

Issue #109

Barbados
Museum
& Historical
Society

Artifacts

BARBADOS MUSEUM &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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Dear Member,

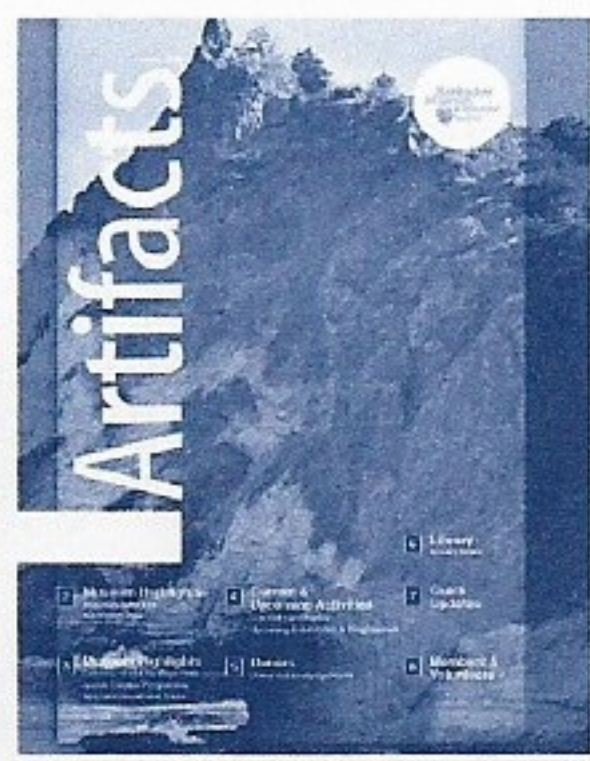
Within the BMHS' new strategic plan is our vision: "To be the premiere institution for dynamic cultural and heritage experiences". We are working hard to live up that vision, while simultaneously fulfilling our mandate to collect, document and conserve evidence of Barbados' cultural, historical and environmental heritage, and to interpret and present this evidence for all sectors of society.

Local artisans continue to seek opportunities to display and sell their wares. Meanwhile, tourists continue to ask for Barbadian-made products and they have often given glowing testimonies of their positive interactions with locals. Through the new Heritage Days initiative, the Museum is aiming to satisfy both locals and visitors to the island, while increasing our customer base.

As we aim to re-position the institution as one that is seen as relevant to today's society, several programmes were developed to tap into popular interest in the Crop Over Festival. The Garrison World Heritage Walk and special bus tours similarly emerged from an assessment of the types of activities that interest people but can also be educational.

Our various audiences are demonstrating how we can fit their needs and we're listening. You too can make your voice heard. Add a post to www.facebook.com/barbadosemuseum or contact us at Tel: 427-0201 or Email: musepr@barbmuse.org.bb with your ideas on how we can make the Museum more relevant to you.

