

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES FOR RESEARCH IN WEST INDIAN HISTORY

With an Appendix on a Collection of Curaçao Plantation Archives

BY

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PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

One of the indicators for the interest, in both the Netherlands and the West Indies, in the history and historiography of the Caribbean may be found in the existence of private collections of books and pamphlets on the area.

The important collection on the Netherlands Antilles which Mr. B. DE GAAY FORTMAN — to whom the present issue of *De West-Indische Gids* is dedicated — has painstakingly built up in the course of close to fifty years is certainly such a mark of interest. This among other achievements helped to earn him the well-deserved Silver Carnation of the Prince Bernhard Fund in 1953.

Other persons who have privately collected books and pamphlets and sundry other materials while publishing historical data are F. OUDSCHANS DENTZ (also closely connected with this journal) and, on Curaçao, the late N. VAN MEETEREN, whose collection is well preserved and kept up-to-date by his son.¹

A possible drawback of private collections is that they may be dispersed at the death of the owner, as happened in the case of Dr. TH. LENS and L. LENS, although part of their material went to Mr. DE GAAY FORTMAN. On the other hand both public libraries and archives are often benefitted by private collections presented to them either on the owner's death or during his

¹ The VAN MEETEREN collection contains some valuable historical material, part of which the collector published in his booklet on Curaçao's old fortifications: *De oude vestingwerken, forten en batterijen van Curaçao* Willemstad, N.A., 1951. See also N. VAN MEETEREN, *Noodlotsdagen: Grepen uit de geschiedenis van Curaçao 1799-1800*, Willemstad, N. A., 1944, and articles in this journal and in *Lux*, an Antillian monthly which appeared on Curaçao from 1940 till 1943.

lifetime. Even if a library is not always able immediately to incorporate such a bequest for lack of personnel or space, the collection at least is saved from being scattered to the four winds. The Royal Tropical Institute in Amsterdam, for example has been given the collection of the late Dr. E. J. KIELSTRA, governor of Surinam in the years 1933—1945, and parts of OUDSCHANS DENTZ' material.

LIBRARIES IN THE NETHERLANDS

It would lead too far astray to attempt an enumeration of all the private collections which have gone into building up the Caribbean sections of the diverse libraries, while a detailed assessment of the contents of those sections is in many cases not yet possible. Suffice it to mention that the Royal Library at The Hague possesses large collections of newspapers and pamphlets concerning the area.¹ There is further the more-than-a-century-old library of the Royal Institute for Linguistics, Geography, and Ethnology at The Hague, which is well provided with historical publications. Though the institute's main interest has always lain in Southeast Asia, it also covers Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles.² Nor should the library and the archives of the former Colonial Ministry (now Ministry of Overseas Affairs) at The Hague be overlooked as a source of material for historical research.³

University libraries in the Netherlands possess material on the Caribbean, both old and new, of course, but between them the three libraries mentioned cover the greater part of extant historical documentation on Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles.

Persons pursuing studies in the field should therefore apply to the Royal Tropical Institute, the Royal Institute for Linguistics, Geography, and Ethnology (open to members only), and the Royal Library. Via the Royal Library it is, moreover, easy to refer to the various Dutch university libraries, for their catalogues have also been incorporated in the central catalogue there.

¹ See the catalogue of the Royal Library's pamphlet collection: W. P. C. KNUTTEL, *Catalogus van de pamflettenverzameling berustende in de Koninklijke Bibliotheek*, Eleven Volumes, 's-Gravenhage, 1889—1920.

² [G. P. ROUFFAER en W. C. MULLER] *Catalogus der Koloniale Bibliotheek*, four vols., 's-Gravenhage, 1908—1937.

³ For archives in the Netherlands see note ¹ on page 77 below.

SURINAM

In Surinam a great deal of valuable historical material, both books and maps, was contained in the *Landsboekerij* (government library), according to its catalogue reprinted in 1911.¹ The catalogue of an exhibition of old books held in 1948 in Paramaribo however, shows that many works had been lost in the years between. The library was moved from its original premises a few years after the exhibition and divided over two buildings — the public library and a room in the Department of Education. The latter contains most of the historical books and the maps, but since they are neither catalogued nor properly stacked more losses may be feared. This is all the more deplorable as — to quote one example — many of the sources of the abolition debates not to be found in the Netherlands may be (or may have been) in the Surinam government library.² It goes without saying that this remark is applicable to other, and older, historical periods as well. Even so, it may be well worth the research worker's while to consult the *Landsboekerij* in Paramaribo.

There are photostat copies of some old maps and illustrations to be found in the *Surinaams Museum* at Paramaribo. The museum also possesses several original prints³ and a file concerning Vossenburch plantation in the years between 1821 and 1862.⁴

The *Landsarchief* contains the government archives from

¹ *Catalogus van de tentoonstelling van boeken, documenten, platen en kaarten met betrekking op Suriname vóór 1900*. [Cultureel Comité Suriname; M. J. SCHOLS-VAN SUCHTELEN] 1948, mimeographed.

² See the documentary article by Miss J. M. VAN WINTER on public opinion in the Netherlands concerning the abolition of slavery, *W.I. Gids* 34 (1953), 61–102.

³ The maps were reproduced from a private collection of Dr. VAANDRAGER, one time physician with the Curaçao oil refinery. Among the prints are a colored set of illustrations from P. J. BENOIT, *Voyage à Surinam*, Bruxelles, 1839.

⁴ Inventory of accounts and other documents of the VOSSENBURG Plantation, Surinam, kept in the *Surinaams Museum*, Paramaribo:

- current accounts, 1821–1858 [missing: 1828, 1832, 1833] — with appended reports on the administration and correspondence
- final accounts, 1822–1853 [missing: 1851] — with appendices: quarterly reports, reports on grounds in cane and provisions, lists of cane millings and proceeds, evaluated crops and revenues, etc., lists of engineering works, lists of slaves born and deceased, general lists of slaves
- inventories, 1832, 1842, 1844
- dividends, 1844
- advice on the installation of a steam engine, 1833/34

1845 onwards, the older files — including those of the Dutch West India Company and the Sociëteit van Suriname — having been removed to the General State Archives at The Hague.¹

The public library of the *Cultureel Centrum Suriname*² in Paramaribo, functioning since 1947, is not specialized in historical publications, but it does contain some recent works on Caribbean history among its large collections.

