

Issue #103

Barbados  
Museum  
& Historical  
Society

# Artifacts

BARBADOS MUSEUM &  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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**2 Museum Highlights**  
New Museum Gift Shop  
Royal Visit

**3 Museum Highlights**  
Emigration from Barbados  
Visit by New U.K. High Commissioner  
National Geographic Photo Camp  
Upcoming Activities

**4 Volunteers**  
Lending a Hand in the Library

**5 Did You Know?**  
International Year of Biodiversity

**6 Donors**  
Donor Acknowledgements

**7 Membership/  
Staff Update**

New Items in the  
Museum's Collection  
Harrison's Cave  
Tour Guides

**8 Membership/  
Staff Update**



## Dear Member,

**T**he first three months of 2010 brought royalty, a visit from a diplomat, generous donations, exciting programmes, innovation and lots of activity to the Museum.

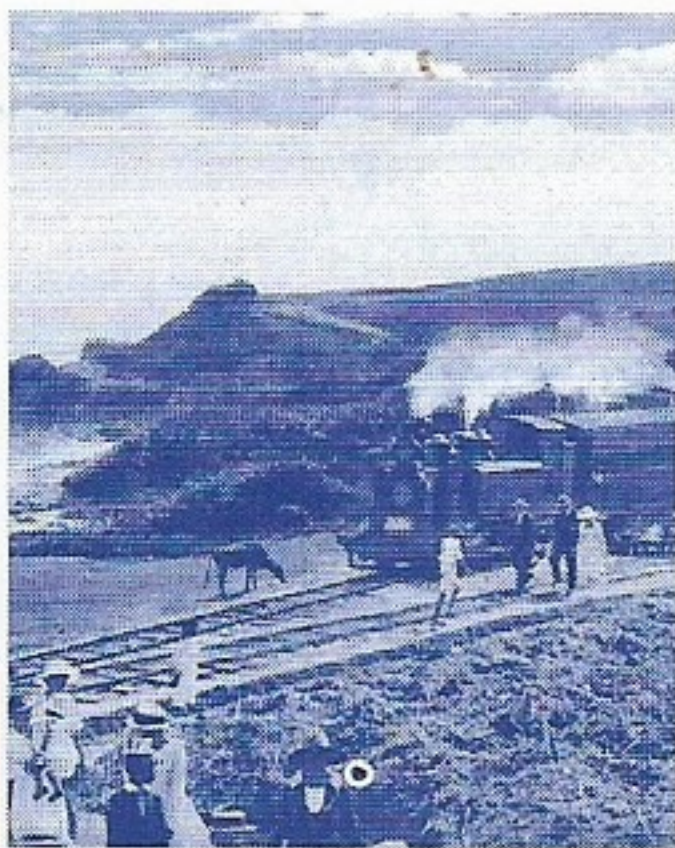
These initiatives all form part of our thrust to improve our offerings to the public. You certainly will be "wowed" by our new spacious Museum Gift Shop. We're repeatedly told that is "gorgeous"! Come by and see for yourself.

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity and in this edition you will find some important information from the Natural History Curator, Kerron Hamblin.

There's lots more planned for this year, including an opportunity for Museum members to showcase their artistic talent in an exhibition of paintings, ceramics, mosaics and more. If you see pieces you like they can be yours, as the art will be available for purchase. We hope you'll come out and show your support.

Of course, much of what we do is possible only through the assistance of members like you, volunteers and donors. As you read on this becomes evident. Thank you and enjoy!

*Christine Skeete*  
Christine Skeete  
Marketing Officer



On Cover:  
Barbados Light Railway at  
Bathsheba, Barbadoes, B.W.I.  
A new acquisition for the BMHS

## New Museum Gift Shop



**O**n March 19, the innovative new Barbados Museum Gift Shop, funded by the Tourism Development Corporation, was officially opened by the BMHS Council President, Dr. Trevor Carmichael.

The former gallery for temporary exhibitions has been transformed by a team of designers and artisans, enlisted by Duty Free Caribbean/Cave Shepherd to work on this project. The much larger space allows greater scope for the Museum to both produce and attractively display merchandise that promotes Barbadian heritage.

Visitors to the museum now enter the facility through the Gift Shop along a new walkway for which Arthur Construction Inc. generously donated labour. In the new shop the layout reflects the themes of the galleries and acts as an introduction to what visitors will see during their tour.

