



# Bulletin

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

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## Message from the President

**Carla Pestana**

Distinguished Professor & Joyce Appleby  
Endowed Chair of America in the World  
Department of History  
UCLA



Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the July 2025 Bulletin of the Association of Caribbean Historians. In it you will find reports on our very successful June meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. We had a large turn out and enjoyed the support of a truly excellent Local Organizing Committee. Headed by former ACH President Heather Cateau and current UWI-St Augustine history department HOD Gelien Matthews, the LOC deployed numerous colleagues and students to manage the conference. If anyone wants to know how an ACH ought to be run, look no further than the Trini example.

The meeting had many highlights. Two events (both official and additional) honored long-time ACH members (and another former President) Bridget Brereton, including an opening day panel on her legacy and a book launch one evening. Note too that the book prize went this year to one of the elders, Woodville Marshall, who is still producing significant scholarship at the age of 95. The meeting saw many first-time attendees too, as our numbers post-pandemic continue to rebound. Field trips toured the Angostura factory one afternoon and journeyed out (via Coast Guard transport) to Nelson Island on Friday. The fete in the not-yet-opened site of the Eric Williams Memorial Library offered both great food and much dancing. I want to convey thanks to the organizers as well as to the Conference Coordinator Claire Palmiste for putting on such a great annual meeting.

As you will see from the Annual General Meeting minutes elsewhere in this Bulletin, we had another productive AGM. Allow me again to thank the outgoing Secretary Treasurer Randy Browne and the two EC members who ended their terms, Marjoleine Kars and Chelsea Shields. Note that we did not, however, revise the Constitution. We had failed to notify the membership with the three months' notice required by that self-same Constitution, so the EC tabled that work until next AGM. You can see the proposed changes [here](#), which are minor and bring our document into conformity with current practice; come to our next meeting to discuss and vote on those revisions.

As always with our AGM, we began with a moment for silence for the many colleagues who passed in the last year. One sad reality of the ACH being an organization more than half a century old is the passing of its original members and of many long-time participants. You will have seen these men memorialized in the previous Bulletin or will find statements in the current Bulletin. Of special note of course is the death of Jacques Adélaïde-Merlande of Guadeloupe; it was he who wrote that letter in 1969 inviting his fellow Caribbean scholars to a colloquium that led to the founding of the Association.

Finally, I am grateful that Jamaica has stepped up to host ACH 2026. Watch the website for details. I am honored to preside over this organization, and I thank you for your continued support. I hope to see you in Jamaica.

Sincerely,

Carla Pestana

## 2025-2026 Executive Committee

### OFFICERS:

#### **Carla Pestana, President**

Distinguished Professor & Joyce Appleby Endowed  
Chair of America in the World  
Department of History  
UCLA  
Email: [cgpestanda@history.ucla.edu](mailto:cgpestanda@history.ucla.edu)

#### **Javier Alemán Iglesias, Vice President**

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#### **Rebecca Anne Goetz, Secretary-Treasurer**

Associate Professor  
Department of History  
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#### **José A. Fernández Montes de Oca, Conference Coordinator**

Docente, Escuela de Historia  
Cátedra de Estudios de África y el Caribe  
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### AT LARGE MEMBERS:

#### **Kaysha Corinealdi**

Associate Professor  
Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies  
Rutgers University—New Brunswick  
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#### **Dexnell Peters**

Lecturer  
Department of History and Archaeology  
University of the West Indies, Mona  
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#### **Fiona Rajkumar**

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University of the Southern Caribbean  
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## 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 2025-26:

### Gad Heuman, Chair

University of Warwick

Email: [G.J.Heuman@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:G.J.Heuman@warwick.ac.uk)

### Tyesha Maddox

Fordham University

Email: [tmaddox1@fordham.edu](mailto:tmaddox1@fordham.edu)

### Chelsea Schields

University of California, Irvine

Email: [cschields@uci.edu](mailto:cschields@uci.edu)

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. Nominations must reach the Nominating Committee Chair no later than October 31, 2025. Details for casting your vote will be provided prior to our next Annual Conference.

## In Memoriam: Jacques Adélaïde-Merlande (1933-2024)

By Woodville Marshall

I first met Jacques in Guadeloupe nearly sixty years ago. That was in late April 1969, when I attended a colloque that he had organized; and little did I know that I was meeting someone who was going to exercise a powerful influence on fellow Caribbean historians over the next five decades. I had gone to the conference for a combination of self-interested reasons: to build my résumé through the presentation of a paper; to satisfy my curiosity about this, to me, foreign part of the Caribbean; and Neville Hall and Carl Campbell, my two colleagues from the University of the West Indies who accompanied me, kept reminding Jacques, to exploit an ideal opportunity to sample a local variant of French cuisine. Thanks to Jacques, my modest expectations were met for the most part; but I do recall that, as we grew tired of eating in the students' dining room and reminded Jacques about the promise of French cuisine, he would mutter: "tomorrow, tomorrow"!

The inkling of what Jacques came to represent for me and several others occurred, not during our small conference, to find out from Jacques whether there was any scholarly assistance he and his colleagues needed from the historians at the University of the West Indies. What emerged in that discussion (in which Neville Hall's linguistic skills were vital) was that, unlike most of the historians in my fraction of the Caribbean, Jacques was determined to bridge the linguistic and imperial divide. He was not only aware of the great similarities in the historical experience of our various fractions in the region, but he was committed to the construction of a durable base to explore those similarities, to spread the results of that exploration, and to employ the comparative method in the explication of our common historical experience. To those ends, he gave me a shopping list: he wanted the names of our historians; he wanted information on their scholarly interests; and most important, he wanted scholarly materials (books and articles) as well as reciprocal visits of historians.

