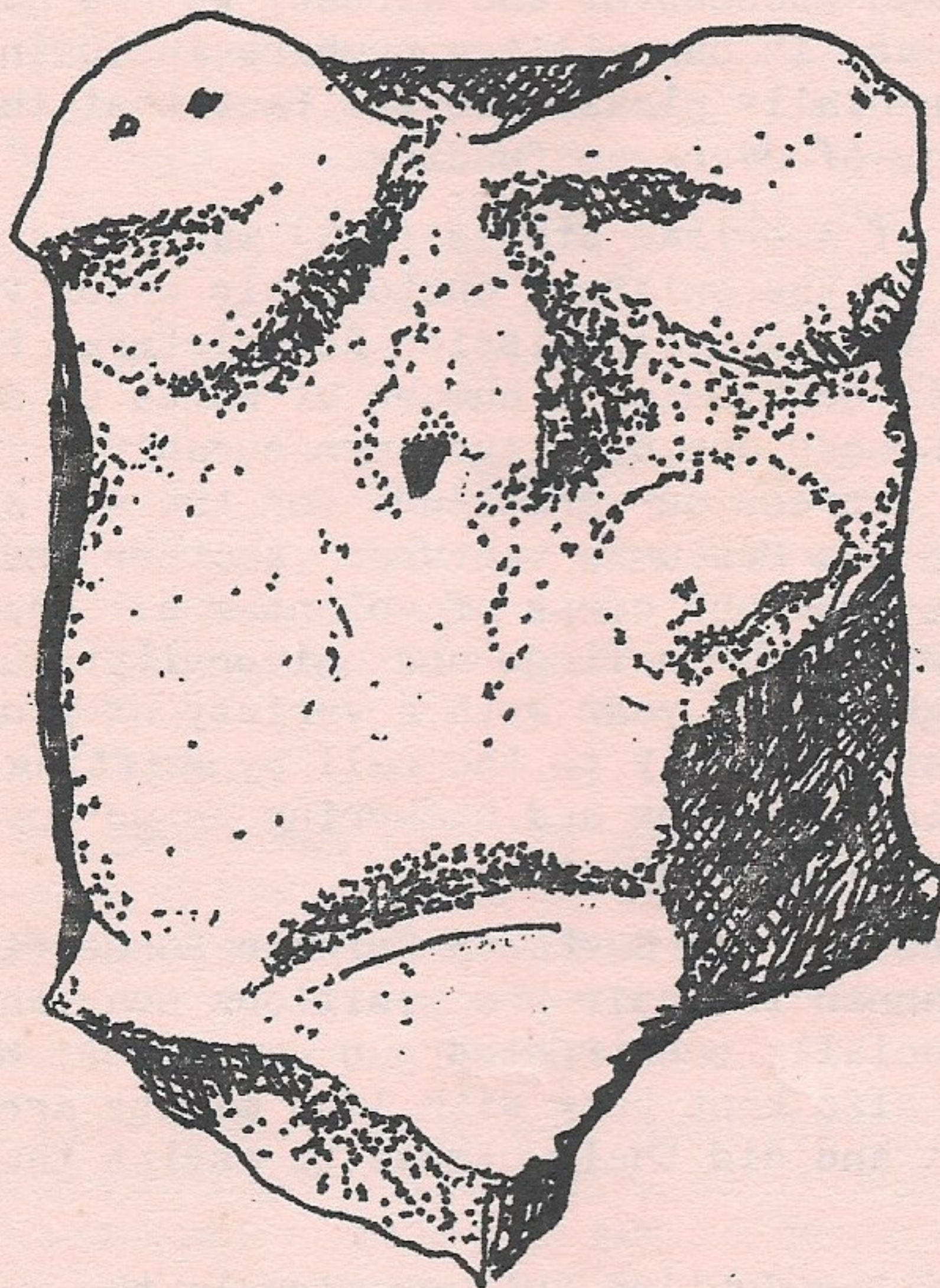


NO: 14

4th Quarter, 1985

Newsletter



**The Barbados Museum
& Historical Society**

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Let me be among the first to wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year. As the Museum staff look over the programme for 1986, we are looking forward to a very exciting year with hopefully many more activities to interest you further.