Christine
Christine Franklyn
Marketing Officer

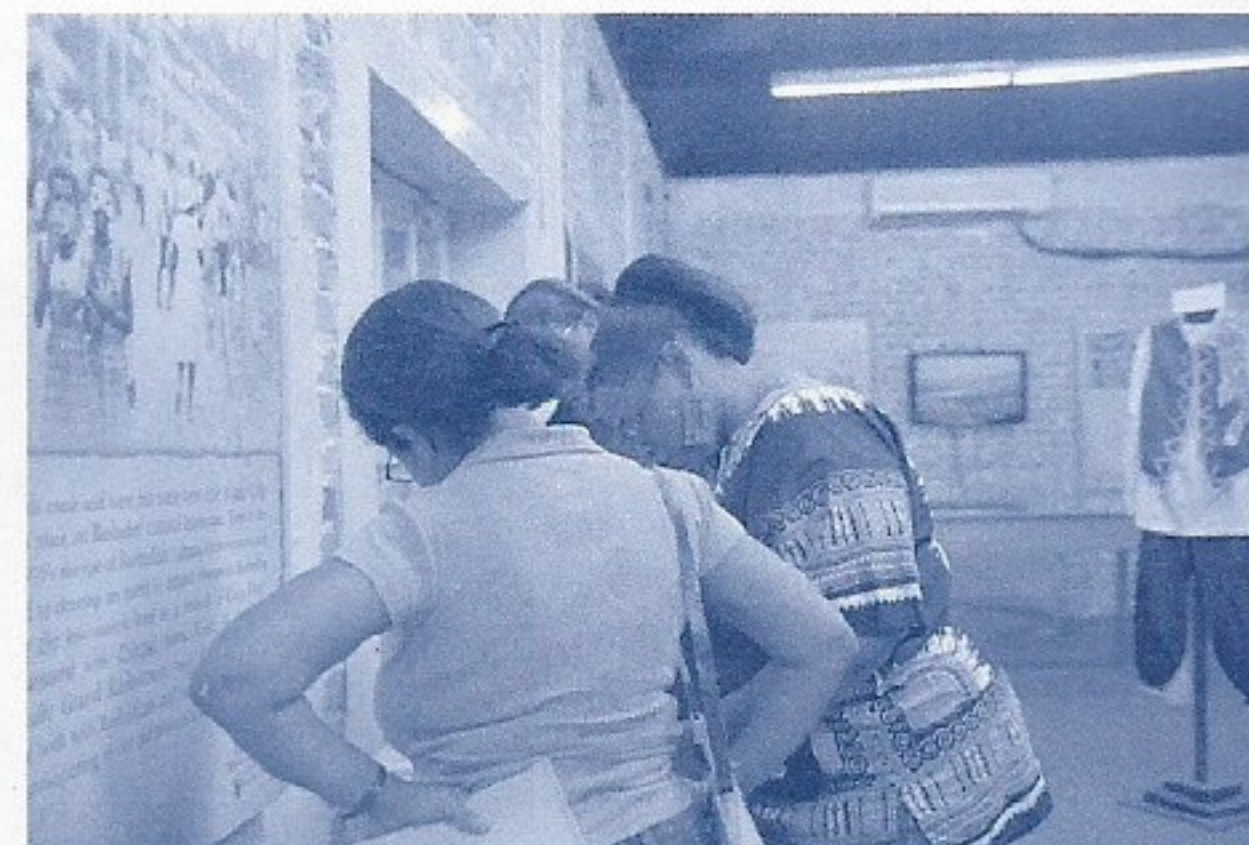


On Cover:
The cover of the Preserving Paradise book, featuring the photograph Pico Tenerife by William Cummins

Museum Activities to Celebrate Crop Over

Exhibition

The exhibition *The Evolution of a Festival: Crop Over through the Centuries* traced the story of how Crop Over began in the mill yard and evolved to the modern music and costumes we see today. Sponsors were the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Ltd. and Sagicor General Insurance Inc.



Panel Discussion

On July 17, a panel discussion entitled *Talking Crop Over: How the Festival Has Evolved Over the Past 40 Years* was hosted by the BMHS at the Museum. It was moderated by Anthony "Admiral" Nelson. Panelists were Dr. Marcia Burrowes, Ronnie Carrington, Marcia Chandler, Anthony 'Gabby' Carter, Antonio "Boo" Rudder and Elizabeth Watson. The discussion was very thought-provoking and several issues for further discussion were raised including, the origins of Crop Over and the various emphases of the Crop Over Festival over the years, archiving and documentation of local music and challenges in the costume design sector.



Left to right: Dr. Marcia Burrowes, Ronnie Carrington, Elizabeth Watson, Marcia Chandler, Antonio "Boo" Rudder and Anthony 'Gabby' Carter.

Crop Over from Slavery to Independence

"Treat for the Labourers": Crop Over from Slavery to Independence was the title of a presentation by Dr. Marcia Burrowes, which followed the panel discussion, to allow for deeper exploration of the origins of Crop Over Festival. A full house gathered at the Museum on August 10 to take in the presentation.

