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#### ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN HISTORIANS

PEDRO L V WELCH
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY
UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
CAVE HILL
ST. MICHAEL
BARBADOS

September 19, 2005

#### Dear ACH member

On behalf of the Association of Caribbean Historians it is my pleasure to send the latest issue of the bulletin to you. Please note that in future a hard copy of the bulletin will not be sent. Rather, you may access the bulletin on our website which is:

http://www.geocities.com/achbulletin/

Wishing you the very best, I remain.

Sincerely,

Pedro L V Welch

Secretary-Treasurer, ACH

e-mail: pwelch@uwichill.edu.bb

Association of Caribbean Historians Association des Historiens de la Caraibe Asociación de Historiadores del Caribe Associatie van Caribische Historici

The Bulletin of the Association of Caribbean Historians
July 2005



(free coloured woman, Barbados circa 1770) (print of painting by Brunias)

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#### Bulletin of the Association of Caribbean Historians

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2005-2006**

During the Annual General Meeting held in Cartagena, Colombia, May 12, 2005, the following persons were elected to the Executive Committee:

#### **President**

Danielle Bégot Antenne Faculte des Letttres Immueble Laaland Rue Gene Bergevin 971100 Point -a-Pitre Guadeloupe, France e-mail: dbegot@univ-ag.fr

#### Vice -President

Verene Shepherd
Department of History and Archaeology
UWI-Mona
Kingston 7, Jamaica
e-mail: verenalber@yahoo.com

#### **Secretary Treasurer**

Pedro L.V. Welch
Department of History and Philosophy
UWI
Cave Hil Campus
Cave Hil
Barbados
e-mail: pwelch@uwichill.edu.bb or
pwelch@caribsurf.com

#### **Executive Committee**

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#### ADVANCE INFORMATION 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, 2005, in Trinidad and Tobago

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Historians is scheduled for 2006, in Trinidad and Tobago. The final date will be communicated later, after the Department of History at the UWI (St. Augustine) has met and finalized matters. In any case, members may note that conferences are usually scheduled for April but the last two conferences have been held in May. The islands are well connected by international flights

and have hosted the ACH Conference on four previous occasions. Further and more detailed information on flights, accommodation and other travel information, will be available in the December 2005 Bulletin.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Trinidad and Tobago

Then following themes have been proposed for the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the ACH:

- > Migrations and Intra-regional Migrations in the greater Caribbean
- > Nationalism, Independence and Nationhood
- > Sports and National Esteem
- > Race and Racial Formation
- > Flora, Fauna, and Colonization
- > Towards the Future in the Teaching of Caribbean History

#### **INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS**

The Executive Committee will be pleased to receive offers of papers and panels focusing on the proposed themes, <u>although other themes will not be excluded from consideration</u>. The Committee will give priority to panels, particularly those that fit into the proposed themes, so it is strongly suggested that proposals be presented as such. Papers will also be considered, but they will be given a lower priority, particularly if they do not fit the proposed themes. Every effort will be made to place paper proposals in panels that are comparative and regionally balanced, and will give preference to pre-arranged sessions that integrate scholarship and similar topics in various regions of the Caribbean. Please use the proposal form at the end of the Bulletin to submit your panel or paper proposals.

Persons offering to organize a panel should take note of the following:

- Specify the names of three or four confirmed participants, the titles of their papers, and the overall theme of the panel.
- Provide the Secretariat information regarding the institutional affiliation and the full mailing and e-mail addresses of panel convenors and participants.
- Send an abstract (no more than 250 words) of each paper to be presented. This abstract should indicate what new information/ approaches the paper would provide, as well as the major archival resources used.
- Where a proposed panelist is not a member of the ACH, panel organizers should provide a **brief** curriculum vitae ( not more than three pages) and request the person to apply for membership of the Association.
- Panel organizers will be responsible for ensuring that papers are properly integrated into the overall theme.
- If a panel is accepted, its organizers will be responsible for ensuring that panelists submit their papers in good time and that they are informed of the contents of each other's papers.
- For each panel it accepts, the Executive Committee may nominate a chairperson to moderate the session.
- Individuals offering single papers should also send a summary of their proposed presentations as outlined above

All offers of panels and papers for the 2006 ACH Conference, along with abstracts and CVs where relevant, should be sent to Pedro L. V. Welch, Department of

History and Philosophy, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Cave Hill, St. Michael, Barbados.

