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Barbados
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& Historical
Society

Artists

BARBADOS MUSEUM &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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Members & Volunteers

Dear Member,

Time flies when you're having fun! Where did 2011 go? We hope you have enjoyed the new initiatives offered by the BMHS exclusively to Museum members throughout the year. These activities included History Group sessions, sea turtle watches, a panel discussion on the evolution of Crop Over, the private viewing of The New World exhibition and launch of the BMHS publication Preserving Paradise and the opportunity to attend the Borusan Quartet concert. The creation of a Members' Lounge was also a new benefit of membership.

In addition, there were many other exhibitions and programmes to which both members and the general public were invited. The coming year promises to be equally exciting for all of us, as the Museum's Council and employees continue to identify innovative ways to fulfil our mandate and to meet the objectives outlined in the 2010-2013 Strategic Plan. The re-designed BMHS website, which went live in June 2011, will be officially launched in February after a special Members' Area on the site is completed. How can we serve you better in 2012? Let us know by contacting us at Email: musepr@barbmuse.org.bb or Tel: 427-0201.

Christine

Christine Franklyn
Marketing Officer



On Cover:
The Borusan
Quartet in concert
at the Museum

Annual General Meeting

The 2011 Annual General Meeting of the BMHS, held on November 28, was well attended. Dr. Ashwell Thomas was elected to become an Ordinary Member of Council for the first time, while Peter Simpson demitted his post as the longest serving member, after serving as a dedicated Council member for over 20 years.

Mr. Simpson's loyal service on the Council was highly appreciated and his continued commitment to the museum's goals and objectives are to be commended.

At the AGM, Council President, Dr. Trevor Carmichael, noted, "The Museum has kept pace with our national development and in many ways since our genesis in 1933, has helped to shape that development, and to act as an important catalyst in the creation of change. It has fostered change in the areas of national education, the environment, archaeology and art in its many dimensions."

Chairman of the BMHS' Finance and General Management Committee, Humphrey Metzgen, announced that the museum is on course to achieve its strategic plans and improve its revenue performance, even in these difficult economic times. He put this good news down to three things: a dedicated staff, good corporate governance and financial discipline.

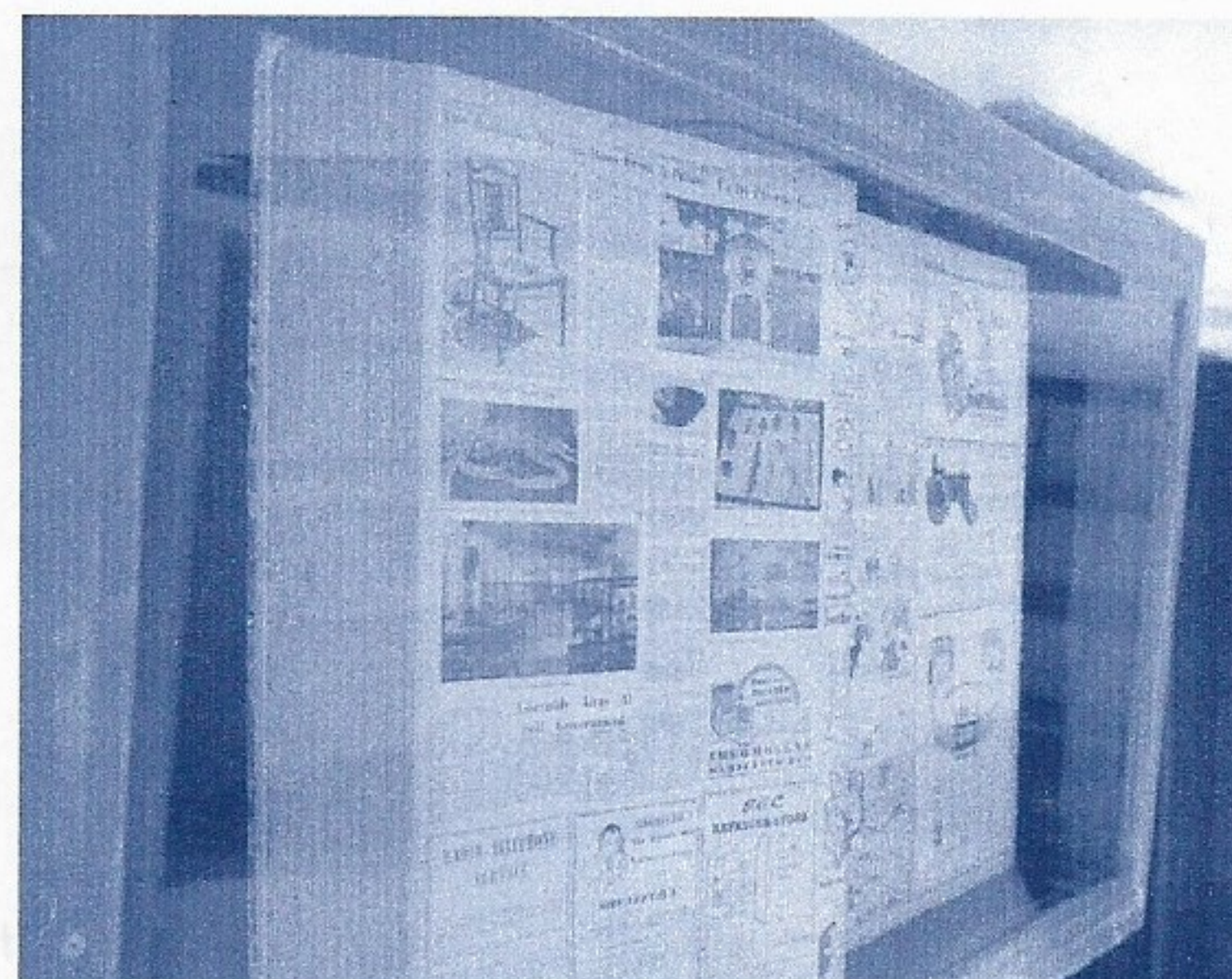
Metzgen commented "In 2011 the museum recorded operating surplus for the first time in 75 years and both the staff and stakeholders should be proud of this achievement". He went on to caution observers however that next year might be a more difficult economic environment to operate in and that the museum may have to police a tighter cash flow and more prudent spending policies than in the past if we are to maintain our exhibitions, publications and other programmes in our strategic plan.

