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Artifacts

Barbados
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& Historical
Society

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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8 **Membership/Staff Update**

Dear Member,

Change seems to be the theme for this issue of Artifacts. In October, the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, along with the rest of the country witnessed a change in Prime Minister as we mourned the loss of The Honourable David Thompson.

As we recognise that our stakeholders need more opportunities to interact directly with the Museum, we made a progressive change and used members' work to form the Originals exhibition, which is covered on this page.

Several changes were implemented for this year's Fine Craft Festival and the new features are highlighted within these pages.

Two new members were elected to the Council of the BMHS and a new Executive Committee was elected for ICOM Barbados. Read on to find out who they are.

Within the BMHS, Leshay Drayton moved from the Accounts Department to fill the post of Event Coordinator. The Museum also prepared to say farewell to Joan Brathwaite at the end of December and to welcome a new Librarian.

As we look toward the new year, we would like you to turn your attention to the theme for International Museum Day 2011 - "Museum and Memory". The International Council of Museums points out that museums preserve memories and tell stories, and that we have in our collections numerous objects that are fundamental to the memory of the communities we live in. What are your ideas for the local commemoration of this theme? We would love to hear from you. Drop me a line at Email: musepr@barbmuse.org.bb or call 427-0201.

Christine

Christine Franklyn
Marketing Officer



On Cover:
Craftsmen at work in the BIDC booth at the Fine Craft Festival

Originals Exhibition

The Originals exhibition opened on October 17 in two spaces at the Museum, and it continued through to December 18. It featured work by 15 Museum members, including well known artists include Alison Chapman-Andrews, Goldie Spieler, Juliana Inniss, Leslie Taylor, Sarah Venable, John Stuart, Ann Rudder, and Professor Henry Fraser, as well as first time exhibitors at the Museum Linda Hook, Kathryn St. Hill, Margaret Belgrave, Mary Gibbs, Anthony Fields, Jill and Gordon Hamilton.

Acrylic, mixed media, oil on canvas, textiles and ceramic works, as well as photography were on display and many were purchased.

The exhibition was initiated and curated by Allison Callender, the BMHS Curator – Art & Art History. She said, "The exhibition was conceptualized as a means of engendering active involvement of our members with the Museum's curatorial programming. It is hoped that there will be more opportunities for the Museum's membership and other supporters to benefit from similar programmes and initiatives in the future."

Museum members were invited to attend An Afternoon with the Artists, which was held on November 21 at the Museum. This event provided an opportunity for the exhibiting artists to speak to fellow members about their work and their creative process.



Juliana Inniss making her presentation during the artists' talk



Guests at the exhibition opening viewing the art on display



Guests viewing Ann Rudder's heraldry and Leslie Taylor's work

Late Prime Minister

The Council, management and staff of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society deeply felt the loss of a dedicated Museum member of 20 years - the late Prime Minister, The Honourable David Thompson, Q.C., M.P., who passed away on October 23, 2010. His commitment to the development of culture and his love of heritage were undeniable.

May he rest in peace

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society was held on November 05 at the Museum. After the elections were held, the Society welcomed Mrs. Maureen Davis and Mrs. Virginia Challenor as new members of the BMHS Council.

23rd Annual Fine Craft Festival Fundraiser to Support Museum Programming

by Linda Branch, Development Officer

With a fresh layout, diverse products and enhanced ambiance, the Barbados Museum's 23rd annual Fine Craft Festival fundraiser, held on December 04, provided a great opportunity for patrons seeking unique works of arts, crafts and artistic creations by artisans from Barbados and beyond its shores.

In addition to crafts, the 2010 event also featured a food & beverage emporium allowing for some specialty food as well as ready-to-serve vendors an opportunity to sell consumable products. Patrons also had the opportunity to explore the Museum's galleries, including new temporary exhibits, as well as our new Museum Gift Shop.

Overall, 60 participants made available their products for sale against the backdrop of the beautiful and historic setting of the Barbados Museum's galleries. Exhibitors were selected for the show by a selection committee taking into consideration variables including quality of work and professional

finish, originality and creativity, and diversity of product. Products included jewelry, wearable art, paintings, household items, decorative art, bath and body items, Christmas decorations, stationery, photographs, postcards, and other works.

The Fine Craft Festival is produced each year by the non-profit, non-governmental Barbados Museum as a fundraiser to benefit the Museum's operations and programs focused on preserving the island's heritage. As in the past, staff and numerous volunteers contributed their time and resources to help make the fundraiser a success.

