

# ARTI-FACTS

Barbados  
Museum  
& Historical  
Society

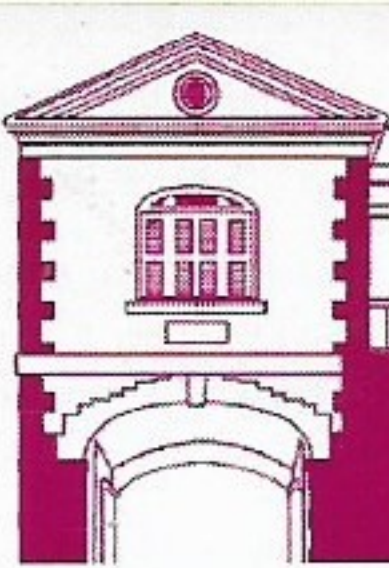
BARBADOS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

The staff of BMHS in this 75th Anniversary year. Missing are Vinroy Charles, Charles Wiggins, Peter Graham, Sophia Cummins and Kevin Farmer, who was taking the photograph.

## CONTENTS

Projects in Brief	2	Donor Acknowledgements	6
Activities at the Museum	3	Membership Update	7
Activities at the Museum	4-5	Announcements / Update	7





## PROJECTS IN BRIEF

### Dear Member,

Welcome to the second issue of the *Arti-Facts* Newsletter for the Barbados Museum & Historical Society's 75th anniversary year.

This is an exciting time for the Museum as we stand on the brink of phenomenal change. Walk with us through the ages and discover where we are today and where we're going. There's no denying, the hardworking staff of the Museum over the years have helped to mould the institution. And we also pay tribute to the Council members, volunteers, donors and friends who have contributed and continue to give generously. All these stakeholders, along with the public of course, were considered as anniversary celebrations got underway.

In these pages, you'll see global cooperation in action, media campaigns to stimulate greater public involvement, reports on an innovative exhibition and an initiative to capture the memories of Barbadians, among other exciting events. During this period, the Museum was truly a hive of activity – putting in place the building blocks of change.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you, by mail or Email: [musepr@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:musepr@barbmuse.org.bb).

*Christine Skeete*  
Christine Skeete  
Marketing Officer

### The Museum's Redevelopment Plan

Founders of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society on the occasion of the opening of the Jubilee Gallery on May 03, 1935



As the Museum looks beyond its 75th Anniversary milestone, there is a recognised need to redevelop its physical plant and further improve its programmes. The Redevelopment Plan encompasses several components of which the top priority is the complete redesign of the "core" exhibits in our Harewood and Jubilee galleries. These exhibits, which provide an overview of the natural, social, economic, and political history of the island, were constructed over 20 years ago and are in need of replacement. It is estimated the renovations will cost BDS \$5 million and the Museum is seeking to raise the capital for this anticipated two-year project.

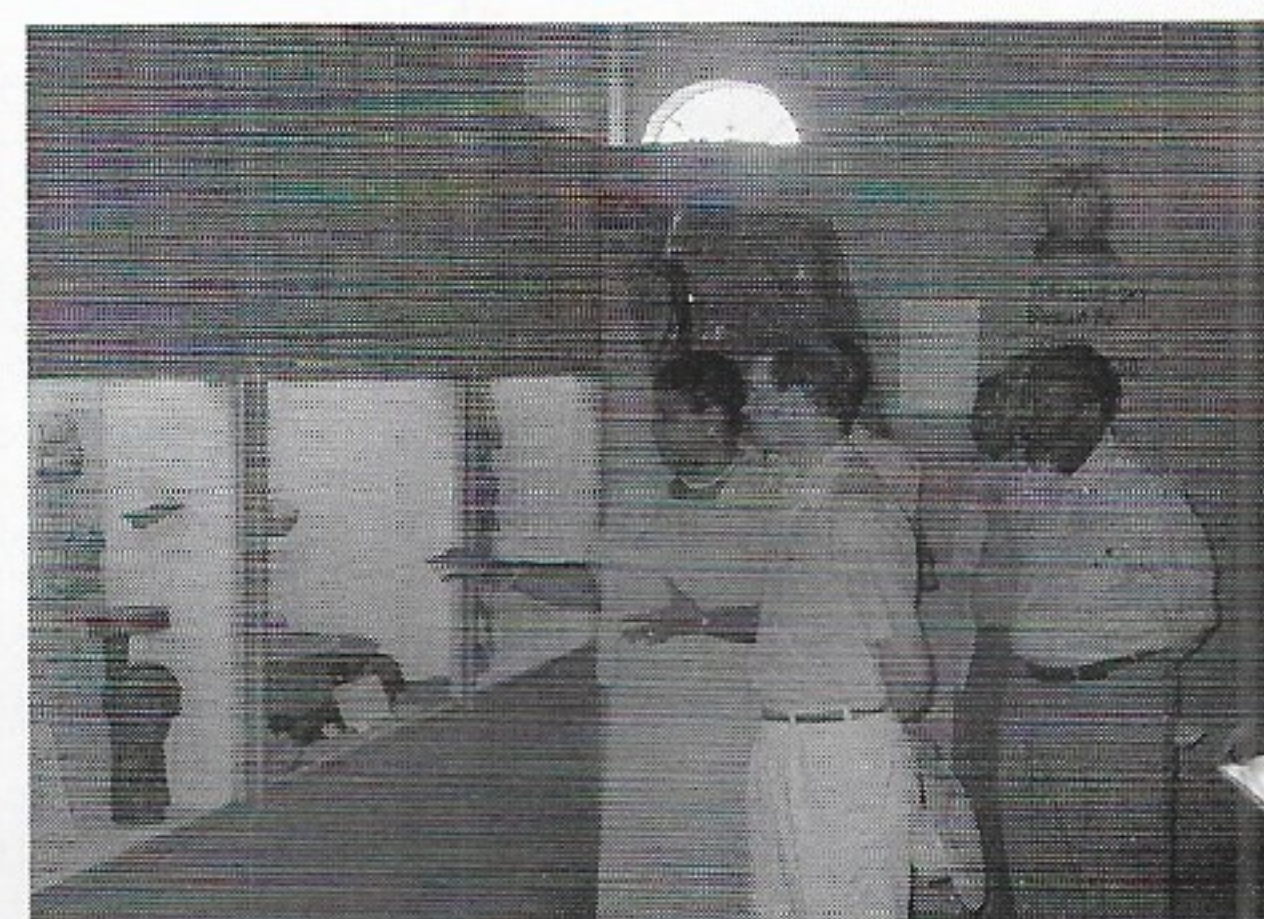
The project includes:

- installing a new roof to meet hurricane standards;
- new electrical wiring, air conditioning and lighting work;
- graphic design and content development for the new exhibits;
- production of exhibit texts;
- construction of exhibit displays; and,
- installation of exhibit items.

The wear-and-tear is visible on the existing exhibits. Additionally, aspects of the exhibits have become outdated in terms of how modern museums seek to connect with visitors. Core exhibits in museums generally are expected to last an average of seven years, after which time it is usually deemed prudent to change, update, or upgrade them. This updating allows for the introduction of new interpretations of the past, new technologies, and new



Queen Elizabeth II tours the Jubilee Gallery in 1985, accompanied by Dame Billie Miller and Alissandra Cummins, and other officials



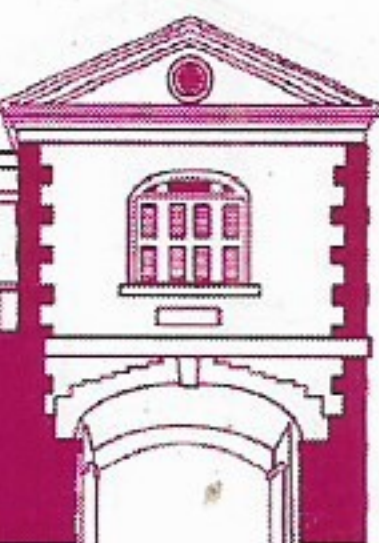
The Duke of Edinburgh tours the Jubilee Gallery on May 14, 2003, accompanied by Maria Boyce Taylor, Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C. and others

concepts in museum design and interpretation.

Improving the core exhibits will revitalise the Museum's presentation of the island's history and raise the appeal level for visitors. Not only will we be able to tell a better story, but it is anticipated that new, attractive exhibits will in turn attract a larger audience to the Museum. The new displays will combine modern historical scholarship with state-of-the-art design that will actively draw the visitor into the lively history of Barbados.



## ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM



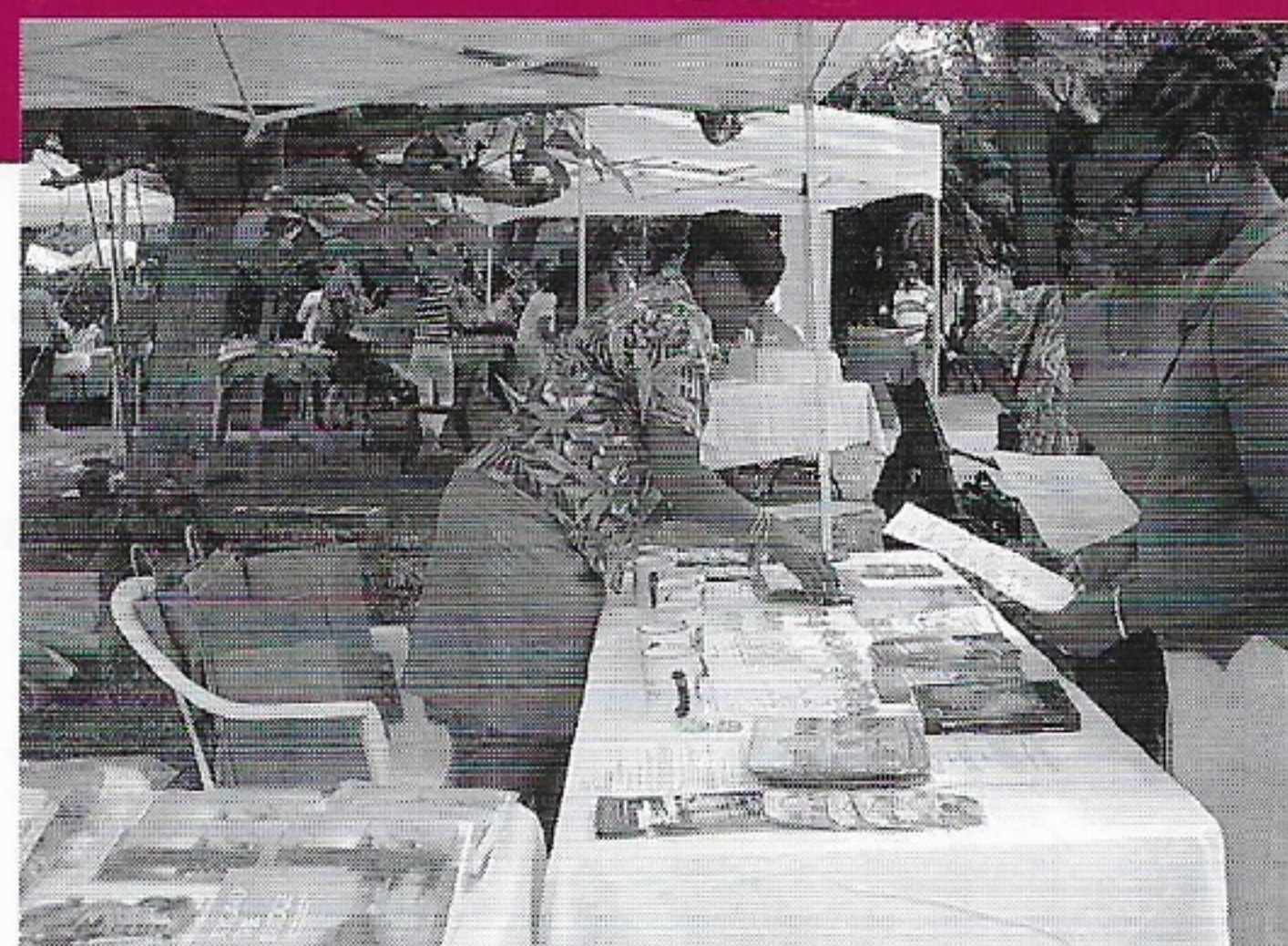
### Museum Highlights

#### International Women's Marketplace

Thanks to a generous offer from the Organising Committee of the International Women's Marketplace, the Museum had an opportunity, free of cost, to raise awareness of its 75th anniversary activities and sell some Museum merchandise on 5th April.

Janice Brock's loan of her tent made the Museum's booth possible.

The Marketing Officer, Christine Skeete and Administrative Assistant – Merchandising, Marcia Griffith, had a productive and enjoyable day on the grounds of the Canadian High Commission and the Museum looks forward to participating next year.



Marcia Griffith organises items on display at the Museum stall as patrons read about our upcoming events.

#### Amistad Visit to Barbados

In preparation for the historic visit of the Amistad Freedom Schooner to the island, Museum representatives were invited to serve on the Barbados Tourism Authority's Planning Committee. The Museum was the venue for a reception in the evening, hosted by the Barbados Tourism Authority, to officially welcome the ship's crew.

On 7th April, some crew members from the Amistad Freedom Schooner toured

the Barbados Museum, including the Ending the Trade exhibition, and then went on to Newton Slave Burial Ground to lend a hand in making this important historical site more presentable to the public.

A few days later, Museum employees were treated to a private tour of the vessel, and a fundraising cruise was held on 12th April, with the proceeds shared between the Amistad and the BMHS.



Merna Bryan pretends to steer the Amistad ship as Susan Boyce looks on during the staff tour of the ship

#### Schools' Journal Presentation

Through the generosity of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Ltd. (ICBL) and Gillespie & Steel Associates Ltd., all of the island's secondary schools received copies of the latest issue of the Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society. Presentations were made to representatives of the schools by Mr. Bruce Jardine of Gillespie & Steel Associates Ltd. and Ms. Phyllis Reece of ICBL, on behalf of Mr. Denis Bradshaw, the Insurance Division's General Manager, who was unable to attend.



Sampling of Bajan saltbread during Museum Open Day

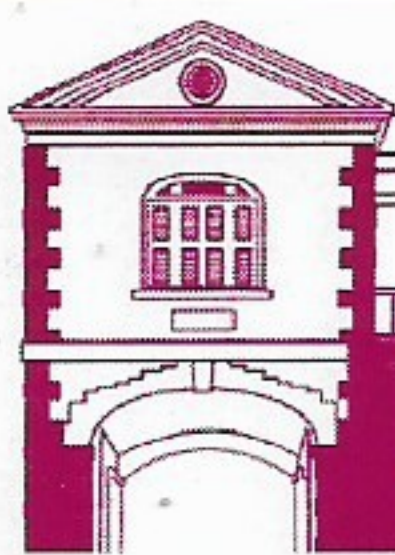
#### Museum Open Day

The BMHS marked International Museum Day, themed "Museums as Agents of Social Change and Development", with its Museum Open Day on 17th May. It was the kick-off event for the Barbados National Committee of ICOM's Cultural Heritage Week and featured guided tours, DJ Gabriella a Garrison Nature Walk, the Best Saltbread Competition, storytelling and magic for children, and Bajan

delicacies, confectionary, and jewellery on sale.

