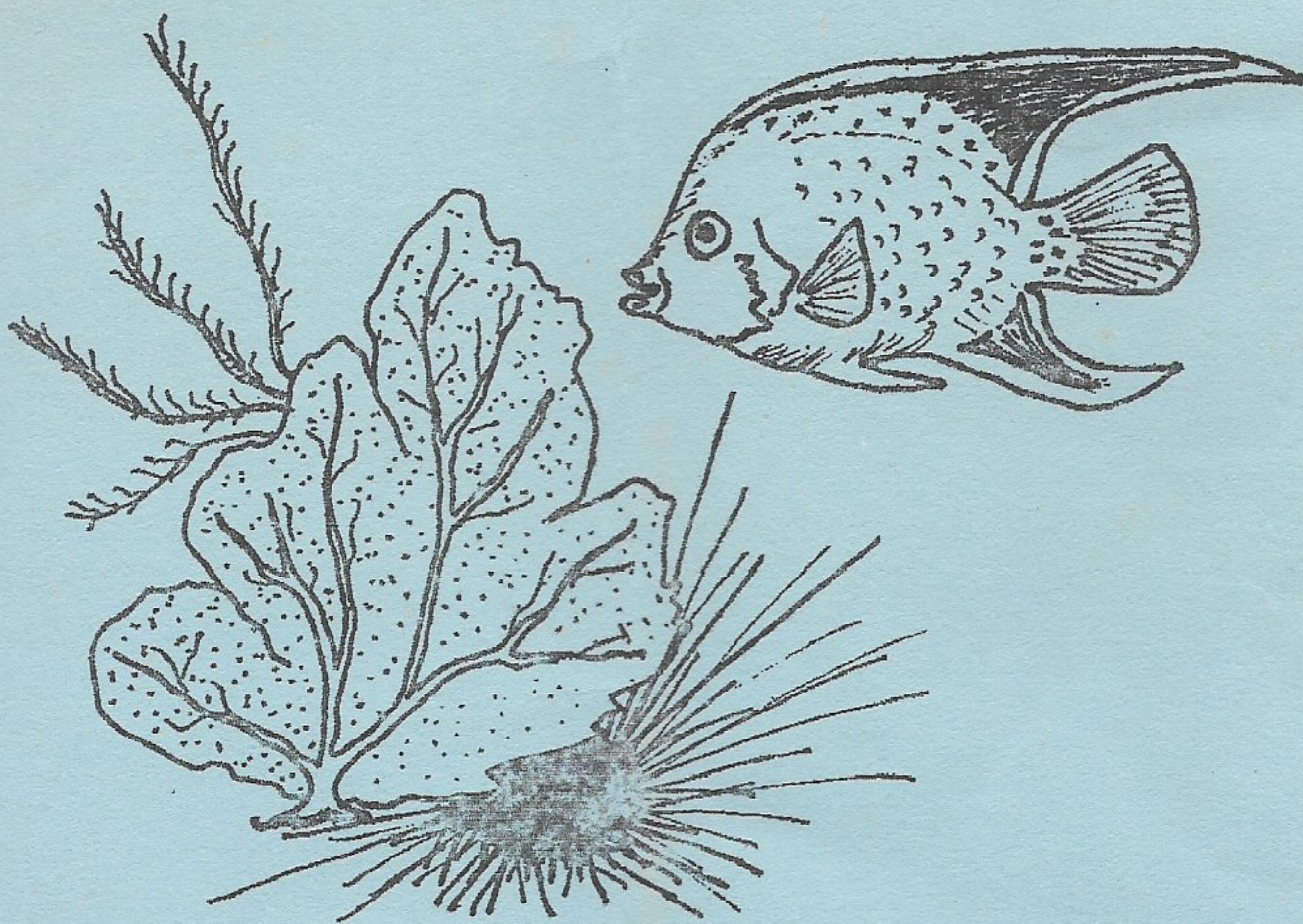


NO: 15

1st Quarter, 1986

# Newsletter



The Barbados Museum  
& Historical Society

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Museum is moving in new and exciting directions this year, one priority being plans for the development of a full scale education programme. The Museum Council has just agreed to the appointment of an education officer here at the Museum who will be responsible for the execution of the education programme. This will allow for a wider scope of volunteer activities than ever before and will hopefully bring us closer to our goal of becoming a part of the community.

