



Folk Museum soon to open

Insight into the creation of the Barbados Folk Museum

Design and construction work on the new folk museum space at Heritage Park in St. Philip, is proceeding according to plan. The project's sponsor Mr. David Seale (Managing Director of Heritage Park), project coordinator and curator, Lesley Barrow-Whatley, along with the architects from TAG and the site contractor Mr. Corbin, expect that the installation should be completed by the end of November.

For the curator, the main challenge has been the search and hunt for objects which were once commonplace but are now obsolete. In other instances, where items do exist, they are being closely guarded by people for their sentimental, historical or commercial value.

It has also been a learning experience for the architectural team from Tropical Architecture Group Inc. (TAG), as they discover that design and construction of exhibit space must be driven first and foremost by the artifacts themselves, the theme or subject matter, environmental issues, and very importantly, effective interaction with the museum visitor/ users. For example:-

1. The objects/artifacts

Should be interpreted within their historical/cultural context, therefore that context is critical in rationalizing design considerations.

Whatever considerations are decided upon then, should not do so at the expense of overwhelming the objects themselves.

2. Theme/Subject matters

This exhibit will focus largely on Barbadian life and culture of the non-elite in the second half of the 20th Century, therefore the curator must take into account from field observation and research, the range and limited amount of paint pigments which were used over that period— standard colours in cream, green, ox-blood red for exteriors, and in the case of domestic dwellings, interiors of cream, blue and pink and white. Thus authenticity with respect to historical accuracy may have to override personal preference or today's trends.

On the other hand, colour scheme might be dictated by the audience to which we want to appeal, so that for example, where the section on toys and games is situated, the decision on which colours to apply might be guided by the fact that we want to attract children and the young-at-heart.

3. Environmental concerns

A curator must bring to the planning table, knowledge about the effects of case design, lighting, climate, infestation



and physical access, about any given object which we intend to include in the display.

4. Visitor considerations

Accessibility and visibility are important. The growing sensitivity to and requirements for disabled -access are very important when it comes to doorways, corridors, seating and the height of text and objects.

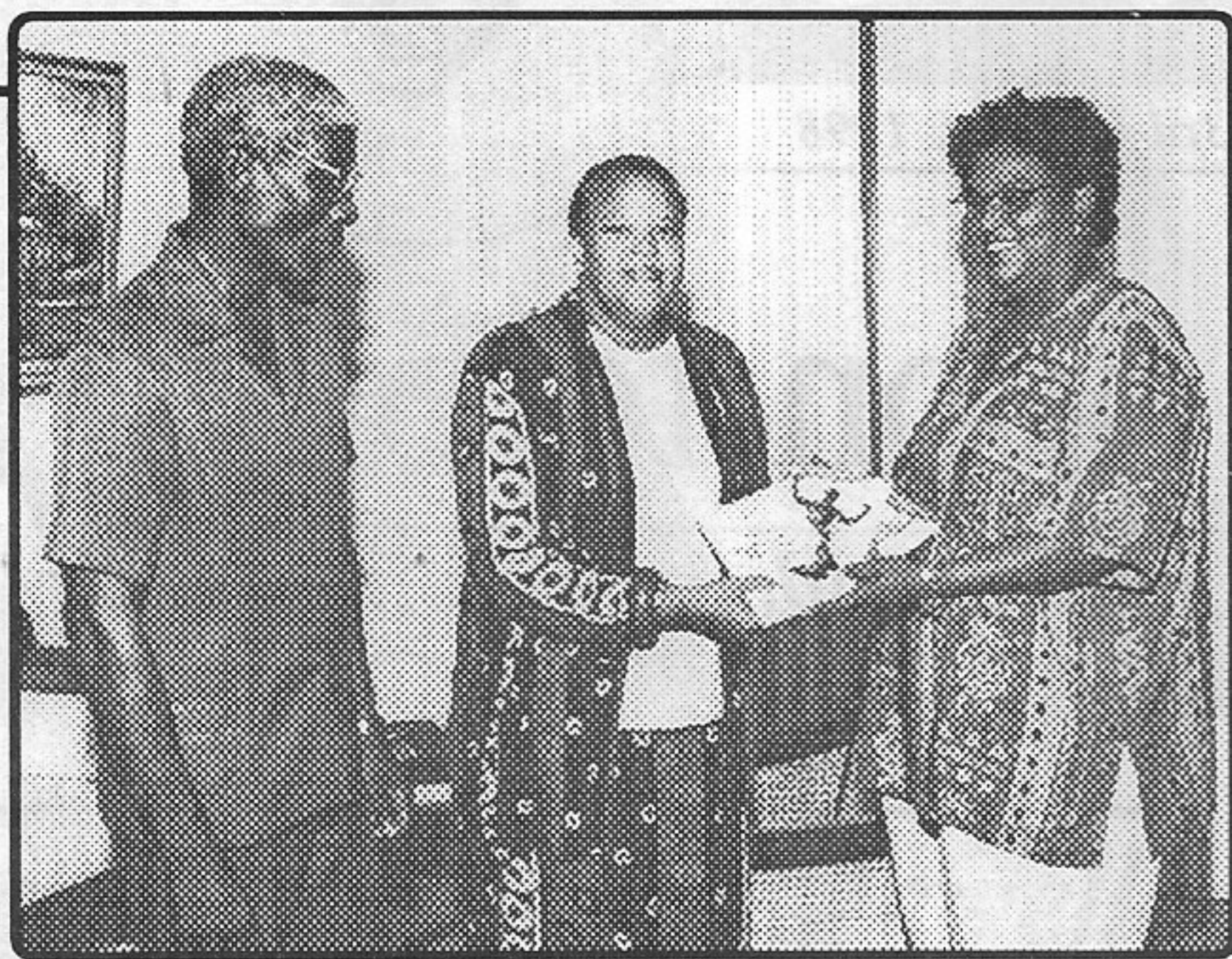
Most of the text within this museum space will be mounted on panels in front of the actual displays, therefore heights and levels must be designed to accommodate children, short persons and the disabled.