Next time you're in the area, we hope you'll come by to experience this professionally designed retail space for yourself.

## Royal Visit

The new year started with a high profile visit by two princes – Prince Harry of Britain and Prince Seeiso of Lesotho. On January 30, the Royal Highnesses were the guests of honour at a Children's Party at the Barbados Museum, which was coordinated by the Barbados Tourism Authority and the Cabinet Office.



Prince Harry & Prince Seeso, accompanied by Mr. Hugh Allman, Chief of Protocol, (left) entering the Museum

The event featured an interactive session with schoolchildren in the Charles A. Robertson African Gallery, sampling of local cuisine prepared by the winners of the 2009 Junior Duelling Chefs Competition, a chance to meet World War veterans and serving officers, and performances by school children. This was one of the

high profile activities on the princes' hectic schedule while in Barbados to raise money for their Sentabale charity, which helps people in Lesotho to become self-sufficient. The visit to Barbados culminated with a polo match at Apes Hill to benefit the charity.



## Emigration from Barbados

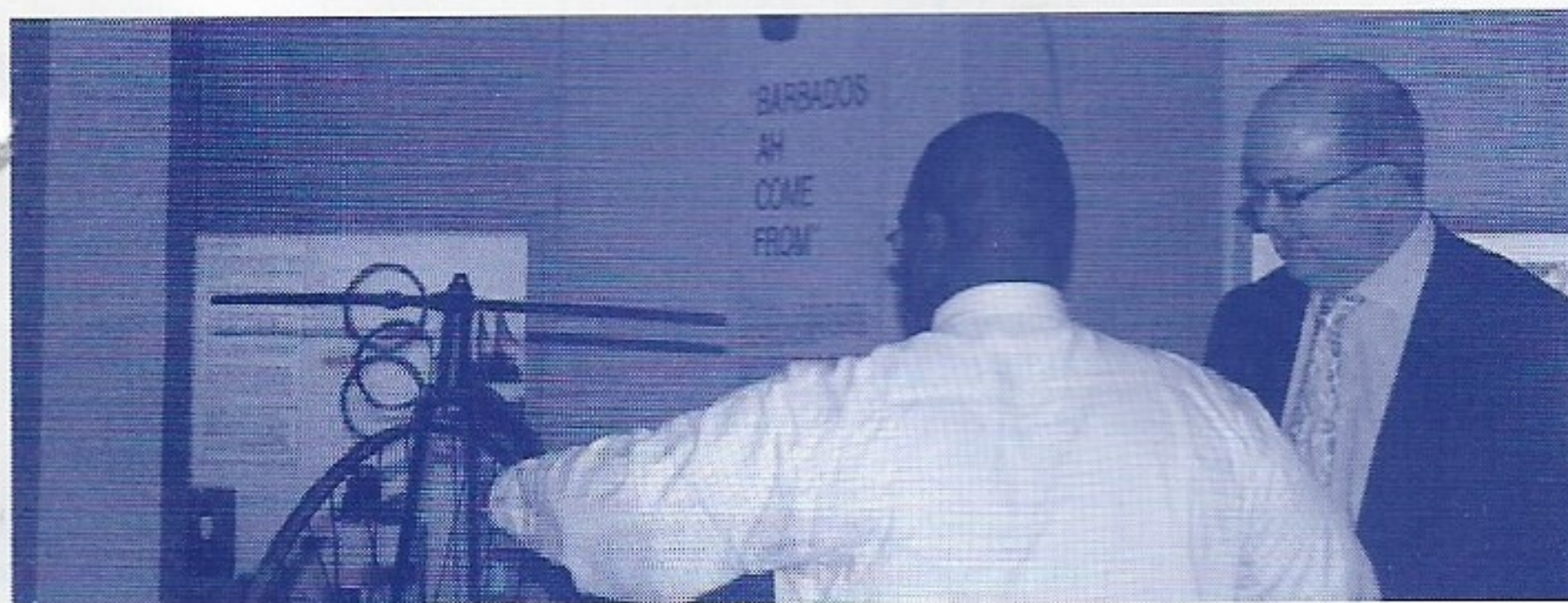
On February 18, details about the 2010 Lecture Series under the theme "Emigration from Barbados" were announced to the media. The series was organised by Barbados Museum & Historical Society and the Department of the History & Philosophy of the University of the West Indies. It was sponsored by the Central Bank of Barbados, Barbados Shipping & Trading Co. Ltd. and CGM Gallagher Insurance Brokers (Barbados) Ltd. assisted with the advertising costs.

