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Artifacts

2

Museum Highlights

2012 Lecture Series Concludes
Morris Donates to Walled Garden Theatre Project
Friends of Museum Tea Party

3

Museum Highlights

Prime Minister Launches Preserving Paradise
Youth Learn about Preserving our Environment
ICOM Bus Tour
International Museum Day Staff Tour

4

Museum Highlights

Leaves to Beads:
100 Years of Costume Design
Garrison Walking Tour
Crop Over Heritage Day
Turtle Watch in Hastings

5

Museum Highlights

From Barbados to the Pacific
New Acquisitions

6

Donors

Donor Acknowledgements

7

Membership/Staff Update

Members & Supporters
Reception
Upcoming Activities

8

Members & Volunteers

Dear Member,

I serve on the Public Relations Sub-Committee of the Barbados World Heritage Committee and I am pleased that Barbadians are now being engaged to see themselves as an integral part of celebrating and maintaining the island's UNESCO World Heritage status.

In the weeks leading up to the first anniversary of the inscription of Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison on the UNESCO World Heritage list, a series of public relations activities were rolled out. These initiatives were also designed to build excitement leading up to the Official Inscription Ceremony at the Garrison, which was held on June 13.

Newspaper advertorials, relevant historical tidbits during the Evening News on CBC TV8, mini-documentaries on television, and the launch of a jingle, brochure and a Facebook page were among the initiatives.

The William Cummins photograph on the cover showcases the inscription plaque. During the Inscription Ceremony, one of three interpretive signs that will alert passers-by that they are in Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison was unveiled by the Minister of Tourism, The Hon. Richard Sealy, M.P., and the UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, also presented to the Prime Minister of Barbados the inscription certificate.

To mark the first anniversary of the inscription, an educational walking tour of the Garrison Area was held by the BMHS on June 23. Listen out for more walks and related programmes later in the year and beyond.

Christine
Christine Franklyn
Marketing Officer



On Cover:

Left to right: Prime Minister of Barbados, The Hon. Freundel Stuart, Q.C., M.P.; UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova; and Minister of Family, Culture, Sports and Youth, The Hon. Stephen Lashley, M.P. unveil the plaque which announces Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison as a UNESCO World Heritage Property.

Photograph by William Cummins

2012 Lecture Series Concludes

The 2012 Lecture Series under the theme "This is the Time to Knock on the Door of your Government" (Clement Payne): The 1937 Labour Rebellion concluded on April 17 with a panel discussion. Panellists were Mr. David Comissiong, founder of the Clement Payne Movement; Dr. Tennyson Joseph, UWI lecturer; and Ms. Margaret Gill, trade unionist and arts practitioner. The moderator was Sherwood McCaskie.

The nine lectures and panel discussion in the Series took place at the Queen's Park Steel Shed. Sponsors of the Series, along with the BMHS, were the UWI Department of History and Philosophy, the National Cultural Foundation, the Central Bank of Barbados, and the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Ltd.

Morrisses Donate to Walled Garden Theatre Project

Keith and Catherine Morris, who are frequent visitors to Barbados, have pledged a generous donation to the Walled Garden Theatre Project and came to the Museum to speak to the media on April 06.

An outdoor theatre will be constructed in the Walled Garden, and it will include a permanent covered stage with facilities for lighting and sound, and dressing rooms.



Left to right: Alissandra Cummins, BMHS Director; Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C., BMHS Council President; Catherine Morris and Keith Morris.

Friends of the Museum Tea Party

The Friends of the Museum put on a tea party to help the BMHS to raise some much needed funds. The BMHS is sincerely grateful to Gilly Metzgen, for coordinating and contributing refreshments and resources for the event. Gilly is the volunteer head of the Friends of the Museum and a BMHS member.

Sincere thanks also go to the following for providing refreshments and resources:

Jacqueline Cumberbatch	Virginia Challenor
Sylvia Deane	Lady Margaret Graham
Sheila Hatch	Hazel Ann Kent
Patricia Gauge	Jennifer Sisnett
Sidi Streetly	Sue Walcott
Eva White	Karen Whittaker

We are also grateful to sponsor Brydens Distribution for donating a variety of herbal teas, and to Cecil Ince for loaning family tea heirlooms, which were placed on special display during Deputy Director Kevin Farmer's talk on the history of tea.

