

# ARTI-FACTS

Barbados  
Museum  
& Historical  
Society

BARBADOS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## Dear Member,

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

Many individuals left their mark on the Museum over the past few months. From all reports, we can safely describe their stints as mutually enriching. Junior Curators, interns and new employees have all made valuable contributions to important projects.

Read about an archaeological dig led by our Deputy Director. Find out about a trip to Madagascar, and also about visits from dignitaries and from others on special trips from abroad.

Exciting plans are underway for this year's Fine Craft Festival which will boast several new features, and the 2006 Classic Card collection is about to be produced.

We are always seeking to incorporate feedback and good ideas into our work at the Museum, so please feel free to send your comments and ideas about Arti-Facts or Museum activities, by mail or Email: musepr@barbmuse.org.bb.

*Christine Skeete*

Christine Skeete  
Marketing Officer



Peggy McGeary (standing) speaking at the farewell function for the Junior Curators  
Left to right (seated): Terri, Stacia, Ronelle and Antonia

## Junior Curator Programme

Training for the Junior Curator Programme started in late May when examinations at most of the island's educational institutions were completed.

This year, four young ladies took part in the programme: Ronelle Als, Antonia Hinds, Stacia Hinds and Terri Manning. Stacia and Terri were in the final stage of university education. Antonia had recently returned from Germany, after completing her associate degree at the Barbados Community College. She speaks German, Italian and French and is becoming fluent in Spanish. She began her university studies in September. Ronelle is a student in the Hospitality Division of the Barbados Community College.

Apart from being trained to do museum tours, the group was taken on "field trips" to educate them more about natural and built Barbadian heritage. They enjoyed these tours tremendously and often commented on their educational value. They toured several places in the north and centre of the island, including the Scotland district area, St. John's Parish Church, Earthworks Pottery and Speightstown, where a walking tour was conducted.

The young people conducted tours with a total of over 1,700 visitors to the Museum during July and August. Between tours, they all assisted the Education Officer, Peggy

McGeary with research for Teachers' Resource Packs.

Stacia and Ronelle provided some administrative assistance to Mrs. McGeary.

Terri spent three weeks working with Professor Loftfield at an archaeology dig at Codrington College. After the dig she spent another two weeks, between tours, washing and sorting pottery from the dig.

Antonia showcased her artistic talent by drawing objects from the galleries which could be coloured as activity for young children.

These young ladies worked extremely hard and were very dedicated to the tasks which were assigned to them by the Education Officer and curators.

In their written reports they all commented on how valuable the experience was, how it has expanded their horizons and developed abilities they never thought they had, such as speaking in front of groups. They all agreed that they had a wonderful summer at the Museum.

