

# Artifacts

BARBADOS MUSEUM &  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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## Members & Volunteers

## Dear Member,

Museum staff members had several opportunities recently to engage in discussions with their colleagues and other heritage professionals from around the world through the Inclusive Museum Conference and the African Diaspora Heritage Trail (ADHT) Conference. Case studies and best practices that are examined in the course of conference sessions are extremely valuable and help the Barbados Museum and Historical Society (BMHS) to maintain sound up-to-date museum standards and to deliver cutting edge public programmes. Linkages and partnerships may also be formed through informal conversations or structured sessions such as the Heritage Speed Dating activity during the ADHT Conference in which delegates could have brief one-on-one discussions with presenters.

Partnerships have also recently been developed based on the desire among entities to build on their capacity by sharing resources and expertise. One of the new partnerships is a collaboration between the BMHS and Low Country Digital Library. Read more about this initiative on page 5.

The Shilstone Memorial Library also partnered with the Barbados Department of Archives to host the second Basic Genealogy Workshop. This programme was well subscribed and by all accounts from the participants, it was very enlightening.

Check the Museum's website [www.barbadosmuseum.org](http://www.barbadosmuseum.org) in December for details on the results of these partnerships. By December, on the website you will also find details on plans for the year-long celebration of our 80th Anniversary in 2013.

On the cover: Minister of Family, Culture, Sports and Youth receiving a tour of the exhibition **Riots in the Land: The 1937 Labour Rebellion**, on its opening night. Photo courtesy of Barbados Government Information Service

*Christine*  
Christine Franklyn  
Marketing Officer

### On Cover:

Minister of Family, Culture, Sports and Youth receiving a tour of the exhibition **Riots in the Land: The 1937 Labour Rebellion**, on its opening night.

Photo courtesy of Barbados Government Information Service



## Riots in de Land: The 1937 Labour Rebellion

This exhibition was developed to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the 1937 Labour Rebellion. It highlighted the fact that this rebellion, familiarly known as “The 1937 Riots” or “1937 Disturbances”, did not occur in isolation in the Caribbean and was heavily influenced by the social, political and economic environment that pervaded Barbados, as well as the region and the rest of the world. The rebellion created a paradigm shift which changed Barbados dramatically - trade unions were legalised, there was greater enfranchisement and eventually there was universal adult suffrage. This allowed the growth of popular political parties all of which can, it can be argued, accelerated Barbados' journey to self-government and eventual independence from Britain.

Visitors to the exhibition were introduced to the antecedents of the labour rebellion in the 19th century, the world in the 1930s, the regional movement towards empowerment, Clement Payne, the rebellion in Bridgetown and in rural districts, immediate results – the Deane and Moyne Commissions and the formation of trade unions - and Barbadian artistes' immortalisation of the rebellion through their works.

Minister of Family, Culture, Sports and Youth, the Hon. Stephen Lashley, M.P. officially opened the

exhibition on July 26 before a large audience. During the opening, the Mighty Gabby thrilled the guests with stirring renditions of a selection of his popular folk songs, including “Riots in de Land”, which is reflected in the title of the exhibition.

The exhibition, like the Lecture Series which also focused on the 1937 Labour Rebellion, was sponsored by the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Limited (ICBL). Staff members from ICBL were treated to a special tour of the exhibition on August 31.



Left to right: Vicki Olton, Kleone Charles and Lois Crawford, ICBL, receiving a guided tour of the exhibition from Miguel Pena, Assistant Curator – History.

## 1937 Labour Rebellion Walking Tour

On October 8, around 60 people joined the BMHS for a **1937 Labour Rebellion Walking Tour** through Bridgetown, culminating in Queen's Park, where the Moyne Commission sessions were held. The tour was led by Dr. Henderson Carter, with contributions of other fascinating bits of information from Miguel Pena, BMHS Assistant Curator – History, Kevin Farmer, BMHS Deputy Director, Peggy McGeary, BMHS Education Officer and Morris Greenidge, who has done extensive research on Bridgetown.

Participants met in Golden Square, the site that served as the epicentre of the rebellion, and then moved onto Bay Street and Broad Street, tracing the action that occurred in Bridgetown, including Pierhead, where rebels armed themselves with pieces of wood, the commandeering of buses in the Lower Green, women who filled their aprons with stones to be thrown at store windows, The Barbados Mutual Building where the rioters besieged people in that building, and Broad Street where rioters attacked buildings and engaged in battles with the police.

