



A tribute to Sir "Jack"

Sir "Jack", as he preferred to be called, became a member of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society on the 6th of October 1952. From the inception of his membership, which spanned four decades, his service to the Museum was invaluable. Many credit the development of the Museum in Barbadian society to his pivotal role and the generous assistance he rendered to the home of Barbadian culture. His staunch commitment to the reorganisation of the Society was founded on his confidence in the value of the organisation to the process of national development.

In 1961 he became the editor of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society's Journal and remained in that capacity until 1972. He later went on to become the President of the Barbados Museum from 1976 to 1983. His chairmanship of the Council was characterised by a decisiveness, and vision for the future that guided the transformation of the institution into the professional organisation that exists today. He was both the Museum's sharpest critic and strongest supporter. Dame Elsie Payne captured the essence of Sir "Jack's" chairmanship when she stated "Sir Jack was an excellent chairman. He was very efficient and was responsible for the complete transformation of the Museum in his time. He was a pleasant, charming, farsighted genius and was indeed a fine person whom everybody

The society was also on many occasions the grateful recipient of the President's generous support through his timely donations

respected."

Sir "John" received his Knighthood on Queen Elizabeth's birthday in 1996 when he was awarded the Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George (KCMG) for his contribution to the development of the legal profession and charitable causes. The Society was on many occasions, the grateful recipient of the President's generous support through his timely donations and enthusiastic participation in many of the Museum's fund-raising events.

Knighthood

In an interview with the "Sunday Sun" dated June 1996 Sir "Jack" mused that he believed he received his knighthood because of his contribution specifically to the Barbados Museum. He stated "I succeeded not totally by myself, of course to transform the Museum from a private Museum to a public entity." He was also responsible for lobbying the Tom Adams administration to obtain enough money so that the Museum could have its own professional staff.

His commitment and

dedication to the development of the Museum was recognised when the new Museum Administration wing was named in his honour in 1989. According to Ms. Jean Goddard First Vice President of the Barbados Museum's Council, Sir "Jack" leaves a great gap in the lives of Barbados and the Caribbean.

"His contribution to Barbados was enormous in many different arenas, as a distinguished Queen's Council writing editorials for the "Advocate", helping to establish The Family Planning Association and revitalising the Barbados Museum to mention a few of his many activities."

Knowledge

"Jack was a great Raconteur, a Bon Vivant with a knowledge and love of history and law. He was very wise from his past experience, and he used his wisdom to help make Barbados a modern society."

"His Christmas mornings will live in our memories as a special time when everyone mingled underneath the flamboyant with his family and many friends. Such a large and generous personality will not

be easily seen again."

In the words of our present President Dr. Trevor Carmichael Q.C.

"Sir John Dear's role as President of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society was punctuated with the same dedication and skill of forthrightness which he brought to his practice of law. He was always quick in reaching decisions and decisive in following through with the appropriate action.

"I was pleased to be a member of Council during the late 1970s and early eighties under the late Sir Jack; and in more recent years, while I myself have served as President, to benefit from his counsel and guidance. We will miss his wit and wisdom".

To Jeanne his wife, Wendy, Clyde and Graham his children, and to his beloved grandchildren, the Council and staff of the Barbados Museum offer heartfelt sympathy. May he rest in peace.

❖ Ms. Alissandra Cummins
Director of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society.

WHAT'S INSIDE

❖ **Report
on Black History
Month**

❖ **Family Day for the
Museum Open Day**

Sir " Jack's community contributions

- ♦ Founding member of the Barbados Family Planning Association.
- ♦ Executive member of the Western Region of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
- ♦ Senator of the Upper house of the Barbados House of Assembly 1964-1966.
- ♦ First President of the Organisation of the Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Association
- ♦ Editor of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society Journal 1976-1983
- ♦ Chairman of the Barbados Board of Tourism
- ♦ 1981 conferred the Companion of the Honour of Barbados, the second highest National Award
- ♦ President of the Barbados Museum and Historical society 1961-1972
- ♦ Chairman of the Central Executive of the International Planned Parenthood Association (IPPF) 1977-1979.
- ♦ Former President of the Barbados Bar Association
- ♦ Prominent Member of the Barbados National Trust

Museum gets two book gifts

The Barbados Tourism Authority has kindly donated to the Museum library the book "Barbados Just Beyond Your imagination" edited by Artie Alleyne.

