



September 2009

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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.



Come and explore the heritage of Barbados with MAC

Welcome to the second edition of the MAC Newsletter. This newsletter comes hot on the heels of our first newsletter, but this is essential as we are now able to confirm the details for the location and dates for the 2009 MAC Annual General Meeting. The AGM is a time for the museum professionals in the area to get together to network and provides a means to learn about what projects the museums are involved with.

We have just past through August, in which August 23 is the day that UNESCO has identified for an annual commemoration of the end of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. MAC has done a lot to help uncover and promote the heritage and legacy of the enslaved workers in the Caribbean, especially through the research carried out for the UNESCO Slave Route Project in 1999/2000. It is hoped that in the next newsletter MAC will be able to announce the latest on this project.

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:

www.caribbeanmuseums.com

Our Hosts Will be the Barbados National Museum



Barbados National Museum

The Barbados National Museum is located at the Garrison, and is housed in the former British Military Prison. The prison, whose upper section was built in 1817 and lower section in 1853, became the headquarters of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society in 1930.

The Barbados National Museum was a founder member of the Museums Association of the Caribbean and has had very close ties with the development of MAC over the last 20 years. It is fitting that in Alissandra Cummings last year as ICOM President that Barbados will host the MAC AGM.

2009 Annual General Meeting Announcements

A main purpose of MAC is to organise an annual meeting where fellow professionals can meet and share experiences, provide support and learn about what each museum is presently working on.

This years AGM is to coincide with an Executive Council meeting of ICOM so we can benefit from their experiences and skills.

The following is a very provisional timetable:

28 November Saturday	Members and Board Arrives
29 November Sunday	AM: Members arrive, MAC Board meet PM: Tour of Barbados
30 November Monday	MAC AGM
1 December Tuesday	MAC Conference. (Presentations from Members of the Executive Council)
2 December Wednesday	MAC Conference and Conclusion of AGM
2 December Wednesday	Evening: Reception and Dinner

The 21st MAC Annual General Meeting and Conference 2009 will take place from November 29 to December 02, 2009 in Barbados under the theme:

‘Caribbean Curatorship and National Identity’

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. The rates at Blue Horizon Hotel are US \$105 for a single room or US \$135 for a double room. All rates include English breakfast and internet access. Rates for the Accra Beach Hotel & Spa will be communicated in due course. There are also guesthouses in the surrounding area, approximately a five-minute drive from the conference venue. Their rates range from US \$60 to US \$80.

The registration fee for the Meeting and Conference is US \$75 and the deadline for payment is 30th October 2009.

We look forward to welcoming you to the conference and to Barbados.

The Pitons Management Area World Heritage Site – Saint Lucia

The Saint Lucia National Trust was at the forefront of national efforts to secure this prestigious designation and continues to have a role in the site's management through its membership on the Pitons Management Area Advisory Committee (PMAAC). However, there are some disturbing developments which threaten the integrity of the site and ultimately its continued inclusion in the World Heritage List.



The Pitons Management Area in Saint Lucia (PMA) was designated a World heritage Site by the World Heritage Committee (WHC) in June 2004. The designation was based on the area's outstanding natural beauty, spectacular geological features and highly productive biological ecosystems.



An example of unsympathetic construction work within the Pitons Management Area, 2004

In arriving at its decision to place the PMA on the list of World Heritage, the WHC requested the Government of Saint Lucia to prepare a Limits of Acceptable Change Study (LACS) to inform future developments within the site so that its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) will not be compromised. This study has not been done. As a consequence the Development Control Authority has no formally approved guidelines to direct its decisions on development approvals within the site. As a result, decisions are taken on an ad-hoc basis without an overall picture of what may be approved or rejected. This is further complicated because persons acquiring property within the PMA are not informed as to what may or may not be permitted prior to their investments.

This state of affairs has led to developments within the boundaries of the PMA which are not consistent with the site's OUV and this has raised concerns within the discussions of the World Heritage Committee. At its meeting in June 2007 the WHC "Note(d) with concern the proposed hotel development that may compromise the superlative natural beauty of the property if not considered in light of the need to preserve the property's Outstanding Universal Value". Other concerns were raised since that decision and we are reliably informed that the WHC will convene a monitoring mission soon to assess the state of the site with the view to making recommendations on its continued presence on the list of World heritage.

