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& Historical
Society

Artifacts

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COLLETON
HOUSE

Dear Member,

Gloria Steinem once said, "The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights." For the second year, the Barbados National Committee of ICOM (International Council of Museums) held a bus tour to mark International Women's Day. The focus of the tour was women and art, and you can read more on page 3.

This brings me to ICOM's theme for this year's International Museum Day - **Museums (Memory + Creativity) = Social Change**. The aim of the bus tour was to show the strides women have made locally in the art arena, and this can be a genesis of social change. The aim of the theme is showing that the richness of our historical heritage, preserved and displayed by museums, together with the inventiveness and vitality that have characterised the museum sector's action in recent years, are where the strength of museum institutions lies today. On International Museum Day this year, the BMHS intends to showcase how it has advocated for social change through its exhibitions and programmes and how it plans to become a more active participant in social change in this our 80th Anniversary year and into the future.

BMHS History Group sessions, the presence at the Barbados Association of Guidance Counsellors' Careers Showcase and Colleton Open House are the types of initiatives that may lead to social change. They are all outlined in detail in this issue.

Enjoy!

Christine

Christine Franklyn
Marketing Officer



On the cover:
Photograph of
Colleton House by
William Cummins

History Group

Research on The Mount Gay Story & Free People of Colour in Bridgetown Revealed through History Group

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society's History Group got off to a grand start for 2013.

On January 9, Linda Bowen gave a presentation entitled **The Mount Gay Story: The Contribution of the Ward Family and Mount Gay Rum to the Social, Political, Economic and Cultural Life of Barbados**. A large audience, made up of many Ward descendants, was on hand to take in the presentation which explored the role which the Ward family and Mount Gay Rum have played in the history and culture of Barbados. A brief background of the Wards, Mount Gay and Mount Gay Rum before 1908. 1908 was the turning point for both the Ward family and Mount Gay Rum. The focus of the talk was on the 20th century history and development of the Ward Family, Mount Gay Rum and their connection to the economic, social, cultural and political development of Barbados.

Linda Bowen is a member of the Ward and Greaves families, the latter also from St. Lucy, but with roots from over 100 years ago in Amerindian Guyana. She was born at Oxford Plantation in St Peter, one of the sugar estates owned by her grandfather Aubrey FitzOsbert Ward. She grew up experiencing a fascinating childhood at another sugar plantation - Bourbon Plantation, St. Lucy. Since 1978, Linda Bowen has worked at The St. Michael School, teaching History, Art, Geography and English Literature. In 2011, she was appointed Deputy Principal, a position she continues to hold today.

Samples of the exclusive Mount Gilboa Rum, compliments The Rum Refinery of Mount Gay Ltd., and light refreshments, compliments Hotel Foods Supplies (Barbados) Ltd., were on offer.

The second History Group meeting took place at the Museum on February 6 and featured a presentation by Dr. Cynthia Cumberbatch entitled **Free People of Colour in Bridgetown 1780-1840: Creating Wealth out of Nothing at all**.

Museum members are asked to bring a friend to History Group sessions – an individual they think will be interested in becoming a member of the BMHS and of the History Group.



Linda Bowen making her presentation to the capacity crowd who attended the first History Group session for the year.

The BMHS History Group was formed to promote an interest among BMHS members in research and writing of Barbadian history.



Rum, Art and Heritage Tour

by Miguel Pena, Assistant Curator - History

On February 14, 37 people travelled through Barbados as part of the Rum, Art and Heritage Tour. The tour had been in the planning stages since late 2012 and was created as an activity by me for the BMHS History Group. In many respects, the tour was a follow-up to the first lecture in the History Group series for 2013, presented by Mrs. Linda Bowen nee Ward, and focused on the Ward family of Mount Gay and its central role in the development of one of Barbados' premier rum labels. The tour started at the Barbados Museum with a tour of the Harewood, Warmington and Cunard galleries where I, as tour guide, set the historical context of the tour. From the museum the touring party travelled by bus to the Mount Gay Visitor Centre at Spring Garden, where they participated in a tour of that facility which included a rum tasting session. From Mount Gay the tour group travelled north along the West Coast through Holetown and then Speightstown, where more of Barbados heritage and history were highlighted.

