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THE
NATIONAL HISTORY
And
CULTURE COUNCIL

Annual Report
1963

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GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE,
TRANSPORT & HARBOURS DEPARTMENT,
GEORGETOWN,
22nd February, 1964.

The Hon. Minister of Education
and Social Development,
Ministry of Education & Social Development,
Georgetown,
British Guiana.

Hon. Minister,

I beg to report on the National History and Culture Council and its activities during the year 1963 as under:

2. CONSTITUTION

The National History and Culture Council was formally constituted on 1st January, 1963 by Official Gazette Notice No. 213 of 2nd March, 1963. The Council supersedes the History and Culture Committee, the National Arts Council and the Historical Monuments Committee. Its functions and objectives have been defined as follows:-

1. To promote and aid the study of the history of Guyana with a view to quickening national consciousness and fostering national pride and unity;
2. To encourage and enrich the development of all cultural activities throughout the land;
3. To stimulate and guide all cultural activities toward the evolution of a distinctive Guyanese pattern of life.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The number of members originally appointed was 34. An additional 8 were subsequently appointed making a total of 42. Of this number 3 declined appointment and 3 tendered their resignations in the course of the year. A further three out of the country at the end of the year left the roll of membership at 33. Three of this number failed to attend any meetings and the effective membership at the close of the year must be set down as 30.

4. STAFF

Mr. J.W. Chinapen was seconded for service as Secretary to the Council and served in this capacity until the 27th September when he left the country for the United Kingdom on a Government scholarship.

4.1 Mr. Chatterpaul Ragoobardyal was seconded to fill Mr. Chinapen's place. He assumed duty on the 7th September.

4.2 On the 20th October Mr. William Rambihar was seconded to the Council to serve as a co-secretary.

4.3 Mr. Colin Moore B.Sc. (Hons.) assumed duty as Adult Education Officer on the 14th October. In this capacity he serves as secretary to the Adult Education Sub-Committee.

4.4. With effect from the 28th October Mr. Hilbert Hooper, known locally as "Lord Inventor" was attached to the Council. It is hoped that the Music Sub-Committee will be able to use the service of this Guyanese entertainer. In the meantime Mr. Hooper has been serving as a general office assistant while receiving from the Council such facilities, viz., tape-recorder and tapes, as he might need to further the promotion of his creative talents.

5. ORGANISATION

The Council is organised into 11 Sub-Committees as follows:-

- Adult Education
- Art & Crafts
- Dance
- Folklore
- History
- Literature
- Music
- National Holidays
- Social Studies
- Speech & Drama
- Tours

In addition a special sub-committee has also been appointed to deal with the entertainment features of the Annual Festival of Guyana.

A list of the original members of each of the Sub-Committees is attached as Appendix 1 and it will be seen that several members serve on more than one Sub-Committee, according as their individual interests dictates. Each Sub-Committee is to a large extent autonomous and has the executive authority and responsibility for carrying through its own annual programme when this has once received the approval of the Council, though each Sub-Committee must refer for decision to the parent body, with its own recommendations, any matter of policy that may rise from time to time. The Sub-Committees are divided into three groups, each of which is assigned to one of the Council's three full-time executive officers who each performs secretarial duties for his Sub-Committee or group Sub-Committees as the case might be. Each Sub-Committee submits copies of the minutes of its meetings to the parent body. The present arrangement of duties is as follows:

Sub-Committee	Ex. Officer & Secretary	Sub-Committee	Ex. Officer & Secretary	Sub-Committee	Ex. Officer & Secretary
Adult Education	Mr. Colin Moore	Social Studies, Tours, History, National Holidays, Literature.	Mr. Ragoo-bardyal	Speech & Drama, Folklore, Dance, Music, Art & Craft.	Mr. Ram-bihar

6. ADULT EDUCATION

This Sub-Committee was the last to come into existence and did not get underway until December, but the idea of establishing an integrated National system of Adult Education dates back to the proposals submitted by the Hon. C.V. Nunes, Minister of Education & Social Development to the 1962 Adult

Adult Education Seminar on September 14 of that year. In the words of the Minister "Adult Education must be regarded as an integral part of our national education programme. It must be regarded as an equal partner with Primary, Secondary, Technical and University education and we hope that in our society, it would be felt as a permanent national necessity". The Minister then outlined a tri-partite system of Adult Education.

