

Issue #108

Barbados  
Museum  
& Historical  
Society

# Artifacts

BARBADOS MUSEUM &  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAGAZINE

NO. 108 2nd QUARTER, 2011  
visit us at [www.barbmuse.org.bb](http://www.barbmuse.org.bb)

**2 Museum Highlights**  
Museums & Memory:  
Home Sweet Home  
A Century of Electricity  
in Barbados

**3 Museum Highlights**  
Members' Evening  
The Oliver Messel Archive  
World Heritage Designation

**4 From the Collection**  
New Acquisitions

**5 Donors**  
Donor Acknowledgements

**6 Library**  
Library News

**7 Membership/Staff Update**  
Farewell to Deputy Director

**8 Members & Volunteers**



## Dear Member,

**F**inally it's here! The new Museum website is up and running at our usual web address [www.barbmuse.org.bb](http://www.barbmuse.org.bb). Check out the up-to-the-minute updates or tweets that feed directly from our Twitter account to the homepage of the website and news on upcoming and recent Museum activities.

In the next phase, which has already begun, we will add to the site a Members Area, which will give you exclusive access to articles from the Journal of the BMHS, news on member activities and other interesting pieces of information. You will also have the opportunity to join an online community of visitors to the website who will discuss topics related to Barbadian natural and social history, share photos and links to other sites where related information can be found. Of course you can also do this on the Museum's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/barbadasmuseum](http://www.facebook.com/barbadasmuseum).

These online fora are a part of our effort to keep you informed about all the exciting things that are happening at the Museum. The Artifacts newsletter also offers a glimpse of the most recent and upcoming activities. This issue includes pieces on the recent exhibition Museums & Memory: Home Sweet Home, the new exhibition A Century of Electricity in Barbados, the opening of the Members' Lounge and a talk on the Oliver Messel Archive.

The most significant occurrence in the month of June was the inscription of Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison on the UNESCO World Heritage list. The potential for an increased appreciation of our heritage is tremendous and we look forward to making full use of it!

*Christine*

Christine Franklyn  
Marketing Officer



**On Cover:**  
The West India  
Regiment, Early  
19th Century

## Museums & Memory: Home Sweet Home

An exhibition to mark this year's theme for International Museum Day, "Museums & Memory", was mounted in May and memories of domestic life in Barbados between the 1930s and 1960s were brought to life in the form of installations of rooms from that period. This exhibition was highlighted during the guided tours that were offered on Museum Open Day on May 21 and it helped many visitors to relive fond memories.

## A Century of Electricity in Barbados

The Barbados Light and Power Company Limited (BL&P) commissioned the Barbados Museum and Historical Society to produce an exhibition to commemorate its centenary this year. The exhibition was launched on June 15, BL&P employees were allowed private viewings up to June 17 and the exhibition opened to the public from June 18. It continues until September 15.



BMHS Director, Alissandra Cummins, delivers her remarks

## 2011 Lecture Series

The 2011 Lecture Series under the theme A Leg Up or a Hand-out: Philanthropy in Barbados continued with lectures by Dr. Tara Inniss, Alissandra Cummins, Dr. Marcia Burrowes, and Dr. Aviston Downes and culminated with a panel discussion on "The New Philanthropy" on May 24, which was moderated by David Ellis of the Starcom Network. Panelists were Senator The Hon. Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C., President of the BMHS Council and Roosevelt King, Secretary-General of the Barbados Association of Non-governmental Organisations. Those who missed the lectures may watch them online at <http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/videos/museum.asp>.

## Congratulations to Prof. Sir Woodville Marshall

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society extends hearty congratulations to its Senior Vice President of the Council, Prof. Sir Woodville Marshall, on being named a member of the Order of the British Empire, which was announced during the Queen's birthday honours in June. This long-serving member of the BMHS Council and current Chair of the Museum's Publications and Programming Committee has consistently demonstrated his commitment to public education through his active role in the annual Lecture Series, various publications and other initiatives. The BMHS has benefited greatly from Sir Woodville's dedication and recently toasted this very deserving honouree.



