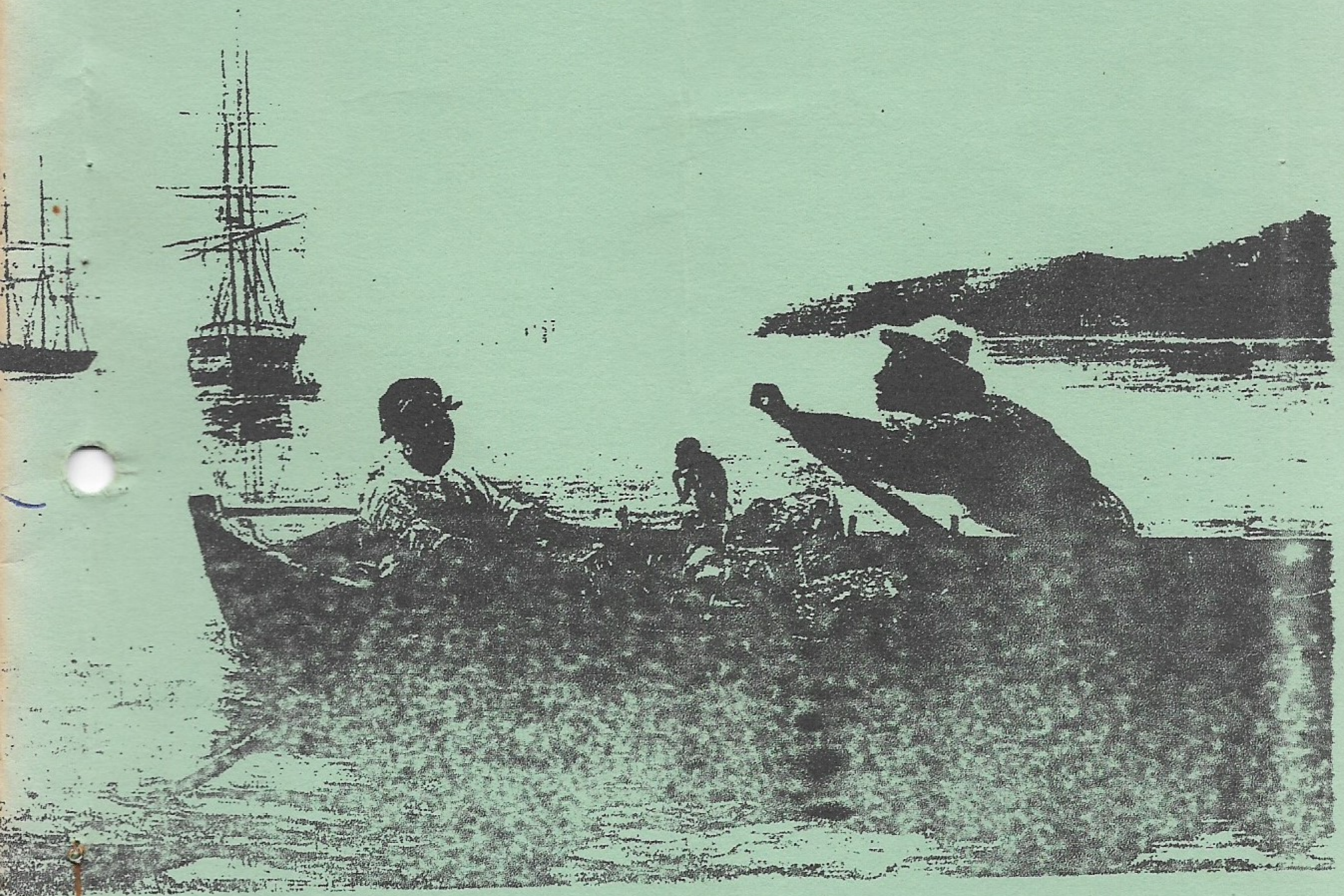


NEWSLETTER

THE BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NO: 33

3RD QUARTER 1990



BUM BOAT IN CARLISLE BAY
Oil painting by Edwin Stocqueler, 19th Century

SOUTHWARD HO! MUSEUM TOUR 1990

All systems are go for the **Museum's 1990 tour to Brazil**. There have been some slight changes in the schedule and the program to note. The group will leave on the 2nd, and return on the 13th of November. Best of all is the inclusion of Rio de Janeiro on the schedule, which had not been possible before.