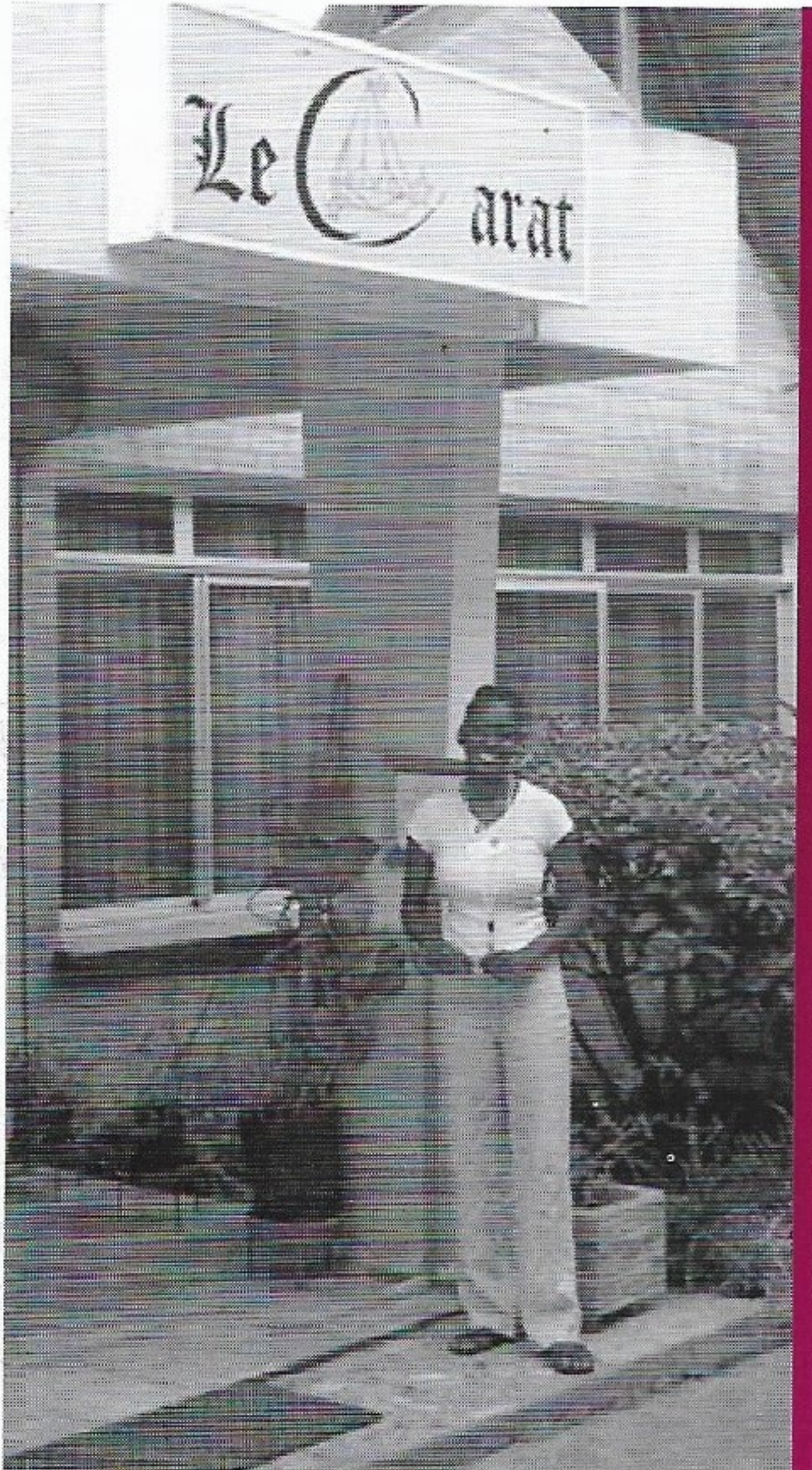
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# SAMP/ALAS Course in Madagascar



Allison Callender outside of Le Carat Hotel

From 17th to 22nd September, the Assistant Curator - Art & Art History, Allison Callender attended the Network Management Course 2A held by SAMP/ALAS at Le Carat Hotel in Madagascar.

The African-Swedish Museum Network (SAMP), and the Asia, Latin America, Swedish Museums Network (ALAS) combine to form a network of African and Swedish Museums working together in an institutional partnership which facilitates the development of museums in a cross border approach, for the benefit of their communities. This is achieved through working together in twin ships, joint projects, capacity building and research.

Barbados is the only English speaking country from the Latin American region



The participants during one of the sessions

participating in SAMP/ALAS projects. The Barbados Museum and Historical Society signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to participate in joint projects from May 2005 - May 2010. The Curator - History and Archaeology, Kevin Farmer; Registrar, Angela Boyce; Administrative Officer, Susan Boyce, and former Administrative Assistant - Accounts, Wendy Husbands have all participated in SAMP/ALAS conferences and workshops between 2003 and 2005.

Since the aim of SAMP/ALAS is to involve entire organisations in projects, another two individuals were selected to participate in the project. The two are Peggy McGeary, Education Officer and Allison Callender, Assistant Curator - Art & Art History.

The course in Madagascar was attended by individuals from 16 countries - Barbados, Bolivia, Cape Town, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, four areas of Nigeria, six towns in Sweden, Tanzania, Zambia and two areas of Zimbabwe. Their professional backgrounds were varied and the group included assistant curators, directors, librarians, exhibit designers and web masters.

The facilitators were from Sweden and Zimbabwe.

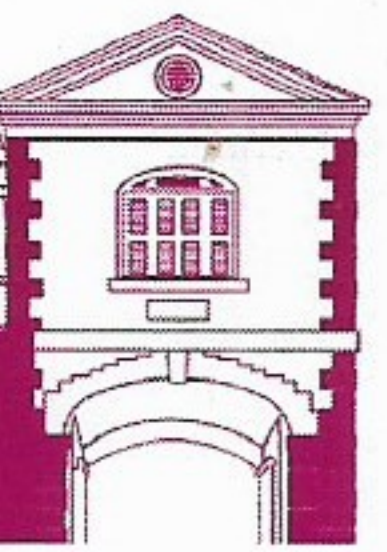
Allison reports, "Apart from minor challenges, the experience of working together with persons from other countries was beneficial and would go a long way in assisting me with not only working with others in my home environment but with others abroad as one is aware of the steps needed to create and maintain a project."