Participants were amazed by the deplorable social conditions in 1930s Barbados, as described by Dr. Carter and others, and were very appreciative of the opportunity afforded to them by the Museum to learn more about the history that has helped to shape the stable society we now enjoy.



Dr. Henderson Carter speaking to the tour participants. Seated is Morris Greenidge.

## Junior Curators Bring Youthful Energy to the Museum

• By Peggy McGearry, Education Officer

Nine eager young people took part in the BMHS' 2012 Junior Curator programme. They started their training in June to equip them for navigating through the museum's galleries with large numbers of visitors during the summer. Four of them enjoyed the programme so much the year before that they opted to return to the museum for another summer programme. These four are Rhadika Freeman, Philippa Murray, Roshanna Trim and Ria Rollock.

The five new trainees were, Joshua DeLamontagne, Israel McChlery, Shaneil Reid, Keturah Murray and Elizabeth Hinds.

They worked hard to learn what was taught about the museum's galleries, conservation, coping with children (especially difficult ones), and about using the voice effectively. Training took place three or four days per week from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

During the eight weeks they were here, the Junior Curators did tours with over 1,700 visitors mainly from local summer camps and community groups as well as with foreign schools and language camps from the French Caribbean. They assisted curatorial staff and other members of staff with a variety of chores including cataloguing of toys and ceramic objects, taking inventory of approximately 800 photographs and postcards, and washing, measuring and documenting pottery and other objects found in the archaeology dig at Church Village, Bridgetown. They also took inventory and documented a newly acquired set of over 150 books on cricket, sought quotations for the

museum's tree signage project, did research on Caribbean whales for a booklet and exhibition on whales, and filed and documented the contents of some filing cabinets.

The Junior Curators performed well and the staff is as usual thankful for all the assistance they gave. We wish them all well in their studies at the Barbados Community College, and the University of the West Indies.



Ria Rollock (centre) showing children how to play ole time games

## Internships

### Unearthing Knowledge

Natasha Bilson, a third-year student in the BSc Honours Archaeology programme at Bournemouth University in the U.K., contacted the BMHS to request an internship focused on archaeology during the summer.

From July 9 to August 14, Natasha reviewed everything that had been excavated during the Church Village archaeology project, for which the work was led by BMHS Deputy Director Kevin Farmer.

When she arrived, cleaning of the fragments found during the excavation had recently begun. She was given the responsibility for ensuring that cleaning of the fragments was completed. She trained the Junior Curators in the correct method of cleaning fragments, including showing them the more delicate cleaning that was required for particular fragments.

Natasha measured fragments, and showed the Junior Curators how to measure them using appropriate tools, such as a measuring gauge.

She also identified the fragments, and assessed the type of glazing present on various ceramic fragments. The final task for her and the Junior Curators was making accurate drawings of the fragments, with actual measurements.

This entire process helps to uncover useful information about the site that was excavated and its former occupants.

In total Natasha worked with 1,500 fragments of ceramics, pottery shards, and bits of charcoal and glass.

Of her experience at the BMHS, Natasha said, "It has been nice to be part of a team that's so involved. It feels like a community."

### Learning about Tourism Marketing

Jamal Blenman, a student in UWI's Hospitality and Tourism Management bachelors programme, interned in the Marketing Department from June 4 to August 31. During that time, he learned about the Museum's public relations efforts through compiling a list of clippings. In total he listed over 300 clippings of articles and web pages on which the Museum was mentioned 2006 and 2009. The clipping lists allow us to analyse our coverage in print and electronic media. Jamal was amazed by the impressive amount of media coverage the Museum has received over the years.

He also cleaned up the email list to ensure that it contained only active email addresses and that members' email addresses were up-to-date. The email list is essential for targeted marketing to those with an interest in history, heritage and culture. In addition, he conducted visitor surveys for the BMHS to receive valuable feedback.

Other tasks were related to assisting with Museum events, retail inventory tracking and planning, and a few administrative duties.



