

ARTIFACTS

Barbados
Museum
& Historical
Society

BARBADOS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

Welcome to your new look Artifacts newsletter. We've updated the look for your benefit to bring to you news of events and affairs at the Museum in an interesting and fresh format. This issue covers a variety of topics and subject areas, such as the final development plans of the African Gallery which is now in the last stages of its epic journey, with just a matter of months before the official opening ceremony by the Prime Minister. We've added new sections which we hope you find of interest. There is "From the Collection" where an object is taken from the current collection and its story given, and "Guardian of our heritage" where new acquisitions to our collections are highlighted.

The Museum also welcomes your views and ideas about Artifacts so please feel free to write to us or send us an email at:

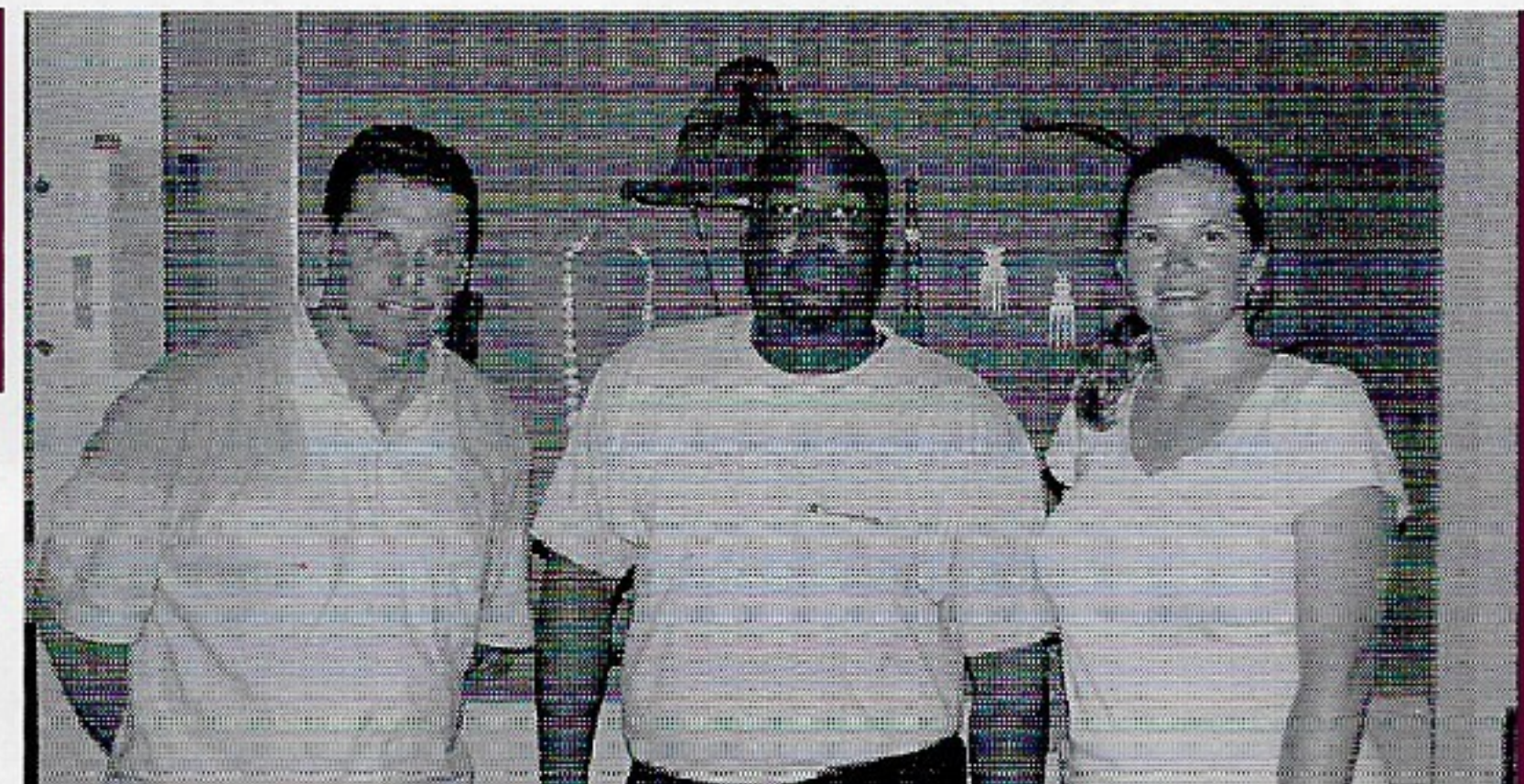
musepr@barbmuse.org.bb

Denise Jones

Denise Jones
Marketing Officer

AFRICAN GALLERY UPDATE

After five years of development the African Gallery is now in its final stages. The mounts, structures on which the objects stand, have been designed and made and the process of putting the objects in place, is underway. The mount making process has been organized by Suzy McGarraugh who originally worked as a jewellery designer and was flown in from Texas, USA. While Mark Ward from Baltimore USA, who is the Deputy Director of the American Visionary Art Museum, (a contemporary art Museum which specialises in modern works of art), has been supervising the installation process and is also an expert in exhibition design.



