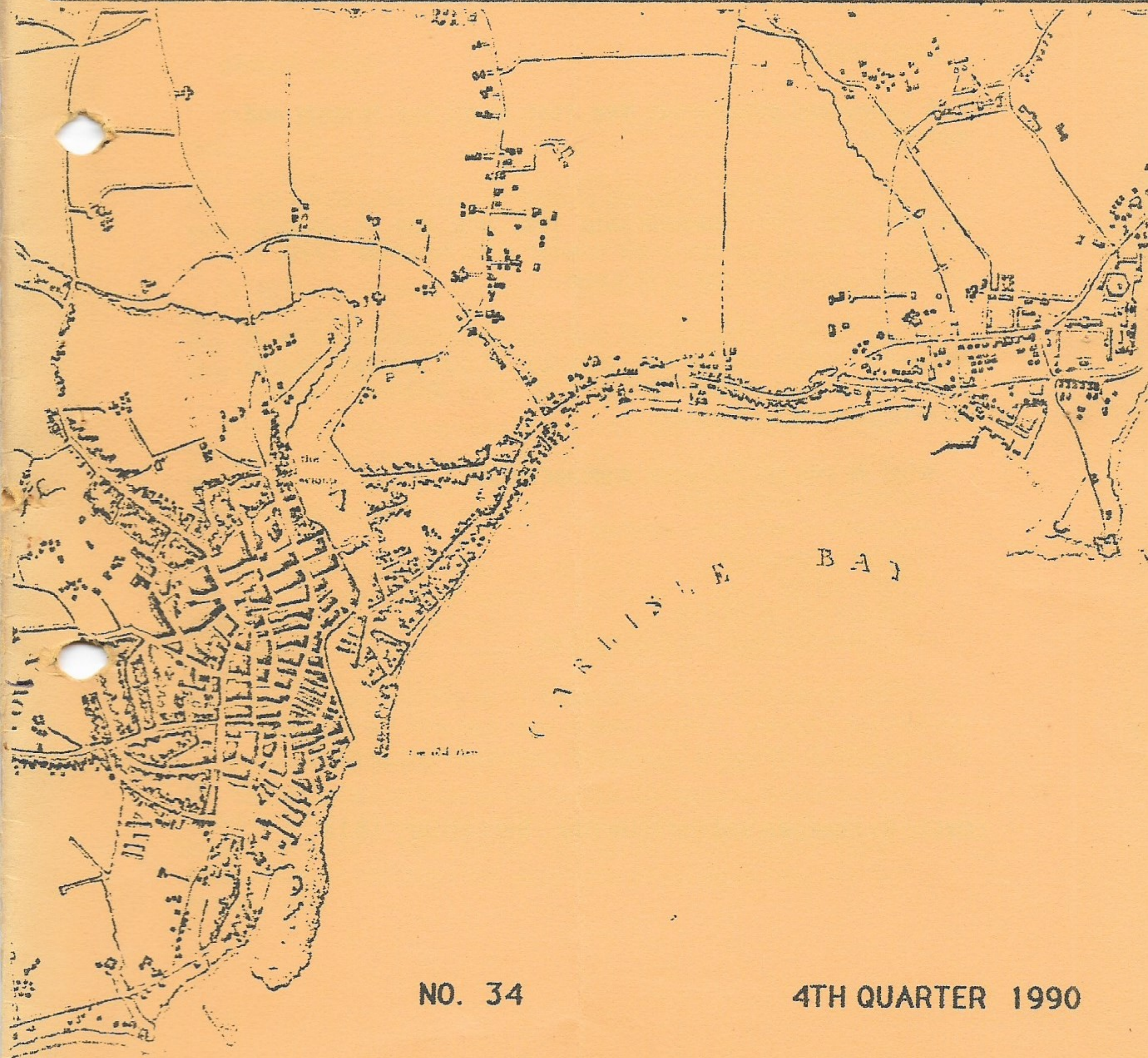


NEWSLETTER

THE BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NO. 34

4TH QUARTER 1990

JUST DUES

A happy and prosperous New Year to all our friends and members.

