

Issue #102

Artifacts

Barbados
Museum
& Historical
Society

BARBADOS MUSEUM &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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Dear Member,

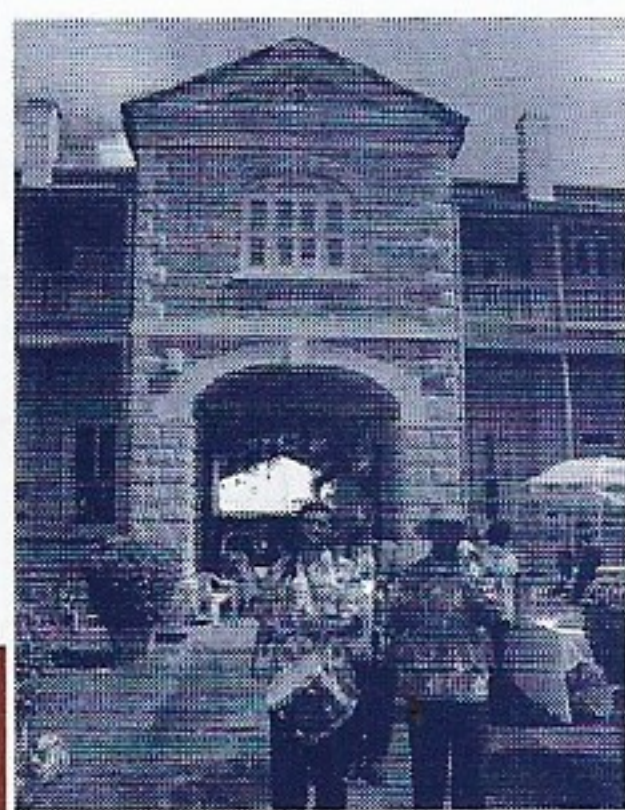
Where could you recently take a trip back in time that allowed you to experience the lives of the island's first inhabitants? Only at the Barbados Museum, of course! The Prehistoric Barbados exhibition and Amerindian Archaeology Week generated an overwhelming level of interest from the local and visiting public in November and December. Read on for our recap of these and many other exciting activities, which took place at the Museum during the period under review.

Ever relevant, the Museum celebrated the Christmas season in fine style. We show you how on the following pages.

Best wishes for a prosperous, healthy and happy 2010 from the Barbados Museum & Historical Society to you, as we look forward to working together for the preservation of our cherished culture and heritage.

Christine Skeete

Christine Skeete
Marketing Officer



On Cover:

Tuk band entertainment during the Fine Craft Festival

Photo courtesy of Photo Dynamics Inc.

Please Note

On the cover of the previous Artifacts was: The Careenage, Bridgetown, 1958

Photo by George Hunter, RCA, courtesy Eric Johnson

Family Legacy at the Museum

On 27th October, Mrs. Jane Gross and her family, including her husband, children and grandchildren, visited the Barbados Museum while on holiday to view the collection donated by the late Enid Evelyn Hole, Jane's grandmother. The Enid Hole Collection consists of some 8000 shells collected by Mrs. Hole on her travels around the world, including some from the Philippines, Australia, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. It was a real pleasure to receive the Gross family and the family members in turn were impressed to see that even after 30 years since the donation, that the collection has been maintained and preserved in its entirety for the enjoyment of the public for years to come.



Mrs. Jane Gross (centre) & family viewing the Enid Hole collection

Genealogical Research in Barbados

On 21st October, Mr. Martin Cox gave a special presentation to the History Group and Museum members during which he discussed his experience with conducting genealogical research in Barbados.

Prehistoric Barbados

The Prehistoric Barbados exhibition opened on 9th November and Amerindian Archaeology Week followed to allow members of the public more in-depth knowledge of archaeology in Barbados. The week started with a well attended public lecture at the Museum by Professor Peter L. Drewett, Professor Emeritus of Archaeology at the University of Sussex in the U.K. on 23rd November. His topic was Prehistoric Barbados: 25 Years of Field Research.