Featured guest speaker Senator Professor Henry Fraser's contribution of his time and historical knowledge is also greatly appreciated.

Friends of the Museum Tea Party from page 2

The BMHS Friends of the Museum (FOM) group was formed in 2007 with the goal of establishing a core group of individuals capable of actively supporting and enhancing the work of the Museum on many levels.



Patrons enjoying the tea party in the Museum's "best-kept secret" – the Walled Garden



Left to right: Alissandra Cummins, BMHS Director, and Betty Shannon, former volunteer organiser of the BMHS' Fashion Show and Tea Party for several years.



Kevin Farmer (in foreground) giving patrons a special insider's tour of the Warmington Gallery.

Prime Minister Launches Preserving Paradise

The BMHS publication **Preserving Paradise: A Series of Lectures to Commemorate the Life and Work of the late Dr. Colin Hudson**, which is edited by Prof. C. M. Sean Carrington was officially launched by the Prime Minister of Barbados, The Hon. Freundel Stuart, Q.C. M.P., at the Barbados Museum on May 2. The Prime Minister also was given a tour of the Museum's Charles A. Robertson African Gallery and met Museum staff members.



Left to right: Prof. C. M. Sean Carrington, presents The Prime Minister of Barbados, The Hon. Freundel Stuart, Q.C. M.P. with a copy of Preserving Paradise, as Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C., looks on.

Photo courtesy of Barbados Government Information Service



Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Alissandra Cummins and the Prime Minister of Barbados, Hon. Freundel Stuart, Q.C. M.P., touring the Charles A. Robertson African Gallery.

Photo courtesy of Susan Mahon

Youth Learning about Preserving our Environment

On June 18, students of the island's public and private secondary schools came to the Barbados Museum and Historical Society to each receive a copy of the Museum publication **Preserving Paradise: A Series of Lectures to Commemorate the Life and Work of the late Dr. Colin Hudson**, courtesy of the Peter Moores Barbados Trust, and a copy of the 75th Anniversary edition of the **Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society**, courtesy of a private sponsor.

Nicole Garafano of the Future Centre Trust gave an interactive presentation on preserving our environment to the school representatives – a fitting activity for June, which was Environment Month.



Nicole Garafano speaking to students and teachers



Left to right: Alissandra Cummins; Lisa Reece, teacher at Deighton Griffith Secondary, and student; and Peggy McGeary, BMHS Education Officer.

ICOM Bus Tour

On May 17, approximately 70 people took part in a bus tour, which was part of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) Barbados' International Museum Day 2012 celebrations. Under the theme "Museums in a Changing World: New Challenges, New Inspirations", patrons visited The Barbados Museum and Historical Society, The Museum of Parliament and National Heroes Gallery, The Nidhe Israel Museum, and Folkestone Marine Reserve. Lunch for the group was served at Just Grillin' in Holetown, before patrons had to guess the surprise stop, which turned out to be Wildey Great House. There was a treasure hunt specifically for bus tour patrons to They were instructed to look for, and answer, the clues that were hidden at each of the museums visited. Zahra Clarke, an eleven year old, who accompanied her grandmother on the bus tour as a treat for completing her 11 Plus Exam, answered all of the questions correctly and won the prize of lunch for two at Ragamuffins restaurant.

Following on from the bus tour, as an incentive to raise the awareness of museums in Barbados and attract locals to visit them, ICOM Barbados launched a National Treasure Hunt for a chance to win two tickets on LIAT to any of its Caribbean destinations.



A participant reads the plaque outside the Museum of Parliament and National Heroes Gallery.

ICOM Bus Tour from page 3

Clues were placed at the ICOM member museums. Anyone can pay for entrance or spend \$5.00 or more at any of the participating museums to be eligible. The participating museums include The Barbados Museum and Historical Society, The Museum of Parliament and National Heroes Gallery and The Cricket Legends of Barbados. The deadline for entries was June 30, but it has now been extended to August 31.

