

# ARTI-FACTS

Barbados  
Museum  
& Historical  
Society

BARBADOS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## Dear Member,

**W**elcome to the final issue of the Arti-Facts Newsletter for 2006.

The Staff Awards and Christmas Party were the highlight of this period. The accompanying article outlines the rewards that were accorded to staff members and volunteers. The event was truly special and brought together Council members, along with museum staff and volunteers and their families and friends.

The Fine Craft Festival, which was also held in the month of December, was particularly well received this year, both by patrons and participants. Don't miss the photos and coverage that help us to relive the day's activities.

Training and outreach activities and visits from overseas colleagues are among the exciting happenings that are featured in this issue of **Arti-Facts**.

We are looking forward to your input as we formulate plans for 2007. These plans include efforts to ensure earlier delivery of the annual journal to you. In particular, we look forward to welcoming you, or those you may refer, into the new Friends of the Museum group. Please feel free to send your comments and ideas about **Arti-Facts** or Museum activities, by mail or Email: musepr@barbmuse.org.bb.

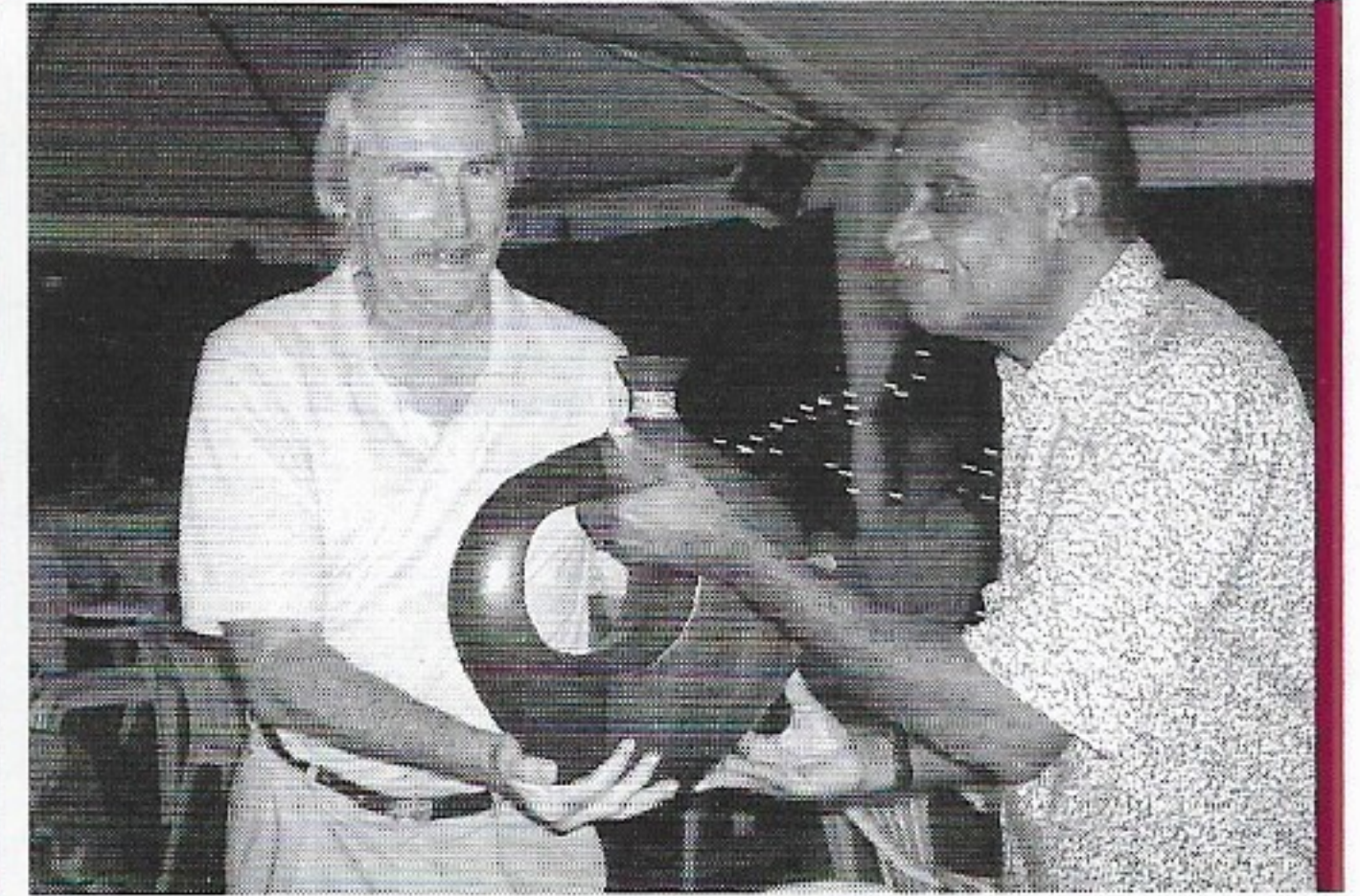
*Christine Skeete*

Christine Skeete  
Marketing Officer

## Staff Awards Ceremony & Christmas Party



Peggy McGeary with her Ten Year Service Award



Dr. Karl Watson receiving his special award from Professor Woodville Marshall

**O**n the evening of 21st December, the Lower Courtyard of the Museum was transformed to serve as the venue for the elegant Museum's Staff Awards Ceremony and Christmas Party. This event was coordinated by an Organising Committee of five staff members, and Peggy McGeary made all the flower arrangements, including centrepieces.

