

Research Summary of Archival Work Conducted in Antigua, West Indies

ARC Knickerbocker Award Summary

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During July and August of 2013 the archival and material remains collections were visited at the **Dockyard Museum** located in English Harbour, the **Museum of Antigua and Barbuda** in Saint John's, and the **Field Research Centre** located at Shirley's Heights. Focus was placed on gathering records, documents, and maps representing land-use change on the island of Antigua during the 17th and 18th centuries. This period represents the transition between the remnants of Pre-Columbian and re-shaped European landscapes. As the majority of archived materials have not been digitized, a large format scanner was used thanks to Dr. Reg Murphy head curator at the Dockyard Museum. As part of a joint collaboration, copies of all materials digitized were given to each home institution. A completely copy from all three institutions, along with notes, and archival photos were given to Dr. Reg Murphy.

Original land-use records, surveys, and maps were made available for analysis and digitization. Of particular significance are the **Codrington papers** located at the Dockyard Museum. These papers consist of Christopher Codrington, Governor of the Leeward Islands and plantation owner of the Betty's Hope Sugar Plantation. As the largest sugar producer on the island during the 18th century, letters and journals provided invaluable information regarding rainfall, soil fertility, and subsequent land-use. Extensive inventories were documented regarding crop yields and exports. These records describe in great detail the concerns over the availability of water, in particular during the 18th century. Letters between the Codringtons and their overseers discuss the possibility of shipping water from neighboring islands such as Dominica and Montserrat.

Numerous land-use, ordinance, and coastal maps were documented. Although of particular note, an original 1782 "**Plan of the Environs of English Harbour and Monks Hill In the Island of Antigua**" land-use map surveyed and drawn by John Brown Surveyor (Draughtsman to the Army in the West Indies); was made available for high resolution scanning at the Dockyard Museum. This map encompasses the researcher's primary dissertation site of Indian Creek, the largest and longest settled Pre-Columbian site on the island. It details the landscape prior to intensified agriculture practiced within this region. Local water courses, soil arability, and topography are all detailed within this map.

Satellite and aerial image analysis are critical in identifying the remains of past archaeological sites as well as providing documentary evidence of recent historical impacts. Through the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda, **aerial and satellite images** were made available for digitization from the years: **1941, 1958, 1966, 1968, and 1989**. These records are both rare and in a heavy state of degradation. Due to severe water damage from Hurricane Hugo, many of the archival materials were heavily inundated by flooding. The digitization efforts of these materials were completed with the help of an assisting researcher who will further reference these images and stitch them together cartographically. These records provided visual evidence of Indian Creek's circular Pre-Columbian village, which the outer ringed middens appeared to be intact at least until 1941. While these mounds are still present, evidence of bulldozing has since occurred. This images will provide valuable documentation regarding recent impacts towards the site, as well as a comparative record of vegetation and water accumulation during different climate conditions.

Archival research in thanks to the **ARC Knickerbocker Award** conducted during this past summer provided the foundation for a number of collaborations. The materials gathered from this past season resulted in three separate invitations to collaborate on a series of NSF grants; as well as two co-authored journal articles which are currently in the early stages of analysis. The findings described above, represent the primary core of materials contributing to the background chapter of the author's dissertation.