The lecture schedule was:

1. February 23 **Gaining Ground** by Dr. Thomas Loftfield
2. March 02 **Extending the Plantation Frontier during the 17th & 18th Centuries: Barbadians in Jamaica, Suriname & the Eastern Caribbean** by Dr. Karl Watson
3. March 09 **Crossing the Waters: Maritime Maroonage in the Lesser Antilles** by Dr. Lennox Honychurch
4. March 16 **"We Went in Hope of Bettering Our Condition in Life": An Examination of Attempts by Barbadians to Redefine their Freedom by Emigrating to British Guiana & Trinidad** by Dr. Alana Johnson
5. March 23 **"Driven by Poverty": Barbadian Migration to the Windward & Leeward Islands in the Second Half of the 19th Century** by Dr. Henderson Carter
6. March 30 **Two Strands – Two Outcomes: Barbadian Migration to West Africa & The Hispanic Caribbean** by Dr. Dr. Cecilia Karch Brathwaite
7. April 06 **Barbadian Migration to the UK: The Soriento Generation** by Dr. Marcia Burrowes
8. April 13 **Managed Migration from Barbados: The Temporary Worker Programme in Canada & the USA** by Prof. Andrew Downes
9. April 20 **Migration & the Barbadian Standard of Living** by Dr. DeLisle Worrell

If you missed any lectures you can listen online for a limited time at [www.swizzleradio.com](http://www.swizzleradio.com).

