



Researching Slavery

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society has recently undertaken a project to research the feasibility of establishing a Slavery Museum. The excavation of the slave burial ground in the south of the island in the early 1970's prompted the subsequent acquisition of land by the museum in order to protect the integrity of the site. This project, now in its planning and research stage has been prioritised because of the absence of museums geared towards examining and exhibiting the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the effects of slavery in the English Speaking Caribbean.

Objectives

The objectives of the feasibility study are to reevaluate the sites on which to locate the museum, researching concepts of the museum, identification of museological resources i.e. research resource, artifact sourcing.

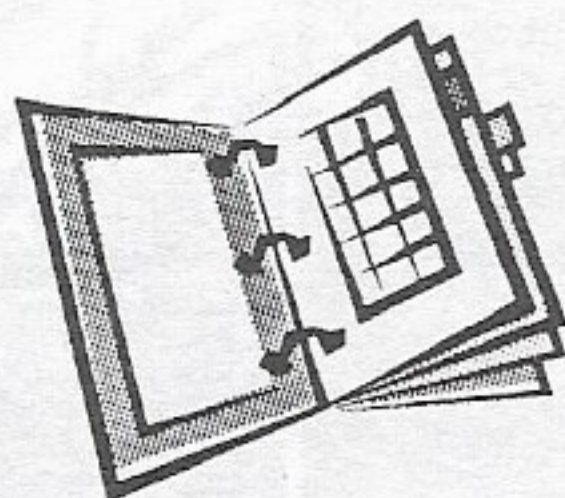
The intended benefits of such a museum would be the creation of knowledge on slavery and its consequences for the people of Barbados and the region. It is hope that people who visit the museum will experience a stronger sense of self, through the depiction of persons overcoming adversity.

An advisory committee for this project has been created and is chaired by Professor Woodville Marshall. Other members include Dr. Karl Watson, Dr. Curwin Best and Dr. Marcia Burrowes. As part of the ongoing research Assistant Curator for History & Archeology, Mr. Kevin Farmer visited a number of slavery



In memory of Sir Jack Dear. The Barbados Museum & Historical Society unveiled a commemorative bench in memory of the late Sir Jack Dear. Standing from left Mr. Clyde Dear, son of Sir Jack Dear, Dr. Trevor Carmichael, President of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, Alissandra Cummins, Director of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, Mr. Anthony Bryan, Chairman of the Advocate (2000) Publishers Inc, who kindly donated the bench. Sitting from left Mr. Graham Dear, son of Sir Jack Dear, Mrs. Daphne Gale, sister of Sir Jack Dear and Dr. Tony Gale, friend of Sir Jack Dear.

and African American museums such as the Charles D. Wright African American History Museum in Detroit and the Smithsonian in Washington. This portion of the project has been funded by UNESCO. ♦



What's Inside

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Barbados Museum is a non profit institution. Its mandate is to collect, document and conserve evidence of Barbados' cultural 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

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Dr. Trevor Carmichael Q.C.

