

NEWSLETTER

NO. 45

3rd QUARTER, 1993

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.

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

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Director of the Museum

Ms. Alissandra Cummins

WHIRLWIND OF FUN

Having forty energetic youngsters swirling throughout the Museum for a week of activities was certainly an event not predicted by the Met. Office; nonetheless it occurred and we survived to tell the tale.

The Barbados Museum's Children's Green Camp got off to a fun start on 9th August, fulfilling our Natural History Curator's dream of having a lively, nature-based summer programme for eight to eleven year-olds.

One of the first lessons the children learnt was the unpredictability of the weather at this time of year; they left the Museum in brilliant sunshine to journey to the beach behind the Drill Hall and were drenched on their return walk across the Savannah. In the interim they had collected all manner of seaweed, shells, stones, seeds and crab bits which they would later use to decorate photo frames made from discarded cardboard.

On the second day they joined Dr. Peter Drewett and his team of archaeologists at Hillcrest in Bathsheba. They quickly discovered how to identify pottery sherds and did surface collecting along the cliff top. They got dirty digging in test pits, tried to identify shell fragments and washed their finds.

As the week progressed, they tramped through the muddy waters of Graeme Hall Swamp to admire the lotus flowers and egrets. One boy discovered a fabulous god-horse (stick insect) and showed true communication with nature by gently lifting it off its perch and providing the opportunity for several others to examine it up close. They later returned it to its branch.

They pretended to be water, brown and green garden matter, and air, and learnt how to build a compost heap. The yells were riotous when they explored a garbage bag to see just what we humans toss out.

The Green Camp was fortunate in attracting the generous sponsorship of many persons. We are especially grateful to the Multi-National Women's Group, who believed in our programme and Concordia Life Insurance Corporation who responded to our President's request.



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The response of Museum members to our plea to sponsor ten special children was particularly heartening and we thank you all. We also wish to thank graphic artist, Sandra Weekes for designing our logo.

Many thanks also to our consulting environmentalist, Mrs. Susan Mahon who collaborated with Curator, Mrs. Philippa King in developing and administering the Camp.

Tamarind Cove Hotel

will host

A Fund-Raising Tea

in honour of

The Barbados Museum's

60th Anniversary

on

Saturday, 20th November
3:30-5:30 p.m.

Adults \$10, Children \$5

Tickets will soon be available
at the Museum and Tamarind
Cove.



Meanwhile, Museum
Librarian Betty Shannon is
inviting Museum members to
host similar teas in their own
homes. Contact her for more
information :

Work : 427-0201
Home : 429-3736

JUNIOR CURATORS

Much of the credit for this summer's successful programme is due to our Junior Curators.

The Junior Curator Programme, now in its second year, is an employment project for young adults interested in heritage conservation.

All are trained as tour guides, and gave tours through July and August to 58 groups with a total of 2,333 visitors.

They also performed as curatorial assistants, doing research, making labels, preparing material for the School Programme's September term, assisting in cataloguing and registration.

Some special projects deserve mention. They repaired and redesigned the Costume Corner (many of the costumes had been 'loved to death'). They produced a series of children's catalogues in the Children's Gallery. Here, young people, and the young at heart) can research the old-time folkways and possessions. They embarked on the work-intense processing of the Aileen Hamilton collection which was willed to the Museum.

The young women leave us for varied futures. Cheryl Mapp, a volunteer here since her early teens, is finishing her final year as a speech therapist at University of North Carolina. Melanie Springer, also an oldtimer- a volunteer from the ripe old age of 14 has finished at the Community College and is off to 'au pair' in France. Catherine Williams, last year's Queen's College Headgirl, is pondering law or psychology. Malissa Porter is our year-round neighbour, teaching at St. Paul's

just up the hill. Erica Hewitt is returning to the Community College to finish her studies.

We miss them all! Their energy, enthusiasm and imagination made our summer programmes very special.

ARCHAEOLOGY

An archaeological excavation at Codrington College has revealed that the now rare sea egg formed a substantial part of the diet of the inhabitants of a 17th century plantation.

Professor Loftfield and 18 students from the University of North Carolina, along with 20 students from the University of the West Indies, have spent four weeks conducting an archaeological dig on the grounds of the college in St. John.

In addition, a test excavation of a slave village was also done at Springhead Farm in St. James.

When asked what sparked his interest in the site at Codrington College, Dr. Loftfield said that supplies for a colony in North Carolina which he had been investigating came from Barbados.

"In order to understand the happenings in North Carolina we had to find out what occurred in Barbados," he explained. "We came here to investigate the 17th century colonial period and what we find is permitting us to more accurately interpret what we are finding at the site in North Carolina," Professor Loftfield added.

