

# Artifacts

Barbados  
Museum  
& Historical  
Society

BARBADOS MUSEUM &  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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Membership



## Dear Member,

Many may be familiar with the very readable Museum publication *Amerindian Stories*:

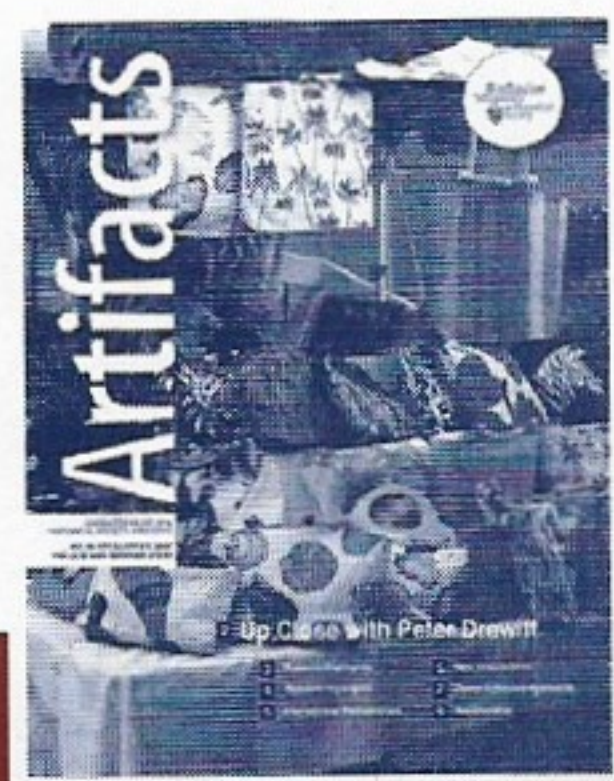
An *Archaeology of Early Barbados* by Prof. Peter L. Drewett, but how much do you know about the author? He taught at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London from 1973 and founded the Barbados Archaeological Survey 1974 at the invitation of the Museum. On this page, we go beyond the biographical notes to learn about the connections this fascinating archaeologist has with Barbados.

In recent months, the Museum has been in the public eye frequently, as revealed by the events represented in this edition of *Artifacts*. These exciting activities include the annual Fine Craft Festival and the inaugural Festival of Trees.