It continued with a session on 25th November during which individuals were invited to drop in with their Amerindian finds to have them identified and recorded by Prof. Drewett, his wife, Lysbeth Drewett and Kevin Farmer, BMHS Curator – History & Archaeology.

Dr. Maaïke S. de Waal, Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus spoke on the topic From Prehistoric Guadeloupe to Prehistoric Barbados on 27th November at the Museum.



Exploring the site at Chancery Lane where Amerindians had settled

The week culminated with an over-subscribed bus tour to archaeological sites around the island, namely at Silver Sands, Chancery Lane, Three Houses and Hill Crest.

The tour was led by Prof. Drewett and Kevin Farmer and it revealed fascinating details of the way of life for the island's first inhabitants and efforts to investigate and preserve what they left behind.

Darwin & Barbados

On 24th November, the Charles Darwin Commemorative Bicentennial lecture entitled Darwin and Barbados was held to mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of "On the Origin of Species". It was delivered by Dr. Louis Chinnery, Senior Lecturer in UWI's Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences and was the first public lecture to be held in the new Medical Sciences Lecture Theatre at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, St. Michael. Darwin the man, his family ties, his mentors, and his "natural selection" theory were examined.

This lecture was hosted by the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, in conjunction with the Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences of the University of the West Indies.

Learning Our Origins

Participants in the Barbados DNA Project received their results on 27th November and found them "fascinating". When the results are made public we're sure you will too!

BMHS Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society was held on 26th November. Dr. Justin Robinson and Mr. John Gibbs join the re-elected Council members, as Junior Vice President and Ordinary Member respectively. Welcome to them both and congratulations to the others who were re-elected to their posts.

Caribbean Curatorship & National Identity

Caribbean Curatorship & National Identity was the theme of the Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) 21st Annual General Meeting, which was held in collaboration with the Barbados National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), National Art Gallery Committee, International Curators Forum, Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts and the Cultural Leadership Programme of the British Arts Council. The conference was held from 29th November to 2nd December and the response from both the regional and international arts community was overwhelming.

Christmas at the Museum

By Linda Branch, Development Officer

What do songbirds, seashells, breadfruit leaves, wooden stars and twinkling lights all have in common? They all played a role in dressing up the Museum's galleries for the 2nd annual Christmas Festival of Trees activity. BMHS members and friends who attended a reception on 4th December strolled through the galleries with maps in hand to locate uniquely decorated trees. Some of the trees were available for purchase to help raise funds for refurbishment of the main exhibits in the Harewood and Jubilee galleries which introduce Museum patrons to Barbadian history and heritage.

Sharon Oran, Gina Foster, Annalee Davis and Jan Power donated decorations and other resources, as well as Emma Corrie and Lana Fenty who also helped to decorate trees. Sponsors also included DB Home Fine Furnishings, Do it Best Home Centre – Sheraton, Manipura Inc., RBC Insurance and Chancery Chambers Law Firm. The Museum's soon to open new gift shop served as the backdrop for the reception which included a steelpan soloist and light refreshments setting the mood for a festive kick-off of the Christmas holiday season at the Museum.



A Christmas tree with decorations by Annalee Davis

Fine Craft Festival

The Museum's 2009 Fine Craft Festival was held on 5th December and it offered locals and visitors alike the opportunity to immerse themselves in authentic Barbadian culture. Unique Christmas decorations, made of reused materials, were designed and installed by artist Beverley Alleyne. Patrons enjoyed the festive music and an Art Corner for children, as well as treasure hunts and readings by Deanne Kennedy, Louisa Nurse, Margaret Philips and Maureen Singh of the VOICES Writers Collaborative.

Door prizes were donated by Sandy Lane Hotel, Tall Ships, Atlantis Submarines and Tamarind Seed. The event was once again sponsored by the Barbados Manufacturers' Association's Bajan Fuh Real campaign, with assistance from Brydens Distribution, Cot Caribbean Graphics, M.W. Consulting, Print Source, SMJ Beverages (Barbados) Inc., SBI Distribution Inc. and Read-Rent Limited.

