



New African Gallery design complete

In May 2002 the design for the new African Gallery was completed. For the first time in the museum's history a qualified designer was used to take the concept to reality.

The designer Alex Castro, from **Castro Art Design**, has focused on ensuring that the interpretation of the material culture is allowed to flow in this relatively small space. Mr. Castro has developed three dimensional models of the space which allows the curator to have a better picture of the design and to visualise the final product.

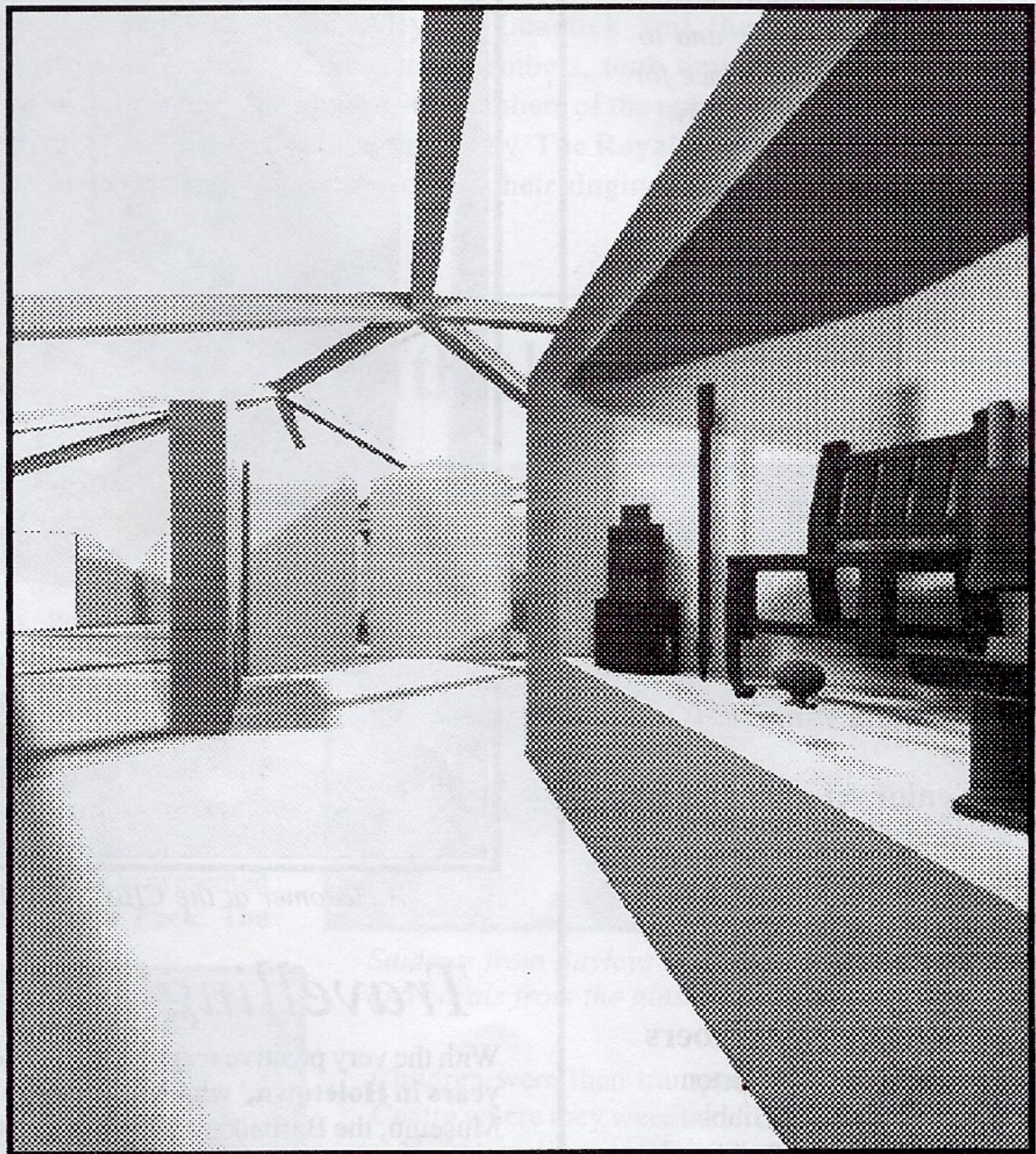
There are also a number of new features being implemented, such as incorporating multi media into this space, both high and low tech multi media features, such as a soundstage at various stages of the exhibit and low tech elements, which would provide pull outs to engage the audience.

Features

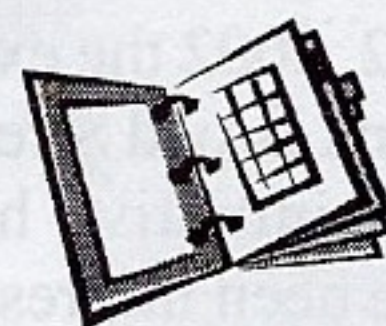
There are also a number of important provisions for the visually and physically challenged such as text in braille and wheel chair access throughout the gallery.

The space has also been configured to represent various styles of Architecture of the continent.

Another new feature of the gallery will be that specific areas will be designed to give the mood of the topic. This design fits into the overall objective of the gallery, to engage the audience and to encourage the viewer to learn more and to experience the continent of Africa. ♦



The design of one of the new galleries entitled Kingdoms & Power



What's inside

- ☐ Dismantling the Warmington
- ☐ Report on Forts & Fortification in Barbados

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

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Sir Clifford Husbands
G.C.M.C., K.A.
Governor General of
Barbados.

