

NEWSLETTER

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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.

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Director of the Museum
Ms. Alistandra Cummins

RE-INTERPRETING EXHIBITS

Religion and Education

Lacking the massive funding needed for start-from-stratch exhibits, the Museum sometimes upgrades existing displays. Renewed research and the re-interpretation of available artifacts can lead to new insights.

This approach has led to the re-design of the Religion and Education exhibits in the Jubilee Gallery.

Religion has been expanded to consider the historical and political influences that have shaped Barbados' many (over 100!) religious groups. The exhibit also stresses contemporary - and often contradictory - aspects of the 20th century religious scene: ecumenism, multiculturalism, Caribbean consciousness and fundamentalism.

A number of unusual historical photographs and modern graphics provide points of interest, while an 18th century church pew and a 20th century street-preacher's lectern, previously in storage, are now on display.

The themes of Religion and Education have been developed together because they have historically been so intertwined. Most pre-emancipation and post-emancipation education was religious education. Most schools were administered by religious bodies, who retained their influence well into the 20th century.

Education includes documents and

school texts that reflect the values and attitudes of their times.

The generous assistance of several individuals deserves acknowledgement. Ms. Dupre of the Caribbean Council of Churches was most helpful with research sources. Rukaeya Pandor assisted with research, graphics and contacts in the Muslim and Hindu communities. Dr. Deo Sharma contributed a print of the Hindu trinity, and Ronnie Carrington donated two fine photographs of the Spiritual Baptists. Artists Francis Griffith and Ras Ishi Butcher allowed reproduction of their art.



Illustrations from Captain J.O. Cutteridge's
Nelsons West Indian Readers

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

Archaeology buffs have the opportunity to join the Barbados Archaeology Survey conducted by the Barbados Museum in conjunction with the University of London. In their investigation this year, Dr. Peter Drewett and his team are conducting excavations at Silver Sands and Welches. The digs started on 13 June and continue until 15 July. Contact Dr. Drewett at 420-3540 or drop by the sites from 6 a.m. to 12 noon, Tuesday to Saturday.

There is an important site at Silver Sands. Occupied between about 1000-1400 AD, the site contains house structures, human and dog burials and a large midden of pottery and shell debris. Welches is a Saladoid site. (c.200-600 AD).

Be on the look out for work to start at Codrington College around the middle of July under the direction of Professor Tom Loftfield.

DO YOU KNOW?

We have been given three pairs of light wooden clubs and barbells, used in a girls' school in the 1920's. They were used in physical education, rhythmic displays and the like.

Do any readers remember using them in school, or teaching with them? We would be grateful for any anecdotes, information or photos you'd like to share. Telephone the Director, Ms. Cummins at 427-0201 or 436-1956.

STAFF CHANGES

After almost ten (10) years of

sterling service Curator of Education, Wendy Donawa, is leaving our service to pursue full time her goals in academic work - she is working towards her PhD in Museum Education. Sadly, an initial trial of working part time and sustaining the level of enquiry necessary for doctoral work became a heavy burden and Wendy was forced to choose.

Since 1986 Wendy has breathed new life into the museum's relationship with schools. She quickly structured the Museum's education programme into a viable and dynamic resource for the educational community. She initiated a formal volunteer policy and programme, generating new interest amongst the community in supporting all types of behind-the-scenes activities.

A major contribution to the Museum's development was her creation of the docent corps and the design of their vigorous training programme which inevitably raised the standards of schools tours to new heights. Equally important was the establishment of the Junior Curator's programme introducing young Barbadians to the possibilities of a museum career and creating a target work force so desperately needed to support curatorial activities.

Wendy has contributed in every sphere of museum life, from advising on in-house training, to assisting with the creation of new policies and guidelines for operations, to the initial conceptualization of the Museum's annual Fine Craft Festival. What many regard as her crowning achievement however, was installation of the Kidd Gallery for Children, which raised museum exhibition designs (even at the regional level) to new heights. She will be sorely missed. During a recent ceremony at the Museum, President Dr. Trevor Carmichael inducted both Mrs. Donawa and her long serving docent emeritus Mrs. Daisy Frost as

Honorary Members in recognition of their outstanding service to the Museum.

