



## Museum reopens Warmington

The Barbados Museum recently officially reopened its period rooms known as the Warmington Gallery, after eight months of renovation and refurbishment to the building. The gallery was reopened after the Annual General Meeting on September 18, 2002 by the President of the Society, Dr. Trevor Carmichael.

Guests were able to view a short five minute video on the dismantling of the Warmington Gallery, especially to see the technical aspect of this very sensitive job.

### *Gratitude*

Ms. Alison Headley, Assistant Curator for Art and the coordinator of this project, expressed her gratitude to all involved in creating this new exhibition, including Mr. John Chandler who provided invaluable expertise and the contractors, **Steve's Building Works Ltd**, **Hayden Workman Electrical Inc**, **Mr. David Folkes of Consultant Engineer Partnership** and **Drapery Specialists (B'dos) Ltd**.

The gallery showcases the environment, mood and setting of a traditional plantation house, spanning the period of the mid 18th - 19th centuries. The Warmington Gallery contains three rooms, a nursery, a bedroom and living/dining room combined. The goal was to remove irrelevant items in each of the former rooms to create rooms of the same period. □

*For more information on the new gallery, please see page 3.*



*The President of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society Dr. Trevor Carmichael, and the Director of the Barbados Museum Ms. Alissandra Cummins, cut the ribbon to officially reopen the Warmington Gallery.*

## What's inside

- ◆ **Donation made to the Museum by Caribbean Records Ltd**
- ◆ **Learn about the Caribbean Elegance Experience**
- ◆ **Museum preparing exhibition for Independence**



## 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.

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Prof. Woodville Marshall

### Junior Vice President

Kathleen Drayton

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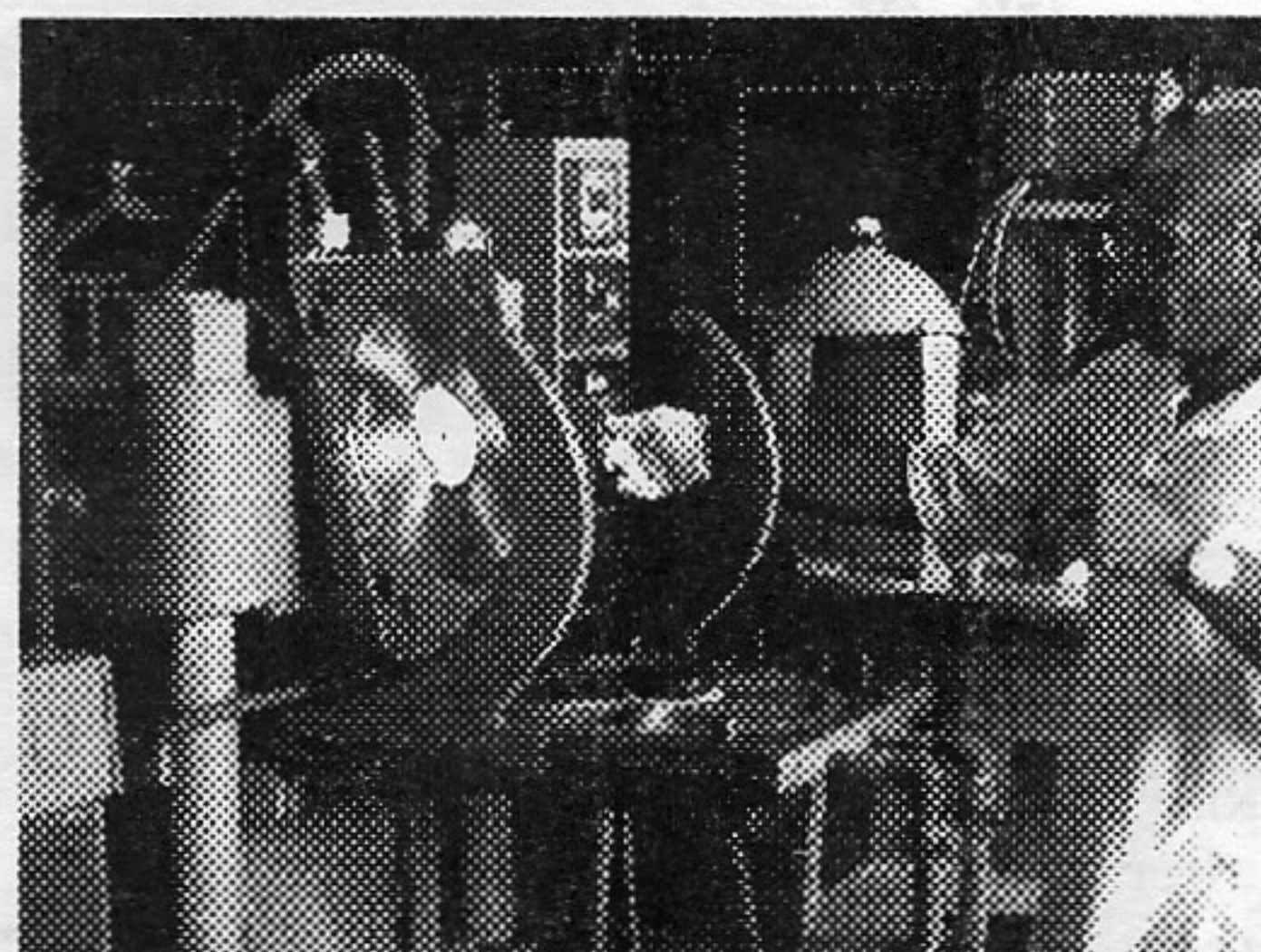
Sir Carlisle Burton  
Mr. John Gibbs  
Ms. Susan Mahon  
Mr. Adrian Dean  
Mr. Jeffrey Ramsay  
Mr. Geoffrey Hart