In conclusion, it is important for those of us engaged in the process, to share with the membership and the public at large, just what is involved in the dynamics of exhibit planning and implementation. It normally takes years to bring all the elements together in a comprehensive manner - starting with the concept and research through to the final installation. I hope therefore that the wait will be worth it.

Lesley Barrow-Whatley—Curator of Art & History

What's inside:

- **Exhibition: "Art in Barbados: what kind of mirror image"**
- **Commentary on African Studies in the school curriculum**



Pamphlets presented

Director of the Museum, Ms. Alissandra Cummins presents "Rewriting History" Pamphlets I & II, and the Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society to the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture the Hon. Mia Mottley. At left Mr. Elsworth Young, Permanent Secretary for Culture, looks on. □

Ms. King retires

Retiring after 19 years of service to the Barbados Museum is shop manager Ms. Anita King. Ms. King was employed at the Museum in 1979 when she joined the staff as a sales clerk/receptionist. In 1982 she became the manager of the orientation area. After a short stint at the Port managing the Barbados Museum booth, she became shop manager in 1988 and held that position until her retirement.

Ms. King says she feels "good in a way about her retirement" and thanks God for allowing her to live to see 65 years of age. Her first tasks will be to get some needed rest and then to indulge in her many hobbies which are gardening, cooking, drapery making and crocheting.

Ms. King will be missed for her warm personality and friendly disposition. The Barbados Museum's Council, staff and members wish her the very best in her future endeavours and thank her for her invaluable contribution to the development of the Museum shop. ❖



Museum for Biodiversity project

Ms. Cherrie Parris, Assistant Curator, Natural History has been chosen as one of a five-member developmental team to work on Coral Reef Biodiversity in the Caribbean. This project is a Darwin Initiative Project supported by the U.K. Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. The team consists of Education Officers from NGOs in Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Antigua and British Virgin Islands.

The team will visit centres in the United Kingdom from October 27- November 15, 1998 as part of the first stage of the project which seeks to increase student awareness of biodiversity and coral reefs as a resource, through the development of resource packs in the schools. This will help communities understand the threats and opportunities to them from the biodiversity of coral reefs, and secondly will bring knowledge and understanding from Caribbean countries to the UK school environment.

Ms. Parris says she is very honoured to have been chosen and sees the team as having an integral role in environmental education and the dissemination of information throughout the Caribbean in order to protect precious reef systems. ❖

Winners receive prizes

Winners in the Barbados Museum's "Name the Ocean Competition" received their prizes from the Assistant Curator for Natural History Ms. Cherrie Parris and the Education Officer, Ms. Peggy McGear.

First prize of a trip on the Seatrec compliments of Atlantis Submarine went to Mr. Ashley Hope. Shai Warner won the second prize of a place in the Museum Summer Camp, and third prize winner was Ms. Dadrea Sealy who received a basket of goodies and a Museum membership.

The competition was one of the Museum's programmes to celebrate the International Year of the Ocean.

PRESENTING

The Classic Card collection
A selection of 8 Christmas cards of
Barbadian historic and cultural
scenes.

*Soon to be available at the
Museum Shop!!*

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 this evidence for all sectors of society.

PATRON

His Excellency,
Sir Clifford Husbands,
G.C.M.C, K.A. Governor
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Ms. Nancy Jacobs
Mr. Antonio Rudder
Mr. Mencea Crookendale
Mr. Elsworth Young

Ex-Officio

Director of the Museum
Ms. Alissandra Cummins



One of the paintings on exhibit:
"Independence Celebration" by Hubert Brathwaite

Retro Art exhibition on

Now showing at the Barbados Museum until December 7, 1998 is the exhibition. "Art in Barbados: what kind of mirror image". The exhibition takes a look at 60 years of Barbadian art. Part I is housed in the Cunard Gallery (1930-1960) and Part II in the Temporary Exhibition gallery (1960-1990). This exhibition provides a learning experience of the development of Art in Barbados from the 1930s, a period dominated by an expatriate perspective of local scenes and situation to the challenging voice of Barbadian youth in the 1990s.

