



## Conservation and Art

*Conservators evaluate museum fine art collection*

In January this year, a condition survey and needs assessment of selections from the institution's print and painting collections was carried out by two consultant art conservators from Puerto Rico. This survey has long been in our plans - tying in to the specific objectives of our conservation programme, and the overall objectives of our collections management policy and its on-going implementation. It was undertaken to ensure that our existing - and potential resources for conservation (i.e. human, financial, structural and informational), will be used with best effect to meet the institution's current and future needs.

A random selection of approximately 50 pieces, works from both areas were included, as well as some works already earmarked earlier for conservation treatment.

The conservators who hail from Puerto Rico, Mr. Luis Larrazabal and Ms. Lydia Aravena, were recommended by the Director Ms. Cummins on the basis of their expertise and wide experience in the field of art conservation, and are therefore acquainted with regional conditions.

Mr. Larrazabal who specializes in 'works on paper' (prints, drawings, and any paintings on paper), runs his own establishment, the Centre for the Investigation of the Conservation of Cultural Patrimony in the southern city of Ponce, P.R.

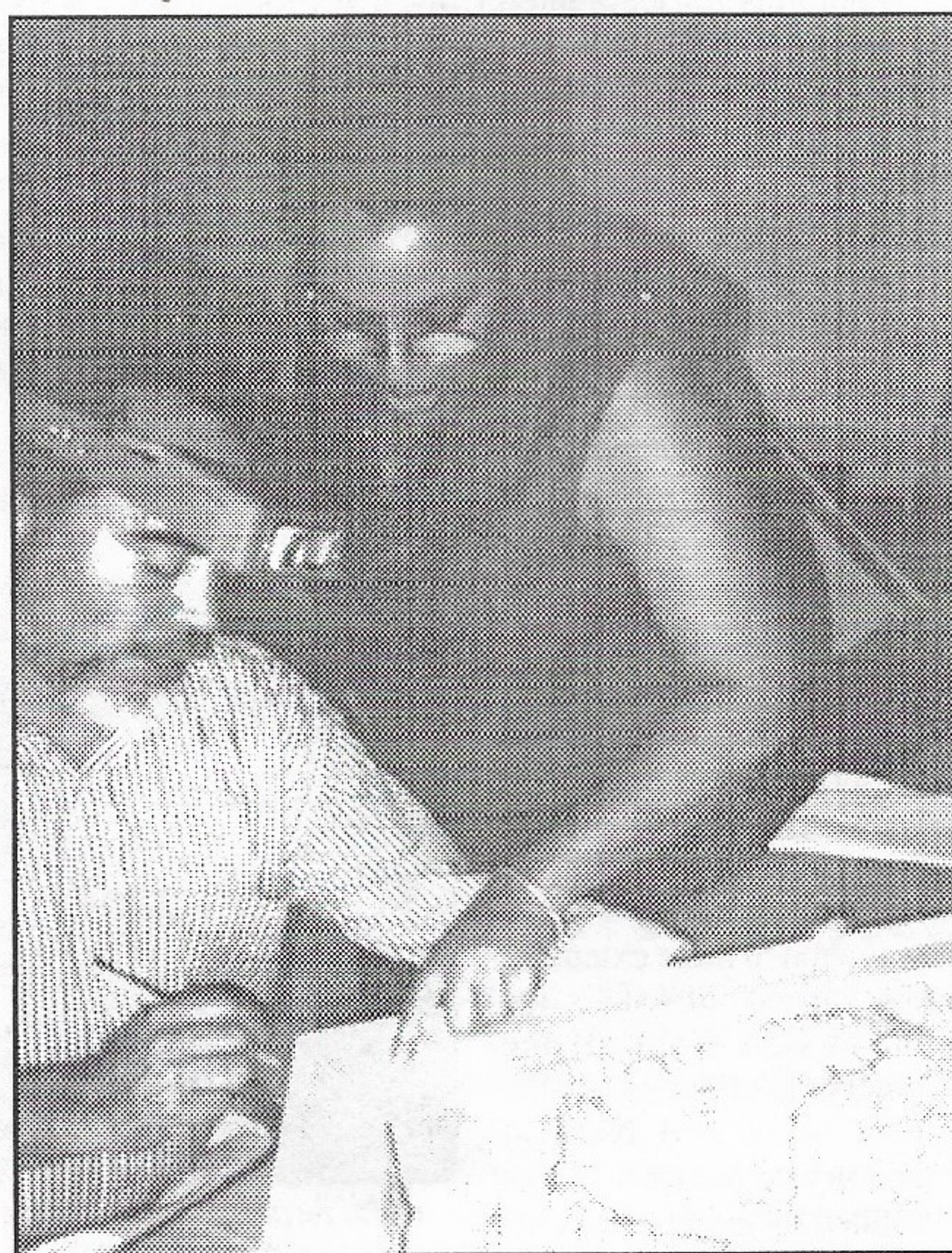
Ms. Aravena has been the Director of the Conservation Laboratory of Works of Art at the Ponce Art Museum for the last fifteen years. The range of her professional duties and involvement in the field of conservation include not only hands-on work, but training, planning, supervision, undertaking consultancies for public and private collections, lecturing, and publishing.

