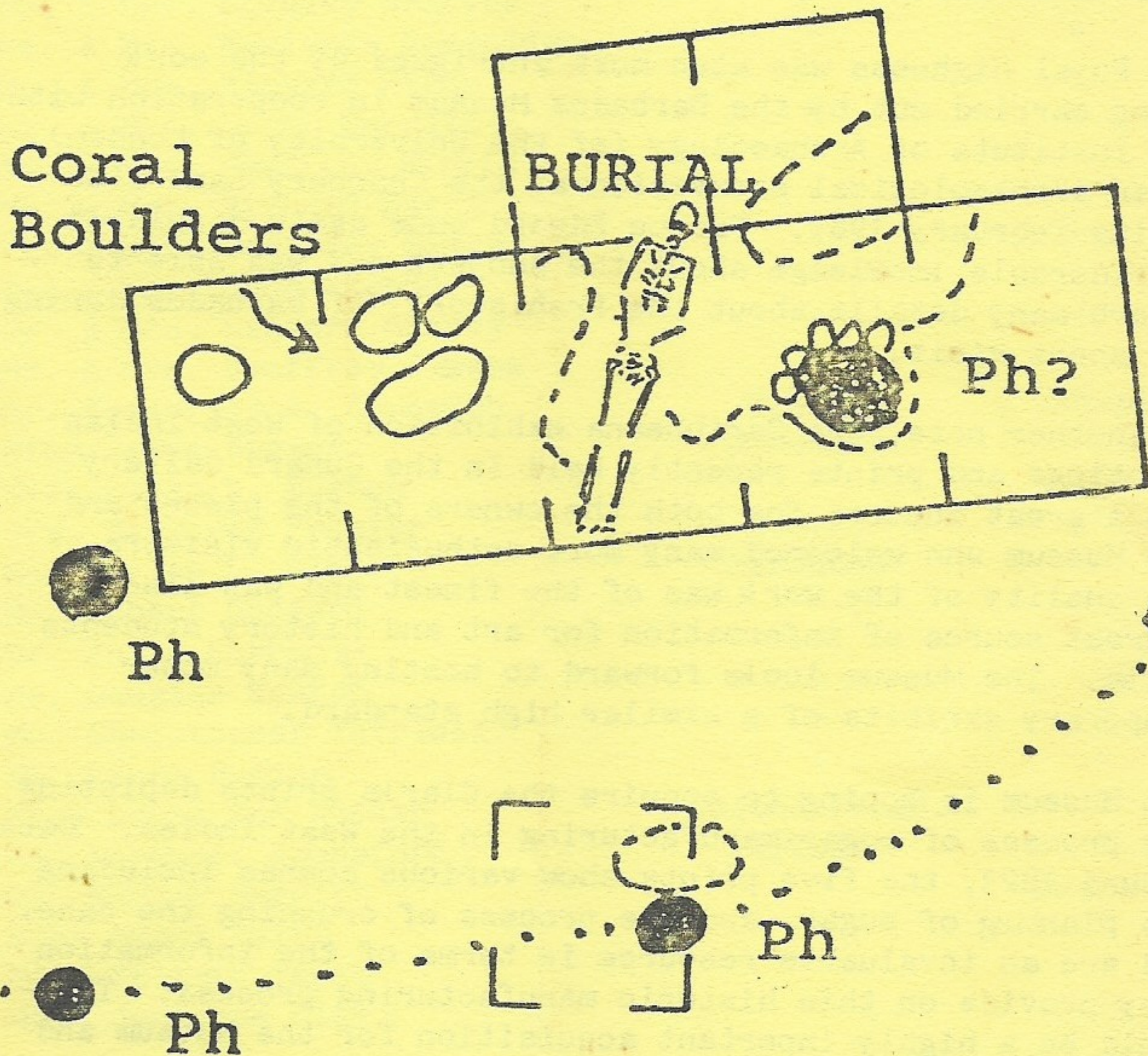


Newsletter



The Barbados Museum
& Historical Society

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Museum was recently honoured by an official visit of His Royal Highness, Prince Edward, who attended a showing of "1627 and All That". During a short tour of the Museum's galleries, Prince Edward was particularly enthralled by the collection of antique maps in the Aall Gallery and was extremely knowledgeable about various aspects of map making.