Kevin Farmer (centre) welcoming Suzy McGarraugh and Mark Ward museum "technicians" from the USA



Objects now installed in the African Gallery

Working alongside Mark is Kevin Farmer, Assistant Curator for History and the Gallery's overall project manager who has been responsible for co-ordinating the project from the outset, from the sourcing of artifacts to the writing of text for the



The installation team for the African Gallery

gallery exhibits. Now that the project is coming to an end Mr Farmer says "the construction of the Gallery has been an interesting and wonderful experience. It has been a real team effort from all departments at the Museum. I'm really looking forward to the next phase of seeing the public's reaction; that will be its true test."

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PROJECTS IN BRIEF

DATABASE PROJECT



Participants at work during the training session on database software

Participants at work during the training session on database software

institutions also attended the training including the University of the West Indies, National Library Service, National Art Gallery Committee, and the National Cultural Foundation. Right now staff members are participating in set-up exercises which include the development of authority lists for the collections; and the input of key information into the database is due to begin in the next few months. The eventual aim is to make select information available to internet users.

Funding from UNESCO for the Museum's *Collection, Inventory and Digitisation* project has enabled us to purchase database software, plus a digital camera and scanner to improve the overall management of collections. The database allows us to have all data in a central location as well as photographs of each object. As a result, real improvements can now be made to the way in which the collections are managed, maintained and viewed by the public.

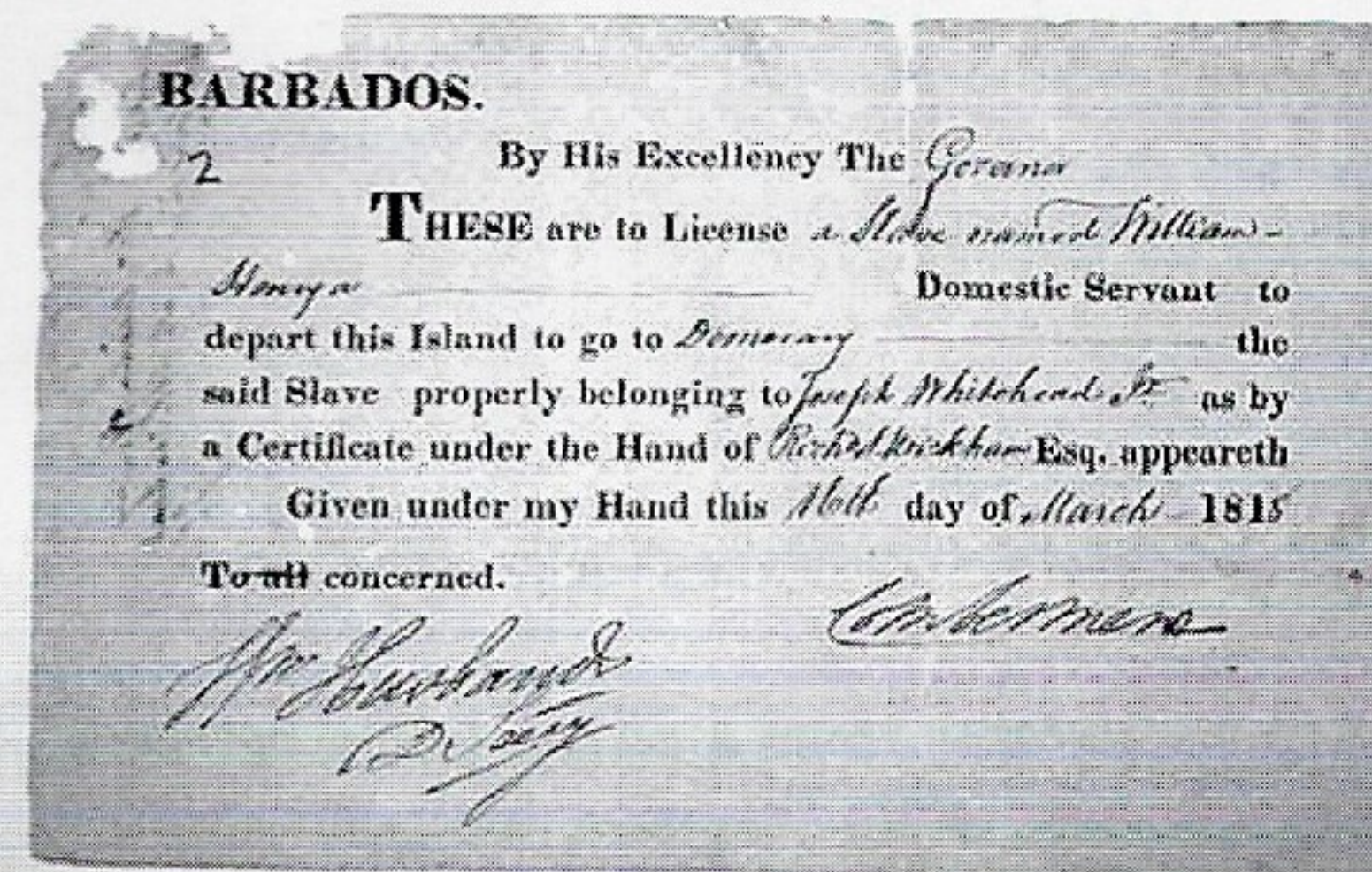
A three day training session was organized in February, so that staff could learn how to use the software. Staff members from other heritage

