



Museum ready to face challenges

The Museum Community is living through increasingly challenging yet exciting times. The constantly rising expectations of the public we serve have made us almost a victim of our own success as we increasingly walk a tightrope of museum management, curatorship and delivering services.

The Museum remains committed to raising awareness of the benefits museums bring to both local communities and to the nation as a whole. Indeed, we are much encouraged by the stated objectives of government to seek to establish national standards for museums and would urge that this be expanded to include the articulation of a stated national policy against which our performance can be measured. However, it is just as important for the media to know and understand the many problems and pressures which face museums at this time.

The Museum is increasingly being called upon to provide professional advice or service to a wide variety of organisations and individuals. We are always happy to respond. If we are to represent the broad spectrum of our membership's interest, then we need you to keep regularly in touch with us. It is hoped that opinion with relation to museum activities and policy develops more from close knowledge and experience than unhesitating acceptance of unqualified, un informed statements within the media and elsewhere.

Membership

A very significant and essential contribution to the Museum's rapport with its membership and other audiences is the dynamic publication programme which has developed out of key initiatives established within the last few years. Within the last year alone the Society has published two extremely popular issues of the Journal, with one more on its way. In partnership with the University of the West Indies we have produced two issues of a new pamphlet series "Rewriting History" with a third issue on "Old Doll" now in production. The *pièce de résistance* is the publication of the long awaited monograph on Barbadian art of the last six decades, "Art in Barbados." Such a dynamic programme could only have occurred with the dedicated support of the members, friends and staff alike committed to the mission "to interpret and present such evidence to all sectors of society."

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Within Barbados few other institutions, governmental and nongovernmental alike, have been able to achieve such a record and it is to be hoped that members will be convinced that their membership dues represent good value and an excellent investment in the Society's ability to conserve the past for future generations. ♦

What's inside

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♦
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♦
Museum plays host to interns

