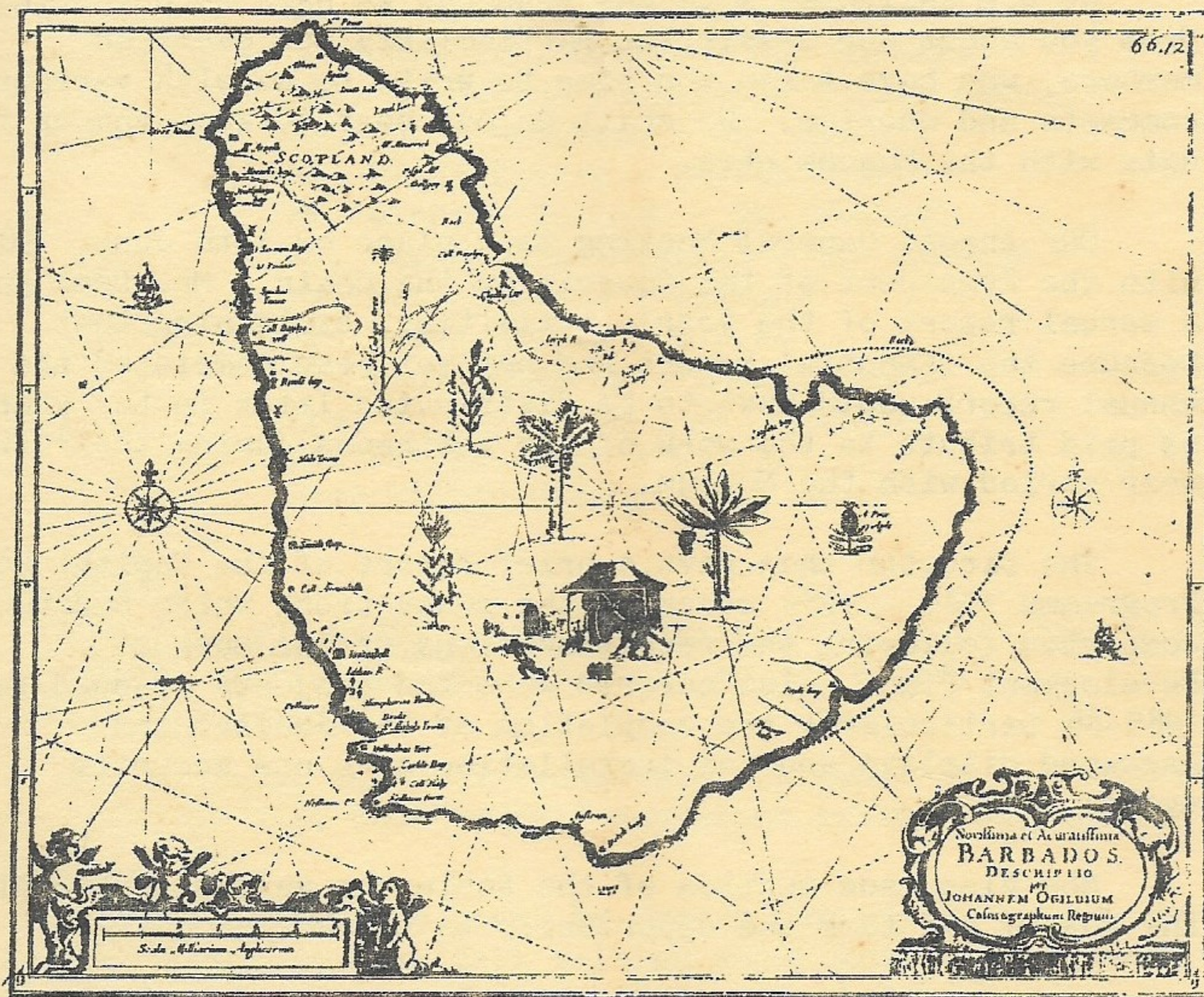


Newsletter



The Barbados Museum & Historical Society

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear Members,

We are delighted with the response we have been getting from you about our Newsletter particularly our overseas members, who have taken the time to write to us with various comments and queries. We shall do our best to keep you up to date with the Museum news.