I should also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our two assistant curators, Miss Philippa Newton and Mrs. Lesley Barrow-Whatley, on having been promoted to the position of curator. This is in recognition of the excellent progress which they have made in their work here at the Museum. The curatorial profession was a totally new discipline to both persons when they joined the staff. However the challenge of accomplishing the intricate duties of cataloguing, conservation, research and exhibition has now become a part of their lives.

One of the first questions which many visitors ask on entering the Museum is where they might find a drink or something to eat; this is often the deciding factor in determining the length of their visit to the Museum or indeed whether they will return in the future. The Council has therefore taken the step of establishing a sub-committee to look into the matter of developing refreshment facilities on the premises, the costs involved and how best to run it. I think that most of you will agree with me that this will improve the Museum facilities immensely and certainly entice more people to visit the Museum in these most comfortable surroundings.

### MUSEUM CONTRIBUTIONS TO ARLINGTON HOUSE PROJECT

Recent efforts to paint and clean the exterior of Arlington, House in Speightstown have received support from the Museum's curatorial staff. Staff members came out on several weekend days to paint and help clean the gardens areas, along with Peace Corps Volunteers and the Duke of Edinburgh Award young people.

The painting of the exterior is nearly complete and attention now turns to future possibilities for the unused space in the building. Several community groups, including the Barbados National Trust and the Barbados Arts Council are looking ~~at ways~~ to use part of the building and at the same time help to maintain the building. When plans are made for the use of Arlington House, the Museum will give support in the form of a small exhibit on the history of Speightstown, with historic photographs and information about the house and the town.

All of these efforts will increase awareness of the value of this building as an historic and a community resource.

### "SPIRIT WORLD"

This will be an ~~exceptionally vital photography exhibition~~ of a collection of black and white ~~and colour photographs~~ organised by the Louisiana State Museum. The exhibition dramatizes black New Orleans folk culture influenced by Afro-Caribbean traditions expressed in the Mardi Gras costumes and celebrations, marching clubs and rituals attendant to religious ceremonies of baptism, confirmation, funerals.

Photographed by Michael Smith and supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the exhibition comes to the Barbados Museum May 7 - June 7, 1986 through the generous sponsorship of United States Information Service.

PUBLIC APPEAL

From time to time the Museum has been offered interesting and exciting items for its collections which it has reluctantly turned away - simply because there is not enough money in our aquisition fund to allow for major purchases.

The reason for the existence of this Museum, as it is for any other Museum, is its collections: the acquisition and preservation of materials relating to our cultural heritage. Yet our goal is severely hampered by lack of funds to expand the collections and develop areas which need further information and research.

We need your help in order to achieve our goal of raising funds for major purchases for the collections. Items which have been identified include:

A copy of Richard Halls' Acts passed in the island of Barbados from 1632-1762 published, London 1764

£600

An important album of West Indian photographs a number of which are of Barbados around 1880

£450

An important photograph album by J.B. Harrison taken during a geological expedition into Barbados and British Guinea c 1880's

£290

A painting by C.S. Poyer of A View of Bridgetown from Erdiston in 1882. This shows the area now known as Belleville before it was laid out in 1885 by Sam Manning

£6000

Please contact the Director, Barbados Museum and Historical Society, St. Ann's Garrison, at 427-0201 if you are interested in contributing towards the purchase of any of these items for our collections.

GRAND EASTER SALE

From April 18th for one (1) month the Museum Shop will be selling many of our old stock items at half price. Irresistible items will include prints, postcards and cards and many more. So visit the Shop soon in order to take advantage of this offer. SEE YOU THERE!