Jamal Blenman and Natasha Bilson

### Making Events Happen

Zuwena Perry was keen on having an internship to gain practical experience in the area of event planning. Her stint in the Marketing Department ran from September 10 to October 4. She answered special event queries, learned how to prepare quotations, handled the booking process, maintained the event queries log queries, followed up with clients, helped to coordinate logistics for events held during the internship period and assisted with internal communications about events.

She was immensely satisfied with her internship experience and was impressed by the range of events held at the Museum. Of the staff who work on events, she said, "Everyone works as a team – they know what they have to do and they get it done."



Zuwena Perry

## Developing Linkages with Polytechnic

The BMHS offered an opportunity to a Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic student to apply his skills in a work environment. Tevin Wilkinson was attached to the BMHS for the summer period and his duties included assisting on the site of the Church Village archaeological dig, and gaining experience in the areas of gardening, maintenance and setting up equipment for special events.



Tevin Wilkinson lending a hand during the disaster preparedness exercises.

## 2nd Barbados Network (Diaspora) Conference

From August 7 to 10, Christine Franklyn, Marketing Officer, coordinated a booth at this conference by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, which attracted 250 members of the Barbadian Diaspora. Allison Callender, Curator – Art and Art History, and Miguel Pena, Assistant Curator – History, placed on display a Sailor's Valentine, a 1920 passport, an artillery shell and a collection of postcards and stamps tracing the construction of the Panama Canal and the Barbadian involvement in this historic project. Items from the Library on display were a PhD thesis on the Barbados-Carolina connection and the UNESCO Memory of the World-listed Silvermen dossier, highlighting Barbadian migration to Panama. Library guides, Museum brochures and bookmarks were distributed as sources of information on the opportunities available to support the Museum and also benefit from its resources. Museum publications were also available. Assistance with promoting the Museum and its resources at the booth was rendered by Marcia Griffith, Administrative Assistant – Merchandising, and Danielle Benjamin, Researcher.

The BMHS was commended by many delegates and fellow exhibitors for having a presence outside of its walls and both locals and members of the diaspora expressed a keen interest in visiting the Museum and in the Shilstone Memorial Library's genealogical resources.



The BMHS booth

## African Diaspora Heritage Trail Conference

Eight staff members attended the African Diaspora Heritage Trail (ADHT) Conference at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre from September 17 to 19. The Director, Alissandra Cummins, was a presenter, and both she and the Deputy Director, Kevin Farmer, chaired sessions. The BMHS was also represented on the Ministry of Tourism's Conference Planning Committee and assisted with coordination of the craft displays.

The impressive roster of presenters also included Prof. Sir Hilary Beckles, Prof. Alvin Thompson, Prof. Maureen Warner-Lewis, Fred Wilson, Dr. Deryck Murray, Trevor Marshall, Dr. Elaine Rocha, Steve Devonish, John Franklin, Prof. Pedro Welch, Doudou Diene, Dr. Clarence Maxwell, Sibongile Van Damme, Dr. Eva Hodgson, Dr. Keith Nurse, Dr. Hollis "Chalkdust" Liverpool and The Hon. Percy Paris, Minister of African Nova Scotia Affairs in Canada.

The research that was revealed and the ideas that were shared provided much food for thought for the heritage professionals and students in attendance.

## Inclusive Museum Conference

• By Harriet Pierce, Librarian

Six Barbados Museum and Historical Society staffers were among approximately 75 delegates attending the 5th International Conference on the Inclusive Museum, which was held at the UWI, Cave Hill from August 2 to 5. Both the Director and the Deputy Director also facilitated sessions.

The soon-to-be-released book *Plantation to Nation*, edited by Alissandra Cummins and Kevin Farmer, had a soft launch during the conference.

As a forum attended by museum practitioners, educators, academics and researchers, the Inclusive Museum Conference was well placed to answer the question "how can the institution of the museum become more inclusive?" The examination of this theme on multiple levels imparted information from which ideas could be extrapolated and applied to the local situation.

At the macro level, the importance of including the community was emphasised. Such inclusion could include consulting the community before exhibitions are developed, providing a space in which the community can participate and taking exhibitions outside the walls of the museum and into community itself.

At the micro level, it was pointed out that museums should collect the intangible stories along with the tangible artefacts in order to not only preserve these stories, but provide a more holistic experience to the viewer. It was also reiterated that inclusivity should also extend to the possible audiences for an exhibition as well as to the treatment of difficult subject matter.

