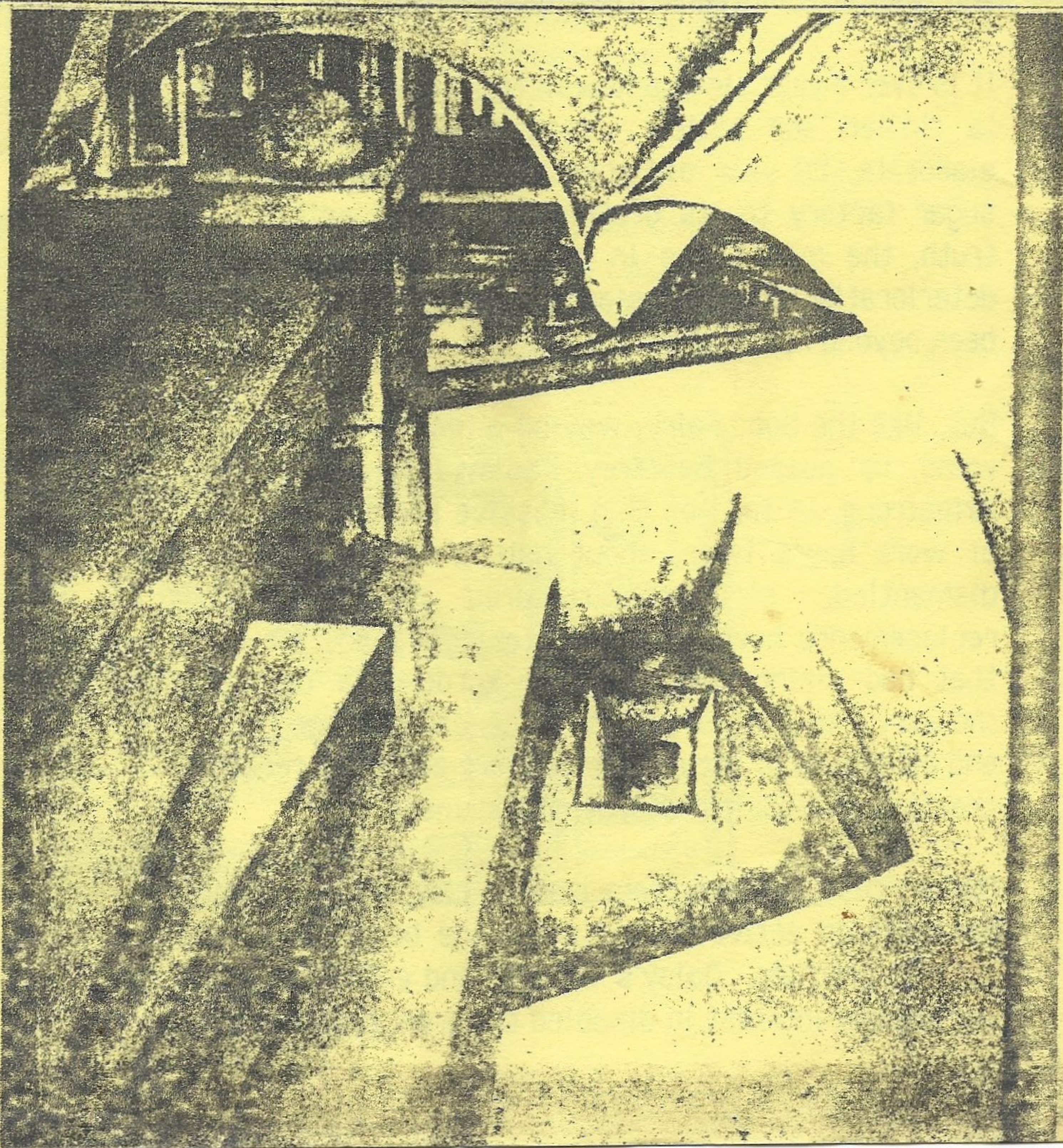


THE BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

THE BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NO. 27

101 QUEEN'S LANE

1900

ST. ANN'S GARRISON
BARBADOS, W.I.

Telephone 437-0001

VOLUNTEER POWER

QUESTION: What do a sugar engineer, a retired Spanish teacher and a signing interpreter have in common?

ANSWER: They demonstrate the wide range of interests and talents volunteers offer the museum.

It is over a year since a Newsletter plea went out for "a skilled and patient modelmaker to restore an elaborate, 50 year old sheet metal scale model of a sugar factory to its original working condition." In truth, the model was in such an advanced stage of deterioration and corrosion, we thought it might have been beyond restoration.

But, like the Good Fairy, waving a toolkit rather than a wand, up popped Geoffrey Badley, followed by Tony Armstrong, to take on this massive project. Hundreds of work hours later, about half the model has been dismantled, stripped, repaired. Hand made replacements have been painstakingly made for parts that had disintegrated. A background in the sugar industry has given them the expert knowledge needed, and all stages of the restoration are carefully recorded, creating a valuable restoration document.

Daisy Frost, retired from Modern Languages teaching, has been an active docent since the beginning of the schools program. Daisy's warmth and enthusiasm, and her special interest in disabled children, have made her

something of a museum Pied Piper. Of museum teaching, she says: "It's a totally different approach from classroom teaching: more personal, more intimate, more give and take. It's a happy situation, not an effort. Like chatting with my own children."

In addition to their interest in history, volunteers Vavetti Clarke and Maud White bring a very specialized skill to the museum. Vavetti is hearing; Maud is deaf. Both are fluent in sign language. Both have completed the demanding docent's training course and can interpret the entire museum tour in sign for hearing impaired visitors. Vavetti and Maud are helping to develop a museum program for hearing-impaired children, although our initial hope of an Easter Holiday camp had to be postponed as Vavetti has since begun a full-time job. Vavetti's other interests include art, crafts and poetry, while Maud is learning computer skills and Italian.

And these are only four of our 32 active volunteers, each with a stake in helping preserve the nation's heritage.

COVER: Behind the Veil there is an Exit ,
Denyse Menard-Greenidge's pristine, evocative acrylic
composition from her recent exhibition (see article p 9)

IVAN PAYNE RETROSPECTIVE

This year the museum's curatorial staff is working toward a retrospective of the late Barbadian artist, Ivan Payne. This will be our third annual venture into the thoroughly researched retrospectives of artists who have influenced Caribbean art.

In the past two years, the support of our members has been invaluable; once again we look forward to hearing from you if you have any information on this artist, or know the location of any of his paintings.

We would also welcome the help of an enthusiastic research assistant willing to carry out interviews and follow up information in local libraries as well as to correspond with overseas sources when necessary. The applicant should be prepared to spend time both in the museum and out (independent source of transport is desirable). A knowledge of art is desirable but not essential; simply come prepared to learn. Interested?