### Survey

The survey, which took up two days, was facilitated by curators Kevin Farmer and Lesley Barrow-Whatley, as well as the museum's technical staff, in the identification and movement of the pieces between their existing locations and the two areas where the consultants worked. The curators also assisted with the recording and retrieval of supporting documentation for each work under inspection.

A post-mortem was held between the consultants and the curatorial staff to discuss immediate areas of concern, current collections maintenance needs and practices, as well as plans for short-term remedial steps to continue or implement.

Assistant Cherrie Parris has continued the process by carrying out short-term recommendations including



• Conservator Larrazabal working with Curator Lesley Barrow-Whatley

discarding old backing and hardware, cleaning frames and replacing pieces with acid/free or archival-quality materials, removing fragile items from display. In addition, she is pressing on to complete the arduous task of collating records to complete the cataloguing process, and ultimately the set-

### WHAT'S INSIDE

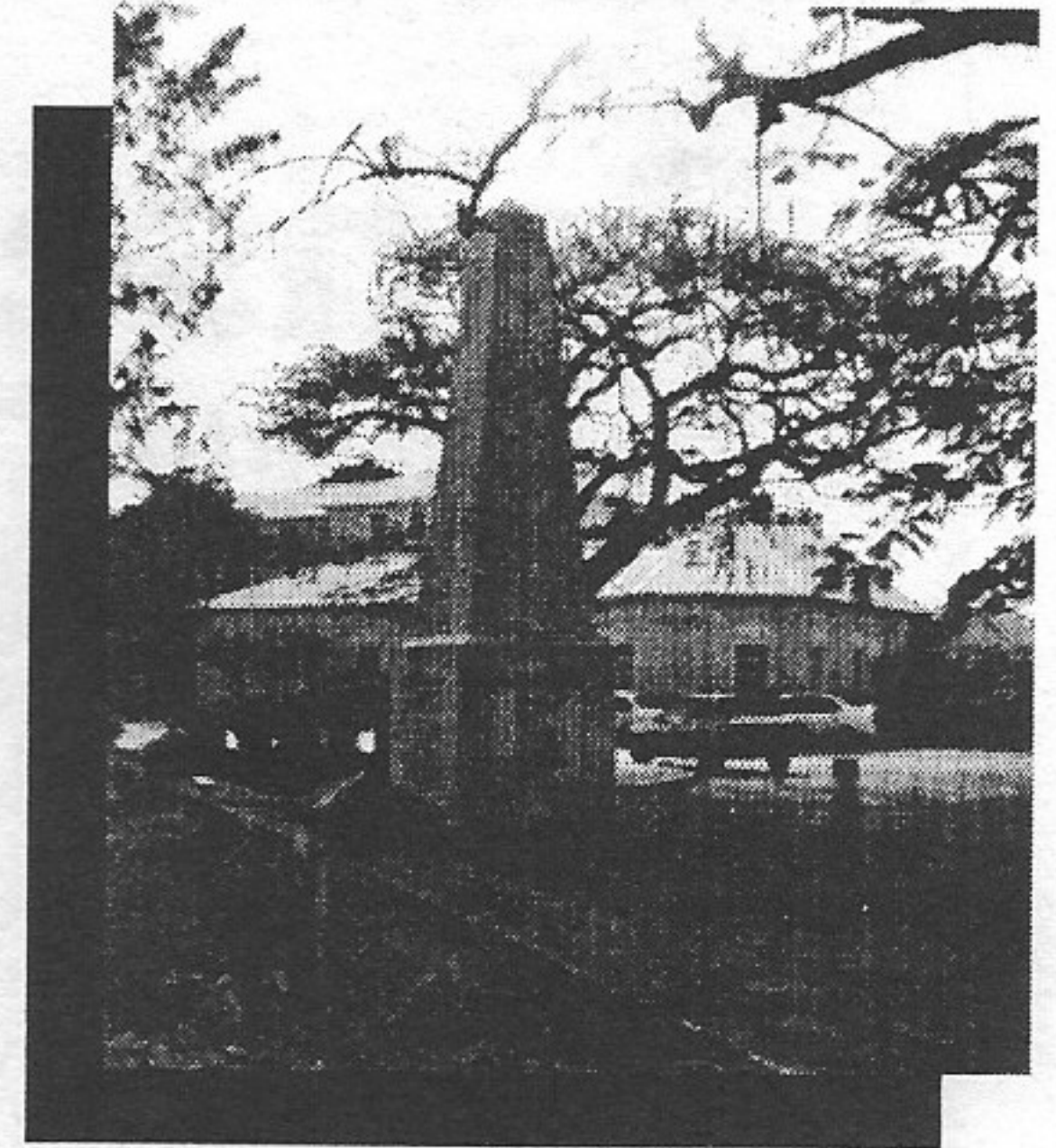
- Book on "Old Doll" published
- Remembering Sir Donald Wiles
- Education Programmes for children

## Holetown Community Museum

The Holetown Museum is now opened to the public three times weekly from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Museum depends on volunteers to keep its doors open. Some of the volunteers who have assisted in the past are Miriam Kennedy and Maris Corbin. At present volunteer Eva White will be found there on Mondays and Wednesdays while Jeanette Springer holds the fort on Fridays.

