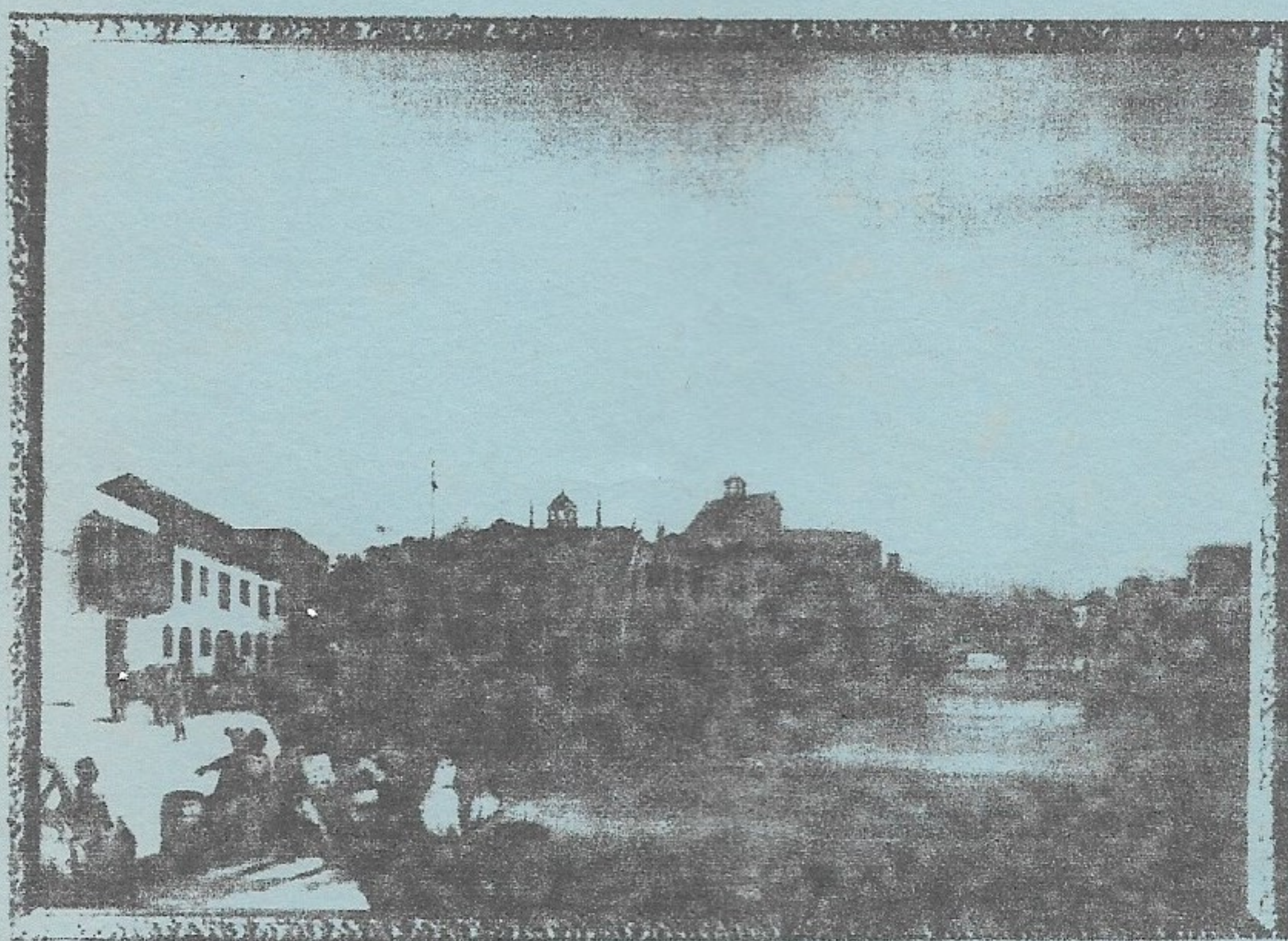


No. 8

2nd Quarter, 1984

Newsletter of



The Barbados Museum & Historical Society

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Annual General Meeting 1984 (Not the Official Minutes)

The Annual General Meeting of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society was held on Wednesday, 18 April, 1984. Since the Museum's financial year finishes at the end of May, it was not possible for the President's Report to be completed by then. The President reported verbally, and the written version will be circulated later.

