

ARTI-FACTS

Barbados
Museum
& Historical
Society

BARBADOS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

Welcome to the first issue of the Arti-Facts Newsletter for 2006.

The new year has found us taking advantage of training opportunities as far afield as Guadeloupe, as we work towards the continued strengthening of the institution. During the past months, we have maintained a wonderful balance of serious initiatives and motivating interactions.

We were honoured to receive a visit from the Director-General of UNESCO. As you will see, staff members have been busy taking part in overseas conferences and benefiting from the knowledge of visiting experts. The HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme culminated with the well-received AIDS Memorial Quilt Travelling Exhibition, among other activities.

We expect 2006 to be a busy and productive year and we invite all members to join us in creating an effective and successful present and future for the Museum.

Please feel free to send your comments and ideas about Museum activities and about Arti-Facts by mail or to
Email: musepr@barbmuse.org.bb.

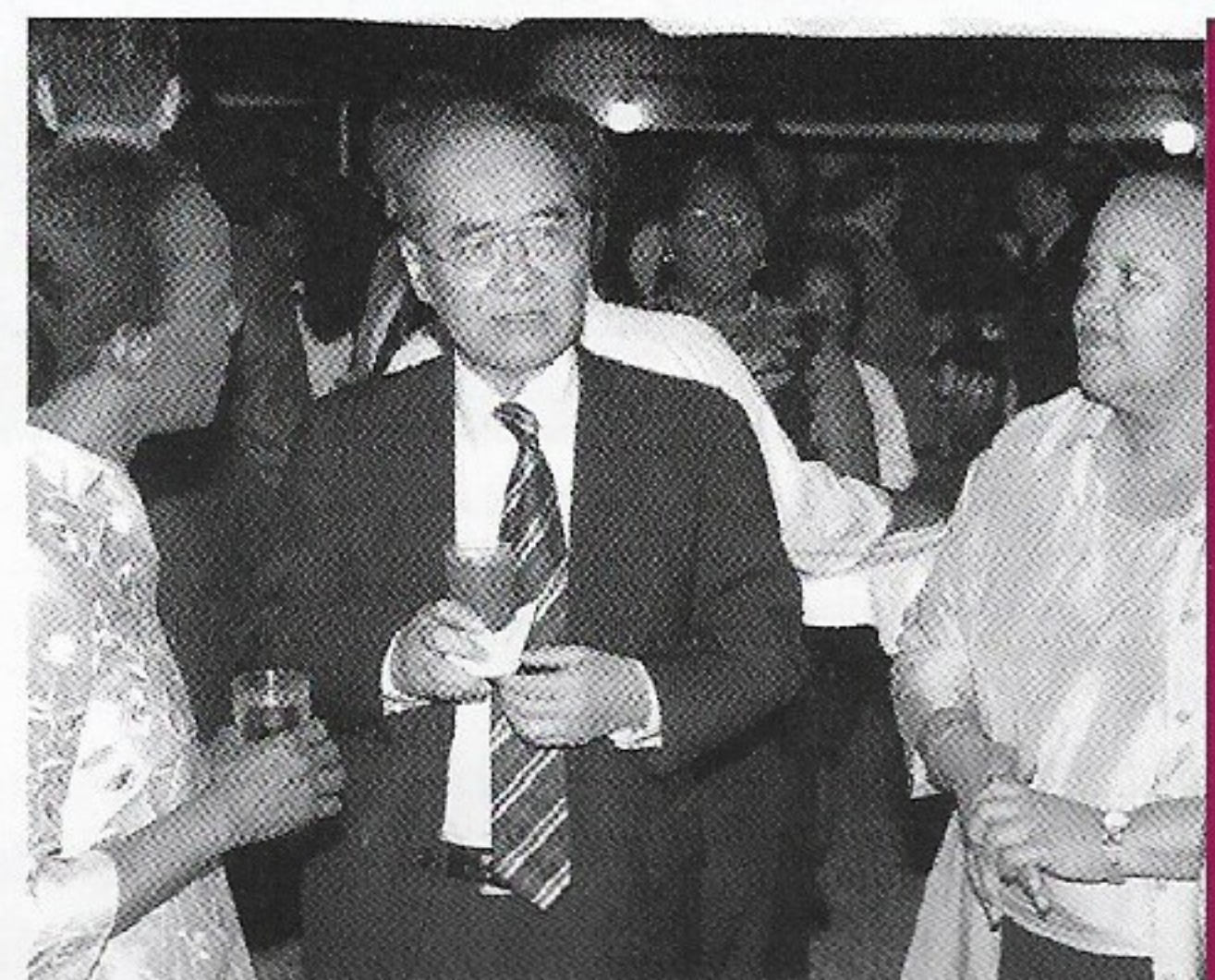
Christine Skeete

Christine Skeete
Marketing Officer (Ag)

Visit of the Director-General, UNESCO



Alissandra Cummins, Liz Thompson, Koichiro Matsuura and Dr. Trevor Carmichael.



Left to right: Rosina Wiltshire, Koichiro Matsuura and Alissandra Cummins.

His Right Excellency Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) visited the Barbados Museum during a reception hosted by the Coastal Zone Management Unit for delegates to a UNESCO conference.

Mr. Matsuura was escorted on a tour of the museum's exhibits, including the African Gallery which is partially funded by UNESCO, by Minister of Housing, Lands and Environment, The Honourable Elizabeth Thompson-McDowald; Dr. Trevor Carmichael, President of the BMHS Council; and Ms. Alissandra Cummins, BMHS Director.

Minister of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, The Honourable Reginald Farley; Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Environment, Mr. Lionel Nurse; and UNDP Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the OECS, Ms. Rosina Wiltshire, were among the distinguished guests in attendance at the reception.