A book gift was also presented to the Museum by Damon Corrie, Paramount Chief of the Amerindian Tribe. The title of the book is: " Isau Amorot he Haubariria (The Last Arawak King)". ♦

Typist needed

The Library is still seeking the services of a volunteer typist. Persons interested can contact:

Ms. Betty Shannon at 427-0201.

New items in the shop

The Museum shop is now in the process of reordering a beautiful journal called "Enchanted Islands: Voices and Visions By the Caribbean". This was conceived and compiled by Ms. Maxine Rose-Shure.

The journal consists of a beautiful array of prints by artists such as Andre Normile Harti, Sundiatia Winston- Stewart (Barbados) and Lisa Henry (Trinidad & Tobago). There is also a variety of verses from Sebastian Clarke of Trinidad, and Frank Collymore (Barbados). This journal would make a beautiful gift for anyone interested in the visual arts.

There is a number of beautiful historical gift packets available at \$4.00 these consist of Caddy Prints and Cards. ♦



Coming soon!

Museum Open Day celebrating International Museums day

**MAY 17TH
1997**

**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**President**

Dr. Trevor Carmichael,
Q.C.

Senior Vice President

Mrs Jean Goddard

Junior Vice-President

Mrs Kathleen Drayton

Ordinary members

Sir. Carlisle Burton
Miss Janice Cumberbatch
Mr. Robert Foster
Lieut. Col. Keith McIntosh
Mr. Patrick Roach
Miss Jill Sheppard

Government Appointees

Miss Camilita Archer
Mr. Erskine Rose
Mr. Antonio Rudder
Mrs. Celia Toppin

Ex-Officio

Director of the Museum
Ms. Alistandra Cummins

Museum represented at Sea Trade convention

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society was represented this year for the first time at the Sea Trade Cruise Convention which was held at the Miami Beach Convention Centre, Miami Beach, Florida. Sea Trade is a trade show and convention which addresses issues affecting the cruise industry and offers insights into the development of the industry.

Maria Boyce, Marketing Officer of the Barbados Museum, was part of the Barbados delegation represented in Miami. The delegation included the

The goal of the
Museum's
attendance was to
launch the
Barbados Museum
as a shore
destination

Minister of International Transport, The Honorable Mr. Ronald Toppin, Deputy General of the Barbados Port Mr. Victor Roach, General Manager of the Barbados Cruise Terminal Inc. Ms.

Cheryl Gill and Mr. Cecil Ince from Paul Foster Travel.

The goal of the Museum's attendance was to launch the Barbados Museum as a shore destination for cruise passengers as well as to make important contacts with key personnel in the cruise industry.

She also took the opportunity to market the Museum to general visitors to the exhibition. Promotional give-aways were distributed, consisting of cards, stationary packets, prints and information kits. ♦

Black History Month celebrated at the Barbados Museum

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society celebrated Black History month in February with two educational programmes. These activities were co-ordinated by the Education Officer, Ms. Peggy McGeary and the Marketing Officer, Ms. Maria Boyce.

The first activity was an exchange between the young and the old through a programme called "Bridging the Gap". This took place on February 20th with thirty children from St. Martins Mangrove Primary and one hundred Senior Citizens from the National Assistance Board. The Senior Citizens toured

the Museum, reminiscing about their childhood. After the tour the children of St. Martins Mangrove performed their NIFCA award-winning pieces to a very receptive audience.

Warri

In return the senior citizens shared their memories and experiences of their childhood. This was done through teaching games such as Warri, and talks on other aspects of their own childhood. Some subjects discussed were old time weddings, the penny bank and old time buses.

Ms. Mc Geary said she was very pleased with

the exercise since it was an activity which benefited both groups. She went on to say that she hopes to have exchanges like this more often since it involves the Museum in the community.

