

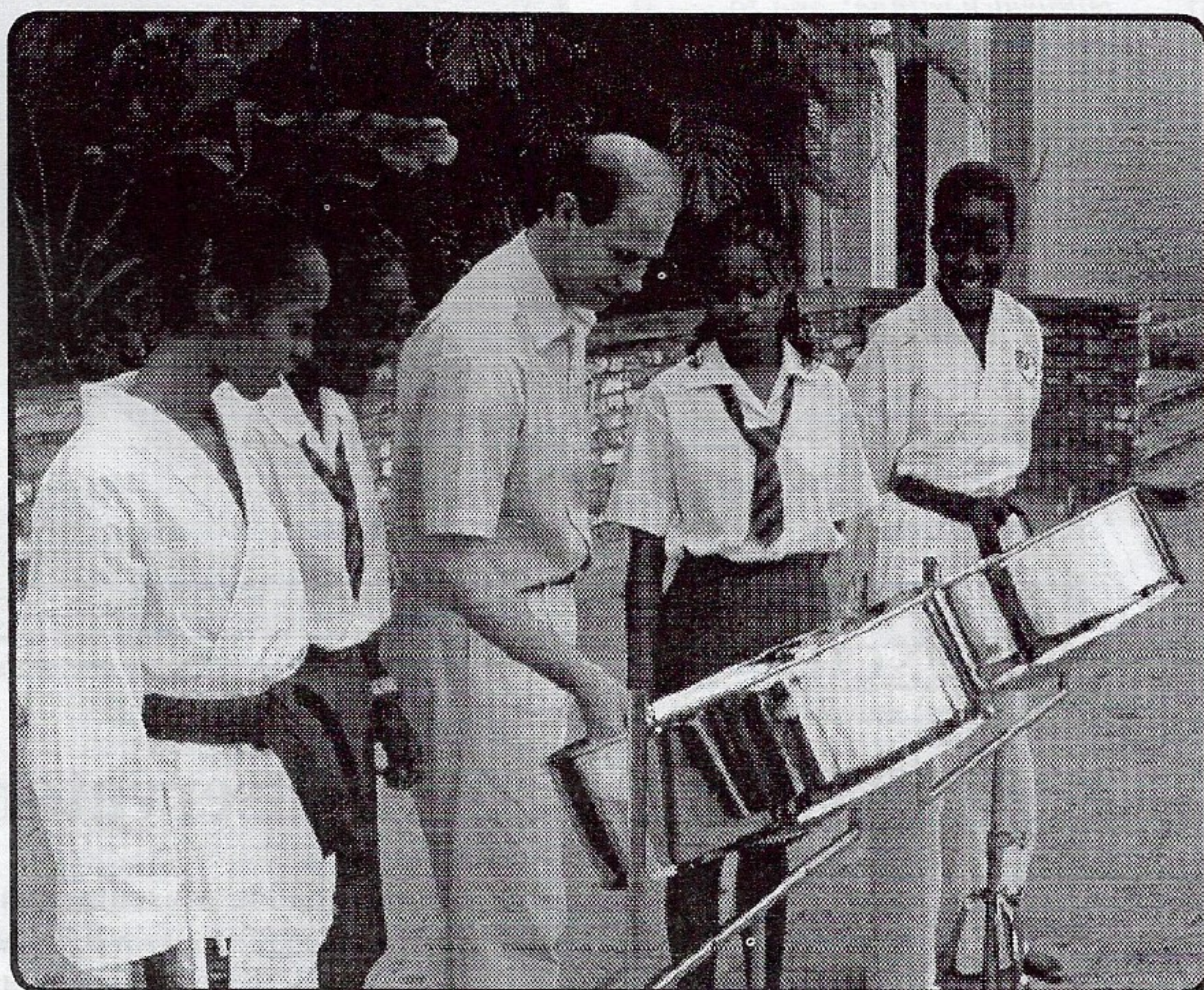


Museum receives a Royal Visitor

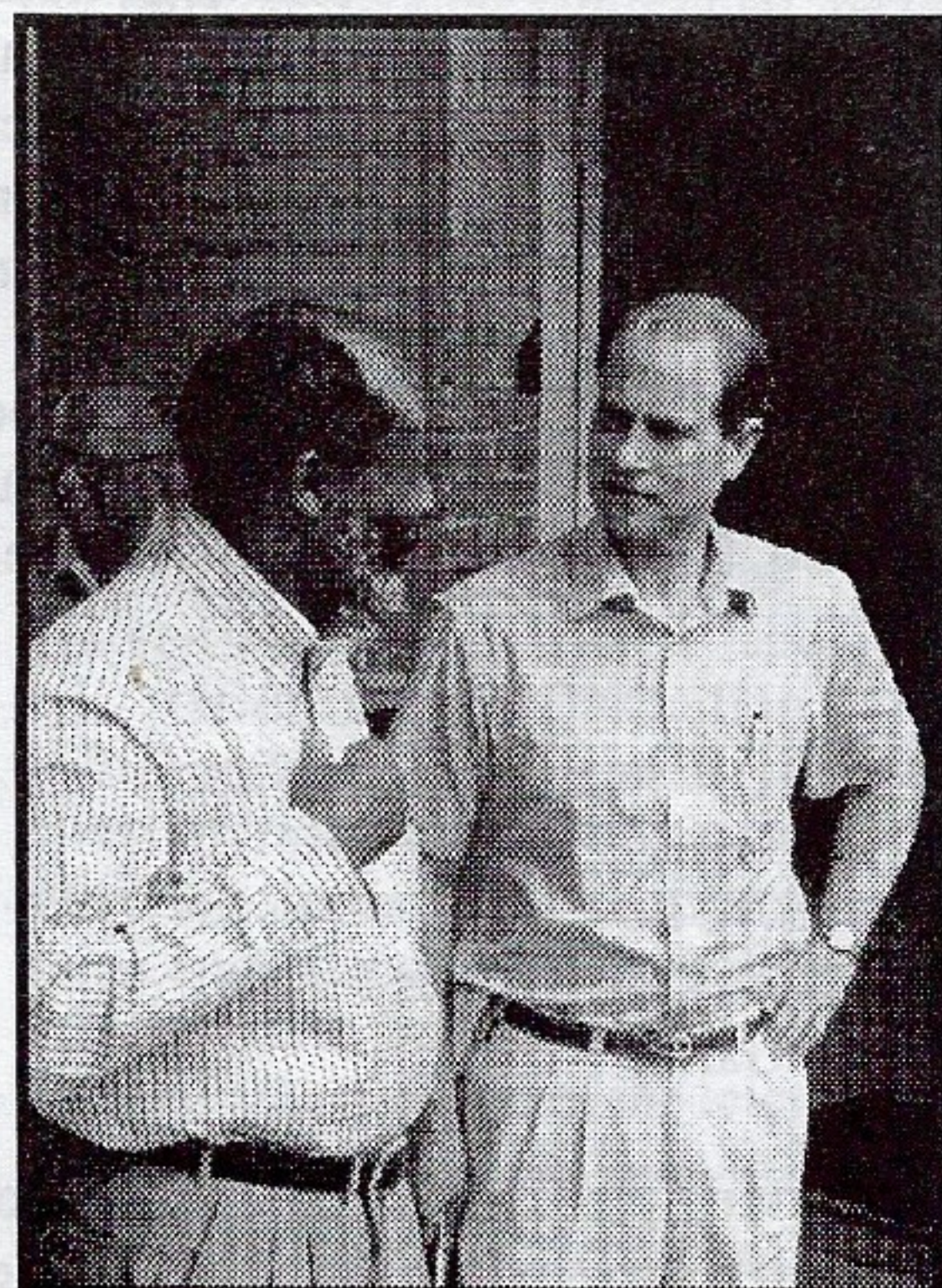
The Barbados Museum received a visit from His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex on Wednesday, May 14, 2003. His Royal Highness was on a three day visit to Barbados. His official host was the President of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, Dr. Trevor Carmichael.