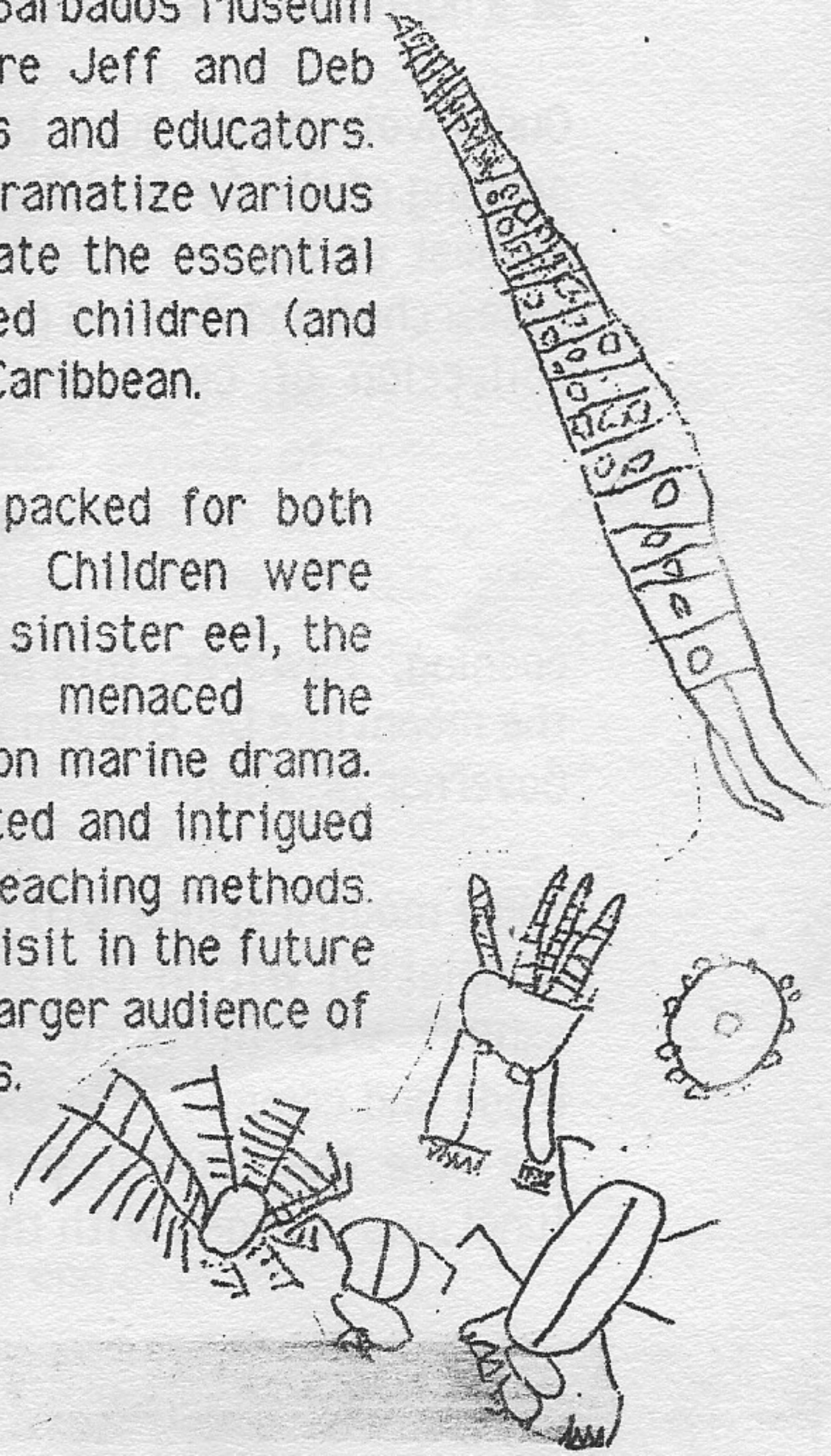
Contact Art Curator, Lesley Whatley or Director,
Alissandra Cummins 427-0201 or 436-1956.

OH, TO BE AN OCTOPUS!

Squashy head, eight arms, changeable colour..... Barbadian schoolchildren recently participated in a program that explained why the octopus looks and behaves as it does--the adaptation phenomenon. The octopus' unique characteristics make it ideally suited for life amongst the crevices of the coral reef.

This was all part of the **Mr and Mrs Fish Marine Education Program**, hosted at the Barbados Museum on January 30. Mr and Mrs Fish are Jeff and Deb Chandler, marine biologists, actors and educators. Their costumed performances, which dramatize various aspects of marine life and communicate the essential conservation message, have thrilled children (and adults!) throughout the U.S.A. and the Caribbean.

The museum's upper courtyard was packed for both morning and evening performances. Children were riveted by the chance to "star" as the sinister eel, the prickly cobbler and others who menaced the not-too-bright Mr Fish in this hands-on marine drama. Teachers who attended were stimulated and intrigued by the obvious effectiveness of the teaching methods. It is hoped that another, longer **Fish** visit in the future will enable us to assist in reaching a larger audience of children, teachers and conservationists.



HELP WANTED! RESPONDING TO THE COMMUNITY'S NEED FOR MUSEUM-QUALITY DISPLAYS.

This year promises to be challenging for the curators providing technical assistance to outside requests for help setting up exhibitions and displays.

Dr. Kurleigh King, Governor of the Central Bank, has recently asked us to complete plans for the installation of a numismatics display in the Bank's main lobby.

Our involvement goes back six months prior to the opening of the Central Bank building. In response to the request of former governor Mr. Courtney Blackman, we researched and drafted plans for a display of the Bank's collection of coins and currency notes. After the

opening, however, this project was put on hold, and in the meantime Dr. Blackman was replaced by the present Governor Dr. King.

Some modifications will be made to allow the project's completion within the second half of this year. The exhibit will highlight various historical aspects of trade and commerce in Barbados and the Caribbean, and the role that currency has played as its forms and functions changed with the times.

By now, everyone must be aware that this year is the 350th Anniversary date of the establishment of the Island's parliament. To highlight this occasion the museum will be mounting a commemorative exhibition at the Parliament Buildings titled **THE GROWTH OF A NATION: 350 Years of Parliament.**

Government has given its support and commitment to this project. Its grant will cover the costs of supplies and materials, production and construction of the exhibit, and will provide an honorarium for a qualified researcher to the three-month long exercise. The researcher is Ms. Alana Johnson, who is enrolled in the History Department's Master's degree program at UWI's Cave Hill campus.

The challenge now is to sift and sort through the available information, looking for other points of departure. If any of our readers have information on the topics listed below, please phone Lesley Whatley at 427-0201/436-1956. We are looking for:

- personal items belonging to/used by 18th-19th or early 20th century members of the Legislature,
- original documents, photographs, signed letters related to the above,
- early plans, drawings of details or whole sections of the Parliament Buildings or buildings used for the Assembly previously.

The exhibition is scheduled to open at the end of June.

