

Historical and Archaeological Society The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda

“Knowledge to be of any Value must be Communicated”



HAS Newsletter NO. 116

January, February, March 2012

In this Issue...

President's Message
By Dr. Reg Murphy
Pages 1

Museums Association of the
Caribbean Meeting Held in November
By Samantha Rebovich
Page 2

Museum to Auction WWII Posters
By Michele Henry
Page 3

The West Indies Federation: A Sad
Story—with an Even Sadder Ending
By Brian Dyde
Pages 4-6

Loco Update
By Agnes Meeker
Page 6

Muse News
By Michele Henry
Page 7-8

Calendar
Page 9

President's Message

By Dr. Reg Murphy

The upcoming year is going to be a big one for the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda and the Historical and Archaeological Society, and not just because the Mayan Calendar predicts the end of the world! We closed out 2011 with a many events that highlight the strengths of the Museum and Antigua's culture such as the viewing of *The Skin*, the Museums Association of the Caribbean meeting, and the Annual Christmas Party.

These events allowed us to reconnect with colleagues in the community and the broader professional community and also inspired us to do more work throughout 2012. The MAC meeting, for instance, provided tools and training to reevaluate the Museum's storage needs and collections management policies. Viewing *The Skin* at the Museum allowed us to touch base with Antigua's film industry and help promote the arts in Antigua. The Christmas Party, as always, brought everyone together for merriment and festivities and allows us to thank HAS members for another year of support.

In the coming year, the museum will undertake a series of fundraisers, events, and projects, and we look forward to continuing to have your support and participation in our endeavours.

Museums Association of the Caribbean Meeting Held in November

By Samantha Rebovich

The Museum of Antigua & Barbuda jointly hosted the 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) from 21 through 23 November. Twenty delegates representing museums from seventeen countries attended the meeting.

The meeting's theme was "Museums and Sustainability" and focused on three areas of sustainability including financial sustainability, environmental sustainability and social sustainability. The keynote address was presented by Mr. David Spence, Director of the Museum of London in Docklands. His talk focused on working with communities in developing exhibitions and, specifically, about the development of the London, Sugar, & Slavery Exhibition that explores the roll of London in the transatlantic slave trade, connecting the metropole with the Caribbean region.

The rest of the AGM was focused on workshops to help museums in the region improve their standards and practices. Mr. Nigel Sadler from Sands of Time Consulting presented on sustainability and offered examples from his experiences as Director of the Museum of Turks and Caicos. 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. It guides museums through a storage evaluation process and provides key goals and steps towards improving collections documentation, storage, and management.

The meeting closed with a business meeting in which a new Board of Directors was elected and an island tour during which MAC attendees got to see some of Antigua's historic and natural sites including Wallings Forest Reserve, Fort James, and Betty's Hope.



Board of Directors

Walter Berridge
Chairman

Reg Murphy
President

Agnes Meeker
Secretary

Janice Augustin
Yvonne Bayrd
Claudia Ruth Francis
Clint Gilpin
Len Moody-Stuart
Samantha Rebovich
Dawn Simon

Honourable Members

Winston Derrick
Edward T. Henry

Museum Staff

Michele Henry
Curator

Debbie Joseph
Gift Shop Clerk

Myra Dyer
Library Researcher

Lavon Lawrence
Data Base Clerk
Library Researcher

Carissa Daniel
Heritage Interpretation
Museum Attendant

Jason Dyer
Janitor

Moislyn Joseph
Cleaner

Museum to Auction WWII Posters

By Michele Henry

The Museum of Antigua & Barbuda will be holding an auction in February to raise funds for continued restoration work and maintenance in the museum. The museum has deaccessioned over thirty original posters printed during World War II by the United States Office of War Information. The posters present a variety of insights into life during the Second World War such as fears of spies, propaganda against the Axis powers, and encouraging citizens to ration their use of consumer items that were scarce during the War.

While this collection of WWII posters is unique and interesting, the museum has decided to deaccession them because they do not fit into the overall mission and vision of the museum's collections. At the same time, the Museum has decided to auction them off in Antigua because we recognize that people may be interested in acquiring these posters for personal use and enjoyment.

The collection includes several notable posters including a rare poster by famed American artist, Normal Rockwell. Other posters were made by artists including Ben Shahn.



This poster was painted by Normal Rockwell.



Two posters in the museum's collection were painted by Ben Shahn including this one depicting French workers.