The installation of the new exhibition "In Search of Bim" in the Jubilee Gallery was successful and already we are happy to note a substantial increase in our visitor numbers including schoolchildren. The Museum is especially pleased at the fact that this project was regarded as worthy of overseas funding.

The Organisation of American States (OAS) made us a grant to cover the cost of some of the enlarged photomurals which you see on display and funding from the Canadian Mission Administered Fund made it possible for us to commission a number of works of art from local artists which enhanced our displays immeasurably. To both of these agencies we must express our gratitude for the aid and encouragement they have lent to the Museum's venture. Another invaluable contribution came from our corps of volunteers. These ladies and gentlemen (including some college and university students) have been helping us throughout the year with a variety of projects. However they responded magnificently to the call by shifting and carrying, cutting and pasting, nailing and hammering as we moved into the final phase of the installation.

Thanks are also due to the Barbados Defence Force firstly for installing our cannon in their new positions near the entrance of the Museum on specially constructed gun carriages; Major Hartland and his men were also kept busy with last minute arrangements for the Queen's visit and did their utmost to assist the Museum in every way.

The completion of the Jubilee Gallery signals the continuing progress made by the Museum staff and Council to fulfill the promise of the Museum Development Plan. We are now in the process of planning the same sort of transformation for the Natural History display in the Harewood Gallery. However funds need to be identified in order to begin work on this project and we hope that you will continue to support us in our efforts throughout the New Year.

HELPING WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT

Recently in Barbados to lend his expertise in environmental matters was Dr. Ivan Vamos, Deputy Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

While here Dr. Vamos held discussions with several organisations including the Ministry of Tourism and the Environment, the National Conservation Association, the Coastal Conservation Project, Bellairs Research Institute and the Museum.

One issue of particular interest to Dr. Vamos was the proposed Barbados National Park. He examined the report prepared for the park by N.C. Pennington in 1983 and found the document to be most comprehensive.

Based on more recent study of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation undertaken by Coastal Conservation Project, Dr. Vamos thinks that two major coral reefs off the island's shores should now be included in the park area. These are Harrison's Reef in the north and Cobblers Reef located off the south coast. Both of these reefs play a vital role in supplying sand to the south and west coasts. It is therefore important that management of the park area include the protection of these reefs. On no account must they be allowed to suffer the same fate as many of the west coast reefs.

Members of the Museum and indeed the public are invited to examine the Pennington report which is now available in the Museum library.

Dr. Vamos' visit was arranged through Partners of the Americas who set up a local conservation committee to assist in planning activities. The committee comprised Mrs. Ruth Hope of the Keep Barbados Beautiful Committee, Mr. Julian Hunte of the Outdoor Club and Miss Philippa Newton of the Barbados Museum.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

The Museum staff sincerely thanks all those who helped with the "Evening of Christmas Music" held on December 22, 1985.

Despite the many activities taking place on that day quite a reasonable crowd turned out to support the Museum.

Special thanks go to Caribbean Graphic Production Ltd., who with the compliments of Blades and Williams, printed the programmes free of charge and to 1627 who lent their chairs for the night. We must also not forget the Cecilian Singers whose glorious singing made the concert possible.

COMMUNITY GROUPS AT WORK IN SPEIGHTSTOWN

Starting on January 11, 1986 the Barbados Museum is participating in a project to encourage the restoration of Speightstown. In commemoration of 25 years of worldwide service, the United States Peace Corps through one of its volunteers here at the Museum has brought together a number of community groups, including the Barbados National Trust, the Lions' Club, the Scouts and the young people involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, to begin the renovation of Arlington House in Speightstown. Arlington House has been brought to our attention recently in a lecture at the Museum by Dr. Henry Fraser and Warren Alleyne on the South Carolina - Barbados Connection.