One of the older specialized libraries of Surinam is that of the *Landbouwproefstation* (agricultural experiment station). For the history of scientific research in the country this library and collections in other departments (geological survey, department of agriculture, etc.) may be valuable.

If a *central catalogue* were to be made for all the libraries in Paramaribo, research would certainly be facilitated. Such a catalogue would moreover provide a basis for requests to have publications on loan from libraries elsewhere, since one could then state with certainty whether a book required was not available in Surinam.

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

The Netherlands Antilles government public library in Curaçao had never enjoyed any special reputation as a repository of historical works. In compliance with the new 'federative' structure of the Antilles administration the library, as part of the facilities of the Department of Education, was transferred to the Curaçao Island government, and in 1955 the present librarian showed by means of an exhibition how many valuable old books and maps on the Caribbean area the *Eilandelijke Bibliotheek* actually possessed. Later he was also able to add a

- advice on the installation of a centrifuge, 1851
- papers concerning the Surinamese possessions, 1836
- reports, 1844–1854
- quarterly tables, 1844–1851 and 1852
- list of necessities requested and dispatched, 1852–1857
- report of a meeting of shareholders, Utrecht, 1862, concerning the question whether the plantation should be sold or let, in connection with the abolition of slavery on July 1, 1863.

¹ No catalogue of the *Landsarchief* seems to be available. Historical articles by PH. A. SAMSON, Paramaribo, in this journal are presumably based in part on materials from the Landsarchief, as are also those by F. OUDSCHANS DENTZ.

² The *Cultureel Centrum* is a sister institution of — and partly financed by — the Netherlands Foundation for Cultural Cooperation with Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles (*Sticusa*).

number of historical maps to the collection, thus expanding possibilities for local historical research.

Meanwhile the Curaçao Island administration decided to transfer a part of the library to the *Wetenschappelijke Bibliotheek*. This is a private foundation sponsored by the *Cultureel Centrum Curaçao* and partly financed by *Sticusa*. It consists of a reference and research library containing modern works covering almost all the humanities and various of the sciences. The basic plan seems to be that scholarly and semi-popular publications (as over against novels and children's books) will be transferred from the public library to the *Wetenschappelijke Bibliotheek*.¹ Here again, the shift in system may be a source of confusion for the research worker as long as incorporation in the latter library has not been completed.

If a published catalogue is available — as is the case, for example, for the Aruba Island public library (*Openbare Leeszaal en Boekery*) which also contains works of historical value — research is of course facilitated. However, it may well prove highly desirable to create a *central catalogue* at least for Curaçao. This would mean that in one library a card index could be consulted of all scholarly publications available on the island, with an indication for each title in which library, collection or government service it is to be found. Such system would eliminate the need for any transfer of books which are accessible at their original location, and would also facilitate the policy of every library concerned as regards buying new or antiquarian publications, since superfluous overlapping could then more easily be avoided.

In this connection the U.S. *Farmington plan* should be mentioned. Under this plan the Caribbean region — including the Guianas — is assigned to the library of the University of Florida, Gainesville, for coverage of all published material. Thus, in due time, any student in need of a certain publication concerning the Caribbean might apply to the University of Florida library with good hopes of success.

This future situation may be considered another reason for compiling local central catalogues as soon as possible, since local possibilities must of course be exhausted before one turns to such outside assistance. It is a hopeful sign that the *Wetenschappelijke Bibliotheek* has decided to make a start on such a

¹ To date mimeographed catalogues of four sections of the library — philosophy, law, economics and social sciences — are available.

compilation for Curaçao by the end of 1957. Whether it will be possible to include all source materials for research remains to be seen, for some collections are of a mixed character and contain both publications and archive material.

This is especially the case with those of the *religious organisations*, of which that of the St. Thomas College deserves special mention as a reference library specialized on the West Indies. Data on the history of Roman Catholic missions on Curaçao are contained in the library of the bishop's see, and — especially material on the parishes of the island — in the collection kept at the parish of Pietermaai. Since the archives are in fact private collections it is not easy to assess what other material a research worker may find there, but admittance is given on request in some cases.¹ The archives of the Curaçao Jewish community are kept in the office of the Portuguese synagogue.² The Protestant Reformed Church in Willemstad possesses a certain number of registers of marriages, baptisms, births, and deaths of church members, and so forth. These records, which are concerned almost exclusively with the nineteenth century, have not been well preserved, and there are many gaps in them.³

As was mentioned above, the General State Archives at The

¹ Details of local history have been gleaned from these archives and published by several missionaries: W. BRADA O.P., P. A. EUWENS, O.P., M. D. LATOUR O.P., M. MÖHLMANN, O.P.

² Dr. I. S. EMMANUEL, rabbi of the community in the years 1936–1939, has made use of these archives as a basis for his historical studies of the Jews of Curaçao. In his article 'New Light on Early American Jewry', *American Jewish Archives* vol. VII no. 1, January 1955, p. 3, Dr. EMMANUEL states that the second part of his as yet unpublished study, namely the history of the old cemetery of Curaçao was to be financed by the Jewish community of *Mikvé Israel*. It has meanwhile appeared under the title *Precious Stones*, New York, 1957. See also in A. C. J. KRAFFT, *Historie en oude families van de Nederlandse Antillen: Het Antilliaans Patriciaat*, 's-Gravenhage, Martinus Nijhoff, 1951, the chapter on the history of the Jews (p. 44–56) and p. 363–382, and the booklet by Rabbi Is. JESSURUN CARDOZO, *Oldest Synagogue in the New World: Three Centuries of Jewish Life in Curaçao*, Curaçao, 1955.

³ See KRAFFT, *op. cit.* In this 450-page volume on the history and the old families of the Netherlands Antilles the author enumerates (p. 426–27) some manuscript sources "in Willemstad [Curaçao], Oranjestad [Aruba], London and Albany, N.Y." It is to be deplored that here, as elsewhere in his book, the enormous amount of research undertaken by Dr. KRAFFT has not been more carefully documented, so as to enable the reader to know exactly where the source material may be consulted.

Hague contain the older official material up to the year 1845.¹ The official archives of the Netherlands Antilles since 1845 are kept in the *Landsarchief* on Curaçao. Records are generally classed according to the body or authority from whom they have emanated. In the nineteen-thirties it was decided to adapt the system of filing to the one used for modern administrative purposes.² As long as the lengthy procedure of reworking the older material according to this system has not been completed it will be difficult for any research worker to find the specific historical data he may want without constant help from the archivist.