His Excellency also used the opportunity to

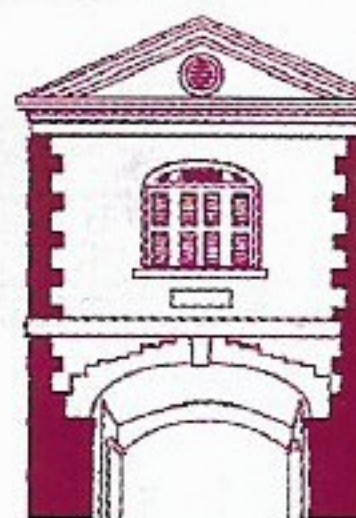
view a sample of the Enslaved People of the Caribbean Archives, now included on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. Mr. Matsuura indicated that he was deeply impressed by the Barbados Museum and welcomed news of other museum development in the island.

Mr. Matsuura was in Barbados to officially open UNESCO's First Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Early Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions. During his stay in Barbados, he also toured a number of UNESCO-funded projects around the island. Ms. Cummins escorted the Director-General throughout his visit, in her capacity of Chairperson of the Barbados National Commission for UNESCO.

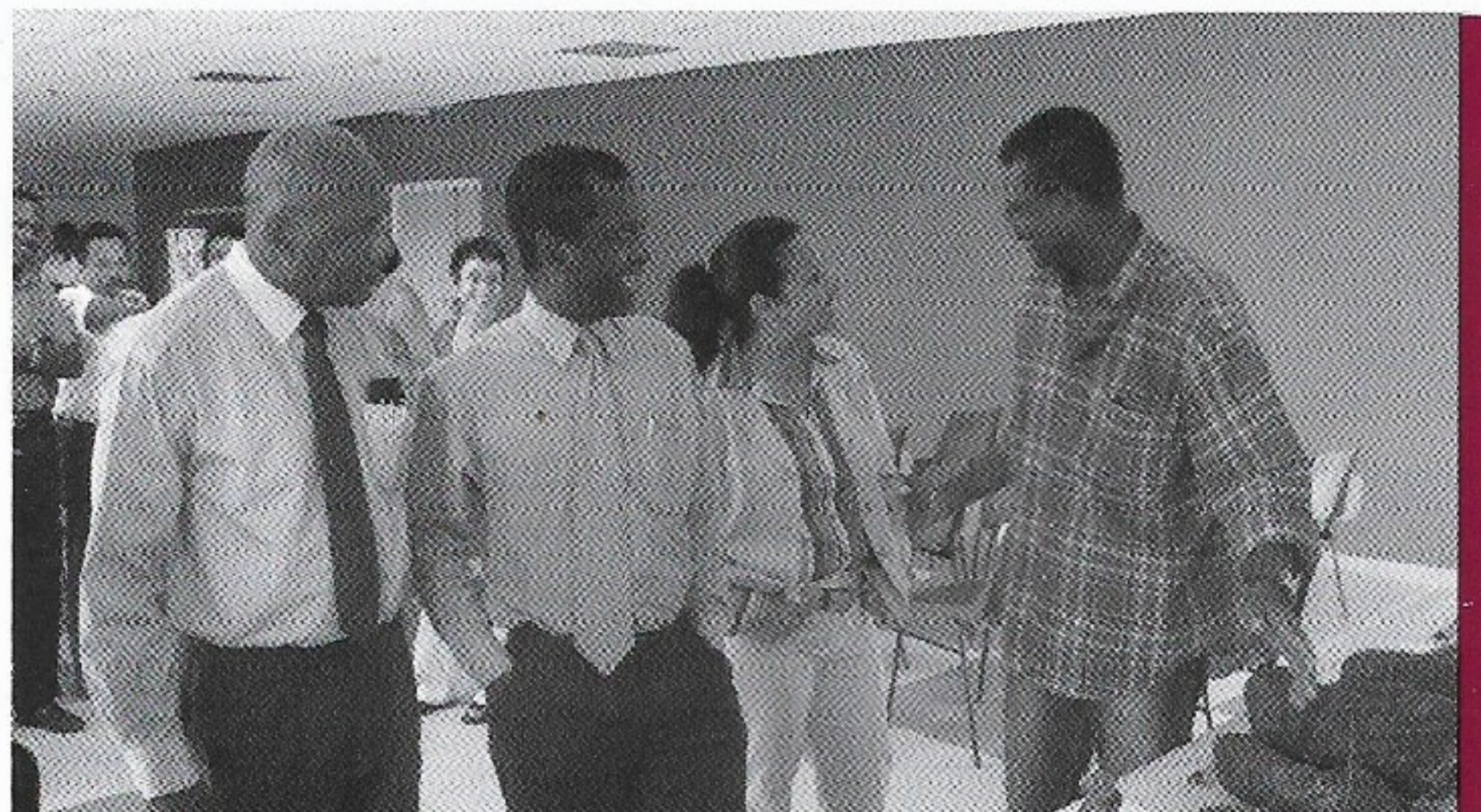
This was the first time any Director-General for UNESCO had visited Barbados.