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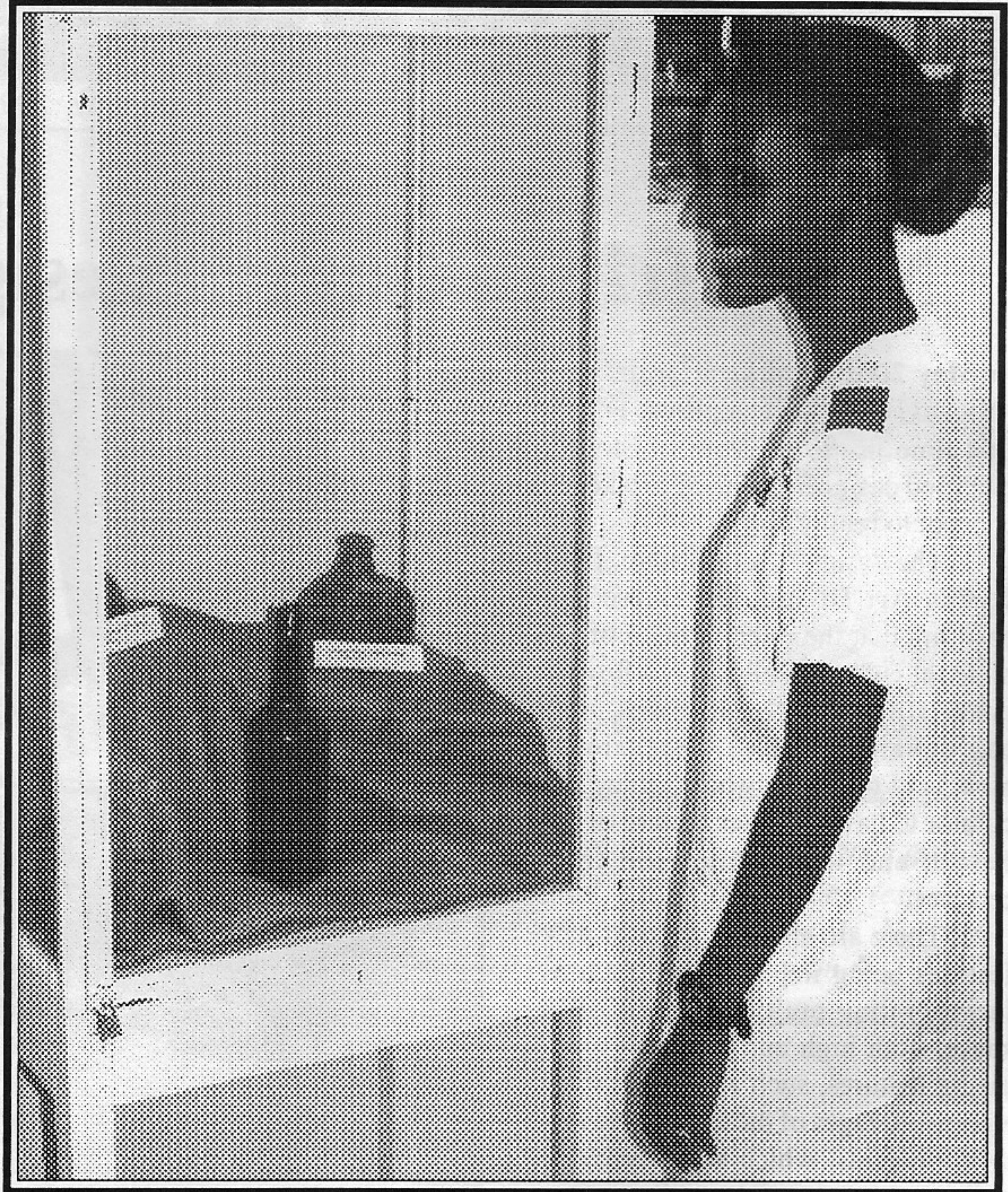
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Ms. Gail Atkins
Dr. Allyson Leacock



A customer at the CIBC Sheraton branch viewing the exhibition

Travelling Holetown Exhibition

With the very positive response to the Holetown exhibition 'The Land marks 375 years in Holetown,' which ran from February 17-March 2, 2002 at the Holetown Museum, the Barbados Museum's curatorial and marketing departments decided to make this exhibition a travelling one, so that the information can be made more accessible to a wider cross section of Barbadians. The exhibition format (poster) makes it very easy to be mounted at a number of public places. To this end, the Barbados Museum has been very successful, under the supervision of the Curator of the exhibition, Ms. Allison Headley, to secure a number of key places for its display. Since March 2, 2002 the exhibition has been mounted at the Colony Club Hotel, The Mutual Bank Broad Street, Barbados National Bank Speightstown and CIBC Sheraton. This initiative has been met with favorable response from Barbadians, who have been impressed with the layout and the information. The exhibition will now be travelling to all branch libraries. Plans are already on stream for a similar travelling exhibition in 2003. The Barbados Museum would like to thank all companies who supported this project and we look forward to their continued support. ♦