And in order to stay happy and prosperous, we must remind our members that **1991 membership fees are due** in January. (Unless, of course, you are a new member since November 1990, in which case you are covered for this year.)

Billing the entire membership represents a considerable outlay of stationery, postage and clerical resources. If our members send in their dues without further billing, it is like a donation of several hundred dollars to the museum!

What do you get for your membership?

- unlimited free admission
- admission to temporary exhibits
- quarterly newsletter
- BMHS Journal
- 10% discount at the shop
- invitation to at least one opening a year.

We look forward to your involvement in an exciting year of new exhibits and programs. Simply send in your dues with the slip below, or bring them to Carolyn at the Museum's entrance if you prefer.

COVER: Bridgetown and Carlisle Bay. Barrallier, 1818

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 57th AGM of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society took place in the relative cool of the airconditioned Cunard Gallery on November 26.

President Dr Trevor Carmichael gave a brief report highlighting the opening of the Jack Dear Wing, and the Museum's plans for a membership campaign in the coming year, pointing out encouraging membership increases already made during the past year.

Dr Colin Hudson's feature address, **Joshua Steele: a Thought about Power and Competence**, was insightful and incisive, drawing provocative comparisons between Barbados' 18th century plantation economy and the attitudes that pertain today, over 200 years later.

Only five nominations had been received for election of Officers to the Council, and four nominations for ordinary members of Council. The following persons were therefore elected by acclamation:

President: Dr Trevor Carmichael
First Vice-President: Mrs Jean Goddard
Second Vice-President: Mr Keith Melville
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs Joyce Gale
Hon. Secretary: Mrs Joscelyn Gardner
Member: Prof Woodville Marshall
Member: Dr Albert Graham
Member: Mr Warren Alleyne
Member: Mr Anthony Philips

By-laws: The President noted that copies of the Draft Amended By-laws had been circulated to all members. Members with comments and suggestions concerning the draft are requested to submit them to the Council **before December 31**. The amended draft will then be considered by members at an Extraordinary General Meeting early in the New Year.

A BRUNIAS BONUS

The Museum is the fortunate recipient of two watercolour paintings on long-term loan from a private collection in Trinidad. Both paintings are attributed to the 18th century Italian artist, **Agostino Brunias** (c.1730-1796). They are a welcome addition to the exhibition of Caribbean historic prints and paintings on display in the Cunard Gallery.

Both paintings depict different views of the Sandy Point Estate at Brimstone Hill, St. Kitts. They illustrate in fascinating detail the architecture, the process and people involved in Caribbean sugar production. They are a welcome addition to the six oil paintings by Brunias already on loan from the Peter Moores Foundation, and a valuable educational resource for all students of art and history.

GENEOLOGY: SIMMONS FROM SABA

Gosta Simmons from Sweden is researching the Dinzey and Simmons families in Barbados. Some Simmons families originated in Saba. She would appreciate getting in touch with anyone who can provide information on these families. Contact:

Gosta Simmons
Merkuriusvagen 12
S-761 00 NARRTALJE
Sweden

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Two **new volunteers** have joined the Museum: Pat Roach assists Librarian Betty Carillo-Shannon with genealogical research, while Ariosto Moore has been cataloging the shell collection under the Natural History Curator's direction. "Ari" will also begin docent training in January.

For those interested in museum education, **docent training begins Jan 10 and 11**. 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 (teaching guides) should enjoy working with youngsters have an interest in Barbadian history and culture, and be willing to learn. Please contact the Education Officer 427-0201/436-1956.

The **Children's Gallery** needs some intensive, short-term volunteer skills:

1 Volunteer with sewing skills and an interest in historical costume to search out appropriate materials and make replicas of 19th century children's clothing in our collections. For the same volunteer, or one with millinery interests, to make replicas of Victorian/Edwardian women's and children's hats.