The response to the Write Your Name on History's Page initiative was very positive, and so the campaign was extended to 31st May. Barbadian residents were encouraged to contribute, in their own handwriting for posterity, their memories of the Museum and of Barbados and also describe what they envision for the Museum and for Barbados in the future.





## ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

### Museum Highlights

#### ICOM Visit to the Olympic Museum

Members of the Barbados National Committee of ICOM (International Council of Museums) made the Barbados Olympic Association's Museum the most recent venue for their museum talk. Oneka Small discussed the challenges of designing this museum space, but the most impressive piece of information she shared was that everything from the museum design to the graphics and printing was done in Barbados.



Allison Callender, ICOM Barbados Secretary and organiser of the tour, in the Olympic Museum

#### Lecture Series

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society's 75th Anniversary Lecture Series ran from 15th April to 24th June. This 2008 series was entitled The BMHS: Three Generations of Commitment, Creation and Conservation. The nine lectures in the series were:

Dr. Trevor Carmichael – "1933: The Museum Assumes its Mantle"

Ms. Alissandra Cummins - "What Kind of Mirror Image?: Art at the Barbados Museum"

Dr. Karl Watson - "All Things Bright & Beautiful, All Creatures Great & Small: Natural History at the Barbados Museum"

Mr. Kevin Farmer - "From the Orient to Barbados: 75 Years of Collecting at the Barbados Museum"

Mr. Nicholas Forde - "The Furniture Collection"

Mrs. Kathleen Drayton - "Cultural Heritage & National Identity: The Society's Local Outreach"

Ms. Peggy McGeary - "The Society's Regional & International Outreach"

Prof. Woodville Marshall - "Publications & Intellectual Creation"

Dr. Thomas Loftfield - "2083: The Next 75 Years"

#### Radio Show

The Curator – History & Archaeology initiated a collaborative series with CBC's Q100.7 FM to be present on the Lookin' Back call-in show on Fridays and focus topics on the Museum and its 75 years of heritage preservation. This collaboration ran for three successive shows, one per week, starting from 23rd May.

The Director was also interviewed on the topic of the 75th Anniversary by the Government Information Service for dissemination to radio stations.