Our Annual General Meeting took place on 12th June, 1985 with the President of the Council in the Chair. Mr. Dear gave a verbal report of the year's activities, explaining that because the financial report had not yet been completed the annual report would have to be distributed later in the year. He paid tribute to the work of the Robinsons during their two year period with the Museum.

The Director than gave a brief report of the Capital Works Programme 1984 - 1985 covering the renovations which had been completed following the recommendations of the Museum Development Plan. Also covered were the projects planned for 1985-86 particularly the completion of the Jubilee and Harewood displays and the installation of a new security system.

She also made mention of the Robinsons valuable work at the Museum and took the opportunity to thank them.

The new Peace Corps Curators who will be taking their place were also introduced. Loran Cutsinger and Steve Hackenberger are both anthropologists with some Museum experience and started work at the Museum on June 17th. We look forward to the continuing relationship with the U.S. Peace Corps.

NEW STAFF

Steven Hackenberger received B.A. and M.A. degrees in Anthropology and is currently A.B.D. from Washington State University where he has been completing a doctorate in Archaeology. A specialist in New World Archaeology, his interests focus on the prehistory and ethnography of Maritime Amerindian Lifeways.

Having served as Assistant Director of an archaeological research centre in Washington State, Steven brings experience in grant administration, publication editing, computer data management and cultural resource conservation. His background also includes a commitment to public education through lectures, popular articles and travelling exhibits. These outreach efforts have been undertaken in direct cooperation with interest groups and Native Americans with the purpose of enhancing cultural heritage and tourism.

Loran Cutsinger received a B.A. degree in Linguistics (1976) from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, an M.A. in Anthropology (1984) from Washington State University, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the latter institution. She has worked in community development in Israel and conducted archaeological field work in Egypt, France and the northwestern U.S.

Prior to pursuing graduate studies, Ms. Cutsinger managed computer systems for the office of Senator Carl Levin (Democrat-Michigan) in Washington, D.C. Most recently, she was instructor in the Department of Anthropology and associated with the Museum of Anthropology at Washington State University. Her Museum responsibilities included exhibit research and design, public outreach and educational program planning. Her academic research interests include culture change, modernization and the role of women, and historic archaeology.

THE AALL GALLERY

Just recently opened at the Barbados Museum and Historical Society on 24th June, 1985 was the Aall Gallery with an original display of antique maps of Barbados. The exhibition is arranged chronologically from the earliest published map by Richard Ligon in 1657 to the most recent ordnance survey map of the island in 1974. The maps record, in fascinating detail, the change and development of an island community.

Several rare and important documents are displayed in the exhibition including those by Ogilby, Moll, Mayo, Barralier and Parsons. Together they span more than 350 years in Barbadian History and tell the story of the rapid development of the island from a sparsely **populated**, overgrown location to a thriving plantation society with an intricate road system connecting all areas on the island. Well-known Barbadian names occur with great regularity as time passes and the growth of the main towns is well documented.

The Aall Gallery has just undergone renovations and airconditioning has been installed in order to produce the correct environment to support the continued stable condition of the maps. U.V. Filters have also been attached to all of the lighting fixtures in order to block out the ultra-violet rays which are harmful to works of art on paper. The Gallery is therefore a unique facility on the island.

In 1984 the Museum's important map collection was considerably enhanced by a generous gift of some thirty maps (of Barbados and the West Indies) from Mrs. Sally Aall, a member of the Historical Society and sometime resident of the island. She was also instrumental in the development of the plans for the Map Gallery, so it is appropriate that the Museum decided to name the Gallery in her honour.

