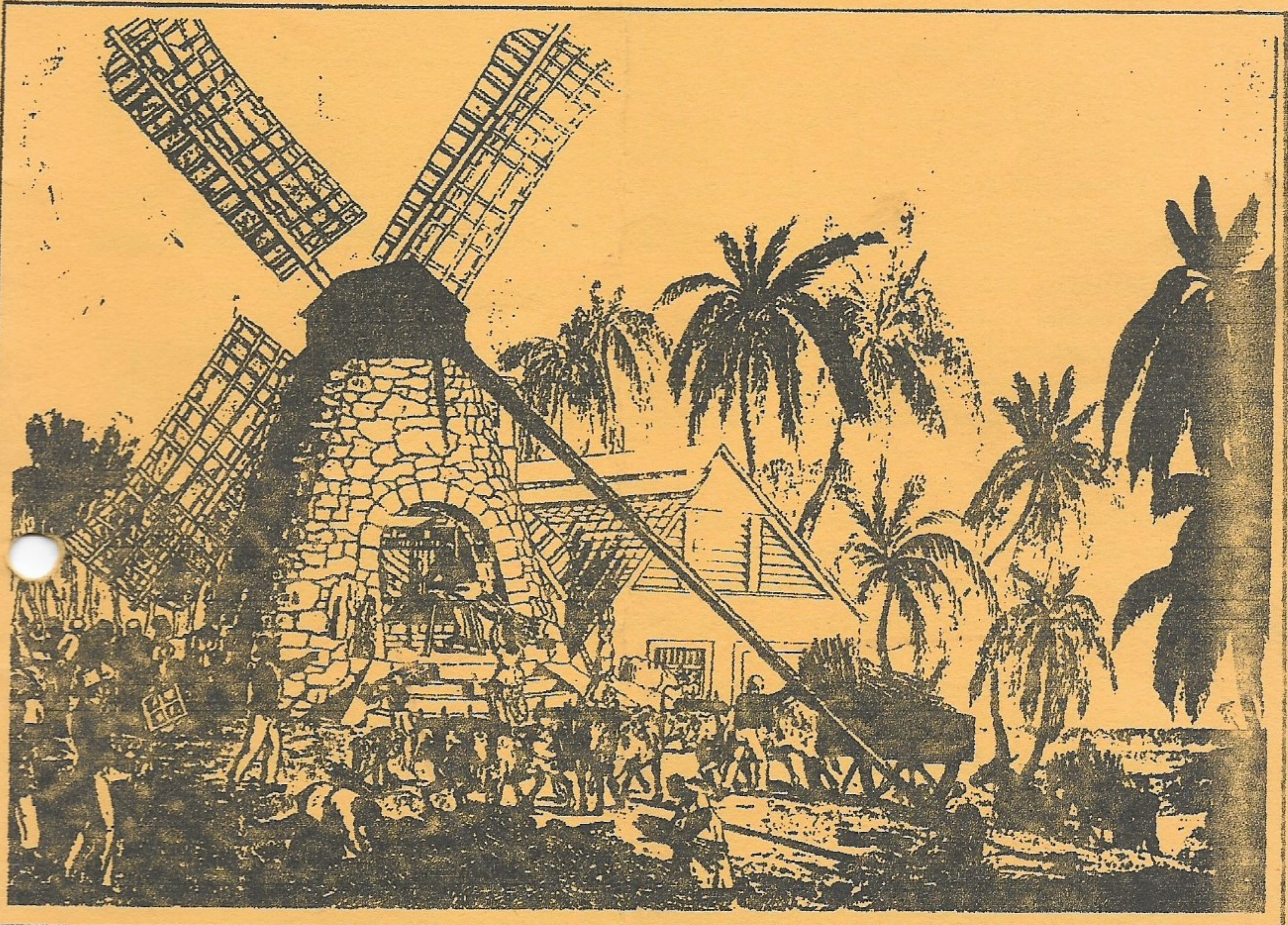


NEWSLETTER

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THE BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

For more than 50 years, the collections, activities and facilities of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society have developed through the initiative of its membership. With this firm foundation, the museum continually re-examines its role as a community oriented society.

