. He was able to give me other concrete examples of the benefits to his own institution and others.

Remembering my years in NYC working with minorities I also attended a session where the susceptibilities of various ethnic communities in the US were put up front. It made me think about the need to identify some aspects of my own exhibits that might offend given populations. During this presentation, it was interesting to note how sensitive some issues can be to some groups and how one can offend without really meaning to. This opened new thoughts and concerns for me and forced me to think about how to deal with such situations instead of avoiding them. I have had difficulties presenting exhibits on human relations in Haitian colonial times, during slavery and after, and problems approaching the sugar cane worker immigration to Cuba and Dominican Republic. These are sensitive issues that need to be addressed but I still have to work it out and find the best way to do so. I am more than ever convinced that I to find the right materials and content without disturbing diplomatic relations or exacerbating tensions.

One aspect that really surprised me attending the AAM convention was the information provided on the national museum sector in the U.S., and their budgets. It made me realize that just like in my country, one must really want to have a museum and be ready to support it financially if it is to continue to exist. I understood why there are so many volunteers in American Museum, and the sessions on volunteers and docents illustrated the respect given to them, their role and dedication. I was really amazed at all the discussions and concerns expressed in relation to them and to their well-being during the convention. It was also surprising for me to note how many types of volunteers there are, how their schedules and tasks could vary and how everything is truly made to use them properly to serve the visitors. We have not yet gotten to this point in my country and my museum but this is now something I may want to develop now.

I was less encouraged to go to sessions dealing with new technologies. Also, having just gone through a major disaster, although appropriate, I was not interested in sessions on prevention which would have brought too many bad memories and proposed actions that I would have judged limited in the case of such inevitable and extraordinary catastrophe, and there were no practical sessions about restoring objects. Being an educator and former dean of school of education, I felt the same way about topics on education in museums.

I did attend sessions on subjects totally or relatively new to me. I did not regret such a choice feel they enriched me considerably. I also attended the major keynote addresses and this was a special moment for me as I felt like a member of AAM, an organization to which I had just registered with. Mr Ford was extremely motivating and made me feel part of it. His love of our profession could be felt openly. His immense efforts to promote it and see it advance were obvious and appreciated by all.

The memories of the keynote immigrant writers speaking to us, their experience, observations and insights were not new to me. I think their speeches were well chosen, enabling many participants to know such a reality and sensitizing them to the needs of possible new visitors to their museums in a more diverse and culturally global world. I felt particularly honored and part of it when Mrs Alvarez talked about the Haitian "Lamayot" in her speech. It really made feel like Haiti was not alone in the world, and that culture was a bridge between the two Hispaniola nations. I was to feel the same during my visit at the Fowler museum of UCLA when looking at anthropological objects and their similarities among culture. I was enchanted by the splendor of the Getty Museum and did not regret that visit either. I would have loved to talk to its director and found out about their foundation's work abroad, but he was very busy. This disappointment was compensated by the special invitations and attention to culturally different groups or politically and socially deprived groups at receptions organized during the conference. These opened avenues and opportunities to me, enabling me to link with the networks and meet other museum professionals with common interests.

In spite of all the time spent going to sessions and other activities I found the time to visit the exhibitors gallery too. The booths that attracted me the most were those giving information on funding, on inter-museum collaboration, on temperature control, on mannequins, on glass showcases and lighting systems and projections. I was able to get some pamphlets on museum insurances because we just experienced a rather limited reimbursement on a policy that was not fit for museums, but unfortunately the museum insurance companies present had nothing to offer foreign museums. I also bought some basic books on museum management, ethics, standards and back in Haiti I have made that other professionals and board members know about their availability in our institutional library. I even found a very good article making the difference between governance and management and I sent it to some businessmen supporting our museum.

As can be seen, attending the AAM Convention was very worthwhile for me and what I gained from it went beyond my own personal benefit. I took from it as much as I could and I am grateful to Sonja and Monica to have given me the freedom to move around as many sessions as I desired. As mentioned, the convention also gave me the opportunity to bring back to my colleagues some of what I learnt. Above all, it enabled me to directly connect and share with some important AAM, Blue Shield and ICOM members the needs of my museum as well as those of my country. I think good things will come of out of it and I look forward to it. The experience was so inspiring that I made sure to share the information and encourage the only Master's student in museology who recently graduated from a Patrimony Conservation Program in Haiti, to register or look for a fellowship to attend the November 2010 ICOM Conference in Shanghai.