A certain amount of source material for historical research

¹ An extremely valuable survey of all archive material pertaining to the Netherlands Antilles now in the Netherlands has been published in this journal (35 (1954), 1-38) by Mrs. M. A. P. MEILINK-ROELOFSZ, a member of the State Archives staff. See also the survey (covering other former possessions of the Dutch West India Company as well) compiled by W. WIJNAENDTS VAN RESANDT, for the purpose of genealogical research: „In Nederland aanwezige gedrukte en handschriftelijke bronnen voor genealogisch en historisch onderzoek naar personen of families in de gebieden eertijds ressorterende onder de West-Indische Compagnie en de met haar verband houdende Sociëteiten”, *Jaarboek van het Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie*, iv (1950), 160-204.

² *A Report on the Archives of British Guiana* made at the request of the British Guiana Government by the Jamaica Government Archivist, CLINTON V. BLACK (Georgetown, 1955) states:

“A programme of sorting and arrangement of the records is at present in progress, and order is being brought to the collection; a large proportion, however, awaits final classification. This has been complicated by an attempt, made it would seem in fairly recent times, to ‘methodize’ the older Secretariat papers, that is to group them under artificially created subject-headings. An examination of the files shows that their original arrangement in running-number sequence (the way in which they accumulated naturally when they were the current papers of the department) has been abandoned in favour of a system similar to, if not identical with, that introduced into the office in 1936, of subject-classification. Apart from a violation of principle one result of this has been almost to nullify the value of the existing means of reference to these records.”

“The basic principle of archive arrangement is that by Groups. The same applies to the arrangement of Classes within the Group. The archivist may be allowed some latitude in the matter of assembling the archives on paper (by means of special lists, etc.) under headings of interest to the historian, but where physical arrangement is concerned his aim must be to retain or restore the order designed for the archives by their compilers.”

may also be found on Aruba and Bonaire,¹ while special mention should also be made of the *Gertrud Judson Library* on St. Eustatius.

C.P.I.M. COLLECTION OF PLANTATION ARCHIVES

Finally one special archive collection on Curaçao should be mentioned. The collection pertains to the transfer — by sale or inheritance — of a number of old plantations.

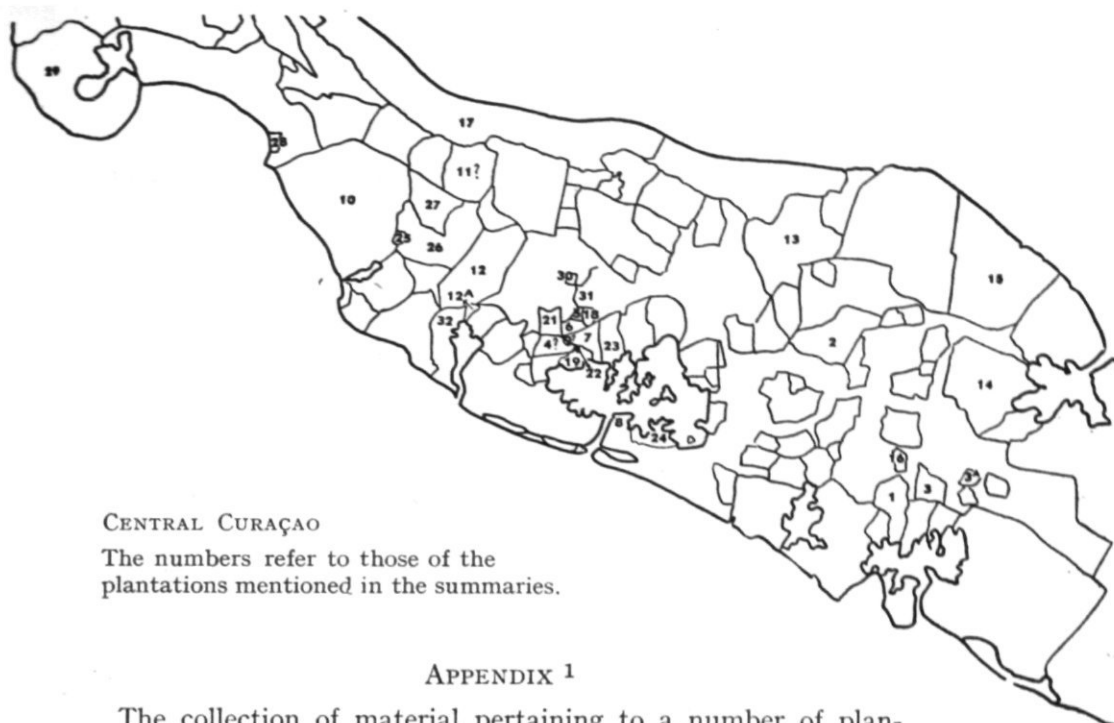
The Curaçao oil refinery (*Curaçaosche Petroleum Industrie Maatschappij*, C.P.I.M.), in expanding its territory has bought several former plantations in the course of the years since 1916 when it was first established on the island. In some cases C.P.I.M. obtained from the last owner a file of old transfer deeds belonging to the plantation in question. These have been kept in the head office building at Curaçao,² and now form an exceptional collection in that the classification is according to plantation rather than issuing authority. It is possible that duplicates of some of these papers may be found in the West India Company archives, but anyone wishing to trace the history of Curaçao plantations can now find a starting point in the C.P.I.M. collection.

From these notes it will be clear that the source material for historical research on the Netherlands Antilles and Surinam is scattered over many institutions in both the New World and the Old. May this tentative survey serve as a first guide for those interested in such research.

Amsterdam, December 1956.

¹ Dr. JOHAN HARTOG made use of archive material on Aruba for his history of the islands (*Aruba, zoals het was, zoals het werd*. Aruba, 1953) and based a forthcoming history of Bonaire in part on material found in the Bonaire Administrator's Office.

² For a summary of the files see below, *Appendix*.



CENTRAL CURAÇAO

The numbers refer to those of the plantations mentioned in the summaries.