JACOB LAWRENCE EXHIBITION

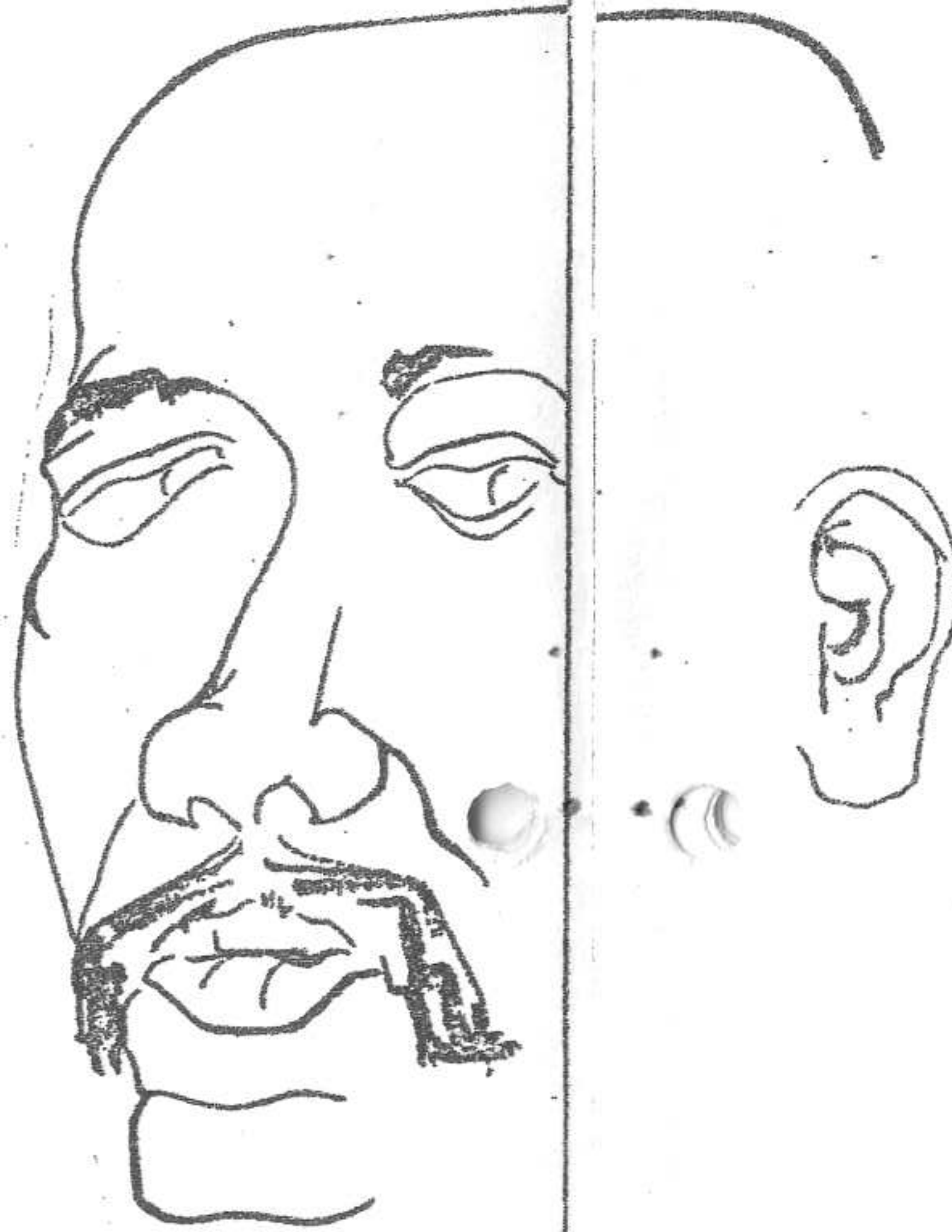
The museum is honoured by its selection as the appropriate location to exhibit a valuable collection of original paintings and drawings by the renowned African American artist Jacob Lawrence.

Lawrence was born in New Jersey in 1917. It was not until he moved to the Harlem of the heady 1920's that he came into contact with the vibrant and earnest artistic community of New York. He was influenced by professional artists, men and women who had had the

benefit of formal training at some of the best art schools in the country. In addition, the 1930's marked a fruitful decade for artists in the United States, and the federal New Deal programs served to Lawrence's advantage in his formative years as an artist.

When he first exhibited in 1938 it was clear that Lawrence was unique. For in spite of the formal training he did receive, his art was "pure" naive, original and uncontaminated by the mannerisms of the time. His early work dealt with Harlem, which he depicted with wit and empathy. His colours were as vibrant as the ones people used to decorate their otherwise drab and dismal homes.

The importance of his work is found in his ability to abstract and project the essence of ideas with honesty and effectiveness. Lawrence also produced a series of

