

NEWSLETTER

NO. 46

4th 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.

PATRON

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

COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

Dr. Trevor Carmichael

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ORDINARY MEMBERS

Mrs. Kathleen Drayton

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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

5th ANNIVERSARY FINE CRAFT FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

Despite a drenching downpour during the first two hours of the Museum's 5th Annual Craft Festival, our faith in our product remained strong as Barbadians and visitors alike turned out in their hundreds to hunt for quality gifts for Christmas. Over fifty-five stalls (an increase of 25% over last year's event) were available to whet various and sundry appetites.

It seems that adverse times can also feed the creative spirit, since ingenuity and diversity were much in evidence amongst the craftsmen. Certainly the restraints of 1993 seemed to spawn a wealth of novelty items, produced to even greater heights of quality, as last year. To quote one satisfied return visitor "It seems that the Museum's fair gets better and better each year". We're happy that our efforts to do just that are recognised and appreciated, because the challenge of selection becomes even greater, as many more local craftsmen are identified in this burgeoning artistic community.

Apart from the wonderful selection of quality ceramics, woodwork, jewellery making and basketry, a wider array was exhibited including chattel house money boxes, flying fish mobiles, rasta santas, environmentally friendly Christmas decorations, and architecturally inspired tee shirts.

There was definitely something for everyone! The Art Collection Foundation's booth and the Edible Arts Café also worked hard to meet the demands of many hungry souls.

With over 1,000 people visiting (a great increase over 1992) some \$25,000 in sales were generated. The Museum has so far netted over \$10,000 in ticket sales, commissions and donations! We still can't give you a final figure because there's more yet to come..... We will make a final report in the next newsletter. But suffice it to say we are very pleased with this year's results.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, including the organising team of Museum Staff and Volunteers. Special thanks go to Joscelyn Gardner (for stall

coordination), and Melanie Springer and William Cummins for volunteer assistance in preparation for the fair; and to all our Administrative, Maintenance, and Security Staff who worked long hours to ensure the festival's success.

Curators Philippa King and Lesley Barrow-Whatley are also to be congratulated for generating even greater publicity for the Festival this year. Their inspired efforts encouraged the following sponsors to pay for advertising space and publicity for the event:

Computers & Controls
Caribbean Computer Systems
D.H.L. (B'dos) Ltd.
Miller Publishing Co. Ltd.
Prestige Collision & Coach Builders
SummaGraphix (Banner)
Stansfeld Scott & Co. Ltd.

We should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making the event the success it was!

CHANGES AT THE FRONT

In light of the changing fortunes of the Museum, the Society's Council have taken the step of approving increases in the Museum's entrance fees. Visitor demand for an earlier opening has been such that we will also be making this change with effect from January 1st 1994.

Museum members are therefore advised to note that the Museum's opening hours will now be:

9a.m. - 5p.m. , Mon - Sat
and plans are being put into place for a Sunday opening, again following the requests of the Museum's friends and visitors (we

will notify you in due course).

Entrance fees are now changed to:
Adults \$10.00 BDS
Children \$ 5.00 BDS

Special Group rates are still in effect and children in school uniform may enter free of charge.

CULTURAL EVENING

Music and laughter filled the Special Exhibitions Gallery on Wednesday, November 17, 1993 during a Cultural Evening held by the docents to raise funds for our activities.

Artists Hal and Geraldine Archer, Ken Corsbie, and Guataka, along with docent Jeanette Springer, took patrons on a delightful 'tour' of different cultures.

In her welcome, Docent Co-ordinator Daisy Frost revealed that the mysterious 'docents' are the teaching tour guides who interpret the Museum's exhibits for thousands of visitors each year, primarily the island's schoolchildren. She noted that the eleven docents give their time and expertise voluntarily and thanked the artists for generously agreeing to do the same for the evening.

