

Barbados Museum & Historical Society



NEWSLETTER

NO: 54 and 55

4TH QUARTER 95 & 1ST QUARTER 96

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.

COUNCIL

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EX-OFFICIO

Director of the Museum

Ms. Alissandra Cummins

Tribute to Her Excellency, Dame R. Nita Barrow, GCMG, DA Governor General of Barbados

The Council and Staff of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society join with all Barbadians and Caribbean people to mourn the passing of Her Excellency, The Governor General, Dame Ruth Nita Barrow.

In her capacity as Governor General, Dame Nita enhanced Barbados' reputation within the International Community, and ennobled an already sterling reputation for fairness, grace, intelligence and compassion. Barbados and all Barbadians will share this great loss for many years to come.

As Patron of our Society, Dame Nita was always ready to offer her generous support to ensure

the success of every function. She inevitably exhibited a lively curiosity in the arts, craft and other activities which she graced with her presence, and expressed warm encouragement for continued success to many young artists.

The Society was most fortunate to welcome the Governor General to several functions here at the Museum. More recently she was an enthusiastic connoisseur at a December Exhibition Opening and an active participant at our 'Museum Alive' programme. For those who joined us we experienced once again that joyous warmth and humanity which is especially significant at this time of year.

The Museum offers its deepest sympathies to the Barrow family, the Government and the people of Barbados. We all share equally in the tragic loss.



Her Excellency Dame Nita Barrow attending 'Follow the Star' at the Barbados Museum.

SOLVING A MYSTERY

Mr. Earl W. Adam of Ontario, Canada writes:

This unusual clock is likely close to 200 years old, and was given to me by my father-in-Law about 20 years ago. On the face of the clock is the inscription "David Bridges Barbadoes." The clock has no hour hand. The minute hand points to inscribed minutes around the perimeter of its 12 inch silver face. A separate second hand rotates inside a 3 inch circle on the clock face. They are shown in a small crescent shaped cutout on the clock face. The hours are in roman numerals. It has a brass movement, and a 3 foot wooden pendulum with a 4 inch round brass and lead weight. A key winds a cable on a spool for the single 2 lb brass drive weight. The clock has no chimes. Each winding lasts about a week and it keeps perfect time.

The story as I know it, is that this clock was a gift to a banker in Montreal who's last name was likely Penfold. The gift was in thanks for the banker looking after the affairs of a business man from the Barbados. That business man was visiting Montreal at that time, approx 200 years ago, I don't know if the gift giver's name was "David Bridges" or if that's the name of the clock maker.

All past generations of the Penfold family that could help me with any further details about this clock have passed on. I hope someone you know can shed some light on this mystery.

The Museum Library would be delighted to hear from anyone who could assist in their research.

EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY AILEEN HAMILTON

Aileen Laurie Hamilton is now recognised as a Barbadian Pioneer Artists who played a formative role in the early development of Barbadian art. Following her studies at the Royal College of Art in the early 1930's, the young artist returned to Barbados to contribute to the emerging art scene exhibiting and teaching for many years.

Hamilton is most closely associated with Golde White, both of whom focussed on the surrounding landscape and people as their primary subjects.

Aileen Hamilton's contribution has been poorly documented. It is therefore particularly fortunate that the Barbados Museum has benefitted from a bequest of hundreds of works by this artist, as well as some of her personal papers.

A selection from this collection of works will form the basis of this proposed exhibition. Through our previously limited acquaintance with the work of Aileen Hamilton, this artist may seem conservative by today's standards. However, a more comprehensive examination reveals a creative and explorative woman. Hamilton experimented in many media including painting, ceramics and numerous printing processes. And while most of

her works are realistic representations, others indicate an interest in cubism and abstraction.

Her literary endeavours complement this view and provide an additional insight into her creative interests and pursuits.

This retrospective exhibition of the work of Aileen Hamilton is proposed for 1996 and will be accompanied by a documentary catalogue. **Guest Curator Allison Thompson is seeking assistance in documenting any more detailed information on the artist's life and work. The Museum is also seeking sponsorship support for this exhibition. Please contact us if you wish to offer your support in either area.**



GROUP SHOW IN MARCH

Last year, the Barbados Industrial Development Corporation as part of a continuing thrust to promote Barbadian art, organised a group show and sent it to Raleigh, North Carolina. It was the third such effort by the statutory corporation which is responsible for industrial development and export promotion for the island.

The group of artists whose work went overseas recently held an exhibition at the Barbados Museum in March, from the 2nd until the 29th. Most of the participating artists are quite well known on the local scene include Arlette St. Hill, Nick Whittle, Jean Blades, Joyce Daniel, Darla Trotman, Helen Carnegie, Joscelyn Gardner, Annalee Davis and Walter Bailey. Visitors found it interesting to see the diversity of subject matter, styles, media and philosophies which are expressed in the work of this talented, creative group.

