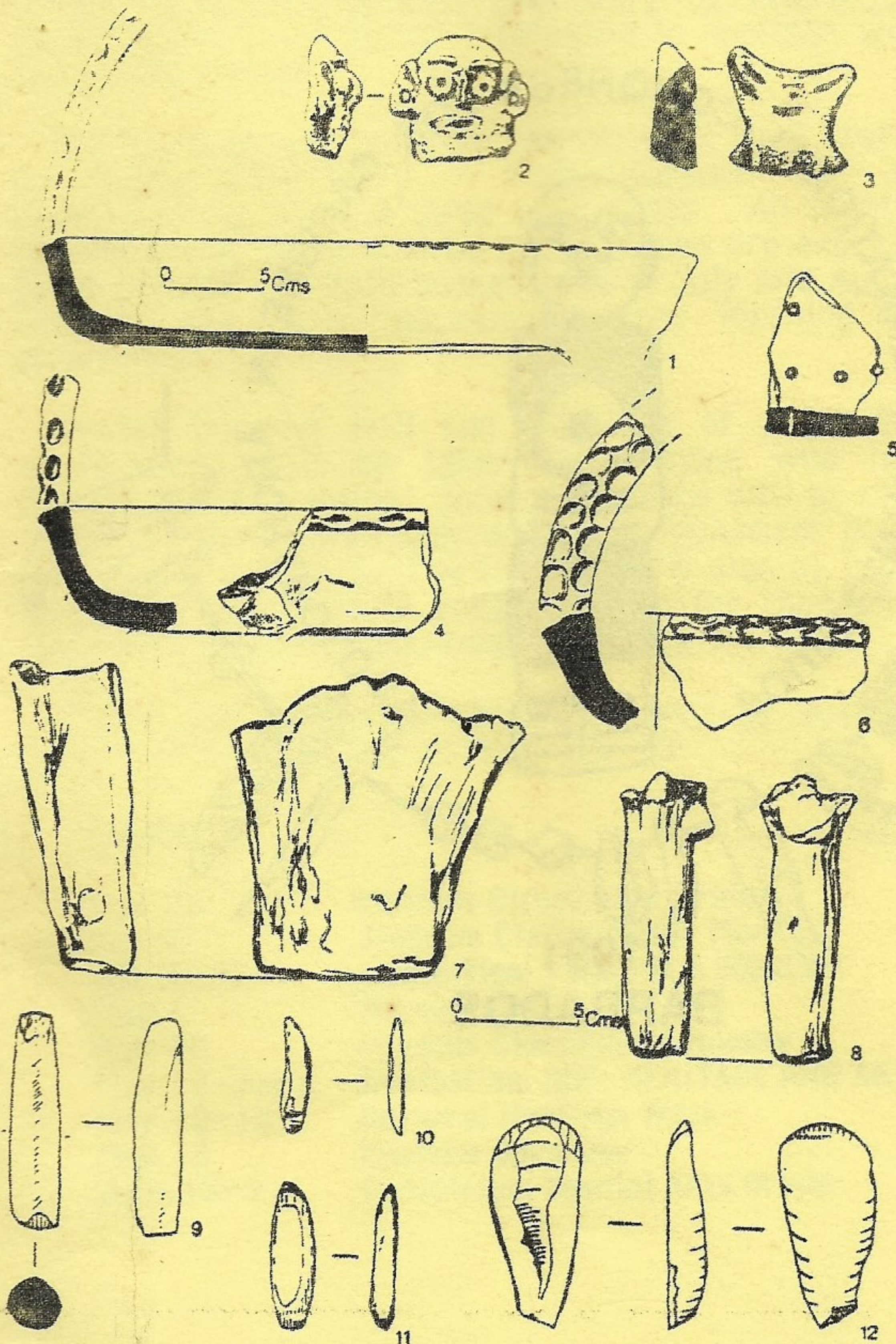
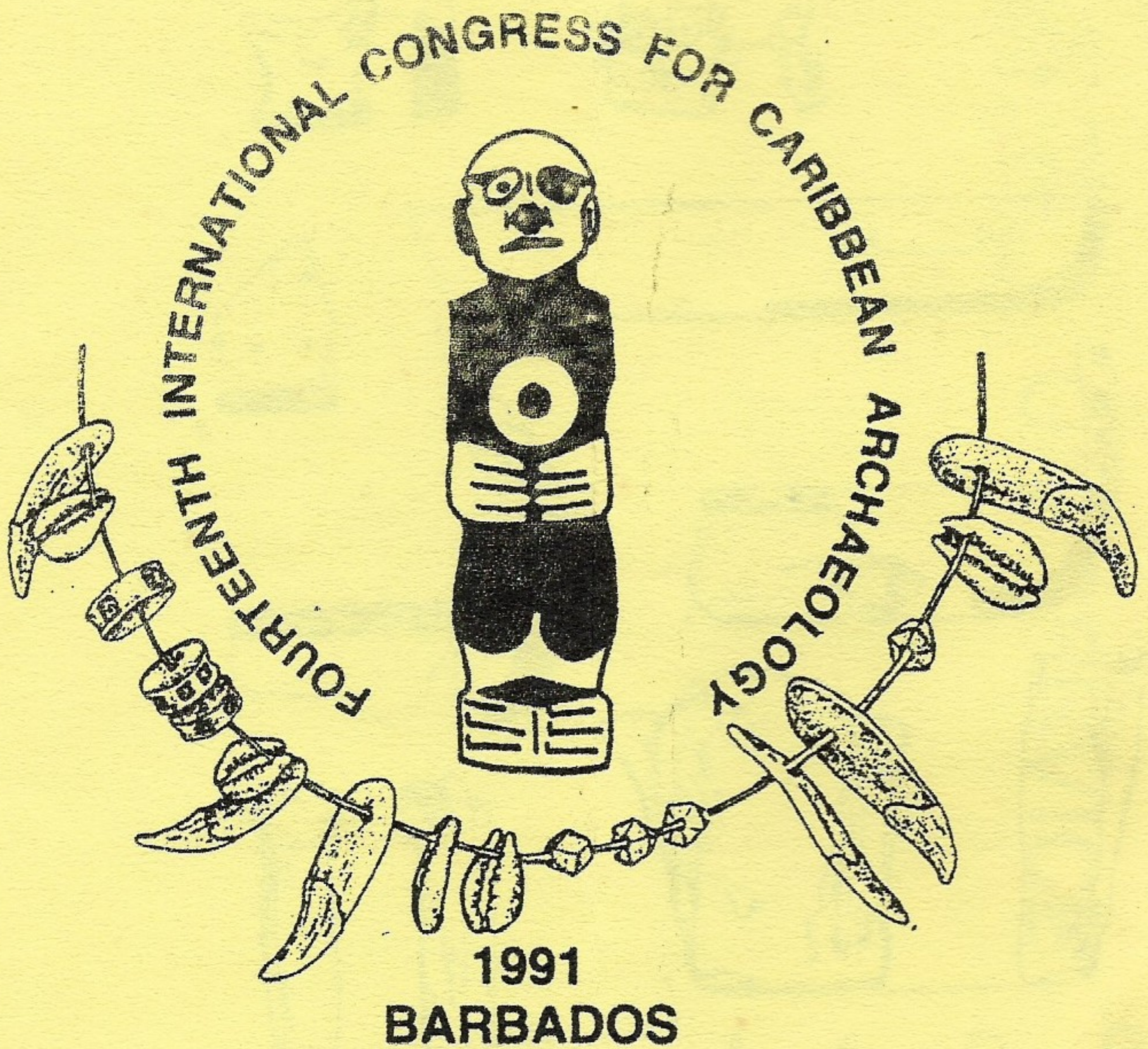


