Dear ACH Members,

The Tobago conference was a success, and I would like to express my gratitude to the local organizing committee, chaired by Debbie McCollin, and the ACH conference coordinators Clara Palmiste and Armando Garcia for organizing our 49th annual meeting. Besides the many lively discussions, anchored by a stimulating first panel on the importance and future of Caribbean history, the cultural evening in Pembroke was a conference highlight.

Our next conference in Barbados (June 10-15, 2018) will be the 50th! Actually our meetings are older than the organization itself. In 1969 Jacques Adélaïde-Merlande organized a pan-Caribbean seminar or colloque to cement contacts between Guadeloupean historians and UWI representatives. UWI reciprocated the next year by hosting a conference in Barbados. That conference can be regarded as the first conscious step towards formalizing contacts between historians of the Caribbean. So for our anniversary meeting we are returning to one of the cradles of the ACH!

Organizing a conference requires the hard work of many colleagues, but also capital. This year we will try to raise additional funds to offset some of our recurring expenses. Given that the ACH is a truly Caribbean association bridging linguistic barriers, we are committed to providing simultaneously interpretation of papers at our conferences. While we have managed to sustain that effort, it has come at an increasingly burdensome cost to the ACH and the Local Organizing Committees on whom we rely to cover the cost of interpretation. As we have explained at the most recent AGM on average interpretation costs have exceeded the average of USD $14,000 per annum. Also, we always welcome graduate students and junior faculty and given the costs of transportation and lodging it is not easy for them to attend our meetings. The Gould-Saunders Fund supports our young members and we would like to continue or even expand our efforts. Richard Blackett, Roderick McDonald, and Rita Pemberton have graciously volunteered to help us in our endeavors to expand our financial base. I hope to welcome many seasoned and new members to the 50th Conference entitled ACH @ 50: Continuity, Change and Challenge

Tot ziens in Barbados!

Message from the President

Rosemarijn Hoefte, KITLV/ Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies
Article Prize Competition Opened

The Andrés Ramos Mattei-Neville Hall Article Prize is a biennial award that recognizes the best article in the field of Caribbean history. The next prize will be awarded in 2018, and will cover work published in 2016 and 2017.

Eligibility Criteria:
- Any history or general work acceptable as an historical work published in a scholarly journal in 2016 and 2017 is eligible for the award, provided it has not received an award elsewhere.
- Publication may be in English, Spanish, French or Dutch.
- Work should be marked by felicity of prose style and clarity of expression.
- Multi-authored articles are not eligible.

Call for Submissions: Authors, publishers, editors and others interested in submitting articles for consideration must submit nominations to the chair and other members of the adjudicating committee by January 15, 2018.

The winner will be announced at the next ACH Annual Conference. It is important that one (1) copy of the article nominated be sent directly by email, courier, or airmail to each member of the committee. The addresses for this year's committee are:

Randy Browne (Chair)
Assistant Professor of History
Department of History
Xavier University
3800 Victory Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45207 USA
Email: browner@xavier.edu

Clara Palmiste
Maitre de Conférences en Histoire
Directrice du DPLSH
Université des Antilles
Campus du Camp Jacob
97120 Saint-Claude (Guadeloupe)
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Jessica V. Roitman
Researcher
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2017-18 Executive Committee

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AT LARGE MEMBERS

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Pedro Welch, Emeritus Professor
Department of History and Philosophy
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By Juan González Mendoza, Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico

It is difficult to impartially gauge the merits and achievements of someone who was not only a teacher and a fellow historian, but who was also family. Fernando’s mother, Matilde, was my paternal grandmother’s cousin. Their shared childhood in Utuado (the stage of Fernando’s first major monograph) would make them like sisters and they kept close throughout their lives. However, it was not until I started my M.A in History that I truly became acquainted with Fernando, who was then a recently hired professor at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. The year was 1974 and Puerto Rico was living through a period of ferment and turbulence. The Viet-Nam War had not ended; the struggle against the obligatory military service continued; the impact of the Cuban Revolution on Puerto Rican politics (radical or otherwise), and a profound economic recession, were among the factors animating the search for new paradigms to explain shifting realities.

Puerto Rican historiography was profoundly affected by this climate. A younger generation of historians - shaped by their experiences in European, Latin American, or North American universities - was starting its academic career. This was a generation that abandoned the traditional topics of Puerto Rican history writing and opened new paths into social, economic, gender and other histories. The New History (Nueva Historia), as it was soon baptized, was not only intent in exploring Puerto Rico’s present and its moorings in the past from a different perspective; it also pursued the end of placing the island within a wider context, particularly the Caribbean and the Atlantic World. It was no coincidence, then, that Fernando, Antonio (Tony) Ramos Mattei, Blanca Silvestriny, and Humberto Garcia, among others, participated actively in the Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH) and that Fernando served more than once in its Executive Committee and as President, first in 1990-1992 and later in 2010-2011.

I would like to frame Fernando’s life within the parameters most evident to all those who knew him. His was a quiet life -in the best sense of Christian humility- but also a life lived to the fullest with a sense of discipline and purpose many can only aspire to emulate. His world was multifaceted: professor, distinguished academic, hard-working and meticulous researcher, engaged with the oppressed and marginalized, colleague, and friend.

I recall the first experience I had with his approach to teaching. He was teaching a course on the French Revolution and another on Medieval institutions (the field of his Ph.D. studies at Johns Hopkins). What first struck us as students was his quiet demeanor and the soft tone he used to deliver his introductory remarks. We slowly got used to not being lectured in the traditional fashion, for he limited most of his words to a brief introduction of the day’s subject and immediately tried to gently coax us to express our views on the readings assigned. Characteristically, he would patiently listen to our arguments, no matter how flimsy or farfetched, and never impose his point of view by flaunting his expertise. Instead, using incisive but gentle questioning, he would try to make us see facets of a problem we had overlooked. By the end of the semester, it was firmly impressed on our minds that to be a good historian one must read widely and with infinite curiosity; one has to recognize and dissect good and bad arguments, particularly one’s own; and, most importantly, one has to dive deeply and meticulously into the primary sources found in archives and libraries. According to the recollections of his last group of students, whom he taught until the day before he died, these characteristics of his teaching method endured until his last day in the classroom.