Prince Edward was treated to a tour of the Barbados Museum, after which he was greeted by students of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme from the St. Michael School, Queens College and Harrisons college. The students gave short presentations of poetry, karate and playing of steelpan.

Prince Edward made a number of stops around the island including the Erdiston Primary School, Sandy Lane Golf Club House, and had tea with the members of the Barbados Legion at the Main Guard. ♦



His Royal Highness the Earl of Wessex learning the art of playing the Steel Pan from students of the Duke of Edinburgh programme.



H.R.H in conversation with the President of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society Dr. Trevor Carmichael.

What's inside

- ♦ *Art Conservator assisting the museum*
- ♦ *Ministry of Tourism launches Slave Route Project*
- ♦ *Enjoying Caribbean Elegance*

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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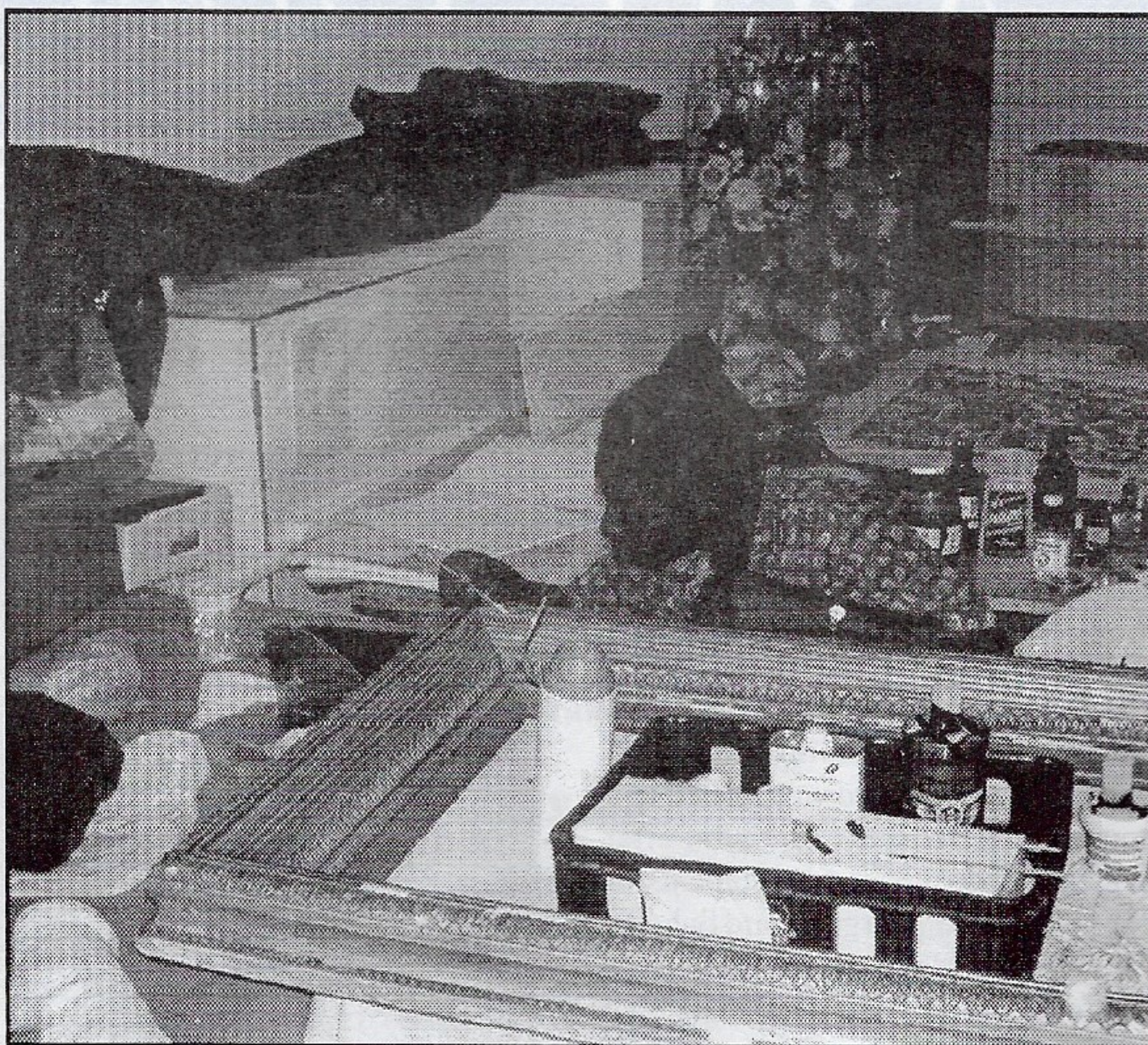
Mrs. Andrea Wells

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Ms. Faye Burke

Ms. Gail Atkins



Mrs. Monique Ifill working on one of the frames under the direction of Ms. Aravena.

