

## NEWSLETTER

NO. 47

1st QUARTER, 1994

### 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

#### ORDINARY MEMBERS

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

#### GOVERNMENT APPOINTEES

Miss Camilita Archer  
Dr. Hilary Beckles  
Mrs Celia Toppin  
Dr. Elliot Parris

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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

#### EX-OFFICIO :

Director of the Museum  
Ms. Alissandra Cummins

### A SPECIAL GIFT

With all the talk these days about waste management, water pollution, and 'rediscovering' the virtues of using the available, natural resources - consider for a moment the old dripstone system of water filtration.

Adapted from a centuries-old Spanish practice to purify stored water, dripstones were usually made of porous stone; in Barbados' case limestone. In addition to originating as an 'old world' technology, ships crossing the Atlantic to the West Indies often installed the system aboard, to clean the water for drinking and cooking. In Barbados, the quarried limestone was fashioned by a stonemason into two large receptacles.

The one positioned above was deeply hollowed out to accommodate the water. The one below was shaped with a much shallower bowl, but much thicker limestone base - this allowed for thorough filtration to occur.

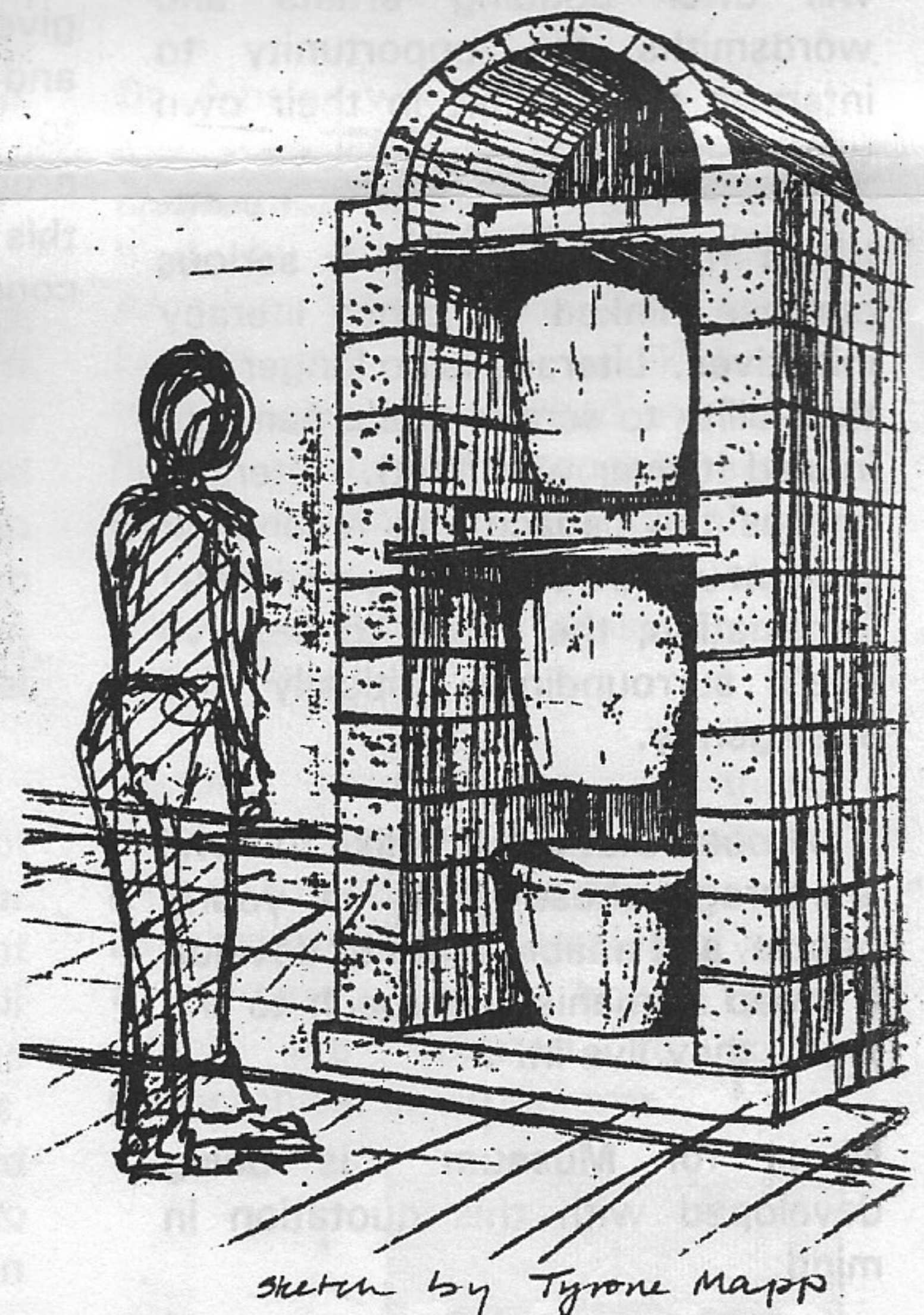
Set below these vessels was the container, which caught the water before it was removed for household purposes. In Barbados, it was usually made of clay or marble.

The Museum has recently received a gift of two dripstones from Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Malone. They felt strongly, that all visitors to the Museum should

have the experience of seeing a system in operation. Therefore they also provided the funds to have the dripstones mounted in a made-to-order coral limestone structure.

This now stands in front of the east wall of the Upper Courtyard, and visitors are encouraged to see it in operation, on their next visit.

Many thanks to our generous donors.



60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BMHS  
1933 to 1993



## M IS FOR MUSEUM

### An Alphabet of Museum Literacy

The Museum will mark May 18, International Museum's Day, with its usual Open Day for the public. The day will also mark the opening of **M is for Museum**, a child and family-centered exhibit, designed in-house by Education Curator, Wendy Donawa.

**M is for Museum** introduces children to objects that are intriguing, funny or astonishing, and which convey the alphabetical theme. Displays will be accompanied by suggestions and activities devised to stimulate children's curiosity and interest, and to enhance their thinking skills. A number of the displays will be touchable, while an activity centre will offer budding artists and wordsmiths the opportunity to interpret the exhibit in their own way.