Only one panel of officers and members of the Society had been proposed. They were therefore duly elected - The Honorable J.S.B. Dear, C.H.B., President;

Dr. T. Carmichael, 1st Vice President; Mrs. J. Goddard, 2nd Vice President; Mr. R.B. Goddard, Honorary Treasurer; Mr. R.M.R. Hunte, Honorary Secretary; Mr. W.W. Alleyne; Miss M. Haskell; Miss J. Sheppard and Mr. C.R. Webster.

Under the present constitution the five Government appointed members are:- Miss C. Archer, Mrs. A. Haynes, Prof. W. Marshall, Mr. E.E. Mottley and Mr. E. Rose.

The main item to be decided was the alteration of the By-laws. The Council's proposals for the changes in the membership fees were discussed. The fee for Life Membership was increased to \$400.00, Firm or Company Membership \$100.00 minimum per annum and Annual Membership to \$30.00 per annum. It was proposed from the floor and carried that a Husband and Wife may hold Joint Annual Membership at \$40.00 per annum. They will have two votes but only receive one set of literature between them. The Council's proposal to abolish Associate Membership was not accepted, but it was decided that no new Associate Members will be accepted. Present Associate Members will no longer receive the newsletter. The Council also recommended Junior Membership, at \$5.00 per annum. It was agreed to restrict this membership to persons 18 years or under.

The section dealing with the changing of the wording to recognise the existence of the five Government members was also discussed. The proposed wording was agreed by a large majority.

At the end of the meeting Dr. Henry Petit-Jean Roget, Director of the Museums in Guadeloupe and Marie Galante gave a lecture about Museum Development there.

Finally, an open bar was held for the members present.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Our Barbecue

The Barbecue was held at the Museum on Saturday 12 May. This was to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Museum, which took place on 8 May, 1934. The actual foundation of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society took place about a year before this, but the present premises were only acquired from Government at a peppercorn rent, the following Autumn.

Eventually 163 tickets were sold and 149 patrons attended. The net profit from the evening amounted to over \$2,500.

A black belly sheep was roasted whole on a spit, and steak and chicken were also provided.

Entertainment was provided by Piercy Ward who generously donated part of his fee to the Museum.

Tribute must be paid to all the people who helped in the success of this venture. Firstly I should thank the staff for the enthusiasm and devotion to duty displayed. In addition thanks must go to the contributors who were:-

Peter Gooding - B'dos Reinforced Concrete, Spit
 Maurice Norville - 1627 and All That, Awnings, tables, chairs
 Victor Clarke - Gov't Printery, Tickets
 Larry Tatem, - Hanschell Inniss Harrisons, Liquor
 N. Smith & T. Ashby - B'dos Bottlers Ltd., Soft Drinks
 Mr. Skeete - Bim Beverages, Soft Drinks
 Sen W. Hall - Banks B'dos Breweries Ltd., Beer
 Hon. J. Dear & Sen. M. Reece, Liquor
 R. Evelyn & Big 'B' Supermarket, Discount on Purchase
 Montrose Poultry Farms, Chicken
 Mrs. Bishop - Discount on Sheep

Tribute must be paid to Mrs. Dorothy Devenish for organising the event. Thank also to Mr. David Clarke and his assistants in the Bar.

Members and friends of members, who contributed dishes include Mrs. Betty Carrillo, Mrs. Hyacinth Cummins, the Mottleys, Mrs. Newton, Mr. Williams, Mrs. May Ramdin, Mrs. Joan Robinson, Mrs. Sally Hadchity, Mrs. Sandra Hart, Mrs. Margaret Deutsch, Mrs. Gooding,

Our Barbecue cont'd

Miss Susan Walcott, Mrs. Penny Richardson, Mrs. Carol Firth Mr. Robert Power, also Mr. Chris Barber of Sandy Beach Hotel. Mr. Young of Purity Bakeries and Mr. Clyde Barnes of Paradise Beach Hotel.