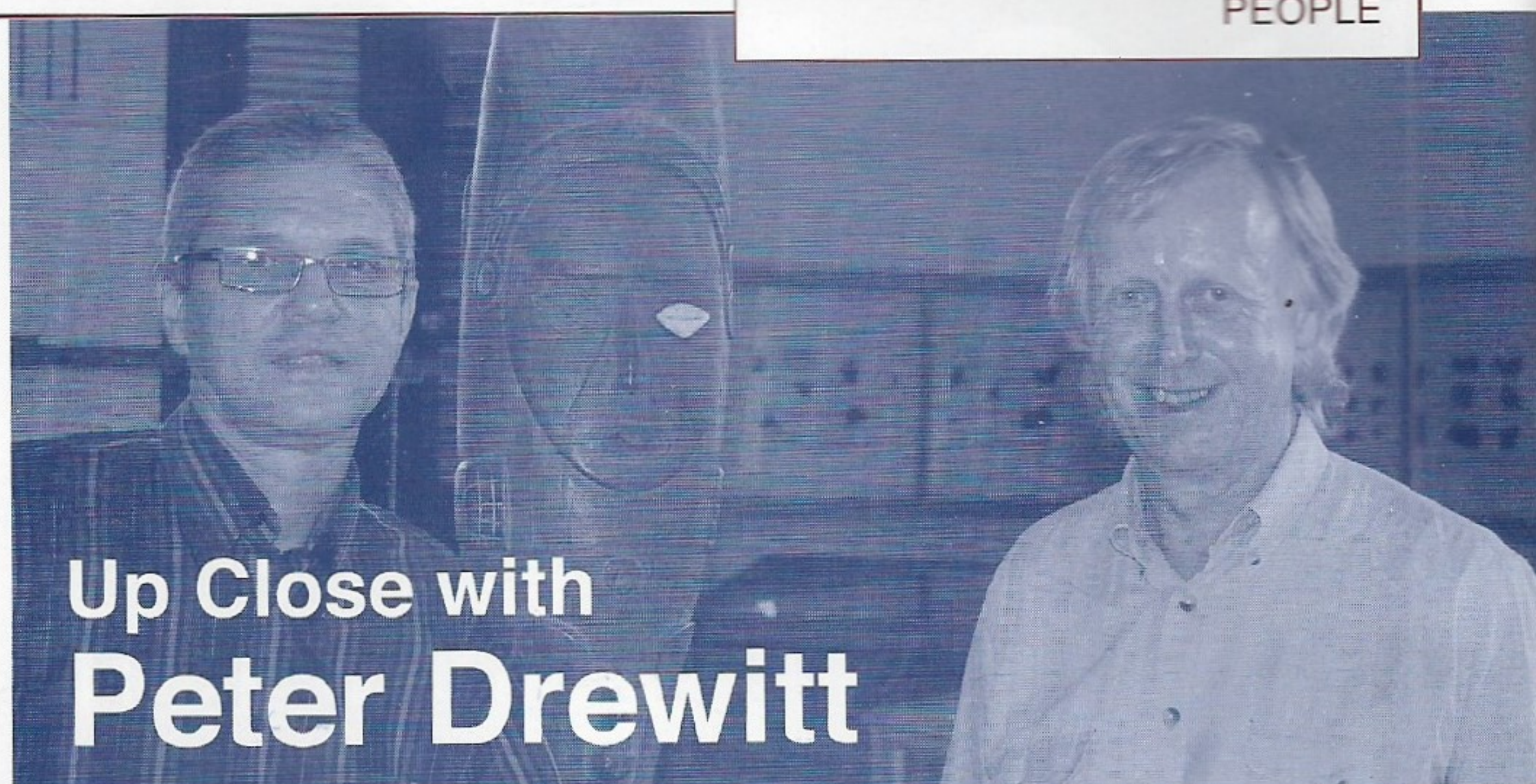
What do you think of the new look and feel of this issue of *Artifacts*? Please let us know by calling Tel: 427-0201 or dropping a line to Email: [musepr@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:musepr@barbmuse.org.bb). There's even a new BMHS group on Facebook. Read on to find out more...

*Christine Skeete*

Christine Skeete  
Marketing Officer



On Cover:  
Bags by Linda Jones at the  
2009 Fine Craft Festival



## Up Close with Peter Drewett

Peter Drewett (right) with the Director of the University Museum during a recent visit to Havana.

Professor Peter Drewett was in the island recently to prepare for his upcoming exhibition on Amerindians in Barbados. This exhibition will open on October 06, 2009 and will run for four months. The opening date marks the 25th anniversary of Prof. Drewett's first visit to Barbados.

"Usually my wife and I try to come to Barbados at least once a year," Prof. Drewett notes of his longstanding relationship with the island. His wife, Liz, is an archaeological illustrator and ceramicist.

The most memorable project in Barbados for him to date is the Port St. Charles project which unfolded in 1995 and between 1997 and 1998. Not only were round houses unearthed but also for the first time in the island's recorded history wooden posts in post-holes were discovered. This was the first and only example of pre-historic wood found in Barbados. "The project was on a huge scale and the schedule was tight, but the people on the site were superb," he added.

Kevin Farmer, BMHS Curator - History & Archaeology, first met Prof. Drewett in the course of work on this project. Kevin is now his doctoral student. "There's an excavation site here that Peter dug in 1979 that is still used as a case study of how a dig should be conducted."

Exciting finds often have accidental origins, as was the case with the development of the recreational park at Silver Sands. Small Amerindian effigies of frogs were discovered but what Prof. Drewett notes was unusual about them was that they were typical of the Greater

Antilles, rather than this area. Fascinating remnants from a festivity of some sort were found within a midden, or a trash heap in layman's terms.

Why the interest in Barbados, some may wonder. Well, Prof. Drewett points out that as a student of archaeology, he found that Barbados was often referenced but not a huge amount was known about the island in that context.