Many of the posters encourage rationing among American families so that goods could be used for the war effort.

The West Indies Federation: A Sad Story—with an even Sadder Ending

By Brian Dyde.

Wednesday, 23 May 2012 will mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the only chance Antigua ever had, or is ever likely to have, of being anything but one of the smallest and least-regarded, economically unsound and aid-dependent members of – to use a term that has now gone out of fashion but is nonetheless still apt – the Third World. And why? Because on that day in 1962 the Federation of the West Indies, of which Antigua had been one of the ten member islands or island groups, was dissolved by Order in Council. The story of the Federation is well known, but fifty years on it is perhaps worth recalling some of the comments made before it came into being, during its short existence, and after its dissolution. The quotations that follow were all written or spoken by West Indians or by outsiders very knowledgeable about and closely associated with the region.

“I have an abiding faith in the barefooted man and I feel quite sure that he will stand up to it when perhaps others will flinch. Our policy is this: no Federation without Self-Government and no Self-Government without adult franchise, and on that we stand or fall. I leave unto you a charge tonight and it is in three words which I want you never to forget: Agitate, Educate, Federate.”

-**AA Cipriani**, in a speech at the West Indies Conference held in Dominica, 1933

“...here are we all on a sea of world conditions, stormy and hazardous in the extreme, each huddled in some little craft of our own. Some hardly have oars and only a few have accomplished a rudimentary sail to take them along. And here offered is a boat, substantial, capable of being made seaworthy and ready to be manned by our own captain and our own crew. If we won't leave our little boat and get into that larger vessel which is

able to carry us to the goal of our ambitions, then I say without hesitation that we are damned and purblind and history will condemn us.”

-**Norman Manley**, quoted in *Daily Gleaner* of 12 September, 1947.

“In the WI, the case for federation is complete and unanswerable. It will create for our infant industries the priceless advantage of larger markets. It will make possible degrees of regional specialization which are unthinkable in the present situation where minute specks of land with, perhaps, sixty or seventy thousand people, must somehow contrive to fend for themselves in a harshly competitive world. And above all, it will give to the WI, collectively, a voice and a status in the diverse councils of the world, far greater than that enjoyed by the several units. Unquestionably, the historical logic is there. All that is lacking (and unfortunately it is a stupendous lack) is the faintest spark of interest on the part of the people.

-**Michael Manley**, in *Public Opinion*, 16th April, 1955

“In 1957 a Jamaican cartoonist drew a coat of arms for the new West Indian federation...It is a circlet surmounted by two seahorses and bound together by sheaves of sugar cane and by the motto “For All Togetherness.” Two palm trees on a sandy beach fill the circle, around which are scattered various West Indian fruits and a pair of machetes. In the center is a shield, emblazoned with a shovel, a rake, and some more fruit – a pineapple, a banana, a coconut. On top of the shield – directly between the machetes – is a baby. After all, the artist explains, “One of our principal products is babies.”

-**David Lowenthal**, *The Social Background of West Indian Federation*, 1961

“Federation is the means and the only means whereby the West Indies...can accomplish the transition from colonialism to national independence, can create the basis of a new nation; and by reorganizing the economic system and the national life give us our place in the modern community of nations.”

-**C.L.R. James**, from “On Federation”, a lecture delivered in 1958

“The islands of the federation are not now places of great opportunity. After three centuries of colonial rule in the British West Indies, Jamaica during the troubled 1930’s was described by candid Englishmen as “an imperial slum”, and the West Indies as a whole as “the dung heap of the empire”.

-**Gordon Merrill**, *The Survival of the Past in the West Indies*, 1961

“The West Indies is one of the weakest federal systems ever to come into existence. One observer has called it a “ghost federation.” This is apparent in the limited legislative authority of the federal government, the failure to agree on a customs union, the restrictions on migration between the islands, the shaky state of federal finances. As the colonial secretary remarked at the conclusion of the 1956 London conference, in a typically British understatement, ‘It cannot be said that [the federation’s] government powers will at the outset be strong, nor its field of activity large.’”

-**Douglas G. Anglin**, *The Political Development of the West Indies*, 1961.

“Federation boil down to simply this: It’s dog-eat-dog and survival of the fittest.”

-**The Mighty Sparrow**, from a 1961 calypso

“When Sir Alexander Bustamante chose secession for his next battle with Mr. Manley, he was driven equally by dislike of the Federation and by the absence of any other issue on which to fight. A year earlier (1959) he had lost the general election. His party was hard put to find any other issue that could give it distinction... This was the only issue with which he could almost certainly crush his cousin.

