

## NEWSLETTER

NO. 49

3rd 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

Mrs. Kathleen Drayton

#### ORDINARY MEMBERS

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

#### GOVERNMENT APPOINTEES

Miss Camilita Archer  
Dr. Elliot Parris  
Mr. Erskine Rose  
Mrs. Celia Toppin

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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

#### EX-OFFICIO :

Director of the Museum  
Ms. Aissandra Cummins

### BARBADOS ART DATABASE Update

Perhaps the major reason the Barbados Museum and Historical Society undertook this project was our awareness of the inadequate resources available to art students and researchers. With this database, and the developing slide and file library, we believe we have made significant progress, and have come a long way in helping all Barbadians in their pursuit of knowledge of this most exciting and enriching aspect of our cultural heritage.

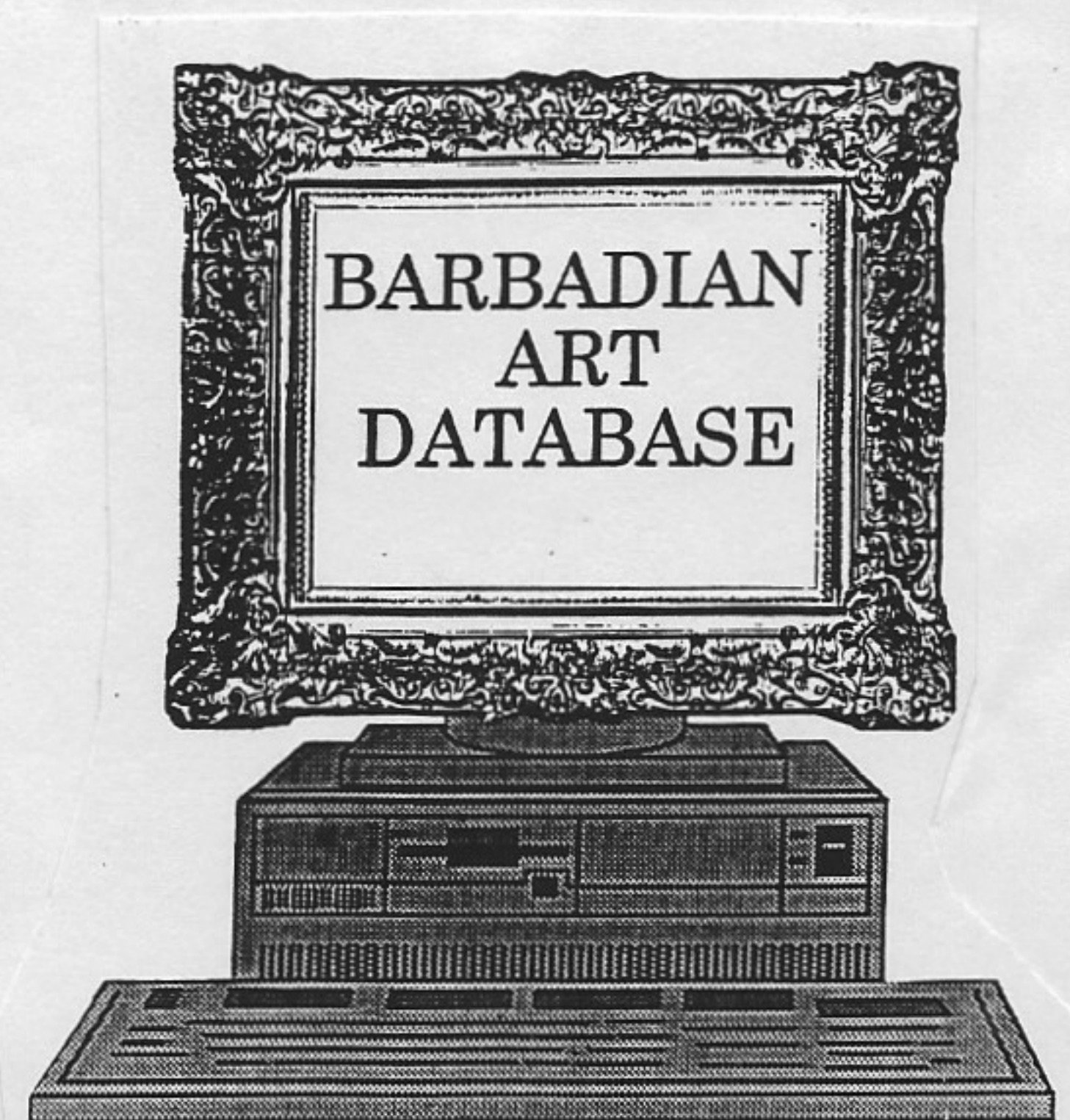
This unique database will provide accurate and up-to-date information on the island's leading artists. The computerised format allows us to make the information more accessible and in the near future, will enable us to do proper searches and reports on a wide range of data relating to artistic activity in this country.