The sumptuous dinner was accompanied by live steel pan music by Roger Gibbs. This was followed by the presentation of awards by Council members. The engaging master of ceremonies was Wayne Simmons.

Tokens were given to 12 new and part-time employees, while other Museum employees were awarded in the categories of Three Years, Five Years and Ten Years of Service.

Long-Service Awards were presented to Angela Boyce, Marcia Griffith, Pauline Stuart for 20, 23 and 25 years of service respectively, along with Alistandra Cummins who has served as Director for 23 years.

Dr. Karl Watson was also acknowledged for his stellar voluntary service for the past ten years as

editor of the Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society.

Volunteer Service Awards were also presented to Maris Corbin, Melmeth Cummins, Miriam Kennedy, Grace Pilgrim, Laura Rudder and Betty Shannon for their outstanding contributions. Sixteen other volunteers received tokens of appreciation in the form of gifts and vouchers.

Employee's Choice Awards were won by Pauline Stuart and Merna Bryan who were voted Most Helpful, while Allison Callender won the Life of the Party title.

The President's Award was presented by Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C., President of the Museum's Council, to Tamara Griffith, part-time receptionist and office assistant.

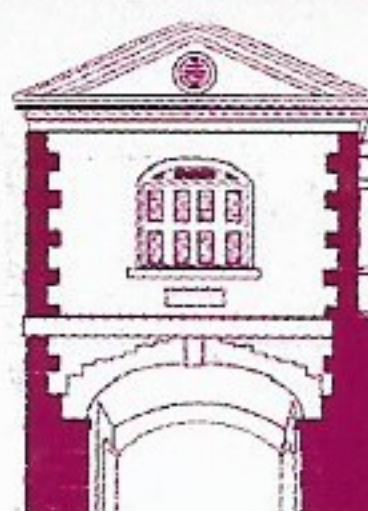
The evening came to an entertaining close with folk renditions from Sing Out Barbados.

Vouchers were donated by Adventureland 4x4 Tours Inc., Barbados Beach Club, Brown Sugar Restaurant, Canefield Flowers, City of Bridgetown Co-operative Credit Union Ltd., Coconut Court Beach Hotel, Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary, Harbour Master Cruises, Hilton Barbados, Ocean Park, Olympus VIP, Sandy Lane Hotel, The Savannah Hotel, TMR Sales & Service Ltd., and Turtle Beach Resort. Contributions by IGM Stage Lighting Inc. and Read Rent also helped to make the event truly unforgettable.

### CONTENTS

Projects in Brief	2-4
Activities at the Museum	5-6
Announcements/Update	7





## PROJECTS IN BRIEF

### ICEE Meeting

The Marketing Officer, Christine Skeete, attended the International Committee on Exhibition Exchange (ICEE) Annual Meeting in Paris, France from 5th to 9th November. The trip was funded by a grant from the International Council of Museums (ICOM) for which young museum professionals may apply. The theme of the meeting was "The Exhibition: An Instrument of Dialogue Between Cultures," and the sessions focused on the marketing of travelling exhibitions and the expected benefits and challenges of their interpretation in different settings around the world.

Panel discussions addressed the theme of the meeting and issues such as language and literacy, and methods of reaching out to minority communities - relevant

topics in the context of sending exhibitions abroad.

The Marketplace of Exhibitions and Ideas revealed the ways in which nine representatives of museums around the world present their travelling exhibitions. Promotional materials on these exhibitions were made available for all attendees.

The meeting was based at Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle but attendees also benefited from study tours of Centre Pompidou and the new Musée du Quai Branly, with talks by curators at each site. Towards the end of the meeting, the panel discussion "New Directions" was held at the Swedish Cultural Centre, where a farewell reception for the group was hosted by Ms. Annika Levin, the Director of the Cultural Centre and Cultural Counsellor of Sweden in France.



Christine Skeete (front left) with meeting attendees from Canada, U.S.A., Taiwan and U.S.A (clockwise from back left)

### Alas Workshop in Mumbai

A workshop was held in Mumbai, India from 22nd to 27th November, where the Education Officer, Ms. Peggy McGeary, and Registrar, Mrs. Angela Boyce, along with other team members from Nigeria and India, met to discuss and gather information from various exhibition designers on the drafting of guidelines for the conceptualisation of exhibitions in museums in a way that involves target groups from their communities.