Heritage Days

A new initiative called Heritage Days has been initiated and the first of these were held on July 13 and 27 under the brand Crop Over Heritage Days. The aim was to attract higher than usual numbers of visitors to the Museum, and this was achieved. The level of interest from both the local and visiting public who braved the rain was very encouraging and there was extensive coverage by all media houses.



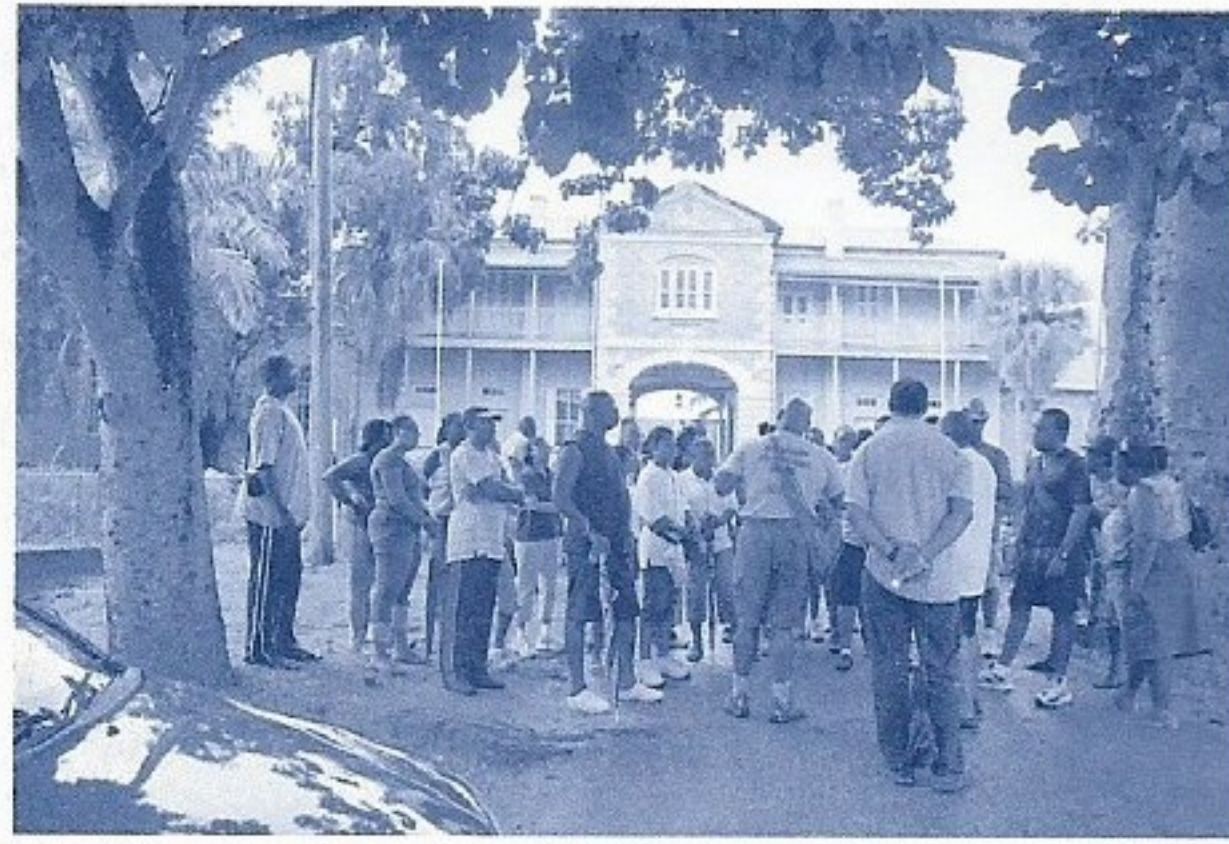
BMHS staff in Crop Over attire: on the left is Leshay Drayton and at right is Linda Branch

Special Bus Tours

To mark Crop Over and the Season of Emancipation, special bus tours were organised by the Museum. The response from locals, visiting Barbadians who live overseas and tourists was overwhelming.

