

## NEWSLETTER

NO. 42

4th QUARTER, 1992

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Barbados Museum is a non-profit institution. Its mandate is to collect, document and conserve evidence of Barbados' cultural, historical and environmental heritage; and to interpret and present this evidence for all sectors of society.

### PATRON

Dame Nita Barrow,  
G.C.M.G., D.A.  
Governor-General of Barbados.

### COUNCIL

#### PRESIDENT

Dr. Trevor Carmichael

#### SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Mrs. Jean Goddard

#### JUNIOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Mr. Elton (Elombe) Mottley

#### ORDINARY MEMBERS

Mrs. Kathleen Drayton

Mrs. Joyce Gale

Mrs. Joscelyn Gardner

Dr. Albert Graham

Prof. Woodville Marshall

Col. Keith McIntosh

#### GOVERNMENT APPOINTEES

Miss Camilita Archer

Dr. Hilary Beckles

Miss Marilyn Grosvenor

Dr. Elliot Parris

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Mr. Jack Dear, Q.C., C.H.B.

#### EX-OFFICIO :

Director of the Museum

Ms. Alissandra Cummins

### 60th ANNIVERSARY

From April 1993 the Barbados Museum and Historical Society celebrates 60 years of existence with a series of events spanning one year. Some of the early events in the Museum's 'life' include :

April 15, 1933

Founding meeting of the BMHS.

May 31, 1933

Society incorporated by act of Legislature.

June 21, 1933

1st exhibition held at Queen's Park House.

September, 1933

Society granted 99 year lease on the Garrison military prison.

November, 1933

1st issue of the Journal published.

April, 1934

Watson Collection of Natural History acquired.

May, 1934

Museum opened its doors to the public.

We are therefore taking this opportunity to highlight these important events as well as to organise an effective marketing and fundraising campaign.

Members attending our Annual General Meeting last November were introduced to the programme, and their comments invited and endorsement sought. The success of the programme relies very heavily on the enthusiastic support and involvement

of all our members. The activities to be planned include:

1. Development and Launch of an Endowment Fund.

2. A social and cultural programme including a variety of activities such as coffee mornings, teas and dinners, a fundraising cruise, a megafete, an easter opera season and special open days. During the summer a children's nature camp will be held.

..... cont'd on page 2



60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BMHS  
1933 to 1993



..... cont'd from page 1

3. A membership drive is also proposed.

4. A series of publications is under consideration including a special issue of the Journal, an illustrated museum guide, a museum cookbook, a children's ABC and an art catalogue spanning 60 years of Art in Barbados (produced in conjunction with a retrospective exhibition).

5. Various promotional activities are already underway including the development of special T.V. spots and fillers on the museum, a special postage issue, front cover of Bartel directory and many others. We hope to be able to retain the services of a professional individual or agency to develop an effective marketing campaign for this programme.

6. The Museum's Shop proposes to develop a special series of anniversary items to mark this event.

Members and friends are asked to get involved and volunteer their help in any area. Contact the Museum for further information. We hope to make 1993-1994 the year in which members are more actively involved in the development of your museum.

## OUR 59TH AGM

Over 50 members turned out on November 24th to attend the Annual General Meeting and heard Dr. Carmichael, President of the Society review the activities of 1992 and outline plans for 1993. Dr. Carmichael noted particularly the vital role which the museum plays in the development of youth education, through the Children's Gallery, school and summer programmes.

Once again he challenged members to introduce more new recruits to the Society, particularly during the Museum's 60th Anniversary year in 1993/94. Dr. Carmichael informed members of the Museum's plans for a vigorous social and marketing campaign to mark this event.

Prof. Stanley Reid as guest speaker offered a bracing analysis of the institution's previous year. He posed a number of questions to the audience - Why had the museum only 1,000 members on record after 60 years? Why weren't more members using their skills to volunteer assistance to the organisation? Finally he offered four major recommendations for the Society to consider:

1. Examine the Museum's resources and the rôle it plays in its entirety. For example set up permanent exhibits throughout Barbados where museum staff could provide the expertise.
2. Look at existing programmes and focus on some priorities which could gain corporate support.
3. Make the Board of Directors work and deliver the goods.
4. Develop plans to increase corporate

membership.

His recommendations seemed to find favour and certainly gave us all food for thought.

The Museum's new Council was elected unopposed and it now comprises: Trevor Carmichael (President), Jean Goddard (Senior Vice President) Elombe Mottley (Junior Vice President), Joyce Gale, Woodville Marshall, Albert Graham, Joscelyn Gardner, Kathleen Drayton and Keith McIntosh (the latter two being new members). The President also introduced the new Government Appointee, Ms. Marilyn Grosvenor of the Ministry of Community Development and Culture.