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society, Living Heritage Centre Mumbai, and the National Museum Calabar, as members of the Asia, Latin America, Swedish (ALAS) Museum network, have combined to work together on a project to produce the guidelines. It is



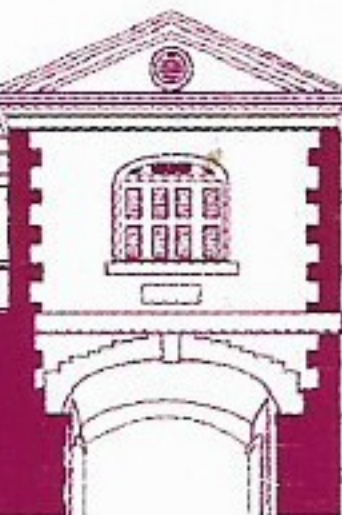
Some of the participants in Mumbai. Peggy McGeary and Angela Boyce are first and second from right, respectively.

intended that the final product will be a printed manual on "Guidelines for Conceptualising Exhibitions for Museums" focusing on small developing museums. This project is scheduled to be completed by June 2007.

ALAS is a museum network comprised of museums in any country with special interest and capacity to develop its institution through engagement and application of new thinking, new networking methods and tools elaborated in an international working context. SAMP (African-Swedish Museum Network) initiated ALAS as a part of its efforts to facilitate the development of museums in a

cross-border approach for the benefit of their communities, through working together in twin-ships, joint projects, capacity building and research.





# SAMP/ALAS Workshop in Sweden

From 5th to 11th November, the Assistant Curator - Art and Art History, Allison Callender, attended the Network Management Course 2B organised by SAMP/ALAS at Lansmuseet Västernorrland, Harnosand in Sweden.

As a continuation of the first management course held in Madagascar in September, this course was the second and final part of the SAMP/ALAS Project Network Management course attended by the same individuals from Madagascar, but facilitated by Mr. Paul Mupira from Zimbabwe, Ms. Elisabet Olofsson from Sweden and Mr. Klaus Godsk Kolberg from Denmark.

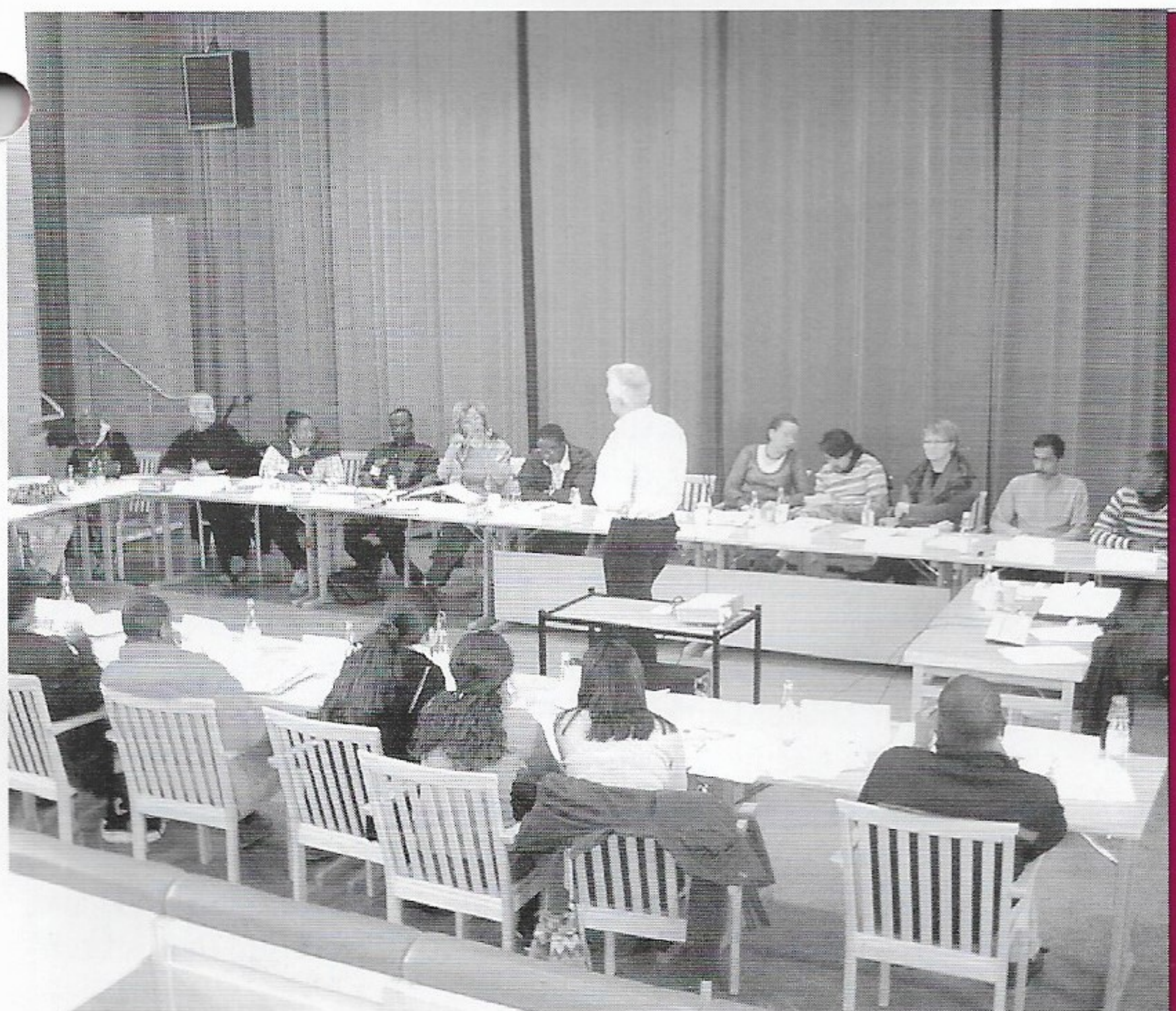
The group focused on the tools needed to evaluate a project. Specific sessions provided insight into the purpose of evaluation, the tools used, the benefits and types of evaluation. "Evaluation: A Manual for Museums" was distributed to all participants as a reference for evaluating projects and exhibitions.