Senior Vice President

Prof. Woodville Marshall

Junior Vice President

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Mr. Gordon Parkinson

Mr. Adrian Dean

Mr. Geoffrey Hart

Ms. Elaine Storey

Government Appointees

Mr. Ian Morrison

Ms. Nancy Jacobs

Mr. Mencea Crookendale

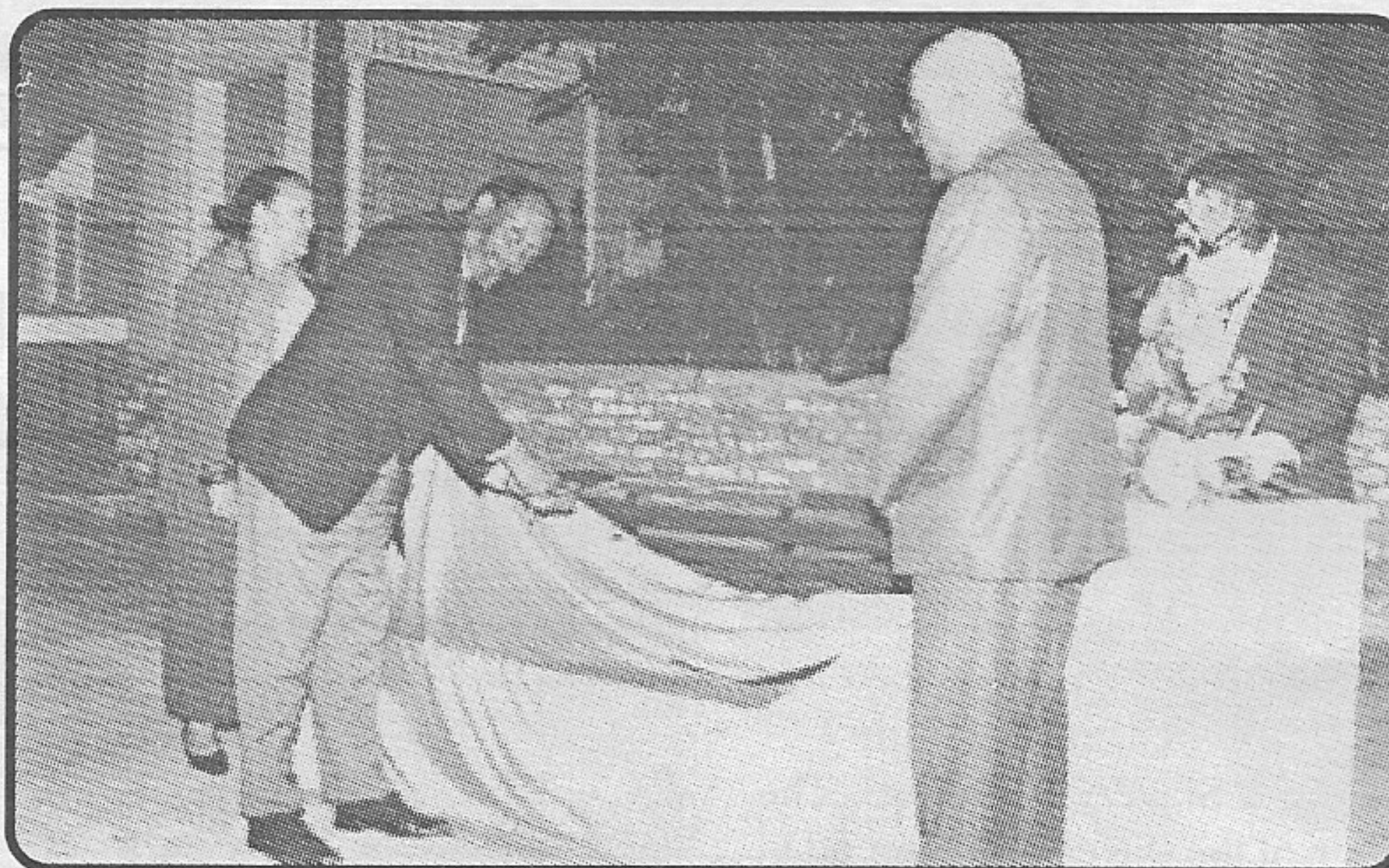
Ms. Diane Campbell

Dr. Allyson Leacock

Ex-Officio

Director of the Museum

Alissandra Cummins



The unveiling of The Jack Dear Commemorative Bench. Dr. Trevor Carmichael cuts the ribbon as Ms. Alissandra Cummins and Mr. Anthony Bryan looks on.

Museum remembers Sir Jack Dear

On August 10, 2001, The Barbados Museum & Historical Society celebrated the life and contribution of Sir Jack Dear Q.C., C.H.B. by installing a commemorative bench in the lower courtyard of the museum.

The bench was inscribed with the words *"In memory of Sir Jack Dear Q.C., C.H.B. President of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society."*

Dr. Trevor Carmichael, President of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, Mrs. Jean Goddard and Dr. Tony Gale gave glowing tributes to Sir Jack, while Max Dear, grandson of Sir Jack, delivered a special thank-you on behalf of the Dear family.

The commemorative bench was designed by Mr. Phillip Marshall and was kindly donated by Mr. Anthony Bryan, Chairman of the Advocate Publishers (2000) Inc and the Gale family. The bench is now located in Sir Jack's favorite area in the courtyard where he relaxed before each council meeting. ♦ (see page 7)



Sir Jack Dear's grandson Max Dear, delivering his thank you address.

