

# ARTI-FACTS

Barbados  
Museum  
& Historical  
Society

BARBADOS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## Dear Member,

**W**elcome to the first issue of the Arti-Facts Newsletter for 2007!

We hope that the new year has been going as well for you so far as it has for the Museum. Significant projects continue to be developed and staff members have been taking part in several public programmes and activities that increase the institution's visibility.

This year, the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade is being commemorated and the Barbados Museum & Historical Society has a packed calendar of events that form part of the national programme for this commemoration. We take this opportunity to share a preview of the planned activities.

Have you seen the needlework samplers in the Warmington Gallery? A curator shares the story of these 19th century works of art, which are featured in the *From the Collection* section.

The results from the Member Survey are in! Read on to see the suggestions made by your fellow members and find out how they rated the benefits they currently receive.

As always, we invite you to forward your comments on Museum activities or the Arti-Facts newsletter, by mail or email: [musepr@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:musepr@barbmuse.org.bb).

*Christine Skeete*

Christine Skeete  
Marketing Officer

## Journal Presentation to Dame Billie Miller



From left to right : Ms. Alissandra Cummins, Dame Billie Miller and Dr. Karl Watson, perusing Volume 52 of the Museum's Journal

**O**n 17th January, a presentation of Volume 52 of the Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society was made to Dame the Honourable Billie Miller, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, at her office at Culloden Road, St. Michael.

Upon a brief review of the article "Culloden Farm, Barbados - A Plantation House or Villa c. 1800" by Roger H. Leech, the Minister noted that she hopes that Culloden House

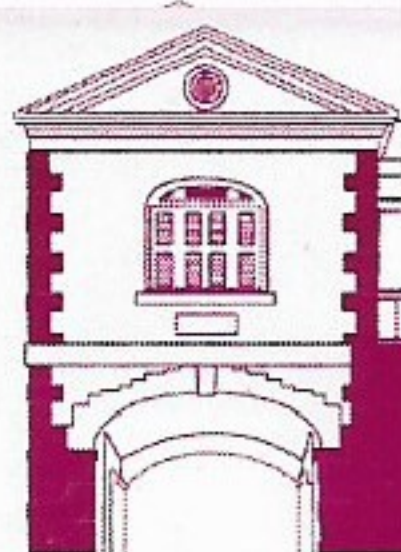
will be restored and converted to the Barbados Protocol House.

The Minister also pointed out that the pieces that touch on the history of slavery are of particular interest to her, as they would be to the Prime Minister. The cover image of the David Skinner painting "Annual Xmas Morning Concert" resonated with Dame Billie because of her familiarity with Skinner as "an old friend," and her use of the image in the past for her Christmas cards.

## CONTENTS

Projects in Brief	2	Activities at the Museum	4-5
From the Collection	3	Announcements/Update	6-7





## PROJECTS IN BRIEF

### Herbarium Project

The Herbarium Project is a joint venture between The Barbados Museum and The University of the West Indies to preserve and maintain the Barbados herbarium in a computerized database and make its valuable information freely available to the public via an online herbarium exhibition. The objective of Phase 1 of the Herbarium Project was to create a computerized database of the herbarium collection housed at the University of the West Indies Cave Hill (UWI) and the Barbados Museum and Historical Society (BMHS). The work in this phase was conducted by Kareem Sabir.

Briefly, information from specimen labels was transcribed into the relevant fields in the database. Each sheet was given a unique barcode number. High quality images and 'web versions' were taken of the herbarium sheets and uploaded to the database. The process of documentation began in September 2006 and was completed in January 2007.

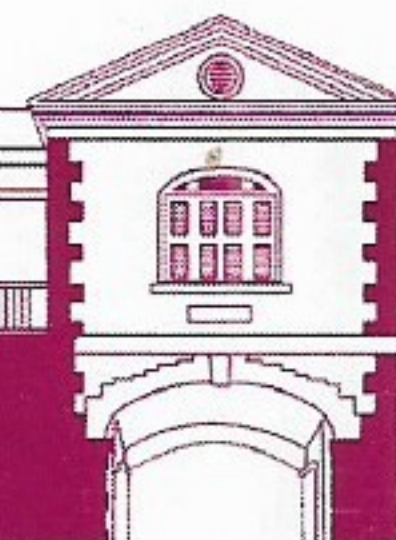
During this period a total of 3029 records were entered into the database, of which 271 are housed at the museum. Information for the specimens at BMHS was also updated to their database, in hopes of presenting their specimens online, and eventually providing a link between the two websites.