One session following the formal course work allowed participants to learn how to make various types of craft. This session was led by three members of the staff of the Lansmuseet. They had participated in an ongoing project in Africa with African women and have adapted the skills learned there to



The participants in the SAMP/ALAS workshop in Sweden

Swedish culture. The three women now teach children and adults throughout Sweden the art of beadwork. The samples made at Lansmuseet are not sold, but the craft facilitators are currently travelling through out the North of Sweden teaching this craft and encouraging Swedes to learn traditional skills.



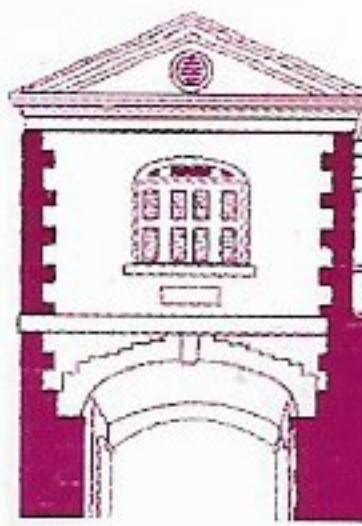
Mr. Klaus Godsk Kolberg leading the Teambuilding course

The Teambuilding course was led by Mr. Klaus Godsk Kolberg from Denmark. Topics which Allison found were creative and highly informative included conflict management and negotiation, facilitation of group processes, and fostering creativity in teams.

Allison reports that at the end of the workshop, participants were equipped to meet the following objectives:

- Work with monitoring and evaluation in different museum functions and in SAMP/ALAS projects
- Give account for team building and conflict resolution in SAMP/ALAS context
- Give account for SAMP/ALAS role on advancing the relationship between SAMP/ALAS museums
- Appreciate the importance of working in intercultural networks
- Explain how SAMP could be institutionalised in their respective museums