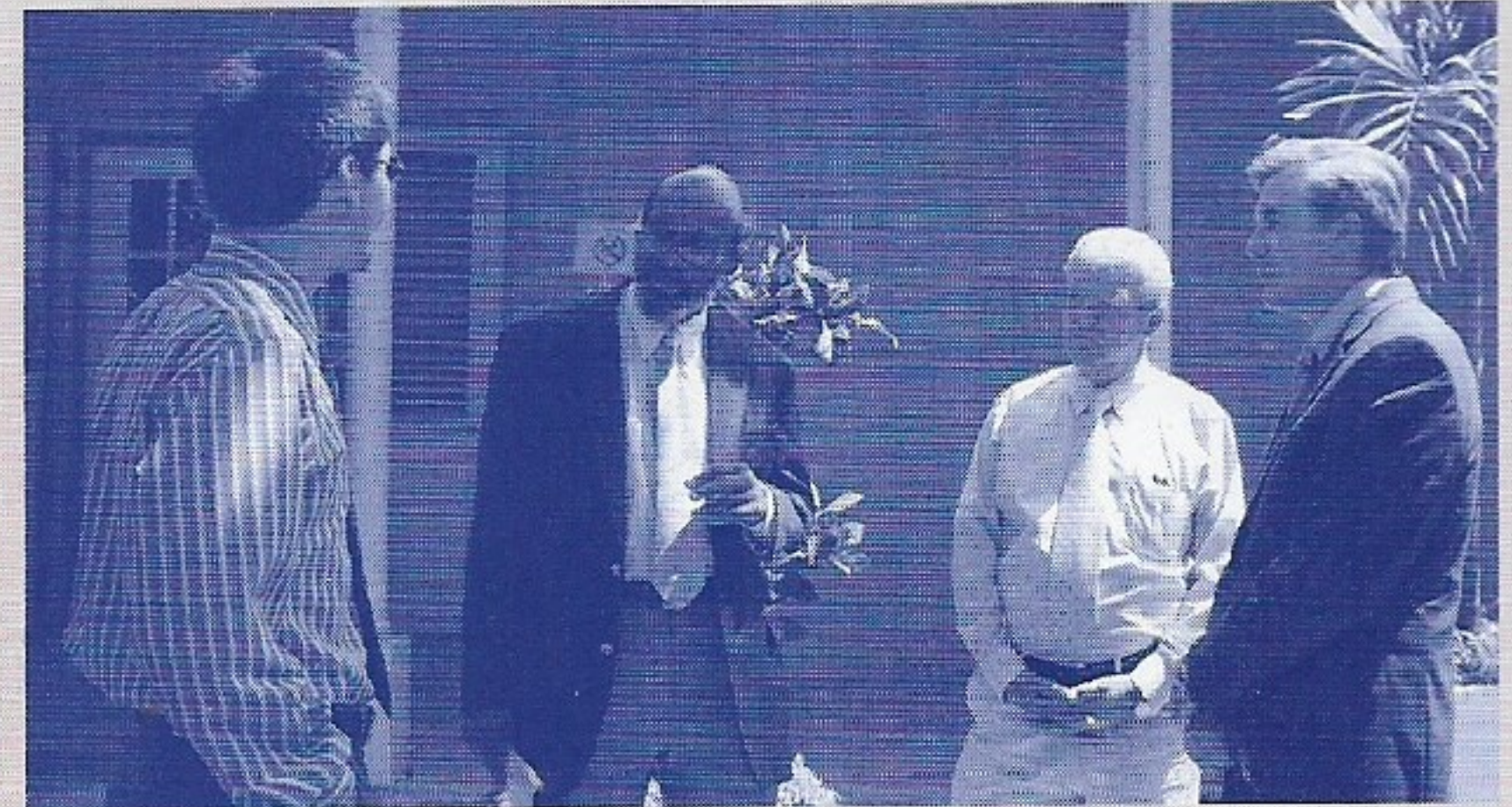
## Visit by New UK High Commissioner



Kevin Farmer (backing) and H.E. Paul Brummell

His Excellency Paul Brummell, the new United Kingdom High Commissioner, paid a familiarization visit to the Barbados Museum. Kevin Farmer, BMHS Curator – History and Archaeology provided him with insight into the Museum's galleries and the history of the island.

## National Geographic Photo Camp



Left to right: Dr. Joseph Schaller, US Embassy's Deputy Public Affairs Officer; Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Mr. James Gardiner & D. Brent Hardt at the Museum

20 disadvantaged young people took part in the National Geographic Photo Camp Barbados, between March 27 and 31. The students from nine public schools were based at Cadet Camp, Paragon, Christ Church and photographed, edited and designed portraits of water conservation efforts. National Geographic photographers Sam Abell and Matt Moyer mentored the young people under the guidance of Kirsten Elstner, National Geographic team leader.

Members of the local private sector joined forces with National Geographic, the U.S. Embassy Bridgetown and the Barbados Museum & Historical Society to make this initiative possible.

Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C., President of the Museum's Council and representative of sponsors Chancery Chambers and Allstate International Assignments Limited, noted that the museum's relationship with youth development has been prolific over the years. "This project ensures that we at the museum continue our outreach to young people," he added.

James Gardiner of sponsoring companies Breakwater Management Services and Goldcorp Insurance Company viewed the photo camp as a wonderful opportunity for budding photographers and he was therefore pleased to support it.

The public was invited to attend the camp's closing ceremony at the Errol Barrow Center for Creative Imagination on March 31, featuring a multi-media presentation of students' work. An exhibition at the Barbados Museum of 40 of the best photographs taken during the camp is also planned.

## Upcoming Activities

An exhibition on biodiversity will be on at the Museum from July 12 to October 01, 2010.

In October, an exhibition of original art by Museum members will go on display. Stay tuned for more details...



# Lending a Helping Hand in the Library

by Joan Brathwaite, Librarian

**T**he BMHS Librarian, Joan Brathwaite, who took up the post from January 2009, is often ably assisted by several volunteers, and by the Museum's Research Officer, Miguel Pena, who work diligently to make the resources of the Shilstone Memorial Library more accessible to members of the public.

