



MNT UPDATE

Endangered Archive Project

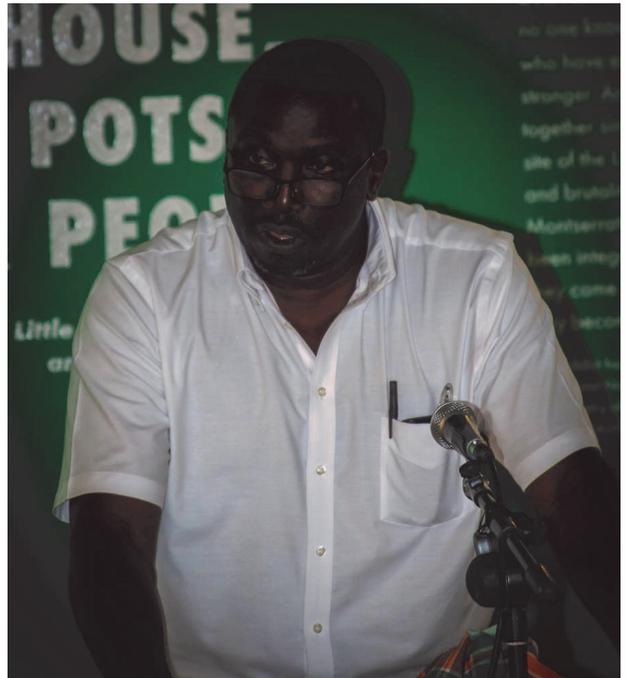
The Montserrat National Trust launched its Endangered Archive Project in early November, 2014 at the Montserrat Museum in Little Bay. Nigel Saddler, Project Consultant, was on island to start the Project and train local practitioners in the use of the equipment and proper handling and storage of archival material.

The Project came about as a result of a collaboration between UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF), Bob Conich from Anguilla, and Nigel Saddler who all worked with the Trust to prepare a project plan eligible for a grant from the British Library.

At the launch there were remarks by H.E. Governor Adrian Davis; Hon. Premier Donaldson Romeo; President of the MNT, Dulcie James and Nigel Saddler. They all stressed the importance of such a Project to Montserrat, where due to natural disasters, many historical records have either been completely lost or are scattered all over the island. The lack of proper storage, handling and care of documents have resulted in loss and damage to important aspects of our history.

The digitization of the island's historical records is a long term project that will enable the Trust to catalogue and store documents for future use. Neil How, a member of the MNT Historical and Archaeological Sites Committee and Donna Henry, Museum Assistant, are responsible for handling exhibitions and historical documents. Both will continue with the digitization process. A sample of documents from the MNT, Government Registry, Land Development Authority (LDA), Public Library, and Financial Services Commission have been digitized as part of the Project.

The Project highlighted the urgent need for a National Archive on Montserrat to store valuable historical records in adequate conditions to enable the preservation of these documents. It is hoped that Government, DFID, the Trust and interested friends of Montserrat can come together to make the National Archive a reality.



Hon.. Donaldson Romeo, Premier



Donna Henry, Museum Assistant, using equipment to digitize a document

MNT 2014 FLOWER SHOW & TEA PARTY

This year's Flower Show and Tea Party, held December 4-7th under the patronage of Mrs Sujue Davis, was a resounding success. The Show was held at the Botanic Garden and hosted by the MNT Flower Show Committee. The theme, "Reflections" aptly allowed exhibitors to use their imagination to interpret and demonstrate their understanding of the theme through their lovely creations.

The Opening Ceremony was held after the judges selected the winners in 75 different categories. The Minister of Agriculture, et al, Hon. Claude Hogan, brought greetings and congratulations from his ministry. MNT's President, Mrs Dulcie James, welcomed guests to the function and echoed the delight of the Trust in hosting the Flower Show. The Trust erected a Waterfall to represent the theme. Made from beautiful tree ferns and other native ferns, water lilies and other interesting water features, the waterfall delighted friends and visitors alike.

Anthony Tangkai, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Orchid Society, again provided technical expertise in organizing the Flower Show and expressed his satisfaction with the improvements noted in the presentations this year.

Donna Henry won the champion exhibitor award while Daphne Cassell took second prize and Reverend Joan Meade placed third. The Montserrat Tourism Division was instrumental in sourcing prizes for the three winners to participate in shows in neighboring islands.