His Royal Highness was also most intrigued by the work being carried out by the Barbados Museum in cooperation with the Institute of Archaeology (of the University of London), at an archaeological excavation at the Chancery Lane site during February 1987. Prince Edward once again displayed considerable knowledge about the subject and was able to absorb many details about the Prehistory of Barbados during his short visit.

On another note, the Caribbeana exhibition of West Indian paintings and prints recently held in the Cunard Gallery was a great success for both the owners of the pieces and the Museum who welcomed many more enthusiastic visitors. The quality of the work was of the finest and was also a great source of information for art and history students alike. The Museum looks forward to hosting many other temporary exhibits of a similar high standard.

The Museum is hoping to acquire the Clarke prints depicting the process of sugar manufacturing in the West Indies. Dated around 1823, the five prints show various scenes including the planting of sugar, and the process of crushing the cane, and are an invaluable resource in terms of the information they provide on this historic manufacturing process. This would be a highly important acquisition for the Museum and every effort is being made to seek support for this purpose.

HAITI TOUR

BWIA is considering sponsorship of a cultural and artistic 4-day visit to Haiti.

Included in the proposed itinerary is a trip to the Sans Souci Palace and the famous mountain top fortress, the Citadelle. Considered to be a monument to human endurance, the majestic structure with 12-foot walls was built at the command of Henri Christophe and took 10 years to complete. Restoration of this historic site has been going on since 1979. The excursion is expected to be made by jeep and horseback and is sure to be a memorable experience.

There will be a visit to the National Museum which houses Haitian relics, early costumes, representative paintings and historic documents in a beautiful hilltop mansion.

For art lovers the many galleries will hold special appeal particularly the Musee d'Art Haitien du College St. Pierre, which houses the work of Haiti's leading artists.

There will also be time set aside for sightseeing and shopping, particularly in the handicrafts markets.

The hotel under consideration is set in the mountains 200 feet above the capital, where reasonable rates of \$35 U.S. (single) and \$55 U.S. (double) have been quoted.

Departure from Barbados would be on a Thursday at 9.15 a.m. with an arrival time in Port au Prince, Haiti, of 2.30 p.m.

All interested persons should contact Mrs. Celine Barnard, B.W.I.A's Promotional Consultant, no later than April 6th at one of the following numbers: 426-3030, 426-4871 (during office hours) or 433-2409 (evenings or weekends). She will be able to supply further details and information.

CHILDREN AND NATURE

Fifteen wonderful youngsters between the ages of seven and twelve, took part in the Museum's very first Children's Nature Series, held on Saturdays from January 17 to February 7.

Real teamwork was necessary for this project; Education Officer, Wendy Donawa, handled registrations etc. Curator for Natural History, Philippa Newton and two volunteers, John and Alice Lamoureux were group leaders. Because only one of the four sessions was actually conducted at the Museum, a car pool was organised by a few parents, who seemed to enjoy the series as much as the children.

One Saturday involved a walk over to the beach behind the Defence Force Headquarter where we collected, identified and drew pictures of several types of algae, bristle stars, crabs and other "catchables". These drawings were sent to the Indianapolis Children's Museum a few days later to complement their West Indian Children's Day.

Next we made our way to Graeme Hall Swamp, a new experience for most of the children. While the older ones contemplated the ecological significance of this area, the younger ones appreciated it for its "mud-slushing" and "tree-ducking" capabilities.