- (i) Political Education aimed at educating the people in the role, structure and functions of Government.
- (ii) Fundamental Education which would be carried out mainly by Government-Extension Agencies and aimed primarily at improving the living standards of the people through a process of practical education.
- (iii) Community Education aimed at helping community members to recognise their needs and problems and in indentifying local and national resources.

6.1 On 3rd October, 1963, the Minister of Education met a deputation from the Adult Education Association. The Minister proposed the establishment of a National Adult Education Council, employing a full-time Executive Officer and run along the same pattern as the National Sports Council and the National Youth Council. The representatives of the Association felt however that voluntary bodies should be left free and independent of Government control. It was finally suggested that the Minister should submit details of his proposals for the consideration of the Adult Education Council who in turn would inform the Minister of the Association's activities over the past two years.

6.2 In the meantime the National History and Culture Council was assigned the responsibility for Adult Education and on the 21st October, 1963 a meeting was held between representatives of the Adult Education Association and the Council. Again there was a deadlock on the question of the relationship between Government and voluntary bodies in this field. The National History and Culture Council renewed the Minister's proposals for a Unified National Structure, the Adult Education Association insisting on fully autonomous voluntary Organisations. The Council thereupon appointed a Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Rudolph Grant to deal with this subject.

6.3 On the 12th December, 1963, the inaugural meeting of the Adult Education Sub-Committee was held and the members agreed that the fundamental objective of the Sub-Committee was to "Promote and stimulate the development of Adult Education and to co-operate with other existing organisations". The Sub-Committee decided not to undertake grandiose projects but to proceed cautiously and Mr. Colin Moore was assigned the task of preparing the draft of a National Programme of Adult Education.

7. ART & CRAFTS

The Council held an exhibition of paintings and sculpture at the British Guiana Museum as part of the 1963 Festival. Nearly 100 exhibits of graphic art were on show and a number of exhibits of sculpture. The exhibition which ran for a fortnight was open to the public and was well attended.

7.1 In the course of the year 7 Art exhibitions were held by private parties. The details are as follows:-

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Type of Exhibits</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Artist</u>
July-August	B.G. Museum	Paintings	E.R. Burrowes	Hubert Moshett
20th September - 7th Oct.	R.A. & C.S.	Paintings	do	Wandaik Art Group
October - November	B.G. Museum	Paintings	N.H & C.C.	Festival of Guyana
November - December	R.A & C.S.	Paintings	M. Broodhagen	Five Guianese Artists
December	B.G. Museum	Wood Sculpture	B.G. Museum	Phillip Moore
November - December	B.G. Museum	Paintings	B.G. Museum	Alvin Bon
December	Cultural Site	Paintings		Guiana Art and Culture Movement

7.2 One of the projects initiated by the Council during this year was an examination of the possibility of acquiring a collection of Guianese works of Art for permanent exhibit as the foundation for a National Art Gallery. As an initial step the following paintings have been purchased by the Council.

- (i) "The Rice Harvesters" by E.R. Burrowes, M.B.E.
- (ii) "The Pork-knockers" by R. Savory.

7.3 Towards the close of the year, the Council was authorised to erect a statue of the late Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow, O.B.E., and commissioned Mr. E.R. Burrowes for the task. At the close of the year the materials were all on order from the Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations and the statue is scheduled for completion by Easter 1964.

7.4 The Council's 1964 programme calls for a London exhibition of Guianese Art as well as a local travelling exhibition to serve the rural areas of Guiana.

7.5 In the field of Guianese Crafts a survey of Crafts instruction is planned for 1964 as the basis for a country-wide programme.

8. HISTORY

8.1 The History Sub-Committee was occupied mainly in picking up the threads from the now defunct "Committee for the Preservation of Ancient and Historical Monuments".