Visual arts

Art in Barbados was opened August 29, 1998 by the Hon. Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture Ms. Mia Mottley, who stated that the Government of Barbados was pleased with the event and saluted the organisers. She said that there was the beginning of a happy renaissance in Visual Arts in Barbados, and she hoped it would continue into the next millennium.

The exhibition mirrors and celebrates the book of the same title which is to be released by Ian Randle Publishers later this year. The book is a Barbados Museum & Historical Society publication and was written by the Director of the Museum, Ms. Alissandra Cummins, Ms. Allison Thompson and Mr. Nick Whittle as part of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society.

According to one of the co-authors Ms. Allison Thompson, "The Mirror Image" presented by the exhibition and the accompanying book provides us with a reflection of the past 60 years." ❖

Natural History Curator visits Jamaica and Guyana

I was informed at the beginning of my tenure with the Museum that my training would include site visits to overseas museums. However, I was absolutely thrilled to learn I would visit Jamaica (August 10-14) and Guyana (August 31-September 9) for the purpose of familiarising myself with the roles and proceedings of their varied museums and establishing contact with other museum personnel.

In Jamaica I was attached to the Institute of Jamaica (IOJ). This institution is a central co-ordinating body for the encouragement of Literature, Science and Art in Jamaica. As such, IOJ is comprised of several divisions and field stations. I was amazed by their herbarium which has a collection of over 125,000 birds and plant specimens in a room as long as our administrative office.

Jamaica

Jamaica itself is an overwhelming country, a sprawling city, ringed by magnificent mountains. I was welcomed by the staff of the Institute, who were helpful and patiently answered my seemingly endless questions.

I am forced to concede, however, that Guyana is equally beautiful with its fantastic wooden architecture - for example Castellani House (which is presently the National Gallery of Art) and the seemingly limitless forest and rivers. Words fail to describe the inspiring beauty of the interior and the people are as friendly as their country is beautiful. Generous hospitality and a host of questions, this time directed at the Barbados Museum and our practices and procedures greeted me at the Military and Police Museum.

These field trips were truly a learning experience, not only in terms of collection care and exposure to different methods, but also to see the similarities shared by Caribbean Museums and the deep-rooted and enthusiastic commitment of the personnel.

□ Cherrie Parris.

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Archaeology growing in Barbados

As we approach the end of another year, archaeological activity on the island continues to develop. The excavations at Newton Plantation are finished and analysis of the artifacts and ecofacts is underway. The preliminary report of the site given by Mr. Pasquariello at the Museum, was well attended, interesting and informative.

In a short time after one site was closed another was opened. The Port St. Charles site is being excavated by a field team, and the project leader is Dr. Peter Drewett. The team is continuing the work carried out in the 1996-1997 field study. Their excavation schedule is Monday - Friday 7:00-11:00 a.m., 3:00-6:00 p.m. They will be here until the 26th of February, 1999. All are invited to participate.

As we approach 1999 the Museum plans to restart the Archaeological Society. Those persons who are interested can contact Kevin Farmer at 427-0201/436-1956. □

Greetings from David Devenish

Past Barbados Museum Director Mr. David Devenish (1982-1985) and wife Dorothy are now in Gambia. David was (February-July) working as a consultant under a British Executive Service Overseas Program, at the National Museum. He will also be working on the refurbishment of the Slavery Museum at Juffure, the Mandinka village made famous by "Roots". □

Members are reminded about
The 1998 Fine Craft Festival
Saturday, December 5, 1998
10:00 a.m. - 6:00p.m.
Admission Adults: \$6.00
Children :\$3.00