The Caribbean Slave Trade Archives Project

The Caribbean Slave Trade Archives Project has come to fruition with the production of a CD. The project, implemented and co-ordinated by the Museum, is also an element of a wider project to identify existing slavery documents in the region and the physical condition of these key documents. The CD has been designed so that samples of the existing slavery documents can be looked at together with where they are located in the English speaking Caribbean. As a result of this project Barbados has been able to submit a nomination to the Memory of the World for inscription on its website. This is the document equivalent of the World Heritage list for sites. The successful inscription of the nomination has ensured that this important resource has been highlighted to the archive world.

As part of the Emancipation season the Museum will launch the CD at a press conference to celebrate this

significant development. Please also check out the website www.caribbeanslavearchives.org to find out more about this project.



Example of a "Travel License" document from the CD – documentation required by an enslaved person to travel with their master

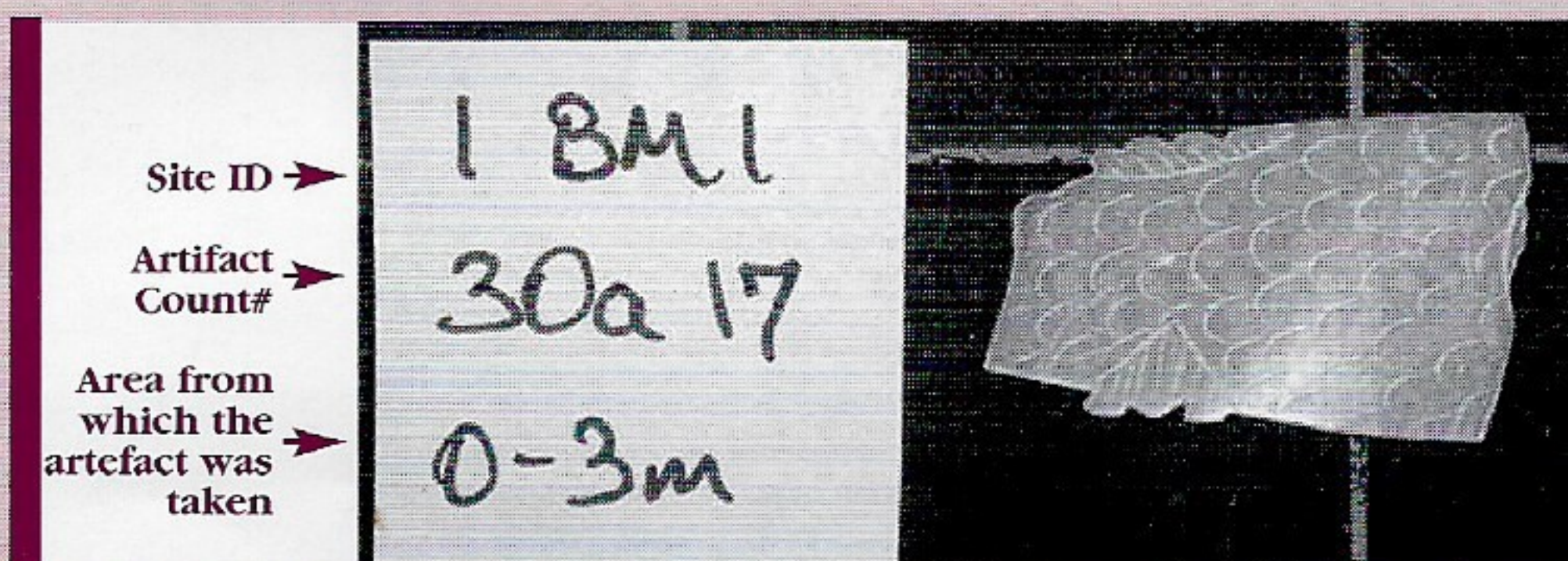
Conservation



Conservator Lidia Aravena at work on a painting

The Museum is always trying to ensure the longevity of its collections, and the ongoing work of our conservators helps us significantly with this process. During April 2004, we had visits from our consultant conservators Lidia Aravena and Luis Larrazabal, along with an intensive period of work undertaken by Anne Bancroft and Keither Lennards, who worked to restore a number of pieces from the document collection. Pieces from the fine art collection were also restored, ensuring that our collections are kept for all to enjoy. We salute all of our conservators who have worked along with us.

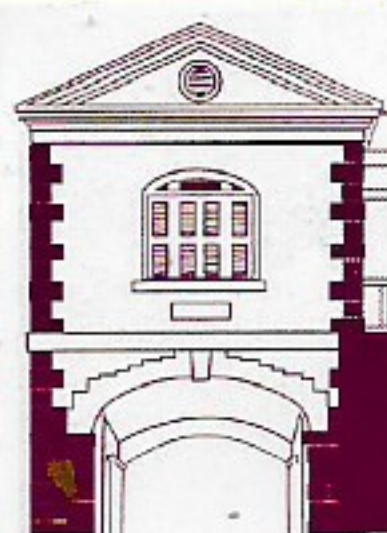
Archaeology