-**John Mordecai**, *The West Indies: The Federal Negotiations*, 1968.

“A Federation with Jamaica or no Federation. I dealt with the matter publicly after the referendum:

1 from 10 leaves 0. It was good mathematics and better politics.”

-**Eric Williams**, *Inward Hunger*, 1969.

“They are busy behaving as if nothing had happened and all we have to do now is celebrate independence. But the drive for independence is to cover up the failure of Federation. Yet if the break up of the Federation is nothing very important, then all the effort put into establishing it was hypocrisy and idleness. You cannot have it both ways.”

-**C.L.R. James**, *Party Politics in the West Indies*, 1962.

“The Federation was destroyed by poor leadership rather than by the intractability of its own internal problems.”

-**W. Arthur Lewis**, in the Epilogue to *The West Indies: The Federal Negotiations*, 1968.

“Commentators on the dissolution of the Federation have sought explanations in terms of many grand theories about what holds federations together or divides them—culture, history, economic conflict, fear of external enemies, and all the rest. The simplest way to put what happened is that on the appropriate day some 41,000 of Mr. Manley’s otherwise loyal party supporters in the heart of rural Jamaica (plus a smaller number of urban supporters) decided to stay at home. They were not sufficiently hostile to the Federation to go out and vote against it; they were merely indifferent to its fate. That a nation-state of over 3,000,000 people can be destroyed so easily is one of the wonders of democracy.”

-**John Mordecai**, *The West Indies: The Federal Negotiations*, 1968.

“in these days of an active world market for professional and administrative skills, small islands have difficulty in attracting and holding talent. The civil service is too small to offer an attractive career to first-class ability. Also, in a small island the civil servant is too subject to the whims of political leaders; the Civil Service Commission too subservient to the party in power. Hence, the best

men may get disgruntled and leave. Naturally this problem is at its worst in the Windward and Leeward Islands; their administrative future is bleak if each remains on its own.”

-W. Arthur Lewis, in the Epilogue to *The West Indies: The Federal Negotiations*, 1968.

“Independence for each island is really nothing more than a flag, an anthem, a diplomatic corps that gets rich and ever more pretentious, poverty, exploitation of the land by British and American interests, and governments so fatuous that they believe that true independence is the ability to bar the occasional white reporter who says something the ruling class does not like.”

-Orde Coombs, *New York Magazine*, 13 July 1970

“By the year 2000 all the West Indies will be a region of just over six and a half million people; smaller as an entire region than the great majority of the world’s states. Yet it will comprise some sixteen sovereign countries—perhaps the highest density of government anywhere on the planet—the world’s most intensely bureaucratized, and perhaps politicized, region. We shall greet the new century with something like a parliamentarian for every 11,000 people, with a government minister for every 34,000.”

-Shridath Ramphal, *One World to Share*, 1979

“The leaders in the Caribbean have deemed it fit...since 1962 to install three presidents, nine Governors-General, six Governors as well as twelve Prime Ministers, one Premier, four Chief Ministers and between 100 and 200 Ministers of Government, as the top administrative machinery for a population of about five million, i.e. less than one-half of the population of the City of Shanghai...The duplication of ambassadorial establishments in such capitals as London, Brussels, Geneva, Ottawa, New York, Washington and Caracas boggles the mind and can only result in further depriving these pauperized States of the already scarce financial resources at their disposal.”

-Sir Fred Phillips, *West Indian Constitutions: Post-Independence Reform*, 1985.

Loco Update!

By Agnes Meeker

Mr. Lawrence Gameson was on island for the week of December 5th. Mr. Gameson is the mover and shaker from England whose company will refurbish the four locomotives for display at Betty's Hope. He met with the Ministry of Tourism and the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) outlining the project was agreed and signed off on.

Both Mr. Gameson and Mr. Cadman will return mid-January to start work on the renovation and will bring a container with them in which will be pre-made items to attach to the locos and the necessary metal sheeting for rebuilding.

The public will be updated as progress is made and the Museum will be seeking out stories of the 'glory loco' days along with searching for any rail that can still be found.