Most of the visitors who sign the visitors book find the concept of a community museum interesting. They like the idea of focusing on people rather than on objects. The comments have been very encouraging and some people have left phone numbers or written messages giving information about Holetown.

We are still looking for information on Holetown and the people who lived there in the past. If you have any information about early residents, or any photographs we would be happy to share these. Photographs would be copied with your permission for the sole purpose of education and returned. We invite our members to visit the Holetown Museum. *Education Officer, Peggy McGeary.*



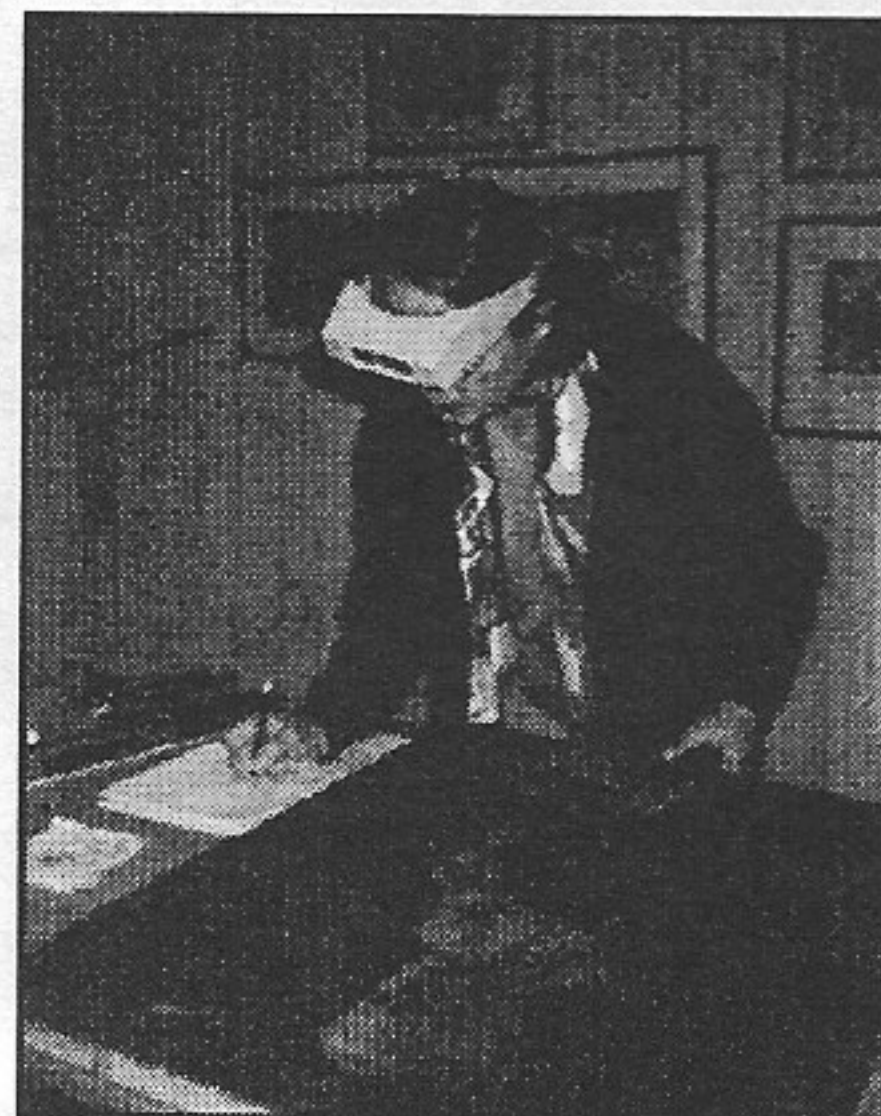
### Conserving the arts

Cont'd from Page 1

up of the collection's database.

One might wonder what is the purpose and benefit of embarking on such an exercise?

In fact the predecessor of this particular survey was a much more extensive one carried out 4 years ago on objects from all the other collections *except* the Fine Arts and Natural History collections. It was funded by a grant from the Getty Conservation Institute and provided us with the critical information on 'where we are' and 'where we need to go' with respect to the condition of the objects, the environments in which they are housed or stored, and the issues affecting their safety and care.



• Ms. Aravena examines a painting

### Survey

Likewise, the current conservation survey will serve a similar purpose. The conservators' object reports, visual files, estimates for treatment, recommendations affecting policies, practices and training needs are invaluable in terms of knowing what we have, and assisting us with how and where we need to go. Collectively, these types of records provide a blue-print for the collections they serve, and as such are integrated at three levels; 1) daily and month-to-month collections care and planning, 2) annual budgeting, scheduling and programming, and lastly 3) the Museum's own triennial strategic plan.

*History & Art Curator, Lesley Barrow-Whatley*

### Museum welcomes new docents

The Education Officer recently welcomed three newly trained docents to the Education Department of the Barbados Museum.