The group will have the opportunity to visit major museums in Sao Paulo, Salvador de Bahia and Rio de Janeiro. There will be special tours to internationally recognized sites such as Congonhas de Campo and Ouro Preto, and of course we always make time for the markets. The Hippie Fair on our last Sunday in Rio will give members a chance to collect fine examples of traditional Brazilian craft.

There is **still time to join our tour** if you hurry. Contact Angela 436-1956 for details.

NEW MEMBERS

Hotel Investors Ltd.

Mr and Mrs Mervyn Awon
Mr and Mrs Paul Blackman
Mr and Mrs Barry Gale
Mr and Mrs Bruce L Hobson
Mr and Mrs Leo Lee
Mr and Mrs Martin A Phillips
Mr and Mrs Michael Weetch

Mrs Anna Affeldt
Mrs Ameena Gafoor
Mrs Alva Griffith
Mrs Nancy Jaffurs
Mr Gladstone E Pollard
Mrs Patricia Ross
Mrs Lila Salazar
Mr Steiner Xavier

(Junior)
Mr Jeremy Awon
Miss Dawn O Grosvenor

1991 ARCHAEOLOGY CONGRESS

Many readers may be aware that the Barbados Museum will be hosting the 14th Biennial Congress of the International Association for Caribbean Archaeology. The Congress will be held at the Dover Convention Centre from July 21-27; there will be an optional field trip on July 28th.

Please stay tuned for information as it develops.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

During the summer, the Museum hosted a variety of lively and informative activities, all of them well attended.

Photographer Felix Kerr led **EYE SPY**, a photography camp for 8-12 year olds. **CAMP CHALLENGE** provided museum craft activities and field trips for hearing-disabled pre-teens and teens. Natural History Curator Philippa Newton led this intrepid group through knee-deep mud, collecting flora from Graeme Hall Swamp, and also on a tidier undersea exploration aboard the **Nautilus**.

THURSDAY POTPOURRI offered a popular range of adult activities on Thursday mornings. Ceramist Peter Cave demonstrated **THE MARVELLOUS TRANSFORMATION** of clay into beautiful pottery. Fine Arts Curator Lesley Barrow-Whatley took participants on **TRAVEL THROUGH TIME** via the Museum's textile collection. The **CARIBBEAN VOICES** of Jeanette Springer and Alfred Pragnell delighted visitors with readings from favourite Caribbean authors, and Jeanette Ottley led a cultural/environmental field trip, **OUR PRECIOUS HERITAGE**, through the Scotland District. All activities concluded with tea in the Museum courtyard.

IN THE MONEY

Fine Arts/History Curator Lesley Barrow-Whatley continues her work as **exhibit consultant for the Central Bank**. It is hoped the bank's exhibit of currency and coins will be installed in the Bank's lobby by March, 1991.

On an August tour of American museums, Lesley spent a day at the American Numismatic Society in Manhattan. The ANS has been an international centre for the study and exhibition of coins, medals and paper money of the past 2,500 years.

The Society's collection of over one million objects, and its comprehensive library of numismatic literature (including extracts from the BMHS Journal) are accessible to scholars and serious collectors. The ANS has seven specialist curators and a library of about 100,000 catalogued books, periodicals, manuscripts etc.

Lesley received curatorial assistance in numismatic display methods, and was also able to list useful numismatic publications for potential library acquisitions.

On the Washington, DC leg of her trip, she visited the **Bureau of Engraving and Printing**.

Prior to 1862, currency notes were printed by private bank note companies. The resulting lack of control led to the initial Treasury operations in a basement employing four women and two men collating bank notes. Printing of currency notes began in this department in 1863, and by 1877 all US currency was printed in the Bureau.

