

ARTI-FACTS

Barbados
Museum
& Historical
Society

BARBADOS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

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

We welcomed two new staff members during this period and we are excited about having these fresh outlooks added to the Museum family.

Cultural Heritage Week was the main focus for the month of May. During that week, the members of the National Committee for ICOM showcased their work and the Barbados Museum was happy to open its doors to schoolchildren throughout the week and to the general public on Open Day.

The BMHS Director had several engagements abroad during this period which helped to enhance our international presence. Other staff members were also engaged in workshops and other educational and promotional activities.

The Museum was the venue for several exciting events over the past months and we hope to see you at upcoming Museum activities. Please read on to find out more.

We value your input, so please feel free to send your comments and ideas about Arti-Facts or Museum activities, such as the 2006 Fine Craft Festival, by mail or Email: musepr@barbmuse.org.bb.

Christine Skeete

Christine Skeete
Marketing Officer

Cultural Heritage Week



Addington Forde teaching warri

The theme 'Museums and Young People' was chosen by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) for International Museums Day on May 18, 2006. On this day, museums around the world hosted special programmes for or with young people.

The Barbados Museum also played its part in putting on a programme not only for 18th May but for the entire week.

From Monday 15th May through most of the week, visiting schools were treated to story telling by the Education Officer and some schools did a special project called "Games we Used to Play". Several rhythm, skip-rope, line and ring games were taught. The Education Officer hopes to see a revival of some of the more "active games" in the schools and communities around the island.

After the museum tour and games, some children enjoyed the competitive Treasure Hunts which saw them racing from place to place, as new clues pointed them to where the treasure was hidden.

On 18th May, interviews were recorded by the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) with Education Officer, Peggy McGeary, and BMHS Director, Alissandra Cummins, who is also President of ICOM and the Chairperson of the National Art Gallery Committee.



Children at a storytelling session



The Education Officer leading a storytelling session

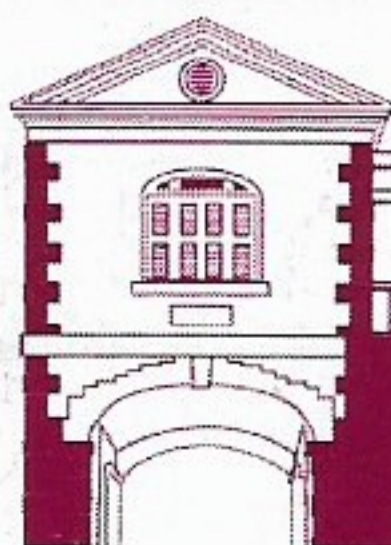
On Friday 19th May, the staff joined ICOM's cultural celebration and enjoyed an evening "lime" in the Upper Courtyard.

The week climaxed with Museum Open Day on Saturday, 20th May. There were guided tours at 10.00 am, 12:00 noon, 2:00 and 4:00 pm. The Education Officer conducted sessions in story telling and old Barbadian games for children. The Treasure Hunts continued and children enjoyed a Lucky Dip all day.

Local snacks, desserts and drinks were provided by Mrs. Marion Hart.

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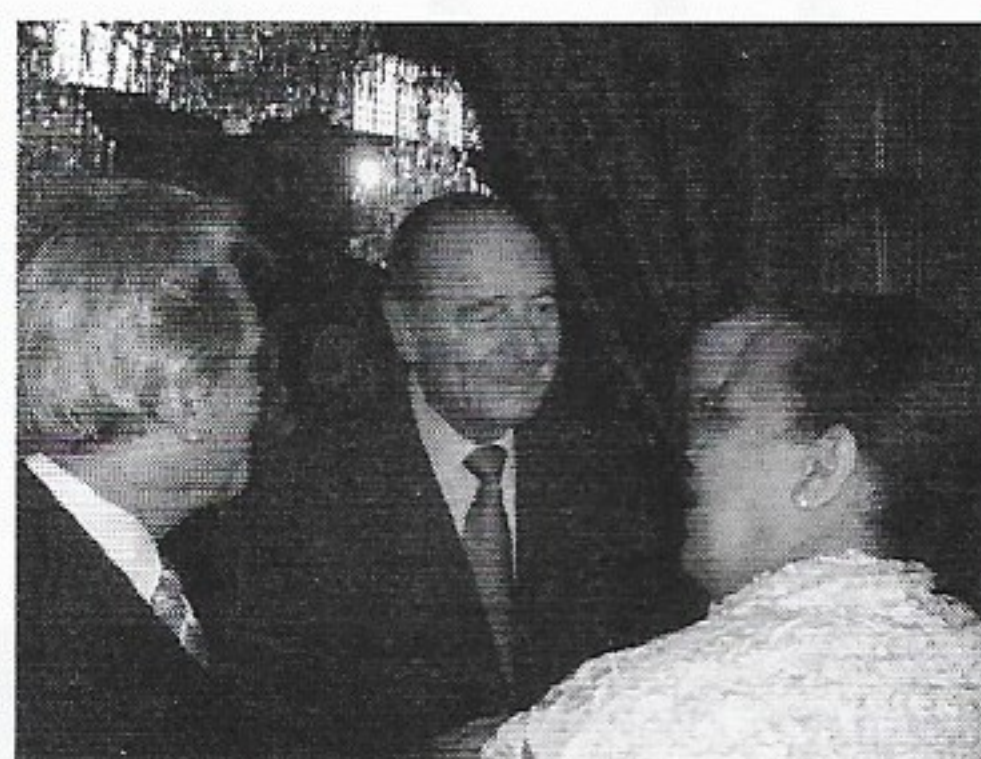
PROJECTS IN BRIEF