Garrison World Heritage Walk

To mark the designation of Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison as a UNESCO World Heritage site, the BMHS organised an educational walking tour of the Garrison Historic Area sponsored by the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Ltd.



One of the groups of tour participants gets an introduction from tour guide Victor Cooke.



Left to right: Lakeisha Mahon, Stacey Hall and Carolyn Griffith from ICBL

Junior Curator Programme

This year's Junior Curators learned and achieved a great deal during their time at the Museum from June 27 to August 19. Rhadika Freeman, Roshanna Trim, Saashen Sealy, Jamal Blenman, Rhea Rollock and Phillipa Murray worked diligently conducting tours with over 2,500 visitors from local summer camps and visiting school groups, as well as working with 300 documents in the Curatorial Department and documenting shells and ceramic toys and other art objects. They also created posters for the Crop Over Heritage Days, assisted with mailings and newspaper clippings, and most of them served as guides for the Garrison World Heritage Walk.

Special Educational Tours

On July 6 the Museum hosted the Minister and staff of the Ministry of International Transport and a ministerial contingent from Panama for a

tour led by Peggy McGeary, BMHS Education Officer, with assistance from Miguel Pena, BMHS Assistant Curator – History (Ag). The Panamanian contingent also included the Panamanian High Commissioner. The tour culminated with viewings of a small display of books, postcards and images related to Panama, which was mounted by Harriet Pierce, BMHS Librarian.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of New York, one of the foremost educational institutions engaged in research on slavery, spent two weeks in Barbados exploring "Slavery and the Slave Trade in Barbados". A tour of the Barbados Museum as was recommended to them by a past visitor to the Museum, and in addition Peggy McGeary suggested that the tour be complemented by visits to relevant sites around the island. They were reportedly very satisfied with their resulting experience with us on July 15.

Barbados Museum & Historical Society Participates in Charleston Celebration

by John Hart

The Consulate General of Barbados in Miami, in association with the Barbados-American Chamber of Commerce, Charles Towne Landing State Park and the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor Commission hosted a four-day event on Charleston, South Carolina, from September 2 to 5. It celebrated the historical ties between Barbados and South Carolina and the landing of the first Bajan colonists at the Charles Towne Landing site.

The centerpiece of the event was the Bridgetown Market held on Saturday, September 3 at the Landing, which showcased a number of exhibitors and vendors displaying Carolina and Bajan arts and crafts, as well as other products from Barbados. The all-day event abounded with the sound of steel drums, the aromatic smells of Bajan cuisine and colourful costuming, which afforded Carolinians the opportunity to gain some sense of Crop Over festivities and dress. At the far end of the park, a typical neighbourhood and colourful rum shop were erected featuring hot fish cakes, Banks beer, rum tasting and several tables for folks to slam dominoes. The Bridgetown Market was well received with over 550 members of the Barbadian diaspora in attendance, and hundreds of folks from the local Charleston community and southeastern United States.

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society had a prominent tent location on the site for the Saturday event, experiencing a steady stream of interested visitors throughout the day. Of particular interest to visitors were inquiries on ancestry and the methods and means available to go about

tracing family roots both in Charleston and Barbados. We were very fortunate in that the Museum booth was staffed by knowledgeable Museum members Tracey Todd of Middleton Plantation and Mary Battle, a PhD candidate from Emory University. We were particularly blessed with the assistance of Dr. Karl Watson who provided his special insight and placed events and people in proper historical context for visitors. During the day we acquired eight new Museum members and sold a number of Museum publications.

As the National Association of Barbadian Organisations (NABO) has a number of chapters in the U.S. and all have routinely planned activities throughout the year, I am encouraged by the prospect these individual events may have for further promotion of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society.



Second from right is Tracey Todd and behind the table is Mary Battle. Photo courtesy of Museum member John Hart.

