

Arubiana – Caribiana Department

The Arubiana-Caribiana department of the Aruba National Library holds a culturally valuable collection of original documents and materials that form part of the island's collective memory. The department works on conserving the social, cultural, political, and economic histories of the island, and is tasked with collecting, preserving, and organizing the documented heritage of Aruba, providing availability to the community at large.

The Arubiana-Caribiana department holds the following collections:

THE NATIONAL COLLECTION The department was found to fulfill the national library's duty of conserving Aruba's documented heritage, which consists of all books and documents regarding Aruba, including anything written by someone who was born or has lived on the island. This also includes relevant material published abroad. Within this collection we also conserve manuscripts, pamphlets, and posters; in essence, all carriers of intellectual creation. Moreover, the department compiles information on different key topics, such as on art, music, sports, and politics. A highly valued section of this collection are the magazine and newspaper collections, as well as our collection of audiovisual material featuring Aruba, consisting of video, movies, photographs, and slides.

Note: a section of the national collection is protected and can only be accessed for investigative purposes.

THE RARE COLLECTION This collection encompasses rare books from all over the Caribbean, some dating back to the 16th century. These are works that serve a great historical value for the Caribbean, including for variety of binding techniques found in this collection.

THE ANTILLIAN, CARIBBEAN, AND SURINAMESE COLLECTIONS These collections include books, magazines, brochures, collection of compilations on current issues regarding the (Dutch) Caribbean region and Surinam, taken from newspapers and magazines. Within these collections one can also encounter documentation regarding Aruba prior to the *Status Aparte* period.

THE HARTOG COLLECTION Dr. Johan Hartog was the first person on the island to serve as a librarian. He is well known as an author of many historical books regarding the six Dutch Caribbean islands. His collection holds great value for Aruba, as it contains antique maps,

compilations of articles regarding Aruba, and historical documents. Dr. Hartog's 'heritage' is now part of our collection.

THE ITO TROMP COLLECTION This collection consists of ethnographic documents (oral history), research, music sheets of local composers, the manuscript of Rufo Wever, a great quantity of poems, and stories by local authors that have never been published. This collection became a part of the department when the department of Culture and Education closed in 1985.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS This collection contains various types reports, and other publications by government departments, and non-governmental organizations. Within this collection you will find documents dating back to 1900, the Parliament Reports of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, and publications of "Landscourant Aruba".

THE DIGITAL COLLECTION The department offers various materials in **digital** form, which includes magazines (e.g. Skol I Komunidat), newspapers (e.g. Arubaansche Courant from 1948 to 1967, and more recent newspapers), different types of reports, a extensive collection of (historical) photographs (e.g. slides from the Vredebrecht collection), and theses. There are computers available to access these materials, and to conduct research with regards to digital sources.

Who can make use of this department?

Researchers, students at secondary and tertiary levels, writers, artists, and anyone who is looking for inspiration on Aruba's heritage are welcome. It is not necessary to be a member of the library in order to read and consult the available materials, however, the department does not lend out any material. It is possible to make copies, taking into account the copyright pertaining to any particular item. In certain cases identification may be requested.