

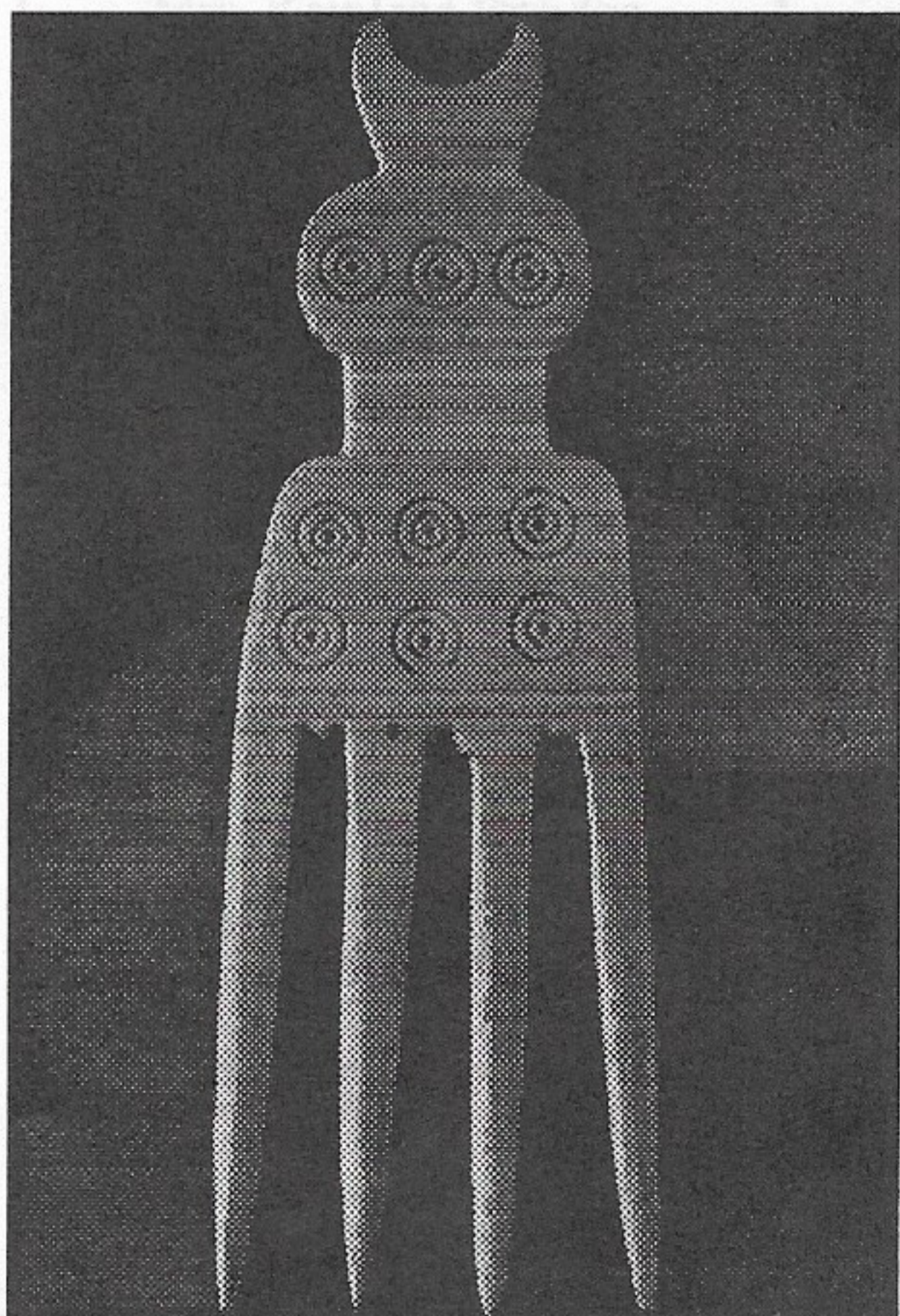


Improving the "African"

Museum receives funding to expand its African Gallery

The Barbados Museum has recently received funding from United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to develop and expand the African Gallery. The project is being co-ordinated by an advisory committee which includes museum staff, Museum council members Kathleen Drayton and Nancy Jacobs, and representatives from the University of the West Indies History Department, Dr. Alvin Thompson and Dr. Richard Goodridge.