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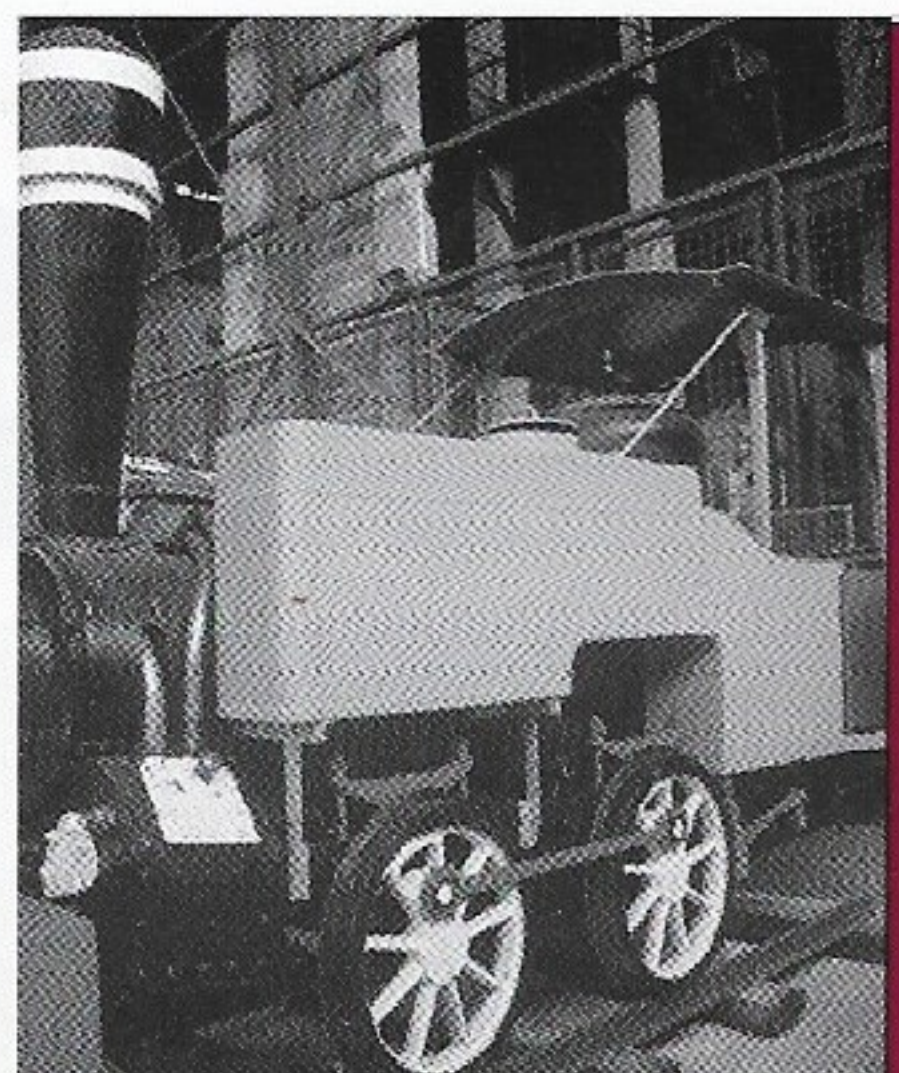
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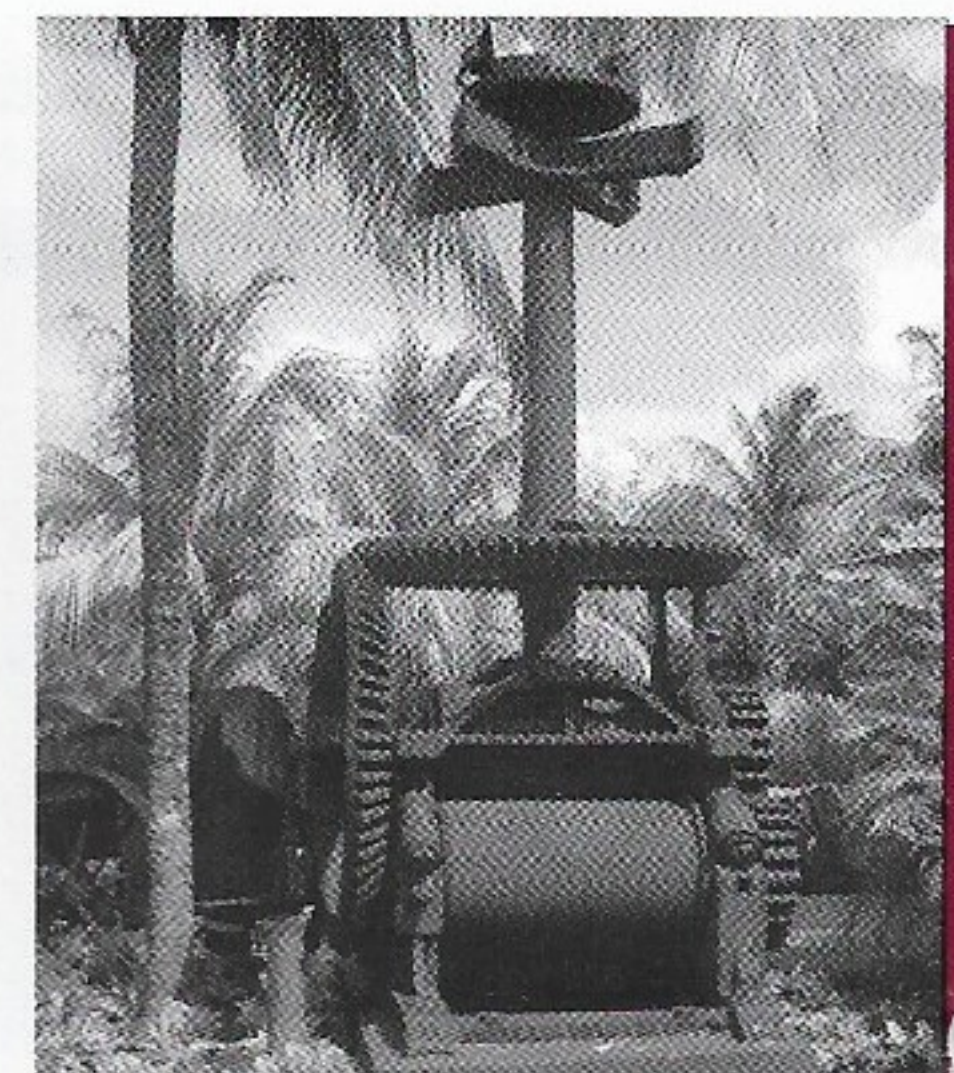
Museum Site Visits in Guadeloupe



The visiting team at the offices of INFA, the Guadeloupe-based agricultural research centre, which serves Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guiana. Here the team looks at a display of anthracnose-resistant yams.



The 1860's steam engine in the sugar museum at Beauport Sugar Factory in Guadeloupe.



A sugar grinder that may have been used in a sugar mill.