The Saint Lucia national trust is currently developing an advocacy programme to encourage Government to take action to ensure the continued listing of the PMA on the list of World heritage.

National Archaeological Museum of Aruba Opens

The Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) congratulates the Government and people of Aruba on the opening of the National Archaeological Museum of Aruba (NAMA), on July 26th, 2009. In these times of great economic uncertainty, MAC is pleased to note that Aruba has not lost sight of the importance of heritage and history in nurturing social and economic resilience. In this regard, the opening of NAMA at this time will serve to build the confidence of the population in their country, remind them of their rich history and provide a reference point for the brighter future to which we all aspire.

The Museums Association of the Caribbean is pleased to welcome NAMA into the family of museums and heritage organizations it represents and looks forward to stronger ties with them and their heritage community.

Iconic historical monuments in St Croix



Fort Frederick



Whims Plantation

St. Croix Population Database 1734-1917

MAC has recently been notified that the "St. Croix Population Database 1734-1917", that has been compiled by Virgin Islands Social History Associates (VISHA) as part of its St. Croix African Roots Project, has begun to go online. You can find it at VISHA's website <http://www.visharoots.org> where it can always be accessed for free. Currently, only the twelve Danish West Indian censuses prepared between 1835 and 1911 are available. Over the next twelve months, they will be progressively adding another 1.7 million records from various other sources. Meanwhile, if you make a trip to St. Croix, you can search the entire database for free at two locations.

Worked on the and support of the St. Croix African Roots Project has already been a tremendous success on St. Croix, and has garnered considerable worldwide attention.

My Favourite Museum Item

We need your Help

This is to be a regular section in our newsletter and we will need your help. Do you have a favourite item held by a Caribbean museum or do you have a favourite museum in the Caribbean. If you do why not write a short article explaining your choice and send it to:

nigel.sadler@sandsoftimeconsultancy.com

Archaeological Work in the Caribbean



Archaeologists looking for the slave ship *Trouvadore*, Turks and Caicos Islands



The archaeological research centre in St Eustatius



An exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of the St Lucia National Trust. National Trusts are often responsible for archaeological work in the region.



Archaeological centre in St Maarten

Archaeological work around the Caribbean has uncovered valuable items to be added to museum collections. Together, archaeologists, historians and museum professionals help uncover the diversity of heritage in the region.

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Partnership with the International Association of Caribbean Archaeologists (IACA)

At the 2008 MAC AGM resolutions were passed to show that MAC are not only wanting to preserve the heritage in the Caribbean but also to create an inventory of artifacts from the Caribbean held outside the region (see Newsletter 1 page 5)

One of MAC's key allies in meeting these resolutions will be IACA and during their AGM in Antigua in June 2009 IACA members discussed this in more detail. During the conference MAC and IACA boards released a letter stating that:

"As part of a cooperative project between IACA and MAC to learn, preserve and educate the people of the Caribbean we are requesting each of us to help compile a useable database of where the heritage objects and records of the Caribbean exist in the world. It is not the intention of this IACA-MAC project to demand the return of these objects and records, but rather to identify where they are stored.

Many of these Caribbean heritage objects and records have been spread around the globe in the five centuries of world integration since the time of Columbus, and thus the goal of this project is to compile a database of the tangible and intangible (knowledge) for future research.

IACA and MAC are hereby requesting that each of us send in a list of where we know materials about or from the Caribbean are deposited. Of special interest are those collections that are no longer being studied at the institution where they are stored. Collectors' collections without complete documentation are of interest and are useable for educational programs. Please include a list of as many reports or papers presented about any Caribbean topic from archaeology to zoology about which you know.

Our goal is to have on both of our websites a list with brief descriptions and a link to a storage facility or journal. This will be an evolving project that should be largely complete by the 50th anniversary of IACA in 2011.