MC Melanie Springer, a summer tour guide at the Museum, then introduced Hal and Geraldine Archer who performed seven pieces of light classical and popular music. From Claude Debussy's romantic 'The Girl with the Flaxen Hair' to James Galway's 'Annie's song' and 'Carnival of Venice'; the soaring flute invited the audience to float away from their cares while the piano provided a rich accompaniment. Patrons swayed in their seats to the familiar melodies and

were awed by Hal Archer's mastery of the intricate fingering in the rapid scale and chromatic passages. The duo's characteristically superb playing received much applause.

The programme then highlighted the versatility and humour of actor and director Ken Corsbie who chose works by Caribbean artists such as Johnny Agard, Mark Matthews, Paul Keens-Douglas, and Edward Kamau Brathwaite. The audience shook with laughter as Corsbie skillfully switched accents and complemented words with hilarious gestures. Corsbie's treatment of culture, interspersed with wry asides, provoked thought amid the laughter. He also expressed concern about the neglect of our artists such as Bruce St. John, whose work far too few Barbadians know.

Guataka, a nine-member group in colourful folk dress, gave a spirited presentation of folk songs and calypsoes in Spanish and English. Accompanied by a drum, guitars, cuatros, maracas, sticks, synthesizer and, of course, a bottle and spoon for the medley of old calypso favourites, the group moved the audience with their syncopated beat, rhythmic claps and shouts. Joyful Venezuelan songs such as 'Rosa' and 'Briza' were calls to dance and the calypso medley, 'Glam Glam', created the atmosphere of a village party. 'Meditation' and the well-known 'Qui Zaz' featured expressive mezzo-soprano solos by Ena Harvey over the beautiful harmony of the chorus.

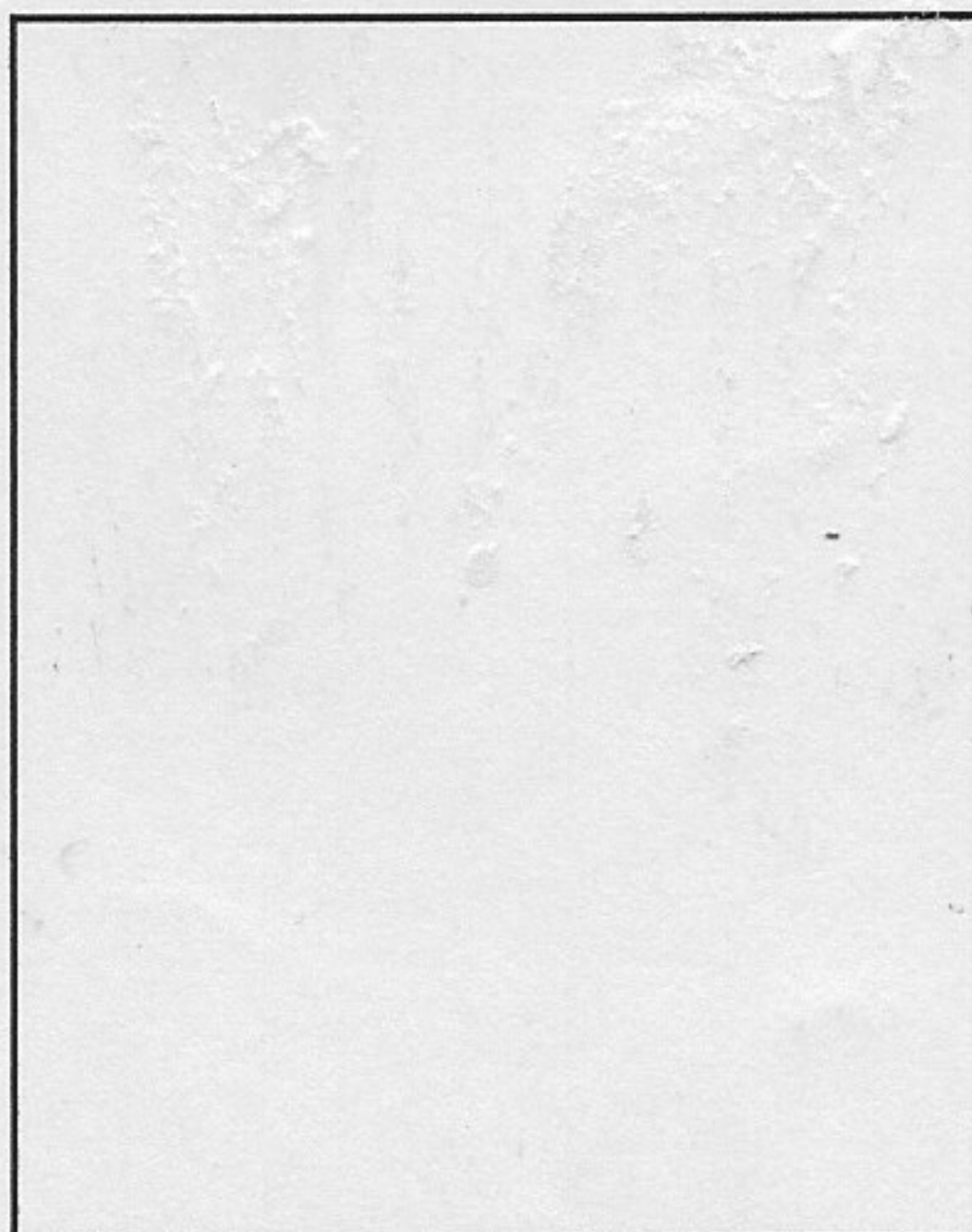
Jeanette Springer's warm tones of voice and vivid facial expressions did justice to two excerpts from