Clearly, the initiative and dedication of its members, both in formulating important policies and in pursuing specific goals, has helped preserve our cultural heritage. Without a dynamic membership, the museum would have long since descended into the stagnation which has afflicted some of our less fortunate sister organizations in the region.

Instead, the Museum now projects a vigor and enthusiasm which pervades its activities. This is clearly illustrated by the Archaeology Group's initiative in formulating policy concerning the museum's archaeological activities. I am happy to note that their proposal met with the Council's full approval.

Members have been similarly enthusiastic in their support of museum research, library assistance, exhibitions, education programs and our recent summer program. This support has taken the form of volunteer assistance under curatorial supervision or simply of participation in museum activities.

I congratulate the membership on its support, initiative and continuing interest in the Museum. It is your enthusiastic reports that have encouraged our growing local membership over the last few years.

Keep up the good work and continue to find new members. Remember, membership in the Barbados Museum and Historical Society makes a wonderful gift, so put us on your Christmas and Birthday list!

TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF CARIBBEAN ARCHAEOLOGY

The 12th International Congress of Caribbean Archaeology was held in Cayenne, French Guyana, from 27th July to 2nd August.

Seventy participants from 22 countries attended, a smaller number than the last meeting, due primarily to the time and expense of travelling to French Guyana (which took two days each way to and from Barbados).

Barbados was represented by Alissandra Cummins Director, Steve Hackenberger, Associate and Mary Hill-Harris (through the Institute of Archaeology in London). Margaret Deutsch attended as an independent member.

The Congress was divided into six thematic sessions, in which Barbadian participation included:

- Margaret Deutsch's reading of Steve Hackenberger's paper on Amerindian Calendars
- Mary Hill-Harris' paper on the Barbados Archaeological Survey findings from the Chancery Lane excavations.
- Steve Hackenberger's report on the Barbados Museum's 1986-87 archaeological investigations, emphasising the house features of the Goddard Site, and the burials at the Goddard, Chancery Lane and Greenlands Sites.

Business discussions included plans for the 13th Congress, to be held in Curacao in 1989, and election of the new Board of Directors, which now includes Alissandra Cummins as Secretary.

The host country for the 14th (1991) Congress has not yet been decided on, but the Director feels an invitation from Barbados would be welcomed. Coming the year before the massive, regional quincentennial celebrations, such a conference would be an attraction no Caribbean historian or archaeologist of note would miss.