In St. Lucy the tour made two "familial" stops one at Fair Field and the other at Fairmount Plantations. At Fair Field, the tour party was treated to a history of Fair Field presented by John Ward, Manager of the property, and then Linda Bowen read a poem about her memories of Fair Field from her childhood. The tour party was joined by Mr. Roy Ward, the 96 year old patriarch of the Ward family. At Fairmount, Roy Ward regaled the tour party with stories of his youth spent there. The tour proceeded to the Rum Refinery of Mount Gay where the group was taken on a



Tour participants at Mount Gay Visitor Centre

tour of the refinery by Oscar Waithe and was given a detailed account of the art of refining rum. The tour party's last stop was at Colleton House in St. Lucy for lunch and a tour of the house and its amazing art collection, assembled by the previous owner the late Frank Rickwood. The tour at Colleton was conducted by Garry Burke, Rickwood's nephew. From Colleton, the tour returned to the Barbados Museum. The BMHS would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who contributed to the tour: Mount Gay Visitor Centre, Dr. Frank Ward of The Rum Refinery of Mount Gay, John Ward and Linda Bowen, Geoffrey Greaves of Fairmount and finally to the 37 wonderful people who participated in tour. We thank you all!

The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum

by Allison Callender, Chairperson of the Barbados National Committee of ICOM

On March 7, The Barbados chapter of ICOM (International Council of Museums) hosted their annual bus tour to commemorate International Women's Day, under the theme "The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum". The tour accommodated 40 persons, and sought to highlight the work of female entrepreneurs and females. The tour departed from the Barbados Museum and Historical Society and toured Welches Plantation House and the studio of Jill Walker. Mrs. Walker, well into her eighties, showed her original works and her beautiful residence, while her daughter and son-in-law gave the group the

tour of the screen printing studio. The tour also visited Fairfield Pottery guided by Maggie Belle. This was followed by lunch, and then it was on to Brighton to the studio of artist Rafza Nehaul, who works with discarded materials. The day ended with a tour of the residence of the Governor of the Central Bank hosted by the Governor's wife after which the group was treated to an afternoon of tea. WIBISCO donated two gift baskets, while Golden Touch Spa donated a gift voucher for a raffle for tour participants.



Jill Walker welcoming guests to her residence.



Andria Brice trying her hand at screen printing.



Maggie Belle going through the process of clay with the group.

Careers Showcase

by Peggy McGeary, BMHS Education Officer

The Barbados Association of Guidance Counsellors held its annual National Careers Showcase at the Garfield Sobers Gymnasium on February 14 and 15.

The Barbados Museum was invited to participate by a former volunteer Jennifer Goodridge who is now a Guidance Counsellor. The members of the Keystone Participative Action Team (PAT), as well as Tamara Griffith of the VIP PEERS PAT team met, planned the event and responsibilities were allocated. The decision was made to make a presentation which highlighted the Barbados Museum, but which generally addressed heritage institutions in the island. Most persons who visited were unaware that there were more than two or three museums in Barbados.

The museum's booth was well received as many Guidance Counsellors visited and expressed surprise at the number of museum events and programmes which were shown on the computer-driven presentation prepared by Kerron Hamblin, Assistant Curator – Natural History. Many also admitted that they had never visited the museum and were now committed to considering the museum for weddings and other special events. Students and counsellors alike were happy to discover that History is not required for every museum-related job.



Left to right: Harriet Pierce, BMHS Librarian; Allison Callender, Curator - Art & Art History and Tamara Griffith, Administrative Assistant - Development (hidden) at the BMHS booth.



Peggy McGeary, BMHS Education Officer, assisting students.

A special attraction to the booth was the bundle of gift-wrapped books which were to be won by a draw from the names of students who signed up as having visited and left their contact information. A book prize was also prepared for the school of the winners. The students who won came from the Grantley Adams and Graydon Sealy schools.

Not only were students and teachers informed about museums, especially the Barbados Museum, but we, the museum staff learnt that there is a dearth of knowledge about Barbadian heritage and heritage institutions. As a result, a decision has been taken to seek the Ministry's permission to do more in-depth sessions at schools based on Barbadian heritage.

2013 Lecture Series Launch



Professor Sir Woodville Marshall, Chair of the Publications & Programming Committee, addressing the audience.



Ms. Celeste Wood, Chair of the Central Bank's Charitable Funding Committee.



Ms. Vicki Olton, Marketing Assistant with the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Ltd.



Mr. Roger Spencer, Assistant Vice President – Marketing with Sagicor General Insurance Inc.

The 2013 Lecture Series was launched on March 1 with most of the sponsors in attendance and apologies from the two sponsors who were unable to be there. Representatives of the Insurance Corporation of Barbados Ltd., the Central Bank of Barbados, and Sagicor General Insurance Inc. spoke enthusiastically about the value of the series. The National Cultural Foundation and Barbados Public Workers Cooperative Credit Union are the other two sponsors of the series. Two lecturers, Dr. Henderson Carter of the University of the West Indies' Department of History and Philosophy, and Mr. Bentley Gibbs, also attended the event.

The theme for the series is **The Emancipation Project, 1838-1937**.