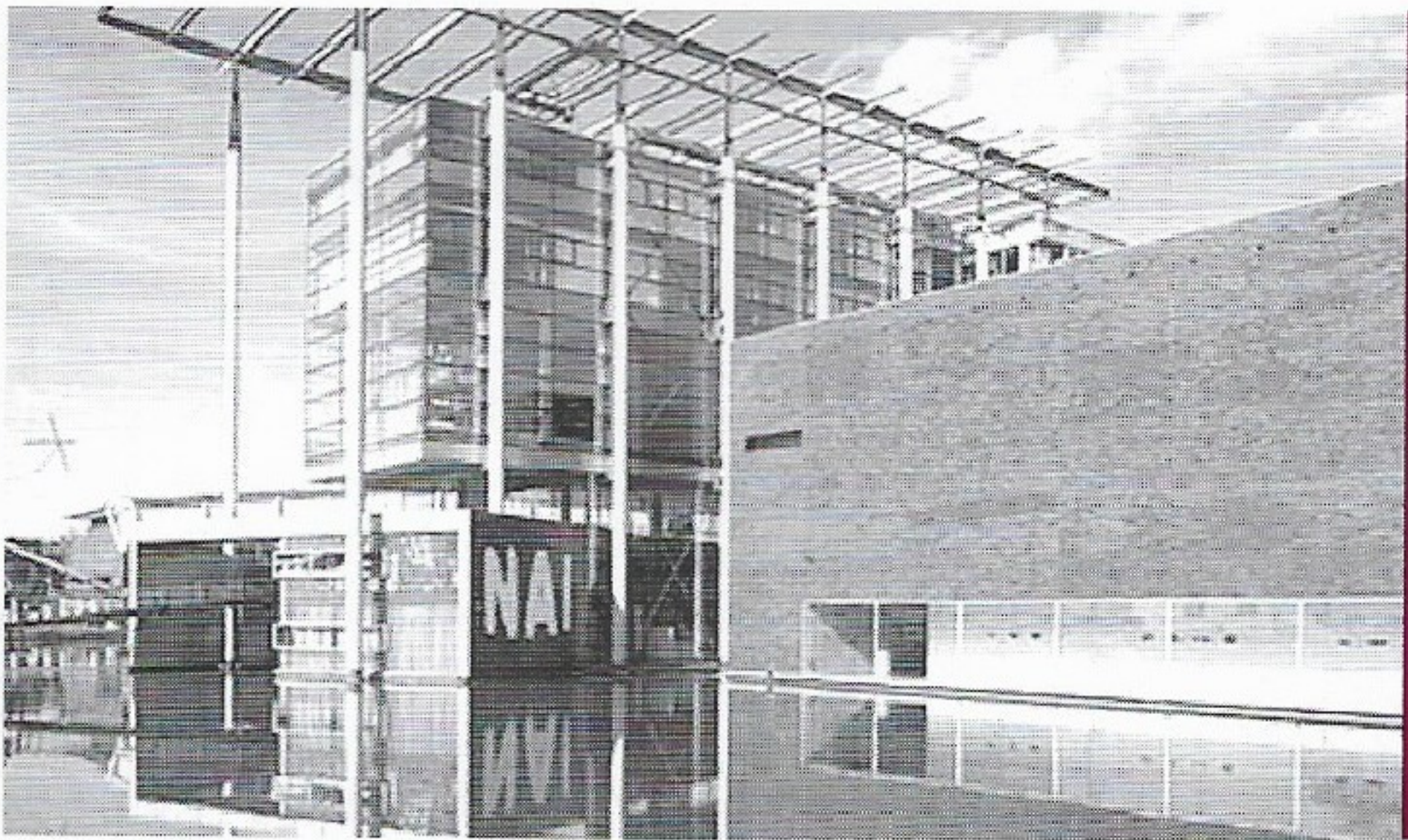


## PROJECTS IN BRIEF

### ICAMT Meeting in the Netherlands

The Assistant Curator - Art and Art History, Allison Callender, attended the International Committee for Architecture and Museums Techniques (ICAMT) meeting in Rotterdam, Holland from 3rd to 5th December. The meeting was made possible through the ICOM 60th Anniversary Grants awarded to young museum professionals, and it provided an opportunity to exchange ideas on museum architecture, planning, construction and programming, as well as on exhibition production and design.

Visits to The Netherlands Institute of Architecture, The Museum Boijmans van Beuningen and Kunsthall were high on the agenda. The Director of each institution spoke of the history and significance of the building, the architectural features, the architects' concept behind the layout and design of the museum, and the day to day management of the museum, outlining problems and future plans. Allison found this information to be enlightening, as she learned that museums throughout the world share similar problems and have similar goals.



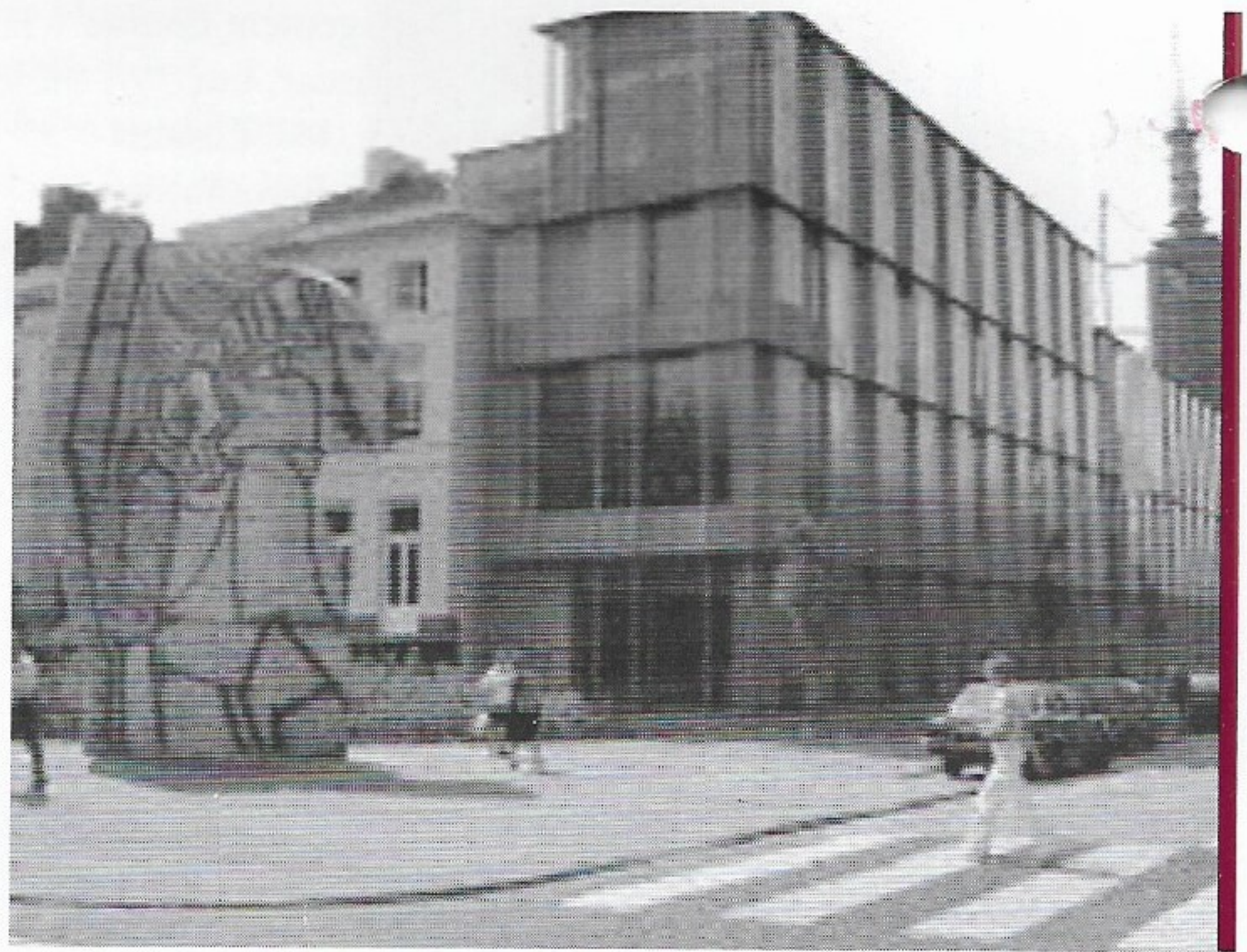
The front of the Netherlands Architecture Institute showing the unfinished roof and entrance at far left