EXHIBITS: PRESENT AND FUTURE

The Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology in Georgetown, Guyana, has generously presented one of its display exhibitions **The Amerindian Heritage Today** to the Barbados Museum. Mr Denis Williams, Director of the Walter Roth Museum indicated that the twenty-odd panels which constitute the exhibit, focus on various themes relating to the culture and heritage of Guyana's indigenous population.

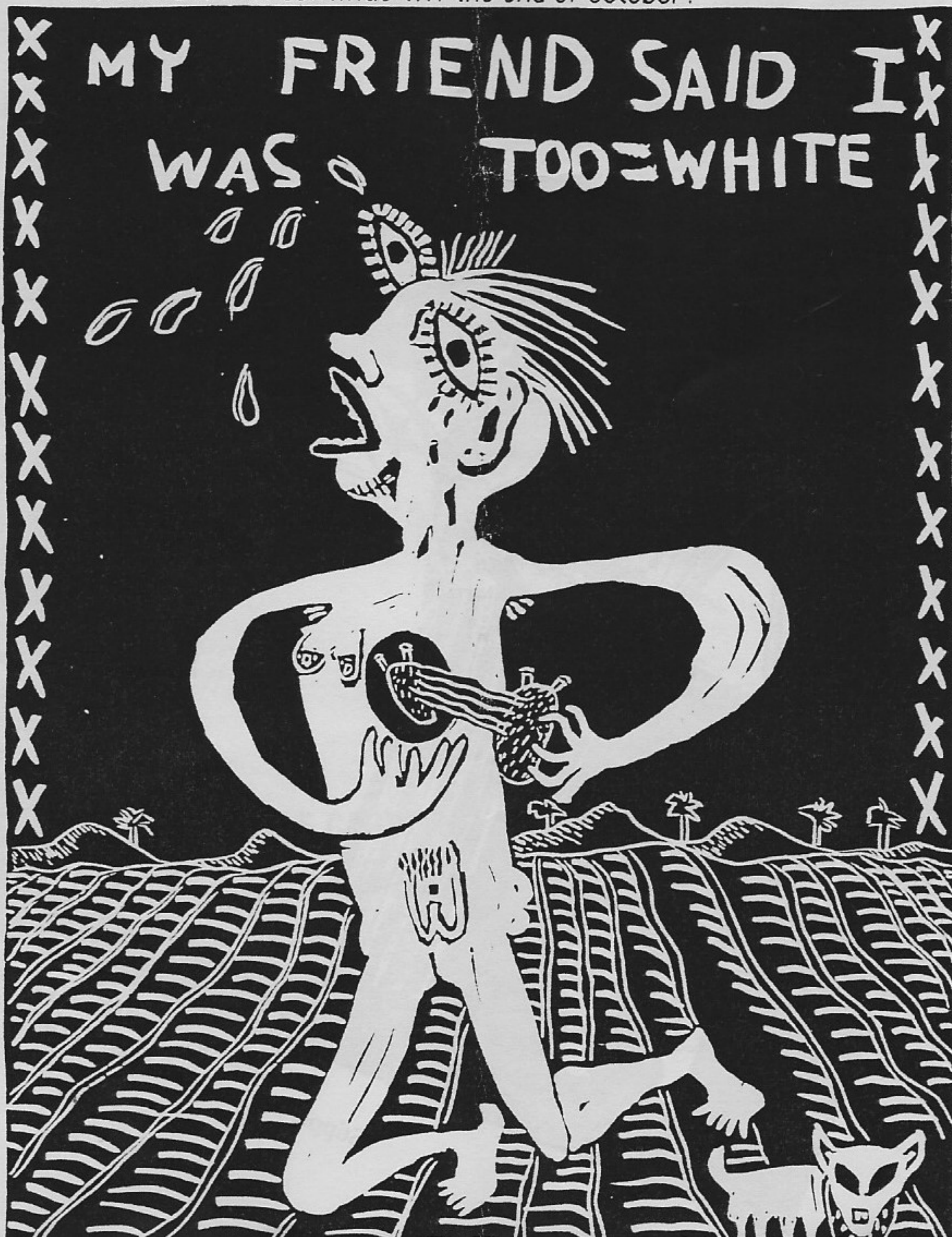
The exhibit is being shipped to Barbados from England where it was on display at the Commonwealth Institute in London. Though not intended as a permanent display, it will be scheduled at least yearly to be shown between other temporary exhibits.