The results of that exchange are probably well known to many of you, but the high points probably merit repetition on this occasion. The first is that an enduring relationship was built between the historians of the two universities. Jacques's initial contact had been with Roy Augier, but it was Douglas Hall who ensured that Jacques's overtures were fully reciprocated, and naturally, Douglas Hall could count on the full support of his colleagues who had attended Jacques's 1969 colloque. Therefore, scholarly materials were immediately despatched to Jacques, and more important, he was invited to bring colleagues to a conference of Caribbean historians that was scheduled to be held in April 1970 at the Cave Hill, Barbados campus of the University of the West Indies.

The inauguration of regular conferences of Caribbean historians is therefore the second and most important consequence of Jacques's initiative in 1969. What he did, by organizing his colloque and by urging that such contacts should be a regular occurrence, was to make many of us realize that comprehensive umbrellas, like Caribbean Scholars' Conferences, might be inadequate for both the creation of durable regional bridges and the deepening of our knowledge of Caribbean historical realities. Jacques was therefore an enthusiastic supporter of Douglas Hall's proposals in 1970 that an annual conference of Caribbean historians should be held,

that participation in those conferences should be limited to scholars who were researching Caribbean history, that Caribbean-based scholars would be given preference in the presentation of papers, and that historians from Centre d'Enseignement Supérieur Littéraire (CESL) would be members of a Corresponding Committee which would assist with the organization of the third conference Caribbean historians that was scheduled to be held in 1971 at the University of Guyana.

Those decisions at the Cave Hill Barbados conference can be seen as the building blocks for the Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH). And the point cannot be over-emphasized that we reached that point because of Jacques's initiative in 1969 and because Jacques clearly recognized the necessity and utility of holding an annual conference. As you all know, it was the annual conference which is the *raison d'être* of the ACH, so it does not really matter that Jacques was not intimately involved in the organizational details which led to the formal creation of ACH in 1973-1974. What I am saying is that it is unlikely that ACH would have come into existence if there had been no annual conference; and it was Jacques who led the way towards the annual conference. This leads to the third consequence of Jacques's initiative, which is the nature and quality of his participation in the annual conferences. This can be illustrated in a number of ways. He did not manage, like me, to attend all the annual conferences, but when he attended he almost always presented a paper (sometimes at the last minute). By my quick count, he presented papers at 22 of the conferences that were held between 1969 and 2004; and that number far outstrips presentations by any other member of the ACH, and that number of presentations would surely have doubled, had he attended more conferences. Equally important, he was a very active participant whenever he attended. Besides presenting papers, he became very involved in the discussion of papers.

What is important here is that, unlike the majority of fellow members of the ACH, he did not confine his attention to the geographical segment that is the focus of his research or residence; rather, he was always willing, if not eager, to examine issues from a comparative perspective. I am honoured to be asked to say these few words. I suppose that I was invited to participate because Bertille Adélaïde half-jokingly refers to Jacques and myself as "les deux papas" of the ACH. Whatever the reason, I am happy to recognize the outstanding contribution of an eminent historian and premier Caribbean man.

### **In Memoriam: Fitzroy Richard "Roy" Augier (1924-2025)**

**By Woodville Marshall**

Fitzroy Richard "Roy" Augier, that activist promoter of Caribbean history, was born in St. Lucia, but spent most of his adult life in Jamaica. While resident in that island, he was for more than forty years attached to the University of the West Indies (UWI), where he served as both a lecturer (later professor) in history and as a university administrator. As a student, I first met him in late 1954, and I became his colleague from 1964. Naturally, then, this brief tribute is based on our long interaction.

First, I call attention to the nature of our earliest contact. He was the one who introduced me to research of a sort because I was a member of that team of students that he recruited to record speeches in the 1955 General Election campaign in Jamaica. He gave me my first opportunity to deliver a public lecture in 1957 by volunteering me (still an undergraduate) as his substitute to speak in a forum on the federation of the British West Indies during the public education campaign. He arranged for my participation in the 1969 conference (or colloquium) that eventually spawned the Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH). But, most important, he played a crucial role in my development as a teacher and researcher. He may not have communicated many historical facts to me, but he did try to provide what I could not easily find in books. His insistent, perhaps Socratic, question: why? why do you say that? did introduce me to the elements of analytical rigour. I do recall that this teaching method seemed to drive some of my fellow students to tears, but I was fortunate enough to absorb some elements of the lesson.

Second, I must draw attention to his vital role in establishing Caribbean History in the school curriculum of what was then the British West Indies. People of my generation were brought up to think that we had no history and that the content of history was English History with some Imperial History thrown into the mix. Therefore, it was the advocacy and persistence of Augier (along with a few hardy souls) which convinced our school teachers and principals that our territories had a history, that materials for the purpose could be generated and made available, and therefore that Caribbean History should figure in the curriculum of the schools. The story of that struggle is now well known, but it can't be over emphasized that it was Augier's role in the frequent conferences with teachers and principals, in the provision of teaching and reading materials, and in the active monitoring of the entire process which ensured that Caribbean History was in the curriculum of secondary schools by the 1960s. But it is perhaps instructive to notice that Caribbean History can now be so taken for granted that an official in the Ministry of Education (here in Barbados) can argue that our secondary school students now know enough Caribbean History and should concentrate instead on Social Studies! Unfortunately, "Roy" will be not around to give his characteristic quietus to that basic misconception.

