

NO: 13

3rd Quarter, 1985

# Newsletter



## The Barbados Museum & Historical Society



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The staff of the Museum are at present engrossed in the final preparations for the reopening of the Jubilee Gallery. (the favourite phrase at the moment is "call me again after October 28th"!)). The Museum is to be honoured by a visit on that day, by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Just as important for us, however, is the fact that we will be completing another phase of the Museum Development Plan. The design for the Gallery and the Exhibition has been in the planning stage for about two and a half years. The construction work has been finished utilizing some of the old cases for a completely new look and the Museum staff are well satisfied with the transformation.

The exhibits in the Jubilee Gallery are aimed at "changing the character of the Museum in order to make it truly representative of the history, culture and development of Barbadian Society". Some sections deal with the Amerindian settlement of the island, their cultural and domestic activities and their forgotten heritage. Another area elaborates on Barbados as a plantation society, the growth of slavery and those African cultural links which still exist in Barbados today. After emancipation, there is the depiction of our society and its historical development on political, economic and cultural levels. Agriculture, Industry, Sport, Communications and Traditional Architecture are just some of the areas which will be featured in the display.

Many aspects of the artwork have been contributed by local artists who were contracted to produce particular pieces for the exhibition. Omowale Stewart, Bill Grace, Stanley Greaves and Alison Chapman-Andrews are some of the artists involved. The excitement and the enthusiasm which this collaboration engendered (amongst both artists and curators) has convinced us that we are moving in the right direction and that we are becoming more a part of the community.

We look forward with interest to your comments and cannot thank enough those persons and institutions who gave of their time, knowledge and resources to make this exhibition a success.



## THE MUSEUM - A RESOURCE CENTRE

During the past few months, three tertiary level educational institutions have utilised the Museum's facilities in various projects.

### Quebec, Canada

A group of students from Concordia University, Quebec lead by Dr. Michael Marsden spent several hours at the Museum delving into our history, science and culture. Although they were students of geography, these young adults were specifically instructed not to concentrate on this subject, but rather to get an overall picture of Barbados. One of their main projects was to learn the techniques involved in doing research in a foreign country. Our Library therefore, also played an important part in this venture.

### New Hampshire, USA

Our 1981 and '82 journals included articles on the Green Monkey by Dr. Woodrow Denham. Dr. Denham returned to Barbados this year, bringing students from the University of New Hampshire. This more mature group had similar objectives to the first. Another such group from this University is scheduled to visit us in February next year.

### Barbados

One of the topics of this year's 'A' Level G.C.E. Art examination was the study of insects. Under the guidance of their tutor, Mrs. Denise Menard-Greenidge, six Community College students spent two days painting and drawing specimens from our collection. The inclusion of many non-Barbadian insects in this collection provided an ideal variety for study.

There are several ways in which the facilities of the Museum can be utilised by educational institutions. While touring is the simplest and most readily available, there are opportunities to do research and to work with our collections. The extra time taken by teachers and our curators to organise such projects is easily compensated by the enthusiasm and appreciation expressed by the students.



COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS AND CROSSROADS  
AFRICA' VOLUNTEERS COLLABORATE

From June 25th through August 1st, 1985, the Museum was involved in a somewhat experimental volunteer project. Barbados Community Collage instructors Doriel and Roy Brathwaite coordinated the volunteers who came under the auspices of "Crossroads Africa".

Based in New York, Crossroads is a volunteer organisation that has sent young people to many African and Caribbean nations to aid in projects ranging from building a school to running a summer camp for children. The Crossroads group in Barbados this summer consisted of ten young men and women, ages 16 to 18 years. They volunteered at the Museum in groups of three or four for two weeks each.

The volunteer effort grew with the addition of three recent graduates in history from Barbados Community College. These students, Saverna Clarke, Carolyn Prince and Sandra Reid, became involved through the encouragement of their instructor, Mrs. Brathwaite.

The contribution of the historians could not have been more timely, as the Museum staff was in the process of designing new exhibits for the Jubilee Gallery on Barbadian history and traditional life. The research and exhibit ideas they worked on contributed greatly to the development of the exhibition.

The group of thirteen from Barbados, Dominica (one Crossroads participant) and the United States contributed, over a six week period, approximately 900 hours of work to the Museum.

The most time-intensive activity was describing and cataloguing artifacts from the collection; over 300 items were catalogued, including part of the map collection housed



in the Shilstone Library. The cataloguing of maps is now being completed by the Museum's permanent volunteer group.