The first years of Fernando’s life as a university professor also mark the beginning of his long and distinguished career as a historian. His arrival at UPR in 1972 coincided with the birth of the Nueva Historia and Fernando became one of its main actors. At that moment, he began research on the social and economic transformation of Utuado in Puerto Rico’s coffee heartland. Published in 1977, Libertad y servidumbre en el Puerto Rico del siglo XIX, was his first book dealing with Puerto Rican history. This essay was not only a meticulously researched piece of social history; it also condensed some of the features that would characterize Fernando’s aims as a historian. As he liked to state in simple terms: “I want to write history in which simple folk can recognize their surnames.” From then on, even in works on a larger scale, such as Historia general de Puerto Rico, small proprietors, women tobacco workers, the marginalized, etc. would share the historical stage with the great; their
attitudes and worldview would be examined with an equal measure of respect as the attitudes and worldview of the elites.

There is no space to encompass all the avenues of historical research that Fernando pioneered, but it would be impossible to calibrate his central role in Puerto Rico’s recent historiography if no mention were made of the variety of histories he explored. For his vision was not limited to the social and economic history of places like Utuado, he also delved into environmental history, as exemplified by *Puerto Rico y la sequía de 1847* (2015) that describes the social and economic impact the drought had on the island while - true to another of his objectives - inserting Puerto Rico in the wider Caribbean and Atlantic World where similar phenomena were experienced during the 1840s. Besides his several incursions into environmental history, he also questioned the central myths of those readings of Puerto Rican history that shored-up some of the traditional views of the past. Thus, books like *1898: La guerra después de la guerra* (1987) and *Al filo del poder: Subalternos y dominantes en Puerto Rico 1739-1910* (1993) exploded the myths of collective happiness that supposedly characterized Puerto Rican society before the advent of the United States’ new and vigorous brand of colonialism, revealing a society fraught with social tensions and inequalities upon which the State (whether Spanish or North American) tried to impose a more or less effective control and frequently had only an intermittent, but not less irritating, impact on the lives of its subjects.

To conclude, Fernando’s curiosity ranged over several types of history as shown, not only by the few works mentioned, but also by his histories of Jayuya, Carolina, and other Puerto Rican cities and towns. These microhistories span long periods of time and all those aspects of collective existence that he could glean out of oftentimes meager archival evidence, for which his formation as a medievalist no doubt helped. He also used microbiography to illuminate Puerto Rico’s past and present in works such as *Contra la corriente: Seis microbiografías de tiempos de España* (1995) and *Cada guaraguao: Galería de oficiales norteamericanos en Puerto Rico (1898-1899)* (1998). The variety of his interests does not end here, but this brief overview suffices to show why Fernando was such a driving force in Puerto Rican historiography throughout his fruitful career and why many of the paths that new generations of Puerto Rican historians will follow will benefit from the questions he so persistently asked. This large corpus of works and his passion for teaching rightfully earned him the distinctions he earned but was reluctant to make public: Humanist of the Year (Puerto Rican Foundation for the Humanities 2004), Distinguished Professor (UPR 2009-2010), and the Frantz Fanon Lifetime Award (2013), among others.

These scholarly achievements were linked to a profound yet deceptively simple spirituality. True to the best Jesuit tradition, Fernando’s vital and spiritual interests formed a seamless cloth. His preoccupation with the Heavenly City did not mean that earthly and practical concerns were placed on the backburner, as manifested by his constant preoccupation for social justice and his concern for the downtrodden and marginalized which he not only expressed in his scholarly monographs but translated into practical action. This facet of his life clearly stands out in his work among the imprisoned. A mission he began in 1988 as Chaplain of the Anexo 282 of the Bayamón Regional Penitenciary and later expanded into a program of university studies for the penal community. Besides transforming the lives of men stripped of their humanity, his work among them produced texts like *El día menos pensado: Historia de los presidiarios en Puerto Rico, (1793-1993)* and *De la mano dura a la cordura: Ensayos sobre el estado ausente, la sociabilidad y los imaginarios puertorriqueños*. In a society bent, like so many others, in criminalizing wider swaths of human behavior and lengthening prison sentences as a panacea for all social ills and individual failings, his reflections on these issues and the life of the imprisoned brought to light the human, social and ethical costs that such dehumanizing processes imply. There is no better example of his insistence of the common humanity of us all than the words of one of his *confinado* (imprisoned) students: “He always found a way to reach his students through respect, compassion, affection, good humor, and treating them as equals. . . . He never referred to us as *confinados*, he always called us friends.”

I am sure Fernando would blush and lower his eyes, as he always did, as he could read or hear these words of praise. No amount of words, particularly not mine, can plumb the depths of a life like Fernando’s; all they can do is help us keep him in our memory (one of his beloved discipline’s first uses) and remind us of the paths into Clio’s deep forest he left open for us. Paths he expected to tread before death surprised him, as testified by the notebooks and notes he left among the documents he was patiently studying in his favorite place at the Archivo General de Puerto Rico, as was his practice when he meant to return to his craft at the next opportunity.
2017 Elsa Goveia Book Prize Winner Announced


After reading 42 submissions for the 2017 Elsa Goveia Prize the Committee, comprising David Trotman (Chair), Pedro Welch and Anne Macpherson, was in unanimous agreement about this award, and announced its decision at the ACH Annual Conference (May 14-19, 2017) in Tobago.

The following citation was read during our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 18:

This work eminently qualifies for the Association’s recognition of excellence in Caribbean Scholarship for the two years under review. It is a study of the multiple meanings of obeah and their historical development and changes over more than two centuries of Caribbean history. Rich in analysis, broad in scope and meticulous in evidentiary detail, this study revisits old debates and essays new interpretations. The committee is convinced that this study makes an important contribution to Caribbean scholarship in social and cultural history and undoubtedly raises the bar for the next generation of scholars researching this and similar topics in the region.

