

ARTI-FACTS

Barbados
Museum
& Historical
Society

BARBADOS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

We hope you had an interesting and varied couple of months, because we certainly have. The Museum team have been busy working on a number of projects, as well as providing the Museum as a host venue for a number of events and workshops such as the Commonwealth Association of Museums workshop, poster and essay competition for Environmental month in June, the <Bridgetown> "Whisperpost" workshop organised by the National Art Gallery Committee, and the conclusion of the Preserving Paradise lecture series.

To keep you up to date about further activities we have also included a calendar of events in the newsletter, for your information.

Don't forget we also welcome your ideas and views about Arti-facts so please feel free to write to us or send us an email at:
musepr@barbmuse.org.bb.

Denise Jones

Denise Jones
Marketing Officer

MUSEUM OPEN DAY



Dr. Nancy Jacobs delivering her lecture on African Art



Visitors in the African Gallery



Rodney Ifill, ICOM member, giving a tour of the Children's Gallery to visitors

On May 18, of every year since 1977, the International Council of Museums (ICOM) has celebrated international Museum Day and this year on Saturday May 21, we opened our doors to the general public and all other interested individuals.

Families and visitors alike not only had a fun time by taking part in activities such as treasure hunts, lucky dips and story telling but also, through guided tours, were given an educational insight into the culture and heritage of the island. The highlight of the day

was the lecture given by Dr. Nancy Jacobs on African Art whose presentation was in sync with the ICOM theme for this year of "Museums Bridging Cultures." Using several slides of diverse West African Art, Dr. Jacobs added a religious spin to the lecture, discussion and storytelling session and opened the minds of the audience to the historic significance of African religion. The day was enjoyed by all Museum staff who worked hard to organise the event.

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< Bridgetown > "Whisperpost" Workshop

From the 29th March - 1st April the National Art Gallery Committee in partnership with the Museum organized a new media workshop and installation called <Bridgetown>"Whisperpost" for those in the cultural community with an interest in the visual arts. The project, which took place at the Museum was devised by artist Joscelyn Gardner, and offered artists, writers and performers the opportunity to participate in a workshop with the aim of stimulating and exploring the use of new forms of communication in their art (in this case cell phones)

Participants were asked to research individual areas of Bridgetown and to collect stories to create an audio narrative archive of the city. These location-specific stories about Bridgetown, past and present, will be told by local residents or will be poetic interpretations of the place or quotes from historical sources. Participants will document orally and then present a creative piece, at the end of the workshop. An exhibition entitled <Bridgetown>Whisperpost," comprising an installation of these recordings will take place in the streets of Bridgetown, and is scheduled for July 2005.



Assistant Curator - Art, Allison Callender, who participated in the workshop with Allan Shepherd of "Gray Lizard Studios" editing her piece.

The Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, Africa, Sweden Intercontinental Museum (ALAS), Workshop

The week of April 24th - 30th was a busy time for the Museum when we played host for an international Museums workshop. The workshop, which was funded by the Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, Africa, Sweden Intercontinental Museum Network, (ALAS), comprised 35 Museum professional and administrators from around the world; the workshop was also attended by four members of Museum staff.

about their respective Museums and organizations.

The programme for the workshop focussed on the area of project management, with methods for project identification, planning and implementation and the drafting of project documents examined; areas which are key to the organisation of activities within museums, especially in the light of new initiatives the Museum will be involved with for the foreseeable future, namely heritage tourism development and the Cricket World Cup.

Following on from the workshop, members of staff have been invited to take part in another ALAS workshop in Azerbaijan from the 28 July - 8th August.



ALAS participants at the Museum



ALAS participants on an island bus tour given by the Education Officer.

To welcome the delegates to Barbados a small reception was held at the Museum with a welcome address delivered by Mrs. Celia Toppin, Director of Cultural Policy and Research followed by a presentation from each of the delegate countries

Commonwealth Association of Museum's Education Conference

During the 19th and 20th of May the Education Officer and the intern from the Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) participated in a two day conference on 'Children in Caribbean Museums.' This is a preliminary meeting which will present an overview of the status of museum education in the region. The overview was developed from a survey which was circulated to museums throughout the Caribbean. Based on this information, the group will then attempt to plan for a future conference which will hopefully solve some of the problem areas and improve situations wherever possible for education in Caribbean museums.



Children enjoying a temporary exhibit at the Barbados Museum, an integral part of the learning process at museums.