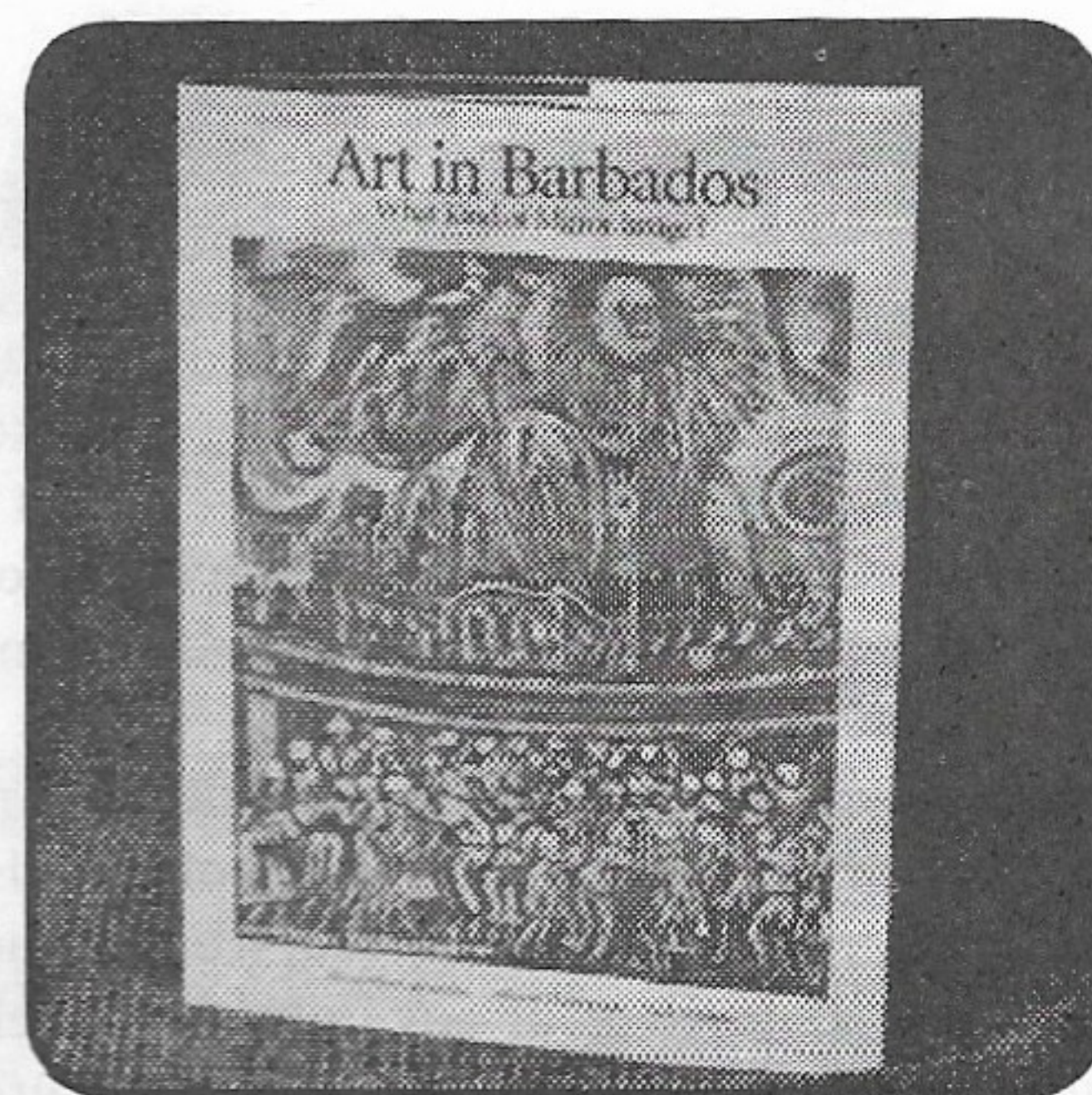
“Art in Barbados” published

The long awaited book “Art in Barbados What kind of mirror image?” has finally been published. This Barbados Museum & Historical Society publication was written by the Director of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society Alissandra Cummins, Allison Thompson, a teacher in Art history and Art Criticism in the Division of Fine Arts at the Barbados Community College, and Nick Whittle, an accomplished artist who has exhibited work locally, regionally and internationally and who is a teacher of Art at Queen's College.

The book examines the work of Barbadian artists over six decades from the period of the 1930s to the 1990s. This publication is the first attempt to provide a framework for the conceptualisation and interpretation of Barbadian art and serves to correct the image of Barbados as a culturally deficient community. It covers the period of the 1930s which was dominated by a Eurocentric perspective to the challenging voice of AfroBarbadian youth of the 1990s.

The publication was launched with a book signing reception at the Barbados Museum, where the authors described the road to the completion of the book as a long and treacherous journey, however a very rewarding one. The book has colour illustrations of paintings including Aileen Hamilton's "Aunt Lou" and Edmund Gill's "Grenada, Grenada". Since the release of the book, it has been described as an “evolving indigenous Bajan vision recognised and respected regionally and internationally.”

The book was published by Ian Randle Publishers and sponsored in part by the Organisation of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank's Cultural Centre. “Art in Barbados” is available at all leading book stores. ♦



Getting the “Hole” picture

The Barbados Museum has embarked on a new project at Holetown. The room on the northern end of the Police Station has been assigned to the Barbados Museum. It had been used from time to time for temporary exhibitions, but there is a new and hopefully more continuous project in the making for Holetown- that of a Community Museum - where the impetus for activities in the Museum came from the members (past and present) of the community.

Community Museums have been successful in other parts of the world. However, it is a new concept in this region and indeed for the Education department at the Museum.

From September 1998 interviews have been conducted with residents of Holetown in an effort to get a clear picture of the history of the place which was referred to as the, “Hole” by the early settlers.

The co-ordination and production of the museum's creation is being shared by Caroline Lanthier, an intern from Canada who has been sponsored by the Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM), and Education Officer Peggy McGeary.