Musée du Quai Branly

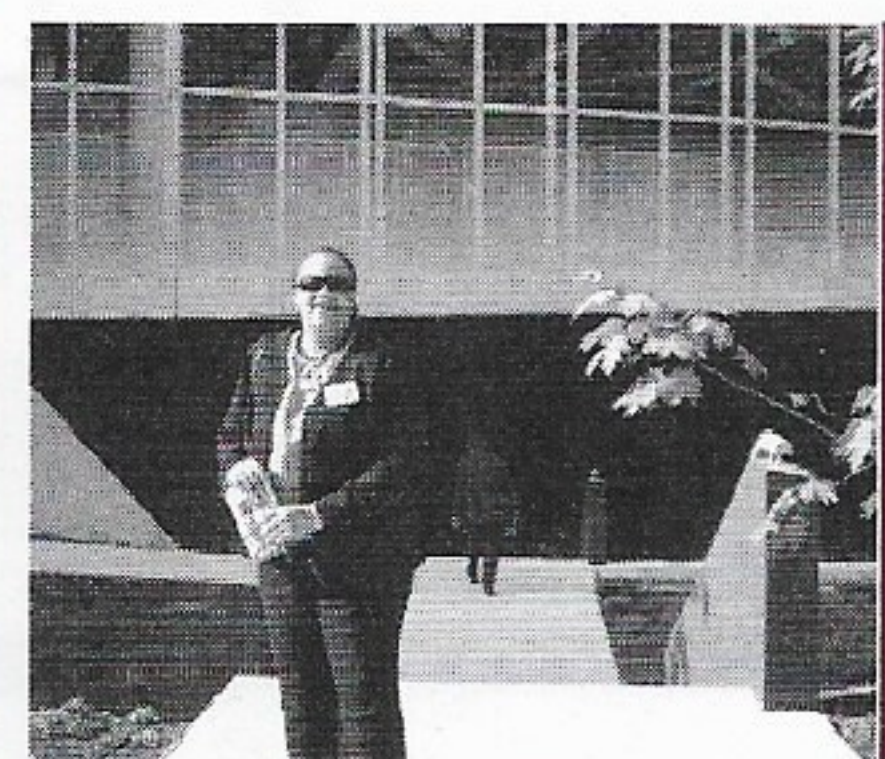
The BMHS Director was in Paris to be present for the June 20th inauguration by the French president of the Musée du Quai Branly, the city's biggest newly built museum since the futuristic-looking Pompidou Centre opened nearly 30 years ago. Musée du Quai Branly is devoted to the "art and civilisation of Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas".

Created by Jean Nouvel, designer of the Institut du Monde Arabe, also in Paris, and of the Torre Agbar in Barcelona, the Musée du Quai Branly has attracted lots of attention with its unique design. Outside, a horizontal row of two dozen large boxes are painted in earthy tones of aubergine, ochre and tan.

In addition, there is an unusual 800-square-metre "vegetation wall" - a vertical garden in which 150 different plant species have taken root on polyamide felt, stapled to waterproof PVC slabs and



Jacques Chirac in conversation with Alissandra Cummins at Elysée Palace



Alissandra Cummins outside Musée du Quai Branly

fed by automatic hosepipes. Mr Nouvel said he wanted to create space organised around "the symbols of the forest, the river and the obsessions of death and oblivion".

The museum's permanent collection is made up of traditional artefacts, arranged mainly by geographical region - 300,000 objects, such as masks, stools, statues, musical instruments, textiles, costumes, jewellery, ceramics, ranging from familiar items to rare treasures.

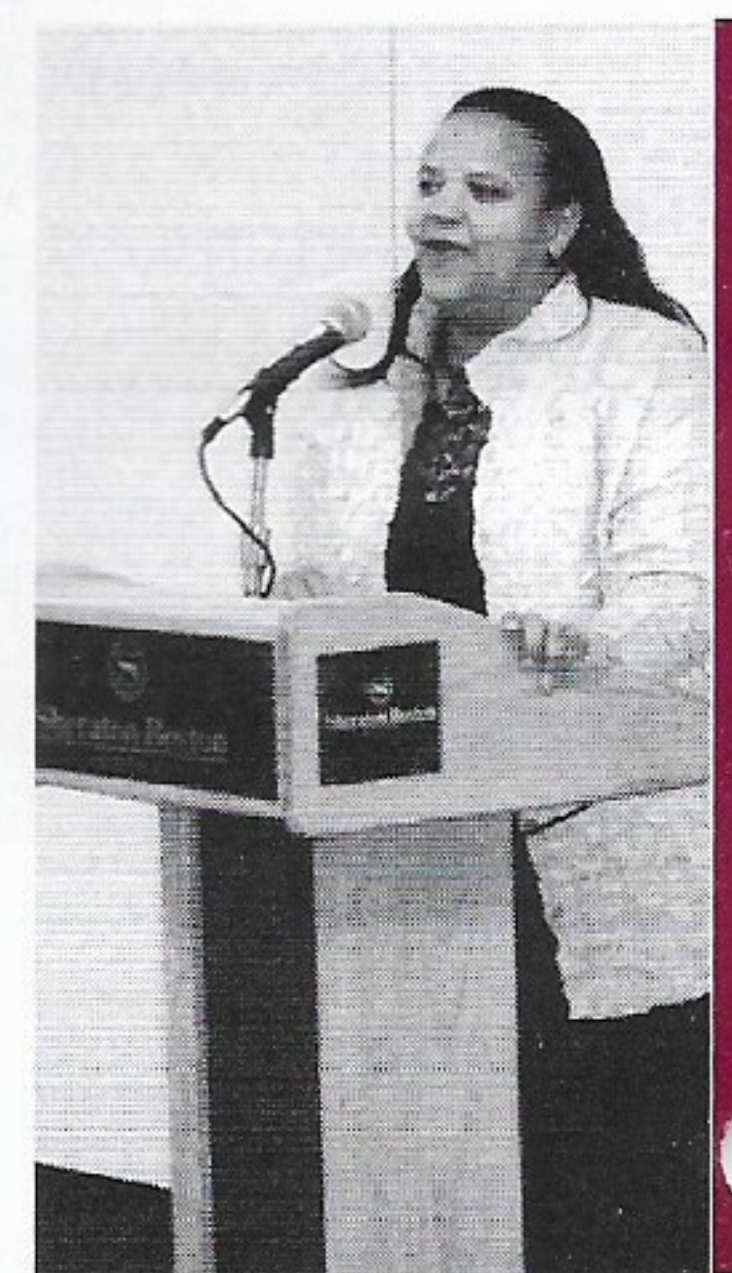
AAM Annual Meeting & Museum Expo 2006

The BMHS Director, Alissandra Cummins, and the Marketing Officer, Christine Skeete, joined over 7,000 attendees at the 2006 American Association of Museums (AAM) Annual Meeting and Museum Expo in Boston from 27th April to 1st May to benefit from marketing-related sessions and meet suppliers for museum-related services. As this was the centennial celebration of the AAM, the conference was coordinated to be a truly magnificent occasion. The theme was "A Centennial of Ideas: Exploring Tomorrow's Museums".