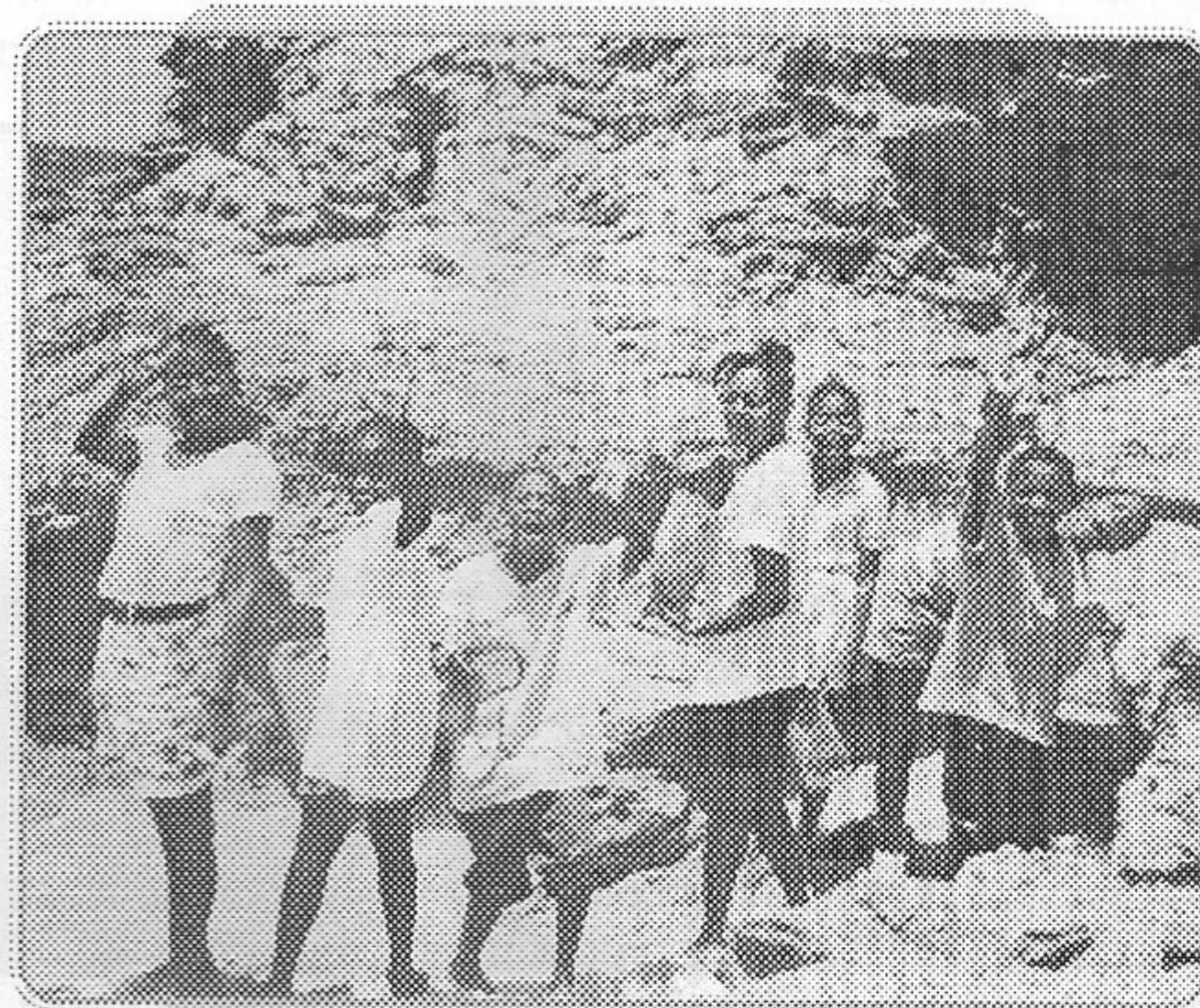
Another wonderful summer

Summer is gone and so are the bursts of youthful laughter which echoed through the Museum at that time of year. The two week summer camp ended much too soon for the campers (and their parents) who had a wonderful time learning about seas and oceans and about Africa.

During the first week they learnt the names and locations of oceans and continents, the names of creatures which live in the deep ocean and about their bioluminescence (natural lighting). Campers were divided into groups and they made papier maché models to represent their groups—flying fish, octopus, starfish, whales and lobsters. They watched videos and slides explaining life in the sea, the food chains and food webs and the varieties of corals which make up the reef. All these activities were crowned by an exciting trip on the Atlantis Seatrec and another around the north east coast of Barbados.

The second week of study on Africa was also hectic. Video and slide presentations highlighting both traditional and modern Africa were shown. African masks were made and shirts were tie-dyed. The children built a village compound from clay and sticks. This particular activity was exciting and was a great exercise in teaching team work and co-operation. Children learnt about at least 10 countries in Africa, the size of Africa compared to other countries and continents. They also learnt some of the ethnic groups and environments of Africa.

Camp would never have been complete without finding time to learn Barbadian folk songs and games. Some of these were presented as part of the entertainment package for parents and friends on the last day of the camp. All the



craft, paintings, drawings, masks and compositions were put on display for two weeks after the camp.

Special thanks must be extended to the following: The Multinational Women's Organisation—funding; the Junior Curators (especially Erica Hewitt Smith) who acted as counsellors and assisted with projects; Lee Farnum Badley for Warri; Assistant Curator Cherrie Parris—a talk and slide presentation on the reef; Dr. Ntui Okey and his wife for their presentation on modern Nigeria; Fortunia Slocumbe and Balance for their exhibition of African books and clothes. □

Journals presented to schools

The Barbados Museum through a marketing initiative was able to organise the sponsorship of the Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society 1996-1997 for some ten secondary schools by corporate Barbados. The schools which benefited from this initiative included, The Garrison Secondary, Barbados Community College, Princess Margaret Secondary School, Harrison College, Queens College, Foundation School and Alexandra School. The companies which kindly assisted this project were Barbados National Bank, BRC B'dos Ltd., Caribbean Caricard Services Inc. Standard Distributors, Cable & Wireless Caribbean Cellular (B'dos) Ltd., and Roberts Manufacturing Co. Ltd. □

Happy Birthday and belated Birthday wishes to those members celebrating and those who celebrated birthdays in August, September, October and November

Members are advised that the Museum Cafe will be closed from October 31, 1998.