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Mr. Ian Morrison  
Ms. Nancy Jacobs  
Mr. Mencea Crookendale  
Ms. Gail Atkins  
Dr. Allyson Leacock

## C'bean Records makes donation to BMHS

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society has been presented with some of the equipment used in the production of vinyl records in Barbados. The presentation was made to Ms. Alistandra Cummins, Director of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society at the factory of **Caribbean Records Barbados Limited**, formerly **West Indies Records Limited (WIRL)**, in Applewhaites St. Thomas, by Mr. Bunny Best, Managing Director of Caribbean Records Barbados Ltd and former Sales and Production Manager of WIRL.



*A member of the production team of WIRL Records demonstrating how the equipment was used to make LP's.*

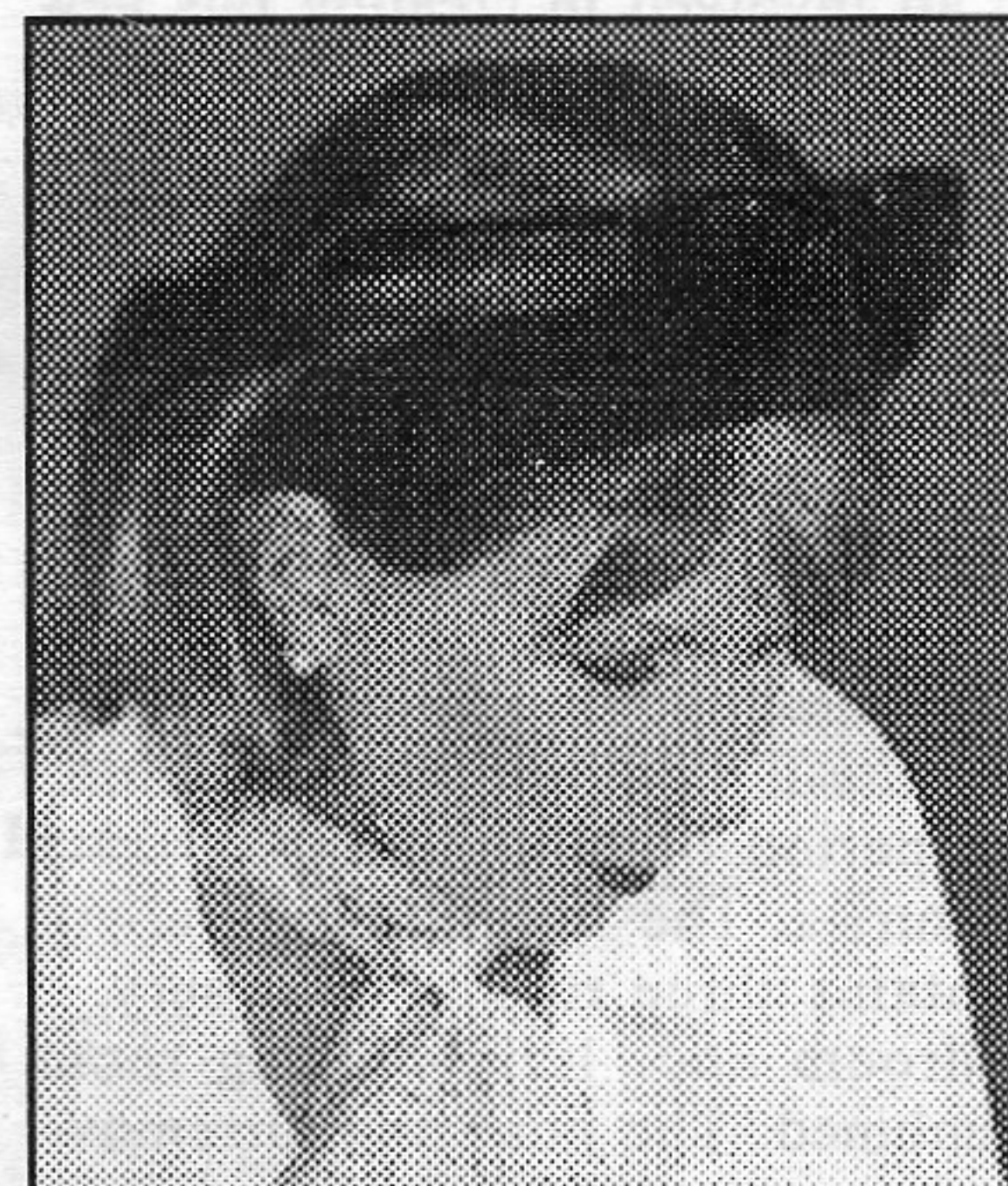
The material presented included the dye used to make both 45 and LP Records, vinyl pellets and one of the presses for the manufacture of the LP records. Records presented to the Museum included the fourth local 45 record made, called 'A Still Small Voice' by Herman 'Soul' Forde and the last LP, Krosfiah's 'Lockdown'.

The Barbados Museum is extremely pleased to acquire not only examples of this sound technology but also records of the early music industry. The Council, Director and Management of the Barbados Museum extends sincere thanks to Mr. Best and his team for this important donation. □

## The Ann Yates Memorial Collection

The Barbados Museum was extremely please to receive on permanent loan from the estate of Mrs Ann Yates 'The Ann Yates Memorial Collection', which consist of one album of Barbadian postcards. This presentation was made by her husband Mr. Alan Yates on August 12, 2002.

Mrs. Yates was born in Barbados in 1937 and spent her childhood in Barbados. She was an inveterate collector and built up over many years a large collection of maps, prints, engravings, postcards and photographs of Barbados. This collection of photographs and postcards inevitably led to the publication of her first book 'Bygone Barbados.' She also loved to spin absorbing tales for her children and grandchildren, this led to two other books 'Side by Side' and 'Rhyme and Reason.' She died in December 2001



*Mrs. Ann Yates*

after battling cancer for eight years. Her family felt in fitting that her collection of Old Barbadian postcards be returned for safe-keeping to her beloved country of birth. □



# A look at the new Warmington

As part of the capital works slated for the 2001-2002 period, plans were made for the deinstallation of the **Warmington Gallery** during February 2002, to facilitate the structural changes to be made to the buildings and roofs by April 2002. As a result of the several changes, these major renovations concluded during late May 2002.

The previous Warmington Gallery contained three rooms, with the living and dining room combined. The idea was to remove irrelevant items in each of the rooms to create spaces of the same time period. Mr. John Chandler, previous owner of the **Ocean View Hotel**, who presently owns **Fisherpond Plantation House**, was contacted and appointed to assist in the redecoration of the **Warmington Gallery** because of his expertise in that area.