The work of painting the exterior of the building and improving the garden areas will be done on Saturdays and Sundays through February. There are many types of jobs to be done on this project. Museum members interested in helping are encouraged to contact Loran Cutsinger (Peace Corps Curator) at the Museum during business hours.

THE MARSON LEGACY

Recently the Museum received a collection of Staffordshire figures from the estate of the late H.V. Marson. Formerly a keen and supportive member of the Museum Society, he was also a generous donor of many gifts.

Pottery making in Staffordshire, England has a long standing tradition, and early figures were made of porcelain, quite refined in craftsmanship and detail. However, by the beginning of Queen Victoria's reign, makers recognised the potential in their popularity as topical pieces and started mass producing them in earthenware. Not included for the drawing rooms of the wealthy, the Staffordshire figures of this period were designed and priced to appeal primarily to middle and working class tastes. While most of the figures were of people, dogs, fanciful country cottages and castles were also produced.

Well known personalities and celebrities, from a wide variety of categories such as royalty, the military, political and religious life, entertainment, sports and even crime were represented by the portrait figures.

Members, collectors and friends are welcome to see this collection of Staffordshire figures in the Connell Gallery when they go on display from mid-January.

PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS

During 1984 the Museum was pleased to become involved in the activities of the Barbados Committee of Partners of the Americas. Initial contact was made through the visit of Mr. Ed. Winslow, Senior Historian with the Historical and Anthropological Department of the New York State Museum in Albany, New York. November, 1985 marked the date of the return visit by the Director of the Barbados Museum to Albany.

The primary purpose of the visit to Albany was to establish contact with the curatorial staff of the New York State Museum in order to discuss the various possibilities for programme development. The New York State Museum proved to be a very open and willing host, curious to know about Barbados in general as well as the Museum here. The first week was spent mainly visiting the various departments and discussing project goals, problems and advantages as well as the general policies of the Museum.

The Planning Office is in charge of the development of new exhibits within the Museum and coordinates various aspects of this work including development of text and storyline, overall design of exhibition and constructing and installation of the scale models, life size models, painted backdrops and huge dioramas which are their primary method of display.

The Museum's education programme was outlined in a general discussion with the staff, however joining a group of children on their visit to the Museum (both the exhibition and behind the scenes) offered great insight into the many ways in which a Museum could be of service in a local community.

Cataloguing of the Museum's collections is done on computer and therefore offers the unique opportunity to have all levels of information available for the researcher within minutes. This is the direction in which all museums are moving in an effort to create an information network on an international level. The Barbados Museum hopes to set up a similar system in the near future.

Finally there was a visit to the Peebles Island facility where a number of conservation workshops serving the National Parks Service are located. These workshops service over 35 historic sites in Albany assisting in the restoration or preservation of paintings, paper, furniture, textiles and other artifacts held in the various collections. This arrangement offered an invaluable opportunity to observe a facility such as this which is needed desperately in Barbados and indeed in the rest of the english-speaking Caribbean.

BARBADOS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

On December 18, 1985 Dr. Peter Drewett, (Ph.D. University of London, Institute of Archaeology) gave an introductory lecture to the Barbados Museum and Historical Society. He was introduced by the Director, Miss Alissandra Cummins, who outlined the reasons for the Museum's invitation to the Institute of Archaeology, University of London, to undertake a survey of prehistoric Barbados.

The survey is designed to last five years and will concentrate on the economic basis of prehistoric settlement. The survey will involve four main activities. Firstly a study of existing collections of prehistoric artifacts in the Museum and elsewhere. Secondly an extensive field survey of the island. Thirdly a series of sample and area excavations, and finally an analysis of the data together with comparative studies which will hopefully provide detailed information on how prehistoric people lived on Barbados.