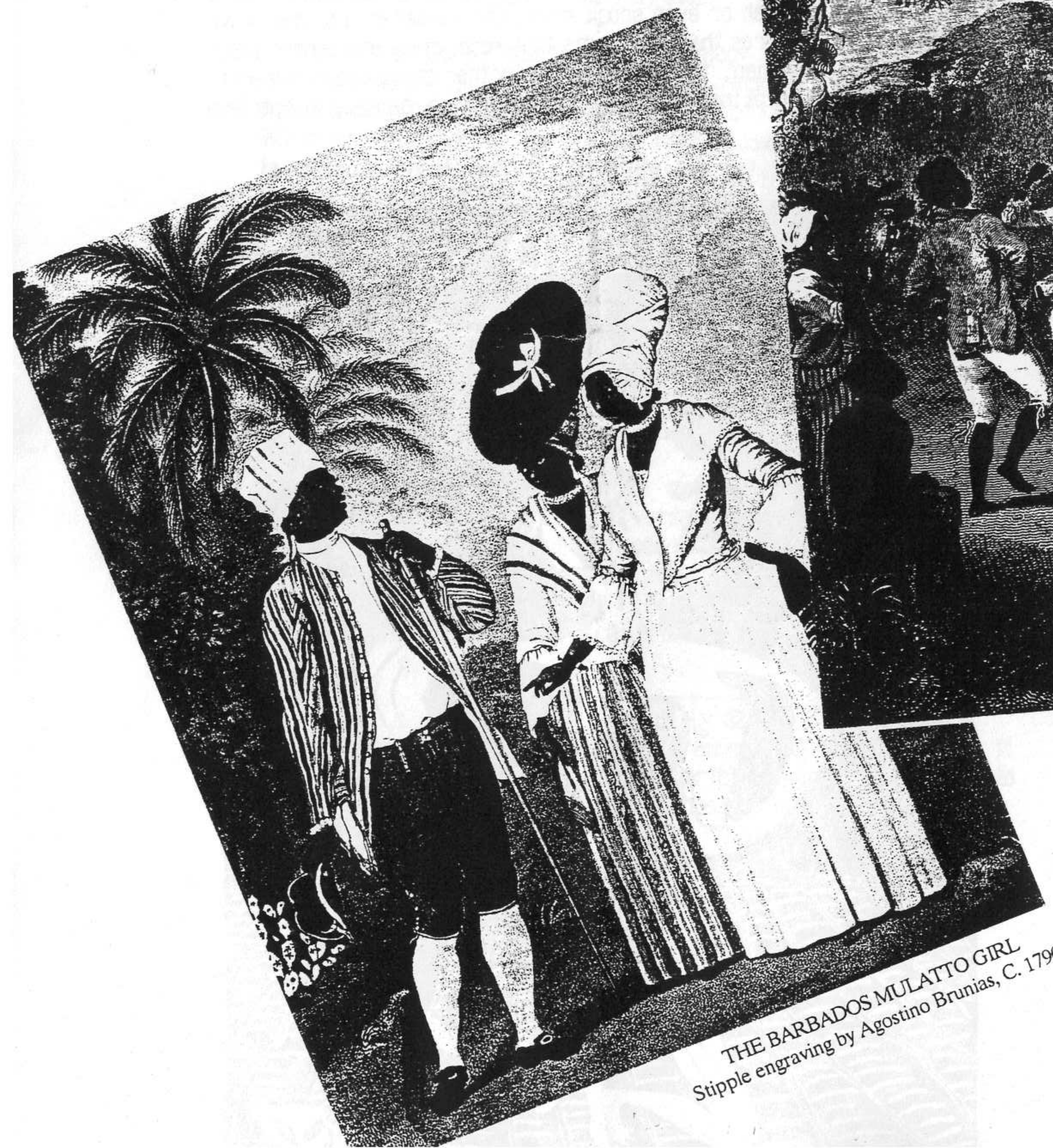
Stanley Greaves will mount an **exhibition of ceramics** from December 3-29. Admirers of this versatile artist will look forward to his exhibit. Many of the major pieces will reflect Greaves' interest in plant forms; others derive from pre-historic cultures of the Near East, North and Central Africa. The more functional pieces reflect decorative aspects of the Native cultures of the Americas.