Art Conservator assisting museum

The Barbados Museum was very pleased to host Art Conservator, Ms. Lydia Aravena for two weeks. Ms. Aravena is from the **Ponce Museum** in Puerto Rico and was here to conduct a condition assessment on paintings from the Barbados Museum & Historical Society and National Art Gallery's collection.

This is Ms. Aravena's sixth trip to the Barbados Museum to conduct conservation work and her focus this time was to provide an urgent conservation assessment of some pieces for exhibition, as well as to provide an overall condition assessment of the Museum's fine art collection.

Ms. Aravena found those pieces on exhibit at the Barbados Museum to be in generally good condition and she had high praise for the museum's curatorial staff, for their vigilance in instituting and following through with her recommendations.

Three of the pieces which were conserved were:

Needham's Point 1913, S.W. Poyer

Fisherman Mending nets in Martin's Bay, by Charles Poyer

Fishing Boats by De Garthe

Ms. Aravena stated that her objective in conserving pieces of art is to save all of the fragments that are original and to retouch those areas where the paint is gone. She was assisted by Assistant Curator for Art, Allison Headley, Curatorial Assistant James Marshall, Registrar, Mrs. Angela Boyce and Assistant Curator for Natural History, Monique Collymore. ☼

Ministry of tourism launched The Slave Route Project

The Ministry of Tourism recently launched the Slave Route Project. This project is a cultural component of a UNESCO programme, with the theme 'Claiming the Future in the Past.' The Slave Route Project is an intercultural project administered, coordinated and monitored by the UNESCO Department of Intercultural Dialogue and pluralism for culture and peace.

The project was launched by UNESCO in 1994 with a double objective: on the one hand it aims to break the silence and make universally known the subject of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. On the other hand, it aims to emphasize, in an objective way, the consequences of the trade, especially the interactions between the peoples concerned in Europe, Africa and the Caribbean.

Interpretive signage

The first site in Barbados to receive interpretive signage was the Newton Burial ground, which is owned by the Barbados Museum & Historical Society. **Newton Slave Burial Ground** is about 500 square metres. It was used as a cemetery for slaves on Newton Plantation and approximately 570 slaves are buried there. This site was excavated in the 1970s and represents the only excavated communal slave burial ground within a plantation setting in the Western Hemisphere.

This project is being spearheaded by the Ministry of Tourism and the Barbados Museum. Below are abstracts of the remaining five sites to receive interpretive signage.

Gun Hill Signal Station

Erected after the 1816 slave rebellion, this station served Barbadian and British military units primarily for the relay of information on impending slave revolts as well as approaching ships and hurricanes. The role of the signal station became less important after the introduction of the telephone. The National Trust restored the facility in 1980.

The Cage

In 1688 an Act was passed, which decreed that the cage should serve as

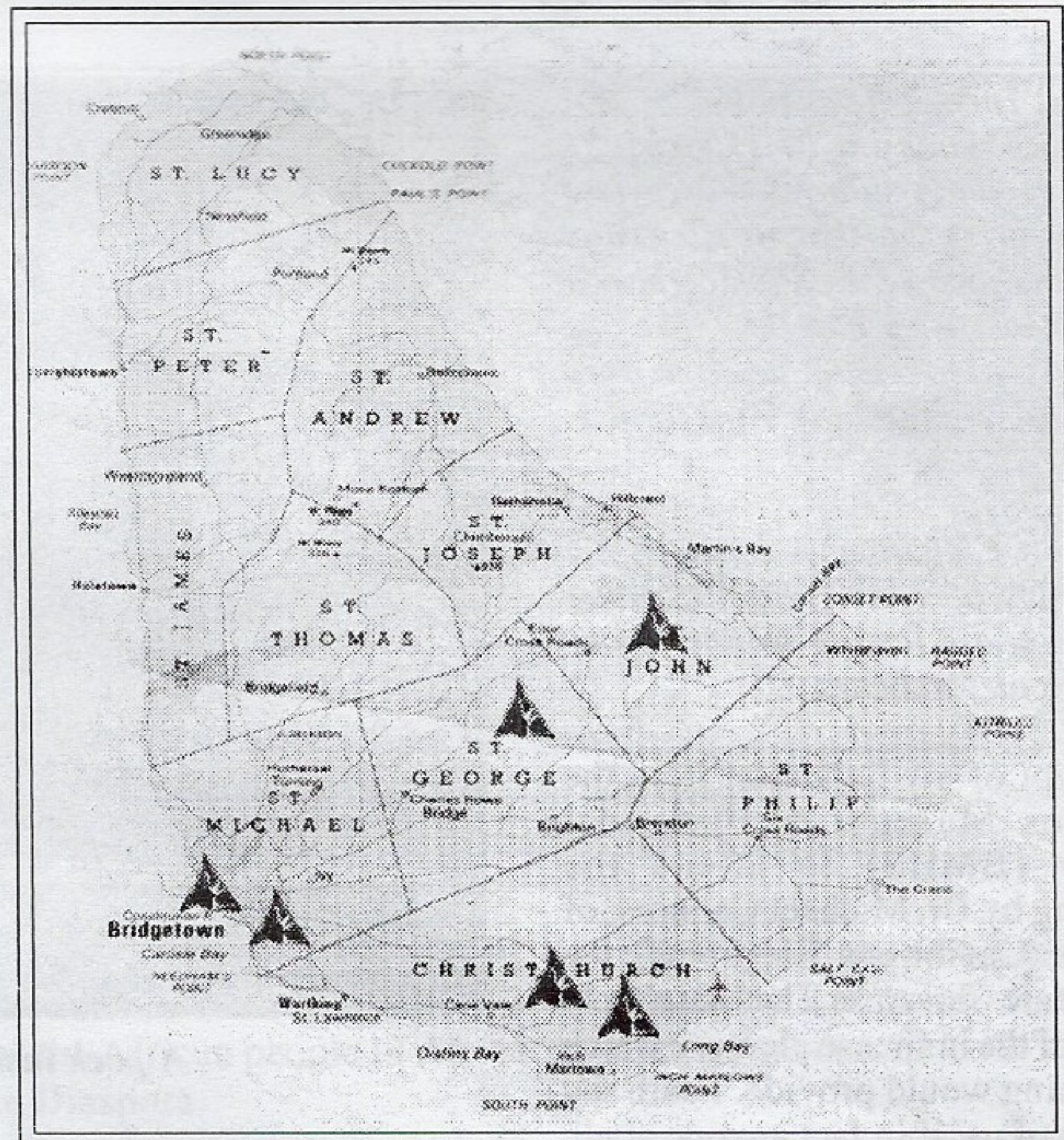
a temporary prison for slaves and mulattoes found wandering the street late at night. Its location made visible the brutality of the treatment by the planters, but also the resilience of the slaves. In 1818, the cage was relocated from upper Broad Street to the Pierhead.