Alternatively, they may be e-mailed to <a href="mailed-burdle-mailed-burdle-bur

#### AGM MINUTES May 12, 2005 Cartagena, Colombia

#### Present:

Adelaide, Augier, Baptiste, Bégot, Blackett, Bolland, Bonniol, Brereton, Buffon, Campbell, Cateau, Celma, Chamberlain, Chaleau, Cunin, de Barros, Dodson, Downes, Dungy, Dumont, Francis, Fergus, Gaztambide, Gould, Guitar, Helg, Heuman, Hoefte, Howard, Hubbard, Insanally, Jiménez-Muñoz, Josephs, Josiah, Karch-Brathwaite, Kilkenny, Laurence, Lafleur, Mam Lam Fouck, Marquez-Macias, Marshall, Martin, Mayers, Meisel, Mitchell, Monteith, Moitt, Múnera, Palmer, Paton, Pemberton, Pico, Putnam, Rajkumar, Randle, Robinson, Rodriguez, Rogers, Román, Sainton, Santiago-Valles, Saunders, Saunier, Scobie, Servant, Shepherd, Smith, Stafford, St. Pierre, Stubbs, Taffin, Terborg-Penn, Thompson, Trotman, Turner, Welch.

- 1. The President called the meeting to order at 4.15 pm and asked that the AGM have a minute's silence in honour of Lucien Abenon and Sra. Johanna Grafenstein. Sra Grafenstein was the mother of an ACH member. The AGM then expressed its thanks to Meisel and his team and presented gifts as a token of its appreciation. A gift was also presented to Meisel by Adelaide.
- 2. The Agenda was considered and adopted
- 3. The Minutes of the May, 2000, AGM in Barbados were considered and approved with minor corrections. The minutes were adopted.
- 4. Report of the 2004-2005 Executive Committee: Bégot invited the Secretary treasurer to present the report of the 2004-2005 Executive Committee. Welch reported that there had been two meetings, the first on May 20, 2004, and the second on October 20, 2004, in Barbados. These meeting had considered several issues including the participation of the ACH in CISH, the collaboration of the ACH with the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), the establishment of an Ach web-site, and the development of an archive of ACH materials. The deliberations and decisions of the Executive Committee had been communicated in the May, and December bulletins. Welch then proceeded to identify some of the areas with which the Committee and the secretariat were involved over the period 2004-2005

- The ACH had welcomed twenty new members between the end of the 36<sup>th</sup> annual conference on May 20, 2004, and May 07, 2005. There was one new life membership. There were 439 members in all categories, although all of these were not financial. It was proposed to communicate with all members who owed dues over the period 2001-2005. However, it was assumed that it would be very difficult to recover any debts to the ACH subscription older than five years. Gaztambide suggested that collecting arrears over the past two years was more realistic
- With reference to the discussions between the ACH and CISH, it was noted that Augier had continued to represent the ACH in the discussions and arrangements were now in place to have an ACH panel attend the CISH conference in Australia in July, 2005.
- > The ACH was continuing its discussions with the CSA. In that context, Gaztambide would be attending an upcoming meeting of the CSA and would represent the ACH there.
- > The ACH Secretariat noted the assistance provided by **González Mendoza** and observed that his very efficient documentation and filing of ACH material greatly facilitated the work of the new secretary-treasurer. Additionally, it was noted that, notwithstanding the problems of establishing telephone contact with Cartagena, the preparation for the 37<sup>th</sup> annual conference was facilitated by regular e-mail contact between the secretariat and the team led by **Meisel**.
- > The secretariat had developed a website on which all future communications with members would be made. This had been achieved with the assistance of Franchero Ellis, a computer specialist based at the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill). There was a very minimal cost of \$USD 75.00 for this assistance, although there would be other costs in maintaining the website. Gaztambide commented that some ACH members were still in a pre-e-mail mode and needed to receive the bulletin in the conventional paper form. Welch responded that the secretariat would send copies of the next bulletin to some members in a paper form. However, even where members did not have e-mail, there was access to the web by computer and every effort would be made to persuade members to access the website for information on ACH activities and the bulletins.
- > The secretariat reported that the 2007 conference was scheduled for Jamaica and the 2008 conference in Suriname. However, **Bégot** would update the AGM on arrangements for the 2006 conference, following which a decision would be