Environmental Month Project

As part of environmental month, celebrated in June by the Ministry of the Environment the Assistant Curator for Natural History, in collaboration with the Education Officer, devised a competition inviting all children between the ages of eight and eleven years old to submit entries for an essay or poster on the theme of 'What I would do to make my home and neighbourhood environmentally friendly'. The objectives of the competition were to encourage children to think about their homes and communities from an environmental point of view and encourage them to research ways in which ordinary persons can make a positive environmental difference in their communities. The response to the competition was extremely encouraging with 69 entries received. Sponsorship was given from the Pine Hill Dairy, T&T Rentals and Starcom Network Inc. The best posters will be on display at the Museum from early July.



Peggy McGeary, the Education Officer in Paris.

Visit to the International Council of Museums (ICOM)

The Museum's Education Officer, Peggy McGeary is the President of the Barbados National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). This position entitles her to be a member of the Advisory Council of ICOM and it is in this capacity that she accompanied the

Museum's Director and President of ICOM International, Alissandra Cummins to Paris between 3rd June - 13th June.

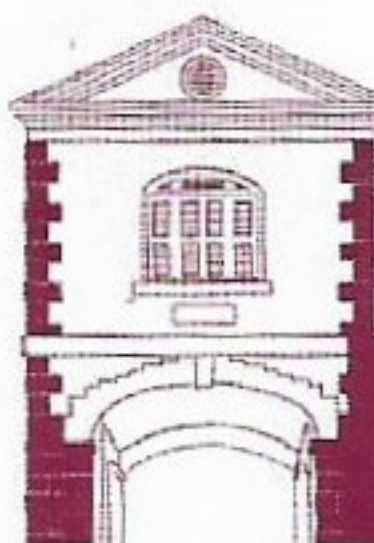
Two hours after they arrived, the Director/President had meetings with members of the Executive while the Education Officer was taken on tour of the UNESCO building.

There were meetings and deliberations every day from 9 am and work continued (especially for the Director) often until 10.00 pm.

Some of the items on the Agenda for the Advisory Council were:

- Addresses from the Chairperson of the Advisory committee, the President of ICOM, and a UNESCO representative.
- Review of the ICOM Strategic Plan 2004-2010
- Revision of the ICOM statutes
- Report on the International Committee of the Blue Shield
- Report from the Organising Committee of ICOM 2004
- Report on the Preparation for ICOM 2007
- Presentations from the Candidates to host ICOM 2010

The schedule was hectic, the meetings were long and often tiring, but this was an invaluable learning experience for the Education Officer who took a few sparing hours to sail up the Seine river, visit the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame and the Louvre.



TRAINING AT THE MUSEUM

Disaster Preparedness Workshop

On Friday 3rd June the National Art Gallery Committee conducted a disaster preparedness workshop at the Museum for heritage institutions. The workshop was attended by Museum staff along with the National Library Service and Government Information Service with the focus on addressing the recovery of artefacts once a disaster had occurred.



Disaster Workshop participants



Demonstration of how to clean a picture frame, part of the recovery process after a natural disaster.