The Foliage Plants Section attracted the most submissions with over 200 exhibits. Other categories included Cut Flowers, Flowering plants, Floral Art, Fruits, Vegetables and Herbs.

In the display section, Montserrat community groups had been encouraged to exhibit theme-related displays but none came forward though individuals did provide a few plants for display purposes. There were more children taking part in the 2014 Show from Lookout, St Augustine and Brades Primary Schools all represented.

The winners expressed gratitude when asked about their prizes and many of them vowed to do even better in the next Flower Show by taking part in more classes than they had this year.



*Anthony Tangkai,
President, Trinidad & Tobago Orchid Society*



Anita Nightingale, Director of Tourism; Hon. Claude Hogan, Minister of Agriculture; Dulcie James, MNT President (Left to Right)



Waterfall

The 2014 Tea Party proved to be one of the favorite activities of the Flower Show. Bush teas, beers, wine, local drinks, savories and sweets were served to the guests on Saturday afternoon. All of the food were sponsored by partners of the Trust who gave generously of their time preparing the delicacies served at the

event. Masquerade dancers also entertained the appreciative crowd.

The Hat Competition has also become a favorite, especially among the ladies who came ready to outdo one another. The Most Creative Hat category was won by Agnes Lempiere, Marg Barker and Vereen Woolcock. The Most Fascinating Hat prizes were taken by Liz Corso and

Collette Bates while the Most Unique Hat prizes went to Joanne, Heath, Vercil Edwards and Amy de Dinechin.

The patron of the Flower Show and Tea Party, Sujue Davis, scooped the Most Beautiful Hat's main prize and Althea Shutzer and Pam Holley tied for second.



Sujue Davis, (L) & Dianne Keady (R)



Pam Holley (L) and Liz Corso (R)

ST PATRICK'S EXHIBITION AT MNT



HE the Governor and Mrs Davis viewing the Exhibition, with MNT Executive Member, Beth Breuer along with other visitors.

The MNT mounted its annual St Patrick's Exhibition under the topic ***AWE Heritage, a Digital Approach to preserving Montserrat's Heritage***. AWE Heritage is Montserratian dialect for Our Heritage. The 'E' in AWE also symbolizes the gradual transition of our Exhibitions using modern electronic media. This is driven by two considerations. The first is that we have just completed the Pilot Project for the digitization of some endangered archives on Montserrat, made possible through a grant from the British Library. The second and more important is that we need to be creative in our approach to passing on historical information to a digitally involved generation.

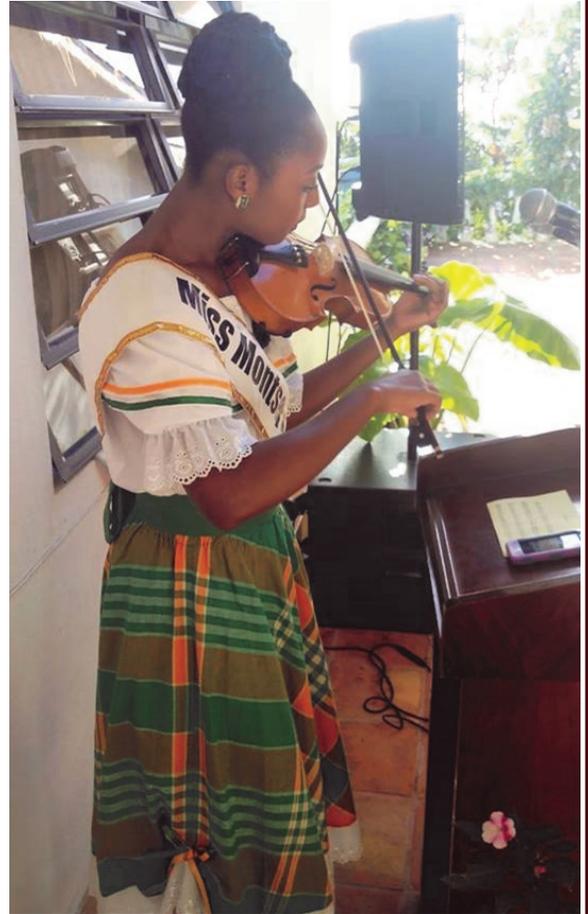
His Excellency the Governor, the Honourable Premier, the President of the Trust and the Chairman of the St Patrick's Festival all gave remarks at the Opening Ceremony held on March 10, 2015.