## AWARD TO PRESIDENT

The Barbados Museum experienced a proud moment in its history. Our President, Dr. Trevor Carmichael was awarded the Silver Crown of Merit in this year's Independence Honours List published on December 1st, 1992.

Dr. Carmichael who was the President of the Barbados National Trust for five years, and more recently Chairman of the Governor General's Environmental Awards Committee, has been presented with the SCM for his contributions to law, financial services and the preservation of Barbadian heritage. On behalf of all Museum staff and members, we take this opportunity to offer him our heartiest congratulations!



## SPOTLIGHT

### "LINE AND SPACE"

In January Jo Robinson-Harris exhibited her perspex, acrylic and stone sculptures in our exhibition gallery. The exhibition entitled 'Line and Space' ran from 9th January until 2nd February, 1993 and elicited considerable interest from the viewing public.

### ARCHITECTURE EXHIBIT

The latest permanent Museum exhibit currently being installed features the historical development of Barbadian architecture; from the simple yet efficiently designed chattel house to the grandeur of plantation great houses. Building materials, decorative elements and a scale-size model will enrich the exhibit which has been funded in part by a donation from the Barbados Institute of Architects.

Under preparation soon will be sections from a recently demolished city residence (see photograph). It is hoped that enough of it can be saved and mounted to highlight the entrance way to the exhibit.

### BARBADIAN HERALDRY

by Anne Rudder

On Friday March 19, a unique presentation and conference on 'The

Heraldry of Barbados Now and Then' will open at the Barbados



Museum. This event will assist in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Society.

A major feature of the exhibit will be a seminar/discussion led by individuals who usually work behind the scenes on various aspects of this fascinating and empowering of artform. Confirmed as speakers are :

Dame Elsie Payne  
'Symbols of Barbados'

Sir Frank Blackman  
'The Institution of the Order of Barbados'

Pat Byer  
'Hallmarks'

Mr. Warren Alleyne  
'Heraldry of the (Public) Parliament Buildings'

Dean Harold Crichlow  
'Symbols in Churches'

Col. Laurence Quintyne  
'Insignia of the Military'

Dr. Trevor Marshall  
'African Dynasty - Bajan Roots'

Mr. Richard Gooding  
'Semiotics - Today's Heraldry'

Ann Rudder  
'Scholastic and Corporate Banners'

Additional displays are being arranged at the Barbados Archives, Black Rock; various booksellers are making reference works available for purchase. We are hoping to display a coin collection of 'mint' proof from the Central Bank. And to ice the cake there will be a presentation by several well known local artists who are to interpret the symbols of Barbados in their specialized mediums. A unique collection of art for sale showing the 'Now' of our Heraldry.

The Barbados Museum needs your financial support at this time. It is a non-profit public institution. Therefore