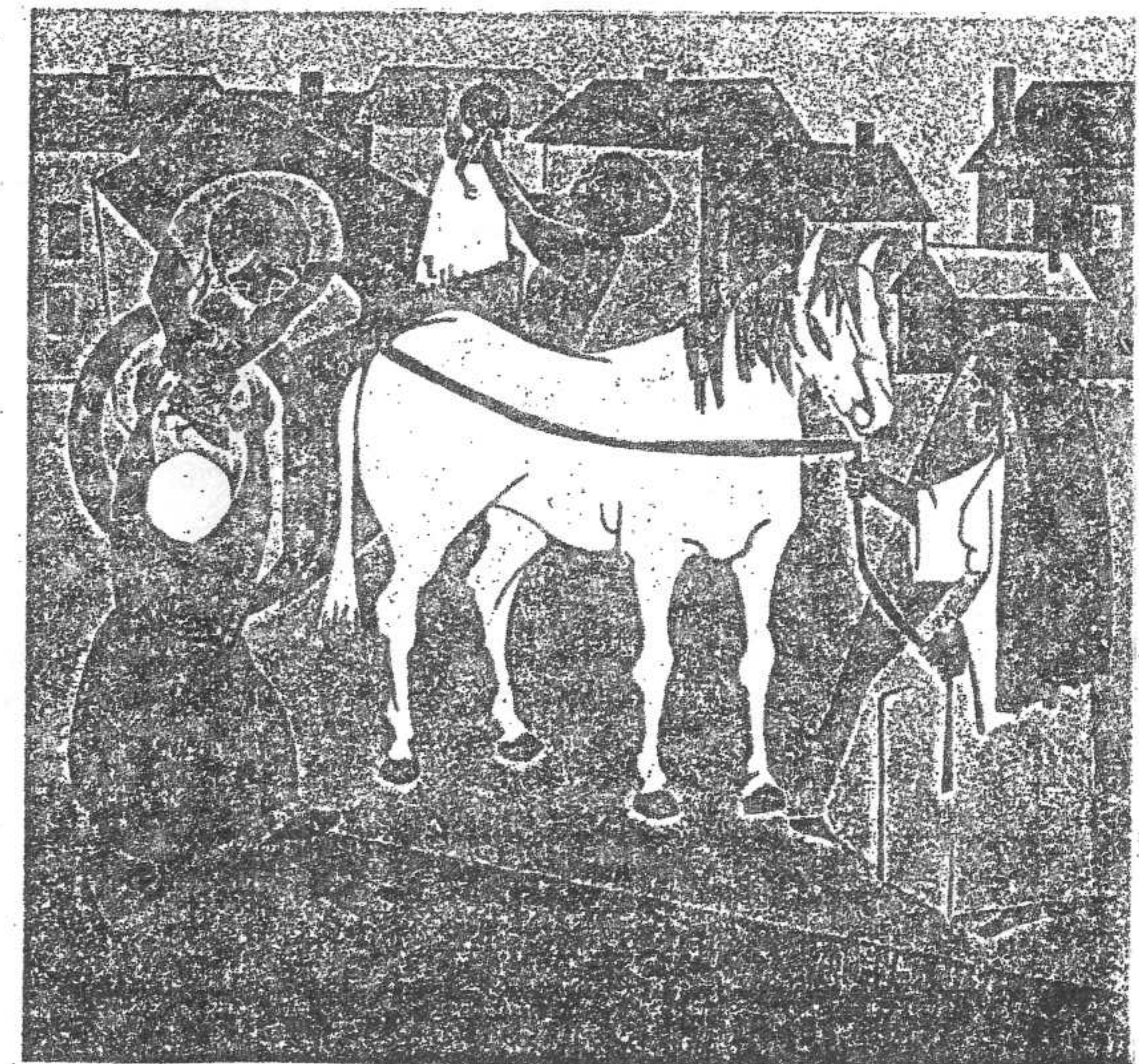


Self-Portrait, 1965. Brush and ink 19" x 12"

historical narratives and bibliographical illustrations of significant African Americans.

The show will be accompanied by a catalogue and posters, which will be for sale.

Dr. Samella Lewis, curator of the travelling exhibition, will speak on Jacob Lawrence and his art on Wednesday May 17 at 7:30 in the museum's exhibition gallery.



Another Journey Ended, (Harriet Tubman series), 1967. Gouache on paper, 10" x 11"

BEHIND THE VEIL...

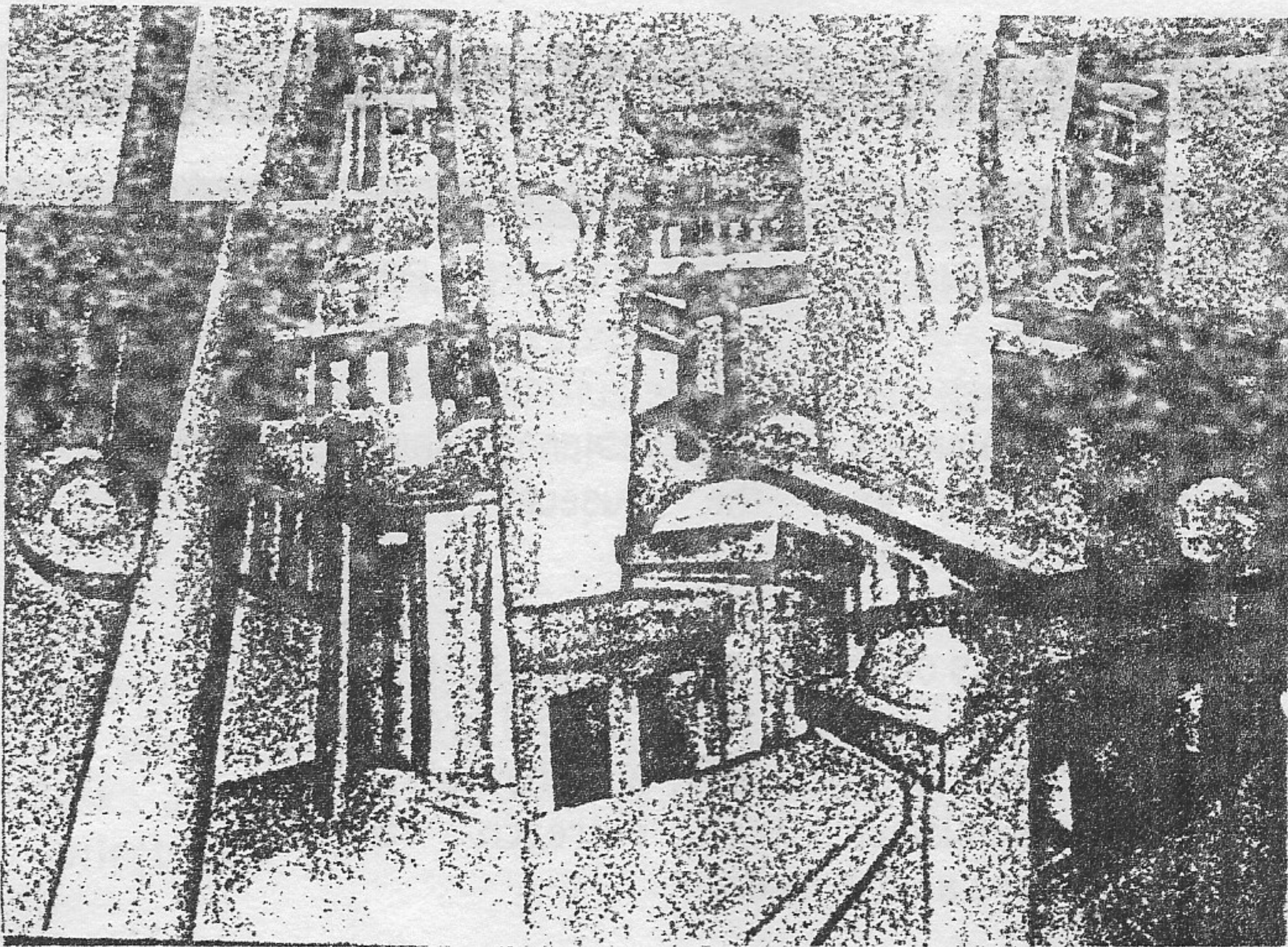
Denyse Menard-Greenidge is one of those multi-faceted artists who can integrate personal, professional and artistic development into a holistic vision.

Her recent show at the museum, the fruit of four years' work, incorporates a wealth of background and experience, including a Masters in Fine Arts, her work in the development of art education in Canada, and her 12 years as tutor at the Barbados Community College. Apart from education, Denyse has established her own art gallery; her research has been published by UWI's Institute of Social and Economic Research; she has also curated and judged several shows, written reviews and exhibited in more than 40 shows.

Thus, what at first appears as serenity and calm in her composition is perhaps a subtle and powerful control over form and colour. Who knows? Her work is, above all, cerebral and enigmatic.

The work exhibited was divided into two series: **Doors** and **Behind the Veil There are Exits**. Oblique and sometimes disturbing manipulations of scale and perspective, the compositions reveal veils and exits that defy easy interpretation, and demand personal involvement from the viewer. The comments of visitors show Denyse to be one of the more challenging, stimulating and provocative of our local artists.

Behind the Veil there is an Exit



Denyse Menard-Greenidge

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WEEK: JUNE 10-14

World Environment Day falls on June 5th; in Barbados, June 10-14 will be celebrated at National Environment Week.

This year the Barbados Museum will co-ordinate the Environmental Exhibition, in which several sister institutions are expected to participate. We look

forward to seeing our members at the exhibition, which will run Jun 5-24.

This year's theme is "Environment and Development". Can you think of catchy slogans on this theme? If so, please phone Natural History Curator Philippa Newton 436-2469 or 427-0201.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING: DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS

From sheer entertainment to professional training, cultural programming kept the museum jumping throughout the last quarter.