Given this, the museum is forecasting that the 2012 financials should match this year's results.

Allissandra Cummins, BMHS Director, pointed out, "This institution has offered in depth exploration of Barbadian historical and environmental experiences divided between our exhibitions and public programming. Moving forward the Society will bring to the fore the high quality of its collections and its research, its exhibitions and its programming, to resonate with the needs and aspirations of the community."

A Few of our Favourite Things

As an added feature of the Annual General Meeting, an exhibition of the Museum's new acquisitions, entitled A Few of our Favourite Things, was mounted. On display were a bound copy of issues of the Barbados Advocate (in its former broadsheet format) from September to December 1949, a passport issued on August 26, 1920 and Sam Lord's Castle memorabilia from the early 1900s, along with the photograph and biography of 111-year-old James Sisnett and the musical saw, which were featured in earlier editions of the Artifacts newsletter. The exhibition continued through to December 31.



The 1949 Barbados Advocate

Minister of Culture's Visit

On October 14, The Hon. Stephen Lashley, Minister of Family, Culture, Sports and Youth visited the Barbados Museum to become more familiar with who we are, what we do and our physical space. He met the Museum's employees and was taken on a tour of the galleries and of neighbouring buildings, including Block B, which we have started to use for storage of our collections.



Minister Lashley (centre) being taken to Block B by Kevin Farmer (right), Alissandra Cummins (second from right), along with Christine Franklyn (left), Linda Branch (second from left) and Errol Clarke (third from left), directly behind the Minister is Shirley Farnum, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Culture. Peggy McGeary and Celia Toppin, Director of the Division of Culture, were also in the touring party.

Opening of New World Exhibition

Museum members were invited to attend a private viewing on October 16 of *The New World* exhibition. Assistant Curator – Natural History, Kerron Hamblin, pointed out to attendees that this was the Museum's first exhibition of natural history prints. He explained that illustrations help scientists to identify and classify specimens, and these illustrations need to be detailed to ensure accuracy. The exhibition continued until December 10. It was sponsored by LIME and the US Embassy.



Kerron Hamblin addressing attendees at the private viewing. Standing adjacent to Kerron is Prof. C.M. Sean Carrington.