8.2 A list of sites and buildings of historical and archaeological interest has been started and some spade work has been done on producing a draft ordinance for their preservation. A start on the actual work of preservation has also been made. The Committee held discussions with a representative of the Presbyterian Church about the preservation and repair of an early sugar bond at Huis t'Dierin which is owned by the Church and is in danger of collapse.

8.3 Several members of the Sub-Committee gave public addresses at various places in town and country, most of them during the Festival of Guiana Week. Three fifteen-minute broadcasts on Guianese History were given during Festival of Guyana Week. These were well received and were later published in the Press. The Committee has planned more such broadcasts to be spread over the entire year. To facilitate this, it has established the nucleus of a "Lecturers' Bank" from which

/organisations....

organisations and bodies throughout British Guiana may draw and we look forward to the public making more use of this service.

8.4. The Committee has made plans to reprint or photograph or film (as may be most appropriate) books on Guiana which are now rare or not easily available. Plans have also been made for publishing modern writings which may be of historical, educational or other cultural benefit to the Community as a whole. Some such books and writings have already been considered.

8.5 The "Holidays Sub-Committee" became merged with the History Sub-Committee during the year. Two five minute broadcasts were given on the Phagwah and Id-ul-Fitr festivals.

9. MUSIC

The Music Sub-Committee organised a Music Competition during Festival Week, 1963 for the best setting of either J.W. Chinapen's "Berbice Crossing" or A.J. Seymour, "Water Music" as a children's song. The judges were Miss Rosemary Ramdeholl, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., Mrs. Edna Jordan, L.R.S.M., L.T.C.L., and Supt. E.O. Rogers, Director of Music. The first prize went to Mr. W.R.A. Pilgrim's "Berbice Crossing", and second prize to Mr. Hugh Sam's "Water Music". A special prize was recommended for Mrs. Valerie Rodway's "Water Music".

Two concerts of Guyanese music were recorded and broadcast during Festival Week. Local composition, folk songs, as well as Indian songs and instrumental music were also featured.

Preparation is being made for a National Symphony Orchestra. The Music Sub-Committee held a conference with the B.G. Music Teachers' Association, the Director of Music of the B.G. Police Band, representatives from the Princeville and Philharmonic Orchestra, etc. and decided that Music Teachers be provided with stringed instruments to stimulate interest and ensure an adequate supply of such players when required. Other projects under consideration are Scholarships, a new plan for Queen's College, a Concert Organ for the Town Hall, Library of Guyanese Music etc.

10. NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

Council submitted to the appropriate Legislative Committee a memorandum on significant and suitable holidays for Guyana.

11. SOCIAL STUDIES

As part of the 1963 Festival, Mrs. Maharanee Persaud, B.Sc (hons) (Soc) (Lond.), Chairman of the Social Studies Sub-Committee made a radio broadcast "Towards a Guyanese Culture".

11.1. The 1964 programme in this field provides for treatment of the marriage customs of the country's three major religions. This treatment will take the form of a seminar and a dramatised radio programme.

12. SPEECH AND DRAMA

Through its Speech and Drama Sub-Committee the Council embarked on a programme of collecting and making available plays and other drama material by Guyanese authors.

13. TOURS

In addition to the numerous minor tours arranged by various individual schools and District Committees, three highly successful and popular tours involving more than 1,500 school children were organised during Festival of Guiana Week in co-operation with District Sub-Committees. They were as follows:

- (i) Georgetown to Fort Island
- (ii) Adventure to Fort Island
- (iii) Historical Tour of Georgetown.

13.1 The 1964 programme provides for a plane tour to the Interior, a boat tour up the Demerara river, a hike from Atkinson Field to St. Cuthbert's Mission on the Mahaica River and tours to Black Bush and Tapacuma.

14. 1963 FESTIVAL OF GUYANA

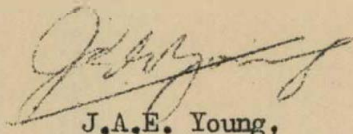
The 1963 Festival which was one of the Council's responsibilities broke little new ground in Georgetown where the only entertainment activity was a steel band tramp and concert, though in the cultural field the usual activities were supplemented by radio broadcasts on Art, History, Music and Social Studies. In the rural areas however, the response was satisfying and the occasion was marked by Festival activities ranging from Berbice to the North West District and inland at Bartica and Mackenzie. The programmes included such events as church services, lectures, debates, film shows, variety concerts, community singing, dances, band concerts, handicraft exhibitions, exhibitions of creolese dishes, boy scout and girl guide parades, camp fires, pageants, excursions, folk-dancing, drum majorette displays, regattas, float parades, cricket matches and athletic sports meetings.