We wish to thank all those artists who took the time and made the effort to complete the forms. The resulting data is impressive and a revelation to us all about the level of activity taking place in our community. In the future it is intended to include historical data and to update the database on a regular basis.

Regretably only a limited first edition will be printed this year and the Museum is committed to making complimentary copies available to schools and libraries on the island.

Members interested in acquiring a

copy, at \$50.00 each, are therefore advised to contact us to place your name on the subscription list. You are advised that your cheque should be made out to the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, and returned to us as soon as possible in order to ensure our ability to satisfy your order.





## MUSEUM HOLDS PREVIEW OF ART

Architect Mervyn Awon approached the Museum with the idea of giving the local public a rare opportunity to see the new work of four artists, Alison Chapman-Andrews, Ras Ishi, Ras Akyem and Stanley Greaves, before it is sent abroad for the 2nd Biennial of Painting of Central America and the Caribbean in Santo Domingo, November 1994.

In recent years, Barbadian artists have been receiving credit and acclamation at both regional and international exhibitions. Ras Ishi is an outstanding example of this, as a Gold Medal winner in the first Santo Domingo Biennial two years ago.

The exhibition at the Museum drew an enthusiastic crowd on the opening evening. It featured thirteen monumental pieces including a trilogy "There is a meeting here tonight" symptomatic of the power of political manipulation by Stanley Greaves and a "400 Years, New World Order" diptych by Ras Ishi which explores themes of transformation through colonialization. Alison Chapman-Andrews' two monumental landscapes move with breathtaking assurance to new levels of abstraction.

After this show comes to an end, the work will be crated and shipped to Santo Domingo where it will compete against the best from thirty-three other countries around the region. We look forward to hearing the response from overseas and wish the artists the best of luck. The Dominicans were eager to have Barbados return to reach even greater heights.



*There is a meeting here tonight.*  
Stanley Greaves.

## FINE CRAFT FESTIVAL

Now in its 5th year, the Fine Craft Festival has grown in significance with increasing numbers of participating craftspeople, visitor attendance and more importantly - funds for the Museum.

Last year the event grossed almost \$30,000.00 in sales of crafted items from fairy angels of baked bread to candabras made of sugar factory machinery.

This year promises to be as good as the last as the team of staff with Council Member Joscelyn Gardner, are already putting arrangements into place.

We hope that you, the members will support us in this exciting event. It is an excellent opportunity for early Christmas shopping - unique items all

locally made with a wide range of prices to suit every pocket. Music will set the tone and tasty refreshments will be available.

The date is Saturday December 3rd, from 12 noon to 6.00 p.m. Put it on your calendar and see you there!