Finally we come to the door prizes. We are most grateful to a number of organisations in Barbados which very kindly provided these. They were as follows:-

A weekend for two compliments the Crane Hotel, won by Mrs. Jean Callender.

One tour ticket to a service destination compliments of Safari Tours and Aero Services (B'dos) Ltd., won by Mr. Robert Dubinsky.

Two tickets on the Jolly Roger, won by Miss Laurelli King

One ticket for 1627 and All That, won by our Honorary Secretary Mr. R.M.R. Hunte.

A month's subscription to the Radiant Health Club at the Hilton Hotel, won by Mr. Chris Hadchity.

Two tickets for Harrison's Cave, won by Mrs. Alice Ward

Free annual membership for the Barbados

National Trust, won by Mr. Alfred Pragnell.

Free annual membership for the Barbados Museum and Historical Society won by Janette Cole-Wilkin.

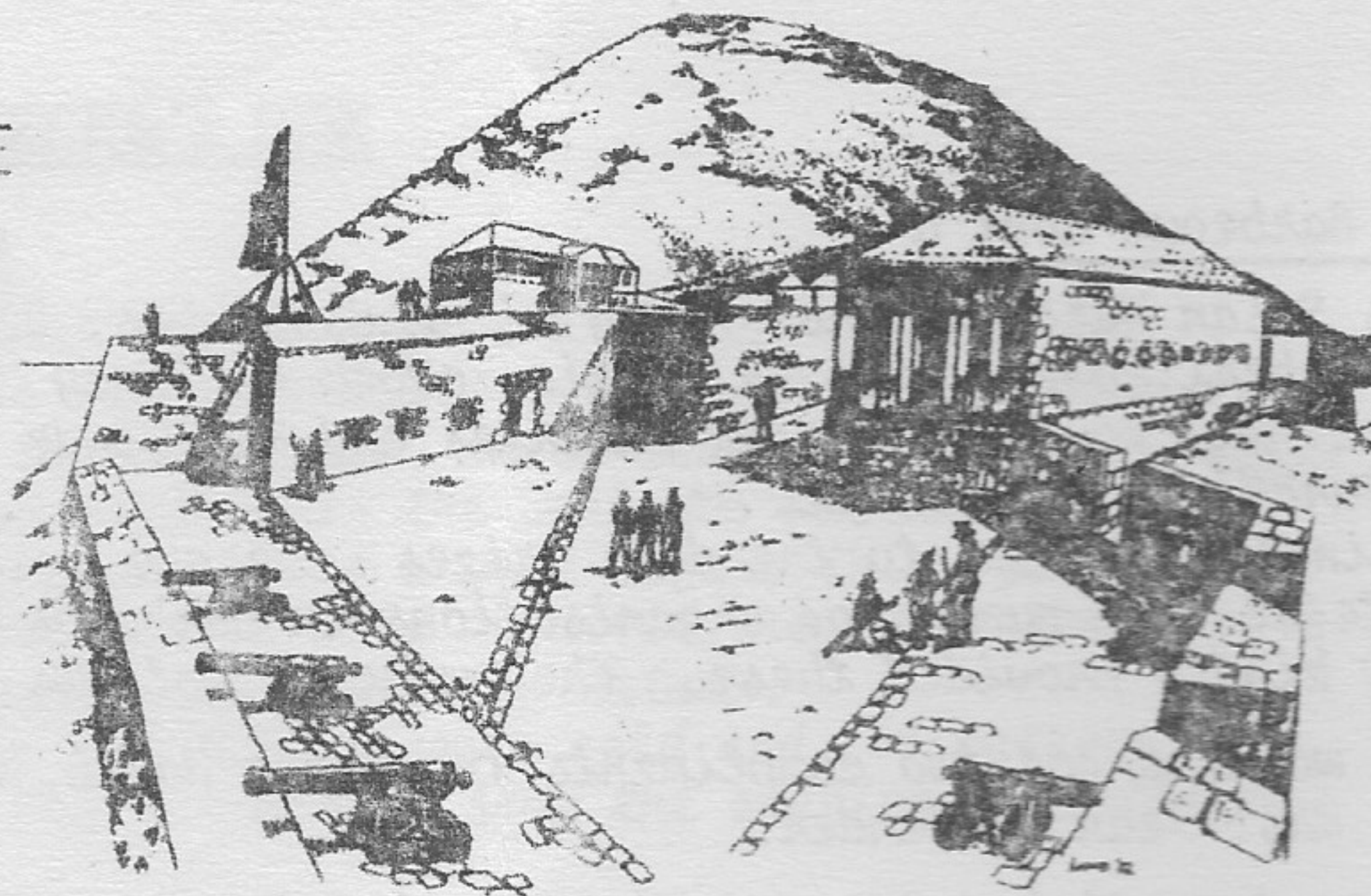
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Museum Hosts Open Days

