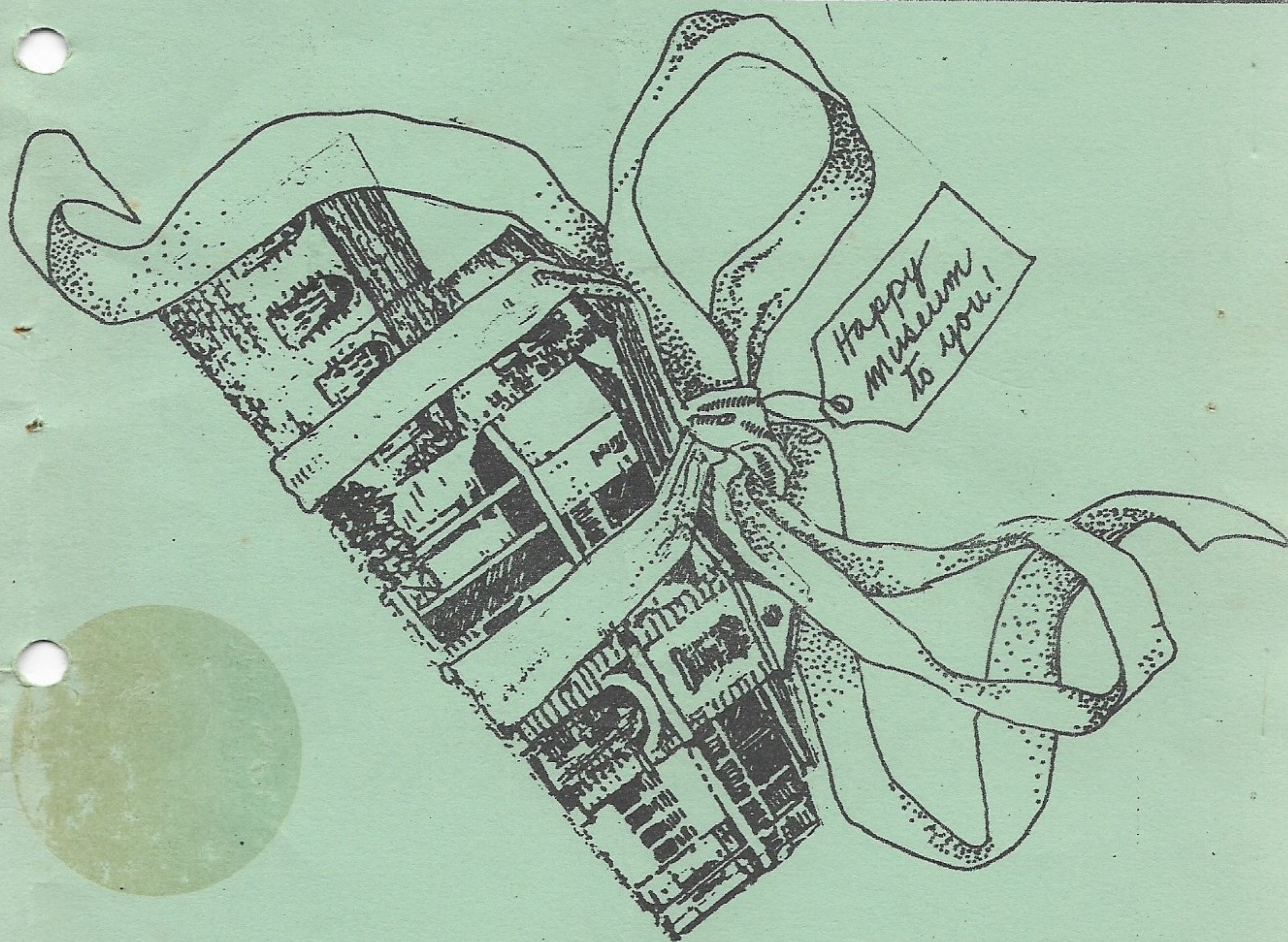


NEWSLETTER

THE BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NO 30

4TH QUARTER, 1989

COVER : HAPPY MUSEUM TO YOU!