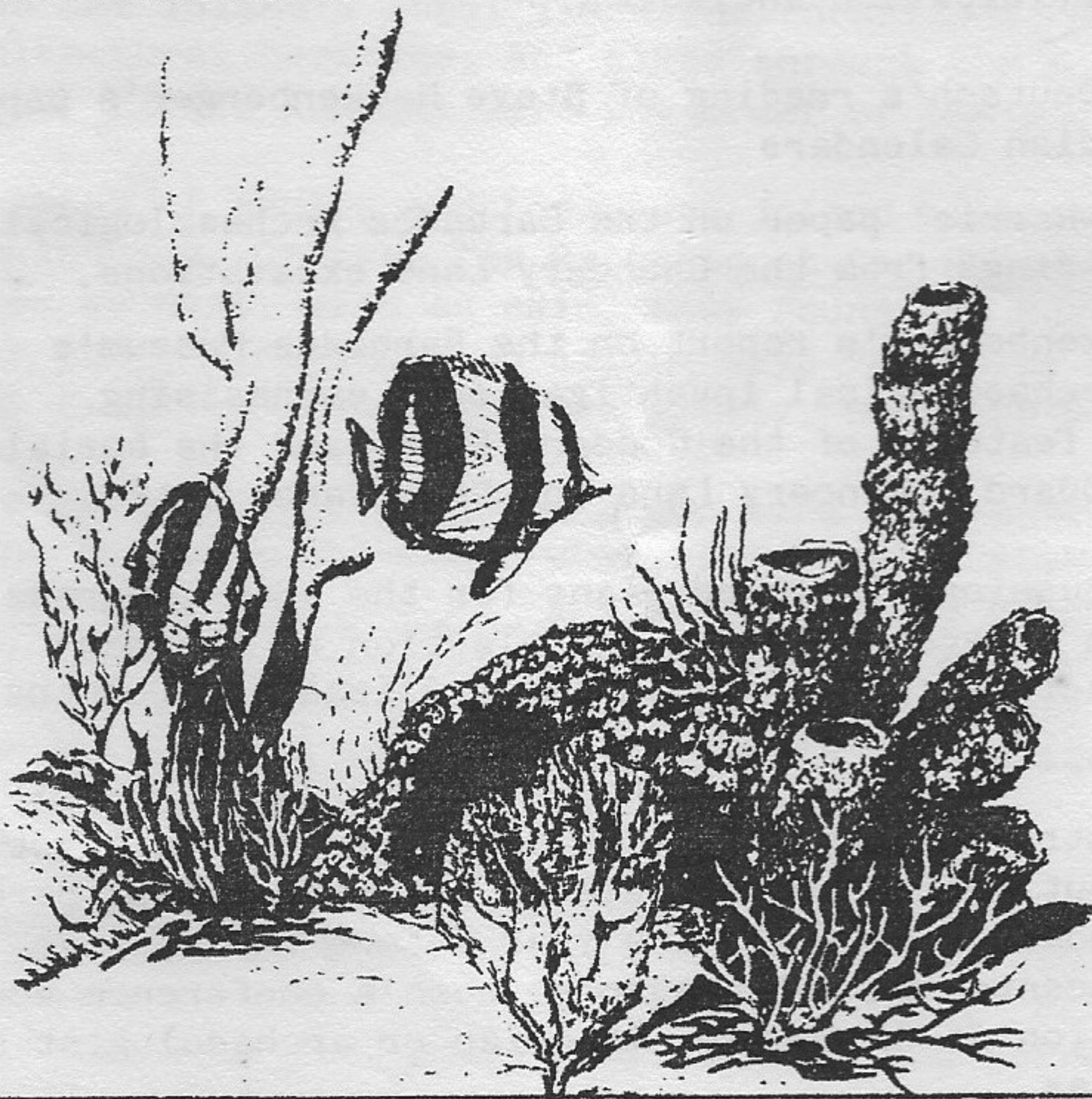
WATCH OUT BIRDS AND FISH!

Flying south recently was Mr. David Weatherley, a taxidermist of the North West Museum and Art Gallery Service in Blackburn, England.

For the next two months, David is on contract to the Museum and will be mounting birds and preparing fish models for our upcoming natural history exhibition.

This project was assisted by the keen cooperation of the Ministry of Education and Culture, by funding from the Commonwealth Foundation and by the loan of a car from the Ministry of Economic Affairs. David's field collecting trips will be enhanced by the use of this vehicle.

We look forward to David sharing some of his skill with Museum Staff and volunteers.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Life in a rut? Perhaps museum Volunteer work would provide the new interest you need. A variety of intriguing openings could utilize the skills and experience of retired or semi-employed people, or of those needing skills and experience to enter the work world.

The Natural History Curator, working full steam ahead for the new exhibit, is prepared to train the following:

- Preparator (of zoological specimens)
- Modelmaker/diorama technician
- Catalogue assistant
- Specimen collector

At the moment we also have openings for:

- Research assistants in History, Natural
History and Art
- Gallery technician
- Modelmaker/restorer
- Library assistants
- Education docents
- Curatorial assistant

Many of these positions do not require prior background; the relevant curators will provide training. The time commitment varies, but in general we ask for a minimum of one session or one half day per week.

If you are interested, call the Education Officer and go through the Volunteer Task Folio.

A Coffee-morning get-together will be held for all the Museum's Volunteers Wednesday October 21 at 10.00.

