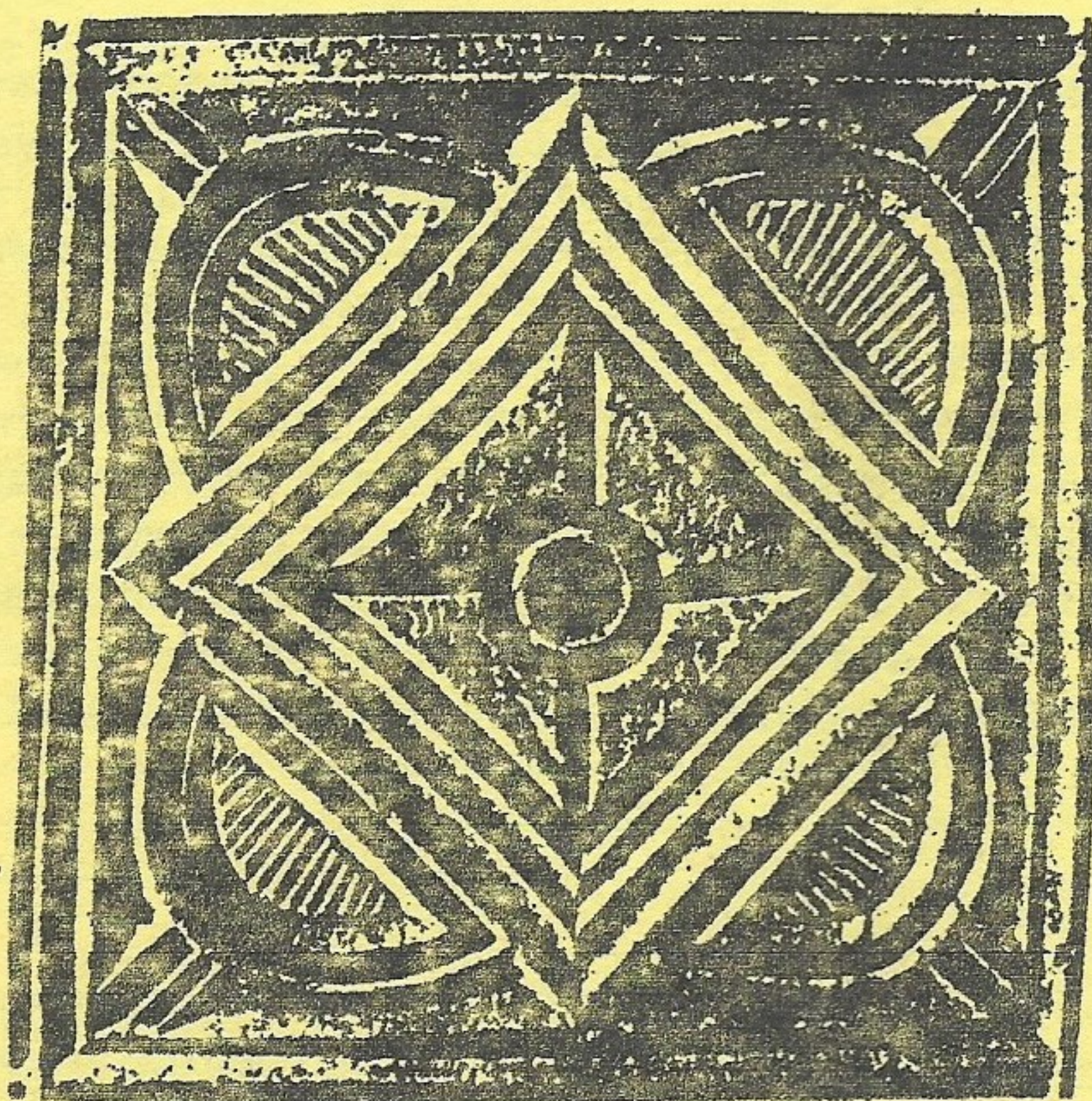


NO: 17

3rd Quarter, 1986

# Newsletter



## The Barbados Museum & Historical Society

Detail of geometric pattern  
carved in gourd, Nigeria.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Museum Development Plan completed in 1982 clearly defined the level of interest, within the Society, in the concept of revitalizing the educational thrust of the Museum's activities. Some individuals have expressed to me a fond remembrance of days gone by when they attended art appreciation classes held by the then Curator, Mr. Neville Connell. We hope that any education programmes which may be initiated in the near future will elicit a similar response, 20 years hence. The Museum must work towards encouraging a greater interest amongst Barbadian youth.