### LIBRARY NEWS

Recent additions to the magazine section are the Smithsonian, Antiques, Burlington, Connoisseur - these magazines had not been coming regularly but now have been brought up to date.

Are you interested in the MuskoX then read about them in the February issue of the Smithsonian and also an article on the Peace Corps by Nancy Shute.

Antiques has an interesting article on silversmiths by Elenita C. Chickering worth reading. The Connoisseur February issue has an article on inventing sculptures by Elizabeth Frank worth perusing.

The Library receives periodically letters from overseas (mostly from U.S.A., England, Australia, New Zealand etc) researchers requesting information of a genealogical nature e.g. information on family names that appeared on the list of the first settlers to Barbados and subjects varying from who owned plantations where and when and if their uncle or aunt was buried in what grave, the year, parish and what church.

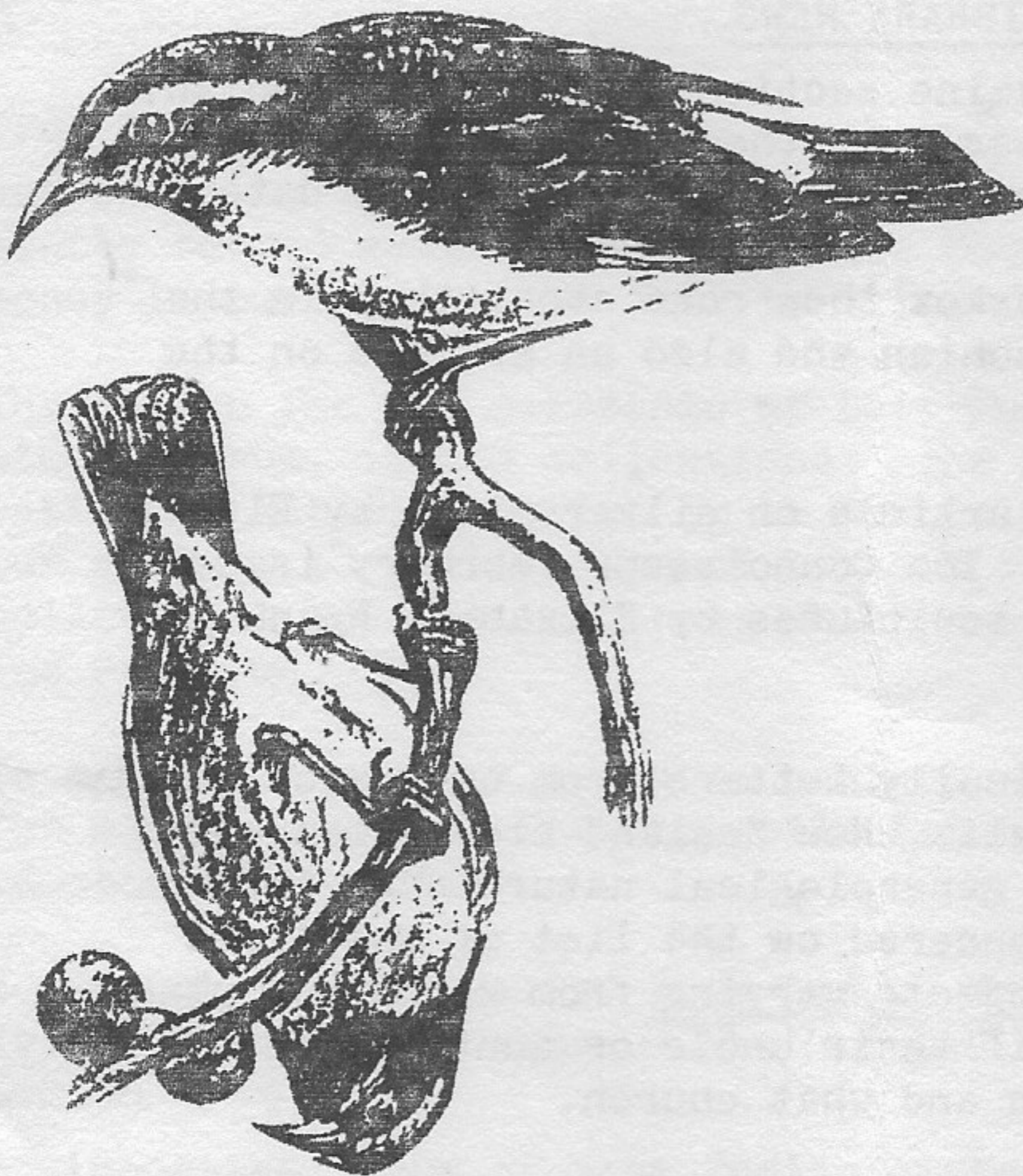
The Museum has certain books relating to this information. The Journals the Barbados Records containing Marriages, Baptisms, Wills and Administration Monumental inscriptions Genealogies of Barbados Families etc. This information, if it can be found is then photocopied and sent back to the researcher for a fee. If the researcher does not receive his or her information immediately this is because other priorities have prevented the Librarian from replying to these queries as cataloguing of new material does take priority over these requests.