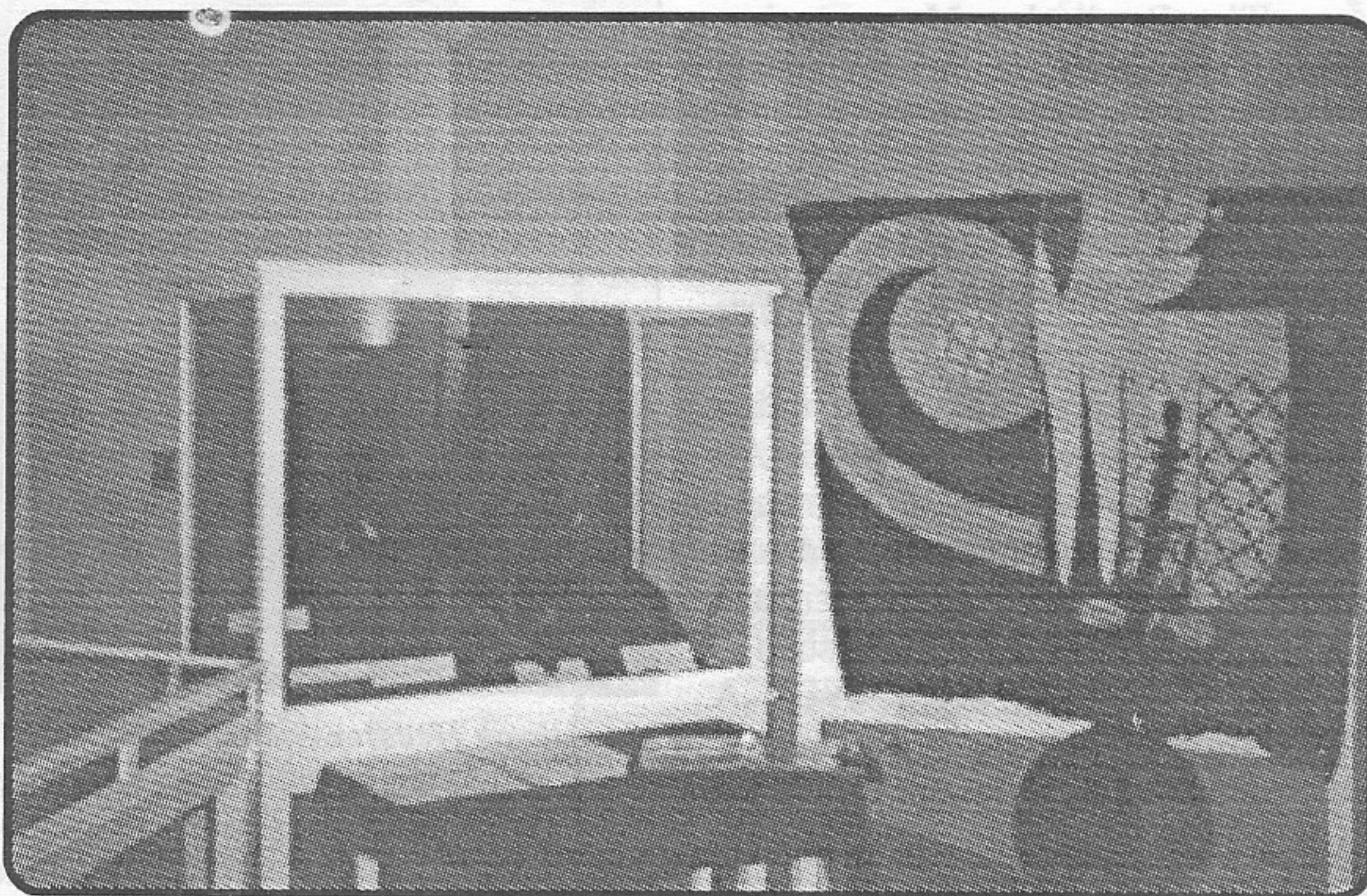
African Gallery Endowment Fund launched

The Barbados Museum recently officially launched its African Gallery Endowment Fund. This is an appeal to companies and individuals to support the expansion and redevelopment of the existing African Gallery. The need to redesign this gallery came out of requests by Barbadians and tourists to learn more about the continent of Africa, its people and culture and the call to widen accessibility of the African collection for the public.