Third, I call attention to Augier's general promotion of the discipline by mentioning two examples. One is the Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH). It is not particularly important that he was a founder/member and a past president of that organization. What is more important is that he quickly recognized the importance of the initiative, that he always placed his energy, experience, and wisdom at the disposal of this collective, and that he consistently mobilized institutional resources in support of the organization. I offer two examples. In 1974, when we scheduled our annual conference in a Spanish-speaking country (in Puerto Rico) for the first time, there was a distinct possibility that it would have to be aborted at the last minute. This was so because our Puerto Rican colleagues, in the days before simultaneous translation was the norm, were insisting that the conference language could not be English because that language was an 'imperial language'. It was Augier's intervention that saved the conference. He managed to persuade those Puerto Ricans that facilitating their English-speaking colleagues was at least as important as making a nationalist gesture, and that Spanish was no less an imperial language than English. The other example was Augier's creative use of the funds of UWI's Research and Publications Fund Committee which he chaired. In 1988, when our colleagues at the University of the Virgin Islands were experiencing difficulty in meeting the bill for the conference's local arrangements, Augier (wearing the hat of university administrator) immediately diverted a significant portion of UWI funds to that university for the support of the conference.

The other example is the production of the *General History of the Caribbean*. It may not be generally known that a project to publish a multi-authored, multi-volume history of the Caribbean dates back to 1954, that is, to the first years of the Department of History at UWI (Mona). However, it must be obvious that it was only since 1983, when Augier captured and retained the chairmanship of the editorial committee which planned the UNESCO variant of the project, that full implementation became possible. What was particularly impressive was his success in keeping together a scattered group of scholars who traditionally give little priority to such projects. Even more important, he was most successful in garnering funding support for this long-running project at a time when the project's principal sponsor was experiencing funding problems of its own. It is therefore reasonable to say that the *General History* became Augier's project and that its completion was his major achievement as a historian.

Finally, this tribute will not be complete unless mention is made of Augier's scholarship. It must be said that scholarship has marked his every interaction, and all his students and colleagues have profited from his discriminating judgment, from his mastery of historical method, from his familiarity with archival sources, and from the insights that he generously delivered. Clearly, all these were products of extensive research activity and mature reflection. Unfortunately, the published record does little justice to his exhaustive reading and to his searches of metropolitan and regional archives. Most unfortunately, perhaps, he never found the time to produce that volume (or volumes) that he was uniquely qualified to write on what one may call: *Righting Wrong: Essays on Crown Colony Government in the British Caribbean*. However, it must be acknowledged that Augier has been a tower of support for the discipline, and that he was a man who inspired many younger hopefuls.

A Tribute to Pedro Welch (1950-2025) will appear in the January 2026 Bulletin.

## Gould-Saunders Memorial Endowment Award Winners:

### Samantha Hosein and Shivalli Ragbir

At the 2025 annual conference, the Executive Committee awarded the Gould-Saunders Memorial Endowment Award to **Samantha Hosein** (The University of the West Indies, St Augustine) for her paper "Behind Closed Doors: Unveiling the Realities of Asylum Nursing at the St Ann's Mental Hospital in Colonial Trinidad" and to **Shivalli Ragbir** (The University of the West Indies, St Augustine) "Female Invisibility within the Justice System: Crimes Against Women in Trinidad 1900-1962." Each student received a \$500 stipend to offset the costs of attending the conference.

*The Gould-Saunders Memorial Endowment Award was established in 2008 by two long-standing ACH members, Virginia Gould and Gail Saunders, in memory of their late husbands, Geoffrey L. Gould, M.D. and Winston Saunders, CMG, respectively. Its purpose is to provide assistance for graduate students and, in some cases, junior scholars, from universities and other institutions in the Caribbean and Central America to attend the ACH conference. You may donate to the fund [here](#).*



**Elsa Goveia Book Prize — Woodville Marshall  
for  
*Near a Plantation: Free Villages in Barbados, 1840-1945***

Professor Emeritus Woodville Marshall's *Near a Plantation: Free Villages in Barbados, 1840-1945* (University of the West Indies Press, 2024) packs a powerful, compelling study of the post emancipation free village system in Barbados into a deceptively slim volume. Working especially from stipendiary magistrate, census, and royal commission records, Marshall weaves a deliberate, thoughtful re-examination of the archival record that upsets previous assumptions about the smallholding class in the post-slavery period. The book challenges stereotypes often attached to smaller territories and what we commonly refer to as “high density islands”; and demonstrates the importance of focussed, specialised enquiry. The work is at once deeply in dialogue with multi-decade debates about land availability and labour conditions throughout the Caribbean and with the very best of new work that seeks small actions taken for autonomy and dignity during emancipation, often beginning with the re-orientation of housing and the remaking of home. It shares new details on what we already know and at the same times upsets what we have come to accept as historical truths. Marshall makes the methodological underpinnings of his results lucid, inviting debates to continue and offering his data for curious readers. The maps and tables are themselves a gift to a reader or a classroom. With mature and confident writing, the historian's craft is on full display and the result of its thoughtful, meticulous execution clearly shows the author has mastered it. It is a must read for students of Caribbean history.

#### **HONOURABLE MENTION**

Dr Lisa G. Materson's *Radical Solidarity: Ruth Reynolds, Political Allyship, and the Battle for Puerto Rico's Independence* (University of North Carolina Press, 2024) aptly interweaves the story of a white female anti-racist, anti-imperialist pacifist who became an ally to Puerto Rican pro-independence activists in the mid-to-late twentieth century. Coming of age as a child of settler colonialism in native American territory South Dakota, Ruth Reynolds engaged in anti-imperialist efforts to free India and advocated for civil rights for Black Americans, eventually making the independence of Puerto Rico her lifelong struggle. Materson crafts a vivid tale from newspapers, government documents, interviews, and memoirs. *Radical Solidarity* is not simply a biography but meditates on the relationships between Reynolds and the radical activism of pro-independence Puerto Rican activists, situating them within the wider global anti-imperialist struggle, beyond Reynolds' 1989 death into the present day. Her ability to keep these different scales in view is quite impressive.

