

*Curaçao**Conferences of Caribbean Historians.*

From March 27 to April 1, 1978, the tenth annual conference of Caribbean historians was held in St. Thomas (US Virgin Islands) under the joint sponsorship of the College of the Virgin Islands and the Association of Caribbean Historians. The ACH comprises not only historians living and working in the Caribbean but also scholars working in Caribbean history, and previous conferences of the ACH have been attended by historians from a.o. Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Canada and the United States. The 1978 conference had 57 participants, representing at least 31 institutions, the majority of which in various Caribbean territories. Eight panels were organised around selected topics in Caribbean history - many of which had quite obviously some relation to the history of European expansion. A total of 25 papers were presented on:

Amerindians in Guyana (2)

Caribbean emigrants to Africa, the United States and Canada (3)

French colonial politics (2)

War and the Caribbean (5)

Public policy and private economy in the Caribbean (3)

Aspects of Virgin Islands history (5)

Aspects of slavery in the Caribbean (2)

Most of the papers provoked lively comment and discussion, and the panel format proved a success once again.

During the conference in St. Thomas, the Association of Caribbean Historians agreed that the eleventh conference should be held in Curaçao in 1979, upon the invitation of the University of the Netherlands Antilles. Although the dates still have to be fixed exactly, it will anyhow be in the first half of April 1979. There will be no pre-determined conference theme. The programme committee (consisting of the executive committee of the ACH) will receive suggestions and offers of panels and papers. Members and other scholars with a serious interest in Caribbean history are invited to organise panels, consisting of a maximum of four participants, on a particular theme of Caribbean history. They should keep in mind that there is a tendency to avoid panels which relate to one single Caribbean territory only. Persons offering to organise a panel should specify the names of participants and the working titles of their proposed papers, as well as the overall panel theme.

Although the programme committee will entertain offers of single papers, it will probably give preference to organised panels. The committee has in the past found difficulty in accomodating offers of individual papers which are not part of a panel, and it may have to reject such offers unless they can be conveniently added to a panel.

The executive/programme committee has decided to meet in October 1978 to decide the conference programme. Offers for panels and/or papers should therefor be submitted before October 1, 1978, to Dr. Jaap van Soest, Tinweg 20, Curaçao (Vice-president of the ACH), or to Dr. Bridget Brereton, Department of History, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad (Secretary-Treasurer of the ACH).

### *Research Guide to Central America and the Caribbean.*

The Caribe-Centroamerica Committee of the Conference on Latin American History has commissioned the preparation of a 'Research Guide to Central America and the Caribbean', under the general editorship of Kenneth J. Grieb (of the University of Wisconsin), and the associate editorship of a.o. Thomas Mathews (of the University of Puerto Rico).

The Research Guide will be divided into two principal parts. One section will contain descriptions of depositories of historical material. The second section will contain several essays discussing research needs in specific areas of the region's history. Contributors to this second section have been invited to provide a brief survey of the current state of knowledge concerning the topic under review, and to provide the user of the Guide with an analysis of resources available to the scholar interested in the particular topic. Some special stress might be made on lacunae and/or material which has been overlooked or inadequately utilized previously.

As the deadline for the contributions has been postponed until the fall of 1978, the publication of the Research Guide may not be expected before 1980.

Jaap van Soest

