

International Visitors Programme, Erfgoed Nederland

December 1-7, 2010

Travel Report by Dr. Jay Haviser

Visitor: Dr. Jay B. Haviser

Director, Sint Maarten Archaeological Center (SIMARC)

Also within the Ministry of VROMI, St. Maarten

Organizer and Contact persons: Erfgoed Nederland as Organizer, with Astrid Weij, Barbara Consolini, and Marjolein Cremer, of Erfgoed Nederland as the contact persons.

Goals:

- Further development of the program Erfgoed Bes(t), a series of projects that aim to set up a basic infrastructure for the cultural heritage field in the Antilles, with special regard to the BES islands, Aruba and St. Maarten.
- Development of the pilot project of Erfgoed Bes(t), a concept training course for the Caribbean islands, based on the Dutch course 'Erfgoed in de Praktijk', with presentations to various organizations. The title of the concept course is 'Erfgoed in de Antillen Praktijk', and has civil servants and professionals as the target group.
- Further discussion about the organization of the Open Monumentendag on the islands and eventually also the Bomendag.

Flight Details:

Depart St. Maarten; Nov. 30, 2010; KLM #785 --arrival Schiphol, Dec. 1, 2010, 7:55am

Depart Schiphol; Dec. 7, 2010; KLM #785 --arrival St. Maarten, Dec. 7, 2010, 1:20pm

Hotel: Eden Lancaster, Plantage Middenlaan 48, Amsterdam



Hotel Eden Lancaster, Amsterdam, on December 1, 2010

WORK PROGRAMME *all times given are in local Dutch time

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

*After flight delays due to heavy snow, arrival at the hotel at 1:30pm. Thus morning meetings were postponed to tomorrow, with the afternoon meetings to continue as scheduled.

3:00pm Introductory meeting at the Erfgoed Nederland office (Amsterdam), with Barbara Consolini. Introductions to the Erfgoed Nederland staff and the facility, as well as arrangements for travel costs finalized with staff member Marjolien Cremer. The week's final work schedule was confirmed by all.

4:00pm Meeting with Dr. Jerzy Gawronsky at the Bureau of Monuments and Archaeology of Amsterdam (BMA), at the BMA offices (Amsterdam). The purpose of this meeting was to observe the status of a GIS format Cultural-Historical map of St. Maarten which has been in process for some months and is hoped to be finalized by early 2011. This project is a cooperation between BMA for the City of Amsterdam, St. Maarten, and the NAAM on Curacao. Also present at the meeting was Bas van Sprew (BMA) who is the technical person working on this St. Maarten map project.

All of the basic database, being Historical, Archaeological and Anthropological sites, including Historic Tree locations, are to be incorporated into this educational map, with these databases previously provided by Ministries VROMI and OCJS, SIMARC, and other organizations on St. Maarten.

The map creation by BMA is almost complete, with several printed and digital copies of the map thus far provided to me. I will use these draft maps for a Public Forum on St. Maarten in mid-December, to acquire more community knowledge suggestions.

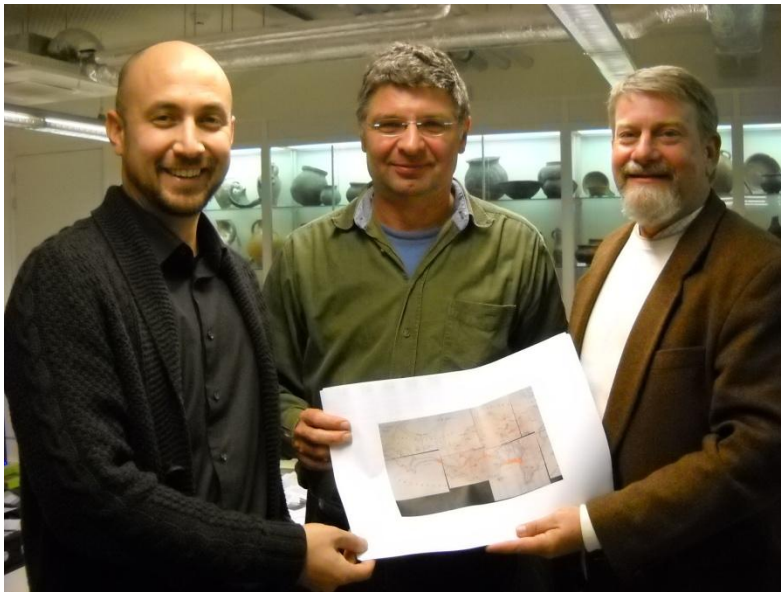
Still to be done on the map by BMA are corrections of certain data sets that did not fit the map format (re. Historic Tree GPS coordinates), and overlay of the various GIS system layers on the map. Still to be done by St. Maarten, are the Public Forum information gathering, as well as the submission of individual digital photographs of the sites (as they were submitted earlier in a group file).