APPENDIX ¹

The collection of material pertaining to a number of plantations bought by the Curaçaosche Petroleum Industrie Maatschappij contains papers on the following plantations:

- ‡1 Brakke Put
- 2 Buitenrust (Sappathero, Zapateer)
- 3 Cas Grandi (Nijdrust), Katoentuin, and Nooitgedacht (Brakkeput)
- 4 Cattenbergh
- 5 De Eensamheyt (De Nieuwe Werelt)
- 6 Heintje Kool
- 7 De Hoop ('t Jooden Quartier and De Klijne Thuyn)
- 8 De Klip (De Wilde) and ‡8a Fort Nassau
- 9 Klijn St. Cruys (Koeimans)
- ‡10 Malpais (Mount Pleasant)
- 11 Malpais (Terburgh à Texel)
- Ma Retraite [Cattenbergh?]
- ‡12 Groot Piscadera

¹ I am indebted to the directors of the *Curaçaosche Petroleum Industrie Maatschappij* for their permission to publish the inventory of the collection, and especially to Mr. J. VAN DER ZWAN, secretary to the directors, for his initiative in making the inventory available. Thanks are also due to Miss V. E. KAULBACH for summarizing the deeds and carefully typing the lists of contents, complete copies of which are deposited in the General State Archives library, The Hague, and the Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam. Photostat copies of some of the deeds are joined to the lists deposited in Amsterdam; these are marked with an *.

The location of most of the plantations is indicated on the map, which has been drawn after the topographical map of 1911. The numbers refer to those of the plantations mentioned in the summaries. See also A. C. J. KRAFFT, *Atlas, De Nederlandse Antillen, Suriname, Nederland en de Wereld*, Wolters, Groningen/Djakarta, 1956, p. 8, and the *Shell Road Map of Curaçao*.

Only those marked with ‡ are still extant. The house of Malpais has been restored, and is now let to a dairy farmer. Brakke Put Mei Mei, one of three houses carrying the name of Brakke Put (the others are Brakke Put Abau and Brakke Put Ariba), is in use as a rest house for employees. The plantations on the peninsula in Schottegat Bay have been absorbed into the refinery grounds. On some of the plantations, such as Cas Grandi, the house had fallen into ruin even before the plantation was sold to C.P.I.M.

The collection does not by any means cover all the plantations now owned by C.P.I.M. For instance, *Brievengat* (13), which was recently given by C.P.I.M. to the Curaçao society for the preservation of monuments and has since been restored by the society, is not represented. Neither are *Groot St. Joris* (14) nor *St. Catharina* (15). A grant from the Foundation for Cultural Cooperation (Sticusa) enabled the art historian Professor M. D. OZINGA of the University of Utrecht to make a study of the old plantation houses still in existence and of the historic buildings in Willemstad. His report, which is in preparation, is thus partly based on the C.P.I.M. archives.

Nevertheless it was thought useful to make available to students interested in the sociological aspects of Curaçao history the summaries of the plantation transfers as contained in the C.P.I.M. collection. From these summaries it may be clear that every plantation changed hands many times, and a possible conclusion from this fact — a lack of family tradition in plantation ownership — certainly calls for further study.

1 BRAKKE PUT

- *1726 permission for Willem Heldewier to keep a cattle corral
- *1733 sale of the plantation by the executors of Heldewier's and his wife Eva Lamont's estate, and his heirs, to two of them, Willem and Isaac Lamont ¹
- 1741 sale by Willem Lamont of his half to his brother Isaac
- *1781 sale by executors of Isaac Lamont's widow, Poulina Ellis, to Johannes Ellis
- 1835 sale by the executor of Johannes Ellis' widow, Anna Catharina Lamont, to Jan George Specht
- inventory of the plantation
- 1838 sale to Benjamin Suares
- inventory

¹ Cf. KRAFFT, *op. cit.* p. 328, who presumes that Willem Heldewier was not married.

- 1856 sale to George Sertz(e)
inventory
- 1864 sale to Johannes Andreas de Haseth
- 1869 request by the owner to cede a part of the plantation [to ?]
refused by Government owing to objections of all the neighbours

- 2 BUITENRUST (Sappathero, Zapateer)
 - *1778 sale of Sappathero by Jan Schotborgh to Willemina Elizabeth Kup, widow of Jan van Otterloo, and Willem Kup
 - * inventory
 - *1780 sale by Willem Kup, by agreement, of his half of Buyten Rust to his sister, remarried to Hendrik Pletsz, and transmission to the latter after her death
 - * inventory of Willem Kup's half
 - 1809 sale of Buitenrust by Mathias Schotborgh to Gerrit J. Siedregtsz
 - * inventory of Buitenrust and a plot to the east of it called Markita
 - 1819 sale by François M. de Jongh, husband of Amelia Siedregtsz (Gerrit's daughter), to B. A. Cancrijn
 - 1821 inventory
letters of demarcation
 - 1837 sale of Sapateer by the executors of Bernardus A. Cancrijn to P. Craneveldt (on behalf [of . . ?] under security)
 - * letters of demarcation of the plantation (including the plot Markita)
 - 1838 sale of Buitenrust plus Markita to three daughters Cancrijn and Johannes Simon Welhous
 - inventory
 - * sale of three quarters of the plantation to one of the daughters, Anna Margaretha Cancrijn
 - 1844/45 Anna M. Cancrijn sells to Mordechay Alvares Correa
 - inventory
deed of sale including description and survey
 - 1853 sale by the widow of Alvares Correa to Johan H. Bennebroek Gravenhorst
 - 1858 sale to Jeudith Jesurun Pinto
 - inventory
 - 1863 sale by Jeudith Jesurun Pinto, widow of Gabriel Cohen Henriquez, to Isaac Pinedo
 - 1866/67 sale by Pinedo to Benjamin Alvares Correa
 - inventory
 - 1896/97 Benjamin Alvares Correa buys from the Government a parcel to the west of Buitenrust
 - 1915 sale by the heirs of Alvares Correa to Willem Frederik de Hart
 - 1924 sale by Willem Frederik de Hart to C.P.I.M.

