In 1871 Daniel G. Brinton 1) gave an account of the Arawak language of Guiana, based on the study of a manuscript of Theodore Shultz in the Library of the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia. The distinguished American ethnologist compared the language of the Guiana Indians with that spoken in the Antilles as recorded in the works of early explorers, and pointed to Trinidad as the original home of the Surinam Arawaks.

He said:

"The Arawaks of today when asked concerning their origin point to the north, and claim at some not very remote time to have lived at Kairi, an island, by which generic name they mean Trinidad. This tradition is in a measure proved correct by the narrative of Sir Walter Raleigh, who found them living there in 1595, and by the Belgian explorers who in 1598 collected a short vocabulary of their tongue. This oldest monument of the language has sufficient interest to deserve copying and comparing with the modern dialect."

The vocabulary of sixteen words which Brinton compared with the dialect of about a century ago was taken from Johannes de Laet’s Novus Orbis, published in 1633. He expressed astonishment in finding such close agreement between the old and modern terms, saying:

"When it is remembered that the dialect of Trinidad no doubt differed slightly from that of the mainland; that

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