

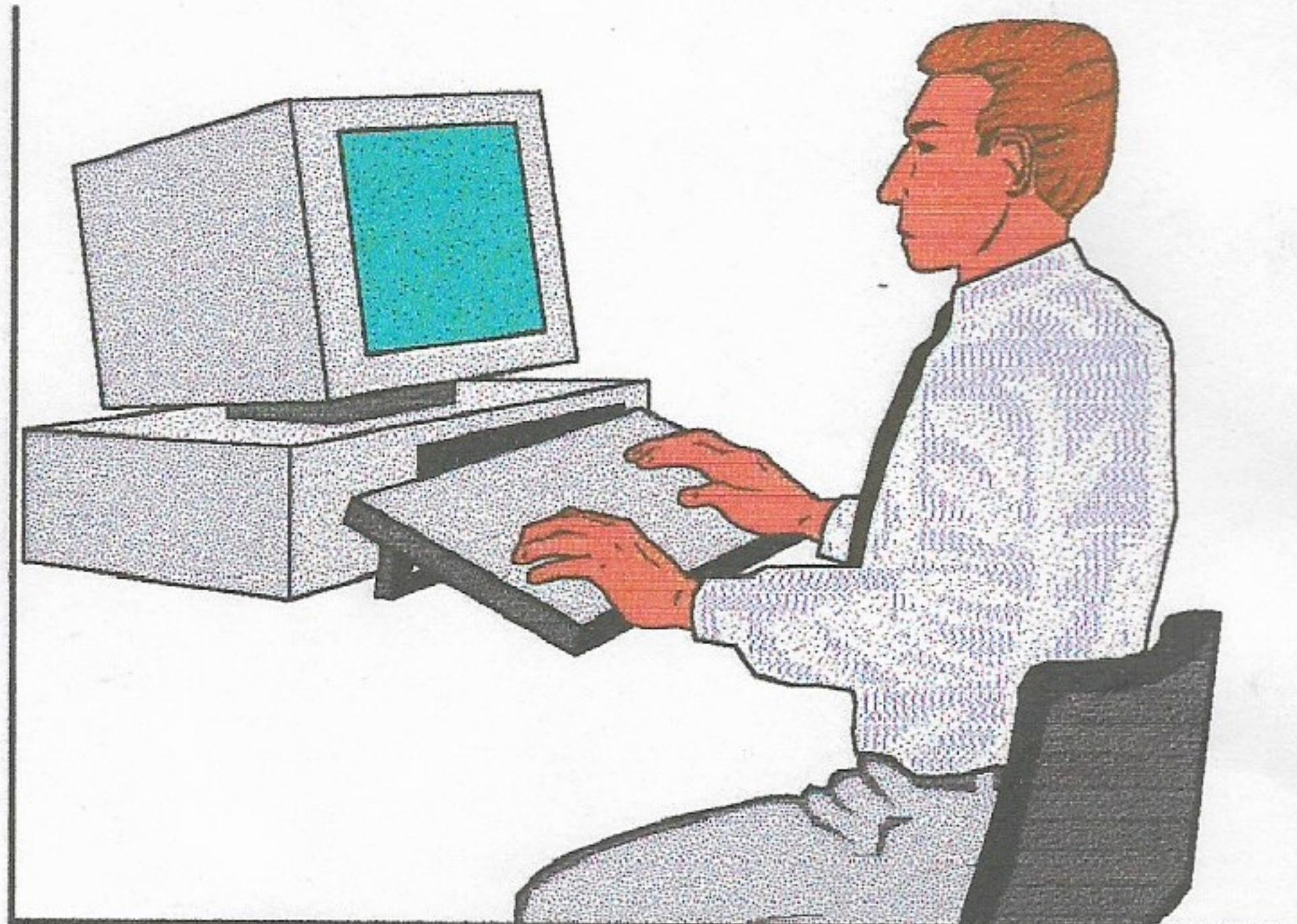


Museums on the Information Highway

Time always seems to be critical for museums, but as the information revolution gathers apace things have never seemed more so. The possibilities that information technology offers through computers, CD-ROM's and websites - seemed beyond the scope of our imagination. But Barbadian museums are in danger of missing the boat. In a fast moving and competitive world, they cannot afford to be left behind.