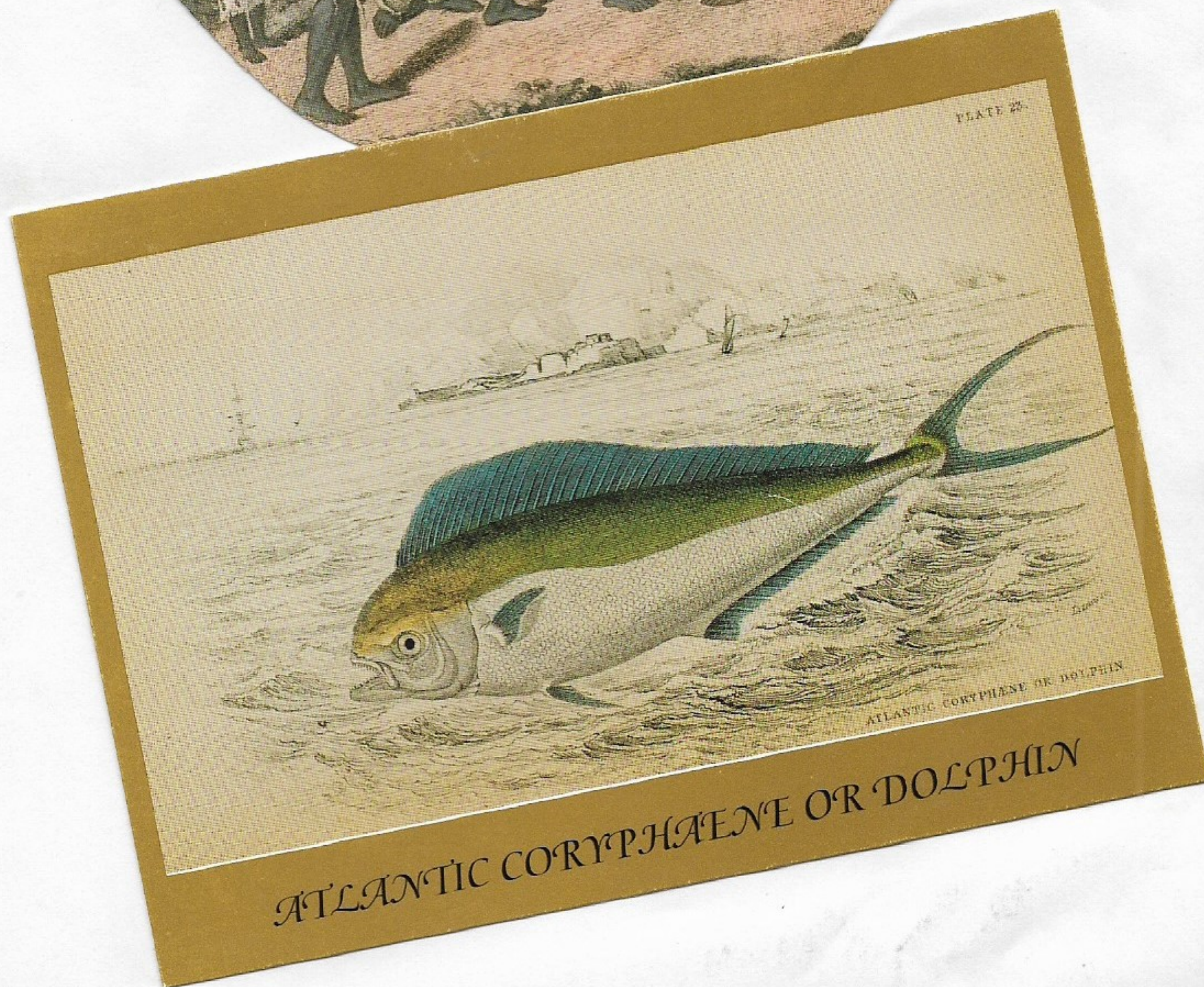
## SHOP TALK

A very special selection of three images was chosen by the Museum for our Christmas cards for 1994. Sir William Jardine's handcoloured print of 'The Dolphin' follows the popular Flying Fish printed two years ago. It has been reduced to a smaller format in response to members' needs for a smaller card costing less to mail overseas.