#### **HONOURABLE MENTION**

Dr Chelsea Schields' *Offshore Attachments: Oil and Intimacy in the Caribbean* (University of California Press, 2023) is an original study that marries the study of sexual and reproductive politics with extractive economies focusing on lesser studied parts of the Caribbean in English language scholarship: the Dutch Caribbean. Schields does an excellent job moving between the specific cases of Curaçao and Aruba and taking up gender seriously with her focus on marital and sexual relationships as well as family, reproduction, and discourses about racism. The study will generate further interest on these themes, not only in the Dutch Caribbean. Indeed, it is reminiscent of Lara Putnam's classic *The Company They Kept*, intertwining the study of gender, labour, and sexual politics, in the Caribbean Costa Rica at the time of the United Fruit Company's economic dominance there. “Those thinking in and from the Caribbean have developed a rich conceptual vocabulary for understanding the region's uneven links to global power,” she writes, and extraction and exception have been the norm. Yet, as Schields concludes, Caribbean individuals and their kin “made visible what was so often concealed...[and] sought actively to shape the conditions of their labor, love, and belonging” (193).

Many thanks to Heather Cateau, Elsa Goveia Prize Committee Chair, of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Sharika Crawford, of the United States Naval Academy, and Frederik Thomasson of Uppsala University, for their hard work.

Previously awarded every three years, the ACH book prize has been awarded every two years since 1995 and recognizes excellence in the field of Caribbean history. If you would like more information on the award, please contact the ACH Secretary-Treasurer at: [achsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:achsecretary@gmail.com).

The next award will be made at the 58th Annual Conference in 2027. The call for submissions will be issued after the 57th Annual Conference in 2026 and will be open to books published in 2025 and 2026.

## Call for the Andrés Ramos Mattei-Neville Hall Article Prize Submissions

The ACH is pleased to invite nominations for the 2026 Andrés Ramos Mattei-Neville Hall Article Prize, a biennial award that recognizes the best article in the field of Caribbean history. The next prize will be awarded in 2026 and will cover work published in 2024 and 2025.

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Any history or general work acceptable as an historical work published in a scholarly journal between 2024 and 2025 is eligible.
- Publication may be in English, Spanish, French, or Dutch.
- Work should be marked by felicity of prose style and clarity of expression.

**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, 2026. It is important that one copy of the article nominated be sent directly by email to each member of the committee:

### Richard Blackett, Chair

Andrew Jackson Professor of History, Emeritus  
Vanderbilt University  
[richard.j.blackett@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:richard.j.blackett@vanderbilt.edu)

### Beth Manley

Professor of History  
Xavier University of Louisiana  
[emanley1@xula.edu](mailto:emanley1@xula.edu)

### Nathalie Pierre

Assistant Professor of History  
Howard University  
[nathalie.pierre@howard.edu](mailto:nathalie.pierre@howard.edu)

The Andrés Ramos Mattei-Neville Hall prize was launched in 1996 and is a biennial award for the best article in the field of Caribbean History. The award is named jointly for late ACH members Puerto Rican historian Andres Antonio “Tony” Ramos Mattei (1941-1988) and Jamaican historian Neville Hall (1936-1986).

## Preliminary Information for the 57th Annual ACH Conference University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica

The ACH Executive Committee is pleased to announce that the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association of Caribbean Historians will be held in Kingston, Jamaica from Sunday, May 24 to Thursday, May 28, 2026. On-site registration will open Sunday afternoon. The conference fête, our annual dinner and dance (which is highly recommended and a central feature of this organization) will be held on Thursday evening, May 28. An optional field trip is scheduled for Friday, May 29.

More information and the Call for Papers will be available on the ACH website shortly.

Please contact Conference Coordinator José A. Fernández Montes de Oca at [achconference@gmail.com](mailto:achconference@gmail.com) or Local Organizing Committee Chair Dexnell Peters at [dexnell.peters@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:dexnell.peters@uwimona.edu.jm) with any immediate questions.

## Minutes from the Annual General Meeting, Trinidad and Tobago, 2025

**PREPARED BY:** Randy Browne, Secretary-Treasurer (2022-2025)

**PRESENT:** Laura Rosanne Adderley, Martha Arguello, Llana Barber, Anne’el Bain, Joseph Biggerstaff, Richard Blackett, Bridget Brereton, Randy Browne, Marcia Burrows, Heather Cateau, Jeanette Charles-Marquez, Rasmus Christensen, Alison Clark, Claudius Fergus, Joan Flores-Villalobos, Cindy Forster, Nathalie Frédéric Pierre, Armando Garcia, Rebecca Goetz, Katharine Gerbner, Cecilia Hall, Gad Heuman, Samantha Hosein, Loverne Jacobs-Browne, Terencia Joseph, Jeffrey Kerr-Ritchie, Joy Lewis, Marley Lix-Jones, Dan Livesay, Deanna Lyncook, Tyesha Maddox, Gelien Matthews, Rebecca Martinez-Tibbles, Debbie McCollin, Brittany Merritt Nash, Elizabeth Manley, Janice Mayers, Wendy McKenzie, Meera Moniquette, Christopher Montague, Kathleen Monteith, Melissa Morris, Aakeil Murray, Marcus Nevius, Ronald Noel, Clara Palmiste, Claire Palmiste, Diana Paton, Rita Pemberton, Carla Pestana, Dexnell Peters, Kyle Prochnow, Shavalli Ragbir, Allison Ramsay, Arti Ramsaroop, Manuel Robles, Eloy Romero Blanco, Chelsea Schields, Gunvor Simonsen, Verene Shepherd, Chelsey Smith, Amanda Thomas-Wilson, Melisse Thomas-Bailey, Thomas van Gaalen, Rinia Veldhuizen-Doelahasori, Florian Wieser, Rodney Worrell, Olivia Wyatt, Nuala Zahedieh.

