

- HADDON, KATHLEEN
1934 String Figures for Beginners.
- JAYNE, C. F.
1962 String Figures and How to Make Them. New York. Dover Publ.
- NOBLE, PHILIP D.
1976 Why Don't You String Games. London. BBC [Fadenspiele. Ravensburg 1979.]
- NOGUCHI, HISHIRO
1974 [Two volumes in Japanese.] String Figures. Tokyo.
- SEISHIRO, YUASA
1973 [In Japanese.] String Figures of Japan. Tokyo.
1974 [In Japanese.] String Figures of the World. Tokyo.
- RIVERS, W. H. R. and A. C. HADDON
1902 A Method of Recording String Figures and Tricks. *Man* 2: 146-153.

Some Aspects of Reciprocal Exchange: Economic Organization in Aruba (Netherlands Antilles)

ANN MARIE POWERS and JOHN H. PHALEN

(Dept. of Anthropology, State University
of New York, Stony Brook, N. Y. 11794)

(Dept. of Anthropology, Dowling College,
Oakdale, N. Y. 11769)

This essay attempts to analyze food crop cultivation and the reciprocal system of *paga lumba* on Aruba, Netherlands Antilles¹. Utilizing many of the theoretical ideas put forth by KARL POLANYI (1944; 1957; 1968) and CLAUDE LÉVI-STRAUSS (1963; 1969) we examine how food crop production has been institutionalized within the Aruban economy and how the relations of production are reproduced by a comparable preferential marriage system.

Aruba is located in the Caribbean Sea approximately eighteen miles north of the Paraguana Peninsula of Venezuela. The island is oriented in a northwest/southeast position and measures nineteen miles long and six miles across at the widest point. Unlike its sister islands of Bonaire and Curaçao, Aruba is actually an elevation of the South American continental shelf rather than an oceanic island. Volcanic rock, limestone and coral comprise most of Aruba. Southeast tradewinds generally prevail constantly except during October-November, the growing season. The winds keep the mean temperature at 82° F. Few trees grow on Aruba. Wind and rain erosion are extensive. Rainfall is generally unreliable as it is in most of the Lesser Antilles (OCHSE 1958: 74). Most of the rain comes during October-November and sometimes extends into December. A minor rainy season occasionally occurs in July. Rainfall is highly variable with an average of 17" annually (GREEN 1974: 9). The soil cover is thin, gravelly, saline and alkaline. Little humus accumulates. Aruba's climate can best be characterized as semi-desert like.

Since Aruba is populated by various ethnic factions, it should be made clear that this essay concerns itself with the two elements of the native Aruban population: the Sephardic descendant elite and Indian descendant commoners (PHALEN 1977: 44-73; 1979b; 1980).

¹ Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao comprise the Papiamentu speaking Leeward Islands of the Netherlands Antilles. The remaining three English speaking islands of the state are Saba, St. Eustatius, and half of St. Maarten (the other half is under French control). The fieldwork upon which this essay is based was conducted between 1969-1976. We wish to thank DAVID HICKS for his comments and criticism of an earlier draft. We also thank PEDRO CARRASCO and LOUIS FARON for their advice.