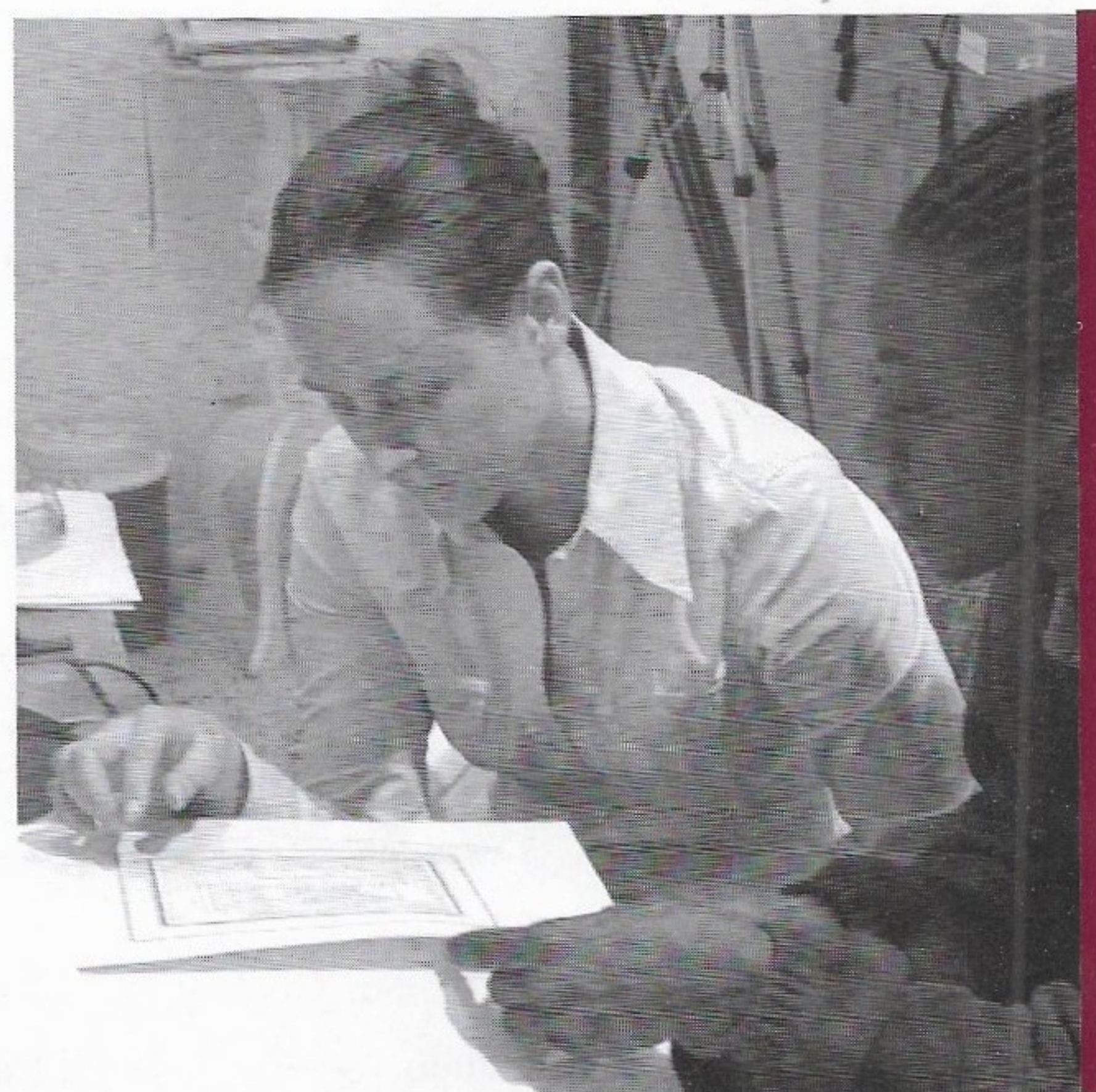
During the week, conservation work on the Museum's fine art collection was also carried out by visiting conservators from Puerto Rico, in conjunction with the National Art Gallery Committee and Museum staff.

CONSERVATION

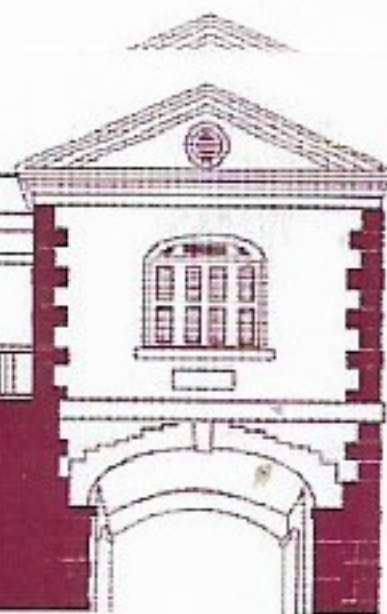
Lionel Grimston Fawkes Collection

During the year, the Museum received a unique collection of twenty-seven [27] framed pencil and watercolor drawings by Lionel Grimston Fawkes (1849-1931) from the Prime Ministers' residence. The works feature indoor scenes, landscapes and portraits. While undertaking research, the Assistant Curator - Art was able to identify similar works at the Museum by the same artist, and significant additional information on the artist and the works, by the documentation on the verso of each of the drawings acquired.

As a considerable amount of the collection showed "foxing" (discoloration) and traces of mould growth, paper conservator Ms. Anne Bancroft, from the Preservation and Conservation department of "The Wellcome Trust", London England, provided both preventative and remedial treatment, and completed condition reports for each of the works. She also advised on recommendations for storage since they were removed from their frames and an ongoing preventative treatment program has been now implemented.



