



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
THE BAHAMAS ARCHIVES**

**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2000**

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

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Publications Section
Department of Archives
Mackey Street
P. O. Box ss-6341
Nassau, N. P.
Bahamas

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Dr. Robert Claus, United Nations Deputy Chief of Communications, Archives and Records Service, recommended in 1968 that an experienced professional Archivist be appointed, that suitable legislation for the preservation of records be passed and provision be made for a suitable central records repository, and that a small staff be recruited and trained to assist the Archivist. These recommendations have by and large been implemented. Mr. Edward A. Carson, Archivist and Librarian of H. M. Customs and Excise, London, served as Archivist for the year October, 1970 to September, 1971 and was replaced by Mrs. D. Gail Saunders who had trained in Archives Administration and Records Office Management at University College, London in 1968 to 1969 and who worked with Mr. Carson for the year 1970-1971. A Trainee Archivist Assistant Miss M. E. Colebrooke, was transferred to the Archives Section in March, 1971 and awarded a United Nations fellowship in November, 1971 for six months at the Jamaica Archives.

The second United Nations fellowship was awarded to Miss Sherriley Voiley who trained for three months respectively at the Jamaica Archives and the Department of Archives, Barbados.

The Public Records Act came into effect in December, 1971 establishing the office to be called the Public Records Office, for

which the Chief Justice is generally responsible. The Act was revised in 1987 changing the term Public Records Office to The Bahamas Archives. For administrative purposes, the office is the responsibility of the Minister of Education.

The Archivist under the direction of the Chief Justice is responsible for the day to day running of The Bahamas Archives, the custody, preservation, arrangement, repair and rehabilitation and for such duplication and reproduction of records at The Bahamas Archives, and for the preparation and publication of inventories, indexes, catalogues and other finding aids and guides facilitating the use of such records.

Public Records are not to be made available for public inspection until they have been in existence for thirty years or such other period, either longer or shorter as the Chief Justice specifies. The Public Records Regulations were gazetted in December, 1972.

They made provision for the destruction and disposal of public records and also the fees to be charged for searches, xerox and other copies, made at The Bahamas Archives.

The Archives Section was given Departmental Status under the Ministry of Education and Culture in 1981.

S T A F F

Dr. D. Gail Saunders - Director of Archives

Dr. Keith Tinker - Director, Antiquities,
Monuments and Museums Corporation

Ms. M. Elaine Toote - Deputy Director of
Archives

Ms. Patrice Williams - Assistant Director of
Archives

Mrs. Sherriley Strachan - Archivist

Mr. Jolton Johnson - Archivist

Mr. David Wood - Archivist

Ms. Grace Turner - Curator

Mrs. Kim Outten Stubbs - Curator

Mrs. Lulamae Grey - Assistant Archivist

Ms. Sherrine Thompson - Assistant Archivist

Mrs. Moira Lecky-Dean - Superintendent
Repair Bindery

Mrs. Christine Rolle - Chief Executive Officer

Mrs. Princess Taylor - Chief Executive Officer

Mrs. Fredericka Dorsett - Chief Assistant
Accountant

Mrs. Hazel Storr - Chief Repairer Binder

Mrs. Tomoko Smith - Trainee Assistant
Archivist

Ms. Joycelyn Rolle - Assistant Registry
Supervisor

Mrs. Portia Hilton - Executive Secretary

Mrs. Prudence Morris - Chief Clerk

Mrs. Ivy Curry - Chief Clerk

Mrs. Edith Sturup - Archives Assistant

Mrs. Queenie Butler - Archives Assistant

Ms. Renee Sweeting - Trainee Technician

Mrs. Marsha Daxon - Museum Guide

Mrs. Denise Austin - Museum Attendant

Mrs. Linda Clarke - Receptionist

Ms. Ida Farrington - Janitress

Mrs. Christine Duncombe - Janitress

Mrs. Roseleen Moncur - Janitress

Mrs. Patricia Meadows-McPhee - Janitress

Ms. Floretta Butterfield - Janitress

Ms. Una Marshall - Janitress

Mrs. Tiffany Cooper - Assistant Security

Mrs. Lynette Smith - Messenger

Mr. Paul Butler - Messenger

Mrs. Rosalie Moss - Messenger

Ms. Nathalie Andrews - Tour Guide

Mr. Byron Trotman - Tour Guide

Mr. Patrick Gittens - Tour Guide

Mr. Peter Brown - Tour Guide

Mrs. Grace Bowleg-Rolle - Tour Guide

Mrs. Patricia Strachan - Tour Guide

Ms. Sherica Johnson - Tour Guide

Mr. Godfrey Carey - Tour Guide

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TRAINING, STAFF MOVEMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