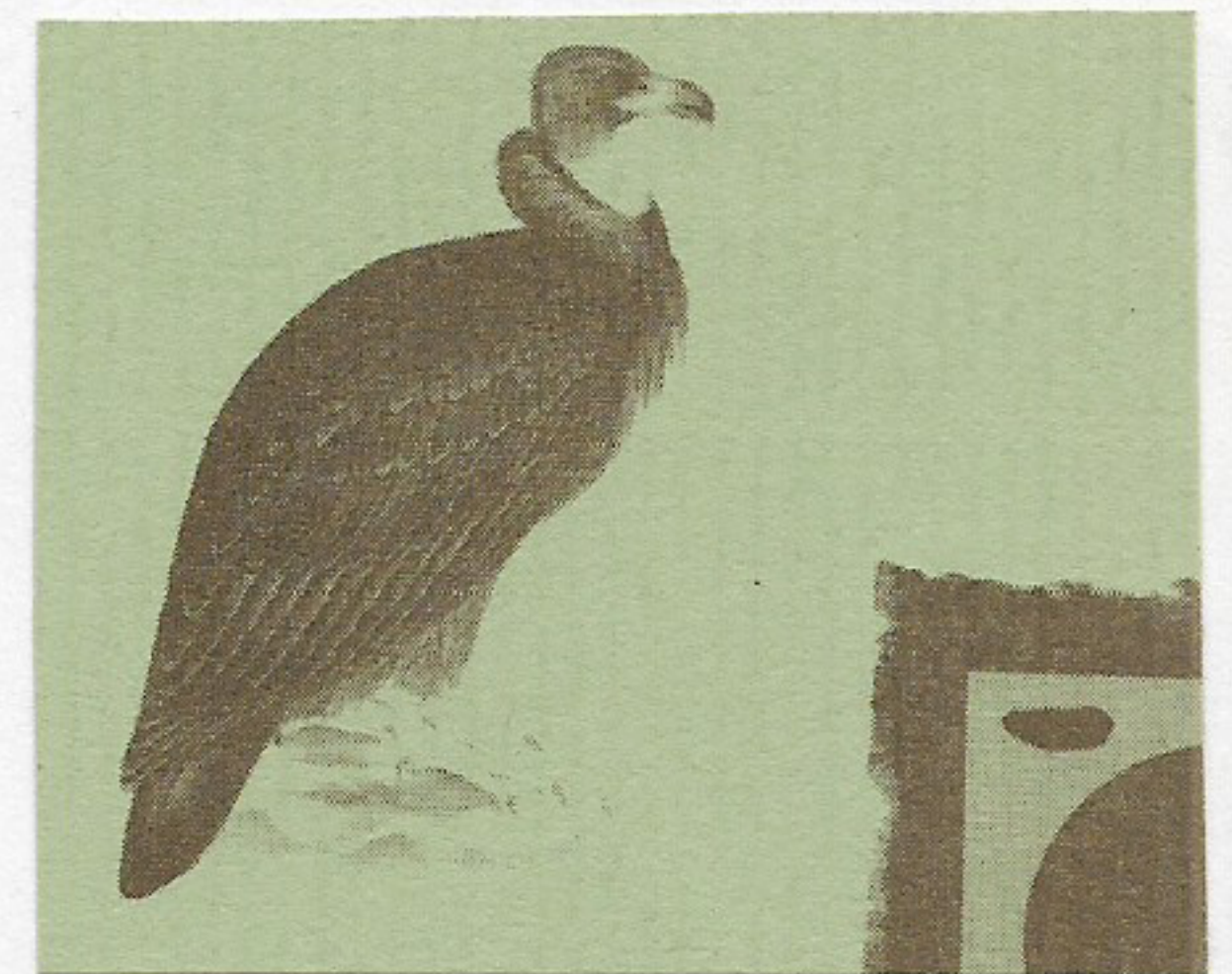
should you wish to attend the conference and exhibit on Saturday and Sunday March 27-28 from 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m., the cost to Museum members will be \$25.00, general public will be \$35.00. Refreshments will be available.

Seating is limited so please phone the organizers : Richard Gooding 427-9436, Ann Rudder 426-4989 or Ronnie Taylor 428-7077. School discounts can be arranged by booking.

### XAVIER IS BACK

Well known St. Lucian artist Llewellyn Xavier will be exhibiting new work in Barbados at the Museum in February.

Entitled 'Global Council for Restoration of the Earth's Environment' this collection of assemblages is a warning about the destruction of the world's environment, and Xavier's hopes to awaken world consciousness.



These works are made from recycled material, incorporating historic prints, seals and signatures, and painted elements by Xavier. We in Barbados, are privileged to have an opportunity to view and acquire these latest works by the artist. The show runs from 6th February to 3rd March.

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60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BMHS  
1933 to 1993

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## SANTO DOMINGO BIENNIAL

by Annalee Davis

The 1st Painting Biennial of the Caribbean and Latin America, at the Galeria de Arte Moderno, Santo Domingo, is the second event I have attended in the last few months that left me feeling energized and positive, the first being Art Over Sugar, held in August of 1992. These two events have left me feeling excited about the arts in this part of the world. We are creating a visual language that describes our varied experience as Caribbean/Latin American people.

The strong showing of work from the entire region at the Biennial made it clear that we are a force to be reckoned with. Amidst all the fanfare and protest surrounding Columbus and his 500 year anniversary, the 250 artists showing over 450 works were saying to the rest of the world, "We are also discovering the power of our unification, because never before have we been united as a creative people under the same roof in our own region, believing in the value of what we have to say about ourselves".

There were some political and organisational problems. Unless we artists make our dissatisfaction clear, and convince government to keep art events at a distance from political patronage, Caribbean culture will remain marginal on the world scene. So desperate are artists for showing space, we accept mismanagement and political opportunities as modus

operandi.

This aside, the importance of such an event cannot be overstated. I felt the Biennial contributed in a more dynamic way to true Caribbean integration than either the Federation or CARICOM. The artists and their work continue to develop a greater understanding of the Caribbean context which will enhance the development of a visual language that we can call our own.

In speaking with Ras Ishi Butcher, he stated that his receiving the Gold Medal propelled him to produce more work, with greater confidence. He is investigating topics that previously made him nervous. He feels legitimized and as though he can speak with more authority. Maybe he feels a greater responsibility to the recognition bestowed on him.

There was a lot of intriguing and very relevant work that incited discussion and introspection. I urge my colleagues to become aware of what is going on in our region. Attending or participating in these events will blast us out of our relatively easy lifestyles, and force us to take stock, reevaluate and hopefully move into that part of ourselves that will make us examine our realities and stretch our existing definitions.