BMHS staff members lent a helping hand on the day of the event. Several individuals also generously volunteered their time and other contributions to assist - Audine Cyrus, Melissa Edwards, Stacia Hinds, Julianna Inniss, Deanne Kennedy, Miriam Kennedy, Andrea Millar, Louisa Nurse, Margaret Philips, Laura Rudder, Melanie Springer and volunteers from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Volunteers at the Friends of the Museum food and beverage stall were Jacqueline Cumberbatch, Hazel-Ann Kent, Sophie Lewis, Jonny Prichard, Jenny Randall, Jenny Sisnett, Eva White, Cheryl Williams, and coordinators of the group, Gilly Metzgen and Kathleen Lofffield. Items for the stall were donated by Joan Carrington, Virginia Challenor, Peter Gooding, Ms. Hurst, Hazel-Ann Kent, Margaret Leacock, Kathleen Lofffield, Gilly Metzgen, Jenny Randall, Jenny Sisnett, Pat Stafford, Sidi Streetly and Eva White.

The Shilstone Memorial Library Book Stall did exceptionally well this year thanks to the donations of many and coordination by Dr. Patricia Stafford, with assistance at the stall from Emelda Browne, Frank McCaughey, Lynne Racine, Adrian and Jenny Randall and Douglas Williams. It's not too late to purchase some of the items that were on offer. Contact the Library at Tel: 427-0201 or library@barbmuse.org to arrange a time to view the remaining books and magazines.

US Embassy Grant

On December, Dr. Brendt Hardt, the US Embassy's Chargé d'Affaires presented to BMHS Director Alissandra Cummins and BMHS Librarian Joan Brathwaite a US \$5,000 grant to assist with the Digitization Project which will help to preserve the Shilstone Notebooks and the Journals of the BMHS.

New BMHS Publications

Volume 55 of the Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society is now available and on 21st December a media launch was held to announce this. Museum members may purchase additional copies of this bumper issue at the special price of \$40.50.

Also available is the full colour commemorative book of the BMHS' 75th Anniversary Celebrations. Get your copy today for only \$30.00.

Helping the Elderly

Patients of the Geriatric Hospital now have some much-needed toiletries thanks to the donations of BMHS staff. Miguel Pena presented the hamper to the Acting Director of the hospital, Mrs. Joanell Oxley-Worrell on 21st December. Executive Officer, Mrs. Hazel Stuart-Greene; Principal Nursing Officer, Mrs. Brenda King; Senior Nursing Officer, Mr. Terril Scantlebury, and Drs. Jasmine Brathwaite and Rose-Anne Hazzard were on hand to witness the presentation.

Christmas Staff Dinner

Staff and Council members had a change of scenery on 23rd December as they were treated to a Christmas dinner at the Colony Club Hotel.



The Story of Lace Bark Doilies

A doily (doilie or doyley) is an ornamental mat, usually made of cotton or linen thread, crocheted or knitted. Doilies are highly decorative and can be seen in many Bajan homes protecting wood furniture from scratches or placed on tables for decoration. Disposable paper doilies have become quite common today, used in the culinary circles, underlying the food, usually pastries, for ornamentation.

Making doilies is often considered old-fashioned, but contemporary designers continue to make patterns for modern hand craft enthusiasts.

Lace bark doilies, as the name suggests,

are made from the bark of trees which are intricately cut into detailed one-of-a-kind designs.

According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, Eleventh Edition, "The lace-bark tree is a tree native to Jamaica, known botanically as *Lagetta lintearia*, from its native name *lagetto*. The tree belongs to the family *Thymelaeaceae*, and is grown in greenhouses in Great Britain." The inner bark consists of numerous concentric layers of interlacing fibres resembling lace. Collars and other articles of apparel have been made of this fibre, which is also used in the manufacture of whips.

The earliest donation of lace bark doilies to The Barbados Museum were made by the late Mrs. Thomas Goddard and given by Mrs. C. Gardner on February 24, 1937. The most recent, was a donation of six doilies made out of the bark of the *Lagetta lintearia* tree, which is native to Jamaica, and trimmed with French cotton. These were made by the late Barbadian Miss. Ada Bovell, and donated by Mr. Robert Mucci, of the UK, on February 26, 2009.