Recently three open days were held at the Museum to which people working in the island's tourist industry were invited, together with their families. Open days were as follows: 25 April - Hoteliers; 2nd May - Taxi Drivers; and 9 May - Travel Agents, Tour Operators and Airline staff. Guests were offered snacks (generously donated by Wonder Bakeries Ltd.) and drinks before being taken on a guided tour of the Museum.

* * * *

TO RECAPTURE A FORTRESS



By Lennox Honychurch

At the end of the 18th century the British constructed a garrison in the north of Dominica to defend the magnificent Prince Rupert's Bay where ships of the Royal Navy anchored to collect fresh water, provisions, and wood and to rest their crews. In 1854 the last troops to man the garrison marched out of its gates and the military buildings were left to the mercy of the luxuriant forest which quickly spread itself over and between the massive walls and ramparts made of cut volcanic stone. Today, a small team of masons, woodcutters and technical personnel are working to recapture the fortress from the forest and turn some of the buildings into an educational and visitors centre for information on Dominica; a sort of open-air museum, offering a variety of exhibits and activities both natural and historical, sprawling over the two-hundred acre headland call the Cabrits.

Because it has been lost in the forest on an isolated headland for so long, few people outside Dominica have ever heard of this garrison, ranking in size along with Brimstone Hill, St. Kitts; Shirley Heights, Antigua and the Barbados Garrison.

When the Treaty of Paris in 1763 transferred Dominica to the British for the first time, surveyors and engineers were quickly sent out to the island to lay plans for the towns, plantations and coastal defences. The Royal Engineers who came out to establish the forts to defend the island against the French and other foreign forces

TO RECAPTURE A FORTRESS cont'd

noted the strategic importance of the Cabrits headland at once. From 1771 there was a small military post in the valley between the two hills, but building began in earnest a few years later, just before the French captured the island again.

From 1778 to 1783, French engineers took over where the British had left off in the hope that they would hold the island permanently. But the Treaty of Versailles influenced by the British victory at the Battle of the Saintes, returned Dominica to the British.

From then, until 1826 work on the Cabrits garrison was a stop-and-start affair. By the end of it, the British, employing rented slaves, white artisans, soldiers and engineers had covered the 200 acres with one fort, seven batteries, seven cisterns, powder magazines, ordnance store-houses, barracks and officers' quarters to house and provide for 500 men and a company of artillery with officers as well as temporary accommodation for another 500 men in case of emergency.

Lt. Charles Shipley of Royal Engineers provided most of the plans, but the driving force behind the construction was General Thomas Shirley who served as Governor of Dominica and later of Antigua. He was insistent on the need for fortifications on the islands and the Cabrits garrison, Fort Shirley, bears his name. Stone was shaped into lintels, arches and gun slits, boulders carried, cannon hauled, land cleared and by the end of it all, over 50 structures and 35 cannons of various sizes were pointed seaward waiting for the enemy.

Today, activity stirs at the forested Garrison once more as the materials of war and conflict are turned into instruments for the promotion of peace and learning.

* * * *

MILITARY ARCHITECTURE - History Notes

"Pax Britannica" by James Morris supplies some information relevant to Barbados history. Morris wrote this book in 1968 and it is an account of the British empire on the 50th Anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign.