The Marketing Officer attended sessions on future marketing success for large and small museums, the latest evaluation techniques for online users, planned giving, and reaching success in museum retail. Social events such as the International Attendees Welcome Reception and the AAM/ICOM luncheon provided useful networking opportunities, while the Expo enabled Ms. Skeete to develop contacts with suppliers of innovative products and services. She also took advantage of her stay in a city known for its wealth of cultural institutions and visited the Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, Harvard Art

Museums and the Old State House Museum.

The Director also attended this meeting in her capacity as President of The International Council of Museums (ICOM). She gave a keynote address in recognition of the AAM's 100th anniversary, and attended the board meeting of the U.S. National Committee of ICOM, and addressed the annual general meeting of U.S. ICOM members. Ms. Cummins also attended the two-day conference of the new ICOM International Committee CAMOC, which was held in conjunction with the AAM meeting on 1st to 2nd May, 2006.



Alissandra Cummins speaking at the AAM / ICOM Luncheon



Alissandra Cummins with ICOM members during ICOM's 60th anniversary celebrations

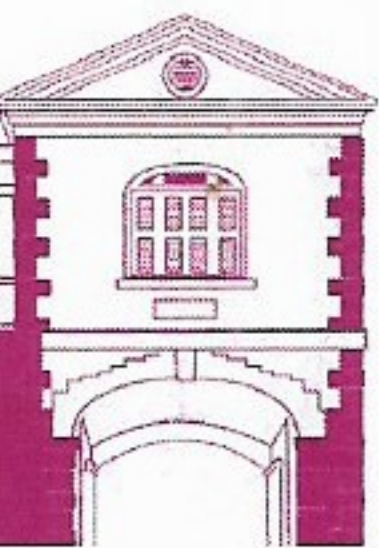
60th Anniversary of ICOM

Between 28th May and 3rd June, BMHS Director and ICOM President, Alissandra Cummins, attended gala receptions and other activities in celebration of the 60th birthday of International Council of Museums (ICOM). The mayor of Paris and the French National Committee of ICOM welcomed ICOM members from around the world at the Musée du Petit Palais on 29th May.

On 31st May, the Director of Museums of the

French Ministry of Culture welcomed ICOM's Executive Committee and heads of ICOM national and international committees to a private reception at the Chateau Versailles.

Anniversary celebrations will continue throughout 2006 with the premiere of three video clips for explaining and promoting ICOM membership worldwide. All three are now available for download at <http://icom.museum>