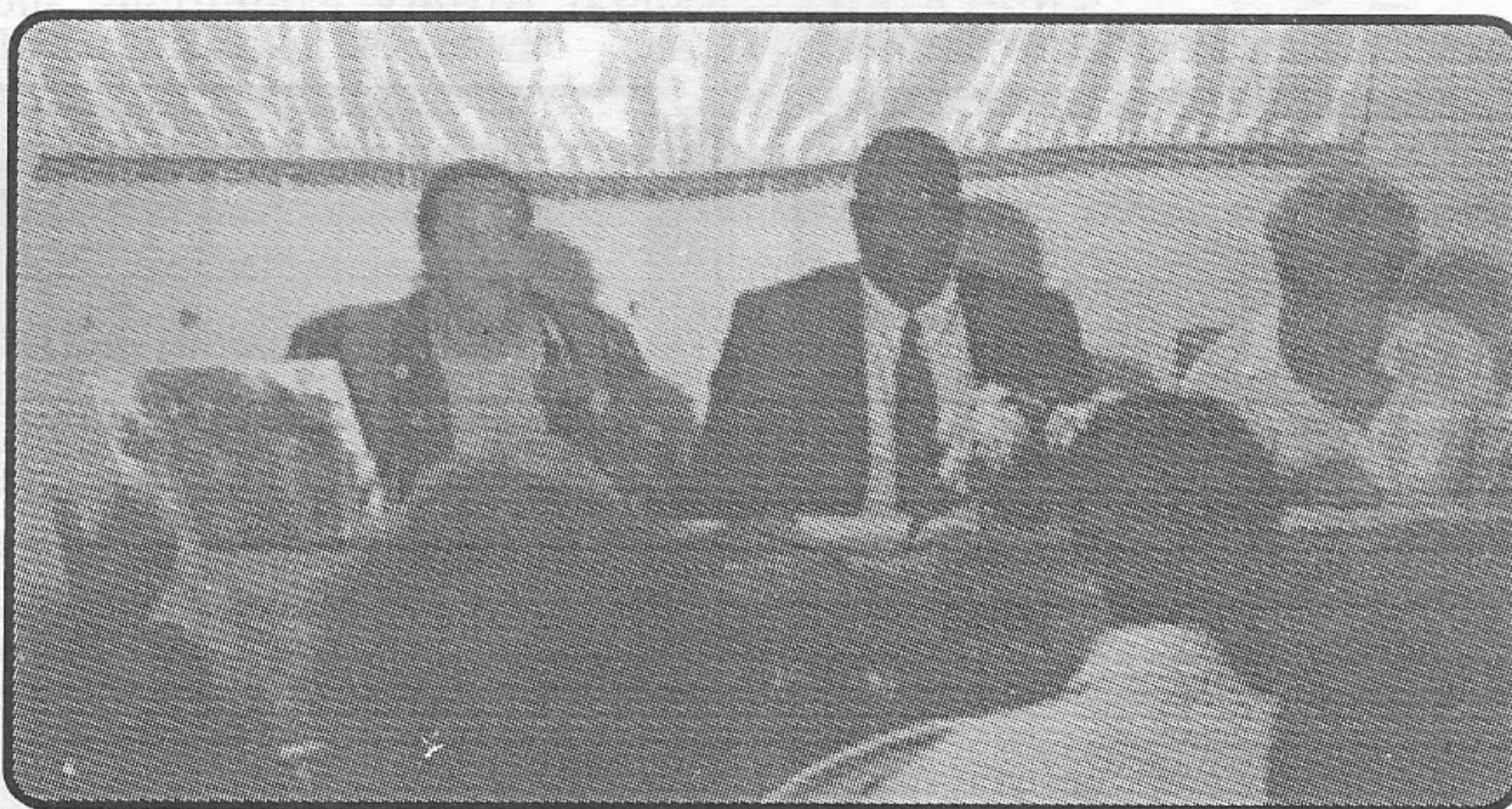
Rich heritage

At the press conference Alissandra Cummins, Director of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, stated that this undertaking was an important one for the Barbados Museum, as the institution seeks to educate and interpret the connection between our rich heritage and that of the African Continent."

The fund is seeking to raise Bds \$200,000.00 over the next year for the production and design phase of the project. The fund has already received support from UNESCO, Energy Insurance Mutual, the Multinational Womens Group, Robertson Art and the National Museum of Kenya.



A sample of the artifacts to be displayed in the new African Gallery.



The panel at the Press conference to launch the African Gallery Endowment Fund. From right, Junior Vice President of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society's Council, Kathleen Drayton, Assistant Curator for History & Archaeology Mr. Kevin Farmer and Director of the Barbados Museum, Alissandra Cummins.

Donations to date:

Barclays Bank PLC
\$5,000.00

**Central Bank of
Barbados**
\$2,000.00

Ernst & Young
\$200.00

Fine Craft Festival 2001
Saturday December 1, 2001
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Museum appoints two Assistant Curators

The Barbados Museum has recently appointed two new Assistant Curators. They are Ms. Allison Headley, Assistant Curator Art and Ms. Honor Wiltshire, Assistant Curator Natural History.