Professor Paton graciously donated her prize of $250 to the Gould-Saunders Travel Award Fund for post-graduate students and junior faculty members to attend the annual conference.

Call for Executive Committee Nominations

Each year positions become available on the ACH Executive Committee, the governing body charged with administrative oversight of the organization. Terms are for one year, although members can be re-elected for a second year. All candidates for election are chosen by a Nominating Committee selected at the Annual General Meeting. The following individuals have agreed to serve in 2017-18:

Michelle McDonald, Chair
Stockton University
Email: Michelle.McDonald@stockton.edu

Kathryn Dungy
St. Michael’s College
Email: kdungy@smcvt.edu

Richard Blackett
Vanderbilt University
Email: richard.j.blackett@vanderbilt.edu

Janice Mayers
Email: drjayers@hotmail.com

If you are interested in learning more about serving on the Executive Committee, or would like to nominate someone for the next election, please contact this year’s Nominating Committee Chair. Any member of the ACH in good standing may propose names for consideration, or self-nominate to serve on the Executive Committee.

According to the ACH Constitution, nominations must reach the Nominating Committee Chair no later than October 31, 2017.

Ballots will be distributed in the winter issue of the Bulletin and can either be mailed to the Nominating Committee or the Secretariat prior to our next ACH Annual Conference in Barbados, or cast in person at that meeting.
A Message from the Fundraising and Development Committee

By, Richard Blackett, Andrew Jackson Professor of History, Vanderbilt University

It is quite extraordinary that the Association of Caribbean Historians is approaching its fiftieth annual conference. Begun as a call by Jacques Adélaïde-Merlande to bring together historians of the area across traditional language barriers, we have grown and prospered in ways none of the “pioneers” could have anticipated. We have met annually in multiple locations from the Bahamas to Colombia, Barbados to Belize and places in between to explore all aspects of the area’s history reinforced by a sustained commitment to build bridges across linguistic divides. There are unique features to our conferences: there are no parallel sessions, papers are pre-circulated, presenters are given ten minutes to introduce the main points of their papers before the session turns to questions from the floor, and most importantly, each presentation is simultaneously translated. Ours is a unique association whose conferences are a pleasant mix of the academic and social.

Such translations demand not only expertise, but are expensive and a financial burden for the Local Organizing Committee responsible for pulling the conference together. We have explored ways of helping to meet this expense and at the same time maintaining this important feature of the Association.

We are now in the process of applying for non-profit status so we can broaden our appeal to potential supporters. Over the last few years, we have been fortunate to receive two bequests from two of our members: Ginger Gould and Gail Saunders. The Gould-Saunders Fund, named in honor of their late husbands, annually provides support for graduate students and junior scholars to attend and present papers at conferences. Should we achieve non-profit status, we anticipate a significant increase to the fund. In the meantime, we are also making other efforts to strengthen the Association’s finances some of which will be announced in the near future.

In the meantime, we invite our long-standing members and friends of the organization to consider giving a gift to the ACH to help fulfill our mandate to maintain its linguistic diversity and develop Caribbean scholarship. You can now become a Benefactor or give to the Gould-Saunders Travel Award Fund online using PayPal. Please visit http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/giving.htm or e-mail Tara Inniss, ACH Secretary-Treasurer at achsecretary@gmail.com for more information.

The ACH is now on Facebook!

You can now find us on Facebook! Get the latest information on Call for Papers; announcements; events; new publications; historical debates and news using our new social media platform on Facebook. Like us on Facebook and join the ACH community online today! https://www.facebook.com/AssociationofCaribbeanHistorians/
The ACH Executive Committee is pleased it announce that its milestone 50th Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Historians will be held in Barbados, from Sunday, June 10 to Friday, June 15, 2018. Registration opens early afternoon on Sunday. The conference fête, our annual dinner and dance, which is highly recommended and a central feature of this organization, will be on Thursday evening, June 14. An optional field trip is scheduled for Friday, June 15. More details about the field trip will be posted to the ACH as they become available. Please make your travel plans accordingly.

The ACH will be celebrating the 50th Annual Conference as part of the University of the West Indies (UWI) 70th Anniversary calendar. The University College of the West Indies was established by Royal Charter in 1948. There are now four campuses of the UWI. The origins of the university’s third campus, the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados, date to 1963 when the College of Arts and Sciences admitted students to its temporary location at Harbour Road. The ACH wishes to congratulate the University on its stellar achievement of being one of the oldest tertiary academic institutions in the region. The ACH also thanks the UWI Departments of History across all campuses for their unwavering commitment to shaping the development of our organization from 1969.

CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS
The Local Organising Committee (LOC), Chaired by Dr. Elaine Rocha, Head, Department of History and Philosophy Cave Hill Campus looks forward to welcoming the delegates of the 50th Annual ACH Conference. The LOC is currently finalizing preparations to receive conference participants. As soon as information on the Conference Venue and Accommodations are available, these details will be made available on the ACH website. The LOC is committed to providing a range of options for delegates wishing to travel to Barbados on various budgets.

TRAVEL
Barbados has good air connections from several major cities in North America and the United Kingdom. Barbados is also considered a regional travel hub with several daily flights scheduled from nearby territories on regional carriers, Caribbean Airlines and LIAT. Participants traveling from the US, Canada, the United Kingdom and Europe can purchase flights to Grantley Adams International Airport (GAIA) on American Airlines, JetBlue, Caribbean Airlines, US Airways, British Airways, Virgin Atlantic Airlines and Thomas Cook Airlines.

Barbados Entry Requirements

Every person entering Barbados, including all North American citizens (Americans and Canadians), should be in possession of a valid passport and a valid return ticket.

Visa Requirements

No visa is required for visitors from the member countries of the EU. There is also no visa requirement for North Americans (USA, Canada). Visitors from CARICOM countries, which now include Suriname, do not require visas.