## Main bedroom

The primary function of the main bedroom was to create a 'homey, lived in atmosphere.' The previous layout contained just over eighteen pieces of furniture and other objects and featured a predominant 'female presence'. The new room contains over twenty five artefacts with some very distinctive changes, including a fall front secretaire laden with unique paper weights and other items specifically catering to a man's writing needs.

The nursery has been transformed into a little girl's room, and items, particularly dolls and other toys were selected. Replicas of 18th and 19th century lamps were also installed to give a soft illumination.

Designed specifically for a dinner setting, the main focus of the dining room is to highlight the **Farley Hill** collection of ceramic ware on the dining table and the exquisite collection of ceramic and glass artistically laid out in four cases. The living and dining rooms are now divided by an invisible line, by two small upholstered foot stools, an upholstered armchair, a



*Museum members who attended the Annual General Meeting view the gallery.*



*Discussing the new look Warmington Gallery from left, Director of the Museum Ms. Alissandra Cummins, Member of the Museum's Council, Mr. John Hart and the President of the Society, Dr. Trevor Carmichael.*

regency stool, tip top card table and an oval marble Victoria table.

Visitors can view the entire gallery from the inside as well as from the outside, through a specifically

made glass, which when installed, will allow visitors to actually walk part way into each of the rooms. The gallery will be open to the public in the near future. □



# The Caribbean Elegance experience

*Museum to host lecture and launch of book on Caribbean antique furniture*

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society will host the launch of the book **Caribbean Elegance** by Michael Connors, at the Barbados Museum on Wednesday, December 18, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

The launch includes a lecture and slide presentation by the author and a book signing and cocktail reception.

## *Elegant lifestyle*

The book contains exotic interior designs for anyone who has ever dreamed of escaping to a different way of life. The elegant life-style, magnificent homes and varied furniture and decor of the French, Dutch, Spanish, English and Danish islands of the Caribbean from the late 18th century to the early 20th century, are revealed as never before. The coffee table book includes 160 photographs, 150 in full color in 176 pages.

Michael Connor received his Ph.D. in decorative arts from New York University, where he now teaches. He has published widely in art journals and life-style magazines, such as 'The Magazine Antiques,' 'Architectural



Digest' and 'Art and Antiques.' He lives in New York City and St. Croix.

The photographs in the book were taken by Mr. Bruce Buck, a New York City based interior photographer. His work has appeared in magazines such as 'Architectural Digest,' 'The Magazine Antiques' and 'Elle Decor'.

To be part of this wonderful event, the cost is \$40.00, which will entitle you to a 20% discount on the cost of the book. For more information, or to reserve space at this event, please call 427-0201/436-1956. **Limited space available.** ☿

## Library News

The Museum Library is interested in recruiting a library volunteer to assist with the newspaper clippings and other clerical work. For more information please call Ms. Betty Shannon at 427-0201/436-1956.