Ms. Anne Bancroft and AC-Art accessing one of the drawings from the Lionel Grimston Fawkes collection.



PREVENTATIVE CONSERVATION COURSE: REDUCING RISKS TO COLLECTIONS

As a result of generous donations from the Prime Minister's Office, R.L. Seale and Company, CIBC Offshore, Barbados Tourism Investment Inc., ICOM Barbados and the Barbados Museum, the Assistant Curator-Art was able to attend an international course on Preventive Conservation co-organized with the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) The International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) in Rome Italy.

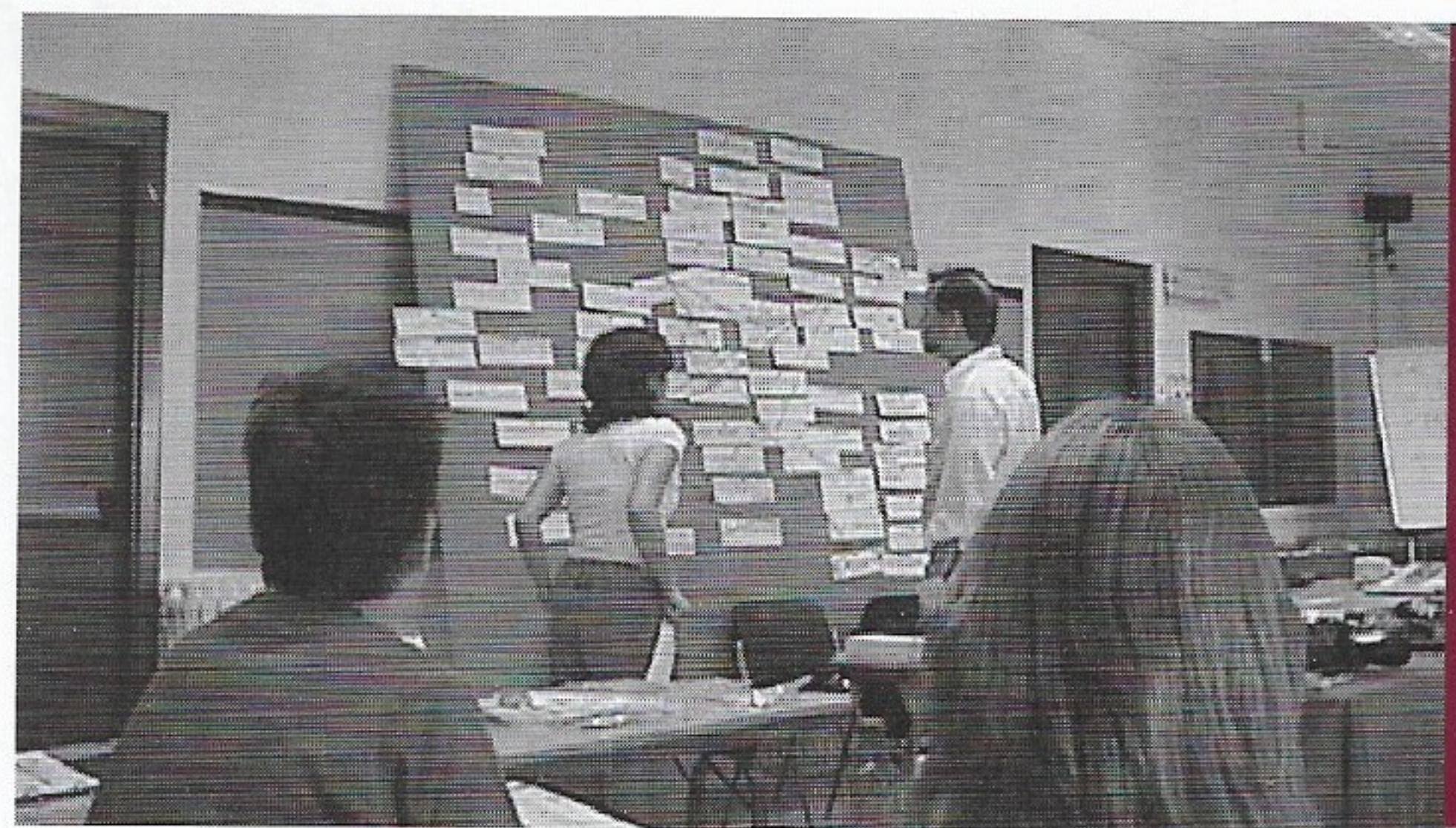
OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