This 2010 event was supported by the Friends of the Museum, Barbados Manufacturers' Association, Barbados Shipping & Trading Ltd., Barbados Investment & Development Corporation, Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, Cot Printery, First Caribbean International Bank, M.W. Consulting Inc., Print Source, Sandy Lane Hotel, The Holiday Channel (MCTV Channel 109), Tall Ships Cruise Management Ltd., TMR Sales & Services Ltd., and Williams Equipment Ltd.



Some of the art that was on display at the Fine Craft Festival

ICOM General Conference in Shanghai

An Abridged Version of a Report by Allison Callender, Curator - Art and Art History

From November 07 to 13, the Curator - Art and Art History, Allison Callender, attended her first International Council of Museums (ICOM) General Conference and Assembly, this year held in Shanghai, China. This event is held every three years and it was a privilege to attend, not only as a participant, but as the future 2011-2013 Chair of ICOM Barbados Executive Committee. Two other members of this committee, the Vice Chair Elect, Nerys Rudder, and Secretary Elect, Oneka Small, were also able to attend, and this made the trip and time spent in Shanghai all the more memorable.

The General Conference of ICOM is an important meeting for the ICOM members and friends. These meetings enhance mutual sharing and learning with museums of the world, advancing the cause of sustainable development of museums worldwide. Attendance at this conference provided an opportunity for her to meet with colleagues, and individual members of International ICOM Committees, and new members, with the possibility for exchange of ideas, exhibitions, partnerships and future collaborative projects. She said it was an honour to represent such a small island, and to share what the Barbados Museum as well as what other museums in Barbados were doing, and the possibilities that exist for collaborative projects in the near future.

It was the intention of the curator to attend as many meetings, tours and ICOM related activities as possible in an effort to capitalize on the short time in China, and to benefit as much as possible from this experience. Since two of her colleagues were also there, it was easy to maximize our time. This was particularly helpful when specific committee meetings overlapped and when the delegation couldn't visit all of the booths at the Museum Trade Fair.

Nerys Rudder, a consultant with The Blue Road Art and Design Consultancy and Vice - President Elect of ICOM Barbados said she found the week to be eventful, eye opening and a wonderful opportunity to network with the 4000 other delegates from around the world. "The size and scope of the city and conference were beyond my expectations", she noted.

The Chair elect, was allowed to attend the Advisory Council Meetings and this was a good opportunity for her, as it gave her a "heads up" for the upcoming role as Chair of ICOM Barbados from 2011, where she too will need to voice

her opinion as it related to the issues affecting members in Barbados, particularly the new fee structure, which is advantageous to small island states.

As a member of the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Decorative Arts (ICDAD), Allison attended their meetings and activities, as well as that of the International Committee for Architecture and Museums Techniques (ICAMT). In Shanghai, the ICDAD group held joint meetings with DEMHIST, GLASS, and ICFA, under the theme From Silk Road to Container Ship: Artefacts, Environment and Cultural Transfer. The ICAMT session she attended highlighted the benefits of organized storage in museums, and why it is so vital to have collections easily identified and accessible. This is an area relevant to the Barbados Museum, and one that has sparked considerable debate as the collections grows, and adequate space for storage diminishes.

ICAMT publishes a newsletter entitled Brief and it is her hope that the delegation will be able to submit a joint article during 2011 on exhibition designs of museums in Barbados.

Allison also sat in on one of the meetings of the International Committee for Exhibition Exchange (ICEE) and the Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) meeting and attended an informal meeting with members of the Museum Association of the Caribbean (MAC), during social outings. In addition, she was able to visit several museums and art galleries in Shanghai, Nantong, and Tongli, as well as visit the Peoples Square and Yu Yuan Gardens after the conclusion of the General Conference.



Allison Callender (left) and Oneka Small (right) in at the entrance to Nantong Museum, Shanghai



Allison Callender with ICAMT committee members Dr. Stephen Cannon-Brookes (left), and Jean Hilgersen (right)

As a result of attending this Conference and General Assembly, Allison believes that she is better equipped to perform her role as Chair for ICOM Barbados in 2011. She is more aware of the issues which may affect Barbados, and the need to maintain contact with her colleagues from the region and those from her international committees. She is most grateful for the opportunity to be part of the 22nd General Conference and 25th General Assembly.