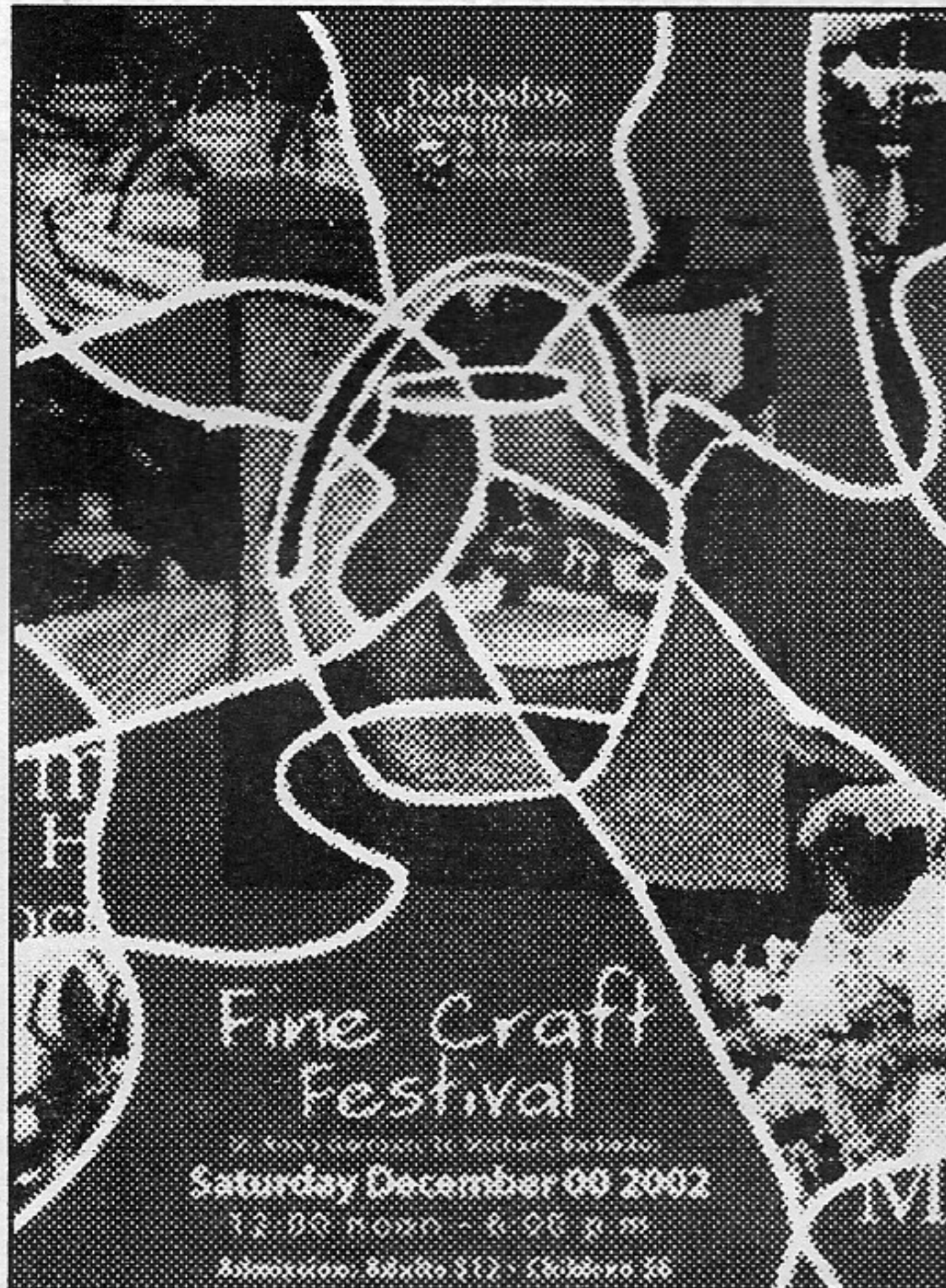
Special thanks to all those patrons and museum members who donated books for the 2002 Fine Craft Festival, more paperback books are welcome. ■

Happy Birthday  
Happy Birthday



**Happy Birthday to all  
those members  
celebrating birthdays in  
October, November &  
December.**





*The 2002 Fine Craft Festival Poster*

## Fine Craft Festival on December 7

The Barbados Museum is now preparing for the 2002 Fine Craft Festival slated for December 7, 2002. This year, over 50 stall holders will converge on the lower courtyard of the Museum with exquisite crafts, including pottery and ceramics, clothing, Christmas craft and soft furnishings. There will also be entertainment and the Bajan food court which has become very popular with patrons. Tickets will be sold at \$6.00 (Adults) \$3.00 (children). The hours are 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. This year the festival is being supported by the Barbados Manufacturers Association's 100% Bajan Campaign. We look forward to the usual support of members and friends of the Museum. ☿



## 2002 Classic Card Collection coming soon



*Poinsettia Pulcherrima (White) Hand coloured engraving by S. Holder C. 1838*

The 2002 **Classic Card Collection** will be launched in October. This year there will be two new images by Ivan Payne and David Skinner. These two cards will be accompanied by the very popular Poinsettia which many customers have asked us to reprint. This year the cards will be sold blank or with the message 'Season's Greetings'. The 10% discount for all museum members is once again applicable. The **Classic Card Collection** is a line of unique Christmas cards based on Barbadian images which seeks to raise needed funds for the Museum as well as to provide a line of cards which depicts aspects of Barbados' cultural heritage. □