Health

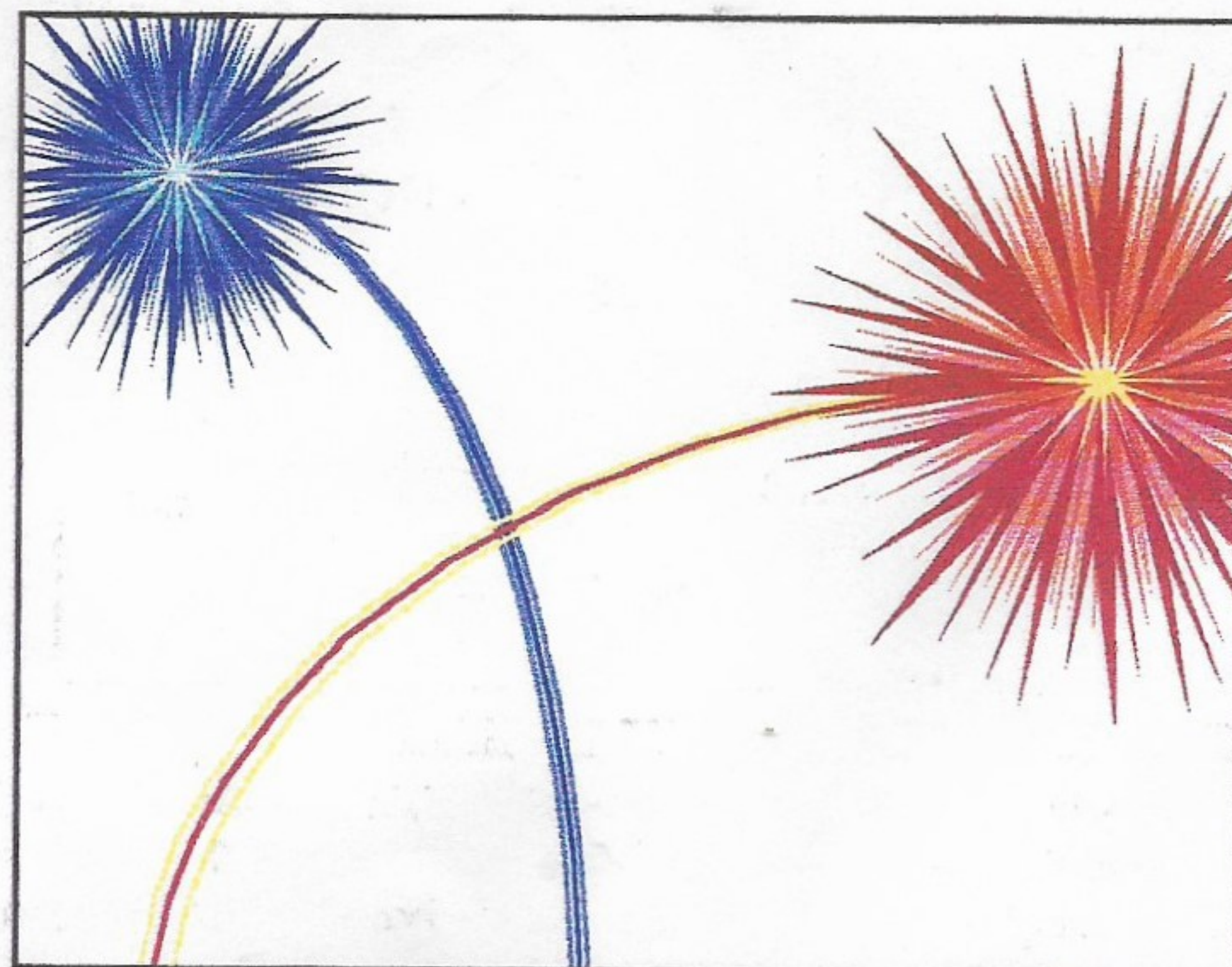
On February 28th the celebrations ended with a panel discussion on Culture and Health. The panellists consisted of Dr. I. Brancker, Dr. R. Wilson, Dr. R. Caddle and Dr. R. Cohen. There was a lively discussion and exchange on how our culture impacts on our health and lifestyle. ♦

Family day for Museum Open Day

May 17th 1997 is Museum Open Day, an annual programme which celebrates International Museums Day which falls within Cultural Heritage week.

This year Museum Open Day is being billed as Family Day. The goal is to encourage more families to experience the Museum together. This year a "games corner" will be featured, where children and adults can play (or learn) warri, potta, pick-ups, do ring games and play with rollers etc.

There will be a wide



range of exciting entertainment including the Barbados Landship, St. Martins

Mangrove performers, Richard Layne and the Royal Barbados Police Force.

The goal of Museum Open Day is to encourage more families to experience the Museum together

Admission is free. Museum Open Day starts at 9:00 a.m. and finishes at 5:00 p.m. Bring your family for a day at the Museum. ♦

SUN SPACES: An Act of Love

Virginia Evans-Smit's exhibition of Monoprints and Monotypes called "Sun Spaces" opened on February 14th (Valentine Day). This was a fitting time for an exhibition which highlighted the artist's love and admiration for nature and Barbadian Heritage.