At the end of the workshop, participants were able to attain the following objectives:

- Work with LFA in designing, monitoring, evaluating and reporting SAMP/ALAS projects
- Explain how SAMP/ALAS could be institutionalized in their respective museums
- Give account for SAMP/ALAS roles on advancing the relationship between museums in different countries
- Appreciate the importance of working in intercultural networks

The second part of the course, Project Team Management 2B, will be held in Sweden from 4th -10th November 2006.





### UWI-Museum Summer Field School

During the last three weeks of July, the Deputy Director, Dr. Tom Loftfield and Curator - History and Archaeology, Kevin Farmer, conducted the annual UWI-Museum Summer Field School in Archaeology. This year's excavation continued work on the original 17th century sugar factory at Codrington College where students from UWI uncovered portions of the boiling house. Artefacts from the boiling house, locally made earthenware pottery vessels, and prehistoric Amerindian shell tools and pottery shards were recovered.



Preparing the soil for digging in an excavation square



The group, left to right - Terri Manning, Beverley Greene, Erskine, Mornel Horne, Ranulf Marshall, Julie Miller. Missing from the photo are: Marie-Claire Evelyn and Teddy Leon.



Background - Removing soil from excavation squares (third from left is Marie-Claire Evelyn). Foreground - Measuring and drawing finds in the ground (stooping is Teddy Leon).

### Art History Intern

For two and a half months, the BMHS hosted intern, Holly Worrell, who recently graduated from Agnes Scott College in Atlanta with a degree in Art History and French. At the Museum, she conducted art history research and gained some experience in this field from May 22 to August 04, 2006.

During this time, she prepared newspaper articles on artists and exhibitions for

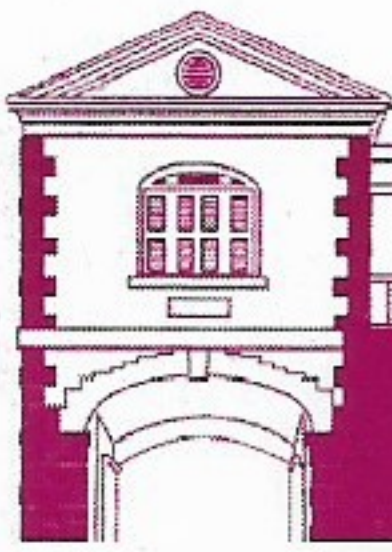
further research on local and regional artists. She also translated Brunias articles from French to English, and from Spanish to English, and researched 18th and 19th century artists in the prints and paintings collection currently stored in the Main Store, for a possible upcoming exhibition.

In addition, she assisted with the compiling of an inventory of works on

paper from the Accessions Register 2000 to the present, identifying the method of acquisition, transferring information into a readable format.

Since completing her internship at the Museum, Holly has gone on to pursue a masters degree in Art History in the UK.





## PROJECTS IN BRIEF

### Marketing Intern

The BMHS welcomed an intern from the University of the West Indies' Management Studies programme who was seeking to gain insight into the Museum's management systems and practical experience in marketing. Fabianna Alexander was therefore attached mainly to the BMHS' Marketing Department but also learned about the operations of the Education, Library, Curatorial, and Administration Departments.

She assisted with visitor surveys, research into competing souvenir shops, distribution of remaining Classic Cards to souvenir shops around the island. In addition, she handled special event bookings while the Event Coordinator was on leave.

At the end of her time at the Museum Fabianna said, "It was a great learning experience." She noted that she enjoyed working on property rentals for special events most of all. Fabianna plans to



Fabianna Alexander with Marketing Officer, Christine Skeete

continue to be involved with the Museum through volunteering.

### Forging Links between Military Museums

Marie-Louise Kerr visited the Barbados Museum in early September. Ms. Kerr is the Director of the Cheshire Military Museum in the UK and was touring military museums in several countries as part of a research project on widening audiences and educational access to military museums. This was facilitated by a fellowship from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. These awards are given to help British citizens acquire knowledge and experience abroad.