#### The Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAI)

This is an exhibition space, archive and library which together houses one of the world's most important collections of archives of architecture, interiors, landscape architecture and urban planning. The urban design for the building concentrated on integrating it with the existing structures that surround it. The new permanent exhibition entitled "Living in the Lowlands" showcases the collection's wealth of drawings, models and photographs, some of which were so intricately created, that they appear fragile. The NAI's Director explained the difficulty associated with housing such an exhibition of models since they are made from several different types of paper and fibres and represent a genuine conservation issue.

#### The Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen

The exhibits of the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen portray the history of art from the Middle Ages to the present day. The intimate galleries of the 1935 Van der Steur Building feature works by artists such as Hieronymus Bosch and Peter Paul Rubens, Bruegel's Tower of Babel and Rembrandt's Titus.



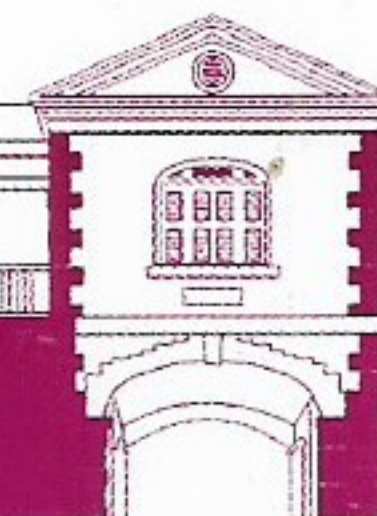
Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen. The sculpture "Sylvette" by Pablo Picasso and Carl Nesjar

#### The Kunsthall

The Kunsthall Rotterdam is an expansive exhibition space which stages some 25 exhibitions a year. It also houses a book shop and café, and is an ideal place to relax and view the building, which is a work of art in itself. The Kunsthall is known to host a varied exhibition repertoire highlighting Impressionism, lingerie, Leonardo da Vinci, Blackfoot Indians, jewels of the Orient and Pop-art, experimenting with themes that often provide the first impulse for an exhibition.

Allison reports that there were further opportunities to visit a few other museums, and papers were also presented on a variety of topics. Jowa I. Kis-Jovak, the Director of Architectenbureau JOWA in Amsterdam spoke on "Lovely architecture! But How Should We Use It?" His paper discussed the ways in which architects design wonderful "buildings of art", which often are not practical or suitable as museum facilities. He stressed the need for museum personnel to work closely with architects and other relevant parties involved to create a structure that is both functional and practical.





### Museum Highlights

#### Teacher's Professional Day Seminar

On 20th October, 17 teachers of the Gordon Greenidge Primary School came to the Museum for their Teacher's Professional Day Seminar which was led by the Education Officer, Peggy McGeary. The programme for the day consisted of a tour and brief seminar in the morning with the aim of exposing them to the many areas in which the Museum reinforces some of the topics done at the primary level. The afternoon session took the form of a bus tour to the Springvale Eco-Museum and Highland Pottery in Chalky Mount.

#### Re-opening of the West Wing of Parliament

The work of the BMHS as lead consultant on National Heroes Gallery and Museum of Parliament, reached a peak with the re-opening of the West Wing of Parliament on 22nd November. The BMHS Director, Marketing Officer and Assistant Curator - History coordinated tours of the exhibition spaces immediately after the official ceremony.

#### Symbols of Independence Exhibition

The BMHS re-mounted its Symbols of Independence exhibition from 2nd to 30th November in celebration of Barbados' 40th Anniversary of Independence. This exhibition highlighted the origins and development of important symbols, such as the national flag, coat of arms and The Constitution.

#### Business and Professional Women's Club

On 23rd November at a special awards ceremony at the Savannah Hotel, BMHS Director Alissandra Cummins received one of four of the 40th anniversary awards presented by the Business and Professional Women's Club. The award recognised Ms. Cummins' service to heritage and international museum developments.