This artefact is a "worked mother of pearl" which indicates the possession of jewellery by possibly an enslaved person, interned at the Fontabelle site

Dr. Fred Smith of the Anthropology Department of Western Michigan University, along with some of his students came to the Museum in early June and provided assistance with the analysis of skeletal material excavated from the Fontabelle Historic site- the site of an urban enslaved cemetery.

Dr. Smith also continued analysis of the site at 2nd Street Hometown, which he excavated in 2003 and which is the site of the first European settlement. Such research allows us to discover more about our past.



MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS:

February

Run in conjunction with the National Library Service and Bridgetown libraries, the Gardens of Holetown Exhibition was a first time exhibition which brought to life for locals and visitors alike the uses and origins of common garden plants.

March

Launch of Andrea Stuart's book, *The Rose of Martinique. A life of Napoleon's Josephine*, organised in conjunction with the National Cultural Foundation.



Andrea Stuart at her book launch

Accepting the invitation to be part of the Science Technology Expo, the Museum mounted an exhibition entitled the Wonders of Sea Shells. The exhibition, which was held at the Sherbourne Conference Centre, revealed the importance and beauty of sea shells from around the world.

April

Continuation of the Panama lecture series "Panama Migrations from Barbados" organised alongside the University of the West Indies and the National Cultural Foundation.

May

A very busy month with the Association of Caribbean

Historians reception and the onset of Cultural Heritage Week (16 – 22nd May). The week was celebrated with the theme of "Intangible Heritage" as the focus and included a rerun of Joscelyn Gardner's unique exhibition: 'White Skin, Black Kin: Speaking the



Panel discussion participants who debated the Joscelyn Gardner exhibition. (Joscelyn Gardner is third from left)

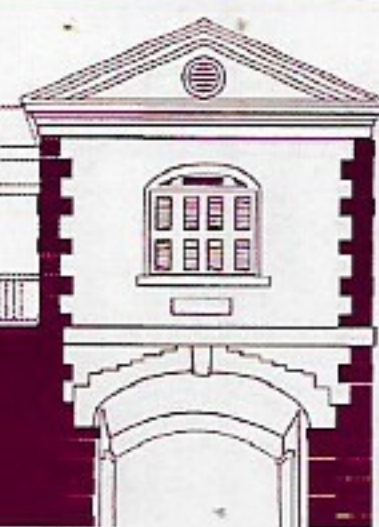
Unspeakable."