Look out for the lace bark doilie on display in the Jubilee Gallery during your next visit to the Museum.

Donor Acknowledgements - January 1, 2009 – December 29, 2009

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A bequest from the late Gordon Vaughan

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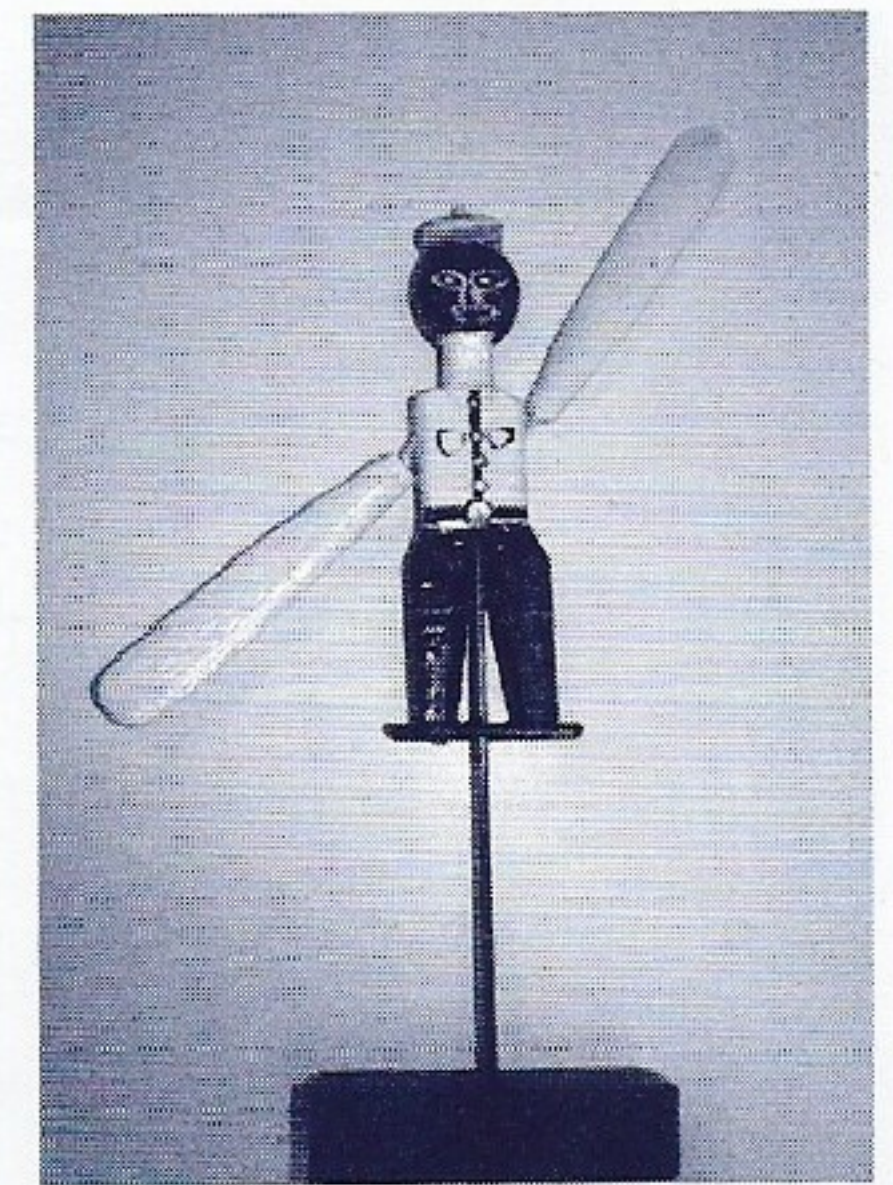
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New Items in the Museum's Collection

Between October and December the Museum acquired the following items into the collection:

- One rat skeleton missing fore limbs and lower jaw
- "Road Map of Barbados" compiled from Admiralty Charts 502 and 2485, with additions and corrections to January 1st, 1936 by M.S. Anderson M.A. for Motorists, Cyclists, Walkers and Tourist. This map was printed by Robert MacLehose & Co. Ltd., Glasgow, Scotland, and published by The Barbados Publicity Committee
- Framed watercolour of "Bathsheba" by Lionel Grimston Fawkes
- Framed watercolour of "German Soldiers Drilling on the Savannah" by Lionel Grimston Fawkes
- Whirligig c. 1982 of a wooden policeman made by master "Whirligig" maker, the late Mr. Archer of Brathwaites Gap, Dayrells Road St. Michael, accompanied by a catalogue entitled "Folk Art Objects – Compton Verney"
- Smith Corona Coronet Automatic Typewriter with manual in a black case. This typewriter belonged originally to the late Mr. Colin Hudson.



Whirligig

Upcoming Events

Ole Time Excursion Bus Tours

Get your tickets early for the 2010 bus tours! Tour dates are:

Saturday, January 23 - North
 Sunday, February 21 - South
 Saturday, March 27 - North
 Sunday, April 25 - South
 Saturday, May 22 - North
 Sunday, June 27 - South
 Saturday, July 31 - North

Sunday, August 29 - South
 Saturday, September 25 - North
 Sunday, October 24 - South
 Saturday, November 27 - North

Please ensure you save the following dates for the 2010 Lecture Series under the theme "Emigration from Barbados":

1. February 16
– Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles
2. February 23 – Prof. Thomas Loftfield

3. March 02 – Dr. Karl Watson
4. March 09 – Dr. Lennox Honychurch
5. March 16 – Dr. Alana Johnson
6. March 23 – Dr. Henderson Carter
7. March 30 – Dr. Cecelia Karch
8. April 06 – Dr. Marcia Burrowes
9. April 13 – Dr. Andrew Downes
10. April 20 – Dr. DeLisle Worrell

More details will be communicated in due course.

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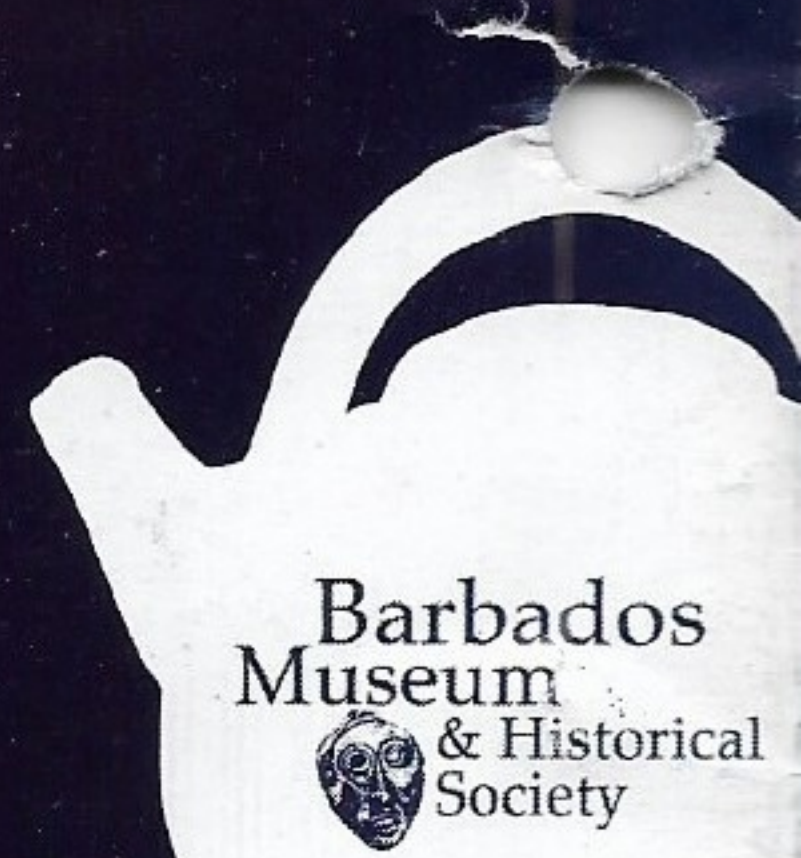
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