The Museum Development Plan states that "the Barbados Museum should be a vital instrument for promoting cultural development and awareness "and that it should be "an educational and cultural force within [the] Community".

The Development Plan Committee had a clear idea of the ways in which they envisaged the development of education activities within the Museum through the redesigning and utilization of the Children's Gallery. We have taken that first step with the appointment of Mrs. Wendy Donawa as Museum Education Officer in September this year.

Mrs. Donawa's excellent qualifications with her background in the arts and her many years teaching within the Barbados school system make her an ideal candidate for the task before her. Her responsibilities will include instituting educational programming, development of the Children's Gallery, coordinating school visits and liaising with other educational bodies. We look forward to having her work with us.



## ERRATA

Pg. 4. Para. 3. should read 'is' devoting much time rather than 'in'.

Pg. 4. Para. 7 omit 'and' before periodicals (line 2).

Pg. 8. Para. 4 should read 'and' an overview..... (line 2)

Pg. 10 Para. 4. prices for "Burnt House Plantation, St. Andrew" are the same as is quoted for the other cards.

N.B. We have unfortunately an unavoidable change of dates for the Training programme: Lectures 2 and 3 have been changed to:

Wednesday October 22 (lecture 2)

Wednesday October 29 (lecture 3)

respectively.



### CLUES TO PREHISTORIC BURIAL PRACTICES

In early August trench excavations for retaining walls at Plantations Ltd., Brandons, exposed human remains and Amerindian pottery at a depth of 1 to 2 meters below ground surface. Mr. Chris Thurkle reported the discovery to the Museum on behalf of Plantations Ltd.

Numerous fragments of pottery and bone were collected from three construction areas. Two locations (No. 1 and 3) yielded flanged rim pottery of medium thickness estimated to date between AD 600 and 1000. A third location (No. 2) contained finger indented rims and legged vessels and griddles probably belonging to a more recent time period, AD 1200 or later.

Examination of the only deep trench that remained open (location No. 1) revealed two features of pottery fragments buried 1.5 to 2 meters deep. These features were excavated by a team of volunteers. Washing and re-fitting pottery fragments leads us to conclude that no complete pots were buried in the features. Also, a few fragments of human bone were found within each pottery concentration. Therefore, we tentatively conclude that the features represent "secondary burials". This could mean that individuals were left to decay above ground before their bones were selected for use as tools of worship, or buried for an afterlife.. In this case some bones were buried within the two stacks of layered pottery (about 50 x 50 x 50 cm).

Among the fragments of pottery used for the burial constructions there are: many flanged rims, several examples of white on red painting, the remains of a flat or legless griddle, and a large open bowl with a spout and loop handle. This assemblage is estimated to date to between AD 600 and 800. However, exact dates are needed and it is hoped that funds will become available for the thermoluminescence dating of pottery samples from these probable burial features.



## WEST AFRICAN HERITAGE EXHIBITION

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society is currently researching and designing a semi-permanent exhibit devoted to the Caribbean's West African Heritage.

The exhibit will be housed in the Museum's Wide-World Gallery where some striking examples of artifacts and everyday objects from West Africa are already on display. Many of these are of Ashanti origin.

The exhibit will open December 1st. Museum Volunteer Christine Zephirin is devoting much time and energy to researching the Museum's collection and searching for artifacts which the Museum will exhibit. Christine and Patsy Small are also working to outline the thematic concerns of the exhibits and prepare interpretive texts for the exhibit.

Topics include: West African Kingdoms, dress and everyday life, spiritual beliefs, and African traditions in the Caribbean.

The Museum anticipates that artists in the community will assist the project. The Museum encourages collectors of African art and artefacts to contact the staff (427-0201 or 436-1956) if they are interested in loaning objects for the exhibit.

## BOOK FAIR

In response to numerous requests the Museum Library will be holding a book fair on Friday November 28th, 1986 between the hours of 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Members and friends are asked to donate any second-hand books and periodicals in reasonable condition, and there will be some duplicate items from the Museum Library on sale. Volunteers are also needed to assist in the organisation of the fair, and to help serve refreshments during the event.

Please contact the Librarian at 427-0201 or 436-1956 for further information. Proceeds from the fair will go towards the purchase of library books and equipment.

This effort is really in the nature of a test run and should it prove successful, consideration will be given to holding it on an annual basis.



