



BMHS commence major capital works

From March 2003, physical redevelopment will begin on the new African Gallery. Plans are in place to expand the physical size of the gallery from 200 square feet to 800 square feet. The physical redevelopment will include, raising the roof of the existing gallery for better ventilation, creating a new physical structure for the gallery and dismantling the Connell gallery. This is of major historical significance for the museum since this is the first gallery to be deinstalled at the museum.

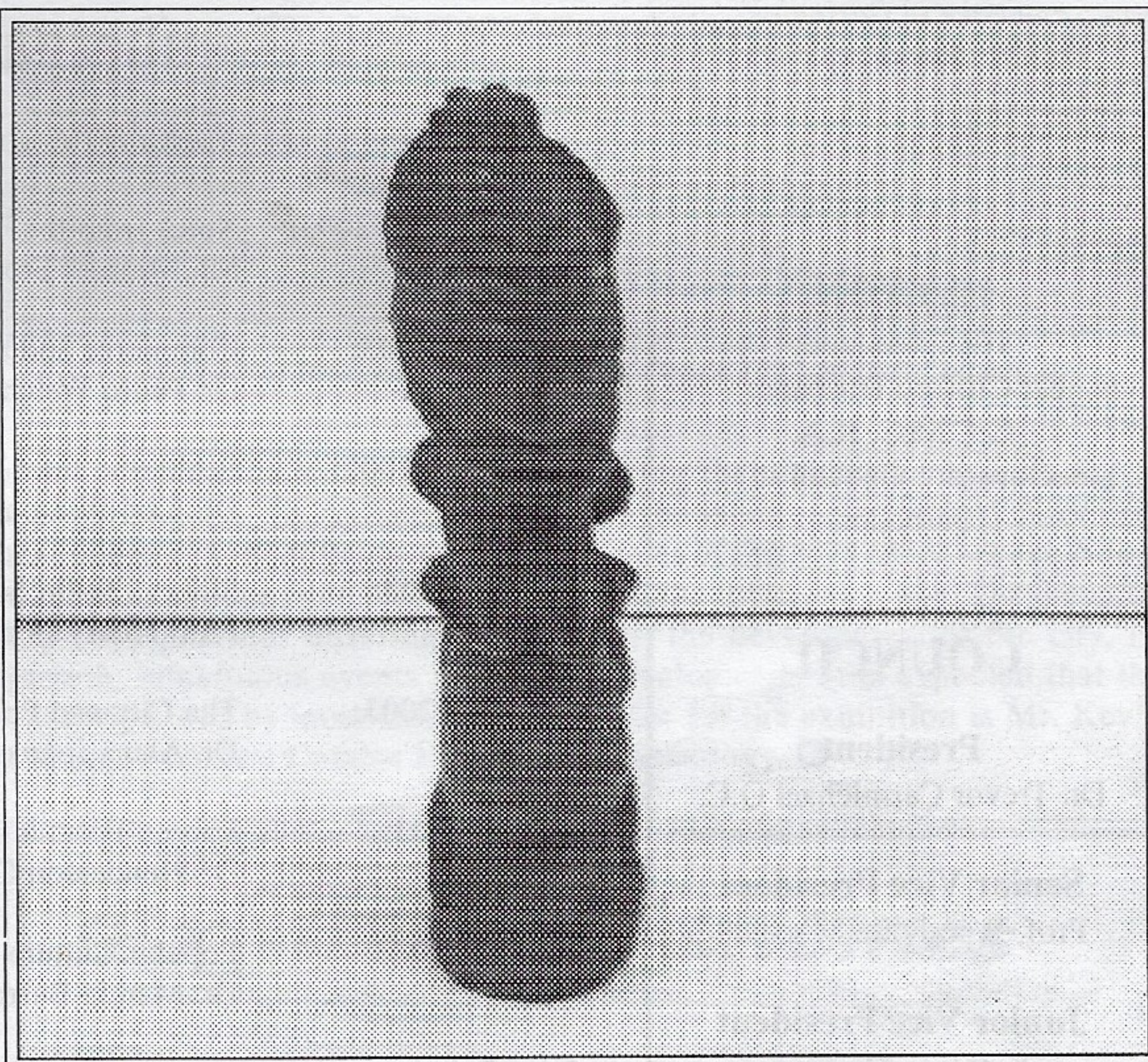
The Connell gallery was opened on November 29, 1974 in memory of Mr. Neville Connell. Objects and artifacts from this gallery have now been incorporated into the newly redesigned Warmington and Cunard galleries.