Wrap up the museum in your Christmas plans!

Take the hassle out of holiday preparations with an elegant tea in our upper courtyard Cafe Musee. Do your Christmas shopping at the Museum Shop and the Craft Festival. Give museum memberships as Christmas presents.

And a culturally prosperous New Year to us all!

SHOP TALK

The museum recently received a \$50,000 grant through the Canadian High Commission's Canada fund. These funds are being used for the relocation and re-design of the Museum Shop, and also for the production and marketing of new merchandise.

We expect the shop to be in its new home by the end of November; already some new products are available. These include T-shirts and a variety of tote-bags with museum graphics. A ceramic figurine inspired by Agostino Brunias' 18th century paintings and ceramic pendants and mugs featuring Amerindian designs will be available shortly; and a museum-based craft and activity book for children is at the printers.

Do visit the shop for your Christmas gift purchases, cards and wrapping paper. Our merchandise will provide your nearest and dearest with gifts that are unique and uniquely Barbadian.

MUSEUM EDUCATION INTERNSHIP

"Museum Education" generally conjures up images of school groups trooping through the galleries, and not much else. However, important though the school program is, it is only one of the museum's many educational functions.

These functions include research, publications for children, adults and professional colleagues; training courses for guides, docents and teachers; lecture series; cultural events and performances.

Our recent (Oct 23-Nov 3) Museum Education Internship dealt with all these aspects of programming, as well as acquiring a foundation in developmental learning and motivation, programming for the disabled, and volunteer management.

UNESCO funded and MAC (see p 5) implemented the internship, which was designed and taught by Education Officer Wendy Donawa.

Participating Education Officers from the National Gallery of Jamaica and the Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology in Guyana joined local delegates from NCF, ACF and the Folkestone Marine Museum. All were interested in designing educational programs for their own institutions.

It was a dynamic, stimulating and exhausting two weeks. As one overseas visitor wrote: "...a very valuable experience. I feel completely saturated, and can hardly wait to get back and implement."

FINE CRAFT FESTIVAL

Don't start your Christmas shopping before December 2nd! You're sure to find that special gift at our third and best-yet Fine Craft Festival.

The Festival will function not only as a market for fine crafts, but also as an exhibit for their makers. Participating artisans will offer one-of-a-kind handicraft: jewellery in silver, wood and ceramic; textiles from applique quilts to silk batik; Barbados' finest pottery, papercraft, woodcarving and leatherwork. Some small paintings, drawings and prints (see linocut **Cats and Fish in Heaven** p. 4 by Annalee Davis)

The Festival will be a feast for all the senses; visitors can choose between flavourful fingerfood and drinks in the lower courtyard, and a leisurely traditional tea at the Cafe Musee.

The museum will be open to the public, and is included in the price of admission. Proceeds of the fair will go to the Children's Gallery Fund and to the Natural History Study Collections.

Come and bring your friends. Support fine artisans and worthy causes, do your Christmas shopping and have a wonderful afternoon.

Saturday, December 2nd, 1:00-6:00 pm. Adults \$5.00, Children \$1.00.

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GUYANA WOMEN ARTISTS ASSOCIATION