Holetown exhibition opened in fine style

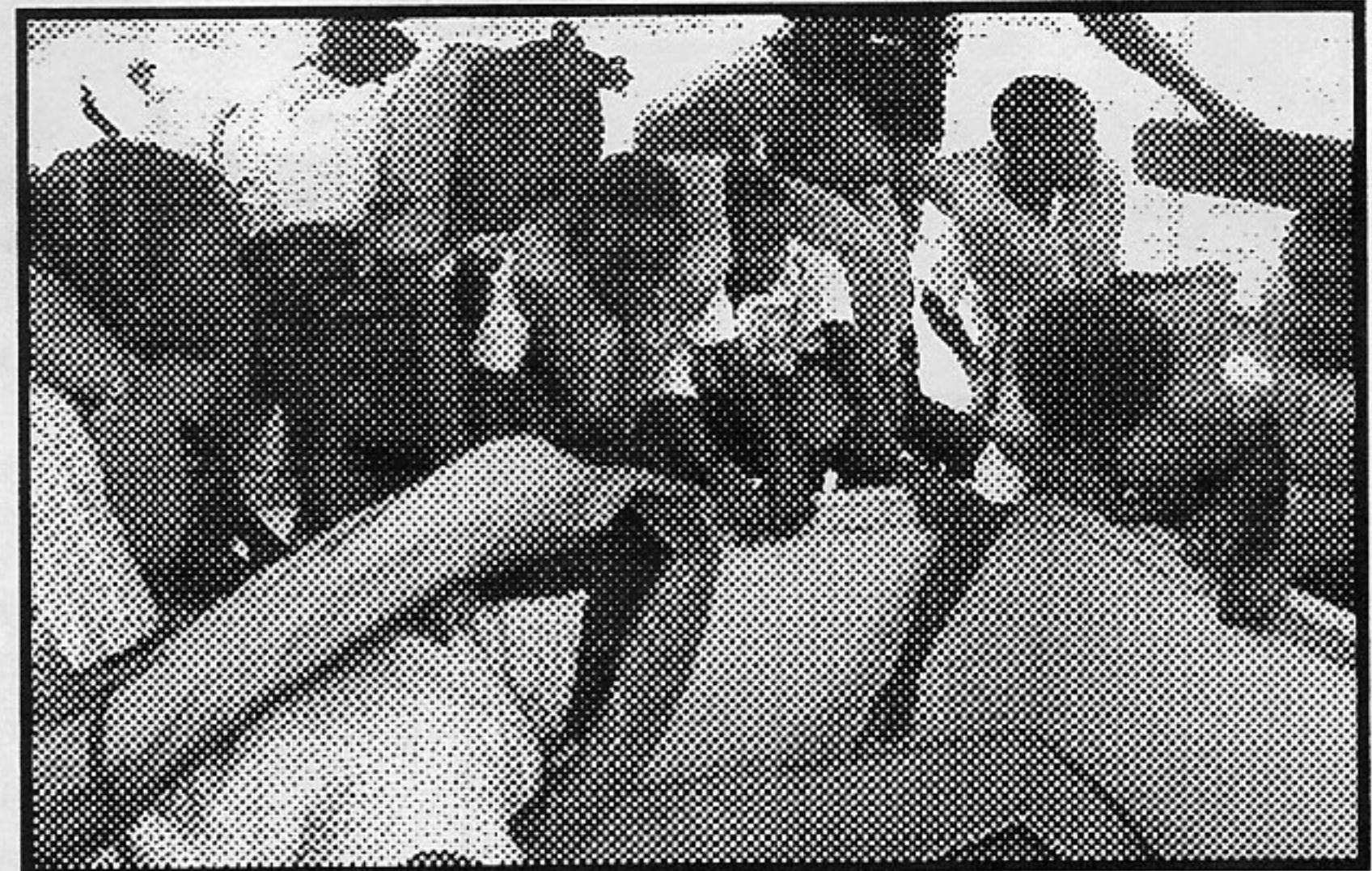
The Barbados Museum on February 17, 2002 opened its temporary exhibition **'The Landmarks 375 years in Holetown'**, to celebrate the Holetown festival in grand style. The opening of the exhibition occurred directly after the official launch of the 2002 festival. The Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Owen Arthur, The British High Commissioner, His Excellency John White, Chief

Executive Officer of the National Cultural Foundation, Dr. Allyson Leacock and the Holetown Festival Committee members, took time to view the exhibition along with members of the public. Guests were treated to entertainment by **'The Royal Diadem'**, who delighted the audience with their singing. ❖

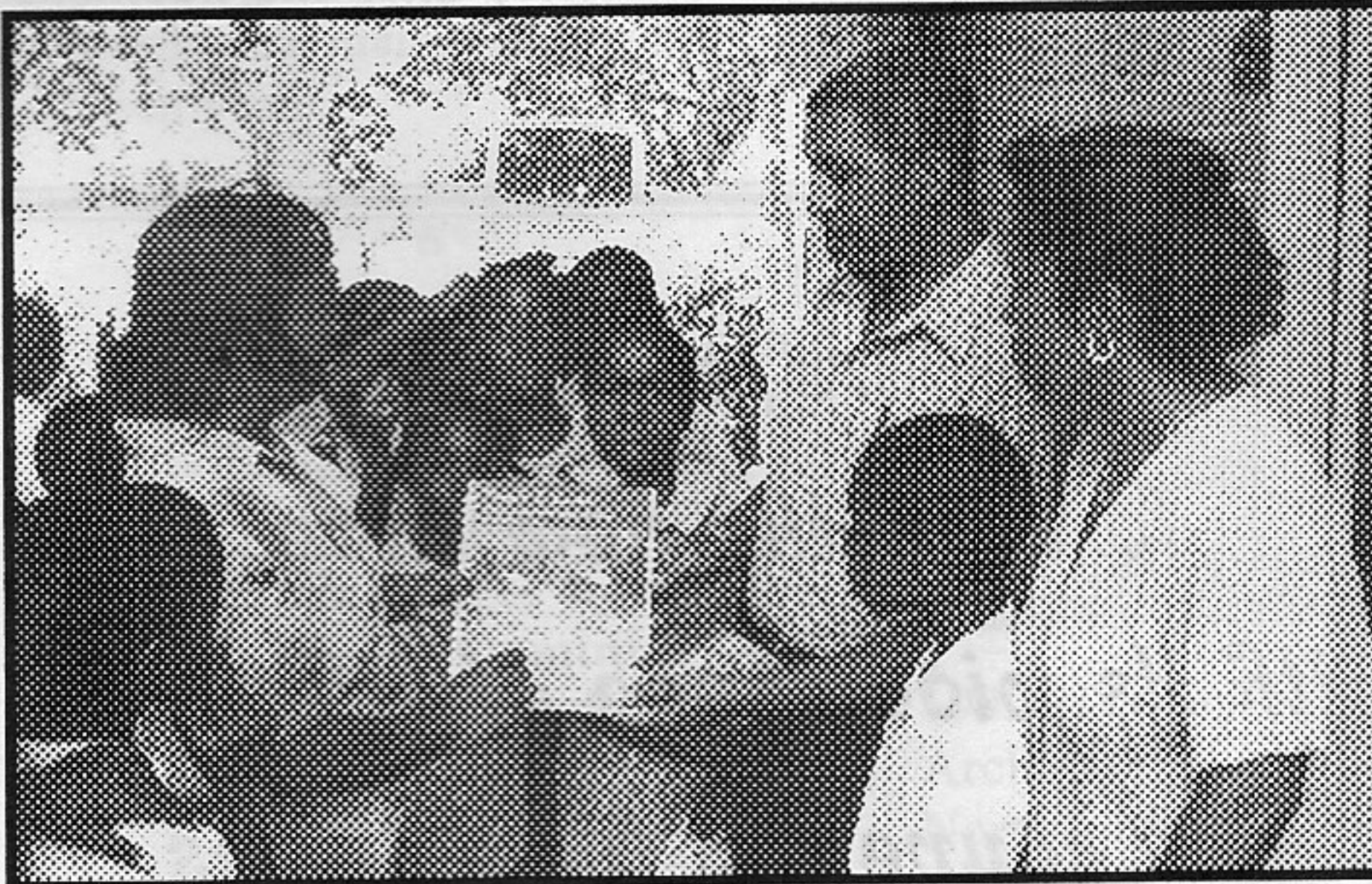
An enjoyable day with the corals

The first half of the Barbados Museum's activities for Environmental Month proved to be a great success. Twenty-six excited students and two teachers from Bayleys' Primary school, were treated to a special tour of the Museum, with emphasis on the Natural History section. Peggy McGeary, Education Officer, accompanied by intern Rodney Ifill and Assistant Curator, Natural History, Monique Collymore, taught the children about corals; how they grow, what they need to survive, where they are found, and the different types. The children also learnt about organisms which live on the coral reef.