For most of the Museum's delegates, this was their first exposure to a conference of this nature. It was therefore beneficial to listen and discuss general museum issues such as collection development and exhibition planning, while at the same time hearing what was happening in museums across the world. During the breaks and social sessions, the BMHS delegates also got the opportunity to further discuss issues raised in the sessions and develop linkages which would last beyond the conference.

Posters from the 2011 BMHS exhibition *The Evolution of a Festival: Crop Over through the Centuries* were displayed at the conference venue.

The Barbados National Committee of ICOM (International Council of Museums) hosted a tour of museums and places of interest, led by Allison Callender, BMHS Curator – Art and Art History. Participants visited the BMHS, Museum of Parliament and National Heroes Gallery, Sunbury Great House, and St. Nicholas Abbey.

The conference dinner for the delegates was hosted by the BMHS at the museum. It was sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, the Caribbean Development Bank, Sagicor, and the Nation Publishing Company Limited.



Left to right: Sandra Boyce, Senior Librarian (Ag) with the National Library Service; Harriet Pierce, BMHS Librarian, with European delegates.

## Conservation

Conservation is fundamental to the achievement of the Museum's mandate to preserve and make accessible the historical and cultural heritage of Barbados. As such, the Assistant Curator - Natural History Kerron Hamblin, trained the Librarian, the Researcher and volunteer Allison Sobers in best practices for the wrapping of books and artefacts for low temperature treatment for the elimination of insect infestation.

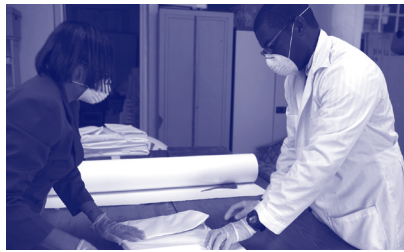
After training, several books from the Shilstone Memorial Library, a number of artefacts from the African Gallery, and one item from George Washington House, which all showed signs of infestation, were wrapped and sealed. Under the coordination of Registrar Angela Boyce, Assistant Curator – History, Miguel Pena, and consultant conservators Anne Bancroft and Valerie Blyth, the items were transported to BICO for a two-week treatment. After this phase, items were returned to the BMHS for a twenty-four hour acclimatization period as a precursor to their reintegration into the various collections.

As part of this conservation exercise, one book case from the Library and two pieces of furniture from George Washington House were transported to Parson's Pest Control for fumigation.

The Museum salutes BICO and Parsons Pest Control for their generous assistance as we continue to preserve the national heritage of Barbados.



Backing is Allison Sobers, Library volunteer. On the left is Danielle Benjamin, Researcher, and Harriet Pierce, Librarian, is on the right.



Harriet Pierce and Kerron Hamblin wrapping books.

## Genealogy Workshop

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society in association with the Barbados Department of Archives held the second Basic Genealogy Workshop at the Barbados Museum on Saturday, September 29. Organised by the Shilstone Memorial Library, the Workshop aimed at empowering the 19 attendees to begin or continue their own family research.

Participants heard from Dr. Patricia Stafford, who used anecdotes from her experience as a family researcher in her presentation "Getting Started". BMHS Librarian Harriet Pierce looked at the sources for genealogical research within the Shilstone Memorial Library, while Archivist Stacia Adams examined the sources within the Barbados Department of Archives. Janice Forte delivered a case study on the Forte Family which participants found to be quite inspiring. The workshop culminated with a practical session in which participants got the opportunity to search some of the resources in the Library, view actual records from the Barbados Department of Archives (BDA) and interact with presenters.

Look out for the launch of the BMHS/BDA Genealogy Group in November 2012.



Workshop participants using the resources of the Shilstone Memorial Library



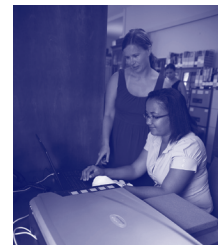
The participants and facilitators of the workshop.

## BMHS/Lowcountry Digital Library Digitisation Project

On August 10, the Barbados Museum and Historical Society and the Lowcountry Digital Library of South Carolina signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will see selected records from the BMHS' collection digitised and posted onto the LCDL's website <http://lowcountrydigital.library.cofc.edu/>. Exposure on this website has the potential to increase queries for BMHS content and grow its revenue base since all queries for reproduction will be directed to the BMHS.