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In noting the importance of the site the professor said that most of the early plantations have been used to grow sugar thus disturbing what was there before. "At Codrington things have remained undisturbed because it is the site of a college," he explained.

Due to the excavation Miss Gail Clarke, 23 a graduate of the Cave Hill Campus now has "a whole new way of looking at things". In terms of the course she said, "it is not thought of as fun, it is a lot of work but it's very interesting if you are serious about archaeology".

Another Barbadian student Miss Heather Cheltenham, 23, agreed, "it's a lot of work but you learn about artifacts and how slaves lived on the plantation". When asked about the need for protective legislation for these type of sites, Professor Loftfield said it is needed because "they are all too easily destroyed by modern development".

MUSEUM DOCENTS

By the time this newsletter is in your hands, the Museum's Schools Programme will be in full gear.

ably administered by Docent Co-ordinator Daisy Frost, the programme's 14 docents expect to service 5000-6000 schoolchildren this year.

Daisy's six years as a docent make her one of our pioneers. Other veterans include Grace Branker, Michelle Brown, Joyce Gale (who is also on the Museum's Council), Gillian Santangeli (who recently had

a baby boy), Sidi Streetly, Jeanette Springer and Audrey Taylor.

Several newcomers joined us last year: Leslie DeCaires, Miriam Kennedy, Jennifer Simmons, Marcia Smith and Joyce Thompson. Rita Voeth is joining us this term.

These dedicated workers are all volunteers! Their teaching time over the last year, costed out, is a donated gift of time and skill worth \$7870.

The docents come from all walks of life. Retirees give of their varied life-experience; busy professionals find time from their work schedules; young mothers share their parenting skills with the children of others. All invest in the citizens of the future.

We thank them for making the Museum a vital educational experience for the children of Barbados.

OF GENEALOGY AND LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

We often receive queries about our genealogical research - What is it? How do you go about it? What are the Museum's resources?

Our reference library is often visited by overseas people checking on our records preserved in books, photographs and family bibles.

Recently we were happy to be able to show a family visitor the signature of her ancestor and the copy of an original document in the Quaker file. She was so delighted.

We were able to provide an immediate copy of the will of Sir Philip Gibbs and also that of Gedney Clarke, one of our

well documented characters.

Three couples, the Gordons, Adcocks and Wrenns wished to know if Stede Bonnett our most famous (notorious) pirate had really lived here and we could show them records of his life. They in turn supplied us with photos of his memorial in North Carolina and also pictures of the river area where his final battle was fought, before he was captured and hanged.

It subsequently was learned that Colonel Rhett, Mrs. Gordon's ancestor, was the man sent to capture Stede Bonnett, and that an ancestor of the Wrenn couple was the foreman of the jury which condemned Stede to be hanged.

We are now awaiting a visit from a descendant of the lady who placed a bouquet of flowers in Stede's hands when he was about to be hanged.

Recently author Sean O'Callaghan has been digging into our records of Cromwell's Irish prisoners who were sent to Barbados. His research will provide information for a book on that period.



Stede Bonnet
From *Caribbean Pirates* by Warren Alleyne
© Copyright The Macmillan Press Ltd 1986

NEW MEMBERS

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

Joint Annual

Mr. & Mrs Peter Farmer
Dr. Don Kelly & Sandra Burton
Mr. Leo Glee & Frances Lee
Mr. & Mrs Donald Wedegaertuer

Annual

Ms. Addison Clarke
Mr. John Knox
Miss Monique Springer
Mrs Lisbeth Watson
Mrs Sandra Bellamy Wrenn

Student

Miss Cecilia A. Gibbs
Mr. Philip S. Jackman

Junior

Miss Tracy Jane Garcia
Mr. Christopher Payne

Storm Brett! The staff responded pluckily and did it all over again because while the odds were good that we would not be hit there were no guarantees on which we could rely. We were all quite philosophical about 'practise makes perfect' and discovered many new and generous friends.

The following is a list of all the firms and companies who gave us packing materials to enhance our depleted supplies:

Vita Foam (B'dos) Ltd.
Cave Shepherd & Co. Ltd.
Manning Wilkinson & Challenor Ltd.
CCS Barbados Ltd.
Computers & Controls B'dos Ltd
T. Geddes Grant Building Supplies Dept.
Slumberest Sleep Products (B'dos) Ltd.

Our heartiest thanks to all the above.

FINE CRAFT FESTIVAL

Put down this newsletter for just a moment and find your diary. Are you back? Now make the following notes:

Monday, 4 October

Start to spread the word about the Museum's Fine Craft Festival.