Of course he has been witness to many changes over the years. When he first came to Barbados, there was no Curator of Archaeology appointed yet - that only came 11 years later in the form of Kevin Farmer. "Twenty-five years ago there was no one even studying historic and prehistoric archaeology at the university here, but there must be at least half a dozen projects going on now."

He views the development of Barbados as an economic transformation and sees life here as more vibrant now.

"Would you believe that when we first came St. Lawrence Gap was a quiet neighbourhood! There was even a mauby lady who used to come through the district selling in the traditional way."

"Barbados is like a second home to us. We've been here so many times now and have made some good friends here."

And we hope he continues to share his knowledge and expertise with us.

Prof. Drewett is the President of the Sussex Archaeological Society, the largest county society in the UK and is now enjoying his retirement.



## The Passionate Advocate

Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C., President of the BMHS Council, in association with the University of the West Indies booksellers hosted the launch of Lord Anthony Gifford's *The Passionate Advocate* on 31st October. Lord Gifford autographed purchased copies of the book and delivered a short address. Lord Gifford's distinguished legal career has taken him to the forefront of significant global human rights advocacy.

## Are You on Facebook?

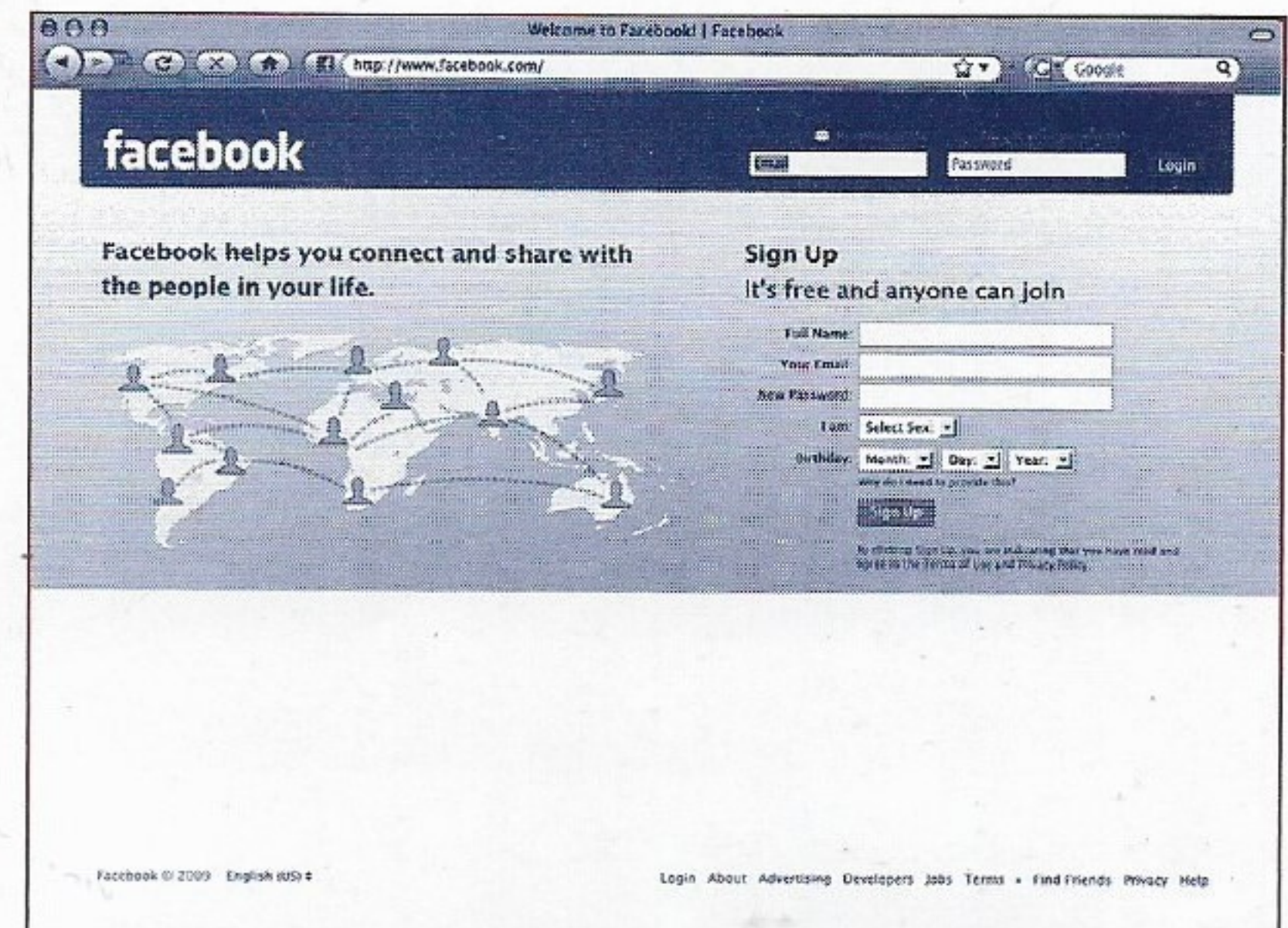
The Museum is ensuring that it taps into current technology and enhances its appeal to online users by launching a Barbados Museum & Historical Society group. This is an open group that provides a forum for discussions on topics of history, culture, heritage and other related issues.