"I refuse to be squeezed into any preconceived notions of what it means to be white, specifically in the Caribbean, and what it means to be a woman," says **Anna Lee Davis**, whose exhibit **Woman-Scream Niche** opened at the Museum on Sept. 29. "I am therefore presenting a new image of woman: she is a sexual being, and she is also powerful, independent and in control of her own destiny."

This fiercely articulate young woman scarcely needs to verbalize, so compelling are the graphic images by which she communicates. These images may astonish or even shock some; her vulnerability may move others. She explores the constraints that race, class and gender place on the lives of women, themes that were further developed in the witty and thought-provoking opening night address given by Kathleen Drayton.

The exhibit will continue till the end of October.





THE BARBADOS MULATTO GIRL
Stipple engraving by Agostino Brunias, C. 1790



A NEGRO FESTIVAL IN THE WEST INDIES
Engraving by Agostino Brunias, C. 1790



SCARLET BALISIER
Oil painting by Stephen Haweis, 1955

CHRISTMAS CARDS

It's already time for the forward-thinking to be looking for Christmas cards! These four handsome reproductions (including the cover of this issue) are **available only at the Museum Shop**. Attractive enough to keep and frame, they are \$1.50 each. Bulk buyers (over 100) and members receive a 10% discount.

MUSEUM EDUCATION NEWS

The **Schools Program** has resumed, with the term's first docent training seminar on Sept. 24. The highlight of the session was Keith McIntosh's lively and information-packed talk on (and in) the Military Gallery. Keith's thirty-year military career makes him a knowledgeable resource person and researcher in the military domain.

The Schools Program services visiting groups throughout the school year; last year **6000 children benefitted** from the museum's thematic tours, linked to the Barbadian curriculum.

Docent Daisy Frost has enrolled in the UWI Extra Mural Centre, where she is learning to sign. Having a **trained signing docent** in our group will enable the museum to greatly enlarge its services to hearing-disabled visitors.

In mid-October, Education Officer Wendy Donawa will be attending a two-week course, **Curatorship: Issues and Practices**, at Ottawa's new Museum of Civilization. Working from such a state-of-the-art museum will be a wonderful opportunity for professional stimulation, and will doubtless inspire new refinements in the design of our own Children's Gallery-to-be.

Interested in becoming a docent? Several places will be available in our January training program. This is an ideal activity for flexible, energetic retired people, or young parents who don't require a full time job, but want a stimulating and challenging occupation. Prospective docents should enjoy working with children, have an interest in Barbadian history and culture, and be willing to learn.

After initial training, docents should be prepared to give one session a week throughout the school year. Interested readers should phone the Education Officer 427-0201/436-1956.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The recently held **Symposium on the Environment**, co-ordinated by the Barbados Environmental Association, provided an ideal setting for individuals and agencies concerned with the protection of Barbados' natural resources to put their heads together.

In addition to increasing public awareness about environmental matters, the organisers succeeded in having representatives of the island's three major political parties present their policies and programming positions on the environment. It was perhaps the first time that each party had done so, and all are to be highly commended.

Like the BEA, the Barbados Museum hopes that **environmental management will be a serious issue during the imminent general election campaigning**, and will not take a back seat to other pressing issues relating to unemployment, housing, economics, etc. We must all recognize that the future economic survival of our island will be affected by the success we achieve in managing our scarce natural resources.