Preserving Paradise

During the private viewing of *The New World* exhibition, the new BMHS publication *Preserving Paradise: A Series of Lectures to Commemorate the Life and Work of the Late Dr. Colin Hudson* was officially launched. Editor of the collection of lectures, Prof. C.M. Sean Carrington said, "My wish was to stir the

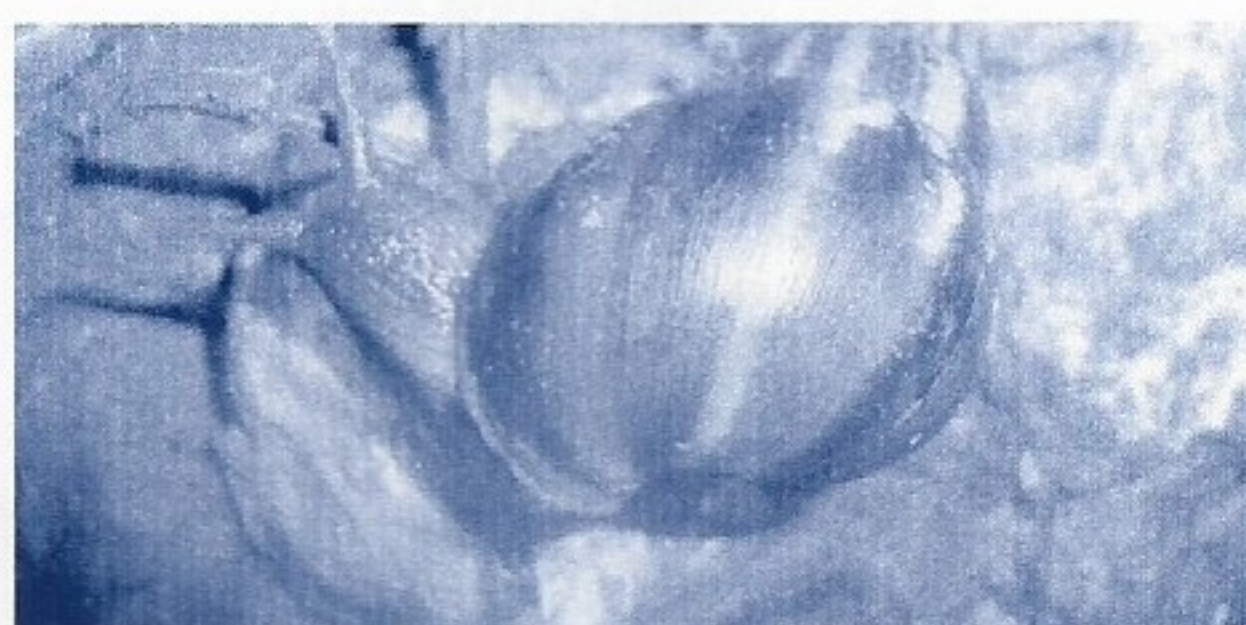
passion of a generation who didn't know Colin [Hudson]." He noted that in this age when "greed has taken over from creed" we need to be vigilant. To landowners he said "Your responsibility is one of stewardship". Prof. Carrington closed by referring to the book as "a very high quality production".

In her review of the publication, Prof. Julia Horrocks, said "With additions from the authors to update the original 2005 lecture series, and Carrington's careful editing, the lectures have been transformed into chapters that retain the "voices" of the speakers and their enthusiasm for their subjects. The book begins with a tribute to Colin from Keith Laurie, who was a close colleague of Colin's for over forty years in efforts to improve agriculture in Barbados, and is followed by some memories of Colin offered up by the chapter authors. Readers who think that they knew Colin will be amazed by the breadth of his interests and contributions, but it is his commitment to practicing what he preached, his dedication and his inspiration to others, that shine through all of these memories.

The beauty of *Preserving Paradise* is that the contributing authors have taken the opportunity not only to share interesting and important facts, but also to offer informed opinions on keenly felt issues. From the varying perspectives of biologist, geologist, geographer, historian and economist, the contributors summarise their knowledge of the state of "Paradise", highlighting areas of special concern and suggesting possible solutions that will allow this small, developing island to weather the coming decades of inevitable environmental, economic and social change."

Joe's River Woods Nature Walk

The programme that emanated from the exhibition took place on October 29. On that day, over 100 people took part in a nature walk through Joe's River Woods in St. Joseph, organised by Kerron Hamblin, Assistant Curator – Natural History. Participants learned about the plants that they encountered in the woods, and they also had the opportunity to take part in an online photo competition by submitting photos taken during the hike to the BMHS' Facebook page. Winners were selected according to the number of "likes" (public votes) for each photo. Sandra Moore emerged the winner of all three categories.