Because the Barbados Museum is situated in a former military prison, the information about the British colonial military is particularly interesting. We are aware that the first section of the Museum building was built before 1820 - the later addition came in 1853, but did not know where other British military prisons were located. On page 405, Morris lists the prisons. He said, "There were military prisons in Barbados, Malta, Bermuda, Egypt, Gibraltar, Nova Scotia, Ceylon, South Africa and Ireland".

Morris said that the Army's garrison buildings were descended from a common Indian pattern - red brick walls, verandahs, big square windows, long low silhouettes and officers villas hidden among the trees. In Britain, too military buildings were even erected to tropical specifications by mistake.

In 1897, the British regular army consisted of 212,000 men; 72,000 were in India, 32,000 on other colonial stations and the remainder at home. The West India Regiment, comprised of soldiers from the islands, normally had a battalion in West Africa and Hong Kong. It may be of some interest to know how many battalions were in specific locations:- 52-India; 23-Ireland; 7-Malta; 6-South Africa; 3-Gibraltar; 3-Egypt; 2-Mauritius; 1-Canada; 1-West Indies; 1-Singapore; 1-Bermuda; 1-Ceylon; 1-Hong Kong.

If you are interested in reading further about this aspect of history "Pax Britannica" is available at the Barbados Public Library.

IN FULL VIEW

The Justyne Painting

Barbadians everywhere should celebrate the return of one of this Country's major cultural artifacts - the Justyne painting of "The Careenage" dated 1848. The Barbados Museum and Historical Society is gratified to become the guardian of this highly important painting on loan from the Barbados Government's Ilaro Court Collection. The painting was finally purchased last month in London, and having undergone extensive cleaning and some restoration work, is now on display in our Cunard Gallery.

The scene shows the Careenage at sunrise looking from the outer basin towards the early wooden construction of the "New Bridge". The main interest for historians lies in the fact that it depicts this area in the time of rebuilding after the 1831 Hurricane and before the devastation of the fire in 1860. Many of us will delight in the meticulous depiction of the architectural features, including the merchant's watchtowers and the enclosed jalousie verandahs.

The lively atmosphere engendered by all the wharfside activities - the ox-drawn drays carrying barrels of sugar or molasses, the careening of boats (probably Speightstown schooners) in the shallow waters of the harbour, had obviously engaged the artist's attention. The handling of light, with its silvery tones, is distinctly European, however this takes nothing away from Justyne's sensitive treatment of the scene.

Born at Rochester in Kent in 1812, Percy William Justyne travelled to Grenada to work as private secretary to the Governor between 1841 - 1845 and then served as acting Stipendiary Magistrate until 1848. It was while he was on his way home, in that year that he painted "The Careenage" for his ship probably stopped in Barbados before continuing on to England.

Justyne returned to England to a relatively successful career as an illustrator in various publications including newspapers, journals and books. He died in 1883 leaving behind a painting which captures the rich cultural heritage of the island.

IN FULL VIEWThe Batley Watercolours

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society is fortunate to be the recipient of three watercolours of historic significance given by Miss Norma Batley and her sister of Hastings, England in memory of their brother James Cockburn. These paintings have been passed down through the family from Sir James Cockburn, Bart., Governor of Curaçao 1807-1811 and Governor of the Bermudas 1811-1819.

Two of the paintings are a pair, one showing the West view of Fort George Curaçao and the other showing the South East view. The latter is inscribed "View of Fort George for south-east". Presented by Capt. M. Percival, 10th Regiment to his excellency, Sir James Cockburn, Bart. Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Curaçao". Both paintings were produced in 1809 by one J.H. Jones whose delicate handling of colour emphasises the charming nature of the scene, if not the technical accuracy one might have expected of a painting of this nature.

The third painting is entitled "A View of Cockburn Hall Plantation in Greenville Vale on the Island of Grenada". It shows the plantation grounds, sugar mills, stables and huts (probably slave huts) laid out in meticulous detail as if from a semi-aerial perspective. All those interested in reconstructing the working life of a sugar plantation will be fascinated at the way the buildings lie in relation to each other. Both artist and date are unknown. Further research on all three paintings is being carried out by the curatorial staff of the Museum.