If we are to keep up we need a combination of individuals and corporate enterprise investment, and a strategy for the future from the national bodies led by Government. One distinct advantage is that there is a longstanding familiarity - the museum with computers - particularly for visitorship, financial accounting, and interpretation and documentation. Our membership database has finally been established and we are looking forward to increasing our knowledge of members' needs through the conduct of a survey this year.

The Museum's staff are enterprising, computer literate (for the most part) and willing to invest time and skill if funding and governing bodies show similar energy, financial investment and vision. The possibilities are endless, but we cannot harness this resource alone. There are promising signs. The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture last year installed the SIC/LAC system (computerised cultural information system for



Computers can play a vital role in the museum

Latin America and the Caribbean). SIC/LAC in Barbados will be responsible for collecting information from the local cultural agencies and for dissemination throughout the region. This information will eventually be accessible to the interested public, not least those museums committed to providing on-line information about their collections in return for access to similar resources.

Fund-raising

However, this optimism is countered by the exhaustive fund-raising process the Museum must pursue with international agencies to acquire the hardware, software and professional resources necessary to make this project a reality. The Government must shoulder part of the blame for not having previously formulated the clear, precise policies and strategies necessary to place museums in the context of national develop-

ment, a must in order to attract critical support from the overseas agencies. It is a newly initiated process long overdue to convince potential funders or sponsors of the museums' importance to the development process. As it is the Museum has often had to settle for one-off initiatives to make sporadic progress in this area. These initiatives are welcome when not part of general policy.

When it finally

*Examining the
role the
computer
can play in
museum
development*

emerges, the National Cultural Policy should establish consistent priorities followed up with leadership. It is not too late - we do not need unfeasibly large amounts of Government money or sponsorship support. What we do need is corporate vision, institutional strengthening and membership support allowing all those involved, including funding bodies, to come together and agree on a way forward. We look forward to your support. Best wishes for 1997!!

❖ *Alissandra Cummins (Ms.)
Director*

WHAT'S INSIDE

*Report on the fine craft festival
Independence book launch
Book review
Fashion A La Mode
Docents say thank you*

VOLUNTEERS-

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

His Excellency Sir Clifford
Husbands, G.C.M., K.A.
Governor-General of
Barbados

COUNCIL

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Q.C.

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Immediate Past President

Sir. J.S.B. Dear,
K.C.M.Q., C.H.B., Q.C.
Ex-Officio
Director of the Museum
Ms. Alissandra Cummins

artifacts

Docents say Thank-You

Dear Members & Friends,

The docents of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society would like to thank the Council, entire Staff, Volunteers and friends of the Museum, and all those others who made our Docent Week an enjoyable success.

Docent week, October 13 - 19, started off with a church service at St. Matthias Church on Sunday 13th and ended with a day of special tours on Saturday 19th. but let us not forget our Highland Tours outing, our fund-raiser of sponsored activities and our social evening. We worked hard and enjoyed all we did; and, above all, we were delighted with your genuine and realistic support, both financial and otherwise.

Photocopier

Unfortunately the September Newsletter was late and most of you were not aware of our appeal for funds for a photocopier for

Sincere thanks to all those who made Docent Week a success

the Museum Library. Even though it may have been sent out late, some of you have sent us donations, for which we thank you. Our Bank account at CIBC Fontabelle is still open. Don't think it is too late to contribute. You may send contribution directly to our Account No. 1145363 at CIBC Fontabelle

or send checks payable to Joyce Gale/Docent Account or Daisy Frost/Docent Account, c/o Barbados Museum, The Garrison.