The following staff members attended courses held at the Public Service Centre for Human Resource Development:

Mrs. Denise Austin successfully completed the Basic Work Improvement Seminar 10-14 January, 2000.

Ms. Joycelyn Rolle participated in the Chief Clerk Assessment for the Registry career path, 6-10 March, 2000.

Ms. Patricia Strachan obtained a Certificate of Effective Writing Skills and attended a Supervisory Training Seminar March 6-10, 2000.

Ms. Floretta Butterfield and Mrs. Christine Duncombe attended a Basic Work Improvement Seminar 1-17 March, 2000.

Mrs. Tomoko Smith, Trainee Assistant Archivist attended an Orientation Course for New Graduates and Equivalent Officers 20 to 24 March, 2000.

Mrs. Christine Rolle, Miss Joycelyn Rolle, Mrs. Portia Hilton and Mrs. Queenie Butler participated in a Records Management Workshop which was held 10-12 May, 2000.

Ms. Nathalie Andrews, Tour Guide pursued an Intermediate Microsoft Word Computer Course which was held 28 March to 23 May, 2000 held at Her Majesty Prison and sponsored by the Public Service Centre for Human Resource Development.

Mrs. Tomoko Smith, Trainee Assistant Archivist pursued an Introduction to Computer Course for Intermediate

Managers which was held 29 March to 24 May, 2000. She also participated in a MS Word course held 21 June to 9 August, 2000.

Mrs. Fredericka Dorsett and Mrs. Princess Taylor attended an Accounting Personnel Seminar at the Bahamas Hotel Training College (amalgamated with College of The Bahamas on 1 August, 2000).

Mrs. Christine Rolle and Mrs. Princess Taylor, commenced participating 5 September, 2000 in MS Word Introductory Course.

Ms. Grace Turner's Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship commenced September 2000 at Texas A & M University, College Station.

On 1 August, 2000 Mrs. Prudence Morris, Chief Clerk, was transferred to the Department of Lands and Surveys and Ms. Renee Sweeting, Trainee Technician was transferred as a replacement to this department from Lands and Surveys. Ms. Sweeting was seconded to the Antiquities, Monuments and Museum Corporation on 19 October, 2000.

Ms. Joycelyn Rolle, Chief Clerk, was promoted to Assistant Registry Supervisor, with effect from 1 July, 1998.

Mrs. Ivy Curry, Senior Clerk, was promoted to Chief Clerk, with effect from 1 July, 1998.

Ms. Patrice Williams, Archivist, was promoted to Assistant Director, with effect from January, 2000.

DEPOSIT OF RECORDS AND LISTS

There are approximately two thousand (2,000) linear feet of records stored at The Department of Archives, Mackey Street. About five hundred and forty-three (543) linear feet of records are stored at the Records Centre, Learning Resources Unit, making a total of approximately two thousand, five hundred and forty-three (2,543) linear feet of records.

During the year 2000, the Department of Archives received deposits of records from the Administrator's Office in Crooked Island, aerial photographs from The Department of Lands and Surveys and papers of the late Dr. Cleveland Eneas. In addition,

Mr. Basil L. I. Johnson deposited his collection of documents and memorabilia relating to his experience in the Royal Airforce during World War II.