The data sets for this map are: the 1916 Werbata map topographic and structural features; the St. Maarten monuments list sites; other significant historical-archaeological sites; Historic tree locations; old stone 'slave wall' wall locations; and various map features from the 1960-1980s. It was agreed that only certain Anthropological sites could be placed on the map, as most had

no actual physical locations to refer to. The remaining Anthropological (intangible) sites will be identified in an accompanying booklet with the map.

It is now tentatively scheduled that after the results of the St. Maarten Public Forum and last data sets inclusion by end of December, we will target for a visit and presentation of the map by BMA staff at St. Marten in about March 2011.

Recent publications by the BMA were provided for the SIMARC library.
The meeting ended at 6:00pm.



Bas van Sprew, Jerzy Gawronsky and Jay Havisier at BMA office

Thursday, December 2, 2010

*Heavy snow throughout the night, local transportation is slightly delayed and very cold.

10:00am Meeting with Drs. Gerard Koster of the Vereniging van Nederlandse Gemeenten (VNG) at the Erfgoed Nederland offices (Amsterdam). Also present at the meeting was Barbara Consolini of EN. The purpose of the meeting was to present the training course concept to the VNG, and request feedback. Mr. Koster noted that it is now 25 years that the Antilles have been a member within the VNG, but that in fact the VNG was not actually represented for heritage/zoning matters on the islands.

Mr. Koster is positive about the concept for such a training course, and indicated it is important to have such upgrade training for civil servants and professionals at this critical time for the

islands. As well, he acknowledged that the BES islands were now the responsibility of the Netherlands and this further gave cause for the courses. He did stress that it would be most efficient for the Caribbean islands to find 'sister cities' for which to cooperate directly, as this would be the most effective approach. In this regard he suggested the good example of a project just now beginning between Bonaire and Dordrecht, for the inventory and preservation of historical archives. I indicated that city cooperation between St. Maarten and Amsterdam had also been established.

It was agreed that this 'Erfgoed in de Antillen Praktijk' concept training course would be an excellent article for the VNG magazine, and that he would take contact with the editors to have the arrangements for interviews and a story published, perhaps in the end of January.

He also mentioned the MoMo (Modernization Monuments) program to be introduced by VNG to municipalities next year, and perhaps this could also be on the BES islands. As further contacts, he suggested Henk Jansen at Utrecht, Karen Westerink at the BMA, and Connie van Es at Dordrecht. He also provided various copies VNG publications which deal with Monuments and Archaeology, including the application of the Valetta Treaty in Holland.

The meeting concluded at 11:30am.



Jay Havisser, Annet Pasveer, and Edith den Hartigh
at Erfgoed Nederland/Open Monumentendag office

11:30am Meeting with Drs. Annet Pasveer and Drs. Edith den Hartigh of the Open Monumentendag foundation, at the Erfgoed Nederland offices (Amsterdam). The purpose of this meeting was to inquire of the potential for introduction/cooperation for an Open Monuments Day on the Dutch Caribbean islands.

They outlined that the Open Monumentendag (OMD) is a National-scale event, however it is actualized by localized committees in the municipalities. Indeed the origin of this event was and is on a European-scale. The event takes place in the second weekend of September each year. The OMD staff indeed had little knowledge about the Dutch Caribbean (including that Curacao had such an event for many years), but they did recognize that the BES islands in particular could now potentially fall under the event inclusions.

For September 2011, the OMD will be celebrating 25 years, and the theme will be 'Re-use for Old Buildings'. With this theme being very relevant for the Caribbean tourism use of historic buildings, and the fact that this is the first year the BES islands could be part of the event, they were very positive and willing about the potential for cooperation. Indeed even also including cooperation with Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten. If such Open Monument Day events took place on the islands, it was agreed that an OMD Netherlands representative could participate in the activities.

One area of potential cooperation could be with the production of posters for the event, and/or an article in the OMD national magazine and website about the islands. It was noted that primary funding for the OMD is via RABO Vastgoedgroep and the Nationaal Restauratie Fonds (NRF), thus these sources would also need to be approached.