ARCHAEOLOGY AT NEWTON

For the second year, Prof. Robert Corruccini, Biological anthropologist at Southern Illinois University, his wife Carol Morrow, an archaeologist and Syracuse University archaeology doctoral student Ray Pasquariello worked at the Newton Plantation burial ground. They were probing for a large deposit of reburied postcranial bones that had originally been excavated in 1971-73, but reinterred. The bones had been reburied in one of several concentrated pits owing to what was, at the time, a failure to recognize the

scientific potential of such bones in reconstructing the stresses and diseases that people of African ancestry were subject to during the years of plantation slavery (in this case, 1660-1820).

This year they started by reconstructing the grid system used to guide excavation of squares in 1973. They then used the grid to pinpoint what should have been the largest excavated parts from earlier years, which they now had reason to believe were the areas of the reburials (based on maps and recollections of two archaeologists involved in 1971-73 - the original field note documentation of activities has not been recovered!).

Their inference for likely locations of these materials proved wrong - the test squares were undisturbed soil. At this point they believe the published map of the area is inaccurate regarding the original archaeological activities at this important and unique site. At this point they could have become quite discouraged but for the sudden, and improbable news that they had been awarded a grant to pursue geophysical mapping of the site, and the even more improbable success of John Sexton, Southern Illinois University colleague, his technician Harvey Henson and a graduate student in obtaining airline seats and hotel accommodations at such short notice, during the tourist season in Barbados! They arrived January 3 and have completed their exercise in trying to locate subsurface objects and disturbed soil, (such as would indicate burials and old archaeological activities), from

the magnetic properties underlying the soil surface.

The technique of magnetometry involves reading the magnetic signature at regular intervals along the surface, and inferring from anomalies that soil turnover or buried objects lie underneath. The technique has already been very successfully employed at Seville Plantation site in Jamaica to find old house outlines and burials. Already the preliminary results appear to be very promising. The team is very excited about the potential of this work to explain the pattern of usage at Newton Plantation cemetery, and areas of special potential for future archaeological exploration.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Librarian is indebted to volunteer staff who assisted in the Craft Fair on Saturday, December 2, 1995. This effort produced over \$400.00. The Library wishes to thank all those who supported the stall and to the private donor who donated the books. The remainder of the books will be sold at a later date.

Librarian Betty Shannon attended a very enlightening conference on Copyright sponsored by the Canadian Museums Association and the Royal Ontario Museum. Some of the topics included Intellectual Property Laws, Moral Rights (which differ from copyright), Employee Rights, Trademarks, Patents and Licensing agreements. The seminars also dealt with possible changes to copyright law, and how museums can

exploit copyright on their collections for financial purposes.

Leading the seminars were some of Canada's foremost copyright lawyers as well as other professionals.

The Library sold the remaining of their donated books at the Hometown Festival, February 24, 1996. We are asking members to donate more paperback books so we can sell them on May 18, International Museums Day.

Mrs Harriet Burke, our volunteer, will be leaving us shortly to return to the United States. We shall miss her, and are asking for volunteers who could help us with typing one day a week.

Condolences to Mrs Beryl Birch, another of our volunteers, whose husband Mr. Creighton Birch died on February 27, 1996.

NEW ACQUISITIONS



While walking through a book fair last year our kind donor Mr. Lennox Honychurch came across this exciting discovery, a late 19th century photograph album misattributed to

Jamaica! In fact the sixty plus sepia toned prints were immediately familiar to him as the Barbadian landscape.

Amongst the images preserved herein are included the splendid facade and back view of the Marine Hotel, tea parties at the seaside, horses, dogs and black belly sheep, groups of eager Barbadian children enthralled by tricals, including some of the earliest images we have of stilt walkers and tuk bands!

Throughout the rich and varied images presented in the album are remembrances of a Barbadian family - shown here at home, at play, at the seaside and at the railway. We are asking your help to identify these people and their environment, because the value of such pictures lies in their validation of the human experience. We hope you can help us solve this exciting puzzle from the examples shown. If so, please call the curatorial staff and help make the pieces fall into place!

BMHS JOURNAL BLUES

Once again we must offer profuse apologies for the long delay experienced in the production and publication of the next issue of our Journal, volume XIII for 1994-95. This volume is to be combined for the last 2 years as it is a rather larger than normal issue, and is to commemorate our 60th anniversary. Long delays in receiving some commissioned articles have resulted in the present backlog of work. However we are hopeful of receiving this issue within the near future.

THE BMHS NEWS

FINE CRAFT EXHIBIT AT THE HOLETOWN MUSEUM

Following on from the success of December's Fine Craft Festival the Museum was proud to present a special show of the work of some of the island's leading craft people.

On display from the 19th February were a wide range of items in a blend of media including metal, ceramics, woodwork, and textiles. Unique, one of a kind pieces took centre stage amongst a broader grouping of inexpensive, saleable items. Several members and friends joined us for this enriching experience during this year's Hometown Festival, and made the event both profitable and enjoyable!

SHOP NEWS

Recently arrived in the Museum Shop is the publication of a fully-illustrated catalogue to accompany the exhibition of "*Caribbean Visions: Contemporary Painting and Sculpture*". Ninety-two paintings and sculpture by 56 artists provides an extensive overview of the art of Barbados, the Cayman Islands, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, St. Vincent, and Trinidad and Tobago.