The windows in the Library were fitted with ultra-violet filters to curtail damage by light to books and documents. To improve existing exhibits, several volunteers carried out research and writing of Museum text. The prison cell was previously without informational text. Two of the volunteers researched British military prison life and then made labels which are now in the prison cell.

Another group cleaned up the Museum grounds, while others made observations on how they felt the Museum could be improved.

This collaborative project was an experiment in the Museum's use of volunteers, and in all respects it was successful.

The students from outside Barbados were able to learn some of its history by actually working on historic artifacts. For the Barbadian students, the experience was professional. One of the women remarked that her work at the Museum helped her to get a job. Her prospective employer was favourably impressed on learning of her work at the Museum. One added benefit to all involved was the opportunity to work with someone from another culture - to share similarities and differences in knowledge and custom.

The Museum staff hopes to develop a stronger volunteer organisation this winter in which further creative collaborations such as this one can take place.

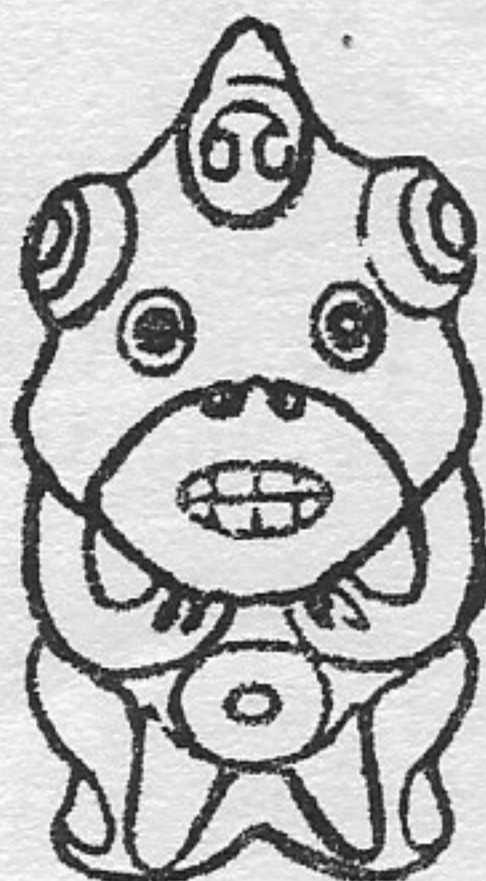
#### 1627 and All That ..... Special Offer

Organisers of the show, Hotel Investors Ltd, have generously offered a 10% discount on the cost of the dinner theatre to all Museum Members, effective immediately. Please contact Hotel Investors Ltd. at 435.6900.



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CARIBBEAN ARCHAEOLOGY

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO - 29 JULY - 3rd AUGUST 1985



Every two years since 1961, academics and lay-scholars of archaeology, anthropology and history gather to share their interest in the Caribbean peoples' heritage of Amerindian cultures. Again this year the unique combination of these students of Caribbean culture yielded a wealth of information from recent archaeological investigation and historical anthropological research.

Seminars were run sequentially, for five days covering topics that included: Trade and Migration in Caribbean prehistory, analysis of human skeletal remains, cultural resource management, prehistoric tool and pottery making, archaeological methods and theory, underwater archaeology, historical archaeology, prehistoric human ecology, and rock art carvings.

## COMMON RESEARCH PROBLEMS

Major research themes were repeated independently in papers given throughout the conference. For instance, significant debate continues to focus on interpretation of changing sequences of pottery styles in relation to prehistoric migrations of people into the Caribbean from South America. Also as 1992 nears, the 500th Anniversary of the first Columbus expedition, several archaeological investigations have begun to focus on the late 15th and early 16th century Spanish shipwrecks and settlements.

In a related area anthropologists have started to re-examine early European texts describing Amerindian society and economic geography. Their common purpose has been to evaluate the levels of political complexity and regional economic exchange to which Caribbean Amerindians had advanced before their societies were disrupted by Spanish conquest. A principal concern is to understand the social and economic mechanisms stimulating complex forms of political organisation and unequal distribution of resource characteristics shared by chiefdoms and states that developed worldwide. Finally several



reports were made on archaeological projects of 17th, 18th and 19th century towns and plantations. Investigators working at these sites encouraged the recognition of archaeological works as supportive data, or sometimes contradictory information to be used in conjunction with historical documents and records.

Increasing amounts of information continue to be gained from prehistoric sites that relate to the shared heritage of Caribbean people and their nations. This fact was exemplified by each paper, with each researcher making a common plea for increasing public awareness of the need to protect and enhance archaeological sites and historic places.

Key paper and research themes will be described in PART II of this article in the following issue.

#### NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL TRUST OF ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

##### Carib Chief Chatoyer, Honoured

On March 14th, 1985 a ceremony was held to commemorate the 190th Anniversary of the death of Chatoyer, the Black Carib Chief.

The occasion was commemorated by the unveiling of an obelisk at the Dorsetshire Hill, on the spot overlooking Kingstown where Chatoyer was killed during a battle against the British troops.

The obelisk was unveiled by the Minister of Tourism, Information and Culture, Mr. John Horne. The plaque at the base of the obelisk was presented by the Government of Venezuela.

Among a large crowd gathered to watch the ceremony were a group of Carib descendants from the north of the island. The ceremony was organised by Dr. Earl Kirby with the help of the National Youth Council.

Chatoyer has been acclaimed as the first National hero of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Venezuelan Government is assisting the National Trust with the production of a statue of Chatoyer to be placed in Kingstown.

N.B. A print of Chatoyer and his five wives by Brunias hangs in the Cunard Gallery at the Barbados Museum.



LIBRARY NEWS

The Department of Library Services comprises of the general Library where general scientific, history and natural history publications are held.

The role of the Library is to provide a library service for the Museum's staff and visiting research workers. This is accomplished by the fine collections of both British and foreign books, West Indian materials, books and journals.

However the work of the Librarian is not limited to acquiring, conserving and organising relevant literature, but is actively concerned with helping users of the Library.

Recent additions to the Library include:

Antiques magazine  
Burlington Magazine  
Connoisseur Magazine  
The Journal of Caribbean History  
NACF NEWS  
Smithsonian Magazine

Among recent publications:

Hilary Beckles: Black Rebellion in Barbados  
Warren Alleyne: History of St. Patricks Cathedral  
Jack R. Hutchins: Hugh Hutchins of Old England

Old books purchased from the Hilton Vaughn collection contain material on culture in the early years, slave history, West Indian writers and magazines articles on the early years worthy of mention:

The Forum 1931-32-34 and September 1944 and the Constitutional Crisis of 1876 in Barbados by C. Clarke.

Other collections donated were from the British High Commision, USAID and these books were carefully chosen by the Curators in order to assist them with their subject fields.



### GENEALOGICAL LETTERS.

Research requests on family history are constantly sought through overseas queries e.g. tracing immigrant ancestors, Tobias Saunders New Brough, Quaker Family material, information published or non-published on the Sinckler Family. Requests for street names and their origins. Maxwell Road Brooker family and even materials requested on Bibliographical History of Books of Barbados that could assist writers to know about old Barbadian history. Requests come from America, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the Archives Department is very helpful in assisting with requests not located at the Museum Library.

Museum Members might be interested, in forming their own club on their findings on tracing family history.

### CARIBBEAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Conservation Association was held this year in Dominica at the Layou River Hotel. Representatives from Barbados included Miss Lolita Applewaite representing the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment, Mr. Paul Foster of the Barbados National Trust and the Director of the Barbados Museum.

Dominica's Prime Minister, Miss Eugenia Charles gave the Opening Address followed by remarks from Mr. Franklyn Margetson President of the CCA and Mr. Gerry Aird - President of the Dominica Conservation Association (also Vice President of the CCA)

One of the highlights of the evening's events was the Exhibition organised by the Dominica Conservation Association featuring conservation of the Natural and Cultural Environment in Dominica. Under the direction of Mr. Lennox Honychurch, the display on the Natural Environment concentrated on the work of the Forestry Department of Dominica in preserving the famous endangered species of parrots, the Jaco and Sisserou, in their natural habitat. Graphic charts spoke eloquently of Man's encroachment on Dominica's Rain Forest. Live specimens of both were on display. Mr. Alwyn Bully coordinated the other section which featured the unique basket weaving skills of the Carib Indians in Dominica.

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CARIBBEAN CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION CONT'D

The technical sessions in the programme were entitled "Environmental Education - ACTION NOW" and these sessions allowed participants valuable insights into the work being done by the Dominica Forestry Division as well as similar work being done in St. Lucia and Martinique. There were also short evening sessions with slide presentations by Lennox Honychurch and Martine Gaume on the preservation of the cultural environment. The latter continues the work of the late Jack Berthelot (Conservation Architect of Guadeloupe) in the study of traditional plantation architecture.

However, the major work of the Annual General Meeting was the discussion and revision of CCA's Draft Action Plan which it is hoped will be implemented shortly and will serve to encourage greater support of the Association's activities. Included in its programme was the development of a Data Base, further Environmental Education Projects and the important development of Environmental Legislation which would have relevance to the whole region.