It's a fun exhibit with a serious purpose, linked to other literacy initiatives. Literacy is no longer just the ability to scrawl one's name (if indeed it ever was that). Literacy implies the capacity to receive or communicate meaningful information; the ability to observe one's surroundings critically and intelligently.

It is hoped that exhibits like this will encourage these skills in young people, and enable them to develop a broad humanist approach to the world they live in.

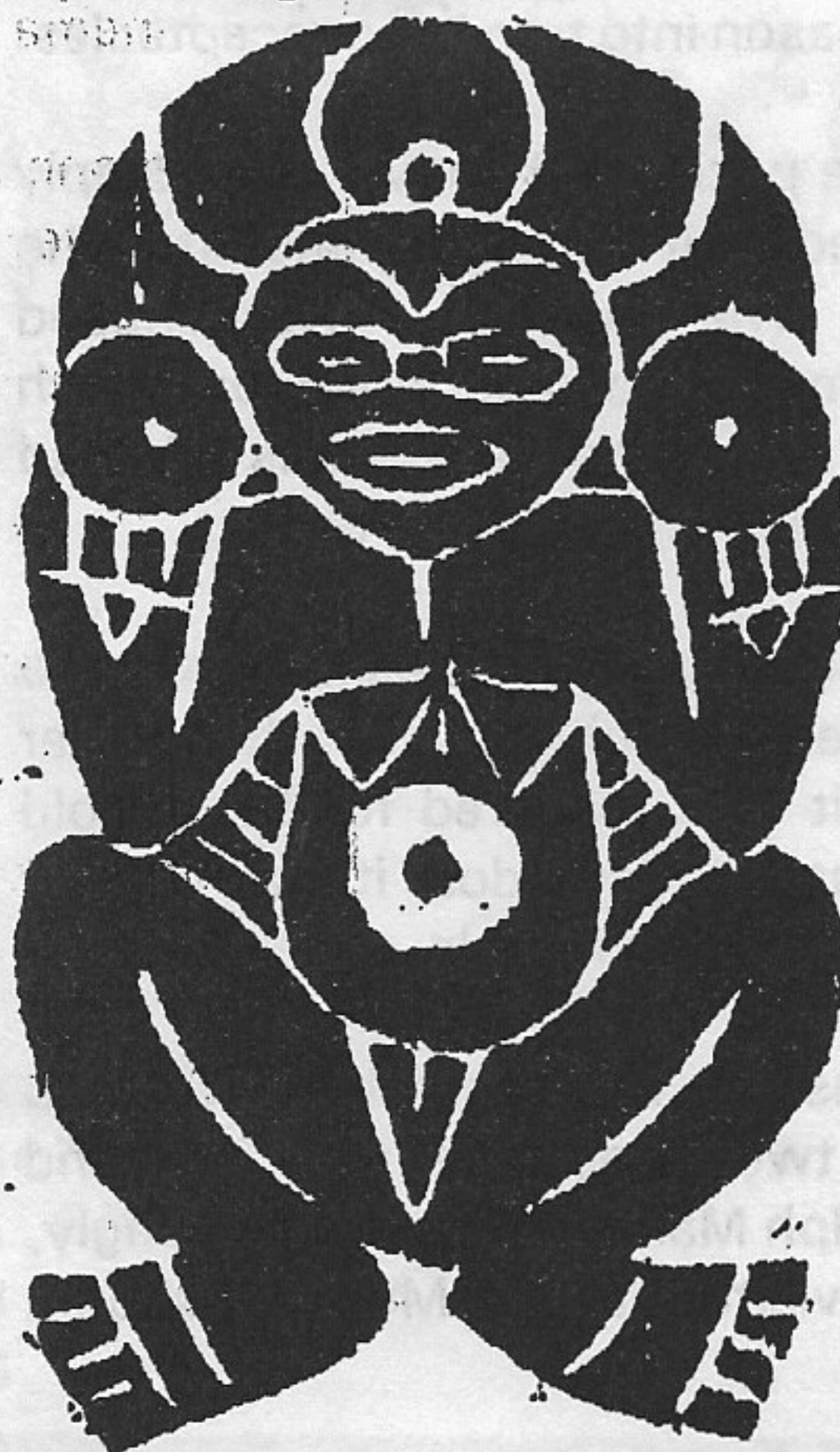
**M is for Museum** is being developed with this quotation in mind:

"At its core the museum experience should help people look at objects more carefully so that they can come to see their world more clearly and critically and come to understand it more fully".

## SPIRIT OF WOMAN: EYE TO THE SOUL

In "Spirit of Woman: Eye to the Soul", artist Joscelyn Gardner invites the viewer to enter into the realm of mythology. This multi-media installation explores Amerindian myth and material culture in order to provide a new perspective for examining our own modern world.

Mythology may present the beliefs of a people or explain cultural practice or phenomena. Humans have a need to define themselves in relation to others and to their environment in order to give reason and purpose to existence, and to enforce acceptable behaviour, to ensure the functioning and progression of the society. Central to this process of definition is the concept of origination.



Gardner focusses her attention on the origination and definition of women. A Caribbean artist, she has rooted her investigation in the mythology of the aboriginal peoples of the Caribbean.

Gardner's approach is based on thorough research of the archaeological literature. She balances a sensitive comprehension of Taino mythology and symbolism with intuitive inventiveness and aesthetic considerations. The central inspiration comes from archaeologist Peter Roe's interpretation of petroglyphs at Puerto Rico as relating to Taino mythology of the Origin of Women.

Using the visual language of the Amerindian petroglyphs, Gardner interprets this male-centered ideology from a twentieth century female viewpoint. While this reflects the timeless nature and universality of the message, the mythology is now appropriated and retold from a new perspective.