Snail's Pace, winning photo in the Plants & Animals category



Into the Great Beyond, winning photo in the People category



Reflections, winning photo in the Landscapes category



Kerron Hamblin presents Sandra Moore with her prizes – a copy of the *Barbados in Bloom: Tropical Gardens & Plants* book, a copy of the book *Bygone Barbados* by Ann Watson Yates, a copy of the *Preserving Paradise* book and a mahogany clock.

Mini-Exhibitions

The *Loose Change* mini-exhibition ran from November 01 to 30. On display were coins associated with English 17th century monarchs such as James I, a Spanish Half Dollar known to many as "Pieces of Eight", a silver Mexican coin from the reign of King Ferdinand VI of Spain, The Barbados Pineapple Penny of 1788, a Neptune Penny, also of Barbados, from 1792 and the Tolanto Tokens and other interesting coin and currencies associated with Barbados and the Caribbean of the 17th to the 20th century.

The experiences of veterans of the Second World War were explored in the mini-documentary *War Diaries*, which went on display in the Military Gallery from November 25. The video was produced by the BMHS in association with Kent Jordan of Digiscapes to ensure that we never forget the sacrifices made by Barbadians and others across the world at this significant period in world history. Six veterans were featured - five men and one woman. Over 2000 Barbadians, including 85 women volunteered to serve in military forces in Great Britain, Canada and the U.S.A. Of this number, 41 men were killed but no women suffered this fate. Albert Weatherhead recalls the measures implemented in war time such as rations and the dimming of car lights.

Mini-Exhibitions from page 3

Harold Taitt, who volunteered from age 17 to 22 noted that it was a relief to go war, leaving behind the racial discrimination that existed in Barbados at that time. Margaret Walcott, the lone female veteran interviewed, remembers that "young women were anxious to go", although she admits the stories of enemy submarines all over the Atlantic were rather daunting. The other veterans featured are Warren Alleyne, Bertram Morris and Nat Clairmonte.

Experiencing Barbadian Heritage

The theme for the weekend of November 25 and 26 was "Experiencing Barbadian Heritage" in celebration of Barbados' Independence. Several activities were offered to different audiences and they were all well received.

Ole Time Games with School Children

Schoolchildren in the vicinity of the Museum were invited to come by on November 25 to learn to play a range of Barbadian games of yesteryear, led by BMHS Education Officer, Peggy McGearry, with assistance from Errol Clarke, Finance Officer, and William White of the Museum's maintenance team.



Errol Clarke instructing students on playing hopscotch. Photo courtesy of Barbados Today online newspaper www.barbados.today.bb

Library Open Day

The Library recorded a successful Open Day on November 25 with a total of 52 people visiting, including a group from Combermere School. The mainly first-time visitors were given a tour of the Library and a short talk on its services and resources by Librarian Harriet Pierce, who was assisted by volunteer, Jean Prescott-Bullen.

Visitors to the Library were also afforded the opportunity to view a mini-exhibition of the symbols of Barbados, which featured original pencil sketches of the Coat-of-Arms by the Museum's first Director Neville Connell, who with the assistance of Museum volunteer Hilda Ince, designed the Coat-of-Arms.

One lucky visitor, Angela Bourne, won the door prize of a copy of the book *Historic Houses of Barbados* by Henry Fraser and Ronnie Hughes compliments Miller Publishing.

On December 8, Sally Miller of Miller Publishing presented Ms. Bourne with the book, along

with a bonus copy of *A Concise and Illustrated Military History of Barbados 1627-2007* written by Major Michael Hartland.

Library Open Day was also the occasion for the first round of distribution of the new Library Guide, which was prepared in-house with text by Librarian Harriet Pierce and graphic design by the Assistant Curator - Natural History, Kerron Hamblin. The guide will be distributed as a paper document as well as in electronic form on the Museum's website and Facebook page.



Jean Prescott-Bullen viewing the sketches of the Coat of Arms



Combermere School students on a tour of the Library



Angela Bourne receiving her door prizes from Sally Miller. Looking on are Errol Clarke, BMHS Finance Officer (left), and Harriet Pierce (right).



The Library Guide

Independence Heritage Day

The final themed Heritage Day for 2011 was held on November 26, and the Shilstone Memorial Library also had special Saturday opening hours for this day. Basketry, woodwork and textiles were featured to conclude our look at how local natural heritage influences our cultural heritage. Crop Over Heritage Days held on July 13 and 27 were entitled "Clay Creations" and "Eat, Drink and be Merry" respectively. Members of the local and visiting public braved the rain on each of the Heritage Days and coverage for each one appeared in all local newspapers.