After touring the Museum, the teachers were presented with a copy of the **People & Corals Education Pack**. The



Students from Bayleys Primary School gazing at fish and corals from the glass bottom boat.



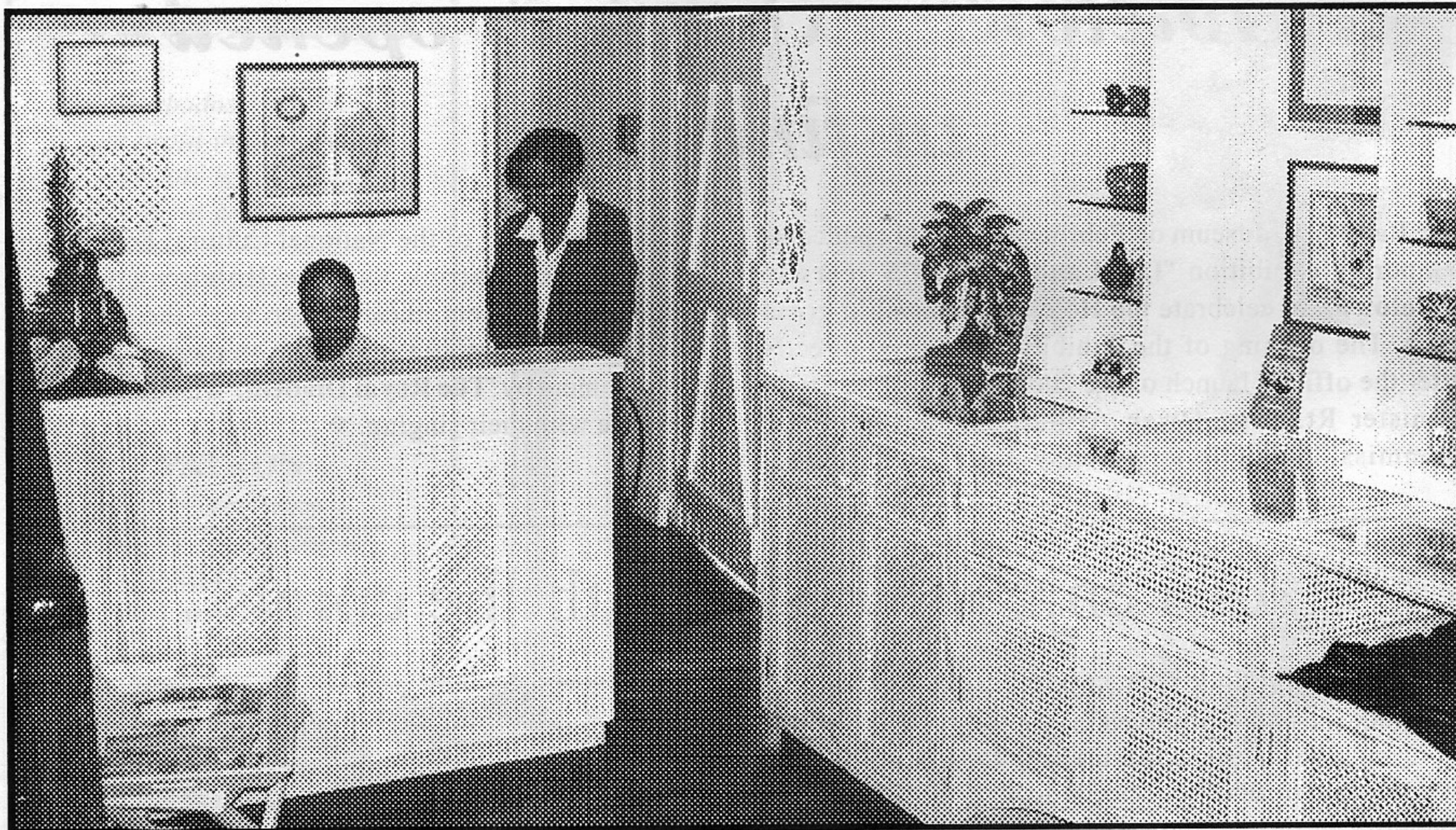
Education Officer Ms. Peggy McGeary presenting a copy of People and Corals Education Pack to teachers from Bayleys primary.

Children were then transported to the Carlisle Bay Centre where they were taken on a glass-bottom boat ride to see live corals and the animals that are associated with them. The children were thrilled as they caught sight of the different types of fish including the parrot fish, Trumpet Fish and a large snapper. The students also saw turtles and examples of hard & soft corals.