'Annie John', a book by Antiguan Jamaica Kincaid. Springer took the audience back to their childhood days of pitching marbles and playacting and...left them at the height of the stories! These readings have likely kindled an interest in Kincaid's work.

Trinidad-style standup comedy from Ken Corsbie closed the evening's entertainment as he again showed how easily he moves across cultures and characters.

Except for minor problems with timing, the docents' debut in entertainment was a success. They and the artists deserve congratulations on this effort to support the Barbados Museum in its work.

Museum Federation or other professional body; c. Publication of papers relating to museum work; d. demonstrable expertise within the museum profession; e. innovative work within the museum profession.



FELLOWSHIP AWARDED TO DIRECTOR

During this year's Annual General Meeting of the Museums Association, U.K. Museum Director Alissandra Cummins was awarded the prestigious fellowship of the Association. In September this year Ms. Cummins joined 4 other colleagues to receive this award, the first Barbadian and probably, the first Caribbean museum professional to do so.

Recipients of the fellowship must satisfy the Council of the Museums Association that they have provided at least ten years of professional services, are qualified museum professionals and must have made a distinguished contribution to museum development in areas such as :

a. demonstrable commitment to museum training; b. service in a

Particular recognition has been given to Ms. Cummins' work within, and commitment to, museum development at the national, regional and international levels. She is at present the Vice President of the Commonwealth Association of Museums, Vice Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and is the founder and immediate Past President of the Museum's Association of the Caribbean. Amongst other privileges, Fellows of the Association have the right to use the letters FMA.

EDIBLE ARTS CAFÉ

Come join us at the Barbados Museum for brunch, lunch or a quick snack and refreshing beverage. We specialize in Bajan juices and punches.

Enormous sandbox trees provide luxurious shade in our courtyard setting.

The Edible Arts Café is open Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Museum members are asked to note that subscriptions for 1993 are now due:

Firm & Co. Members
\$200
Annual Members
\$45
Joint Annual Members
\$60
Associate Members
\$5
Junior Members
\$5

NEW SCULPTURE AT THE MUSEUM

The Museum was recently the fortunate recipients of a generous gift of the Gayle Hermick sculpture, 'Sugar Trees' which has now been installed on our front lawn. An anonymous donor spotted the piece a few months earlier, during an open house at the artist's studio and offered to the purchase the piece on our behalf. The Arts Committee responded gratefully to the offer, giving particular consideration to the sad lack of contemporary sculpture accessible to the Barbadian public.