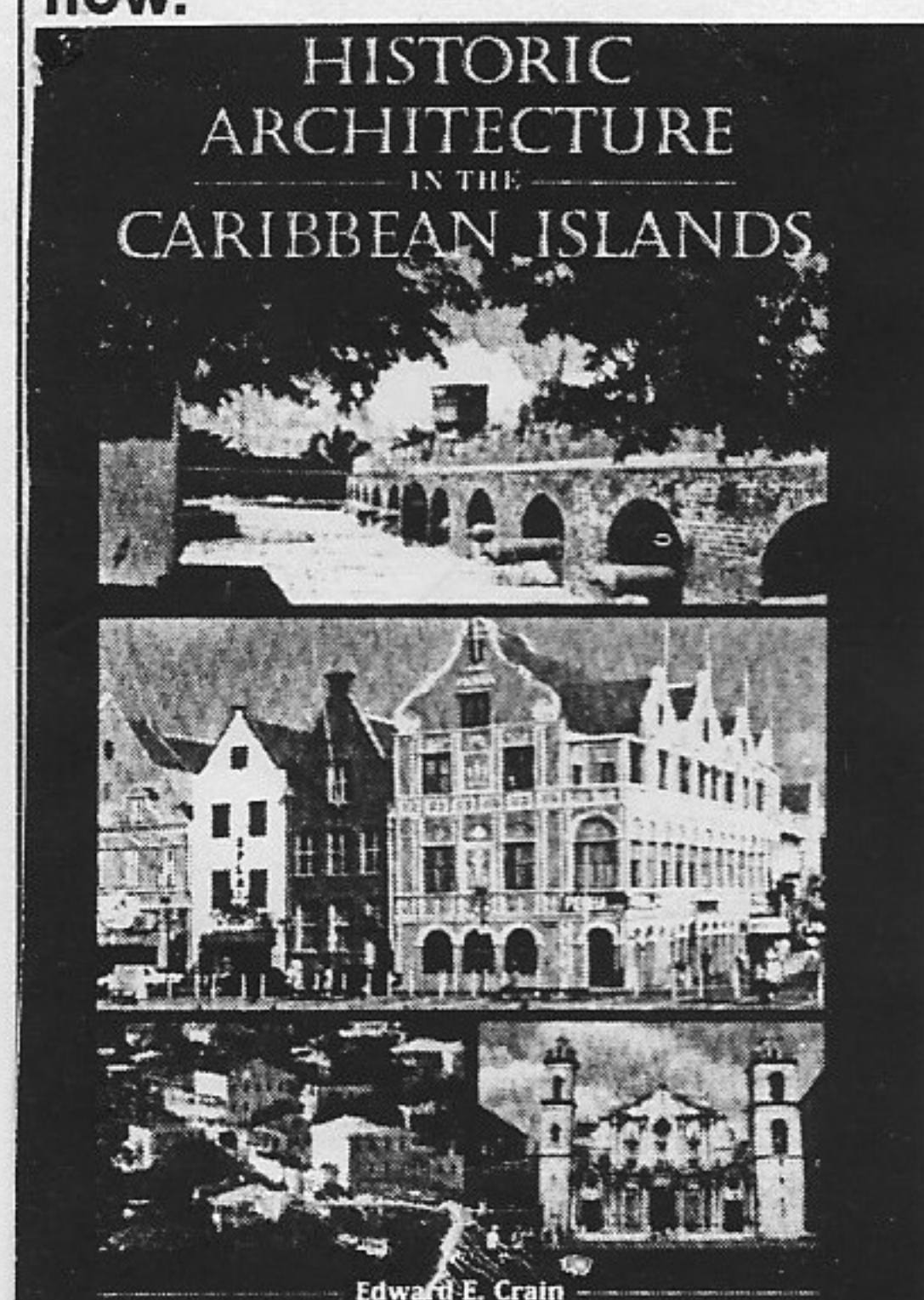
Written by a team of international Caribbean scholars, this publication is designed to provide scholars and the general public with extensive information on various aspects of contemporary Caribbean art, and the diversity of the Caribbean consciousness.

The catalogue scholarship is led by Dr. Samella Lewis, an internationally recognised scholar in the art of the Caribbean and Africa, and Guest Curator for this exhibition. The publication features individual artists biographies, statements on their stylistic inspiration, and full-color illustrations of each of the ninety-two paintings and sculptures. **This catalogue is available at \$65.00 BDS from the Museum's Shop.**

Also due to arrive shortly: **"Historic Architecture in the Caribbean Islands", by Edward E. Crain**. For those who are explorers and are curious to know more about the culture of the Caribbean, this book is a useful guide to the significant structures on each island." - (Thomas S. Marvel, architect, Puerto Rico).

Abundantly illustrated with hundreds of black-and-white and color photographs, this book records the rich architecture of the sixteen Caribbean islands, showing in detail structures with arresting visual appeal and lasting historic value.

Limited stock will be available, so order your copy now.



MUSEUM FINE CRAFT FESTIVAL

The success of 1995 Fine Craft Festival is testament to the fact that the annual festival has evolved into a christmas shopper's mecca for fine craft items.