New faces at the Museum include Ms. Melva Yarde the Executive Officer who started work with us on June 1. Ms. Yarde brings with her many years experience in financial and personnel management in the private sector. Ms. Yarde is already hard at work untangling the anomalies and deficiencies in our accounting system. Her brisk approach and knowledge of labour conditions brings an invigorating freshness to the Museum's administration system.

Also joining the staff recently is Technician Stephen Layne. Stephen has become familiar with the museum after several years of relieving staff while on holiday. He has already been hard at work, pursuing the maintenance of our building, exhibits and furnishings; a mammoth task, but Stephen approaches it all with calm efficiency and a cheerful personality.

We welcome them both to the Museum.

GREENLAND UPDATE

Since our last newsletter, where we expressed various concerns regarding the proposed siting of a landfill at Greenland, St. Andrew, a representative of the Museum was invited to sit on the Steering Committee on the Environmental Impact Assessment for Solid Waste Management. This Committee has the opportunity to evaluate reports on the progress of work on the EIA and make recommendations.

In addition, Curator of Natural History, Philippa King and archaeologist, Dr. Peter Drewett of the University College London have been investigating the designated area, and have been in contact with Dr. Bruce Thompson of Stanley Associates Engineering Ltd, who are conducting the EIA. Dr. Drewett has also examined bore hole profiles obtained from the site. Their findings have been submitted to the Ministry of Health and the Environment.

We will keep you informed of developments in this issue.

Daisy Frost

DOCENT OF THE DECADE

by Wendy Donawa

One of the very nicest and most satisfying of my final tasks has been to pay tribute to Daisy Frost. Daisy is one of the original small band of docents who embarked on the Museum's educational crusade nine years ago. From those early stages of outreach to schools, of necessity experimental, we have since developed our own training programs and curriculum. With Daisy in the vanguard, and as the decade nears its end, the docents have given interpretive tours to an astonishing total of over 40,000 school and community visitors.

And throughout all our trials and triumphs, Daisy has in her teaching combined creativity and critical thinking. Her tours are an imaginative discovery of the past that has made us what we are in the present.

From the very beginning, we strove to increase access to the Museum, not just in numbers, but in the variety of visitors. Daisy supported

all efforts to involve those with special needs, helping to develop appropriate material and activities for each group. She attended signing classes so that she could interpret the Museum in sign for hearing-impaired visitors, and helped develop enrichment modules for slow learners.

She has a particular affection for working with the elderly, and with those people often considered marginal in society. Her warmth and enthusiasm are always reflected in the pleasure and responsiveness of her visitors.

Daisy's tours never remain static, but grow as she acquires some new information or some new presentation technique. Who but Daisy would introduce the Post-emancipation tour by singing "Lick an' lock-up done wid"?

As Docent Coordinator over the last few years, she has scheduled schools and tours, and recruited new docents. She has led "the troops" by example that has kept morale and standards high, and has provided a lot of fun and highjinks. Under Daisy, the docents became an independent fundraising force; over a 2-year period, they raised funds for 100 comfortable chairs for the Museum's lectures and special events.

On June 7th, Staff, Docents and Council gathered to pay tribute to Daisy (unknown to her!). Some of the original 1987 docents returned for the occasion, and we smuggled her husband in. I had the opportunity to thank her from the heart, and the Museum had the opportunity to honour her distinguished service. An "honour guard" of costumed children, staff and docents led Daisy to the Childrens' Gallery wall, and unveiled a permanent plaque proclaiming:

Docent Emeritus
1995 Daisy Frost

The tribute was brought to a finale by President Dr. Trevor Carmichael, who bestowed Honorary Membership on Daisy Frost.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Joint Annual

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Nordin
Andrew and Margaret Tainsh

Annual

Mr. Michael P.H. Alkins
Mrs. Anne Hersh
Mrs. P. Jenkins
Mr. Calvin Mayers
Mr. Elton Elombe Mottley
Miss Joan Murrell
Mr. Frederick Smith
Mr. George A. Smith
Mrs. Sharyn Thompson
Mr. Hamish Watson

Junior

Mr. Ryan Charles
Miss Charmaine Green-Forde
Miss Claire Green-Forde
Mr. Shane Moore
Mr. Nicholas Payne
Miss Janelle Walcott-Small
Mr. Andre Vincent Wilkinson