NB. Lastly, the Librarian has been attending spanish classes in order to be able to read spanish documents received in the Library, and be able to know how to classify them. The Librarian has now passed the 1st series of spanish lessons.

### VOLUNTEER NEWS

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society has ongoing projects in the areas of archaeology, children's programs and exhibits, cataloguing, natural history, photography, and general care of artifacts.

On Thursday, April 17 at 10.00 a.m. there will be a meeting of all volunteers (and potential volunteers). This will give volunteers an opportunity to share and discuss their work with each other and with the curators. We will hold regular meetings of this sort on a monthly basis in an effort to solidify their role as members of the staff.



## ONWARD WITH EXHIBITIONS

Having survived the rigours of mounting our new exhibition, "In Search of Bim", the Museum staff now turns its attention to the planning and implementation of another major exhibition. This one will feature the natural history of our island and is intended to stimulate an awareness and appreciation of the environment in which we live. The exhibition will be mounted in the Harewood Gallery and will incorporate some of the natural history material already on display there.

Some of the main objectives of this exhibition will be:-

1. To emphasise the need for the protection of our natural environment.
2. To present the ecological concepts of communities and the roles played by various organisms.
3. To teach natural evolution and to show the special adaptations of plants and animals which make them suited to particular environments.  
and
4. To improve the Museum's natural history collections.

The displays will include a substantial amount of graphic material and dioramas where animals will be mounted in quite "natural" surroundings. By doing this the displays should be simple enough to be meaningful to young children (8 years) and at the same time be informative to adults.

Once mounted, this exhibition should become a major resource for students, especially in the biological sciences. The new curricula of the Caribbean Examinations Council demand a high proportion of field work and on-the-spot experience. We will therefore aim to present specific topic areas around which students can formulate projects.

Visitors to Barbados should welcome the gallery as a ready source of natural history information.

The displays will be arranged in a logical environmental sequence and will start with the open sea around Barbados. Coral reefs will be featured next, followed by seagrass bed environments.

Next will be the shores and both rocky and sandy shores will be highlighted. The world of a mangrove and sedge swamp will next be shown and will utilise Graeme Hall Swamp as the only substantial wetland area in Barbados.

The final section of the exhibition will cover purely terrestrial environments. The original floral coverage of the island will be depicted by reference to Turner's Hall Woods. Different floral environments such as gullies, sea cliffs and pastures will form the basis for displays on insects, birds, lizards, snakes, monkeys, bats, mongooses and many other animal neighbours.

The cost of this exhibition is projected to be \$90,000 of which about half is needed for the construction and installation of panels, cases and diorama spaces. The Museum is now in the process of seeking funding for this venture, from the private sector and also specific funding agencies both locally and abroad. This exhibition will go a long way to fulfilling vital needs of the community in terms of environmental conservation and education. The Museum will be grateful for any support in this venture. We need the interest and involvement of our members. Anyone interested in sponsoring the exhibition should contact Miss P. Newton, Curator - Natural History at 427-0201 or 436-1956.