The forty-five participating craftspeople conducted brisk business with over 1000 patrons grossing sales of almost \$30,000.

The Library's book stall and Museum Shop also did very well, with specially priced items moving swiftly.

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society would like to thank profusely all artists, volunteers, members and friends who helped make this event a success.

VOLUNTEER REPORT

The staff and Council of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society would like to thank all of the volunteers for their commitment and hard work during 1995.

The Education Officer would like to specially thank the docents who have given their help and support to the Museum's educational programmes and activities.

During the last quarter this dedicated group gave tours to thirty-seven school groups which brought 1,056 school children and teachers to the Museum.

The volunteers also gave valuable assistance during the recently held Fine Craft Festival. An especially big

'Thank you' to Daisy Frost who coordinated the volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

The Museum is seeking volunteers for a wide variety of jobs. If you enjoy: painting, photography, meeting people or guiding tours; if you are artistic; if you enjoy working in an archival setting or arranging flowers; if you would like to clean artifacts, or work in an office; If you enjoy working in a pleasant environment with pleasant people there may be a niche for you (or someone you know) at the Museum. We are planning to develop further volunteer corps in the following areas: conservation, shop and gardens. Please call: 427-0201 or 436-1956, and speak to **Education Officer, Peggy McGeary**. We look forward to hearing from you.

APPRECIATION OF JOY BLAND

By Daisy Frost & Joyce Gale

Joy came to Barbados in 1963 with her family, daughter Disa and Husband Richard. They lived in Black Rock, and it was here she began to know the larger community.

Later Joy gained her degree at Cave Hill, moved to live on the hill, and joined the Centre for Multi-Racial Studies in 1967. At that time the Centre was directed by Jill Sheppard. When Jill moved to the Caribbean Conservation Association Joy became the Director. The Centre was an active, vibrant organization at that time. Friday nights saw interesting, international speakers, and lively discussions often continued into the small

hours of the morning.

Some years later Joy remarried Tony Bland and moved away to the tranquil setting of Wychwood, St. Peter, where she wrote and published.

In 1986 Wendy Donawa started a Docent Programme at the Barbados Museum, and Joy was a part of this. When asked how and why she had become a part of that programme she said it was her book 'Woodskin' which introduced her to Wendy, who wanted to use it as part of her programme. Through this contact, Joy wrote "One thing led to another, and I became a docent. The Amerindian section was my special interest.... Unfortunately my husband's illness and the fact that I live so far away made it difficult for me to continue, but I have very pleasant memories of my time spent there".

And we too have very pleasant memories of you, Joy. You were part of the "original five", the "foundation corps" of Wendy's Docents. And I, Daisy, the one remaining active docent of those original five, speaking for the other three and myself, remember your understanding, and knowledgeable approach to seminars, reunions and tours, to the children, their teachers and parents, and above all to your fellow docents. We were a closely knit group, weren't we?

We missed you when you left us; we missed your sensitivity, your elegance, your warmth and your gentle sense of humour, and we appreciated your continued interest in us, our progress and development, and too, your support in all we did, fundraisers and other undertakings.

Farewell dear Joy. You have certainly left us a fine model to follow!

MUSEUM ALIVE



Young Patrons celebrate 'Museum Alive'

At 7.15 p.m. on December 8th 1995, the Museum Courtyard came alive with music. The theme for the evening was 'Follow the Star'. Two large candles flickered in the north and south corner of the lawn and from these all other candles received their light. The effect was magical. From the same points on the lawn, Sharen Carmichael and Edith Barnard-Doughty (the coordinators) started the singing and lead the candlelight procession which started the main activity of the evening.

Volunteers received tokens of appreciation for their efforts during the year and then sang their unique version of "the Twelve days of Christmas", penned by the talented Daisy Frost.

Museum President, Dr. Carmichael welcomed members and their families who had taken time to be involved. The courtyard echoed with the laughter of children and occasional applause for the

singing performances of Sharen and Edith. It was a magical experience.

There was great audience participation in the singing and storytelling. Some went on stage to do various acts -

(Dr. Tony Gale sang an old folk song much to the delight of the audience!)

Late Patron Dame Nita Barrow participated throughout, but had her special moment in the final story when she became a fairy godmother who sprinkled fairy dust so that those who were touched by it would experience the true peace and joy of Christmas all year.

The second edition of the 'Museum Alive' series was done with some of the Museum's staff and volunteers on Friday March 1, 1996.

The participatory approach was again used to focus on:

- (1) Team Building
 - (2) Communication Skills
 - (3) Interacting with the Public.
- Participants were reminded about the importance of the type of face they wear, their

body language and their attitude when dealing with the public. They were asked to focus on their role in the Museum's team and how they can make the Museum a better place to be.

The programme was repeated with some variation on March 16th for the public. Participants were involved in a series of activities which caused them to be introspective and identify the negatives in their lives that they want to be rid of. They were encouraged to focus on their positive aspects and use these to achieve their goals. There was lots of laughter as participants followed the music and paraded behind the Jack o' the Green and Mother Sally characters - (you won't guess who Mother Sally was!!).