The database currently consists of only vascular plants; a total of 114 families and 698 species being represented in the collection. The most represented families in the collection were the Poaceae (74 species), Fabaceae (53 species) and Asteraceae (42 species).



Samples from the Herbarium Project





## Needlework Samplers



Needlework Sampler by Ann Newton. Date: 1813. Place Made: Barbados. Medium: Needle hand made work. Support: Fabric. Measurements: Image: 43 x 32 cm.

by Allison Callender, Assistant Curator  
- Art & Art History

Displayed on the wall of the Nursery in the Warmington Gallery, is one of two needlework samplers produced in the early 19th century, one reads:

“Happy the child  
whose tender years  
Receive instructions well  
Who hates the sinner’s  
path with fears  
The road that leads to hell

When we devote our  
youth to GOD

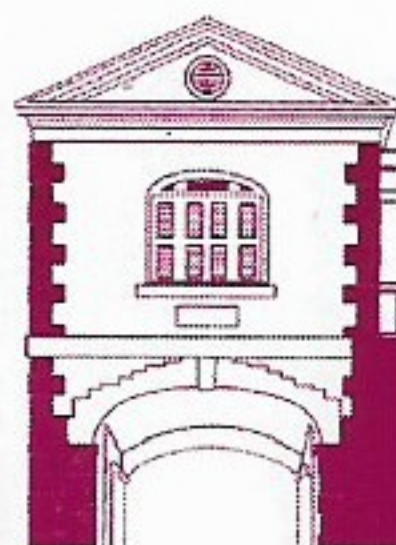
‘Tis pleasing in his eyes  
A flow’r when offer’d  
in the bud  
Is no vain sacrifice”

Without the inspiration generated by the needlework of our foremothers, needlework samplers would not exist. Textiles are a more intimate and socially revealing antique than objects made of wood, glass, or clay. Their production necessitates many hours of rumination and close touch, they bear witness to not only the social struggles of the needle worker’s historic environment, but also the personal hurdles encountered daily - situations that have become alien to modern women: making soap, grinding grain for flour for the daily bread,

weaving for days to create the cloth with which to make a simple chemise, or sampler. Health issues, marriage issues, isolation, cleanliness, things as mundane as knitting stockings and keeping the stock water from freezing, all this, and still there was time to be creative with the needle, and to have fabricated works of lasting beauty and significance.

These designs are the raw inspiration of this needlework studio. We buy them to listen to their stories, learn from their technique, and be uplifted by their artistry. These samplers are usually made using only a handful of basic stitches which are the Adams and Eves of all the others: stem, satin, chain, cross, back, weaving, and filling—upon which untold variations have been built.





## ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

### Museum Highlights

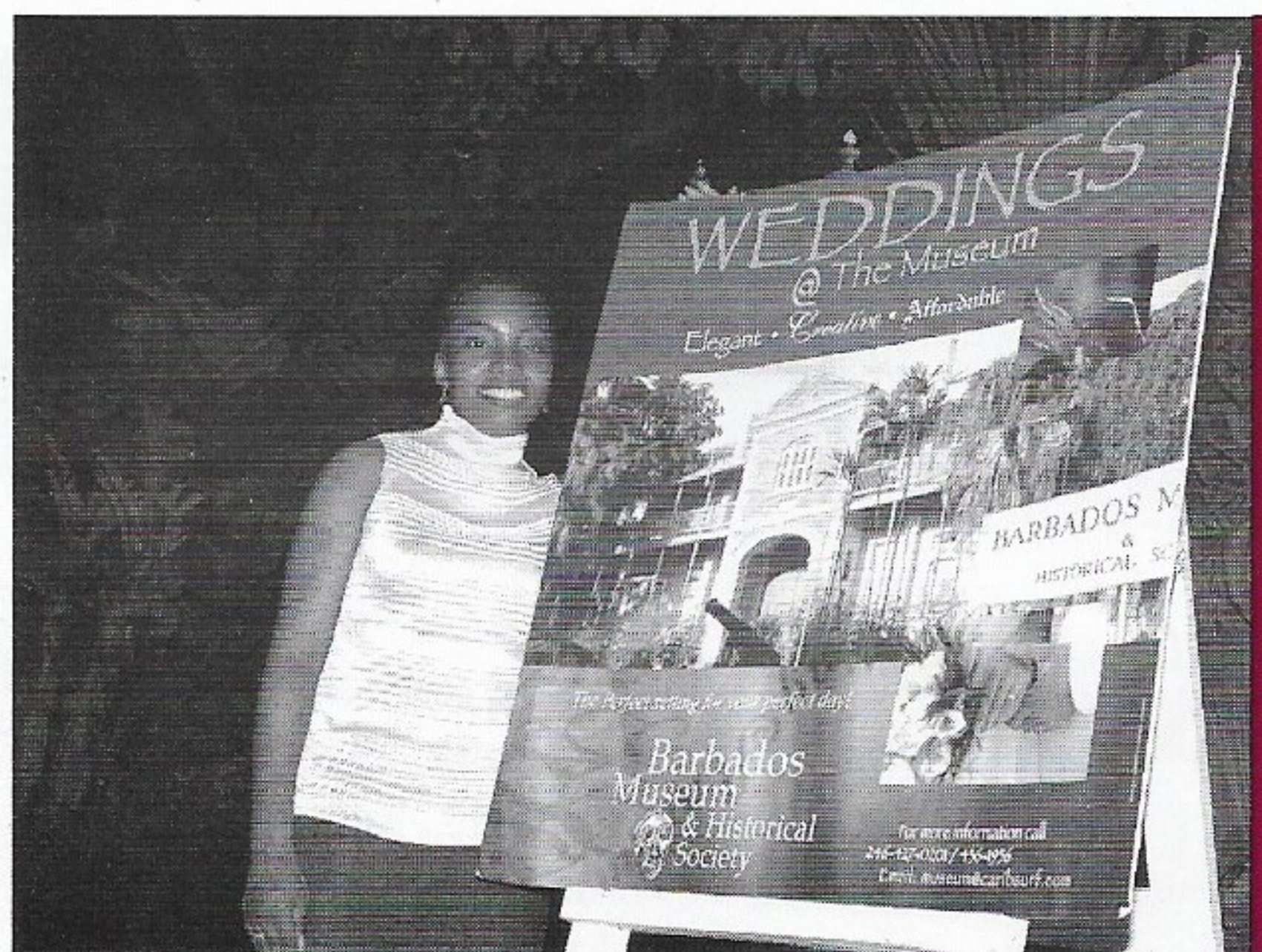
#### Schools' Journal Programme

On 30th March, presentations of Volume 52 of the Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society were made to representatives of the island's secondary schools. The aim of the Schools' Journal Programme is to provide access to this important resource for both teachers and students.

Corporate sponsors have made this donation of journals possible and their representatives made the presentations. The sponsoring organisations are American Life Insurance Company, BRC, Barbados Packaging Industries, CGM Insurance Brokers, Chefette Restaurants, Ideal Office Supplies, Nation Publishing Company Ltd., Pinelands Creative Workshop, Rotherley Construction and Sheraton Mall.



The audience of teacher and student recipients of sponsored journals



Marketing Officer, Christine Skeete, at the launch of the competition

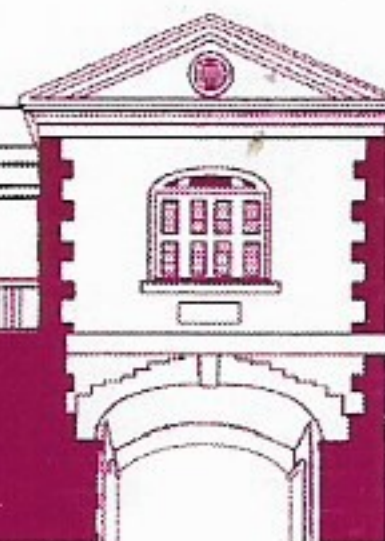
#### Forever I Do Competition

For the first time ever, the Museum was a bronze sponsor for the Nation Publishing Company's Forever I Do Competition. The main contribution as a sponsor was a prize of free venue rental for the winning couple's wedding reception. The Museum benefited from significant exposure through advertisements, editorials and showcasing its services during the Wedding Seminar, which was free to the public.