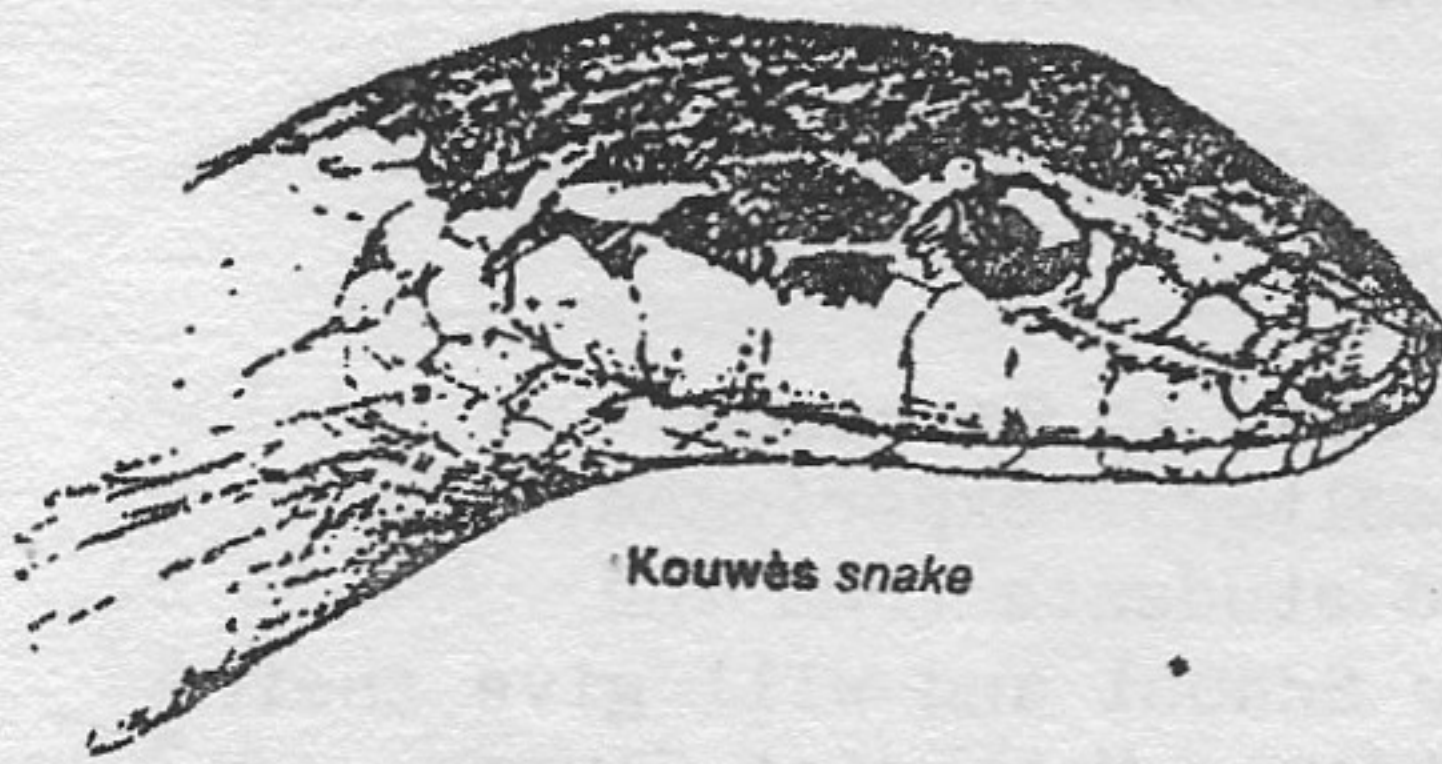
CROSSROADS AFRICA

Crossroads Africa Volunteers arrived in Barbados June 27, to begin a six weeks cross cultural experience. The ten secondary school and college aged students from the United States will stay at Providence School and will give their time to the Barbados Red Cross, Providence Methodist Church Summer School and the Barbados Museum.