ACH President **Carla Pestana** called the meeting to order at 12:09 PM.

**Moment of Silence:** A moment of silence was observed for ACH members who passed away since the last AGM: Jacques Adélaïde-Merlande, Sir Fitzroy R. Augier, Trevor Burnard, Edward Cox, Karl Watson, and Pedro Welch

**Confirmation of the Feb. 15, 2025 General Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the special general meeting that had been called to complete the task of acquiring tax deferred status in the United States, which required a minor change to the ACH Constitution, were displayed on the screen. **Rebecca Goetz** moved to accept; **Elizabeth Manley** seconded the motion; the minutes were then approved by voice vote.

**Report of the Elsa Goveia Prize Committee:** **Heather Cateau** (chair) presented a brief report about the committee’s work. There were 42 submissions; 27 of the submissions were received by all three members of the committee. One submission was written in French, one in Spanish, and all others in English. Cateau then presented the prize on behalf of the committee, chaired by Cateau and including **Sharika Crawford** and **Anne Eller**. The committee awarded this year’s prize to **Woodville Marshall, *Near a Plantation: Free Villages of Barbados, 1840-1945* (University of the West Indies Press, 2024)**. The committee also awarded Honorable Mentions to: **Lisa G. Materson, *Radical Solidarity: Ruth Reynolds, Political Allyship, and the Battle for Puerto Rico’s Independence* (University of North Carolina Press, 2024)** AND **Chelsea Schields, *Offshore Attachments: Oil and Intimacy in the Caribbean* (University of California Press, 2023)**. Cateau read excerpts from the citations (see pg. 6 above) and presented a certificate to Schields, the only recipient who was present.

**Gould-Saunders Memorial Endowment Award Presentation:** **Claire Palmiste** presented the Gould-Saunders Memorial Endowment Award to **Samantha Hosein** for “Behind Closed Doors: Unveiling the Realities of Asylum Nursing at the St Ann’s Mental Hospital in Colonial Trinidad” AND **Shivalli Ragbir** for “Female Invisibility within the Justice System: Crimes Against Women in Trinidad 1900-1962.” Both were present to receive their awards.

**Nominations for the Ramos Mattei-Hall Article Prize Committee (2024-2025 publications):** **Kathleen Monteith** nominated **Richard Blackett**; **Joan Flores** nominated **Elizabeth Manley**; **Rosanne Adderley** nominated **Nathalie Frédéric Pierre**. All agreed to serve.

**Report of the Executive Committee and Secretariat, 2024-25:** **Randy Browne** delivered the report on behalf of the EC. The 2024-25 EC included: **Carla Pestana** (President), **Javier Alemán Iglesias** (Vice President), **Randy Browne** (Secretary–Treasurer), **Claire Palmiste** (Conference Coordinator), **Marjoleine Kars**, **Dexnell Peters**, and **Chelsea Schields**. The EC formally met twice—on Nov. 23, 2024 (to plan the 2025 conference) and on June 2, 2025, to prepare for this year’s Annual General Meeting. The main item on the November agenda was the 56th Annual Conference, including local arrangements and the academic program. The Conference Coordinator indicated that 9 panel proposals, 4 poster proposals, and 42 papers were submitted. The EC accepted 9 panels, 35 papers, and 2 posters. The final conference slate was 46 papers, 2 posters, and 13 panels, including one local panel. This year, the Secretary-Treasurer worked with a Certified Public



Accountant to apply for status as a 501(c)(3) (tax-exempt) organization in the U.S., which will facilitate fundraising. The application was approved in early 2025 and the ACH is now officially a tax-exempt organization.

### 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 June 2, 2025):

- 3 new Life Members: Kaysha Corinealdi, Kersuze Simeon-Jones, and Christian Lebrón Lebrón.
- 0 Benefactors
- 0 Donors
- 1 Institutional Member
- 55 New Members or Member Renewals
- 38 New Student Members or Member Renewals

Names and institutions of new and renewed members appear in the semiannual issues of the ACH *Bulletin*.

### Activities of the Secretariat

#### **General**

The ACH published two issues of its newsletter, the *Bulletin* (July 2024 and January 2025), which included the 2025 conference program. We also used social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Bluesky), H-Net, and other lists to circulate information about the conference. We continued online registration and paper distribution systems. A portion of conference registration revenue (\$5,000) was advanced to the LOC in January 2025 to contract various services, including catering, transportation, and translation; a second and final payment will be made after the conference, in June, with remaining registration revenue. For the 2025 conference, all membership and registration payments were again accepted only online via PayPal (i.e., no checks or cash were received via mail or in person during the conference), which simplified accounting and provided strong security.

#### **Finances**

The Gould Saunders Fund (\$56,679 as of June 2, 2025) remains invested in a Flexible CD at Bank of America; the balance remains in a Bank of America Business Advantage Relationship checking account (\$43,762 as of June 2, 2025—note that this balance does not reflect the final transfer of conference registration revenue to the LOC or other transactions after June 2). As of June 2, the ACH had received approximately \$5,928 in net membership revenue and \$13,221 in net conference registration revenue. Approximate total expenses to date amounted to \$5,317. Browne reminded members that an updated, complete financial report would appear in the July *Bulletin* (see pp. 11-13).