REPORTS WERE RECEIVED FROM:

1. Cabinet Office (Government Publications)
2. Central Bank of The Bahamas
3. Department of Statistics
4. Planning Unit (Ministry of Education and Youth - Dr. E. Stubbs)
5. Testing and Evaluation Section (Ministry of Education and Youth - Mr. Lionel K. Sands)

RECORDS AND PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM INSTITUTIONS

- Bahamas Historical Society
- Imperial Life
- Bahamas Information Services
- Island School
- Best Commission (Dr. John Hammerton)
- Jones Communications (Wendal Jones)
- British Colonial Hilton Hotel
- Cavalier Construction
- Marlborough Antiques
- College of The Bahamas
- Bahamas Library Services
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Tourism & Nassau Tourism
- Development Board
- Criminal Division - Supreme Court Registry (Mr. Ralph Rolle)
- Dupuch Publications
- University of the West Indies

RECORDS AND PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM INDIVIDUALS:

Rev. Hervis Bain	June Maura
Sir Michael Checkley, Bimini Museum	Dr. Whittington B. Johnson
J. G. Coker	Gary Minns
Ella V. Collie	Kenrick & Shelah Murray
Bob Cowan	Helen Phillips
Ivy Curry	Dragan & Nicholas Popov
Mr. Da Silva	Ezra Rahming
Muriel Eneas	Joycelyn Rolle
Dr. Paul Farnsworth	Dr. Gail Saunders
Lady Fountain	Winston Saunders
Rev. Simeon Hall	Fia B. Scheyer
Peter Heigl, British High Commissioner	Dr. Juliette Storr
Rosalyn Howard	Sherriley Strachan
Kirk Ingraham	Lys Symonette
Archdeacon David W. M. Jennings	Wes Taukchiray
Edwina Chavers Johnson	Stewart Taylor
Jolton Johnson	Rosalyn Themistocleous
Winnifred Murphy	Sherrine Thompson
	Elaine Toote
	Dr. Laurie Wilkie

RESEARCHERS

From 1 January to 31 December, 2000 approximately three thousand and fifty four (3,054) researchers visited the Public Records Office using approximately four thousand one hundred and fifty (4,150) documents. Approximately one hundred and forty five (145) topics were researched. There were six thousand five hundred and seventy four (6,574) inquiries.

INQUIRIES	NUMBER
Overseas (by letter, fax and e-mail)	385
Local (by letter, fax and e-mail)	50
Researchers visiting the Public Records:	
Office for Historical facts	3054
Telephone Requests (local)	2400
Telephone Request (international)	620
Church Requests	60
Court Record Requests	5
TOTAL	6574

There were approximately three hundred and eighty nine (389) other visitors to the Department of Archives including Lord and Lady Woolf, Rory Munroe, officers 1545 Shepherd, 1666 Smith, Ednol Cunningham, Jerry Butler, Patrick Gomez and Thurston, Hon. Zhivargo Laing, Mrs. Willamae Salkey, Mr. Melvin Seymour, Mrs. Iris Pinder, Mr. Michael Pintard (Ministry of Education and Youth), delegates from ACURIL Conference, Anita Peek, Mary Chambers and students from Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute, teachers and students of Island Expedition, the Learning Centre, Blairwood Academy, Bahamas Technical and Vocational Institute (BTVI), Garvin Tynes Primary, North Andros High, Glinton's Primary (Long Island), Queen's College High and Government High Schools.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Mr. Bob Kucera of Blackstock's Equipment Sales, Georgia, visited the Department of Archives from 12 to 16 February, 2000 to design and engineer a multi-level Archives Shelving System, with complete drawings and specifications for the Records Centre. Mr. Charles Conoway, Associate Professor at Florida State University and a lecturer on Records Management visited the Department of Archives 8-11 March, 2000 to discuss a proposed training seminar in Records Management. Mr. Conoway met with Ms. Toote and Mr. Wood and reviewed the department's records management programme. He visited with Mrs. Cooper at the Public Service Centre for Human Resource Development to discuss the proposed training seminar.

A workshop on Records Management was held 10-12 May, 2000 at the Public Service Centre for Human Resource Development. Approximately thirty five (35) registry supervisors or their assistants from the government's ministries and departments attended. Mr. Charles Conoway of the Florida Volunteer Corps assisted by Mr. David Wood, Archivist, conducted the workshop. Expenses were funded by the Florida Volunteer Corps.