"Fowler" by Ras Ishi Butcher.

## CURATOR WEDS

Natural History Curator Philippa Newton recently tied the knot with Computer Specialist André King in a simple yet elegant ceremony at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday 19th December.

Among the well wishers, Philippa's 'Museum' family attended the celebration, which included a reception at the Colony Club Hotel, St. James.

We wish the Kings the very best for 1993 and ever after.

## COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS (CAM)

The Director attended the Triennial Meeting of the Commonwealth Association of Museums as Barbados' sole delegate in Ottawa between 15th - 18th September. The meeting's main focus was the **Role of the Museum in your Society: Cultural Context and Cultural Diversity**. Challenging papers were presented by a number of speakers stimulating very useful discussion, especially on issues relating to museums in post-colonial societies.

As a member of the Board, Ms. Cummins was involved in discussions relating to new rules of procedure for the CAM, the regional workshop project, objectives for the next triennial period and amendments to the constitution.

Ms. Cummins was elected as Vice President (1992-1995) of CAM's new board and was assigned

..... cont'd on page 5

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BMHS  
1933 to 1993



..... cont'd from page 4

special responsibility for CAM's regional workshop programme. The Museum is grateful to CAM for partially sponsoring Ms. Cummins' trip.

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### INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS (ICOM)

Between 19th-26th September, the Director also attended the ICOM Triennial General Assembly in Quebec as the sole Barbadian representative. In her capacity as Chairman of the Barbados National Committee of ICOM, Ms. Cummins participated in all ICOM Advisory Committee sessions (made up of chairs of all ICOM National and International Committees), the elections and observed the sessions of the Executive Council. She also reported on the ICOM Museum Basics Training Workshop held in Barbados in 1991 to the members of the International Committee on the Training of Personnel (ICTOP) and attended the ICTOP seminars held during the week.

The plenary session of ICOM was declared open by UNESCO Secretary-General, Frederico Mayor, and President Alpha Oumar Konaré of Mali (retiring president of ICOM) chaired the General Assembly sessions.

As a member of the Ethics Committee of ICOM, Ms. Cummins was involved in discussions relating to the position of ICOM with reference to the Hague Convention of 1954 (on protection of cultural property in times of war). Ms. Cummins was elected Vice-Chairman of the Advisory

Committee of ICOM for a three year term.

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### GIFTS

The Museum's meeting room was recently graced by a gift from the Barbados Turf Club of eight chairs to match our meeting table. The Barbados Turf Club continues to prove itself to be a good friend and neighbour of the Museum in many ways. Senator Amory Philips' and Mr. Evelyn Lord's observation of this need was followed by a spontaneous and generous offer. Our grateful thanks to our friends across the road.

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Our very special museum friend Mr. Noel Frost has once again very kindly donated his earnings of \$1,083.00 as a result of the sale of stamps in the Museum Shop. Noel is a prime example of imaginative fundraising for the Museum. Thanks again.

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### THANKS

A postscript, with thanks to our capable and imaginative docent coordinator Daisy Frost and to our small group of dedicated docents, who maintained the high standards of our schools programme throughout the term. But they are stretched to capacity, and would welcome newcomers.

Readers are you interested in Barbados' history and culture? Do you enjoy learning and sharing your knowledge? Think of joining our museum docents.

Perhaps you are newly retired, and

looking for a challenging and rewarding new commitment. Perhaps you are employed part-time or flex-time, and want to share your skills and experience with the public. Perhaps you are a young parent, or unemployed, and want an opportunity to acquire skills and meet people.

**Phone right away and talk with us!**  
There's still time to join this year's training sessions.

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### DOCENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

by Daisy Frost, Docent Coordinator

At the recent Annual General Meeting our President, Dr. Trevor Carmichael, and Professor Stanley Reid gave high praise to the Educational Programme, and the part played by the Docents (Teacher Tour Guides). This small (far too small) group of dedicated persons - all women so far - are fully trained before setting out as "Docent" guides, and their initial training is followed up by refresher seminars each year, generally in January and/or March.

I have been a docent for about five years, and I can assure you it is a most enjoyable and satisfying position. I deal with all age groups, from 5 year olds, through teenagers to adults. I meet, mix and associate with all types and "flavours" of people. There are the school children whose minds are fresh and lively, eager to know more about our culture, history and therefore through their own

..... cont'd on page 6



..... cont'd from page 5

observation and questioning, ambassadorial folk, foreign dignitaries, governmental groups, foreign speakers both French and Spanish; locals and other West Indians.

In fact this is a melting pot. Meeting so vast a variety of people means an exchange of cultures. Surely this is a great necessity today, and vital for the development of the Caribbean Basin, in fact the Caribbean person.