This year's survey included a detailed study of ceramics by Mary Hill Harris of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge University, and of shell tools by Caroline Cartwright of the Institute of Archaeology. The study of prehistoric pottery will include the analysis of ceramic thin sections to locate the source of pottery production and its trade networks. Microscopic study of the wear patterns on various types of shell tools will enable the project to suggest methods of tool manufacture and hopefully their use. A major part of the artifact study has been the preparation of a corpus of detailed measured drawings of pottery and tool types by Lysbeth Drewett, Illustrations Officer at the Institute, assisted by two recent graduates Chris Place and Duncan Lee.

The field survey has involved an extensive survey of the entire coastline of Barbados with a sample of surface finds being collected from every site. The survey was led by Dr. Drewett, Dr. Owen Bedwin, Mr. David Rudling and Miss Mandy Lee. This was followed by detailed surface collections at Heywoods and Chancery Lane together with the preparation of plans and carbon surveys by Mr. Adrian Challards. Inland field surveys included an examination of river valleys and other natural exposures.

Sample excavations were undertaken at two sites, Heywoods and Hillcrest, with the assistance of Museum staff, students from Harrison College and the Barbados Community College as well as participants from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Heywoods

appears to be a late site with pottery of the Suazoid ceramic tradition while Hillcrest clearly has an earlier element including sherds of the saladoid ceramic tradition. Dry and wet sieving produced economic data in the form of charcoal, sea shells, fish and turtle bones. An analysis of this data should give a good indication of prehistoric diet on the island.

Priorities for future years include the location and excavation of one or more stratified sites to give chronological depth to the data discovered so far. Particularly useful would be a deep undisturbed site with charcoal associated with pottery and other economic data. This will enable the project to obtain a sequence of carbon 14 dates and so work out how subsistence patterns changed through time.

All the artifacts discovered are being studied in Barbados and deposited in the Barbados Museum. Running interim reports will be published in the Newsletter and the Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society.

The archaeological research team would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Barbados Museum staff and volunteers, the staff of Harrison's Cave, and to especially thank Museum members Ronnie Taylor and Margaret Deutsch for their interest and involvement during this period.

* * * * *

Saturday, January 4, 1986, Dr. Peter Drewett presented a discussion of finds made during the recent archaeological project. The informal discussion before an audience of 30 people proved interesting and lively as the group shifted between several tables and shelves of the project finds. Also, exemplary artifacts of the distinct ceramic ages of Barbados, and shell artifacts were passed throughout the group while questions and comments flowed both ways. The afternoon gathering was an encouraging success from the standpoints of both Saturday attendance and the value of informal public discussions set within the Museum surroundings.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONGRESS - PART 2

"AMERINDIAN PREHISTORY"

Richard Callaghan (University of Calgary) discussed stone tools (10,000 to 7,000 years ago) from Central America and the implications of finds of similar stone tools in the Caribbean island for hypotheses about the earliest human occupation of the Caribbean 6,000 to 5,000 years ago.

Irving Rouse (Yale University) delivered a paper raising the question of whether diverse Caribbean pottery styles represent plural societies comprised of separate ethnic groups. If so, he asks whether social plurality was the result of "en masse" conquest and population movement, or simple intrusions of smaller groups of people. His current conclusion is that three lesser waves of only one large-scale Arawak population movement (A.D. 200 - 1,000) spread through the Lesser Antilles and into the Greater Antilles.

Similarly, Arie Boomert (U.W.I., Trinidad), argues for a later Carib conquest of the Lesser Antilles based on the appearance of island pottery types analogous to Carib pottery of the Guianas. Regarding the cause and timing of the Carib expansion, he cites the possibility of a disruption of farming during "drought" conditions prevailing between AD 1100 and 1300.