The three week course focussed on applying a risk management approach to the conservation of collections. Risk management can be understood not only as the management of relatively rare disasters, but also as the management of slow continuous hazards, as well as everything in between. The course reviewed the risk concept and its current interpretations and applications in the field of cultural heritage and beyond. Participants on the course engaged in carrying out a risk assessment for collections in museums and archives and discussed dynamic and high-risk situations such as travelling exhibitions. They were also able to examine, review and debate recent research that is critical to better assess risk, and to establish priorities, as well as environmental standards and other guidelines.



Participants from the preventative conservation training course.

The course ran from June 6th - 24th and nineteen participants from Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, Uruguay, and the USA attended. The project team was comprised of senior staff from ICCROM, CCI and the Canadian Museum of Nature, as well as the Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage (ICN), the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne and guest lecturers from other institutions.



Course lecturer Catherine Atomarchi (ICCROM) and Stefan Michalski (CCI), attaching words and terminology associated with risks received from participants and placing them on the board.

WHAT IS ICCROM?

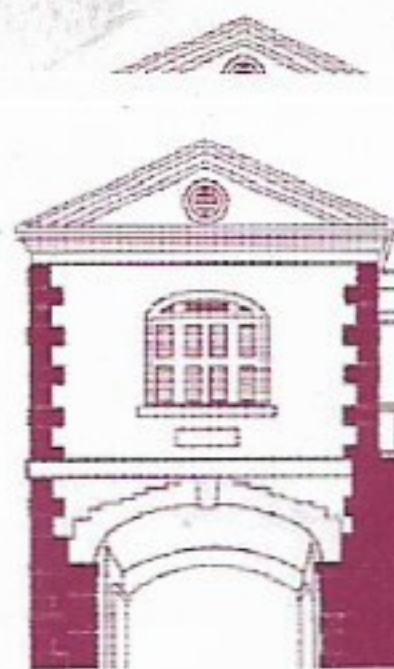
"The decision to found the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property was made at the 9th UNESCO General Conference in New Delhi in 1956 at a time of mounting interest in the protection and preservation of cultural heritage.

The intergovernmental organization, now known as ICCROM, was established in Rome in 1959. It is the only institution of its kind with a world-wide mandate to promote the conservation of all types of cultural heritage, both movable and immovable. It currently comprises over 100 Member States.

ICCROM aims at improving the quality of conservation practice as well as raising awareness about the importance of preserving cultural heritage. ICCROM also contributes to preserving cultural heritage in the world today and for the future through five main areas of activities: training, information, research, co-operation and advocacy. For more information you can visit the site: www.iccrom.org.



Panel experts in the transportation of museum artefacts. From left to right: Paul Marcon (CCI), Matteo Lanfranconi (Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna), Isabelle Verger (ICCROM Consultant), Stefan Michalski (CCI), Ghislaine Pardo (Borghi International), Augusto Frachey (Progress Insurance Broker).



ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICAN AWARENESS DAY

On Wednesday 27th April the Barbados Museum and Historical Society was used as the venue to host African Awareness Day. African Awareness Day was conceptualized by the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sport to educate primary and secondary students from across the island about African culture and heritage, with the focus on West Africa; its craft, culture and history. The Museum's new African gallery and exhibit, Africa: Connections and Continuities also played a central role in the celebration of this day, by reinforcing the role and importance of African culture in Barbadian history.

An official opening ceremony took place on the day with Mrs. Wendy Griffith-Watson, Chief Education Officer, His Grace Archbishop Granville Williams and Miss Alissandra Cummins, Director of the Museum, in attendance. A number of activities were organized for schools on the day: guided tours of the Museum's new African gallery, lectures and discussions, displays of arts, crafts and exhibits by a number of schools - Wills Primary School, Princess Margaret Secondary School, Christ Church Foundation and Grantley Adams Memorial Schools. Performances with song and dance were also undertaken by St. Martin's Mangrove Primary School, Luther Thorne Memorial School and Christ Church Foundation and the organizations Dancin' Africa, The Israel Lovell Foundation and Sankofa Productions. In all over 1,400 students attended the African Awareness Day. The Ministry of Education is very keen to continue the theme and concept for 2006 and we are keen to be involved again.