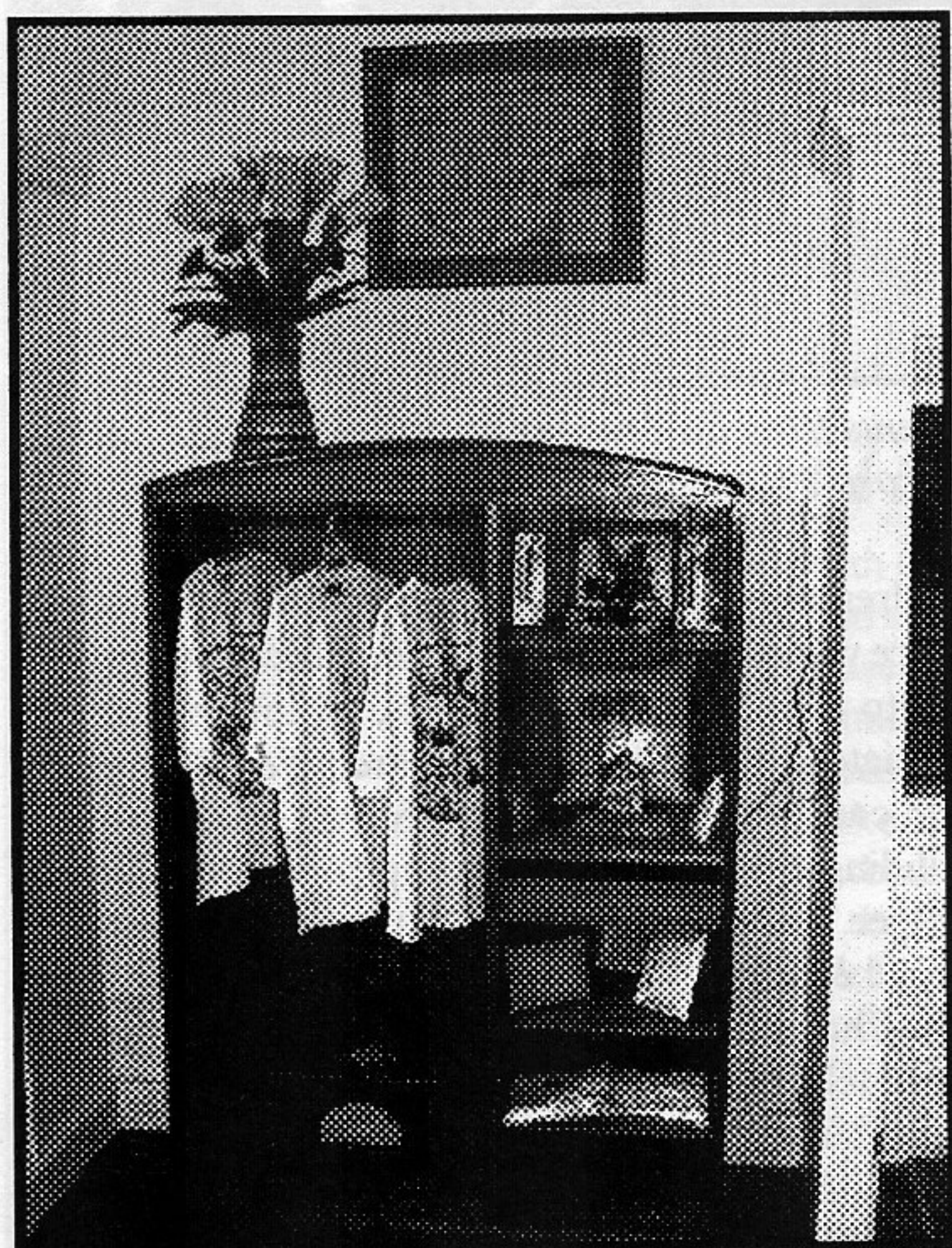
The tour was enjoyed by the children as well as the teachers, who commented that it was both enjoyable and educational and they thanked the Barbados Museum for this wonderful opportunity. ♦

Miss Monique Collymore, Assistant Curator Natural History.

A new look Museum Shop



Above: The new reception desk, jewellery and souvenir display case



A traditional wardrobe redesigned to provide open storage and display space.

The Barbados Museum is pleased to announce the reopening of its 'new' shop. Major renovations have been done to make better use of this limited space with the kind assistance of Interior Designer Mrs. Denise Young-Browne, of Innovative Interiors, who donated her time and expertise. Members are invited in to view the renovated shop with its wide range of gift ideas and souvenirs for all ages. Of course there is a wide selection of history titles and traditional Barbadian confectionery. ♦

*Members were invited
to view the new shop
with its wide range of gift ideas
and souvenirs for all ages*

Shop talk is a new column which will focus on new books and gift items found in the Museum Shop.

This quarter we will showcase a wonderful craft item for kids seven years and up. The Safari Creative activities **Butterfly creative build and paint wood sculpture**, is an excellent gift for a child or adult who love to do craft.

This kit contains an easy to build wooden morpho butterfly, easy with to follow instructions, a colour acrylic paint set with paint brush, sandpaper and non toxic glue.

The final product is 9" tall. The cost of this wonderful item is \$30.00, before the 10% membership discount. ❖



The Final product: This butterfly was built and painted by the Museum Shop Clerk/receptionist, Cindy Corbin