### Evaluation of the 2025 Conference

**Carla Pestana** observed that last year, the EC did not have the kind of support we did this year, and that the LOC has been superb. This was one of the best conferences in her 15 years of ACH participation. **Gad Heuman** reinforced Pestana's comments, especially regarding the organization of the conference. He also noted that the locations and proximity of the hotels and conference venues worked well to facilitate social interaction and that the vibes were great. **Marcus Nevius** echoed Heuman's comments regarding the vibes and said that as a first time attendee, everything seemed very smooth and that this was a model for other conference organizers. **Florian Weiser** agreed with Nevius as a fellow first-timer and said the conference was very pleasant, with a strong sense of community. He expressed his appreciation to the LOC, the Conference Coordinator, and Secretary-Treasurer, and noted that the conference was very inclusive, especially in terms of language. He also stated, however, that the LOC did not solicit any information about allergy restrictions for snacks or meals and that there were no apparent accommodations for people with disabilities or mobility issues. **Terencia Joseph** said this was one of the most well organized ACH conferences she had attended, and noted that having presenters submit written presentations in advance facilitated translation and time-keeping. **Gelien Matthews** praised the spirit of cooperation within UWI St. Augustine and between UWI staff and volunteers on the LOC and the EC, and thanked the volunteers for making delegates comfortable. **Rosanne Adderley** expressed her appreciation for the efforts of UWI staff and volunteers before noting that this year's conference was dominated by English-speaking participants. She asked how the ACH might do more to solicit participation from people who write and speak in other languages. **Jeffrey Kerr-Ritchie** agreed with Adderley and suggested the ACH consider ways to share the proceedings/papers from the conference with people beyond those in attendance at the conference itself. **Brittany Merritt** suggested that the ACH could encourage newcomers by creating an online forum or platform for potential presenters to find others with common interests and form panels. **Armando Garcia** asked why the ACH's banking home is in the U.S. when the organization is meant to serve Caribbean scholars. **Carla Pestana** responded that this question would be addressed under "other

business” later. **Diana Paton** suggested that to solicit more participation from non-English speakers the ACH could explore financial support for scholars from the Caribbean region, such as fee waivers or bursaries/stipends to defray the costs of attending the conference.

### 2026 Conference Update

**Carla Pestana** observed that ACH members frequently suggest potential locations for the annual conference without strong local contacts or support, which are essential, and urged members who wished to make suggestions to consider local capacity to host. She also reported that over the past year, together with the Secretary-Treasurer, she explored several possible locations for the 2026 conference, focusing on Dutch- and French-speaking locations. Several locations (including Guadeloupe, Suriname, and St. Lucia) expressed interest in hosting in the future, but not in 2026. As a result, the EC considered other options for 2026 and pursued the most feasible: UWI Mona. **Dexnell Peters** then provided an overview of plans to date to host the conference in Kingston, Jamaica, including possible meeting venues, lodging, travel to and within Jamaica, and exclusions.

### Report of the Nominating Committee

**Clara Palmiste** delivered the report, thanked the other members of the nominating committee (**Shani Roper** and **Margo Gorenwoud**), and noted that it was very difficult to find candidates to stand for office, especially as the committee aimed to represent the region’s linguistic and regional diversity. She then announced the results of the election for the Executive Committee, held online. 74 members voted. **Carla Pestana** (who ran unopposed) was reelected as President with 94.6% of members voting in favor. **Javier Alemán Iglesias** (who ran unopposed) was reelected as Vice President with 86.5% of members voting in favor. **Rebecca Goetz** (who ran unopposed) was elected as Secretary-Treasurer with 95.9% voting in favor. **José Andrés Fernández Montes de Oca** (who ran unopposed) was elected as Conference Coordinator with 98.6% voting in favor. Four candidates ran for three at-large positions on the EC. **Dexnell Peters** was reelected with 94.6% voting in favor; **Fiona Rajkumar** was elected with 93.2% voting in favor; **Kyasha Cornealdi** was elected with 60.8% voting in favor; 51.4% of members voted in favor of **Kristen Block**.

### Nominations to the 2025-26 Nominating Committee

**Joan Flores** nominated **Tyesha Maddox**; **Elizabeth Manley** nominated **Chelsea Schields**; **Bridget Brereton** nominated **Gad Heuman**. All agreed to serve.

### Any Other Business

**Carla Pestana**, in response to **Armando Garcia**, explained that the EC spent several years trying to find a sustainable, Caribbean-based banking home, and that after exploring several possibilities determined that there was not currently any Caribbean bank that would serve ACH needs, including its frequently changing officers, who would need to be signatories on the account. The current banking home (Bank of America) is working very well but the EC is happy to receive suggestions for a longterm Caribbean-based banking relationship. **Pestana** also reminded members that the ACH’s recently acquired status as a tax-exempt non-profit organization in the U.S. will enable to ACH to solicit donations to assist with the considerable expense of the annual conference.

**Pestana** reported that ACH members, including **Gunvor Simonsen** and **Kristen Block**, notified the EC that Adam Matthew Digital has not fulfilled its promise to provide Caribbean institutions free access to its colonial Caribbean document collections. ACH members, with the help of the EC, investigated the issue ahead of the annual conference and found several obstacles, including (according to AMD) a lack of response from librarians and archivists. **Pestana** asked ACH members to share news of this resource with Caribbean institutions and help find appropriate liaisons to connect with AMD. A member (who did not self-identify) said that she knows AMD is available in Bermuda, though not elsewhere, and that she was uncomfortable working with AMD unless they provided access throughout the Caribbean. **Simonsen** encouraged members who travel to the Caribbean for research to ask if the AMD collections are available; she also volunteered to help keep track of this issue. She also reposted that one obstacle has been AMD’s willingness, to date, to only make its collections available to fully public libraries, not including university libraries. **Rebecca Goetz** asked if U.S.-based scholars working at institutions could help. **Rosanne Adderley** encouraged members to raise this issue any time they are in contact with AMD.

**Pestana** explained that as the EC did not provide sufficient time (i.e., the three months required by our constitution) to consider the proposed constitutional amendments shared via email on April 15, 2025, the amendments will be voted on at the 2026 AGM. **Pestana** explained that the amendments comprise relatively minor changes designed to bring the constitution in line with actual practices (e.g., the ACH has not used paper ballots of elections for some time). Proposed changes can be viewed [here](#).