The BMHS Group on Facebook was introduced to public during launch of Lord Anthony Gifford's *The Passionate Advocate*

Facebook gives people easy ability to share thoughts and stay connected with others around the world. Millions of

people use Facebook everyday to keep up with friends, upload an unlimited number of photos, share links and videos, and discover useful information.

Join us today at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), or if you're already on Facebook remember to do a search for the Barbados Museum and get in on our event updates and discussions.



## To Recapture a Fortress

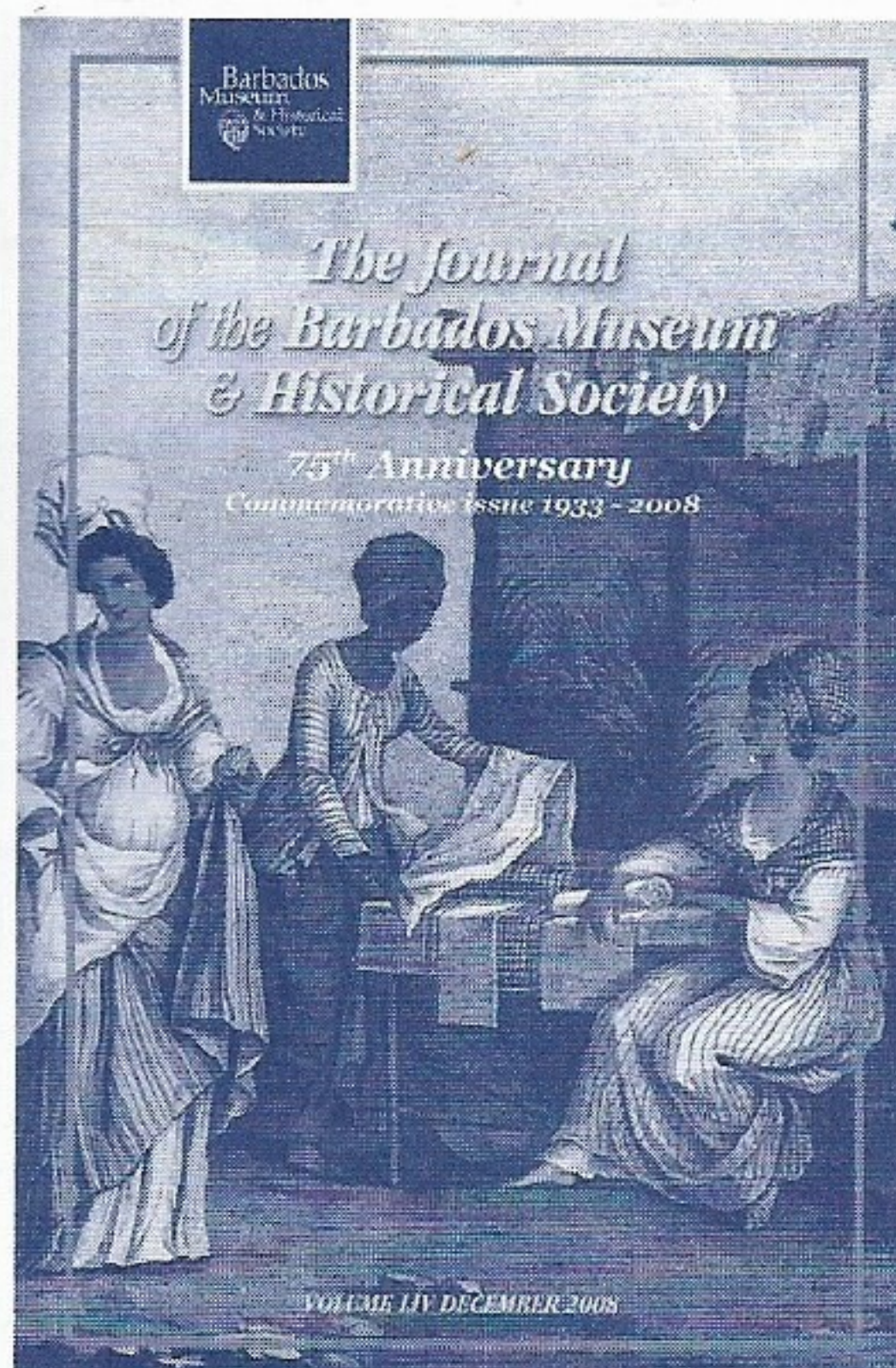
The Barbados Museum was the venue for a lecture by Dr. Lennox Honychurch on 18th November, entitled *To Recapture a Fortress: Fort Shirley, Dominica as an Example of a Caribbean Garrison*. It was well received by a large audience.