BMHS Deputy Director, Dr. Thomas Loftfield, visited Guadeloupe from March 13 – 17, 2006 with a team under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture. The visit was related to establishing cooperative arrangements in heritage tourism and to the possible establishment of a living sugar museum at Bulkeley Factory in St. George. Visits were made to Maison de Bois, an arboretum and museum dedicated to trees and

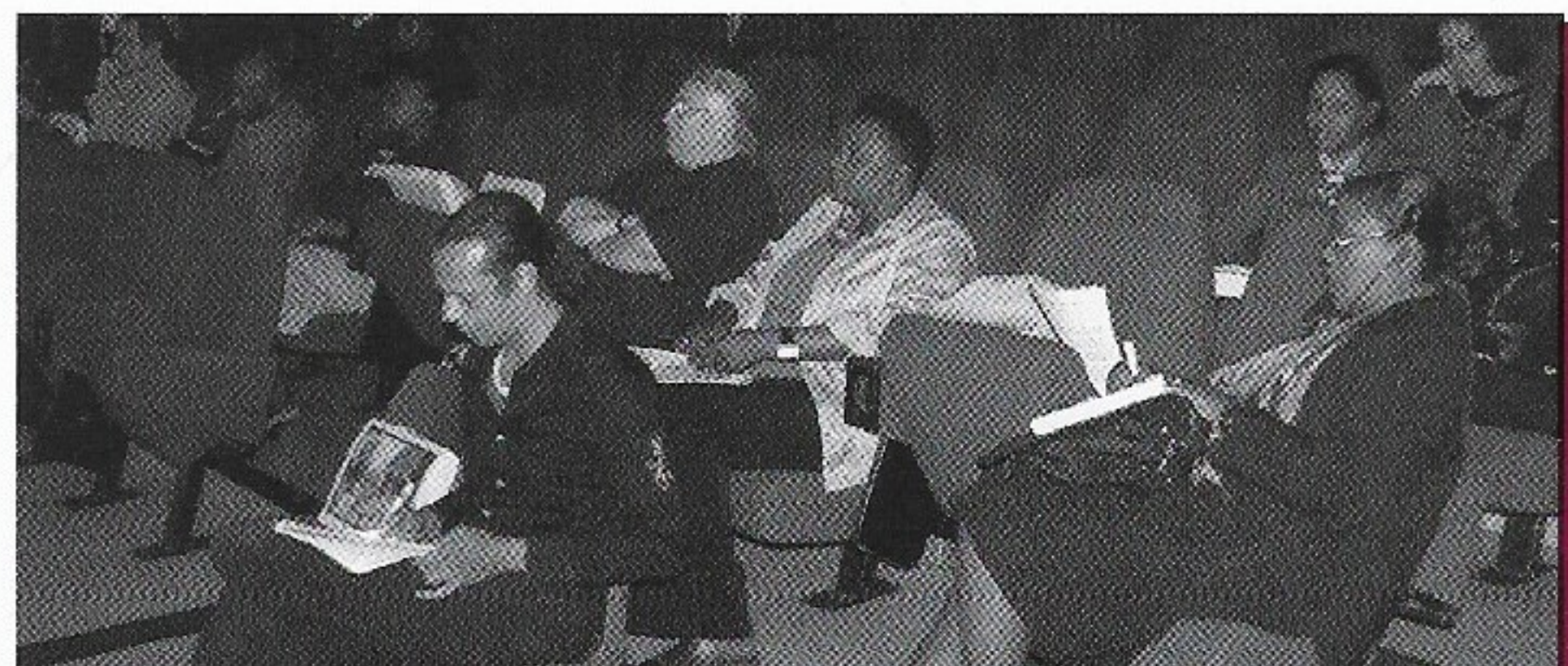
woodworking, and Pays de la Canne, or Land of the Cane, perhaps best translated as “Cane Country”, a sugar museum located at the now defunct Beauport Sugar Factory. Ideas pertinent to the development of various tourist attractions in Barbados were developed as well as areas of potential cooperation in programmes, management, and funding.

Photography Workshop in Guadeloupe

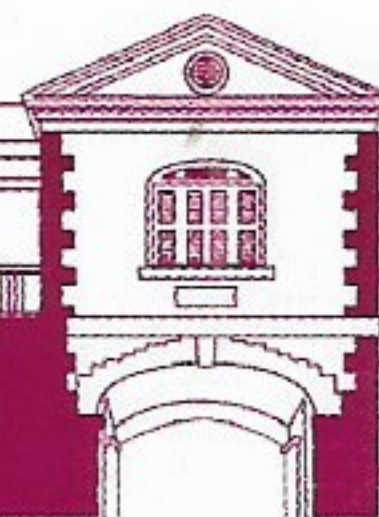
Curatorial Records Co-ordinator James Marshall, attended a workshop, from 23rd to 26th January, organised and hosted by the city of Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, entitled “PHOS: An Interdisciplinary Methodology of Inventory of the Historical and Cultural Inheritances. The Example of Photography”.

James joined his colleagues from France, Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Antigua, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Trinidad and Tobago to collaborate on a proposed regional network of 19th century Caribbean Historic Photographs. The project aims to establish a Caribbean-wide database where images from the Caribbean dating from the 1840s to the early 1900s will be published onto a website to be used as a research tool, and as a mechanism for the better management and preservation of the region's historic photographs.

Having gained some invaluable experience in similar projects, such as the UNESCO Memory of the World Slave Trade Archives Project, James was able to lend positively to the discussions and initial planning of the Caribbean Photography Institute “PHOS”. While the project is still in its infant stages, a solid foundation has been set, and we look forward to hearing more about this project in the not-too-distant future.



The English Caribbean Delegation had a significant part to play in the discussions.



Cultural Information Systems Workshop



Christine Skeete making her presentation on the BMHS website.

In her capacity as the BMHS Acting Marketing Officer, Ms. Christine Skeete, attended a Cultural Information Systems workshop in Trinidad from 16th to 17th March.

The Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Canadian government's Department of Canadian Heritage coordinated this workshop for cultural organisations to better present information to the public through online access.

During the workshop, discussions surrounded methods of evaluating online audiences and targeting them with appropriate information. Important points were raised with regard to partnerships with publications, the media and alternate distribution vehicles to drive traffic to the website as well as collaboration with government, businesses, other cultural sites, information providers and cultural and non-cultural organisations.