The goal is to provide a permanent exhibition gallery where the central theme focuses on the continent of Africa



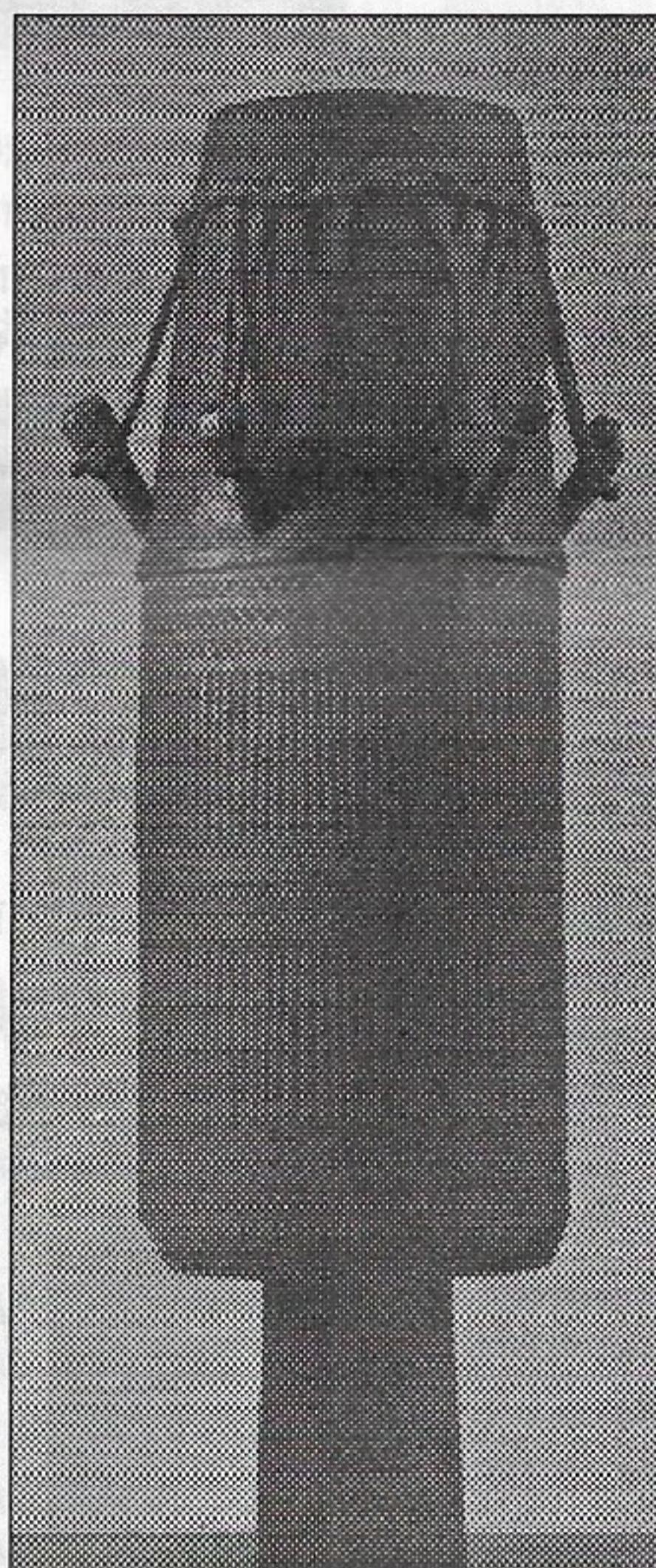
The provision for grant funding for the redevelopment of the African Gallery encompasses the main areas of design, interpretation and security of the collection. There is now the opportunity to create a much improved permanent exhibition gallery where the central theme focuses on the continent of Africa by providing an overview of Africa's historical development and its cultural diversity.

Re-development

The aim of the gallery redevelopment, according to Kevin Farmer, Assistant Curator for History and Archaeology, is "to educate the viewer as to the environmental, cultural, societal and political diversity of the African continent, and its relationship to the creation of an African Diaspora."

Another aim of the gallery is the demystifying of the African continent, its people and culture. The main themes are technological adaptation, ports of departure and "10,000 years of African Civilisation." ♦