Ms. Kerr noted, "Without the welcome and help I received in the museum, my project would have been quite different and my research not nearly as enjoyable or productive. I feel my

research trip was an amazing success – I thoroughly enjoyed my stay in Barbados and learnt so much from my interaction with the museum and all its staff, especially the curators and those in education and marketing."



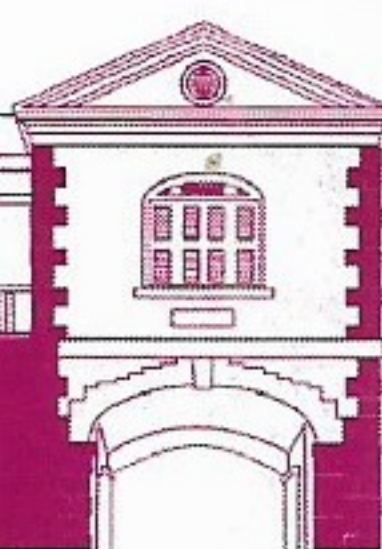
Marie-Louise Kerr

We anticipate that Ms. Kerr's visit will lead to assistance for the Barbados Museum & Historical Society (BMHS) in developing the Military Museum in St. Ann's Fort in the Garrison. The BMHS along with Barbados Tourism Investment Inc. hopes to have the Military Museum open to the public by early 2007.

### Archaeology Intern

In late September, the Museum welcomed Marie Aptel from the south of France to intern here in order to develop practical skills in archaeology. She has an undergraduate degree in archaeology from a university in Lyons, France. She notes that her studies focused on the theoretical aspect of archaeology. She says "My time with the Museum will provide a chance to some real archaeology." Marie is no stranger to Barbados as she has friends here that she met in France and has been visiting every year for the past three years. On this occasion, she will be in Barbados for a year and plans to use this time to be involved in the areas in which she has particular interest. At a later date, she will conduct research using the Museum's resources in preparation for her second degree.





## Sailors Valentines or Shell Boxes

In the 1800's sailors established a tradition of giving their sweethearts exotic shell art when returning from long voyages at sea. Sailor's Valentines or shell boxes are usually octagonally-shaped boxes containing arrangements of shells covered with glass.

It should be noted that they are not boxes covered with shells as some may believe. The technique of arranging shells in these boxes differed from that of the earlier shell pictures, where the shells were glued into place on a wooden support. The arrangements were usually of flowers in a vase or basket, or alternatively a geometric arrangement of shells and shell flowers, which were glued to a support of cotton wadding that lined the bottom of the box. Sometimes pieces of newspaper were inserted beneath the cotton wadding to give additional support to a heavy shell, or to raise some portion of the design.

Barbados is believed to be the source of all Sailor's Valentines since the earliest and latest dates are 1830 and 1869. Fragments of the May 15th 1833 issue of "The Barbadian" have made it possible to date the shell boxes.

During the early 1800's to the late Victorian era, all of the octagonal, and some rectangular, shell-filled cases were

produced. During the 18th and 19th centuries, a great deal of shell work was created in Barbados, as it was "proximate to the shell beaches."

Barbados' geographic position as the most easterly of the British West Indies meant that the island was the centre of supply and distribution to ships in the 18th and 19th centuries, and this led to the popularity of the Sailor's Valentine.

Every shell in the Sailor's Valentine is native to the West Indies, and each shell is commonly found in Barbados. One of the most frequently used is the limpet. Other common shells include the white olive, pink chiton, ornate scallop and minute white telling.

In addition, some of the Sailors valentines bear the words "A Present from Barbados" or "A Gift from Barbados" spelled out in shells, which proves that some of these souvenirs originated in Barbados. In fact, no other country has been found to be similarly noted within this type of shell work.

The Barbados Museum and

Historical Society presently has two Sailor's Valentines on display in the Jubilee and Warmington Galleries.



## New Acquisition

The Museum has recently acquired a photographic album of images taken by H. W. Parkinson in the 20th century. The photographs depict the agricultural sector of Barbados during that time, through images of factories, factory works, labourers and machinery.

The album was part of the estate of the late Gordon Parkinson and the photographer was his father, the late H.