Allison holds a BFA in Fine Arts and an Associate Degree in Art Education from the Barbados Community College. She has taught Art at the secondary level for six years and is herself an artist specialising in mixed media on wood. Allison has participated in a number of local exhibitions such as "Young Contemporaries" NIFCA and "Womens Tongue."

Honor holds a degree in Marine Biology from the University of Guelph, Canada, and she worked for six years at the Bellair Research Institute as a Research Associate/Lab Manager.

Their responsibilities at the



Ms. Allison Headley Assistant Curator Art.



Ms. Honor Wiltshire, Assistant Curator Natural History.

museum will include managing the Fine Arts and Natural History collections respectively, curating Fine Arts and Natural History exhibitions and

maintaining their respective galleries.

The Council, management and staff of the Barbados Museum extends a warm welcome to them both. ♦



Used books appeal

The Shilstone Memorial library is seeking the assistance of members to donate books for their used book stall at the Fine Craft Festival.

For more information please call Ms. Betty Shannon at
427-0201
436-1956

Thank You

Barbados Museum & Historical Society extends sincere thanks to the following individuals and companies who contributed to making the 2001 **Fashion Show, Tea and Auction** a success.

Cave Shepherd & Co. Ltd

Best of Barbados

Stokes & Bynoe Ltd

Mr. Trevor Brooks

Ela Designer Clothing Shoes and Accessories

Champers Wine Bar

Waterfront Cafe

Mr. Gordon Parkinson

Ms. Maria Elias

the patrons who attended or supported the event.

Summer programming at the museum

The summer of 2001 was one with a difference. There was no summer camp, but the Education Officer was blessed with 11 vibrant young ladies who worked as Junior Curators (JCs). The new ones were trained by the officer with assistance from the more experienced Junior Curators in the art of conducting tours and being knowledgeable about the history and heritage of the island.

This year the emphasis for the J.Cs was on the collection of information for a project/publication called "**Wealth of a Nation**," which seeks to create a national inventory and database resource. The project is spearheaded by the Barbados Museum but involves the National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

The collection of information involved conducting interviews with elderly persons from various local communities about their life-styles and about the places, buildings and objects which are of significance to them. Some training sessions were held at the Ministry of Education's conference room where Dr. Avistone Downes conducted training on July 16 & 17, 2001. Another "technical session" was done by Mr. Carlos Harding of the Audio Visual Aids Department, to teach the JC's the correct methods of recording on specialised equipment.

Training

More training and preparations were done by the Education Officer who worked with the JCs to prepare the types of questions which they needed to ask and also to help them to be more confident in their approach.

The JC's learnt much from their exposure to this kind of work. They also enjoyed their trips to Speightstown and Bridgetown to take the photographs and learn the history of significant landmarks.

At the museum the JCs conducted tours with approximately 1450 persons most of whom were from local summer camps but also from neighboring French /Spanish Speaking territories.

Other Jobs with which the JCs assisted were:

2001 Junior Curators

Erica Hewitt-Smith

Malissa Porter-Farmer

Sascha Jordan

Tamara Griffith

Lisa Cummins

Ahkelia Briggs

Martina Alleyne

Omolola Millington

Terry Carmichael

KaiAnne Skeete

Janine Gilkes

Assisting Curator Kevin Farmer with the cataloguing of the archaeology collection. Pasting news clippings in the library. Preparing questions for an interschool museum competition. Testing word finds and puzzles for an upcoming children's workbook on art.

Although this summer was different from the norm it was equally as enjoyable and educational for the JC's and the Education Officer. ♦

Museums of the Americas launch website

Within the framework of the Third Summit of the Americas held earlier this year in Quebec City, Madame Aline Chretien of Canada launched the virtual museum of the Americas-Muse Americas of which the Barbados Museum has registered and is linked.

Exhibitions

MuseAmerica will serve as a virtual platform for on-line exhibitions and will be equipped with a powerful search engine to enable visitors to explore the hemisphere's outstanding museum in the four principal languages of the Americas.

MuseAmericas was developed by the Museum of the Americas Foundation with technical support from the Organisation of the American States (OAS). Members can visit the website at WWW.MuseAmericas.org



Madame Aline Chretien (centre) viewing the Museamericas website.

Records keeping for the community

On Saturday June 23, 2001, Executive Secretary Mrs. Angela Boyce conducted a training workshop at the request of the Community Independence Celebrations Secretariat. The workshop focused on **"The Importance of Records Keeping."** Mrs. Boyce who has recently completed a Diploma in Records Management at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, was able to provide these parish ambassadors with current and important information.