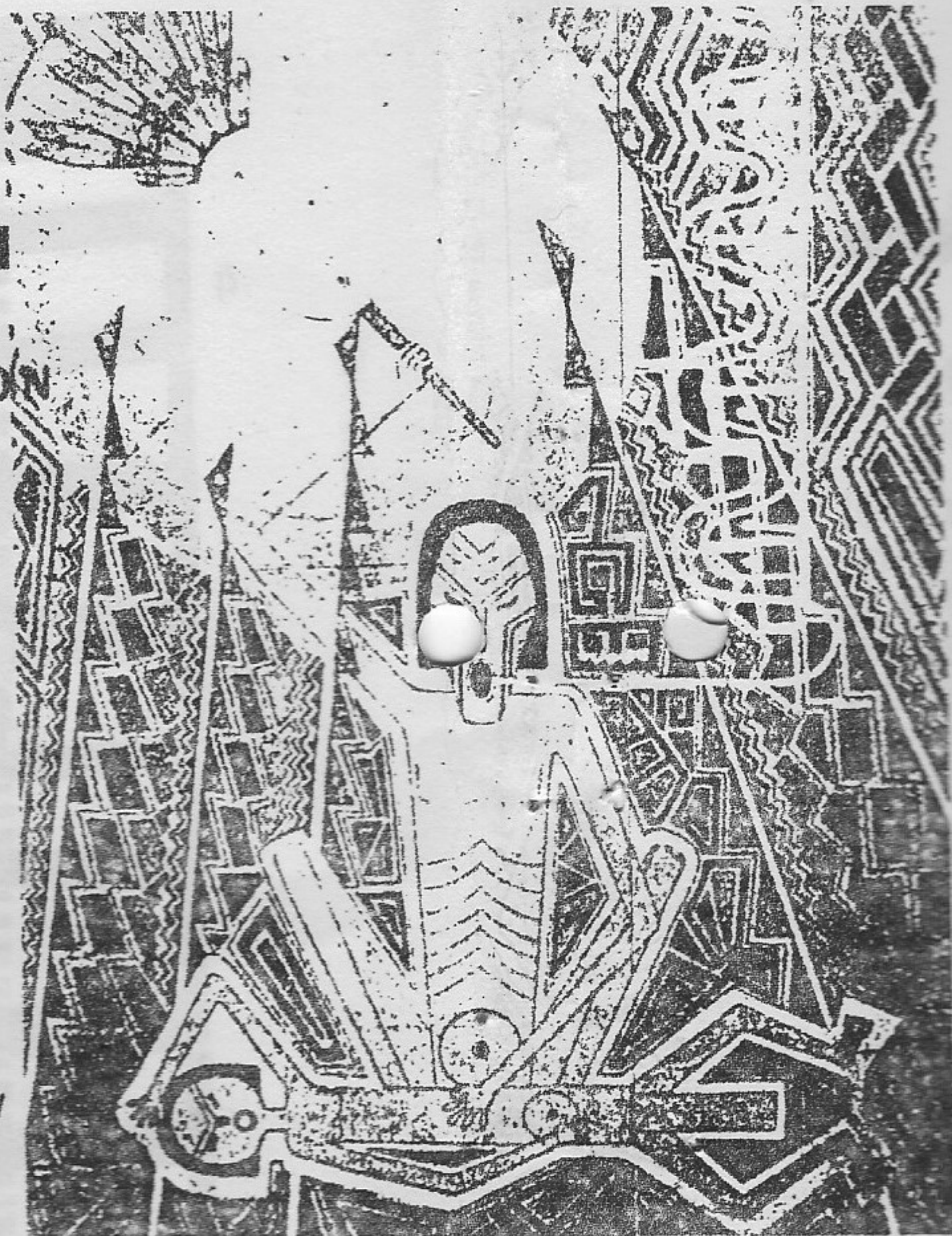
Two firsts! The newly refurbished Art Gallery/ Lecture Room hosted its first exhibition November 10-24. And the Guyanese Women Artists Association selected the Barbados Museum for its first Caribbean Exhibition.

Eighteen GWAA artists exhibited over 100 paintings, textiles, crafts and sculpture; dynamic work from artists little seen (though some are well known) outside their own country.

Six of the artists travelled with the exhibition, meeting the public and fellow artists, and giving slide/lectures to schools and to the public.

The work included pioneer figures like painter Marjorie Broodhagen, and Stephanie Correia, whose ceramics are internationally known, as well as the Red Thread Womens Collective, working women who have participated in GWAA's embroidery workshops, and who now exhibit and market their work.

Much of the publicity was of necessity done at the last hour. The Guyanese artists had to overcome truly formidable obstacles, financial, bureaucratic and logistical; it was only when their works, and they, actually arrived short days before the opening that we could be sure there would be an exhibition.