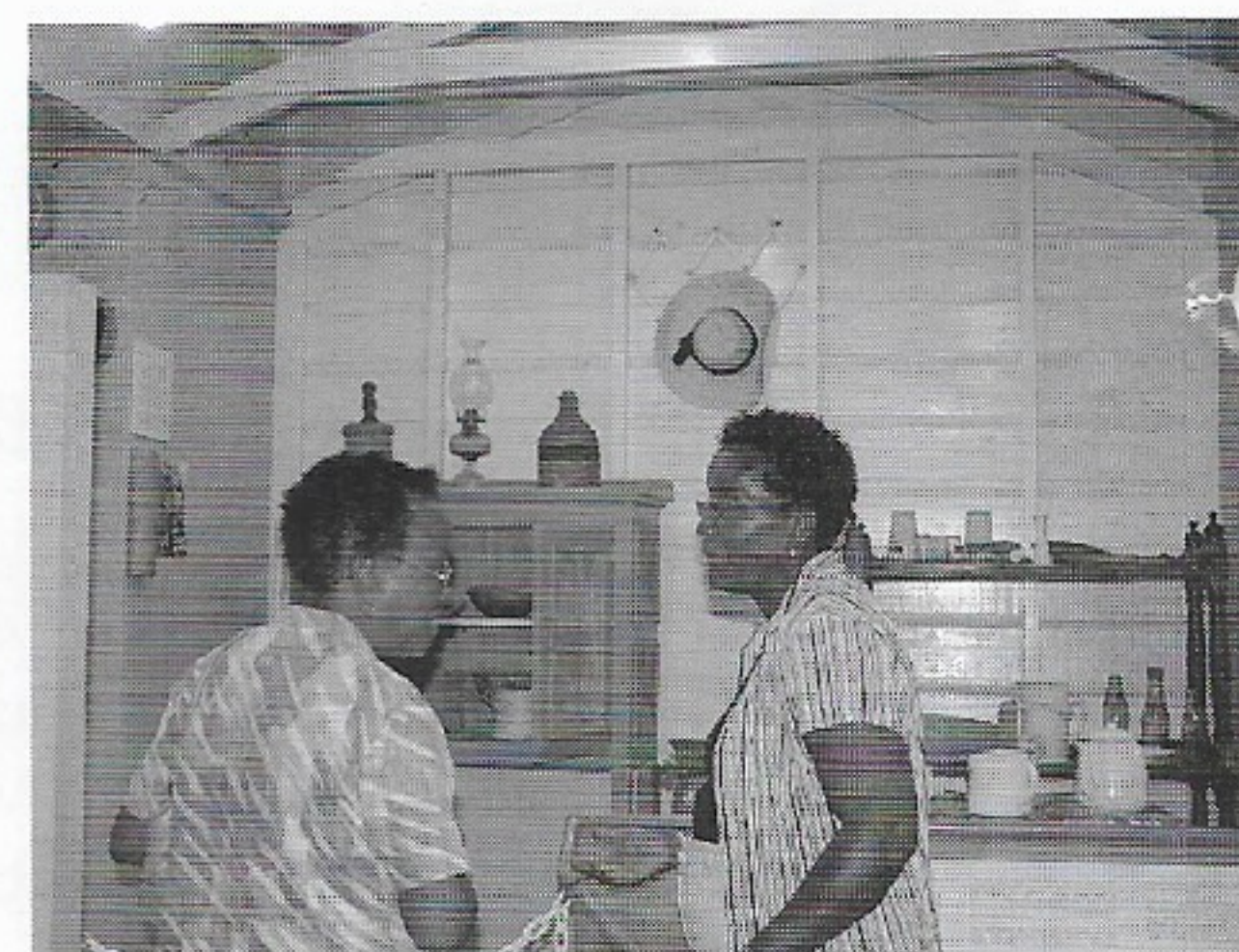
#### Grand Ole Time Excursion Bus Tour

On 24th May, 120 Barbadians and visitors to the island came together for the Grand Ole Time Excursion Bus Tour, which marked both the 75th Anniversary and the end of Cultural Heritage Week. It provided an opportunity to hear from

Kevin Farmer, Peggy McGeary and Addington Forde, the stories of our past and of our unsung heroes. Guided tours were also offered of sites that are rarely visited by the public, including Rock Hall Free Village, the Folk Museum at Heritage Park and Newton Slave Burial Ground.



The picnic lunch stop at Barclays Park on the east coast

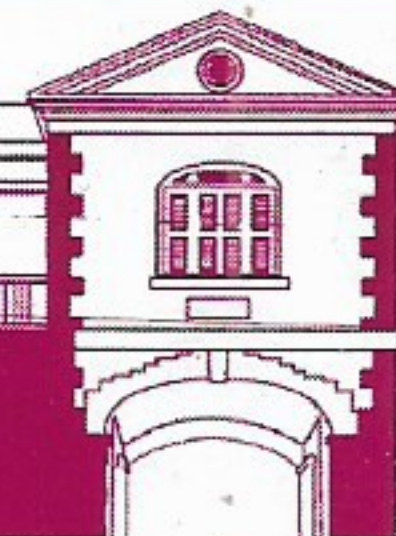


A discussion on Barbados of yesteryear takes place in the Folk Museum

#### Staff Tour

Museum staff members were given an opportunity to experience firsthand the results of the BMHS' advice and cooperation with the Nidhe Israel Museum, St. Nicholas Abbey and Arlington House Museum on 29th May.





## Museum Highlights

### Newspaper Supplement

A nine-page feature on the Museum was printed in the Nation Newspaper on 25th May, showcasing the institution's achievements and activities, and included congratulatory messages from several organisations.

### Presentation of Mount Gay Ledgers

On 26th May a press conference was held during which Mount Gay Distilleries Ltd. donated to the BMHS two ledgers from the Mount Gay Plantation, dated 1809-1836 and 1870-1874. The documents form a "very generous and thoughtful gift" to the museum, in the words of the President of the Museum's Council, Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C., as they will allow a detailed examination of the operation of this historically important plantation. In addition, a donation was made of a copy of the 1703 deed which establishes rum production on the estate from that date.



Kevin Farmer addresses the media. At the table are Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Mr. Antoine Houdebine, Managing Director of Mount Gay Distilleries Ltd. and Ms. Alissandra Cummins.

### Week of Activities

The week of anniversary activities continued following the ledger presentation to feature a Museum Shop Sale on 28th and another sale in the

specially decorated Shop on the BMHS' birthday on 31st May, along with discounted admission as our birthday gift to the public.

The exhibition "You Go Down the Ladder, I'll Shine the Torch" by the Museum's Artist-in-Residence, Ingrid Persaud, opened to a large gathering from the arts community on 29th May. Through etchings, photography, sculpture, installations, sound, and a web-based project, Ingrid examined the ways in which objects are collected and classified by museums and by members of the public. The exhibition ended on 19th June.

A Voices: Barbados Writers' Collective open-mic session on 30th May was also promoted by the Museum and attendance was higher than usual for this monthly special event. Unfortunately, this turned

out to be the last time Voices Coordinator Debbie Callender would have organized the monthly sessions at the Museum. Debbie passed away after a sudden illness on 9th June. The Museum joins with the literary community in mourning the passing of an effervescent person who will be missed by all Museum employees who came into contact with her.

### Free Admission for Caricom Nationals

On 23rd June as an anniversary gift to the nation, the Council of the Museum announced that from that day onwards all Barbadians and other Caricom nationals would be allowed free entry upon presentation of ID. It was a fitting tribute on the 75th anniversary of the BMHS' first temporary exhibition which opened on this date in 1933 at Queen's Park House.