SHOP TALK

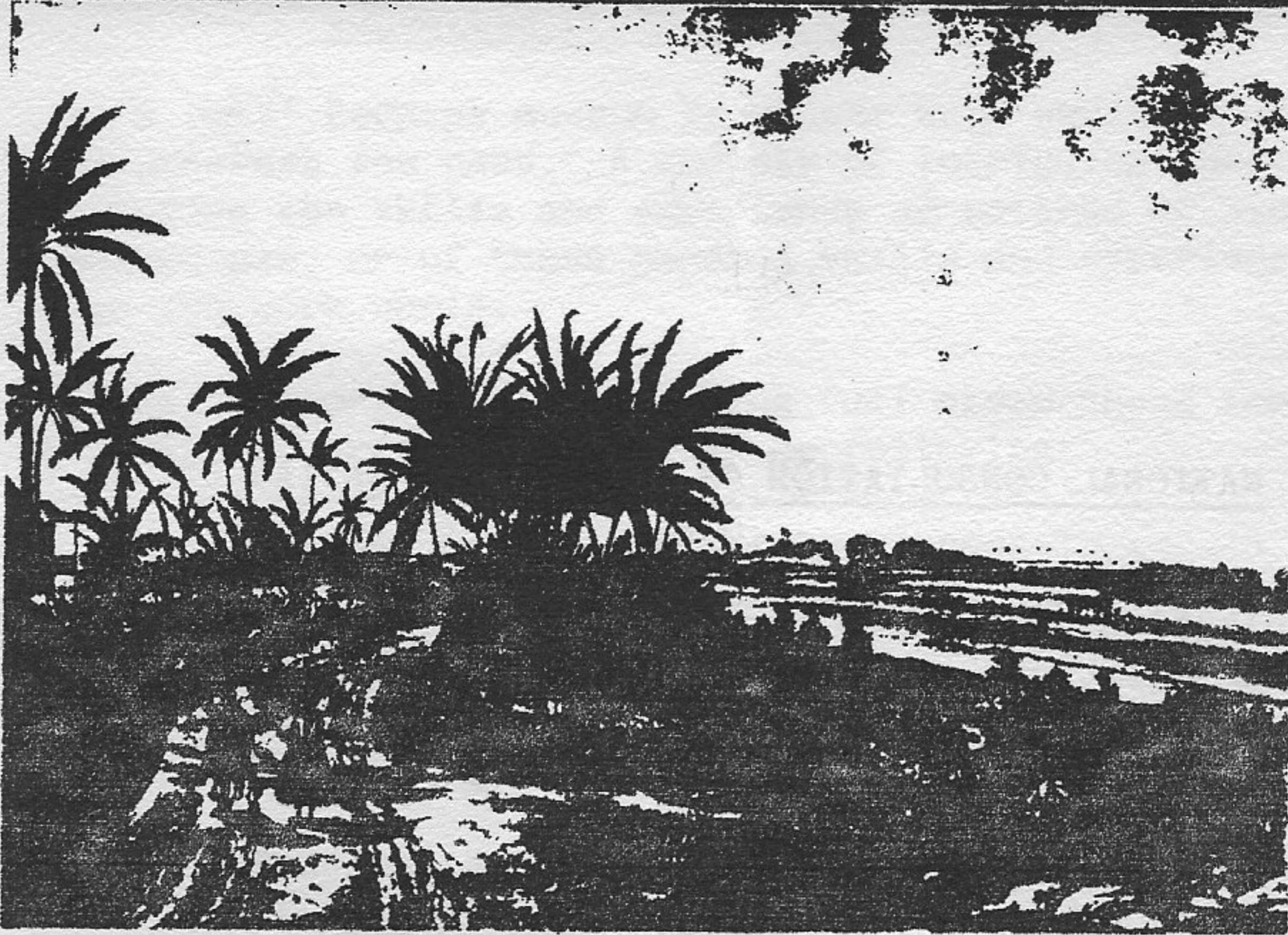
Four attractive new Christmas cards are now available in the shop. With or without seasonal greetings, they are \$1.25 each, \$1.00 to members.

William Clark's 1823 aquatint, A Mill Yard of the West Indies, one of a series depicting the sugar-making process, shows cane being headed into the bustling mill yard.

