

Issue #116

Barbados  
Museum  
& Historical  
Society

# Artifacts

BARBADOS MUSEUM &  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAGAZINE

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# Tribute to Peter Drewett

by Kevin Farmer, Deputy Director



The Barbados Museum and Historical Society (BMHS) regrets to announce the passing of life member Professor Peter Drewett, who died on April 1, 2013. Director Alissandra Cummins, while attending UNESCO meetings in Paris, represented the BMHS at the funeral on April 11. Peter was both a friend and colleague of the BMHS from the beginning of his work with the Museum in the early 1980s.

He widened our understanding of the antiquity and lives of the prehistory people of Barbados. Peter was an outstanding field archaeologist and teacher, a prolific author and wonderful person willing to share his understanding and time with those with an interest in the prehistory of the island.

Starting in the early 1980s, he was the Field Director of the Barbados Archaeological Survey, which greatly expanded our understanding of the prehistory of our Island. Such knowledge

has been shared with the people of Barbados, through his publications: **Prehistoric Barbados**, **Prehistoric Settlements in the Caribbean** and **Above Sweet Waters**. He is also the author of the popular BMHS children's booklet **Amerindian Stories: An Archaeology of Early Barbados**. His many public lectures on this subject occasioned a greater awareness about the history of early Barbados and did much to educate the general public on its history and need to preserve it.

During the decades of the 1980s and 1990s, Peter and his wife Lys and children Dan and Able were regular fixtures at the Museum during the summer months as they conducted field work on the island. In 2009 the Museum and Peter celebrated his 25th anniversary of the Barbados Archaeological Survey with an exhibition, public lecture and tour of the island. His contribution to the prehistory of the island is seminal.

We wish to extend at this time our condolences to Lys and the rest of the family at this most difficult of times. Peter will be much missed in the future.

## Museum Open Day to Mark International Museum Day

by Peggy McGeary, Education Officer

International Museums Day was celebrated on May 18th around the world in 180 countries under the theme: 'Museums (Memory+Creativity + Social Change)'.

The day started at 7:00 a.m. with an educational walk around the Garrison informing people of the historicity of the World Heritage property and its relevance to the island.

Within the Museum's ground patrons could browse amongst a variety of stalls which had for sale traditional food items like pudding and souse, sweet bread, cassava pone, popcorn and other local confectionery while there were others who sold mainly herbs. One vendor sold jewelry.

The Museum also set up a booth selling books as well as giving information about the Museum's activities including volunteering and membership. There was music all day as 2 bands, 'Fuxion' and 'Molasses', which originated from the Music Department of the Barbados Community College gave excellent renditions.

There was a spirit of oneness as all who were within the hearing of the Tai Chi master, Sifu Qaasen Sealy participated in all the exercises which he so enthusiastically demonstrated.

Participants were shown various ways to reduce stress and ease discomfort in their daily lives, even as they sat in offices or other work places. This was a beautiful exercise in coordinated movement and was one of the highlights of the day.

There were guided tours throughout the day attended by audiences of 25-35 people whose comments indicated that they enjoyed the experience and the knowledge they gained.

Children enjoyed two sessions of storytelling, one in the morning with the Education Officer and another with storyteller Michelle Barrow. This was really fun as the children were encouraged to participate in some of the stories and games which were discussed as having been popular in the "good old days".



**On the cover:**  
*Women Shelling Peas*  
(BMHS Collection)



This jewellery stall caught the eye of many patrons.



Tai chi demonstration conducted by Qaasen Sealy with Derek Went who attended the event as a vendor, displaying his range of spices.



# Giving Thanks for 80 Years

by Harriet Pierce, BMHS Librarian

Members of the Council, Management and Staff of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, along with several representatives of Government, supporters and volunteers, joined the congregation of the St. Matthias Anglican Church on Sunday, May 26 to give thanks for 80 years of existence. The President, Dr. Trevor Carmichael read the second lesson and the Director, Ms. Alissandra Cummins addressed the congregation. The Director spoke of the challenges faced and achievements realised by the Museum in its 80 years of collecting and interpreting Barbadian heritage. She also thanked past and present staff, members and volunteers for their commitment and contribution to the work of the Museum.

## Behind the Scenes

Numerous people took advantage of the opportunity offered by the BMHS, during its Behind the Scenes activity on May 28, to get a

glimpse into the conceptualizing and installation of an exhibit as they met curators at work on the 80th Anniversary Exhibition.



A Behind the Scenes participant watches Allison Callender, Curator – Art & Art History (centre background), mounting an image in preparation for the 80th Anniversary exhibition. In the centre foreground is Kerron Hamblin, Assistant Curator – Natural History.

# The Barbados Museum & Historical Society 80th Anniversary Scarlet Gala

by Linda Branch, Development Officer



Left to right: Mrs. Terri Archer, Ms. Carole Bishop and Dr. Justin Bishop. Carole Bishop is displaying the voucher found under her chair, indicating she has won a complimentary bottle of Doorly's `XO rum, courtesy of R. L. Seale.