Jane and Chris D'Silva volunteering at the Museum's table at de Heart uh Barbados, sharing space with the Barbados Horticultural Society (BHS) represented by Kathleen Loftfield, also a Friend of the Museum, and June Shuffler, member of the BHS and the BMHS.

### De Heart uh Barbados

The Friends of the Museum ensured that the Museum had a presence during De Heart uh Barbados event, put on by the National Heritage Department, on 23rd and 24th June. The BMHS'

Herbarium Project was showcased along with other grantees of the UNDP Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme 1994-96, and Museum merchandise was on sale. 75th Anniversary activities were also publicised during the weekend.





## DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

#### Barbados Museum & Historical Society 2007-2008 Donors

##### Patrons' Circle (\$25,000 and above)

Government of Barbados  
Peter Moores Barbados Trust  
Tourism Development Corporation

##### Benefactors' Circle (\$1,000 to \$24,999)

Barbados Community Foundation  
Mr. & Mrs. Derrick Smith  
Barbados Light & Power Ltd.  
Barbados National Bank  
Cable & Wireless  
Cockspur/Hanschell Inniss Ltd.  
Chancery Chambers  
Goddard Enterprises Ltd.  
Mount Gay Distilleries Ltd.  
Peach and Quiet Hotel  
R.L. Seale & Co. Ltd.  
Mr. Jan-Arne Farstad  
Mr. John MacKenzie  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Moore  
U.S. Ambassador Mary Ourisman

##### Contributors' Circle (\$100 to \$999)

American Life Insurance Co. Ltd.  
Banks Holding Ltd.  
Barbados Packaging Industries Ltd.  
Barbados Shipping & Trading Company Ltd.  
The Bazeley Partnership – Chartered Architects  
BRC West Indies Ltd.  
Business and Employment Centre Inc.  
Caribbean Consultants Ltd.  
CGM Insurance Brokers Ltd.  
Chefette Restaurants  
Cave Shepherd & Co. Ltd.  
Coleridge & Parry School  
Coral Reef Club  
Gillespie & Steel Associates Ltd.  
Goucher College  
Hayden Workman Electrical Inc.  
H.N. Rogers Stationery Ltd.  
Insurance Corporation of Barbados Ltd.  
Ideal Agencies Ltd.  
Millennium Management Ltd.  
Nation Publishing Company Ltd.  
Pinelands Creative Workshop  
Rotherley Coconstruction Inc.  
Sagicor General Insurance Inc.  
Sheraton Mall/Gote Properties Inc.  
Stephen Walcott & Co.  
St. Jude's Senior Citizen Group  
Mr. James Gardner  
Mr. Neil Morris

##### 2007-2008 Annual Appeal Individual Donors

Mrs. Cheryl Adams  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Allen  
Mr. Warren Alleyne  
Mr. Derek Hamilton Ashby  
Mr. Tyrone Ashby  
Ms. Nina Atkinson  
Mr. Joseph Bamford  
Sybil Barrow  
Dr. John N. Bell  
Mr. & Mrs. Terence Bickley  
Mrs. Carrol C. Bourne  
Mrs. Doris Burbridge  
Mrs. Diana Campbell  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Carrington  
Mr. Richard Carter  
Dr. Clyde T. Cave  
Mrs. Virginia Challenor  
Mrs. Alison Chapman-Andrews  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cheeseman  
Mr. Patterson K.H. Cheltenham, Q.C.  
Mr. G. Denis Clarke  
Mrs. C. Shirley Clarke  
Mr. Roger Collins  
Mr. Edward P. Evelyn  
Mr. Martin Frost  
Mr. Richard Gill  
Mr. Joseph Goddard  
Mrs. Robert H. I. Goddard  
Mr. Herbert G. Gooding  
Mr. Jerome Handler  
Mr. Leslie Haynes, Q.C.  
Dr. Lenore Harney  
Dr. Marilyn Harris  
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Hart  
Mr. Stephen A. Hopwood  
Mrs. Daphne Hunte  
Mr. & Mrs. Neville Isdell  
Mr. Ashby Jordan  
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Kent  
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Loftfield  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas MacKenzie  
Mrs. Hannah Mahomed  
Marie Elizabeth Marshall  
Dr. Bruce Martin  
Mr. Hamish G. McClurg  
Mr. Harley S.L. Moseley  
Mrs. Helen Murray  
Mrs. Joan O'Neale  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Parsons  
Ms. Grace Pilgrim  
Ms. Barbara Preston  
Mrs. Henrietta M. Sealy  
Mrs. Cheri-Ann Sealy Catwell  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Sedgemore  
Dr. Lyall W. Small  
Prof. Frederick H. Smith, Ph.D.