- 3 CAS GRANDI (Nijdrust), KATOENTUIN, and NOOITGEDACHT (Brakkeput)

- *1786 sale of Cas Grandi and a plot Catoentuyn by Cecilia Christina Wendel, wife of Daniel Ellis, to Ebbe Daal
 - letters of demarcation
 - inventory
- *1792 sale by the curators of the estate of Mr. Onno Lichtenvoort and Martha Pietertje Martin (divorced) of Cas Grandi (now called Nijdrust) to Gabriel Striddels
 - * inventory
 - letters of demarcation
- *1795 permission for Gabriel Striddels to keep a sheep corral
 - 1808/09 sale to Abraham Severijn
 - inventory
 - letters of demarcation
- 1813 sale to Margaretha Elisabeth Sandtrock, divorced from Pieter François Diedenhoven
 - inventory
 - letters of demarcation
- 1813 purchase by Michiel Gotfried Hoyer, owner of Hanenberg (16), from Salomon Delvalle of a plantation Nooytgedagt south of Cas Grandi
- 1814 sale of Cas Grandi and Katoentuin by Margaretha Sandtrock to Willem Craneveldt Hoyer
- 1820 sale by Willem Craneveldt Hoyer to David Gaerste Junior
 - inventory
- 1821 sale by Gaerste to Manuel Penso
 - inventory
 - letters of demarcation
- 1865 sale by the executors of the late Manuel Penso to Clementina Penso, who sells
- 1866 to Emanuel Raven, who sells, on the same date, to Jacobus van Voorn
- 1900 public auction on behalf of Carlos Eusebio Leon and his children by Zaragoza Runeta Emilia Rollandus and of Elvinia Debrot, widow of Frederik Rollandus; the deed describes the plantation as "on which a house and other buildings formerly stood". The sale includes a plot called 'Hoffie bieeeuw' ['the old garden'] and the plantation Nooitgedacht (see 1813) "alias Brakkeput"; bought by Curaçaosche Hypotheek Bank
- 1929 sale by José Antonio González of Cas Grandi, Katoenthuyne and Hoffie bieeeuw, to C.P.I.M.
 - letters of demarcation

4 CATTENBERGH

- 1745 Benjamin Naar sells to Gaspar Anthony de Quirigasoe a plantation Cattenbergh, located between the plantations of the widow of Balthasar Coeijmans and that of Willem Lixraaven, and bordering on the common road to Hato (17)

- 1754 sale to Willem Meyer
inventory
- 1756 Jannetje Koch, widow of Willem Meyer, sells to Steven Rasmijn
inventory
- 1768 Maria Will Bell, widow of Steeven Rasmijn, sells to Lea
(daughter of Joesua) Henriquez, widow of Moses de Chares
inventory
- 1774/76 the widow of Moses de Chares sells to David Mushart [the
plantation Hato, the common road to which is mentioned again,
is now called "the plantation of the West India Company"].
- 1784 representatives of Jannetje Aartsz Kool, widow of David Mus-
hart, sell to Elisabeth Margaretha Durer (Durel), widow of
Willem Webb
inventory
- 1787 sale to Abraham Calvo
inventory
- 1798 sale by the heirs of Abraham Calvo to his widow Esther Lopez
Penha
inventory
letters of demarcation
- 1801 sale to Dr. Waters Forbes
inventory
- 1806 Waters Forbers sells to David Gaerste
inventory
letters of demarcation
- 1809 David Gaerste sells to Taletta Petronella Beutner, wife of Henry
Hutchings
inventory
- 1811 sale to Marten Lourens Ellis
inventory

5 DE EENSAAMHEYT (De Nieuwe Werelt)

- *1750 Josephus Hermanus Steegman, husband of Helena Eyserman,
sells the plantation De Nieuwe Werelt, situated between that of
the widow of Mordochay Henriquez and that of Jacob Hisquian
de Leon, to Isaac (son of Samuel) Levy Maduro, who then sells
to Jan Craneveld
- 1751/52 Jan Craneveld and Margaritha Backer, separated, sell in
public auction to Jacobus Devijlder who calls the plantation
De Eensaamheyt
- 1760 executors of the late widow of Jacobus Devijlder sell to Louis
Adolph Winklaar (Winkler), husband of Margaritha Devijlder
inventory
- 1764 Louis Adolph Winkler sells to Ester Lopez Raphaël, daughter
of Abraham Lopez Raphaël
inventory
- 1766 Abraham Lopez Raphaël sells to Mordochay Motta

- 1793 Mordochay Motta and his wife Hana (daughter of Salomon) Levy Maduro sell to Jurriaan Crisson, who sells
- 1794 to the free Negro Juan Bentura
- 1803 the Orphans' and Ownerless Estate Court sells the plantation from the estate of the late free Negro Juan Bentura to Roelof Raven
letters of demarcation
inventory
- 1806 Roelof Raven sells out of hand to Maria Laan, widow of Hendrik Aartsz Kool, and transfers the plantation after her death to the Orphans' trustees, who sell in public auction to Abraham (son of Samuel) Levy Maduro
letters of demarcation
- 1806/07 Abraham Levy Maduro sells out of hand to Gerard Albertus
letters of demarcation: the house has been demolished, the warehouse is described as "without tiles"
- 1809 the widow of Gerard Albertus sells to Jan Hendrik Kemp, the house being described as a "thatch house"
- 1812 Jan Hendrik Kemp sells to Jan Caspar Mijnhard
letters of demarcation: the house is covered with thatch
- 1813 Jan Caspar Mijnhard sells De Eenzaamheyd to J. K. [J. R.?] Lauffer on behalf of his children by Hermina C. Davelaar: Johannes, Rudolph, Maria, Samuel and Jacob. [Lauffer owned the neighbouring plantation Nooitgedacht, alias Heintje Kool (6)]
- 1865 to the heirs of Johan Herman, Hendrik, Arnold Petrus and Maria Lauffer, *i.e.* their mother, the widow of Johan Rudolph, and their brothers Rudolph Adriaan, Samuel Lodewijk, Jacob and Willem Tell Lauffer, is transferred a "garden" to the west of plantation Karpas (18) owned by the widow of Johan Martijn
- 1899 H. H. R. Chapman, as representative of Jan Jacob Pietersz., sells to James Belt de Haseth the plantations Blein Heim (19), Rozentak, Vredenberg (house and warehouse in ruins), an islet in Schottegat Bay, Eenzaamheid and a "garden" to the west of the plantation owned by the widow of Johan Martijn
- 1900 the combined plantations Blein Heim, Rozentak, Vredenberg now called Bloemfontein, plus Eenzaamheid and the "garden" are transferred to Maria Hermina Manuella, wife of James Belt de Haseth
letters of demarcation
- 1905 Christiaan Gerard de Haseth, representative of Maria Manuella, transfers the estates to Johan Herman, Lourencia Beltina, Gerardus Andries, Philip Julius and James Belt de Haseth