This redevelopment of the museum's west wing is the major capital works project for the Barbados Museum in 2003. The curatorial department has been busy deinstalling the galleries while conducting an inventory of the collections.

Objective

Phase II of this project will include the creation of an inner wall, followed by fabrication, production of the gallery and installation of the new African gallery. The objective of this project is to increase the scope of the existing African gallery to provide a broader representation of the history and culture of this African continent, as well as to educate and provide innovative ways to teach the general public about the continent of Africa.

The new gallery will be called **Connections: Africa and its people in the Caribbean** and will fall under the themes of *Africa the Continent, Dawn of civilisation, Kingdoms and Power, Trade and commerce and Africa in the Caribbean.* ♦



Yoruba Fertility figure one of the focal images to be installed in the new African gallery.

What's inside

Information on the 375th Anniversary of Bridgetown
Lecture Series.

History of Music recording in Barbados

Museum hosts special group

Museum day celebrates 'museums and friends'

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.

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375th Anniversary of Bridgetown Lectures Series

The Barbados Museum in collaboration with the University of the West Indies and the National Cultural Foundation proudly presents the 375th Anniversary of Bridgetown Lecture Series.

The goal of the lecture series is to commemorate the 375th anniversary of Bridgetown as one of the earliest English commercial ports in the West Indies. The lecture series began on January 28, 2003 and continues to October 21, 2003 (see full lecture programme below). All lectures begin at 8:00 p.m.

375th Anniversary of Bridgetown Lecture Series 2003

- February 25, 2003:** Notes from the Underground: Archaeology in Bridgetown. Mr. Michael Stoner. *Solidarity House.*
- March 4, 2003:** Commerce and the City: The first 100 years. Dr. Pedro Welch. *Solidarity House.*
- March 18, 2003:** Sephardic Jews Bridgetown. Dr. Karl Watson. *Solidarity House.*
- April 8, 2003:** Slavery & the Society in the City. Prof. Hilary Beckles. *Solidarity House.*
- April 22, 2003:** The City and Politics in the Age of Prescod. Dr. Alana Johnson. *Frank Collymore Hall.*
- May 6, 2003:** Labour Riots in Bridgetown in the late 19th Century. Dr. Henderson Carter. *Frank Collymore Hall.*
- May 20, 2003:** Popular Culture and the Arts in Bridgetown. Dr. Marcia Burrowes. *Frank Collymore Hall.*
- June 3, 2003:** Secret and the Other Societies in Bridgetown. Dr. Aviston Downes. *Frank Collymore Hall.*

VENUES TO BE CONFIRMED

- June 17, 2003:** Political Awakening in Bridgetown: The Wickham and O'Neal Years. *Dr. David Brown.*
- July 1, 2003:** The Bridgetown Club: Corporate Culture in the City. *Dr. Cecilia Karch.*
- July 22, 2003:** Clement Payne in the City. *Prof. Woodville Marshall.*
- September 23, 2003:** Faith & Fortune: The Church in Bridgetown. *Canon Noel Titus.*
- October 7, 2003:** E.D. Mottley and the City. *Dr. Johnny Cheltenham.*
- October 21, 2003:** Bridgetown Today and Tomorrow. *Hon. Billie Miller, Deputy Prime Minister.*

Exhibition to celebrate Bridgetown anniversary

The Barbados Museum is proposing as its major contribution to the 375th anniversary of Bridgetown to mount an exhibition chronicling the history of Bridgetown entitled: **Bridgetown Early: The Story of the City**. The city of Bridgetown has witnessed and has been impacted upon by countless wars, and the Independence of two nation states, Haiti and the United States of America.

Objectives

The objective of the exhibit is to educate Barbadians about the importance of Bridgetown in the development of Barbados and to celebrate the birth and growth of the city as one of the oldest in the English speaking Caribbean.