Student

Miss Nicola Daum Alleyne
Mr. Ryan DeGale
Miss Erica Edghill
Miss Cecily Forde
Mr. Kristopher Kong

MUSEUM STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Director
Alissandra Cummins

Executive Officer
Melva Yarde

Special Events Manager
Christopher Chandler

Shop Manager
Anita King

Administrative Assistant
Marcia Griffith

Executive Secretary
Angela Boyce

CURATORS

Curator (Art & History)
Lesley Whatley

Curator (Natural History)
Philippa King

LIBRARY

Librarian
Betty Shannon

TECHNICAL STAFF

Shawn Rowe
Reginald Riley
Pauline Stuart
Merna Bryan

RECEPTION & SALES

Sylvia Charles-Dolcy
Michelle Durant
Hester St. Rose

SECURITY

Rudolph Beckles
Beresford Nurse
Royston Sargeant
Grantley Yarde

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ORIENTATION SEMINAR

by Lesley Whatley

Over 60 representatives from virtually all the departments of the public service, convened for a one-day seminar organised by CERO (Central Emergency Relief Organisation). Some of us like myself, were not from the public sector, for example there were participants from industry and the communications field.

Ms. Judy Thomas, CERO's Supervisor of Emergency Services, emphasized in her presentation, that the issue is pointless, if decision-makers do not feel compelled to adopt specific strategies to deal with disaster preparedness or response.

She felt that generally the public's expectations of CERO's functions and capabilities stretch beyond its primary role of coordinating relief support. CERO, and its regional counter-part CDERA, are not designed or equipped to implement organisational plans. Rather, it is up to the departments to affect their own. Therefore the key points were to:-

- a. Develop and implement a plan which addresses a spectrum of possibilities.
- b. Train staff and identify resources - both in-house and externally.
- c. Involve representatives from the essential services such as the Police, and Fire Department in the planning process.

Each participant received a kit which included an outline of a Model Plan, hurricane hints and terminology, and a survival pamphlet for householders.

I gathered through discussions with

other participants, that with little evidence of a national consciousness, or effective directives, an "it can't happen to us" attitude is the norm.

It is hard to say what the response will be, however I could not help coming away from the workshop with a positive feeling; had I not been delegated to attend, any one of the museum's staff could have ably represented this institution.

ASSISTANCE TO CODRINGTON COLLEGE

This year Codrington College celebrates its 250th anniversary. As part of the activities there will be an exhibition highlighting the College's significance from three perspectives - as a 17th century sugar plantation, as an educational facility in 18th century Barbados, and thirdly, as a regional theological College and foundation stone for teacher training in the first half of this century.

The Museum has been asked to assist with the exhibition and Curator Lesley Whatley will be involved in developing it. She will be working in conjunction with the Principal, Canon Titus, Ms. Elizabeth Watson, Coordinator, and a team of friends of the college.

PUTTING US ON THE MAP

From our experience, there is quite a high demand from people wanting to peruse our collection of West Indian maps and plans which date back to the mid 17th century.

Those keen on accessing the collection have a wide variety of interests and needs. There could be for example, a town planner or

real estate agent, a historian or someone tracing geneologies, a landowner, preservationist, geologist, author or architect.

Since the commendable efforts of past Librarian Mr. E.C. Queree who meticulously documented the map collection into loose-leaf binders, there hadn't been a comprehensive updated list or catalogue available to the public.

Because of this, the History Curator is currently working to complete an initial list of basic information by supplying the date, "working" title, maker, publisher and accession number of each item.

The emphasis of the collection is quite naturally, Barbados. Over 100 island maps have been counted. To these will be added - sites on the island, estate plans, architectural and engineering plans and sketches, facsimilies, photostats and an atlas or two.

There will also be historical maps of other Caribbean territories, the Americas, the English colonies in North America and West Africa, as well as World maps.

Compiling this list is an initial stage in the move towards computerization of the museum's collections management system. Therefore, the list will represent some, (but not all) of the information which eventually will be accessible to the public from a collections database.