New volunteer for Museum

Assisting the Museum in the cataloguing of the prints and paintings in the collections is Ms. Anne McDonald. Anne, the wife of diplomat Mr. Barry McDonald, moved to Barbados for their current assignment.



Anne has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Arts and in Australia was an Assistant Curator at the National Gallery of Art in Australia. Coming from a society where she was heavily involved in the arts, Anne found the transformation into the Barbadian art community quite easy. She has been embraced by all, and we welcome her ideas, talent and goodwill. Not only does she assist the Museum, she is also co-ordinating an exhibition on Aboriginal Art to be shown in the Grande Salle at the Frank Collymore Hall.

When asked to compare working and living in Barbados as opposed to Australia, Anne finds the size is the main difference, not only the size of the island but also the size of the two institutions. She is very impressed with the Museum staff's high degree of professionalism and is particularly impressed with the Assistant Curator with whom she works closely.

When not working at the Museum Anne finds time to explore Barbados. She has visited Bathsheba, Oistins and Andromeda Gardens and has taken in some of Barbados' night life. The MacDonalds are also taking advantage of being in the Caribbean by visiting neighbouring islands. □

The Shilstone Memorial Library will be closed from November 23 - December 7, 1998

LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome to Susan O'Neil who is our new volunteer replacing the late Beryl Birch. The Librarian attended the workshop CARALL XIII, a two-day conference from June 29-30, 1998 at the University of the West Indies.

MUSEUM PERSONALITIES

MS. DAISY FROST DOCENT 1986-1998

Ms. Frost is one of the founding members of the docents under Mrs. Wendy Donawa and one of the remaining active founders.

Years as a docent:

- ☐ 1986-1998
- ☐ Made co-ordinator in 1990
- ☐ 1995 made Docent Emeritus

Duties:

- ☐ Tour guide
- ☐ Collating workbooks
- ☐ Researching galleries
- ☐ Substituted for Education Officer
- ☐ Organised training seminars for docents
- ☐ Organised fund-raisers for the Museum to obtain office equipment



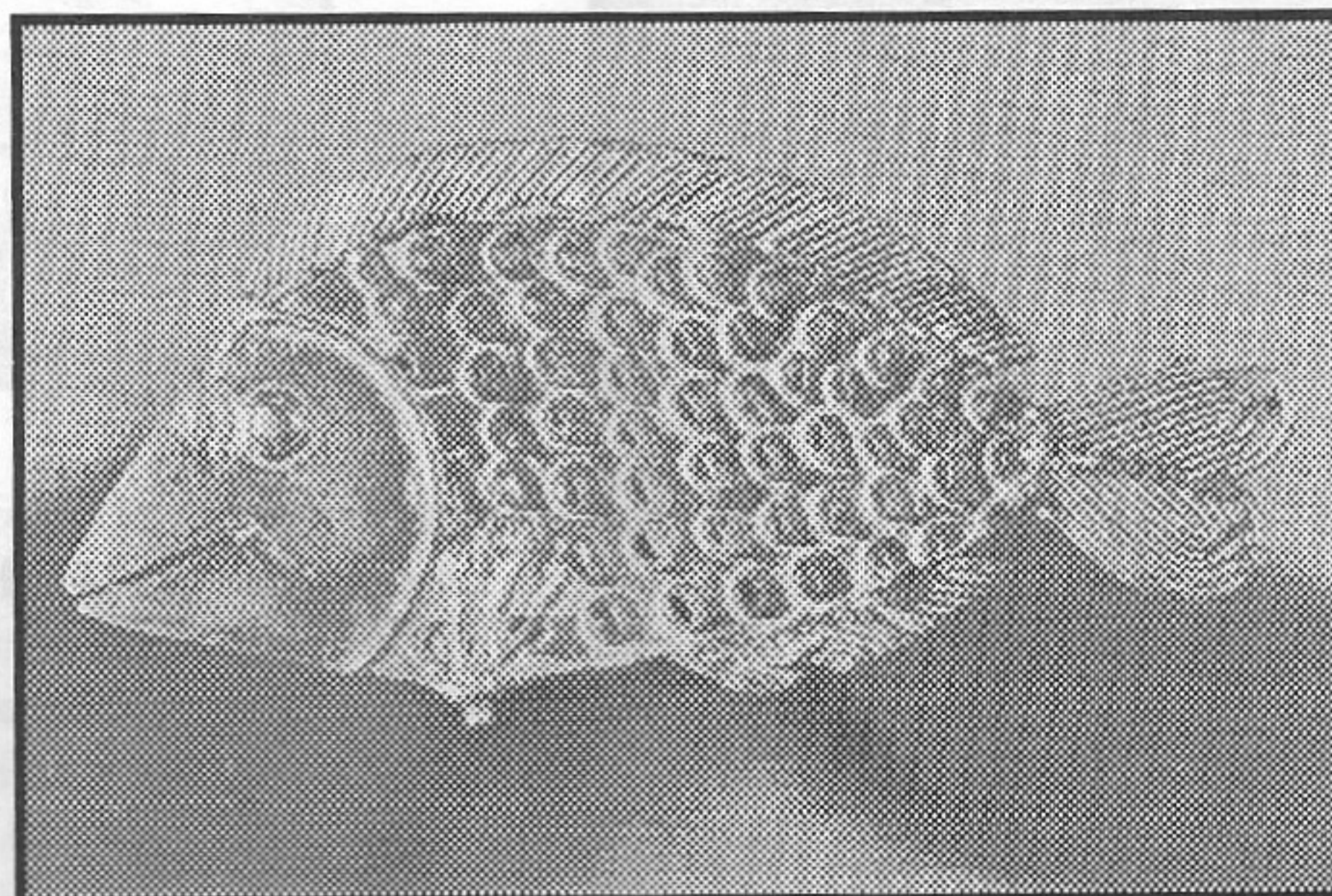
The Museum welcomes the following members into the society:

Ms. Beverley J. Franklin
 Ms. Dorothy C. Whittaker
 Ms. Kim Young
 Winston Cox & Sylvia Potvin
 Mr & Mrs Barry McDonald
 Mr. & Mrs. James Walker
 Mr. Wilfred Abrahams
 Ms. Cheryl Adams
 Sir Roy Aguiar
 Ms. Alice Baldwin-Jones
 Ms. Griselda Barrow
 Mr. Richard Beales
 Ms. Nelicia Archer
 Mr. Matthew Adams
 Mr. Timothy Adams
 Mr. Edward Elliot
 Christopher & Nancy Cook
 Ms. Sharon Meredith
 Mr. Paul Woods
 Ms. Charlette Alleyne
 Lennox and Maxine Rawlins
 Kieshell and Kieshon Rawlins
 George & Mary Gleadall
 Mr. Derek Ashby
 Melvin & Ermine Atwell
 Mr. Pierre Atwell
 Ms. Monica Narodny
 Ms. Jacqueline Cornelius
 Charles & Vivian Mullaney

Does Barbados need African studies?

Our educational system has a long and prestigious tradition which historically dates back to the period of colonialism. Needless to say, it has been closely aligned to that of our former coloniser, Britain. We, like other British counterparts, have prided ourselves with having one of the best educational systems in the world. However, the system of which we boast has failed to give us a well-rounded view of our ancestry.

After becoming a Junior Curator at the Barbados Museum and completing my university education, I became acutely aware of this major discrepancy within our "celebrated" system. Our educators particularly at primary and secondary level, have failed to acknowledge that Barbadians do not know a significant part of history. There is no denying that black Barbadians are descendants of African slaves. Yet African studies, which should be considered the very foundation on which our history rests has been ignored as a legitimate study. I believe that it is imperative for us Barbadians to gain knowledge about where our ancestry lies, in order that we understand ourselves as a people with a rich and colourful heritage.