# Members' Lounge debuts at Evening Reception

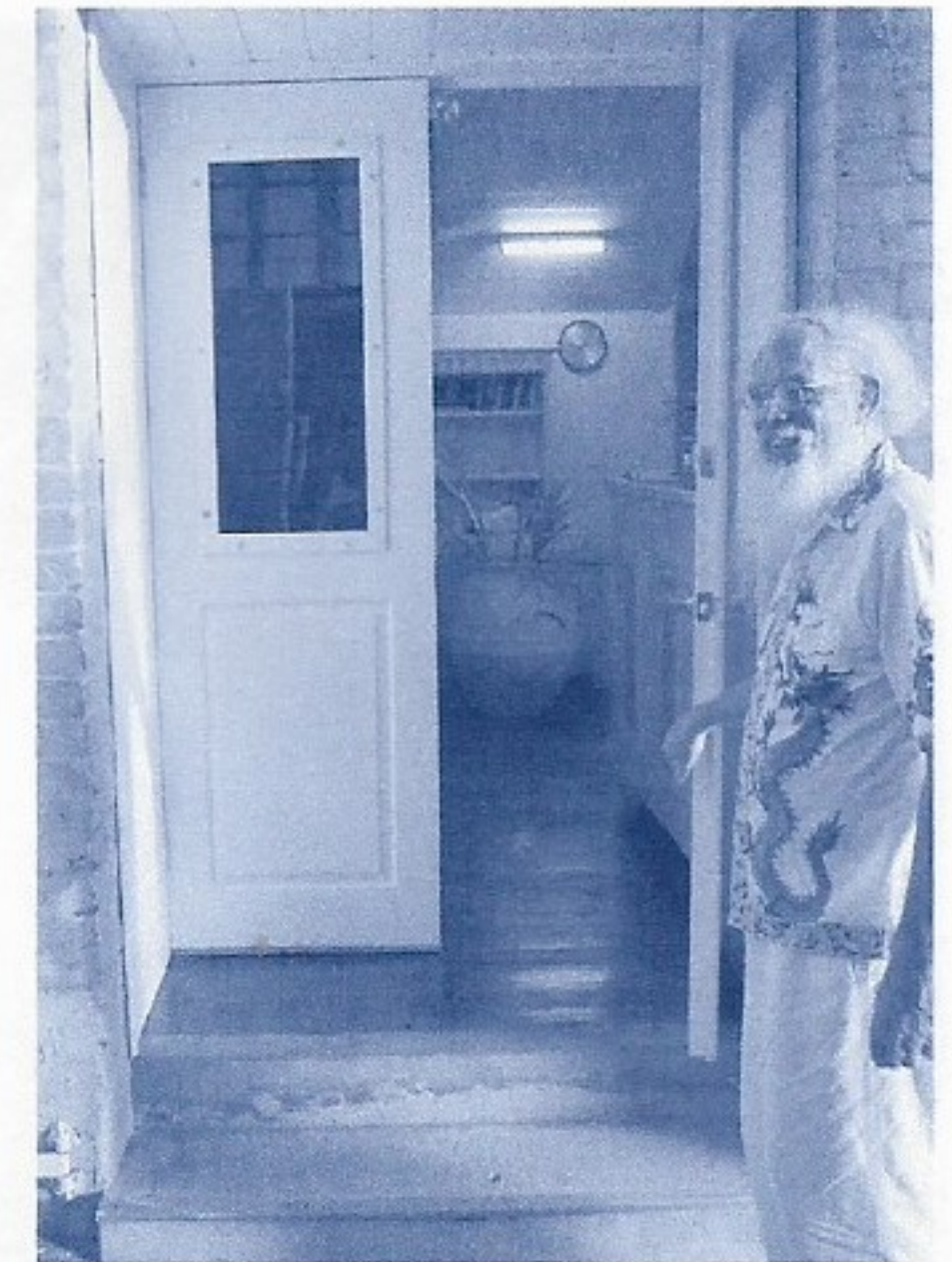
by Linda Branch, Development Officer

On April 21, the Development Department organized a Members' Evening Reception to launch the new Members' Lounge, and provide an opportunity for Barbados Museum & Historical Society members to learn more about upcoming and ongoing programmes taking place during fiscal year 2011-2012.