This Exhibition showed the process undertaken by staff and volunteers in digitizing these important documents and photographs. It also demonstrated a variety of methods that can make it easier to access this valuable historical information for research purposes and potential revenue generation.

On display were some very old documents from the Government Registry dating back to the early 1800s including pages of the Methodist Marriage Register from 1820 (Pre Emancipation) to 1839 (Post Emancipation). This document recorded the marriages of a number of slaves and free persons who carried the surnames of the Estate owners. This is a treasure for those who may want to trace their ancestry back to those slaves who toiled on Montserrat Plantations.

A few pictures from the MNT Archives were displayed telling the story of the origins and changes of the Court House and House of Parliament from colonial times to present day. This record also underscored the threats posed to our archives by natural and man made disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, volcanic activity and fire. All were invited to work towards creating a proper storage facility for these valuable documents.

A number of black and white photos from our collection were also on display, showing persons at a variety of locations and functions. Four short videos were produced for us by Randy Greenaway and Slide Shows were produced by Neil How using documents, pictures and slides from the collection. There was also a video on display from the Trust's Archives produced in 1962/3 for the Tourist Board by Geoffrey Morey.



Miss Montserrat, Sharissa Ryan, playing her violin at the opening.



Visitors and MSS teacher Mary James and her students at the Exhibitions.

LATEST UPDATES ON THE TRUST

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) WORKSHOP



These sessions also highlighted the role of EIA in assessing and managing potential while exploring risks and opportunities associated with planning of development in sensitive environments.

The implications of recent changes in international standards was reviewed and practical cases were used to explore the roles of different “players” in the EIA process and its common strengths and weaknesses as a planning-support tool.

The two day workshop was attended by close to 35 people including most members of the Legislative assembly and other government officials.

Montserrat faces considerable challenges in terms of environmental sustainability due to intense competition for space, the need for expansion of settlements and economic activities and the fragility of its valuable ecosystems and biodiversity.

Pienkowski headed the United Kingdom team that included Catherine Wensink and Dr Jo Treweek who conducted the workshop by sharing with the attendees the purpose and value of EIA.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a tool to support development planning by making environmental sensitivities, threats and opportunities explicit to decision-makers. If used appropriately it can help to balance economic, social and environmental factors in the decision-making process, minimize unavoidable damage and reduce mitigation costs.

The EIA workshop, held at the MNT, was organized by the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum (UKOTCF), Montserrat National Trust and Government of Montserrat. Mike



Dr Jo Treweek



Honourable Claude Hogan

MNT GIFT SHOPS

Both our gift shops in Little Bay and Olveston have a wide variety of souvenir items all year round to suit your needs and pocket. We are open Monday to Thursday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm and Fridays 8:30 am to 4pm. Visit us in Olveston and Little Bay. Phone: (664) 491-3086/ (664) 415-3720

The animal T-shirts and orchids pictured to the right are available. We also have sea island cotton items including napkins, placemats, popular hot sauces, guava jelly, mango chutney, and other locally made products.



MNT thanks our partners in hosting the 2014 Flower Show

- ◆ Mr and Mrs Adrian Davis
 - ◆ Office of the Premier
 - ◆ Bank of Montserrat
 - ◆ Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Environment, et al
 - ◆ Montserrat Tourist Board
 - ◆ MS Osborne Ltd
 - ◆ UNITED Insurance Co.
 - ◆ LIME
 - ◆ Delta Petroleum,
 - ◆ Guardian Consultancy
 - ◆ Ryan Investments Ltd
 - ◆ Montserrat Building Society
- ◆ A&F Service Centre
 - ◆ Travel World
 - ◆ Erica Gibbs
 - ◆ Laurine Fenton
 - ◆ Dulcie James
 - ◆ Roselyn Cassell Sealy
 - ◆ Cedric and Carol Osborne
 - ◆ Montserrat Utilities Ltd
 - ◆ Shiloh Pentecostal Church
 - ◆ Cudjoe Head Community Group
 - ◆ Montserrat Tourism Division
 - ◆ MNT Members & volunteers

MONTSERRAT NATIONAL TRUST

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