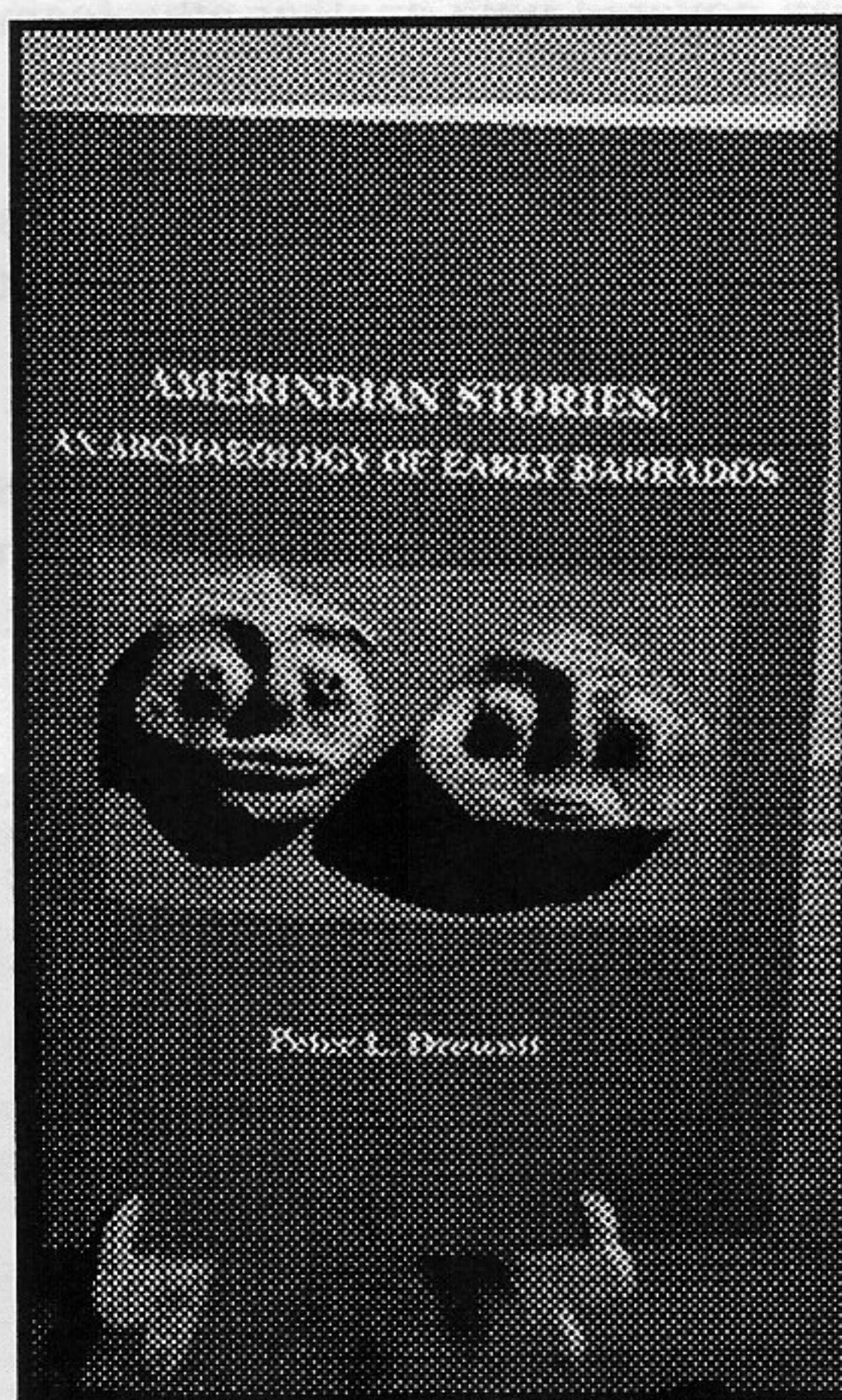
New book on Amerindians

During the month of April, the Barbados Museum launched its latest publication 'Amerindian Stories: An Archaeology of Early Barbados,' written by Peter L. Drewett. The book tells Amerindian Stories based on the Archaeology of Early Barbados. In each chapter there is a story based on archaeological objects found by archaeologists mainly during the last eighteen years.

Images

Following each story is the archaeological evidence and a rich selection of original color photos of archaeological discoveries from Barbados, with images from Carib Reservations in Dominica and elsewhere, to bring the discoveries alive.

The author, Dr. Peter Drewett, is a Reader in prehistoric Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London and during



1999-2000 was visiting Professor of Archaeology, at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. This book is available at the Barbados Museum shop and all leading bookstores for Bds \$20.00. ❖



Museum welcomes Cindy

The Barbados Museum has a new receptionist/sales clerk, Ms. Cindy Corbin. She has been with the Museum from April 2002 and previously worked for five years with Atlantis Submarine as a reservations clerk/sales agent. Cindy has become known at the Museum for her effervescent personality and professional manner. She finds the Barbados Museum not as hectic as Atlantis, but because of the many services and areas at the Museum she finds it more versatile and interesting. She believes her experience in the tourism field will be an important resource for the Barbados Museum. ❖

Dismantling of the Warmington



Curator for History & Archaeology Mr. Kevin Farmer being assisted by maintenance personnel, Mr. Avni Rouse (middle) and Mr. Stephen Layne carefully transported the Chandelier from the Warmington into storage.

As part of the Museum's capital works project for the year 2002, the Warmington Gallery was one of the first areas to be refurbished. During the month of January, building and lighting contractors were contracted along with Mr. John Chandler, who, with his wide and varied knowledge in the area of antiques, advised on the interior layout of the Warmington rooms. The role and responsibility of the Assistant Art Curator was to liaised between all parties and facilitate the smooth operation of the project. During February 2002, the decision was made to dismantle the gallery, by removing all furniture and other objects to an appropriate storage area, while the roof and floors were being redone. As the Cunard gallery recently underwent painting,

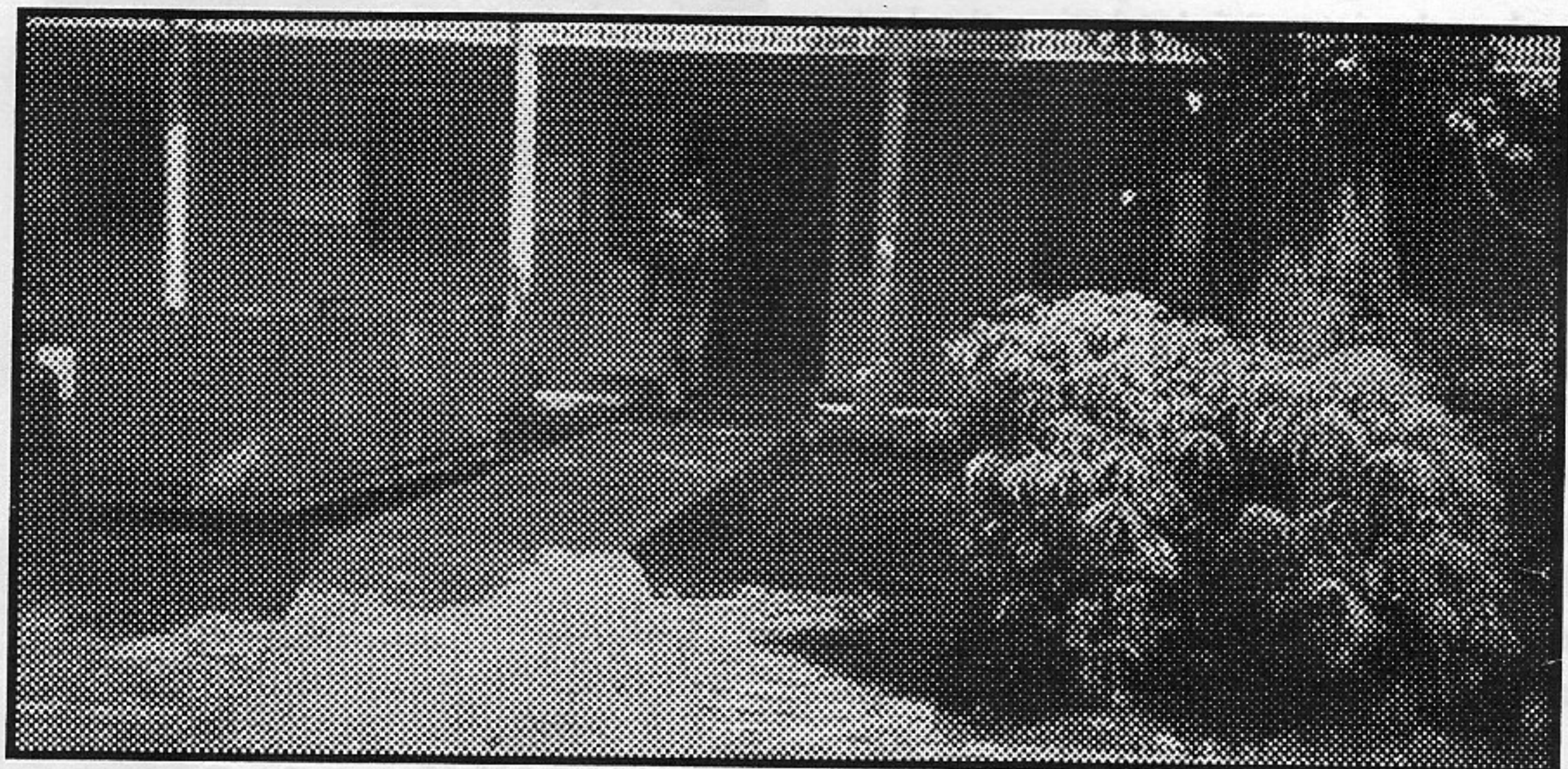
lighting and air conditioning it was available to store the items for the Warmington Gallery. Meanwhile the assistant Curator -Art visited plantation houses around the island to gain knowledge of the different types of layout and the pieces of furniture.