The exhibit will be introduced through color coded integrated text and graphic posters. It is hoped that the exhibition will be mounted in the



A prospect of Bridgetown in Barbados, Copen 1695-BMHS Collection

show windows of Bridgetown stores giving the viewer the opportunity to wander through the commercial heart of the island on a walk of discovery that tells the story of Bridgetown. The themes of this very innovative exhibition will take their cue from the development of the town into a city. The thematic approach provides differing perspectives: the development of the city, its growth, tumultuous events and social development. It is expected that the exhibition will be mounted in July. Curator for the exhibition is Mr. Kevin Farmer, Assistant Curator History & Archaeology. □

Barbados
Museum
& Historical
Society

Ole Time Excursion

An educational island tour which explores the history and culture of Barbados in a fun and educational way.

To book tours please call
427-0201/436-1956

Come travel back into
time on the Rocklyn bus
and enjoy Barbados!!

Exhibition Themes

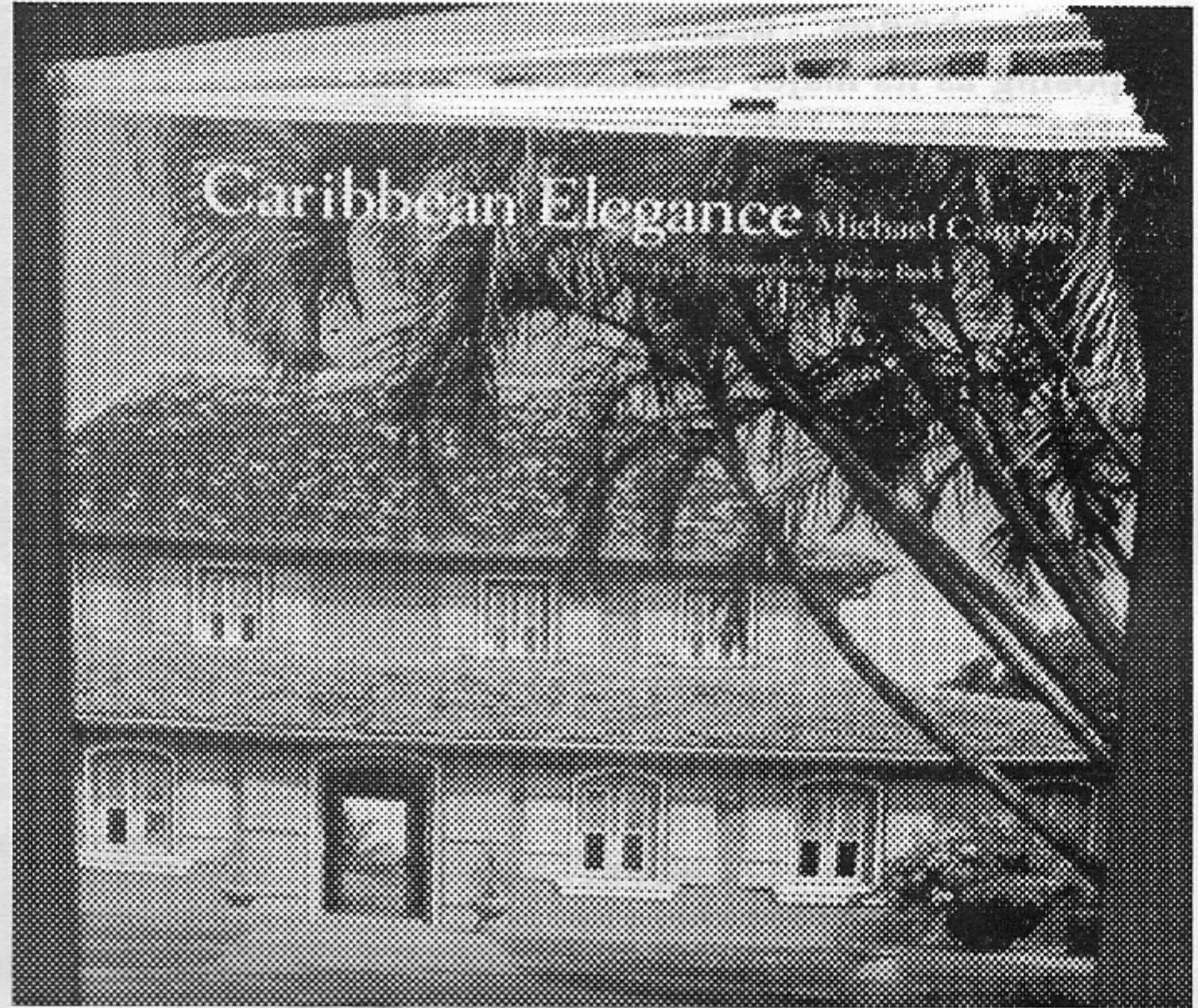
Bridgetown Early: The story of Bridgetown