W. Parkinson. The album was labelled 'G' and indicates a series of albums.

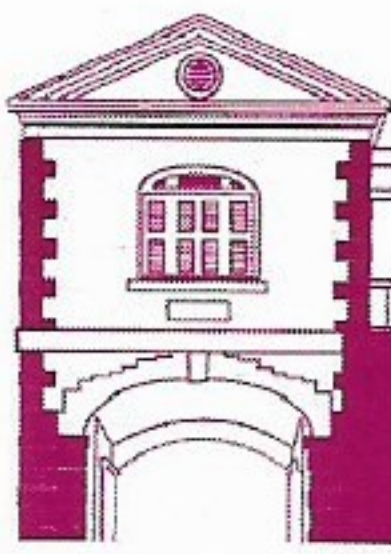
One of the more interesting photographs is that of the copper still at the Mount Gay factory. A similar still can be seen even today at the Mount Gay Visitor Centre on Spring Garden.

Other factories featured in the photographs include Broomfield in St. Lucy, Bulkeley in St. George, Colleton

in St. John, Lears in St. Michael, Mount Poyer in St. Lucy and Spring Garden, also in St. Lucy.

The album serves to allow us a glimpse into the past and to provide visual evidence of objects and places which may not be in use but are still in existence and remain important parts of our heritage. Galleries.





## ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

### Visiting Dignitaries

On 23rd August, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, accompanied by his wife Cherie Blair and their son paid a brief and unexpected visit to the Museum. Mr. Blair's arrival was deliberately void of fanfare, and thanks to his bodyguards, he almost made it through the galleries unrecognised. Deputy Director, Dr. Tom Loftfield managed to converse with Mr. Blair just before he slipped away.

The subsequent visit of Barbados' Prime Minister the Right Honourable Owen Arthur two weeks later nearly equalled Mr. Blair's with regard to informality. He was greeted by the Museum's Deputy Director and Education Officer, and was introduced to other staff members.