**Pestana** reported that the EC tried to organize a panel on the state of teaching Caribbean history in the Caribbean, in line with our constitutional commitment to review the state of Caribbean history education, but received no acceptances to our invitations to potential presenters from across the region. As a result, the EC distributed a survey, the results of which were shared at the poster session by **Rebeca Martínez-Tibbles**.

**Gad Heuman** said that it was important for the Nominating Committee and members more generally to understand the rules governing election to the EC, especially with regard to succession and ascension from Vice President to President. **Pestana** responded that the constitution says nothing about succession and that the custom of the Vice President becoming President is merely custom.

**Pestana** solicited suggestions for future annual conference locations. **Joan Flores** suggested Panama, where she has many contacts. **Kathleen Monteith** reminded members that it is important that the ACH host the conference in locations where there are members who are familiar with the association, as occurred this year. Last year's conference in Colombia, in contrast, was a disaster, in her view. **Pestana** then solicited themes for the 2026 conference; there were none.

**Carla Pestana** adjourned the meeting at 1:34 PM.

## ACH Financial Report, 2024-25

### ACH Commercial Checking (all amounts appear in U.S. Dollars):

Beginning balance (as of June 30, 2024): \$50,793

### INCOME

A. 2024-2025 Membership Dues Income (NOTE: PayPal fees vary for U.S. versus non-U.S. transactions)

*Gross Membership Dues Revenue (through June 6, 2025): \$6,650*

Life Members	(3x \$500, less \$17.94 PayPal fee per transaction = \$1,446.18)
Institutional Members	(1x \$100, less \$5.48 PayPal fee per transaction = \$94.52)
Tenured Members	(22x \$75, less \$3.11 PayPal fee per transaction = \$1,581.58) (11x \$75, less \$4.23 PayPal fee per transaction = \$778.47) (1x \$75, less \$5.36 PayPal fee per transaction = \$69.64)
Full Members	(12x \$50, less \$2.24 PayPal fee per transaction = \$573.12) (14x \$50, less \$2.99 PayPal fee per transaction = \$658.14)
Student/Teacher/Retiree Members	(27x \$25, less \$1.36 PayPal fee per transaction = \$638.28) (21x \$25, less \$1.74 PayPal fee per transaction = \$488.46)
Benefactor	\$0
Donations	\$0

**Net Membership Dues Revenue: \$6,328.40**

**B. 2025 Conference Registration Income***Gross Registration Revenue (through June 5, 2025):* **\$15,175**

Full Registration (33x \$185, less \$6.95 PayPal fee per transaction = \$5,875.65)  
 (36x \$185, less \$9.72 PayPal fee per transaction = \$6,310.09)  
 (1x \$185, less \$12.5 PayPal fee per transaction = \$172.50)

Student Registration (6x \$95, less \$3.81 PayPal fee per transaction = \$547.14)  
 (7x \$95, less \$5.23 PayPal fee per transaction = \$628.39)

Caribbean Student Registration (2x \$65, less \$2.76 PayPal fee per transaction = \$124.48)  
 (4x \$65, less \$3.73 PayPal fee per transaction = \$245.08)

Guest Registration (4x \$100, less \$3.98 PayPal fee per transaction = \$384.08)  
 (2x \$100, less \$5.48 PayPal fee per transaction = \$189.04)

**Net 2025 Conference Registration Revenue: \$14,476.45****TOTAL INCOME for 2024-2025 = \$20,804.85****TOTAL BEGINNING BALANCE + 2025-25 INCOME = \$71,597.85****ACH Gould-Saunders Fund**

9 mo. flexible CD (Bank of America)

Beginning balance (as of June 30, 2024): \$55,939A. Last rental date: Oct. 11, 2024B. Current interest rate: .01%C. Interest paid last year: \$1,824.42**CURRENT BALANCE (as of June 12, 2025) = \$56,679.48\***

\*Balance does not reflect \$1,000 to be transferred to Checking to cover two (\$500 each) payments to Gould Saunders recipients in June 2025

**EXPENSES**A. Website/Communication-Related Fees: **\$1,429.42**

Constant Contact (email listserv): \$638.21

- \$56.06 x 6 = \$336.36
- \$60.37 x 5 = \$301.85

Website: \$791.21

- \$417.34 on Nov. 25, 2024 + \$26.11 on Mar. 2, 2025 for Go Daddy Domains = \$443.45
- \$347.76 on Jan. 23, 2025 for Web Hosting Hub

B. Conference Expenses: **\$18,651.93**

- \$5,000 wire transfer/advance of registration revenue on Jan. 23, 2025 to LOC for conference expenses
- \$877.81 reimbursement on March 3, 2025 for Secretary-Treasurer airfare
- \$9,476.44 wire transfer on June 9, 2025 to LOC for balance of conference registration revenue + \$45 fee
- \$1,957.68 reimbursement on June 10, 2025 for Secretary-Treasurer conference expenses + \$45 fee

- \$250 PayPal transfer on June 11, 2025 for Woodville Marshall % Tara Inniss for Elsa Goveia Award
- \$500 PayPal transfer on June 12, 2025 to Shivalli Ragbir for 2025 Gould-Saunders Award
- \$500 PayPal transfer on June 13, to Samantha Hosein % Shivalli Ragbir for 2025 Gould-Saunders Award

C. Other Expenses: **\$1,000**

- \$1,000 bank transfer on Nov. 5, 2024 to CPA for IRS application and tax advice services

**TOTAL EXPENSES for 2024-25: \$21,081.35**

**ACCOUNTS SUMMARY:**

<b>FINAL CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE (as of June 12, 2025):</b>	<b>\$49,241.37</b>
<b>FINAL CD BALANCE (as of June 12, 2025):</b>	<b>\$56,679.48</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ACH BANK ACCOUNTS (as of June 12, 2025):</b>	<b>\$105,920.85</b>
<b>ACH PayPal BALANCE (as of June 12, 2025):</b>	<b>\$3,301.70</b>



## Welcome to Our New and Renewed Members

The following people have joined—or rejoined—the ACH since January 1, 2025 through 5 June 2025.