## 75 Years of the BMHS in Print

A media launch was held at the Museum on 29th December to introduce Volume 54 of the *Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society*

Edited by Dr. Karl Watson for the twelfth consecutive year, this issue commemorates the 75th anniversary of the BMHS and features papers from the 2008 BMHS Lecture Series, among other intriguing articles.

The journal is available at the Museum Gift Shop and leading bookstores.



Vol. 54 of the Journal of the BMHS

## Children of Africa in the Colonies

Following the launch of the *Journal*, Dr. Melanie Newton was the featured speaker at the meeting of the BMHS History Group. She spoke about her latest book *Children of Africa in the Colonies: Free People of Colour in Barbados in the Age of Emancipation*, which is now available in the Museum Gift Shop.

## Festive Dinner

Museum staff and Council members enjoyed a delightful Christmas dinner at Colony Club Hotel on 22nd December. A grand time was had by all in attendance, as it provided an opportunity for everyone to let their hair down, pop a cracker and enjoy a good laugh. An event is planned specially for volunteers to be held early in the new year.



# Fine Craft Festival

A Celebration of Barbadian Creativity & Innovation



Janice Brock & Roy Jones

**O**n 6th December, hundreds of locals and visitors flocked to the Museum for the Fine Craft Festival as it marked its 21st birthday during the Museum's 75th anniversary year.

If you weren't there, then you missed out on the best in high quality handmade household and personal items such as linens, ceramic vases and dishes, wooden trinket boxes, baskets, woven magazine and wine racks, bath and body products, and handpainted bags and clothing.

Indigenous materials were in abundance in innovative forms, including grasses for basket weaving, seeds for jewellery, and cane bagasse and banana leaves for handmade paper. It's no wonder that the theme for the event was *A Celebration of Barbadian Creativity & Innovation*.

As the Museum's mandate covers not only our cultural heritage but also our natural heritage, Christmas decorations designed by artist Beverley Alleyne were environmentally friendly.

Meanwhile, artist Ingrid Persaud transformed the Museum's entrance.

The Museum was not the only institution benefiting from the fundraising opportunity. Complimentary spaces were offered to Challenor School Adult Training Facility and the Barbados Community College Department of Fine Arts.

The little ones in attendance amused themselves with the Lucky Dip, jumping tent, face-painting, balloon animals and games by Annie the Clown, and storytelling and magic shows by children's story writer Jason Cole.

