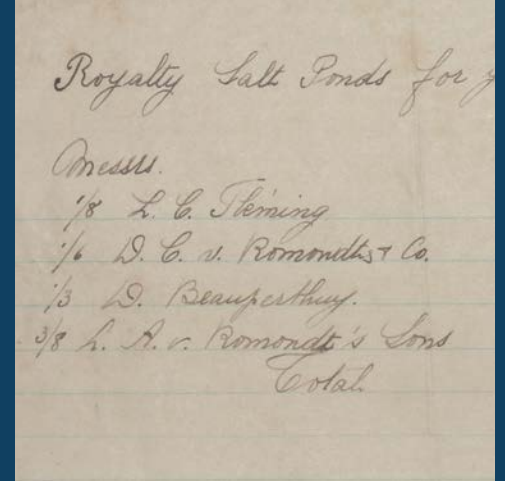
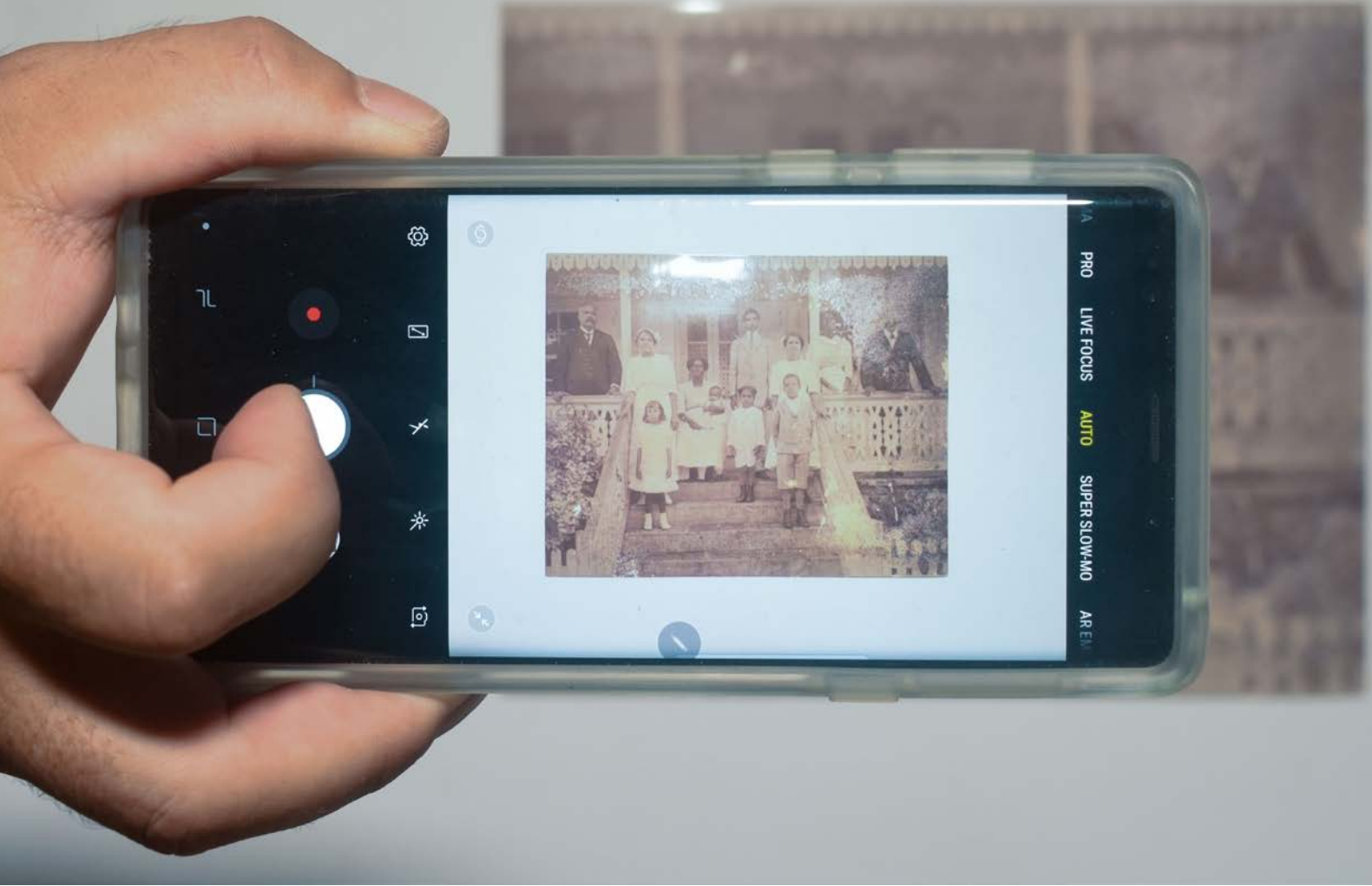