NEWSLETTER

THE BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY





CHILDREN'S GALLERY HITS THE JACKPOT

The Children's Gallery project has just received a generous **donation of \$20,000** from the European International Re-Insurance Co. Ltd. This gift has enabled the Museum to fulfill its fundraising goal of \$120,000.

Education Officer Wendy Donawa is jumping for joy. The completed fundraising means that construction and development of exhibits will proceed on schedule, that there will be no last minute need to cut corners or reduce quality, and that the gallery should open early next year.

The 1,100 sq ft Children's Gallery will have exhibits designed to stimulate the imagination and curiosity of youngsters, and to help them understand and appreciate their history and culture.

COVER: Archeological drawings of Suazoid ceramics from Heywood excavations, 1983.

1991 MUSEUM TOUR

Nature lovers will be thrilled to learn that this year's museum tour will journey to Costa Rica which is renowned for its splendid natural environment. Nestled between Nicaragua and Panama, Costa Rica is the most biologically diverse country on earth, featuring about a dozen different life zones. One park has more bird species than the entire European continent, and there are more species of butterflies than in all of Africa.

From cloud forest to rain forest, Costa Rica has developed a model parks system, incorporating a full eight per cent of the country. While we have not yet finalised our tour route, we are almost sure to visit the **Corcovado National Park** with its virgin tropical rain forests inland, and beaches splashed by the Pacific. The black volcanic sands at Corcovado should whet our appetites for the **Poas Volcano National Park** where the main event is one of the largest craters in the world.

Monteverde, which has become the world's premier site for the study and appreciation of tropical cloud forest, and **Tortuguero Beach** where giant marine turtles nest, will add to our immersion in nature. But, not forgetting the cultural side of things, we will visit the **City of Limon** which was developed with the help of immigrants from the Caribbean. In ways similar to migrants who went to Panama for the building of the

Panama Canal, migrants went to Costa Rica around the end of the 19th century to assist in the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. The entrepreneur in each of us should come alive at **Quepos**, the centre of the palm-oil business.

For details, contact our office at 427-0201 or 436-1956. We anticipate the tour will be scheduled during October, and will last about two weeks.

JOLLY JANUARY...

It was a happy New Year indeed for Administration Secretary Marcia Griffith, who won the Cave Shepherd and Co Ltd Christmas Draw... **a Suzuki Sidekick**. Congratulations, Marcia!

...AND A FESTIVE FEBRUARY

The Museum continues to participate in community cultural events. February was a busy month, with stalls for both the **Multi-national Women's Fair**, and the **Holetown Festival**.

The stalls included a mobile exhibit of "old-time" artifacts, enlarged copies of archival photographs and a selection of articles from the Museum Shop.