Melmeth Cummins an educator has retired from the post of Tutor in General Studies (Geography & Social Studies) at Erdiston Teacher's Training College. She is a keen gardener and flower arranger and a member of the Flower Circle.

Wilma Hinds lived in England for many years and while there, she followed a career in banking. She retired and returned to Barbados in 1990. Ms. Hinds enjoys the simple life and spends much time in her gardens especially attending to her fruit trees. She has a very keen interest in environmental issues and thinks that much more should be done to enlighten people about how environmental pollution can be reduced.

Pauline Layne has worked with Commonwealth Development Corporation as a Personnel Assistant to the Regional Controller. She later worked as Executive Secretary with UNESCO in Paris. Ms. Layne is still doing temporary secretarial work and combines this with her special hobby of Petal Porcelain.

These three volunteers have shown great enthusiasm and interest. It was a pleasure to train and work with them. I hope that they will have rewarding experiences. If any members are interested in volunteering at the Museum, please call Peggy McGeary at 427-0201. ♦

*Education Officer, Peggy McGeary.*

### MANDATE

*To collect, document and conserve evidence of Barbados' cultural, historical and environmental heritage; and to interpret this evidence for all sectors of Society.*

### **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**

Sir Carlisle Burton

#### **Ordinary members**

Ms. Janice Cumberbatch

Mr. Gordon Parkinson

Mr. Patrick Hoyos

Ms. Laura Picard

#### **Government Appointees**

Mr. Ian Morrison

Ms. Nancy Jacobs

Mr. Mencea Crookendale

Ms. Allyson Leacock

#### **Ex-Officio**

Director of the Museum

Ms. Alissandra Cummins

## **Volunteers receive talk on culture**

*- Dr. Allyson Leacock highlights the work of the NCF*

At the invitation of the Education Department and Docent Representative Jeanette Springer, Dr. Allyson Leacock CEO of the National Cultural Foundation treated the Barbados Museum volunteers to a talk on the role and work of the NCF in developing Barbadian Culture. Dr. Leacock, a recent member of the Museum's council, stated that she was very pleased to have the opportunity to speak to the volunteers about the NCF.

Dr. Leacock focused on the importance of culture and the cultural industries on Barbadian development, and the critical role the NCF's plays in the co-ordination of cultural programs and activities and facilitating cultural avenues for the youth of the island.

### ***National Cultural Foundation***

Dr. Leacock gave a comprehensive overview of the NCF's mandate and its organisational structure. She also reported on the new developments to come on stream for the national festivals in 2000.

In addition, of great importance to Dr. Leacock was the alliance between the Barbados Museum and the NCF. She advocated how both institutions could utilise each other's resources for the development of specific programmes and activities, such as the Museum's Fine Craft Festival and for technical assistance from the Museum for curatorial training for NCF Visual Arts Officers.

Questions were posed to Dr. Leacock on the importance of oral history to culture and the role of culture in Tourism. Miriam Kennedy thanked Dr. Leacock for her insightful presentation and invited her to return and speak to the volunteers at another time. ♦

## **Update on Darwin Initiative Project**

**Cherrie Parris was pleased** to report the successful completion of the first phase of the project, "Coral Reef Biodiversity in the Caribbean: A School's Project" and the publication of the activities-based, issue focused environmental education resource package entitled "People and Corals".

The next phase involves the testing of the resource package in five selected primary schools, and to this end ten teachers have been selected to attend a training workshop which aims to assist the teachers in the effective use of the pack - with its cross-curricula, active learning approach to environmental education. We will also be providing continued support to the teachers as they trial the resource pack in their various schools, in the third term of the current school year.

### ***Testing Period***

The information gained from this testing period will be utilised in the re-editing of the resource material, which will occur in the latter half of this year. We hope that this preliminary testing before the final publication (slated for January 2001) will enhance our final product.

The schools involved in the trial of the resource package are All Saint's Primary, Hindsbury Primary, Society Primary, St. James Primary and St. Joseph Primary.

The Darwin Initiative Project is a programme on Coral Reef Biodiversity in the Caribbean. The project is supported by the U.K. Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions. The goal of the programme is to increase student awareness of biodiversity and coral reefs as a resource through the development of resource packs in schools. ♦ **Cherrie Parris, Assistant Curator Natural History**

## Sir Donald a true conservationist

The passing of Sir Donald Wiles late in 1999 saddened the Council, members and staff of The Barbados Museum & Historical Society. Sir Donald had an active, varied career, and used his love for heritage to contribute to the development of this area in Barbados.

Sir Donald had a close association with the Barbados Museum where he served as honorary librarian of the Society. He became a member in January of 1946 and was elected to the Museum Council in 1956 where he gave dedicated service to this institution for 16 years, holding the post of Treasurer from 1973-1976. Sir Donald Wiles was made an honorary member for his longstanding service to the institution in 1999.

Sir Donald was also a founding member of the Barbados National Trust. It was at a meeting of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society that a decision was made that something should be done to preserve the old Barbadian houses which were being destroyed, hence the establishment of the Barbados National Trust.