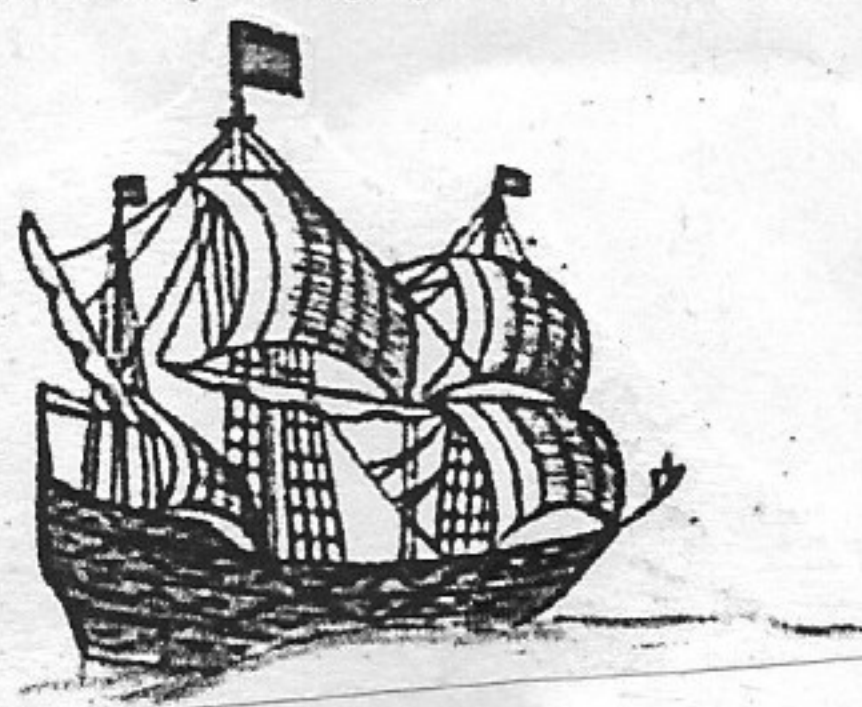
In Europe of the 15th century, maps took on an increasing importance as news of expeditions to Asia and America, and the potential of their wealth, led to the development of more scientific and systematic methods of both

navigation and cartography.



In early map-making before this period, the master craftsman drew, engraved, printed, coloured and sold his own maps from his own shop.

Later apprentices were employed to do the less important work, and surpluses were sold to other dealers, thus starting the wholesale trade - a business largely controlled by booksellers who also developed and financed early map publications.



Increased output led to a division of labour where engraving, printing and colouring developed into separate crafts. It also altered the status of the master craftsmen from self-employed artisans, to that of employees under the pay and power of the bookseller or publisher.

WANTED!

Codrington College memorabilia to borrow! Any objects or items in good condition which were used by past students of Codrington College or the Rawle Institute.

Contact Canon Noel Titus at 433-1274.

LIBRARY NEWS

Although the Library is normally closed on Saturdays, it was open on Saturday May 20th to celebrate International Museums Day with the rest of the Museum. During our Open Day, visitors were impressed with the Rare Book collection.

The Library is still awaiting its promised photocopier. Museum Volunteer, Ms. Sheila Belgrave is currently working on corrections for the Name Index.

MUSEUM FUNDRAISER

A Museum Fundraiser was held on Saturday June 10th. This was a play organised by "Trouble in Paradise" whose coordinator Mr. Brian Smith donated the full proceedings to the Barbados Museum.

We would like to say a big "thank you" to Mr. Smith, Sade Leon-Slinger, Philip Eno, Andrew McKenzie and the Technical and Stage Production crew of Trouble in Paradise.

Island Inn Hotel provided tasty snacks for the patrons on the evening.

Eighty-five persons attended. We were sorry however, that more of our museum members did not support us in this venture as it was a good evening in aid of a worthwhile cause. To those members who attended, thank you for your support, and for those who did not, we look forward to your support next time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date and Time	Event	Location
21st Jul - 14th Aug	Ras Akyem Exhibition	Temporary Exhibition Gallery
7th Aug	Museum Closed. Kadooment Day.	
18th Aug	Photography Exhibition	Temporary Exhibition Gallery
21st Sep - 7th Oct	Philatelic Exhibition	Temporary Exhibition Gallery