Please check [http://www.barbados.org/docs_requirements.htm](http://www.barbados.org/docs_requirements.htm) to confirm whether you will need a visa to enter Barbados.
Call for Papers

ACH @ 50: Continuity, Change and Challenge

50th Annual ACH Conference, Barbados, June 10-15, 2018

The ACH Executive Committee is pleased to announce that the 50th Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH) will be held in Barbados from Sunday, June 10 to Friday, June 15, 2018. Registration opens early afternoon on Sunday, and sessions will begin later that day. The conference fete, our annual dinner and dance, will be held on Thursday evening, June 14. An optional field trip is scheduled for Friday, June 15. More details about the field trip will be posted to the ACH website as they become available. Please make your travel plans accordingly.

The ACH will mark the milestone of hosting our 50th Annual Conference with the overall conference theme, “ACH @ 50: Continuity, Change and Challenge”. The conference will reflect on the past and future development of the region’s premiere professional historical organization. We invite paper and panel proposals on:

- The ACH @ 50: Aims, Attainments and Aspirations
- Caribbean Historiography
- Theories and Methodologies
- Fields of Caribbean History
- Future of Caribbean History

In addition to the overall theme of ‘Continuity, Change and Challenge’ the 2018 ACH conference will also welcome papers on the following topics suggested by members at our last AGM:

- Archaeology and Environmental History
- Oral History in the Caribbean
- Comparative and Transnational Methodologies
- Reparations and Reparatory Justice
- The Caribbean after Decolonization: Successes, Challenges and the Future
- The Greater Caribbean Region
- Food in the Caribbean
- Land Transactions in the Post-Slavery Caribbean
- Contesting the ‘Creole’ Narrative in History
- Violence, Drugs and Mental Health
- Child’s Play: Children, Sport and Play

While papers on these ideas are encouraged, applicants are welcome to submit proposals on other subjects.

For those proposing panels, please note that we seek linguistic and geographic diversity and representation. Applicants may also wish to consider that the ACH promotes diversity among panelists regarding institutional affiliation and academic level.

Preference is given to applicants who did not present at the previous conference, held in Tobago in 2017.

Application Instructions

There are THREE WAYS to participate in the 2018 ACH Conference:

PAPER: You can apply to present an individual paper. These applications are reviewed by the Executive Committee by theme and composed into panels. This requires:
1. The appropriate cover sheet for either a paper or panel proposal;
2. A 250-word abstract for each proposed presenter (Abstracts must indicate what new information or approach the work provides as well as the archival or oral sources consulted. Abstracts must be submitted in English, French and Spanish); and
3. A brief CV (no more than 2 pages).

PANEL: You can also apply as part of a panel of 3 or 4 papers. This requires:

1. A panel proposal form.
2. A 250-word abstract for each proposed presenter (Abstracts must indicate what new information or approach the work provides as well as the archival or oral sources consulted. Abstracts must be submitted in English, French and Spanish); and
3. A brief CV or resume (no more than 2 pages) for each presenter.

Please note that while panel organizers may propose a chair, final assignment of chairs is the prerogative of the Executive Committee. Proposed chairs should be experts in the panel field.

POSTER: You can apply to participate in our poster session. This is intended as a fast-paced, fun session for newer scholars or for those embarking on a new project. This requires:

1. A paper/poster proposal form; this is the same as the paper proposal form—just check that you are applying to offer a poster.
2. An abstract of no more than 250 words (translated in English, Spanish AND French).
3. A brief CV or resume (no more than 2 pages, please) for each presenter.

While cover forms and CVs can be submitted in one language, it is very important that abstracts be translated into all three languages at the time of submission as the committee reviewing proposals is multi-lingual. Applications that do not include abstracts in English, Spanish and French will not be considered.

Please see Application Instructions here http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/confinstructions.htm.

All documents should be combined into ONE (1) Microsoft Word document file (please do not submit as a PDF). The deadline for proposal submission is October 15, 2017.

A few more important notes:

➢ To ensure that graduate student applicants are at an advanced stage of their research, they are required to provide a letter of support from their academic advisors.

➢ All participants must be current members of the ACH by the time they present.

➢ ACH presentations include both a pre-circulated paper and a brief presentation at the conference. Papers can be written in English, French or Spanish, and can be no longer than 25 typed, double-spaced pages using 12-point font. This includes notes and references. Presentations are intended to introduce the highlights of this written work, and so are strictly limited to 10 minutes.

➢ Poster presentations include both a shorter pre-circulated paper summarizing research to date (no more than 10 typed, doubled-spaced pages using 12-point font, including notes and references). Presentations at the conference will be limited to no more than 5 minutes and 10 PowerPoint slides.
Papers for both panels and for poster presentations will be made available online at the ACH website in advance of the conference and can be accessed only by those who pre-register and pay their registration.

To allow time to format and post material, presenters should email papers (as a Microsoft Word file) NO LATER THAN March 15, 2017 to: Gelien Matthews, ACH Conference Coordinator, at achconference@gmail.com

If, after your proposal has been accepted, you find you are unable to attend, please inform the ACH Conference Coordinator as soon as possible in order to allow us to adjust the programme. All proposals for the 2018 ACH Conference, with translated abstracts and CVs, should be sent by email to:

Gelien Matthews, Conference Coordinator, Association of Caribbean Historians: achconference@gmail.com.

The deadline for proposals is October 15, 2017. We look forward to your submissions.
ACH Paper or Poster Proposal
50th Annual Conference, Barbados, June 10-15, 2018

Please indicate whether you are applying to present a paper or a poster:

☐ Paper (paper presentations include both a pre-circulated paper and a brief presentation at the conference. Papers can be written in English, French or Spanish, and can be no longer than 25 typed, double-spaced pages using 12-point font. This includes notes and references).

☐ Poster (poster presentations include both a shorter pre-circulated paper summarizing research to date of no more than 10 typed, double-spaced pages using 12-point font, including notes and references, and a brief presentation at the conference during the scheduled poster session).

☐ If your application is accepted, please check here if you are willing to have your name and email address included in the Conference Registrants list provided to participants.