*The Male Popaw Tree, Griffith Hughes, 1750*



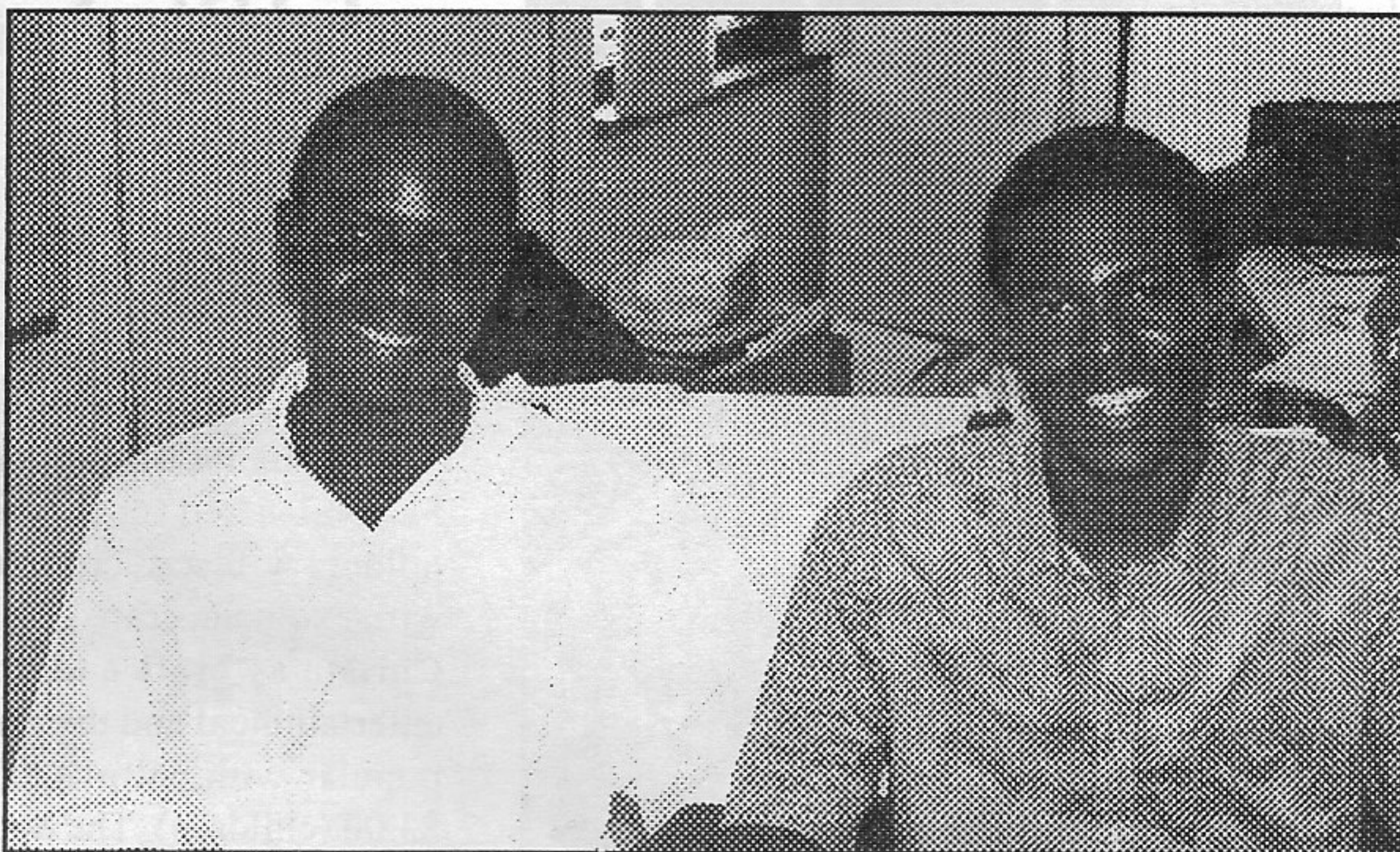
## Students learn about the museum profession

This summer the Museum welcomed two students from the Barbados Community College for a summer attachment programme, Mr. Jermain Beckford and Mr. Brian Harris who spent 12 weeks with the Barbados Museum. The two students are pursuing Associate degrees in History and Economics and were assigned to work under the supervision of Assistant Curator, History & Archaeology, Mr. Kevin Farmer and Research Assistant James Marshall.