#### Dream Wedding Bridal Fair

On the weekend of 23rd to 24th March, Museum representatives participated in Sheraton Mall's Dream Wedding Bridal Fair. Presentations of the Museum's special event services were made by Christine Skeete, Marketing Officer; Cindy Corbin, Event Coordinator; Marcia Griffith, Administrative Assistant - Merchandising and Greta Payne, Librarian, with assistance from Merna Byran, a member of Support Staff.





### Museum Highlights

## Activities to Commemorate the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade

The Museum is expected to receive the support of the Government of Barbados and the University of the West Indies for some of these activities and has already received some sponsorship from the Central Bank of Barbados and funding from Peter Moores Barbados Trust.

The planned events will bring to life the issues surrounding the slave trade and its impact on our society in an educational and innovative twenty-first century context:

### 2007 Lecture Series

"The theme of this year's series of 10 lectures is *"An Outrage to Humanity": The Course and Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade.*" The venue for all others is the new University of the West Indies' Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination, Cave Hill, St. Michael. On 7th and 21st March, Dr. Claudius Fergus and Dr. Richard Goodridge spoke on the topics "Why an Atlantic Slave Trade?" and "Sources and Supplies" respectively.

The other lectures in the Series are:

- APR 04 "The Organisation of the Trade" - Dr. Fitz Baptiste
- APR 11 "The Middle Passage" - Dr. Karl Watson
- APR 18 "American/Caribbean Destinations & Transit Points"  
- Dr. Pedro Welch
- APR 25 "The Impact of the Trade on Western Africa"  
- Prof. Alvin Thompson
- MAY 02 "Changes in Metropolitan Opinion on the Slave Trade"  
- Prof. Alan Cobley
- MAY 16 "The Abolitionists: Profiles and Objectives"  
- Dr. Heather Cateau
- MAY 30 "Petticoat Campaign: Women and the Abolition  
Campaign" - Prof. Verene Shepherd
- JUN 06 "Assembling the Case for Reparations"  
- Prof. Hilary Beckles

## Turning the Tables

This is a collaborative project between Iziko Museums in South Africa, the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, the Museum of London and the Museum in the Docklands. "Turning the Tables" is a touring performance and educational programme in London, Barbados and Cape Town centred on the anti-slavery campaign table which belonged to Thomas Fowell Buxton (1786 - 1845), an M.P. and promoter of the 1807 British Abolition of Slave Trade Bill and the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. This historic museum object, on display at the Museum in Docklands, is therefore a very significant symbol to the history of slavery abolition campaigns (the table was made in 1810) and the eventual Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 and freedom of slaves in the British Empire in 1838.

## Who Are We?

The aim of this project is to recognise in a real way the global history of our interconnectivity as human beings and to act as a catalyst for linking three continents - Africa, Europe and the Americas - that are linked by oppression and exploitation. The intention is for the Museum to work with the Genographic Project to trace one's geographic origins through distinct genetic markers which these family groups took with them in the course of migrations from Africa to the rest of the world several thousands of years ago. A sample of the Barbadian population will be randomly selected and the results will be shared publicly.

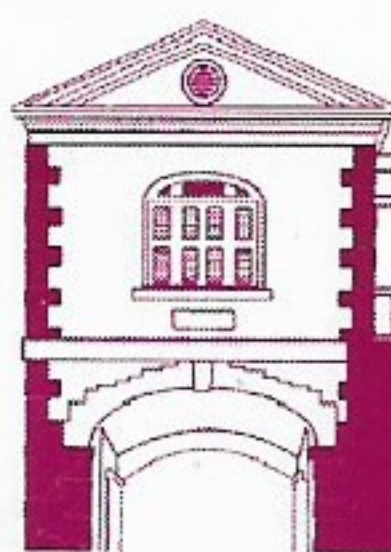
## Special Exhibition

This temporary exhibition will explore the legacy and broader history of the 1807 Abolition of Slave Trade Act.

## Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society

This year's edition of the annual journal will be dedicated to the theme of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, and relevant articles will be commissioned. The role of activists against the slave trade in Barbados will be showcased through these pieces.





## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



### Member Surveys

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent member survey. We received a total of 65 completed questionnaires. The results are as follows:

The majority of survey participants who answered the question on their years of membership had been Museum members for 30 years or more. The ranges of years of museum membership represented in the survey are:

Less than 5 years:	6 respondents
5-9 years:	3 respondents
10-14 years:	6 respondents
15-19 years:	6 respondents
20-24 years:	2 respondents
25-29 years:	4 respondents
30 years & over:	11 respondents

### Votes for the Number One Member Benefit

Unlimited free admission to the Museum	36%
Museum publications	36%
Free use of Museum library resources	16%
Voting rights at the Annual General meeting	8%
Invitations to Museum events and exhibition openings	4%
10% discount on Museum Shop items	0%

Of the six benefits of membership, unlimited free admission and museum publications received the highest percentage of votes among the top three most important privileges for the respondents. It is interesting to note that no one saw shop discounts as a number one benefit of membership. In addition, 19% of the respondents saw voting rights as the least important (or 6th ranked) benefit of membership.

Only one person noted that he or she was not satisfied with Museum membership.

Suggestions for Museum initiatives were offered by several members:

- More exhibitions, similar to the African Textile Exhibition
- More attention to agricultural heritage
- Paid one-day summer activities for children
- Would like to do research on the Internet (USA resident)
- Links should be formed with other organisations, eg. National Trust, Environmental Society, etc.
- Postal voting
- Dedicated members area on the website
- Links on the website to affiliated museums (and associations)

Areas for improvement:

- Faster distribution and better quality of newsletter (these areas are currently being worked on)
- Regular AGMs
- Current & timely financial statements
- An inventory list
- Increased parking

Proposed member activities:

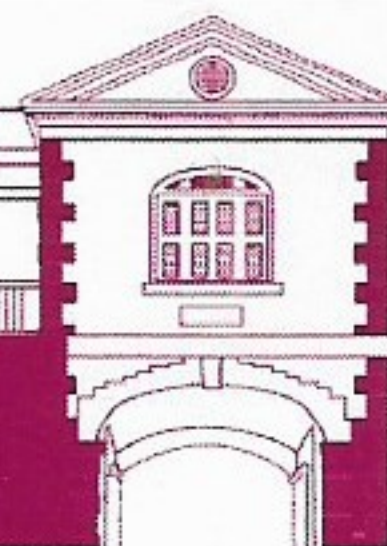
- Bi-annual get-together for members
- Community event to make history come alive
- Presentation of cultural preservation & museum project in Burkina Faso (member's area of knowledge)
- An archaeology group/club
- Field trips, such as archaeological digs
- More history talks
- Evening lectures
- Sunday opening hours for special exhibitions (please note we are open from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays)
- Music and other activities in the courtyards
- Research on plantation houses
- Opportunities for children to touch, feel, etc.

On the questionnaire, many members noted an interest in volunteering and assisting with refreshments or other activities. We are always in need of increased resources - human, material and financial. Your help is a critical element in achieving our goals. If you have not already contacted us to become more involved in the work of the Museum, it's never too late!

Please be reminded that we would like to receive email addresses for all members as we would like to provide notices of upcoming activities and events to you in a more timely manner through this medium.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS / STAFF UPDATE



### New Members For 2007

#### JOINT ANNUAL

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Allen  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald H. Armstrong  
Mr. & Mrs. Terrence Bickley  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Browne  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter D. E. Chase  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cheeseman  
Mr. & Mrs. Kelly Dunn  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Griffin  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Lashley  
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Parratt  
Sir Ronald & Lady Sanders  
Mr. & Mrs. Oliver S. Yearwood

#### ANNUAL

Dr. H.M.A. Alleyne  
Mrs. Constance F. Allman

Mr. Victor A. K. Cooke  
Mr. Anthony Griffiths  
Mr. Eric A. Johnson  
Mrs. Linda Lewis-Bishton  
Mr. Ian Panna  
Mr. Mike Ray  
Miss Mary Secord-Keevil  
Mr. William M. Tomlin  
Mr. Harclyde Walcott