Sir Donald was described as a consummate "preservationist

*Sir Donald Wiles was described as a consummate "preservationist and conservationist"*

and conservationist." His career began as a teacher at Harrison College in 1930, where he worked until 1944 following which he attended the University of Toronto to pursue studies in Library Science. On his return to Barbados, he became the public librarian and between 1950-1954 he was assistant Colonial Secretary. In 1960 he became the Secretary of the Barbados National Trust and in 1976 he was elected President of the Trust. The Barbados Museum is very honoured to have benefited from the work of Sir Donald Wiles especially in the growth of the Shilstone Memorial Library.

## Museum remembers Lady Jeanne Dear

The Council and Staff of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society learnt of the death of Lady Jeanne Dylis Dear. Lady Dear, an ardent supporter of the Museum and its programmes was married to the past president of the Museum, Sir Jack Dear.

Lady Dear married Sir Jack Dear on the 24th September 1949 in Trinidad and moved to Barbados shortly after. She was a trained Nurse (obtaining her accreditation from Guys Hospital in London, England) was the mother of three, Clyde, Wendy and Graham and the grandmother of three.

### COMMITMENT

Museum Librarian Betty Shannon commented on Lady Dear's kind support of the Museum's fund-raising events and spoke highly of her commitment and dedication to assisting the Museum in any way she could. Apart from her support for the Museum, she was also a supporter of the Barbados Gallery of Art and St. David's Church. The



• Lady Jeanne Dear immediate right of Sir Jack Dear during the visit of Queen Elizabeth to the Barbados Museum in 1985.

Council, Management and staff extend their sincere sympathy to the family of Lady Jeanne Dear at their time of bereavement. ♦

*Rewriting History Pamphlet  
Series 1, 2 & 3 available at all  
leading book stores*

**NOW OPEN THREE DAYS A WEEK  
Holetown Community  
Museum**

**MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY  
10:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

## Museum Heritage Collection

The Barbados Museum has launched a new collection of Heritage Gifts called the Museum Heritage Collection. This is an attempt to "brand" the existing line of products developed from the Museum's collection to wholesale to hotel and local gift shops, (specifically, books & journals, antique maps and prints.) This new line is being marketed in a full colour, glossy catalogue, which contains images of the items, interpretive material, along with wholesale and suggested retail prices.



This new merchandising and marketing campaign has been relatively successful since its inception. For more information, please call Maria Boyce Taylor at 427-0201. □

*The Barbados Museum is please to announce the reprinting of*

**Volume I of  
The Journal of the Barbados  
Museum & Historical Society**

Printed in November 1933

*Articles include:*

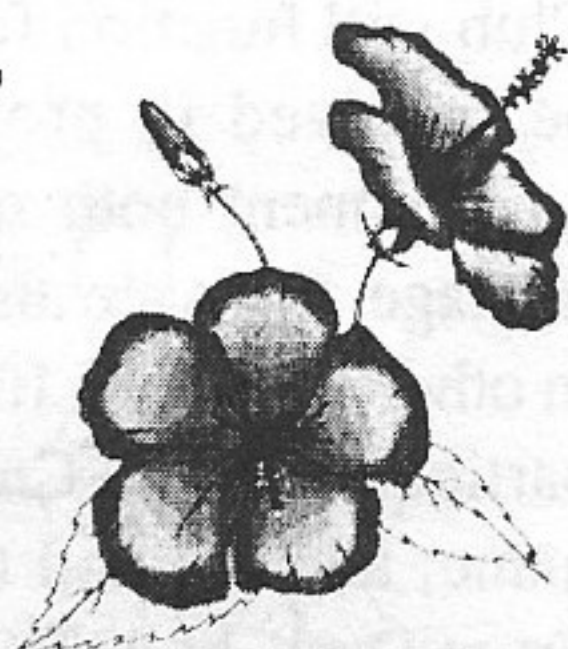
- *An insight into preparing for a new Governor in the Reign of Queen Anne*
- *The Hisoric Sites and Buildings of Barbados*
- *Report of the Committee of 1910*  
*COST: Bds \$50.00*

***Museum Membership discount  
will apply.***

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society would like to welcome the following persons into our family of members:

*Jacqueline Cumberbatch  
Anthony W. Cumberbatch  
Robert L. Morris  
Alvin & Pat Hill  
Lisle C. Carter Jr.  
Professor Constance Sutton  
Elwyn Edghill*

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



## Library News

The Shilstone Memorial Library was closed on January 3rd, 2000 in order for repairs to be done to the roof of the library building. Library volunteers worked very hard collecting boxes from supermarkets and

packing the books to be stored in the Temporary Exhibition Gallery. The Defence Force assisted with the moving of the books to the Temporary Exhibition Gallery. All visual index files were compiled and packed into boxes and the filing cabinets were removed to the exhibition Gallery. The library is deeply grateful to all those who assisted in this move. Your assistance was invaluable. A special thanks is also extended to those members who donated books for the book stall at the 1999 Fine Craft Festival.

*Librarian, Betty Shannon*



The  
Shilstone  
Memorial  
Library

BARBADOS  
MUSEUM  
&  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY.