Bridge

In order for the objects and artifacts to be safely transported across to the Cunard Gallery, Maintenance staff Stephen Layne, Avni Rouse and Reginald Riley constructed a walkway or bridge, with the assistance of students from the Woodwork department at the Samuel Jackman Prescod. Wooden crates were made for the storage of the larger items. In addition, in preparation for the move, Assistant Curator Kevin Farmer conducted an object handling workshop for all curatorial and support staff, to ensure that all parties were familiar with the techniques of object handling. During this time some pieces were removed for furniture conservation by Mr. Andy Temprow.

As storage of the smaller glass items was a major concern, a system was devised, using etha foam and a hot gun, where the etha foam was cut out in the shape of the object to be stored. This process would create a hole in the foam block where each glass item would be safely placed. Each object was then covered with another etha foam block also cut out in the shape of the object.

The most challenging items to be moved and stored were the two chandeliers. This was a meticulous task involving the entire maintenance staff under the supervision of the Assistant Curator Kevin Farmer. Dexian shelves were installed in the Cunard and the chandeliers were securely hooked into the dexian shelves. To date the walls have been painted, floors stained, new cupboards and security system installed. This process was a learning experience for all involved. However the professional and truly cautious approach provided for a successful dismantling of the Warmington. *Allison Headley, Curator Art.* ♦



Ms. Monique Collymore, Curator for Natural History, transporting an antique chair from the Warmington into storage across the bridge, which was built to provide safe conditions for transportation.

Forts & Fortifications of Barbados

The research on the forts and fortifications of Barbados was indeed a challenge. The research examined the present state of forts and fortifications in Barbados, and the potential of such sites to be considered for inclusion in the database of heritage tourism sites, which is being created by **Organisation of the Wider Caribbean on Monuments and Sites (CARIMOS)** database on heritage tourism sites.

Forts and Fortifications have existed in Barbados from the 17th century to present and can be traced through both documentary evidence of maps, reports, personal communication and physical evidence through site evaluation and photo documentation. An important piece of this evidence is the 1998 report on Cultural Heritage, prepared by Maureen Bennell for the government of Barbados (Ministry of Health and the Environment), which states "...the lists of forts recorded is at present incomplete and the aim should be to identify and locate at all known examples from documentary evidence."

Present situation

Site visits were conducted in an attempt to assess the present state of forts and fortifications in Barbados. It was discovered, that some forts and fortifications, for example, **Valiant Royalist Fort**, St. Lucy, **Kendal Fort** Christ Church and **Harris Fort**, St. James had completely disappeared,

*Museum Intern, Mr. Rodney Ifill, conducted major research on the Forts and Fortifications of Barbados, for Organisations of the wider Caribbean on Monuments and sites (CARIMOS)
This is a synopsis of his findings.*

while **Half Moon Fort**, St. Lucy had become private residences. Furthermore Police Stations replaced some forts such as **James Fort** and in the case of **Coconut Fort** this had been replaced by an Alms House and a Sanitation Service Depot respectively. Finally the development of hotels along the west coast replaced forts such as **Maxwell Fort** and **Charles Fort**.

The report of 1910 on the '**Historic Sites and Buildings of Barbados**' mentions some thirty -three forts and fortifications.

It examined fortifications in the parishes of St. Michael, Christ Church, St. George, St. James St. Peter and St. Lucy. It was discovered that the parishes of St. James, St. Peter and St. Lucy possessed two lines of fortifications. This report referred to these as the Leeward fortifications.

The hill forts mainly served the function of signal stations, spotting enemy ships and other approaching vessels, as well as redoubts in the event that coastal batteries were overcome by the enemy. The 1816

"Bussa" rebellion provided the impetus for the establishment of signal stations in Barbados in 1818. They formed a network of six major signal stations during the 19th century, extending from the north to the south of the island to include - **Dover Fort, Grenade Hall, Cotton Tower, Moncrieffe, Gun Hill and Highgate**. The method of signalling involved the use of semaphore, telescopes, and "time balls."

Institutions

Great assistance and encouragement was given by the following institutions and individuals: The Barbados Museum & Historical Society, The National Cultural Foundation, The Barbados Archives, The Barbados Defense Force, The Government Information Service, The Barbados Lands and Survey Department, the Dover Beach Hotel and the Coleridge and Parry Secondary School.