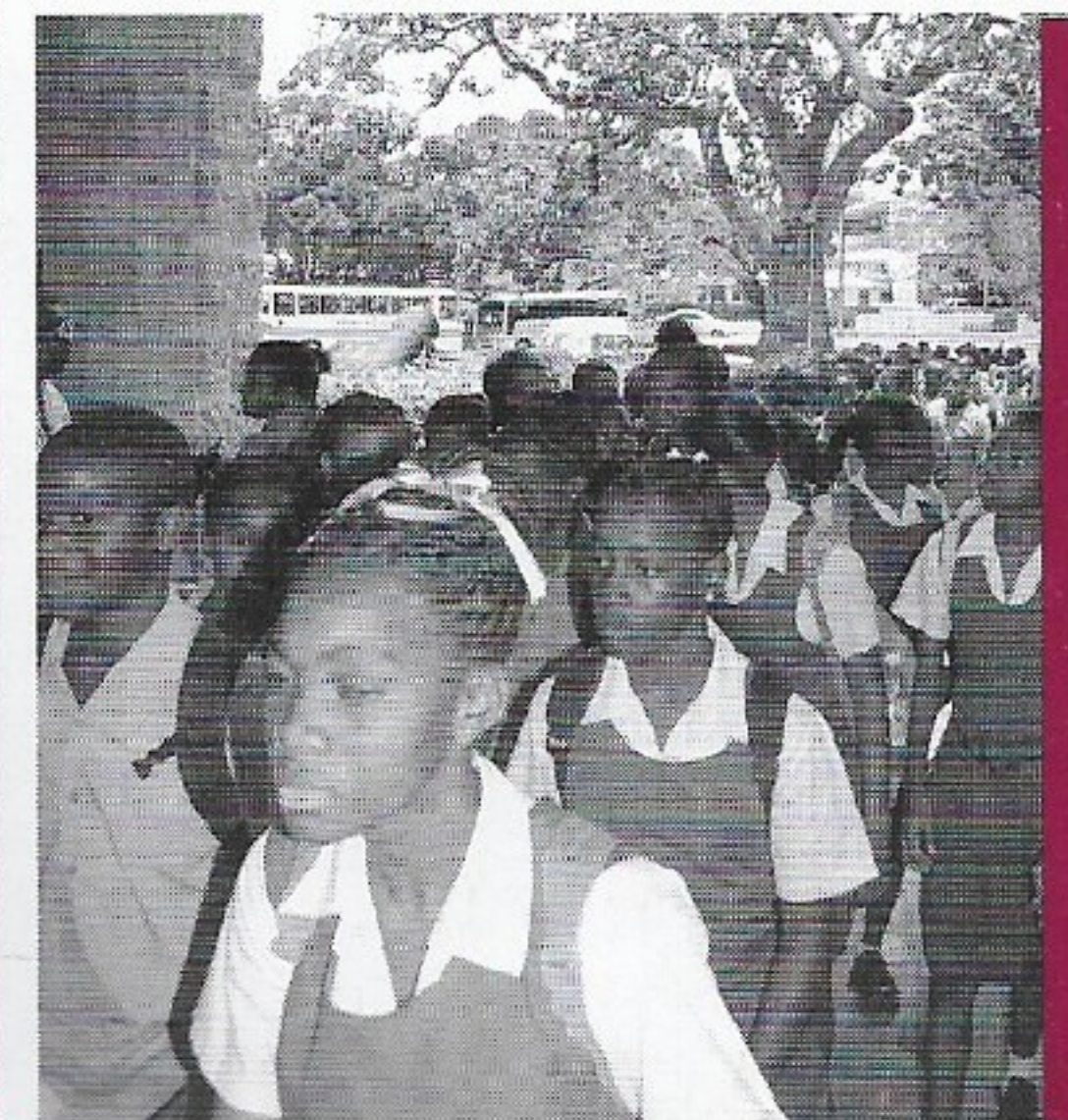
African Awareness

Two days of African Awareness were hosted by the Ministry of Education at the Barbados Museum on 25th and 26th April, with 547 secondary school children and 29 teachers attending on the first day and 609 students and 79 teachers from primary schools attending on the second. Performances and displays were put on by students and teachers, workshops were conducted by Dr.

David Browne of Queen's College and tours of the Charles A. Robertson African Gallery were conducted by the Education Officer, Peggy McGeary, and Curator of Archaeology and History, Kevin Farmer, and tour guide, Antonia Hinds. The Education Officer also assisted the Planning Committee with the coordination of this event.



The BMHS Director addressing invited guests at the Opening Ceremony for African Awareness activities



Students arriving for the African Awareness activities

Gender Analysis Workshop

The Assistant Curator-Art attended a four -day workshop on 20th and 21st June and continues on 5th and 6th July at the ACR Business Solutions Inc. Building on Harbour Road. The workshop was organised through the Bureau of Gender Affairs by Mrs. Nalita Gajadhar and facilitated by Mrs. Keturah Babb, Ms. Joy Workman and Ms. Michelle Barrow.



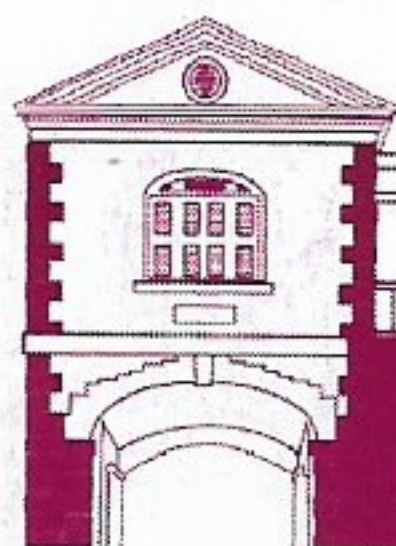
Facilitator Mrs. Keturah Babb, as she gave one of the first presentations

The course looked at the social construction of gender, gender roles and relations, gender and sustainable development, gender analysis and gender planning. Through lectures, interactive sessions and reference materials, participants were able to:

- Better understand the reality of women and men and the implications of sex and gender stereotyping
- Identify barriers and obstacles men and women face as they attempt to perform their multiple roles
- Understand the process by which policy is formulated and the extent to which these processes determine the achievement of national development goals
- The importance of incorporating gender into development policies
- Develop strategies that empower policy makers to incorporate gender in national policies, plans and projects.



Participants and facilitators during one of the interactive sessions discussing the topic "Understanding the Reality of Men and Women"



ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS

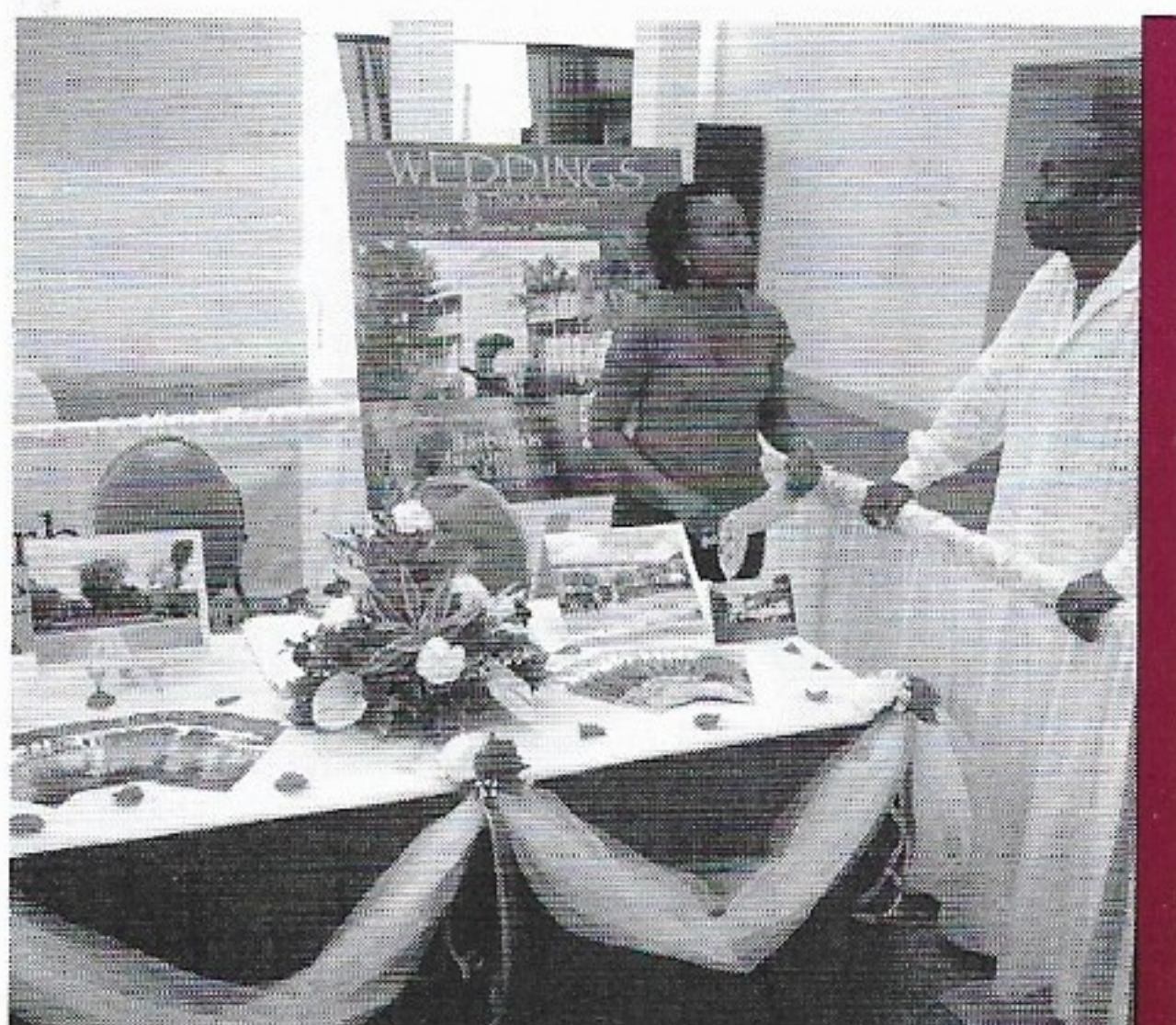
Staff Lime

Museum staff enjoyed refreshments under the shade and cool breeze of the Upper Courtyard on Friday, 19th May as part of the activities for Cultural Heritage Week. The food and drinks were flowing, as well as jovial conversation.



Staff members partaking of the refreshments

Wedding & Honeymoon Show



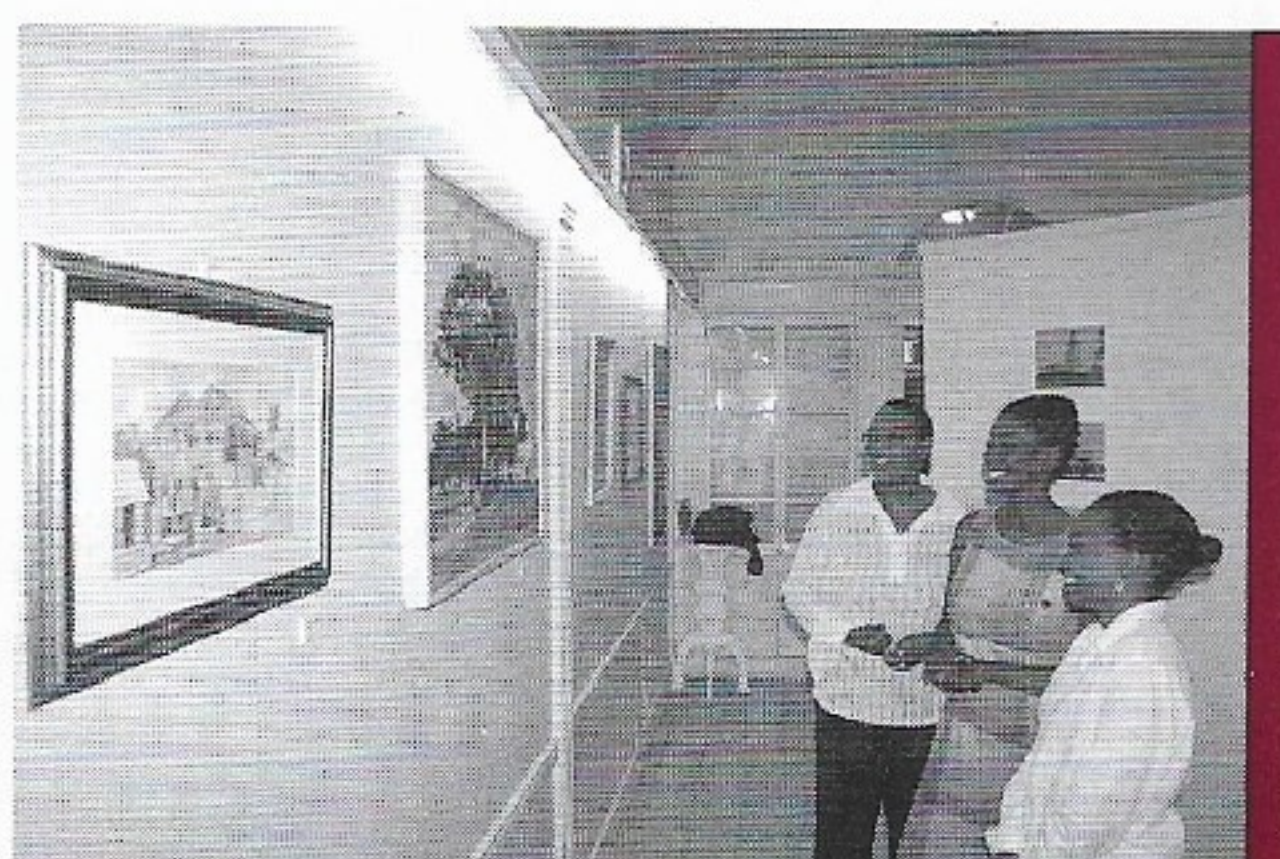
The Museum's booth at the Wedding & Honeymoon Show

The Museum marketed its services as a venue for wedding ceremonies and receptions, and other special events, during the Wedding & Honeymoon Show, which was held on 10th and 11th June at Sherbourne Conference Centre. Peggy McGeary and Merna Bryan dressed the table with elegant decorations and Peggy contributed a flower arrangement as the centerpiece. This was an enviable opportunity for the Marketing Officer,

Christine Skeete, and Event Coordinator, Cindy Corbin, assisted by Librarian Greta Payne, to showcase the beauty of the Museum's courtyards and to promote property rentals and other services to a targeted audience. Networking with event planners and other special event service providers was an added benefit of this trade show.