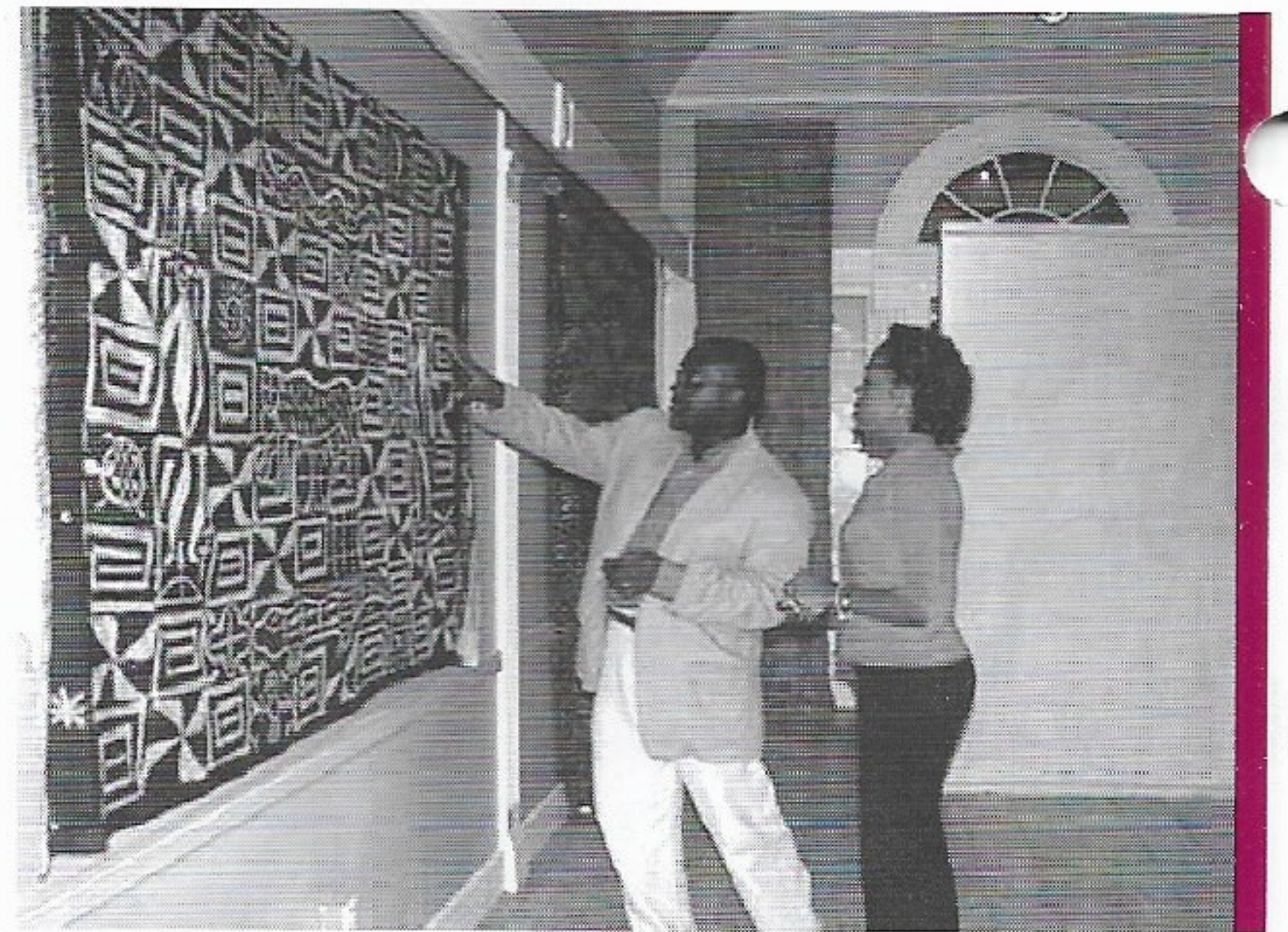
### African Textile Exhibition

The African Textile Exhibition opened exclusively to members on 24th July in the Museum's Aall Gallery and officially opened to the general public from the following day through to 30th August.

The exhibit showcased 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.

Many visitors to this exhibition described it as "impressive" and some remarked that they were inspired by it. One person commented, "I've read the books and seen the pictures; now I've seen the actual textiles. Thank you."



Curator - History and Archaeology, Kevin Farmer, showing one of the textiles to a guest

### Museum Social

Deputy Director, Dr. Tom Loftfield and his wife Mrs. Kathleen Loftfield invited Museum staff, Council members and their families, as well as Junior Curators and other specially invited guests, into their Frizers Plantation home on 3rd September. It was a Sunday afternoon of

delightful fare, walks around the lovely grounds, and pleasant conversation. The children happily made use of the ample outdoor space. We are grateful to the Loftfields for initiating this opportunity to get to know each other better in a relaxed atmosphere.



Museum staff, Council, family and friends enjoying the garden setting at Frizers

### Cleaning Up Barbados

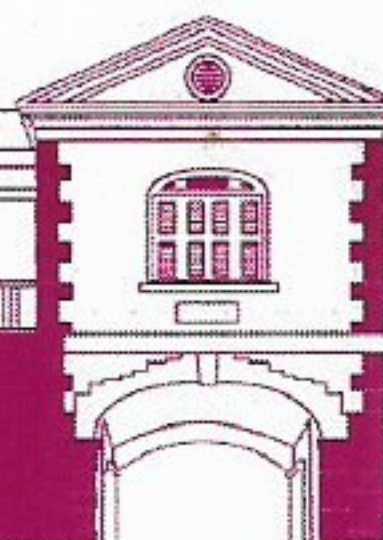
On 15th July, the Marketing Officer represented the Museum at the Clean Up Barbados initiative, which was held by Ocean Park at the beach behind

Harbour Lights in Bay Street. Several individuals, community groups and companies lent a helping hand to this worthwhile venture. The day was

productive and the results will augur well for the preservation of the environment around the Museum and beyond.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS/STAFF UPDATE