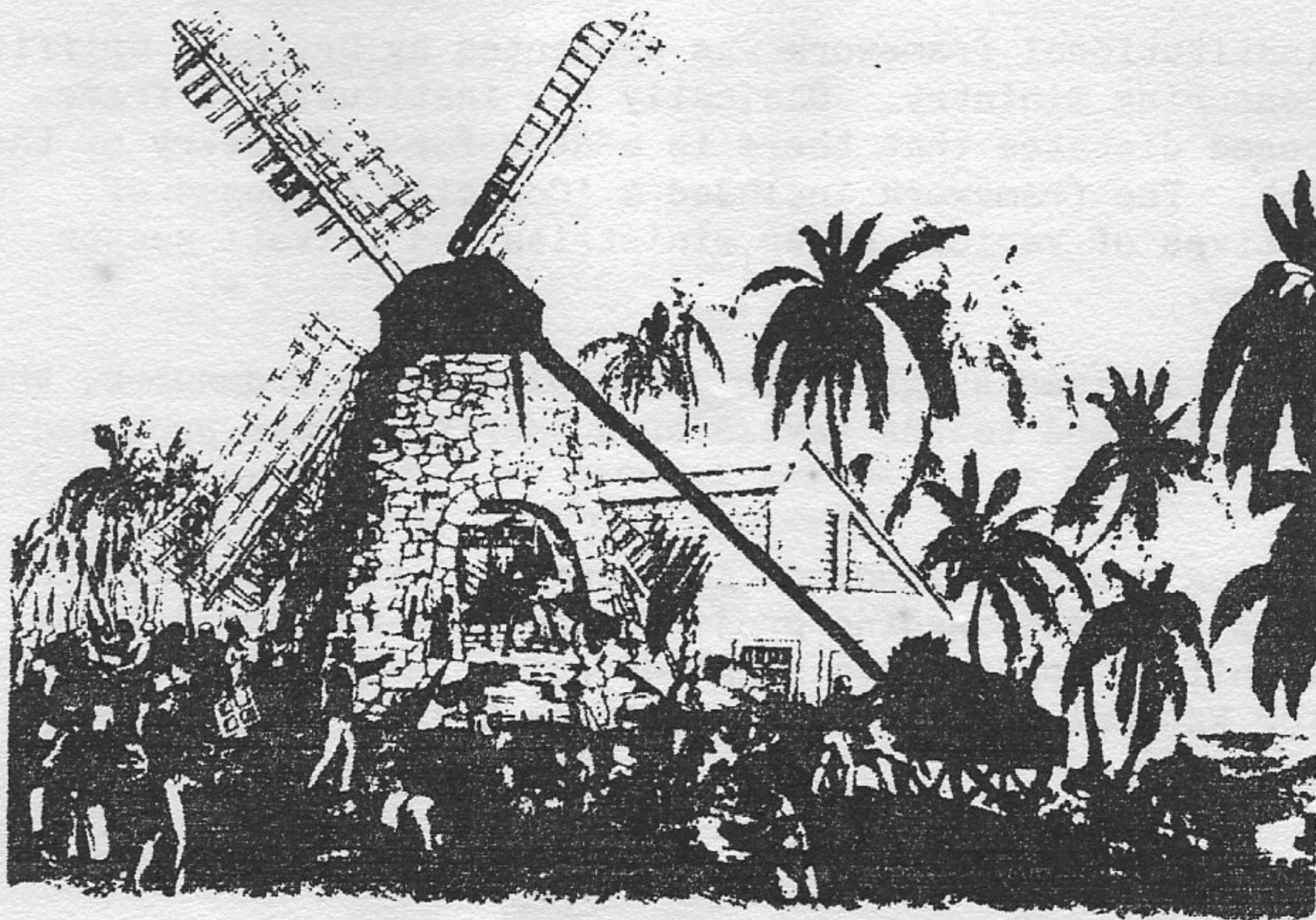
Codrington College, Barbados is from a delicately tinted drawing (believed to be by Bishop Coleridge) around 1840. The College is set in the St. John landscape overlooking the vast eastern horizon.

The third selection is after Lieut. J.M. Carter's 1836 watercolour Near Worthing, Hastings in the Distance, Barbados. Strongly drawn, it is evocative of a rural, bucolic Hastings long since gone.

Queen's House, Barbados, A watercolour by M.D.J. circa 1880. depicts the residence of the then General Commanding Troops. The house, set amid lush, sunny gardens, is the most colourful of the four designs.