Perhaps the most anticipated adventure was our "pot fishing" expedition off Holetown. Using the research vessel of the Bellairs Research Institute and a small safety vessel and life-jackets from the Barbados Defence Force, we ventured at being fishermen, while learning about the behaviour of fish which make them susceptible to capture by metal traps. Dr. Wayne Hunte, Director of the Institute, and Museum Council Member, and some of his marine biology students assisted. Willie's water sports provided extra life-jackets.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Library continues to get gifts from generous donors. Mrs. C.B. Crowe gave a nice selection of books from her late husband's collection which will be sold in our next Book Sale hopefully in May on Museums Day. Mr. Edward Stoute is constantly giving more valuable clippings on Barbados.

Library Users: Sixty persons used the service requesting mostly Genealogical History, Other subjects included Farley Hill History, The Cathedral, The Garrison History, Life of Oliver Messel, Charles Duncan O'Neale, Sailor's Valentine, Tramcars, Swamps, The Bussa Rebellion, South Carolina Explorations, Slavery, Plantation Life, Manjak, The Bush Tea, Lynch's Secondary School, Bajan Architecture, and Barclays Bank.

Overseas calls were received requesting information and over twenty letters seeking assistance.

The Library was closed from January 23rd to January 30th in order to carry out some minor repairs. During that period the Librarian was on holiday.

Volunteers: There are four volunteers working in the Library and another typing cards for photographs. One of the volunteers Mrs. Marianne Post will be leaving on March 12th to return overseas. She has been very helpful with the indexing of magazines. We are indeed grateful for the time she has spent with us.

Thirty nine new books were added to the Library collection. These include Lennox Honychurch's "Caribbean Landmarks", Edward Stoute's "Glimpses of Old Barbados", the 2nd edition of Historic Houses of Barbados, "Caribbean Style" by Susan Slesin, "Taste of Barbados" by Jill Hawkins. These books contain valuable research material for users of the Library.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The end of March seems a good time to take stock of our fledging education program. Initial efforts to structure visits around cultural and historical themes began six months ago; since then, 71 school visits have brought 1769 children through the Museum.

How is a school visit most effectively structured in a small Museum?

On arrival, visiting classes are divided into sub-groups of 10-15. Each group examines one exhibit in detail - say, Amerindians, or African Heritage or Plantation Slavery. They are accompanied by Museum personnel, who interpret the exhibit and supply the children with work-sheets and activities.

For older, academic students, these worksheets are linked to the CXC syllabus. Non-academic youngsters are more comfortable with study material that is more pictorial than verbal. With the youngest pupils, a massive consumption of pencil crayons occurs.

A few schools have already become frequent "clients"; One secondary school routinely sends its students to research history projects. The Children's Development Centre brings a small class of physically disabled children on alternate Tuesdays - we use exhibits to develop general knowledge and language skills. These small personalized classes would not be possible without the dedication of our education volunteers. Last term, a series of lectures gave them a grounding in major historical movement and in the museum collections. This term we met for regular seminars to research and upgrade teaching techniques and the collections.

Despite occasional teething problems, we have had positive and encouraging feedback from teachers and children. To assess the program more objectively, we have sent out questionnaires to each teacher who has brought a group this year.

All in all, our first half-year in existence has been challenging and fruitful, exposing a new generation to intelligent museum going, an activity we hope will be habit-forming.

GODDARD SITE INVESTIGATIONS

Methods: In December, engineering work began at Kensington (Goddard's Supermarket) on the proposed site of a new discount store. Here engineering test pits unearthed sherds, bone, shell and historic period artifacts. With Mr. Richard Goddard's assistance, a Bobcat was used to excavate a trench (5 x 11.5m) to a depth of 80 cm. In a trench, at a depth of 90 to 120 cm, an undisturbed extended Amerindian burial was excavated.

To recover the maximum amount of archaeological data pertaining to residence patterns at the site, arrangements were made between Goddard Enterprises, Durahome Construction and C.O. William's Construction Company to use bulldozers to remove soil layers prior to the planned date for total earth removal and foundation construction.

As machines removed the top 60 to 80 cm of soil, the author and assistants collected exposed historic and prehistoric artifacts in four areas of approximately 10 x 10 meters each. Concentrations of historic rubble, or building materials, and possible historic features were recorded. One concentration of human bone (Amerindian) was uncovered by the bulldozer.