Representatives from the Museum's Council, Management and Staff cited numerous activities geared to fulfilling the Museum's mission mandate. It was noted that philanthropic support from members played a critical role in enabling the Museum to provide dynamic programming and help preserve the island's heritage.

A highlight of the Reception was the opening of the Members' Lounge. The Lounge provides a new space for members to relax in comfort during visits to the Museum for membership subscription-related transactions, and other general activities. During the proceedings, the Museum gave special thanks to supporters who had donated funds to specifically assist with the Lounge. Supporters included Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Loftfield, Mr. Gerald C. Clarke, Dr. & Mrs. Charles Edwards, Mr. Anthony Fields, Mr. & Mrs. Randall Goddard, Prof. & Mrs. T.A. Hassell, Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Ince, Sir Woodville Marshall, and Mr. Peter Simpson.

The well-attended reception was catered by Anna Went, and entertainment provided by David Hutchinson of Pangroove Elegant Events.



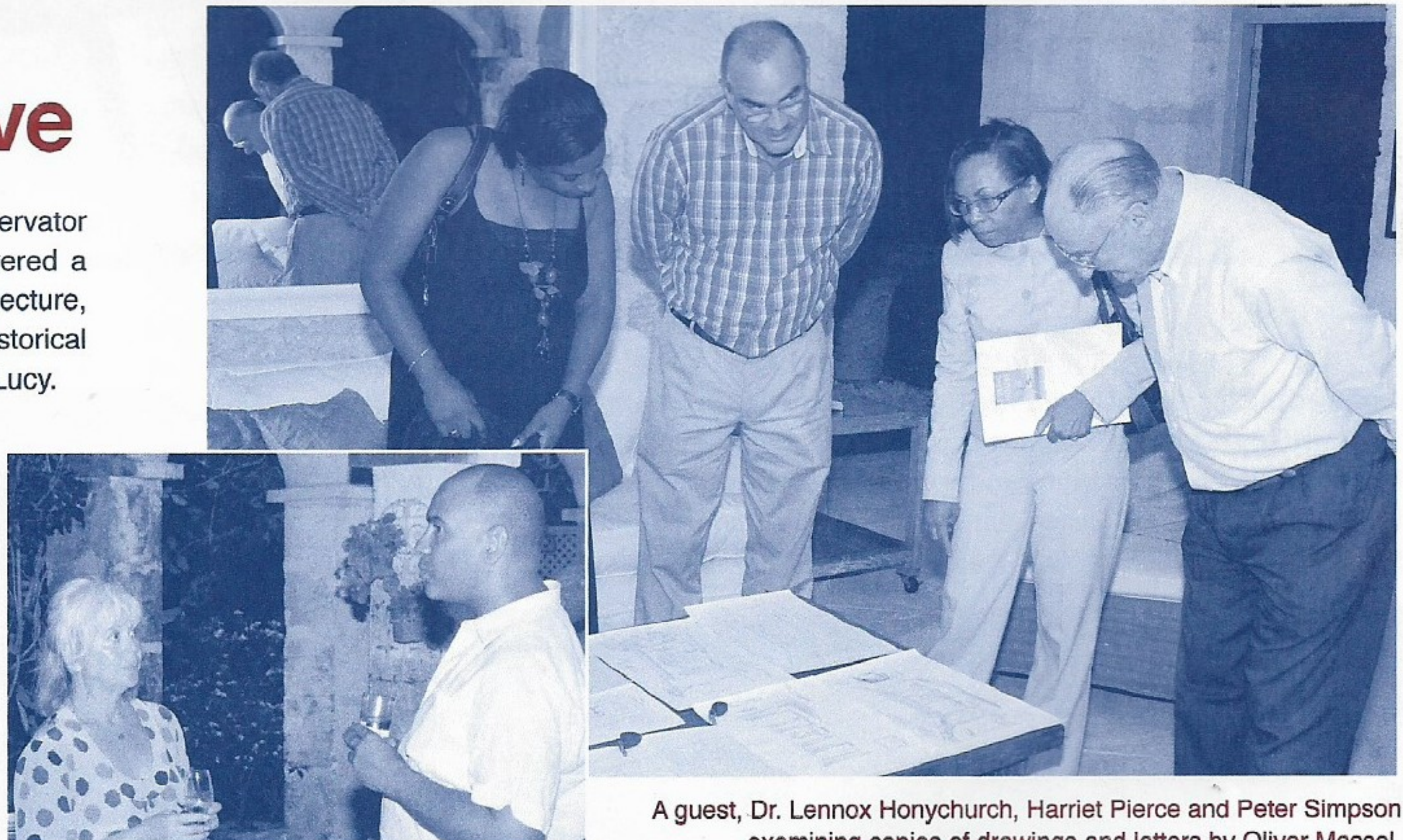
Dr. Tom Loftfield invites members to experience the new Members' Lounge