The DJ kept the atmosphere festive throughout the day and live entertainment was plentiful. A tuk band, Chris Harper and Willie Kerr in a saxophone/guitar duet performance, and the Foundation School Pop Band all thrilled patrons.

Delicacies to satisfy every palate were available from the Friends of the Museum tea stall and other vendors.

For the first time ever members of the public were invited to bring works on paper and paintings for free advice from overseas-based conservators Luis Larrazabal and Lidia Aravena, who were in the island to work with the National Art Gallery Committee and the Museum.

To the delight of patrons, exciting door prizes by Cave Shepherd, Tamarind Seed, Atlantis Submarines and The Fish Pot Restaurant were up for grabs.

Janice Brock was awarded the Best Display ribbon and also received a hefty hamper from the Barbados Manufacturer's Association. Luna Designs was the runner up and they received a shopping voucher from Tamarind Seed.

The event was sponsored by the Bajan Fuh Real campaign, with assistance from Advocate Publishers (2000) Inc., Atlantic Marketing, Barbados Shipping & Trading Company Limited, Brydens Business Solutions, Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation, Cot Caribbean Graphics, M.W. Consulting, Nation Publishing Company Limited, Pine Hill Dairy, Print Source, Read-Rent Limited, SMJ Beverages (Barbados) Inc., Starcom Network Inc., and WIBISCO.



The Discoveries Christmas tree decorated by Angela Simpson in the Jubilee Gallery

## Festival of Trees

**O**n 12th December, members of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society received an evening of Christmas cheer during the Festival of Trees reception. The full moon night came alive in the Museum's courtyards with the jazz stylings of Rosemary Phillips, accompanied by Willie Kerr, contemporary tunes by Mariel Onyeche and by the Foundation School Pop Band, as well as steel pan music by Pan Groove. The galleries were aglow with beautifully decorated Christmas trees designed by Lisa Carrillo, Sahara Newsam, Rebecca Ali and Gina Foster, among others. Each tree featured a theme such as underwater, inspirational thoughts and nature.

Members of the public were also invited to stop by the Museum during the weekend and view the unique trees at their convenience.

The Festival of Trees was sponsored by PriceSmart and Price Charities, Chancery Chambers, Angela Simpson and Discoveries, Super Centre Ltd. Legal & Medical Independent Financial Advisors and RBC Insurance.



# ICOM MPR Meeting in Brazil

**F**rom 2nd to 7th November, the Marketing Officer, Christine Skeete, attended the 2008 Meeting of ICOM's International Committee on Marketing & Public Relations, themed Communicating Cultural Heritage to the Young. The sessions provided very useful models of programmes geared towards engaging young visitors and the samples of the communications initiatives and materials that are effective in capturing their attention.

The workshop culminated in Rio de Janeiro but it was based in the seaside colonial town of Paraty. With its preserved 17th century buildings and roads and the historic town centre, closed to vehicular traffic, it was the perfect setting for a study of Brazilian heritage communications and public engagement.

Paraty is located 25 miles from Rio de Janeiro on Ilha Grande Bay, Brazil's southeastern coast.

It is popular with Brazilians and visitors who want to get away from it all, including Harry Potter author, J.K. Rowling, who has a home there.

In the 1700's gold mining made Paraty the second most important port in Brazil during the Ciclo de Ouro, or Golden Century. However, when a new road was built to another port in Espiritu Santo state, Paraty was practically forgotten. Ironically, it is the isolation of the town during this era that helped it to preserve its heritage and makes it special today.



The ICOM MPR group

## Help Us Redevelop the Core Exhibits of the Barbados Museum

**With Your Donation of \$200.00, You Get a Chance to Win Fantastic Prizes in the Barbados Museum & Historical Society's 75th Anniversary Raffle**

Enter as many times as you like. Only 500 tickets have been printed so you have a great chance of winning. Get your tickets early to ensure you're entered for all draws!