The images are very graphic, symmetrical, totemic, true to the spirit of the original petroglyphs. Some are taken directly, such as Atabeyra and her consort. Others are amalgamations from visual and literal fragments. Male imagery is more abundant throughout the Caribbean and South America, birds and panthers are presented in bright, showy yellows and reds, representing their association with the sun. Female imagery is not as prolific so Gardner draws upon the existing visual vocabulary to conjure up images which represent the various aspects or components

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of the perceived female personae - nurturer, incubator, seductress, cerebral (intellect), castrator.

The choice and use of media is also central to the theme of the exhibition. Gardner remains true to the spirit of the work which inspires her both in form and medium. The print medium is ideally suited - the layers of images echoing the layers of meaning and interpretation of mythology. The use of woodcut with the wood-grained ink patterns laying on the surface, emphasises the flatness of images and contrasts with the dense, lush backgrounds from which these images emerge. Within the Amerindian mythology, women are fashioned as if they were wood, the carvers being men, hence the ideal use of the medium.

Related to this is the collaborative process adopted by Gardner. Guided by her vision, the interpretations of Gayle Hermick and Bill Grace enrich the installation and provide a more communal, rather than egocentric approach to art-making. While Grace's clay pots are literally containers, so are Hermick's nest-like structures, and even the large footed frames become vessels for the printed images they support. As to the gallery itself, it contains the viewer, womb-like, its watery ambience and soothing sounds encasing and lulling those within.

*Excerpts from article by Allison Thompson.*

## DOCENT NEWS

January and February are docent training months for new volunteers in our Schools Programme. The newcomers go through challenging twice-weekly seminars before joining the experienced docents in the galleries.

A particularly stimulating seminar was given by the multi-talented Dr. Margie Gollick. Margie, an annual visitor to Barbados, is a pioneer in the diagnosis and remediation of learning disabilities. She is also a consultant for *Sesame Street*, a prolific and published writer and an inspiring teacher. We all came away with much food for thought, and questioning our own assumptions about learning and teaching.

This year we have four new docents in training: Jennifer Goodridge, Malcolm Denny and husband-and-wife team Augusta and Kevyn Arthur. This makes a grand total of 17 docents (an all-time high) to service the 6000 schoolchildren who visit annually.

Our welcome to the newcomers is offset by a sad farewell to docent Gillian Santangeli, with thanks for her two years of enthusiastic and knowledgeable gallery teaching. Gillian a geologist in her other life, returns to Canada in April, with her own newcomer, 7 month old Michael Francis.

Our docents interpret the exhibits not only for schoolchildren, but also for visitors with special needs, who might otherwise find a visit daunting. Our new friends include people of all ages with physical or mental disabilities, residents of half-way houses and geriatric hospitals, and other folks who enjoy the mental and social stimulation of a welcoming and informative tour.

We remind our readers that most of the main galleries are wheelchair accessible, as is the cafe and one of the lavatories. If you need special arrangements made for yourself, friends or family, please ring the Education Curator, and we're sure to find a format to suit your needs.

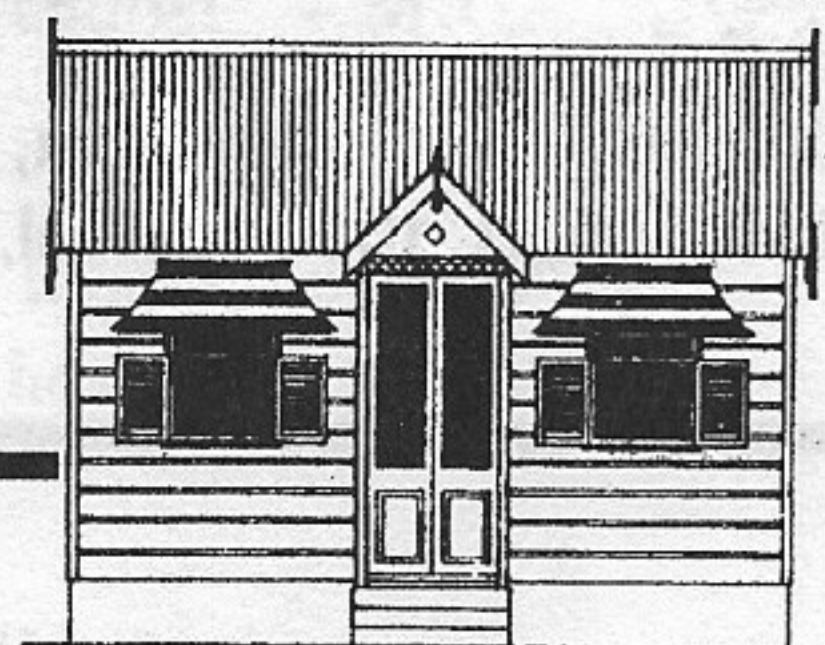
## GEOGRAPHY AND SHELTER

### *Patterns in Folk House Types of Early North America and the Caribbean*

Dr. W. Frank Ainsley, a cultural geographer from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, North Carolina, will deliver a slide lecture on the traditional folk house types found in early North America and the Caribbean. The lecture is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. on May 3, 1994 at the Barbados Museum.

Dr. Ainsley will discuss the spatial patterns of diffusion and distribution of the types of shelter built by the early settlers of America who came here from Europe and Africa. Folk house types such as the Barbadian chattel house, are used by geographers to help understand the historical and geographical landscapes which gave rise to our present built environment.

Historic conservation of these representative types of housing can help us to better utilize our resource base and provide examples of how to construct modern house types which are adapted to local geographical environments.





## HERITAGE EDUCATION: A Toolkit

June will see the publication, by UNESCO, of *The Museum Education Manual*, developed to assist Caribbean museums and heritage organisations in creating effective education programmes.

The manual, a year in the making, was designed and written by Wendy Donawa, Education Curator. It is intended to give cultural educators and programmers a toolkit of ideas and techniques suitable for their institutions and their finances.

Each of the manual's sections treats a topic, with working notes, relevant articles and suggested activities. The manual can be used for detailed stage-by-stage planning by the novice, or can be skimmed for new ideas by the experienced. The articles provide a condensed reference library of materials and topics.