Earlier I said we were a "far too small" group which consisted of women only. **We urgently need volunteers, both men and women.** I am sure there are members of the BMHS who have the "know-how" and would make excellent docents, just as I am sure there are other people out there - your friends, non-members, the public in general - who could join the docent force. This can be, and is, a new and exciting challenge. Don't wait to consider or think about it. Pick up the telephone and dial **427-0201** or **436-1956**, and register for the first training session in February 1993.

## EARLY HISTORY

A book by Peter Campbell entitled '**Some Early Barbadian History**' will be published within a few weeks. It is essentially a collection of essays. Two of these (on Richard Ligon and Walronds) correct and revise articles which have already appeared in the Museum Journal; the others deal with subjects on which little, if anything, has previously been written.

Those who have written on the history of Barbados in the first half of the 17th century have relied for much of their information on 'Memoirs of the first Settlement' and John Scott's 'Description of Barbados'. Both of these are long out of print, and Peter Campbell has reproduced the text of them at the end of his book. Keep an eye out for it in the book stores.

## BIM CELEBRATES 50

Adapted from Notebook at 50  
by John Wickham

In devoting this 74th issue of our magazine to a commemoration of its birth in December, 1942, we were encouraged by our most faithful readers and contributors and by the generous response of a number of others-business places and private individuals who have wished us well over the years, all fifty of them.

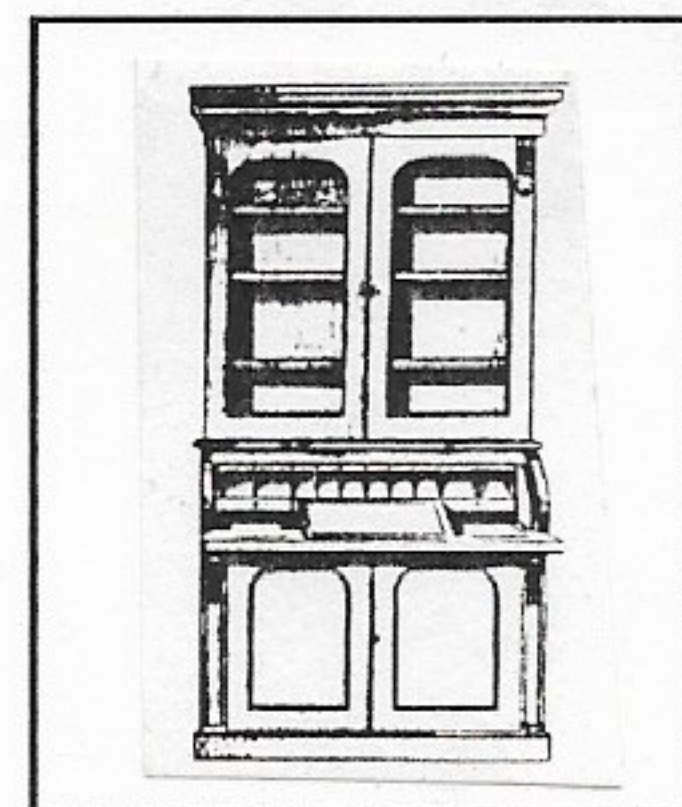
As for this special issue, No. 74, the occasion dictated the contents. First, we had to bear in mind that **BIM** has acquired a readership over the last half century which has very little knowledge of the circumstances of its birth and development. A commemorative issue seemed a good place for little modest retrospection. And although we still think of ourselves as a Barbadian literary journal, it seemed good and useful to point out that **BIM** has long since travelled far beyond Barbadian confines. The selected stories, poems and reviews now published are meant to signify not only the geographical spread of the contributions but also some of the early flowerings of the reputations which have grown into golden maturity.

For some time it has not been possible

for **BIM** to follow the original schedule of publication twice a year - June and December. Printing costs are too high for such regularity. But we appear as often as we can and promise to continue to do our best. With the kind of support and goodwill we have had, there is no good reason why **BIM** should not last another fifty years. There is something we have noticed about institutions: that the older they are, the longer they will live.

Devotees of **BIM** magazine will be delighted to know that the anniversary issue is available for \$12.00 in the Museum Shop and other major bookstores, including the University Bookshop.

## LIBRARY NEWS



The Library continues to provide research to overseas clients and twenty-five information requests were researched during the period. 49 visitors made use of the service ranging from 2-5 persons a day seeking information. Subjects researched included identification of a jar found off Sam Lord's, Plantation Life Customs, Pavilion Court, (when last was it used as a Medical Officer's residence), and crafts and customs of the Guyana Indians.