The lecturers for the ten lectures in the series are Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Dr. David Browne, Mr. Bentley Gibbs, Dr. Henderson Carter, Professor Sir Woodville Marshall, Dr. Aviston Downes, Professor Pedro Welch, Dr. Janice Mayers, Dr. Tara Inniss and Dr. Marcia Burrowes.

The Series runs from March 14 to May 16, 2013.



Colleton Open House



Dr. Temi Odumosu.

The Barbados Museum & Historical Society, in collaboration with the owners of Colleton Great House, hosted an Open House on March 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The objective of this activity was to help raise funds for the BMHS to acquire the House's collections, which consist of one of the world's finest private collections of black men and women in western art by famous European artists of the last 400 years, and The Frank Rickwood collection of indigenous art.

The latter includes 157 pieces

from Africa and Papua New Guinea which have been described by Caribbean academic Lennox Honychurch as "remarkable by any standard" and have been highly praised by the Smithsonian Institute.

Colleton House was established after Sir John Colleton fled from England after the execution of King Charles 1 during the Civil War, bought 700 acres of land and became a sugar planter. The house was acquired and restored by Australian geologist Frank

Rickwood in 1989, and it was his home until his death in 2009.

The feature attraction of the Open House event was an illustrated talk by Dr. Temi Odumosu, Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow for EUROTAST at University of Copenhagen. It was entitled **Presence and Place: Images of Africans in 18th Century British Print Culture**. The talk explored the rich world of images and ideas that emerged through printed images and texts published primarily in London. Dr. Odumosu investigated the fluid ways in which race and aesthetics converged in London's buoyant visual culture. In doing so, the discussion ultimately sought to reconstruct a more detailed sense of presence and place for people of African descent during the colonial period. The diverse forms in which we find Black bodies and faces was examined: autonomously in rare engraved portraits, as exaggerated caricatures, discussed in political and philosophical tracts, as motifs on trading cards, human curiosities advertised in playbills, or as the focus of pro- and anti-slavery propaganda.

Lots of volunteers were needed to ensure the smooth execution of the event and 21 generous individuals answered the call. Staff members, Museum members, Museum volunteers and Friends of the Museum rendered assistance at the entrance, in the rooms of the House, in the indigenous art exhibit room and at The Museum Shop sale table. We are sincerely grateful to all those who supported this initiative either by patronizing the event or by lending a hand.

Sugar in the Blood

The book **Sugar in the Blood: A Family Story of Slavery and Empire** by Andrea Stuart was launched by the National Cultural Foundation (NCF), in collaboration with the BMHS, on March 18 at the Museum. The large audience included many relatives from the Ashby line, on whom the book is based. They were thrilled to hear about how Stuart set about researching the story of her earliest known maternal ancestor, George Ashby, who set sail from England to settle in Barbados and fell into the life of becoming a sugarcane plantation owner.

On March 20, the NCF held a Creative Writing Master Class, followed by a Panel Discussion entitled **Family History as National History: The Nexus between Academic and Popular Discourse**, both at the Museum. Panellists were Andrea Stuart, Professor Pedro Welch and Dr. Tara Inniss. This discussion on the place of creative non-fiction in understanding historical narratives was moderated by Dr. Marcia Burrowes.



Ms. Alison Sealy-Smith, Senior Business Development Officer at the NCF, giving the welcome address.



Longtime family friend Lady St. John.



Dr. Tara Inniss discussing her role as reviewer of the manuscript for historical accuracy.



Acclaimed biographer Andrea Stuart regaling the audience with an account of the process involved in bringing the book to fruition.



Attendees eager to have their books signed by the author.

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Ole Time Excursion Bus Tour Dates

Saturday, August 17– North
 Saturday, September 28 – South
 Saturday, October 19 - North
 Sunday, November 24 – South

Exhibitions

Leviathan: The Story of Shore Whaling in Barbados, April 15 – September 15, 2013

80th Anniversary Exhibition, June 01 – November 29, 2013

“Something in de Music”: The Journey of Calypso in Barbados, June 28 – September 28, 2013

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- 10% discount on products in The Museum Shop
- Exclusive invitations to join The BMHS History Group and to attend events and exhibition openings
- Voting rights at the Annual General Meeting (except Juniors and Students)

Membership Subscription Fees

Life	\$1,057.00 (local)/ \$1,400.00 (overseas)
Firm/Company	\$360.00 (local)/ \$400.00 (overseas)
Joint Annual (husband & wife)	\$94.00 (local)/ \$100.00 (overseas)
Annual	\$91.00 (local)/ \$90.00 (overseas)
Student (19-26 years)	\$27.00 (local)/ \$27.00 (overseas)
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