## NOTICE

The Museum Cafe will be closed until further notice. The museum apologises for any inconvenience caused.

## Fresh perspective for African Exhibit

**D**eveloping a major new permanent exhibit can be daunting - especially where one is faced with an expansive and complex topic like Africa and her impact on and linkages to New World cultures i.e. the Caribbean.

Having secured an UNESCO grant, the Museum staff got down to the planning process by identifying the types of resources needed to take the project through from start to finish. The UNESCO grant allowed us to embark on several tasks. For a start, we were able to contract the services of two consultants - an archaeologist and university lecturer in African studies, Dr. Kofi Agorsah and Mr. Alex Castro, an architect who specializes in designing museum exhibits.

These professionals were brought in at ground-level to work closely with the curatorial team, because it was important from the out-set to identify and work on several issues. These included trying to resolve just what the exhibit's new educational objectives were; the target groups and their needs, the thematic scope and subject matter; as well as 'visioning' the exhibit and clarifying the subject matter into concrete modules.

Besides our on-going dialogue and contact with Dr. Agorsah and Mr. Castro, a number of things have progressed with respect to the developments of the exhibit. For one, we have made strides in identifying and updating the cataloguing of our existing collection of African artifacts. In addition, the prospect of expanding our collection both for general as well as specific needs is enabled by using some of the grant to purchase objects on the market. To this end, we are contacting overseas auction houses, and dealers specialising in African art and objects. In addition to potential purchases, two museums - the National Museum of African Art of the Smithsonian Institution, and the Decker Institute in Curacao, have stated their willingness to consider providing long term loans from their own collections.

### **Advisory Group**

The Advisory group to the project has also had an active role to play. Each member as well as some of the staff, agreed last December to research and write on a specific topic in their field of expertise. The sections have since been submitted to the curator working on compilation and drafting of the text. Another member of the Advisory group agreed to undertake the editing of the final draft so that it avoids

being 'too specialised, ambiguous, detailed, lengthy or even condescending.' The group will soon meet again to look at the final draft critically. One item which will be discussed is the sequencing of the exhibit (i.e. past-to-present or familiar-to-unfamiliar or vice-versa) and its effectiveness in stimulating and affecting the visitors.

Once the text is finalised, graphic material selected and decisions made with respect to the actual artefacts being included, the exhibit designer will return once again to go through all the inputs with the curatorial team: content, technical and design considerations, available resources (human, time, financial), the conservation and environmental constraints, and programming needs. Only then can he go to work on designing the entire presentation and submitting the specifications and plans.

Finally, in looking ahead to the completion of the new installation, the curators have already met with the education and marketing officers, to brain-storm about the development of more creative approaches to the marketing and educational programming of the gallery - both at its launching and after it is up and running. ♦

*Curator Art & History, Lesley Barrow-Whitley*

---

## *Museum programmes for children*

**Summer will soon be here** and plans are already being made for the museum's two-week summer camp which will focus on the environment this year. Campers will study coastal salt and fresh water ecosystems, our water supply - which will involve a visit to a pumping station and reservoir, general conservation which will be aided with a visit to The Future Centre Trust, and old ways of life which were more environmentally friendly. Please register your children early by calling 427-0201.

There are several young people who participated in some of our summer programmes who are now over 12 years old but are desirous of participating in activities at the museum. It is for them and any other young adults that the museum's **Culture Club** will be launched in August. The Club will function for holiday periods. Club members will be involved in projects which educate them about the environment both natural and built, our history and our heritage. Plans are also being made for travelling to museums in other countries. If you are interested in having your child participate in the Culture Club, please call and register the name, address and telephone number with the Museum's Front Desk at 427-0201. ♦