Sweet Bottom/Sweet Vale

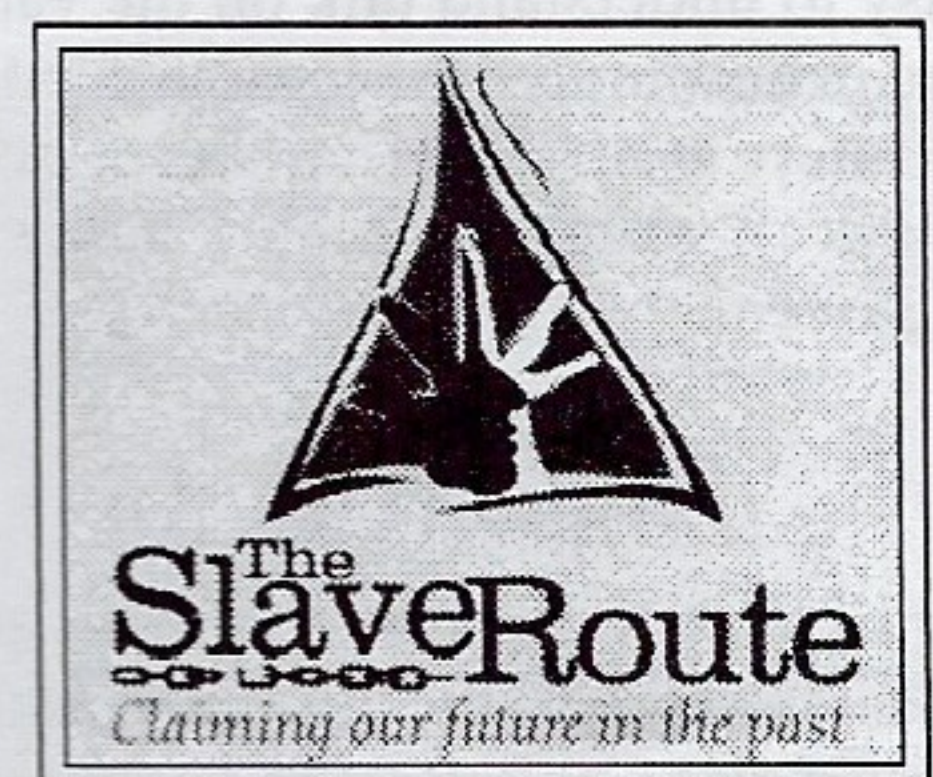
Sweet Bottom is one of the oldest villages in the island. It was created after a bequest by Francis Butcher, owner of Golden Ridge Plantation, was probated in 1777. Gifts of land, houses, livestock and money were bequeathed to one black slave and Butcher's four mulatto children.

Bourne's Land

Bourne's Land, like several other villages across this island, was developed through property bequests and manumission. In 1831, this area of 36 acres was established as a village for a slave and her nine mulatto children. The land was bequeathed by the children's father, John Thomas Bentham.



A map of Barbados outlining with the Slave Route logo where the other interpretive signs are to be placed



The Slave Route logo

The Pierhead

The Pierhead was a focal point in Barbados' trade and communications for almost three hundred years, starting in the 17th century. Barbados was the transshipment port for the regional slave trade and the Pierhead was the port of entry for African slaves destined for Barbados and other Caribbean islands. ♦

Abstracts taken from the Ministry of Tourism's hand out on the Slave Route Signage Project sheet.

Enjoying the Caribbean's elegance

Mr. Cecil Ince, Life member of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, recently submitted a review of the event: A Caribbean Elegance Experience hosted by the Barbados Museum in December 2002. We are extremely pleased to publish this review and we thank Mr. Ince for this article.

Caribbean Elegance: A book on the uniqueness of West Indian antique furniture and a lasting tribute to our West African forebears.

On receipt of my invitation from the Barbados Museum & Historical Society (BMHS) to attend the launching by Dr. Michael Connors, of his book '*Caribbean Elegance*,' the week before Christmas, I had absolutely no idea of the immense pleasure which the evening would provide. I dare say that few of us, if in fact anyone at all, adequately anticipated it.