Thank you and we await your positive contribution to this project."

If you are able to help please contact either IACA or MAC

Developments in St Kitts

Last year MAC held its AGM in St Kitts. We would like to congratulate those protecting and presenting the country's heritage with their latest developments and planned events.

Saint Christopher Heritage Society becomes the Saint Christopher National Trust

The St. Christopher Heritage recently announced that the National Trust bill on which they have been working tirelessly has been passed and this organization is about to evolve into the St. Christopher National Trust. Their new website, www.stkittsheritage.com, is up and running too. The organization also celebrates its 20th year in existence and will host a celebratory banquet at the Ocean Terrace Inn on the 18th July.

The Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) congratulates the St. Christopher Heritage Society and wish the new trust, its members and council every success in achieving its mission. MAC is aware of the challenges heritage organizations face and pledges its support to the SCNT in its infancy and beyond. We also call on the government of St. Christopher and Nevis to provide support to the trust to enable it to effectively support national efforts to conserve the heritage of this proud island nation.

Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park

This year, 2009, the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park celebrates its tenth anniversary of UNESCO World Heritage Status with a week of activities to mark the occasion. The activities combines a Sunset Ceremony with the usual pomp and circumstance of the armed forces on the islands, with an award ceremony, honouring those who have given much of their time and expertise in the past, a tree planting ceremony with Primary School students which it is hoped that communities around the island will be inspired to plant trees in their areas, an essay writing competition for High School student, a Symposium with expert speakers on the Protection of Culture from the OECS, and culminating on December 4th, the actual date of the inauguration.

In addition, the Fort George Museum staff is presently occupied in designing and mounting an exhibition based on the Protective Forces on the two islands.



St Christopher National Museum



Brimstone Hill Fortress

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International Council of Museums (ICOM) and MAC

The Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) is an Affiliated Member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and is also a member of the Regional ICOM alliance, Latin American and Caribbean (LAC). In June 2009 MAC Vice President Nigel Sadler attended the ICOM Meeting in Paris, representing MAC.

At the meeting there were some very important decisions made as listed below

2010 ICOM Shanghai Conference

The 2010 ICOM conference is to be held in November. This of course has implications for the MAC AGM which is held around this time of year as well. At this year's MAC AGM we will discuss the timing of next years AGM. Invitations for the Shanghai conference will go out in July 2009 and the MAC Board will be discussing our presence at the Shanghai Conference and there is even suggestion that MAC hosts a Caribbean Session.

ICOM Conference Venue, 2013

At the ICOM meeting presentations were given by Milan, Moscow and Rio de Janeiro, the three potential hosts for the 2013 conference. Rio de Janeiro was nominated as the 2013 conference. It will be held in June (their Spring) and at present it is estimated that the delegate fee to attend will be around US\$200. Rio played up the fact that is a multicultural city outside Europe and would make the conference more accessible to Latin America and the surrounding areas.

International Museum Day (IMD)

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

Emergency Planning Training Course

ICOM re planning to fund two Emergency training courses and one of these is set to be held in the Caribbean, depending on funding being made available. Once the MAC Board has more information we will make it available in the newsletter and website.

Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional ICOM Body

One of the most important partnerships that MAC can have is with the Latin America and Caribbean Regional ICOM Body. If any MAC members can suggest projects that can be used to create a partnership.