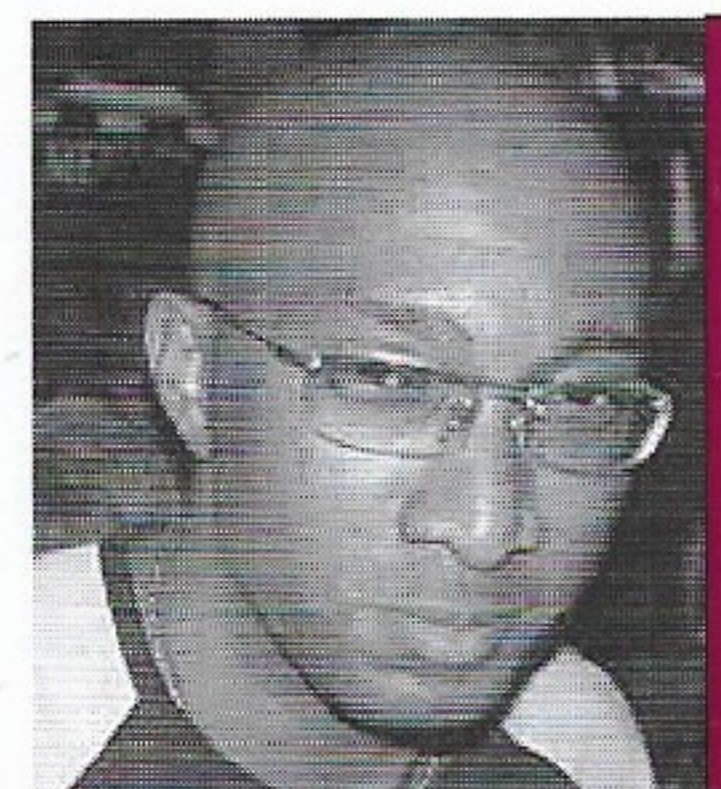
### Curator Pursues PhD

The Museum wishes Curator - History and Archaeology, Kevin Farmer, good luck as he embarks on a PhD in Archaeology in the UK. He will be missed during his year-long absence but we look forward to his return to work in the middle of 2007, at which stage he will complete the degree while being based in Barbados.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Welcome to a New Staff Member

Antony Barker joined the Museum staff on 18th September the new Administrative Officer - Accounts. He feels that his appointment to the Finance team at the museum has enlightened my understanding of the operation of a non-profit organisation. Antony adds, "Welcomed by a warm and friendly staff, my transition into the day to day operations of the museum has been relatively effortless while maintaining a high degree of professionalism and pride in our work. It is my intention to use this opportunity to broaden my scope into the world of museum accounting and grow as the organisation grows."



Antony Barker, the new Administrative Officer - Accounts

### Herbarium Project

Kareem Sabir is currently working on a new Herbarium Project. This is a joint project between the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Barbados Museum and Historical Society to make information on the collection of vascular plants of Barbados freely available to anyone who wants to access it. This is in keeping with the modern trend of creating a virtual,

online version of a herbarium that is freely accessible.

Kareem holds a degree in Biology with a minor in Ecology. His main responsibility is to compile a computer database with information from the specimens which are currently mounted on paper, dating as far back as 1901, and also taking high-resolution photographs of the specimens to include in the database. The textual information and photos will be uploaded to the UWI database and made available online.

## MEMBERSHIP & STAFF UPDATE

### Member Surveys

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the member survey so far. If you have not returned the survey yet, it's not too late. On 31st December, results will be compiled. A summary of these results will be published in the newsletter and on the website in the new year. It is imperative that we receive email addresses for all members as we would like to provide notices to you in a more timely manner through this medium. We have been receiving helpful suggestions on

improving our service to you and we look forward to receiving any other ideas you may have.

### Fundraising Initiatives

We are appealing to members to assist us with the sourcing of donations of lucky dip prizes for children attending the 2006 Fine Craft Festival. Contacts or monetary contributions for games, books, toys and accessories are all welcome. We would also love to hear from anyone who is

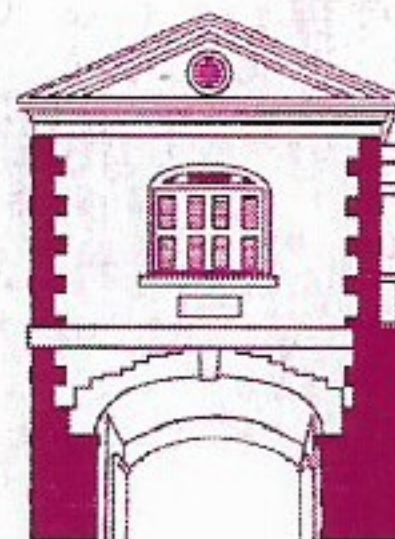
willing to volunteer his or her time to assist us with museum tours, gate receipts, or children's activities on the day of the event. This year's Fine Craft Festival will be a cultural extravaganza for the entire family, featuring exquisite local craft as well as Bajan food, entertainment, a jumping tent, donkey cart rides, costumed historical characters and much more.

Ideas for fundraising are welcome, including garden parties at the homes of any members who are willing.

### Classic Cards

The 2006 Classic Cards will soon be available. Call to place your order today from either this year's or last year's collections.





## 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 McGeary

Marketing Officer  
Christine Skeete

Administrative Officer  
Susan Boyce

Administrative Officer -  
Accounts  
Antony Barker

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

## 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:

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Expiry date:

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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.