2 Volunteer with research interests and own transport for oral history project. Self-starter willing to find, visit and interview elderly people to document details of domestic and work life in the 20's and 30's. Travelling expenses will be reimbursed. Ability to transcribe own tapes an asset.



3 Volunteer with skills to **enlarge antique print** as 6'x8' display backdrop. Also drymounting display materials.

As the Newsletter goes to press, the Museum staff and Council are saying **thank you** to our volunteers at our Christmas party December 14. The Museum owes much to these energetic and multi-talented people.

THE BARBADOS MUTUAL: AN HISTORIC EXHIBITION

"Well planned, educational and informative", was the official reaction of CEO, David Allen. He referred to the exhibit mounted by the museum to mark the 150th anniversary of the Barbados Mutual Life Assurance Society.

The Museum team found it a challenge to develop an exhibit (which is basically visual) interpreting an economic process (which is not). They utilized research by Dr Cecelia Karch, UWI, who has examined the historic development of corporate enterprise in Barbados. A balanced and effective exhibit was developed, tracing the role played from its inception by the Mutual in Barbados' social and economic history.

Text, illustrations, objects and historic documents such as the company's Deed of Settlement and 1840 minute book were included. The company's brass seal, accounts book, 1906 almanac and computer cards were also loaned from BMLAS staff who had collected them over a period of 50 years. These artifacts were integrated into displays of Museum objects, which offered a broad social history of Barbados.

Our only regret is that such efforts, though well received, were so short-lived. The exhibit had a vision to offer the general public and school groups, as well as to the members of BMLAS.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: REACHING HIGH

An ongoing commitment to excellence is the only way Museum staff can begin to reach the goals set each year. With this in mind, staff have participated in several workshops and retreats throughout the year, to address ways of improving teamwork and performance. The workshops were led by Dr Aubrey Armstrong (Aubrey Armstrong Management Associates).

It was recognized that support staff, as well as professional staff, need to be motivated and challenged, and a workshop was accordingly organized for them. On the basis of their constructive criticism, all staff are working towards a consensus on how we can work more effectively and productively together.

These efforts are intended to be an ongoing process, and will continue into the New Year.

LIBRARY NEWS

We are most grateful to Mr and Mrs Ernest Hunte for the books donated to the Library from the late Mark Hunte's collection. These books will be on display early in the New Year.

Our New Look! The Library, closed since September 17th, underwent roof repairs, floor polishing and refurbishing with the Librarian's new desk and shelves. It re-opened, greatly improved, on October 19.

COMING LECTURES

Keep space in this quarter's calender for two thought-provoking lecturers.

Dr Margie Gollick, past Head Psychologist and now Psychologist Emeritus at the McGill University/ Montreal General Hospital Children's Learning Centre, has been for 30 years a pioneer in the field of learning disabilities. As a result of the many Caribbean immigrant children she encounters, she is also interested in Caribbean dialects.

She will give a **guest seminar on learning and learning disabilities** to the Museum docents on January 14.

A further seminar, for teachers of learning disabled children, will also be offered January 29, 3:30-5:30. Coffee and light snacks will be served. Museum members with a special interest in this topic are welcome.

Dr Janet Vaillant taught at Queen's College in the 60's. She is now Assistant Director of the Soviet and East European Language and Area Centre Program at Harvard University. In February she will be offering an unusual pair of lectures.

Her frequent visits to the Soviet Union over the past decade have given her an ongoing opportunity to watch Perestroika unfolding. On February 25 she will discuss the ethnic minorities of the Soviet Union and the **implications of Perestroika for multi-culturalism.**

Dr Vaillant has recently published **Black, French and African: A Life of Leopold Sedar Senghor**. Senghor was first president of independent Senegal, first African elected to the Academie Francaise, and originator of the theory of *Negritude*.

Vaillant's work has been acclaimed as ... "the definitive biography...", and is the first biography in English of the extraordinary poet, politician and intellectual.

The author will discuss Senghor's life and work February 27 at 7:30. She will also sign copies of her work for those members of the audience who are interested.