LECTURES, TALKS AND SEMINARS

During the year, staff members gave a number of lectures and talks.

Dr. Gail Saunders travelled to the U.S. Virgin Islands to attend and give the keynote address at a symposium "From Griots to Archivists: Modes of Historical Memory" from 29-31 March, 2000.

Dr. Saunders was interviewed by Mr. Dwight Ginton for Love 97's programme "For the Love of Junkanoo" on Saturday, 13 May, 2000.

Dr. Saunders, Ms. Turner and Ms. Williams were interviewed by Mr. Max Dean of ZNS, Freeport on historical topics on 22, 23 and 24 May, 2000.

Dr. Saunders spoke on the "Future Directions of Cultural Arts in The Bahamas" at the launching of Yinna Journal of The Bahamas Association for Cultural Studies on 27 July, 2000.

Dr. Saunders gave the keynote address at the opening of Fox Hill Day Celebrations on 4 August, 2000.

Dr. Saunders was interviewed by Beverley Curry of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas on the historical perspective of Sir Lynden O. Pindling's life. The former Prime Minister died on Saturday, 26 August, 2000.

Dr. Saunders was also interviewed by Ms. Michelle Malcolm on live television on the morning of the funeral. She also gave a radio interview to Ms. Debbie Bartlett for MORE FM.

Dr. Saunders gave a talk to non-Bahamian middle managers at Atlantis Hotel on Highlights in Bahamian History on 31 August, 2000.

Dr. Saunders, Director of Archives gave a talk to the 12th grade students of C.V. Bethel High School on "Prejudice and Discrimination in The Bahamas in the 1950s and 1960s".

Dr. Saunders gave a talk on "Loyalists and Their Slaves" to students of the DePaul University at the Department of Archives on 6 December, 2000.

Dr. Saunders, Mrs. Strachan, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Wood attended a Seminar on Copyright, sponsored by the Ministry of Economic Development in conjunction with the Registrar General's Department on 27 September, 2000.

Dr. Saunders participated in a seminar organized by Kendrick William on "The 1942 Riot in Nassau" on 11 November, 2000.

Dr. Saunders and Ms. Toote attended a two day seminar on Privatization and Competitive Government from 16-17 November, 2000 at Sandals Royal Bahamas Resort and Spa. The seminar was sponsored by The College of The Bahamas, School of Social Sciences, Department of Law and Government and The Embassy of the United States of America in cooperation with Jones Communications Ltd.

Ms. Toote and Ms. Williams attended a seminar on Domestic Violence in the workplace at the Public Service Centre for Human Resource Development on 20 November, 2000 and Ms. Joycelyn Rolle and Ms. Portia Hilton attended the same seminar on 21 November, 2000 at the Public Service Union Hall.

REPAIR AND BINDERY

During the year, January to December, 2000 the training of Ms. Patrice Dorsett continued. The following was accomplished:

72	books were bound
220	pages laminated
248	documents were repaired

MAJOR WORKS WERE DONE ON:

- Wills
- Grants Books (Lands and Surveys)
- Nassau Herald

MICROFILMING, PHOTOGRAPHY, DUPLICATION AND ORAL HISTORY

During the year the microfilming and photography programme continued. The following records were microfilmed and processed: Requests for photographs by researchers and other office use totalled 350.

The Nassau Guardian August	1999 - September 2000
The Tribune August	1999 - September 2000
Registrar General Indexes	1818-1954
Burial Registers, St. Paul's, Long Island	1895-1967
Census records	1953
Colonial Secretary Letter Books	1833-1851
Materials microfilmed totalled	44 reels

Additionally, 150 colour and black and white prints were accessioned and added to the department's photographic collection.

During the year 23 rolls of microfilm were purchased from the Public Record Office in London. These included the following:

WO17/1262-1316	(8 reels)
BT 210/1-50	(2 reels)
T 39/4-5, 146	(1 reel)
ADM 128/63, 65-66	(2 reels)
CO 5/1257-1266, 1290-1296, 1301	(10 reels)

The popularity of microfilm as a research tool continues to grow along with request for copies. A total of 2500 copies were made during the year.