The Community Museum was successfully launched on February 19, 1999 with an exhibition entitled “The Hole Picture” which tells the story of Holetown from the early 1920s until present. This semi-permanent exhibition and venue will seek to act as a meeting place for community members, to offer programmes and events that perpetuate local traditions and to be a visitor's site within the Holetown area where tourists can learn about the history of Holetown. This project is a three year project and is now in its first phase. □

The Community Museum was launched on February 19, 1999 with an exhibition entitled “The Hole Picture” which tells the story of Holetown from the early 1920s until the present.

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 General of Barbados

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Ms. Nancy Jacobs
Mr. Mencea Crookendale
Mr. Elsworth Young

Ex-Officio
Director of the Museum
Ms. Alissandra Cummins

CAM meeting to be held in B'dos

The Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) is pleased to announce that the Commonwealth Triennial Programme and General Assembly will be held in Bridgetown Barbados from May 5-12, 1999. This will be the first occasion that this major event will be held in the Caribbean and it represents the Association's intent to reach out to all parts of the Commonwealth and to recognise and encourage active public museums and heritage organisations, and their service to their communities. The host institution is the Barbados Museum & Historical Society whose Director Alissandra Cummins, is the Vice President of CAM.

The event will also be the major opportunity to celebrate the 25th Anniversary year of the Commonwealth Association of Museums and will launch the Association into the next millennium.

The theme of the programme is "Museums, Peace, Democracy and Governance in the 21st Century." Peace is a critical world concern, and democracy and good governance important supporting elements in sustaining peace in a diverse and increasingly interdependent world. Each citizen and each museum of the Commonwealth has a contribution to make to encourage peace and this programme will examine the ideas and concrete ways by which museums can make a difference. The theme is also a fitting reminder of the Commonwealth ideals and principles of peace, democracy and good governance and a reminder that these principles are vital whether we live in a peaceful nation or those torn apart by external and internal conflict.

The Programme will take place at the Hotel Pomarine, Hastings, Christ Church from May 5-12, 1999. □

Update on Darwin project

Assistant Curator Cherrie Parris reports on her visit to the United Kingdom as part of the five-member development team to work on Coral Reef Biodiversity in the Caribbean. The Team visited the United Kingdom from October 27-November 25, 1998 as part of the first stage of the project.

My trip to the United Kingdom had two objectives which were achieved at the Field Studies Council Centres in West Wales and the Cumbrian Mountains/Lake District, with the team members living in close quarters and participating in daily workshop sessions which lasted 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. The training process was extremely intense, dealing with a wide range of issues such as learning, teaching styles, planning of field work, design of educational aids, safety issues and ecological principles of coral reefs.

The execution of field work as part of the workshop sessions allowed us to explore the beautiful environs of the field centres.



Ms. Cherrie Parris at forefront on a field tripto the Cumbrian Mountains

The third phase of the project has already started with the production of coral reef resource packages. The activity is expected to be completed by mid-year, when training of teachers to utilise the packages will begin.

The success of the project depends largely on the commitment of the team members and the Barbados Museum is very committed to the project. ♦

Heywoods excavations completed

Archaeological excavations at the Heywoods site in St. Peter were completed on January 7, 1999. This last stage was started in September 1998 by Dr. Peter Drewett and his team of students from the University College of London, Institute of Archaeology.

Some of the significant findings from this last stage of excavation were three complete house plans of Pre-Columbian houses, Prehistoric calabash gourds (the first to be found in the Eastern Caribbean) and shell fish hooks which confirm that Amerindians engaged in fishing activities.

A core team of four students remained until the end of February to conduct analysis of the findings. Officials from Port St. Charles have presented all the artifacts to the Barbados Museum for storage and preservation. Assistant Curator of History and Archaeology at the Museum Mr. Kevin Farmer has confirmed that all the human remains which were excavated will be re-interred at an appropriate site away from The Port St. Charles Development. ♦



A look at the Heywoods Archaeological site with volunteers and students excavating.