Monday, 25 October

Remember to save money to go to the Fine Craft Festival.

Monday, 8 November

Rummage around for books, magazines and plants to donate to the book and plant stall.
Deliver them to the Museum Shop by Friday, 3 December.

Friday, 3 December

Remind the folks next door, the guys at work, Auntie, Gran and the kids about the Fine Craft Festival.

Saturday, 4 December

Fine Craft Festival

Barbados Museum, 12 noon - 6:30 p.m.

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The Museum pride's itself on being prepared by practising once a year its emergency plan for hurricane relief. So on July 9 and 10 the Museum was closed to the public while the staff practised battening down, shuttering up, dismantling, packing up, unhangings and wrapping up its exhibits.

The staff work in six teams to complete this exercise within 10-12 hours and this helps us to observe any weaknesses, problems or needs in the event of a real hurricane.

Imagine our surprise when we found ourselves reprising the same roles four weeks later, in response to a national warning for Tropical

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SPOTLIGHT

Pottery by Bill Grace

Guest artist for our December exhibition will be one of the island's outstanding potters, Bill Grace.

Known for his exquisite porcelain vases and bowls, Bill will afford collectors and fans the chance to see more of that type of ware as well as the new pieces which he nonchalantly calls his 'wall plaques'.

From his description though, they are much more than that, as each plaque will combine 3-dimensional relief work with applied painted surface design. The results promise to be somewhere between painting and sculpture, and quite unique to our experience. Most of these will be mounted and framed, and may provide a unique and thoughtful gift for someone at Christmas.

This exhibition runs from December 4th (same day as the Museum's Fine Craft Festival) and continues until January 3rd, 1994.

Ken Keen's Photographs

Promising to be one of the most exciting photographic shows to come to Barbados in recent times, Ken Keen's exhibition 'The Barbados Edition' runs from October 30th until November 26th at the Barbados Museum.

Ken who considers himself as much a printer as a photographer, is from the United Kingdom and plans to

retire in Barbados. His eighty high-quality, black and white prints represent a 'pictorial interpretation' of various aspects of the island and its people over a period of 15 years.

What makes this collection outstanding and certainly different from standard travelogues and photo-essays? It is perhaps the artist/photographer's ability and talent to capture and manipulate everyday, even mundane images, and present them from unique perspectives.

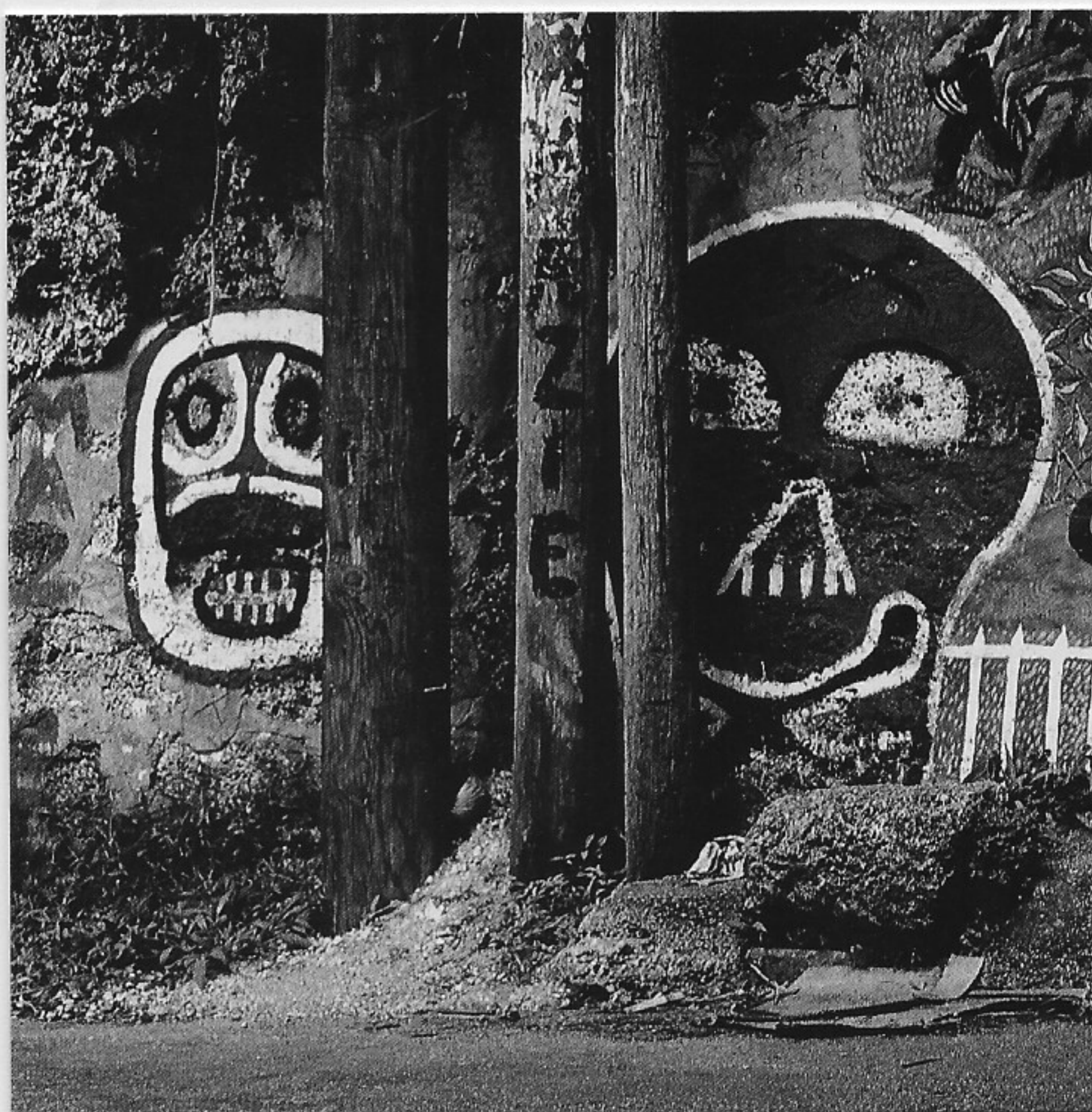
Also striking are the intensely rich tonal qualities which Keen uses to convey a sense of depth and of