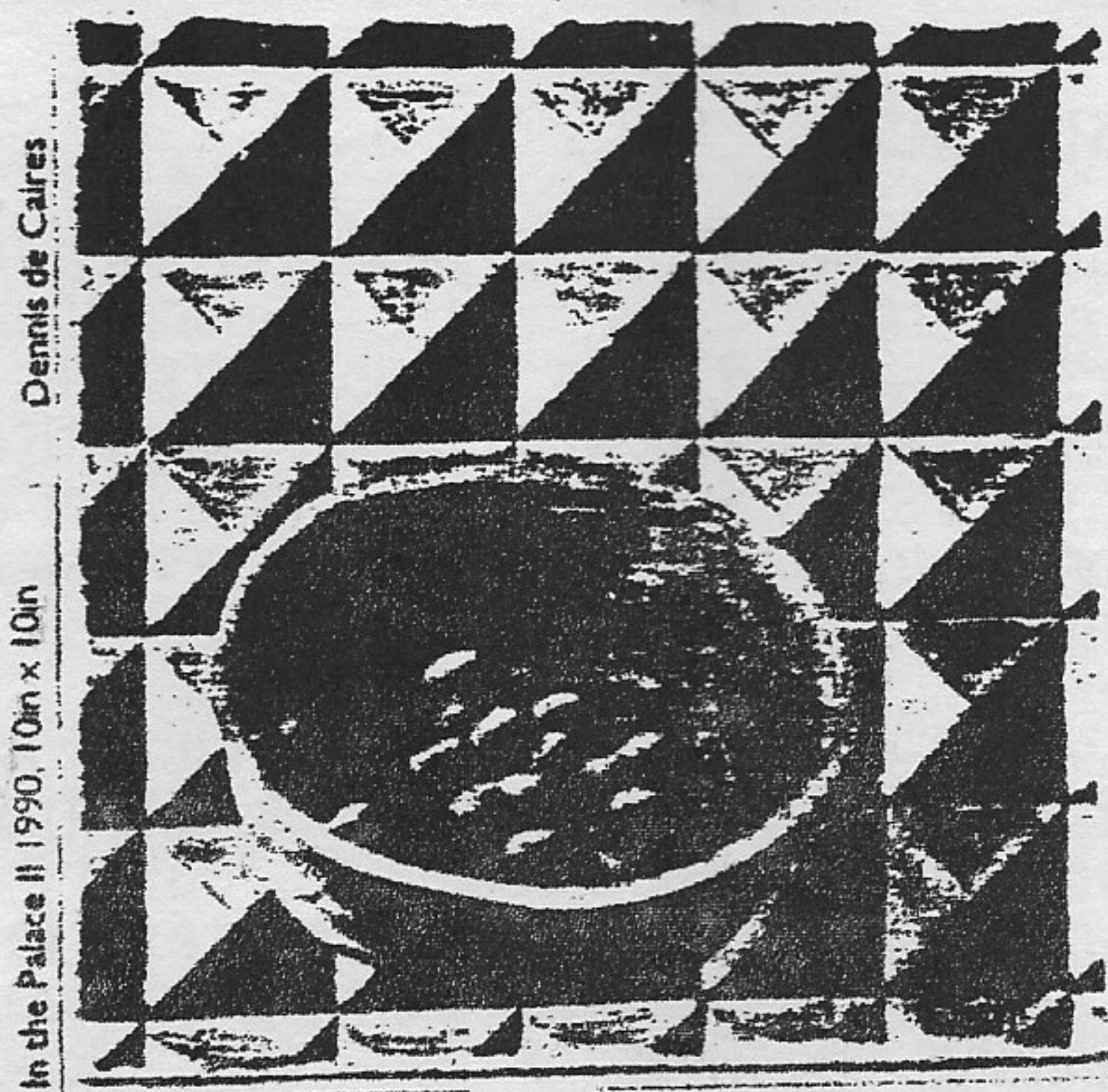
ART EXHIBITS: VARIETY IS THE SPICE

Two very different art exhibitions were mounted during the first quarter.

The first, a series of still-life canvases by Guyanese **Dennis de Caires**, explored the serene beauty of everyday objects against a background of convoluted perspectives and colour contrasts. Each composition was on a small, square canvas; they hung like punctuation marks against the gallery's stark walls, creating quite an impact. The catalogue accompanying the show, which travelled from the UK, is still available for \$10 from the Museum Shop.

Impressions, the other exhibition, by Canadian artist **Gayle Hermick**, comprised sculptures, primarily of coral limestone and steel. Most of these reflected the human figure, and were influenced to a degree by classical Greek and Roman sculpture, as well as by other contemporary art.

A thought-provoking installation focussed on the environmental problems plaguing us; self-induced issues the artist illustrated by effectively juxtaposing ornate bags of garbage against photographic images of the island's natural resources. Another work, **Impressions**, employed slides of Barbados and photographs from the artist's past to explore and convey the perceptions of a culture by an 'outsider', and the barriers that exist which hinder mutual understanding.



During April the Museum will show a USIS sponsored exhibition of remarkably revealing photographs: **I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America.**

The stunning black and white photography by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Brian Lanker, is a moving tribute to all women who have overcome racial and sexual barriers in order to achieve their goals.

The exhibit opens to the public April 4.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

We have acquired some intriguing new artifacts for the collections over the last few months. Among these were the Barrister's **wig and wigbox** (still in excellent condition) owned and worn by the late Hilton Vaughan, a gift of Mrs Joy Browne. Vaughan's role as both local historian and past President of the Museum made this a significant gift.

One of the gaps in the Museum's African Art Collections has been filled with a generous gift from Mr Eric Robertson of Robertson African Art Gallery in New York. The gift comprises two **African textiles**: women's cloth wrappers produced using traditional dying and weaving methods which are slowly disappearing from the West African scene. One of these is already on display in the African Gallery, and Mr Robertson has pledged his assistance to help us acquire other relevant material.

Another gift, a photograph, has also enriched our West African resources. Ms Beatrice De Cardi on her last visit to Barbados was surprised to recognise a familiar name in our history. From her grandfather's photo album she unearthed an 1880 likeness of his friend, **King Ja Ja** of Opobo (he who wouldn't leave Bek alone!), and sent us a copy.

The United States information service (USIS), through the good offices of Dr Katherine Lee, donated a number of volumes on **American History and Art** which will be an asset for researchers using the library.

And finally, our Natural History Curator was ecstatic to receive from the Fisheries Department a collection of marine shell specimens, including the rare species **Perotrochus Quoyanus**, **Oocorys Barbouri**. This collection has been meticulously documented to include water depths where the specimens were found.

CARIBBEAN COALITION FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

How well can the Museum cope with a hurricane? Arson? Flooding? Civil Disturbances? Over the past year, staff have been researching disaster preparedness programs from sister institutions, and have begun to draft our own.

And, across the Caribbean, organizations involved in cultural heritage management are preparing for the first regional workshop to address the problem of disaster preparedness.

The workshop will be held during April, in Puerto Rico. Director Alissandra Cummins will chair a workshop session that emphasizes the importance of preparedness plans that can be adapted by other Caribbean museums as part of the conservation process.