#### Fine Craft Festival

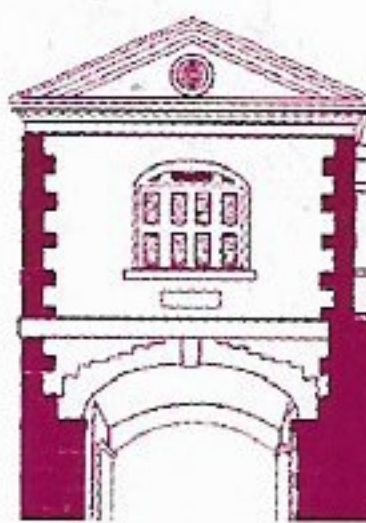
The 2006 Fine Craft Festival was held on 2nd December. This annual fundraising event had a higher profile this year and attracted 50 stall holders and large numbers of patrons. The BMHS donated a stall space to the Fine Arts Department of the Barbados Community College, to help the students to raise money for an upcoming trip. The Barbados Youth Business Trust was asked to introduce the Festival to its entrepreneurs as an outlet for their craft products and one of their beneficiaries took part in the event. The Challenor School's Creative Arts Centre participated for the second year. The event featured guided tours of the museum, mulatto girls in eighteenth century costume, a Victorian Father Christmas, a tuk band and donkey rides, among other new additions to the offerings.



#### Cocktail Receptions by Ministries

The Barbados Museum was the chosen venue for cocktail receptions held by the Ministry of Labour & Social Security as part of their Farm Labour Programme activities and for the hosting of Cuban officials by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.





## ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

### Visits from Overseas Librarians

The Shilstone Memorial Library of the BMHS received a visit from Ms Ingrid Iton, President of the Library Association of Barbados and Ms. Paula M. Smith, Reference Librarian at PennState Abington in Abington, Pennsylvania on 4th December. They met with BMHS Librarian Greta Payne and discussed plans and potential developments for the Museum Library.

### What Did They Read in 18th Century Barbados?

Dr. David McKitterick delivered a lecture, sponsored by the BMHS and the University of the West Indies (UWI) and its Main Library, on 12th December at Lecture Theatre 4, UWI. The topic was "What Did They Read in 18th Century Barbados?" and it discussed a bookseller's catalogue of books shipped to Barbados around the 1720s. It was well attended and the audience included the British High Commissioner to Barbados, His Excellency Mr. Duncan Taylor and his wife. Décor, catering, programmes, bookmarks and artwork for print ads, were all impressively handled by UWI. Dr. McKitterick, who is a distinguished scholar and the Librarian at Trinity College, Cambridge, also made television and radio appearances which were coordinated by the Barbados Museum.

### Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society

A press conference was held on 20th December to announce the publication of Volume 52 of the Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society. This issue of the journal features tributes to Ronnie Hughes and Warren Alleyne, among other

intriguing historical topics. Additional journals may be purchased by members at the special price of \$25.00 each.



Alissandra Cummins, Dr. Trevor Carmichael & Dr. Karl Watson (left to right)

### Donation to QEH

An initiative was led by BMHS Assistant Curator - History to have staff donate toiletries towards a hamper for people who have been abandoned at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The hamper, full of generous donations, was presented to the Nursing Department on 21st December.



Miguel Pena with Nursing Service staff

### ICOM Elections

On 12th December, elections were held for posts on the Executive Committee of the Barbados National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM). The Barbados Museum is represented on the new committee by Mrs. Peggy McGeary, who was re-elected as President, Allison Callender, Secretary, and Christine Skeete, Public Relations Officer.

### New Acquisitions

The following items were acquired during the period October to December 2006:

From BWIA upon its closing on 31st December

- 1 Lockheed Tri-Star 1011 air craft model aircraft
- 1 Boeing 737-800 next generation aircraft model
- 6 ink drawings of early BWIA aircrafts

Radiogram

1957 Radiogram with turn-table belonging to the late Alfred DaCosta Foster who worked at the Barbados Rediffusion in the 1950's.

Items to loaned to the Concorde Museum

The Thorpe T 18 Butcher Plane  
The Gnome rotary engine used in the first airplane built in Barbados for the Concorde Museum

Auction Items

Items from the Farley Hill collection - dining table, pair of doors, sideboard - were obtained from an auction at The Mainguard. (date?)

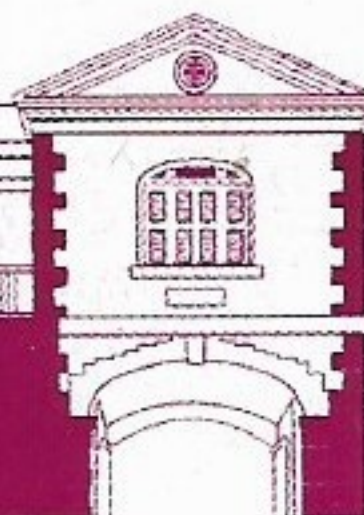
Album

A Barbados Royal Flying Corp photo album, dated 1918 to 1920, with military photographs of military aircrafts.