Transitions Exhibition

The month-long temporary art exhibition entitled "TRANSITIONS: The Changing Face of The Barbados Museum and Historical Society", opened on 1st June, in the Aall Gallery featuring the works of the following seven local artists: Susan Alleyne-Forde, Everick Lynton, Adrian Compton, David Skinner, Fielding Babb, John Walcott and Michael Naemsch, as well as early-twentieth century photographs and works by Fela deKuh, Kathleen Berman, Robert McCloud and Richard Day from the Museums' collection. The exhibition received several visitors and favourable comments.



Viewing the Transitions exhibition



"The Pink Building" by Everick Lynton



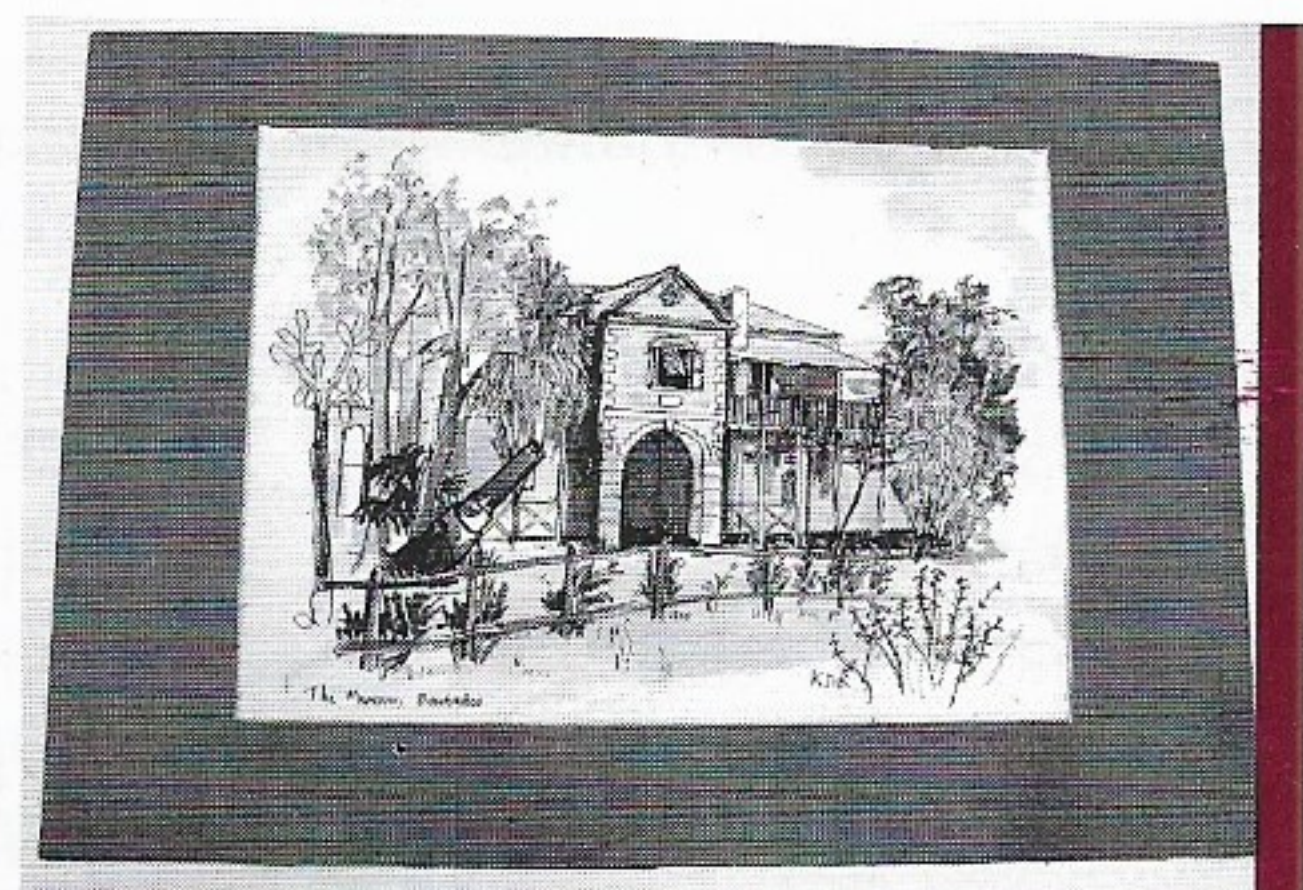
"The Barbados Museum" by Fielding Babb

About Kathleen D. Berman (c.1935 - 1996)

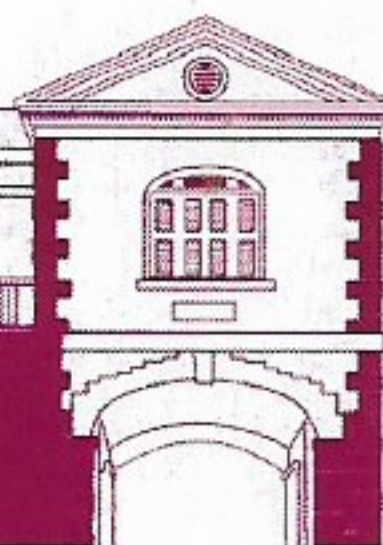
Kathleen D. Berman was born and educated in London where she studied art at The Central School of Arts and Crafts. She gained the National Diploma in Art and Design and went on to teach part-time, and write and illustrate books. She and her husband came to live in Barbados during January 1984 and stayed for two years, though they returned every year until 1996. During her time of residence here, Ms. Berman painted the island's historical sites and buildings of architectural interest.

The watercolour "Barbados Museum" was executed in 1984, and was donated to the Museum by her husband Mr. Lawrence Berman on March 10, 2001. Pen and ink accentuates the details in the watercolour in this visually appealing technique.