THE FOLLOWING INTERVIEWS WERE RECORDED IN 2000:

Stephen Rose, Long Cay,	Delbert Cartwright, Long Island
John Scavella, Crooked Island	Louise Smith, Long Island
Octavious King, Cat Island	Ada Naim, San Salvador
Rissie Wilson, Cat Island	Addie Deveaux, San Salvador
Solomon Butler, Cat Island	Thomas Hanna, San Salvador
Cleophas Adderley Sr., New Providence	Clementina Wilchcombe, Grand Bahama
Joseph Benjamin Carroll, Long Island	Fred McKenzie, Grand Bahama
Everett Cartwright, Long Island	Mrs. Natalie Smith, Grand Bahama

The following talks were recorded:

Professor Edward Eden and Anthony Dahl to the Bahamas Historical Society on "The Revolt on the Slave Ship Creole: Popular Resistance to Slavery in Post Emancipation Nassau"; Dr. Nicollette Bethel-Burrows to The College of The Bahamas on "Generation Property, Land and Identity in The Bahamas and Sir Clement Maynard and Dr. Gail Saunders on "The 1942 Riot in Nassau"

Antiquities Corporation

The Minister of Education approved the Museums Corporation, Board of Directors, including a chairman and deputy chairman.

Additionally, efforts to identify suitable staff, equipment and adequate accommodation commenced. Preparatory measures for the establishment of a National Register of Historic Resources were implemented. The Corporation is awaiting Cabinet decision for New Plymouth, Abaco and Dunmore Town, Harbour Island to be declared historic districts. The Corporation continued to identify suitable staff, equipment, and adequate accommodations. The building in the same complex as the Pompey Museum was designated for the administrative offices of the Antiquities Corporation. In that regard, the roof was repaired.

Pompey Museum

The need for additional offices at the Pompey Museum, for corporation staff required that the Gallery space that exhibits the Amos Ferguson collection was reduced.

Balcony House Museum

The staff of Balcony House was officially transferred from the Central Bank to the Department of Archives with effect from

January 2000. A draft contract between the Corporation and the Bank regarding the turnover of the House was prepared for consideration. Also, talks were held with the Ministry of Tourism regarding marketing ideas for Balcony House.

In January 2000 a team of officials from the Ministry of Education and Youth, led by Minister of State for Education, the Hon. Zhivargo Laing, and accompanied by the Director of Archives visited the Pompey Museum and Balcony House. The officials were impressed with the condition of the House and the performance of the tour guide.

Long Island

Dr. Tinker and Mrs. Kim Outten Stubbs visited the Long Island Museum along Ms. Nellie Brennen (Ministry of Education Library Services) in February 2000. The team met with Mr. Larry Cartwright who was identified to work in the Long Island Museum. Plans to procure appropriate furnishing, such as exhibit display cases and artifacts for exhibition were discussed. Hours of operation, general maintenance and administration were also discussed.

San Salvador

An effort was initiated to re-open the public museum. A new museum committee comprising the administrator, Head of

Local Government and Dr. Gerace, was established. The committee is to oversee the upgrade of the facility and the exhibits. Preparations were made for the completion of the archaeological work begun at the Columbus Landing Site. Negotiations between the Department of Archives and the Ministry of Tourism to establish a tourism information desk on the museum compound was initiated.

Bimini

The Prime Minister Ingraham gave an address at the official dedication of the Bimini Museum on Saturday, 29 January, 2000. The museum is housed in a restored building originally constructed in the 1920s, which previously housed the Commissioner's Office, the jail and other government offices. The project was a community effort, spearheaded by Sir Michael and Lady Checkley and was privately funded over a period of eight years. The project cost \$100,000.00. Dr. Saunders, Director of Archives also attended and gave brief remarks.

Fort Charlotte

Restoration and refurbishment work continued at Fort Charlotte with the electrification and the installation of a generator. A private security firm was hired to protect the Fort from burglars. Lights were installed to provide additional

security. Since the lights were installed in the perimeter areas, two lights were damaged.