☐ Check here if you would like to be considered for the Gould-Saunders Memorial Travel Award (see the ACH website for eligibility requirements: http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/travelfund.htm)

If drawing on one of the proposed themes listed on page 6 of the July 2017 Bulletin, list that theme here: __________________________

Paper or Poster Title: __________________________________________________________

Presenter: ___________________________________________________________________{

Institution and Address: ___________________________________________________________________{

_________________________________________________________________{

Email: ___________________________________________________________________{

Please remember to attach an abstract in English, Spanish and French, of NO MORE than 250 words, describing your project, as well as a brief (no more than 3-page) curriculum vitae.

Proposals and all supporting materials are due by October 15, 2017 (those received after this deadline may not be considered).

All proposals for the 2017 ACH Conference, with translated abstracts and CVs, should be sent by email to Gelien Matthews, ACH Conference Coordinator, at achconference@gmail.com.
ACH Panel Proposal
50th Annual Conference, Barbados, June 10-15, 2018

Panel Title: ____________________________________________________________
If drawing on one of the proposed themes listed on page 6 of the July 2016 Bulletin, list that theme here:
_____________________________________________________________________

Suggested Chair (if applicable): _____________________________________________
Institution and Address: ____________________________________________________
Email: __________________________________________________________________
☐ If your application is accepted, please check here if you are willing to have your name and email address included in the Conference Registrants list provided to participants.

Presenter #1: _____________________________________________________________
Institution and Address: ____________________________________________________
Email: __________________________________________________________________
☐ If your application is accepted, please check here if you are willing to have your name and email address included in the Conference Registrants list provided to participants.

Presenter #2: _____________________________________________________________
Institution and Address: ____________________________________________________
Email: __________________________________________________________________
☐ If your application is accepted, please check here if you are willing to have your name and email address included in the Conference Registrants list provided to participants.

Presenter #3: _____________________________________________________________
Institution and Address: ____________________________________________________
Email: __________________________________________________________________
☐ If your application is accepted, please check here if you are willing to have your name and email address included in the Conference Registrants list provided to participants.

Presenter #4: _____________________________________________________________
Institution and Address: ____________________________________________________
Email: __________________________________________________________________
☐ If your application is accepted, please check here if you are willing to have your name and email address included in the Conference Registrants list provided to participants.

Please remember to attach an abstract of 250 words in English, Spanish and French, for each proposed paper, as well as a brief CV(no more than 2 pages).

Proposals and all supporting materials are due by October 15, 2017 and should be sent by email to the ACH Conference Coordinator, Gelien Matthews at achconference@gmail.com.
ACH President Jacques Dumont called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

This year’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) began with a moment of silence to honour longstanding member Michael Craton, who passed away in 2016.

**Confirmation of the 2016 AGM Minutes:** The June 2016 minutes were distributed electronically in advance of the AGM, and attendees asked to bring corrections and changes. As none were forthcoming, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Report of the Elsa Goveia Book Prize Committee:** After reading 42 submissions for the 2017 Elsa Goveia Prize the Chair, David Trotman, reported that the Committee is pleased to announce that the prize should be awarded to Diana Paton, *The Cultural Politics of Obeah: Religion, Colonialism and Modernity in the Caribbean World* (Cambridge University Press, 2015). In the committee’s opinion, this work eminently qualifies for the Association’s recognition of excellence in Caribbean Scholarship for the two years under review. It is a study of the multiple meanings of obeah and their historical development and changes over more than two centuries of Caribbean history. Rich in analysis, broad in scope and meticulous in evidentiary detail, this study revisits old debates and essays new interpretations. The committee is convinced that this study makes an important contribution to Caribbean scholarship in social and cultural history and undoubtedly raises the bar for the next generation of scholars researching this and similar topics in the region.

Diana Paton could not attend the conference but extends her gratitude to the Committee and the ACH for awarding her this prestigious award. She donated the proceeds from the award to the Gould-Saunders Travel Award Fund.

Committee Members included David Trotman (Chair), Pedro Welch and Anne McPherson.

**Presentation of the Gould-Saunders Memorial Award 2017:** Jamie Goodall was selected as the junior faculty recipient of the award for her paper entitled, “Piracy, Slavery, and Clandestine Trade: Transitioning to a Plantation Economy in the Caribbean-Atlantic”.

Unfortunately, Jamie Goodall was not present to receive her award. Ginger Gould and Gail Saunders later said a few words as a tribute to their husbands and the genesis of the award.

**Nominations to the Andres Ramos Mattei-Neville Hall Article Prize Committee:** The following nominations were made to the selection committee for the article prize: Randy Browne (Chair), Clara Palmiste, and Jessica Roitman.

**Report of the Executive Committee and Secretariat, 2016-2017:** The Committee met twice this year, on December 3, 2016 and on May 16, 2017, both times in Tobago. The EC especially wishes to thank the Department of History at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus and members of the Local Organizing Committee for their support of the December 2016 meeting, including space, refreshments, and meals.

The main item of the December agenda was the 49th Annual Conference academic programme and local arrangements in Tobago. The EC reviewed 7 panels and 69 individual paper proposals for the 2017 conference (as well as an additional 4 papers proposed for one of the local panels and 1 local panel proposal, for a total of 16 panel proposals). Originally, the EC chose 67 papers for a total of 15 panels and this preliminary program appeared in the January issue of the ACH Bulletin. As some presenters subsequently withdrew, the final conference
slate was 54 papers on 14 panels, including two local panels.

**ACH Membership and Dues Information:** Over the past year, the ACH has welcomed many new members, and welcomed back several returning members. These include (as of May 15, 2017):

- 2 new Life Members: Clara Palmiste (Université des Antilles, DPLSH, Guadeloupe), Edward Rugemer (Yale University)
- 1 renewed Institutional Member: The University of the West Indies Press
- 49 New Members or Member Renewals: names and institutions of these members appeared, or will appear, in the January and June 2017 issues of the ACH Bulletin.
- 28 New Student Members or Member Renewals: names and institutions of these members appeared, or will appear, in the January and June 2017 issues of the ACH Bulletin.

