



THE BULLETIN OF THE BARBADOS MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NO. 3

GUIDE TO CHILDREN'S GALLERY

The Children's Gallery was built in 1960—61 at a cost of \$10,000.00. Of this sum, one half was generously donated by the Barbados Government, the other half was raised by donations and the efforts of members and friends of the Society. The cost of equipping the gallery amounted to \$4,850.00, which has been provided by the donors of dioramas, donations and by the Society.

It was not possible to open the Gallery until early 1964. This was due to a shortage of funds for the purchase of equipment and to the time taken in the construction of the dioramas of local history. The Gallery was opened in April 1964 by Mrs. Errol Barrow, wife of the Premier.

Between the 8 dioramas of local historical scenes are larger showcases depicting Pre-history, the Civilisations of Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome, West Africa and the Entry and Spread of Man in the New World. The showcases in the centre of the room and against the walls will be changed periodically. The dioramas were built in the Museum's workshop.

NO. 1. BARBADOS ABOUT 1500—AN AMERINDIAN SETTLEMENT

Presented by Lt. Col. Hon. Eric Harvie, Q.C.

Long before the discovery of Barbados by the English in 1625, the island was inhabited by a race of Indians which came originally from South America. These Amerindians are believed to have been Arawak Indians, but this has not been finally settled. Some of the archaeological sites here, closely resemble those of neighbouring islands known to be Carib. Barbados is mentioned in two Spanish documents: in 1511 it is described as being inhabited by Caribs and in 1518 as being inhabited by Arawaks. By 1536, when Pedro à Campos visited Barbados there were no Indians living here. It is not known why the Amerindians ceased to live here.

As the Amerindians lived mainly by fishing and hunting, they usually selected a habitation site fairly near the sea where there was a spring or pond from which they could obtain drinking water. The main crop which they cultivated was manioc from which they obtained cassava flour for making bread. This grows readily in a sandy soil and is easy to cultivate.

The diorama shows the various pursuits of the Amerindians: fishing with line and spear,

boating, hunting and pottery-making by one of the seated women. The man with the stick over his shoulder is carrying water in skins. On the beach at the right is a boat in the process of being made. The canoe—made from a tree trunk, is filled with stones and water to prevent it warping while the wood is curing.

On the left of the diorama, in front of the 3 canoes on the beach, is a kitchen-midden in the making. Here all the rubbish was dumped—broken pots and tools of stone or conch shell, the bones of animals, birds and fish, the shells of conchs and other sea creatures and other waste. Today, these are the main source of our information about the Amerindians in Barbados, elsewhere in the Museum will be seen showcases filled with specimens excavated from kitchen middens, which tell us how they lived.

PRE-HISTORY

The early history of the world is written in its rocks. Here can be studied not only the varied forms of rock but also the remains of early animals and plants—bones and impressions left in the rocks. From these it has been possible to discover what the earth looked like in its early days. Then volcanoes were more numerous. Life began in the sea and after millions of years some plants and animals gradually adapted themselves to live partly in the sea and partly on shore. Sea-eggs, spiders and ants lived about 300 million years ago. As the earth became drier and warmer it was inhabited by strange reptiles from which some animals are descended today, for example the Demedion on the left of the case is the ancestor of the horse.

On the wall at the left is the strange dawn bird, Archaeoptrix, with claws on its wings and teeth showing that it was descended from a four-footed creature. On the back of the case on the right can be seen what the earth probably looked like about 100 million years ago. The Meganeuron which looks rather like a Barbadian pond fly had a wing span of 30 inches. Other reptiles from this age about 100 million years ago are shown in miniature. The mammoth elephant, however, is later, about 25 million years ago. It lived when the earth was very cold and only animals with woolly coats could survive. It is the ancestor of the elephant of today.

Man was the last of the animals. He

developed the use of his hands and made rough tools of stones for hunting. On the walls of some of the caves where early man lived he painted pictures of himself and the animals he hunted.

NO. 2. BARBADOS ABOUT 1630— A SETTLER'S HOMESTEAD

Presented by Mr. & Mrs. Eric W. Gates

Barbados was discovered by the English in 1625, and the first settlers, about 80 English and 10 negro slaves arrived in the ship **William & John** in February 1627. Near Holetown the first settlement was made. The land was cleared of bush and trees and wooden houses were built of cabbage trees sawn in half. This diorama depicts a settler's home and tobacco plants being grown in a field in which the tree trunks and stumps have been left. Tobacco and cotton were then the chief crops. Barbadian tobacco was poor and fetched a much lower price than tobacco grown in Virginia. The cultivation of the sugar cane on a large scale did not begin until about 1640, although some sugar cane had been grown before this for making rum.

The white servant seen hoeing in the field was bound to work for his master for 5 years or longer. These white servants were very badly treated and had to build shacks for themselves from branches such as the one behind the house. When slaves were introduced from Africa to work on the sugar plantations they were better treated than the white servants as the slaves belonged to their owners and were expensive to buy.