The staff continued to press for additional support staff since the retirement of Messrs. Gittens and Johnson created a staff shortage. Mr. Johnson agreed to assist on a volunteer basis. Two courtesy guides from Fort Fincastle were identified as a replacement. However, word from the Department of Public Service is forthcoming.

The two vendors housed on the walk path continued to pose a problem. Efforts to have them removed continue.

Fort Fincastle

The courtesy guides at the site continue to pose disciplinary problems, especially through infighting, alcoholism and the "hustling" of visitors. Efforts continue to systematically discipline and/or remove the more problematic guides and to properly train and monitor the others. The Ministry of Tourism held an in-house training seminar for the courtesy guides then presented them with uniforms.

The Cabinet approved an estimated \$200,000 to improve the environs at Fincastle. Ms. Alicia Oxley, Ministry of Public Works historic architect was assigned to oversee the improvements,

which were to include refurbishment of the waterfall and restoration of the Queen's Staircase. All vending stalls in the ravine were relocated to a more suitable area. Consultants Mr. James Levy, Historic Conservator with the State of Florida, visited the Corporation to advise on the set up of a conservation lab.

Consultant Herbert D. Bump also came in under the Florida Volunteer Association Corporation sponsored programme.

UNESCO provided a grant for the cleaning of the Queen Victoria Statue that was vandalized in late November 1999. The project was completed by 26 February, 2000. The restored statue was unveiled to the public on 28 February. This project was executed by Bahamian, Mr. William Adderley.

EXHIBITIONS

The Department of Archives did not mount an annual exhibition in the year 2000. However, a small display on the Department of Archives and its functions was mounted for the job fair held at the College of The Bahamas.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) GRANTS

The final phase of the OAS project for the Dissemination of Cultural Information

throughout The Bahamas was completed in the year 2000. Two teams of archivists visited five Family Islands viz: Long Island, San Salvador, Grand Bahama, Cat Island and Acklins, Crooked Island and Long Cay. Workshops were held at a total of eight schools and literature distributed to the BJC and BGCSE students.

Ms. Elaine Toote, Ms. Patrice Williams and Ms. Sherrine Thompson travelled to Long Island 6-8 March, 2000 to disseminate cultural information to high school students. They addressed the students on "The History of The Bahamas" and showed the video "Heritage, History and Culture." The same officers visited San Salvador 27-29 March, 2000 for the same purpose. They made themselves available to answer questions regarding the B.J.C. and B.G.C.S.E. History and Social Studies projects. In addition, the officers took a selection of Archives Exhibition booklets for distribution to the students. The ongoing programme is funded by the Organization of American States.

Dr. Gail Saunders, Mr. Jolton Johnson and Mr. David Wood visited Crooked Island, Acklins and Long Cay 21-25 March, 2000 to execute the above programme.

The team of Ms. Elaine Toote, Ms. Patrice Williams and Ms. Sherrine Thompson visited Grand Bahama between 19-21 June to execute the OAS Project to disseminate cultural and historical information. They met with the Social Studies teachers and gave them information with regards to the BJC and BGCSE Curricula.

The team comprising Dr. Gail Saunders, Mr. Jolton Johnson and Mr. David Wood visited Cat Island between 27-29 June, 2000 to conduct the above project. They lectured to students in Arthur's Town High School and The Bight High School and showed the video "Heritage, History and Culture." Several persons were interviewed. They also visited the Deveaux House ruins and checked on government records at the Administrator's Office.

The Department also received another grant from the above-mentioned institution in December 2000. The project for Strengthening Public Institutions in the management of historical and cultural material throughout the Family Islands will be executed in 2001.

UNESCO GRANT

This year the Archives also received a substantial grant from UNESCO. The funds will be used in the area of training and will be executed over a two-year

period, beginning in 2001.

MAINTENANCE

The Ministry of Public Works cleaned the grounds of the main complex on Mackey Street on a monthly basis.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Dr. Gail Saunders attended the 32nd Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Historians in Cayenne, French Guiana between 17-21 April, 2000. At the conference she chaired a panel discussion, the second part of the Annual General Meeting and an Executive Committee Meeting after being elected as President of the Association of Caribbean Historians. The next conference is scheduled for Trinidad and Tobago at the beginning of April, 2001. The Executive Committee meets in Puerto Rico in late October. The College of The Bahamas has verbally accepted the invitation to host the Association of Caribbean Historians Conference in 2002.