The aim of the workshop was to educate the members of the Parish Independence Committees on how to effectively and efficiently preserve and maintain important information, which would assist them in carrying out the day to day operations of the committees.

Mrs. Boyce concentrated on defining a record, types of records, and the importance and advantages of efficient record keeping. Mrs. Boyce informed the secretariat and the committees that all events which they undertake should be properly documented, whether on video, photographs or audio tapes, so that they would be accessible for reference to future generations.

Mrs. Boyce stated that the workshop was very rewarding for her, as

*Executive Secretary,
Angela Boyce
gives talk to Parish
Ambassadors on
efficient records
keeping*

sharing this important information with the public gave her a sense of satisfaction. ♦

Museum welcomes new trainee

The Barbados Museum is also assisting sister organisation National Cultural Foundation (NCF) in the training of its Cultural Officer for Visual Arts/Curator (AG) Mr. Rodney Ifill. Mr. Ifill will be an intern at the Museum for two years and has started training in the areas of collection management, care of the visual arts, setting up exhibits and educational programming. Mr. Ifill is also undergoing the Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) Museums Studies programme.

Temporary Exhibitions

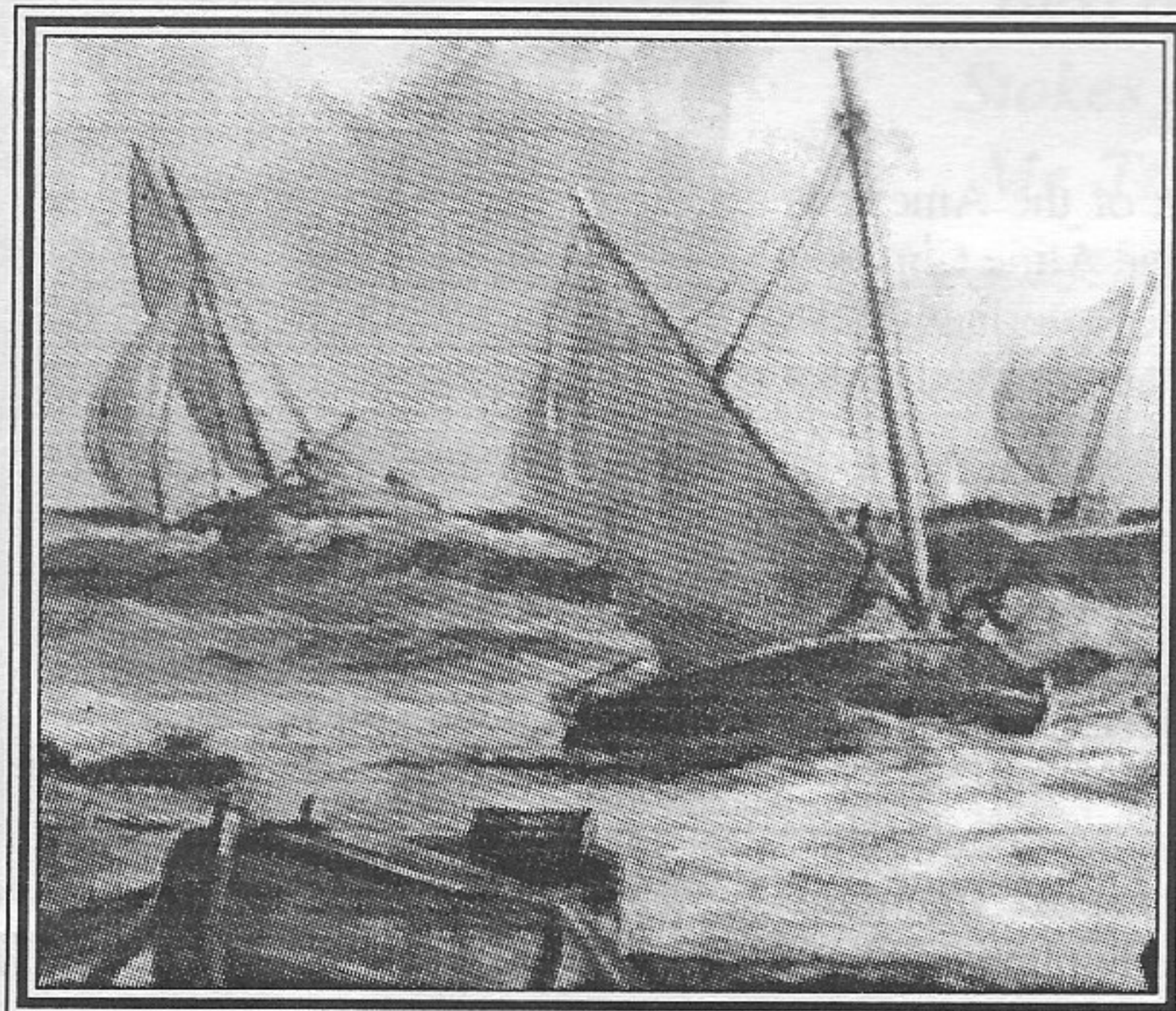
Mr. Ifill has so far obtained a wealth of practical experience by assisting on a number of temporary exhibitions such as the Post Office exhibition and **"Barbados-the world's first spa."** He has also experienced "first hand" hurricane preparedness exercise and the organisation of public programmes such as the Museum Open Day programme.