The Honorable Mr. Stephen Lashley, Minister of Culture, Sports & Youth speaking during the 80th Anniversary Scarlet Gala.



President of the Society Sen. Dr. Trevor Carmichael welcoming patrons to the Gala.



Ms. Alissandra Cummins, Director of the BMHS addressing the audience.

The Society's 80th Anniversary Scarlet Gala was held Friday, May 31. Over 200 guests attended in support of the Museum's endeavour to raise funds for the redesign of the natural and social history exhibits in the Harewood and Jubilee galleries. The elegant black-tie charitable affair, with a cocktail reception and dinner, featured the opening of the Museum's 80th Anniversary Temporary Exhibition. Remarks were given by the Honorable Minister of Culture, Stephen Lashley, Council President Sen. Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Director Alissandra Cummins, and Deputy Director Kevin Farmer.

The Museum received tremendous sponsorship support for this special fundraiser. CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank was the Gold sponsor, while Bronze sponsors included Barbados Light & Power, The Grape Vine/SBI Distributions Inc., Foursquare Rum Distilleries/R.L. Seale Co. Ltd., and Harris Paints Barbados Ltd.

Contributors included John Chandler, owner of Fisherpond Great House, who assisted with floral decorations and an auction prize.

Other auction prize contributors included Accra Beach Hotel, Anse Chastanet, Apes Hill Club, Archers Hall Design Centre Inc., Changers Restaurant & Wine Bar, Chancery Chambers, Cin Cin by the Sea, Coral Reef Club, Diamonds International, Royal Westmoreland, Rum Refinery of Mount Gay, Hilton Barbados Resort, Sandy Lane Hotel, Super Centre Ltd., The Crane Residential Resort, Tiarni Catamaran Cruises, and jeweler Serena Collins. Door prizes were provided by Digicel, Earthworks Pottery, and Foursquare. Contributors also included Pangroove Elegant Events Ltd., Field Tech Staging Solutions, Williams Equipment Ltd., Digitally Printed Ideas, and Arthur Consulting Services. The Band Molasses and the Willie Kerr Trio lent their talents, while catering was provided by Country House Caterers.

The honorary Gala Planning Committee comprised of Museum staff members Christine Franklyn, Kerron Hamblin, and Linda Branch, and non-staff Museum supporters Virginia Challenor, Gilly Metzgen, Laura Rudder and Jennifer Sisnett. Museum member Sophia Lewis also lent assistance.





# 80

The BMHS' 80th Anniversary Exhibition, simply entitled 80, examines the history of Barbados through 80 objects chosen from the Museum's collections to represent particular milestones of the island's past.

Barbadians have an opportunity to assess, critique and suggest items via our website that could be included to represent the history of the island.

In an effort to appeal to wider audiences, particularly young people, the Barbados Museum is embracing technology and has placed a QR code next to each object, which can be scanned to learn more about the object.

Artefacts featured in the exhibition include a Carnelian bead, which was found with the remains of a shaman at Newton Slave Burial Ground, a Barbados Railway first

class chair, the National Heroes medal awarded to Bussa, a wall mounted rotary telephone, the Barbados Pineapple Penny and many more rarely-seen objects.

The exhibition is on view until December 31st, 2013.



Wall-mounted  
Rotary telephone  
BMHS Collection



House of Assembly pen drawing  
BMHS Collection

## Leviathan: The Story of Shore Whaling in Barbados

On April 15, the exhibition **Leviathan: The Story of Shore Whaling in Barbados** was officially opened.

Dr. Lorna Inniss, Acting Director of the Coastal Zone Management Unit, was the featured speaker at the exhibition opening.

This exhibition reveals little-known information about the local shore whaling industry and possible reasons for its demise. Those who view the exhibit will also learn about what

occurred during a whale hunt. Thanks to the Folkestone Marine Park and Museum, visitors to the BMHS will have an opportunity to see the skeleton of a whale that was stranded on the shores of Barbados in the 1960s.

The exhibition, which continues through to September 15, 2013 is supported by the Nation Publishing Company Limited and Harris Paints.



Kerron Hamblin, Assistant Curator – Natural History, takes a group through the exhibition, during the Behind the Scenes event.

## Something in de Music: The Journey of Calypso in Barbados

Visitors to the exhibition **Something in de Music: The Journey of Calypso in Barbados** can trace how calypso became socially acceptable, moving away from what it was disparagingly known as 'Banja', and will learn about iconic Barbadian calypsonians and calypso bands.

On view are costumes worn by calypsonians, trophies they won, musical instruments played by calypsonians, records and original sheet music of calypsos - all of which have been loaned for the exhibition by some of Barbados' leading calypsonians. Members of the public will hear a variety of calypsoes as they explore

what makes a calypso a calypso, and techniques such as call and response and double entendre. Rhythm and melody in traditional Barbadian calypso will also be juxtaposed against the modern incarnation of the art form in the present day.