It was agreed that I will return to inform the local Antillean foundations and relevant organizations, so that further plans can be developed for the 2011 celebration.

The meeting concluded at 12:30pm.

1:00pm Lunch Meeting with Astrid Weij, Director of Erfgoed Nederland, at the EN offices (Amsterdam). Also attending was Barbara Consolini. Unfortunately their colleague, Ms. Hiske Bienstman, was scheduled to attend but unable to make it, due partially to severe weather conditions. The purpose of this meeting was to clarify the position of Erfgoed Nederland (EN) in the overall concept plans, and to discuss more specific details of the 'Erfgoed in de Antillen Praktijk' course structure.

Erfgoed Nederland is very positive about the potential for success of such a training course as 'Erfgoed in de Antillen Praktijk', thus majority of the discussion was on details of initial implementation. One important aspect which was brought out, was that I had created the title of this course with a double meaning 'Erfgoed in de Antillen' as heritage studies on the Antilles, but also "Antillen Praktijk" referring to the unique aspects of practicing heritage work in the Antilles, as distinctive from the Netherlands.

Considering the interest for a high public profile event like Open Monuments Day for September 2011, it was agreed that the best time to have the training courses would be just after that, around October-November 2011.



Barbara Consolini, Astrid Wiej and Jay Havisser
at Erfgoed Nederland office

It was agreed that the best approach would be to have two phases; 1. Training the Antillean Trainers in the Netherlands, then 2. Antillean Trainers giving the courses on the islands.

Phase 1. Training the Antillean Trainers

The project workgroup (Arminda Ruiz, Grant Gilmore, Jay Havisser and Boi Antoin) would attend the 'Erfgoed in de Praktijk' course in the Netherlands, preferably around May-June 2011.

Barbara will take contact with the NRF and RCE, who organize the Netherlands course, to see if a more concentrated, modified and private course could be arranged for this project. Also at the same time of taking the course, and together with the Dutch specialists, a modified re-interpreted format for the Antillean version of the training course would be compiled.

Phase 2. Training in the Antilles

The format for these one-day courses would be that the workgroup members each give two 'basic introduction' courses on their islands for free, then the subsequent specialized courses would be offered at a fee. These one-day courses have a very specific target group of civil servants and professionals in the various fields of Heritage, Monuments and Archaeology. These specialized courses relate to a variety of needs in the mentioned fields, such as policy, local regulations, permits, financial issues, quality controls, re-use and restoration, zoning plans, monuments councils, etc. It was further suggested that it may be best to have each workgroup member focus to learn two specialized courses, then to travel between the islands to conduct their particular learned courses within the overall program.

It was also agreed to approach the Mondriaan Foundation for potential funding of this project. Erfgoed Nederland publications on Monuments and Archaeology were then given for the SIMARC and other organizations.

The meeting concluded at 2:30pm.

2:45pm Meeting with Drs. Benedict Goes, Head of the ICOMOS Netherlands at the Pijpkabinet Museum (Amsterdam). Also attending was Barbara Consolini. By coincidence we also were given an enjoyable tour of the Pipe Museum by Drs. Goes. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce ICOMOS to the training course concept and achieve support.

He indicated that until now the only ICOMOS connection with the islands has been on Curacao for their World Heritage nominations/continuity, including introducing some island specialists to ICOMOS conferences and symposia (such as recently with a Plantations Conference in Suriname).

He suggested that a potential cooperation between the islands and ICOMOS could best be via a short symposium on/for the islands, and with specific regard to the new status of the islands and their goals for protection/use of monuments and sites.

Another high profile public event brought forth with this project, is the cooperative celebration of 'National Tree Day' between the islands and the Netherlands. Drs. Goes saw this National

Tree Day celebration as a very potential area for cooperation, and indeed mentioned that the Flanders would perhaps be a good city for direct cooperation, as they already have a significant Historic Trees Program.

The meeting concluded at 4:30pm.



Jay Haviser, Barbara Consolini, and Benedict Goes
at ICOMOS office

4:45pm Meeting with Ms. Sarah Malko at the Mondriaan Foundation (Amsterdam). The original meeting was planned with Joost Vrieler at Mondriaan but he had been abroad so we met with Ms. Malko. Also present at the meeting was Barbara Consolini. The purpose of this meeting was to see if funding for the 'Erfgoed in de Antillen Praktijk' training course would be feasible, at least partially, through the Mondriaan Foundation requirements.