The BMHS is expected to benefit through advice that was given, models of websites that were reviewed and contacts that were made with other workshop participants from around the region who work in the cultural industry. The expected result is better utilisation of the opportunities afforded by digital technologies and interactions. The Museum will then have enhanced effectiveness and greater reach than it currently can achieve.

Photographic Conservation at the Museum

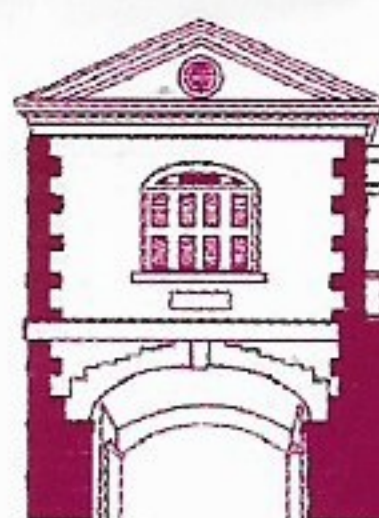
The museum's photographic archive, of 6000 images, was assessed during the month of March by Barbadian paper conservator Anne Bancroft, of the Victoria & Albert Museum.

The conservation assessment sampled 10% of the collection to ascertain its condition and the types of photographs in the collection. The final report is being awaited by the Curatorial Department of the BMHS. During the survey some photographs were identified which need remedial conservation and they will be conserved during the upcoming financial year. The collection comprises photographic images from as early as the 1850's, a decade after the invention of photographic process, up to the present.

The various photographic processes to be found in the collection include daguerreotype, albumen emulsions, and collodion emulsions. The survey will ensure the conservation of the archive into the future and allow for greater access to this unique resource.



An example of a photo from the museum's collection – Chamberlain Bridge and the Carenage.



AIDS Memorial Quilt Exhibition

The AIDS Memorial Quilt Travelling Exhibition was officially opened on 26th March by the Assistant Curator – Art & Art History, in a brief ceremony at the Frank Collymore Hall that included an address from Dr. Carol Jacobs, Director of the National HIV/AIDS Commission. The exhibition continued from 27th March to 9th April, with displays of posters and three portions of twelve-foot by twelve-foot quilts in the foyer of the Frank Collymore Hall.



Stephen Layne and Allison Callender installing one of the quilts in the foyer of the Frank Collymore Hall.

A quilt which is the result of a five-week long workshop, geared at teaching unemployed infected and affected HIV/AIDS people a skill, was also on display during the Quilt Exhibition and will be shipped along with the exhibition when it is returned to be displayed worldwide.

The workshop participants put a great deal of thought into the individual panels that they contributed to the Barbados quilt. The poignant photo of a late friend of one workshop participant was chosen as a visual reminder of the memories of this person who was described as fun-loving and understanding and who is dearly missed.

Another participant chose a sun image to illustrate his feeling that the sun will always shine on the memory of his cousin, who will never be forgotten.

The panel with the house reminded the embroiderer of a dear friend who was ambitious, industrious and adventurous.



A workshop participant embroidering his panel for the Barbados quilt.

The chattel house symbolised the way in which this friend had worked his way to the top. Those who viewed the exhibition were struck by the moving and enlightening quality of the quilts.

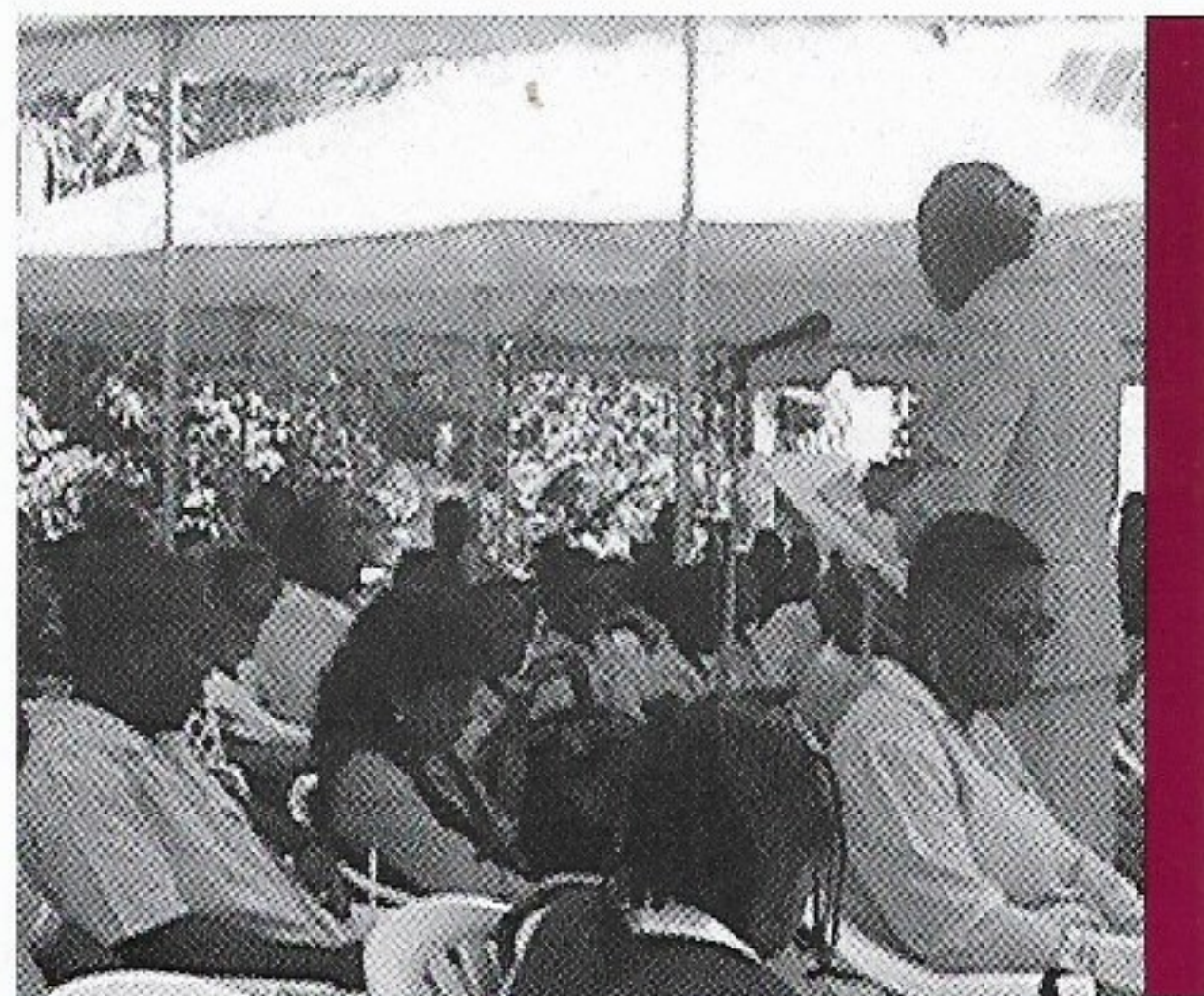
The NAMES Foundation is an organisation based in Atlanta, Georgia which uses quilts created by friends or families as a memorial for individuals who have died or been affected with HIV/AIDS. Barbados was not represented on the AIDS Memorial Quilt and this was the motivation not only to have Barbados represented but to be the first English-speaking West Indian island to have the quilt exhibited.