Culture

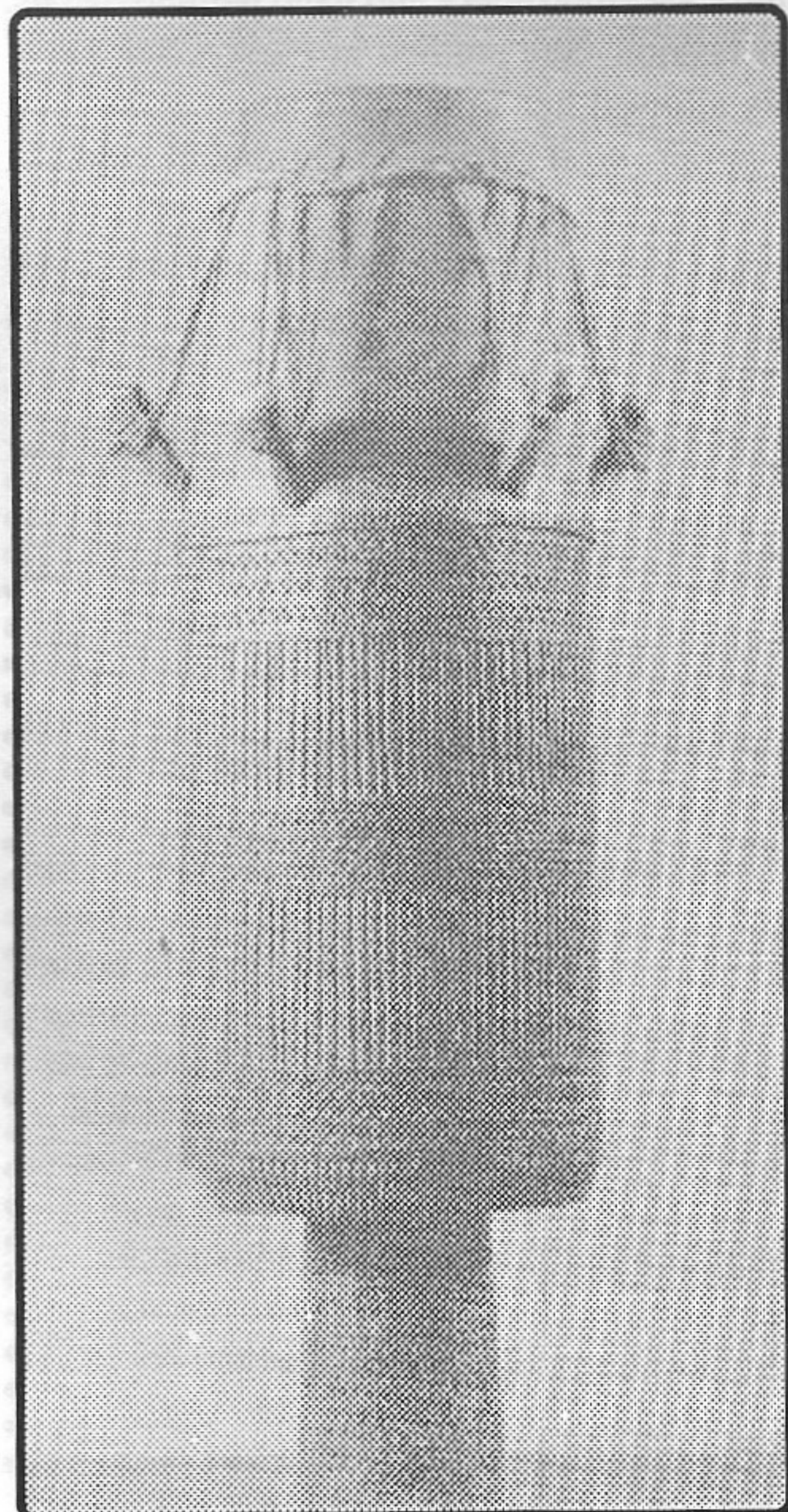
Some may contend that the absence of African studies has not really affected Barbadian society. However, the reality of the situation suggests otherwise. As a junior curator, my interaction with Barbadians, both young and old, has proven that many of us do not know the very essence of what makes them Barbadian. I have experienced many situations where older Barbadians have expressed delight when viewing the display of the conaree jar, monkey and Warri board. These items were part of their daily lives, yet many of them are astonished to learn that they are of West African origin. The omission of this vital link in education deprives us of a historical consciousness.

It is said that heritage culture and historical consciousness are closely linked. Thus, it is not surprising that many Barbadians believe that they do not have a real culture. We as a people, are a blend between African elements, and European elements. This is what gives us our unique nature. If our educational system continues to highlight only Western beliefs, values and customs, how could we ever relate to our African influences?

The Barbados Museum through its out-reach programmes has taken on the formidable task of educating Barbadians about Africa. Education Officer Ms. Peggy McGeary has targeted schools at secondary level, attempting to enlighten students with valuable information about Africa. Indeed the museum cannot do this task of educating alone.

It is interesting to note that the Ministry of Education is now trying to formulate a policy and syllabus for African Studies. This is a positive move. However there are so many negative concepts and attitudes to Africa, that care must be taken to first educate the educators so that they do not perpetuate these and the idea that Africa is the worst place on earth. This would ensure that the next generation of Barbadians understand themselves their heritage and their culture. I firmly believe that the Barbados Museum and the Ministry of Education working in collaboration could successfully resolve this pressing issue. ♦