After a presentation about the concept training course, Ms. Malko indicated that the program did indeed fit the needs of Mondriaan Foundation goals for professional upgrading on the islands. And thus in her opinion, it could be submitted with a good potential for success. She did clearly note that if accepted, Mondriaan Foundation could only fund up to 75% of the costs for such a program. She will pass on the information to Mr. Vrieler.

She did indicate that although Mondriaan could be interested in the 'Erfgoed in de Antillen Praktijk' training course project, that the Open Monuments Day and National Tree Day activities

would not likely be funded through them. She suggested sources such as Prince Bernhard Culture Funds, Funds for Cultural Participation, and Stichting DOEN for these two events sponsorship.

We further discussed the status of an ongoing Mondriaan Foundation supported archaeology project at Slagbaai, Bonaire. This project was initiated by myself for the SIMARC and BONAI, with cooperation from Leiden University, NAAM, STINAPA Bonaire and the Bonaire government. The project involves both St. Maarten and Bonaire youth in professional archaeological research on Bonaire and Aruba, with their findings to be presented by themselves at an international congress in 2011 at Martinique.

The meeting concluded at 5:30pm.

Friday, December 3, 2010

*Continued heavy snow and cold, better transportation service.

10:30am Meeting with Ms. Marieke Knol, Director of the Mobiliteit in Muziek Foundation from Dordrecht (meeting at Leiden). The purpose of this meeting was to establish a connection with the Dordrecht archives project which was recently initiated with Bonaire, to see if cooperation and perhaps other island expansion potentials were available.

Ms. Knol, outlined the project in which the City of Dordrecht archives department will 'adopt' the Bonaire archives (basically created and maintained by Boi Antoin), with the goal of content inventory and preservation for the records. One of the needs for the project was local volunteer personnel for the documents inventory separation process. I suggested that the BONAI youth group could make this a project for their youth group, and thus learn about archives and help the inventory project at the same time. I will take contact with the BONAI Board of Directors to suggest the idea. However, it was noted that the best time to do the project would be over the summer vacation months. She will go back to the Dordrecht archive authorities, as well as others involved in the project, to see if this BONAI cooperation idea is acceptable.

I suggested the potential to do similar cooperation projects with St. Maarten. She will be on Bonaire in January, and can meet with the BONAI Board and students then to plan for the summer student's work. I will also try to schedule a work visit to Bonaire in January.

The meeting concluded at 11:30am.

12:00noon Lunch meeting with Dr. Willem Willems and Dr. Corinne Hofman of the Archaeology Department at Leiden University (Leiden). The purpose of this meeting was to update on current events relating to archaeology on the islands, and what was happening with Leiden programs in the region. As well, it was discussed with Dr. Hofman for the potential of St. Maarten student Matthew Halley, to be accepted into the Leiden University Caribbean Archaeology program. She agreed to the idea, and suggested that he attend one of the department 'open days' in the future to see he is interested, I gave her his email address so she can invite him personally.

The meeting concluded at 1:00pm.

1:15pm As a current faculty member of Leiden University myself, I presented a lecture to the Leiden University Caribbean Archaeology faculty and students about recent archaeological research on St. Maarten. Afterwards a question-answer period was held with the approximately 30 persons attending. There continues to be a very positive interest in St. Maarten by Leiden University staff and students.

The lecture-discussions concluded at 3:00pm.

3:00pm Meeting with the Advisory Committee of AWAD (Atlantic World and the Dutch) at the KITLV offices, at Leiden University (Leiden). By special request from the AWAD, I was invited to attend this Advisory Committee meeting as a representative from the Dutch Caribbean. Present at this meeting were Astrid Weij and Barbara Consolini of Erfgoed Nederland; Gert Oostindie of KITLV; Alex van Stipriaan of the Tropenmuseum; Mara de Groot of the National Archives; Anouk Fienieg of the Center for International Heritage Activities; Martine Gosselink of the Rijksmuseum; and Dirk Tang of the Royal Library.

Discussions were relevant to the current activities of the AWAD around the world, with particular reference to an upcoming AWAD Brazil representation and membership request from Indonesia. Extensive discussions were also conducted on the geographic expansion of the role of AWAD, and the effect this has on the very name of the organization.

The meeting was concluded at 5:00pm.