6 HEINTJE KOOL

- 1743 Cornelia Bertrand, widow of Bartholomeus Schuurman, sells a piece of land or a plantation located in the Jewish quarter, next to the plantation of the widow of Mordochay Hisquian, to the free mulatto Manuel Marchena

- 1747 the "garden" between the plantations of Gaspaar Anthonij de Quirigasoe and of the widow of Mordogay Ennikes [Henriques?; in other deeds called Helena IJsserman] is sold by Manuel Marchena to Hendrik Aartsz. Kool

inventory

- 1781 the garden situated between Roosendal (21) and Cajietoe (or between the plantation of Jean Dupuy and the garden of Mordochay Motta [see De Eensaamheyt (5) 1766]) is sold by the executors of the estate of the widow of Hendrik Aartsz. Kool to Jan Aartsz. Mushart
- 1783 Mushart sells to Jan Nicolaas van Starckenborgh
- 1796 sale to Lodewijk van Schagen. The situation of the garden is further defined as having a common boundary with plantation de Uitvlugt, owned by Leendert Gerwes
- 1799 the curators of the estate of Lodewijk van Schagen and Anna Burch, divorced, sell to Johann Rudolph Lauffer

7 DE HOOP ('t Jooden Quartier, De Kleine Thuyn)

- *1695 Josua and Mordochay Henriques are authorized to keep on their plantation in the Jewish quarter ten horses and one hundred sheep and goats
- *1758 the plantation 't Jooden Quartier, located in the quarter of the same name, next to that of Jan and Jannetje Lixraaven and that which belonged previously to Johanna van der Hoeven, widow of Hendrik de Wilde, and two houses in Willemstad which belonged first, in 1660, to Jeosuah Henriquez, then, in 1704, to Mordochay Hisquian Henriquez, and in 1715 to his widow Rachel Naar, are found without deeds of sale or transfer.
- * By three consecutive "edictal citations" anyone pretending to have a claim on the plantation and houses is requested to bring his claim forward. No claim being made, the plantation is then transferred, by resolution of the Council, to Benjamin Raphael Henriquez

inventory

the executors of the estate of the late Rachel Naar, widow of Mordochay Hisquian Henriquez, sell De Klijne Thuyn to Jeosuah Henriquez Junior (her eldest son). The plantation is located on St. Anna Bay and extends to the north to the "free savannah", bordering the plantation of Benjamin Raphael Henriquez (another son) to the east and that of Jan and Jannetje Lixraaven to the west.

It is stated that the value of the plantation (3660 Pesos) is less than his share (4304.4.3 Pesos) of the inheritance

inventory

- 1761 Jeosuah Henriquez Junior sells to Benjamin Raphael Henriquez
- inventory
- 1783/84 the executors of the estate of the late Benjamin Raphael Henriquez transfer the plantation 't Joodenquartier and De Klijne Thuyn to Jacob (son of Mordochay) Henriquez
- inventory

- 1792 the owners of the plantations Blenheim (19), Joode Quartier, Brakke Smit and Ravenstijn (= Starckenborch) authorize each other to use a road alongside the waterfront through the [salt] pans and over the dams. Signed by Jan Nicolaas van Starckenborgh, Jacob de Mordechay Henriquez, Wilemina Lixraaven, widow of Jannevis, the widow of Gerard Striddels, Petrus Bernardus Starckenborgh.
- 1800 Jacob (son of Mordechay) Henriquez sells the plantation 'De Hoop' (previously two plantations ['t Joode Quartier and De Klijne Thuyt (?)]) to Johannes Martijn
inventory
letters of demarcation
- 1826/27 Helena Elisabeth Schuman, widow of Johannes Martijn, sells to Maria Stuijling Martijn, widow of John Seates, and Samuel François Martijn the plantation De Hoop (alias Judio) and three houses in Willemstad
- 1840 Samuel François Martijn, executor of the estate of Maria Stuijling Martijn, widow of John Seates, sells to the government of the colony the plantation De Hoop and the three houses in Willemstad (the third being in ruins)
- 1859 the government transfers to the 'Netherlands Portuguese-Israelite community' the grounds of the Jewish cemetery (22), lying to the east of the plantation Gasparito (Cattenberg) and bordering on the road between Gasparito and De Hoop and on a passage from Blenheim to the road
- 1872 the government sells De Hoop to William Charles Gaertse in public auction
- 1877/78 a stretch of land ten meters in width, part of a plot reserved by the government in 1872, is transferred to W. Ch. Gaerste, at his request, for a water pipe
letters of demarcation mention the stretch as situated to the west and south of plantation Valentijn (23)
- 1890 William Charles Gaerste sells De Hoop to Cornelis Gorsira Frederikszoon who sells
- 1896 to Philip Frederik de Haseth
- 1912 from the estate of the late Philip Frederik de Haseth the plantation De Hoop is transferred to Carel Zacharias de Haseth Gerardszoon, whose widow and children sell
- 1918 to Jan Martinus Rammelman Elsevier

8 DE KLIP (De Wilde)

- *1756 Willem Martin sells in public auction the plantation De Klip, located on the corner of the Schottegat and the eastern bank of St. Anna Bay, to the west of Mount Carmel (Parera; 24) and bordering to the south on the wharf of the widow of Jacob Stoel, to [his mother] Jannetje Ellis, widow of John Martin
- 1776 the executors of the estate of the widow of John Martin sell De Klip to Hubertus Coerman [her grandson-in-law]

- 1816/17 F. M. Ribbius, widow of Hubertus Coerman, transfers the plantation to Charles August Baron De Larrey, husband of Petronellz Elisabeth Coerman

letters of demarcation describe the plantation as located around Fort Nassau,¹ which is built on Mount Sablica 'which belongs to this fund'. The relatives of Hubertus Coerman shall have free access to his cemetery in order to bury their dead there

- 1819 De Larrey sells to Gerard Martin Ellis the plantation now called de Wilde; the house is called Scharlo Nr. 57. The burial servitude remains