Hypotheses, partly competing with those of Rouse were presented by Chanlatte Baik (University of Puerto Rico), whose ideas on Arawak cultural change include a series of economic changes occurring in situ in the Greater Antilles. Also Alberta Zacchi (IUIIC, Venezuela) postulates direct connections between Venezuela and the Greater Antilles (A.D. 600 - 1000) that may explain stylistic similarities between pottery of these respective areas, presumably exclusive of Lesser Antilles migration routes.

Mario Sanoja Obediente (Venezuela) described as a new UNESCO supported "self instructing" museum erected in Barrancas. This impressive project was aimed at revitalising the local communities appreciation of their Amerindian heritage and involve them in actively protecting significant archaeological sites in their region. Henri Petit Jean-Roget discussed recent finds in Guadeloupe and illustrated new Amerindian exhibits completed at the Musee de la Guadeloupe. Jay Haviser, J. Tacoma and E. W. Ayuti (Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology of the Netherlands Antilles), described recent research projects on Curacao, Aruba,

and Bonaire that have revealed artifacts and human remains dating back 3,000 to 4,000 years ago.

Peter Harris (Trinidad & Tobago Historical Society) discussed the implications of Trinidad burial goods (A.D. 250 - 800) as evidence for increasing Amerindian social organisation, including the development of a hereditary elite.

David Watters presented findings on Barbuda and Antigua regarding peninsula and lagoon formation post 3,000 years ago, and sources of pottery temper and chert used on these islands.

Reports on individual Amerindian artifacts included, a description of the mathematics of apostulated Antillean calendar represented on a hand-sized disc and found in the Dominican Republic, an account of the making of an elaborately carved stone bowl from Haiti, and an axe with a well preserved wood handle found in a river bed in French Guyana. A site report, perhaps the most provocative paper given during the conference, was given by Nik Douglas, (Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society). The site, a cave known as "The Fountain", is reported to include at least twelve newly discovered rock carvings. One of these appears on a 16-foot high staglamite and probably represents the Arawak's Creator diety.

INTERPRETATION OF HISTORIC AMERINDIAN CULTURE

Stephen Glazier discussed data from early Spanish documents to raise questions regarding the size of Amerindian populations inhabiting Trinidad (1498-1592).

Samuel Wilson (University of Chicago), described accounts of the Arawak elite and their political alliances formed through inter-marriage between leading families of different islands in the Greater Antilles and beyond. In a similar paper, Sued Badillo ((Puerto Rico) discussed records of Arawak chiefs, among them important Arawak women chiefs. Manuel Garcia Arevalo (Dominican Republic) presented interpretations of the role of ceremonial ball games, and related social events, in promoting economic exchange between different Arawak chiefdoms and villages within the Greater Antilles.

EARLY SPANISH EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT

A report on burial excavations at the first Spanish settlement (1490's) in the New World was given. At this site upwards of 200 burials are expected to be uncovered from a settlement occupied by about 500 Spanish men and women, most of whom quickly perished in epidemics.

Maurice Williams, Charles Ewen and Elizabeth Reitz (Florida State Museum) gave related presentations on excavations in Puerto Rico and Haiti (1504-1578). Also, Kathleen Deagan and Maurice Williams described three recent years of research at an Arawak village in Haiti, thought to be the location of "La Navidad", the site where the crew of the wrecked Santa Maria of the Columbus expedition, took refuge in 1492. This crew disappeared before Columbus returned on his second voyage, and until now it has not been possible to pinpoint the probable settlement location of the doomed crew. Roger Smith (University of Texas A and M) discussed finds of three shipwrecks connected with early Spanish exploration and commerce in the Caribbean. He also discussed the search for two "carvel" type ships abandoned by Columbus on the north coast of Jamaica in 1504, where they ran aground.

NORTH EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN SETTLEMENT

Elizabeth Righter (U.S. Virgin Islands) summarized research at the Zufriedenheit Plantation, St. Thomas. Desmond Nicholson, illustrated contemporary pottery making on Antigua and showed examples of early historic pottery made by slaves with designs of probable African derivation.