Black, French, and African
A LIFE OF
**Léopold Sédar
Senghor**



FIRST STEPS: CERAMICS BY STANLEY GREAVES AND BILL GRACE

Stanley Greaves says his main objective is "the development of forms that have a quality of being self-sustained and unified, forms having a linkage with the traditions of the past as well as with my ...reflections of the environment...in which I live".

More widely known for his painting, drawing and sculpture, Greaves is an admitted newcomer to pottery, his studies "informal and leisurely". One would never guess it, to contemplate the strong, sensuous, confident forms his ceramics take.

He is joined by guest artist Bill Grace, who also sees his art as paying "homage to ideas...in history that ...reaffirm the power of thought and imagination." Not to be missed by lovers of fine crafts, the exhibition runs till December 29th.

CHILDREN'S GALLERY DONATION

The Children's Gallery has received another boost with a generous donation of \$1000, given by Mrs Gloria McFarland, in memory of Kim Leighton McFarland.

It is this interest and generosity of spirit, as much as the much-needed funding itself, that will make the Gallery, when finished, such a special celebration of childhood, past, present and future.

BRAZIL TOUR

The Museum's most successful tour yet took 18 adventuresome members and the Director to Brazil via Venezuela for 13 action-packed days. In Venezuela, the group was greeted by a local band before touring the historic La Guaira district, on which the government is focusing its restoration efforts in preparation for 1991.

In Sao Paulo, museum colleagues from the Museum of Art of Sao Paulo and the Museum of Contemporary Art provided the group with a thorough introduction to the history of Brazilian Art. Minas Gerais offered marvellous Baroque architecture and sculpture.

Salvador de Bahia was relaxed and informal, and seemed strangely Caribbean. Here the group learned of the rich Afro-Brazilian culture embodied in the local arts and crafts. The Mercado Modelo is indeed a model of what a craft market should be.

Rio de Janeiro did not disappoint as the final stop on our tour. Here the group enjoyed the wonders of Brazilian Cuisine, explored the heights of the Sugar Loaf Mountain and explored the Museum of Fine Arts and the National Museum's ethnological collections. Other museums and the Botanical Gardens had, regretfully, to be left for next time!

We have many people to thank for the success of the tour, including: Mr Wamberto Ferreira (Brazilian Charge d'Affaires in Barbados), Mr Roque Da Silva (Manager Varig/Cruzeiro, which gave wonderful service throughout the tour), Mrs Lourdes Rego Novais (ICOM, Brazil) and Mr Antonio Augusto Coutinho (tour guide) who all helped to make this tour so memorable.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec 31 **Deadline** for members to submit amendments for draft by-laws
- Jan 8-31 **Dennis DeCaires Exhibit**
- Jan 9 7:30 Philatelic Society
- Jan 10 Docent training begins
- Jan 29 3:30: Seminar: **Learning and Learning Disabilities**. Dr Margie Gollick
- Feb 13 7:30 Philatelic Society
- Feb 22 Alliance Francaise Wine and Cheese Party
- Feb 25 7:30 Lecture: **Perestroika and Multi Culturalism**. Dr Janet Vaillant
- Feb 27 7:30 Lecture: **Life and Work of Senghor**. Dr Janet Vaillant
- Mar (?) Date tba: Extraordinary General Meeting
- Mar 2-30 **Gail Hermick** Sculpture Exhibition
- Mar 13 7:30 Philatelic Society
- Apr 4-30 USIS Exhibition: **I Dream a World**
- Dates and topics for BEA lectures have not been received.

NEW MEMBERS

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr and Mrs Bernard W Clarke | JUNIOR |
| Mr Philip Clarke | Miss Isabel De Caires |
| Mr Aviston D Downes | Miss Michelle De Cair ies |
| Mr Glenford D Howe | Miss Rachel De Caires |
| Dr Thomas C Loftfield | |
| Mrs Phyllis A Peirce | |

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society

St. Ann's Garrison, Garrison, St. Michael

Tel. 427-0201 and 436-1956

ON SERVICE