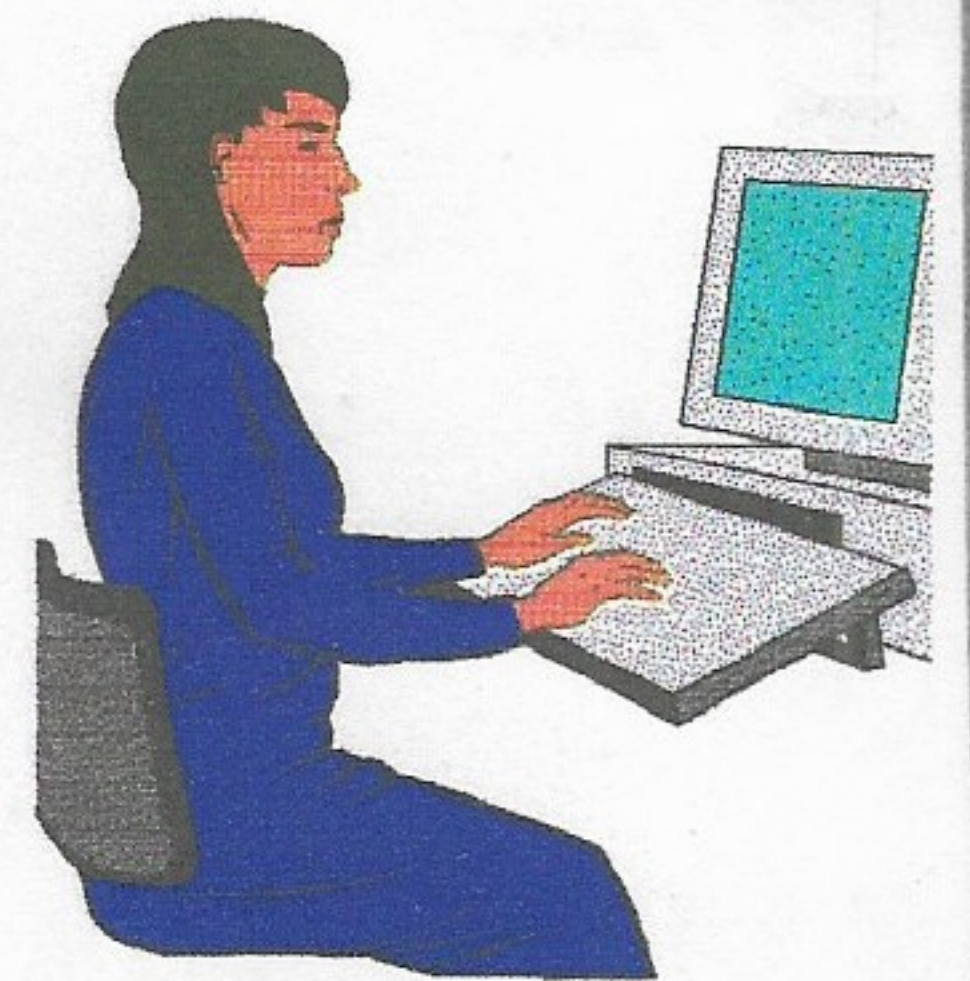
We thank you in anticipation for this your special Christmas present to us. ♦

Daisy Frost

Docent Co-ordinator

Volunteer corner

The Library is seeking a volunteer typist to work part-time in the library. All interested persons can contact Mrs. Betty Shannon at 427-0201 between 9:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m



Who are the Docents?

We have been told that few if any members know who are the Docents of the BMHS, and that you would like to know whom you are supporting. Well, we are Volunteers, but we are very special Volunteers.

The DOCENT derives from the Latin word DECERE, to teach, so we are teacher tour guides, who conduct tours during the three terms of the school year. We

guide some six thousand school children through the Museum each year.

We started in 1986 as a small group of five (5) and now in 1996, ten years later, we are seventeen strong. Not only do we conduct tours for school children, but also for adults, pensioners, handicapped persons, old people's homes, visiting dignitaries, tourist groups and convention groups e.g. CTO 20. And, from time to time we have

fundraising activities to assist the Museum in one way or the other.