NEAR WORTHING, HASTINGS IN THE DISTANCE, BARBADOS
After an original watercolour by Lieut J M Carter The Royal Regt 1846



WINDMILL YARD OF THE WEST INDIES
A painting of a scene of a plantation by William Clark 1871

NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT (AUGUST 7 & 8)

This consultation, which was sponsored by the Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development, was primarily designed to formulate a framework for the management of the environment in Barbados.

Participants were drawn from many Government agencies and private organisations who had either responsibility for or an interest in some segment of the environment.

A draft institutional framework was presented by Dr. Mark Griffith of the sponsoring ministry. Basically the institutional framework proposed dictates that there is a need for a Ministry of the Environment. The framework included a 'Council' composed of representatives of various other ministries and private sector organisations.

While most participants agreed in principle to the framework, there were some objections to the levels of authority in the proposed ministry.

In two working group sessions on Environmental Education, members of the group outlined ongoing projects and made recommendations on a more unified approach to such education in Barbados. Our Curator for Natural History, Miss Philippa Newton, was a member of this group.

Together, the participants drafted a national policy on the environment.

O.A.S. WORKSHOP HELD FOR MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS
IN COSTA RICA - Lesley Barrow-Whatley

A workshop in Planning, Design and Production of Museum Exhibitions was held during August in San Jose, Costa Rica. Participants, including myself, were museum professionals from O.A.S. member states in the region.

The course was conducted by a dynamic high-level team comprising an educator, exhibit designer, administrator and fine arts curator.

The week-long activity was designed to involve and challenge participants through all the processes and stages involved in mounting an exhibition. The instructors reinforced what they 'taught' by acting out the varied and at times conflicting points-of-view and professional concerns that team members can bring to an exhibition project. We then interacted in our individual groups towards our objectives with a better understanding of how the 'other' person thinks on particular issues.

The course was intense because we had to achieve in 1 week what it normally would take 1 year to do. Just as important was the time spent sharing and exchanging experiences and information among old and new colleagues from the region.

A SUMMER MISCELLANY

The Museum bubbled with activity this summer. Four of its five summer programs were oversubscribed before they began.

Eighteen 7-12 year olds enrolled in Feathers, Fossils and Fun, the second nature series run by volunteers John and Alice Lamoureux. The children enjoyed making spatter prints, ammonia prints and plaster casts, sketching on a Welchman Hall Gully field trip, and practicing plant propagation techniques.

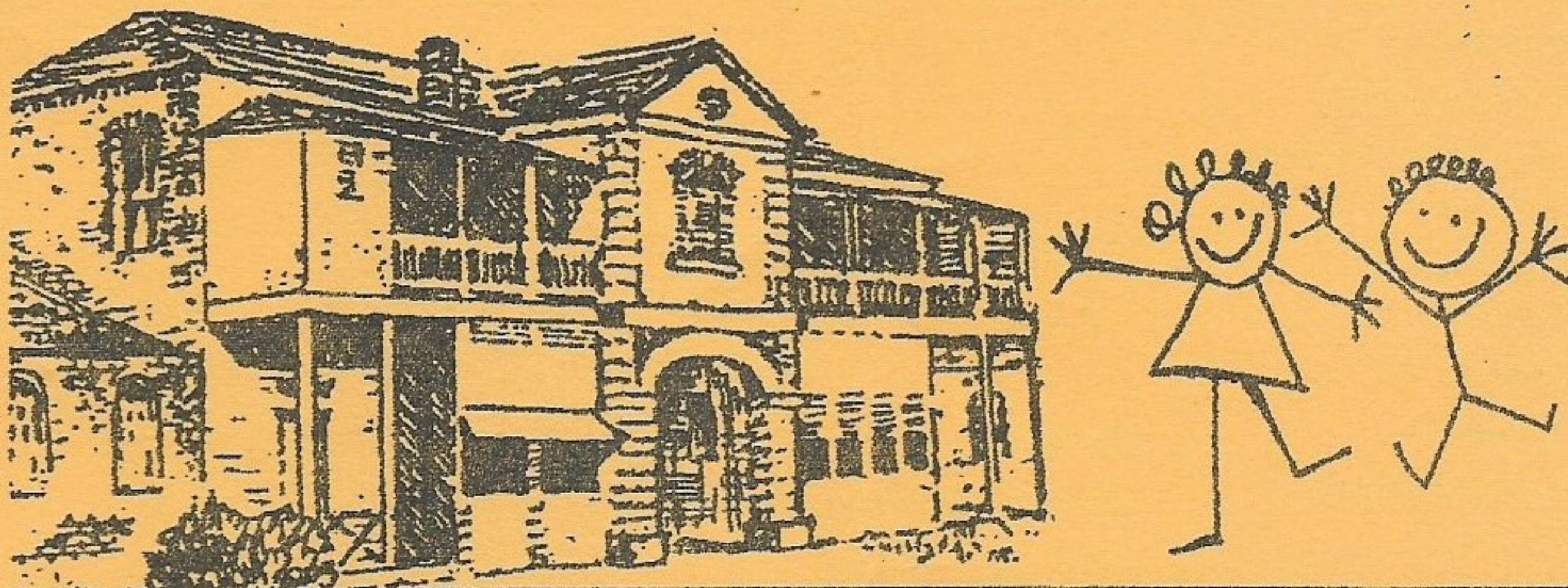
Participants in Discover Barbados! didn't want the course to end. Led by geographer Jeanette Ottley, they explored the island's coral limestone formations, examined its architectural heritage, and hiked through the Scotland district. Picnic lunches were the order of the day.