The Librarian would like to thank the members who donated books and periodicals, and also the Volunteers who assisted in Library projects during the year.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BMHS  
1933 to 1993



## COSTA RICA ADVENTURE

1-12 April, 1993

Visit several of Costa Rica's fascinating National Parks, explore cloudforest, dry forest and rainforest.

See the splendid Poás Volcano which has one of the largest craters in the world.

See the museums and plazas of San José.

Boat through the canals of Tortuguero at night to observe the nesting of green turtles.

Go white-water rafting down the Reventazón River.

Experience archaeological wonders at the Guayabo National Monument.

Our naturalist guide will introduce you to the natural history of each ecosystem, and you'll be accompanied by curators from the Barbados Museum.

Our all-inclusive package includes: Airfare, ground transportation, accommodation, entrance fees, all meals except two dinners.

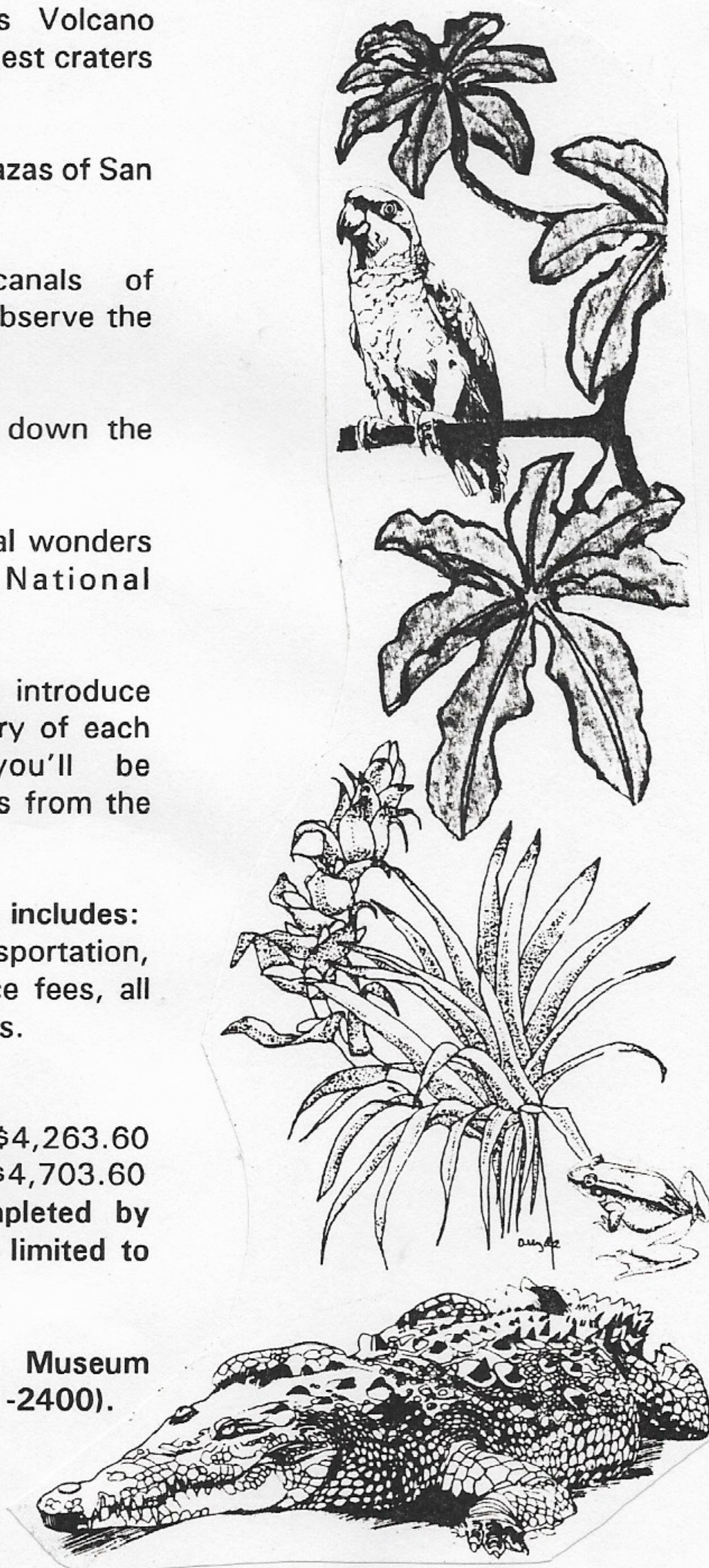
### Cost per person:

Double occupancy: BDS\$4,263.60

Single occupancy: BDS\$4,703.60

Bookings must be completed by Feb. 28. Our package is limited to eighteen persons.

Contact: The Barbados Museum (436-1956) or BITS (431-2400).