The Museum was fortunate to receive 'The Garrison' as part of the late Lady Chandler's Bequest. This watercolour is a wonderful commentary on the social conditions of the period. Finally 'A Cudgelling Match in the West Indies' is an excellent historical documentation of the origins of sticklicking in the 18th century by Agostino Brunias. Each card is a special reminder of our exceptional culture.

The Museum's partnership with the private sector is developing interesting and new directions. In conjunction with Cave Shepherd and Company Limited the Museum has licensed the development of an exclusive line of top quality ceramic mugs and bells featuring designs based on the Museum's collections. A wonderful gift for anyone. Finally a new T-shirt with an environmental theme has been produced. The colourful leaf design has already captured lots of interest.

For those of you interested in the visual arts a limited number of the excellent 'Carib Art' catalogue is now in stock. Finally, the Shop anticipates receiving later in the year a small supply of art and museum diaries and other stationery from overseas. Please let Mrs. Anita King (Shop Manager) know of your interest so that your order can be filled.



Card 1 Detail from "A Cudgelling (Sticklicking) Match In The West Indies".  
Lithographic print by Agostino Brunias, c. 1779.

Card 2 "Atlantic Coryphaene Or Dolphin".  
Handcoloured print by Sir William Jardine, c. 1845.



## JOURNALS

The word is out! The new 1993 Journal has reached our shores, after a long delay from our Jamaican publishers. It is well worth the delay with an attractive new colour cover and many long anticipated articles covering archaeology, education development, Barbados' bird population, agriculture and literature.

They will be circulated to members as soon as they arrive at the Museum. The 1994 special issue of the Journal is already in the pipeline but unfortunately will not be with us until early next year.

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## THE END OF THE ALPHABET

It was with some sadness that we dismantled "M is for Museum: an Artifact Alphabet" in August. This colourful, family-friendly exhibit gave us two youngsters' galleries for school and summer programmes.

M was also the scene of some innovative literacy programming. On June 25, a dozen adult literacy tutors met for a workshop on the meanings of literacy. Developed and presented by Education Curator Wendy Donawa, the workshop offered ways to use exhibits (rather than an esteem-threatening classroom) for adults without literacy skills.

The exhibit was also well used by visiting families, schools, clubs and community groups. Its easy reading level, hands-on and multi-sensory approach, dress-ups, toys and quizzes turned all that history into play.

And a surprising number of adults forgot their dignity and could be found running the "roller" up and down the gallery!

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## JUNIOR CURATORS: A JUGGLING ACT

Energic, cheerful and indefatigable, our team of Junior Curators stormed their way through 56 groups, over 2000 visitors, on this summer's Tour Programme.

Between tours, they helped with research, documentation and conservation. They provided the muscle for a new archaeology storage plan, produced fliers and material for the next term's School Programme, and created a graphic "image bank" for the Museum.

The Junior Curators Programme provides summer internships for young adults with heritage interests. They are trained as tour guides, and assist in various curatorial tasks.

Their varied skills and personalities provide invaluable assistance to the Museum. Sheila Grazettes' fluency in French enabled our Francophone visitors (300 this summer) to enjoy their museum tours in their own language. Sheila is leaving for Corsica in September, to teach English. Malissa Porter, a gifted young teacher, used her administrative skills to organize the hectic tour schedule; she will return to teaching next term. Organized and competent, Catherine Williams will return to her law studies. Erica Hewitt's curatorial interest were invaluable in exhibit maintenance. Two newcomers joined us: Steve Greenidge was a popular tour guide; he has been offered a place at the Ontario College of Art. Maria Khan, who assisted with the Library documentation, returns to her studies at Cave Hill.

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE

This exercise is designed to afford Museum Staff the opportunity to practice in the action to be taken before the arrival of a hurricane, as well as measures to be taken during a hurricane or in the aftermath of any such disaster.