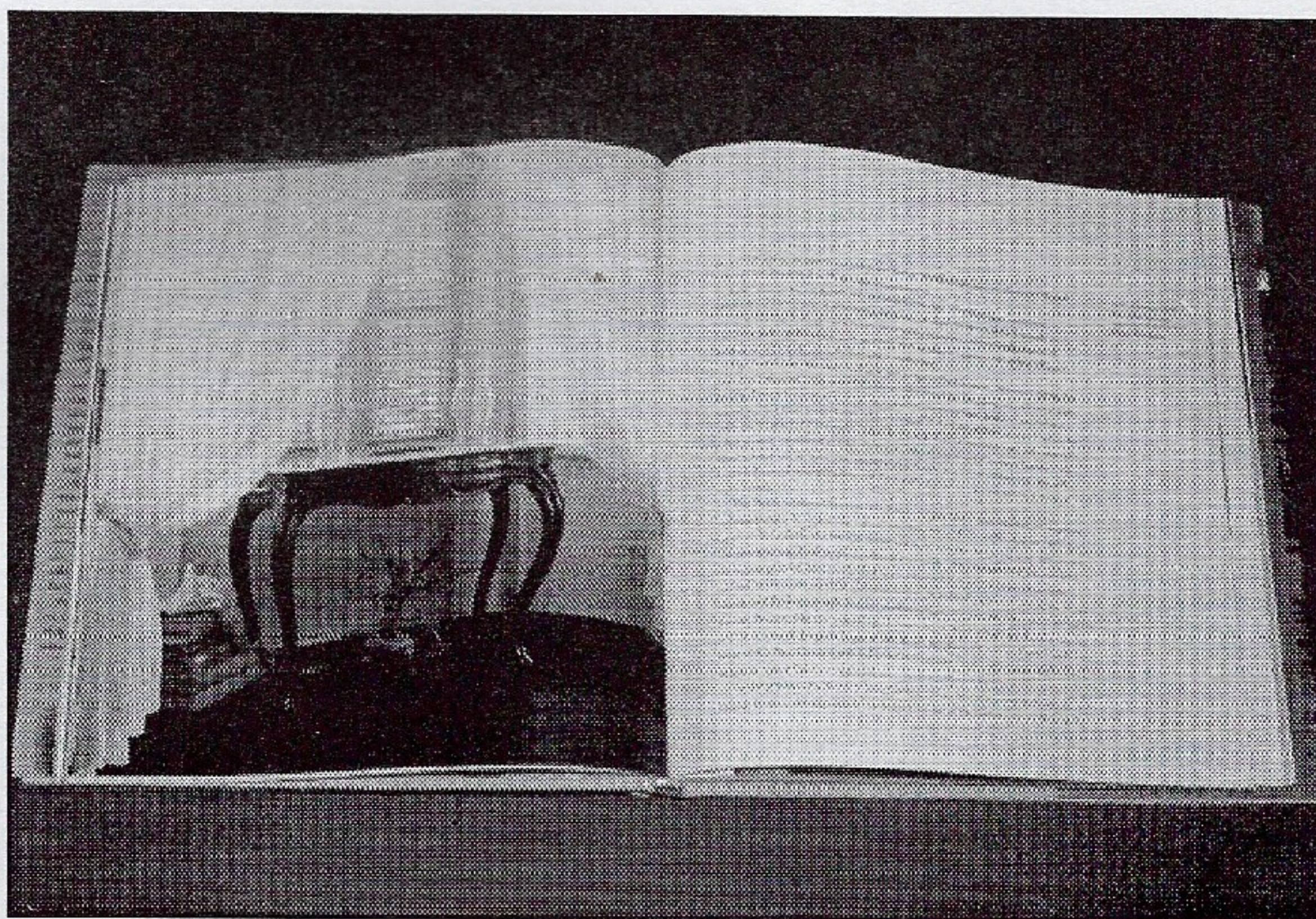
Just after 7 o'clock, Dr. Connors began his presentation - a leisurely easy to understand talk on the variety and exquisite stylistic legacy of antique furniture around the Caribbean. Colour slides of excellent quality supported the event.

Passion

Dr. Connors openly admits his great passion for antique furniture and the examples of the various islands. It is easy to understand why he holds a PhD in the Decorative Arts from the University of New York.

As architecture is regarded as the most viable art form, so too has furniture through the ages tended to follow and mirror classical and modern styles.

Some of the islands in the Caribbean have produced individual studies of their own national treasures of antiques - certainly, in Barbados, Neville Connell, a former Curator of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, recorded at least three dissertations in the museum's journal of May 1957, August 1959 and an



A peek inside Caribbean Elegance the book

earlier one (for which I do not readily have a date). The accompanying photos are all in black and white.

For the past thirty years or so, I have collected a number of books on antique furniture - All deal with work and designs relevant to countries overseas. Even the celebrated English author Edward T. Joy (quoted by Dr. Connors) writes on items, some of them destined for the Caribbean - from abroad-or with an availability generally restricted to Britain, Europe and North American and French colonizers. Their great skill in creating the West Indian interpretation of stylistic decoration remains all around us.

How true this is and how fortunate we are, therefore, to be able to learn from the contents of his book.

Gift item

In illustrating the collective wealth of the Caribbean, Dr. Connors has provided an outstanding gift item which Boards of Tourism, Consulates and High Commission abroad should be very aware of as a highly distinctive piece which promotes yet another exciting dimension of our area.

Truth to tell, I would have liked to see more furniture from Barbados featured. We have rich sources, some examples of which would be in the Warmington Gallery at the museum and Sunbury Great House. There are other possibilities.

Second edition

Since a second edition of this outstanding work is sure to become necessary, I am certain that Dr. Connors will want to address this deficiency. Bruce Birch, internationally acclaimed photographer, provides readers with exquisite colour supporting the text.

The Director of the museum, Alissandra Cummins and their Marketing Officer Maria Boyce Taylor, are to be warmly commended for encouraging Dr. Connors to our shores.