AFRICAN ART: A MULTI-PURPOSE EXERCISE AT THE MUSEUM

School groups, museum docents and volunteers, the staff and general public all benefitted at various levels and in various ways from the four-day visit by a New York art-dealer and collector who specializes in African art and textiles.

Jamaican-born Eric Robertson, who has worked with museums throughout America and Africa, was here to assist curatorial staff towards stream-lining our African collections and displays along more cohesive lines. During a three hour workshop for the docents, Robertson shared his knowledge of objects within their original socio-cultural contexts, and tied this in with the African items that are used in the teaching tours.

A special slide-lecture was organized for schools as well. It was interesting to observe the ways in which students were able to relate to the topic, which focussed on masks and stools.

The public lecture was a 'sellout', with sitting and standing space packed, and people propped up on the rails, steps and walkways outside the gallery straining to see and hear. The lecture utilized slides effectively, opening our eyes to African society, and the use and function of its masks and textiles.

Mr Robertson donated two beautiful lengths of woven textile to the Museum on the culmination of his visit.

CULTURAL HERITAGE WEEK

Now in its third year, the ICOM National Committee is preparing its program for Cultural Heritage Week, May 12-18.

This committee brings together both governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in the conservation of Barbados' cultural heritage. **International Museums Day** is celebrated everywhere on May 18.

A tentative Program has been organized:

May 13 (pm)

Opening of Art Collection Foundation's Exhibit, at the Museum. The Museum will assist in the preparation of a young people's catalog to accompany it.

May 14 (pm)

Barbados Environmental Association lecture at Museum

May 16 (pm)

Barbados National Trust 30th Anniversary cocktail party at Gun Hill Signal Station

May 18 (all day)

Open Day Bdos Museum

Open Day Bdos National Trust properties (pm)

National Cultural Foundation live concert, Museum courtyard.

LEARNING THROUGH ARCHEOLOGY

Would you like to learn about architectural variability within a slave village, or early trade in the ancient Caribbean? Perhaps the origin and development of the Caribbean Ball and Dance Court would intrigue you. These are but a sample of the many fascinating topics which will be explored at the 14th International Congress for Caribbean Archeology.

From July 21st to 28th, the Barbados Museum will host participants attending the Congress. Director Alissandra Cummins, who will chair the Congress, and Natural History Curator Philippa Newton, the Congress Co-ordinator, will be happy to provide any information, and to assist you in registering.

Symposium sessions will be held at the Dover Convention Centre from Monday, July 22nd to Friday, July 26th. Some of the proposed symposia will be devoted to pre-ceramic and ceramic ages in the Caribbean, population movements, historical and underwater archeology, as well as physical anthropology and human remains.

So far we have received over 50 registrations from international participants. We look forward to our local contingent being as strong, and encourage amateur archeologists, teachers and students to participate. The international contingent includes both professional and amateur archeologists.



We also anticipate that two archeological investigations will be proceeding in Barbados at the time of the Congress. At Heywoods, Dr. Peter Drewett and a team from the University of London should be continuing their excavations at Heywoods with the help of our local Archeology Group, while Professor Tom Loftfield of the University of North Carolina should have started research at Codrington College. We hope to visit both these sites during a special field trip on Sunday, July 28.

Registration is available in three categories: we are looking forward to your participation.

FEES

MEMBER (U.S. \$60.00)

Each participant receives a copy of the Congress Proceedings and is entitled to participate in the business meetings of the IACA.

NON-MEMBER (U.S. \$30.00)

These participants do not receive a copy of the Congress Proceedings.

INSTITUTIONAL (U.S. \$150.00)

Permits an institution to cover costs for three U.S. \$60.00 memberships. May be used by any organisation.

HISTORY BOOKS

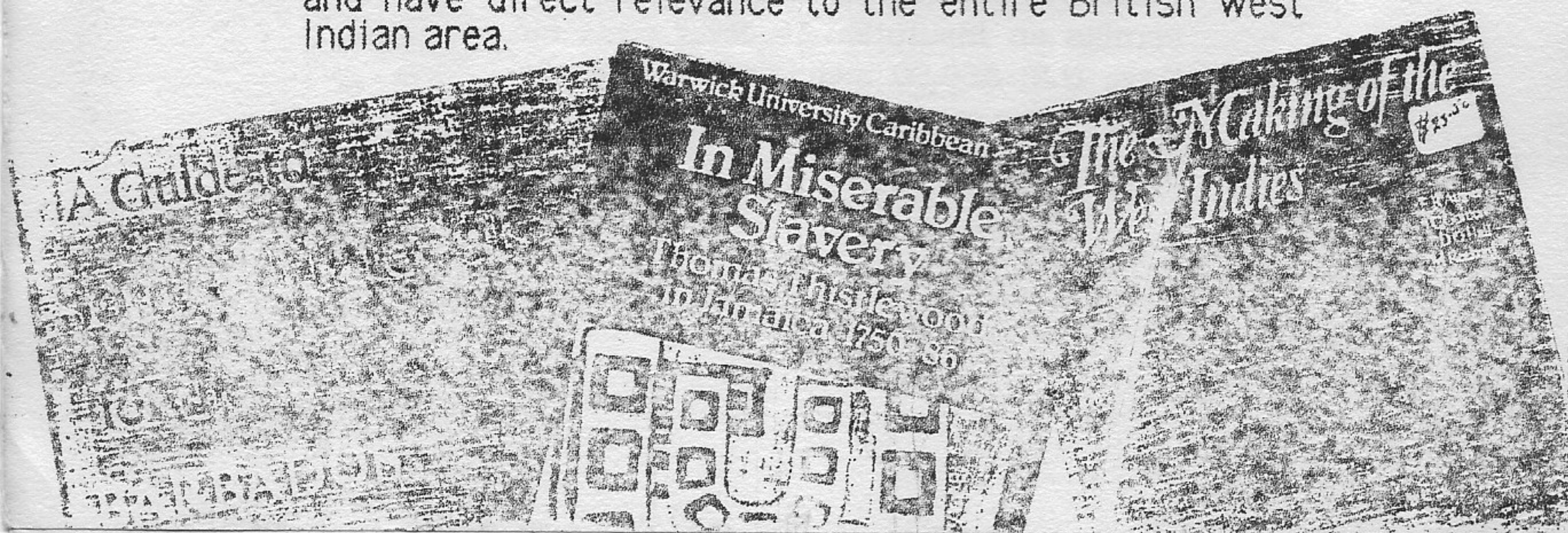
As we are about to enter the exam term, it seems appropriate to remind readers that the Museum Shop makes every effort to stay stocked with a good range of historical reference material.