See page 2



Seasons greetings

**From the Council
Management & Staff of the
Barbados Museum**

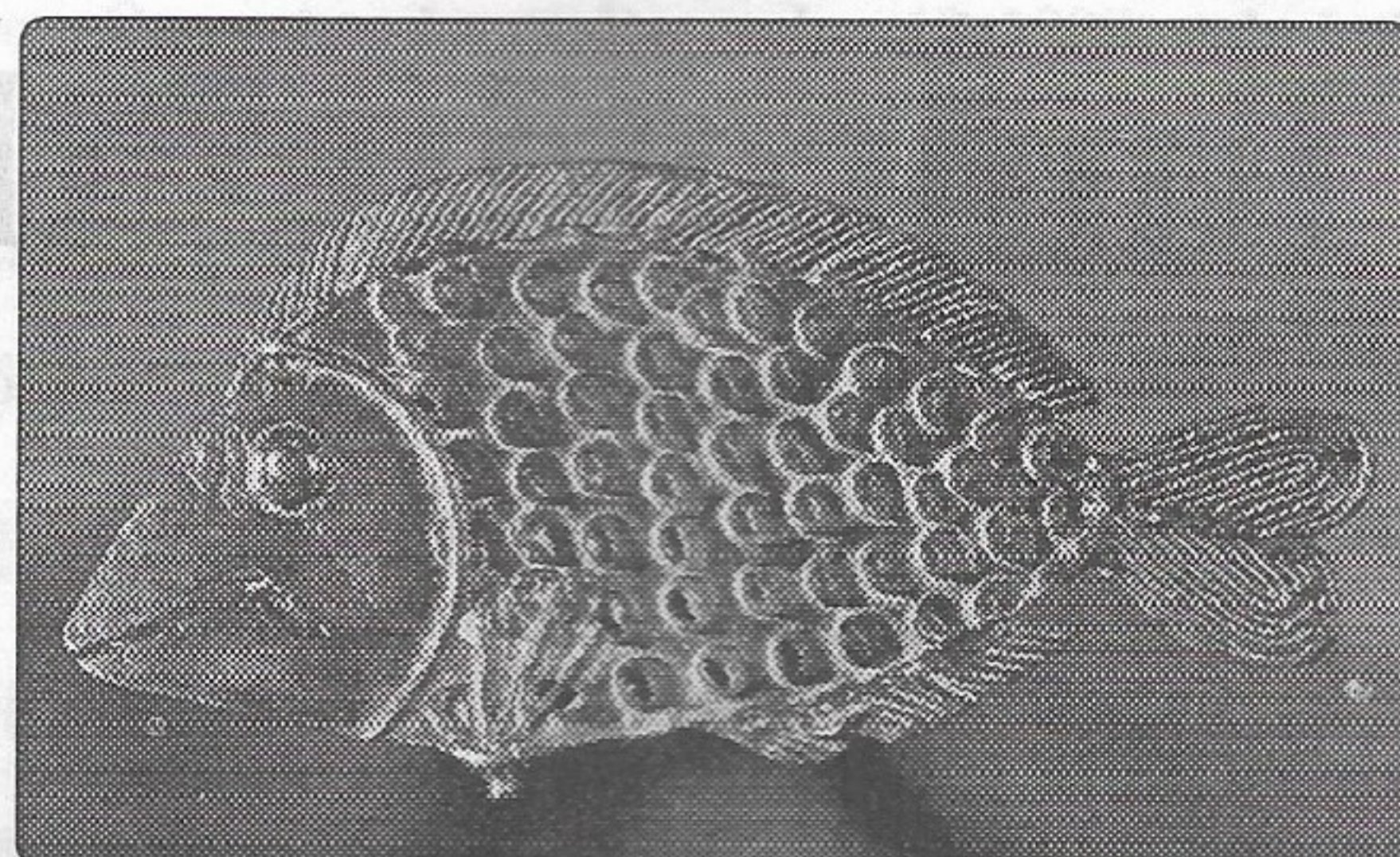


Thematic design for African gallery

As part of the redevelopment of the African Gallery, the Museum played host to Dr. E. Kofi Agorsah, a professor in Black, Caribbean and International Studies at Portland State University. Dr. Agorsah is a native of Ghana and was on a five-day consultancy to assist in the thematic concept of the Gallery and the identification of artifacts. He worked closely with Assistant Curator Kevin Farmer in creating a strategy for the reorganisation of the gallery and providing information on the objects and their cultural significance.

Archaeology

Dr. Agorsah has been living in the United States for seven years. He is an archaeologist by profession and is presently researching the maroons. He was responsible for the establishment of the archaeological programme at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, where he lived for a short time. He was also the Director of the Cape Coast Museum in Ghana and the Ghana National Museum.



Dr. Agorsah believes that there is not enough connection between Africa and the Caribbean, which leads to miseducation and little interaction. He however sees the Barbados Museum African Gallery as a step in the right direction in the Caribbean in educating the public on the African Continent. ♦

The Museum welcomes the following individuals and companies into our family of members:

Mr. Paul Altman
Mrs. Rachel Altman
Mr. Andrew Arthur
DeAnn Blackman
Ms. Patricia L. Campbell
Ms. Emma Christopher
Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation
Cecil Francs de Caires
Callender Ernest
Edward P. & Jean M. Evelyn
Alison Saunders-Franklyn
Peter E. Gooding
Bruce A. M. Hackett, Jean Hackett
Glenna Harris
Greg Hoyos Associates Inc.
Miguel Pena
Mr. Horace Scobie
Ella Tomlin
Dale Wiltshire

VACANCY

The Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) is looking for a part-time individual to run its Secretariat two days a week.