The exhibition was opened by the American Ambassador for the Eastern Caribbean, Mrs. Jeanette Hyde who spoke highly of Virginia Evans-Smit and her work.

Guest Curator Ms.

Julianna Inniss also spoke on the behalf of the Museum.

The opening reception was attended by one hundred persons. All those who viewed the exhibition found it extremely exciting. "Her use of colour was breathtaking" was one of the many comments made by viewers.

Island Inn provided an excellent array of hors d'oeuvres and cocktails.

The exhibition ran from February 14th to March 14th, 1997. ♦

REMINDER

Members are reminded to please return via mail or fax your membership questionnaire by June 30, 1997. If you have not received a copy please contact Ms. Marcia Griffith at 427-0201.

Thanking you for your co-operation.

Library in search of "Bajan" magazines

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

Bajan 1953; Jan- Aug

Bajan-1956; April-June

Bajan-1972; July

Bajan-1989; December

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. -----

Exhibition on archaeology set for May

'The Illicit Traffic of Cultural Property' is the major theme for International Museums Day this year. This day is commemorated throughout the world, especially among those in the Museum fraternity who are members of the International Council of Museums, known as ICOM.

One way in which the Barbados Museum wants to 'bring home' the issues relating to protection of our material heritage, is by means of an exhibition which will open on Saturday 17th May in the temporary exhibition gallery.

There are several objectives in hosting this exhibition :-

"NOW YOU SEE IT; NOW YOU DON'T : Saving Our Antiquities through Archaeology " is the name of the archaeology exhibition

- ♦ To raise the public's awareness about archaeology in general, i.e. the 'what' and 'how' of the discipline.
- ♦ Presenting interesting material from various collections - in the context of both the sites and 'digs' from which they were removed.
- ♦ Sensitising people about the importance of and the need for protective legislation at a national level, as well as the protective measures we can take at a personal level.
- ♦ Depicting the existing link-

ages between agencies and organisations, and the roles they play in educating, monitoring, and informing each other regarding the movement of illicit cultural property.

The exhibition will run from May 17th until the end of June.

In addition to the exhibition, throughout July and August we will be hosting a number of lectures by visiting archaeologists, as well as providing the opportunity for people to sign on as volunteers on one of the several 'digs' being undertaken this summer. ♦

♦ **Lesley Barrow- Whatley**
Curator for Art & History

We are presently collaborating with the Barbados Worker's Union on an exhibition to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1937 Disturbances and those organisations which resulted from it like the Labour unions. It will open towards the end of July this year.

The Disturbances, or 'riots' of July 26th and 27th, 1937, were a bench-mark in the development of modern Barbados. These incidents were part of a chain of social unrest and discontent running throughout the Caribbean at that time, and in no small way, indicative of the economic depression affecting even the most industrialised powers of the period.

To stimulate interest the exhibition will include large blown-up scenes from the actual event, audio taped recollections and music of the period, memorabilia and

Riots exhibition being planned

To stimulate interest the exhibition will include large blown-up scenes from the actual event, audio taped recollections and music of the period, memorabilia

text narratives by people who were alive during that time.

Exhibit curator Lesley Barrow - Whatley notes, "What is important is

the personal perspective - what, and how a person (regardless of their race, gender or class) felt!

"We do not see this as an academic presentation". She is therefore very keen to hear from anyone who has any recollection about what the riots and what those times meant to them personally, or to their family and friends. ♦

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society welcomes to our membership:

Laurabeth Barnett
James Baker
Anne Yates
Roberta P. Walker
John Paul Stuart
Roy & Rosita Millington
Vicki Warner
Karl Tosef Marns
Carol Jean Marcus
Martyn J. Bowden
Trent Sagra M Singh

The fight against the illicit traffic in cultural property

The visible rise in cultural theft and destruction, particularly in war-torn Eastern Europe and the Arab countries, has led to vigorous new initiatives undertaken by UNESCO and ICOM amongst others to mitigate such activity. A lack of respect for cultural patrimony has been greatly exacerbated by anti-religious and racial policies within these regimes. In the Caribbean the problem is somewhat different. With little in the way of protective legislation and the lack of appropriate policies in all but a few countries, the Caribbean, remains vulnerable to another kind of 'culture vulture', who preys on the ignorance of unaware nations. However, this situation cannot be rectified by legislation alone. It requires a broader national commitment, to education that at present does not obtain in most of these territories.