MAC Delegation at ICOM, Shanghai November 7th-12th 2010.

The MAC board was represented by Nigel Sadler (Vice President) and David Hayes (secretary) with Nigel Sadler also carrying the vote of MAC President, Catalina Flórez. However, it was also a good sign that there were other MAC members present such as Luisa de Pena Diaz and there were several other Caribbean museum workers attending, mostly from Barbados.

ICOM Conference – General Information

The conference had 3360 registered participants (both full attendance and accompanying) from over 120 countries. As an affiliate organisation the MAC delegation held three votes. This year ICOM were trying out a new electronic voting system and MAC helped them make history as Nigel Sadler was the first person to cast a vote.

Dictionary of Museology

ICOM has been working on creating a dictionary of terms related to museology so that the world's museum sector is clear what terms being used mean. This is complicated as some terms are not translatable whilst others mean differing things when translated. At the ICOM meeting all present delegates were given a free copy of 'Key Concepts of Museology', either in English, French or Spanish. This is a preliminary publication as a lead up to the full publication of the 'Dictionary of Museology'. The issue of costs of distribution of a paper publication was raised and it was confirmed that the dictionary would be available on the ICOM website.

International Museum Day

There was a vote held for the theme for the 2012 IMD. Several themes were nominated and a vote was held. The MAC Delegation voted for: Connecting Continents which was nominated by Namibia, as we felt it was a good topic for Caribbean Museums as they could link up with museums in Africa and Europe to tie in with the transatlantic slave trade, with India and China for the movement of Indentured labour in the 19th and 20th century and with all the world through shared cultures. Unfortunately MAC voted on lost out to the theme: Museums in a Changing World: New Challenges – New Inspirations

MAC Business Conducted in Shanghai

Nigel and David made good use of their time and arranged several meetings as well as attending the formal business of the ICOM Meeting. One of the main areas of progress was meeting France Desmarais, Director of Programmes for ICOM to discuss the Museum Emergency Programme that is being considered for the Caribbean region in partnership with MAC. This was a very fruitful meeting in which MAC was informed that this was one of ICOM priorities. The desire is still to hold a single training session but they are aware of the major issues that face the Caribbean (language, size of islands and costs of travel etc). If they are unable to offer a single training session they will look at offering two or three sessions based either on language or region. The format of the training is also under discussion and ICOM would like MAC to help identify local professionals or professionals with knowledge of the Caribbean who would be able to be employed as the trainers. Luisa de Pena Diaz has kindly offered to host the training in Dominican Republic

Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) online training

Prior to going to the ICOM meeting MAC received communication from CAM regarding their Distance Education Course, Introduction to Museum Studies. They already have some 'students' in the Caribbean, most notably in Guyana. David and Nigel met with Martin Segger from Cam to discuss this further. We recommended that CAM talk with the University of West Indies to see if this could become affiliated to one of their courses and would therefore the course would become accredited giving it an academic value.

ICOM-LAC (Latin America and Caribbean)

David and Nigel attended the session organized by ICOM-LAC and were allowed to make presentations to the ICOM-LAC committee. David made a presentation on the joint MAC and IACA project to identify Caribbean objects held outside the region, and Nigel made a presentation on the forthcoming museum survey in the Caribbean. It was agreed that ICOM-LAC and MAC should have a closer working relationship.

**MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM
MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF THE CARIBBEAN (MAC)
2010 - 2011**

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

Upcoming Events

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

2011

November

MAC AGM

At present MAC is working on holding its AGM in November 2011. More information will be made available on the website and through the newsletter once final dates, venue and theme are confirmed

To be confirmed

Emergency Planning for Museums Training Course

Future International Museum Day (IMD) Themes

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

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 should also be submitted.

Please send your articles to:

nigel.sadler@sandsoftimeconsultancy.com

The deadline for receipt of articles is a full month before the publication date. The 2010 provisional publication dates are:

January 31st

April 30th

July 31st

October 31st

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

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