## The Oliver Messel Archive

On March 11, Anne Grieg a paper conservator from the V&A Museum in London delivered a talk on the Oliver Messel Archive. This lecture, hosted by the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, was held at Fustic House in St. Lucy.

Fustic is said to be Messel's favourite out of several houses he designed on the island of Barbados, and he remodelled it from a rough 18th plantation farm into an estate of 'tearing beauty' for the brother of writer and classicist Robert Graves.

Oliver Messel (1904 – 1978) was an English artist and one of the foremost stage designers of the 20th century.



A guest, Dr. Lennox Honychurch, Harriet Pierce and Peter Simpson examining copies of drawings and letters by Oliver Messel.



Anne Grieg and Nicholas Forde converse after the talk

## World Heritage Inscription

On June 25, it was announced that Barbados had been approved for inscription into the World Heritage list. The BMHS is proud to have been instrumental in this achievement through the contributions of its Director, Alissandra Cummins and Curator – History & Archaeology, Kevin Farmer, in their roles on the Barbados World Heritage Committee. The vast majority of the images that made the nomination dossier a well-illustrated document came from the BMHS' collection. Look out for exciting activities to educate the public about the "outstanding universal value" of Bridgetown and the Garrison.



# New Acquisitions

A musical saw, also called a "singing saw" - a hand saw that was used as a musical instrument, was presented by Ms. Selma Cadogan to the Museum, along with a monetary donation. Her brother was on hand to demonstrate how the instrument used to be played by their father. The Cadogans who reside in the United States felt that the Museum is the best place for the unusual instrument to be kept and preserved and we were honoured to receive it, along with biographical information on their father, who passed away on June 05, 1970. He was born on November 15, 1902.



Presentation of Musical Saw

A framed photograph of Mr. James Emanuel Sisnett BCH was presented to the BMHS by his family. The framing of the photograph and accompanying biography had been coordinated by the Barbados Association of Retired Persons (BARP). Mr. Sisnett turned 111 years of age on February 22, 2011. He is the oldest male in the Caribbean.



## Other new acquisitions:

1966 Challenge Trophy of the Light Aeroplane Challenge Race in Barbados along with photographs of the prize giving ceremony.

C. 1880 Octagonal Sailors Valentine

Barbados Advocate newspaper dated May 31, 1953.