Of special interest is a **Supplement to A Guide to Source Materials for the Study of Barbados' History 1627-1834**, by Jerome S Handler. The **Supplement** has just been jointly published by the BMHS and the John Carter Brown Library.

Serious historians and students will be familiar with the original **Guide** (published 1971) as the standard bibliographical resource for scholars doing historical research on early Barbados. In the intervening 20 years, Professor Handler has accumulated enough additional material to produce the **Supplement**.

The Museum Shop has the remaining copies of the 1971 **Guide**. The Shop should have copies of the **Supplement** by the end of April.

Both the books together provide the essential underpinnings for historical research about the island, and have direct relevance to the entire British West Indian area.



The Shop also has in stock Dr Hilary Beckles' **A History of Barbados: From Amerindian Settlement to Nation-State** (\$44.00)

The author traces the collective experience of the island's inhabitants, following the major events and ideas that shaped contemporary society.

This is a very accessible book. Attractively formatted and clearly written, it avoids intimidating footnotes and scholarly jargon, and will interest both the history student and the general reader.

Also in stock is Dr Beckles' **Natural Rebels** (\$38.70), Richard Dunn's **Sugar and Slaves** (\$30.95), and **In Miserable Slavery**, by Douglas Hall (\$46.90). More general works include Eric Williams' **From Columbus to Castro** (\$30.75), and **The Making of the West Indies**, Augier et al (\$23.50).

CLR James: **His Life and Work**, edited by Paul Buhle (\$20.25) is available, as are two of CLR's classics, **The Black Jacobins** (\$23.10), and **Beyond a Boundary** (\$32.95).

In the next Newsletter, we will anticipate leisurely summer reading, and look at the Caribbean fiction, poetry and drama available in the shop.

C.L.R. JAMES
Beyond a Boundary
Foreword by

Sugar and Slaves

The first comprehensive
history of the
FRC
COLUMBUS
• CAS
Hist

THE BLACK JACOBINS

C.L.R. JAMES

HIS LIFE AND WORK

Edited by
Paul Buhle

A HISTORY OF
BARBADOS
From Amerindian settlement to nation-state

HILARY MCD. BECKLES
Natural Rebels
A SOCIAL HISTORY OF ENSLAVED BLACK WOMEN IN BARBADOS



C.L.R. JAMES

EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Widely-travelled visitors brought the world to the Museum this quarter, enriching our educational programs with a diversity of lectures, seminars and activities.

African art dealer Eric Robertson, whose contribution is discussed p. 9, introduced secondary school youngsters to ways of **understanding African art** at a student seminar on Jan. 25.

Montreal psychologist Dr Margie Golick, whose work spans 30 years of research in learning disabilities, gave an afternoon seminar, **Learning and Learning Disabilities**, also in late January. Instead of the expected twenty-or-so participants, 134 teachers turned up! The overwhelming response indicates the widely felt need for help in this problematic area. So enthusiastic was the group that Dr Golick gave a follow-up seminar on Feb 13, also well attended.

And at the end of February, Dr Janet Vaillant gave two very different slide presentations to appreciative audiences. One, emerging from her frequent visits to the Soviet Union, dealt with Soviet multi-culturalism. The other introduced the subject of her newly published biography, the remarkable **Senegalese poet and statesman, Leopold Senghor**.