## NEW MEMBERS

The Museum offers a warm welcome to the following new members:

### Annual

Mr. Gilbert A. Jones  
Ms. Rose-Marie Belle Antoine  
Mr. Claudius L. Franklin  
Ms. Faith Marshall-Harris  
Mr. Jeffrey A. Holdip

### Student

Mr. Francois Ayodele Jackman

### Life

Dr. John L. Webster  
Mrs Elsa Webster  
Mrs Koerner Myda

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60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BMHS  
1933 to 1993

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## CRAFT EVERYWHERE

The 1992 Craft Festival was a splendid example of local ingenuity and industry. Over forty artists took part transforming our Lower Courtyard into a sea of crafts of every description.

There were small, delicate ceramic decorations and large stoneware vases; kente cloth hats and hand-painted riots of colour masquerading as T-shirts.

Tall, elegant candle sticks contrasted wonderfully with the collaged masks nearby; and the basketry included traditional designs blended with innovative forms and colours.

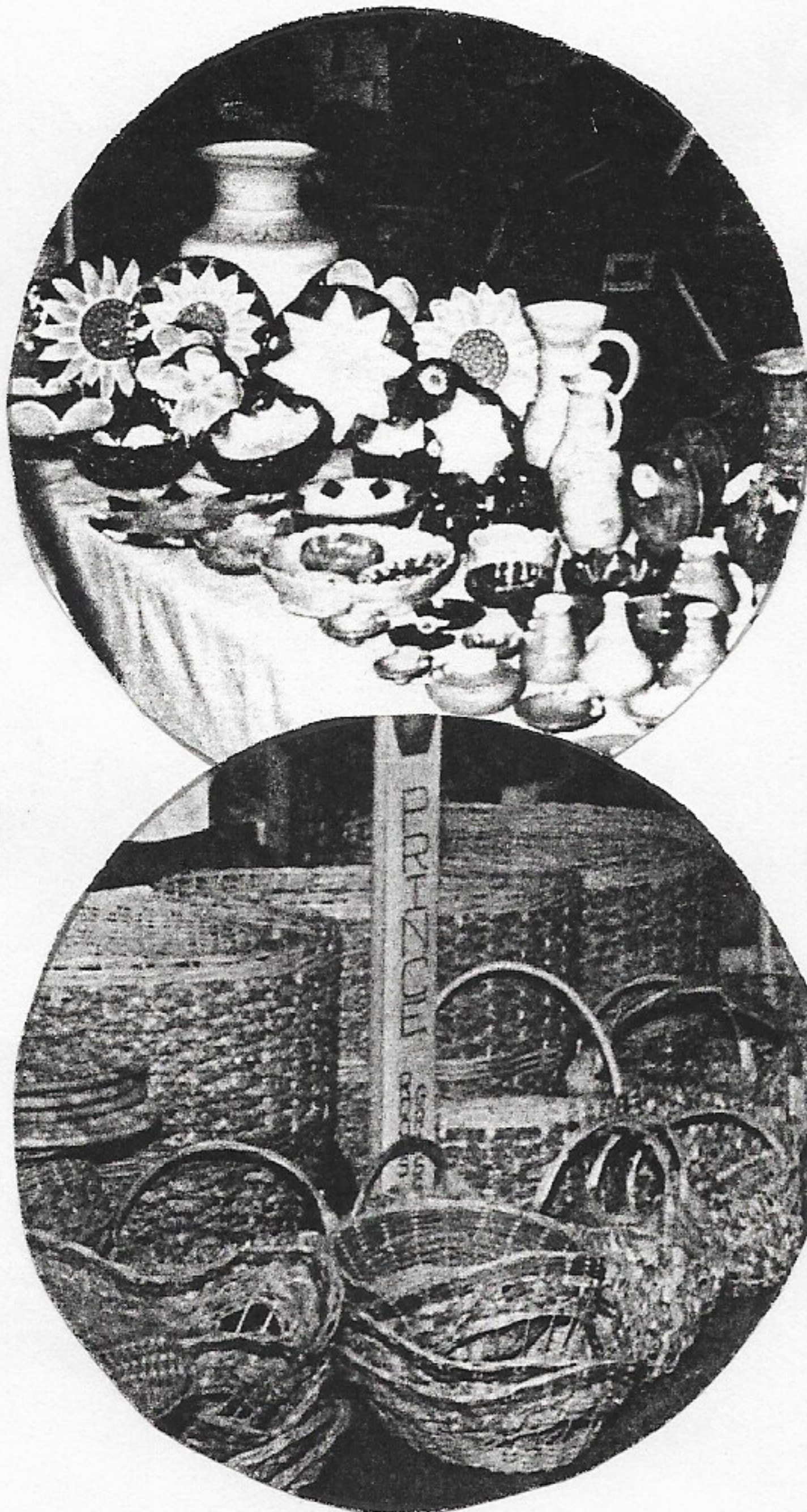
The Art Collection Foundation added a special Christmas touch, decorating their stall with red paper flowers and bows, and casuarina branches. They provided a special treat of candies, cakes, jams and jellies.