Visitors browsing through the used books on sale at the Library Book Stall.

Special Visitor

Gladys Polgreen, who is 104 years old, paid a visit to the Barbados Museum on October 12.



Gladys Polgreen accompanied by her grandson, Andrew Polgreen, in the African Gallery.

Borusan Quartet in Concert

On December 1, the Barbados Museum and Historical Society hosted the Borusan Quartet from Turkey in concert, proceeds from which will benefit the museum. The event was held under the distinguished patronage of the Acting Governor-General of Barbados, His Excellency Elliot Belgrave, and under the kind auspices of His Excellency the Governor-General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sir Frederick Ballantyne. First Citizens Investment Services was the sponsor who made this event possible.

The concert was initiated by Dr. Trevor Carmichael, President of the BMHS' Council. Museum members and other specially invited guests, such as US Embassy Charge d'Affaires, Christopher Sandrolini, and Paul Altman were in attendance.

The Borusan Quartet was founded in 2005 and is made up of group leaders of the Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra.

In a fitting testament to the museum's focus on artefacts, the musicians played on invaluable instruments like the 1580 A. and H. Amati "Baron Knoop" violin, 1662 Nicolo Amati violin, 1742 Testore viola and 1740 Petrus Guarneri cello.



Left to right: Alissandra Cummins, BMHS Director; Sharon Carmichael; Dr. Trevor Carmichael; His Excellency Elliot Belgrave, Acting Governor-General of Barbados; his wife Lorreta Belgrave; Sir Frederick Ballantyne, Governor-General of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and Elizabeth Morgan, Managing Director of First Citizens Investment Services.

Walled Garden Theatre Donation

A press conference was held on December 2 to announce the current campaign to develop a Walled Garden Theatre on the Museum's compound.

The BMHS Director, Alissandra Cummins, said that the recent performance of the Borusan Quartet was a testament to the endless possibilities of the Barbados Museum's grounds.

Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C., President of the Museum's Council, anticipates that "a variety of theatre, music, dance and other special events can only be enhanced by this special space that we are looking to develop". "The level of interest we get from the corporate community and our members has been

significant, especially over the past ten years," he noted.

Cummins and Carmichael accepted a donation of \$20,000.00 from James Gardiner, Vice President Barbados at Goldcorp Insurance Company Inc. The funds will assist in completing the construction of the outdoor theatre, which is slated to include a permanent covered stage with facilities for lighting and sound, and dressing rooms. The surrounding gardens will also be landscaped.

Gardiner commented, "The theatre will make a wonderful addition to the Museum and bring more people... I personally look forward to seeing a performance in the Walled Garden Theatre."

Earlier this year, Goldcorp approved a new donations policy as part of its commitment to creating sustainable prosperity that brings long-term social and economic benefits for all stakeholders. To this end, donations made by the company support initiatives that build economic, social and cultural capacity and create a social and economic legacy.

Goldcorp is one of the world's fastest growing senior gold producers.



Alissandra Cummins and Dr. Trevor Carmichael (centre) accept the donation from James Gardiner

Volunteer Reception

On December 19, appreciation was shown to volunteers for their contribution to the Museum. The reception was organised by the BMHS' Social Events Committee and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

Appreciation Dinner

The Social Events Committee, which was formed in October this year, coordinated the end-of-year Appreciation Dinner for Council and staff, which was appropriately billed "A Night to Remember". Serving on the committee are staff members Angela Boyce (Chair), Sandra Brathwaite, Leshay Drayton, Tamara Griffith and Miguel Pena.

During the event, which was held on December 21 at Mahogany Ridge, special gifts were presented to former BMHS employees Susan Boyce, Cindy Corbin, Reginald Riley, Shawn Rowe and Pauline Stuart.

The results of staff members' votes for employee awards were revealed. Marcia Griffith, Administrative Assistant – Merchandising, received the Most Collegial Award as the most helpful person who goes beyond the call of duty. Leshay Drayton, Event Coordinator, was given the Spirit of the Museum Award as the person who is the best motivator and the most friendly and bubbly, and Kevin Farmer, Deputy Director, received The Muse Award, which was given to the manager who embodies the mandate and vision of the BMHS. A token of appreciation was presented to Kerron Hamblin for applying his design skills to the invitations and programmes for the dinner, as well as the Library Guide, minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting and other documents.