# Heritage Backup



## Our Chance to Make St. Martin's History

Part Two:  
Tools of the Trade,  
Find Inspiration & Saving Stories



## Tools of the Trade

During this time of confinement we have an opportunity to make history. In many cases, we are stuck at home with our personal heritage collection of photos, letters and other items. If not, we still have our memories. You also have the tools you need to turn those raw materials into a lasting part of history.



*Want to make St. Martin history? These days, a phone is all you need. You can take photos, write notes, record your voice and even film a video. A smartphone photo isn't as good as a professional scan, but it can be enough to preserve and share memories. Below you can see plenty of details visible in this image of an old photograph taken with an average phone.*



The first thing you will need is a workspace. Pretty much any table and chair will do, but if you have the option, there are a few things to look for. Beware of hazards that could damage precious materials, like a gust of wind that could blow papers around or rain from a nearby window. You need light. The best is indirect sunlight without bright glare or harsh shadows, but any light will do.

Next, you will need tools to document the items and your own memories about them. A camera for documenting and a pad and pencil for recording memories will work. If you have a scanner and a computer, that's great too.

If you don't have those things, a regular smartphone can do all you need. You can use it as a camera, a notepad, and a voice or video recorder. You can even use it to share what you have documented.

Use the phone's camera to take a photo of the item you are studying. For a printed photo, lay the photo flat on your table and use your phone to take a digital picture of it. Try to keep the phone steady: resting your elbows on the table can help. You can zoom in on your phone to make sure it came out well. If you are having trouble, try to find a location with more light. If there is information on the back of the photo, take a picture of that also.



You can use your phone as a voice recorder to save your memories about your item. The iPhone comes with an app called Voice Memos, and Google makes a free program called Recorder for Android phones. Set the phone on your desk, start a new recording and record your memories about the item. It is a good idea to start with a description of the item so you can match your voice recording with the picture of the item. End the recording and start a new one for the next item.

To get started, find a couple items that have meaning to you and use the tools you have to save an image of the item and your memories about it. If you want to share your item and memories, find Les Fruits de Mer on Facebook and send us a message with the photo and your audio recording. If you're having trouble with any of the steps, maybe someone in your home can help and you can work together.



*Using your phone to make a digital copy of an old photograph is useful in a few ways. It is a backup in case something happens to the original. It is also something you can send to a friend or family member far away.*







## Find Inspiration

There are plenty of places to find inspiration and unlock memories of your life. Photos and postcards from times past are incredibly useful. Your photos are probably full of friends, family and special occasions from your life. Postcards aren't as personal, but they can often remind you of places you went and how they looked long ago.

The postcard above is from the Barbara Cannegieter Postcard Collection.





Sometimes postcards or family photos are from before your time. But these may remind you of stories you heard from a parent or grandparent. On an island like St. Martin, people share traditions. A photo of a common activity, like reaping salt, can connect to the family history of many people on the island.

This is another postcard from the Barbara Cannegieter Postcard Collection. This collection, and many other photos of St. Martin can be seen online here: <http://image.amuseumnaturalis.com>.

Take a look and you may find images that spark memories in you.