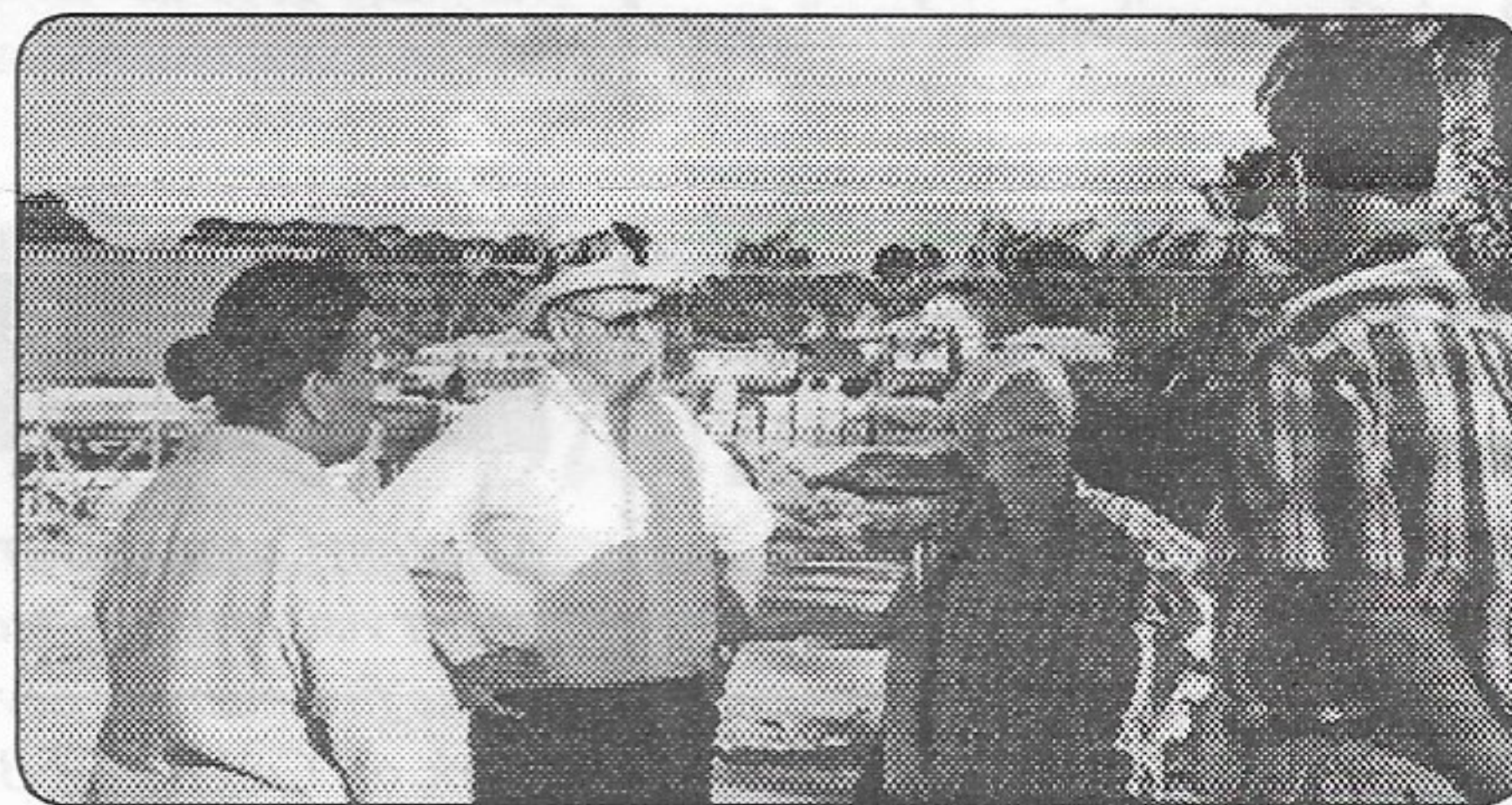
Archaeology collection in need of storage space

The Archaeology collection housed at the Barbados Museum and Historical Society has seen a continued growth since the mid 1980's. The creation of the post Curator of Archaeology in the mid 1990s' saw the advent of an office which was able to respond to archaeological finds on the island, as well as engender the need for the systematic preservation of the island's archaeological heritage.