African exhibits and displays being enjoyed by students.



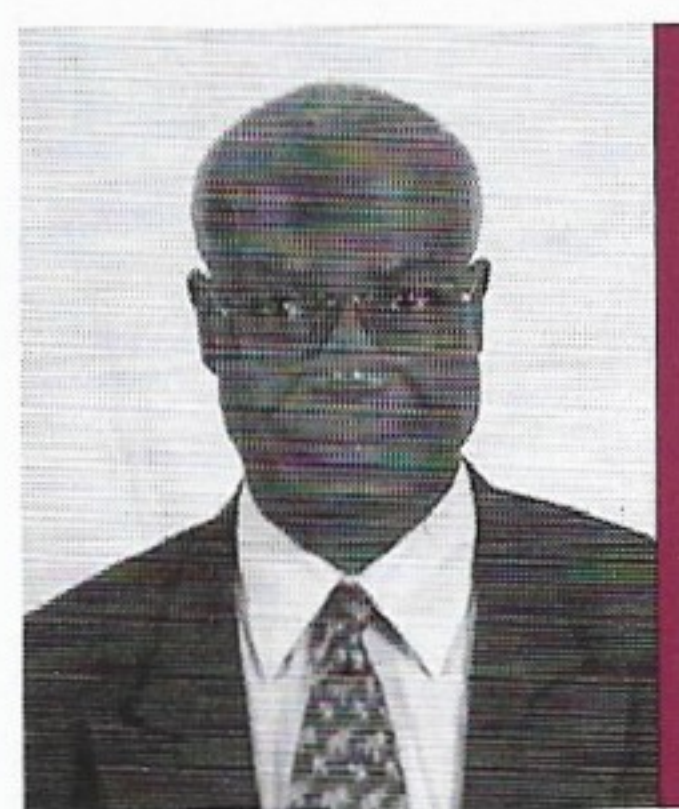
Students performing on the day.



Teachers and pupils enjoying the performances on African Awareness Day.

PRESERVING PARADISE LECTURE SERIES

The fifth and remaining lectures in the "Preserving Paradise" lecture series, organised by the Barbados Museum and the



Mr. Winston Cox, Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat

Biological and Chemical Sciences Department of the University of the West Indies, to commemorate the life and work of the late Dr. Colin Hudson took place at Solidarity House.

On April 5th the lecture, entitled "The Economy versus Ecology" was delivered by Mr. Winston Cox, the Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat in the U.K who, in September 2000 completed an assignment with the International Monetary Fund to evaluate the impact of the publication of IMF staff reports on the economies of its members.

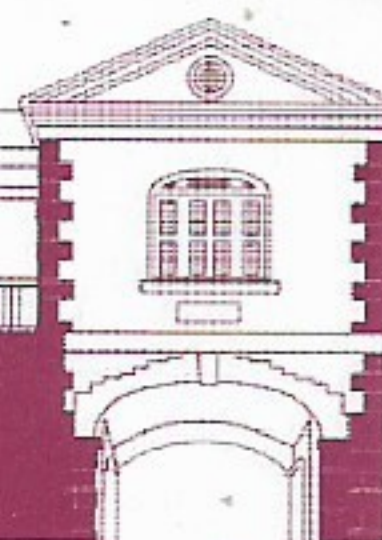
Discussions on various ecological issues took place in the context of the global economy, and followed the comprehensive 2 hour lecture.

The final lecture, entitled "When Tomorrow Comes - What Then?" Coping with complexity and uncertainty to achieve sustainability, was delivered by Dr. Robin Mahon, the Acting Director of the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMI) at the University of the West Indies. Discussions on various environmental issues followed the comprehensive lecture. This series of seven lectures has been covered by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation with the intention for public broadcasting in the near future.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Two television features were broadcast for the week of the 16th May. The first on Tuesday 17th May by Government Information Service highlighted the work of the Director of the Museum and her role as the newly elected President of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). The second feature on the 18th May, was a broadcast message delivered by the Director on the theme of International Museum's Day and its significance to the local as well as international communities.