International Museum Day Staff Tour

In celebration of International Museum Day, which is held on May 18 around the world, BMHS staff members had an opportunity to learn more about organisations that help to educate the public about aspects of the island's

natural and social history and the relevance of this history to our society's present and the future. Visits were paid to the Agricultural Research and Varieties Testing Unit in Groves, St. George, Mount Gay Visitor's Centre and the Cricket Legends of Barbados museum.



The group about to enjoy a tour of Mount Gay Visitor's Centre.



Staff members viewing exhibits in the Cricket Legends of Barbados museum.

Leaves to Beads: 100 Years of Costume Design

UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, received a sneak peak of this exhibition on June 14, while attending a lecture held by the National Cultural Foundation at the Museum on the topic of masquerade and the changing concepts of Barbadian identity.

Celia Toppin, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Family, Culture, Sports and Youth declared the exhibition **Leaves to Beads: 100 Years of Costume Design** officially open on June 21, in time for the start of the Crop Over Festival. The exhibition, which is sponsored by Premier Event Services, TeleBarbados and Sagcor General Insurance, continues until September 30.

The exhibition opening was followed by a panel discussion at 7:00 p.m., under the same theme – the changes that have occurred in costume design and masquerade over the years. Panellists were Dr. Marcia Burrowes, Trevor Chase, Roger Millar, Chetwin Stewart and Omowale Stewart. The moderator was Anthony "Admiral" Nelson.



Left to right: The Hon. Stephen Lashley, Minister of Family, Culture, Sports and Youth; Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General; Alissandra Cummins, BMHS Director; and Allison Callender, BMHS Curator – Art and Art History in the Leaves to Beads exhibition. Photo courtesy of the National Cultural Foundation



Left to right: Panel Discussion Moderator Anthony "Admiral" Nelson, Dr. Marcia Burrowes, Trevor Chase, Roger Millar, Chetwin Stewart and Omowale Stewart.

Garrison Walking Tour

A unique walking tour of the Garrison Historic Area was held by the BMHS on June 23. The Tour, led by Kerron Hamblin, Assistant Curator – Natural History and Miguel Pena, Assistant Curator – History took participants to the gate posts for the Garrison, the former Ordinance Hospital, which is now Geneva House; the former Brigade Major's Quarters, now Brigade Medical House; St. Ann's Fort, formerly known as St. Ann's Castle; Shot Hall, which is now the Barbados Yacht Club; and the Military Cemetery.

Immediately after the tour, participants could enjoy the festivities of the Museum's Crop Over Heritage Day, if they so desired.

Crop Over Heritage Day

The theme for this year's Crop Over Heritage Day was the history of rum and in keeping with this theme, R. L. Seale promoted their products and offered samples of a special rum cocktail concocted for the day. A mini-exhibition was also produced by BMHS Librarian, Harriet Pierce,

showcasing books and documents from the Shilstone Memorial Library and photographs from the BMHS collection, all related to our sugar and rum heritage. The documents included a Mount Gay ledger and an early law related to rum.

The Barbados United Calypsonians Association (BUCA) showcased video footage of performances from the calypso tents from as early as the 1970s, providing nostalgic viewing of stalwarts Red Plastic Bag and The Mighty Gabby early in their careers as well as calypsonians who no longer grace our stages.

Other attractions for the day were vendors with fishcakes, puddin' and souse, Bajan confectionary and other sweet treats, local wines, plants, a caricature artist and facepainting for children.



Visitors learning more about R. L. Seale's range of products and the range of plants on offer.

Turtle Watch in Hastings

A group of 20 people was fortunate to witness two hawksbill turtles nesting on the shore near the Richard Haynes Boardwalk in Hastings on June 30. The next turtle watch with available spaces is scheduled for August 25 at 7:00 p.m. Please reserve your spaces by calling 427-0201 or emailing info@barbmuse.org.bb.

From Barbados to the Pacific

Kerron Hamblin, Assistant Curator – Natural History, was selected to be the first museum professional from the Caribbean to participate in the Pacific Islands Museum Association (PIMA) and Museums Association of the Caribbean (MAC) Staff Exchange Programme.