Ms. Hermick's sculpture is constructed from metal parts from now defunct sugar machinery, and speak eloquently of a lost and dissolute past which still ties us all to 'King Sugar'. A plaque will be installed shortly near the site of the installation.

Artist's Statement:

As a sculptor I am interested primarily in transforming aspects of industrialization in previous societies into contemporary artistic forms. I want my work to address the historical, cultural, and environmental issues of the community in which I live.

My sculptures are made using locally found functional steel objects: debris from the Barbados sugar industry. These objects, once the most important machinery to generate wealth, are now abandoned waste. I collect this debris according to my personal aesthetic and regenerate it, giving new life to old factory and

agricultural parts, providing a contemporary source of comfort, sustenance, and beauty.

The sculptures in both the Chair and Candelabra Series are assembled in an intuitive manner into whimsical objects of contemporary life. The Portal Series uses images of portals and beds to focus on the transition from industrial objects of labour in yesterday's society to our dreams and fantasies for tomorrow. What was once productive in our work is now abandoned; what is abandoned in our work is now productive for our senses.

THANK YOU ALL

The Staff and Council of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society would like to take this opportunity to thank all of its very active and dedicated volunteers for all their hard work and commitment throughout 1993.

Library

Mrs Beryl Birch
Mr. Patrick Roach
Mrs Cheva Thompson
Mr. Tom Wells

Curatorial

Mr. William Cummins
Mr. Ariosto Moore
Ms. Laura Rudder

Docents

Ms. Grace Brancker
Mrs Michelle Brown
Mrs Leslie DeCaires
Mrs Daisy Frost
Mrs Joyce Gale
Ms. Miriam Kennedy
Mrs Gillian Santangeli
Ms. Jennifer Simmons
Ms. Marcia Smith
Mrs Jeanette Springer
Mrs Audrey Taylor

Mrs Joyce Thompson

We hope to entice more of you to join our special group of friends. Volunteers and docents are much needed in a wide variety of areas including education programming, marketing and P.R., Administrative Assistance, Special Events Assistance, Library Assistance, Gallery Attendance, Research and Curatorial work. If you have skills or interests in any of these areas please do not hesitate to call either Daisy Frost - Docent Coordinator or Wendy Donawa, Curator of Education, and talk to us soon about helping with this challenging and exciting work.

SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER

A Fundraising Tea Party was held at Tamarind Cove on November 20 1993 to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Barbados Museum. More than 190 patrons attended the tea. A poster funded by the Librarian was made by Artist Susan Colby and was displayed at the hotel before the event. There was a raffle of a shell chain which was generously presented by La Mode Boutique, which netted \$250.00.

The tea was organised by Librarian Betty Shannon as her contribution to the 60th Anniversary of the Museum. The tea was a complete success and all of the tickets were sold. The Visitor magazine donated publicity for the event. A Fashion Show was presented by Elá Boutique and all expenses incurred were graciously met by the owner Mrs Pat Brancker. The Tea was coordinated by Mrs Sue Springer, Manager of Tamarind Cove. Mrs

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BMHS
1933 to 1993

Olga Lopes Seale offered her services as compere of the show gratis.

The Museum's Booth sold \$70.00 in merchandise. Total Funds raised from this project were \$3,460. We would like to offer our special thanks to all those involved.

Hopefully more members will host teas in their own homes as their effort to support the 60th Anniversary celebration.

holders will host all of the performances of the 2nd Annual Easter Opera Season starting on Tuesday, 22nd March. This year the



Programme has been broadened to include performances of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Opera Interludes, the London based group of singers which performed last year, will be accompanied by the City of London Chamber Orchestra and our own Geraldine and Hal Archer. Stewart Copeland, the founder of the Rock Band 'Police', will be premiering his third opera 'The Cask of Amontillado' during the Season. All performances will be held in the evening in the ground of Holders House.

Tuesday, 22 March
Shakespeare's Play
'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Saturday, 26 March
Rossini
'The Barber of Seville'
Performed in 18th century costume.
Accompanied by the City of London Chamber Orchestra.