Plamen Cure 1 (1987) - Acrylic, 32x28
(In the collection of the Dorothy Tait Foundation)

CARIBBEAN HOME INSURANCE CO. LTD. CORPORATE SUPPORT FOR MUSEUM

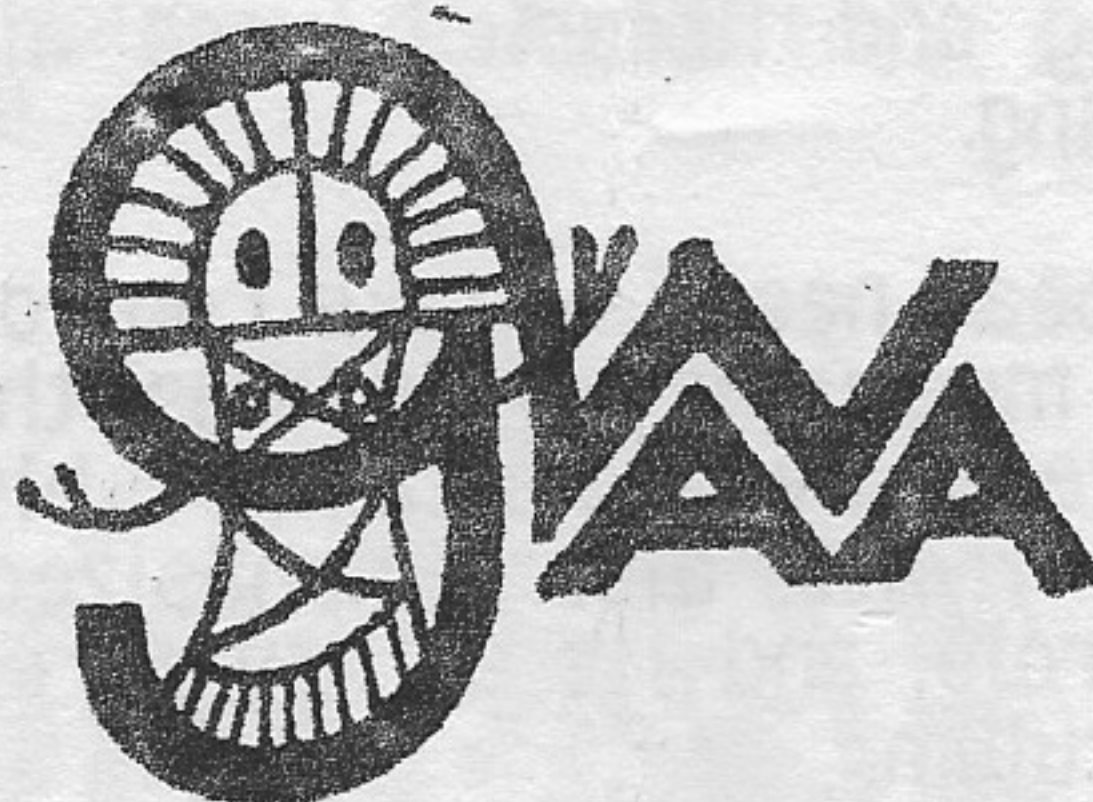
DEVELOPMENT

In October, Caribbean Home Insurance Co. Ltd. gave the museum a generous donation towards the renovation of its newly located Temporary Exhibit Gallery/Lecture Room. The donation made it possible to transform the former Children's Gallery into an area with more wall space, easier public access and a small storeroom.

Increasingly, the island's private sector is playing a significant role in our national development through sponsorship of various cultural and artistic projects.

We have already been approached by a number of private and public sector institutions to collaborate on exhibition projects for the new year. Some of these may be on display in the museum's gallery, and others at their funding institution.

Members are invited to visit the gallery over the Christmas season. The next show, opening in December, will be a retrospective of Ivan Payne's work.



MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF THE CARIBBEAN: A SEED TAKES ROOT

On November 9th and 10th, after two years of preparatory work, a 50 year old idea became a reality: the Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) was formed. Participants from 19 Caribbean countries, French, Dutch and English-speaking, attended a two day meeting in Dominica, to lay the foundations for an enduring structure.

The meeting focussed on MAC's function as a network for professional contacts, information exchange, and technical expertise and advice.