- 1834/35 Maria Hendrietta Lackrum, wife of Gerard Martin Ellis — who is abroad —, sells the plantation for a mortgaged debt to Esther (daughter of Mozes) Henriquez, widow of Abraham (son of Jacob) Jesurun. The burial servitude remains; the description mentions again that the plantation is located around Mount Sablica, on which Fort Nassau is built, 'belonging to this fund'

- 1844 Esther Henriquez, widow of Abraham Jesurun, sells to Jacob Abraham Jesurun. The servitude remains.
The government of the Colony reserves to itself a right on Fort Nassau and the surrounding part of Mount Sablica, 'as far as jurisdiction thereof can be understood to go, based on an indemnity of two thousand guilders paid at the time to the owner Hubertus Coerman'

8a FORT NASSAU (see also 8)

- 1827 G. M. Ellis requests an indemnity for the grounds on which Fort Republiek, now Nassau, is built. The Minister for the Colonies replies that no indemnity is due, since the wife of Hubertus Coerman consented to the fort being built, and moreover Coerman was paid f 2000

- 1831 G. M. Ellis offers to sell the grounds on which Fort Nassau (now a military hospital) is built for f 9000. He is referred to the refusal of 1827

- 1833 Government refuses again to enter into negotiations with G. M. Ellis

- 1839 refusal to the request by Esther Henriquez, widow of Abraham Jesurun, to sell the grounds of Fort Nassau to the government. No claim can be acknowledged since the wife of G. M. Ellis should not have comprised these grounds in the transfer of the plantation

- 1840 the widow of Abraham Jesurun states that the letters of demarcation of 1816 and 1819 explicitly mention Mount Sablica as belonging to the plantation De Klip (De Wilde).
Refusal

¹ Fort Nassau was built in 1796 according to TEENSTRA, see VAN MEETEREN, *De oude vestingwerken* ..., p. 91.

- 1844 Government asks for a deed of transfer to be made by the widow of Abraham Jesurun in order to end all claims to Mount Sablica; the boundaries of the grounds of Fort Nassau will be indicated by government. It is agreed that no trees or shrubbery shall be planted around the fort, in order not to impede the view

9 KLIJN ST. CRUYS (Koeimans)

- 1761 the executors of the estate of Catharina Coeijmans sell the plantation Klijn St. Cruys — located in the Jewish quarter between those of Casper Snijder Hanszoon and Steeven Rasmijn [see Cattenbergh 1756] — to Jacob Bennebroek Berch
inventory
- *1827 the executors of the estate of the widow of Jacob Bennebroek Berch sell to Abraham de Veer Junior [see Ma Retraite 1835]; the heirs reserve the right to exhume the body of Jacob Bennebroek Berch
- * inventory
letters of demarcation

10 MALPAIS (Mount Pleasant)

- *1729 Jannetje Taroo, widow of Frans Grootestam, is authorized to keep a cattle corral on her plantation Malpais
- *1737 transfer of Malpais by the executor of the estate of Jannetje Taroo to Dorothea Brugman, widow of Willem van Uytrecht, and of the plantations De Roode Klippe Baay and Thuyntje van Andrees, which had been previously willed by Jannetje Taroo to Willem van Uytrecht
- *1752 inventory of Groot en Klijn Malpais
- 1758 inventory
- *1761 transfer by Dorothea Brugman, widow of Willem van Uytrecht, of the half of the plantations Groot & Klein Malpais, De Roode Klippe Baay, Thuyntje van Andrees (located between St. Michiel and Varssebaay) to her daughter Catharina van Uytrecht, widow of Samuel Striddels, to whom she [Dorothea Brugman] has sold this half in 1752, while she had sold the [other?] half to her daughter in 1758
- 1765 sale by Catharina van Uytrecht, widow of Samuel Striddels, to Dorothea Brugman, widow of Willem van Uytrecht, of the three plantations with the exception of a plot to the east (25) bordering on Groot St. Michiel (26)
inventory of Groot en Klein Malpais
- 1783 transfer of the three plantations (the eastern plot excepted) by the executors of the estate of Dorothea Brugman to Gerrard Striddels, son of Catharina van Uytrecht, as sole heir; he sells Groot en Klein Malpais to Johannes Palm Hermanuszoon, on condition of a free passage south-north to the grave [of?]
inventory
- 1785 authorization of the Governor for Gerrard Striddels to use the passage

- 1798 sale of Groot en Klein Malpais by Johannes Palm Hermanuszoon to Gerard Duijckinck, except the plot bordering on Groot St. Michiel and the border passage to Het Weijdtje (27), plus a plot named Bullebaay (28) located to the west of Malpais and to the east of Oud St. Maria (29)
inventory of Malpais and Bullenbaay
letters of demarcation
- 1829 letters of demarcation for the plot Bullenbaay
- 1838 sale by the executors of the estate of Adriana Webb, widow of Gerard Duijckinck to Johanna Petronella Duijckinck, widow of Mr. Christoph Carel Römer, of the plantation Groot en Klein Malpais (now called Mount Pleasant) and the plot Bullenbaay, plus the saltpan of Malpais and the saltpan St. Michiel
- 1865 sale by Johanna Petronella Duijckinck, widow of Johann Herman Römer, to Carel Maurits Gaërste of Mount Pleasant and Bullebaay and a saltpan St. Michiel which had been ceded to Gerard Duijckinck in 1809
inventory
- 1874 sale by the widow and children of the late Carel Maurits Gaërste to Abraham Delvalle Henriquez, who sells
- 1888 to Pieter Gorsira
- 1896 at the death of Pieter Gorsira his widow, Catharina Erkens, gets Malpais or Terburg à Texel, Groot & Klein Malpais, Bullebaay and the saltpan

Salt pans of Malpais

- 1857/58 In a dispute between Genereux Jacob Richard de Lima and Johanna Petronella Duyckinck, widow of Johan Herman Römer, owner of Mount Pleasant, over the title to a saltpan and the inner bay [of St. Michiel] the decision is taken that the government is owner of the saltpan and the bay. The right to reap salt in the northwestern corner of the bay is given to the widow Römer, under certain conditions ¹
- 1859/60 part of the inner bay, called the pan of St. Michiel, and an islet located in front of Mount Pleasant, is adjudicated to G. J. R. de Lima
A plot of land between Mount Pleasant and Groot St. Michiel shall remain waste
- 1865 sale of the northwestern corner of the inner bay by Johanna Duyckinck to Carel Maurits Gaërste
- 1874 the heirs of Carel Maurits Gaërste sell the inner bay to Abraham Delvalle Henriquez
inventory of Mount Pleasant and Bullenbaai [see Malpais]

¹ The points of dispute in this case and those in the following years do not become quite clear from the summaries at hand.