July

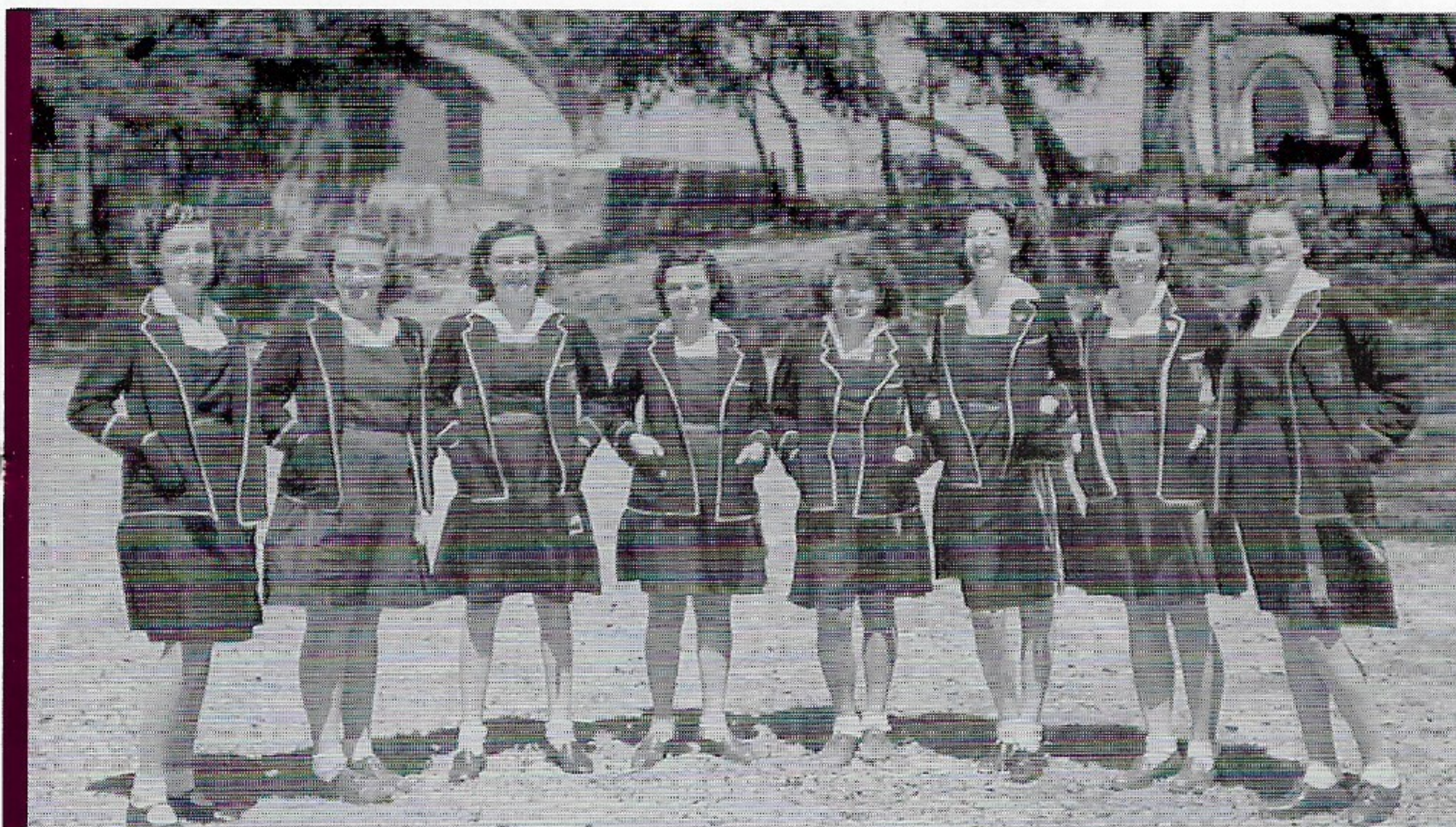
Decorative arts researcher Katia Hechemma from Jamaica, delivered her lecture called "Adventure to Barbados" in the Cunard Gallery, giving a unique insight into the connection between the 18th century English furniture firm Gillow's and their possible links



Katia Hechemma delivering her lecture "Adventure to Barbados" with furniture in Barbados and the rest of the Caribbean.



SCHOOL DAYS



Young Ladies at the Codrington High School. The photograph was taken sometime during 1944 - 1948

A picture is indeed worth a thousand words and in this case allows us to capture a glimpse of young ladies at school in the 1940s prompting us to raise questions about the evolution of the Barbados education system – questions such as the style of school dress, public versus private education, co-education versus single sex schools and access to secondary education.

