

The Islands Time Forgot

The Life of Caymanian Turtle Fishermen by David Douglas Duncan.

March 17 – May 12 2011

In 1939, renowned American photojournalist David Douglas Duncan set sail from Florida, via Grand Cayman, on the *A.M Adams* with Captain Allie Ebanks and his crew. During his historic journey he took some of the first recorded photographs of Caymanian turtle fishermen in the Mosquito Cays. In a letter home, Duncan wrote of his experience as the “life I’ve dreamed of”, sailing through the Caribbean Sea while “hunting giant sea turtles with Cayman Islanders”.

Duncan believed in the power of the photograph to capture life in its rawest and most revealing moments. In this series he skilfully describes the intensity of the turtling profession, while capturing the quiet stillness of the men at rest. These remarkable images pay tribute to the crew of the *A.M Adams* and to the twilight years of an industry that was once central to life in our Islands.

Supplementing the 24 photographs donated to the Cayman Islands National Archives (CINA) by the artist in 1999 are 11 others from their Photographic Collections, which provide a panoramic view of life in our Islands at the time.

Natalie Urquhart, Curator



A Partnership between the National Gallery & the Cayman Islands National Archives