The need to preserve the island's archaeological heritage led to a joint venture between the Society and the Institute of Archaeology, University College London for an Archaeological survey of the Pre-history of the island. The initial survey and its subsequent excavations over the last 15 years have done much to rewrite the pre-history of Barbados and expand the archaeological collection of the society.

This expanded collection of material culture has forced the Society to develop and introduce storage systems to handle the expanded collections. However at this time the society has effectively exhausted the available storage resource at its plant and is in the process of sourcing available storage.

We would appreciate any assistance in this search for storage from the members of the Museum's Society, as we strive to secure the material remains of our past. For more information or to offer assistance please call Mr. Kevin Farmer at 427-0201. □



Alissandra Cummins, Director of the Museum in conversation with His Excellency Mr. Gordon Baker, Mrs. Baker and Mr. Thomas Herbert of Port St. Charles (backing).

British High Commissioner visits Heywoods

The British High Commissioner to Barbados His Excellency Mr. Gordon Baker and Mrs. Sheila Baker visited and toured the last stage of the Port St. Charles site on January 8, 1999.

The High Commissioner expressed an interest in the Archaeological findings and was very interested in a number of the artifacts which were on display such as the shell and coral tools, and pot stacks.

His Excellency stated that he was very pleased with the three year partnership which has existed between the University College of London, Institute of Archaeology and the Barbados Museum and looks forward to the continued collaboration between the two institutions. □

Museum plays host to interns

The Barbados Museum has been playing host to two Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) interns since September 1998. These two young Canadians have been assisting the Barbados Museum & Historical Society and the Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) in establishing important projects to prepare both institutions for the next millennium.

Caroline Lanthier has been assigned to the Barbados Museum Education department to work with Education Officer Ms. Peggy McGearry on the development of a Holetown Community Museum. This is a new type of Museum for Barbados which seeks to give a voice to the people by making them partners in the management and development of the museum.

Quebec

Caroline is a native of Quebec, and has worked with the Canadian Childrens Museum in the Education Department and the Canadian Museum of Civilisation as a programme coordinator. Her work here includes conducting research on Holetown, carrying out interviews and preparing the project proposal. She also assisted with registration and as an interpreter at the 10th Annual MAC AGM held in November of 1998.

Caroline has found her assignment a challenging one. However, she has enjoyed the beauty and hospitality of Barbados and its people. This was quite evident since she chose Barbados as the place to tie the nuptials with her husband Francoise. When not working on the Museum, Caroline can be found cycling around Barbados or taking weekly hikes with



Caroline Lanthier



Jonathan Murphy

Two Canadian interns have given invaluable assistance to the BMHS & MAC

the Future Centre Trust.

Jonathan Murphy has been assigned to assist MAC in the establishment and completion of a survey of Museum Collections in the Caribbean and the development of a MAC website. Jonathan has fully completed the latter and is still working on the survey. He has a Diploma in International Studies and a B.A. in Archaeology from the University of Calgary. He has also been working with the Assistant Curator for Archaeology at the Museum analysing finds from Heywoods site and developing an Archaeology collection database. Jonathan sees this experience as very helpful as Archaeology is his chosen field. He spends his spare time snorkelling and exploring the East Coast of the island.