### *Photograph collection*

Jermaine was assigned to record the photograph collection, obtaining dimensions and placing the photographs in Mylar sleeves, while Brian conducted an inventory of the document collection, specifically the legal documents of J.T. Haynes. His responsibility was to wrap these documents in acid free paper and record information such as subject headings etc. Brian also completed the inventory case, comprising stamps and First Day Covers as well as numerous plantation records.

Both interns obtained training in proper handling, preventative conservation and care of documents by



*From left Jermaine Beckford and Brian Harris, students from the Barbados Community College*

Registrar Mrs. Angela Boyce and Mr. James Marshall.

These students stated that they enjoyed the work at the Museum and the opportunity to obtain experience in the world of work. They specifically found learning about the day to day running of a Museum interesting and the wealth of information they obtained on the history of Barbados.

In general, they believed that the opportunity helped them to

expand their career possibilities for the future. Jermain and Brian also praised the Barbados Museum for the work that it continues to do to preserve Barbados' Cultural Heritage.

The Barbados Museum wishes them every success in their studies. ♦

### *Museum hosts two interns from St. Kitts*

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society was very pleased to host two of our colleagues from St. Kitts for a three week internship programme, Ms. Hazel Brooks from **Brimstone Hill National Park** and Ms. Jekisha Burroughs from **St. Kitts National Museum**.

The programme objective was to expose these two colleagues to all aspects of museum management and operation and to assist them in improving the operations at their museums.

Sessions held included exhibition installation with Assistant Curator Art, Allison Headley,

Collections Registration with Registrar Angela Boyce, Marketing and Public Relations with Marketing Officer Maria Boyce Taylor, Disaster Planning and Museum Acquisition, with Assistant Curator History and Archaeology, Kevin Farmer and Exhibition planning with the Director, Alissandra Cummins.

The programme was a comprehensive and tightly packed one. Ms. Brooks and Ms. Burroughs agreed that the schedule was a very educational and enlightening one and they did learn a great deal about Museum Management and operation. □

### *New members*

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

Mr. Adrian Jackson  
Miss Rhonique Lewis  
Miss. Elma Licorish  
Mrs. Ianthe E. Hines  
Mrs. Roseta Griffith  
Mr. Goulbourne Yearwood  
Miss Cheryl Giles  
Mr & Mrs Geoffrey Ramsay  
Miss Donna McAleer  
Miss Dionne Lashley  
Prof. John H. McCuskar  
Miss Andria Clarke



## *Empowering the nation through information*

*Below is an excerpt from the keynote address given by Alissandra Cummins, Director of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society on the occasion of the Library Association of Barbados Library Week Seminar entitled 'Empowering the Nation Through Information.'*

A common concern for many of us in the business of information creation or provision is what may be perceived as the enduringly particular and special character of localised cultures in the face of a generally presumed globalism, engendered by the all-pervasive communications onslaught and the ramifications of international capitalism. The supposed hegemony of global brands and the myth of democratisation of travel are everywhere undetermined by continued culture diversity and the still insistently sedentary nature of the global population as a whole. More than anything else, cultures retain essentialist images of self-identity based on place. This is true even in cases of geographical displacements of groups.

### *Nation State*

There are few regions of the world where migration has become such an integral part of peoples existence as the Caribbean.

This gives legitimacy to the notion that the examination of the processes of migration, colonization, exile, assimilation, destruction, evaluation and reconstruction of identity must be central to our work today, not least because of the concept of nation state as it is shared, observed and interpreted by a single group fuelled by information which has been gathered over time and identified as essential truths about ourselves and our country, is the key social, economic and political agenda which shapes our national identity.