In preparation for the pilot phase of the project, which got underway on August 13, the LCDL purchased and shipped a Dell laptop and a book edge flatbed scanner. The Deputy Director of the LCDL Angela Flenner and the Researcher Mary Battle also trained Librarian Harriet Pierce, Assistant Curator - Natural History Kerron Hamblin and Digitisation Intern Gloria Thompson in best practices for the digitisation of paper documents and the composition of metadata.

The first phase of the project will focus on the ledgers of Newton Plantation. To date, 593 tiff files and their accompanying metadata have been transferred to the LCDL. These account for 12 Newton ledgers covering the period.



Angela Flenner training Gloria Thompson

## New Library Acquisitions

Nicola Hills of the UK and other relatives of the late Adrian Randall descended on the BMHS on May 22, with several suitcases of books and magazines on cricket from which the Museum was asked to make selections for its collection. After perusal by Deputy Director Kevin Farmer and Librarian Harriet Pierce, 178 books were selected and presented to Council in September. These books will form the nucleus of a cricket collection within the Shilstone Memorial Library. In accordance with the wishes of the family, the remainder of the books will be sent to the CLR James Cricket Centre at the UWI, Cave Hill.

The late Adrian Randall became a member of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society on May 15, 2006 and served on the Development Committee until his death on March 23, 2012. Mr. Randall was a member of the Friends of the Museum group and played an active role in organising the Shilstone Memorial Library's bookstall during the annual Fine Craft Festival.

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## Be Prepared

On July 16 and 17 the BMHS conducted its annual disaster preparedness exercises. Shutters were installed to protect windows and doors. The Cunard Gallery was the major focus this year - there was an assessment of the length of time that was needed to carefully and securely pack the prints, paintings and objects and to re-install them. A walk-through was done of the other galleries and offices to remind everyone of what needs to be done in the event of a disaster and to assess whether any additional materials and procedures were needed.



Wrapping prints and paintings in the Cunard Gallery



Erecting shutters

## Echoes Caribbean Heritage Magazine is Here!

The Echoes Caribbean Heritage Magazine, edited by David Michael, is now available in the Museum Shop for \$20.00. Members get their usual 10% discount! The magazine was launched on September 27 with the support of the BMHS at the Museum. It features articles by Kevin Farmer, Dr. Tara Inniss, Dr. Karl Watson, Dr. Marcia Burrowes, Dr. Lennox Honychurch, Prof. Robin Mahon, Dr. Sandra Browne, Harold Codrington, Geoffrey Ward, Oliver Thomas, David Michael, Dr. Cleve Scott and Dr. Reginald Murphy.

## Upcoming Activities

### Annual General Meeting

Please be reminded the 74th Annual General Meeting will be held on November 28, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. at the Museum. Exciting announcements will be made of the plans for the BMHS' 80th Anniversary in 2013 and other projects. Please let us know if you will be attending – Tel: 427-0201 or Email: info@barbmuse.org.bb.

### A Few of our Favourite Things

Museum members who attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will have a private

viewing of the mini-exhibition **A Few of our Favourite Things**. At the suggestion of longstanding Museum member, the late Anthony Fields, this initiative was launched at the 2011 AGM to allow members to see a selection of the objects acquired during the year. On display in the Members' Lounge will be a public notice proclaiming the cessation of civil disobedience, dated July 29, 1937, three watercolour sketches by artist Margaret Rodriguez, depicting three different stances of

a batsman, "The Development of the Cricket Bat" - a moulded plaque, which portrays the evolution of cricket bats from circa 1720 to circa 1930, a unique Atlantic Triton's Trumpet Shell, a Goliath Conch Shell, and a framed photograph of Lady Gilbert Carter, first President of the Women's Self Help, along with a price list of items sold at the Women's Self Help store.

The exhibit will be on view until December 31, 2012.

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# Artifacts

## 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](mailto:library@barbmuse.org.bb) to make a valuable contribution to the preservation of Barbadian heritage.

Contact information:  
Barbados Museum & Historical Society  
St. Ann's Garrison  
St. Michael BB14038  
Barbados  
Tel: 1-246-427-0201  
Website: [www.barbadosmuseum.org](http://www.barbadosmuseum.org)

Barbados  
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## ON SERVICE

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