Monday, 28th March
Shakespeare's Play
'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

Wednesday, 30th March
Puccini
'La Boheme'
Sung in Italian and performed in Edwardian costume. Accompanied by the City of London Chamber Orchestra.

Saturday, 2nd April
World Live Premiere of
Stewart Copeland's
'The Cask of Amontillado'
Based on a story by Edgar Allan Poe.
This will be followed by a selection of operatic favourites.
During this performance there will be an interval of two hours for picnics in the beautiful gardens of Holders House.

Call 809-432-6385 for further information.

LIBRARY PRESENTATION

On November 24th our Librarian Mrs Betty Shannon visited the National Library Service for a photograph to be taken and to attend the installation of a plaque, with the names of the past Presidents of the Library Association of Barbados. Many congratulations are due for Betty's role as Past President in the development of the Library service between 1973-78.

BRINGING THE CLASSROOM TO THE MUSEUM

Exploring the 1994 ICOM theme 'Museums: Behind the Scenes', we are collaborating with staff and students of the Fine Arts Division of the Barbados Community College, on an exciting five-month project culminating with an exhibition in May 1994, titled 'Then and Now'.

The selected students are divided into teams according to their interests and expertise. They will be fully involved in, and responsible for the entire process of curating and designing a thematic exhibition.

Formal lectures, site visits, management, research, skills-training and hands-on experience will be combined in this pilot project under the supervision of curator Lesley Barrow-Whatley. Allison Thompson the group's tutor at the College, will act as facilitator and advisor on research matters.

It is hoped that this project will assist in de-mystifying the role and function of Museums as well as sensitizing our future workforce - the young people - about aspects of the museum profession and possible opportunities for work in the area of cultural heritage preservation and education.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Joint Annual
Mr. & Mrs Kevyn Arthur

Sir Carlisle and Lady Burton
Mr. & Mrs John Seale
Mr. & Mrs Thomas N.H. Wells

Annual

Mrs. Barrie Lynn Callinan
Mr. Patrick Gollop
Mr. David Meyers
Mrs. Jean Walker
Mrs. John D. Wile

**ART FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT**

An exciting group show heads our way in February 1994. **9 Views of Our Land** will be a thematic exhibition by nine accomplished artists - Arthur Atkinson, Jean Blades, Ann Dodson, Gayle Hermick, Winston Kellman, Sharon Oran, Wynslow Philips, Goldie Spieler and Darla Trotman.

Each will present up to five works, representing their individual vision and interpretation of this land. 'Since pre-historic times, artists have represented their physical environment in infinite ways. Now there is a sense of urgency because of the damage inflicted upon it by [humans] in the name of progress and development'. The exhibition will focus attention therefore, on current environmental issues and their impact on our future survival and well-being.

The work will span the spectrum - from realistic to conceptual to performance art, will be on view at the Museum from Friday 4th February for four weeks.

1993 JOURNAL DELAYED

In an effort to reduce costs to the Society for printing the Museum's Journal, our editor has sought quotations from within the Caricom region. We were delighted to find that these are considerably lower than local charges. In addition, in an effort to market this well-respected publication to overseas institutions we have entered into negotiations with the University of the West Indies Press for a more professional publishing and marketing package.

As a result of these negotiations we must offer our apologies for the delay in publishing the Journal. We have been informed by UWI Press that they expect to go to press in February and we should have copies for distribution in March. A hint of what's coming up in the next issue should whet members' appetites: 'Revivalist Churches in Barbados', 'Design of the Children's Gallery', 'First Evidence for Preceramic People in Barbados'; 'Slave Medicine and Plant Use in Barbados' and 'Combermere School's first 200 years'. Believe us when we say 'it will be worth waiting for'.