finalized. **Bégot** then invited the Secretary-treasurer to present the financial report.

- 5. Presentation of the Financial Report Financial Report: Welch presented the financial report for the period 2004/2005. He informed the assembly that he was required by the Central Bank of Barbados to have the ACH register as a non-profit organization. For this purpose, the documents of incorporation from Puerto Rico were notarized and accepted as evidence of the nature of the Association's financial transactions. Once compliance with the Barbados regulations was established, the ACH was authorized to keep two accounts - a foreign currency account in US dollars, where the bulk of the funds would be kept, and a local account in Barbados dollars for the purpose of meeting the costs of the secretariat and other incidental expenses. For the purpose of ensuring access to the funds in the event of incapacity of the Secretary-treasurer, the Head of the Department of History and Philosophy of the UWI (at Cave Hill, Barbados) had been authorized as an alternate signatory to the accounts. In that context, as per the constitution of the ACH, the Secretary-treasurer retained sole control of expenditure, which was to be authorized in writing by the secretariat and approved by the President. The fraternal support given by Richard Goodridge and other colleagues of the Department of History and Philosophy was acknowledged. The grant to the LOC in Cartagena, Colombia, of USD \$3,000 was met from the USD account. The balance in the USD account as of May 07, 2005, was USD \$3739.00, while there was a balance of BDS \$886.00 in the local account. The total funds held by the ACH, therefore, amounted to USD \$4182.32. The LOC would remit some money to the ACH after the conference and the amended balance would be presented at the next AGM. There being no further discussion, the financial report was approved and adopted by the assembly. The AGM noted its thanks and congratulations to the secretariat for the efficient financial management of ACH business over the period 2004-2005.
- 6. The 38th annual conference, 2006, and venues for 2007, 2008, 2009: Bégot informed the AGM that there were several problems with the hosting of the 2006 conference in Haiti. The main difficulties related to the financing of the conference. It was unlikely that funds would be committed by the funding agencies which had previously offered support, given the situation in Haiti. The efforts of the Haitian members of the ACH were acknowledged. However, it was clear that from the financial standpoint, it would be better to seek an alternative, while understanding that Haiti would be considered as a future venue once the situation improved. The AGM agreed that an alternative venue for 2006 should be decided. At this point Welch reported that attempt was being made to ascertain if Suriname, which was the host of the 2008 conference, would be willing to consider hosting the 2006 conference instead. Killkenny commented that the Suriname representatives had indicated at the time of their offer, that they would need three years to prepare for the conference in 2008. It was, therefore, unlikely that they would be in a position to host the 2006 conference. Bégot suggested that it was necessary to pose the question to Suriname in any case. Cateau then confirmed that in the event that Suriname was unable to host the 2006 conference, Trinidad and Tobago would undertake to host the conference, subject to further discussion by the Department of History at the UWI (St. Augustine). The AGM also heard from Bégot that if Suriname accepted the change to 2006, then Guadeloupe would be willing to host the 2008 conference. However, if the change was not possible, then Guadeloupe