By the way, we do hope that you have all had the opportunity of experiencing "In Search of Bim"!

#### SPECIAL EXHIBIT: BAJAN KITES 1986

From April 8, to Thursday May 1, there will be an exhibit of kites from this year's Kite Competition on the Garrison. A wide variety of kites, including many of the winners, will bring to the attention the talent in design and colour that goes into Barbadian kites.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Two days of preliminary archaeological investigations at the Greenland tile and brick factory (Building Supplies Ltd, St. Andrew) have revealed numerous fragments of pottery, shell adzes, and plentiful remains of prehistoric meals. Teams of investigators Directed by Museum Curator, Steven Hackenberger (U.S. Peace Corps) have included Barbados Community College students, visiting students and professors from Union College, New York, Museum Volunteers and the factory's managers/owners Mr. & Mrs. Else.

Fred and Barbara Else invited the Museum to investigate the factory premises to determine if any portions of the Amerindian village site remained intact. The village was first discovered when the factory was constructed in 1960. At that time, the Museum Director Neville Connell, and Mr. Ronald Taylor salvaged several unique examples of Amerindian pottery, including a bird effigy bowl. A shell tool collected from the site was dated to about 850 years ago (AD 1150).

Until now it was assumed that the archaeological site was completely destroyed. Test excavations, however, have revealed intact archaeological deposits in restricted areas of the factory grounds. New discoveries include: a burial in poor state of preservation, bone beads, ornamental shell, shell adzes, fragments of a large vessel with a human face handle, many fragments of ~~legged~~ dishes and clay cooking griddles, a stone anvil, and flaked stone such as would be set for the teeth of manioc (cassava) grating boards. Food remains include several types of shell, such as conch, chiton and whelk, fish bones and teeth (parrot fish and shark), and small bird and mammal bones. Lumps of unfired white clay found at the site were probably brought there from a local natural quarry source of white clay. The discovery of unfired clay with the remains of fired pottery reveal that the modern tile and brick factory has ancient precedents established on the basis of excellent local clay sources.

The prospects of locating additional burials, representative samples of food remains, and pottery dating to the period around AD 1150, make the site especially significant, because this period was one of widespread cultural material change in the Eastern Caribbean. Given the potential scientific and historical significance of the site, the Elses and the Museum hope to develop an educational volunteer project that will help save artifacts from the site and make information on the Caribbean's Amerindian legacy available for future generations of Barbadians and other Caribbean peoples.

Your help and interest in the project will increase our prospects for recovering important information on the Island's Amerindian past. To participate in the archaeological work, or to arrange a group visit to the site please contact the Barbados Museum and Historical Society.

### JOURNAL INDEX

A subject index to Volumes 1-36 of the journal is available in print. Work on it was started by the late Michael Chandler, and since his death it has been completed by his widow and by Jerome S. Handler and Barbara E. Cohen.

Members of the Society whose subscriptions are paid up to date will be entitled to receive a copy each free of charge on application. The price for additional copies will be \$5.00.

Copies for overseas members who request them will be sent with the next issue of the journal in January 1987. Any overseas member who wishes to receive a copy earlier is asked to send US\$1. for a copy sent by surface mail, or US\$2.50 for a copy sent by air mail.

### EXPOSURE: ART AT THE MUSEUM

Over the last two months two young Barbadian-born artists have been exhibiting their work in separate shows at the Museum's Gallery.

Joscelyn Gardner and Neville Legall are both in their twenties. Both gained top marks in their 'A' level art examination, and furthered their studies in this area. They are currently teaching art in secondary schools here, and in spite of meeting the demands of hectic work loads, have continued to work at and develop their talents in the field.

Joscelyn Gardner's show 'LINE AND COLOUR: GENESIS' and Neville Legall's 'PROGRESSION II' are also for both the second solo - exhibitions they have each held in their careers as artists.