We are very grateful for the excellent coverage we received from the media; as well as the generous support we received from various sponsors. We take this opportunity to thank the following:-

Advocate Co. Ltd  
Art Collection Foundation  
Art Express  
Barbados Rediffusion Service Ltd  
Barbados Turf Club  
Mr. & Mrs Creighton Birch  
Miss Grace Branker  
Mr. Peter Bynoe  
Caribbean Broadcasting Corp.  
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme  
Flower Shoppe and Galerie  
Mrs Daisy Frost  
Mr. Patrick Gollop

Guataka Singers  
Ms. April Higgins  
Hotel Investors Ltd.  
Mr. Ariosto Moore  
Nation Publishing Co. Ltd.  
Ocean View Hotel  
Mr. Charlie Pilgrim  
Mr. Alfred Pragnell  
Mrs Gillian Santangeli  
Ms. Jennifer Simmons  
Mrs Jeanette Springer  
Mr. & Mrs Arthur Streetly  
Mr. Andy Temprow  
Mrs Sikku Wahlberg  
Mrs Liz Watson  
All Museum Staff and Craft Stall Holders.

We are planning to be even bigger and better in 1993!



## EASTER OPERA

Under the patronage of the Governor General of Barbados, Dame Nita Barrow, Opera Interludes, an English Opera Company specializing in highlight versions of the great operas, in full costume with piano accompaniment will be giving three performances in Barbados this easter.

They have successfully staged operas in country houses, embassies and hotels and have just done a performance for the Prime Minister and Mrs Major in London.

They now propose to come to Barbados for an Easter Season of Opera and song. Mr & Mrs John Kidd have agreed to a performance at their West Coast Plantation House, Holders St. James. This will take the form of an Opera in two acts divided by an interval of two hours during which the audience will be invited to bring picnics and dine in the gardens.

The second venue is Glitter Bay Pavilion. Mr. & Mrs Michael Pemberton have agreed to stage an Opera Gala Evening. There will be an interval during which refreshments will be available.

It is also hoped to stage a performance of La Traviata at Heron Bay courtesy of Sir Anthony and Lady Bamford.

Easter Opera coincides with the 60th Anniversary celebrations of the Barbados Museum and a proportion of the profits will be donated to the Museum.

..... cont'd on page 9



## MUSEUM STAFF

### ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR  
Alissandra Cummins  
ADMINISTRATOR  
Douglas Martindale  
SPECIAL EVENTS MANAGER  
Christopher Chandler  
SHOP MANAGER  
Anita King  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Marcia Griffith  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
Angela Boyce

### CURATORIAL

CURATOR : ART & HISTORY  
Lesley Whatley  
CURATOR : NATURAL HISTORY  
Philippa King  
CURATOR : EDUCATION  
Wendy Donawa

### LIBRARY

LIBRARIAN  
Betty Shannon

### TECHNICAL & MAINTENANCE

Dennis McCollin  
Shawn Rowe  
Reginald Riley  
Pauline Stuart  
Janice Greaves

### RECEPTION & SALES

Sylvia Barker  
Carol Reid

### SECURITY

Harold Burrowes  
Beresford Nurse  
Christopher Carter  
Emmerson Williams

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There will also be a contribution from the Glitter Bay concert to the variety Club Golden Heart Appeal.

Enquiries, please contact John Kidd or Richard Hanlon at 432-1823.

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ing fretwork from building on  
our new architecture displays.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY

9 Jan - 2 Feb	"Line and Space". Exhibition by Jo Robinson	Temporary Exhibition Gallery
21 Jan	MUSEUM CLOSED	Errol Barrow Day

### FEBRUARY

26 Feb	Wine and Cheese Party hosted by the the Alliance Française.	Museum Courtyards
6 Feb - 5 Mar	"Restoring the Environment". Llewellyn Xavier exhibition.	Temporary Exhibition Gallery

### MARCH

19 Mar - 10 Apr	Exhibition on "The Heraldry of Barbados - Now and Then"	Temporary Exhibition Gallery
27, 28 Mar	Conferences on "The Heraldry of Barbados"	To be announced.

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The Barbados Museum and Historical Society  
St. Ann's Garrison, St. Michael, Barbados, W.I.  
Tel : (809) 427-0201 or 436-1956  
Fax : (809) 429-5946

Gallery and Shop Hours : 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday.  
Office Hours : 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.  
Library Hours : 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday to Friday.  
Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.