The exhibition, which continues through to September 28, 2013 is supported by Pinnacle Feeds Limited, Esso, Harris Paints, COSCAP, The Nation Publishing Company Limited, the National Cultural Foundation, Starcom Network and Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation.



One of calypsonian TC's costumes and a display on the late 'Froggy' featuring her beloved guitar.



Elizabeth Watson delivering her lecture "A Queen and Her Court: A Look at the Contribution of Women to Calypso in Barbados" on the night of the exhibition opening.



# Health & Wellness Day

by Allison Callender, Curator – Art & Art History

The BMHS hosted a Health and Wellness Day on 27th June for its staff and members of the community, as part of the in-house activities for HIV/AIDS awareness. There were two lectures during the day, with the first being on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) from a representative of the Ministry of Health and another one from Mr. Richard Farley, a medical missionary on “Cholesterol: Hero or Villain”. Various entities had products as well as services available for sampling and purchase throughout the day. The National Nutrition Centre provided literature about having a balanced diet and information on portion size necessary to good nutrition and weight control; while the Barbados Family Planning and The Diabetes Association of Barbados provided blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol testing.

Staff and members of the general public attended the event, as well as the Deputy Director from the National HIV/AIDS Commission and several HIV various coordinators.

On display were products and services from the Insurance Corporation of Barbados (Ltd.), Facey Trading, Farmer Warmington Greenidge, TATTR (These are the True Remedies), Armstrong Agencies, Barbados Family Planning, A and R Tempco, Nature's Sunrise Inc., National Nutrition Centre, Nature's Discount, Naturally Better (moringa products), Heru with his Healing Earth Products, HEALTH products for obesity and diabetes, GNLD products and Abigail Springer with plants.



BMHS Administrative Assistant – Development, Tamara Griffith (right), getting a cholesterol test.



Patrons taking a look on the products on offer from Nature's Discount.

## 14-Foot Mahogany Table Now at the BMHS

Through the assistance of Senator Dr. Trevor Carmichael, President of the BMHS Council, the Museum received a generous donation from Seaco SRL of a 14 foot mahogany table, designed by the late Jean Blondin. The official handover was done during a press conference at the Museum on April 17. Seaco's General Counsel Dominic Buckwell explained that although the employees were quite fond of the table which had been in use for many years at Seaco's office, there was not enough room for it at the location to which company moved two years ago.

During the press conference, Sen. Dr. Carmichael noted, “it's an important occasion for the Museum [as] we are receiving such an impressive gift from such an important company – in a wider sense it represents the growing and increasing partnership of this museum with the business community and, in particular, the international business community.”

This exquisite example of Barbadian craftsmanship is a fitting gift in the BMHS' 80th year. Seaco SRL has been operating in Barbados for 15 years.



Rochelle Humphrey, Seaco Administration Manager, signing the documentation to officially hand over the table to the BMHS.



The 14 foot mahogany table.



Dominic Buckwell speaking at the press conference.



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## Turtle Walk

This programme, now in its fourth year, aims to expose locals and visitors to the conservation.

The first of three turtle walks with the Barbados Sea Turtle Project was attended by approximately 30 persons. Participants met at the Esplanade at the Richard Haynes Boardwalk in Hastings at 8:00pm and walked along the length of the boardwalk and Rockley beach in search of nesting Hawksbill turtles. The group met Mr. Darren Browne, the Field Director of the Barbados Sea Turtle Project, who spoke to them about the types of sea turtles that are found in Barbados, their nesting habits and how one should behave when one sees a turtle.

There were a number of emergences that night, with females making their way out of the water and onto the beach; however due to heavy traffic on the boardwalk, females did not nest. Sea turtles do not see very well on land but are sensitive to movement and light. It was this movement from other members of the public that caused turtles to become scared and return to the water instead of nesting.

One persistent female, however, managed to nest around 11 pm. The entire nesting sequence, which takes approximately one hour, was explained and participants were treated to viewing BSTP personnel insert tags into the flippers of this new female. Participants were also invited to touch the shell and eggs of the Hawksbill while she was laying her eggs.

Please call 427-0201 or email [info@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:info@barbmuse.org.bb) to register.

## Upcoming activities BMHS

Date	Activity	Venue	Time
30 August	History Group	BMHS	6:00 pm
31 August	Turtle Walk	Hastings Esplanade	8:00 pm
19 October	Genealogy workshop	BMHS	9:00 am – 4:30 pm
25 October	Spoken word at the Museum	BMHS	6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
9 November	Jazz at the Museum	BMHS	7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

## The School of Female Industry

On May 28, Matthew Reilly, PhD candidate of the University of Syracuse New York, gave a presentation to the BMHS History Group on “The School of Female Industry: Race, Class, and Gender in Colonial Barbados”. Reilly has conducted archival research conducted on a parochial school in St. John which operated from 1792-1807. He was recently conducting archaeological excavations in a former village underneath Hackleton’s Cliff that was once inhabited by “poor whites” as well as other impoverished Barbadians of various racial identities.

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# Artifacts

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