P R O G R A M

1. Bon Bini: (Welcome)  
Yvonne Spellen
2. "Aruba" Poetry of Federico Oduber  
At the guitar - Ruben Geerman  
Declamation - Oslin Boekhoudt
3. Cassandra Spellen : singing  
"E Perla di Antillas" (The pearl of the Caribbean)  
"Luna di Plata" (Silver Moon)
4. Baila di Sinta : (Ribbon dance)  
The whole group
5. Rufo Odor : singing  
"Mi n' sa" (I don't know) - Padu Lampe  
"Abo so" (Only You) - Padu Lampe  
Dance - Enid de Lannoy.  
"Ora Oebow" (Aruba) - Hubert Booi
6. "Dandee" (Happy New Year)  
Coco - Persey Jeandor  
Ia - Yvonne Spellen  
The rest of the group
7. Carnaval:  
Yvonne Spellen  
Oslin Boekhoudt  
Enid de Lannoy  
The rest of the group
1. Ultimo Caribe (The last Carib)  
poetry of Hubert Booi  
declamation - Oslin Boekhoudt
2. Trio Huasteca
3. Mazurka en Ronde
4. Dera Gai  
The whole group
5. Cassandra Spellen : singing  
Himno i Bandera  
Aruba mi Patria
6. Chanita (A market scene)  
Marlène Hansen  
Rafael Tromp  
Enid de Lannoy  
The rest of the group
7. "Despedida"  
The whole group

I n t e r m i s s i o n

• ST. MAARTEN COUNCIL on the  
ARTS & MASCARUBA  
Dept. of CULTURE & EDUCATIONAL  
Development of Aruba  
Presents: Mascaruba with  
"NOCHI RUBIANO"  
A night full of Aruban folklore  
Direction- Oslin J. Boekhoudt  
Co-operation of Trio Huasteca  
Date: 22 Nov.  
Place: Cultural Center, Backstr.  
Entr. fee Fls 4,-

Plenty of keepsakes can inspire memories. This playbill from a cultural performance may remind you about the performance and the performers. Perhaps you remember what the night was like and who you went with to the event.



Pierre —

We want you to know how very much we appreciate your taking the children back and forth from school. If there is ever anything we can do for you, please let us know. Thank you again —

Mr and Mrs Workman  
(Jo + Les)

There can be inspiration in a personal letter, or even a short note. You might have memories about the person who wrote it.

Personal communication can also reveal traditions. Think of someone taking a neighbor's children to and from school. It might tell us about the sense of community. Or the availability of transportation. When there were fewer cars on the island, perhaps it was something done often by people who did have a car.



Funeral programs are often full of memories. They memorialize the person who passed, and they may include some information about their life and what they gave to the community. They often include information about the living relatives of the deceased, a useful record of a family tree.

Traditions around how people are memorialized are also a very important part of culture. Funeral programs include quotes and scripture as well as songs that were sung at the service.



**MEAT  
CURING  
and  
SAUSAGE  
MAKING**

**MORTON SALT COMPANY**

120 S. LA SALLE ST., CHICAGO 3, ILL.

Even things that don't seem very personal might tell us more about what life was like in the past. Today, it might seem strange to have a book that tells you how to cure meats and make sausage. These things are all easy to buy at the grocery store.

But a while back, most homes didn't have electricity or refrigeration. Someone might kill and butcher a pig or cow on a Saturday and deliver the meat to families that day. Knowing how to cure it yourself might be the only way to save some for later.

Even though that might seem like the distant past, many people on St. Martin can still remember those days. Understanding the daily life in those times can help us understand St. Martin culture today.



## Saving Stories

A young couple gets married. A man holds a fishing trophy. A crowd inspects a portion of a bridge that collapsed. A young girl stands on the beach with a handbag. A pier full of people looking to see who wins the boat race. One man throws a net, another cleans a fish. A woman talks with a giant pestle in her hand. In the mortar is a baton of sugarcane.



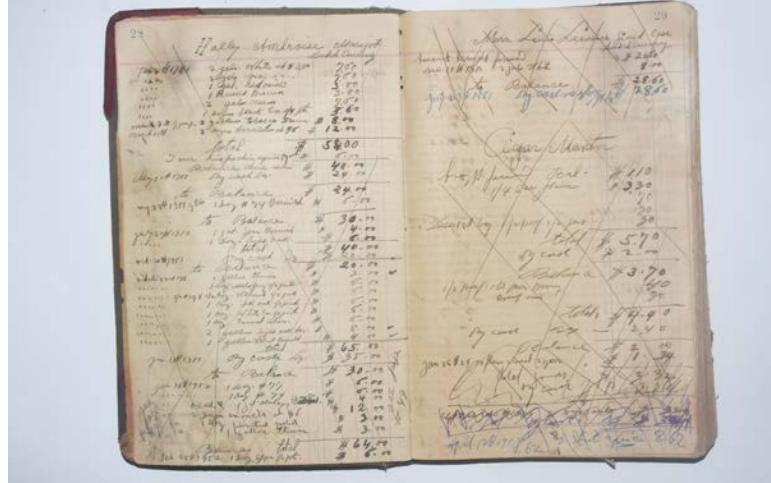


Is a picture really worth a thousand words? Maybe. But a box of old photos will always hold at least a few stories. Each frozen moment gives us clues. They tell us what life was like here. We might see what people wore and what they were eating. We can see what a day's catch of fish looked like. In the distance, we can see whether the hills are covered in pasture or scrub.