A grid system with 5 x 5 meter units was established using survey instruments. The grid area extended 35 m (North/South) by 25 m (East/West). Sixteen test units (1 x 1 m) were excavated, one from the northwest corner of each 5 x 5 grid unit in the northern two-thirds of the grid. Six additional test units were selected for excavation within the 5 x 5 m units.

A pattern of post-holes was identified that formed an approximate semi-circle of about 14 meters in diameter. This pattern indicating the walls of a house, enclosed the area of the extended burial first excavated in the 5 x 1.5. m test trench.

A previously wooded area of lower land (once a pond), located to the West of the gridded area, was cleared to the water table. Here within the beach sands underlaying the levels with artifacts, spring water has preserved large fragments of wood that are carbon fourteen dated to about 2300 years ago.

Ceramics: The site contains examples of decorated pottery and pottery forms attributed to the Troumassoid (A.D. 650-1100) and Suazoid (A.D. 1100-1450) ceramic series. Examples of thin incised pottery thought to characterize the Palo Secan Saladoid series (A.D. 350-650) were also found. Thermoluminescence dates are desirable to confirm an age assignment for this pottery type; and thereby document the earliest time at which the village might have been established.

Stone Technology: Fine screened soil samples from Greenland and the Shell Oil Depot have revealed microliths. These microliths, which are small sharp flakes of stones, may have been embedded in wooden planks with a resin and used to shred cassava. Cores, the larger stones from which the small flakes were removed, have now been found at the Goddard Site. The combination of these recent finds demonstrates the practice of stone technology on Barbados.

Human Remains: Human remains of Amerindian people were discovered at the Goddard Site. These finds are among the first professionally documented record of pre-historic human burials on Barbados. This author currently suggests that the individual buried within the house at the Goddard Site may be a young woman in her teens or early twenties. Specialists are to examine and report on the remains of this individual.

A Household: With the discovery of the outline and floor of a circular house at Goddards it is possible for the first time to discuss residence patterns and household activities for pre-historic Barbados. Each post in the house "wall" was placed about three large paces (3m) apart and probably measured between 15 and 20 cm in diameter. At least two larger posts (perhaps 30 cm in diameter) were used to support a roof. A series of small posts were used to construct at least one partition within the house and several miscellaneous medium-sized posts were most likely

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used to support hammocks hung from the wall posts and oriented toward the center of the house. Other archaeological features in and around the house include cooking and refuse areas, a shell tool making "workshop" area, and a probable well lined with three large bottomless pots.

Unique Artifacts: A unique artifact from the Goddard Site is a modelled figurine of clay in the form of a dog and/or a bird head (3 x 4 cm). The head includes shell inlaid to represent an eye. Also unique is a parrot-like head attached to the heavily modeled rim of a closed bowl. Of last important note, a small coral stone artifact ground into the form of a triangle was found at the right forearm of the individual buried within the house identified at the Goddard Site. This object may represent a variation of the small three-pointed stones identified throughout the Eastern Caribbean. This inference, if correct, further demonstrates the occurrence of symbols with extensive regional distributions (including Barbados) between A.D. 650 and 1100.

Cont'd from Page 3.

Projects: A documentary was requested from WGBY in Springfield Massachusetts on Ms. Shirley Chisholm. A lengthy research with material from our Library, The Barbados Advocate Library, and Mr. Goulbourne Brathwaite was forwarded to the Associate Producer.

Several schools and University students have been using the Library for research.

TO THE FESTIVAL!

This year, the Museum participated in the Holetown Festival in two ways. As part of the week-long activities, a temporary exhibition, "Barbados' First Farmers", was mounted in the Holetown Library. This formed part of a larger exhibit called "Early Foods and Farming" which was jointly presented by the Museum and the National Library Service. The Department of Archives provided some assistance with research.