When the public thinks of museum education, it tends to think of school tours. And our lively school programs do keep eight trained docents busy, but they are only one aspect of the museum's public outreach. Varied adult activities were also offered.

In January, docents completed their additional tourguide training, begun in September, and offered weekly tours for the public on a two-month trial basis.

A one-day workshop was also given for tour guides from commercial agencies. Their feedback was very positive; in fact, they requested periodic "refresher" sessions, which will be arranged. A museum tour script was also produced for this group.

Jeanette Springer's Jan. 24 lecture on Women Writers in the Caribbean was so enthusiastically received that follow-up has been arranged (see p14).

Art teacher trainees in the Barbados Community College's Associate Degree program attended an experimental weekly workshop for six weeks. The young teachers did three weeks of cultural and

academic study sessions, followed by three weeks of hands-on volunteer involvement. We are most appreciative of their enthusiasm: they stripped and resurfaced the floor of the volunteer meeting room,

documented the slide collection, made drawing boards for the school program, helped with various clerical tasks and reduced the cataloguing backlog in the toy collection.

The experiment was so mutually beneficial the College and Museum are discussing co-operative curriculum planning to make a Museum Studies unit part of the College's Associate degree program.

We also swallow our own medicine: In February, professional staff fled phones and interruptions in an intensive, day-long, off-premises seminar to hammer out a structure for a Caribbean Museum Professionals Code of Ethics. As a reference base, we analyzed ethics codes from UK, US, Canada and ICOM (International Council of Museums). Council and volunteer representatives were invited to join professional staff in a follow-up seminar two weeks later.

So with adults catered for, what about the children? In addition to the school programs mentioned above, the museum enjoyed the hilarious visit of Mr. and Mrs Fish (see p 4), who gave two performances on conservation

themes. Also for children, volunteers John and Alice Lamoureux gave their fourth Junior Members' program, four Saturday mornings of museum activities for 8-12 year olds.

Other activities targeted art students, including gallery talks by the Director and by exhibiting artists Denyse Menard-Greenidge and Norma Talma. The Feb. 25 DRAW-IN also attracted secondary and tertiary students.

Watch for dates! The coming quarter promises to be as lively as the last one.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: MUSEUM TOUR UPDATE

Five centuries of culture and tradition converge in the mountainous country of the Dominican Republic.

This year's tour will allow you to explore the capital, its venerable historic sites and buildings, visit its many museums and galleries for a behind-the-scenes view. Day trips to San Cristobal, Puerto Plaza and La Romana will also be included.

The tour (seven days, six nights) will cost approximately \$2000. It will include airfare, accomodation, breakfast (some lunches) and all tour costs. A more detailed schedule will be issued on request. **Booking deadline is April 29.** The tour will only take place with guarenteed bookings for at least 15 people. Exact dates, towards the end of May or beginning of June, are still to be finalized.

ERRATA: Red faces and a kick to the computer: The last Newsletter should of course have read No. 26, 4th Quarter.

Peter Cave's ceramic pot, a prize in the Raffle, is decorated not in gold leaf as noted, but in 14K gold.

A NOVEL PASTTIME

A small but enthusiastic audience made a lively evening of Jeanette Springer's lecture on women's writing in the Caribbean. Requests for more of the same have led to a second lecture/discussion to be held at the museum on April 7 at 7:30.

This time we will be comparing aspects of the Jamaican writer John Hearne's **The Sure Salvation** with Afro-American novelist Toni Morrison's **Beloved**. Though quite different in plot and sensibility, points of comparison exist: Hearne's novel is rooted in the end of the slave trade, Morrison's in the last days of slavery itself. Both develop through the characters' memories and flashbacks; both show lives shaped by realities more appalling than anything that could be merely imagined.

Readers interested in women's issues will be fascinated by Morrison's complex and tragic protagonist Sethe, logical descendant of the young African girl below the slaver's decks in **The Sure Salvation**.

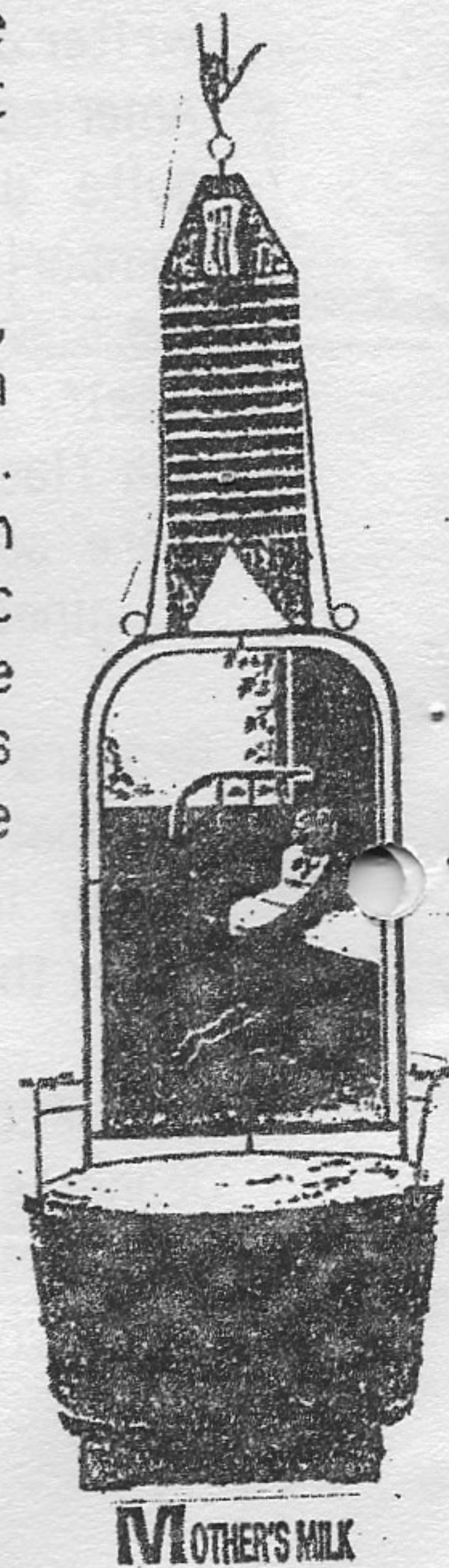
The lecture-discussion will be jointly presented by Jeanette Springer and Education Officer Wendy Donawa. The museum shop has ordered these two novels for those who like to come prepared. Coffee will be served.

MORALITY CHAIRS: AN EXHIBITION OF SCULPTURE BY FRANCIS CABRAL

In 1986, Trinidadian artist Francisco Cabral drew rave reviews in London when his symbolic "chairs" were shown at the Commonwealth Institute's exhibition **Caribbean Art Now**.

These extraordinary sculptural "chairs", which have just left the National Gallery of Jamaica and will be moving on to Cuba and Japan later this year, are at present on view at the museum till April 29.