The young women in this photograph are students of Codrington College; a private all girls secondary school situated in the parish of St. John, and created as part of the stipulation of the Codrington will. The will was also the genesis of the sibling school namely, Lodge school. Both schools, (situated on the plateau overlooking Consent Bay), catered primarily to white children (from Barbados and across the region), who could afford the tuition fees. For many of us today, born after independence, the concept of the boarding school may seem anachronistic, but was an important feature of the time. Where secondary education, especially for girls, was scarce in the eastern Caribbean, sending one's child off to school was the acceptable norm for middle and upper middle class

families of the day. Conversely, for the majority black population, in the pre-independent era educational opportunity was limited. By 1948, the time when the photograph was taken, there were eight Grammar schools in Barbados. Five that catered for boys, and three for girls. These schools were graded, at the levels of 1 and 2. Grade 1 schools of which there were only four, sat the Advanced level certificate, grade 2 schools were not allowed to sit for Advanced Level Certificates.

Public Secondary schools in Barbados 1948

Boys School

Location

Harrison College	St. Michael
The Lodge	St. John
Boys Foundation	Christ Church
Combermere	St. Michael
Alleyne	St. Andrew
Coleridge & Parry	St. Peter

Girls School

Queens College	St. Michael
Girls Foundation	Christ Church
Alexandra	St. Peter
St. Michael's School	St. Michael

For the majority population there were only a few private schools, which were found in the St. Michael area. Within the rural parishes namely St. John, St. Joseph, St. George, St. Phillip, St. Thomas and St. James there was a lack of secondary schools – especially those catering for girls. So the existence of

(Contd. page 6)



FROM THE COLLECTION

a country school for girls was an interesting phenomenon. The founders of rural schools recognised the need to provide access for education in the rural areas. Invariably this meant the creation of schools, which principally benefited the white children of school age and their local and surrounding parishes. Access to education in Barbados in those early years was limited to geography, class, sex and ability to pay. Before the end of the 1950's access was on its way, with the opening of St. Leonard's and the Princess Margaret schools which heralded the beginning of the new educational ethos, democracy. However, that has not been without its problems; some still complain about the inherent elitism of the educational system.

The photograph of eight young ladies dressed in their school uniform, including school blazer with short socks and leather shoes stands in stark contrast to the dress of today. However, we need to remember that uniform, its style and wear are reflective of the age in which it is worn.

The photograph of the eight young ladies taken on the playing field of Codrington High School bedecked in school uniform serves as a reminder of the adage "school days are the best days" a saying that is only true after we have left school.

by Kevin Farmer, Assistant Curator - History

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MUSEUM MEMBERS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE MUSEUM LIBRARY

We are in need of volunteers who have experience as professional librarians, researchers or archivists. If you are able to help or know of anyone who can please call Denise Jones at 427 0201 or 436 1956 or email musepr@barbmuse.org.bb.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE OF EMAIL ADDRESSES

We are in the process of updating your email addresses so that we can keep you informed about activities at the Museum. If your email address has now changed can you please contact us at customerservice@barbmuse.org.bb so we can update your records. Thank you.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday 31st October 2004 -

Tea and Fashion Show Fundraiser.

Tickets are now on sale for \$45.00. We would also appreciate members' help in providing refreshments for the fundraiser. Please contact Betty Shannon or Denise Jones for full details.

Saturday 4th December 2004 -

Fine Craft Festival Fundraiser.

"OLE TIME EXCURSION" ISLAND BUS TOURS

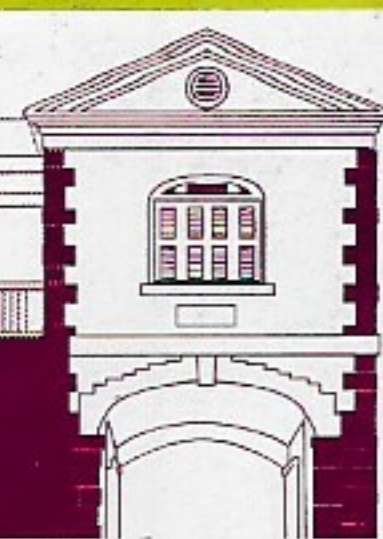
The Museum has places available on its scenic island bus tours.

Tour dates to be filled are:

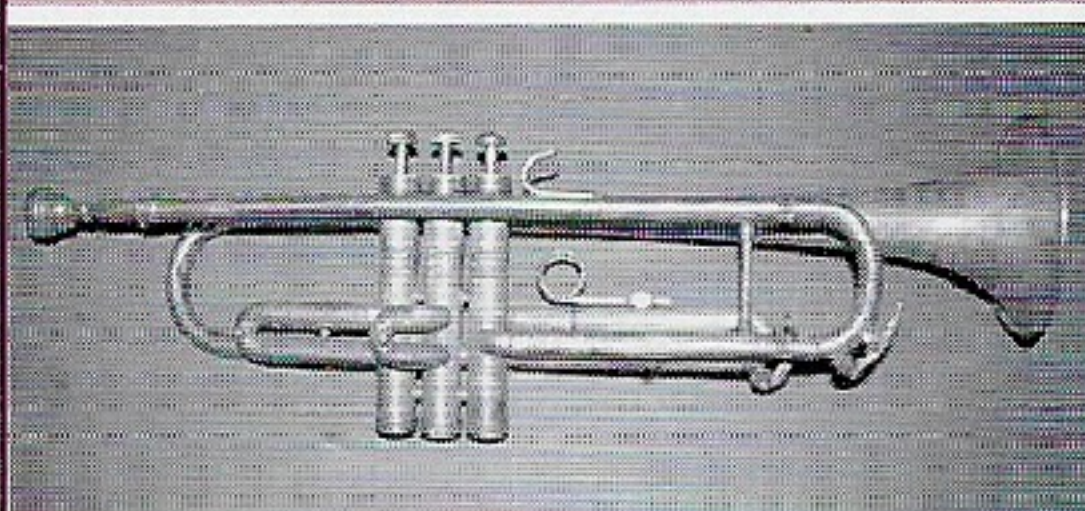
Saturday 27, November

Saturday 11, December

To book or for further information please call 427 0201 or 436 1956.



NEW ACQUISITIONS - GUARDIAN OF OUR HERITAGE



This trumpet is a Conn Victor trumpet # 810724, made in the USA.

At first glance, the beaten silver trumpet encased in a worn and tattered case seems like any other. But it is not, it is the trumpet of the late Ernie Small donated by his estate to the Museum. This instrument stands as testimony to the strong musical heritage of the island and especially its connection to Jazz. The society is grateful to the estate of Mr. Small for its donation and remembering that we are here as the Guardian of our Heritage.

New Members

The Museum extends a warm welcome to all its new members for the year, and we send our thanks to all of our loyal renewing members too.

PEOPLE CHANGES

GOODBYE TO.....



Geraldine Lane (centre), with colleagues enjoying her final luncheon.

Genealogist Geraldine Lane left the Museum at the end of May, to return to England. Before she left, we had the chance to have an interview with her.

What is your background, why did you join the Museum?

I'm a genealogist by profession and hold the highest certificate in genealogy from the Institute of Heraldic & Genealogical Studies from Canterbury, England. I heard about the Museum and its library through friends and decided to offer my services.

How long have you been working here?

I joined in October 2001, so that's 2^{1/2} years.

What have you enjoyed while you have been here?

Being a part of the volunteer team and the team camaraderie. I find it satisfying helping people "go back to their roots."

Is there anything you would change here?

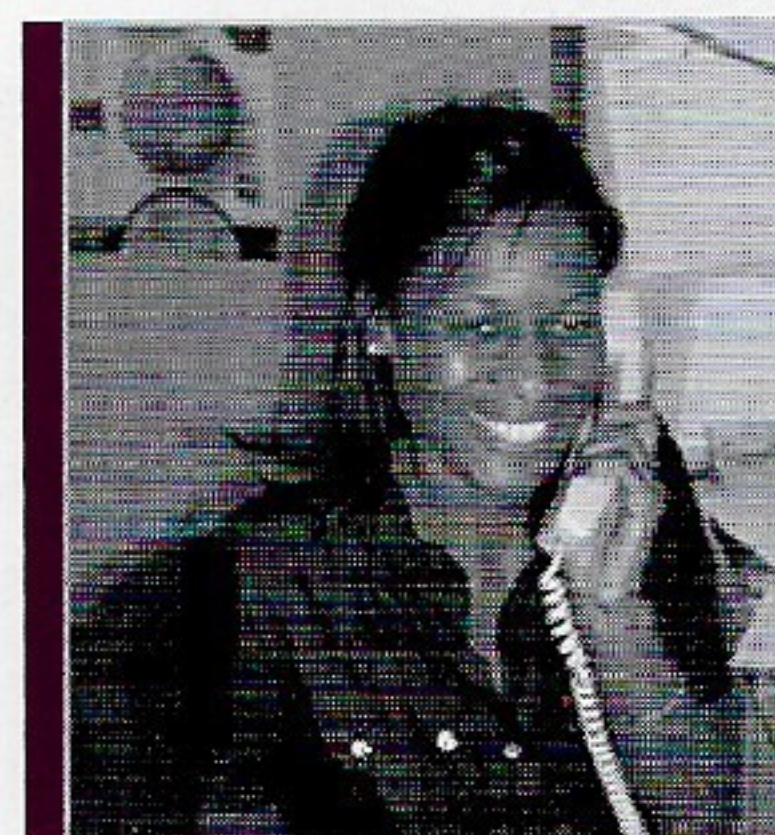
No, not at the library. But generally – there needs to be information available for those interested in

genealogy research, so I am writing a book on "how to do genealogy" here in Barbados.