The decision to make a gift of three important watercolours to the Barbados Museum and Historical Society was not lightly taken. Miss Norma Batley and other members of her family had felt for some time that these paintings should be returned to the West Indies, but were very cautious that certain requirements were met in order that their present excellent condition be maintained. We feel fortunate that with the air-conditioned environment of the Cunard Gallery we were well able to meet Miss Batley's standards.

IN FULL VIEW

Museum Purchases Contemporary Works

This Museum has a commitment to the collecting and exhibiting of Barbadian art. By Barbadian art we mean both work done by Barbadians, as well as work by other artists which in some way reflects the "Barbadian" experience.

Earlier this year the Museum was fortunate to be given a collection of watercolours and prints done by the late Golde White. Since then, we have acquired two additions for our growing collection of art. "Together", a water-colour by a young Barbadian teacher Margaret Trotman, and "The Convent Garden", also a water-colour by a prolific resident Alison Chapman-Andrews.

Margaret Trotman's study of a local wild plant, is an interesting approach to dealing with a popular, though often tediously executed subject- the nature study. For one, hers is a 'microscopic' view of a lifeform she knows only as "Dog Dumpling". In addition the vivid opaque colours used give the plant a wax-like almost unearthly sensual quality.

"The Convent Garden" by Alison Chapman-Andrews is an interesting contrast in perspective and rendering to the sharp focus of Trotman's work. She has pulled the viewer back away from the subject, softened the image and given us an impression of a garden gone wild. No sharp reflections here. The foliage is dense, yet there is an airiness and warmth emitted because of the translucent watercolours Alison has applied.

The purchase of these works was made possible by the existence of our Museum Collections Fund. (See Back Cover)

* * * *

People, Places and Events in Barbados

Factors that go into making up a country's history are People, Places and Events. The Caribbean is often thought to be homogeneous in its make-up due to its large African ancestry, but in reality each island has its own distinct and identifiable characteristics.

A small temporary exhibition, much of which will become part of a larger "History of Barbados" display is at present in place for viewing in the Children's Gallery.

* * * *

Barbados and the Ice Age

Over the past few months the Museum has had much of its collection of geological samples identified by a number of kind volunteers:- Joann Klonowski, a Peace Corps worker and geologist working with the Sugar Producers Association; Professor Gerald Friedman of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York and Mr. W. Crook, Senior Exploration Mineralogist with Mobil Oil, all gave invaluable assistance in this task.

Barbados is a coral-capped island and research undertaken by geologists and paleo-climatologists over a period of fifteen years, has resulted in an important record of the "Ice Age" (Pleistocene).

Modern techniques have been used to date the cliffs of the island, up to the Second High Cliff and these dates have provided much information on changing sea levels as the island has steadily risen from the sea. During the two million years of the ice age, the glaciers retreated and extended a number of times. Whenever they retreated, water was released into the oceans causing the sea levels to rise; similarly whenever the glaciers extended, water was removed from the seas and locked up as ice.

The cliffs of the island are the remnants of coral reefs formed at each new sea level. The Barbados record represents fifteen oscillations of high and low seas.

Although research of this nature has also been done at other sites such as Timor and New Guinea, the data from Barbados are the most complete and consequently the results have been published in a range of international journals. Unfortunately, these results have not been greatly highlighted locally. THE MUSEUM HOPES TO RECTIFY THIS SHORTCOMING IN THE NEAR FUTURE WITH NEW AND INTERESTING DISPLAYS ON THE GEOLOGY OF BARBADOS.

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OPEN DAYS - Reflections of a Tour Guide

At present, the Museum does not use tour guides as part of its operational system. However, the staff organised three Open Days for people working in the tourist industry (See page 5). In order to accommodate our guests, a colleague and myself as curatorial staff had the opportunity to act as guides and hostesses.

The following are my personal comments and observations about the experience. The target groups were:-

(a) Hoteliers (b) Taxi Drivers and (c) Travel Agents, Tour Operators and Airline Staff.

The most favourable turnout came from the Taxi Drivers. The poorest response, came from Travel Agents, Tour Operators and Airline Staff. This is alarming, particularly since the primary role these agents have to play is to know and sell the product - BARBADOS an island, whose uniqueness is not the sun nor sand but its culture and history.