**Activities of the Secretariat:** The ACH published two issues of its newsletter, the Bulletin (July 2016 and January 2017), which included the 2017 conference call for papers and local arrangements information, and the preliminary programme respectively. Calls for papers and announcements about the conference were also advertised on H-Net listservs (such as H-Caribbean and H-Atlantic), as well as several Latin American/Caribbean Studies Programs.

We continued online registration and paper distribution systems continued to build strong coordination between the Secretariat and Co-Conference Coordinators, which managed conference paper collection, reformatting and posting to the web, and communications with the LOC. The Secretariat also oversaw conference registration, tracking both manual and online payments (conference registration monies were disbursed to the LOC, and membership funds retained by the ACH). The numbers of both members and conference have declined compared to last year, but Havana, Cuba proved to be quite exceptional in this regard in terms of the number of attendees. Registration included 106 persons. As of May 16, there were 98 new and renewed memberships (in all categories) since last year’s conference.

Interest rates remain low for checking, money market and certificate of deposit accounts. One portion of ACH funds ($52,006.89 US) is deposited in a Business Growth Savings/Money Market Account at an interest rate averaging .75-1.5%; the balance is in an interest-bearing Commercial Checking account earning 0.5% ($16010.69 US).

That being said, we would also like to propose that we have a discussion to raise membership fees so that by next year we can raise fees to support the increasing administrative costs associated with organization (online payment fees, webmaster, etc.) and getting us in a better financial position to support some of the projects outlined above — travel awards, help to LOCs, planning and outreach, etc.

**Preparation for the 2017 ACH Annual Conference—Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago:** Debbie McCollin, Sherry-Ann Singh, Rita Pemberton and other members of the Local Organizing Committee kept the Executive Committee regularly informed on the preparations of the 49th Annual Conference. The LOC worked hard to secure sponsorship for this event. Special thanks are due to colleagues at University of Trinidad and Tobago and the University of Southern Caribbean who also helped with this effort and St. Augustine’s graduate students who have been offering their assistance to the conference for the entire event. The LOC would also like to extend its appreciation to the Tobago House of Assembly.

The EC commends the LOC on a job very well done, especially as preparations were largely organized remotely from St. Augustine, Trinidad. As one can imagine this was a tremendous undertaking for the LOC and they ought to be congratulated for producing a very successful conference in challenging economic conditions and from off-island as well.
Concerns of the EC: The EC has also been concerned about the legal position of the association going into its 50th year of existence and is working towards obtaining a suitable legal status in both North American and Caribbean jurisdictions. This will help to make more prudent investments with endowed funds and facilitate donations and the acquisition of potential grant funding.

The EC has also been discussing avenues for publication and digital access to repositories of ACH archived papers in order to optimize the benefits of membership and visibility of the association’s members.

We are interested in fostering academic exchange in between annual meetings and raising our digital profile (ie. Facebook, blog).

The EC continues to be very concerned about the sustainability of the conference given the high costs associated with its preparation, including the expense of translation. The following costs were compiled by the former Secretary-Treasurer, Michelle McDonald.

Sample of LOC Costs: Translation Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Translation Cost</th>
<th>Total Conference Cost</th>
<th>% of Budget Paid for Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>$9,030.00</td>
<td>$28,347.00</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Curacao</td>
<td>$10,071.00</td>
<td>$59,041.00</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>$9,361.00</td>
<td>$27,656.93</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Martinique</td>
<td>$16,631.70</td>
<td>$50,562.72</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
<td>$49,490.00</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Cape</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
<td>$35,736.00</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Tobago</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
<td>$37,312.00</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Translation Costs as a % of the Total LOC Budget

Preparation for Future ACH Annual Conferences: The 2018 ACH Conference has been scheduled for Barbados. The main theme that has been decided is “The ACH @ 50: Continuity and Change”. Information regarding the composition of the LOC and other details will be offered in due course, and outlined in the Bulletin. The EC will be reviewing proposals from St. Martin and St. Kitts and Nevis for 2019/20, and looks forward to additional proposals for later years.

We note that hosting the ACH requires institutional support on the ground, which often limits the number of destinations where we can be hosted, and our geographical reach in the region. We also note that the ability to host the conference often relies on the stability of the political and economic situation in territories across the region. We often are forced to shift destinations at the last moment because of an election or poor fiscal prospects in a territory. That being said, we remain committed to cultivating relationships with new contacts in the region so that the association can extend its reach. In this regard, we would like to applaud The University of the West Indies (UWI), and especially its Departments of History on all three campuses for their continued commitment to graciously host the conference when no other destination can be found. Over the course of our almost 50 year history, the UWI has been an important partner with association and we look forward to celebrating the university’s 70th Anniversary in Barbados next year.

Follow-Up Discussion: Members discussed the financial implications of the conference given the information the EC shared in its report. Charlotte Gressier wondered if there might be EU funding for the cost of interpretation for the conference. The EC noted her query. Roberta Kilkenny commented that the ACH needed to have a better understanding of the budgetary implications for the LOCs for the destinations where the conference is hosted, and wondered if one of the reasons for the high cost might be the choice of destination, rather than the quality of the conference. However, the EC noted that the ACH was committed to bringing the conference to new destinations to extend its reach and this sometimes posed logistical challenges that needed to be better understood. Pedro Welch enquired why costs were so high for this year’s conference. Heather Cateau and Rita Pemberton reiterated that all of the translation equipment and translator costs had to be brought in from
Trinidad, which elevated the costs significantly. Kathleen Monteith mentioned that it was much more effective to look at the translation costs as a percentage of the overall budget. Gad Heuman questioned whether some of the translation expenses were wasteful since there were not enough Spanish-speakers, for example, in the conference to justify daily Spanish translation. Charlotte Gressier questioned whether there was a technological solution for the simultaneous translation and whether there were any income-generating opportunities that could aid interpretation.

Jeffrey Kerr-Ritchie commented that members should be encouraged to publish in more languages. Michelle McDonald reiterated that there was a cost to publish a journal and that the ACH could explore special issues of existing journals in affiliated periodicals. Dumont explained that the Université des Antilles et de la Guyane had an online portal called ‘HAL’ which he mentioned in his message in the last Bulletin which could archive ACH papers for free and make them available. The EC concluded that this point would be explored in subsequent meetings.