## COLLYMORE EXHIBITION

The Barbados Museum is pleased to announce the continuation of the display on the late Frank Collymore (more recently on show at the new Frank Collymore Recital Hall of the Central Bank complex) in the Children's Gallery from October 2nd - October 17th. This has been made possible with the kind permission of Mrs. Ellice Collymore.

The exhibition on 'Colly', was put together by Mr. Lennox Honychurch in conjunction with the Barbados Archives and the Museum. It deals with four major areas of Collymore's life including:

Poet and Artist

Actor

Pupil and Teacher

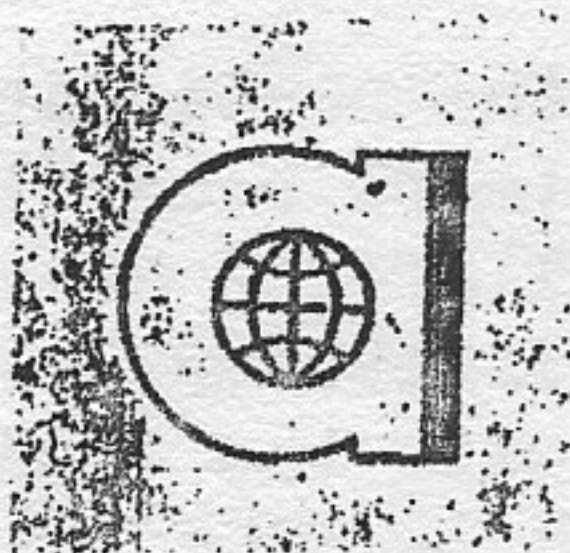
Author and Editor

with materials ranging from photographs, excerpts of published materials, various sketches and drawings and a variety of other material.

For the student or enthusiast of West Indian Literature and Art this is an opportunity which should not be missed.



## CARIBBEAN ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION



A Workshop in Basic Archive Conservation was held at the Department of Archives in Barbados (Technical Section) on July 7 th-20th 1986, held in conjunction with U.W. I. School of Education (In-Service Programme Facility). Sponsored by the Commonwealth

Archives Association, The International Council on Archives and the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Workshop was also hosted by the Ministry of Education and Culture in Barbados.

The two participants from the Museum were Mrs. Lesley Barrow-Whatley - Curator for History/Art and Mrs. Betty Carillo- Shannon - Librarian.

The Introduction to the course was made by Ms. Christine Matthews, Chief Archivist, Barbados acting as local co-ordinator. The Hon. Erskine Sandiford, Minister of Education and Culture gave the opening remarks, and I quote " a nation that conserves its political, social and cultural past is a rich nation, for conservation binds our past to the present and future. It is essential therefore that documentary material of enduring value, including books, papers, maps and other records containing the history and traditions of relatively young nations should be safeguarded for present and future generations. It is hoped that workshops such as this will improve the skills of the participants and the quality of service their institutions are able to offer towards conservation of the Caribbean archival heritage".

There were (11)eleven participants from Barbados representing the following institutions: The Barbados Museum, the Cave Hill Law Library Cave Hill Main Library, The Meteorological Institute, Barbados National Library Service, Erdiston College, Community College, Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and the Department of Archives.



Overseas participants were from Antigua, Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, Curacao, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Suriname, Tortola and Trinidad.

Tutors were from England, Curacao, Bermuda, Barbados National Library Services and Department of Archives, Barbados.

The main topics of the Workshop included the Nature of Archival Documents, Storage, Handling and Fumigation, Introduction to Conservation and Restoration, Storage and Handling Environmental Controls, Pesticides and their effects on archival material, Deacidification, Paper Repair, Leaf Casting and Reprographic equipment and materials.

The aim of the Workshop was to introduce participants to the Basic principles of conserving archival materials and consideration was given to the preservation of the computer studies as well as the automation of storage and reference systems.

Mr. Cyril Walker Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of Education and Culture gave the feature address at the closing ceremony and said that he hoped that more formal studies in conservation would soon be available.



## VOLUNTEERS TRAINING SEMINARS

Now that the Museum has an established education post, we hope to expand our outreach programs. This will provide outlets for volunteers interested in educational and personal contact activities.

The Museum wants to attract and keep a corps of committed volunteers; it is with this in mind that a course of activities is being developed, to begin October 14, 1986.