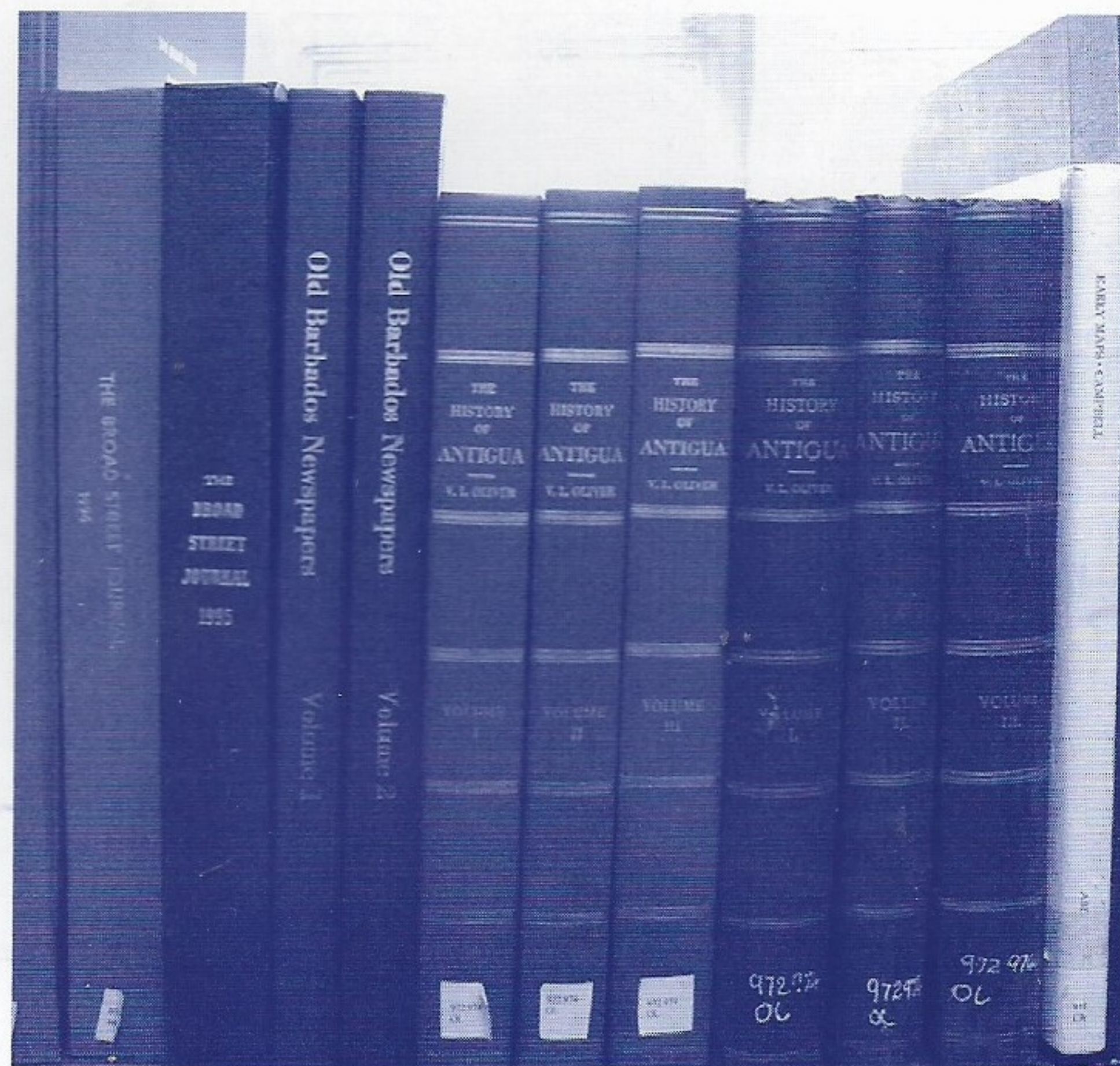
The Library is pleased to welcome a new volunteer, Cheryl Small, an American, who is a professional Librarian. She has taken up residence here with her Barbadian husband, and she joined the Volunteer Corps in January.

Among the regular Museum volunteers are Dr. Patricia Stafford, whose area of research is history and genealogy, (by far the most requested subject areas from our patrons, who visit, e-mail and telephone us for information), and Emelda Browne. Emelda has digitized the entire Shilstone Notebooks Collection, 169 documents totalling 13,070 images or pages, as well as Volumes 1 to 3 of the Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society. This digitization project was made possible through funding from the US Embassy.

Special mention must be made of Baljit Siekham, a Canadian professional organiser, who offered to volunteer during her vacation in Barbados and reorganised the Library Annex area, where large quantities of newspapers, books, periodicals and other items were stored. Baljit also listed the holdings of the various issues (many incomplete) of the periodicals that were held in that area, thus assisting with organising the fledgling periodicals collection.

The newspaper clippings collection has been ably manned by current volunteer Maria Adotey, and former volunteers Shawn Layne and Dr. Lenore Harney. During a four-month period, Harrison's Cave Tour Guides on secondment to the Museum during the Cave's closure, also spent some time working on this collection when they were not occupied with Museum tours. The Library's newspaper clippings collection, which is constantly in demand, covers over 400 topics.