After the meeting, additional conversations were held each with Alex van Stipriaan (Tropenmuseum) and Mara de Groot (National Archives) about ongoing cooperation programs with the islands, and potential new project ideas for cooperation.

Saturday-Sunday, December 4-5, 2010

These two days were spent visiting museums and local historical sites in Amsterdam, even with the heavy snows and cold throughout the weekend.

Monday, December 6, 2010

*Less snow and more wet melted ice, thus very slippery walking.

9:30am Meeting with Dr. Artwell Cain, Director of the NiNsee (National Institute for the Study of Slavery and its Legacy) at Amsterdam. Present at the meeting was Barbara Consolini. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the training course to NiNsee, and seek their cooperation with perhaps expertise assistance in research, and to support the training course project concept.

It was emphasized that the new status of the BES/Curacao/St. Maarten/Aruba constitutional structure, would now allow for direct cooperation projects with NiNsee, rather than as in the past projects being directed through Curacao.

Dr. Cain was positive with the 'Erfgoed in de Antillen Praktijk' project concept and invited that St. Maarten submit a concept protocol agreement for direct cooperation in future research. He suggested to he would make contact with one of their close collaborators, Prof. Stephen Small (Berkeley University and University of Amsterdam) specialist on intangible heritage research, and have him contact us.

The meeting was concluded at 10:30am.



Artwell Cain and Jay Havisser at the NiNsee office

12:30pm (The Hague) It was the intention to spend a couple of hours in the National Archives to continue discussions with Dr. Mara De Groot, and to conduct some documents research, however the Archives were closed. Thus I went to the nearby National Library and conducted some documents research there. Indeed I was able to find a series of older document references for the management and laws relating to the Great Salt Pans on St. Maarten. These documents were official government proclamations dating from between 1737 and 1777, regulating such things as access to the salts pans, forbidding fishing in the salt pans, etc.

I left the library at 2:30pm.

3:00pm Meeting with Flora van Regteren Altena, Jan de Jong, and Vevita Eichberger-Zandee of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) at the OCW offices (The Hague). Present at the meeting was also Barbara Consolini. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the 'Erfgoed in de Antillen Praktijk' training course concept, and gain support from the OCW for this program.

We outlined the various organizations which we have met over the last few days, and the positive reactions thus far. And that we felt it was crucial to protocol for contact to be made with OCW to inform of these developments, particularly in light of the new constitutional status, and the interests of St. Maarten to be considered directly. There was then an outline provided of the 'Erfgoed in de Antillen Praktijk' training course concept.

The OCW staff indicated that they have mostly policymaking tasks, and that local applications of projects are better coordinated with the local Netherlands municipalities, in agreement with the VNG position. However, they did point out that there is a VNG International sub-organization (contact person Chris van der Valk), and they provided us with contact documentation of that organization.

For the training course, the OCW staff made a serious inquiry as to who would be the trainers, and if they would be sufficiently qualified to give such specialized courses. It was agreed that the basic courses could easily be handled by the four project workgroup members, but that perhaps more expert specialists should be brought in for the specialization courses. Nonetheless, they were positively interested in the training course concept, particularly the upgrading of civil servants and professionals aspect, and look forward to further updating on the project developments.

During the discussions, the Open Monuments Day was seen as a positive public educational effort, and the OCW staff even suggested that we consider involving the French side cooperatively, complying with the broader European original concept for the event. It was also noted that Peter van Vollehoven is the Chairman of the Open Monuments Day, and also a big supporter of the Antilles.



Vevita Eichberger-Zandee, Flora van Regteren Altena, Jan de Jong, and Jay Haviser at the OCW ministry office.

As a request from the OCW side, they asked that I communicate to the Minister of Culture the important upcoming UNESCO treaty for the 'Protection of Intangible Heritage', which is hoped to be ratified by the Netherlands next year. However, they suggested there is another possibility to have it ratified as a Kingdom Treaty, with St. Maarten and other partners involved. I agreed to communicate this to our Minister of Culture on St. Maarten.

As a final gesture, a copy of the film documentary 'BONAI: Decoding the Past' about the BONAI Youth and Science program on Bonaire was presented to the OCW staff members, with a request for potential wider distribution in the Netherlands. They also suggested potential funding for such youth and science programs as SIMARC and BONAI, could be found with the Funds for Cultural Participation.

The meeting concluded at 5:00pm.

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Early morning flight back to St. Maarten.