One participant's comment, "It was fun, it was different".

The next programme is scheduled for July 13th.

FEBRUARY LECTURE SERIES

February is celebrated as Black History month in the U.S.A. This year, the Museum celebrated with a three-part lecture series. On February 15th Dr. Richard Allsopp's lecture was entitled "Barbados, Bim, Bimshire - How did we Get These Names". This lecture discussed the linguistic enigma of the origin of the name 'Barbados'. Does 'Los Barbudos' really refer to the bearded fig tree? Were there bearded men in Barbados when the Portuguese visited?

The second lecture, a week later was offered by historian and Senior UWI Lecturer, Alvin Thompson. His address which

was called "Happy Happy Slaves", reviewed much of the literature and opinion of Europeans on what they considered to be the 'Happy' condition of slavery.

Historian Trevor Marshall ended the series on March 4th, with "Colonial South Carolina and the Afro-Caribbean Connection". The lecture examined the role played by Barbados in the establishment of a settlement in Charleston, South Carolina. Mr. Marshall drew heavily on his recent visit to South Carolina to underscore the strong Barbadian influence on architecture, the layout of the town, as well as on the social structure of the state.

Audiences were small (due to inadequate advertising) but very appreciative, and in each case, there was lively discussion after the lecture. The Museum hopes to make this an annual event and on a grander scale.

CULTURAL HERITAGE WEEK

We celebrate Cultural Heritage Week between May 18 and 25, 1996.

Saturday May 18, is International Museums Day and will be Open Day to the public. We invite all members, their families and friends to use this day to visit our galleries free of charge and share in the festivity of the day. Arrangements are being made for a cultural presentation in the afternoon.

May 21 is UNESCO's World Day for Cultural Development and the theme for the day is 'Culture and Health'. We hope to celebrate this day with a lecture or panel discussion based on the theme. The

venue will be announced later.

On the 24th of May, the Museum 'goes to Town' in a joint production with the National Cultural Foundation to be presented at the Steel Shed, a panel discussion entitled "Barbadian National Heroes - A Challenge for History".

We look forward to your participation in the events celebrating Cultural Heritage Week and we would welcome any suggestions for making this a more exciting week this year or next year.

GRAND RAFFLE

A generous donation of two American Airlines Tickets has been made to the Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC). These tickets are valid from any Caribbean Country to any North American, Canadian, Mexican or Caribbean destination, valid until December 31, 1996.

The prize is being raffled in order to raise funds for MAC, but members and friends can help the Museum too! For every \$2.00 ticket sold the Barbados Museum retains 40% for itself!

Books of 20 tickets each are now on sale at the Museum. The raffle will be drawn on May 18th, 1996. International Museums Day in Barbados, to increase public awareness of the role played by Museums in the region.

Please help the Museum to raise vitally important funds by buying a ticket or selling a book. ***We need your help to succeed!! Contact us at 427-0201 or 436-1956.***

CARIBBEAN HISTORY CONFERENCE IN BARBADOS

Between 14th - 19th April, 1996 Barbados will welcome some 100 professional Caribbean Historians from around the world. Organised by the Association of Caribbean Historians (ACH) in conjunction with the University of the West Indies, the 28th Annual Conference will be held at the Dover Convention Centre throughout the week.

The programme developed around the themes New Directions in Caribbean History, Comparative Perspectives on Caribbean Societies, and Public History, Heritage Management and Dissemination, is organised into 14 panels with over 50 papers being presented.

The range of material being presented is intriguing; Issues in Caribbean Historiography are discussed side by side with Caribbean Identity Politics, and Interracial Relations within Caribbean Slave Societies. Major occurrences are analysed in depth for their impact on Caribbean Society and the role of individuals in determining or influencing the course of history, is also highlighted.

For further information contact the History Department at the Cave Hill Campus, University of the West Indies.

THE MUSEUM CAFE

Open 9 am - 5pm Monday -
Saturday
2pm - 6pm Sunday for Tea.

Breakfast, Lunch and
Afternoon Tea served daily.

We offer a lively menu for
lunch with fresh soup daily,
Pate's, Pasta, baked dishes,
Salads and Sandwiches also
delicious cakes.