For further information, check out www.aidsmemorialquilt.org.

Launch of HIV/AIDS Educational Workbook

One of the major highlights during this period was the launch of the HIV/AIDS Educational Workbook for primary school children on 2nd March. Approximately 160 primary school students and their teachers benefited from an address given by Education Officer - Guidance and Counselling Ms. Patricia Warner from the Ministry of Education.

Ishiaka McNeil and Troy Special did an interactive dramatic piece, while Chad Holder sang "Making a Difference". 5,000 workbooks

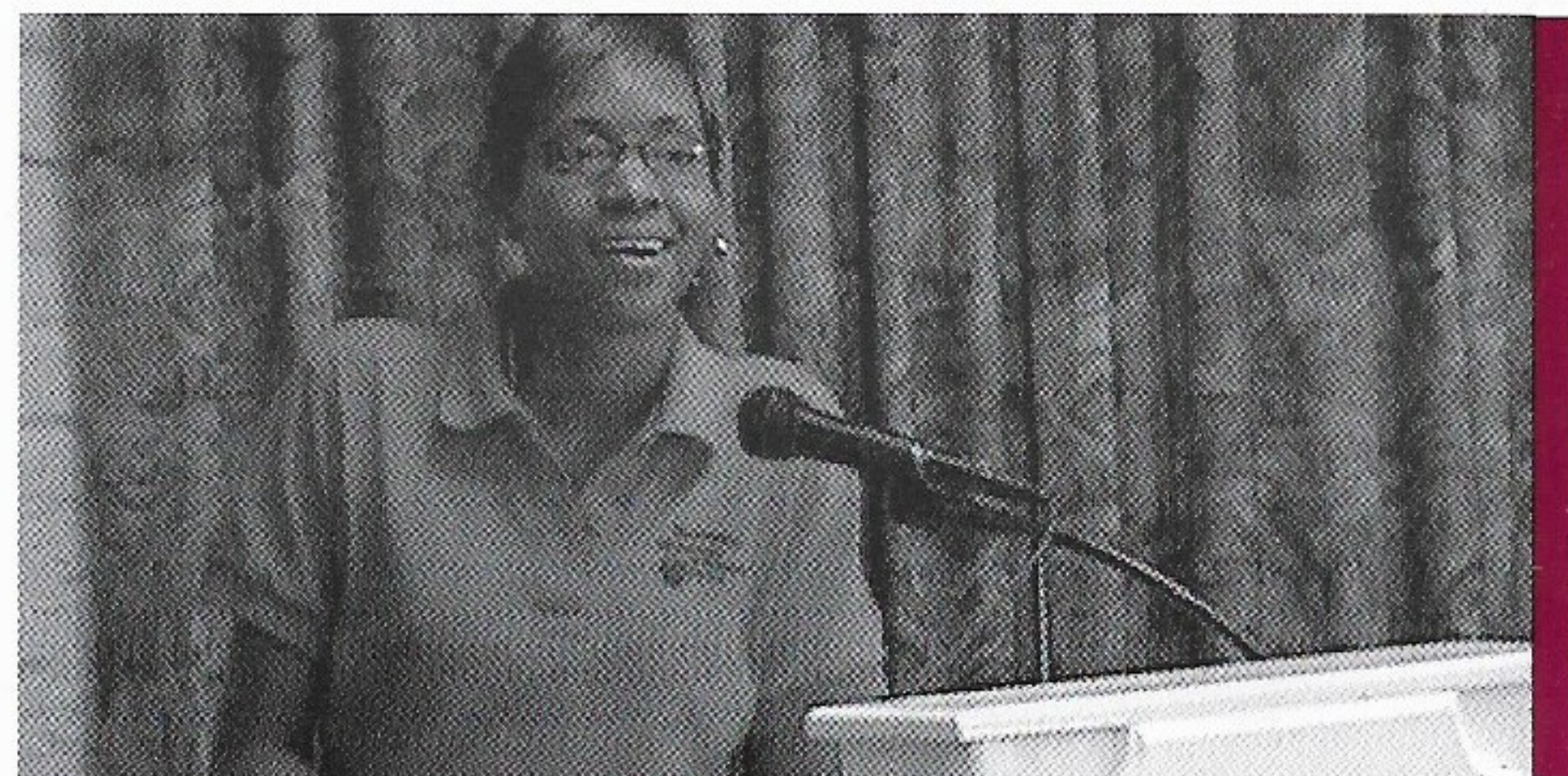


Students listening intently to Ms. Patricia Warner.