Roy Brathwaite, local Red Cross Volunteer, is the Barbadian liaison for the New York based organisation. Jerlena Griffin, a trained Counsellor at Western Illinois University, U.S.A. is accompanying the group and will work with Brathwaite to coordinate the volunteers' activities.

Crossroads Africa began as a cross-culture experience in Africa and has the basic philosophy that working with a person of another culture is the best way for a meaningful exchange to occur. Project sites in the Caribbean for 1985 are: St. Lucia, Jamaica, Anguilla, Dominica, St. Kitts, Turks and Caicos Islands, Belize, Haiti and Barbados.

Doriel Brathwaite, History Teacher at Barbados Community College and wife of Roy Brathwaite, became so interested in the Museum Project that she asked if three of her students could join the three U.S. Volunteers assigned to the Museum. The Museum Staff was thrilled with the project for two reasons. Number one: a top priority of the Museum is greater exposure to the Museum by Barbadians and number two: the staff feels that the exchange between Barbadians and the visitors will be enriched by working together.



Kouwés snake

MARIA ISLANDS NATURE RESERVE

The Maria Islands are two small islands located off Vieux Fort at the southern end of St. Lucia. These uninhabited islands are home to at least two types of reptile which are found nowhere else in the world. In 1958 two St. Lucian naturalists collected specimens of a Ground Lizard and sent them abroad for identification. This Lizard, also known as the *Zandoli té* was formally described

in 1966 and is now known scientifically as *Cnemidophorus vanzoi*. *Zandoli* is commonly used in the creole language to signify all types of ground lizard. It comes from the Carib word 'Anaoli'.

Unlike the *Zandoli té* which is found on both Maria Major and Maria Minor, the *kowes* snake lives only on the former. Although this snake was once also found on the St. Lucia mainland, sometime in the early 20th century it was completely wiped out, probably by the mongoose. The *kowes* is totally harmless and is dull olive brown with some darker markings. In recent years only individuals less than three feet long have been reported.

These islands were officially designated as the Maria Islands Nature Reserve on April 21st, 1985 in an effort by the St. Lucia National Trust to protect their ecological environment. Just opposite the islands on the mainland St. Lucia, a small Museum has been established. It acts as an interpretive centre where the important and unique qualities of the Maria Islands are highlighted. The Director of the Barbados Museum, Alissandra Cummins and its Assistant Curator for Natural Science, Philippa Newton, both attended the launching of this most commendable project.

During the month of June Philippa Newton, the Museum's Assistant Curator for Natural History, has been attached to the Guyana Museum and Zoo. While there she underwent training in the collection, preservation and care of natural history specimens. Special emphasis will be placed on the mounting of habitat dioramas. Such dioramas, now almost completely absent at the Museum, seek to display animals and plants in as natural a setting as is possible.

PEACE CORPS CURATORS LEAVE BARBADOS

After two years as Volunteers Curators at the Barbados Museum, David and Joan Robinson will leave Barbados to take up new responsibilities in Nevis, W.I. The Robinsons were appointed to the Museum in June, 1983 and have worked throughout curating the collections and helping to train the staff curators.

Mr. Robinson, a trained Museum Specialist with 20 years of experience helped administer the Museum's Capital Works Programme including new electrical wiring, renovations to five galleries and the Library, plans for gallery exhibits and an office-conservation building. He rectified the Museum's collection management system, storage facilities, photography laboratory and conservation programme. An additional duty was administration of grounds and maintenance. Mrs. Robinson, an experienced Museum Cataloguer and Exhibits Preparer established a cataloguing system, defined the collection categories of analysis and researched thousands of artifacts for display and storage.

Mr. Robinson can't say enough about the present state of the Barbados Museum and its future. "It is truly becoming a National Museum for all the people of Barbados. The staff under the direction of Miss Alissandra Cummins is the best trained in the Caribbean and the facilities for storage and exhibit design first-rate. We have had excellent cooperation from the Museum Council and friends of the Museum".