ICOM Barbados News

Although Christine Franklyn, BMHS Marketing Officer, was unable to attend the ICOM General Conference, her colleagues on the International Committee for Marketing and Public Relations (MPR) elected her to the Board of that international committee of ICOM.

After the Barbados National Committee of ICOM held elections for its Executive Committee on October 26, the results were:

Chairperson – Allison Callender, BMHS

Vice Chairperson – Nerys Rudder, individual member

Secretary – Oneka Small, individual member

Treasurer – Miguel Pena, BMHS

Public Relations Officer – Maylene Browne, National Art Gallery Committee

Donor Acknowledgements - January 01, 2010 – December 31, 2010

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News from the Shilstone Memorial Library

by Joan Brathwaite, Librarian

"The Library welcomed a new Volunteer on 15 October 2010, Ms. Eva White. Eva is not really a "new" Volunteer, as she has been associated with the Friends of the Museum for some time. She has done an excellent job with the newspaper clippings collection so far, and will be working closely with Mrs. Hilary Marshall to bring this collection up-to-date.

Two very interesting publications received in the Library were the Nomination Document for submission to the United Nations for Barbados' nomination as a World Heritage Site, Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison (2010), and Democracy in I.C.U.: The diminishing of natural resources by Gladstone Holder, compiled by his son, Lisle Holder (2010).

Both these documents are essential reading if persons wish to know about the history and development of Barbados. The Nomination Document concentrates on Bridgetown and its Garrison, and as is mentioned in the Foreword, "the site is an example of the transition from a medieval town to a major port town and garrison, which became the Eastern Caribbean Headquarters for the British Navy until 1816, and for the Army until 1905". The publication, which is colourfully illustrated, including maps, describes (Section 2) and lists (including the owners' names, Sections 7 a and c), all the properties in the site area. There is also a section, Section 3, which deals with the justification for the inscription, based on themes and sub-themes, and lists the elements of history and development that represent the theme, and then further points out which themes and sub-themes are represented in the historic Bridgetown and its Garrison zone. An example of this is a theme of Cultural Associations (interacting in society) – Military architecture – that is, fortified boundaries; forts, castles, fortified houses; fortified cities; armouries – and the element of history and development that represents the theme is the Garrison Complex, and this is of course represented by the Military in the Bridgetown and Garrison Zone. The publication is divided into ten sections, and also in Section 7 – Documentation, there is an extensive Bibliography (pp. 286-321) of materials researched, as well as Addresses of Places where inventories, records and archives are held, making this document an outstanding reference and research document, not only for the Bridgetown and its Garrison Area, but, indeed, for all aspects related to the social, political, historical and cultural development of Barbados. Definitely a "must read" and "required reading" document.

The other publication, a compilation of newspaper

articles authored by the late Gladstone Holder and published in the Barbados Advocate and Nation newspapers during the period 1986-2002, concentrates on the topics of Education, the International Monetary Fund, and developing countries and privatization, with the emphasis on Barbados. The compiler notes that his father had "a great grasp of the world stage, and made tireless and repeated efforts to convey that knowledge to his readers". Among the erudite contributions are Education Pandemic (November 11, 2001); Paradise to buyers unknown? (January 3, 1992); and Politically incorrect (March 1, 1996). As a columnist well-known for his language and writing skills, his article on The writing wrestle (December 30, 2001) is also to be commended. An earlier and similar publication by the same author, entitled More than a Word, (1978) is also held in the Shilstone Library, both of which should be required reading.

Among the interesting donations and purchases received recently in the Shilstone Memorial Library were the following:

1. The Anglican Church in Barbados: Selected Readings, compiled and edited by Audine C. Wilkinson (2009)
2. "He that should come": A Nativity Play at the Empire Theatre, 19th & 20th December 1949 [Programme]
3. Pou: The Cave Hill Journal of Creative Writing, No. XI, December 2010
4. BIM: Arts for the 21st Century, vol. 4, no. 1, 2010
5. Thompson, Alvin O. Confronting slavery: Breaking the corridors of silence (2010)
6. Skyviews Atlas Barbados, 1st ed., 2009
7. England at Kensington Oval 1930-2009: West Indies vs. England Test Match Cricket. First Class Scores 1911-2009: Barbados vs. The M.C.C.; Barbados vs. England (2009), compiled by T. DeLisle Millar (2009).