This year, the exercise took place on Friday 1 July, and Saturday 2 July 1994. All members of staff who were on the island turned up at 8.00 o'clock in the morning and proceeded to report to their COR Team Leaders. The onerous task of dismantling, wrapping and boxing began with much enthusiasm. Great care was taken with fragile and breakable objects under the watchful eyes of the Curators.

We were pleased that CBC took time to record our activities for the benefit of the local community. Doors and windows were battened down and shutters put in place. The exercise was completed in six hours. It was particularly gratifying for the staff when three Members of Council arrived to observe what was going on. To Ms. Jill Sheppard, Mr. Erskine Rose and Lt. Col. McIntosh we say thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule to show us your care.

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## STAFF TOUR

On Saturday May 28th, 1994 the staff of the Museum gathered in the Lower Courtyard, eagerly anticipating the cultural tour that was organised for them. After being briefed by the Director who alas could not accompany the team, they all trooped abroad the



BARTIC airconditioned coach to the first stop, Folkestone Visitor Centre. Curator of Natural History Mrs Philippa King, who worked with the National Conservation Commission in developing the Centre, briefed the group shortly before their arrival and generally explained other points of interest about the Centre and the Folkestone Marine Park. It was without doubt a most fascinating experience.

From Folkestone they proceeded to the Barbados Wildlife Reserve and Grenade Hall Signal Station. All were surprised by the different types of animals and the freedom they enjoyed.

The tour continued with a visit to Andromeda Botanical Gardens. Although Barbados was in the middle of a drought, there was still plenty to see and Dr. Sean Carrington, willingly agreed to show and explain the peculiarities of some of the more rare flora.

By this time, everybody was beginning to feel the pangs of hunger, so it was to Bonita's Restaurant we all retired for a bit of lunch. It was a most interesting, enjoyable and educational day. Special thanks to the Barbados National Trust, National Conservation Commission and Dr. Jean Baulu, of Barbados Wildlife Reserve for making this inaugural tour such a success.

### SUMMER PROGRAMMES

During July, and leading up to Kadooment, our Summer Programme comprised a lively trio of Sunday Open Houses, with entertainment, refreshments, and a special emphasis on families.

Admission was by donation, which

encouraged attendance by a wide spectrum of the community, and by many first-time visitors. Despite competition from Cropover events, and despite a slow start, a festive air prevailed.

July 10 offered **Steel and Song**, the St. Lucy Secondary School Steel Orchestra, and the Allegro folksingers. July 17 brought **Stilts and Stories** with storyteller Paula Taylor, stiltmen and more pan. On the third Sunday, July 24, **Song and Dance** was packed with visitors, who enjoyed the children of the Barbados Dance Theatre, and the fine singing of Allegro. The same afternoon, the Women's Corona Society presented the Museum with a generous donation of \$500.00.

### VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

Following the departure of a well-beloved library volunteer, Mrs. Christine Howard, Librarian Betty Shannon is desperately in need of a new volunteer typist to help with part-time services in answering research requests.

Beryl Birch, the volunteer devotedly working on the Vertical File Records, could also use an able assistant in this area. Any bright, eager bodies interested in helping in either of these areas please contact the Librarian.

In addition the Museum is urgently in need of assistance in the area of marketing and public relations. Someone with these skills, willing to work perhaps one or two half days a week on an ongoing basis would be an asset. Interested persons should contact Curator Philippa King in this regard.

N.B. The Library is overloaded with requests for photocopied material in answer to numerous enquiries. Any small photocopier readily available gratis would be gratefully accepted with

profuse thanks. We look forward to hearing from our members.

The Library will be closed from November 1st to November 30th, 1994.