14.1 A gratifying feature of the 1963 Festival was the fact that for the very first time the prizes in the various competitions were presented before the conclusion of the Festival except for one winner who was out of the country. Special mention must be made of the success of the Patrick Dargan Debating Competition and in particular of the final evening which was made the occasion for the presentation of prizes.

15. FINANCES

The National History and Culture Council received a Government Grant of \$3,400 in 1963. Expenditure totalled \$3,168, the largest item being grants to district Festival Sub-Committees.

A statement of Expenditure is attached as Appendix II.



J.A.E. Young,
Chairman, National History and
Culture Council.

APPENDIX I

NATIONAL HISTORY AND CULTURE COUNCIL

SUB-COMMITTEES

- HISTORY: J.A.E. Young, R. Grant, Vere T. Daly, Pat Dial, Dwarka Nath, L.P. Cummings.
- DANCE: Helen Taitt, Reepudaman Persaud, Vere T. Daly.
- SPEECH & DRAMA: C. Nobrega, Pat Cameron, Vere T. Daly, Sheila Thomas, Sheik Sadeek, J.W. Chinapen.
- MUSIC: Lynette Dolphin, Dr. Chandra, Reepudaman Persaud, Pat Dial, Dr. Johnson.
- ART: E.R. Burrowes, Dr. Chandra, Ching-a-Sue, Chinapen.
- LITERATURE: N.E. Cameron, Sheik Sadeek, McAndrew, V.T. Daly, J.W. Chinapen.
- FOLKLORE: McAndrew, Sadeek, Dr. Chandra, Mrs. Persaud, V.T. Daly, Dr. Johnson, Ching-a-Sue, Pat Cameron, Chinapen.
- NATIONAL HOLIDAY: Pat Dial, R. Grant, Reepudaman Persaud, Sadeek, Dwarka Nath, Maharani Persaud.
- CRAFTS: Dr. Chandra, Sadeek, McAndrew, Reepudaman Persaud.
- SOCIAL STUDIES: Maharani Persaud, Pat Cameron, V.T. Daly, Pat Dial, Dr. Chandra, Ching-a-Sue.
- TOURS: L.P. Cummings, Dr. Johnson, Desmond Shepherd, R.R. Nicholson.

Note: The first named under each head is the Convenor of that Sub-Committee.

NATIONAL HISTORY AND CULTURE COUNCIL
ACTIVITIES OF CHAIRMAN
1963.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Occasion</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
	Festival of Id-Jl-Ahza	Message sent from Chairman
23/2/63	Anniversary of Berbice Slave Rebellion of 1763.	Sunday-at-Noon Radio Broadcast.
14/3/63	Exhibition of Paintings by George Bowen.	Declared Exhibition open.
31/3/63	Functions of the National History & Culture Council	Sunday-at-Noon Radio Broadcast.
2/4/63	Jamboree of the Arts	Declared Jamboree open.
26/8/63	Centenary Celebrations of the introduction of Islam in Br. Guiana, held at No. 78 Village Corentyne.	Delivered goodwill message.
29/8/63	Annual General Meeting of the Georgetown Y.W.C.A.	Principal Speaker.
15/9/63	Festival of Guyana	Radio broadcast.
13/10/63	Second Annual Contest of the B.G. Singing Group	Preparing foreword and presiding over entertainment.
16/10/63	National Evening College - Inaugural Annual Speech Night Celebrations.	Presided over functions.
21/10/63	Festival of Guyana	Foreword for Art Exhibition. Foreword for Official Programme.
27/10/63	Opening of Festival Week	Sunday-at-Noon Broadcast.
28/10/63	Exhibition of Paintings & Sculpture, R.A. & C.S.	Attended with Minister.
31/10/63	Finals of the Patrick Dargan Debate.	Presented trophy and prizes to winners of the Music, Art, Sculpture and Literature Competitions.
1/1/63	'Guyana Day' celebrations for School Children	Attended Festival at Globe Cinema.
1/11/63	L.C.P. Fair	Attended.
23/11/63	Concert by Princessville Orchestra.	Attended concert.
27/11/63	Koulen's Progressive School of Music - Annual recital	Address given.
13/12/63	Open Air Exhibition of paintings by Guyana Art Club at Cultural Site.	Declared Exhibition open.
16/12/63	Philip Moore Exhibition, R.A. & C.S.	Declared exhibition open.