- remained ready to host the 2009 conference. The discussion ended with the understanding that it was likely that the conference schedule would follow the listing. Trinidad and Tobago 2006, Jamaica 2007, Suriname 2008, Guadeloupe 2009, although an approach would be made to Suriname concerning 2006
- 7. Evaluation of the 2005 conference, Cartagena, Colombia: Bégot noted that there had been some problems with the late arrival of papers and then opened the discussion of the 2005 conference to the floor. Some participants reported airfarwe and ticketing problems but it was noted that these were problems outside of the scope of the LOC. Dumont commented that there were some panels with only two presenters and this was not fair to those who had come expecting full discussions on the issues presented. Perhaps, there could be consideration of round-table discussions around a central issue - which would help to generate wide interest. This was also suggested by Sainton. Additionally, after the panels, questioners might be more concise with their questions. Servant noted that there were some problems with presenters not keeping within time limits and some panels did not start at the assigned time, leading to insufficient time being allocated to discussion. Blackett observed that in selecting the panels it was a deliberate policy of the executive to have a mixture of newer and seasoned presenters. The result of attempting to accommodate so many presenters was that there were too many panels and in the future, it might be necessary to reduce the number of panels. Brereton agreed with Blackett's suggestion and recommended that persons who presented often might be asked to defer. Additionally, she noted that some panelists did not use the translation equipment well and this posed great problems to the translators who had done an excellent job in trying circumstances. Bégot commented that that this was a perennial problem and that participants should be reminded of the need to use head-sets and to pace their presentations and questions in consideration of the task of the translators. She also noted that care would have to be taken in asking persons to defer presenting papers, since many persons would not be able to attend or receive travel funding if they are not listed on the conference programme. Santiago-Valles responded that it might still be useful to ask persons who presented in one year to consider permitting others to present in a following year. Bégot noted that there were some cases of last minute withdrawals, to which Paton responded by suggesting that presenters should be required to confirm their attendance in writing to the Secretary-treasurer, at least two months previous to a conference. Karch-Brathwaite felt that there had been some duplication of topics and it might be necessary to work harder for a greater diversity in the themes covered. Laurence felt that the accommodation at the conference should have catered to two levels. Indeed, some graduate students might have been deterred from attending because of the accommodation costs. Another question raised by members of the ACH had to do with the scheduling of the conference in May. Meisel noted that the rates were significantly higher in April and thanked the ACH for having chosen Cartagena for the 2005 conference. It was important for the city and there had been an impact on those Colombian academics who had attended, leading to greater visibility for the ACH in the country. At this point, the ACH congratulated and thanked Meisel for his work in organizing the conference and presented a gift to him in token of appreciation.
- 8. Panels for the 2006 Ach Conference: the following panels were proposed for the 2006 conference in Trinidad and Tobago.
  - Migrations and Intra-regional Migrations in the greater Caribbean

- > Nationalism, Independence and Nationhood
- Sports and National Esteem
- Race and Racial Formation
- > Flora, Fauna, and Colonization
- > Towards the Future in the Teaching of Caribbean History
- 9. Announcement of the 2005 Goveia Prize: members of the Goveia Prize Committee could not attend the ACH conference in Cartagena. However, the chairman of that committee forwarded the selection made. The AGM heard from the Secretary-treasurer that the winner of the 2005 Goveia prize was Clem Seecharan for his book, <a href="Sweetening Bitter Sugar">Sweetening Bitter Sugar</a> ( Ian Randle Publishers). Seecharan was applauded for his outstanding excellent work. The committee noted that several good works had been submitted and that the task of selection was a difficult one.
- 10. Selection of the 2005-2006 nominating committee: Jean Stubbs, Janice Mayers, and Fernando Pico were elected by the assembly to form the nominating committee for the ensuing year. Stubbs was elected as convenor.
- 11. Announcement of the New Executive Committee members for 2005-2006:

  The results of the ballot to elect members of the executive committee were announced as follows: Daniel Bégot President, Verene Shepherd Vice-President, Pedro Welch Secretary-treasurer. Other members were Heather Cateau, Antonio Gaztambide, Bernard Moitt, Serge Mam Lam Fouck, Richard Blackett past-President. These results are also listed at page 2 of this bulletin.
- 12. Any other business: Downes commented that it was now common at conferences for papers to be provided on CDs and made available to participants for a small fee, on request. A book of abstracts was prepared and distributed. This would reduce considerably the difficulties of transporting papers. There was some support for tgis suggestion. Sainton suggested that the AGM should formally thank the translators. There was unanimous agreement and the translators were duly applauded. Taffin reported that she was preparing lists of papers presented at the various past conferences, as were various archivists. One problem which surfaced was that of getting presenters' approval for reproduction of papers. Members were encouraged to give the necessary permission, particularly since it was proposed to digitize the old papers. The issue was not that of a carte blanche access to the papers. Rather, it was a request for members to facilitate the proper archiving of papers for posterity.