Letters and journals have much to tell us, too. Recipes for food and herbal medicine are recorded. We learn how people spent their time, what things they worried about and what they hoped for the future. Even more can be learned by listening to those who lived here as the island changed.

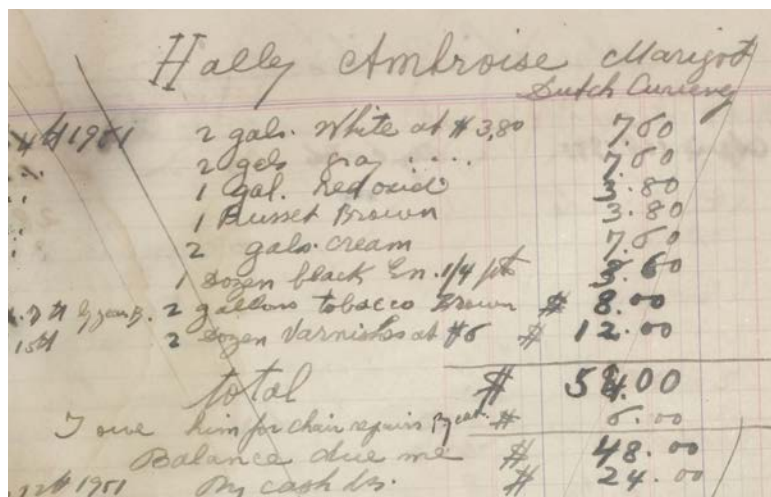
All of these resources have special value here on St. Martin. They aren't just the history of a person or a family, but the history of an island. They're the record of a culture unique to this place.

These things are special, rare and always in danger. It is impossible to know how many stories have been lost to storm, fire, mildew and death. Hurricane Irma damaged the institutions that store local heritage: libraries, museums, archaeological collections and records archives. It is impossible to know how many items were lost from homes that were destroyed or flooded.



This ledger features accounts for dozens of St. Martiners who purchased supplies during the 1940s and the 1950s.

On this page, we see Ambroise Halley purchased paint in a variety of colors in 1951: white, gray, red oxide, russet brown, cream, and tobacco brown. Perhaps he was painting his home, or a boat he built.







*This collapse of the Grand Case bridge didn't make it into the history books, but surely someone knows the tale.*

We should do what we can to save these stories. Through so much of history, only the stories of the wealthy and powerful were recorded. For the St. Martin of the last 100 years, we have the possibility of telling the story of everyday life. We can tell how regular people lived through great changes. We can learn what made the island what it is today.

Do you have a story to tell about St. Martin?  
Do you have a photo or letter that shows us what life was like back in the day?

*This tabulation of salt production royalties for the year 1941 shows us who the stakeholders were in the last decades of salt production on the island.*

Royalty Salt Ponds for year 1941		
Messrs.		
1/8 L. C. Fleming	Ten.	25.66
1/8 D. C. & Romondt & Co.		34.20
1/8 D. Beauperthuy		68.40
1/8 L. A. & Romondt & Sons		76.99
Total	Ten.	205.25

Photos and scans by Mark Yokoyama, of objects from the Pierre Beauperthuy collection at Amuseum Naturalis, unless otherwise noted.



This booklet was developed as a companion to the heritage preservation work done by Les Fruits de Mer at Amusem Naturalis, St. Martin's free museum of nature, heritage and culture.

Les Fruits de Mer is a non-profit association based in St. Martin whose core mission is to raise awareness about nature, culture, and heritage. The organization carries out this mission through a free museum, publications, films, and public events. Learn more at [lesfruitsdemer.com](http://lesfruitsdemer.com) and [amuseumnaturalis.com](http://amuseumnaturalis.com).