1. **Ichirouganaim:** Life (B)efore (C)ontact- Examines the Amerindian presence on the island of Ichirouganaim..
2. **The Bridge:** Tells the story of the earliest period of settlement including the dispute over the ownership of the island.
3. **Rex Sucre:** Discusses the transition from small frontier town to a dynamic bustling city.
4. **Doncaster to St. Michael:** The Development of the town.
5. **The city celebrates Independence:** The ways Bridgetown celebrates Independence.
6. **The town becomes a city:** Evolution of the town into a city.
7. **Symbols of town:** Looks at historic districts, places, sites etc.
8. **God Glory & Sugar:** Development of places of worship.
9. **Shops & Hawkers:** The development of small businesses in Bridgetown.
10. **Requiem for town:** Brings us to our own time noting the changes.

Caribbean Elegance Experience a success

The Barbados Museum was very honored to host Dr. Michael Connors, author of the Book **Caribbean Elegance**. Dr. Connors visited the island from December 17-21, 2002 to launch this book. The launch included a 45 minute lecture, a book signing and cocktail reception. Many antique enthusiasts were extremely delighted to be part of this event where Dr. Connors discussed the historical significance of Caribbean furniture and highlighted many of the unique features of Caribbean furniture from the French, Dutch and Spanish Caribbean. The newly renovated Warmington Gallery was also open for viewing.

The Assistant Curator for Art Ms. Allison Headley worked closely with Dr. Connors. During his stay on the island they toured many of the island's plantation houses and other private residences including Francia Plantation, Fisherpond House and St. Nicholas Abbey to observe the various types of furniture. While at the Museum, Dr. Connors assisted Ms. Headley with dating and clarifying some of the information on the furniture in the Warmington Gallery. The Barbados Museum is hoping to plan another lecture by Dr. Connors later this year. ♦



Museum Day celebrates 'museums and friends'

On 18th May 2003, museum all over the world will be celebrating International Museum Day. This year's theme is '**Museums and Friends**'. Who are these 'friends'? Some are voluntary workers, whilst others are partners or benefactors but 'museum friends' are essentially people who love museums.

They may assist a museum in its daily work, enable it to add to its collections, help build bridges between museums and the public, or interface with government bodies on its behalf, acting either as individuals, or as members of an association or friends' group.

International Council of Museums (ICOM) has decided to dedicate International Museum Day 2003 to museum friends, to pay homage to the valuable and little publicised role they play and to strengthen links between museums and their friends.

President of ICOM Jacques

*ICOM has decided to
dedicate International
Museum Day 2003 to
museum & friends*

Perot stated 'museums must place themselves at the heart of society and ensure that they are open to the communities around them. The development of our institutions depends in a large part on the support of the public and we must offer that public opportunities to support our aims and involve themselves in our activities. So it is important that museums and their friends work together in a spirit of creativity and innovation.'

'International Museum Day'
The aim of this annual event is to raise public awareness of the vital role

museums play in society every year. Museums all over the world mark the occasion with open days, guided tours and public events and workshops. □

From the International Council of Museums.

*Happy Birthday
Happy Birthday*



*Happy Birthday to all
those members
celebrating birthdays
in*

February, March & April

Museum hosts History Today group

The Barbados Museum was delighted to host a group of over 20 subscribers of **History Today**, who were on a special Tour to Barbados from November 17-December 1, 2003. The group visited the Barbados Museum on Wednesday November 20, 2003. Mr. Graham Norton, a museum member and contributor to the magazine *History Today* was the group leader.

After the tour the group was also hosted to lunch by the President of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society Dr. Trevor Carmichael, who welcomed the group and expressed the museum's pleasure in hosting such special groups. He also thanked Mr. Norton for including the Museum in the tour schedule.