Grand Prize Draw – June 27, 2009  
2009 Kia Picanto Car  
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Trip for 2 to St. Lucia, compliments of Chancery Chambers, & accommodation at Almond Smuggler's Cove, compliments of Williams Industries

### Interim Prizes March 06, 2009

- Dacosta Mannings Inc. gift card
- Elemis Absolute Spa Ritual & Pedicure at Indulgence Spa by Royal Westmoreland
- Holders Season 2009 Tickets for 2 to all 7 Productions in the Main Theatre

### April 24, 2009

- Sandy Lane Dinner for 2 at Bajan Blue Restaurant
- Earthworks Collectible "Sunset" Vase

### May 29, 2009

- Butterfly Beach Hotel 2-day/3-night stay with breakfast included
- Best of Barbados Jill Walker artwork

### June 12, 2009

- Winston Kellman oil on canvas 20 x 24 "Sunset Series" Landscape
- Bill Grace original artwork

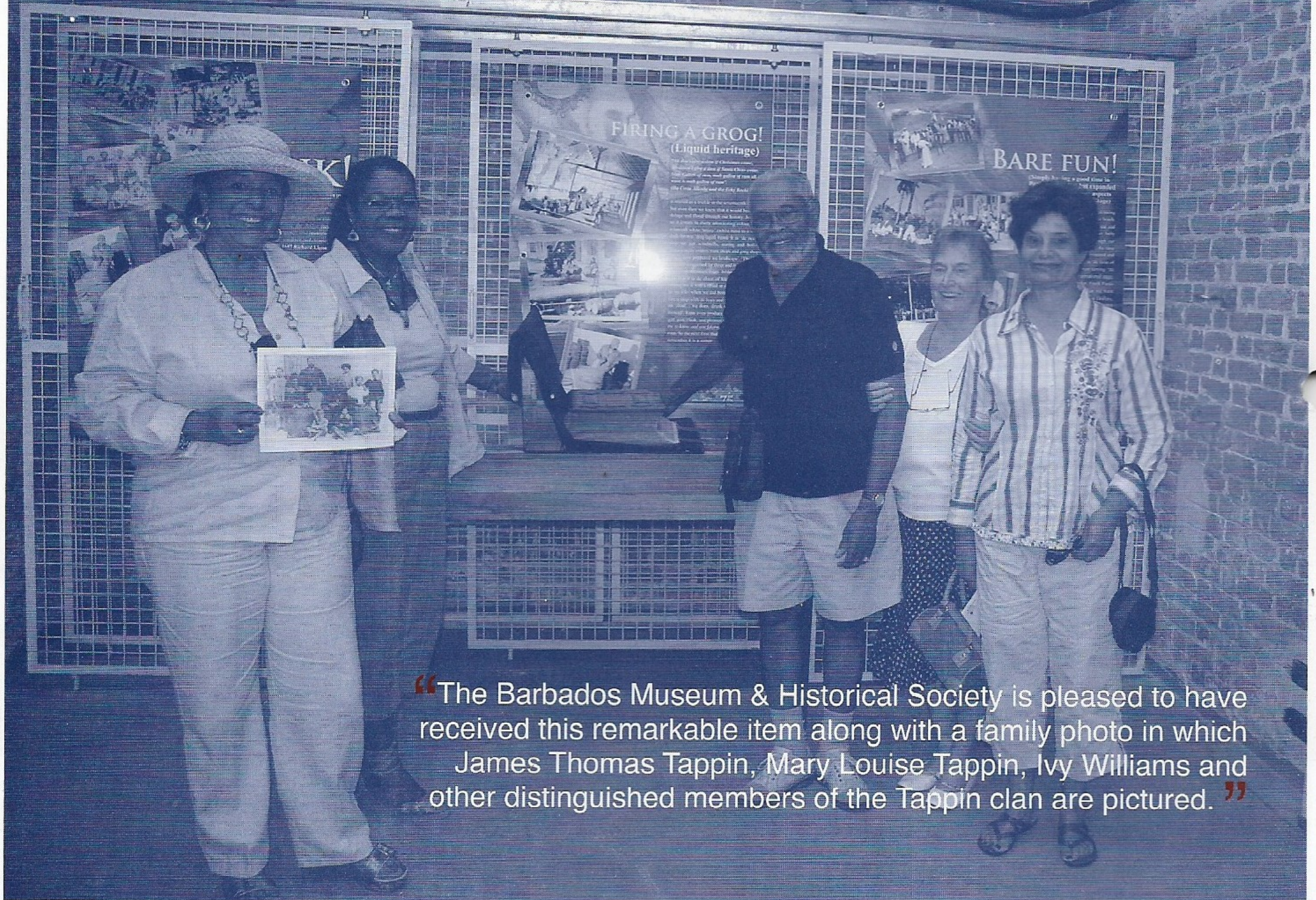
Tickets are available at the Barbados Museum, St. Ann's Garrison, St. Michael. Delivery of tickets may be arranged.