The benefits should be reciprocal: the Museum will have volunteers who are well-informed in their field of interest; and the volunteers will have opportunities for ongoing education and meaningful community involvement.

The seven seminars before Christmas give an outline of West Indian history an overview of the Museum's resources.

After Christmas, volunteers can choose from three areas of skills development: research, archaeology or education. (Times will be arranged at volunteer's/staff's convenience and according to the need for specific volunteer assistance).

If you have acquaintances you feel would enjoy volunteering at the Museum, particularly in the forthcoming educational programs, they would be welcome at the seminars.



TRAINING PROGRAMMETuesday, 4-30 - 6.00

- OCT. 14. Pre-Columbian culture and archaeology.  
Barbados Museum's archaeological collection.
- Oct. 21 European Settlement. African arrivals.  
The rise of the sugar economy. The Museum's  
African collections.
- Oct. 27 Social-economic background to the sugar economy.  
Abolition and Emancipation.
- Nov. 4 Post-emancipation developments, the rise of the  
village.  
The riots and labour movements.
- Nov. 11 Role and philosophy of the Museum. Conservation  
exhibits, collections. The role of the Volunteer.
- Nov. 18 The Museum and Natural History.
- Nov. 25 The Museum's Collections: Prints and Furniture.



# SHOP TALK

A number of exciting new items will be appearing on the shelves of the Museum Shop this month. These include our 1986 selection of quality cards for the Christmas season. The cards include:

	<u>Prices</u>	
	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
<u>The Careenage, Barbados</u> Oil painting by Percy William Justyne, 1848. (on loan from the Ilaro Court Collection)	\$1.00	\$1.25
<u>A View of Bridgetown from Erdiston</u> Oil painting by S. Poyer, 1882 (a new acquisition)	\$1.00	\$1.25
<u>Burnt House Plantation, St. Andrew</u> Oil painting by Alison Chapman-Andrews, 1985 (this scene was commissioned for the Jubilee Gallery)		

Also on sale will be our new publication \$15.00 \$20.00  
"Chapters in Barbados History" edited by  
Mr. Peter Campbell consisting of interesting articles from the  
old issues of the journal.

There will also be a number of items on sale relating to our upcoming exhibit on African Art at the Barbados Museum. (see feature article). This is the first time that the Museum will be featuring such articles as postcards of African pieces from our collection as well as a unique African Art Calendar for 1987. Finely crafted silver reproductions of African goldweights by Disa Allsopp will be available as well. So make the Barbados Museum Shop your first stop for Christmas shopping this year.



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.

Mr. Robert Batie	U.S.A.	Annual
Rev. Frank A. Cayless	"	"
Ms. Gloria Cummins	Barbados	"
Ms. Atheline Daniel	"	"
Dr. S. Ivan Smith	Canada	"
Miss Olga Symmonds	Barbados	"
Ms. Daphne Warner	"	"
Ms. Lucy Wisdom	England	"
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Connell	Barbados	Joint Annual
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Dinan	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Flam	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. Michael King	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. John Mayo	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Porter	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. Ezra Sandiford	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. John Whittingham	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Whittle	"	" "
The London Gallery	"	Firm & Company
Mr. Ian King	"	Junior
Mr. Mark King	"	"
Mr. Andrew Mayo	"	"
Mr. Robert Mayo	"	"
Mr. Simon Mayo	"	"
Ms. Laura Porter	"	"
Mr. Steve Porter	"	"



## MUSEUM HOURS

### & EVENTS

#### Museum Staff Hours

Monday - Friday

8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Open for Visitors

Monday - Saturday

9.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Frank Collymore's

Exhibition

Oct. 2 - Oct. 17

\*\*\*\*\*

Exhibition of Works by:

Ras Ishi Tafari

(Winslow Butcher)

&

Ras Akyem Ramsay

Nov. 14 - Dec. 12

\*\*\*\*\*

Book Fair

November 28th

10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Philatelic Society

Meeting

Every 2nd Wednesday

of the month

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Archaeology Group

Meeting

Every 3rd Wednesday

of the month

Time: 7.30 p.m.

October 15th

Lecture:

The Whys and Hows of

Archaeology

\*\*\*\*\*

Volunteer Training

Seminars

Every Tuesday of

the month

from Oct. 14 -

Nov. 25

\*\*\*\*\*

Opening of

African Art

Exhibition

Dec. 1st, 1986

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr + Mrs Lester Thompson  
Thompson Cottage,  
Hastings Church.

ON SERVICE