Environmental management must no longer be seen as a deterrent to any country's economic development, but rather as an integral part of it.

The Museum was represented at the symposium by Director Alissandra Cummins and Curator of Natural History, Philippa Newton, who is also vice-president of the BEA. We also noted quite a few museum members amongst the audience; thanks for your support!

MUSEUM UPDATE

Cafe Musee, sorely missed while cafe staff took vacation, resumes operations in early October.

Who says you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear? The decrepit and overcrowded Garrison House that formerly functioned as curatorial/administrative offices and storage grab-bag, has undergone an impressive transformation. And it cost more ingenuity and energy than money!

The former offices are now secure storage rooms, and the old foyer a reprographic area. Living/dining rooms have become a Volunteer Lounge and exhibit construction area. The tacky old kitchen is a sparkling new natural history laboratory, where curator Philippa Newton and her computer are happily ensconced.

With the Museum's increasing popularity as a locale for **business and professional gatherings and for weddings**, Special Events Manager Chris Chandler has been busy upgrading rental facilities. Our ambitions far outstrip our budget here, but the new kitchenette, with fridge and stove, storage and washing facilities, is almost ready. Keep us in mind when you next plan a social or business celebration.

The desperate condition of the library roof is finally being rectified. The repairs, however, mean the **library is closed** for at least three weeks. Our optimistic estimate for re-opening is October 15th. Phone to check.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Over the past six months, the Museum's Council has been preparing a number of important **policy documents**. Identified as necessary in the Museum's 2nd Five Year Development Plan (1989-93), these should enable the Barbados Museum to operate more professionally in the 20th century. In keeping with international trends, the council has drafted a **code of ethics** for its members, based on similar codes in other countries.

Essentially, the code of ethics delineates clearly the parameters by which members should operate. At the same time the museum's By-Laws are also being revised to accommodate the management structure that has evolved since the 1983 Development Plan.

All in all, it has been a period of intense scrutiny of the Museum's operations, and a dedicated effort to improving its professional standards. Members will soon be receiving copies of the draft document to review before our **Annual General Meeting in December**.