On the weekend, February 21st and 22nd, a stall was set up just opposite the Police Station. Our choice of a colourful tent and a wide variety of items from the Museum Shop, proved to be quite popular with festival-goers. Many people were heard to comment that they never knew that such a good collection of books, prints and craft items are normally on sale at the Museum.

Since sales were good and the stall also served as a publicity and information centre, we shall try to repeat this activity at future festivals.

We take this opportunity to welcome the three new members who joined the Society at the Festival Stall.

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LECTURE: The Malinke

The Society invites all members to attend the fourth in the on-going series of lectures on the West African Heritage of Barbados on Wednesday 1st April 1987 at 7.30 p.m. Dr. Delores Koenig, well-known anthropologist, will be talking on her work with the Malinke of Mali. Dr. Koenig's talk promises to be fascinating and should be well-illustrated with art and artifacts of the Malinke. Dr. Koenig's visit to Barbados has been sponsored by LIAT 1974 Ltd.

BARBADIAN FURNITURE: Information Requested

The Barbados Museum and the National Cultural Foundation are currently planning an exhibition on the history of furniture in Barbados from the 17th century to the present. Information is requested from anyone who can help us with our research for the exhibition.

Special emphasis will be placed on the island's own productions so we will be particularly interested to learn of pieces known to have been produced on the island - either pieces with a manufacturer's label, documented pieces or pieces with known history (perhaps retained in a family for generations) also any prints, drawings, paintings or photographs of furniture or of interiors showing furniture. Information about old furniture businesses, either in the form of pattern books, records, or simply reminiscences would also be welcome.

As our survey will include the influence of imported pieces over the centuries, we are also interested in historic pieces known to have been imported, perhaps by their maker's labels or from other evidence of their origin overseas.

Please contact Karen Moon: 436-8062

Lois Brathwaite: 424-0909

or

Lesley Barrow-Whatley: 427-0201/436-1956

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. & Mrs. Creighton Birch	Barbados	Joint Annual
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Greaves	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. Newlands Greenidge	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hinds	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Merritt	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Parris	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Parry	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Ramsey	"	" "
Dr. & Mrs. John Shepherd	"	" "
Dr. & Mrs. Leonard Shorey	"	" "
Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Skeete	"	" "
Mr. Frederick A. Abramson	U.S.A.	Annual
Miss Jayne Booker	Barbados	"
Miss Susan E. Burton	"	"
Mrs. Margaret Frazier	U.S.A.	"
Ms. Marion L. Gibbs	Barbados	"
Mr. Robert Goddard	"	"
Dr. Julia Horrocks	"	"
Mr. Douglas Newton	"	"
Mr. Christopher Thirkell	"	"
Ms. Laura Rudder	"	"
Miss Lorna Ann Rudder	United Kingdom	"
Mr. Harcourt Rocheford	Barbados	"
Mr. Matthew Merritt	"	Junior
Miss Shani Taitt	"	"
Miss Folayan Taitt	"	"
Mrs. Jamesene Clark	"	Life

MUSEUM HOURS

AND EVENTS

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

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.

Museum Closed

April 17: Good Friday

April 20: Easter Holiday

May: May Day

African Art Exhibition

"A Harvest of Knowledge"
continues in Wide World
Gallery

Philatelic Society Meeting

Every 2nd Wednesday
of the month

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Archaeological Group Meeting

Every 3rd Wednesday
of the month

Time: 7.30 p.m.

African Lecture Series

Lecture Gallery: 7.30 p.m.

April 1st: Dr. Delores Koenig

"The Malinke of Mali"

May 6th: Dr. Ayo Ajaikeye

Nigerian Ambassador

Museum Open Day

Saturday, May 16

10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

In celebration of Inter-
national Museums Day

Exhibition: Barbadian Furniture

The History of Furniture
in Barbados from the 17th
century to the present.

To be jointly presented
by the Barbados Museum and
the National Cultural Foundation

Venues

Museum Lecture Gallery
Queen's Park Gallery
Queen's Park Stables

May 31st - July 6th

ON SERVICE