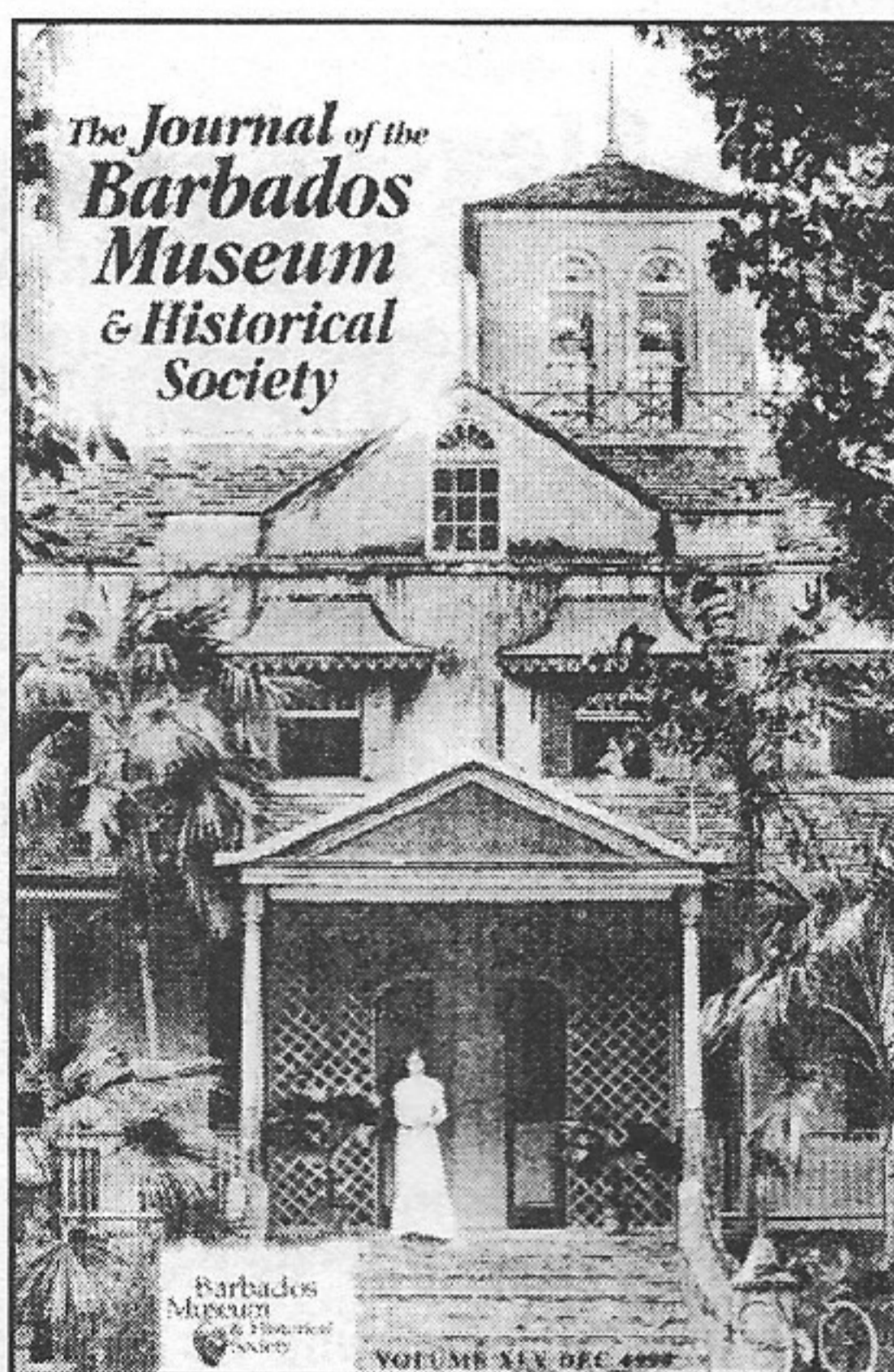
## Museum Journal Schools promotion

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society wish to extend sincere thanks to the following companies for their continued support of the Journal School Programme for 2000.

- BRC West Indies
- Insurance Corporation of Barbados
- RM. Jones & Co. Ltd.
- Roberts Manufacturing Ltd.
- Standard Distributors
- TMR Sales and Service
- Caricard

The 1999 Journal has been distributed to the following schools on behalf of these companies: Alexandra School, Alleyne School, Combermere School, Ellerslie School, Foundation School, Garrison Secondary, Louis Lynch Secondary School, Springer Memorial School, The St. Michael School, The Lodge School, St. James Secondary School.

This programme is a museum marketing initiative where the goal is to have copies of the Museum Journal placed in secondary schools libraries for research purposes. The programme has been in existence for 3 years. ♦



## Fine Craft Festival Sponsors

The Museum would like to publicly thank the following companies who have supported the Fine Craft Festival for the past 3 years:

- Texaco Eastern Caribbean Ltd.
- Barbados Shipping & Trading Co. Ltd.
- A. S. Brydens & Sons Ltd.
- Life of Barbados
- Paints Plus Inc.
- Barbados Dairy Industries
- British American Tobacco. Co. Ltd.
- The Coach House
- The Optimist Club of Barbados

## Meet An Employee



### MEET AN EMPLOYEE

**NAME:** Pauline Stuart

**Post:**  
Senior General Worker

**Favourite Gallery:**  
Connell (Decorative Arts)

**Interests:**  
football & cricket

**Years at the museum:**  
19 years

**What I like about the Museum:**

I like the Institution  
Meeting interesting people  
Learning about the history of  
Barbados and the Caribbean