Special mention must also be made of Major Michael Hartland, Lieutenant Colonel Florence Gittens, Mr. Warren Alleyne, Mr. Kevin Farmer, Ms. Cherrie Parris, Ms. Peggy McGeary, Mr. William Gollop, Mr. David Williams Ms. Alissandra Cummins, Mrs. Betty Shannon and Mrs. Maris Corbin.

Copies of the document now exist in the collections of three institutions. The Santo Domingo based organisation known as the Organisation of the Wider Caribbean on Monuments and Sites (CARIMOS), The Barbados Museum & Historical Society (BMHS) and the National Cultural Foundation (NCF).

□Rodney Ifill, Intern.

Welcome

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society welcomes the following persons to its family of members:

Orlando Oliveira
Anthony Milsom
Marion Albarado
Judy Pearl Trotman
Lani Edghill



Book Appeal

*The Librarian
Ms. Betty Shannon
is appealing to members for
donations of used book and
magazines for the Museum
craft fair in December.
Members can contact
Ms. Shannon at
427-0201/4396/1956*

Museum Staff

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Executive Officer

Melva Yarde

Marketing Officer

Maria Boyce Taylor

Administrative Assistant

Marcia Griffith

Executive Secretary (ag)

Susan Boyce

Administrative Assistant, Accounts

Wendy Husbands

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Kevin Farmer

Registrar

Angela Boyce

Art

Allison Headley

Natural History

Monique Collymore

Education Officer

Peggy McGeary

LIBRARY

Betty Shannon

TECHNICAL & MAINTENANCE

Merna Bryan

Stephen Layne

Reginald Rildey

Pauline Stuart

Avni Rouse

RECEPTION & SHOP

Gail Harper

Cindy Corbin

SECURITY

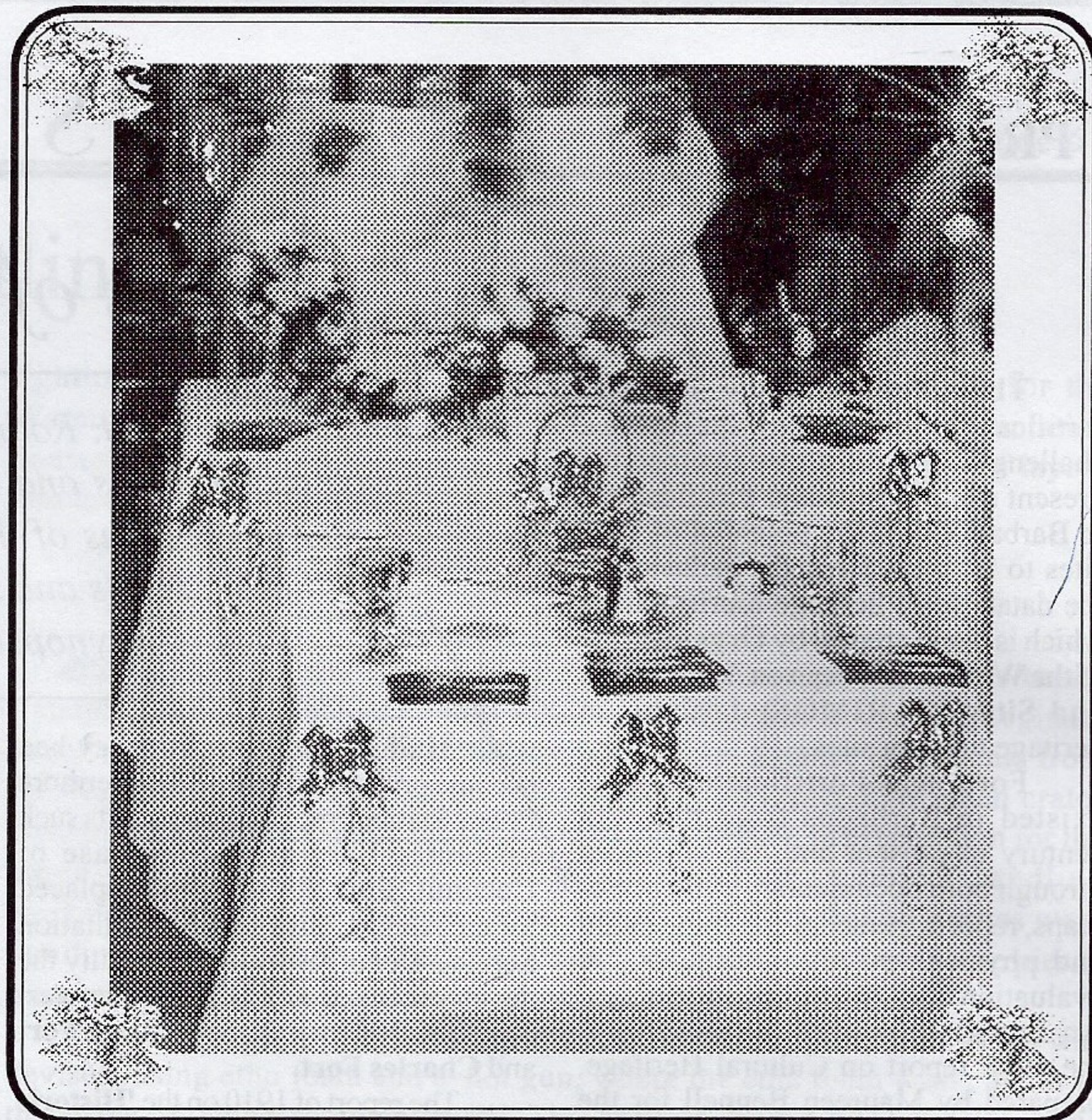
Rudolph Beckles

Beresford Nurse

Royston Sargeant

Grantley Yarde

Rosalind Straker



Weddings at the Museum: The Barbados Museum participated in the 2002 Bridal Showcase at Cave Shepherd from May 18-June 1, 2002. The public's response was very good and the Museum received excellent publicity for its wedding services. The table was decorated by florist Mrs. Haldene Thompson. ❖

NOTICE

**Members are advised of the new OPENING HOURS for
the Museum Library for the period:**

Monday, June 7-Wednesday, July 31, 2002

Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m

CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

*The management of the Barbados Museum apologises for any
inconvenience caused.*

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