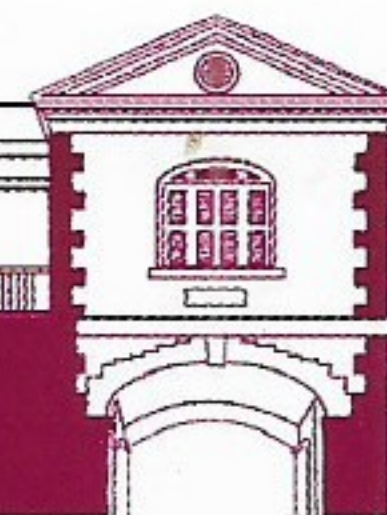
were printed and each school was presented with 100 to 200 books and a supply of pencils with the slogan "Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise". All government primary schools were invited and 26 of these attended.

Staff Workshop on HIV/AIDS in the Workplace

The BMHS staff as well as invited members from The National Library Service, National Cultural Foundation, The National Art Gallery Project and The Culture Division, benefited from a half-day session dedicated to dealing with HIV/AIDS and other illnesses in the workplace on 3rd March at The Island Inn Hotel. The interactive, hands-on and power point presentations were conducted by Ms. Rhonda Boucher and Mr. Victor Felix of the Labour Department.



Susan Boyce delivering the Vote of Thanks.



MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS



Geraldine Lane at the book launch for *Tracing Ancestors in Barbados – A Practical Guide*.

Launch of Genealogical Book

Geraldine Lane's book *Tracing Ancestors in Barbados – A Practical Guide* was launched on 19th January 2006 at the Barbados Museum, with a book review by leading historian Mr. Robert "Bobby" Morris.

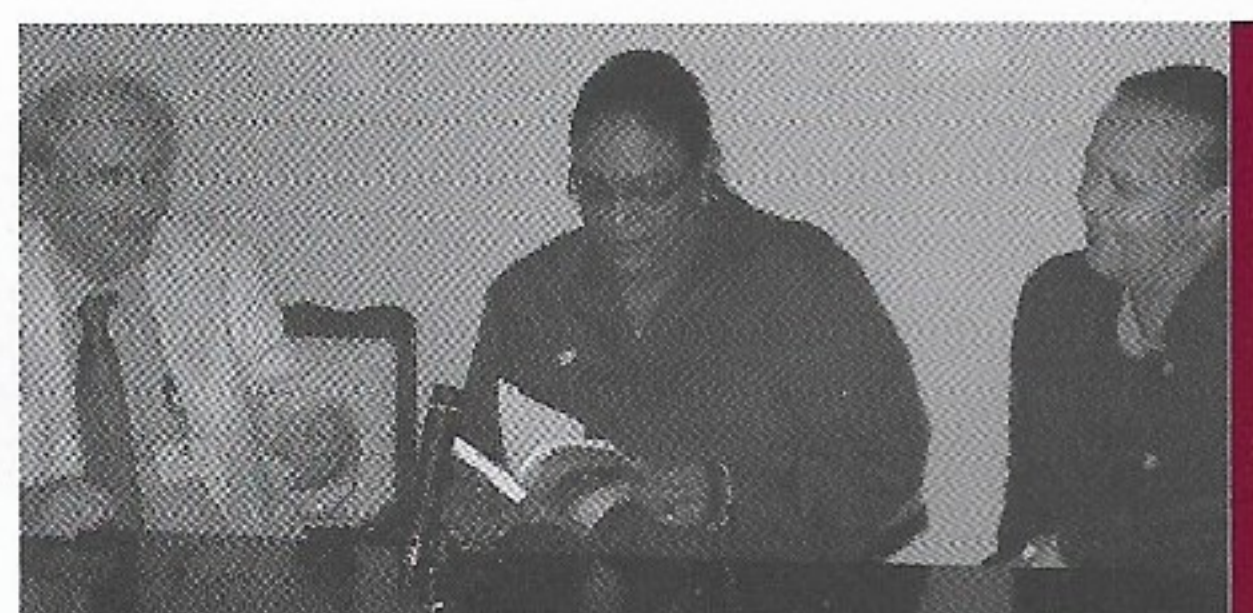
Mrs. Lane is a Museum member and former volunteer and was inspired to write the book during her time at the Museum. She has combined her training as a genealogist and experience of tracing family histories in England with her knowledge of the Barbadian context. Copies of the book are on sale in the Museum Shop. For further information on this publication, please check the website www.barbadosancestors.com.

BMHS Director's Speaking Engagements Abroad

The BMHS Director addressed AAM/ICOM members at a special reception and dinner held in her honour on 20th February at the Smithsonian's new National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC. She also gave a presentation at a special session of the College Art Association in Boston on 24th February on ICOM's Code of Ethics for Museums.

Presentations of the Museum Journal

Copies of the *Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society* (BMHS) were presented on 7th February to Deputy Prime Minister and then Attorney-General The Honourable Mia Mottley and to Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Dame The Honourable Billie Miller on 15th February by the Director of the BMHS Ms. Alissandra Cummins and editor of the journal Dr. Karl Watson.



Dr. Karl Watson, The Hon. Mia Mottley, examining her copy of the journal, and Ms. Alissandra Cummins.



Dr. Karl Watson, Dame Billie Miller and Ms. Alissandra Cummins with the current edition and last year's issue of the Museum journal.

Gold Crown of Merit Awarded to BMHS Director

On 2nd March Director Alissandra Cummins received her Gold Crown of Merit, awarded last November, for her contribution to museum development, heritage preservation and the development of the arts. She was accompanied by family members, as well as the Society's President and Vice President, Dr. Trevor Carmichael and Professor Woodville Marshall respectively.



Ms. Alissandra Cummins receives her Gold Crown of Merit insignia from Governor-General Sir Clifford Husbands.



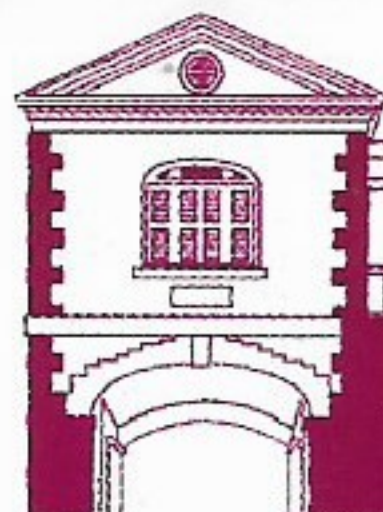
Governor-General Sir Clifford Husbands and Ms. Alissandra Cummins with her family and specially invited guests.