Three other works of the same media by Ms. Berman were also donated to the Museum – "Farley Hill Park" (1984-5), "Codrington College" (1985), "House at Rockley" (1989).



Kathleen Berman's "Barbados Museum", 1984



The Museum as a Popular Venue

The Museum was the venue for several wedding receptions over the past months, as well as a very well-attended tea party held by the Past Students of the Christ Church Girls Foundation School on 27th May, in honour of their former headmistress, Enid Lynch. And on the 10th June, the courtyards were transformed for the highly successful "In Full Bloom" fashion show.



Lesley Barrow, one of the organisers of the tea party

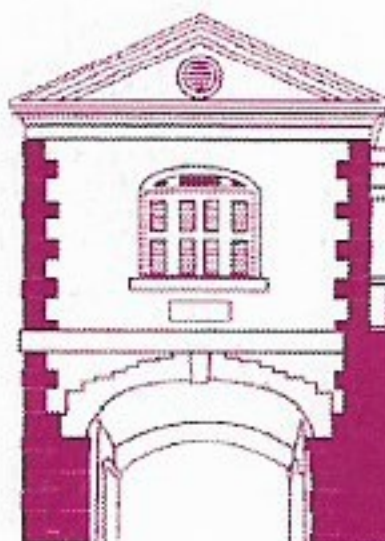
UNESCO World Heritage Regional Meeting

Barbados played host to the UNESCO sponsored sub-regional conference on "Outstanding Universal Value, Authenticity and Integrity" May 9th to 11th at the Grand Barbados Resort. The conference participants came from 13 English-speaking Caribbean and Central and South American countries. The conference was an intense one that sought to identify and articulate the regions concept of Outstanding Universal Value, Authenticity and Integrity as it relates to World Heritage for the WHC and IUCN. The BMHS Director gave opening remarks and chaired the sessions. The Museum organised a bus tour on 9th May and co-hosted a dinner and tour of our galleries on 10th May, along with Culture Division from the Prime Minister's Office. The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Reverend the Honourable Joseph Atherley was present.

Trinidad National Museum and Gallery

The Director, Alissandra Cummins was invited to present a feature address on "The Role of Museums in preserving the Cultural Heritage and Engendering National Identity", during a public panel discussion organised on 17th May, as part of the activities of the Trinidad National Museum in celebration of International Museum Day. The entire event was taped for public broadcast on national television. The presentation and discussion was well-received and thoroughly explored in discussions with the audience afterwards.

The following day, Ms. Cummins joined the Association of Caribbean Historians annual conference held at the University of West Indies, St Augustine campus.



ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Art History Intern

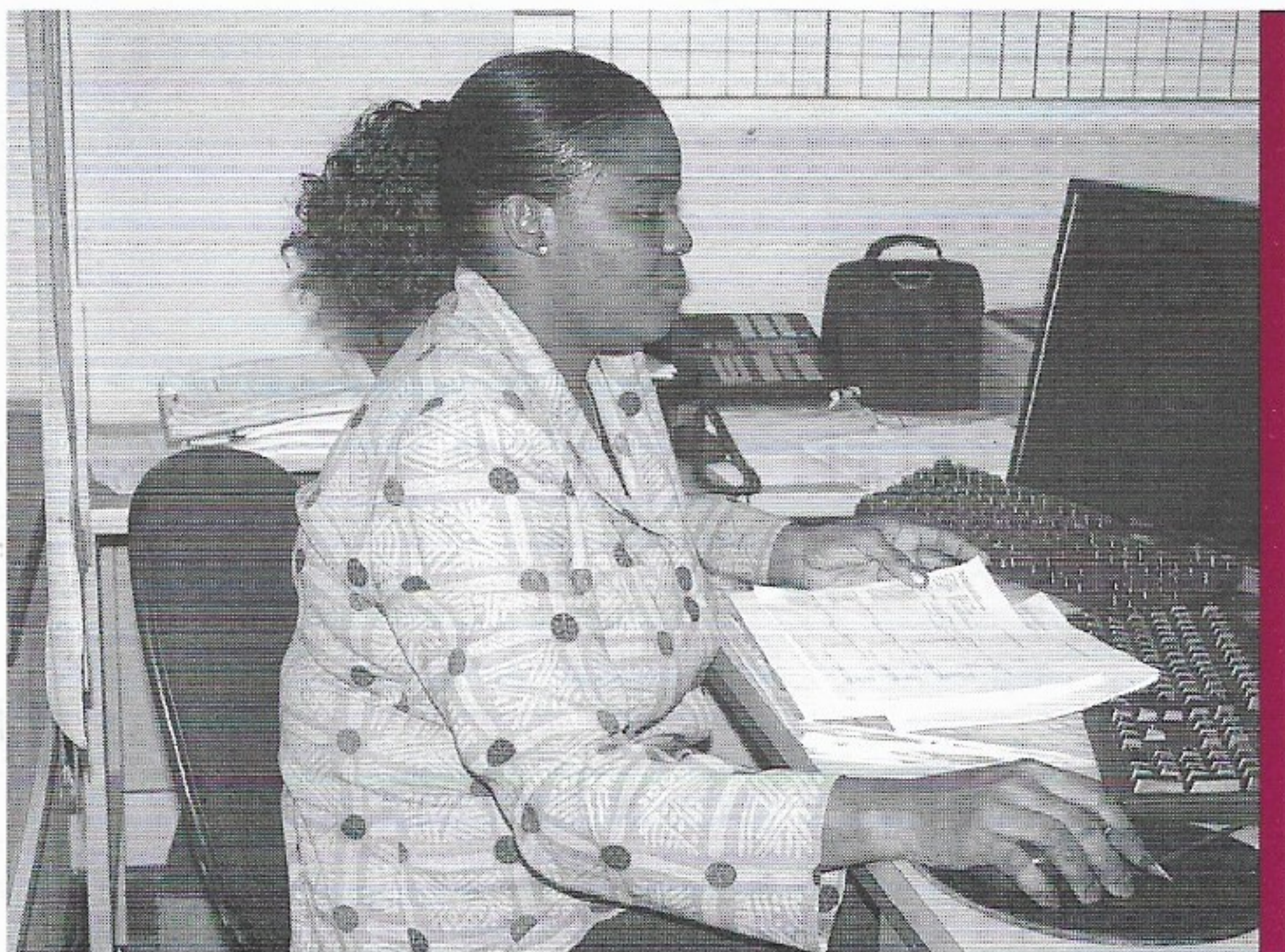
The BMHS welcomes Holly Worrell, an intern who recently graduated from Agnes Scott College in Atlanta with a degree in Art History and French. She is seeking to conduct art history research and gain some experience in this field from May to mid- August 2006.