A keen group of adults and teenagers joined Alison Chapman-Andrews-Greaves for Painting at the Museum. Undaunted by heat, wind or rain, they found the Museum's exhibits and environment, as Alison says "a source of constant richness", and produced lively, exciting work.

Jeanette Springer's discussion group more than made up in energy and involvement what it lacked in size. Introduction to West Indian Fiction included a seminar given by Barbadian novelist George Lamming. Here was another group who didn't want to go home; they hope to continue as a Caribbean book-of-the-month discussion group. Anyone else interested? Let us know.

Autumn Leaves in Summer could have filled up twice over. This program aimed to help retired folks explore the Museum in a relaxed and comfortable format. Brief gallery talks were followed by socializing and refreshments in the courtyard.

A new departure for the museum was the training of Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers as summer tour guides. The experiment was a resounding success. The nine youngsters performed impressively, and clocked up 73 hours taking 29 tours (998 visitors!) through the museum.



LIBRARY NEWS

Thirty-two persons used the library service during July -September 1987. Subject material ranged from Women Hoteliers, Laws of Barbados, Lord Nelson, Arts and Craft, the Barbados Railway, (a very popular subject) Slave Huts, Sam Lord, and Antique china etc.

Genealogical research is still a very popular subject and letters both overseas and local were researched successfully.

New magazines have been entered and expiry dates entered on all magazine cards. Letters have been sent to publishers in order to acquire missing back issues, and the response has so far been encouraging.

Under Bernice Critchlow-Earle's capable management, the Museum Cafe is now open 10:00 - 5:00 during weekdays. Those suffering from museum fatigue can relax with a light snack and a tall frosty glass of local fruitdrink (lime squash, sorrel, tamarind, mauby). Beer and wine by the glass are also sold, and each day has a lunch time special plate. Catering for groups is also available.

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. Anthony Armstrong | Barbados | Annual |
| Miss Sheila Belgrave | " | " |
| Mr. Stanley B. Carrington | " | " |
| Mr. Francisco Document-Ettedgui | " | " |
| Mr. Anthony Griffith | " | " |
| Miss Philippa Hadley | " | " |
| Dr. Patricia Lerch | U.S.A. | " |
| Mr. David A. Nichols | " | " |
| Mr. Joseph Williams | Barbados | " |
| Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Parkinson | Joint Annual | |
| Mr. Brice M. Clagett | U.S.A. | Life |

MUSEUM HOURS

AND 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.

October 10th -

November 8th

Exhibition

"Beauties of
the Coral Reef"

November 11th

Annual General

Meeting

Time: 5.00 p.m.

Museum Closed

October 5th

November 30th

December 24th,

25th, 26th

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.

Mr. & Mrs. Lester Thompson
No. 96 Rock Dundo Park
Cave Hill
St. Michael

BARBADOS MUSEUM &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DAY SERVICE