Presentations

Ms. Peggy Mc Geary Education Officer toured the group and included the recently opened Warmington Gallery. The Barbados Museum presented each couple with a copy of its 2001 Journal while Mr. Norton presented the Barbados Museum with a print of 'The Capture of Tubabakalong', Gambia 1866 by Chevalier Louis W Desanges (B.1822).

Specially invited guests included Barbados Museum Council members and editor of the Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, Dr. Karl Watson.

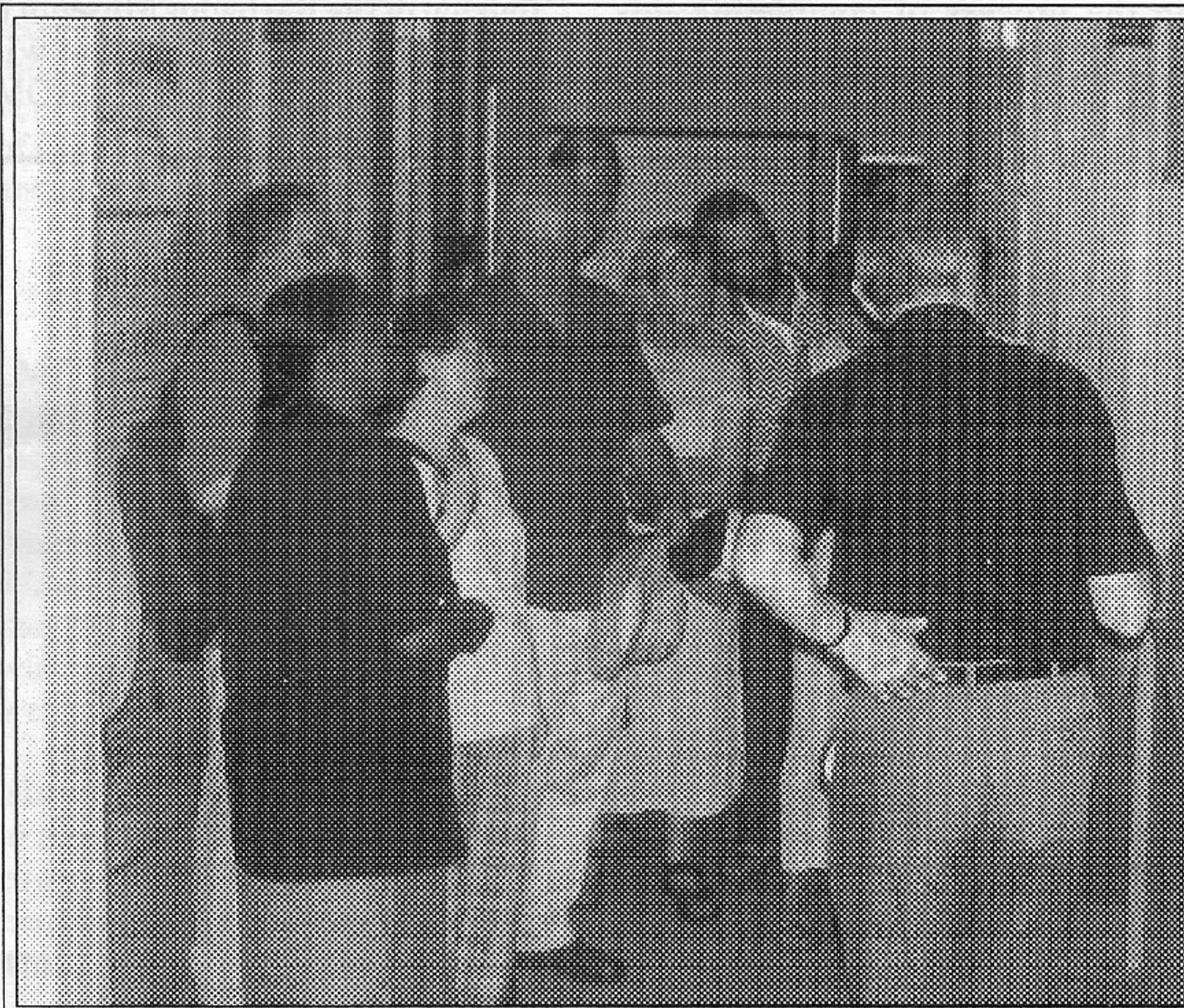
Independence

The group also toured Morgan Lewis and enjoyed a visit to neighbouring Grenada. Ample time was also allowed for relaxation and the opportunity to enjoy the pageantry of Barbados' Independence celebrations.