Their only regret quotes Mrs. Robinson is, "We will not be here to see the grand opening of the History of Barbados and Natural History exhibits projected to open later this year. All of our work was in preparation for those two major events which are now in preparation. Also we had hoped an Education Curator would be appointed because the Museum's next major task must be to educate the public with out-reach programmes, seminars, speakers and school liasions".

On August 1st, they will continue their affiliation with the U.S. Peace Corps as Curators in Nevis which is starting to build their cultural facilities.

MUSEUM OUTREACH

The upgrading and improvements of the Museum's facilities, in addition to an increase of staff, has resulted in this Institution being able to play a more active role in the educational and cultural development of the country.

These are some of the ways in which our Museum is coordinating with various sectors of the community; schools, government and non-government organisations and of course, individuals.

THE ARTS

1. The Museum provides gallery space. So far, Kathleen Berman, and Fielding Babb together with Carlton Murrell have used this facility.

2. Towards a National Gallery

One of our Curators - Lesley Whatley, sits on the advisory Gallery Committee to the National Cultural Foundation. The function of this group is to advise the Director and Board on the provision and organising of adequate facilities for visual artists to display their work(s) and to set and ensure that certain criteria and standards are met.

The committee members themselves curate many of the shows which have so far been in the Queen's Park Gallery. Since the group started functioning in 1984, the Gallery has held six shows in succession.

3. EDUCATION

School Talk

During May, Dave and Joan Robinson went to Christ Church Boys School to talk to senior students about ways in which their training skills could be used creatively to generate

income. Crafts items and local traditional toys were cited as interesting items to consider for production. Joan touched on the need for students to be sensitive to their own environment, as a stimulus for ideas in producing articles for sale or pleasure. Craft items from the Robinson's personal collection and from the Museum were displayed during the talk.

Oral History

A separate talk was directed to the teachers. It focussed on the creative use and production of teaching aids. An example was given of a History project in which students could collect data on tape from their communities, as a way of becoming familiar with local history and improving their writing skills.

4. Environmental Conservation

In May the Museum in collaborating with the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment, and the Caribbean Conservation Association mounted a display for World Environment Day. Our Natural History Curator, Philippa Newton was responsible for the Museum's input. Incidentally, Miss Newton is a member of a working group formed to sensitize the public on issues relating to the conservation of Graeme Hall Swamp. She often spends early mornings photographing the flora and fauna of the Swamp.

5. Museum Assists the I.D.C.

The Industrial Development Corporation has invited the Museum staff to assist with the planning and mounting of an exhibit later this year. The exhibit will focus on the growth and development of industry in Barbados and the role which the I.D.C. has played since its inception.

Museum Outreach Cont'd

CULTURE6. Crop Over

The Natural Cultural Foundation has approached the Museum to assist in the Crop Over festivities. The Ceremonial Delivery of the last canes at Newton Plantation starts the festivities off, and it is the relationship between some artifacts which the Museum has in its possession, and the Newton Site which have brought us into the picture. The artifacts were found in the burial mounds at the Newton Slave Cemetery excavated by Professor Jerome S. Handler and his team. Some items such as beads, clay pipes and jewelry are already on display here, however their arrangement in the cases will be modified to complement the tour of the plantation right after the Ceremonial delivery. Lesley Whatley our History/Art Curator is also assisting the Foundation's Research Officer Trevor Marshall in the design of visual support displays for the site.

CONSERVATION HINTSCeramics and Glass

Mend glass by cleaning the edges with acetone and cementing with clear epoxy resin. A suitable epoxy adhesive can be found at Brydens. Use masking tape to hold the pieces together.

Mend ceramics and pottery with DUCO or similar brand of cement. Masking tape can be used to hold the pieces together until set, but do not use when piece is decorated over-the-glaze. More permanent repairs can be made with epoxy as for glass. For large pieces a box of sand is sometimes useful for holding pieces together. Clean edges with acetone before using any adhesive to remove finger oils or old adhesives if previously repaired.