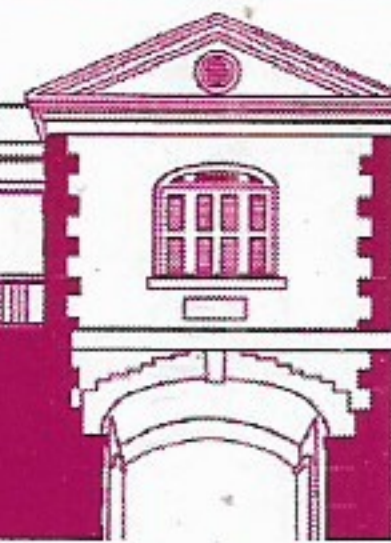
Mr. Clyde D. Sobers  
Mr. Stephen J. Walcott  
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Walker  
Ms. Maiela Wall  
Ms. Kaiela Wall  
Mrs. Rolla E. Wilson-King

##### 2007-2008 In-kind Services Supporters

Atlantis Submarines (Barbados) Inc.  
Barbados Lumber Co. Ltd.  
Barbados Tourism Authority  
Barbados Hotel Tourism Association  
Bakers Choice Ltd./Tortuga Rum Cake  
Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation  
Caribbean Confection Company  
Caribbean Emporium  
Chefette Restaurants  
Cockspur/Hanschell Inniss Ltd.  
Confectionery & Snacks  
(Barbados) Ltd.  
Elegant Hotels Group  
(Turtle Beach Resort)  
Elite Sound Systems Ltd.  
Mount Gay Distilleries Ltd.  
Nation Publishing Company Ltd.  
Northern Lumber Co. Ltd.  
Pyramid Entertainment Management Inc.  
Rose & LaFlamme (Barbados) Ltd.  
R.L. Seale & Co. Ltd.  
Rum Refinery of Mount Gay Ltd.  
Sandy Lane Hotel/ L'Acajou Restaurant  
Starcom Network  
St. Nicholas Abbey  
Super Centre Ltd.  
Tall Ships Cruise Management Ltd.  
Tamarind Seed  
The Organising Committee of the  
International Women's Marketplace  
The West Indies Rum Distillery Ltd.  
West Indies Rum & Spirits Producers  
Association  
Ms. Janice Brock  
Dr. Trevor A. Carmichael, Q.C.  
Mrs. Roz Farstad  
Mrs. Daphne Hunte  
Mrs. Hazel-Ann Kent  
Mr. Peter Laurie  
Mr. Keith Laurie  
Mr. Grant MacPherson  
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Maxwell  
Mrs. Betty Shannon  
Prof. Frederick H. Smith  
Ms. Janice Taylor  
Mr. Alvin Toppin  
Ms. Eva White

All lists reflect giving in  
2007 and 2008.



