

ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION

FROM: Office of the President
Edward L. Towle

SUBJECT: Bulletin for Members
May 1976

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As we review the level of Associate Membership renewals for 1976, we are most encouraged. As a small, unendowed, operating foundation, we rely substantially for support on you, our Associate Members -- for both tangible support (dollars!) and intangible support (your quiet, behind the scenes encouragement). In return, we cannot offer you elaborate membership services but only the knowledge that your monies are being utilized directly to enhance the development and implementation of research and educational programs for small oceanic and coastal islands. You are a vital link in this process . . . all we can say is "thank you", pledge our best to give you the best return for your dollars, and keep you informed via periodic bulletins of some of our activities on your behalf. Your ideas and participation are always welcome.

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Perhaps the most significant change since last corresponding with you has been the "institutionalization" of our relationship with IDEAS, Inc. another non-profit organization based in Washington, D. C. and the formal establishment of an IRF branch office in Washington, located at IDEAS and operational only because of their most generous support. My wife, Judith, and I will be periodically manning the Washington office, and we hope thereby to strengthen our rapport with and knowledgeability about state-side funding sources. If you are in the area, please stop in at 1785 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest, Suite 100 (telephone: 202-483-9045).

Additional good news: one of the Foundation's earliest patrons, AMERICAN AIRLINES, has once again lent their most generous support to our work with an unrestricted gift of \$5,000 for 1976. Our thanks to Cy Collins, Joe Scott and all our good friends there.

SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS . . .

- * The coastal zone inventory for the U. S. Virgin Islands, being prepared under contract to the V. I. Planning Office, is in the final stages of preparation. Several consultants have worked with IRF staff on the report, including Dr. Maynard Nichols of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, David I. Grigg, a Virgin Islander with extensive marine biological experience in tropical waters, and James Dobbin of the Harvard Graduate School of Design, who worked with us on sketches, maps, and charts.
- * We have been given assurance of the availability of funds for Phase II of the Anegada (British Virgin Islands) island resource planning study, and are now moving ahead in its implementation. Chris Howell, geographer and resource planner from the U. of Florida, has returned to IRF staff for Phase II and will be leaving shortly for Anegada, possibly utilizing our newly donated research vessel, Meander, as a base of operations. (Meander, a 38 foot Camper Nicholson ketch, was donated to the Foundation at the end of 1975 by Mrs. Ann L. Bronfman of New York.)

- * Work continues on our nationally recognized Caribbean bicentennial program. St. Kitts, St. Vincent, and Jamaica have matched dollars we were able to make available for a preliminary inventory of American Revolutionary era historic sites and cultural resources on their islands. We are hopeful other governments will also take advantage of the availability of matching bicentennial funds to join with us in taking this first step toward the ultimate objective of a regional Register of surviving West Indian historic sites. IRF is also discussing with the Institute of Jamaica and the Barbados Museum the possibility of mounting jointly a number of bicentennial focussed museum exhibits.
- * George F. Tyson, Jr., staff historian, continues work on three bicentennial publications for the Caribbean. We shall advise when these are ready for distribution.

SOME NEW BUSINESS . . .

Thus far in 1976, the Foundation has submitted several program development proposals to various funding agencies, a few of which include:

- * To UNESCO/UNEP (in cooperation with the Caribbean Conservation Association and IDEAS) a proposal for a Caribbean environmental education training program with an experiential education focus;
- * To the National Endowment for the Humanities, a proposal for a feasibility study to examine the parameters and scope of a comprehensive historical records program for the U. S. Virgin Islands, whereby the archival records of the former Danish Virgin Islands, now in foreign or off-island repositories, would be inventoried, microfilmed, and returned to the Virgin Islands;
- * At the request of the V. I. Government (Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs), a proposal for the historical documentation of the Enighed Ruins on St. John, preparatory to restoration of the ruins as an island community center.

1976 IS OFF TO A PRODUCTIVE START !!

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We have taken the liberty of enclosing an Associate Membership application form in the event you have not renewed for 1976. If you have, we do thank you and ask that you please pass the application along to a non-member.

ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION

LAGOON MARINA, RED HOOK
ST. THOMAS, U. S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
(809) 775-3225

FROM: Office of the President
Edward L. Towle

SUBJECT: End of the Year Bulletin for Members
December 31, 1976

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In a recent issue of *International Wildlife* (reprinted in the August 29, 1976, issue of *The Washington Post*) F. Ray Fosberg of the Smithsonian Institution says:

Maybe you can afford to make a mistake on a continent. The thing you damage or destroy probably exists in two or three other places. But almost every island has something unique on it. And there aren't any islands that are safe from degradation.¹

The Island Resources Foundation, which was featured in an accompanying story in *International Wildlife*, continues to work to insure the survival of that "uniqueness" about which Dr. Fosberg writes -- with an emphasis on improved resource management programs, demonstration projects, and technical assistance in local and regional institutional development appropriate to island areas.