'**History Today**' is the world's leading **History Magazine** since 1951, and is a monthly publication. Mr. Graham Norton is an experienced tour leader and historian specializing in West Africa and the Caribbean. ♦



The President of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, Dr. Trevor Carmichael (left) and Mr Graham Norton, leader of the History Today group.



Education Officer Mrs. Peggy McGeary touring History Today group.

Museum bids farewell to Jenny

In July 2003 the Barbados Museum will sadly say good-bye to one of its dedicated library volunteers, Mrs. Jenny Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy has been a volunteer at the Barbados Museum for over six years. A librarian by profession, Mrs. Kennedy has spearheaded the creation of a database for the Shilstone Library Collection, the objective being to establish an on-line catalogue where library patrons and museum staff can easily access the library collection.

Mrs. Kennedy has input over 3000 entries which has been a major accomplishment to date and she hopes that eventually all of the Barbados Museum's databases will be amalgamated to provide one comprehensive database.

Training

Jenny commented that she has found the work at the Barbados Museum truly fascinating, in particular the historical documents. As her departure time draws closer, she is now in the process of completing this mammoth task and is presently sorting and entering the newspaper clippings



Mrs. Jenny Kennedy

and subject headings into the database. She will be training the Museum's Registrar Mrs. Angela Boyce, Librarian Betty Shannon and new library volunteer Mrs. Pat Gunn in the use of the 'InMagic' database software.

This volunteer's commitment goes beyond this project. She has also been playing a significant role in other database projects such as maintaining the **Name and Subject Index** of the **Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society** (this will eventually be available on CD ROM)

along with the creation of a database for the **Memory of the World Project**.

Jenny relocated to Barbados in 1997 with her husband Mr. Millar Kennedy, an executive at CIBC Off-shore Banking Services Corporation. She previously lived in Canada for 21 years and Bahamas for 10 years, where she was a nurse and air stewardess respectively. She enjoys swimming, tennis, walking and working on the museum's database in her spare time.

Exceptional

Librarian Mrs. Betty Shannon stated "I am indebted to Jenny because she has done an enormous amount of work, she was an exceptional volunteer who will be greatly missed." The President, Council and Management of the Barbados Museum sincerely thank her for her assiduousness and dedication to this important project. She has made a significant contribution to the development and improvement of the museum's collection management programme. We at the Museum extend best wishes to her and Mr. Kennedy. □

New members

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

Ms. Annalee Watson
Miss Natalie Seedan
Mr. & Mrs. John Bourne
Mrs. Gailene Brathwaite
Mr. Keith B. Alleyne
Mr. Larry Hillaby
Mr. David Slater
Ms. Cherry-Ann J. Pilgrim
Mr. Horace Scobie
Mr. C.M. Walcott
Mr. Edward Pilgrim
Mr. Andre Howard

Mrs. Alexis Brathwaite
Miss Danielle Alkins
Miss Carla Daniel
Miss Suediann Singh
Ms. Natasha Wickham
Mr. Randy St. Juste
Mr. Vincent H. Blackett
Mrs. Loretta C. Mason
Mr. & Mrs. Keneth McGill
Miss Genee Mason
Mr. Jeremy Bradbrooke
Mr. William Bradbrooke

Notice

Members are asked to note that the following galleries have now been dismantled to begin work on the expansion of the African Gallery:

- African Gallery
- Connell Gallery

The Management of the Barbados Museum apologises for any inconvenience caused.

The History of B'dos' music recording industry

Please find below a speech given by Mr. Bunny Best, Managing Director of Caribbean Records Barbados Ltd. formerly Wirl Records Limited (WIRL) which documents the history of the Music recording industry in Barbados. The speech was given during a presentation by Caribbean Records Ltd. to the Barbados Museum.

The history documented below spans some 38 years.

Good morning we have invited you here today to witness and document the historic occasion that will end the pressing of vinyl records in Barbados after 38 years and 9 months of operation.