Ms. Elaine Toote, Deputy Director and Ms. Patrice M. Williams, Assistant Director of Archives travelled to Paris between 1-12 May, 2000 to conduct research in the Diplomatic Archives and National Archives of France. The purpose of the research was to identify records pertaining to the Bahamas that are being held in these two institutions.

While in Paris documents relating to the French control of Turks and Caicos Islands and Inagua in 1764 were identified. In addition original documents regarding Cardinal Richleu's grant of Abaco, Inagua, Mariguana and Guanahani, Islands in The Bahamas to Guillaume de Caen in 1633 were also located. Of similar importance was the discovery of the manuscript of M.M. Bellin's account 1758, which included a section on The Bahamas. Copies of the documents identified are being copied onto microfilm to be purchased by the Department of Archives. Attempts are being made to identify a researcher based in Paris to continue the research.

The realization of this trip was within the frame work of the bilateral agreement between the French and the Bahamas governments. Funding was secured through the Bahamas government, the French government and the "Friends of The Archives."

Alliance Francaise des Bahamas assisted as the liaison institution between the Charge d'Affaires in Santo Domingo and the Department of Archives.

Ms. Toote and Ms. Williams attended the XIV International Congress on Archives (ICA) in Seville, Spain from 21 to 26 September, 2000. The theme of the Congress was Archives of the New Millennium in the Information Society.

Over 3,000 Archivists from around the world attended the Congress. During the intense four days, papers were given on various topics including Archival Science, developing a training model for Archival Science, Preservation programmes in Natural Disasters and the ISAD(G) Standards.

The highlights for Ms. Toote and Ms. Williams were the presentation of the revised version of the General International Standards of Archival Description (ISAD(G) and the session of the Application of Quality Management in Archives. These were very important as they embodied many of the principles now practised in the department. It was reiterated that the ISAD(G) standards were to be used along with each country's national standards and that they would be updated every four years in order to keep abreast of electronic and professional changes.

The 15th International Congress on Archives (ICA) will be held in Vienna, Austria from 23-28 August, 2004 under the theme "Archives, Memory and Knowledge."

Dr. Saunders, Director of Archives and President of the Association of Caribbean Historians attended a meeting of the Executive in San Juan, Puerto Rico between 27 and 29 October, 2000.

Ms. Elaine Toote attended an executive meeting in the Caribbean Association (CARBICA) from 27 November to 1 December, 2000 in St. Vincent. While in St. Vincent members of the executive were able to attend the opening of the second National Archives Week and meet with the Permanent Secretary responsible for the National Archives. This was very beneficial as issues concerning the improvement of the National Archives in St. Vincent was discussed.

Ms. Toote informed members that CARBICA was attempting to meet in Caribbean countries which have less developed archives.

ADVISORY COUNCIL AND "FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES"

The Minister of Education appointed the following to be members of the Advisory Council on Public Records for the period 1 January 1998 to 31 December 2000:

Mr. Oris Russell, CMG, OBE,

BOM - Chairman

Mr. Maxwell Stubbs

Dr. Pandora Johnson

Mr. Sterling Quant

Mrs. Betty Roberts

Dr. Gail Saunders

The Advisory Council met in February, April, June, September and December.

The "Friends of the Archives"

The Friends of The Archives led by Mrs. Marilyn Nottage did not meet during 2000 but are still accepting donations to assist the Department of Archives.

PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Four archival booklets which had been out of print for many years were reprinted by the Department's Publication Section. They are: The Pineapple Industry, The Sponging Industry, A Guide to African Villages and A Guide to Selected Sources for the History of the Seminole Settlements at Red Bays Andros 1817-1980. A booklet on the Department of Archives and its function was also printed this year. In addition, an English firm by the name of Oxford Maritime Press printed the exhibition booklet Highlights in the History of Communication in The Bahamas 1784-1956 free of charge.