Organic stains such as wine or dried milk can sometimes be removed after an overnight soaking in a hot solution of calgon or other similar material. Scrub off with a stiff brush. Do not attempt to wash antique glass that is flaking. Use a soft brush and dust carefully. Always store glass in areas that are dry.

NEW MEMBERS B.M.H.S. -

We should like to welcome:

Dr. Trevor Talma - Christ Church
 Mr & Mrs E.L. Cozier - St. Michael
 Miss Christine Zephirin - Christ Church
 Ms. Marie Matthews - St. James
 Mr. Nigel Pierre - Christ Church
 Mr. Winston Kellman - St. Michael
 Mr. Christopher Edghill - St. Michael
 Ms. Petrie Wells - England
 Mr. Edwin Harris - U.S.A.
 Dr. Fiona Cameron - Christ Church
 Mrs. Flora Jordan - St. Michael
 Mr. Philip Huber - U.S.A.
 Miss Billie Miller - St. James

SHOP TALK

CROSSING THE WATER is an illustrated children's book - about mongooses - written in five episodes by Joy Bland. It sells for \$10.00.

The National Cultural Foundation published an illustrated guidebook for KARL BROODHAGEN'S sculpture exhibition February 24 - March 17, 1985.

The guide features poems by George Lamming, a tribute by Timothy Callender, D.A. Gall writing about Broodhagen's sculpture and a personal account of the artist's feelings. The guide sells for \$15.00

A beautiful cloth bound book VIEWS OF TRINIDAD features reproductions of M.J. Cazabon prints published in 1851. Born in Trinidad of French Creole parents, Cazabon was educated in England and Paris.

A new item on the Shop Shelf is a SCRIMSHAW piece with an impression of Rachel Pringle, Scrimshaw is carving on a whale's tooth and is very old art initiated by sailors on whaling ships. Ours is a very tasteful facsimile. These sell for \$50.00 and make an attractive piece for coffee table or curio cabinet.

MUSEUM HOURS
AND EVENTS

Museum Staff Hours

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Monday - Friday

Open for Visitors

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Monday - Saturday

Museum Closed

for

Caricom Day

August 5th

The Aall Gallery

with exhibition of

Maps of Barbados

Opens-24th June, 1985

The Babb/Murrell

Exhibition

Opens 28th June -

July 6th, 1985

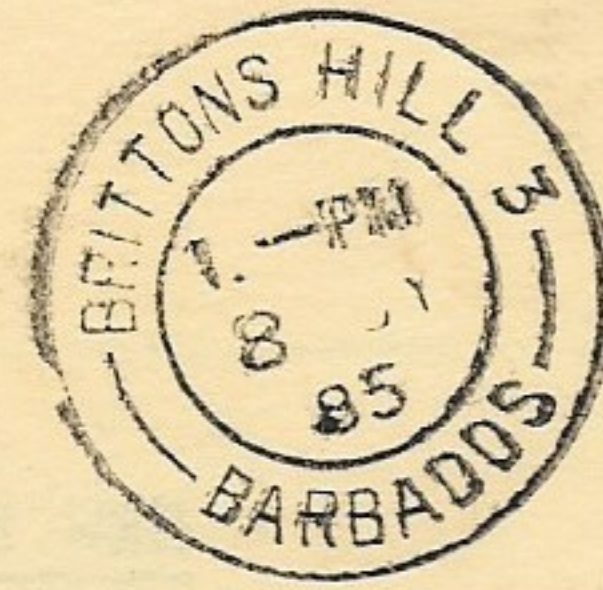
Lecture by Dr. Allen

Bassing of Renwick

Gallery, Washington on

July 9th

ON SERVICE



BARBADOS MUSEUM &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. ANN'S, GARRISON
ST. MICHAEL, BARBADOS