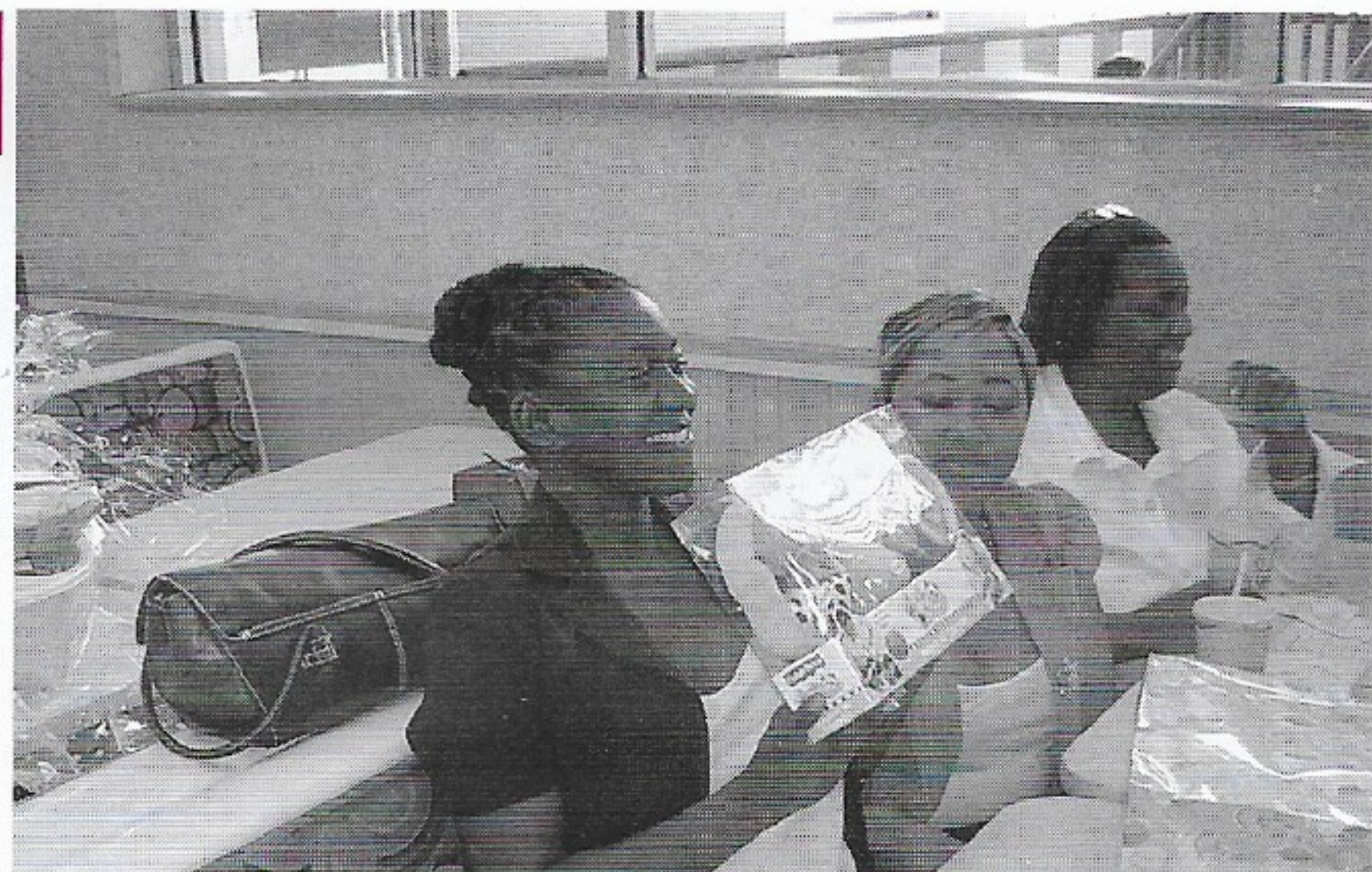


## Announcements

### Baby Shower & Birth

A surprise baby shower was held for Curator – Art & Art History, Allison Callender, at Chefette Rockley on 23rd April, and what a fun-filled afternoon it was.

A few days later, Ocean Emmanuel Callender was born on 8th May to add some balance to the bevy of newborn girls that have joined the Museum family recently.



Allison Callender expresses her delight with one of her gifts

## History Group

Would you like to help promote research and publication of Barbadian history with others who share a similar personal or professional interest? Then you should contact the Curator – Archaeology & History to find out more about the new History Group. Please call Kevin Farmer at Tel: 427-0201 or email him at [arch@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:arch@barbmuse.org.bb).

## 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

Mrs. Joyce Gayle  
Mr. Richard Goddard  
Mr. Humphrey Metzgen  
Mr. Peter Simpson

Stella Lady St. John  
Mrs. Susan Mahon

#### Government Appointees

Mrs. Rosemary Alleyne  
Dr. Richard Goodridge  
Mrs. Selma Thompson  
Mrs. Celia Toppin  
Mrs. Andrea Wells

### MUSEUM STAFF

#### Director

Alissandra Cummins

#### Deputy Director

Dr. Thomas Loftfield

Finance Officer  
Sophia Cummins

Development Officer  
Linda Branch

Education Officer  
Peggy McGeary

Marketing Officer  
Christine Skeete

Administrative Officer  
Susan Boyce

Administrative  
Assistant - Accounts  
Marina Burrowes

Administration  
Assistant - Merchandising  
Marcia Griffith

Event Coordinator  
Cindy Corbin

Receptionist & Shop Assistant  
Kandacey Rollock

### Curatorial

Archaeology and History  
Kevin Farmer

Art and Art History  
Allison Callender

Registrar  
Angela Boyce

Researcher  
Miguel Pena

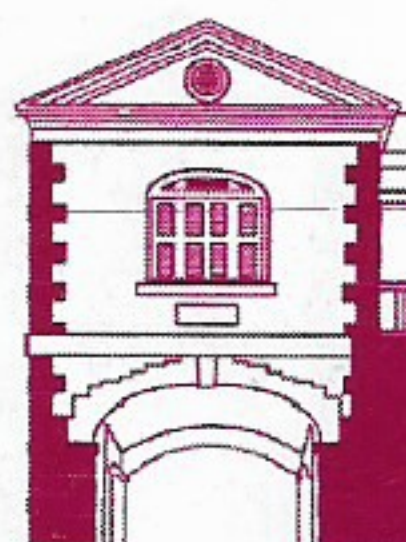
### Technical and Maintenance

Merna Bryan  
Stephen Layne  
Pauline Stuart  
Charles Wiggins

### Security

Roslyn Alleyne  
Vinroy Charles  
Peter Graham  
Cecilia Payne  
Grantley Yarde





## MEMBERSHIP

### ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS OR COLLEAGUES TO JOIN THE BARBADOS MUSEUM – WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT!

Member privileges when they join:

- A year's subscription to the Arti-facts Newsletter
- Free admission to the Museum
- Free use of Museum Library services
- Members discount in the Museum shop and more!

Title & Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Life \$690.00 • Firm / Company \$230.00 • Annual \$51.75
- Joint Annual (husband & wife) \$69.00 • Student \$5.75
- Junior (18 years & under) \$5.75

#### PAYMENT DETAILS

To join friends or colleagues need to complete details above, and payment detail below.

- A cheque or money order made payable to: Barbados Museum & Historical Society
- Payment by credit card: VISA/AMEX /MASTERCARD

Credit card number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Expiry date:

--	--	--	--

Month

Year

- Send your cheque or money order to: Barbados Museum & Historical Society, St. Ann's Garrison, St. Michael, Barbados.
- Credit card payment can be faxed to the Museum on 429-5946.