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As we close 1976, we wish to bring our members up to date on our recent activities. But first we would like to give acknowledgement to three very special friends of the Foundation whose support during the closing months of 1976 was particularly timely and vital:

Nancy Woodson Spire, whose generous gift of \$7,500 in November represented the largest unrestricted contribution of 1976. Thank you, Nancy!

Myron Hokin, of Chicago, St. Thomas, and Virgin Gorda, and *Bob Bernhard*, of Long Island and Culebra, Puerto Rico, for their continued support with additional generous gifts during the closing months of 1976.

Nancy, Myron and Bob are fellow island lovers, patrons of science, and long standing Foundation friends!

While acknowledgements of support are being extended, let us not forget two very important categories of contributors: our *SPONSORING MEMBERS* (membership of \$100) and *LIFE MEMBERS* (membership of \$500). Because we have never listed them in a previous Bulletin, we take the opportunity to do so at this time.

1) This article represents an important statement on the future of islands. If you would like a copy, please let us know.

FOUNDATION SPONSORING MEMBERS

Sarah Harkness
Samuel P. McChesney
Nathaniel Schurer
Joe Scott
Mrs. Mason Scudder
Robert Siddall
Elsie M. Tytla

FOUNDATION LIFE MEMBERS

Robert A. Bernhard
J. Simpson Dean, Jr.
Dr. Lyman and Nancy Spire

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H I G H L I G H T S O F 1 9 7 6

* The year saw a culmination of our several Bicentennial focussed programs for the Caribbean (including archival research, historic site inventory and documentation, museum exhibits, historic publications). John Warner, former head of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA) in Washington, D.C., made a special presentation of a formal plaque and Bicentennial flag to the Foundation in August, in recognition of our "Caribbean and the American Revolution" ARBA supported program. George Tyson, Bicentennial program director, is back at work, after being seriously burned in a boating accident this past summer, and is bringing the various projects to a close. Separately funded by ARBA, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the Virgin Islands Bicentennial Commission, over \$75,000 in grant funds were awarded in support of this multi-faceted project. It should be noted that all bicentennial grants to IRF were matching fund grants, and an additional \$37,300 had to be provided by the Foundation to "match" funds received in direct program support. Watch 1977 for announcement of bicentennial related publications, some of which are now going to press (e.g., *Powder, Profit and Privateers*, by staff historian, G.F. Tyson, a documentary history of the Danish West Indies [U.S. Virgin Islands] during the period of the American Revolutionary struggle).

* The coastal zone management project, funded under contract by the Virgin Islands Planning Office, was completed in the spring, and the resultant report and publication, *Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management: The Marine Environment*, mark continuing commitments by Foundation staff to assist insular governments through implementation of improved resource management and comprehensive planning programs. We have been informed by the V.I. Planning Office that the report is currently being reprinted for broader distribution.

* 1976 witnessed the commencement of a series of coastal water quality studies funded by the Office of Resources Management of the U.S.V.I. Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs. Site specific work has begun at the Mangrove Lagoon and Perseverance Bay, St. Thomas, and additional work on St. Croix is programmed for 1977.

* The Foundation's ongoing resource management and conservation program focussing on the Caribbean green sea turtle (which has just been placed on the IUCN Endangered Species List) continued in 1976, greatly assisted by the contributions of those friends of the turtle who "named a turtle," thereby providing \$25 per turtle tag for research and expedition expenses. Turtle tag contributions ranged from the one dollar gift of 12 year old Kathryn Doyan to \$250 sent by Manuel and Elizabeth Hinke of Mexico. Many of the contributions this year (over \$3,000 total) came from children and school classes throughout the United States, responding to an article in the monthly *Ranger Rick* magazine about our sea turtle research and tagging effort. In October, a four-person research team (including expedition leader and chief scientist, Bill Rainey; navigator, Ed Towle; Dick Dewey, generously lent to the project by the V.I. Bureau of Fish and Wildlife; and Jim Lefever, captain of the research vessel Pelagic) sailed to and lived on remote Aves island, continuing a program of research, tagging and observation begun five years ago. During 1976, four turtles, tagged by IRF scientists during expeditions to Aves in 1973, 1974 and 1975, were caught and reported by fishermen from around the region, two in the Dominican Republic, one in the Grenadines, and one in Martinique. One turtle recovered in 1976 had hypothetically travelled, in straight-line distance, 459 nautical miles from Aves to point of recovery in the Dominican Republic!

* As commenced in 1974, with the "Caribbean Cruise in Conservation" (sponsored by IRF in cooperation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Caribbean Conservation Association), the Foundation's leadership role in the area of regional historic preservation programs has continued in 1976. Two projects are worthy of mention. First, a preliminary historic site inventory effort has been undertaken with the active cooperation of seven island trusts or historical organizations in the Caribbean region. The ultimate objective is to encourage a systematic inventory and assessment of the historic sites, buildings and monuments of the West Indies and eventually to develop a regional register of historic sites -- as a prerequisite to a coordinated management plan for the conservation, protection, preservation, and restoration of surviving historic site resources in the Caribbean. Within this project, technical assistance has been provided by Ms. Alexandra Tarr (historic preservationist and associate of IDEAS, Foundation support organization in Washington, D.C.); she has just completed a nine-island site visitation to work with island preservationists and historical organizations in preparation of the inventory. More on this project in 1977.