2006 Lecture Series

The first four lectures in the 2006 Lecture Series, hosted by the BMHS, the Department of History of the University of the West Indies, Government Information Service and the Central Bank of Barbados, were held between 21st February and 27th March at the Grande Salle of the Tom Adams Financial Centre:

- Dr. Lennox Honychurch - "Barbados in the Amerindian World" (21st February)
- Professor Hilary Beckles - "Big Island, Small Islands: The Shaping of Identity" (14th March)
- Dr. Karl Watson - "Barbados as Mother Colony: 17th & 18th Century Colonising Initiatives from Barbados" (21st March)
- Sir Roy Augier - "From Administrative Unions to Confederation" (27th March)

Lectures continue up to 6th June.



ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS

Kwanzaa Closing Ceremony

The Museum was the venue and sponsor for the Kwanzaa Closing Ceremony, held by Sankofa Productions, on the 1st January, day of Imani (Unity). The ceremony was well attended and featured impromptu addresses by the former Director of the Commission for Pan-African Affairs, David Commissiong and current Director Ikael Tafari, as well as riveting performances.

Organic Health Expo

On 4th February, an Organic Health Expo was hosted at the Barbados Museum by Chantelle Selman of Light Body Holistic Clinic. The Museum received exposure in the media as a result of this special event.

Night of the Griots

Night of the Griots was held here at the Museum by the Commission for Pan-African Affairs on 26th March and was well attended and well publicised. Advertising and coverage of the event highlighted the Museum as the venue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Acquisitions

Two Graflex Cameras owned by the late William Bertallan have been donated to the BMHS. These cameras were donated by Mr. Mervyn A. Cumberbatch of Graphic photo lab who was given the cameras by Mr. Bertallan in 1990. The cameras are both large format 4 x 5 cameras used during World War II by Mr Bertallan, some of the photographs in the Bertallan collection in the museum were possibly taken with these cameras.

The camera equipment are :

- Graflex 4 x 5 camera with Carl Zeiss Jena. Tessar Lens 1:4.5f = 15 cm capped
- Carl Zeiss Jena Tele tessar lens 1.6.3f=32cm-capped
- A Weston Master Light Meter for plate film
- Kodak lens hood and filters, all in original fitted wooden box
- Speed Grafic 4 x 5 camera (restores) with Carl Zeiss Jena Tessar 1:4.5-f13.5 cm lens
- Original fitted case includes Cut film magazines and Shutter cables
- Speed gun series D-Flash unit
- Manuals for the cameras.

These cameras and their accessories tell the story of the development of photography and its equipment, but allow us also to preserve the equipment utilised by one who had captured images of Barbados' past.

Developing new museum

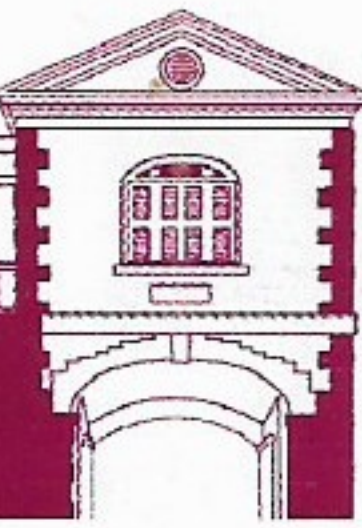
The BMHS is at present involved in the development of a National Heroes Gallery and Museum of Parliament. The new galleries will be housed in the West Wing of Parliament. The BMHS is the lead consultant in the development of the exhibitions which will examine the life and time of our National Heroes and the historical growth of our parliamentary system respectively.

Journal Error

It appears that a small batch of Museum journals has been affected by a collation error. We are requesting that all members check their copies of the journal to ensure that pages 63 to 78 are included and that pages 79 to 94 are not repeated. If any of these types of errors are found, please return your copy of the journal to us so that we can replace it with a correctly assembled copy

Ole Time Excursion Bus Tours

The Ole Time Excursion Bus Tours continue. The tours on 10th June and 2nd July have some spaces available. Book your seat today!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Passing of Desmond Nicholson

Noted historian and founder of the St. John's and Dockyard Museums, Desmond Nicholson, 81, died on 24th January at the Adelin Medical Centre after a prolonged illness. Nicholson is survived by his wife Lisa.

Archeologist Dr. Reginald Murphy has described Nicholson as a historian, a sailor and a heritage person. He said Nicholson's father came to the country in 1949 after the war, liked the Caribbean, bought a boat and settled in Dockyard.

He also noted that Nicholson was active in the restoration of Nelson's Dockyard in English Harbour as a heritage site. He was interested in the history of Antigua and started sponsoring and working along with students.

Nicholson is recognised for having dedicated his life to the research and documentation of Antiguan history. He was also the author of several books on the country's history and was one of the pioneers behind the popular Antigua Sailing week, which is now one of the world's leading yachting regattas.

STAFF UPDATE

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G.C.M.G. K.A.
Governor General of Barbados

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Librarian
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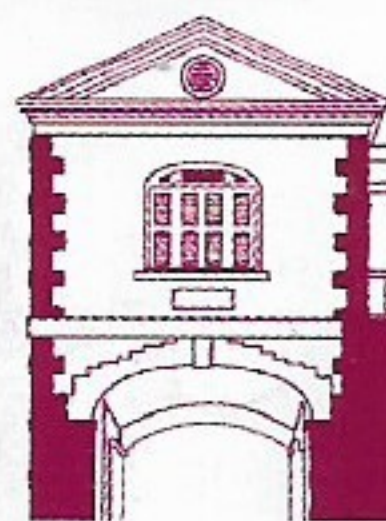
Merna Bryan

SECURITY

Royston Sargeant

Grantley Yarde

Roslyn Straker



MEMBERSHIP

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 _____

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- * 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:

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- 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.