Participants

"The destruction and removal of our cultural heritage will not cease until everyone views it as a personal affront". We were reminded of this poignant statement by Dr. Denis Williams (Walter Roth Museum of Anthropology, Guyana) by one of the participants at the recent UNESCO Workshop on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Property held in Grenada in March. Organised by CARICOM and UNESCO to sensitise cultural workers (largely Directors of Culture and Ministry officials) police officers and customs officials, the conference also benefited from the involvement of the

The destruction and removal of our cultural heritage will not cease until everyone views it as a personal affront

International Council of Museums (ICOM), the Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) International Police (Interpol) the International Legal agency, UNIDROIT, and the Getty Information Institute.

Fifty participants from 15 countries, mainly English-speaking Caricom members, (and for the first time, Haiti and Cuba), met to discuss urgent issues and concerns affecting cultural preservation within region. For many, it was the first time that cultural workers met their counterparts in the Police and Customs departments, from their own countries. This interaction enriched the dialogue considerably as participants pondered various aspects of the problems faced and brought their own experience to bear.

Each of the countries presented a report highlighting the status of their export controls in cultural property. The total picture is truly worrying. Treasure hunters arriving by the hundreds to 'play' with their metal detectors on archaeological sites, governments ignorant of the value of historic wrecks signing away rights to recover sometimes priceless artifacts to salvors, or otherwise seeing such wrecks or sites as a hindrance to their development policies, rather

than as assets to their tourism programmes.

The cultural property most at risk in the region was not surprisingly archaeological artifacts, whether historic or prehistoric, and the traditional antique furniture which had developed its own highly unique design forms. Very few of these countries had developed control mechanisms, and for those that had, new issues had arisen in terms of policing these activities, and the deficiencies in available resources to fight the cause.

Working groups

The participants then met in four working groups to consider ways and means of regional co-operation, for developing new strategies for combatting illicit traffic and to define new ways of promoting the defense of the cultural heritage of Caribbean communities. A wide variety of topics were covered in these intense discussion groups. However, key areas for potential co-operation in eradicating illicit traffic were also identified. Formal links and collaborative committees need to be formed to increase the dialogue at both national and regional levels, and the sharing of vital information; specialized training to police and customs officers. Public educa-

tion programmes (such as highlighting International Museums Day) were recognised as important tools in reaching target audiences. Priority was given to the development of detailed inventories and catalogues of cultural properties, and finally the importance of proper legislation to protect archaeological sites, coupled with initiatives to accede to international conventions, and close co-operation with international agencies such as Interpol, to ensure effective collaboration in the retrieval of the national patrimony.

The consequences of allowing such activity to continue unchecked are immense, and remain largely untold. The adverse effects on the future direction of Caribbean nations as a result of depriving people of the knowledge of their past, and removing their symbols of cultural identity from their communities, is immeasurable. Barbados has made some progress in the right direction. Developing the appropriate legislation, and assisting in the developing of local cultural agencies, such as the Museum, is consistent with these goals and is a step in the right direction. What is needed now is the harmonization of national legislations and the reinforcement of the collaboration amongst the cultural police and customs services. However, the awakening of public awareness of the value and importance of the cultural heritage remains a critical factor. For this reason all Barbadians and our friends are invited to play a role by actively participating in celebrating the theme of International Museums Day, during Cultural Heritage Week in May. ♦

Museum to publish book on art

The Barbados Museum is to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society with the publishing of the book "Sixty Years of Barbadian Art", this book examines the work of Barbadian artists from the 1930s to the 1990s. It tells the story of the maturing of a national consciousness and the emergence of an indigenous aesthetic.

The creation of the book came about in 1992, as part of the preparations for its 60th anniversary celebrations (1993-1994). The Barbados Museum proposed the preparation of a comprehensive history and general reader addressing the development

of the visual arts in Barbados, documenting the emergence of a vibrant indigenous culture out of the colonial past that was Barbados' heritage. The book, approximately 200 pages with colour and black and white illustrations, is a seminal work which spans the decades from 1930s to the 1990s, and illustrates the creation of an autonomous language that gave voice to Barbados' unique cultural heritage, as it assisted in the formation of distinct national identity. The publication therefore was a response to a discernible need in both arts, education and cultural communities of Barbados.

This project could not have materialised without the kind

sponsorship from the Organisation of American States, and later the Interdevelopment Bank as part of its IDB "Cultural Center Cultural Promotion in the Field program."