Yes, indeed, we are a little more than volunteers or tour guides. We are very committed to our job, we love the Museum and all it stands for, and are very desirous of sharing our Barbadian Heritage with the Barbadian public, both young and old, together with the visitors to our Island.

♦

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society hosted its annual Fine Craft Festival on December, 7th 1996.

50 of Barbados' best outdid themselves displaying a wide variety of beautiful art and craft from hand-painted T-shirts to exquisite pottery, fine Jewellery, books and beautiful Christmas decorations. Items such as the handpainted lampshades, brightly painted stools and children chairs, and ingenious metal designs were some of the craft which caught the attention of many patrons.

Food court

The upper courtyard was transformed into a food court with a variety of mouth-watering dishes which ranged from a traditional English tea provided by the Museum Cafe, to the local dishes served by the popular Cou-Cou Village.

Craft Festival a success

This year the craft festival extended its realm of activities to focus on children.

This year the craft festival extended its realm of activities to focus on children. There was cotton candy and popcorn on sale, a Lucky Dip and face painting, making it an evening for the entire family.

According to Ms. Melva Yarde, Executive Officer for the BMHS the Craft festival grossed over \$7000.00 in profit.

The Director of the Museum Ms. Alissandra

Cummins said she was very pleased with the standard of the craft. She felt that the quality of craft had definitely improved as local craftsmen rose to the challenge of creating new items for a discerning market. She also thanked all those members, individual and corporate sponsors who assisted in making the festival a success. Our sponsors this year included Abeds, A.S. Brydens, Barbados Shipping

& Trading, Nation Publishing Company, The Barbados Advocate, CCS Barbados Ltd, Paints Plus and The Peter Moores Barbados Trust.

One of the artist's who exhibited her pottery stated that she found the festival very beneficial. She went on to say that business was good and the exposure invaluable.

Regrettably it was evident however that attendance had decreased slightly when compared to 1995 which was unfortunate since the Museum hosted an excellent afternoon. Problems with roadworks, the 10k race and competition from the Turf Club for available parking remain a major challenge. ♦

Museum volunteers honoured

Thank you was the theme of a cocktail party The BMHS held for its volunteers on Tuesday Jan 28th, 1997. Along with the thank you, appreciation was expressed with gifts presented by our distinguished President Dr. Trevor Carmichael.

In his address Dr. Carmichael expressed his sincere thanks to the volunteers for the invaluable service they provide to the Museum.

Ms. Alissandra Cummins reiterated this point and went on to say that she was looking forward to work-

The President expressed his sincere thanks to the volunteers

ing with the volunteers in 1997.

The pleasant surprise for the evening was the attendance of Ms. Wendy Donawa the former Education Curator

who is home on holiday. Ms. Donawa is the individual who created the Docent program. She was received with a warm welcome.

The new Marketing Officer Ms. Maria Boyce was also introduced to the gathering.

Cocktails

A tantalising array of delicious cocktails were served.

Docent stalwart Mrs. Daisy Frost was in attendance although recovering from a broken leg. Other volunteers attending were Mr. &

Mrs. Kevyn Arthur, Ms. Beryl Birch, Derrick & Joyce Gale, Ms. Grace Brancker, Ms. Jeanette Springer, Mr. & Mrs. MacWalker and Miriam Kennedy.

Ms. Peggy McGeary must be commended for co-ordinating such a delightful evening. ♦