The various sections discuss different learning styles and teaching techniques, how to plan programmes, how to make displays and exhibits more educationally effective, how to reach a wider public. It addresses the important issue of access for those with disabilities, and gives pointers on implementing an effective volunteer programme.

The layout is user-friendly, with large clear type, room in the margins to scribble, and attractive photo-illustrations, most of them taken in the Barbados Museum.

UNESCO, in Jamaica, will be distributing the manual, free, on

request from Caribbean heritage organisations (this means not just museums, but parks, monuments, National Trusts, historic houses, botanic gardens and so forth). If you belong to a heritage organisation that could benefit from a structured approach to its programming, write to reserve your copy to:

Alwin Bully  
Sub-Regional Cultural Adviser  
UNESCO  
The Towers, 3rd Floor  
25 Dominica Drive, Kingston 5  
Jamaica

## TREASURE TROVE

The recent sale of Villa Nova has had unexpected implications for the Museum. The receivers, notoriously the most tight-fisted of creatures, saw fit to extend their generosity to us!

During 1990-91 a site next to the Heywoods Resort was made accessible to excavations by the University of London team, as they continued the Barbados Archaeological Survey. This highly important prehistoric site eventually yielded some major ceramic and shell artifacts, which the site's then owner retained as part of his private collection.

With the change of ownership, the 7,000 piece Heywoods collection has now been placed in the care of the Barbados Museum, alongside similar material from the island's most significant sites. Thus opportunities for comparative analysis and access have improved and allowed the archaeologists to document another chapter in the island's prehistory.

## LIBRARY NEWS

The Shilstone Memorial Library has been very lucky in recent times, garnering support in various quarters, and producing a bumper crop of research in response to literally hundreds of enquiries.

Thus Library volunteer Mrs Beryl Birch was able to make a good case for a new typewriter for us. The results were rewarding - a generous donation by visitor Mrs Gorlin Sky, in memory of her late husband, has made it possible for us to replace an earlier gift. We wish to thank everyone involved.

The Museum was also the fortunate recipient of a UNESCO grant to support the activities of the Library. Between January to March funding from this project has allowed us to carry out the following:

- The updating and completion of a nominal index of the Museum's Journal in preparation for a first time publication. (Cheryl King - Consultant).
- An inventory and conservation assessment of the rare book collection (Consultant - Keitha Lennard).

Ms. Lennard reports that: "The BMHS Library was established in 1933. In its early existence the Society received a large number of old and rare books as well as other documents from its members and well wishers. These books would have had some problems even before they were placed on the

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## ERRATA SHEET

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE 1994

This year the Disaster Preparedness exercise will take place on Friday 10th June 1994 and Saturday 11 June 1994, and not Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 June. Any inconvenience caused is regretted.



# BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## PRESS RELEASE

### \* NEW OPENING HOURS - MUSEUM, SHOP & CAFÉ

Due to popular demand the Barbados Museum has decided to revise its opening hours as of January, 1994, and to open the Museum on Sunday afternoons. Please be advised that our new opening hours are now:

Mon - Sat	9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Sun	2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Our shop and café will also be open to serve your needs with exciting souvenirs to purchase and a special tea menu to enjoy.

### \* LIBRARY

For those of you with an interest in discovering your family or island history, the Museum's invaluable Shilstone Memorial Library is a must for you. You can visit during the hours of:

Mon - Fri	9.00 am - 1.00 pm
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### \* ENTRANCE FEES

The Museum's entrance fees have been increased this year, however a special family fee offers you an unprecedented opportunity to enjoy an intimate family outing at this unique location. New fees are:

Adults	-	\$10.00 BDS
Children (16 yrs & under)	-	\$ 5.00 BDS

(Schoolchildren in uniform - free and group rates available by prior arrangement)

### AND OUR SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERING:

Adults	\$10.00
(including cornish Cream Tea)	

Family	-	\$15.00
(maximum 2 adults and accompanying children)		

### \* VISITORS COMMENTS:

"Thank you for an excellent overview of the History of Barbados!" - M.G. Meilanott, Alamo, CA, USA

"A most fantastic place! bringing beautiful Barbados and the Bajans not only closer to a foreigner's mind and knowledge, but right into its heart! Thanks - Kall Liz - Zurich, Switzerland

"Best Museum in the West Indies - and now we've seen them all in" - L. Jacob, M. Galbraith, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

\*FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Please call the Museum at 427-0201 or Fax 429-5946.



# BARBADOS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Museum is pleased to announce that from this Sunday January 31st, 1994 we'll be open to the public from:

2.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Why not spend a quiet hour or two touring our fascinating exhibits, and then join us at the Café in the Upper Courtyard for a scrumptious cream tea. Afterwards a visit to our unique shop will satisfy all your needs for those special gifts to take home:

Sunday Special rates are:

Adults - \$10.00 (including Cornish Cream Tea)

Family - \$15.00 (maximum 2 adults with accompanying children)

Great value for money! We look forward to having you with us.