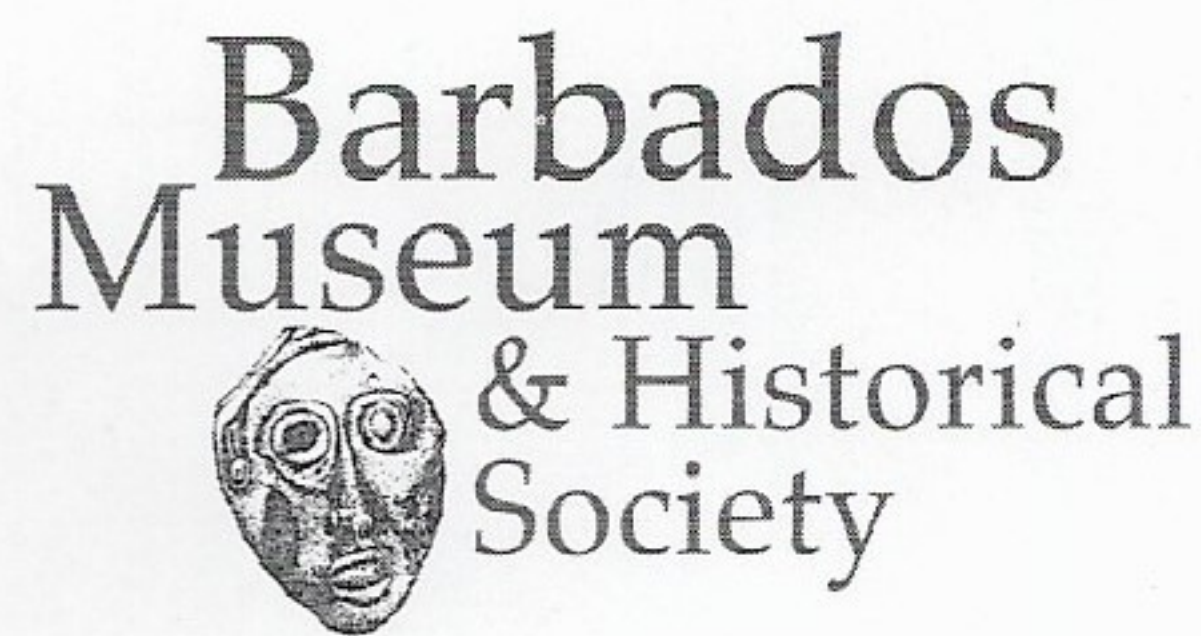
#### STUDENT

Miss Kim A. Ashby  
Mr. Alex Blades  
Miss Angee Bowen  
Mr. Cardinal A. Clarke  
Miss Carla Daniel  
Mr. Anthony Grant  
Mr. Stanley Griffin

Mr. Fatima Nana  
Mr. Ranulf N. Marshall  
Miss Rochelle Rowe  
Miss Shira Small  
Miss Angela Trotman

#### JUNIOR

Mr. Larkan Thomas



### 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  
Marina Ward

Administration Assistant -  
Merchandising  
Marcia Griffith

Event Coordinator  
Cindy Corbin

Receptionist & Shop Assistant  
Kandacey Rollock

#### Curatorial

Archaeology and Art History  
Kevin Farmer

Art and Art History  
Allison Callender

Registrar  
Angela Boyce

Librarian  
Greta Payne

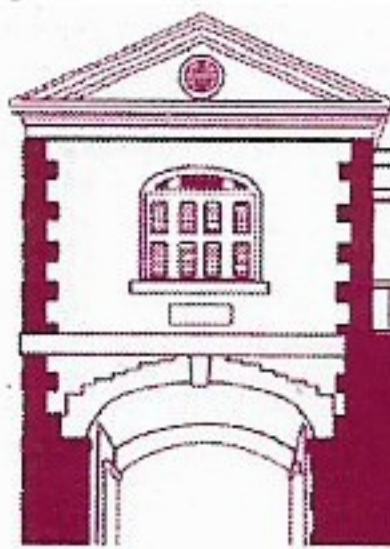
#### Technical and Maintenance

Stephen Layne  
Reginald Riley  
Pauline Stuart  
Merna Bryan

#### Security

Peter Graham  
Cecilia Payne  
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:

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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.