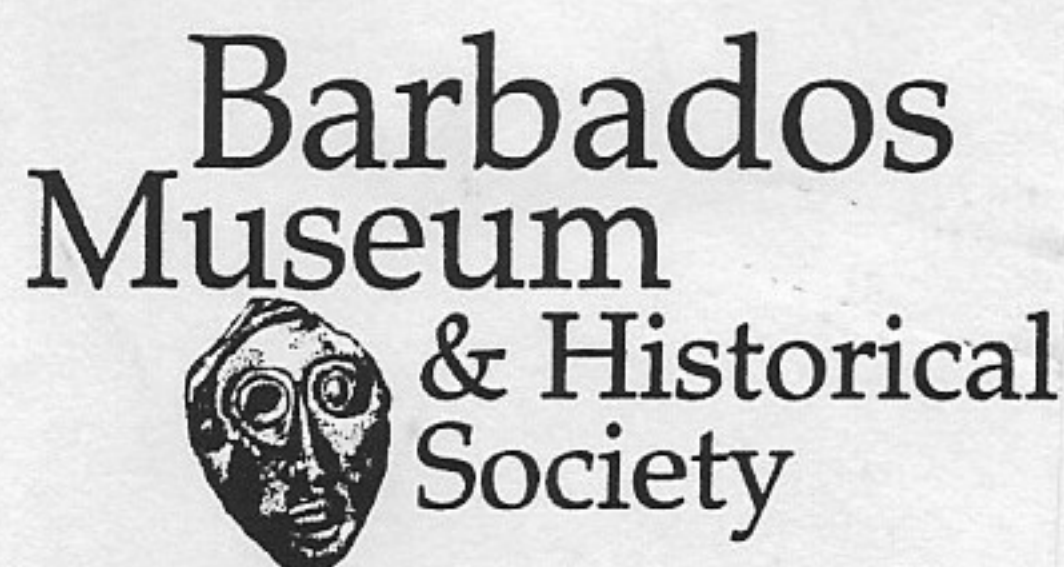
Catering for all occasions.
Please call Julie Dash on
228-0414

For further details.

*Special offer for members: a free
drink with lunch with this ad.*

NEW MUSEUM LOGO

It has taken over one and a half years to come to fruition, but the Barbados Museum is pleased to launch our museum logo originally planned in recognition of our 60th Anniversary.



Graphic Designer Neil Barnard was selected from those who originally submitted designs for consideration. The Museum which will retain its seal for official purposes, nevertheless determined that a new image needed to be created for the 60

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plus year old institution. The new logo, it was felt, should be designed to be reflective of the role and function of the organisation (as embodied in the new mission statement adopted in 1989), as well as the changes and development of the institution, and its goals for the future.

After considerable discussion, various designs, (and not a little controversy), the patiently determined Barnard finally came up with a logo which the Museum felt met its requirements and embodied the new 'ethos' of the Society. Illustrating an Amerindian adorno excavated in Barbados combined with elegant royal blue lettering, the logo represents the humanistic focus on the nation's peoples, within the contemporary Barbados environment, which we all inhabit.

Congratulations must go to Neil Barnard for his cheerful hard work and commitment to satisfying our demands, and to museum staff and members who made their various inputs.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Joint Annual

Mr. & Mrs Hugh Corbin
Dr. & Mrs Stuart A. Fox
Mr. & Mrs J. David Marshall

Annual

Mr. John Adams
Miss Simone Alleyne
Miss Hilary Armstrong

Annual Cont'd

Dr. Joyce E. Connolly
 Ms. Susan Donnelly
 Ms. Dana Ericksen
 Ms. Alice Forde
 Mr. Hal Gollop
 Mr. Dennis Goodridge
 Mrs Catherine D. Herbert
 Mr. William Howard
 Mrs Esther V. Jones
 Mr. Graham Norton
 Ms. Howaida Moussa
 Mr. Christopher Moore
 Mrs Sandra Robinson
 Ms. Heather -Dawn Scott
 Mr. Frederick Smith
 Mr. George Arthur Smith
 Mr. Clyde D. Sobers
 Ms. Joyce Thompson
 Ms. Grace Wickham-Goodridge
 Ms. Sandra Robinson
 Ms. E. Valentine Jones
 Mr. William Howard
 Mrs. Alice Forde
 Ms. Howaida Moussa

Student

Miss Daphne Burgida
 Ms. Linda Drakes
 Mr. Raymond Pasquariello
 Mr. Raymond Pollard

Junior

Mr. Jason Scott
 Mr. Tobias Scott

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

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

1996

**WE NEED YOUR
SUPPORT NOW!**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

'An Ounce of Prevention.....':
Annual Preparedness exercise
for June. While no one has yet
 been accurately able to forecast
 natural disasters well ahead of
 June, it is all the more reason
 why preventative steps should
 be taken in the eventuality that
 such events may occur. Hurri-
 canes, flooding, and fire are
 familiar predators in the
 region. Last summer alone
 hurricanes threatened or hit
 neighbouring territories; St.
 James parish was subject to
 raging flood waters; and dust
 and ash from recent cane fires
 have infiltrated into every nook
 and cranny possible. In
 addition to these more minor,
 but no less unwelcome, are the
 clouds of 'Sahara' dust which
 seem to hang in the
 atmosphere for long months at
 a time.

A critical part of our annual
 activities is the 2- day period
 when staff, divided into core
 teams, carry out a simulation
 exercise based on the
 impending threat of a
 hypothetical disaster. This takes
 place on June 5th and 6th and
 involves mainly securing and
 packing collections (both on
 display and in storage), and
 ensuring that valuable
 equipment, documents, records
 are properly covered and
 sealed (where necessary).

WANTED

by May 13th

**ITEMS AS PRIZES FOR
TOMBOLA GAME
ON OPEN DAY**
*Food, Household, Plants,
Personal Care*

People never think of taking
 steps such as backing up
 computerized data and
 removing software to a site off
 the premises, a fundamental
 task during the exercise. Nor
 are many people, organisations
 and businesses prepared with a
 'what, who, when, where, how'
 plan to implement at the
 eventuality of a threat. Our
 annual exercise clarifies each
 of these issues even in the
 face of a change-of-command.