COUNCIL MOVES

As we go to press we wish to take this opportunity to thank some members of the Council who will be leaving us in 1994. Dr. Bertie Graham as the longest serving member rotates off automatically and we shall miss his enthusiasm and support in every sphere of museum activity. Mrs Joyce Gale has given several years of service in a determined effort to get our finances back on track. Her devotion and energy has been both phenomenal and reassuring, as she has striven to ensure that the proper checks and

balances have been put in place and the Museum's accounts are now almost completely computerized. Elombe Mottley has offered his resignation as he has 'deserted' us for Jamaica, but he assures us of his continued support and involvement, even if only from afar. We are sure all members will join us in expressing our appreciation for their hard work over the last few years.

MUSEUM'S DOCENTS

The first term of the school year has been both challenging and successful. Fortunately the education area of the Museum now has on its role 13 docents who are all committed to their calling as teacher-tour guides. The Museum is truly fortunate in this loyal band of volunteers who give of their time willingly, freely, wholeheartedly, and, what is more, are always happy and smiling in their work. They are indeed a body of "unsung heroes", and certainly deserve accolades, which we do receive from time to time from schools and other groups who benefit from Museum tours. We have escorted over 1,600 this term.

Two events stand out in this period. This year for the first time as far as I know, nine schools asked us if they could celebrate Teachers' Professional Day at the Barbados Museum.

The Education Department organised a workshop for the Principal and Staff of Workman's Primary School. It was successful and rewarding from our point of view, and most beneficial from theirs. They showed great interest

and enthusiasm over the Reference Library where our Librarian, Mrs Betty Shannon, gave a talk and demonstration of what resources the Museum had to offer. This was indeed an eye-opener to them. This school has made history in choosing us instead of, say, C.B.C. T.V. or the Pine Hill Dairy, for their outreach programme with the community on Teachers' Professional Day. We are indebted to them and sincerely hope this is not the last time a school will use us in this way.

The other event to be noted was a visit in November of 100 4-5 year olds. Little children have very short powers of concentration and tire quickly, so, generally speaking, we do not encourage such young children, and, particularly, in such large groups. However, we organized a tour with a difference. We were ably assisted by Museum Curators who provided exciting "touchables", ranging from a miniature school, to coral, Billy the Hawksbill Turtle, Maudie the Mongoose, and Amerindian artifacts.

We started at the front of the Museum with the Bearded Fig Tree as illustrating the name Los Barbados. Then in the lower courtyard we gave them an idea of Barbados itself, coral formation, underwater, on the land, with the use of many "touchables". Later, in the temporary Exhibition Gallery, Auntie Sidi, told a story about an Amerindian boy with poster illustrations and appropriate "touchables". Finally we had a quick walk through of the Natural History, Amerindian and Children's Galleries.

Daisy Frost - Docent Coordinator

AGM NOTICE

The following nominations were received by the Barbados Museum and Historical Society for Officers and Members of the Council for the year commencing 15 January, 1994.

Officers:

Dr. Trevor Carmichael
(President)

Mrs Jean Goddard
(Senior Vice President)

Members:

Mrs Joscelyn Gardner
Lt. Col. Keith McIntosh
Ms. Kathleen Drayton
Prof. Woodville Marshall
Sir Carlisle Burton
Miss Jill Sheppard
Mr. Patrick Roach

All nominees and nominations were in financial standing at the time of the nominations.

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Friday January 14, 1994 at 5.00 p.m.

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
Carl Carter
Emmerson Williams
Royston Sargeant

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

1 Jan	Museum Closed	
14 Jan - 5.00 p.m.	Annual General Meeting	Exhibition Gallery
21 Jan	Museum Closed	Errol Barrow Day

FEBRUARY

4 Feb - Mar 5	Group Show - '9 Views of our Land - Artist and the Environment'	Exhibition Gallery
25 Feb	Alliance Française Wine and Cheese Party	Museum Courtyard

MARCH

20 Mar - 2 Apr	Easter Opera Season	Grounds of Holder's House
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APRIL

1 Apr - May 6	Installation Show - Joscelyn Gardner	Exhibition Gallery
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60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BMHS
1933 to 1993