Upcoming Exhibitions & Programmes

Paintings in the Members' Lounge

Paintings now on display in the Members' Lounge are:

"Children around a coal pot" by Golde White

"Abstract oil on canvas" by Arnold Toulon

"Young Man" by Hector Whistler

These pieces are all on loan from Museum member Maudry Beverley Lashley, PhD and will be on display until November 20. Come by sometime soon and enjoy the comfort of your Members' Lounge.

The New World

Trace how the natural world has been documented from the 17th to 20th centuries. Create your own documentation by drawing the natural history specimens, such as the Coco de Mer. The exhibition continues until December 16.

Coco de Mer/ Seychelles Nut/ Sea Coconut



- A palm found only on the islands of Praslin and Curieuse in the Seychelles
- Legend has it that sailors, who first saw the unique double coconut floating in the sea, imagined that it resembled a woman's disembodied buttocks.
- Until the true source of the nut was discovered in 1768, it was believed by many to grow on a mythical tree at the bottom of the sea.
The name Coco de Mer is French, and means "coconut of the sea".
- Come to "The New World" exhibition to see the Coco de Mer for yourself and to learn more about it.

Upcoming Exhibitions & Programmes

November 01 - 30

Loose Change - a mini-exhibition of coins from as early as the 17th century, including the Barbados Pineapple Penny of 1788.

November 23 - December 11

War Diaries - Memories of War video in the Barbados Museum's Military Gallery

November 25 & 26

Experiencing Barbadian Heritage

Friday, Nov. 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Library Open Day: come learn about the wealth of resources to be found in the Museum's Shilstone Memorial Library that can aid your family history research and more. A door prize will be up for grabs. Used books and notebooks

will be available at bargain prices! Bajan delicacies will be on sale. Schoolchildren will be on the compound, enjoying ole time games.

Saturday, Nov. 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Independence Heritage Day: Textiles (batik, tie-dye, etc.), basketry and wood craft will be on sale. Get unique handmade gifts and enjoy sumptuous Bajan food and drink. The Shilstone Memorial Library will be open on this day. Admission: FREE for all Caricom nationals with ID.

November 28 - December 31

A Few of our Favourite Things

New acquisitions will be showcased throughout the galleries and in the Members' Lounge, including a musical saw, a bound copy of a 1949 Barbados Advocate newspaper and other fascinating objects.

Can You Help Us?

Do you have artefacts or knowledge about polo? The BMHS is seeking individuals who are willing to loan objects related to polo and would like to interview those who have been involved as former or present players, fans or supporters the sport. If you can help us to trace the history of polo in Barbados for an intended exhibition, please contact the BMHS Registrar at Tel: 427-0201 or Email: registrar@barbmuse.org.bb by January 31, 2012.

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Library News

New Acquisitions

In the three-month period, July to September 2011, 46 items were acquired by the Library, comprising 21 purchases and 25 gifts. The most significant gifts were two digital collections that would greatly enhance the Library's ability to respond to historical and genealogical queries.

The Westbury Cemetery Records, consisting of burial records for the period 1877 to 2008 and stillborn burials between 1905 and 2009, were donated by Council Member, Richard Goddard through Don Mayers, a member residing in Canada.

This information, carried in four Excel files and consisting of over 150,000 records, was entered by Maude White under the supervision of Mary Gleadall. The project was made possible through the support of Richard Goddard. Although it is hoped that eventually this resource would be made available on the Museum's website, at the present time it can be accessed through the Gittens family site: <http://blog.gittensfamily.ca/westbury-cemetery/search-records> which is maintained by Cliff Gittens.

The Hughes Plantation Records Collection, comprising 23 Word files of information on Barbadian plantations compiled by Historian Ronnie Hughes, was donated to the Library by Council Member, Professor Sir Woodville Marshall. This alphabetically-arranged resource covering the period of the 1600s to the 1850s is a valuable addition to information on Barbadian plantations, their ownership and acreage.