The meeting ended.

### ACH PANEL PROPOSAL FORM 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Trinidad and Tobago 2006

# (Form is available by e-mail, please contact the Secretariat at pwelch@uwichill.edu.bb

THEME:	
PANEL TITLE:	
CONVENOR: TITLE OF PAPER:	
TITLE OF PAPER.	
INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIAT	ION AND ADDRESS:
E-MAIL:	
PRESENTER 1:	
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INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIAT	ION AND ADDRESS:
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Note: Under separ	ate cover include:

> A 250 word abstract for each paper. This abstract should indicate what new information and/or

approaches the paper would provide, as well as the major archival resources used.

- > A brief (no more than 3 pages CV) for each panel presenter who is presenting for the first time or who is not currently a member of the ACH.
- Panels should have no more than four presenters, including the convenor, should she or he be presenting.
- > Please refer to the "Instructions to Proposers" in this Bulletin for further details.

# ACH PAPER PROPOSAL FORM 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 2005

(Form is available by e-mail, please contact the Secretariat at pwelch@uwichill.edu.bb)

Тнеме:					<u> </u>
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#### **NOMINATIONS 2005/2006**

Members of the ACH, wishing to place nominations should contact members of the Nominating Committee before November 30, 2005. The names and Addresses of members of the Nominating Committee, elected at the AGM on May 12, 2005, are listed below:

#### **CONVENOR**

Professor Jean Stubbs
University of North London
Caribbean Studies
166-220 Holloway Road
London N7 8DB UK
e-mail: j.stubbs@unl.ac.uk

Dr. Janice Mayers 96 Arawak Road Chancery Lane Terrace Christchurch Barbados e-mail: janmay @sunbeach.net Dr. Fernando Pico Universidad de Puerto Rico Box 22634 San Juan, PR 00931 e-mail:fafpico@hotmail.com ACH FINANCIAL REPORT, May 2004- May 2005
(PREPARED BY PEDRO WELCH)

	(PREPARED BT	PEDRO WELCH)	T
Income		Expenses	<u> </u>
Balance brought forward	4,000.00	Preparation of website	150.00 BDS
After Conference		Remittance to LOC	3,000.00 US
Dues	680.00(US)		
Funds from History Dept. (Cave Hill)	1500.00 (US)		
Remitted from ACH/CISH Contract	500.00 (US)		
Remittance from PR account	1000.00 (US)	Totals	3,000.00 US
Life Membership	250.00 (US)		150.00 BDS
Total:	7,930.00 (US)	Expenses of secretariat	
		Fees	100.00 US
In Barbados Account	1036.64 (BDS)	Air travel	1050.00 US
		Bank charges	16.00 US
		Printing of Documents	25.00 US
		Total	1191.00 US
		Grand Total	4191.00 US
		Balance as of May 07, 2005	3739.00 US
			886.00 BDS
Grand total	7,930.00 (US)		
	1036.64 (BDS)		<u> </u>

	Join the ACH					
Yes! I want to join the ACH. I enclose dues as follows:						
Professional \$25	☐ Student \$10					
☐ Institutional \$50	☐ Life \$250					
Benefactor \$75						
PLEASE PRINT	Date:					

Last Name			First Nan	ne	
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E-mail:					
Office Phone:		<u></u> ,			
Home Phone:					
New Member:	☐ Yes	□ No	Need Receipt:	□ Yes	□ No
Annual Conference	ce, dues for 2	2005-2006 are	recently paid their dues o past due, since our memb lease make checks payable	ership year	runs from

#### **MEMBERS NEWS**

#### Professor Clem Seecharan applauded for publication!

West Indies ( Cave Hill Campus), Cave Hill, St. Michael, Barbados.