Alissandra Cummins, Dr. Trevor Carmichael and Prof. Sir Woodville Marshall were the surprised recipients of awards for their sterling contributions to the Museum over the course of many years.

Entertainment was provided by songbird Sasky Louison and Errol Clarke in his capacity as a calypsonian. The proceedings culminated in a party atmosphere.

The Barbados Advocate gave front page coverage of the event and the night's awardees.



Alissandra Cummins speaking after receiving her award. Seated is Prof. Sir Woodville Marshall



Dr. Carmichael addressing Council and staff members after receiving his award



Left to right: Marcia Griffith, Kevin Farmer and Leshay Drayton with their awards.

Donor Acknowledgements January 01, 2011– December 31, 2011

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Basic Genealogy Workshop

Please note that registration for the Basic Genealogy Workshop to be held on March 17, 2012 is closed as all spaces have been filled. Details on another workshop will be disseminated as soon as they are finalised.

Turtle Watches

Turtle watches will be offered to Museum members and the general public next year on the dates below at 7:00 p.m. each night. Join us to learn about the sea turtles that nest on our beaches through beach patrols with the Barbados Sea Turtle Project. There will be an opportunity to observe the nesting behaviour of hawksbill and (hopefully) leatherback sea turtles in an attempt to raise awareness of these endangered species.

Saturday, May 26 – Morgan Lewis Beach (leatherback turtle watch)

Saturday, June 30 – Drill Hall Beach (Needham's Point)

Saturday, July 21 - Drill Hall Beach (Needham's Point)
Saturday, August 25 - Drill Hall Beach (Needham's Point)
Spaces are limited so please reserve yours by calling 427-0201 or emailing info@barbmuse.org.bb.

2012 Lecture Series – “This is the Time to Knock on the Door of your Government” (Clement Payne): The 1937 Labour Rebellion

The BMHS, in association with the UWI Department of History and Philosophy, the National Cultural Foundation and the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Ltd., presents the 2012 Lecture Series. The first lecture is scheduled to be *Labour on the Move: Global Labour Organisation and Protest in the 1920s and 1930s* and the lecturer is Dr. George Belle. All lectures will start at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at the Queen's Park Steel Shed. Check www.barbadosmuseum.org for more information.

Launch of 2011 Journal

Also making the front page of the Barbados Advocate on another occasion was the launch of the 2011 Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, which was held on December 19.

Alissandra Cummins, BMHS Director, noted that Dr. Karl Watson's editorship of the Journal "has been a very fruitful collaboration".

Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C., BMHS Council President, referred to the Journal as "an eclectic collection of carefully selected scholarship".

Dr. Karl Watson, editor of the Journal of the

BMHS for 15 consecutive years, pointed out that the cover of this year's edition marks the fact that "we are in the seminal year of the designation of Bridgetown and the Garrison as a UNESCO World Heritage site". The cover image is detail from *A Prospect of Bridgetown in Barbados, 1695* by Samuel Copen.

Prof. Sir Woodville Marshall, Chair of the Publications and Programming Committee, discussed the BMHS' recent and upcoming publications, which cover a wide range of historical topics. Upcoming publications include *By Divine Permission* and *Barbados-Panama Connection Revisited: Lectures Commemorating Migration from Barbados to Panama, 1904 to 1914*.



Prof. Sir Woodville Marshall (standing), seated left to right Alissandra Cummins, Dr. Trevor Carmichael and Dr. Karl Watson.

By Divine Permission

Coming on February 01, 2012...a book published by the BMHS – *By Divine Permission: A Biography of the Right Reverend Sehon Goodridge*, written by Janet Goodridge. Mrs. Goodridge describes in detail Sehon's life and work, of which she was a part for 41 years. Readers will have an opportunity to see how Sehon Goodridge's life and work touched countless lives, here in the Caribbean, in Britain, America, Australia and South Africa.

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Please be reminded that the following new membership subscription fees (in Barbados dollars) will be in effect from April 01, 2012:

Life	\$1,057.00 (local)/ \$1,400.00 (overseas)
Firm/Company	\$360.00 (local)/ \$400.00 (overseas)
Joint Annual (husband & wife)	\$94.00 (local)/ \$100.00 (overseas)
Annual	\$91.00 (local)/ \$90.00 (overseas)
Student (19-26 years)	\$27.00 (local)/ \$27.00 (overseas)
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Rates for members registering with local addresses include 17.5% VAT.

Contact information:

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