Mr. Edward Wale from the Solomon Islands National Museum was the selected staff member from a PIMA member institution for the programme and he was attached to the BMHS from February 29 to April 21. His duties at the Barbados Museum included conducting an assessment of the wooden artefacts housed in our collections and storage areas and making recommendations for their preservation and/or refurbishment.

From March 20 to May 11, Kerron Hamblin was based at the Solomon Islands National Museum and during that time he developed a natural history collections development plan for that museum. Kerron noted, “It was the first time I created a development plan like that and this is a plan that may be duplicated for the BMHS.”

He also conducted an assessment of the Solomon Islands National Museum’s wet specimen collection.

Marovo carvers are known in the Solomon Islands to be outstanding wood carvers. Kerron helped them to establish an association, which would aid them in lobbying the Ministry of Culture in their country. He provided a template for the creation of their constitution and gave them guidelines to help them to structure the association.

Of time in Solomon Islands, Kerron says, “It was a good experience. I have learned to have an appreciation for different cultures.” He also enjoyed getting to know the country with its plains, mountains, rivers, coastal forest and wooded interior.

The exchange programme is designed to build capacity in the area of museum management, curatorial expertise and in fostering popular public events to attract communities to museums. It seeks to enhance collaboration between the Pacific and the Caribbean in the area of cultural heritage preservation and promotion, to enable

professionals from both regions to learn from working in a different environment, and to strengthen the relationship between PIMA and MAC. The programme is part of the European Union-funded and SPC-managed “Structuring the Cultural Sector for Improved Human Development”.

PIMA is the first and only regional, multilingual, multicultural, non-profit organisation that assists Pacific museums, cultural centres and peoples to preserve Pacific Island heritage. The Museums Association of the Caribbean was formed in 1989 and since then there have been 21 AGMs throughout the region.



Kerron Hamblin on a Solomon Islands beach



Solomon Islands National Museum



Construction near the airport of a pavilion where delegates attending the Festival of Pacific Arts will be welcomed. The Solomon Islands are hosting the event this year.

New Acquisitions

The following items from Fiji were donated by Kerron Hamblin:

- Replica of a Canabal Fork
- Replica of A Throwing Club
- Replica of Flesh Slicing Club
- Hand painted bark cloth in brown, black and white colours

Solomon Islands National Museum donated the following to the Barbados Museum:

- Hand-made bag made of fibre from Solomon Islands
- Small hand-made purse from Solomon Islands
- Shell Money Necklace from Solomon Islands
- Cotton Wrap showing the Solomon Islands
- Piece of printed gold and brown patterned cloth
- Handpainted papier mache with a turtle design painted in black and white

Donor Acknowledgements January 1, 2012– June 30, 2012

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Reception

On May 31, Museum members and supporters joined us for a special reception. This event provided an opportunity for members and supporters to learn about the exciting programmes and activities being undertaken by the Museum in the months ahead for which their philanthropic contributions play a vital role.



Upcoming Activities

Riots in de Land: The 1937 Labour Rebellion Exhibition

You won't want to miss this exhibition, which will reveal the context, eyewitness accounts, rare photographs and the results of the 1937 Labour Rebellion. It runs from July 25 to September 30, 2012. It is sponsored by the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Ltd.

Whale Watch in Dominica

Between January 19 and 21, 2013 you could watch whales in their natural habitat in the nature isle Dominica, thanks to a unique trip being organized by Kerron Hamblin, Assistant Curator – Natural History. Participants will also visit to Dominica's Carib Territory, the Screws Sulphur Spa and Trafalgar Falls and Botanical Gardens, and will have an opportunity to swim in the Emerald Pool. Rates are as low as BDS \$2125.00. Please call 427-0201 or email info@barbmuse.org.bb.

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Call For Library Volunteers

The Shilstone Memorial Library is in need of committed volunteers who have an interest in historical research and in the preparation of materials to facilitate such research. If you are such a person, and you have some free time, contact the Librarian, Harriet Pierce, at 427-0201 or library@barbmuse.org.bb to make a valuable contribution to the preservation of Barbadian heritage.

Contact information:
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St. Ann's Garrison
St. Michael BB14038
Barbados
Tel: 1-246-427-0201
Website: www.barbadosmuseum.org



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