

Memory of the World Register - Nomination Form
Mauritius - Records of the French Occupation of Mauritius

Abstract

Series of records of the French occupation of Mauritius, then known as Isle de France, and the early English period - 17th and 18th century. These series include records of the early French settlements in Isle de France, and Bourbon, other islands of the Indian ocean, Port of Africa and Asia. Records of the East India Company, navigation, pirates and corsairs, naval troops and battles in the Indian ocean and the first European settlers in this part of the world.

Identity and Location

Name of the Documentary Heritage: Records of the French occupation of Mauritius

Country: Mauritius

State, Province or Region: -

Address: Mauritius Archives, Coromandel, Petite Rivière

Name of Institution: Mauritius Archives

Legal Information

Owner: Government of Mauritius, Mauritius Archives

Custodian: The Chief Archivist, Mauritius Archives, Coromandel, Petite Rivière

Legal Status:

Category of ownership: Public

Details of legal and administrative provisions for the preservation of the documentary heritage: Records preserved at the Mauritius Archives under the Archives Act, 1952

Accessibility: Records accessible to the public for consultation and research

Copyright status: -

Responsible administration: -

Identification

Description: These records include:

- Acte de Prise de Possession - 1715

- Mahe de Labourdonnais - Related documents with biography

Pierre Poivre - Related documents with biography

Ordres et règlement du Marquis de Bussy, commandant général des troupes de terre et de mer au-delà du Cap, ayant trait à l'expédition de l'Inde

Contrats d'engagement d'ouvriers pour l'Isle de France établis à Rochefort, Brest, Lorient, Pondicherry et Port Louis - 1768 à 1789 OA 39 A & B

- Records relating to slavery in Mauritius, the Indian Ocean islands, Asia and Africa :

Code Noir 1723 - Ordonnance ou Code Noir. Lettres patentes en forme d'édit concernant les esclaves des Isles de France et de Bourbon

Livres pour servir à porter jour pour jour les captures des noirs fugitifs dans tous les quartiers. 15 décembre 1772 - 31 décembre 1775

Registre pour servir à l'enregistrement des actes de liberté accordés à des esclaves. 5 février 1785 - 29 juin 1790. OA 74 - 129 pages. 5 novembre 1776 - 31 janvier 1786. OA 86 - 120 pages. 17 février 1786 - 20 janvier 1792. OA 87 - 237 pages.

Series of records on slavery:

IA 21 - Documents concernant le recensement des esclaves. 1815 - 1820

ID 1 - Weekly reports of the distribution of Government slaves. 1 November - 31 October 1819

ID 2 - Return of the number of slaves imported into Mauritius under the provisions of the Act of 59th Geo III C 120 either as domestic servants or permanently transferred.

Return of the number of slaves transferred from Mauritius to its dependencies

Return of the number of marriages legally solemnised between slaves

Return of the number and names of slaves levied upon or sold for taxes

Visual documentation: Mahe de Labourdonnais

IC/19 Layout of Port Louis in 1736 by Labourdonnais

IC/23 Map illustrating exploration of Seychelles in 1742-1744

Management Plan

The Mauritius Archives is the custodian of most of the administrative records dating back as far as 1715. These records reflect the whole history of Mauritius. The successive governments of the country from 1715 to date have shown their interest for the preservation of these records.

Each year a budget is voted in the National Assembly for the running of the Mauritius Archives.

The documents are preserved according to archives administration principles and the current budget voted is Rs 3,288,000, which include Rs 2,130,000 as personal emoluments. The Mauritius Archives has on its establishment two preservation officers. The present Mauritius Archives is housed in a rented building at Coromandel. Plan to have a purpose-built building is on the way. A new bill will be introduced shortly in the National Assembly with provision for a modern Conservation Unit.

Assessment against the Selection Criteria

Contextual assessment: These records depict a picture of the early conquests settlements in this region of the world (17th & 18th century): pirates, corsairs, expeditions and naval battles in the Indian Ocean. Details about the slave trade,

treatment of slaves, the struggle for the abolition of slavery and the compensation paid.

Rarity: Most of the records are originals. They are unique manuscripts, correspondence and records.

Consultation

Owner: Government of Mauritius

Custodian: The Mauritius Archives is represented in "Memory of the World" National Committee

Regional or National Memory of the World Committee: A Memory of the World" National Committee has been set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Leisure, with representatives of the major information centres having in their custody documents of historical value and national/international importance. The selection and nomination is carried out by the Administration of the Mauritius Archives after discussions with the "Memory of the World" National Committee and a site visit.

Nominator

Name : "Memory of the World" National Committee c/o the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Leisure

Relationship to doc. heritage: The Ministry of Arts, Culture and Leisure is the parent Ministry responsible for the National Archives

Contact person: The Chairman of the "Memory of the World" National Committee

Contact details: Ministry of Arts, Culture and Leisure, 7th Floor, NPF Building, Port Louis