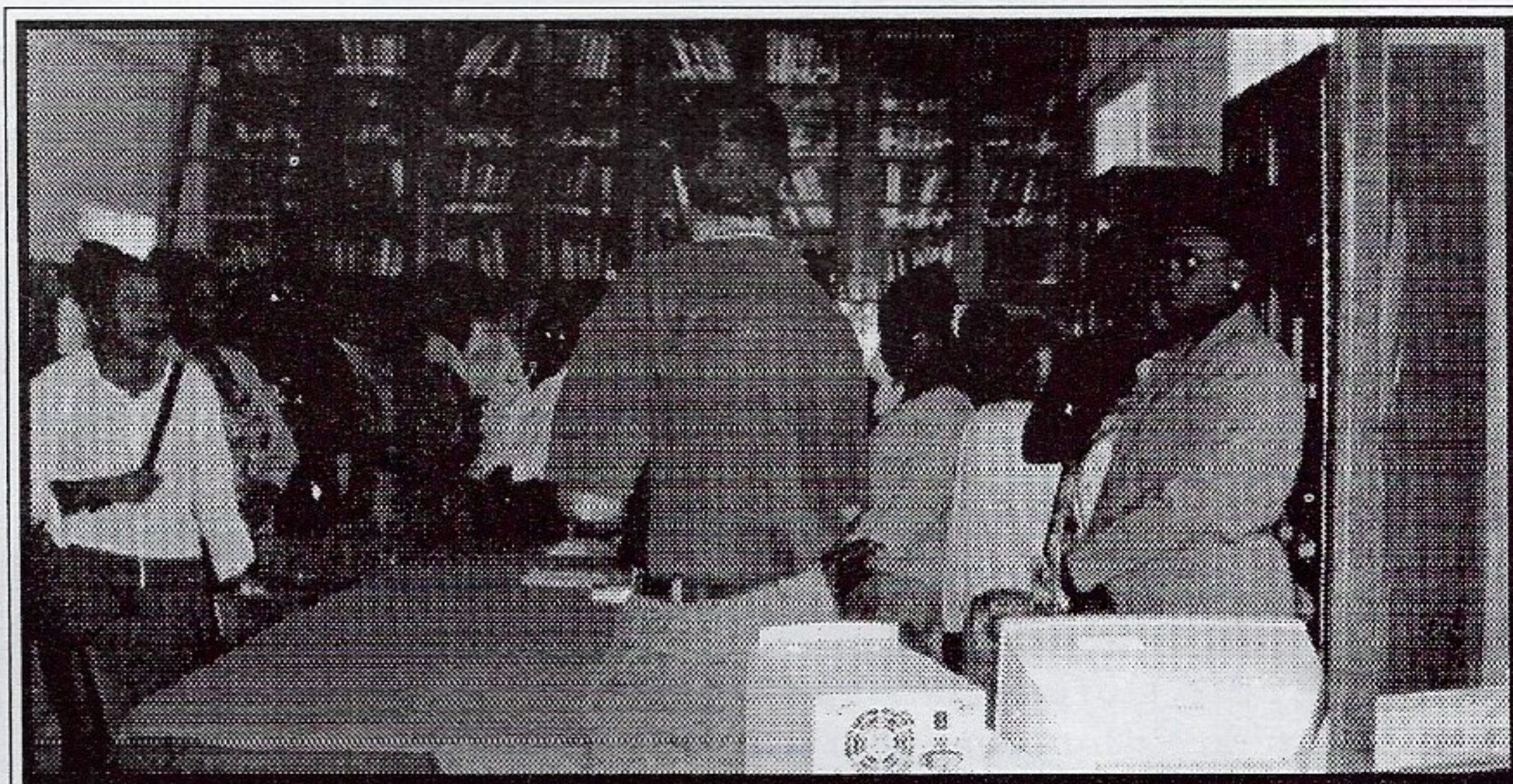
Dr. Connors is presently working on a book on Antique furniture in the Eastern Caribbean. The Barbados Museum will be hosting Dr. Connors for the launch of this new book when it is published. ♦

Museum hosts teacher training seminar

On April 24 & 25, 2003, the Education Officer Peggy McGeary conducted training workshops for teacher trainees of the Erdiston Teacher Training College. The class of 62 was split in two, so that each group could better benefit from the sessions. The workshop/seminar was entitled *'Using the museum as a resource'*. It was designed to help teachers understand the functioning of the museum and how they could use the resources of the institution to improve their own abilities to teach and those of the children to learn.

One of the most important segments of each days' programme was **'Visual literacy: the use of objects in teaching.'** This session explored the power of objects to stimulate thought, generate enquiry, develop critical thinking skills and provoke emotional responses.

Another session which was enjoyed by all was the video



Mr. James Marshall, Curatorial Assistant (backing) talking to teachers about the collections management and conservation of historic documents.

presentation **'Crossroads of Culture, Cross roads of Trade'** which told the story of the African people in Africa and the Diaspora.

The evaluation forms which were completed by the teachers,

indicated that they were pleased with what they had learnt and that they enjoyed the day. □

Peggy McGeary, Education Officer

Education department starts 'Art in the afternoon'