SHOP TALK1985 CHRISTMAS CARDS

1985 Christmas Cards - Scenes of 18th century West Indian Life by Agostino Brunias. \$1.25, (\$1.00 for Members).

- 1) "The Linen Market at St. Domingo" c 1784
- 2) "The Fruit Market at St. Vincent" c 1784
- 3) "Domestic Village Scene in the West Indies". c 1771
- 4) "Creole Lady with Two Attendants in the West Indies". c 1771

GIFT IDEASBooks

- 1) Historic Churches of Barbados.  
Barbara Hill, 1985
- 2) The Silver Men-West Indian Labour Migration to Panama, Velma Newton, 1984
3. Sandy Lane and Other Poems,  
H.A. Vaughan, 1985 2nd edition.

Prints

Original Engravings from the Illustrated London News 1885.

Sweet Scents

KHUS-KHUS Sachets \$6.00 each.



### NEW MEMBERS B.M.H.S.

We should like to welcome:

Ms. Elizabeth Brown - U.S.A.  
 Mr. James Brown - U.S.A.  
 Mr. Jasper Brome - Canada  
 Dr & Mr. Michael Brown - Christ Church  
 Mr & Mrs. Brian Griffith - St. Michael  
 Mr. Steven Hackenberger & Ms. Loran Cutsinger - St. Michael  
 Mr. Mark Humpleby - U.S.A.  
 Ms. Roxan Kinas - St. James  
 Ms. Charshee McIntyre - U.S.A.  
 Mr & Mrs Allister Moon - Bridgetown  
 Mr & Mrs Noble Power - Bridgetown  
 Dr Brian James Stoddart - St. Michael

### KELLMAN EXHIBITION AT MUSEUM

The majority of the paintings in the show deal with  
Aspects of Barbadian Landscape.

More often than not trees are given the focal point of interest having their own individuality and interacting with the surrounding landscape.

There is a series of fruit, which is directly related to the trees, in smaller drawings.

"Most of the work was done in the early morning when there is a rather clear subtle light. The associated noises and activity of the early morning. People putting out sheep, goats, feeding stock, and some more ambitious ones jogging and doing exercises lead to a feeling and atmosphere of pleasant OPTIMISM for the day to come".

The figures include a self-portrait and some portraits of friends.

Official Opening of the exhibition is on November 15th.



## MUSEUM HOURS AND EVENTS

### Museum Staff Hours

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Monday - Friday

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### Open for Visitors

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Monday - Saturday

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October 8th

Lecture on the

South Carolina

Connection by

Henry Fraser/

Warren Alleyne

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October 16th

Special General

Meeting in the

Lecture Room

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October 28th

Opening of the

New Exhibition

in the Jubilee

Gallery on the

occasion of a visit

by Her Majesty,

Queen Elizabeth II

and the Duke

of Edinburgh

\*\*\*\*\*

November 1st

Wine & Cheese

Party

Alliance Française

\*\*\*\*\*

November 15

Opening of

Exhibition by

Winston Kellman

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December 22

Xmas Carol Concert

by the Cecilian

Singers

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Holiday Dates

Museum Closed

December 21 - 26

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Museum Closed

January 1st

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PHILATELIC

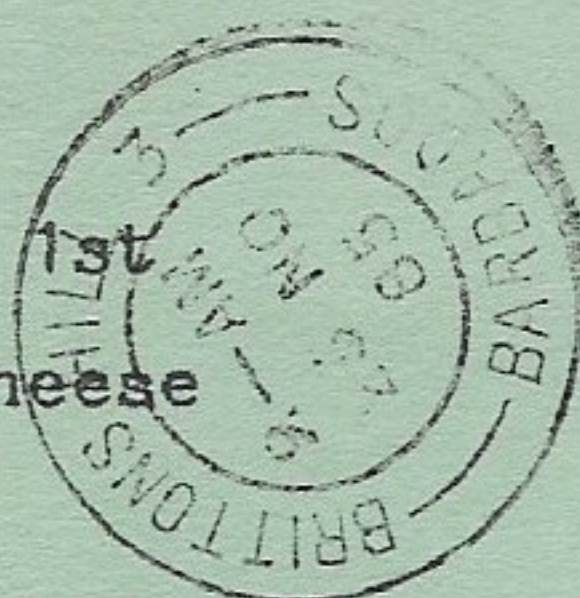
SOCIETY meets

every 2nd

Wednesday of

the month.

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ON SERVICE

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society  
St. Ann's  
The Garrison  
ST. MICHAEL