Norman Barka (College of William and Mary) presented results of five years of historical archaeology on Dutch settlements in St. Eustatius. W.P. Nagelkerkan (Curacao) illustrated changes in the balance of English versus continental European trade in St. Eustatius during the 18th and 19th centuries by analyzing the dates and origins of wine bottles discovered through underwater archaeology surveys.

LIBRARY NEWS

During the period under review October - December, ten (1) visitors used the Library during this period. The Librarian, Mrs. Carillo-Shannon was on vacation from November 13 - 27, 1985, and one of our volunteers, Mrs. Louise Van Der Laan was in charge of the Library. Her assistance was greatly appreciated..

A total of thirty-eight (38) new additions were added to the Library collection. Among the collection worthy of note:

Sehon S. Goodridge:	"Facing the Challenge of Emancipation"
W. Le Roy Inniss	"Civics For Barbados"
Trevor Marshall	"Folk Songs of Barbados"
Kenneth Blackmore	"Retail Jeweller's Guide"
Joycelin Massiah	"Women as Heads of Households in the Caribbean"

LIBRARY NEWS

Continued from Page 10

Barbados Report on the Commission of Enquiry on Glendairy Prison

Anthony Shepherd: "Postal Censorship in Barbados"

J.W. Adams: "Firm Commitment"

John Vince: "Discovering Carts and Wagons"

Jean Bawlu: "Green Monkey of Barbados"

Fifty-nine (59) researchers used the Library researching the following subjects:- Bishop Rawle, St. Ann's Fort, Garrison, Slavery in Barbados, Jews in Barbados, Newton Plantation, Crane Hotel, Coles Cave, Cricket, Museum Architecture, Laws of Barbados - 1850, Coins, Plantation Windmills, Rockley Resort, Old Mills and Plantation Owners, Military Hospital, Flowering Trees and Plants, Graeme Hall Plantation, St. Nicholas Abbey and Barbados Social History.

NEW MEMBERS B.M.H.S.

Mrs. Iola Ganteaume, Barbados

Mr. Carlton Murrell, U.S.A.

Ms. Michele A. Harris, Canada

Mr. Trevor Pollard, Barbados

Mrs. Nancy T. Holway, Barbados

Mr. Andrew I. Scantlebury,

Mr. J. Cecil Ince,

Mr. John W.F. Walcott

Mr. Oliver Jackman

Membership subscriptions for 1986 are now due. The membership list has just been revised and it is hoped that all members whose subscriptions have been paid up to 1985 have received copied of the 1986 Journal. Any such members who have not received the 1986 Journal should let us know immediately.

For several Life members with overseas addresses, we do not know whether the members are still alive, or if they are still living at the same addresses. Where we are in doubt we are enclosing a brief form in this Newsletter asking him/her to sign and return to the Barbados Museum.

The current rates of subscription are as follows:-

	<u>Bds.\$</u>	<u>US\$</u>
Life Members	400 .00	201.00
Annual Members	30 .00	31.00
Joint Annual Members (Husband & Wife)	40 .00	21.00
Firm and Company Members	100 .00	51.00

MUSEUM HOURS
AND EVENTS

Museum Staff Hours

8.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m

Monday - Friday

Open For Visitors

9.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Monday - Saturday

January 17

Slide Lecture by

William Cole on Carter's

Grove Plantation and

Williamsburg - A City

For All Seasons.

Exhibition Gallery

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Philatelic Society

meets every 2nd

Wednesday of the

month.

Holiday Dates

Museum Closed

March 28, Good Friday

March 31, Bank Holiday

Cover: Clay fragment found
at Heywoods.

ON SERVICE



Lester Thompson
Flamboyant Cottage
Hastings
Ch. Ch.

The Barbados Museum &
Historical Society
St. Ann's, Garrison
St. Michael