## Donor Acknowledgements - January 01, 2011 to June 30, 2011

### Patrons' Circle (\$25,000 and above)

Government of Barbados  
Peter Moores Barbados Trust

### Benefactors' Circle (\$1,000 to \$24,999)

Bank of Montreal (B'dos) Ltd.  
Barbados Community Foundation  
Barbados Light & Power Ltd.  
Barbados Manufacturers' Association  
Barbados National Bank  
Barbados Public Workers' Co-operative Credit Union  
Barbados Shipping & Trading Co.  
DaCosta Mannings Inc.  
Insurance Corp. of Barbados Ltd.  
Embassy of the United States  
First Citizens Investment Services  
G4S Security Services Ltd.  
Glenhuron Bank Ltd.  
Goddard Enterprises Ltd.  
Gote Properties Inc.  
Lime (Cable & Wireless)  
New England Genealogical Society  
Sagcor General Insurance Inc.  
UWI-Dept Mgmt Studies  
Whitepark Holdings Ltd.  
Mr. Sidney Greenfield  
Mr & Mrs. Arthur Irving  
Mr. & Mrs. Neville E. Isdell  
Dr. & Mrs. Ralph Malone

### Contributors' Circle (\$100 to \$999)

Banks Holding Ltd.  
Bridgetown FisherFolk  
British Women's Club  
Caribbean Consultants Ltd.  
CGM Gallagher Insurance Brokers (Barbados) Ltd.  
Central Bank of Barbados  
Coleridge & Parry School  
Cooper Kauffman Ltd.  
Coral Reef Club  
Duty Free Caribbean/  
Cave Shepherd & Co. Ltd.  
Gale's Agro Products Ltd.  
Grant Preparatory School

Hayden Workman Electrical  
M.W. Consulting Inc.  
Millennium Management Ltd.  
Parsons Pest Control Ltd.  
Realtors Ltd.  
St. Angela's School  
St. Stephen's Nursery School  
St. James Secondary School  
Solar Dynamics Ltd.  
Stephen Walcott & Co.  
Mrs. Selma Y. Cadogan

### Legacy Circle

### Annual Giving Appeal Donors

Miss Heidi Aboab  
Mrs. Cheryl Adams  
Mr. Peter Allen  
Mr. Neville G. Atwell  
Mr. Joseph Bamford  
Mr. & Mrs. Terrence Bickley  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Bortolotti  
Mrs. Doris A. Burbridge  
Mr. Eustace Burnett  
Dr. Clyde Cave  
Mr. Francis Cheeseman  
Mrs. Maris Corbin  
Dean Harold Crichlow  
Mrs. Vivian- Anne Gittens  
Mrs. Hope D. Goddard  
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Goddard  
Mr. Peter Gooding  
Prof. & Mrs. Trevor Hassell  
Mr. Harry Holcomb  
Mr. G.R.S Holder  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Kent  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Kirton  
Mr. Richard Leslie  
Mr. & Mrs. Errol Marshall  
Marie Lady Marshall  
Mr. Robert Massiah  
Mr. Erskine Rose  
Sir Ronald & Lady Sanders  
Ms. Henrietta Sealy  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Sisnett  
Sir Frederick & Lady Smith  
Ms. Audrey Thomas

Mr. William Tomlin  
Mr. Stephen Walcott  
Mrs. Ruth Ward  
Mrs. Janet Wesson  
Miss Audine C. Wilkinson  
Mrs. Susan E. Winsor

### In-Kind Services Supporters

Advocate Publishers (2000) Inc.  
Barbados Investment & Development Corp.  
Caribbean Broadcasting Corp.  
Central Bank of Barbados  
Cot Printery  
CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank  
Friends of the Museum  
Fustic House  
Hilton Hotel  
Nation Publishing Company Ltd.  
Print Source  
Sandy Lane Hotel Co. Ltd.  
Tall Ships Cruise Management Ltd.  
The Holiday Channel/MCTV 109  
TMR Sales & Services Ltd.  
Williams Equipment Ltd.  
Williams Industries  
Mr. Paul Altman  
Ms. Natalie Belgrave  
Mrs. Emelda Browne  
Mrs. Alline Browne  
Dr. Trevor .A. Carmichael, Q.C.  
Mrs. Virginia Challenor  
Mr. Gerald C. Clarke  
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Edwards  
Mr. Anthony Fields  
Mr. & Mrs. William Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Ince  
Ms. Fiona James  
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Lofffield  
Sir Woodville Marshall  
Mrs. Gilly Metzgen  
Mr. Adrian Randall  
Mrs. Patricia Stafford  
Mr. Peter Simpson  
Mr. Tony Troulan



# Library News

## New Additions

In the two-month period April to May, 61 new items were added to the collection. This comprises both purchases and donations; the most significant being 49 books donated by Yasmin Dean-Wason from the estate of her uncle, Rex Wason.