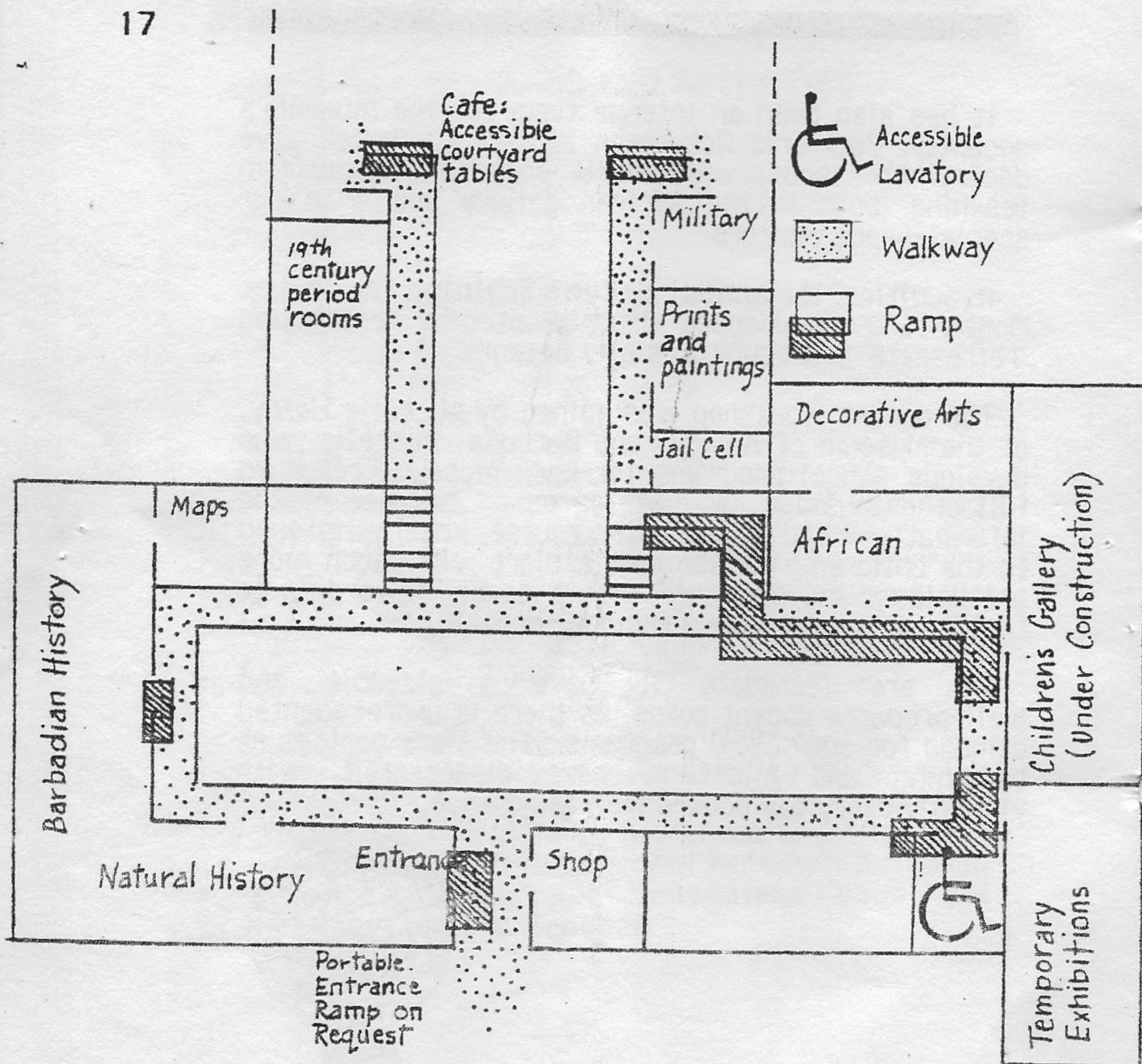
It has also been an intense term for the museum's docents. Both Eric Robertson and Margie Golick gave docent workshops, which will enhance our museum teaching, both in the African gallery and with our special-needs visitors.

In addition, the **annual docent training** took place. Most of the experienced docents opted for re-training "refreshers" with our three new docents.

The docent workshop was joined by Michelle Henry, of the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda. Michelle, who develops school programs for her museum, returned full of enthusiasm, and writes us: "...because of the information I had gained in the course, I really listened to the children... we can now explore with much more enthusiasm and meaning." It is doubly rewarding to feel our programs have a regional impact.

We are fortunate to have a sizeable and well-prepared docent corps, as there is unprecedented demand for our school programs. The slack periods at beginning and mid-term have disappeared, with virtually every day booked well in advance.





MUSEUM ACCESSIBILITY

Now that the final ramps have been installed throughout the museum, we include a map for interested readers. Shaded areas indicate ramps.

The Museum is being increasingly used by community groups like the four minibusloads of senior citizens hosted by the Princess Margaret Alumni on March 9. This group, including several in wheelchairs and one with a walker, gave us a good opportunity to test the effectiveness of the new facilities. By all reports, the visit was a tremendous success, and we can expect many more such visits.

It is not only those in wheelchairs who will find visiting easier. Young parents with strollers, people with walkers, or who walk with difficulty, will find that grab-bars and ramps make the museum more comfortable. A wheelchair-accessible lavatory and watercooler, and cafe access can make the museum an enjoyable family outing for those with a disabled family member or friend.

Please phone Education Officer Wendy Donawa if we can assist with your special-needs visit.

OVERDUES!

Response to the last Newsletter's request for annual membership fees, due in January, was disappointing, and a second, separate reminder is being mailed.

Members are asked to keep in mind that mass mailings put a real strain on our clerical resources. It is enormously helpful when dues are remitted early, without the need for repeated reminders. Due to our limited resources, this is the final newsletter that can be mailed to non-financial members.

NEW RECEPTION CENTRE

By May, visitors to the Museum will enter a new Reception Centre at the entrance. The new facility is not simply a redecorating exercise, but rather an attempt to enhance the way we interact with the public.

The new layout and furnishings make the entrance more spacious and comfortable, and will enable staff to give more efficient service. Improved security measures will also be incorporated into the area.