If you are :

Fluent in French/Spanish

Happy working on your own

Interested in heritage

Computer literate

Please call Alissandra Cummins
427-0201/436-1956
for more information.

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

COUNCIL

President

Dr. Trevor Carmichael Q.C.

Senior Vice-President

Mrs. Jean Goddard

Junior Vice-President

Mrs. Kathleen Drayton

Ordinary Members

Sir Carlisle Burton
Ms. Janice Cumberbatch
Mr. Gordon Parkinson
Mr. Patrick Hoyos
Ms. Laura Picard-Leach

Government Appointees

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

Ex-Officio

Director of the Museum
Ms. Alistandra Cummins

Excavations at Spring Garden

Excavation work on Spring Garden began in response to a call from museum member, Mr. Bruce Jardine, alerting the museum to the destruction of a site. A survey of the site revealed potstacks and the remains of human skeletal material at the southern end. The excavation was done in four phases and several persons assisted at various times: Mr. Kevin Farmer of the Barbados Museum, Dr. Karl Watson of the U.W.I., Dr. Ronald Hinds and Mr. Bruce Jardine. Excavation equipment was kindly donated by Mr. Peter Allard.

It seems that at the time of the first occupation, the site probably consisted of a raised sand stone beach within a very large bay, next to a river. It was difficult to say what the original landscape was like, since so much of the area has been lost due to clearance for building construction.

The recovery of the potstacks at the site can assist in understanding how widespread this type of 'technology' was on the island. The information could also indicate changes in technique and types of materials used in the construction of the pots.

Judging from the shape of the sherds found, it seems that the pots at this site were large and bell-shaped. There was also a significant number of both decorated and undecorated sherds associated with the pot stacks. The information yield could also indicate changes in the type of material and techniques used in their construction. There was a substantial amount of undecorated pottery amongst the pot stacks, but there were also some interesting decorative motifs on sherds associated with them. ♦

IT training for Museum officers

Museum curatorial and administrative staff underwent a three-day training workshop in database development conducted by Mrs. Lene Rold, a consultant in database development from the National Museum of Denmark. Mrs. Rold is a curator and senior scientist at the National Museum of Denmark and has specialised in database development and collection management.

While in Barbados she was commissioned by the National Art Gallery Committee (NAG) and the Barbados Museum & Historical Society to initiate training in the development of databases for the newly found NAG and to evaluate the existing databases at the Museum. She also conducted a seminar in this subject area at the Ministry of Education for officers in the cultural industries.

Database development

Mrs. Rold is very well versed in the field of combining museum disciplines with Information Technology. She holds a Ph.D. in Archaeology and a degree in Computer Science. At the National Museum of Denmark she manages the department responsible for database development and for the maintenance of the collection's database.

An advocate for the development of databases in museums, she believes that they play an important role in assuring the sharing of information between museums and with museum audiences. While in Barbados Mrs. Rold laid the foundation for database development in the museum and related cultural industries. Feedback from museum staff was that the seminar and workshops were extremely interesting and informative. Mrs. Rold was complimented for her teaching skills and wide knowledge. ♦

Camp brings heritage to life

This year's camp is the third in the series, which was started in 1997 by Ms. Peggy McGeary, the Education Officer at the Museum. Each year the camp becomes stronger due to a high percentage of return campers along with enthusiastic new ones.

For the duration of the camp the children were placed in five groups and were assigned a group leader. The camp officially started on July 13, 1999 and focused on various aspects of Barbadian heritage. This year counsellors met for training at various times with Ms. McGeary in order to make this camp a success, and it was.

Our counsellors were fully prepared and quite capable of working with the children. Camp counsellors included UWI graduates, primary school teachers and high school students. Special mention must be made of Ms. Peggy McGeary who created an exciting program for the campers and Erica Hewitt-Smith, Camp supervisor, who worked with Ms. McGeary in making the camp a success.

For the duration of the camp, the children worked on compiling information and drawings for their folders, based on various tours. Tours included the Garrison area, where campers viewed the remaining military buildings, including St. Ann's Fort, the Main Guard and Charles Fort.

Visits were made to several buildings and sites which were discussed for their historic significance and architectural features. Some of these were St. Nicholas Abbey, Farley Hill Great House, Codrington College, the Jewish Synagogue and the Parliament buildings.