Empowering the nation through Information for me means the provision of knowledge about ourselves for and by ourselves. In other words the 'creation and delivery of information' which meets our needs and expectations as a people. We must therefore take the responsibility for accessing and evaluating data that enables us to form our own history out of which our collective identity is forged. These are factors which tend to define us as a people, provide us with a cultural identity: Culture to arrive at in simplest definition is a *way of life of a people*.

### *Diversity*

The World Commission on Culture and Development Report of 1995 entitled, '**Our Creative Diversity**,' says that culture is a whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features. It includes creative expression, oral history, language, literature, performing arts, fine arts and crafts, community practice, traditional healing methods, traditional natural resources. The cultural and natural heritage thus provides a sense of identity and helps to differentiate communities in a climate of globalisation. It allows cultural communities to discover and understand one another and, at the same time, constitutes a development asset.

### *Audience*

If we want to examine the information about Barbados available to an international audience, the highly respected **United National Development Programme Human Development Report** recently launched for 2002, where Barbados' current status as one of the most successful internationally as a developing country and small state, is strikingly contrasted with the **Discover Barbados Website** of the **Barbados Tourism Authority** which provides visitors with a very different perspective.

Barbados' history as presented through this medium is virtually unrecognisable, not to say inaccurate.

In a recent address Nobel Laureat Professor Wole Soyinka pointed out that '*culture is a matrix of infinite possibilities and choices.*' He says, '*from within the same cultural matrix, we can extract arguments and strategies of degradation or ennoblement, for enslavement or liberation for the suppression of productive potential of the enhancement.*' Culture is about choices and identity and is in a large part the end result of that selection process, and information is more often than not the vehicle which fuels the process of creation of identity.

Preserving Barbados' heritage and ensuring access to it depends as much on the accuracy of its documentation and interpretation of collections as on the conservation of the objects themselves.

### *Preservation*

These are issues that we need to face in this new millennium. What is crucial, as we think about culture and development, is to recognise that the maintenance of heritage, of culture, of individual history, is a mandatory building block on which development with countries and within our globe needs to occur. The preservation of that culture is not an optional extra. It is an essential element in the development process.

We have a responsibility, as a result of this meeting, to take the message and try and make people understand that heritage is not an adornment, heritage is not a luxury, heritage is not elitism. Rather heritage is a critical information and investments asset, heritage is humanity. ♦

*Alissandra Cummins, Director of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society.*



## 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 & Art History

Allison Headley

#### Education Officer

Peggy McGearry

#### LIBRARY

Betty Shannon

#### TECHNICAL & MAINTENANCE

Merna Bryan

Stephen Layne

Reginald Rilley

Pauline Stuart

#### RECEPTION & SHOP

Cindy Corbin

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.

## Exhibition on Independence

The Barbados Museum will be mounting an exhibition to celebrate Barbados' Independence, entitled 'Our Symbols of Independence.' The exhibition will seek to inform Barbadians and tourists about some of the symbols of Barbados' independence and the processes by which Barbadians created them. According to the Curator for the exhibition Ms. Monique Collymore 'The objective of the exhibition is to allow the audience to develop a deeper appreciation of Barbados' independence symbols'.

Symbols which are being highlighted and discussed will be the Coat of Arms, the Constitution, The National Flag, National Anthem, Commemorative stamps and the National Pledge.

The Exhibition will be on display from November 3- December 6, 2002 in the foyer of the Sherbourne Conference Centre, Two Mile Hill St. Michael. □

## Calendar of events



November 3, - December 6, 2002:

'Our Symbols of Independence'

The Foyer of the Sherbourne Conference Centre

9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 7, 2002:

Fine Craft Festival

Museum grounds

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 18, 2002:

The Caribbean Elegance Experience

The launch of the book 'Caribbean Elegance' by Michael

Connors 7:00 p.m. Barbados Museum

## Closure Dates

The Barbados Museum will be closed on the following days during

**November - December, 2002**

November 30, 2002

December 23-27, 2002

December 31, 2002 12:00 p.m.

The Museum shop will be open on:

**Monday December 23, 2002**

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.