Secondly, the V.I. Government, under the HUD block grant community development program, contracted with the Foundation to research and document the history of the Enighed Estate Ruin in Cruz Bay, St. John, preparatory to restoration of the site as a community facility. The resultant report, issued as *Enighed Estate And Ruin Of St. John, U.S.V.I.: An Historical Survey*, presents a narrative of the estate's past within the context of St. Johnian plantation economy and serves as an important example of historic site documentation for the Caribbean region.

* With the appointment in September of Dr. O. Marcus Buchanan as a Senior Research Associate and Director of the Foundation's Museum Programs, our institutional commitment to museum development programs for small, tropical islands was formalized. Dr. Buchanan brings to his assignment proven experience in dealing with the unique problems of conservation-oriented institutions in insular Caribbean environments, having served as resident director of the New York Zoological Society's William Beebe Tropical Research Station in Trinidad and director of the Virgin Islands Ecological Research Station at Lameshur Bay, St. John, U.S.V.I. Prior to his work in the West Indies, commencing in 1967, Dr. Buchanan was affiliated with the museum program at the U. of California, Los Angeles and with the Dallas Museum

of Natural History. Beginning with the provision of planning and technical assistance to the Dominica (West Indies) museum in 1973, and linked to our historic sites program as discussed above (many museums are housed in historic buildings), the Foundation's commitment to museum program development evolves from a recognition that museums have great potential as cultural and educational, as well as conservatorial and research institutions. They have, however, lagged behind other sectors in the Caribbean in funding, staffing, and professional development. Using the U.S. Virgin Islands (with four operating museums) as a base of operations, we have worked with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and two federal government agencies (the National Endowment for the Arts and the Smithsonian Institution which administers the National Museum Act), and subsequently have submitted two proposals for funding to these agencies. One, to conduct a short-term introductory workshop/seminar for museum personnel in the English-speaking eastern Caribbean and two, to establish a system for the identification of conservatorial priorities for eastern Caribbean museums. Finally, with the assistance of the Foundation, three publications have been released in 1976 by the West Indian Museum Associates (which Dr. Buchanan heads):

- * *A Brief Directory of Museum Associations and Related Organizations*
- * *What Is A Museum? An Essay on a Definition Dilemma*
- * *Specimen Cabinets and Conservation: Some Solutions for the Smaller Museum*

* As a continuation of our ongoing program of assistance to the developing Morne Trois Piton National Park in Dominica, the Island Resources Foundation assisted the U.S. National Park Service, Office of International Affairs, in establishing a park training curriculum and in implementing an in-service management training program for park personnel from the Dominica Park. The training effort was carried out at the Virgin Islands National Park in November. In addition to assisting the National Park Service with designing the curriculum and scheduling the training, the Foundation conducted an instructional session at IRF headquarters in St. Thomas for the Dominican park trainees, as another facet of the NPS in-service program. The Foundation recognizes the need for interchange and cooperation among the islands of the Caribbean as a critical factor in conservation and national park development in the region, and we expect to enlarge upon this aspect of technical assistance in resource management programs.

A comprehensive annual report for the year 1976 will be available in February. Members wishing a copy may so request from Foundation headquarters in St. Thomas.

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It is on a sad note that we conclude this report to members, and it is with deep sorrow that we inform those who knew her of the death of Virginia (Ginny) Radcliffe, beloved friend, comrade and island traveler. Ginny died quietly at her island home on Fire Island, New York, in August, shortly before publication of *The Caribbean Heritage* (Walker and Company), her final tribute to the Isles of the Caribbee which she knew and loved so well. She respected these islands with an idealism and enthusiasm which knew no equal; yet her commitment was disciplined, and she argued well their need to protect endemic cultural and natural resources in the face of conflicting pressures.

We wish to close the year by thanking each of you for your continued support in 1976. As our newly printed membership form indicates (enclosed), we are an insurance program for islands, and your membership contribution represents your investment in the future of these fragile insular systems.

We are enclosing a membership renewal form and mailing envelope and request that you return it as soon as possible with your membership contribution for 1977. If you have already renewed, please accept our thanks, and we ask that you consider a gift membership for the new year for a relative, friend, or associate who shares your concern about islands. An appropriate place is provided on the form for gift memberships.

We look forward to hearing from you and, in the meantime, wish for you and yours a prosperous and meaningful new year.

The Staff of the Island Resources Foundation

Edward L. Towle
Judith A. Towle
George F. Tyson
Kathy Finnerty
William E. Rainey*
Ernest J.P. Muhly*
O. Marcus Buchanan*

Plus the numerous student volunteers and visiting research staffs who have worked with us in 1976

* *Part-time*