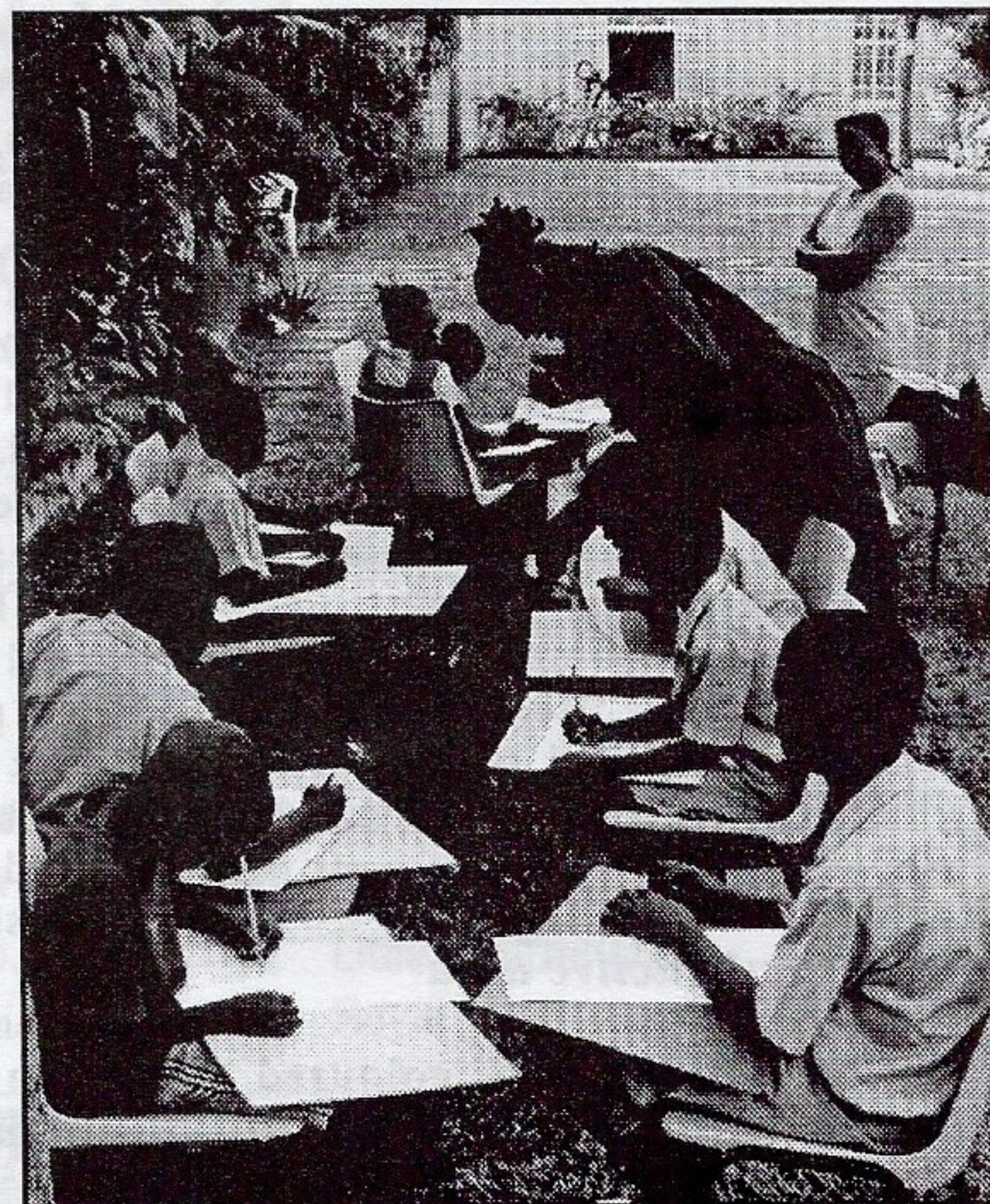
During the early history of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, and especially during the Connell years, the museum developed a reputation for aiding in the development of art in the island. Students came or were brought to the museum on a regular basis for art and other studies.

Art in the Afternoon is a programme designed by the Education Officer and facilitated by the Assistant Curator for Art, Allison Headley. She came to the museum from a background in Art Education. The objective of the programme is to bring students back to the museum to learn the basics of art and drawing.

For eight weeks, fifteen students of St. Paul's Primary School will benefit from the talents of the Assistant Curator for Art, who will teach the students. At the end of the programme the students' work will be displayed at their school.

This programme is one which seeks to help make the museum relevant to the community it serves and develops viable partnerships with other Education Institutions.

Peggy McGeary, Education Officer



Curator for Art, Ms. Allison Headley, showing students from St. Paul's Primary specific drawing techniques.

Assistant Curators visit Jamaica and Trinidad

During the period February 24-26, 2003, Assistant Curators Allison Headley and Monique Collymore visited the National Museum and Art Gallery of Trinidad and Tobago (NMAGTT) and the Institute of Jamaica, in order to become acquainted with their collections, management policies and systems. The trip also provided a chance to meet others in the museum field.

The activities undertaken by Monique Collymore, Assistant Curator Natural History, during the brief visit, included the viewing of the galleries and storerooms, discussion on the policies of NMAGTT and visits to the Zoo and Botanical gardens.