EXPENDITURERECEIPTS1. FESTIVAL OF GUYANA CELEBRATION 1963

Grant to Festival Sub-Committees (out of Georgetown) \$ 1,495.38

Grant to Festival Committee - Georgetown 172.79

Miscellaneous Expenses incurred during Festival of
Guyana Celebrations in Georgetown. 210.63

— \$ 1,878.80

Government Grant to National History and
Culture Council

\$ 3,400.00

Proceeds from sale of Art Catalogues
during the Festival Celebrations 23.50Net receipts from Fort Island Tours during
the Festival of Guyana Celebrations

76.00

2. ARTPrize money paid to winners of art competitions -
Festival of Guyana Celebrations 1963 302.00

Arrangements for Art Exhibitions 100.00

Purchase of approved paintings by Guyanese Artists 225.00 — \$ 627.00

3. LITERATUREPrize money paid to winners of literature competitions -
Festival of Guyana Celebrations 1963 216.10Arrangements for literature Exhibition: History of
Education in British Guyana 1.00Sum spent in organizing 1963 Patrick Dargan Debating
Competition 132.79

Trophies for Patrick Dargan Competitions 59.00

Trophy donated to Lodge Community Centre for
Literary Competition 8.50 — \$ 417.39
\$2, 923.19

\$3, 499.50

Carried Forward.....

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EXPENDITURE

RECEIPTS

4. <u>MUSIC</u>	Brought Forward	\$2,923.19						\$3,499.50
	Prize money paid to winners of music competitions Festival of Guyana Celebrations 1963	\$ 75.00	—	\$ 75.00				
5. <u>DRAMA</u>								
	Trophy donated to National Drama Festival 1963 - for best Junior Player	27.00		\$ 27.00				
6. <u>OFFICE EXPENDITURE</u>								
	Travelling allowances to officers of the Council	95.00						
	Stationery and supplies	48.53	—	\$ 143.53				
				\$ 330.78				
7. Refund to Treasury		330.78	—					
	TOTAL			\$3,499.50				<u>\$ 3,499.50</u>

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BY-LAWS

Made Under

THE DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION ORDINANCE,
(Chapter 192)

UNDER SECTION 67 OF THE DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION ORDINANCE THE FOLLOWING

BY-LAWS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION BOARD AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 22 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF BRITISH GUIANA AND BY VIRTUE AND IN EXERCISE OF ALL POWERS ENABLING HIM IN THAT BEHALF:-

1. These By-Laws may be cited as the Drainage and Irrigation (Regulation of Traffic on Dams) By-Laws, 1964.
2. Any person who uses any motor vehicle or hauls any log, timber, wood, padi, rice or any other agricultural products or plants by any means whatever on any dam without the permission in writing of the Drainage and Irrigation Board (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") or of any person authorised in that behalf by the Board shall be guilty of an offence and on summary conviction thereof shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars.
3. The Board may erect gates or fences on any dam for the purpose of prohibiting or regulating traffic thereon.
4. Any person who unlawfully interferes with, removes, damages or destroys any gate or fence erected on any dam shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars.
5. These By-laws shall apply to all dams within any drainage and irrigation area.

Made this 12th day of December, 1964.

Sgd. S.S. Naraine
Chairman,
Drainage and Irrigation Board

(Sgd) S.A. Luck
12/12/64
Secretary,
Drainage and Irrigation Board

Approved this 21st day of December, 1964 (Sgd) Richard E. Luyt
Governor