Rodney considers his training at the Museum so far to be extremely

educational and believes that he now has a better appreciation of the level of work that goes into managing a museum or cultural institution. ♦

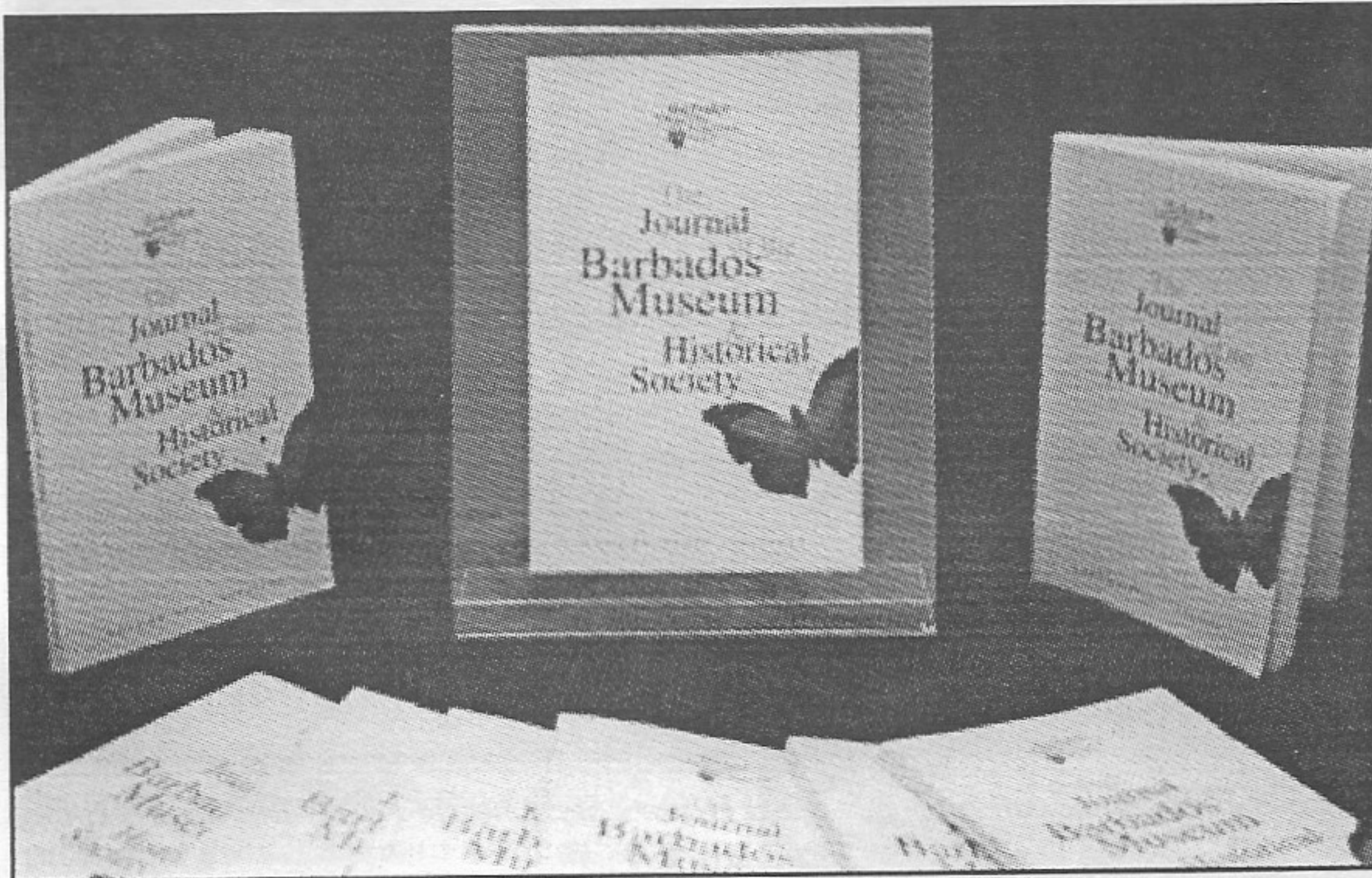
The Classic Card Collection for 2001

will soon be available. This year's collection includes eight exciting images such as the Agostino Brunias "Negroe Festival", a Griffith Hughes image from the Natural History of Barbados and the Red & White Poinsettias by S. Holder.