Rex Wason joined the Barbados Museum and Historical Society on May 30, 1996. His love and commitment to the Society were evident when, just before his death on March 23, 2011, he donated his 1951 Lodge School blazer and a refractometer from his days as a sugar technologist. It is therefore quite fitting that his books should find a home at the institution he loved.

A Barbadian by birth, Rex Wason spent most of his working life in the sugar industry, having worked in Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, Belize and London. Holding to the belief that "If we are to heed the past to prepare for the future we should listen to these quiet voices of a generation that speaks to us of duty and honour, sacrifice and accomplishments," Rex embarked on a career of public service. Organisations such as The St. John's Ambulance Brigade, the Barbados National Trust, the Royal Commonwealth Society, the West India Committee in London, the Barbados Boy Scouts Association, the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme, The Salvation Army, the Rotary Club of Barbados and of course, the Barbados Museum and Historical Society all benefited from Rex's call to duty. To perpetuate his memory, a Rex Wason Collection has been opened within the Library's computerised catalogue. In this way, although his books may be physically dispersed on the shelves, they are brought together intellectually for research and in memoriam.



Harriet Pierce assisting a client in the Library

## Visitors

On June 29, the Library received a surprise visit from Cecil Maxwell Shilstone Jr., his wife Sandra and their two sons Spencer and Cameron. The visitors were eager to learn about Cecil's great uncle Eustace Maxwell Shilstone, who was the driving force behind the formation of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, serving as its Honorary Secretary from 1933 until 1959 and as President from 1959-1961.

The Shilstone family, who reside in New Orleans, were given a glimpse of the outstanding contribution of their ancestor by the Librarian, Harriet Pierce, and Researcher, Miguel Pena, whose article "Eustace Maxwell Shilstone: the Man not the Museum" appeared in Volume 44 of the Journal. The family was particularly interested in the Shilstone notebooks and the memorial plaque which was erected in 1973 when a refurbished Museum Library was reopened as the Shilstone Memorial Library.

The Library offered genealogical research services free of cost during Cultural Heritage Week, May 16 to 20. It was a fitting activity to mark the theme of International Museum Day, "Museums and Memory."

## Journals Urgently Needed

The BMHS is seeking your help in locating copies of its Journal for a digitization project. If you have the following journals and you are willing to donate, lend or sell them, please contact the Librarian, Harriet Pierce, at 427-0201 or by email: [library@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:library@barbmuse.org.bb)

YEAR	VOLUME	NO
1935	2	1, 2 & 4
1936	3	1, 2 & 4
1936-37	4	3 & 4
1937-38	5	4
1938-39	6	4
1939-40	7	1 & 2
1941-42	9	2
1942-43	10	2
1945-46	13	3 & 4
1946-47	14	3
1949-50	17	1
1954-55	22	2



# Retirement Wishes and Appreciation for the former Deputy Director

by Linda Branch, Development Officer

*What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us - Ralph Waldo Emerson*

The words of American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson not only reflect the heartfelt appreciation expressed by Council and Staff to retiring Deputy Director Dr. Thomas Lofffield, but also the commitment and passion that Dr. Lofffield brought to his tenure at the Barbados Museum & Historical Society (BMHS).

Dr. Lofffield, who retired on May 31, was presented with an 'award of thanks' during an intimate gathering of council members and staff on his last day. Director Alissandra Cummins acknowledged his outstanding service and dedicated leadership since joining the staff full-time in 2005. Prior to serving as Deputy Director, he was also affiliated with the Museum on a consultancy basis for at least four years. His Deputy Director's responsibilities included heading the Curatorial Department.