Back to the Taxi Drivers. They seem enthusiastic if not amused, about things which were familiar to their own personal experiences. Displays such as the traditional Barbadian kitchen and the Military Gallery (some of the men are actually World War II veterans), seemed the most popular. The Drivers also spent time browsing in the Harewood Gallery of Natural History swapping 'fish' stories. Other favourite artifacts were those connected with the sugar and rum industries, e.g. the Spider and Puncheon; the model windmill and photographs and prints of life and work when Sugar was King.

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BEHIND THE SCENESMuseum Now Provides Photographic Services

As a service to Museum members and the general public we are now equipped to offer photographic reproduction prints and colour slides. A darkroom built with funds provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has now been located in the Museum's storeroom. Also available are photographic copying facilities which means we can copy almost anything in the Museum's collections. Our capabilities are the production of black and white prints up to 40.6 x 50.8 cm (16" x 20"). Colour prints and slides can also be made but require about one month's work time because they must be sent out for processing.

People who wish to use this new service can obtain Request Forms at the Museum's office. Prices are as follows:- 5" x 7" black and white @ \$5.00; 8" x 10" black and white @ \$10.00; 11" x 14" black and white @ \$15.00; 16" x 20" black and white @ \$20.00; 5" x 7" colour print @ \$10.00; 8" x 10" colour print @ \$20.00 and 2" x 2" colour slide @ \$2.00.

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SHOP TALK

Now available at the Museum Shop:- CARIBBEAN GEORGIAN by Pamela Gosner, Three Continents Press, Wash., D.C. 1982. \$40.00

"It is a style unified by colonialism, by the demands of the climate and the sugar and slave society; a style that still has a different flavour on each island".

GENEALOGIES OF BARBADOS FAMILIES compiled by James C. Brandow, Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc. Baltimore, 1983. \$70.00

PILLOW TALK - Local Style

Embroidered and quilted cushions with turtles, lizards or birds as motifs. \$40.00, \$45.00 and \$50.00

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BOOK NOOKLibrary News

Mr. Cecil Queree who joined the Museum staff in 1978 as Library Assistant has resigned. Mr. Queree, who worked two days a week during his term of office, gave valuable service to the Museum Library. The staff and friends of the Museum wish him a very happy and prosperous retirement in the Channel Islands, where he and his wife have decided to reside, as he is a native of Jersey.

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Library Update

Since April this year, the hours of the Library have been changed. The new hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Museum's Library with its valuable collection of rare and old books, prints, maps etc., is going to be airconditioned shortly.

Re-arrangement of shelves and works will be a primary task for newly appointed librarian Mrs. Betty Carrillo. Provision for new space must be made in order to accommodate the continuously expanding library collection. Hence a very careful weeding of the shelves is needed.

When the Library is organised properly, Museum members and the general public will be able to have longer hours for valuable research. Non-members' fee to use the Library is \$5.00.

The following works have recently been added to the collection:-

ENGLISH GOLDSMITHS, Sir Charles J. Jackson - first written 1921, first pub. 1964

Ashford Plantation Records

AJOUPA - Architecture of the Caribbean, John N. Lewis 1983

MARINE ARTISTS OF BRISTOL, Francis Greenacre

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THE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS FUND

The paintings by Margaret Trotman and Alison Champman-Andrews were acquired through the resources of the Museum Collections Fund. Collections have existed and developed because of the generosity of donors - people with an interest in and concern for the preservation of man's heritage, and who owned or had access to the various items which now form our collections.

In these times it is no longer feasible in our society to expect a few to support the many. By your association with this institution you have indicated your interests in the preservation and dissemination of this country's heritage.

This Museum is your Museum. Please help it survive in whatever small way you can! SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

The Museum Collections Fund
c/o The Barbados Museum & Historical Sociey
The Garrison
St. Michael
BARBADOS, W.I.

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NEW MEMBERSHIP FEES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| - Life Membership | - \$400.00 p.a. |
| - Corporate Membership | - 100.00 min. p.a. |
| - Individual Membership | - 30.00 p.a. |
| - Joint Husband and Wife Membership | - 40.00 p.a. |