Congratulations

to Mrs. Maria Boyce Taylor, Marketing & Public Relations Officer who recently completed a Master of Arts Degree in Museums Studies at Leicester University, U.K. This three year programme was facilitated by the Barbados Museum. Mrs. Boyce Taylor concentrated on Creative Marketing strategies for Small Island State Museums.



1999 edition of the Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society

2001 Journal coming soon

The 2001 edition of the **Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society** is in the process of being prepared by the Editor Dr. Karl Watson. This year will again prove to be another exciting edition. According to the editor, "the journal should be one of the most important ever published because of the quality and variety of submissions and the scholarly reputation of many of the contributors. Articles include 'The Making of an Abolitionist: Benjamin Lay on Barbados 1718-1720' by Larry Dale Gragg, 'Thirst for Knowledge: Education in Barbados 1823-1838' by Olwyn Bloyet and 'The Caribbean Coot-Resident' and 'Breeding in Barbados Once Again' by Martin Frost and Edward Massiah. ♦

Museum recruiting Docents

The Barbados Museum is seeking persons to volunteers as docents for the Schools Education Programme.

This provides an opportunity to conduct tours on all aspects of Barbadian cultural heritage and to play an important role in the National education programme. Important training is provided and a great opportunity to develop personally while working with the youth. For more information please call Ms. Peggy McGeary at 427-0201/436-1956



The Fine Craft Festival, now in its 13th year is considered the premier Christmas show of Barbadian craft. The festival is widely anticipated by local craftpersons and those faithful patrons who support the festival.

Welcome

The Council, management and staff of the Barbados Museum & Historical

The contribution of Sir Jack Dear Q.C., C.H.B

Member of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society
1952.

Editor of the Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society

1961-1972.

President of the Barbados Museum 1976-1983.

Society extends a warm welcome to all of our new members. We look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with you. For information on museum membership please call Ms. Marcia Griffith at 427-0201/436-1956.

Museum Staff

ADMINISTRATION

DIRECTOR

Alissandra Cummins

Executive Officer

Melva Yarde

Marketing Officer

Maria Boyce Taylor

Administrative Assistant

Marcia Griffith

Executive Secretary

Angela Boyce

Administrative Assistant, Accounts

Wendy Husbands

CURATORIAL

Archaeology and History

Kevin Farmer

Art

Allison Headley

Natural History

Honor Wiltshire

Education Officer

Peggy McGeary

LIBRARY

Betty Shannon

TECHNICAL & MAINTENANCE

Merna Bryan

Stephen Layne

Reginald Rilley

Pauline Stuart

RECEPTION & SHOP

Julie Benjamin

Susan Boyce

Gail Harper

SECURITY

Rudolph Beckles

Beresford Nurse

Royston Sargeant

Rosalind Straker

Grantley Yarde

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



Former Assistant curator for Natural History Ms. Cherrie-Parris-Bourne accepting her gift from the Director, Ms. Alissandra Cummins

Museum says good-bye to Cherrie

The Barbados Museum in July said good-bye to Ms. Cherrie Parris-Bourne, Assistant Curator for Natural History.

At a farewell function Ms. Parris-Bourne was lauded for her professional and efficient manner. During her tenure at the museum she was responsible for the Natural History collection and for the local co-ordinator of the Darwin Initiative Project. Cherrie also successfully curated a number of exhibitions such as "Barbados: The world's first spa" and "Up Home." She was also the secretary of the National Committee of International Council of Museums (ICOM) and represented the Barbados Museum on the regional level at Museum Association of the Caribbean meetings and the Caribbean Conservation Association.

The Council, management and staff of the Barbados Museum extend their best wishes to Ms. Parris -Bourne and wish her every success in her future endeavours. ♦



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 30, 2001 : Museum closed

Public Holiday

Fine Craft Festival December 1, 2001 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Barbados Museum & Historical Society

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