"In the four and half years which I have worked at the BMHS I have observed Tom as being a hands-on type of Deputy Director," stated Acting Assistant Curator/Researcher Miguel Pena, who first met Professor Lofffield eleven years ago while still a student at the University of the West Indies. "Tom was always willing to assist, and provide the moral support required to get the job done."

According to Mr. Pena, "patience and honesty were and are important qualities of the man who I have been proud to be taught by, worked with and befriended." Speaking on behalf of his Curatorial Department colleagues, Mr. Pena said Dr. Lofffield's presence at the BMHS would be missed but encouraged him to enjoy his retirement as it "had been well earned".

Ms. Cummins emphasized that a special plaque presented to Dr. Lofffield, as well as a bouquet of flowers to his wife Kathleen who served in the Friends of the Museum support group, were but small tokens of appreciation for their commitment to the Museum and heritage preservation endeavors. In his remarks, BMHS Council President Dr. Trevor Carmichael, added that he could always count on Dr. Lofffield's reliability in achieving objectives when called upon. He also cited various projects, including the new Museum Entrance/Gift Shop, which the former Deputy Director spearheaded to bring on-stream.

The Deputy Director, whose tenure was highlighted in a slide show, also received thanks for his active support of philanthropic initiatives which he championed to encourage growth of private contributions to the Museum.



Council President, Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C., presents Dr. Tom Lofffield with a plaque

## Museum Council & Staff

Patron  
His Excellency Sir Clifford  
Husbands G.C.M.G. K.A.  
Governor General of Barbados

### COUNCIL

President  
Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C.

Senior Vice President  
Prof. Woodville Marshall

Junior Vice President  
Dr. Justin Robinson

Ordinary Members  
Mrs. Virginia Challenor  
Mrs. Maureen Davis  
Mr. Richard Goddard  
Mrs. Susan Mahon  
Mr. Humphrey Metzgen  
Mr. Peter Simpson

Government Appointees  
Mrs. Rosemary Alleyne

Dr. Richard Goodridge  
Mrs. Selma Thompson  
Mrs. Celia Toppin  
Mrs. Andrea Wells