Affiliations are listed for all members who provided them upon request.

*(Don't see your name? You were in the January issue if you joined before January 1, 2025.)*

*Renewals and new memberships processed after 5 June 2025 will appear in the January 2026 Bulletin.*

### LIFE MEMBERS

Kaysha Corinealdi, Rutgers University-New Brunswick  
Kersuze Simeon-Jones, University of South Florida  
Christian Lebrón Lebrón

### MEMBERS and MEMBER RENEWALS

Sandra Fábregas  
Cynthia Forster, Scripps College  
Claire Palmiste, University of the French Antilles  
Jonathan Connolly, University of Illinois Chicago  
Louis Pérez, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
William Bishop, SUNY-WCC  
Stuart Schwartz, Yale University  
Kristy Warren, University of Lincoln  
Marcus Nevius, University of Missouri  
Chelsea Schields, UC Irvine  
Annaka Raapke, Universität Oldenburg  
Catherine Peters, College of William and Mary  
Brittany Merritt, The College of St. Benedict and St. John's University  
Tanalis Padilla, MIT  
Kyle Prochnow, Ursinus College  
Chelsey Smith, University of Illinois  
Nathalie Pierre, Howard University  
Terencia Joseph, University of the Southern Caribbean  
Armando Garcia de la Torre, Independent Scholar  
Diana Paton, University of Edinburgh  
Betsaida Vélez Natal, University of Puerto Rico  
Elizabeth Manley, Xavier University of Louisiana  
Natalie Zacek, University of Manchester  
Katharine Gerbner, University of Minnesota  
Joan Flores, USC  
Dexnell Peters, UWI-Mona  
Carla Pestana, UCLA  
Anne'el Bain, UWI-St. Augustine  
Wendy McKenzie, Queens Royal College  
Loverne Jacobs-Browne,  
Fiona Rajkumar, The University of the Southern Caribbean  
Kathleen Monteith, UWI-Mona  
Ronald Noel, UWI-St. Augustine  
Aakeil Murray, UWI—St. Augustine  
Cecilia Hall, UWI Global Campus  
Jean Marc Augusty, Sint Maarten National Heritage Foundation & Museum  
Danalee Jaghoo, UWI-St. Augustine  
Zakiya Mckenzie, University of Bristol  
Takkara Brunson, Texas A&M University  
Marcia Burrowes, UWI-Cave Hill  
Renee Nelson, UWI-Mona

Melisse Thomas-Bailey, University of Trinidad and Tobago  
Melissa Morris, University of Wyoming  
Nicole Phillip-Dowe, UWI, Open Campus, Grenada  
Carlton Mills, Director of the Mills Institute  
Meha Priyadarshini, University of Edinburgh

### STUDENT MEMBERS AND MEMBER RENEWALS

John Balz  
Sophia Monegro, University of Texas at Austin  
Clifton Sorrell, University of Texas at Austin  
Jan Bant, Radboud University Nijmegen/  
University of Curaçao  
Khary Pestaina, Howard University  
Akeisha Hollier  
Florian Weiser, University of Edinburgh  
Alejandro Gerena, New York University  
Deanna Lyncook, Queen Mary University of London  
Eloy Romero Blanco, University of Pittsburgh  
Rasmus Christensen, University of Copenhagen  
Christopher Montague, Northwestern University  
Rebeca Martinez, University of California, Los Angeles  
Armando J. Soto Medina, Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe  
Nanysma Guerra, Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe  
Jeanette Charles-Marquez, University of California  
Arti Ramsaroop, UWI-St. Augustine  
Marley Lix-Jones, Harvard University  
Samantha Hosein, UWI-St. Augustine  
Shivalli Ragbir, UWI-St. Augustine  
Martha Arguello, Independent Scholar  
Amanda Thomas-Wilson, UWI—ST. Augustine  
Olivia Wyatt, Queen Mary University of London  
Joseph Biggerstaff, Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies  
Kimberley Hunte, Independent Scholar  
Patrick Murphy, University of Chicago  
Jacob Myers  
Steven Dieter

### BENEFACTORS

None.

### DONORS

None.

### INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

University of the West Indies

## 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.

Join online:

<http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org/membership.htm>

There are six (6) membership categories:

**Non-tenured Faculty, Caribbean-based lecturers (\$50 a year):** for faculty, public history, or governmental positions.

**Tenured professors and other established researchers (\$75 a year):** for tenured faculty, public history, or governmental positions.

**Teachers (primary/secondary), Students, and Retirees (\$25 a year):** a special rate for primary/ secondary teachers; graduate and undergraduate students and retirees.

**Institutional Members (\$100 a year):** for colleges, universities, libraries, museums, and other cultural and educational organizations.

**Benefactor (\$150 a year):** a higher category of giving to support the organization's activities.

**Life Membership (\$500):** the best membership bargain—equivalent to 10 years of regular annual membership, but valid for life.

## Association of Caribbean Historians

<http://www.associationofcaribbeanhistorians.org>

**President:** Carla Pestana, UCLA

**Vice-President:** Javier Aleman Iglesias, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Rebecca Anne Goetz, New York University

**Conference Coordinator:** José A. Fernández Montes de Oca, Universidad de Costa Rica