HOME SWEET CHATTEL HOUSE

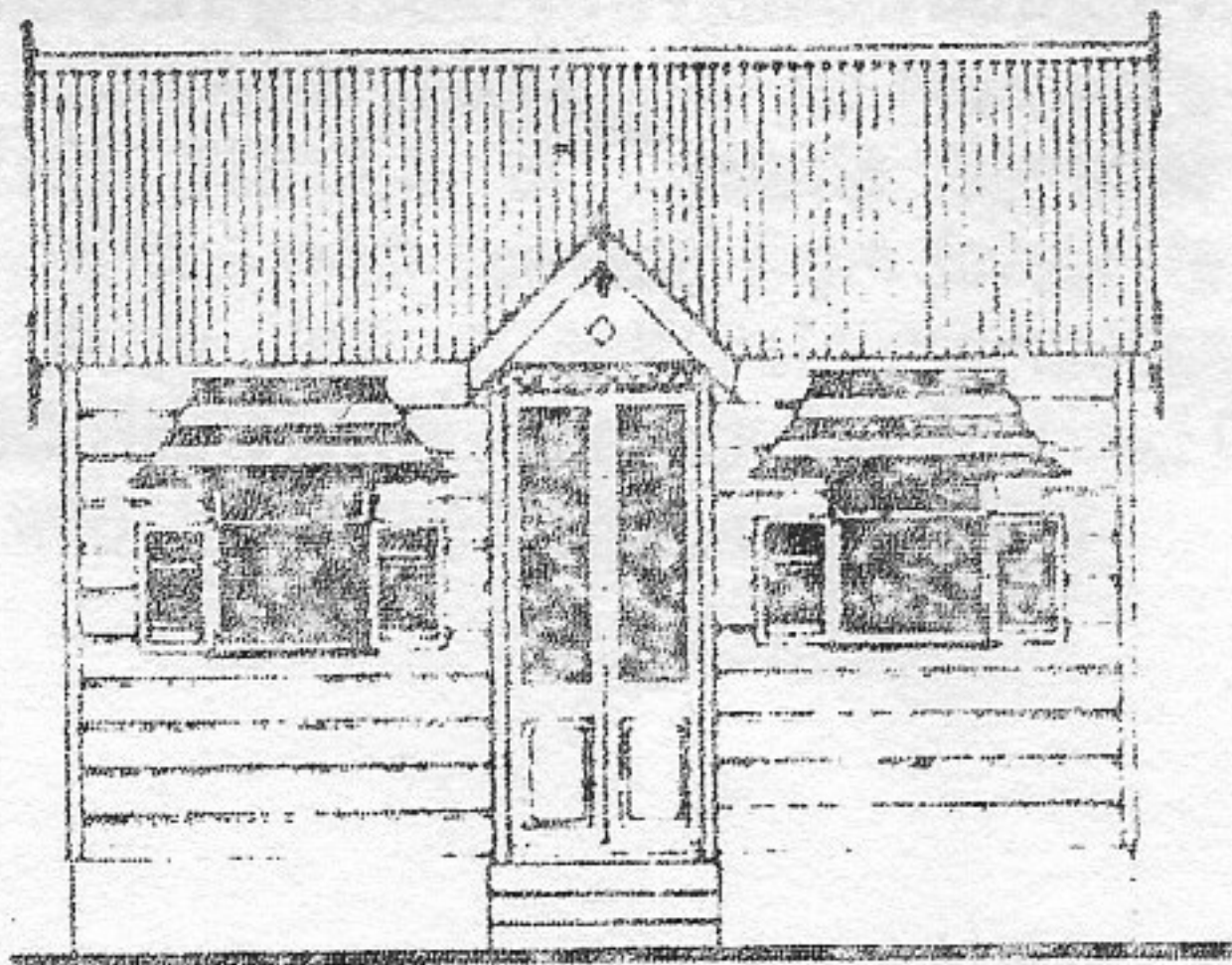
The Museum is once again the lucky recipient of Mr Geoffrey Badley's fine craftsmanship. Mr Badley has spent over 200 hours in the construction of an exquisitely detailed 1:12 model of a "two gable and shed roof" chattel house.

The traditional chattel house, a uniquely Barbadian style of architecture, is ingeniously designed to combine security and portability. It can be unbolted and dismantled, and easily moved in whole sides, gables and roof sections, yet is quite rigid when joined.

The chattel house is seen less and less in Barbados, and virtually none are being built. Our model will revive fond memories in adults, and evoke for children yet another aspect of Barbadian culture that is passing into history.

The model shows fine details, such as the bolts which fasten the house's panels, the groove and tongue flooring, the louvred ventilator and traditional filigreed barge boards on the gable ends of the roof.

Prior to building this model, Mr Badley restored the model sugar factory which will be exhibited in the coming Children's Gallery. He has generously presented this labour of love to the museum, where it will ultimately be the centrepiece of the architecture exhibit now being redesigned for the Jubilee Gallery.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sep 29-Oct 31	Woman-Scream Niche: Annalee Davis Exhibit
Oct 9 7:30	BEA lecture: Drainage: Have We Lost the Technology? Carlisle Bourne
Oct 10 7:30	Philatelic Society
Oct 27	Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Dinner
Nov 13 7:30	BEA lecture: How a Better Environment Can Improve Your Property Value: Glenvis Bradshaw
Nov 14 7:30	Philatelic Society
Nov 19 6:30	Barbados Mutual Exhibition Opening
Nov 30	Museum Closed
Dec 3 6.30	Stanley Greaves Ceramics Exhibition Opening
Dec 5 7:30	ACF Symposium: The Need For a National Gallery in a Developing Country : Dr Barry Gaither, Mr Jacob Lawrence and Dr Rosalie Smith-McCrae
Dec 14	Council, Staff and Volunteers Christmas Party
Dec 25	Museum Closed
Dec 26	Museum Closed

THE BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Telephone 427-0201
436-1956

ON SERVICE