MEMBERSHIP CALENDAR - EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



MONTH	TIMELINE	EVENT / ACTIVITY
JULY	27 July - 23 Aug	Lest We Forget Travelling Exhibition
	28 July - 8 Aug	The Asian, Latin/Central America, Africa & Sweden ALAS Museum Workshop for Museum staff in Azerbaijan
AUGUST	6 Aug	Ole Time Excursion Bus Tour
	12 Aug	Launch of the 375th Bridgetown Anniversary
	24 Aug	Publication "Beyond the Bridge" Annual General Meeting
SEPTEMBER	20 Sep - 23 Oct	Hurricane Janet Exhibition
	25 Sep	Ole Time Excursion Bus Tour
OCTOBER	8 Oct, 22 Oct	Ole Time Excursion Bus Tour
NOVEMBER	12 Nov, 27 Nov	Ole Time Excursion Bus Tour
	25 Nov	Journal Launch & Publication
DECEMBER	3 Dec	Fine Craft Festival
	10 Dec	Ole Time Excursion Bus Tour

ANNOUNCEMENTS

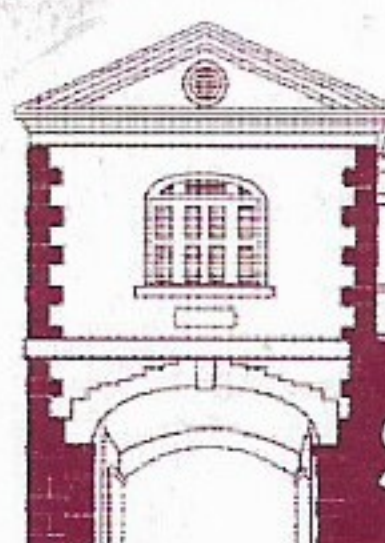
The Shilstone Memorial Library is now open to all Museum members.

Welcome to.....

New Appointments

Ms. Hazelyn Devonish, commenced work on the 9th May as the new Librarian for the Museum.

Dr. Thomas Loftfield started work on the 1st June as the new Deputy Director.



STAFF UPDATE/MEMBERSHIP

GOODBYE TO.....

Ellen Adamsons was one of the most dedicated volunteers the museum has had over the last two years.



Former Museum
volunteers
Ellen Adamsons

Soon after she arrived in the island with her husband, who was on a work assignment, Ellen, a retired teacher came to the Museum and applied to be a volunteer.

During the volunteer training sessions, Ellen asked many questions and often made suggestions about how certain concepts could be better taught to students or visitors. Being a non-Barbadian, she also made a great effort to read books on Barbadian History and become familiar with the physical landscape of the island. She was often accompanied on these learning expeditions by the Education Officer and fellow trainee Patsy Howard who has returned from England. The Museum's "Ole Time Excursions" island bus tours were another source of mirth, inspiration and education for Ellen.

When called upon to do tours, Ellen always arrived 15-30 minutes ahead of the group which was expected. This allowed her to review and revise any information that would be relevant to the topic which the group was studying. Apart from doing tours, this very soft spoken lady was always willing to assist with other chores/events/ or projects even when she was required to work on weekends.

Just before her departure, Ellen came to the Museum and expressed her gratitude for what she termed 'a rewarding experience'. She was sad to go but had many fond memories of the Museum and of Barbados to take with her. She was presented with an inscribed ceramic vase which was specially designed for her by the artist Julianna Inniss.

The Director and staff of the Museum will certainly miss the ready smile of this very affable volunteer and we wish her every success in the future.

by Peggy McGeary, Education Officer



Nathalie Bilodeau
former Museum Intern

Intern Nathalie Bilodeau who left the Museum after 6 months of working on her internship.

ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS OR COLLEAGUES TO JOIN THE BARBADOS MUSEUM – WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT!

Member privileges when they join:

- * A year's subscription to the Arti-facts Newsletter
- * Free admission to the Museum
- * Free use of Museum Library services
- * Members discount in the Museum shop and more!

Title & Name _____

Occupation _____

Address _____

Tel _____ Fax _____

Email _____

- * Life \$690.00 * Firm / Company \$230.00 * Annual \$51.75
- * Joint Annual (husband & wife) \$69.00 * Student \$5.75
- * Junior (18 years & under) \$5.75

PAYMENT DETAILS

To join friends or colleagues need to complete details above, and payment detail below.

- A cheque or money order made payable to: Barbados Museum & Historical Society
- Payment by credit card: VISA/AMEX /MASTERCARD

Credit card number:

Expiry date:

Month Year

- Send your cheque or money order to: Barbados Museum & Historical Society, St. Ann's Garrison, St. Michael, Barbados.
- Credit card payment can be faxed to the Museum on 429 5946.