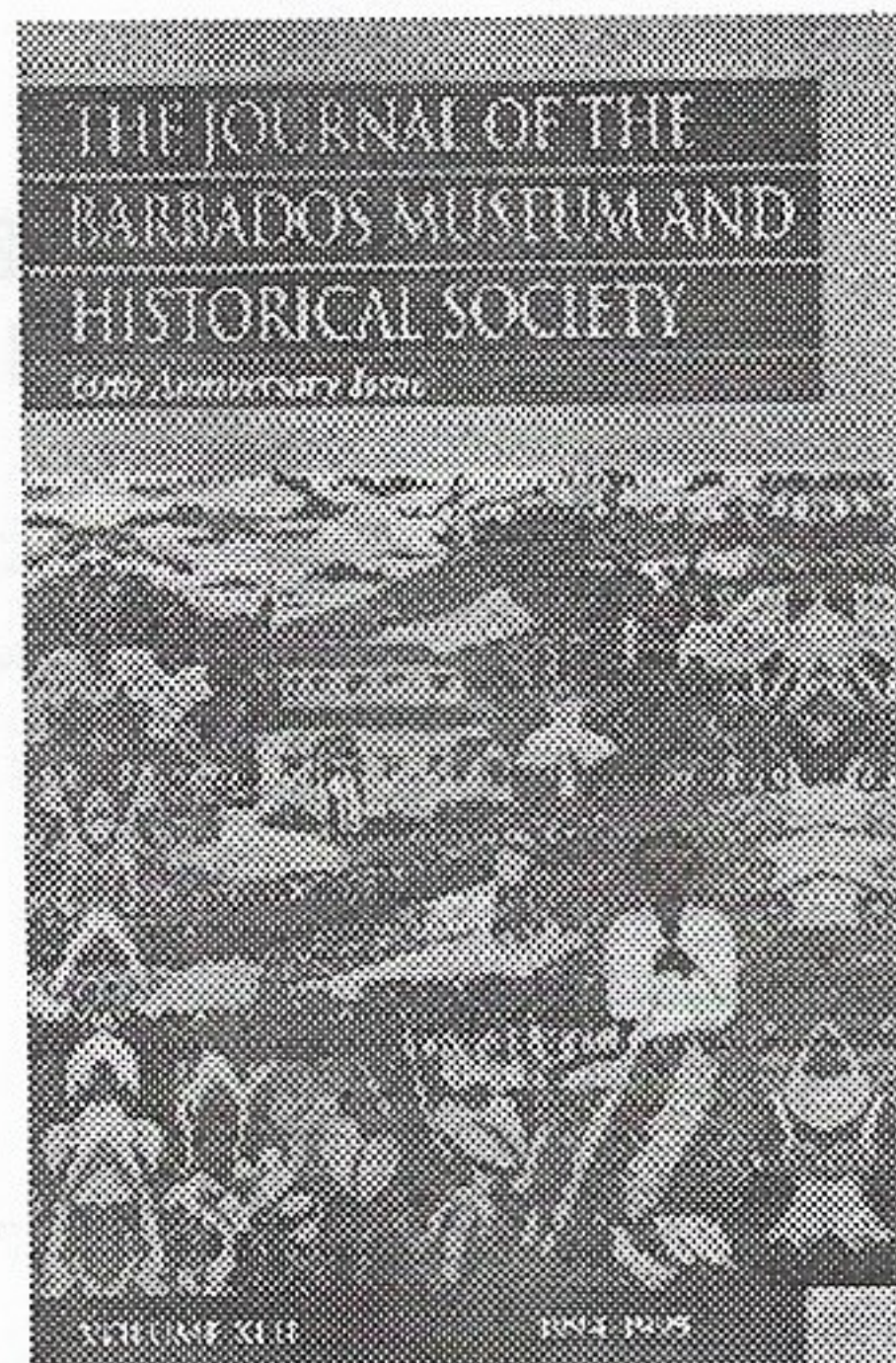
The Barbados Museum & Historical Society and Museums Association of the Caribbean thanks them for their hard work and dedication in the development of these two projects. ♦

1994-1995 Journal completed

All members should have received their 1998 Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society (JBMHS). We have also received the 1994-1995 JBMHS Vol. XLII which has finally been published and will be distributed very soon to all members.

This commemorative issue which was to mark the 60th anniversary of BMHS experienced major delays at the printers. However, the Museum's editorial committee is very pleased that this edition of the Journal has been finally accomplished.