Much discussion ensued on the Conference theme, and a suggestion was made to revise the theme to ‘ACH@50: Continuity, Change and Challenge’. Dumont reminded the membership that it agreed to selecting an overarching theme and that ideas for paper/panel themes would be subsumed under it. However, members expressed their dissatisfaction with the process and wished for individual topics to be taken from the floor. The EC agreed and the following topics were suggested:

- The ACH @ 50: Aims, Attainments and Aspirations
- Archaeology and Environmental History
- Oral History in the Caribbean
- Comparative and Transnational Methodologies
- Reparations and Reparatory Justice
- The Caribbean after Decolonization: Successes, Challenges and the Future
- The Greater Caribbean Region
- Food in the Caribbean
- Land Transactions in the Post-Slavery Caribbean
- Contesting the ‘Creole’ Narrative in History
- Violence, Drugs and Mental Health
- Child’s Play: Children, Sport and Play

Report of the Nominating Committee, 2016-2017: This year’s Nominating Committee included Kathleen Monteith (convener, University of the West Indies, Mona), Roderick McDonald (Rider University) and Richard Blackett (Vanderbilt University). Monteith reported that the following were elected to the EC for a one-year term: Rosemarijn Hoefte (President) and Heather Cateau (Vice President). Tara Inniss continues as the Secretary-Treasurer for a three-year term. Although none of the elected nominees stood for Conference Coordinator, the incoming EC later noted that Gelien Matthews would serve as Conference Coordinator. There was a tie among two of the nominees so the EC announced that given the increased planning for the 50th conference that at-large members would include the following in addition to Matthews: Margo Groenewoud; Philippe Girard; Pedro Welch and Carla Pestana.

Selection of the Nominating Committee, 2017-2018: Following announcement of this year’s election results, Jacques Dumont called for nominations from the floor for the 2017-18 Nominating Committee. The following individuals were nominated and agreed to serve: Michelle McDonald (Stockton University), Kathryn Dungy (St. Michael’s College); Janice Mayers, and Richard Blackett (Vanderbilt University). Although this committee is larger than the standard ACH nominating committee of three persons, it was decided, following discussion by the AGM, to allow all nominees to serve. Committee members agreed to select their own chair from among their members. This information will be posted on the ACH website.

Any Other Business: David Trotman asked the EC to consider ways in which the ACH could continue to deepen dialogue after the conference. He sent a message from Anne McPherson saying that she would be willing to contribute to such an effort. Audra Dipite explained that H-Caribbean, which she moderates, could have more of a presence from
ACH membership. **Gad Heuman** asked the EC to be more mindful of the length of final papers in its final selection process as some of the submissions exceeded the stipulated 25-page maximum length. **Roberta Kilkenny** asked to have the guidelines for presentations circulated in the Call for Papers requiring a statement of the originality of the work presented in the Abstracts as well as a note on presenters sources. **Frédéric Scheider** asked if more outreach to Haiti as a possible destination for a future conference could be explored.

**Evaluation of the 2017 Conference:** All AGM members agreed that the conference was very well organized, and that the translation services were strong. Members thank the work done by the Conference Coordinator, Clara Palmiste and the Secretary-Treasurer, Tara Inniss.

**Rosemarijn Hoefte** adjourned the meeting at 4:00pm.
ACH Financial Report, 2016-17

ACH Commercial Checking (all amounts appear in US Dollars): INCOME

A. Beginning balance Checking Account (as of 6/1/16):

$13368.43

B. Membership Dues Income (NOTE: Paypal fees vary for U.S. versus non-U.S. transactions)

Dues Revenue (online via Paypal through May 15, 2017)*

Life Members (1x $400, less $11.90 Paypal fee per transaction = $388.10)
(1x $400, less $15.90 Paypal fee per transaction = $384.10)
Full Members (5 x $40, less $1.86 Paypal fee per transaction = $190.70)
(28 x $40, less $1.46 Paypal fee per transaction = $1079.12)
(14x $40, less $2.06 Paypal fee per transaction = $531.16)
Student Members (3x $15, less $.96 Paypal fee per transaction = $42.12)
(7x $15, less $.89 Paypal fee per transaction = $98.77)
(17 x $15, less $.74 Paypal fee per transaction = $242.42)
Institutional member (1x $80, less $3.82 Paypal fee per transaction = $76.18)

Dues Revenue (by mail or on-site in Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago)

$715.00

Full Members (by mail, 2 x $40 = $80.00)
Full Members (on site, 14 x $40 = $560.00)
Student Member (on site, 5 x $15 = $75.00)

C. Conference Registration Income

Registration Revenue (online via Paypal) $13095.35

Full Registration (22 x $175, less $8.00 Paypal fee per transaction = $3674.00)
(2 x $175, less $7.85 Paypal fee per transaction = $334.30)
(11 x $175, less $7.13 Paypal fee per transaction = $1846.57)
(33 x $175, less $5.38 Paypal fee per transaction = $5597.46)
(1 x $175, less $13.50 Paypal fee per multi-transaction) = $161.50
(1 x $175, less $7.70 Paypal fee per transaction = $167.30)
(1 x $175, less $5.08 Paypal fee per transaction = $169.92)
(1 x $175, less $6.83 Paypal fee per transaction = $168.17)

(3 x -$175, for three conference refunds = -$525.00)
(Paypal refund transactions fees for registrations = -$19.61)

Student Registration (7 x $80, less $2.62 Paypal fee per transaction = $541.66)
(2 x $80, less $3.42, Paypal fee per transaction = $153.16)
(1 x $80, see above multi-transaction = $80.00)

Caribbean Student Registration (1 x $65, less $3.16 Paypal fee per transaction = $61.84)
(1 x $65, less $2.84 Paypal fee per transaction = $62.16)