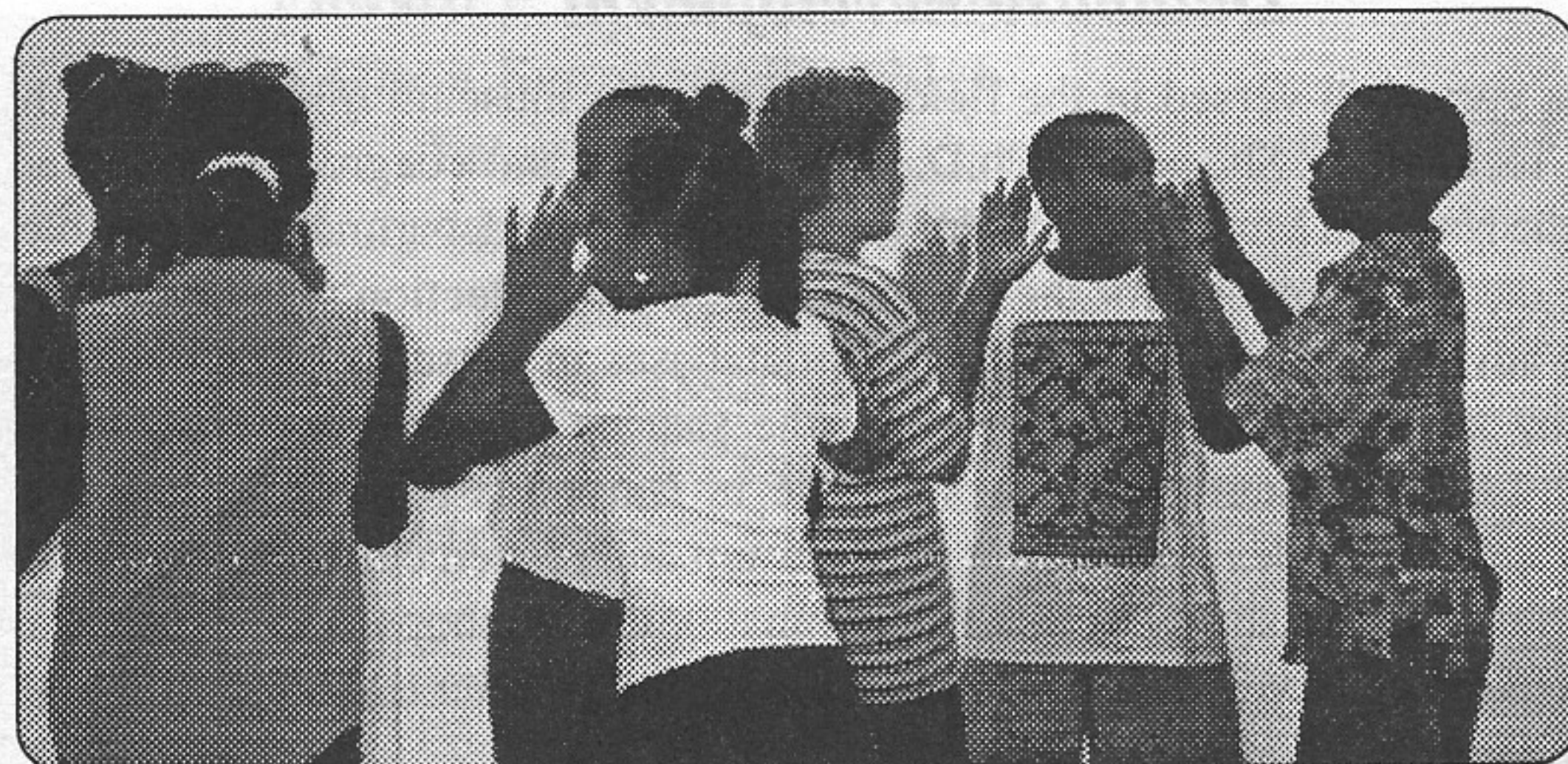
This year's campers were easily motivated and a pleasure to work with. The Museum looks forward to next year's camp which promises to be something special. ♦



▲ Campers performing for their parents at the camp concert.



▲ Campers on their tour of Sam Lord's Castle.



*This year the
camp focused on
various aspects
of Barbadian
heritage*



Museum Classic Card Collection

The Museum has once again printed its Christmas Classic Card Collection catalogue. These nine images which represent Barbados' natural history, social history and fine art are on sale in the Museum shop for \$2.76 VAT inclusive. As always Museum members are entitled to their 5% discount. The Museum is also offering an overprinting service for special messages. For more information please call Maria Boyce Taylor at 427-0201/436-1956. ❖

Holetown Museum volunteer

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society is looking for a part time Gallery Attendant for its Holetown Museum.