Cabral's "chairs" are not designed to sit on. Rather, they are evocative statements packed with symbolism and made from what might be termed "original junk". They are witty, powerful and at times disturbing. On Thursday, April 4, the museum will host a public lecture featuring Mr. Cabral as guest speaker. The artist will talk, among other things, about his sculpture which will be on view in the gallery where the lecture is also taking place.

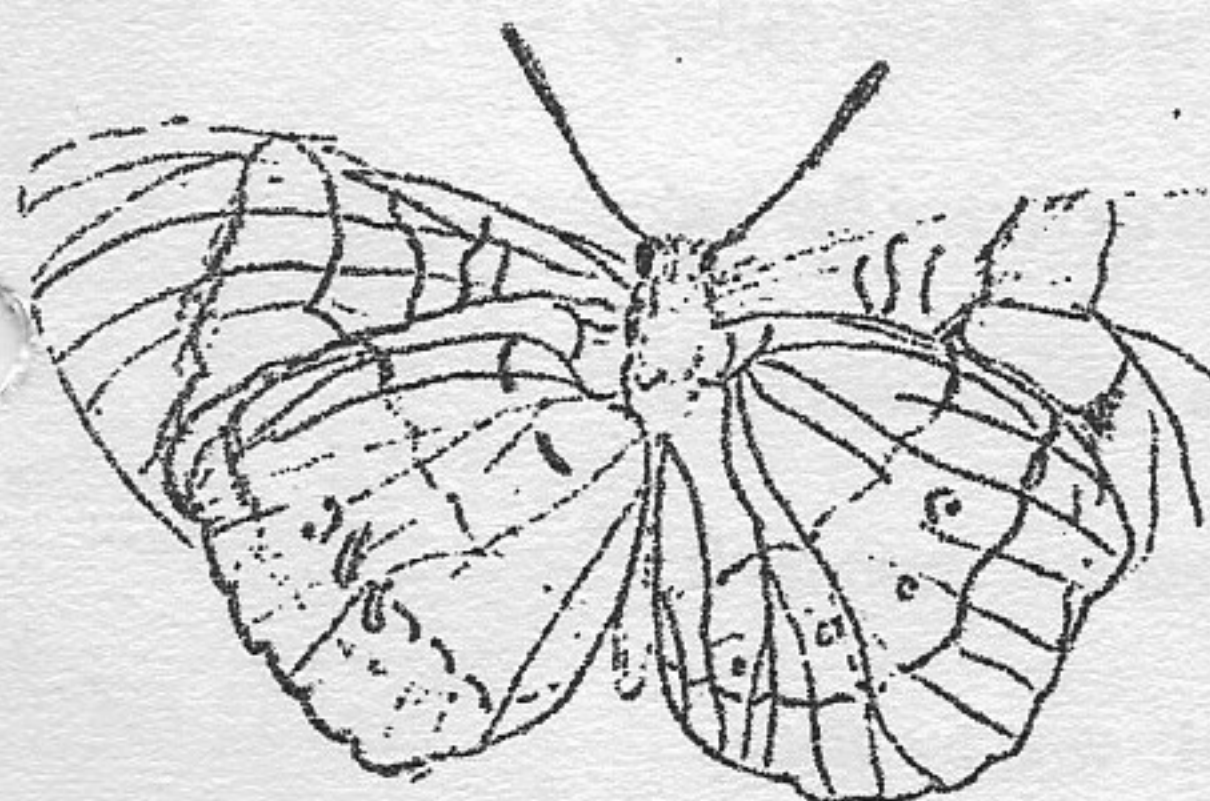
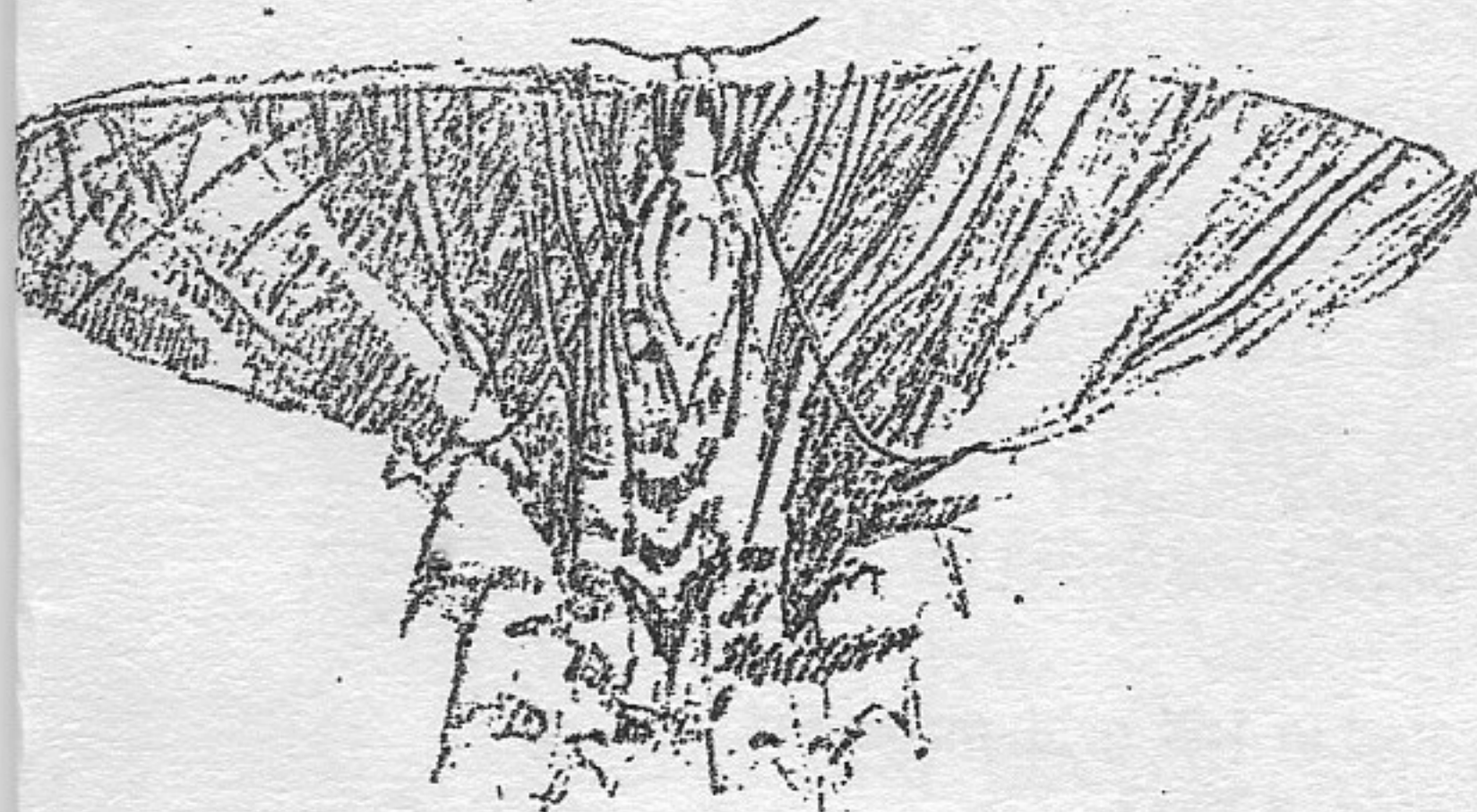