### VISITOR'S COMMENTS:

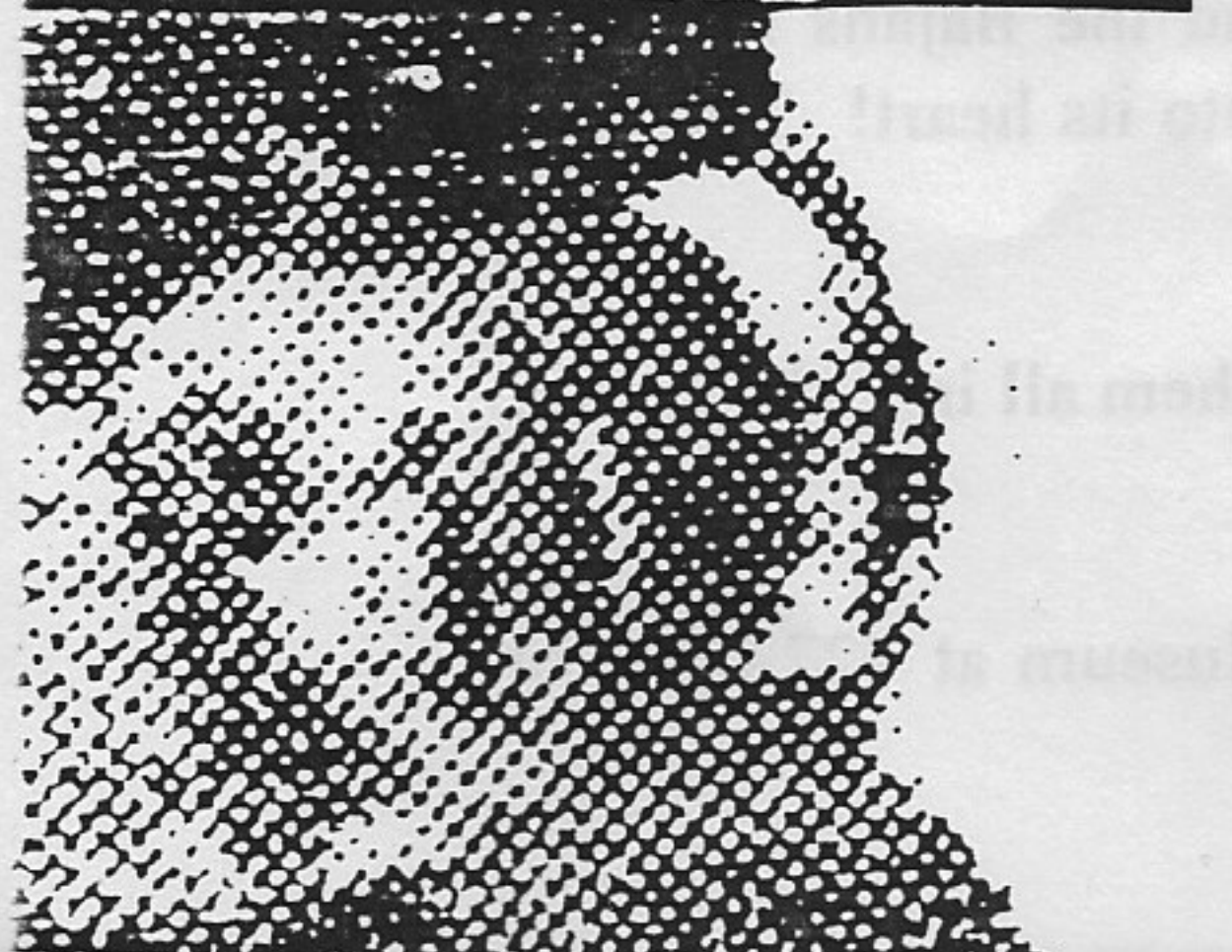
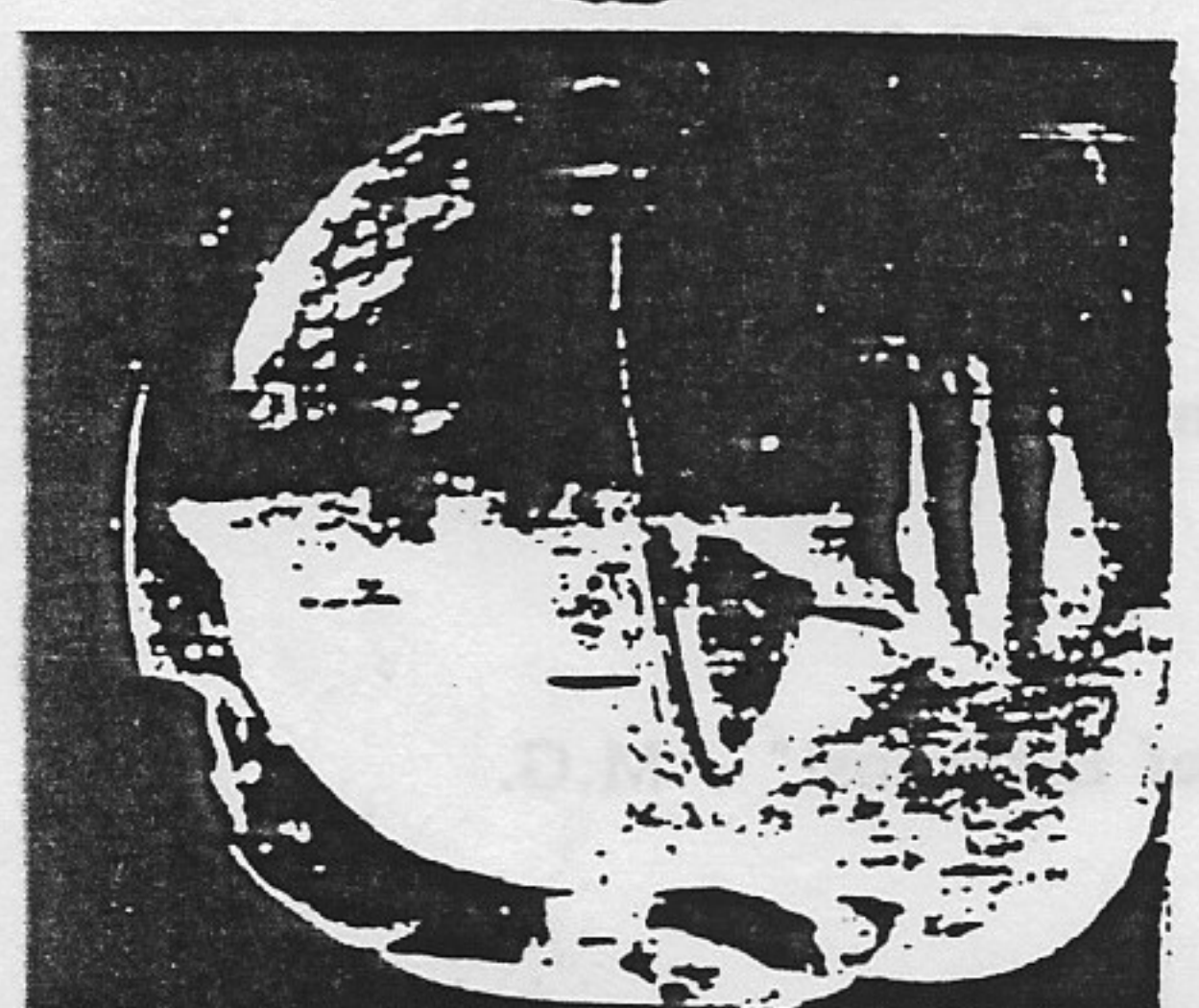
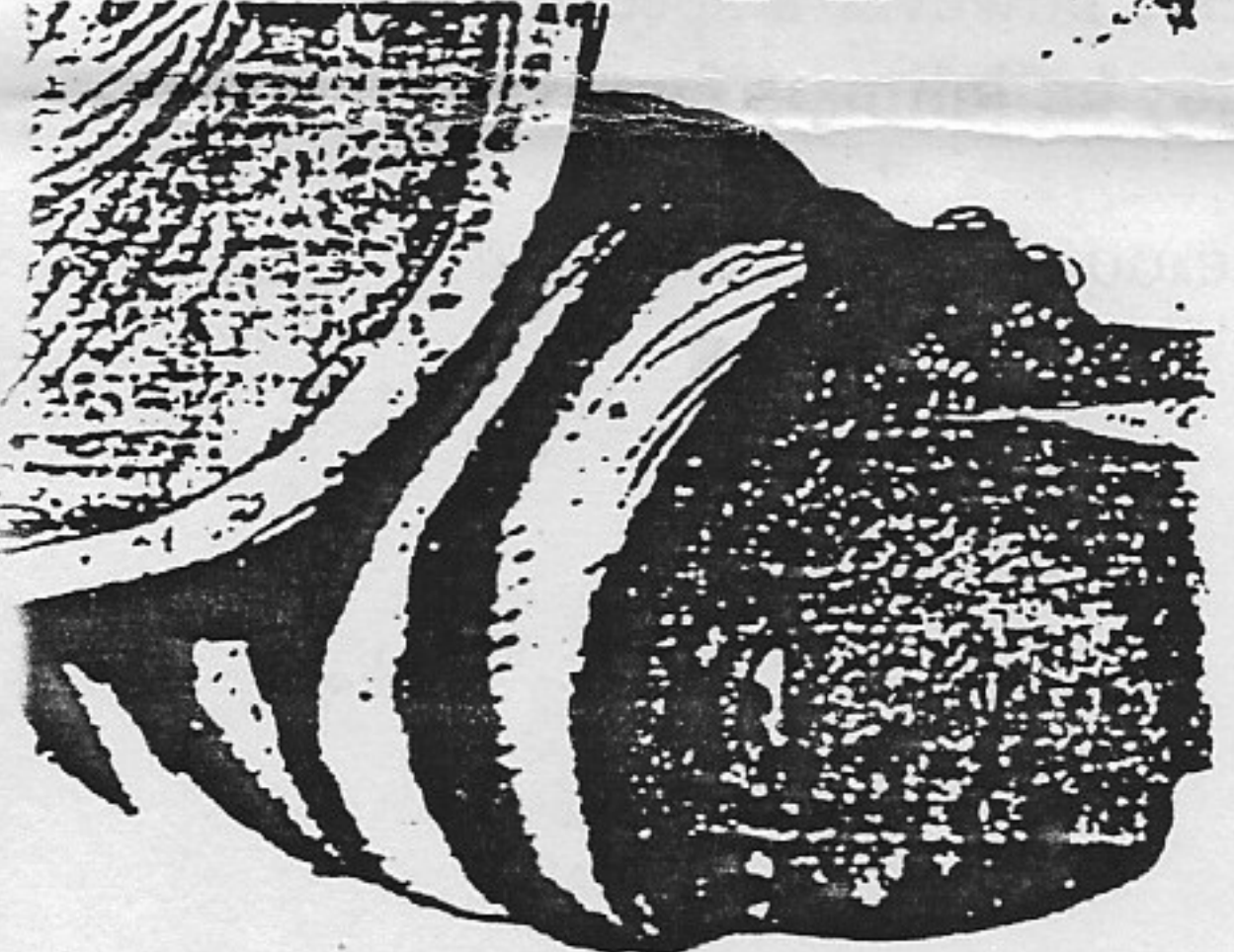
"Provided all the answers to nagging questions about when, where and how of Bajan history. Thank you!" - R.& K. Wright, Pimlico, London, England.