18th Century Painting

A painting entitled "Caribs of St. Vincent" by Agustin Brunias c 1730-1796.

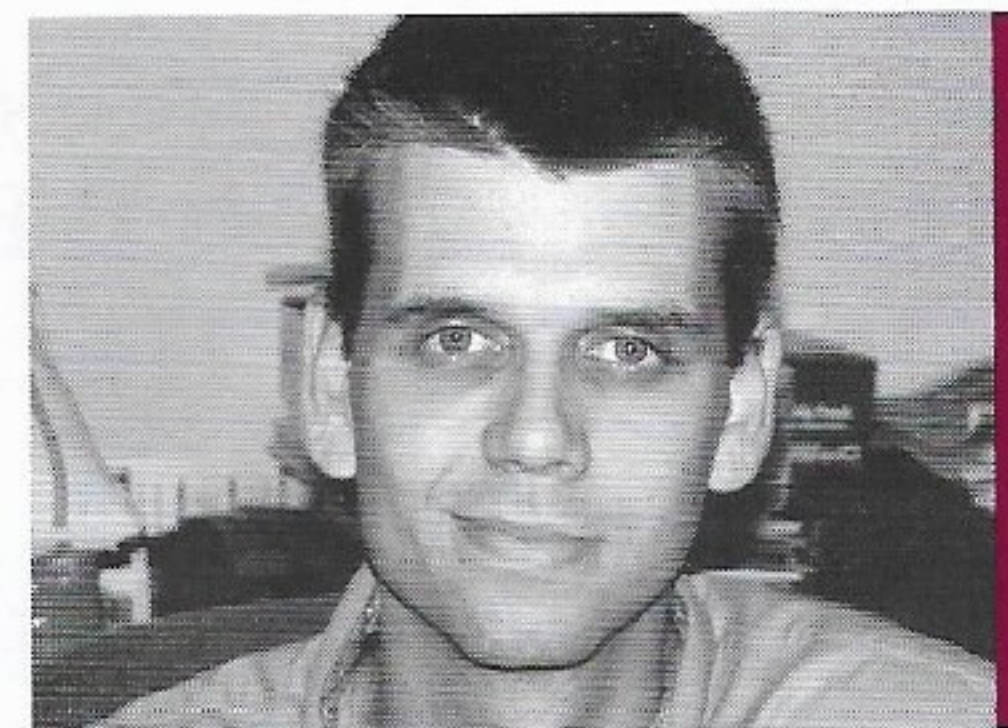




## Assistant Curator - History & Archaeology

Miguel Pena, joined us in October to replace Kevin Farmer during his year of studies. Miguel holds a bachelor's degree in History and an M.A. with a distinction in Heritage

Tourism. He became involved with the Museum initially as a researcher for the development of National Heroes Gallery and Museum of Parliament, while working on his thesis. He refers to his time at the Barbados Museum so far as enjoyable. He says he has learned from the experienced people here and adds "it's an education being here."



Miguel Pena

## Member Reminders

It's that time again! Membership fees for 2007 for annual members are now due.

## Notices

In order to communicate with members in a more timely fashion, notices of upcoming events will be forwarded to members' email addresses on a monthly basis. Please ensure that we have your current email address. If you prefer not to receive notices in this fashion, please reply to the email message with 'Unsubscribe' as the subject.

## Upcoming Events

The 2007 Ole Time Bus Excursion schedule is already available. Please call or email to make your bookings as early as possible.

The Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade will be commemorated in 2007. The Barbados Museum is currently planning a host of activities to highlight the impact of the slave trade on Barbados and other parts of the world. Look out for more information on these events!

A special exhibition on cricket will be on display at the Barbados Museum from April 02 to May 04, 2007. This is a two-part exhibition, which will feature a complementary display at National Heroes Gallery & Museum of Parliament.

## 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

### Curatorial

**Art and Art History**  
Allison Callender  
**Registrar**  
Angela Boyce  
**Curatorial Data Coordinator**  
James Marshall  
**Librarian**  
Greta Payne

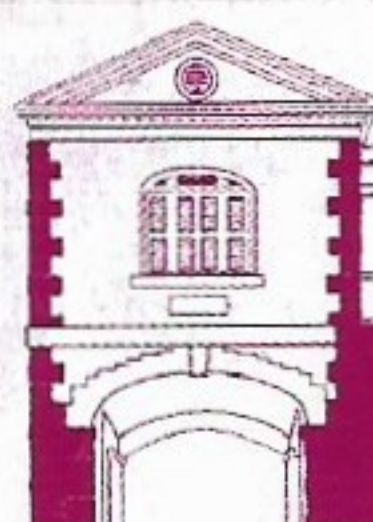
### Technical and Maintenance

Stephen Layne  
Reginald Riley  
Pauline Stuart  
Merna Bryan

### Security

Royston Sargeant  
Grantley Yarde  
Roslyn Straker  
Cecilia Payne





## 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:

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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.