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

## Heritage in Action

*A programme designed  
for museum members  
and their friends.*

*Lecture Series & Workshops  
April 2000 - December 2000*

## 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

Karen Proverbs

### SECURITY

Rudolph Beckles

Royston Sargeant

Grantley Yarde

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

## Book on Old Doll published

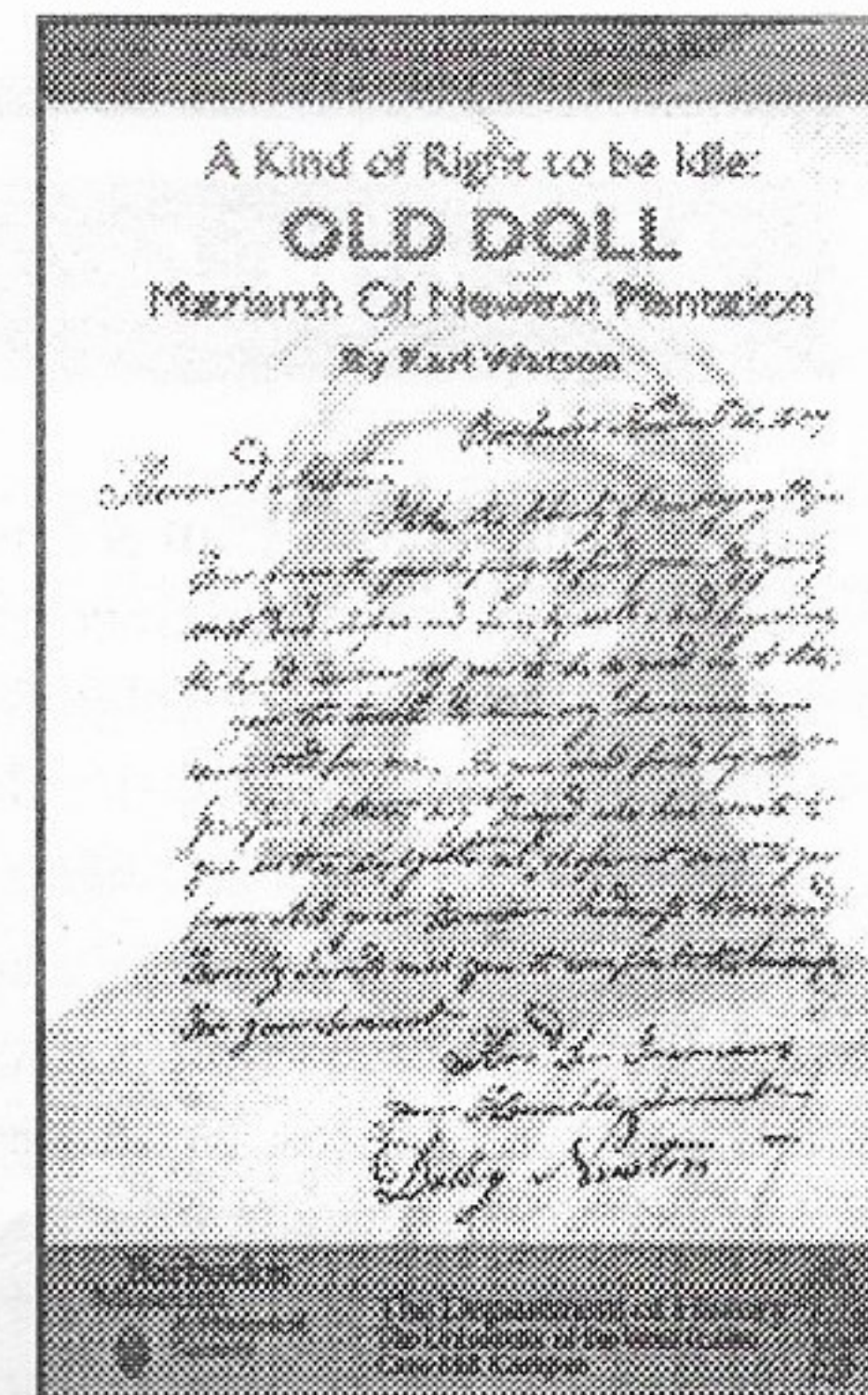
The third publication in the Rewriting History Series has been recently published. This publication is entitled "A kind of Right to be Idle: Old Doll Matriarch of Newton Plantation" and is written by the Editor of the Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, Dr. Karl Watson.

### Slavery

The story of "Old Doll" is one of a strong willed woman and her daughters; it details their struggle against slavery. It is a moving story of the reality of life on a Barbadian plantation at the end of the eighteenth century, which clearly shows that slavery did not simply pit white against black but was instead, far more complex.

The Rewriting History Series is a series of popular pamphlets produced as a result of a partnership between The Department of History of the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill Campus) and the Barbados Museum & Historical Society. The series is inspired by the belief that no society can develop without an understanding of its history. This series confronts the stereotypes to stimulate a reassessment of Caribbean Social and Cultural History. The Nation Publishing Co. Ltd., kindly sponsors this project.

Two other publications in this series are "King Ja Ja of Obobo" by Dr. Edward L. Cox and "Bussa: The 1816 Rebellion" by Professor Hilary Beckles. All of the pamphlets are on sale in the Museum shop. Discounts for members will apply. □



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL

*Closed for public Holidays April 21, 24 & 28, 2000*

### MAY

*\*Saturday May 13, 2000 Museum Open Day*

*\*Thursday May 18, 2000 International Museums Day*

*\*Lecture on Illicit Traffic of Cultural Property by Francoise Hendy  
Law Lecturer, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill  
Date to be finalised*

### JULY

*\*Saturday July 22, 2000 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
Handpainting Pottery demonstration and workshop by Julianna Inniss*

## SURFACE MAIL

BARBADOS MUSEUM  
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ST. ANN'S, GARRISON  
TT. MICHAEL, BARBADOS, W.I.