As organised as we are - in
 terms of our respective tasks
 and skills - we do need you,
 both members and friends of
 the Museum to assist us with
 the accumulation of materials
 and equipment. These can be:

- plywood
- tarpaulins
- plastic sheeting
- rope
- working generators
- protective helmets and gear
- small containers etc.
- cotton sheets
- packing materials

We would welcome volunteers
 who are interested in the
 application and methodology of
 Emergency Preparedness
 exercises to join us on either of
 the 2 days. Please call and let
 us know how you are able to
 assist.

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

CURATORIAL

CURATOR: ART & HISTORY

Lesley Whatley

CURATOR: NATURAL HISTORY

Philippa King

EDUCATION OFFICER

Peggy McGeary

LIBRARY

LIBRARIAN

Betty Shannon

TECHNICAL & MAINTENANCE

Merna Bryan

Stephen Layne

Reginald Riley

Shawn Rowe

Pauline Stuart

RECEPTION

Sylvia Charles-Dolcy

Wendy Husbands

Hester St. Rose

SECURITY

Rudolph Beckles

Beresford Nurse

Royston Sargeant

Grantley Yarde

QUESTION TIME

Every month we receive a wide range of enquiries; see the following:

S.J. Thorpe from Florida writes:

My early family left London, England 16 April 1635 to go to the 'Isle of Providence'. The vessel was the Yr Exceptacion. I have checked Holton and Coldwell and the PRO in England and it was confirmed. Do you have any early records of the vessel visiting your area?

Amacup, Mexico writes:

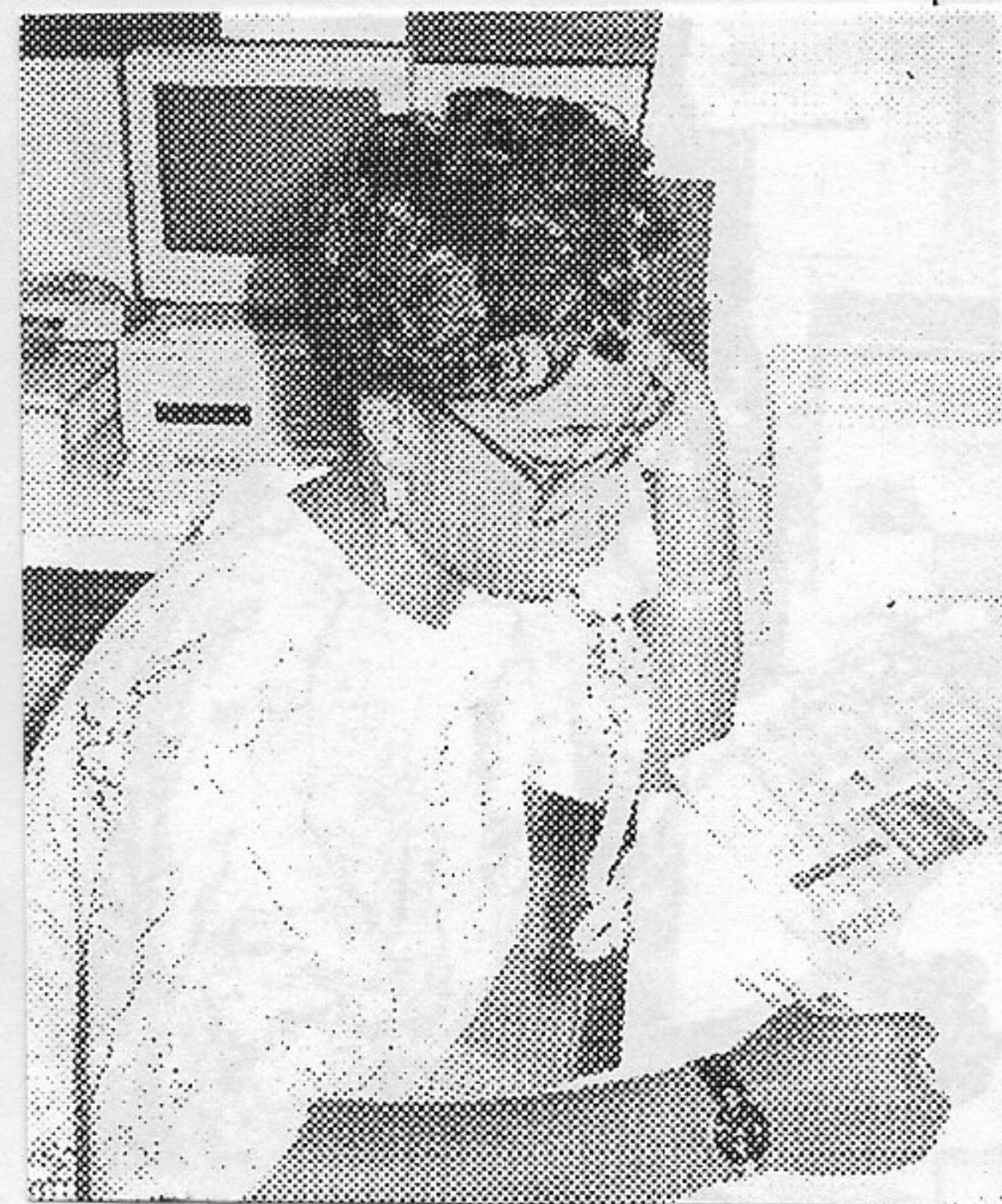
I have been working with the Pacific species Purpura pansa and the indigenous groups who extract the dye for their textiles, I was wondering if you have any records of the ancient or modern use of the dye by the indigenous groups of the Caribbean.