Mannings of Broad street who later amalgamated with the Barbados Shipping & Trading Co. Ltd. were the local agents for several record distributors. Their two directors Mr. Colin Thomas and Mr. Colin Wilkie recognised the need for installing a pressing plant on the island because of the demand for music. The company West Indies Records Barbados Limited (WIRL) was set up mainly to manufacture and distribute music throughout the Caribbean islands under franchise licensing agreements.

I joined the company in January 1965 when we started production with two labels EMI and DECCA Records Limited. Soon after Warner Brothers and Atlantic were added. With these labels came the release of rhythm and blues artists like Otis Redding, Percy Sledge, Sam Cook, Solomon Burke, Aretha Franklyn and the Beatles.

Radio

Radio Barbados had just started broadcasting from the Lazaretto in Black Rock and DJ Vic Brewster had this popular midday programme 'A Break with Brewster.' Needless to say as no local music was available

Managing Director of Caribbean Records Limited, Mr. Bunny Best, documents the development of Barbados' music industry from 1964 until 2002

he was instrumental in having Richard Stoute, the Draytons Two and Herman Ford record two songs each of their own compositions at the Lazaretto Studio. These were done for broadcast and during the first playing of the tapes, Vic received a tremendous response and he then encouraged me to put them on record. We had the master stamps made in Miami. Those recordings were pressed on seven inch vinyl, they were all hits and that was the beginning of the local music industry.

Soon after I was travelling the Caribbean islands promoting the records of the international artists. By then the company was fulfilling the very important role of the development of our music culture here in Barbados and also every island in the Caribbean.

Local music

Mr. Winston Leach joined the company as plant manager and together we continued to develop the local music industry. WIRL became the producer of all future recordings. We used the studio at Black Rock until they moved to the Pine location where, with better facilities more local artistes were recorded.

Since I visited every Caribbean island on a regular basis, it was my job to negotiate on behalf of WIRL With every musical group to record and manufacture their works in Barbados. This was very successful for us.

Within ten years WIRL was representing 15 international labels.

As a result the pressing plant was increased to 12 presses with a capacity of 15,000 records per day. The cassette plant was also added to the company which then had a staff of 58 employees. 1982 was the most challenging year for Winston Leach and myself. As we had several hit records of the international artistes to supply along with LP orders for Trinidad Carnival. As the saying goes nothing lasts forever and the cassettes began to erode the sale of records.

Pirating

Another issue was the pirated compilation. This trend took a serious toll on the record market. By the late 1980s the CD format was developed and there was a further decline in vinyl sales. After a fire at WIRL in 1995 and because of my love for the business I purchased the vinyl and cassette plant from BS&T.

Four presses were salvaged from the fire and the company was restarted as Caribbean Records Barbados Ltd. Due to the demand for Compact Discs we also invested in a CD replicating plant capable of manufacturing over 1200 CDs daily. However we started to experience difficulty in sourcing the vinyl pellets and most of the record stores had ceased stocking vinyl, resulting in artists not releasing their music on that format. □

Mr. Bunny Best, Managing Director, Caribbean Records Limited.

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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.



Calendar of events for 2003



JANUARY - DECEMBER:

Ole time Excursion: A unique island tour which explores the history & culture of Barbados while having fun. There are south, north and central tours. Upcoming dates are: Saturday March 1, 9 & 29, 2003.

JANUARY - OCTOBER:

375th Anniversary of Bridgetown Lecture Series.
(Refer to page 2)

FEBRUARY 16-28, 2003:

Temporary Art & Craft Exhibition 'A Hole Load of Art' Holletown Exhibition Gallery, Holletown Police Complex. Open Mon- Fri 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Admission Free.

MAY 10-17, 2003:

Cultural Heritage Week.

JULY 15, 2003:

Farmers Market, Barbados Museum Grounds 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Admission Free.

JULY:

'Bridgetown Early: The story of Bridgetown'. An exhibition to commemorate the 375th anniversary of Bridgetown.

NOVEMBER:

Independence Exhibition to celebrate Barbados' Independence.

DECEMBER 6, 2003:

Barbados Museum **Fine Craft Festival**, Barbados Museum grounds 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Closing dates

The Barbados Museum will be closed on:
March 29, April 1 & 28 and May 1, 2003.

Ms. Lesley Barrow
No. 13 Palm Court
Smart Street
St. Augustine
Trinidad

THE BARBADOS MUSEUM
AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
THE GARRISON
ST. MICHAEL.