Audine Wilkinson, retired Librarian of SALISES, and in whose honour the Library at the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) is named, has been compiling a variety of bibliographical materials over the years, and in recent time has been concentrating on the Anglican Church in Barbados, its structure, and its various organisations. Indeed, one of the articles in the compilation is written by one of the Library Volunteers here at the Museum Library, Mrs. Emelda Browne, and looks at the role of the Church Army – "Church Army marching with His Word: The role of the Church Army", The Anglican, September 2004, pp. 22-23. Other topics include the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in Barbados, and the history of the Anglican Church. A very useful

and interesting compilation with several articles written by well-known Anglican clerics.

The Library also received two Journals, both of which are in tribute to noted historian, poet and literary critic Kamau Brathwaite, in celebration of his 80th birthday. The articles, poetry and graphics in these publications are extremely enlightening and thought-provoking and undoubtedly express the deep appreciation that persons throughout the diaspora feel for an icon such as Brathwaite. A "must read" for all those interested in Barbadian culture.

Skyviews Atlas Barbados is the first publication of its kind for Barbados, and details the streets throughout the island taken by aerial photography. A very useful document for checking street names, villages, districts, beaches and historical sites.

Then there is Alvin Thompson's just released Confronting slavery: Breaking through the corridors of silence. This is a colourfully illustrated book about slavery and the slave trade in Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe, as well as including information on various monuments, museums and memorials in these areas. A history book of enormous proportions and suitable for all ages.

The final two books I would like to mention is Millar's compilation of cricket scores covering the period 1911-2009. It is a small handy booklet, easy to refer to, and a useful reference guide for the cricket-conscious, and others. A welcome addition to the Library's materials on cricket.

But perhaps the most interesting of all the donations received in this Quarter is the 1949 Programme of the Nativity Play authored by Dorothy L. Sayers, 1893-1957, and which was first performed in London on Christmas Day 1938. In Barbados, it was produced by the Religious Dramatic Company, and directed by Frank Moore. Many of the actors who performed in the Play are well-known Barbadians, such as Lisle Harrison, Frank Blackman, Roy Blackett, Oscar Miller, Victor Cooke and Edward (now Kamau) Brathwaite, to mention a few. Other well-known names are the late Rev. Patterson Deane, Cameron Hewitt, and Miss Daphne Joseph Hackett. A great donation to add to the Museum's heritage collection.

The Library said farewell to Librarian, Joan Brathwaite, at the end of December 2010. However, she will not be leaving – just changing her status, and becoming a Volunteer in the Library as well.

Upcoming Museum Activities

The BMHS/UWI/Central Bank of Barbados 2011 Lecture Series – “A Leg Up or a Hand-out?: Philanthropy in Barbados”

March 01	The Codrington Bequest: The Foundation Of The Lodge School and Codrington College - Sir Keith Hunte
March 08	Capt. John Williams and Sir John Gay Alleyne: The Foundation School and The Alleyne School – Mr. Robert Morris
March 15	Donors of Land, Material, and Labour, For the Building of Churches and Chapels – Canon Noel Titus
March 29	‘Benevolence Towards The Deserving Poor’: Bequests In Support Of Parochial Outdoor Relief – Prof. Woodville Marshall
April 05	Building a Hospital and Children’s Homes - Dr. Tara Inniss
April 26	‘Promotion Of Public Taste’: Benefactors And The Establishment Of Cultural Institutions – Ms. Alissandra Cummins
May 03	Giving the Underprivileged A Look-In: Hastings Rocks, King’s Park, etc. –Dr. Marcia Burrowes
May 10	‘Petticoat Philanthropy’: Women’s Charitable Initiatives And Maternalist Politics In Twentieth-Century Barbados – Dr. Aviston Downes
May 24	PANEL DISCUSSION: The New Philanthropy

Venue: The Grande Salle of the Central Bank of Barbados

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Exhibitions:

“Portraits of a Head Tie”: A Celebration of Caribbean Women from a Barbadian Perspective, curated by Allison Callender, conceptualized and coordinated Ali Sandiford – March 07 to 31, 2011

In the mini-exhibition series, the next display will be of the Jubilee Gallery 19th century handpainted ladies fans from February 15 to April 15, 2011, and then from April to June 2011 you will be offered the rare opportunity to feast your eyes on Victorian jewellery from the Museum’s collection.

International Museum Day will be celebrated this year under the theme “Museums and Memory” on May 18, and we need your ideas on how this theme may be celebrated leading up to this date! Please drop a line to Email: musepr@barbmuse.org.bb or call 427-0201.

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Artifacts

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