11 MALPAIS (Terburgh à Texel)

- 1748 15 May, sale of the plantation, located between those of Thomas Willemsz and the widow of [Willem] van Uytrecht, by Willem Pelgrim to Pieter Hoppe and Jan Bontekoe
- *1748 11 June, sale of the plantation Malpais, now called Terburgh à Texel, by Willem Pelgrim Voet to Pieter Hansz Hoppe and Jan Helmerdingh, each for one half
- * inventory
- 1749 Pieter Hoppe and his wife Judith Helmerdingh sell half the plantation to Johannes Stuijling Junior
- 1750 sale of the plantation Terburgh à Texel by Johannes Stuijling Junior and Jan Bontekoe to Daniel Boom. A second deed again mentions the names of the sellers as Johannes Stuijling Junior and Jan Helmerdingh
- inventory
- 1765 Daniel Boom sells the plantation to Nicolaas Evertsz who sells
- 1766 to Willem Stuylingh
- inventory
- 1767/68 Willem Stuylingh re-sells Malpais to Nicolaas Evertsz who sells it to Jacob Hisquian Suares who sells it to Jan Ellis Herozoon
- inventory
- 1782 Magdalena Vos, widow of Jan Ellis Herozoon sells Malpais in public auction to Gerrard Striddels
- inventory
- 1784 sale by Adriaan Webb as deputy of Gerrard Striddels to Guillaume Charles Cabrol. The plantation is described as bordering on Groot Malpais
- 1792/93 the executors of the estate of Cabrol sell in public auction to Pieter François Diedenhoven
- 1796 Diedenhoven pays a lump sum of 90 Pesos to the island government thus buying off the West India Company's title to a plot
- 1809 sale by Diedenhoven of the plantation Malpais, including the said plot, to Gerardus Duyckinck
- letters of demarcation
- 1837 as executor of the estate of Adriana Webb, widow of Gerardus Duyckinck, Johanna Petronella Duyckinck, widow of Mr. Christoph Carel Römer buys Malpais herself
- 1865 Johanna Petronella Duyckinck, widow of Johann Herman Römer, sells Malpais to Carel Maurits Gaërste
[see Malpais (Mount Pleasant)]
- 1874 sale by the widow and children of Carel Maurits Gaërste to Abraham Delvalle Henriquez
- [this deed concerns the plantation Groot en Klein Malpais, the plot Bullebaai and the saltpan St. Michiel; it should thus be included in the file of those plantations, while that file contains the deed of sale of Malpais or Terburgh à Texel. From 1809 onward the two plantations seem to have been in one hand.]

— MA RETRAITE [Cattenbergh?]

- 1825 Martin Lourens Ellis sells the plantation Ma Retraite to Abraham de Veer Junior [the description of the location as "to the west of the plantation of the widow of Jacob Bennebroek Berch with a common boundary, the dam alongside the boundary being to the east of the road to Hato" suggests that Ma Retraite is another name for 'Cattenbergh', the transfers of which end with the sale to Martin Lourens Ellis in 1811]
- 1835 Abraham de Veer Junior sells to Hendrik Willem de Quartel:
 (a) Ma Retraite
 (b) Klein Sint Kruis, alias Koeymans [see (9) and Cattenbergh 1745]
 (c) Hermitstel, located to the west of a garden belonging to the widow of Carel Fikkert and the road to Hato
- 1839 H. W. de Quartel sells Ma Retraite, Klein St. Kruis, Hermitstel and (d) St. Maria Magdalena (30), to the West of St. Rosa (31), to Mr. Jacob Bennebroek Gravenhorst, who sells
- 1853 to Jan Schotborgh Claaszoon (a), (b), (c), who sells,
- 1855 to Theunis van Leeuwen

12 GROOT PISCADERA

- 1796 sale at public auction to Raphael Alvares Correa of the plantation Groot Piscaderos and a plot Het Hofje (12a)
 * letters of demarcation
- *1807 sale by the heirs of Raphael Alvares Correa's widow to Manuel Penso (husband of one of the daughters or granddaughters)
 inventory
- 1812 sale to Moses Henriquez Juliao
 * inventory
 letters of demarcation
- 1815 sale to Jeosuah de Sola
 inventory
- 1819/20 sale to Samuel daCosta Gomez
 letters of demarcation
 inventory
- *1820 sale of one half of the plantation Groot Piscadera and Het Hofje to Daniel daCosta Gomez, minor, represented by his mother Ester Pinedo, widow of Gabriël daCosta Gomez. Price 23,500 Pesos. Ester pays off the second mortgage, of 8000 Pesos, held by Jeosuah de Sola, by offering a house in town worth 11,500 Pesos, while Jeosuah de Sola pays the surplus value of 3,500 Pesos to Moses Henriquez Juliao in deduction of the first mortgage, given by Juliao, which thus amounts to 24,000 minus 3,500 or 20,500 Pesos.
 Daniel and Samuel remain co-debtors to Moses Henriquez Juliao, the joint property to remain undivided for ten years
- 1821 inventory
 letters of demarcation

- 1822 sale of the whole plantation and Het Hofje by Samuel and Daniel daCosta Gomez to Marthinus B. Schotborgh
inventory
letters of demarcation
- 1834 sale by M. B. Schotborgh to David Delvalle Henriquez
- 1865 letters of demarcation concerning the common boundary of the plantations Groot Piscadera and Klein Piscadera (32)
- *1866 letters of demarcation for a stretch of land ten [Dutch] ells (approximated seven meters) wide which David Delvalle Henriquez is required to sell to the government for a public road dividing Groot Piscadera in two halves
- 1870 sale of Groot Piscadera to Jorge Sutherland
- 1873 deed of division of the estate of Inez Castillo, widow of Jorge Sutherland, and her children
- 1874 sale to Salomon Elias Curiel
inventory of cattle and other movable property sold with the plantation to S. E. Curiel
- 1899 sale by S. E. Curiel to Carlos August Jones
- 1928 sale by C. A. Jones to C.P.I.M.