The person should:

- Enjoy interacting with people
- Have an interest in the History of Barbados
- Enjoy working on their own

For more information please call Peggy McGeary at 427-0201/436-1956.

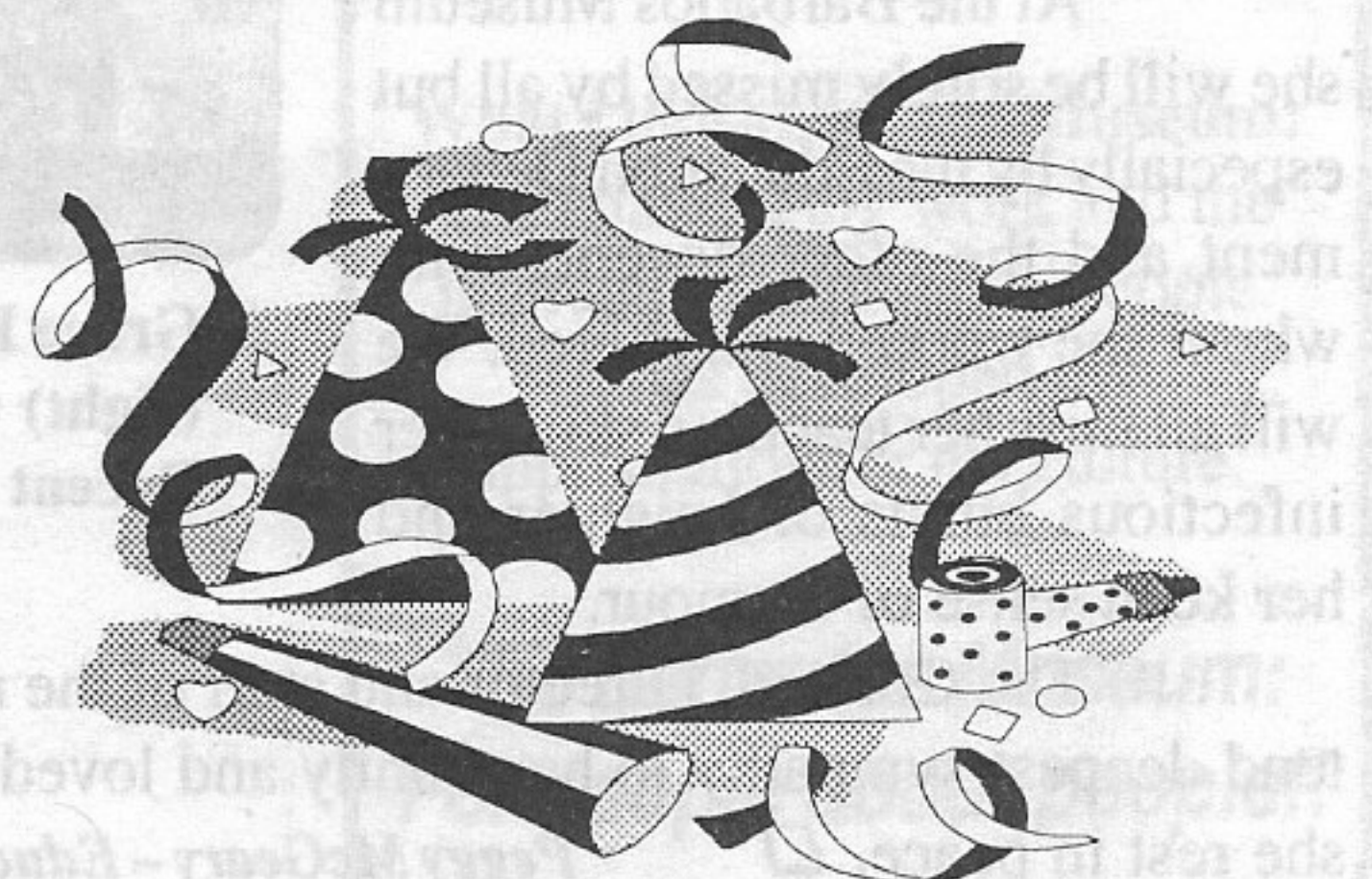
Shop News

The Museum Shop has a number of lovely gift items for Christmas this year these include:

- ☐ Scented candles in lovely terracotta holders
- ☐ Shell Christmas decorations
- ☐ Ceramic vases, dolls and trinket boxes
- ☐ Magnets, key rings
- ☐ Books such as: *Geology of Barbados*
- ☐ Lovely Christmas cards

Members receive 5% discount in the Museum shop!!