Another former volunteer, Dr. Dorothy Kremser, compiled a List of Subject Areas for which Resource Materials were requested by Researchers visiting the Shilstone Memorial Library during the period 2004-2008, and this is available for perusal or research, and also provides a useful foundation for the wealth of information in the



Shilstone Memorial Library to enable us to respond to information requests. Dr. Kremser also compiled an Author/Title Index to the Journals of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, Vol. 1 (1933) to Vol. 54 (2008). This is currently on index cards, and is due to be typed by volunteer Christina Allman, who has also been updating our Newspaper Clippings Personalities Files.

The Librarian and volunteers Dr. Patricia Stafford and Emelda Browne, with assistance from the Friends of the Museum, Jenny and Adrian Randall, Lynne Racine, Douglas Williams and Frank McCaughey, also participated in the 2009 Fine Craft Festival, and manned the Library stall. We take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to the effort by donating items – books, magazines, CDs, DVDs and tapes. Some items are still available for sale. Kindly contact the Librarian to make an appointment to see the available materials.

The Shilstone Memorial Library's opening hours are 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., Monday to Friday. We look forward to your visits and your voluntary help.

## Volunteer Reception

On January 20, a reception was held to show to the Museum's hardworking volunteers. Tokens of appreciation were presented by the Director and a nice time was had by all in attendance.



# 2010 - International Year of Biodiversity

by Kerron Hamblin, Assistant Curator – Natural History

**T**he United Nations has designated the year 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on Earth and of the value of biodiversity for our lives. Biological diversity - or biodiversity - is the term given to the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms.

The biodiversity we see today is a result of billions of years of evolution, shaped by natural processes and the influence of Man.

Biodiversity is usually thought of in terms of a wide variety of plants, animals and micro-organisms, but it also includes genetic differences within each species, which make each individual and each species unique.

Man has the ability to protect or destroy biodiversity. Governments need to provide the critical role of leadership, particularly by setting rules that guide the use of natural resources, and by protecting biodiversity where they have direct control over the land and water. However, governments alone cannot be expected to bear this task. After all, it is the choices and actions of billions of individuals

that will determine whether or not biodiversity is conserved and used sustainably. The ultimate decision-maker for biodiversity is the individual citizen. The small choices that individuals make add up to a large impact because it is personal consumption that drives development, which in turn uses and pollutes nature. By carefully choosing the products they buy and the government policies that they support, the general public can begin to steer the world towards sustainable development.

This year, play your part in the fight against threats against biological diversity:

1. Foster a love of nature among yourselves and your children.
2. Learn as much about the issues and threats to biodiversity as possible and share your finds with your friends.
3. Get involved in environmentally conscious groups.
4. Support eco-friendly businesses
5. Lobby your government for the creation and maintenance of national parks and other environmentally protected areas.



## Donor Acknowledgements April 01, 2009 – March 31, 2010

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A bequest from the late Gordon Vaughan

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Ms. Cheryl Williams

Williams Equipment generously donated a much-needed power washer to the BMHS in January.  
We thank them and all the other donors who have supported us to date.



## New Items in the Museum's Collection

We were pleased to receive mid and early 20th century African objects such as a Shango staff, Zulu doll, Masai woman's beaded necklace and a Senegalese beaded wrist band.

Images of Barbados of old will be preserved at the Museum through the a newly acquired collection of 19th and 20th century photographs of Barbadian scenes including lantern slides of Bridgetown dated 1906, stereo cards of an old fashioned sugar mill driven by the wind, and slides of Bridgetown and Barbadian landscape scenes dated 1950, as well as original documents, dating from 1843 to 1853.

## Harrison's Cave Tour Guides

On February 3, BMHS said a fond farewell to four tour guides from Harrison's Cave who were seconded to the Museum for four months while the Cave was under renovation. The guides, Colleen Murray-Johnson, Susan Herbert, Carol-Ann Farmer and Maxine Stanford enabled us to offer guided tours to visitors, assisted the Education Officer with school groups and between tours, gave valuable assistance in the Museum's Library. They will be greatly missed.



## Lady Barbara Stuart

Museum member Lady Barbara Stuart came to the Museum on March 19 to view a bust of herself, dated 1955. It was sculpted by the acclaimed local artist Karl Broodhagen. This bust and one of Lady Stuart's sister are on loan to the BMHS.

## Museum Council & Staff

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- Free admission to the Museum
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