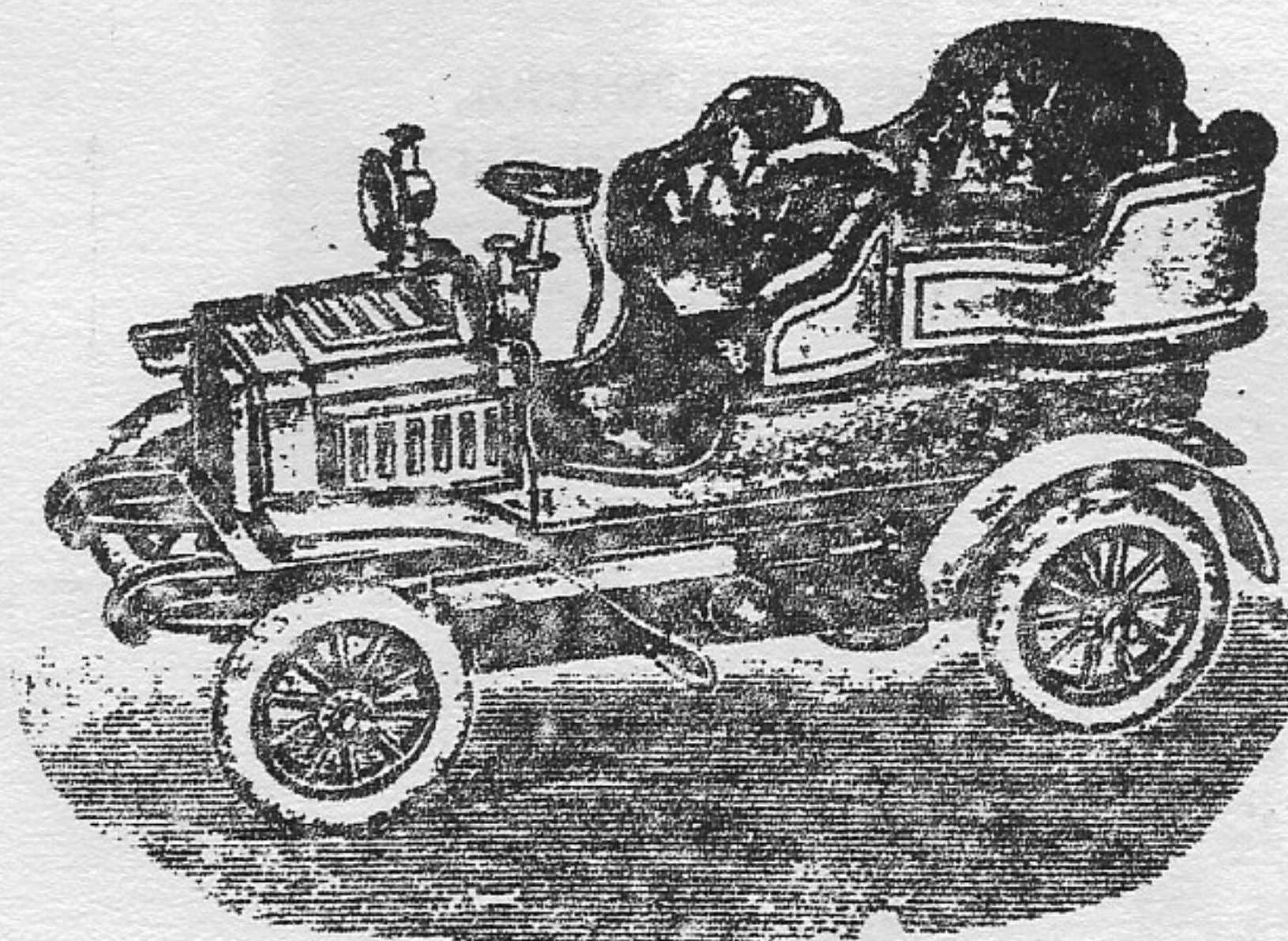
Members of the Museum are reminded to bring their membership cards for presentation when visiting us. The memories of reception personnel cannot encompass our growing membership!

RAFFLE! RAFFLE! RAFFLE!

Is your car dying? Would you welcome an additional vehicle so that you aren't left at home when Junior and pals have convinced you that the Transport Board's service does not cover "Next Party Gap"?

Then stay tuned to hear more about our upcoming raffle which will feature a **Suzuki Swift as first prize**. We'll be expecting you to purchase lots of tickets and also to sell to your friends and colleagues.

This major fundraising effort will provide additional funds for hosting the 14th International Congress for Caribbean Archeology at the Dover Convention Centre (see p). Our Collections fund and Conservation Budget will benefit from any excess monies raised. We do hope all our members and readers will pitch in and contribute to this venture.