Members can find many provocative and educational articles such as, "The Barbados Economy since the 1930s" by DeLisle Worrell and "Confronting Colonialism: The first 60 years at the Barbados Museum & Historical Society" by Alissandra Cummins. ♦



Happy Birthday and belated Birthday wishes to those members celebrating and those who celebrated birthdays in January, February & March



A cross section of the booths at the festival

A "Fine" success

The 1998 Fine Craft Festival took place on December 5, 1998. This was the tenth year for this very festival which is anticipated by craft persons and patrons. The year saw the festival opening two hours earlier so as to accommodate more people and allow for craftpersons to have more selling hours. The festival was well attended, there was an increase in the number of stall holders over the previous year, and a wider variety and selection of craft such as antique miniature bookshelves, table tapestry, and patrons were able to have pastel portraits done on site.

As usual Cou Cou Village provided the local cuisine in the upper courtyard of the Museum and there was entertainment from Garrison Steel Orchestra and Tuk band music.

The festival ended prematurely at 4:45 p.m. due to heavy showers which flooded the lawns and the walkways. Apart from this, it was a very entertaining and enjoyable day at the Museum. ♦

LIBRARY NEWS

At the 1998 Museum Craft fair the library book stall netted \$160.00. For this period we have received 17 new books to the collection. Worthy of note were the "Canadian Women's Club of Barbados - 75 years" by Alison Ince. "ByGone Barbados" by Anne Watson Yates. □

**Now available
at the Museum Shop
"Art In Barbados:
What Kind of Mirror Image?"
5% discount for all members
on presentation of a valid
Museum ID card.**

Winners all in a row

In our last edition of the newsletter we carried an article entitled "Winners Receive Prizes" which featured the winners of the "Name the Ocean Competition". However, we did not include a photograph. In this edition we showcase the lucky winners. From far left front row, Mr. Ashley Hope, first prize winner; Ms. Dadrea Sealy, third prize winner; Stephan Warner, brother of second prize winner Shaie Warner; and Cherrie Parris, Natural History Curator. Backrow from far left Ms. Peggy McGeary Education Officer, and parents of the winners. ❖



The Museum welcomes the following members into the Society:

Mr. & Mrs. David Barnard
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon & Sheila Baker
Mr. Lisle Warner
Mr. Carlo Cavalli
Mr. Tony Webster
Mrs. Joan M. Guy Vincent
Mr. Gerald Rose
Mr. & Mrs. Eva Toman de Ungar & George Ungar
Mr. & Mrs. Luther C. Johnson
Dr. & Mrs. Natalia Larkin
Mr. & Mrs. Frithjof M. Lunde
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Reelfs
Ms. Janice "Mercer" Baker
Mr. Victor (Kenny) Bovell
Ms. Jacqueline Cornelius
Professor Anthony Cox
Ms. Valerie Crotty
Mr. Ken Daniell
Ms. Patricia Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mullaney
Mrs. Monica Narodny
Mr. Geoffrey Rudder
Mrs. Laura May Seale
Mrs. Elizabeth Tang
Ms. Melanie Newton
Ms. Kimberley Drakes
Ms. Nichola MacDonald
Ms. Rhiannon Marquez

Farewell to Daisy

The Museum said a sad goodbye to Docent Emeritus Mrs. Daisy Frost, who has officially resigned from the docent programme as of December 1998. Daisy, who has provided some 11 dedicated years to this programme, was a founding member of the docents group and was made Docent Emeritus in 1995. She has worked at the museum as a tour guide, substituted for the Education Officer and has organised training seminars for docents.

A farewell function was held for Mrs. Frost at the volunteer Christmas party where she received a token of appreciation and high praise from the Education Officer Peggy McGeary and fellow docent Kevyn Arthur who spoke of her dedication and dynamic leadership of the docent group.

Daisy thanked the Museum for the gift and the kind words and reminded the gathering that she will always be a part of the Museum family.



Ms. Daisy Frost and Docent Kevyn Arthur at the volunteer Christmas party.