Docent training February 1997

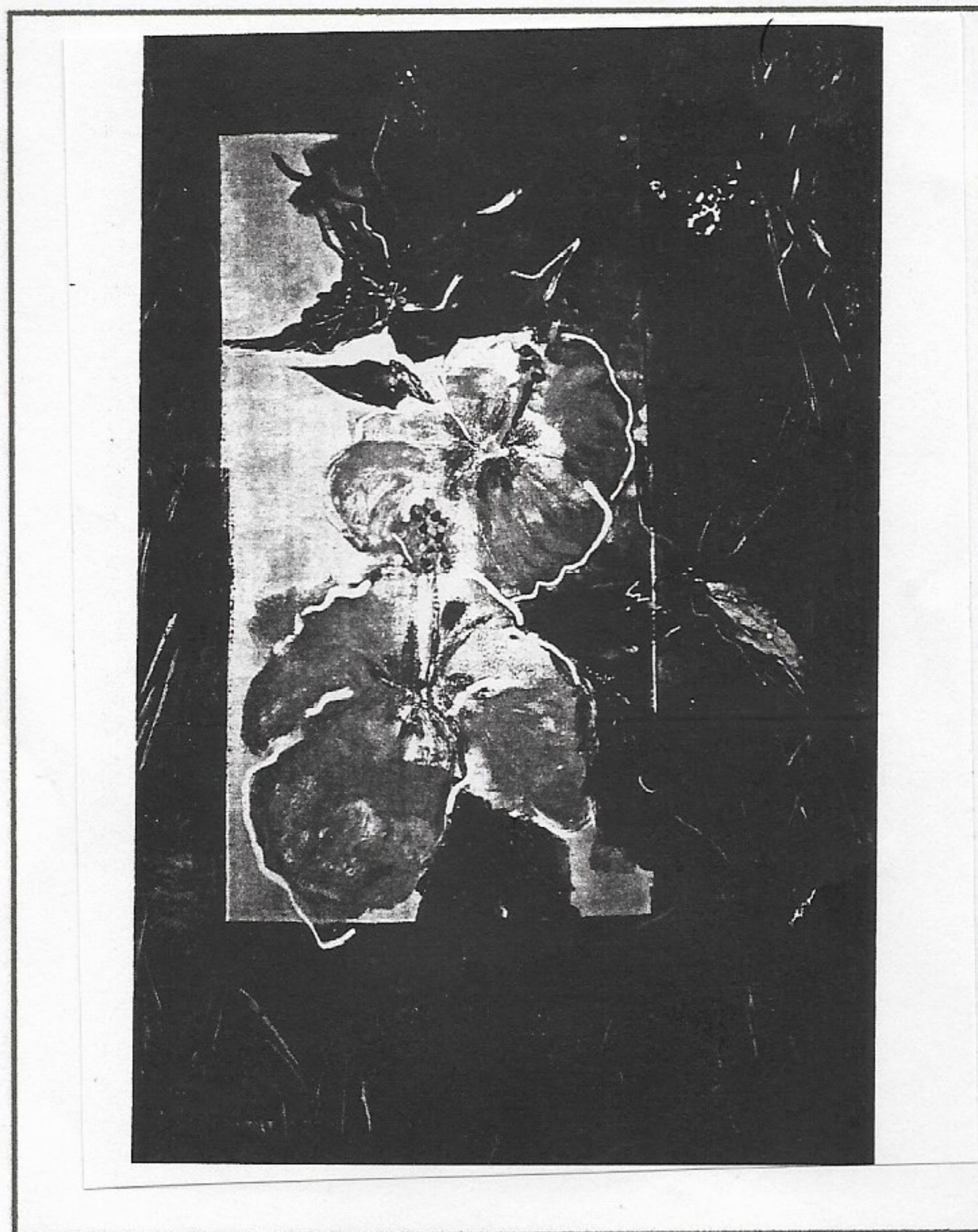
Sun Spaces - Prints by Virginia Smit

American artist Virginia Smit will be mounting a series of Monotypes & Monoprints at the Museum from Feb. 15th - March 7th, 1997.

A seasoned print maker, with a Masters in Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania, Smit has taken her inspiration for this show from her observation and frequent travels to the Caribbean and Barbados in particular.

A monoprint is the combination of a painting and a print. It is a painting in so far that is worked on a planal or flat surface with painting materials, such as brushes and paints, and is one of a kind. It is, however, also a print as it is worked on a planal surface, with printmaking materials such as rollers and printmaking inks can be used to create it and it is transferred to another surface for the final product. The product is called a monotype when only the painting process is used. It is a monoprint when one or more other printmaking processes are used to complete the print.