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



Museum mourns the death of Docent, Grace Brancker

It is with deep sadness that the Barbados Museum says farewell to one of its members and valued docents, Grace Florine Brancker. Grace was a very active member who volunteered her time as a teaching guide after her retirement from the post of Deputy Chief Education Officer. She taught at Belmont Primary, Bayley's Primary and St. Matthew's Primary. When the Parkinson Secondary School first opened its doors she was among the first members of staff there.

In 1962 Grace entered the Mona Campus of the University College of the West Indies, where she gained her B.Sc. in Economics. On her return to Barbados she joined the Ministry of Education as an Education Officer. Her contribution to Education was further enhanced after her 1977 stint in Paris where she did a UNESCO course in Education Planning. This course provided her with the skills to collect and compile statistical information and reports in the Statistics and Planning department of the Ministry of Education. Grace shall be missed by many, for she contributed not only to the Museum, but also to associations like the Girl Guides and Autumn Leaves.

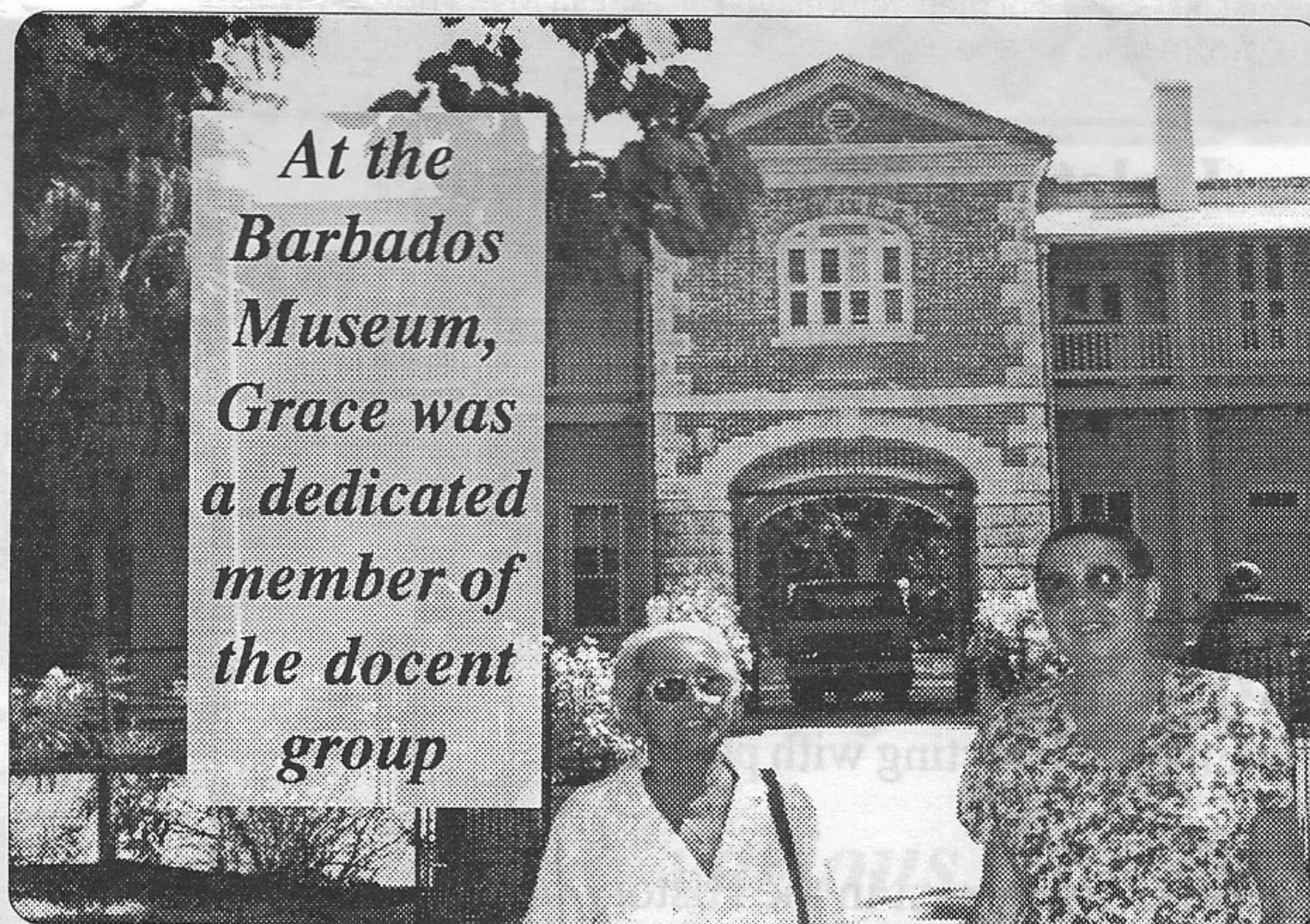
At the Barbados Museum she will be sorely missed by all but especially by the Education Department and the other docents with whom she worked and shared. We will all miss her teaching skills, her infectious bursts of laughter and her keen sense of humour.