The Council and staff of the Barbados Museum once again extend their sincere thanks and gratitude to Mrs. Frost for her longstanding service to the institution. ♦

Meet An Employee



NAME:

Susan Boyce

OCCUPATION:

Receptionist/Sales Clerk

DUTIES:

Greeting and orienting visitors to the Museum, answering and directing all incoming calls to the Museum, receiving moneys for admission to the Museum and taking all bookings for tours.

TIME AT THE MUSEUM:

1 year

HOBBIES:

Going to the beach, reading

FAVOURITE GALLERY:

Cunard Gallery

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THE MUSEUM:

The environment is very nice, I have the opportunity to meet a lot of people from different places. ♦

***The Barbados Museum:
For people about
people !!***

SHOP NEWS

The Museum shop has a lovely array of new gifts & souvenirs. These include:

- ◆ Chattel House candle holders
- ◆ Hand painted keyrings & magnets
- ◆ Barbados Museum Amerindian mugs and monkey jars
- ◆ Mahogany picture frames and desk pen holders
- ◆ Barbados Museum map T-shirts
- ◆ Recyclable paper stationery sets and book marks made from Banana leaves and decorated with bougainvillea.
- ◆ Cards from the Classic Card collection
- ◆ Chattel house wind chimes

Books include:

- ◆ "Bygone Barbados"
- ◆ "Art In Barbados: What kind of mirror image?"
- ◆ Enchanted Voices and Visions from the Caribbean: A Journal

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 McGear

TECHNICAL & MAINTENANCE

Merna Bryan

Stephen Layne

Reginald Riley

Shawn Rowe

Pauline Stuart

RECEPTION & SHOP

Susan Boyce

Wendy Husbands

Hestor St. Rose

SECURITY

Rudolph Beckles

Richard Millar

Beresford Nurse

Royston Sargeant

Grantley Yarde

*"Artefacts" is a Museum
quarterly publication co-
ordinated and designed by Maria
Boyce-Taylor and edited by the
staff of the Barbados Museum*



Some of the participants of the 1998 MAC conference enjoying the evening at the Museum

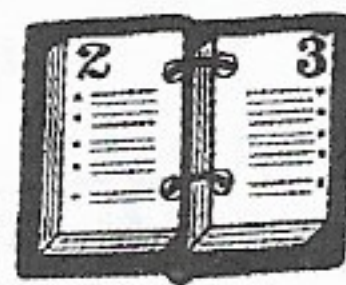
A look back at MAC meeting

The 10th Annual General Meeting of the Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) was held in Barbados in November 1998, at the Hotel PomMarine. This meeting was officially opened by the Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture Ms. Mia Mottley who praised the work of the Association for providing co-operation in the field of Museology throughout the region.

The conference was divided into two segments, an Annual General Meeting. Out of this meeting Llewellyn Gill of St. Lucia was returned as President of the Association, Dr. Henry Petit-Jean Roget of Guadeloupe, Vice President, Ms. Grace Turner of Bahamas, Secretary and Dr. Edward Harris of Bermuda, Treasurer. On the second day there were a number of workshops on the topic "The Role of Information Technology for Caribbean Museums in the 21st Century." The workshops were very informative and tackled such issues as collections and database development by Dr. Edward Harris from the Bermuda Maritime "Museum. Edutech 2000: Overview" by Mr. Chesterfield Marshall a programme Officer in the Edutech 2000 Unit here in Barbados.

Other workshops were on Marketing and Exhibition development. After the business came pleasure and participants were treated to an "Evening at the Museum" which included a fund-raising auction for MAC and entertainment by "Sing Out Barbados."

The meeting came to an end with an Island Tour on the Saturday where participants toured the Barbados Gallery of Art, Andromeda Gardens and Sunbury Plantation. ♦



Calendar of Events

May

Museum Open Day: Saturday May 15, 1999

Lecture on London Bourne:
Wednesday May 18, 1999 at 7:30 p.m.

An Evening with the Stars:
Friday May 21, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.

These dates may be subject to change.