### MEMBERSHIP

The Barbados Museum is pleased to welcome the following new members to our Society:

#### ANNUAL

Countess Carla Cavalli  
Mrs. Ada Fortina  
Mrs. Lynne Godson  
Count Theo Rossi d'Montelera  
Mr. Martin Maestas  
Mr. Kevin Trevor Talma  
Mr. Michael Whittaker

#### JUNIOR

Miss Gina Butler  
Miss Nina Godson  
Miss Karen Hinds  
Mr. Tyler Stephany

#### FIRM & COMPANY

Maycock Associates Inc.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

This is a gentle reminder to those Museum members who have not sent in their subscriptions for 1994:

We need your support now!



## 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

Royston Sargeant

Rudolph Beckles

## M is for *MUSEUM*

**M**useums are not storerooms full,  
cobwebbed draped and dusty;

**U**tilitarian ways of educating both  
the old and young.

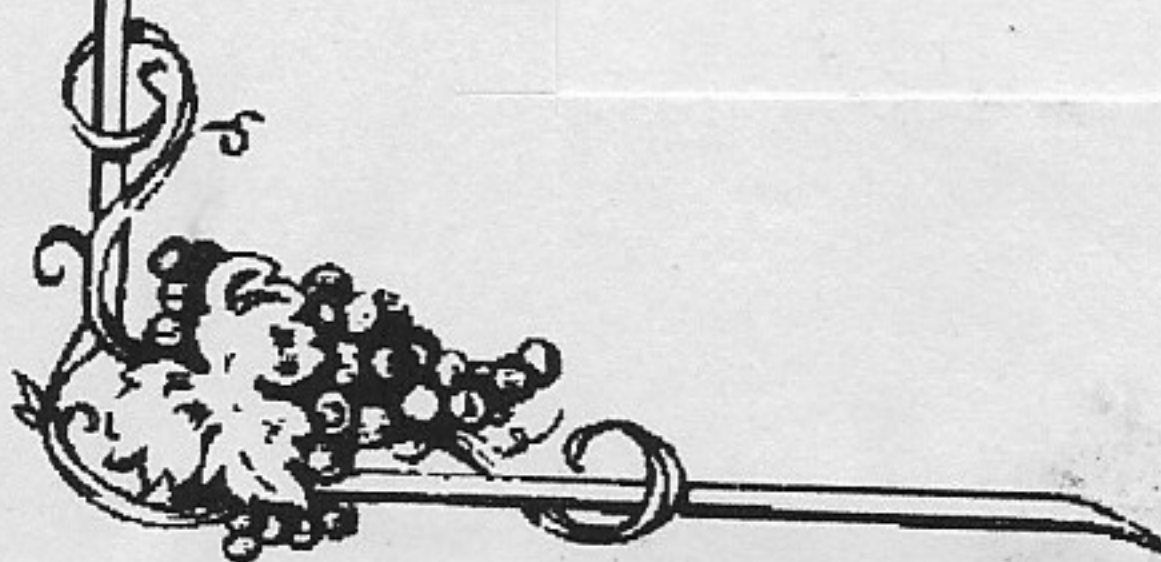
**S**omehow we seem to overlook and  
ne'er will see that

**E**ach and every diorama, artifact  
or gallery will

**U**plift and carry you down a special sort of

**M**emory land of future, past and present,

**S**uperbly reminiscent of our heritage.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 25 - Oct 7th	The Barbados Museum presents the Preview of Works for the Second Biennale of Painting to be held in Santo Domingo in 1994.	Exhibition Gallery
October 3rd	Museum Closed	United Nations Day
October 14th - November 11th	Environmental Exhibition : Basic Information for Effective Public Participation in Land Use Planning in Barbados.	Exhibition Gallery
November 1st-30th	Library Closed	
November 30th	Museum Closed	Independence Day
December 3rd 12.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.	Fine Craft Festival	
December 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th	Museum Closed	Christmas Holiday
January 1st	Museum Closed	New Year's Day
Thursday 7:00 pm (ongoing)	<b>Now Museum. Now you Don't -</b> Murder Mystery. Dinner, show, drinks, transport - \$80.00. Show and drinks only - \$40. Reservations : 420-3409 or 230-2016.	Museum Courtyard