The ACH is pleased to present the citation given by the Elsa Goveia Prize Committee at the AGM, held in Cartagena in May, 2005.

of Caribbean Historians" Post to: Pedro L V Welch, Department of History, University of the

The citation given by the Elsa Goveia Prize Committee, chaired by Professor Franklin Knight, on the occasion of the 2005 award to Professor Clem Seecharan, reads as follows:

"In the final analysis, the committee submits to the Association of Caribbean Historians its unanimous nomination for the Elsa Goveia Prize 2005, Clem Seecharan, Sweetening Bitter Sugar: Jock Campbell. The Booker Reformer in British Guiana, 1934-1966 published by Ian Randle Publishers in 2005.

By any measure Clem Seecharan has produced an extraordinarily impressive book of signal importance in Caribbean history and historiography. In an area where the genre of the biography is relatively neglected, and whenever attempted, too often confines itself narrowly to political biography, Professor Seecharan has efficaciously demonstrated that eliminating conventional boundaries can result in genuinely majestic work. In this brilliant book he has certainly made an outstanding contribution to several complementary fields by effortlessly melding biography with a number of relevant

themes: local Guyanese history, the politics and personality of the late Cheddi Jagan, British imperial history, Booker Brothers Company history, sugar plantation working conditions during and after the Great Depression, general health and housing, trade unionism, and technological innovation. Sweetening Sugar definitely enlightens us about a crucially formative phase in the history of Guyana. In 675 thrilling pages this magisterial account skillfully maneuvers the reader through one of the most painfully fragmentary periods of Guyanese history. For those of a certain age it nostalgically evokes the tragic deterioration of politics, economy and society in an important part of the Caribbean that has consistently served as a major qualifier for generalizations about the region. The impressive research meticulously combines extensive archival material with copious interviews of the principal subject and magnificently contextualizes the narration with pointed wit and impeccable insights. This elegantly written, carefully edited, and attractively presented book does great credit to author and publisher and has enormous appeal not only to the most exacting specialist audience but also to the curious general public."

#### Professor Joyce Turner's forthcoming publication

Caribbean Crusaders and the

Harlem Renaissance

The University of Illinois Press announces the publication of Professor Turner's book: The Caribbean Crusaders and the Harlem Renaissance. The book is expected to be at bookstores by November

JOYCE MOORE TURNER With the assistance of W. Burghardt Turner Introduction by Franklin W. Knight Artists, activists, and the development of international radicalism in Harlem Joyce Moore Turner's Caribbean Crusaders and the Harlem Renaissance is a study of the emergence of African American radicalism in Harlem, a crossroads of the African Diaspora in the early twentieth century. Turner reveals that the Harlem Renaissance was more than just an artistic fluorescence; it was also a political movement to counter racism and colonialism. To explore the roots of the Caribbean emigres' radical ideology and the strategies used to extend agitation from Harlem to national and international platforms, the study draws on the papers and writings of Hermina Huiswoud, Cyril Briggs, the Rev. E. Ethelred Brown, Langston Hughes, and Richard B. Moore, as well as interviews and biographies of related contemporary figures. It also incorporates census records, FBI files, and hundreds of documents from the recently opened Russian Archive. Through a focus on Otto Huiswoud, the sole African American charter member of the Communist Party, and his wife, Hermina, Turner exposes the complex developments within the socialist and communist parties on the question of race. The account ranges beyond Harlem to Europe, Africa, and the USSR to reveal the breadth, depth, and nearly global

reach of the Afro-Caribbean activists' activities.

JOYCE MOORE TURNER is the coeditor of Richard B. Moore,
Caribbean Militant in Harlem: Collected Writings 1920-1972.

FRANKLIN W. KNIGHT is Leonard and Helen R. Stulman
Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University.

NOVEMBER

#### **Obituaries**

Sra. Johanna Grafenstein, and Pedro Welch mourned the loss of their mother and father, respectively. Members of the Ach have sent messages of support.

Prepared by Pedro L V Welch Secretary-Treasurer Association of Caribbean Historians July 21, 2005