Cherrie-Anne Burton - Junior Curator



MUSEUM STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Director

Alissandra Cummins

Executive Officer

Melva Yarde

Marketing Officer

Maria Boyce Taylor

Special Events Manager

Christopher Chandler

Administration Assistant

Marcia Griffith

Executive Secretary

Angela Boyce

CURATORIAL

Art & History

Lesley Barrow-Whatley

History & Archaeology

Kevin Farmer

Natural History

Cherrie Parris

Education Officer

Peggy McGeary

LIBRARY

Librarian

Betty Shannon

TECHNICAL & MAINTENANCE

Merna Bryan

Stephen Layne

Reginald Riley

Shawn Rowe

Pauline Stuart

RECEPTION & SHOP

Susan Boyce

Wendy Husbands

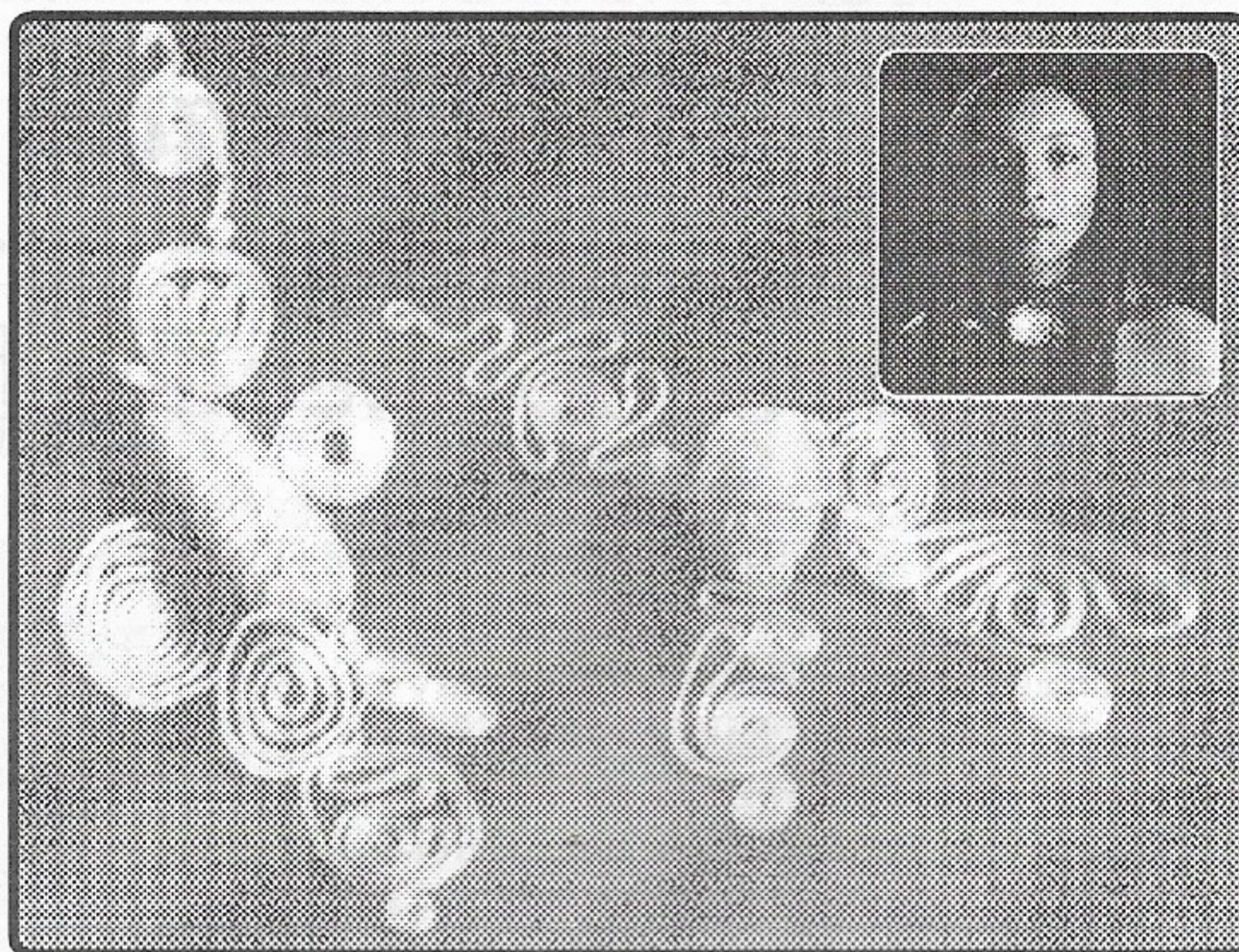
SECURITY

Rudolph Beckles

Beresford Nurse

Royston Sargeant

Grantley Yarde



Inset: Nefertari Caddle

Jewellery exhibit at the Museum

Local designer Nefertari Caddle will be showcasing her 1998 collection of accessories in an exhibition entitled "From My Hands" at the Barbados Museum from December 13 to January 13, 1999.

The exhibition will feature jewellery, belts, hats and bags using brass, 24 karat plate on brass, leather, metal, sterling silver and semiprecious stones.

As part of the special opening of the exhibition Nefertari will premiere her 1998 Christmas fashion collection "Heritage II, Plantation House". The fashions will include feminine dresses in white with intricate embroidery and hand painted pieces.

Nefertari has vast experience in fashion. She studied at Parson School of Design and Merchandising. Her studies allowed her to spend a summer in West Africa's Ivory Coast where she learnt certain West African traditions in working metals lost wax processing and metal forging. Her fashions were also showcased in a number of major shows, including BBC Clothes Show in London, Style by Elsa Klensch and Sun Style in Barbados. The exhibition will be in the Temporary Exhibition Gallery and admission is free. □

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

**10th Annual General Meeting of the Museums
Association of the Caribbean**

November 18-22, 1998—Hotel PomMarine

DECEMBER

10th Annual Fine Craft Festival

December 5, 1998, 10:00a.m. - 6:00 p.m.—Museum grounds

Art in Barbados: What kind of Mirror Image

Extends until December. Closing Dec.7, 1998

Nefertari Caddle exhibition "From My Hands"

December 13, 1998-January 7, 1999.