DRAW-IN RESULTS

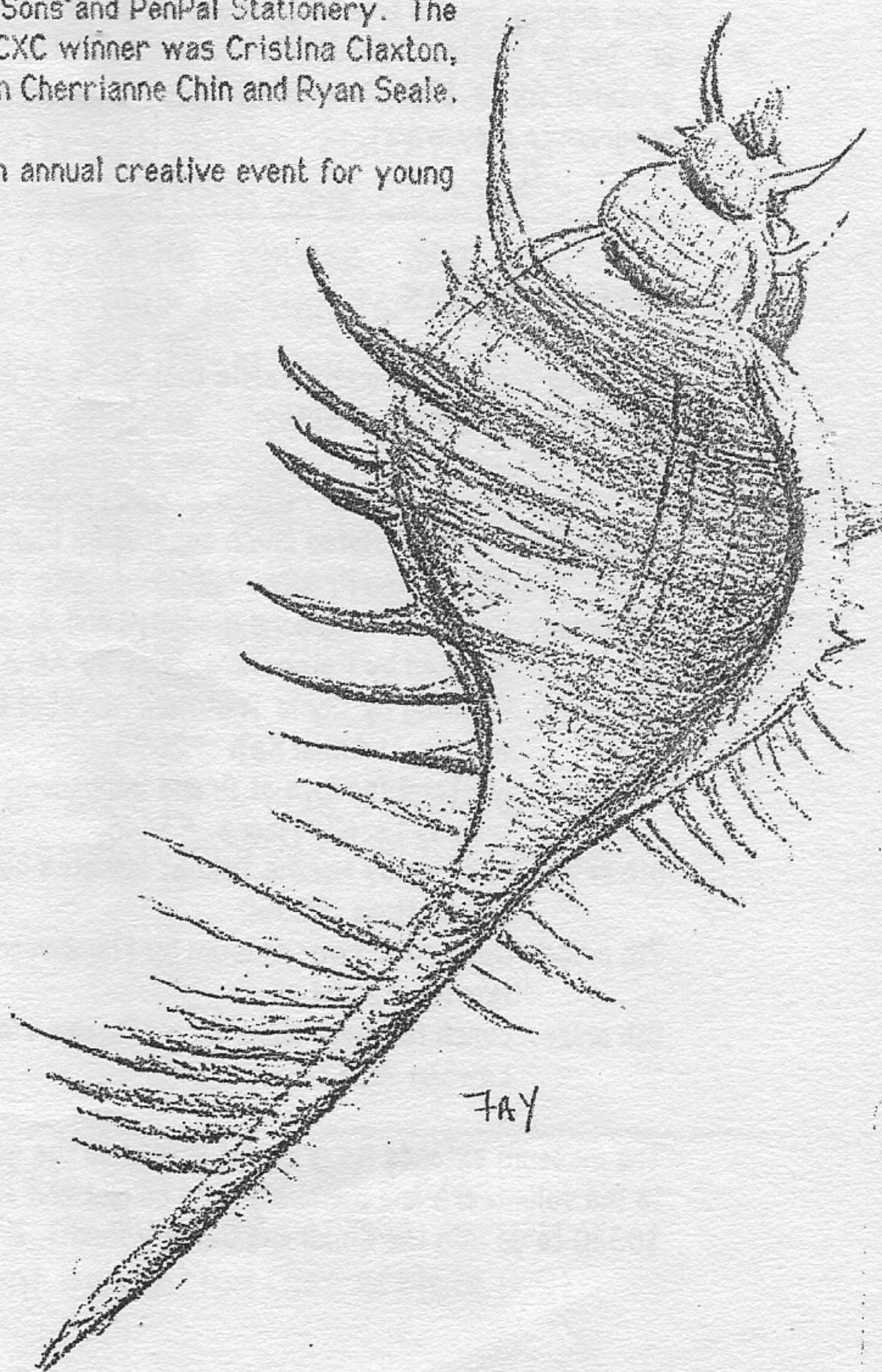
Despite unfortunate timing- collisions with Hometown Festival, Flower Show, horseracing and cricket- a number of young people turned up for our **DRAW-IN** on February 25.

Door prizes in three age categories were donated through the generosity of Ms. E. Nightengale-Brome, A.S. Bryden and Sons and PenPal Stationery. The junior winner was Rosemary Whittle, The CXC winner was Cristina Claxton, and the tertiary prizes were shared between Cherrienne Chin and Ryan Seale.

We hope that the **DRAW-IN** will become an annual creative event for young people.



Simon May



FAY

Requests

John Donald, 18B Lawley Crescent, Pymble, NSW, Australia 2073, is researching the THOMAS and PACKER families in Barbados. He would appreciate communication with anyone who can provide information on these families.

Does anyone have a tree with those large, smooth gray seeds ("donkey eyes" or "horse nickles") used to play warri? The Education Officer would be grateful for a bag; we often teach children in our **African Heritage** program to play warri.

RAFFLE RESULTS

The draw for the Museum's raffle took place at the museum on Friday March 3, with the following results:

- 1st prize: Sterling silver replica Ashanti bracelet: Sara Shemilt *3069
- 2nd prize: 18K gold plated chain donated by Louis Bayley and Sons Ltd: won by Carlton Proute *2022
- 3rd prize: Ceramic vase, hand modelled and decorated in 14K gold: made and donated by Peter Cave: won by Anna Olivia *2992.
- 4th prize: Painting by Darla Trotman: donated by Coffee 'n' Cream Gallery: won by Abdulhai Kaji *2693.
- 5th prize: Weekend for two at Grand Barbados: donated by Grand Barbados: won by Lazelle Moore *3446.
- 6th prize: Painting by Norma Talma: donated by Norma Talma: won by G. Dennis Hope *2560.
- 7th prize: Dinner for two: donated by Flamboyant Restaurant: won by D. Howitt *2561
- 8th prize: Lunch for two: donated by Ocean View Hotel: won by Wendy Lawson *2114.