texture. It is the interplay of these very elements with the subject matter, which elevates his photography from merely being a method of documenting information, to being an art form.

We hope you'll come and decide for yourself.

A limited edition of prints of the pieces in the show will be available on order. The Museum Shop will also carry postcards of the same.

Admission to the gallery is free: Mon - Sat, 10 am to 6 pm, (except Sundays and Public Holidays).



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
Sylvia Charles-Dolcy
Michelle Durant
Hester St. Rose

SECURITY

Beresford Nurse
Christopher Carter
Emmerson Williams
Royston Sargeant

SPECIAL OFFER FOR BARBADOS MUSEUM MEMBERS

ANNOUNCING A SUPERB NEW BOOK

Barbados, A World Apart

Arriving just in time for the Christmas season, *Barbados, A World Apart* is an exquisite new documentary-pictorial "coffee-table" book by writer-photographer Roger LaBrucherie, whose two previous books about the island, *Images of Barbados* and *A Barbados Journey*, have been island favourites for nearly fifteen years.

Striking photographs combined with elegant design make *Barbados, A World Apart* a visual delight, but the extensive and carefully researched text makes this book much more than just a collection of pretty pictures; this is a superb and loving "portrait" of a very special island. This is a beautiful presentation of our island, a book which will make a superb gift for Barbadian and visitor alike.

Barbados, A World Apart, text and photographs by Roger LaBrucherie; hardbound, oversize (10½" x 11"), 132 pages, glossy-coated artpaper, 107 colour photographs and illustrations, 2 black and white archival prints, 2 colour maps; distributed by Best of Barbados Ltd. Bds \$65. Imagenes Press.

Barbados, A World Apart will be available in Barbados after November 1, 1993

Bds \$10 Off

DISCOUNT COUPON

Bds \$10 Off

Barbados, A World Apart

Upon surrender of this completed coupon at time of purchase, members of the Barbados Museum receive a discount of Bds \$10/copy off the purchase price of the book.

Barbados, A World Apart.

Coupon valid November 1, 1993 to February 15, 1994 at all Best of Barbados Shops and the Museum Shop. Maximum of five (5) books per coupon. No photocopies permitted. Purchaser must complete information below at time of purchase.

Name of purchaser : _____ Quantity purchased : _____ book(s)

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

Oct	Museum Closed	United Nations day
0 Oct - 26 Nov	Ken Keen Exhibition : Photographs	Temporary Exhibition Gallery

NOVEMBER

0 Nov	Museum Closed	Independence Day
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DECEMBER

Dec - 3 Jan	Bill Grace Exhibition : Ceramics	Temporary Exhibition Gallery
Dec, 12 - 6:30 p.m.	Fine Craft Festival	Museum Courtyards
25 Dec	Museum Closed	Christmas Day
27 Dec	Museum Closed	Boxing Day

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