THE NATIONAL ART GALLERY

The contract for the restoration of Villa Doyle, which will house the National Art Gallery, was approved by the Tenders' Board and the Cabinet.

The contract was awarded to Reginald Hunt Construction Company. An official contract signing was held on Friday, 25 February, 2000 at 11 a.m. when the Prime Minister gave the keynote address.

Dr. Jane Bedno, Consultant, Museum Designer and Director of University of the Arts, Philadelphia under the sponsorship of the Inter-American Development Bank visited Nassau to consult with the National Art Gallery Committee and also the Museums Section, Department of Archives. She submitted a report to the Committee making recommendations on technical matters. She also recommended that the ballroom be turned into a period room of the 1920s, an interior designer be contracted to work with the Architect and Contractor and a Consultant Director be appointed as soon as possible.

The National Art Gallery Committee agreed to contract Mrs. Beverley Naim, Interior Designer of CBN Interiors. A draft advertisement has been forwarded to the Department of Public Service via Ministry of Education and Youth for a Consultant Director of the National Art Gallery.

The National Art Gallery Committee met regularly in 2000. It has identified a Consultant to provide a collections' policy and make recommendation for the administrative structure of the National Art

Gallery of The Bahamas. The Committee is in search of a Consultant Director to assist in establishing the Gallery. The Committee feels that this consultant will assist in helping us to move forward. The Director of Archives, who is Chairman of the National Art Gallery Committee, attended a meeting on 11 December, 2000 called by the Minister of Works, Mr. James Knowles. The restoration project is three months behind schedule. The building is due to be completed by mid-July, 2001.

AUTOMATION

Some work was done on the automation project by two teams. However, further effort was stifled because of the need for a backup system to record the work done and the fact that the people involved in the venture were caught up with other urgent projects. Work is expected to resume in the year 2001.

A web site on the Department of Archives (www.bahamasnationalarchives.bs) that was designed in-house, has been launched on the Internet. It shows the functions of the Archives and indicates which services are available to researchers.

ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND
INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIES (ACURIL)
CONFERENCE

Four (4) members of the Department of Archives, Ms. Patrice Williams, Ms. Sherrine Thompson, Ms. Joycelyn Rolle and Mrs. Queenie Butler were involved in the ACURIL Conference held during the week of 4-9 June, 2000 at the Radisson Cable Beach Hotel. Ms. Williams, Thompson and Rolle were a part of the Exhibits Subcommittee while Mrs. Butler was involved with the protocol committee. Arrangements were made for two members of staff to attend the sessions each day.

ADVICE GIVEN TO ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE

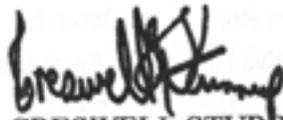
The Director of Archives met with Father Joe Perna and His Grace The Archbishop Burke of the Archdiocese of the Roman Catholic Church in the Bahamas on 1 November, 2000. She offered advice on setting up a small archives.

VISIT OF RT. HON. LORD WOOLF,
CHIEF JUSTICE OF ENGLAND AND
WALES AND LADY WOOLF TO THE
ARCHIVES

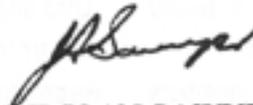
The Rt. Hon. Lord Woolf and Lady Woolf visited the Department of Archives on 12 December, 2000. Mrs. Willamae Salkey, the Permanent Secretary was also in attendance. The Director of Archives welcomed Lord and Lady Woolf and presented Lord Woolf with a bound collection of the Department's publications. Lord and Lady Woolf were then taken on a tour of the Research Room, the Repositories, the Repair-Bindery, the Microphotography Section and the Records Centre. They were highly complimentary of the Department of Archives and the government for having the foresight in the area of preservation.



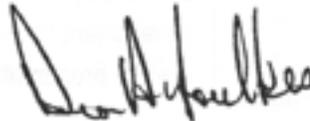
D. GAIL SAUNDERS
Director of Archives



CRESWELL STURUP
Permanent Secretary



DAME JOAN SAWYER
Chief Justice



DION FOULKES
Minister of Education and Youth

29 March, 2001