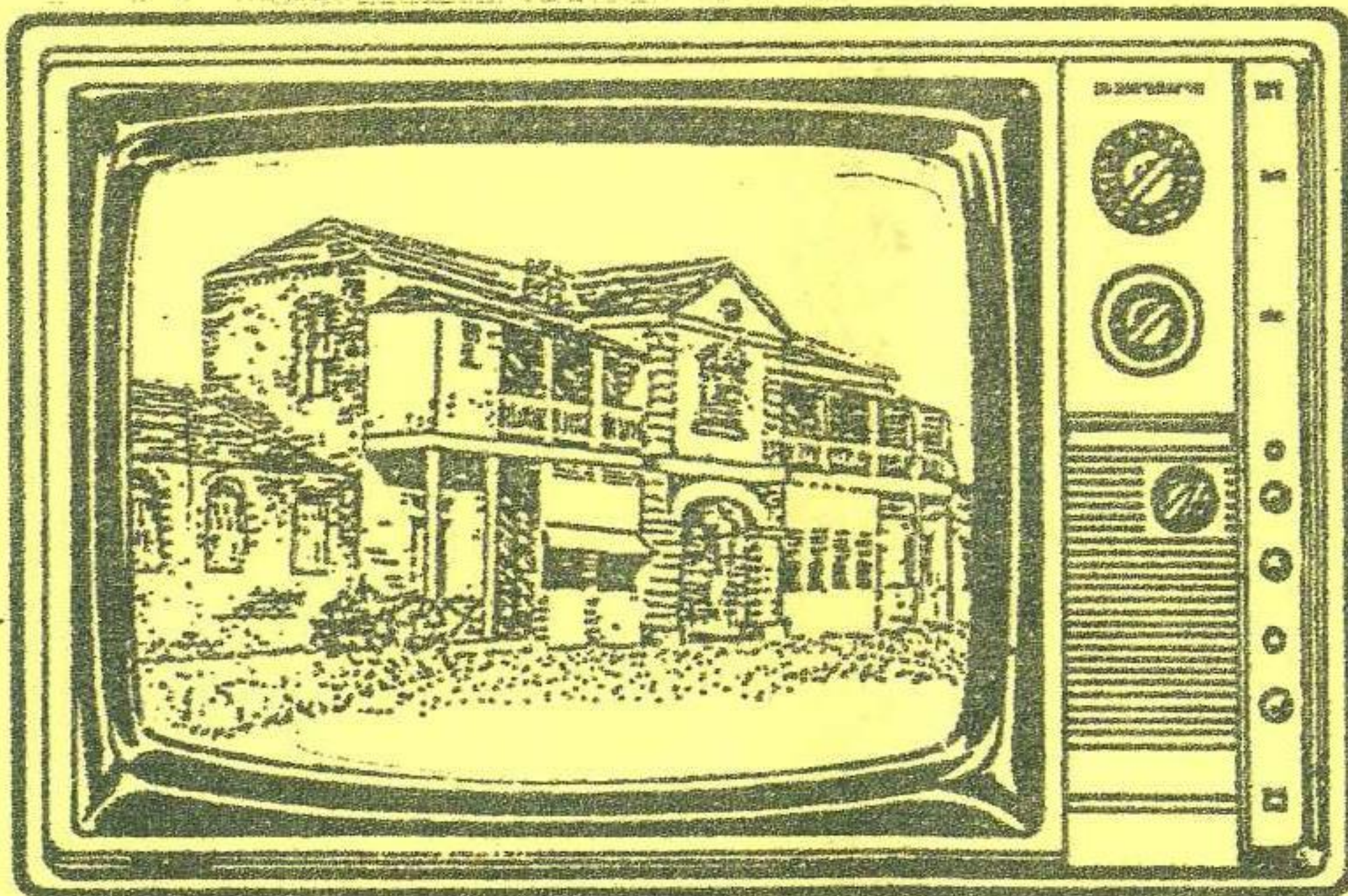
The museum extends its grateful thanks to the generous donors of prizes, and to the volunteers and members who bought and sold tickets. The raffle raised \$6330 to go into the Children's Gallery fund.

SISSONS PAINT SPONSORING TV SERIES ON BARBADOS MUSEUM

Sisson's Co. Ltd., one of the island's leading paint companies, is actively establishing its image as a

corporate sponsor for the arts, when as a follow-up to its highly successful TV series **Treasures of Barbados**, the company has offered to produce a similar series on the Barbados Museum.

Under the watchful eye of a team from Smith and Oxley Advertising and producer Ms. Betty Lynch from CBC-TV, the museum staff have already started researching and drafting scripts for the 8 part series, which will be aired starting in April.



CALENDAR

April 1-28 Francisco Cabral Exhibition
 April 4 Francisco Cabral lecture 7:30
 April 7 Caribbean literature lecture-discussion 7:30
 April 11 Barbados Environmental Association lecture 7:30
 April 22 Philatelic Society Stamp Exhibition 10:00-3:00
 April 22 Duke of Edinburgh Award Dinner
 May 13 Soroptimist Fiesta 1:00-6:00
 May 14 Opening Cultural Heritage Week
 May 16 10:00 a.m. Conference Jacob Lawrence
 May 17-June 12 Jacob Lawrence Exhibition
 May 17 A.M. Jacob Lawrence to meet school groups at Museum
 7:30 p.m. Jacob Lawrence lecture
 May 18 International Museums Day
 May 20 Museum's 55th Anniversary Fundraising Gala Event

June 5-24 National Environment Exhibition
 June 5 World Environment Day
 June 6 Barbados Environmental Assoc. lecture 7:30

NEW MEMBERS : LOCAL

Mrs. Patricia Allen
 Mr. Michael P. Alleyne
 Dr. and Mrs. Hilary Beckles
 Mr. and Mrs. Robin Buchanan
 Mr. Irving Burgie
 Mrs. George Challenor
 Dr. and Mrs. William Donawa
 Mr. Darnley F. Gooding
 Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hewitt
 Mrs. Josephine A. M. Hutchinson
 Mr. and Mrs. S.D. Imbiss
 Mrs. Toni Jones
 Mr. and Mrs. Keith Miller
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Phillips
 Mrs. Sheila L. Pile

LIFE

Mr. Carlton Brathwaite
 Dr. Albert C. Graham
 Mr. Robin Walcott

JUNIOR

Miss Kate Barnard
 Miss Katrina Sam
 Mr. Jonathon White

FIRM

Robert J. Bourque and Co.

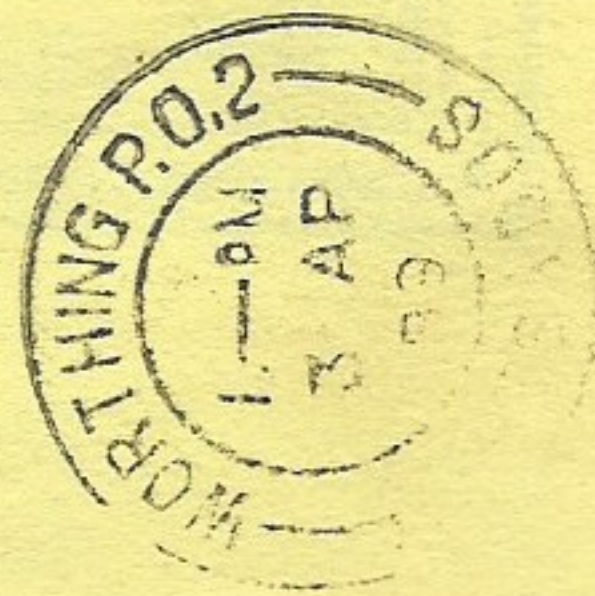
OVERSEAS

Mr. Gerry Aird
 Mrs. Randi Horner
 Major E. Thomas, Tr. and Mrs. Thomas
 Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson

OVERSEAS LIFE

Mrs. Ivy Nordlune

BARBADOS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Mr. Michael Ridley
 Applewhites
 St. Thomas

ON SERVICE