The second resource is Sea Island Cotton, Gossypium barbadense. Although not widely used, many of the weavers of the group I work with, especially along the Pacific coast, grow barbadense in and around their homes, and I have never heard them mention it as superfine; in fact it's considered to be thicker and knubbier. Is it endemic to the islands and is that how it got its name?

Mrs E. Smith, Australia, she writes:

I am hoping that you may be able to answer the following questions about my ancestor, Conrad Pile. I know that he owned Brighton Estate, St. George, from about 1816, and that he apparently tried to sell it in April 9th 1839 and auction in 1840. I know he died in Barbados, and that the Brighton Estate is (or was in 1980's) still in hands of family. Did he sell, or did he not? I am really interested to know more of the Estate layout, location, size, history etc.

Please contact Librarian Mrs Betty Shannon with any information.



*Junior Curator Malissa Porter
at work*

WANTED!

Volunteers

To assist Education Officer with the planning and supervision of a young people's Summer Workshop.

Volunteer

Good hand-writing or calligraphic skills to assist with transferral of accession data into Registers.

Volunteers

Marketing background and/or public relations, to work actively in such areas as:

Increased gate receipts
Fundraising events
Corporate sponsorship
Membership drive
Increasing public visibility and creating a positive image for the institution within the community.

Volunteer

Knowledge of stamps and stamp collecting:

To assist with cataloguing the stamp collection

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 5	Good Friday	Museum Closed
Apr. 8	Bank Holiday	Museum Closed
Apr. 20 3.30 - 8.00 pm	Alliance Francaise Annual Wine and Cheese Party	Museum Courtyards
May 1	Bank Holiday	Museum Closed
May 12 12.00 - 5.00 pm	Mother's Day Luncheon and Tea	Museum Cafe
May 14 4.00 pm	Annual General Meeting	Upper Courtyard
May 18 - 24	Cultural Heritage Week	
May 18	Museum Open Day	Museum
May 21 7.30 pm	Lecture Discussion on " Culture and Health in Barbados "	Exhibition Gallery
May 24	Panel Discussion " National Heroes of Barbados - Shed A Challenge for History "	Queen's Park Steel
May/June	Aileen Hamilton Retrospective	Exhibition Gallery
May 27	Bank Holiday	Museum Closed
June 8 & 9	Disaster Preparedness Exercise	Museum Closed
July 6 - Aug 2	"Picture This" Photographic Exhibition by U.S. based photographer Carl Dottin.	Exhibition Gallery
July 13	Museum Alive!	Barbados Museum

Getting to know

THE BARBADOS MUSEUM

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society is housed in the former military prison of St. Ann's Garrison; the oldest part of the buildings was constructed in about 1820. Visitors will find an extensive and varied collection, appealing to a wide range of interests.

Our **EXHIBITION GALLERIES** hold displays on:

✧ Natural History ✧ Amerindian Culture ✧ Barbadian History ✧ African and European Decorative Arts ✧ Antique Maps and Prints.

Visitors are invited to browse in the **MUSEUM SHOP** for unusual Caribbeana to suit every budget. You will find a varied selection of West Indian books, reproductions of maps, prints and other Museum specimens, as well as a splendid array of Barbadian craft and jewellery.

Our **CAFÉ** is located in the delightful setting of the upper courtyard amongst enormous sandbox trees. The Café offers lunches, teas or a quick snack.

The Museum **RESEARCH LIBRARY** holds materials dating back to the 17th century. A researcher's delight, the library collection includes books, maps, photographs, genealogical records and archival documents.

HOURS

We are open every day except public holidays.

✧ **GALLERIES AND SHOP:**

Monday to Saturday	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

✧ **OFFICES:**

Monday to Friday	8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
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✧ **LIBRARY:**

Monday to Friday	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
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ADMISSION

Adults	Bds. \$ 10.00
Children	Bds. \$ 5.00
Family	Bds. \$ 15.00 (Sundays Only)

TOURS AND GROUP RATES

We offer special rates for groups and a special educational programme for schools. Please call 427-0201 or 436-1956 for information.

FACILITIES FOR DISABLED VISITORS

We particularly welcome disabled visitors. Specially installed ramps make our facilities accessible to persons in wheelchairs. We offer special tours to persons with hearing and vision disabilities. Please call to book.

Barbados Museum and Historical Society
St. Ann's Garrison, St. Michael, Barbados, W.I.
Tel: (809) 427-0201 or 436-1956, Fax: (809) 429-5946