The Council, Director and staff of the museum extend deepest sympathy to her family and loved ones. May she rest in peace. □

Peggy McGeary – Education Officer



▲ Grace Brancker at the 1998 Volunteer Christmas party.



▲ Grace Brancker (right) with fellow Docent Daisy

At press time of this publication the Museum was informed of the passing of Sir Donald Wiles. The Council, Management and Staff of the Museum offer their sincere condolences to his family and friends. A detailed tribute will be published in the next edition of "Artifacts". □

1999 Journal coming soon

The 1999 Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society Vol. XLV is now in the process of being edited. This issue is once again edited by Dr. Karl Watson. Articles include:

"A man for All Seasons : London Bourne" by Cecilia A. Karch; "A tribute to Ronald Vernon Taylor" by Henry S. Fraser; "The St. Jago Flower" by J. Edward Hutson and "Sugar Plantations in Barbados in 1924" edited by Karl Watson. Members will receive their copies in the mail and the Journal will be on sale in the Museum shop. □

Library says thank you

The Barbados Museum sincerely thanks all those companies and persons who made their 1999 Fashion Show and Tea a success. They are:-

Tamarind Cove Hotel

Almond Beach Resort

Cave Shepherd & Co. Ltd.

Sandbox Designs

Ela Boutique

The Cliff Restaurant

The National Library Service

The Museum library volunteers

The patrons who continue to support this event.



*Two of the models
in fashions and
accessories from
Ela Boutique*

Meet An Employee



NAME:

Angela Boyce

Post:

Executive Secretary

Duties:

Executive Secretary to the Director, Supervisor of all secretarial functions, maintenance of staff records, registrar for museum collections, administrator for special events

Favourite Gallery:

Jubilee

Hobbies:

sightseeing, listening to music, reading

Years at the museum:

14

What I like about the Museum:

The challenging work and the interaction with many people. It has developed my appreciation for my culture.

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

MUSEUM STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Director
Alissandra Cummins
Executive Officer
Melva Yarde
Marketing Officer
Maria Boyce Taylor
Special Events Manager
Christopher Chandler
Administrative 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
Librarian
Betty Shannon

TECHNICAL & MAINTENANCE

Merna Bryan
Stephen Layne
Reginald Riley
Shawn Rowe
Pauline Stuart

RECEPTION & SHOP

Susan Boyce
Wendy Husbands
Hestor St. Rose

SECURITY

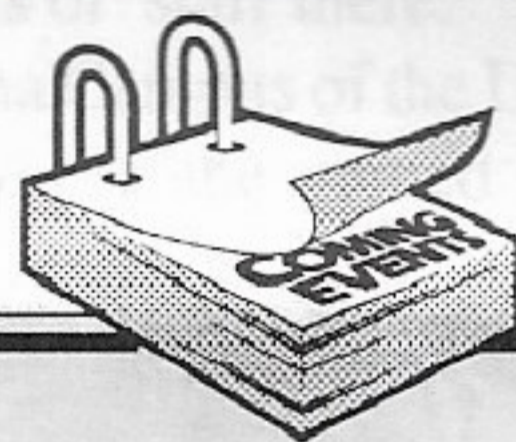
Rudolph Beckles
Richard Millar
Beresford Nurse
Royston Sargeant
Grantley Yarde

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

Poster exhibition in December

The British High Commission will be hosting an exhibition at the Barbados Museum entitled "Pure Fusion". This exhibition is a display of recent British posters focusing specifically on graphic design. This show is one program in a week of activities celebrating modern young Britain at the turn of the millennium. The exhibition will be mounted in the temporary Exhibition Gallery from December 4 until December 18, 1999. Admission is free. Members are invited to view this exhibition.

**Members are invited to view the
Holetown Community Museum on
Mondays & Wednesdays
9:00 a.m. -12:00 noon in the
Holetown Police Complex.**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Pure Fusion Exhibition:
December 4 – December 18, 1999

Closing Dates for the holiday season

December 24-27, 1999

December 31, 1999

January 1, 2000

January 21, 2000

These dates may be subject to change

Happy Holidays!