Where do you think the Museum Library will be in 10 year's time? What would you like to see?

I foresee an explosion of interest due to the internet. I'd like to see an online catalogue of library resources, that would be great!. Customers everywhere will be able to find out what the library has to offer. It would point them in the right direction and they could carry out their own research – and be prepared to pay!

WELCOME TO.....

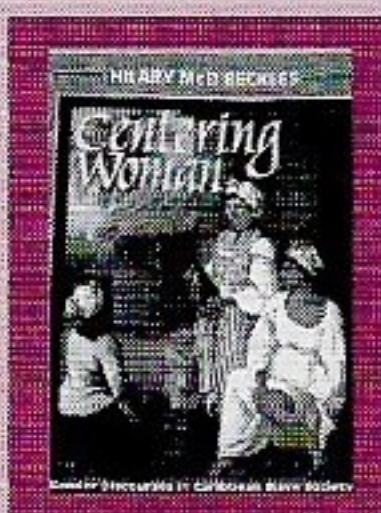


Denise Jones, the Museum's new Marketing Officer

The Museum also welcomes Denise Jones onto its staff. In April 2004, Denise was appointed as Marketing Officer. She Barbados a year ago, from England, to bring her marketing skills to the island and to get in touch with her mother's family - the "Barbadian connection." She says "working at the Museum has allowed me to combine both my career and fill in the gaps of the culture and heritage I missed out on when growing up in England. I've also been lucky enough to make use of the library resources, when time permits, to look into my family history; a bonus I never expected!"

NEW BOOK TITLES IN THE MUSEUM SHOP

Here's a selection of new titles in the Museum Shop for further information or to order please call 427 0201 or 436 1956 or email customerservice@barbmuse.org.bb



Centering Women

by Hilary McD Beckles

This book speaks about Caribbean Women in the slave society from all social classes and covers women of all colours, free to enslaved, migrants and creoles, rich and poor whose lives are examined as they battled against both male domination and amongst themselves for social advantage.

Price: \$52.00

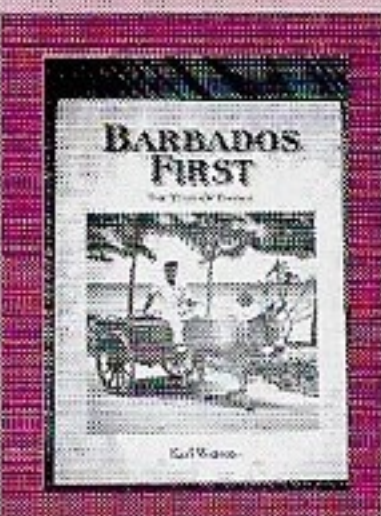


Identities Volume I

by Elton Deighton Mottley

This work is a collection of short essays which takes the reader back on a journey of Elton Mottley's life and ultimately the life of people who have influenced him most. Volume I (of a two-volume series), this book's central themes focus on the issues of culture and identity construction.

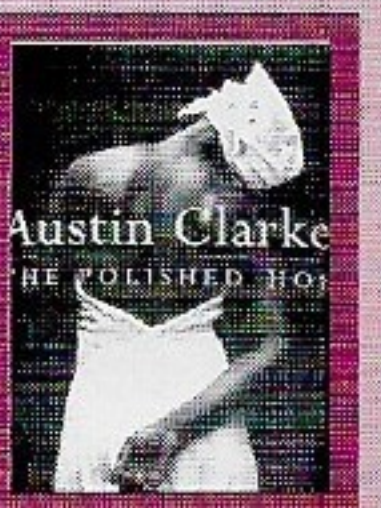
Price: \$46.75



Barbados First The Years of Change

by Karl Watson
This title is a recollection of historical events (using the media of black and white photography) which took place between the periods of 1920-1970; and showcases the past events of "old Barbados."

Price: \$70.00



The Polished Hoe

by Austin Clarke
This novel is about a West Indian woman who admits to a murder she committed and which eventually draws together elements of her African past and the tragedy of colonialism.

Price: \$59.00

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- * Complimentary copy of the Museum annual journal
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- * Junior (18 years & under) \$5.75

To join friends or colleagues need to complete details above, along with cheque or money order made payable to Barbados Museum & Historical Society, and send this to: St. Ann's Garrison, St. Michael, Barbados