For more information, please contact the Barbados Museum & Historical Society at Tel: 427-0201 or Email: [museum@caribsurf.com](mailto:museum@caribsurf.com)





# Tappin Family Bible



“The Barbados Museum & Historical Society is pleased to have received this remarkable item along with a family photo in which James Thomas Tappin, Mary Louise Tappin, Ivy Williams and other distinguished members of the Tappin clan are pictured.”

Left to right: Amor Mottley, Muriel Griffith, Hamilton and Genevive Tappin and Leila Anita Tappin

Can you imagine having a 138 year old bible in your family passed down from generation to generation? Well, the Tappin family can. The twenty-three pound bible, which was first acquired by James Thomas Tappin, was recently donated to the Barbados Museum by Hamilton Tappin and family. James Thomas Tappin was the grandfather of Amor Mottley and therefore the great-grandfather of The Honourable Ms. Mia Amor Mottley and Arturo Tappin.

The earliest handwritten notation in the bible is dated 1881 and the most recent entry is dated 1965 but there are two early notations with missing dates.

Hamilton Tappin's earliest memory of the bible was at the family residence, Daytona

in Sargeant's Village in the 1930s, during the time after James Thomas Tappin had passed away and his wife Mary Louise Tappin (nee Griffith) had taken over ownership of the house.

Years later, Amor Mottley first saw the family bible at the home of her aunt, Ivy Williams, in St. David's. Mottley fondly recalls eating sweets from a jar that was kept next to the bible, while inscribed some of the family notations, as instructed. To this day she can identify her handwriting within the pages designated for recording family marriages and births.

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society is pleased to have received this remarkable item along with a family photo in which James Thomas Tappin,

Mary Louise Tappin, Ivy Williams and other distinguished members of the Tappin clan are pictured. The Museum hopes many others will follow the lead of Hamilton and Genevive Tappin, who reside in Canada, and seek the advice of a conservator when old objects come into their possession. The Director of the Barbados Museum, Alissandra Cummins, congratulated the Tappins on having the foresight to give the bible a permanent home in Barbados with the organization that can offer appropriate care for fragile documents.

Hamilton and Genevive Tappin, Amor Mottley, Muriel Griffith and Leila Anita Tappin all attended the presentation.



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As of January 31, 2009

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Gilly Metzgen and Kathleen  
Loftfield, who gave of their  
time, energy and resources:

Work on the Development of  
the Walled Garden Theatre

Maria Adotey  
Terry & Marion Bickley  
Maris Corbin  
Chris & Jane D'Silva  
Kathleen Loftfield  
Gilly Metzgen  
Rex Wason  
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Friends of the Museum Tea  
Stall at the Fine Craft Festival

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Grace Pilgrim  
Jenny Randall  
Jenny Sisnett

Pat Stafford  
Rex Wason  
Ruth Williams

We also acknowledge  
the following volunteers and  
staff members who gave up  
a Saturday, and more, to  
lend a hand during the  
Fine Craft Festival:

Volunteers  
Felicia Browne  
Stevenson Gibbs  
Stacia Hinds  
Cleavon Martin  
Zuena Perry  
Ingrid Persaud  
Cynthia Smith  
Duke of Edinburgh  
Scheme participants

Fine Craft Festival Planning  
Committee & Volunteers  
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Julianna Inniss  
Laura Rudder  
Melanie Springer

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Cindy Corbin  
Kevin Farmer  
Marcia Griffith  
Stephen Layne  
Peggy McGeary  
Pauline Stuart  
Charles Wiggins  
Security guards &  
all others who went  
beyond the call of duty



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