One of MAC's major objectives is to encourage the development of professional standards in Caribbean Museums. The meeting included an intensive one-day workshop on the theory and practice of collections management for museums.

Participating museums also received a core library of books and technical leaflets on museum concerns. Both meeting and libraries were made possible by UNESCO funding.

The Caribbean needs to take control of its heritage through its museums. This was the thrust of the feature address, by Jamaican art historian Dr. Vera Hyatt. Dr. Hyatt also emphasized the museum's educational role, and its ability to enrich the formal school curriculum.

The commitment of MAC participants became evident when virtually all became members, and voted MAC's

by-laws into existence. Nine Directors were elected to the board, with BMHS Director Alissandra Cummins becoming the first President of the Association.

MAC already has plans to expand both its support base and its activities in 1990.

MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD

Porcelain painter Lilia Baillu-Hamilton will give two slide/ lecture/ demonstrations on the history and decoration of porcelain early in the new year.

Historically, some porcelain has been, as her title suggests, **More Precious than Gold**. Her topics will move from pottery in the ancient Mediterranean to porcelain in China, the development of bone china and techniques of handpainting and decoration.

Schools will be circularized for a daytime lecture on Friday January 11, and there will be a lecture for the public Monday January 14. A real treat for lovers of the decorative arts!



ATTENTION ALL BOOKLOVERS

Take a look at those cluttered bookshelves! Do you really need that pile of 1985 **Vogues**? those blockbusters you read on the beach last August? those nice children's books your youngsters have outgrown?

Recycle! Get rid of your excess books, pick up a new lot and support a good cause all in one.

Andy Taitt of **The Book Place** will be running the museum's book stall at the Fine Craft Festival on December 2nd. We're hoping all members and friends will help stock a museum-worthy stall with their books and magazines.

Books and magazines for the stall can be dropped off at the museum any time up to December 1.

LIBRARY NEWS

The library has begun its conservation repair program on old and valuable books and documents in its collection.

We are grateful for Mr. Edmund Bayley's generous gift, **The Stamps of Barbados**. This book is beautifully bound, and the material produced on stamps is of a very high calibre. It has won a Vermeil Award in the Chicago Philatelic Society Exhibition, 1989.

The library will be closed for cataloging from Nov. 20 till mid or late December. It will re-open at the earliest opportunity, so phone and check in December if you are hoping to use it.

MUSICAL CHAIRS....ER, GALLERIES

Friends who have not visited the museum for a while may wonder if their memories are playing tricks. No, the memories are fine; it's the museum that is shifting. Some major changes:

1 Professional staff have moved into the new administration block behind the museum. The former administrative quarters (the old Director's House) now comprise a much-needed storage facility and volunteers seminar room/ lounge.

2 The former childrens gallery has been refurbished as Art Gallery/ Lecture room, and is already functional. The former gallery/ lecture room will be the future Children's Gallery, expected to be completed March 1991.

3 At the entrance, on the right as you enter, the former dingy office will be bright new shop quarters, operational before Christmas. On the left of the arch, the entrance to the galleries remains to be redesigned as a more welcoming orientation area, to be completed in the new year.

THE BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

MUSEUM EVENTS

- Nov 20** Museum library closed for cataloging 3-4 weeks
- Nov 30** Museum closed
- Dec 2** Fine Craft Festival, 1-6pm
- Dec 9** Fashion Show, Derek and Anna Went
- Dec** Christmas display of dolls
Jubilee Gallery
- Dec 12** BEA lecture, 7:30pm
Disposal of Toxic Waste and its threat to the Caribbean
- Dec 13** Annual General Meeting, 5:00pm
- Dec 15** Art Collection Foundation lecture
- Dec 25** Museum Closed
- Dec 26** Museum Closed
- Jan 1** Museum Closed
- Jan 14** Lilla Baillu-Hamilton lecture, 7:30
More Precious than Gold
- Jan** Ivan Payne Retrospective Exhibition
- Feb** Lillian Nicholson Exhibition:
Paintings in various media
- Mar** Sylvia Bews-Wright Exhibition

ON SERVICE



EAT WITH