Smit has had twelve solo exhibitions and has participated in over a hundred invitational and group shows. Her work is in numerous corporate and private collections. She has been associated with Viridian Gallery in New York City since 1978. Virginia Evans Smit continued to teach art in New York City public high schools until her retirement in 1996. ♦



Smit is a seasoned print maker, with a Masters in Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society would like to extend best wishes to all those members celebrating birthdays in the months of December, January and February.

What is a monoprint

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Exhibition to commemorate riots

The Barbados Museum is in the process of developing an exhibition to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1937 riots which will be celebrated on July 26th 1997.

We are appealing to members who may have any memorabilia or who may remember any events which occurred during this time to contact the Art & History Curator Ms. Lesley Barrow-Whatley at 427-0201.

Please share your memories with us.

Barbados Museum Improving its Marketing

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society has established a new goal for 1997 which is the implementing of an aggressive Marketing plan to boost publicity & expand its present market base.

On this new & exciting path the first plan of action was the hiring of personnel in the form of a Marketing Officer, Ms. Maria Boyce. Ms. Boyce took up her post on the 6th January 1997. Prior to this however she underwent a period of orientation which lasted three weeks.

Ms. Boyce possesses a degree in Political Science and Law from the University of the West Indies. She has worked in the field of publishing and communication

Museum seeking to expand its market base

since her graduation and has undergone an in depth programme in communications management at Peabody, Massachusetts USA.

The target areas which Ms. Boyce and the Museum will be concentrating on are improving attendance, increasing member-

ship, encouraging corporate sponsorship and soliciting more rentals of the Museum premises for special events, as well as implementing projects which will improve the latter areas.

Ms. Boyce stated that she sees her new post as a challenge, however she is extremely enthusiastic. She believes the Museum has a wealth of resources, and it is imperative that all aspects of the Market are educated about this.

Membership

On the subject of membership Ms. Boyce assured us that "there are a number of new and exciting programmes to be put in place for members. We are antici-

pating a positive response from the members."

Another project for the Marketing team already in the development stage is the creation of a high-end, glossy brochure which will be distributed to the tourist market.

We will keep you inform on the status of our new marketing plans. ♦

Museum Cafe

for fine cuisine in
the perfect
atmosphere
come to the
Museum Cafe

BMHS welcomes its new members

Annual

Frances Attaway
Ian E. Rock
Ina F. St. Hill
Lester E. Whitehead
Markly Wilson

Joint Annual

Mr & Mrs Anderson
Welch

Reminder

Membership fees are due for the year 1997 and can be paid at the Barbados Museum office between 9:00 a.m - 5:00 p.m Monday - Friday.

The Book Nook

"Just beyond your imagination" a gift from the tourist board is a book to stretch your senses. It presents this model Caribbean Island - nation state in all its diversity from the Arawak settlements through the colonial period to today's epoch of independent nationhood. The colour pho-

tographs and images are excellent, many selected from the museum's collections.

Donations

Ms. Shannon is also appealing to members to kindly donate any paperback books to the Museum to be sold at Hometown festival which is to be held on Feb. 22nd, 1997. ♦

Library in search of "Bajan" magazines

The museum is in search of the following copies of the "Bajan Magazine":

Bajan 1953; Sep - Dec
Bajan-1954; Jan-Oct, Dec
Bajan-1955; Jan-Nov
Bajan-1956; Jan-Mar; Jul-Dec
Bajan- 1969; Jan-Mar; May-Dec
Bajan 1977; Jan-Jun, Aug-Dec
Bajan - 1989; Jan-Nov

If any members possess copies of these and would be interested in donating them to the library please contact Ms. Betty Shannon at 427-0201.

Book launched at the museum

As part of the Independence celebrations the Barbados Museum & Historical Society was the site of the launching of the book "Barbados: Thirty Years of Independence" edited by our energetic president Dr. Trevor Carmichael, and published by Ian Randle Publishers..

Feature address

The launching of the book was a great success and was attended by over 150 persons. Sir Fred Gollop gave a thought provoking feature address, while publisher Mr. Ian Randle took the opportunity to reveal the opening of the Barbados arm of his publishing company, Ian Randle Publishers Barbados Ltd.