"Enjoyed very much. Loved the diversity of the collection. Great introduction to an interesting island." - C. Mathis & B. Burchill - Morris Plains, New Jersey, U.S.A.

"Children's exhibition particularly good in this excellent museum" - K. & D. Ball, Wymington, England.

\*FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Please call the Museum at 427-0201 or Fax 429-5946

PLEASE PLACE ON YOUR NOTICE BOARD





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Library shelves; e.g. discoloration caused by acid migration, aging, time-staining and foxing, to name a few. Another area is the wear and tear of the book, and the conditions in which they were kept".

To date over 100 books have been identified and catalogued.

The following issues of **Bajan Magazine** are missing from our collection:

Dec 1955, Apr - Jun 1956,  
Apr 1969, Jul 1972, Dec 1989.

Please check and see if you can help us to make our collection complete.

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Each year the Museum Staff subject themselves to the tremendous task of carrying out a full scale practise of our Disaster Preparedness programme. The exercise, which is essential to the security and protection of the museum and its collections, is vitally important. Since many of these artifacts are irreplaceable, we must do our best to ensure their longterm existence.

This year's practise is scheduled for **June 3 and 4th**, on which days the Museum will be closed. Members and friends are asked to support this effort in any way possible. We are always in need of new supplies of plywood, plastic sheeting, styrofoam chips, bubble wrap, garbage bags etc to make this exercise a success.