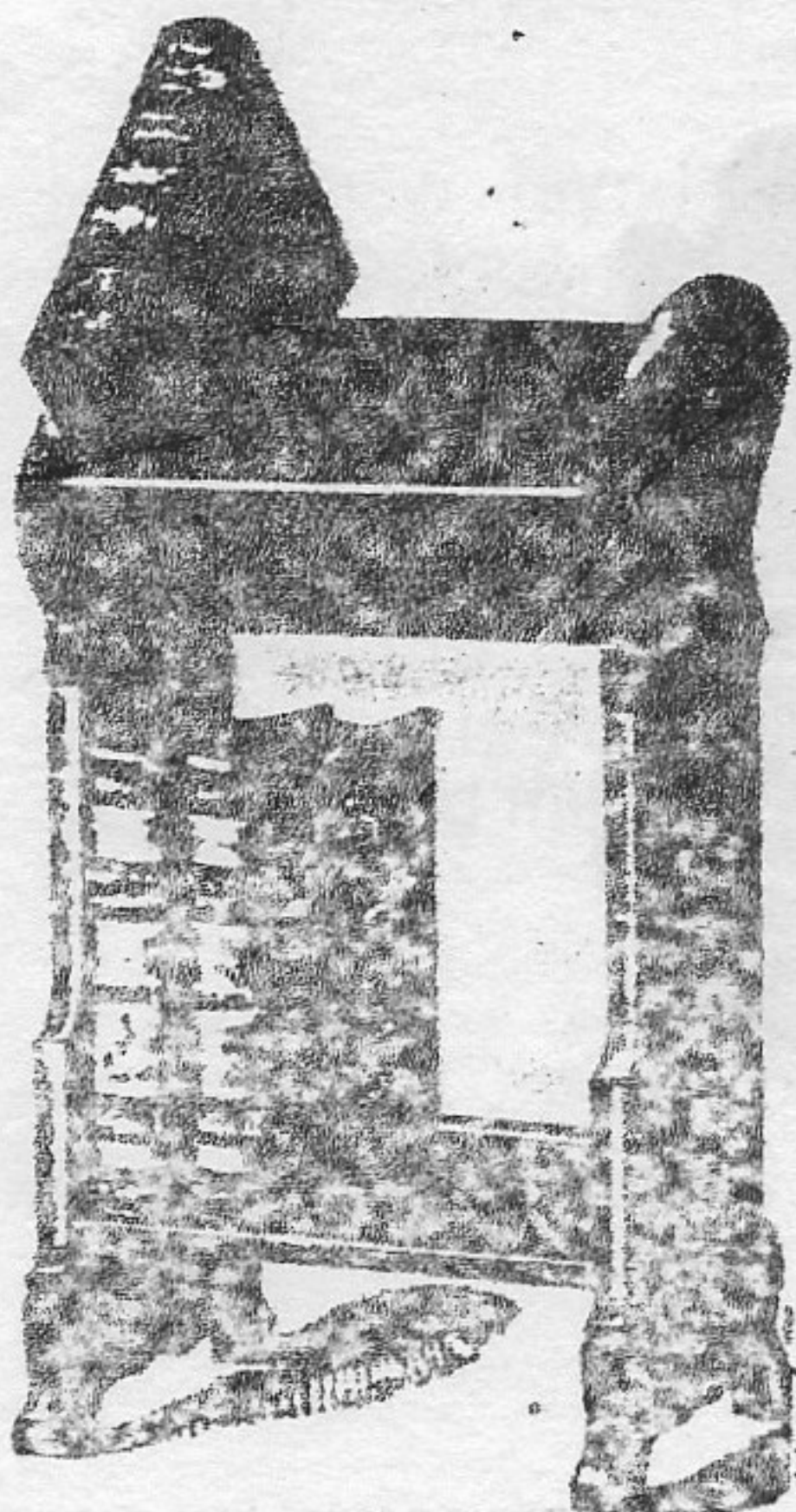


LIBRARY NEWS

The Library, always busy this time of year, has assisted 150 researchers in geneological and other enquiries. Twenty-five new books, 11 of them gifts, were added to the collection.

It is an unfortunate sign of the times that new security measures have become necessary. Librarian Betty Carillo-Shannon will orient new researchers to library procedures.

On May 18, International Museums Day, there will be a **display of rare books** in the library during Open Day. Mr and Mrs Ernest Hunte have donated these books from the collection of the late Mark Hunte, in recognition of his role as Honourary Secretary of the Society for 10 years.



NEW MEMBERS

Miss Elizabeth Barnum
Mrs Theresa Bourne
Miss Vinie Burrows
Mr and Mrs Norman F Carney
Miss Jacqueline Cumberbatch
Miss AnnaLee Davis
Sir Arthur and Lady Lewis
Mrs Editha Millington
Miss Omolola Millington
Miss Olga Small
Miss Muriel Small
Mrs Goldie Spieler
Miss Gale Thomas
Mr and Mrs Sikku Wahlberg
Mr David Williams

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Here is challenging part-time work for responsible young adults (late teens) interested in heritage work and public service.

Our summer tour program has hitherto been staffed by young volunteers. This summer we are experimenting with a three paid posts. An monthly honorarium of \$300 will be paid. Guides are expected to be present for each booked tour in July and August (usually one daily; occasionally one morning and afternoon).

Initial training will run mornings of April 2-5. Applications will be taken from those who have completed the training. Some preference will be given to those who have already worked as volunteer guides in previous summers. The training will also be useful for those who wish to volunteer, and for those with general historical and cultural interests.

Forms for interested applicants will be available from the Museum entrance March 25-30.

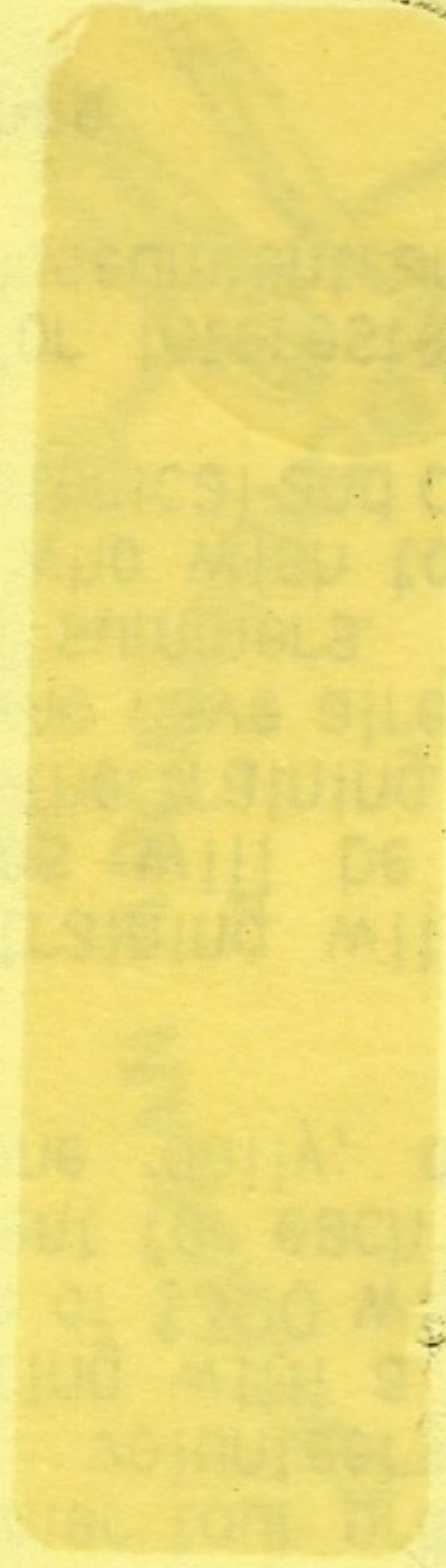
CALENDER

Mar 29	Museum Closed Good Friday
Apr 1	Museum Closed Easter Monday
Apr 3-30	Exhibition: I DREAM A WORLD
May 1	Museum Closed May Day
May 20	Museum Closed Whit Monday
May 13-Jun 3	Exhibition: ACF: HERITAGE AND ART
May 12-18	Cultural Heritage Week
May 18	Museum Open Day
June 15-?	Exhibition: Special Arts Group

BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
St Anne's Garrison
St Michael
Barbados

(809) 427-0201
(809) 436-1956
Fax (809) 429-5946

ON SERVICE



HOURS
Mon-Sat 10:00-6:00