Acting Staff Appointed

Christine Skeete and Cindy Corbin have been appointed to the positions of Marketing Officer and Event Coordinator respectively after acting in these capacities for the past few months.

Welcome to New Staff Members

Sharon Farrell says that as a new member of staff at the Museum, she has been given the opportunity to give kudos to those who have been, and still are, working extremely hard now and throughout the past years to keep the BMHS as a tourist and local attraction to the Barbadian society and the world at large. She remarks that it is not only a sight to behold, but an appreciation to our forefathers as one looks back from where we came from. Sharon also says, "As a budding Certified General Accountant (CGA) my new position as Administrative Officer – Accounts, has given me the opportunity to further gain experience in my career and to handle time management and other expertise that enables you to climb the corporate ladder. Thanks to the management and staff that have given me that opportunity to excel."



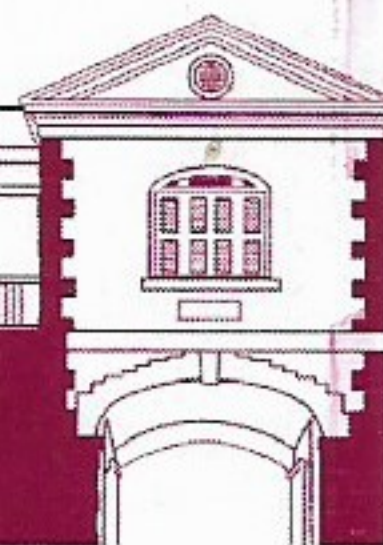
Sharon Farrell, the new Administrative Officer - Accounts

Mrs. Anthea Callender has brought to the Museum eight years of accounting experience with three of those at the management level. She notes that she was introduced to the operations capacity of her role swiftly and comprehensively. Her first impressions of the Museum's culture include the high level of staff dedication and friendliness. She adds, "The Administration team has been very courteous to my needs and I embrace them fully. I only hope that I can make as meaningful a contribution to the Museum as it has made to Barbados."



Anthea Callender, the new Finance Officer

ANNOUNCEMENTS/STAFF UPDATE



Upcoming Events & Activities

African Textile Exhibition

All are invited to view the African Textile Exhibition entitled 'From the Loom to the Body' from 25th July to 30th August 2006 in the Museum's Aall Gallery. The exhibit showcases African textiles from the Charles A. Robertson collection, housed at the Barbados Museum. The 21 textiles in the exhibit were donated by Mr. Eric Robertson in memory of his father.

These textiles reveal the weaving and textile traditions of countries located in West and Central Africa, including Cameroon, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Barbados Horticultural Society's Chelsea Medals

The Barbados Horticultural Society's gold and silver gilt medals from the Chelsea

Flower Show, from 1989 to 2006, will be on display at the Museum in celebration of their eighteen years of success.

Ole Time Excursion Bus Tours

The Ole Time Excursion Bus Tours continue. Some upcoming tours still have spaces available. Book your seat today.

STAFF UPDATE

MUSEUM COUNCIL

Patron

His Excellency Sir Clifford Husbands
G.C.M.G. K.A.
Governor General of Barbados

Council

President

Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C.

Senior Vice President

Prof. Woodville Marshall

Junior Vice President

Mrs. Kathleen Drayton

Ordinary Members

Mr. Adrian Deane

Mrs. Joyce Gayle

Mr. Richard Goddard

Mr. Humphrey Metzgen

Mr. Peter Simpson

Stella Lady St. John

Government Appointees

Mrs. Andrea Wells

Professor Hilary Beckles

Mr. Steven Devonish

Ms. Faye Burke

Mrs. Celia Toppin

MUSEUM STAFF

Director

Alissandra Cummins

Deputy Director

Dr. Thomas Loftfield

Finance Officer

Anthea Callender

Education Officer

Peggy McGearry

Marketing Officer

Christine Skeete

Administrative Officer

Susan Boyce

Administrative Officer - Accounts

Sharon Farrell

Administration Assistant - Merchandising

Marcia Griffith

Event Coordinator

Cindy Corbin

Receptionist & Shop Assistant

Kandacey Rollock

Librarian

Greta Payne

Curatorial

Archaeology and History

Kevin Farmer

Art and Art History

Allison Callender

Natural History

Monique Ifill

Registrar

Angela Boyce

Curatorial Data Coordinator

James Marshall

Technical and Maintenance

Stephen Layne

Reginald Riley

Pauline Stuart

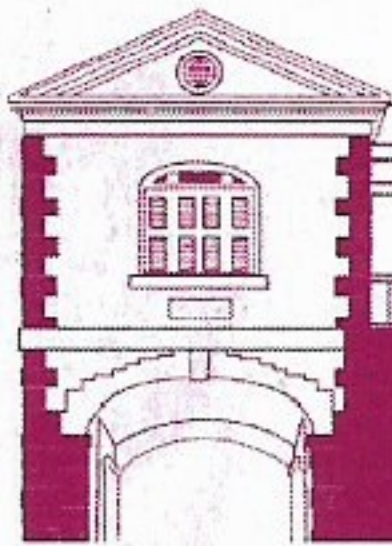
Merna Bryan

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 _____

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.