## NEW MEMBERS

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

### Joint Annual

Mr. & Mrs John M. de Abreu  
Mr. & Mrs Everton Branch  
Mr. & Mrs Charles Evelyn  
Mr. & Mrs Peter Hermant  
Mr. & Mrs Elwin M. Kleihauer  
Mr. & Mrs Peter Weatherhead  
Mr. & Mrs David Williams

### Life

Mr. Robert Hale Ives Goddard

### Annual

Dr. W. Frank Ainsley  
Mrs John T. Murray-Aynsley  
Mrs Celia Blenman  
Miss Evelyn Branker  
Dr. Lindley S. Butler  
Ms. Betty Canton  
Mrs C.L. Franklin  
Mr. Jack Freeborn  
Mr. Harold Hart  
Mr. Francois Jackman  
Ms. Katherine W. Jenkins  
Miss Joan C. Waithe  
Mrs Rolla Wilson-King

### Junior

Mr. Paul Brathwaite  
Ms. Robyn Farnum  
Ms. Sarah Inniss  
Ms. Rachel Inniss  
Mr. Philip Toppin

Firm and Company  
Yes Travel

## VIRTUOUS VOLUNTEERS

The BMHS wishes to offer its deepest apologies to one of our most devoted and productive docents, Mrs Sidi Streetly. When we thanked our volunteers in the last newsletter #46,

Sidi's name was not amongst them, having been excluded in error. Our deepest gratitude goes out to Sidi and husband Arthur, who continue to support us in many different ways.

Have you got the gift of the gab? Do you have a way with words? Are you at ease dealing with people? We need you at the Museum! Public Relations remains a highly important area for the Museum, as we work to encourage more people to visit us and join the Society. If you've got the time and the enthusiasm, please call the Volunteer Coordinator, Wendy Donawa at 427-0201, and sign up right now - a whole new world awaits!

## NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!

Several members responded positively to the President's recent call for you to help us identify new members. Nevertheless a lot still needs to be done. In analysing the latest budgetary estimates for the upcoming financial year, the Finance Committee has advised that the **BMHS needs to raise an additional \$250,000** to close the gap and keep going.

You can also help to considerably reduce this gap by introducing at least two new members each. Membership forms are enclosed to help you on your way. Please help us to stay alive for another 60 years!



## JUGGLING STORES

Recent activities around the Museum have prompted some visitors to ask "Are you moving house?" Our answer: "Not quite!" But we have been moving vast collections from one storeroom to another.

Over the past five years the archaeological collections have grown at a tremendous rate; a direct result of all the investigations on Amerindian sites, and more recently the historical archaeology programme directed by Prof. Tom Loftfield.

In order to keep pace, and to try to keep our stored collections accessible to the researching public, we undertook the exhausting task of shifting the geological, archaeological and zoological collections. Curator of Natural History, Philippa King organised the allocation of storage spaces for the hundreds of boxes involved, and armed with an enthusiastic team from our technical support staff, undertook the task at hand.

We are particularly pleased with the performance of our staff, Dennis McCollin, Shawn Rowe, Reggie Riley, Pauline Stuart and Janice Greaves who went beyond the call of duty to help make the management of the collections easier.

Our team was ably supported by volunteers Jason Pace and Brian Phillips. In fact, they are continuing to provide much needed assistance, and are conducting an inventory of the collections. We are most appreciative of their efforts.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Museum members are asked to note that subscriptions for 1994 are now due :

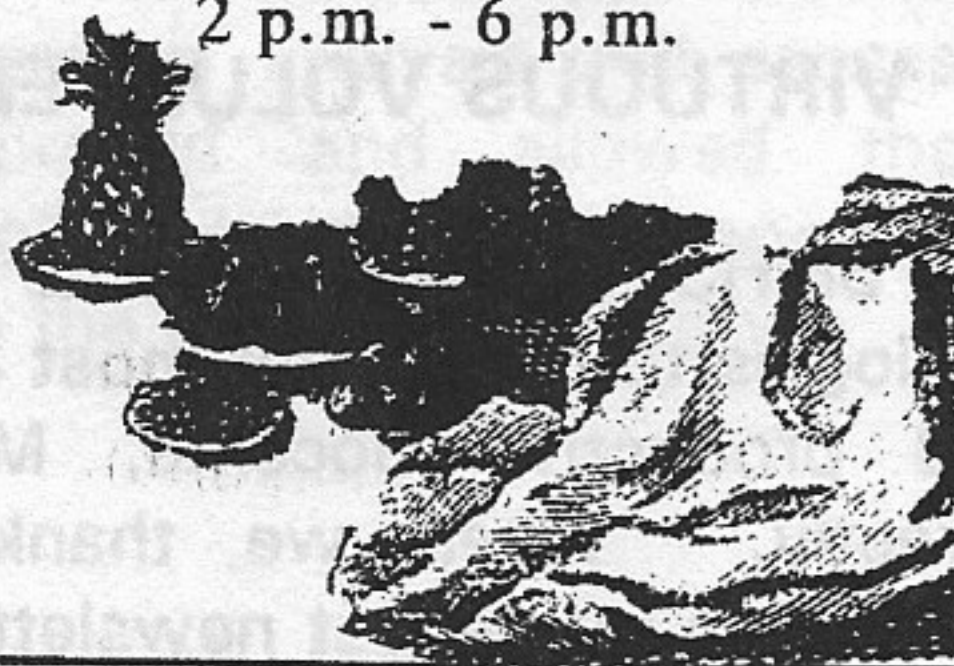
Firm & Co. Members \$200  
Annual Members \$45  
Joint Annual Members \$60  
Associate Members \$5  
Junior Members \$5

## 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.  
And on Sundays  
2 p.m. - 6 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