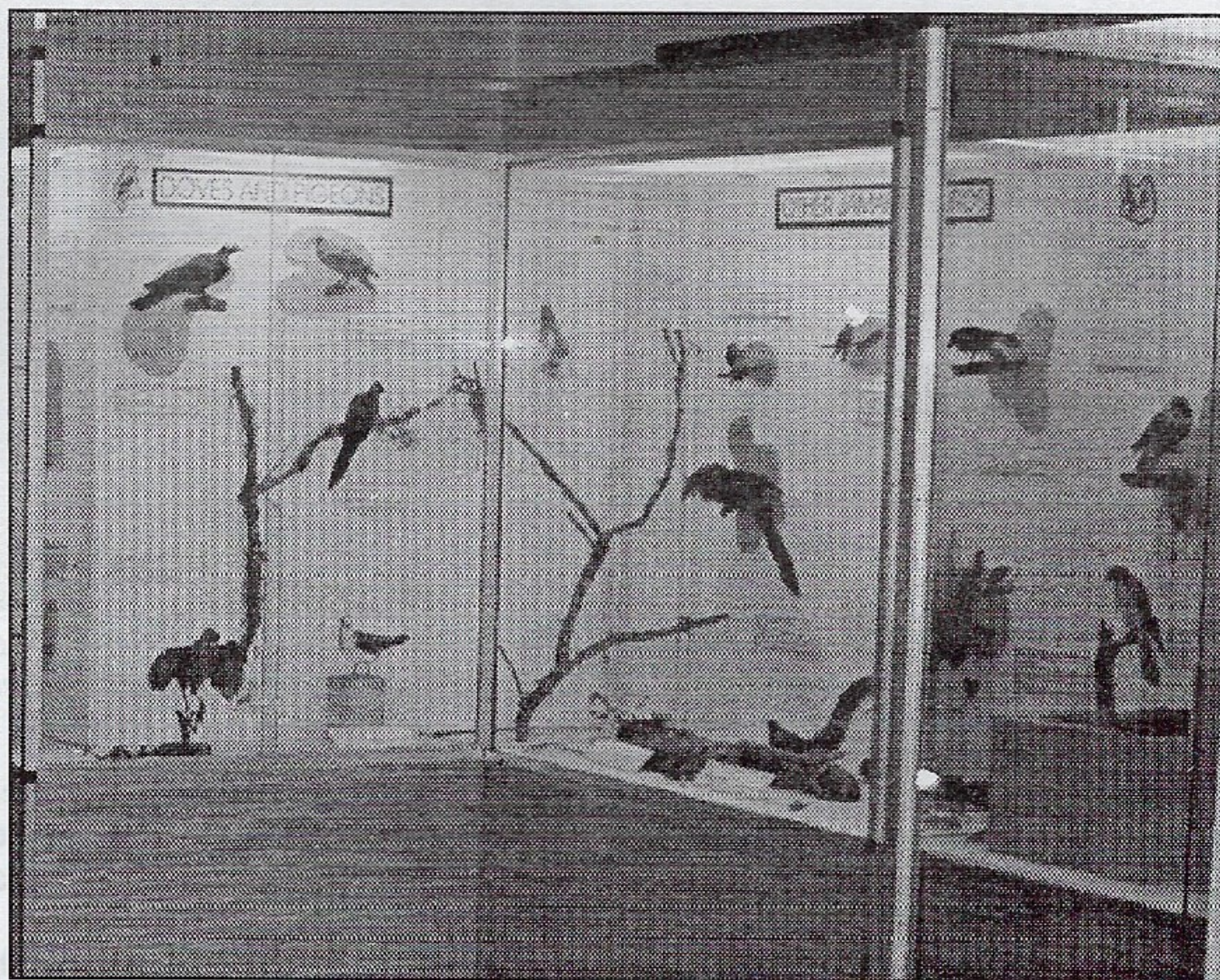
Inhabitants

The displays featured at the NMAGTT focused on themes such as: The inhabitants of Trinidad and Tobago, starting with the Amerindians up to modern times, the evolution of carnival costumes, the art of Trinidad and Tobago ranging from around the 17th century to modern times, the Natural History of Trinidad and Tobago with emphasis on fauna and the Geology of Trinidad and Tobago.

Of particular interest was the Natural History Gallery, which featured an array of animals found in Trinidad and Tobago, including a fairly extensive display of Anthropods. Mounted specimens were effectively used along with numerous coloured photographs which featured animals in their habitats.

Interactive area

This use of coloured photographs was particularly impressive because this method reduces the amount of space needed and it allows for the showing of



One of the exhibits in The Natural History Gallery at the Institute of Jamaica.

specimens which the museum possesses. An interactive area which consists of four sided panels, which could be turned to make pictures of three natural scenes also added interests to the gallery.

In Trinidad and Tobago the Assistant Curator for Art was assigned to the National Museum of Trinidad. The works on display in the permanent collection highlights forty years of art in Trinidad and Tobago. Like the Cunard Gallery, the National Museum has a collection of original prints and lithographs from the 18 & 19th Centuries.

In Jamaica, Ms. Headley was assigned to the National Art Gallery, where she was able to view and interact with the staff, observing their management structures, administration and storage systems. The highlight of the trip involved visits to other institutions, which included Devon House Museum, the Bob Marley Museum and The Spanish

Town Museum.

The trip to both institutions afforded an opportunity to meet and foster relationships with staff members and others in the museum profession.



Fashion Show & Tea

Sunday, September 28, 2003.

Barbados Museum Annual
Fashion Show

from 3:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m.

Admission: \$30.00

Fashions by Ela Boutique

Farewell to Rodney Ifill

The Barbados Museum said farewell to Rodney Ifill, intern from the National Cultural Foundation, who has been with the museum for two years.

Mr. Ifill, who was attached to the Barbados Museum's Education Department, worked closely with the Education Officer Ms. Peggy McGeary on a number of projects, including the Wealth of the Nation Project. He also assisted with the refurbishment of the Warmington Gallery and conducted research on Forts and Fortification in the Caribbean.

He successfully completed the Commonwealth of Association Museums (CAM) Certificate in Museum Studies.

At his farewell party, Mr. Ifill thanked the Barbados Museum staff for their support and cooperation during his stint at the museum. He also commended the museum staff



Education Officer Ms. Peggy McGeary presents Mr. Rodney Ifill with a gift on behalf of the Barbados Museum

for their dedication and professionalism. He returned to his post of Cultural Officer at the National Cultural Foundation in March 2003. The Barbados Museum extends best wishes to Mr. Ifill. □

THANK YOU

The Barbados Museum sincerely thanks the following corporate partners for their support of the Exhibition:

Bridgetown Early: The Story of the City

July 5-19, 2003



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"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

Bridgetown Lecture Series 2003

June 3

Secret and Other societies in Bridgetown, Dr. Aviston Downes

Frank Collymore Hall

June 17

Popular Culture and the Arts in Bridgetown, Dr. Marcia Burrowes.

Frank Collymore Hall

July 1

The Bridgetown Club: Corporate Culture in the city, Dr. Celia Karch.

Solidarity House

July 15

Political Awakening in Bridgetown, The Wickham and O'Neal Years,

Dr. David Browne. Frank Collymore Hall

July 22

Clement Payne in the City: Prof. Woodville Marshall. Solidarity House

September 23

Faith and Fortune: The Church in Bridgetown, Canon Noel Titus.

Solidarity House

October 7

E.D. Mottley and the City, Dr. Johnny Cheltenham. Frank Collymore Hall

October 21

Bridgetown Today and Tomorrow,

Deputy Prime Minister the Hon. Billie Miller. Frank Collymore Hall

☐ **July 12, 2003: Farmers Market & Plantation Breakfast**
6:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Barbados Museum

☐ **September 28, 2003: Annual Fashion Show featuring**
clothing from Ela Boutique. 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Barbados Museum

Closure Dates

Friday, August 1, 2003

Monday, August 4, 2003