Guest Fee (3 x $100, less $4.70 Paypal fee per transaction = $285.90)
(1 x $100, less $3.20 Paypal fee per transaction = $96.80)
(2 x $100, see above multi-transaction = $200)
Registration Revenue (on-site in Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago)
$2840.00
Full Registration (12 x $175 = $2100.00)
Caribbean Student Registration (4 x $65 = $260)
Student Registration (1 x $80 = $80)
Guest Fees (4 x $100 = $400.00)

D. Book Exhibition Income:
Flyer Insert ($50.00) and institutional renewal for 2016-17 University of the West Indies Press ($80.00)
Flyer Insert Papilotte Press (1 x $50 = $50.00)

TOTAL BEGINNING BALANCE + 2016-17 INCOME: $33231.45

ACH Money Market Account (Gould-Saunders Fund), beginning balance: $54,266.15
Interest earned 2016-17: $7.85
9/12/16 $2267.99 Balance transferred over to Operating Account for José Marti Centre Reception

TOTAL BEGINNING BALANCE + 2016-17 INCOME: $52006.89

EXPENSES

A. 8/2/16 Constant Contact pre-paid (12 months 30% discount) $362.88

Website/Communication-Related Fees:
Translation Services (One Hour Translation): $147.88
• $40.52 on 03/01/17 (Online Debit #9918)
• $53.68 on 03/13/17 (Payment from Paypal Account)
• $53.68 on 03/13/17 (Payment from Paypal Account)

B. Conference Expenses: $16210.00
• 2/01/17: $5035.00 (Outgoing Wire Transfer No. 170201003217)
• 5/5/17: $9870.00 (Outgoing Wire Transfer)
• 5/18/17: $1100.00 (Registration Monies paid onsite)
• 5/16/17: $105.00 (Servicing EC Meeting)
• 5/17/17: $100.00 (Servicing EC)

The above two payments included ACH “Seed Money” for Conference Expenses ($5,000) and conference registration fees ($13095.35 + $2840.00).

C. Prizes:
2016 Gould-Saunders Prize (check #1326): $500.00

TOTAL EXPENSES for 2016-17: $17220.76

ACCOUNTS SUMMARY:

BEGINNING CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE + 2016-17 INCOME: $33231.45
2016-17 EXPENSES: $17220.76
FINAL CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE (INCOME LESS EXPENSES): 16010.69

BEGINNING MMA BALANCE + 2016-17 INCOME: $52006.89
TOTAL OF ALL ACH ACCOUNTS: $68,017.58

Additional ACH expenses were paid by external sources:

Expenses of the Secretariat (UWI)
Travel to the ACH Annual Conference (May 2017): $3686.32

TOTAL EXPENSES PAID EXTERNALLY: $0.00
Welcome to our new and renewed members

The following people have joined—or rejoined—the ACH since January 2017

(Don’t see your name? You were in the winter issue if you joined before January 31, 2107!)

**LIFE MEMBERS**

Clara Palmiste, Université des Antilles et de la Guyane
Edward Rugemer, Yale University

**MEMBERS and MEMBER RENEWALS**

Westenley Alcenat, Fordham University
Henrice Attink, University of York
Caree Banton, University of Arkansas
Franco Barchiesi, Ohio State University
Alejandra Bronfman, University of British Columbia
Randy Browne, Xavier University
Steve Cushion, London Metropolitan University
Jacques Dumont, Université des Antilles et de la Guyane
Jerome Egger, Anton de Kom University of Suriname
Jorge Elias-Caro, Universidad del Magdalena
Nicole Foote, Florida Gulf Coast University
Dexter Gabriel, University of Connecticut - Storrs
Armando Garcia de la Torre, UWI St. Augustine
Bernardo Garcia Diaz, Universidad Veracruzana
Rebecca Goetz, New York University
Jamie Goodall, Stevenson University
Margo Groenewoud, University of Curáçao
Danelle Gutarra, Princeton University
Cecília Hall, University of Trinidad and Tobago
Jerome Handler, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities
Rosemarijn Hoefte, KITLV
Philip Howard, University of Houston
Erika Johnson, Gordon State College
Terencia Joseph, University of the Southern Caribbean
Barbara Josiah, CUNY

**STUDENT MEMBERS AND MEMBER RENEWALS**

Christianne Alvarado, Universiteit van Amsterdam
Anne’el Bain, UWI St. Augustine
Adissa Beatty, Howard University
Nicholas Courtney, UWI Cave Hill
Pamela Cumberbatch
Joan Flores, New York University
Daniel Genkins, Vanderbilt University
Ryan Holroyd, Pennsylvannia State University
Alexey Krichtal, Johns Hopkins University
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS
UWI Press

Become a Member

Join the hundreds of scholars who have already joined the Association of Caribbean Historians. Our membership year runs from **June 1 to May 31**.

Benefits include:
- Electronic subscription to the semi-annual ACH newsletter, the Bulletin.
- Early notification of conference calls for papers and registration.
- Eligibility for ACH awards and prizes.
- Notification of other events and programs beneficial to members.
- Inclusion in the premier academic institution of pan-Caribbean Studies.

More importantly, you will be part of a unique multi-lingual organization that offers an unparalleled opportunity for scholarly exchange.

There are two easy ways to join. You can either print and complete the ACH membership form (http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/pdf/ACH Website Membership Form, 7.22.11 (1).pdf), or join online using any major credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover) http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/membership.htm

There are five (5) membership categories:

- **Professional Members ($40 a year)**: for faculty, public history, or governmental positions.
- **Students Members ($15 a year)**: a special rate for graduate and undergraduate students.
- **Institutional Members ($80 a year)**: for colleges, universities, libraries, museums, and other cultural and educational organizations.
- **Benefactor ($120 a year)**: a higher category of giving to support the organization’s activities.
- **Life Membership ($400)**: the best membership bargain—equivalent to 10 years of annual membership, but valid for life.

For more information about life membership, click here.

Association of Caribbean Historians
http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org
President: Rosemarijn Hoefte, KITLV
Vice-President: Heather Cateau, UWI St. Augustine
Secretary-Treasurer: Tara Inniss, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill
Conference Coordinator: Gelien Matthews, UWI St. Augustine