Cultural program

"The Cultural Promotion in the Field Program" serves to support, stimulate and promote the most outstanding cultural expression in the member countries of the Bank. Through the country offices, the goals and activities of the IDB Cultural Center are extended in the member countries, to enhance the leadership role that the Bank seeks to foster in the

local cultural arena.

Objectives

The objectives of the program are to: support the development and achievement of artistic excellence for the Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean; promote artistic manifestations in the fields of music, visual and literary arts, or other cultural expressions that will benefit the community, or a large sector of the community, over time.

"60 Years of Barbadian Art" is published by Ian Randle Publishers. It will be available by the end of the year. ♦

Museum gardeners undergo training

The two gardeners from the Barbados Museum & Historical Society Reginald Riley and Shawn Rowe underwent landscaping training at Andromeda Gardens for two weeks respectively.

The goal of the training was to upgrade the skills of these two gardeners and to introduce them to new techniques in cutting, pruning and planting of flowers and plants.

Colour

According to Reginald the training 'gave me a better idea of the importance of colour in gardens and how the plants should be strategically placed to achieve this.'

Shawn was especially fortunate since he learnt how to graft plants and trees.

Out of this refreshing training



programme Shawn and Reginald have now come back to the Museum with new and exciting ideas for re-landscaping certain areas of the Museum grounds, specifically the front of the Museum.

The Barbados Museum extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Andromeda Gardens for their assistance, and looks forward to seeing the fruits of Reginald and Shawn's training in the near future.

ICOMS' programmes for Cultural Heritage Week

May 17, International Museums Day

- ♦ Museum Open Day, Barbados Museum
- ♦ Archaeology Exhibition, Barbados Museum
- ♦ Welchman Hall Gully Festival B'dos National Trust
- ♦ Open Day Barbados Gallery of Art

May 17-24

- ♦ Exhibition at National Library Service, Public Library

May 18-24

Week of activities at Folkestone Marine Park and Museum.

May 19

- ♦ Heritage Fair, Rum Factory & Heritage Park

May 23

- ♦ Lecture on Traditional Barbadian Medicines Barbados Museum 7:30 p.m.

MUSEUM STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR

Alissandra Cummins

Executive Officer

Melva Yarde

Marketing Officer

Maria Boyce

Special Events Manager

Christopher Chandler

Shop Manager

Anita King

Administrative Assistant

Marcia Griffith

Executive Secretary

Angela Boyce

CURATORIAL

Art & History

Lesley Barrow-Whatley

Natural History

Philippa King

Education Officer

Peggy McGearry

LIBRARY

Librarian

Betty Shannon

TECHNICAL & MAINTENANCE

Merna Bryan

Joycelyn Burke

Stephen Layne

Reginald Riley

Shawn Rowe

Pauline Stuart

RECEPTION

Shalana Benons

Stephenson Callender

Wendy Husbands

Hester St. Rose

SECURITY

Rudolph Beckles

Beresford Nurse

Royston Sargeant

Grantley Yarde

Clarence Welch

Docents undergo annual training

Part one of the Museum's docent training programme was completed at the end of March. The major focus of this training session was on methods of adding variety or improving the quality of tours which are given.

The first session was a tour of the Barbados Gallery of Art where Director/Curator Rodney Reynolds exposed the docents to the various techniques used in the interpretation of art- its composition, the

intention of the artist, the time-frame of the work etc. The second session complemented the first, since docents were treated to an in-depth "talk" on the "Prints and Paintings" in our own Cunard Gallery. This was done by the Director.

Seminars

"Africa Revisited" was the title of one of the seminars during which the docents saw a video production depicting what life

was like in Ghana before the Europeans came. There was extensive discussion on this and other aspects of West African life, which would help with the interpretation of the African gallery.

Our fourth session focussed on methods by which Children's workbooks could be creatively improved.

More training seminars will be held during the second half of April. ♦

SPECIAL EVENTS

May 1

Public Holiday. Museum Closed

May 17

Museum Family Open Day 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Archaeology exhibition " Now You See It Now You DON't: Saving Our Antiquities through Legislation" May 17- June 28th, Temporary Exhibition

May 19

Heritage Fair at Four Square Rum Factory and Heritage Park 9:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m.

May 23

Lecture Traditional Bajan Medicines, Dr. Rameses Caddle 7:30 Cunard Gallery.

Museum Closed Public Holidays