Partnerships with International Committees

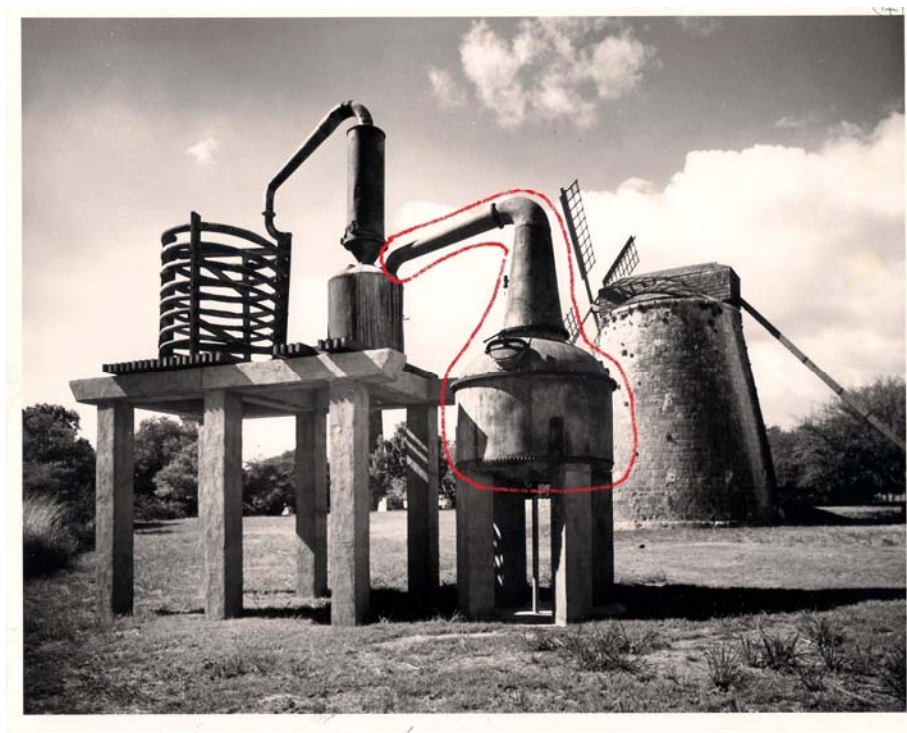
There are many international committees and these are usually subject/theme specific. Many of them try to hold an AGM and look for places that allow the greatest varieties of nationalities to attend. If any MAC members are also members of one of these international committees and can suggest shared AGMs, or partnership projects please contact the MAC Board.

Urgent Press Release from St Croix Landmark Trust

After the positive news from St Croix reported earlier in this newsletter (page 4) MAC have just been sent the following press release about a more sinister happening in St Croix.

Antique Copper Potstill & Retort Stolen from Estate Whim Museum, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

(Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, September 4, 2009) – Between the dates of Saturday, August 29, 2009 and Monday, August 31, 2009, a Copper Potstill and Retort were stolen from the Whim Museum grounds exhibit. This historic exhibit is approximately eight (8) feet in diameter and we are encouraging anyone who has seen this large antique copper material in their area, to please contact the St. Croix branch of the V.I. Police Department or call St. Croix Landmarks Society. The copper Potstill and Retort are circled in the photo below. We were given a tip that it was on a boat headed for the Eastern Caribbean.



We urge all Caribbean Port Authorities to please be on the lookout for this large, donated antique exhibit. Any leads can be referred to the St. Croix branch of the V.I. Police or the Whim Museum 340-772-0598.

MAC encourages all museum and heritage workers in the region to help with this, or any other case of theft of the cultural legacy of the region.

**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

September

ILAM – Centro León Workshop

Diagnosis of needs and education resources of museums

Facilitated by Luis Gómez Cascante from September 15 to 19 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

November

ILAM – Centro León Workshop

Preventive Conservation: daily actions in everyone's hands

Facilitated by Ana Eduarte from November 17 to 21 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

For more information on the ILAM – Centro León Workshops, you may contact María Isabel Martínez at m.martinez@centroleon.org.do.

November/December

MAC Annual General Meeting

See page 2 in this newsletter for full details

2010

November

ICOM Conference in China. Watch this space for more information

To be confirmed

Emergency Planning for Museums Training Course

Latest News

New Image of Mary Seacole unveiled

Many people born in the Caribbean have made internationally important contributions. One of these is Mary Seacole, from Jamaica who paid for her own passage to help nurse British soldiers during the Crimean War (1853-56). Her work has often been overshadowed by Florence Nightingale but researchers and historians in Britain are rectifying this. Recent research work on the Crimean War has uncovered a photographic album which includes a photograph and signature from Mary Seacole. This new image was unveiled during a ceremony at the Florence Nightingale Museum, London. Further information will be included in the next issue of the newsletter

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.

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