Joscelyn Gardner's exhibition of lithographic prints was the first show mounted in our Gallery for this year. Joscelyn produced her work in Canada where she studied, yet the imagery is strongly linked to her Caribbean homeland and experiences - the world of the sea; shells, water and fish. Actually most of the pieces in the show depicted the evolution of a series of studies focussing on the shell form.

Perhaps because of both the inaccessibility to, and difficulties arising out of employing the technology to produce lithographs i.e. the presses and 'stones' lithography is still a seldom-used medium.

In addition to various lithographic processes; silkscreening, stencilling and paper dyeing were combined to produce a wide range of textures, colours and forms within the theme.

The pieces from this exhibition were quite large. They all showed a high level of technical competence, but above all they are daring in both concept and content and this has certainly been reflected in the impact they have had on viewers of all kinds who have come to the Museum.

In 'PROGRESSION II' the second show, Neville Legall utilizes oils, acrylics, watercolours, collage, drypoint and pen and ink to capture the mood of sunlight on the Barbadian environment. Landscapes of the town, country and coast make up much of the work on view, but the dominant subject stands out as the Barbadian chattle house. Unlike Joscelyn whose work was produced at a particular time in her development, a period for her also, of intense technical training and cross-cultural exposure, Neville's work covers a wider time span and shows the stages which he was and still is going through by experimenting with many styles and techniques.

Neville shows a sensitivity to the subjects he has chosen, and there is care in the variety of techniques he has used. Above all, the show is an acknowledgement of the continual development and determination of a young man who may inevitably surprise even himself.

# NEW MEMBERS

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society is very pleased to welcome so many new members to our list. We are very much encouraged by your growing interest and involvement in the development of the Museum and for showing your support in this way.

Mrs. Cheryl Forde	Barbados	Life
Miss Mary Gundy	"	"
Mrs. A.V. Gundy	"	"
Mr. Daniel Gundy	"	"
Miss Thanh Gundy	"	"
Miss Mai Gundy	"	"
Mr. Sean Brian Reece	"	"
Mr. Trevor Badley	"	Annual
Mr. Pete Bowley	"	"
Mr. Martin Frost	"	"
Ms. Jean Hackett	"	"
Mrs. Lee Howard	"	"
Mr. Thomas J. Keagy	U.S.A.	"
Mr. Clairmonte Mapp	Barbados	"
Mr. Daniel Roy	"	"
Mr. Gregory Trieloff	"	"
Mr. Ralph Walker	"	"
Mr. Albert Williams	"	"
Mr & Mrs Kenneth Gillmore	"	Joint Annual
Mr & Mrs Robert Hallgarth	"	" "
Mr & Mrs Graham MacGroch	"	" "
Dr & Mrs H.R. Sonis	U.S.A	" "
Mr & Mrs Alan Waddams	Barbados	" "
Mr & Mrs Anthony Wilson	"	" "
Ms. Michele Vieria	"	Junior Membership

## MUSEUM HOURS

### & EVENTS

#### Museum Staff Hours

Monday - Friday

8.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

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Open for Visitors

Monday - Saturday

9.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

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#### April 5th

Duke of Edinburgh

Award Scheme - Annual

Dinner

Time: 7.00 p.m.

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#### April 7th

Lecture by Dr. Karl

Watson

Time: 7.00 p.m.

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#### April 15th

Opening of Exhibition

'Flying High' - a

display of kites

continues to May 1st

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#### April 17th

volunteers meeting

Coffee served

Time: 10.00 a.m.

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#### April 18th

Grand Easter Sale

at Museum Shop

lasting until

May 18.

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#### May 7th

Opening of Exhibition

'Spirit World' -

travelling exhibition

of photographs from

Louisiana State Museum

continues to June 7th

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#### May 13th

Lecture on the

Outward Bound

Programme

Time: 6.00 p.m.

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Philatelic Society

Meetings

9th April

14th May

11th June

Time: 7.30 p.m.

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ON SERVICE

Mr. E. M. Lister Thompson  
Flamboyant Cottage  
Hastings Dr.

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