This book with a

The book encompasses all sectors of national life ranging from the arts and the economy, to religion and the environment

handsome cover designed by local artist Annalee Davis, provides a cross section of the historical perspectives on Barbados' development since 1966, with chapters on the different sectors of Barbadian political, economic and social life. Contributors to the book include such scholars as Deputy Governor of the Central Bank Dr. DeLisle Worrell, Political scientist Dr.

Neville Duncan, Professor Mickey Walrond and distinguished educator Mrs Kathleen Drayton.

Dr. Carmichael in describing the book stated that "it encompasses all sectors of national life ranging from the arts and the economy, to religion and the environment". Dr. Carmichael went on to say that the book is recommended reading for persons with an

interest in the subject, irrespective of age or political persuasion.

The book went on sale at the Museum Shop from Thursday, December 12, 1996 and the stock were sold out by the following day! ♦

Membership special

On sale in the Museum shop
Stationary gift sets

\$5.00.

These include:
12 printed sheets
12 plain sheets
6 envelopes
4 orchid notelets

Bartel & BL&P increase their covenants

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society would like to offer their sincere thanks to the Barbados Light & Power and Bartel who have generously increased their covenants.

The museum is highly satisfied at these gestures which indicate a major shift in corporate vision of supporting conservation and education at their best.

Membership subscription

This is a gentle reminder to those Museum members who have not sent in their subscriptions for 1997.

We need your support now!!

Dear members:

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society is seeking to improve its membership information so as to serve you the members better, we have included in this newsletter a membership questionnaire which we hope you will facilitate us with by filling out and returning to us.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this venture and look forward to working with you in 1997.

Fashion A La Mode

One of the major fund raising ventures held by the Museum for 1996 was an elegant tea & fashion show held at the newly restored Sunbury Plantation on October 20th 1996. This venture was coordinated by the Librarian Mrs. Betty Shannon and proved an enormous success.

A delicious tea was served including sandwiches, cakes and pastries, graciously hosted by the inimitable Angela Melville.

Fashions

An exquisite fashion show was sponsored by **La Mode boutique**. The fashions were well received by the patrons. **Diamonds in Paradise** completed the afternoon of fashion with a display of fine

Mrs. Shannon said she was extremely pleased with the response to the fashion show

jewellery, while a gift prize of \$100.00 was kindly donated by **Cave Shepherd & Co. Ltd.**

Two hundred & thirty-two patrons were in attendance including such dignitaries as the American

ambassador to Barbados, H.E. Mrs. Jeanette Hyde and the Canadian High Commissioner to Barbados, H.E. Ms. Colleen Sword. The wife of President of the BMHS Mrs. Sharen Carmichael and Vice President Mrs. Jean Goddard

were also in attendance.

Mrs. Shannon, said she was extremely pleased with the response to the fashion show. When asked if this will be slated as an annual event she said possibly, however, the time of the year may change to accommodate the tourist season. The Librarian also expressed her sincerest thanks to all those who assisted, particularly the library volunteers, in making the venture a success.

A profit of over \$8000.00 was made, and at the end of the afternoon Director Alissandra Cummins pledged that the funds raised would be used to further the upgrading and development of the Library facilities, including the purchase of a special photocopier. ♦

Fine craft in stock at the shop

The Museum has welcomed a variety of craft & jewellery from a number of leading artists who participated in the Craft Festival. These include ceramics by Julianna Inniss and Gloria Chung, Jewellery from Andrea Wells and Hand painted T-shirts from Maria Elias. ♦

SHOP
NEWS

Coming soon!
Museum Open Day celebrating International Museums' day
MAY 17TH 1997

Out of Elements

Barbados Museum presents "Out of the Elements" Imin Waterman (Pipiar Mache), John Burgess (Metal Works) and Julianna Inniss (Handpainted pottery). An exhibition of fine craft at the Holetown Complex in the Museum space. The

exhibition runs from

February 17th - March 1st 1997.

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

It is a must See!!

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