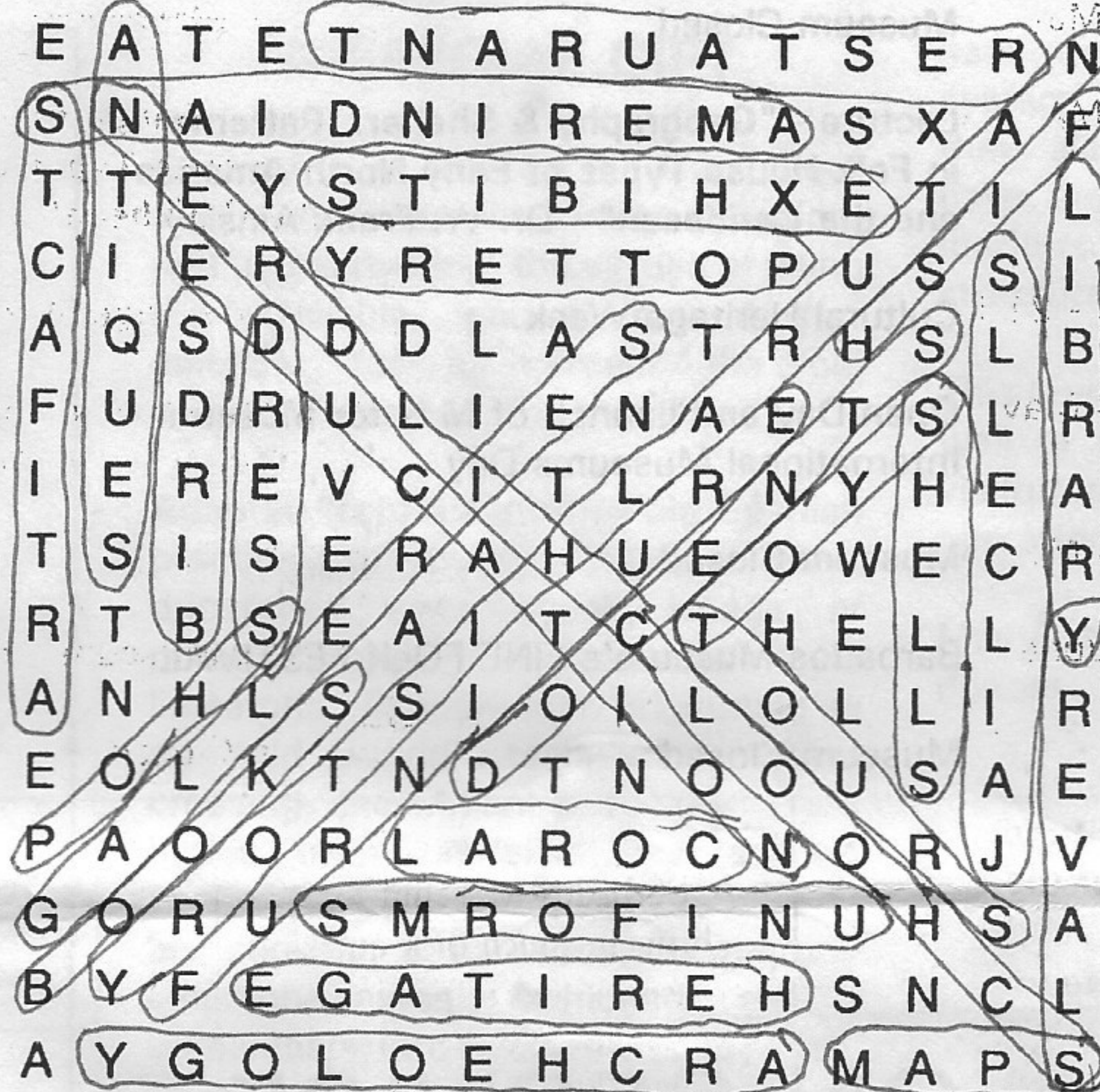
### SECURITY

Beresford Nurse  
Carl Carter  
Emmerson Williams  
Royston Sargeant



## A DEN OF ANTIQUITY !

Member and Docent Kevyn Arthur has devised a museological wordgame to keep readers on the alert. Send in your efforts! A winner will be drawn from completed forms received by May 18, and be endowed with one of our splendid Barbados Museum T-shirts.



Find the following items in, or connected with, the Barbados Museum. The names run forward, backward, up, down, and diagonally. Unscramble the leftover letters to discover what the Barbados Museum is all about.

- |               |                   |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ✓ AMERINDIANS | ✓ EXHIBITS        | ✓ RESTAURANT      |
| ✓ ANTIQUES    | ✓ FISH            | ✓ SCHOOL CHILDREN |
| ✓ ARCHEOLOGY  | ✓ FURNITURE       | ✓ SHELLS          |
| ✓ ARTIFACTS   | ✓ GALLERIES       | ✓ SHOP            |
| ✓ BIRDS       | ✓ HERITAGE        | ✓ SLAVERY         |
| ✓ BOOKS       | ✓ JAIL CELLS      | ✓ TOURS           |
| ✓ CORAL       | ✓ LIBRARY         | ✓ TOYS            |
| ✓ DOCENTS     | ✓ MAPS            | ✓ UNIFORMS        |
| ✓ DRESS       | ✓ NATURAL HISTORY |                   |
| ✓ EDUCATION   | ✓ POTTERY         |                   |



## UPCOMING EVENTS

1 & 4 April	Museum Closed	Good Friday/ Easter Bank Holiday
12 Apr - 10 May	"Spirit of Woman: Eye to the Soul" - Joscelyn Gardner	Exhibition Gallery
2 May	Museum Closed	Labour Day
3 May - 8.00 p.m.	Lecture - "Geography & Shelter: Patterns in Folk House Types of Early North America and the Caribbean" - Dr. W. Frank Ainsley	Museum
15 - 21 May	Cultural Heritage Week	Check Press for details
18 May - 12 June	Open Day and Launch of M is for Museum - International Museums Day	Museum
23 May	Museum Closed	Whit Monday
4 June	Barbados Museum's FINE FOLK FESTIVAL	Museum Courtyards
11 & 12 June	Museum Closed	Disaster Preparedness Exercise

ON SERVICE



EAT WHAT  
WE GROW

Mrs. Cheva Thompson  
No.1 Roseneath  
Balmoral Gap  
Hastings, Christ Church  
Barbados

BARBADOS MUSEUM &  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BMHS  
1933 to 1993