Muse News

By Michele Henry

A HUGE Thank you goes out to Colombian Emeralds, International for donating glass cases to the Museum for displays and exhibitions. So many cases were donated that we were able to give some to our sister museum, the Dockyard Museum in English Harbour. Be sure to stop by and check out our exhibit on the British Military to see buttons and medals displayed in our new cases! Also on display are 17th-century clay pipes collected from Shirley Heights; artifacts recovered from the Great House at Betty's Hope including a child's tin soldiery toy, glass buttons, a thimble, and glass beads; and pre-Colombian beads and beadwork.



Our new military exhibit in our shiny new cases donated by Colombia Emeralds!

Mary Russell Visits and Contributes to the Museum

Mary Russell will present a multimedia lecture entitled, "My Home is Your Home: A Journey Round Syria" on Thursday, 12th January at 7:00 pm at the Museum Upstairs Gallery. Mary Russell is an Irish writer who has visited Antigua many times and her book, *Journeys of a Lifetime*, includes three chapters on Antigua and the islands of the Eastern Caribbean.

A previous book, *The Blessings of a Good Thick Skirt*, told the story of many women explorers and

adventurers including Ann Davison, the first woman to sail solo across the Atlantic, arriving into English Harbour in 1957.

On this visit, Mary Russell will give a reading from her latest book, *My Home is Your Home: A Journey Round Syria*. For the last ten years, she has been visiting Syria, staying in one-star family-run hotels, cycling along the Euphrates River, trying to make herself understood using very basic Arabic, bedding down with desert dwellers, and even taking a taxi across the desert from Damascus to Baghdad.

Though there is much unrest in Syria at the moment, *My Home is Your Home* is a celebration of that complex and intriguing country and of its many peoples.

Donation fee: \$20.00 includes wine, sodas, and finger foods. *Proceeds from this lecture support the Museum of Antigua & Barbuda*



Mary Russell with Debbie Joseph

Christmas Masquerades 25th Anniversary

What a fantastic turnout at the Museum Christmas Party! We all had fun, especially the children who were given gifts from the Sandals Santa. Awards were handed out to persons attending the most Christmas Parties: Jack Paterson, Myrna Schol, Helen Abbott, and Phyllis Mayers. Christmas always starts with the Expression Choir at the

Museum. Thank you all for a wonderful evening. Please store your Santa hats for the 2012 Christmas Party! Thank you to our sponsors Sandals Grand Pineapple Resort and Colombian Emeralds!



Colombian Emeralds staff and Sandals Santa enjoying the Christmas Party!



Smiles and Santa hats from some of our young members!



The crowd eagerly awaits the performance by Expression Choir



Mr. Jack Paterson was one of the recipients of a gift for his longtime support of the museum.

New Members

Elizabeth and Richard Ballayntine-Life Members
Kham Cardice
Veronica and Brian Dyde
Natallia Lawrence
Nicki Phillip-Life Member
Newspaper at Barnes Hill

Acquisitions

Collection of international books that include information on Antigua and Barbuda donated by Cherrie Gilkes

The Historical & Archaeological Society Newsletter is published at the Museum quarterly in January, April, July, and October. HAS encourages contribution of material relevant to the Society from the membership or other interested individuals
 Tel/Fax: 268-462-1469, 462-4930 E-mail: museum@candw.ag Website: www.antiguamuseum.org

Historical and Archaeology Society

January, February, March 2012 HAS NEWSLETTER, No. 116

Upcoming Events

January

Thursday, 12 January: Mary Russell Multimedia Lecture, Upstairs Gallery of the Museum
 7:00 pm \$20.00 includes wine, soft drinks, and finger foods.

TBA: *Shipwreck and Other Marine Disasters* Book launch, reprint of the D.V. Nicholson Book, Upstairs Gallery

February

TBA: An Evening of Chamber Music

Auction! The Museum will be holding an auction to sell a collection of original World War II posters.
 Details, TBA.

The Skin, HAMA film. Come to see a second showing for those who missed it! Upstairs Gallery \$20.00 wine and finger foods

Join HAS! Discover & Preserve Antigua & Barbuda's Heritage

TO BECOME OR REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY, FILL IN & SNIP OFF. Mail to P.O. Box 2103, St. John's Antigua.

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

TELEPHONE: (H)..... (W).....

E-MAIL:.....

SIGNATURE:.....

DATE:.....

CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	
Individual	\$ 50 EC/\$ 25US (Mailing included)
Student	\$ 15 EC
Family	\$ 100 EC/\$ 45US (mailing included)
Life	\$ 500 EC/\$ 200US
Business Patron	\$ 500 EC