### MUSEUM STAFF

Director  
Alissandra Cummins

Development Officer  
Linda Branch

Deputy Director  
Dr. Thomas Lofffield

Education Officer  
Peggy McGeary

Marketing Officer  
Christine Franklyn

Librarian  
Harriet Pierce

Finance Officer  
Errol Clarke

Administrative Officer  
Beulah Burke

Administration Assistant  
– Accounts  
Kimberley Hall

Administration Assistant  
– Development  
Tamara Griffith

Administration Assistant  
– Merchandising  
Marcia Griffith

Event Coordinator  
Leshay Drayton

Receptionist & Shop Assistant  
Kandacey Rollock

### Curatorial

History and Archaeology  
Kevin Farmer

Art and Art History  
Allison Callender

Natural History  
Kerron Hamblin

Registrar  
Angela Boyce

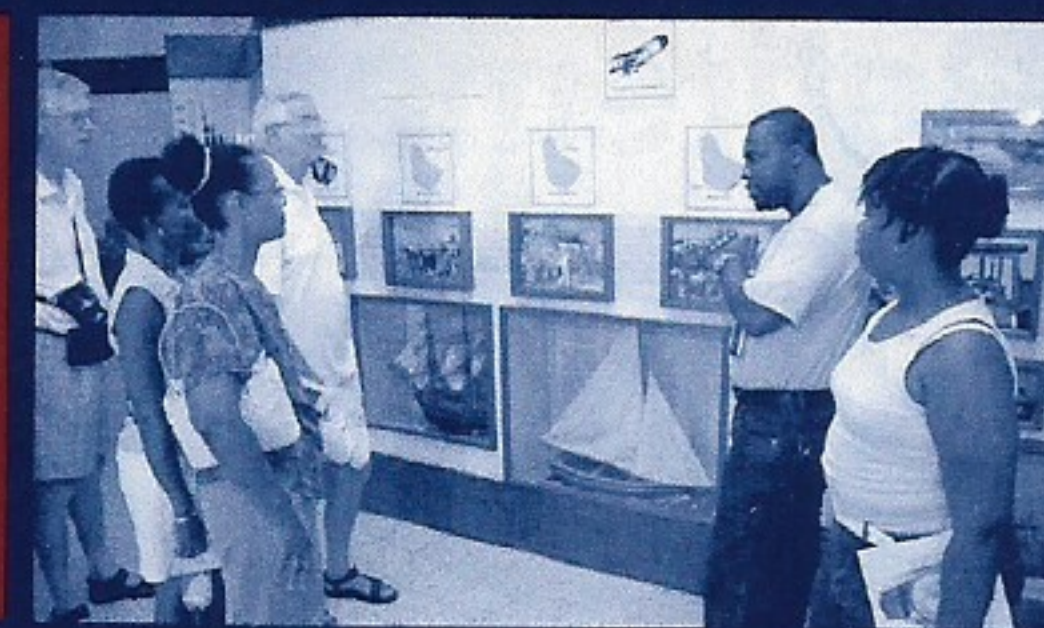
Researcher/History (Ag)  
Miguel Pena

Technical and Maintenance  
Sandra Brathwaite  
Merna Bryan  
Stephen Layne  
William White  
Charles Wiggins



# Artifacts

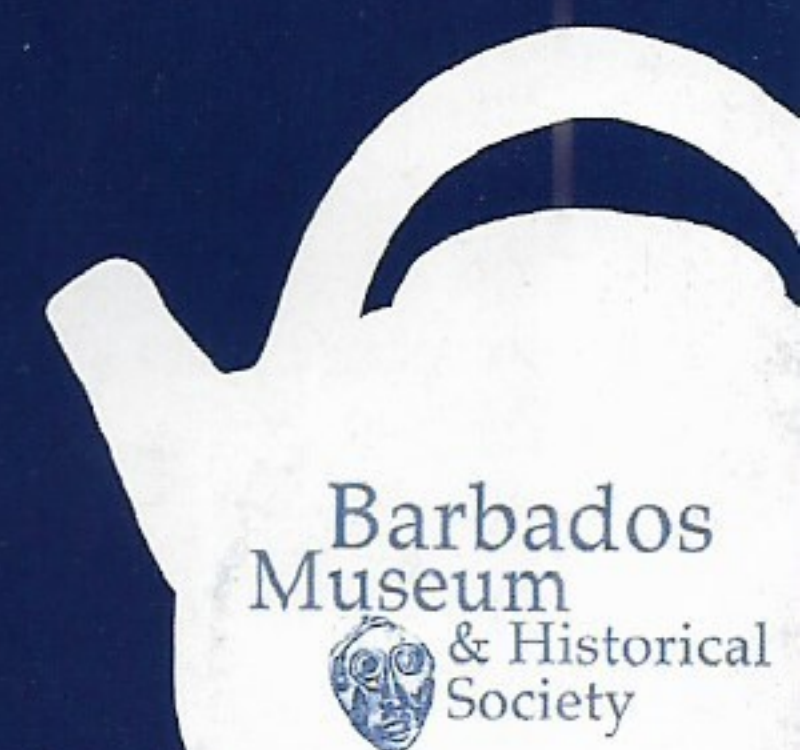
Areas for Involvement  
Friends of the Museum and Volunteers.



## Call For Library Volunteers

The Shilstone Memorial Library is in need of committed volunteers who have an interest in historical research and in the preparation of materials to facilitate such research. If you are such a person, and you have some free time, contact the Librarian, Harriet Pierce, at 427-0201 or [library@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:library@barbmuse.org.bb) to make a valuable contribution to the preservation of Barbadian heritage.

Contact us today:  
Barbados Museum & Historical Society  
St. Ann's Garrison  
St. Michael BB14038  
Barbados  
Tel: 1-246-427-0201  
Email: [info@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:info@barbmuse.org.bb)



## ON SERVICE

Barbados Museum & Historical Society  
St. Ann's Garrison  
St. Michael BB14038  
Barbados, W.I.