Engaging the Community

Library Open Day – November 25

With a history going back to the formation of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society in 1933 and a rich collection of over 6,000 books, journals and pamphlets, the Shilstone Memorial Library is an important part of the Barbadian historical and cultural landscape.

In celebration of Barbados' 45th anniversary of Independence, the Shilstone Memorial Library will join the Educational and Curatorial arms of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society to engage the public in a programme under the theme "Experiencing Barbadian Heritage."

At its Open Day on November 25, the public is invited to visit the Library between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to learn about its history, resources and services, and how these can be used to assist them in their research. Visitors will not only get a chance to see the Library at work, but also can enjoy a small exhibit focusing on Barbados' Independence and a display of Barbadiana, while securing a chance to win the door prize of a book on Barbadian heritage. Used books will also be on sale.

Basic Genealogy Workshop

March 17, 2012

Barbadians are becoming increasingly interested in researching their family history. From its inception, the Barbados Museum and Historical Society has been cognisant of the role of family research in its wider mandate to document, conserve and interpret the historical and environmental heritage of Barbados. Enshrined in the Act which gave birth to the Society, was the directive "to study and put on permanent record the history of the Island, its leading families and public men..."

In keeping with this, the Shilstone Memorial Library will host a genealogy workshop on March 17, 2012. This basic workshop is aimed at providing Barbadians with the tools to conduct their own family research. Participants will benefit from the experience of family researcher, Dr. Patricia Stafford and Librarian Harriet Pierce. A case study of work done on the Forte family will be presented by Janice Forte. The workshop, which will run from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., will offer participants four information sessions, a copy of the book "Tracing Ancestors in Barbados: A Practical Guide" by Geraldine Lane, lunch and two liquid breaks at an Early Bird cost of BDS\$100. Please contact Harriet Pierce at library@barbmuse.org.bb or telephone 427-0201 to register or for further information. The Early Bird deadline for registration is January 02, 2012.

New Deputy Director

The BMHS is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Kevin Farmer as Deputy Director, effective August 08, 2011. Kevin has a long association with the Museum, dating back to his days as a guest curator and curatorial assistant working on the BMHS' archaeology collection. In 1997, he joined the Museum staff as Assistant Curator – History and Archaeology and in 2005 was promoted to Curator – History and Archaeology.

Friends of the Museum Meeting

Do you have some time and/or resources to help us enhance the work of the Museum? Then, we look forward to seeing you on Saturday, November 12, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. as the Deputy Director shares his insight on exciting developments at the Museum and you'll learn how you can support the institution's growth. The group's volunteer coordinator is BMHS member Mrs. Gilly Metzgen. Refreshments will be served.

Preserving Paradise Book

Now available at the Museum Gift Shop is *Preserving Paradise: A Collection of Lectures to Commemorate the Life & Work of the Late Dr. Colin Hudson*, a new publication by the BMHS and UWI. Edited by Prof. C.M. Sean Carrington, this well-illustrated book features a tribute to Dr. Hudson by Keith Laurie and lectures by Prof. Hans Machel, Winston Cox,

Dr. Angela Fields, Prof. Robin Mahon, Dr. Leonard Nurse and Dr. Karl Watson. Museum members pay only \$45, with their 10% discount. All others pay \$50. Get your copies early!

Museum Gift Shop News

Just arrived:

The *Sugar Barons: Family, Corruption, Empire and War* (hardback) by Matthew Parker, available from the Museum Gift Shop for only \$49.99. Mr. Parker did some of the research for this book in the Museum's Shilstone Memorial Library and former Librarian Joan Brathwaite is listed in the Acknowledgements.

Tracing Ancestors in Barbados: A Practical Guide by the late Geraldine Lane is back in print and available in the Museum Gift Shop.

No Fine Craft Festival This Year

Please note that there will be no Fine Craft Festival this December, and we apologise for any inconvenience or disappointment this may cause. Energies and resources will instead be focused on a new fundraising initiative, which will take place in the new year.

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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 to make a valuable contribution to the preservation of Barbadian heritage.

Contact us today:
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