ANCIENT EGYPT

On the map at the back of this case can be seen two river gods joining the stem of a papyrus with that of a lotus plant. These are the gods of the north and south Nile. The river Nile was, and is to-day very important to Egypt, which is a very dry country and the Nile provides water for irrigating crops. One of the early civilisations of the earth began in the Nile valley.

Even before 3,000 B.C., The Egyptians believed that the survival of the spirit could be achieved by saving the body from destruction. They tried to make it look as it did when alive so that the spirit would recognise it and enter into it. So the corpse was preserved with great care by the use of chemicals and spices, and wrapped in cloth with charms placed on various parts of the body. The preserved body or "mummy" was placed in one or more coffins which were often painted on the outside and inside. In this case can be seen a piece of linen in which the body was wrapped, some charms and fragments of a coffin.

The tombs in which the bodies of important people were housed often consisted of painted chambers containing objects which it was thought the spirit would need in the next world—food, drink, furniture etc. By sympathetic magic, it was thought that sculptured or painted objects could become the actual things. Thus if no further offerings were made of food, the cattle, wild fowl and wheat painted on the inner walls of the tomb would ensure that the spirit was not hungry. Models of houses were placed in the tomb for the soul to live in called 'soul houses'. In this case can be seen a portion of painting from a tomb at Thebes and a dish

on which food was placed in front of a 'soul house'.

At first slaves were buried to serve the dead in the after life. But from about 3,000 B.C., little figures representing a mummy, called Ushabti figures, were buried instead. By sympathetic magic these little figures became human thus taking the place of slaves. Each Ushabti had a spell inscribed on it, so that it was compelled to answer 'I am here' and to carry out whatever work the deceased was ordered to do. Each Ushabti had a digging tool and a basket. In this case there are a variety of Ushabti of faience and one of wood.

On the left side of the case will be seen Anubis, the jackal-headed God of the tomb and funeral ceremonies, leading a deceased, and on the right, the weighing of the heart against a feather. If the heart was heavier than a feather it was thrown to Am-mait—the eater of the dead, who was partly crocodile, partly lion and partly hippopotamus.

Although the ancient Egyptians held strange beliefs, in some respects they were very modern. The women stained their nails with henna and painted their eyebrows and eyelids to make their eyes appear larger.

On the back of the showcase, at the left, Tutankhamen, the boy Pharaoh is depicted. The picture of him is after the life-size statue of him found when his tomb was opened. He carries the mace of rule and the rod of majesty. His skin is painted resin black, the colour of re-birth and thus he is identified with the God Orsiris. Tutankhamen was buried about 1350 B.C.

Queen Nefertiti, a small plaster-cast of whose head is shown, was the wife of the Pharaoh Akenaten, 1380—1326 B.C.

NO. 3. BARBADOS 1652—SIGNING THE CHARTER AT OISTINS

Presented by Hon. Sir John Chandler, Kt.

The struggle in England between King Charles I's party—the 'Cavaliers' and the Parliament men—the 'Roundheads' did not at first affect Barbados. This island was then dependant on England for its food supplies, and so did not side with either party. After the king's defeat at Naseby a number of Cavaliers came to Barbados which was now predominately Royalist, although there were a number of influential Roundheads here. The Royalist sympathy of Barbados was not purely sentimental. As a result of the Civil War in England supplies of food to Barbados had been cut off. Barbados was now obtaining food from the Dutch and from the American colonies.

In 1650 the Cavaliers in Barbados, under Humphrey Walrond banished the Roundheads who sought refuge in England. As the result of pressure by the Barbadian Roundheads in London and of the English merchants who saw the trade of Barbados in the hands of the Dutch and New England traders, Parliament passed a law prohibiting foreign vessels to trade with the Colonies without a license from Parliament.

In August 1651, Sir George Ayscue was sent in command of a squadron of ships to force Barbados to submit to the Parliamentary government of England. Admiral Ayscue blockaded the island from 15th October until it surrendered. On 11th January 1652, Articles of Agreement—the Charter

of Barbados were signed at the Mermaid Tavern, Oistins, which guaranteed the constitution of Barbados and returned a number of confiscated plantations to their Roundhead owners.

This diorama shows the signing of the Charter by Thomas Modiford, John Colleton, Daniel Searle, Michael Pack, the Roundhead commissioners; Richard Pearse, Charles Pym, Thomas Ellis, and William Byam commissioners appointed to represent Barbados. At the head of the table sits Sir George Ayscue, who also attested the Charter, and beside him a clerk. Through the open window can be seen Admiral Ayscue's fleet.

The figures in this scene were dressed by Miss V. Spencer.

GREECE AND ROME

Greece was the home of democracy, for that is a Greek word meaning the rule of the people. It is to the Greeks that we owe the idea of political autonomy and many other ideas which have benefited mankind. As early man painted on the walls of his cave and the Egyptians on the walls of their tombs, so we learn much about the life of the Greeks from the paintings they did on their pots and jars. The Greeks were very fine architects and built many magnificent temples to their God. These ruins still inspire architects. We also owe much to the Greeks in the fields of art, literature, drama and sport.

The specimens of pottery speak for themselves in their graceful shapes and charming decoration. The little arabellos is decorated to resemble a leather bottle.

After the fall of the Greek Empire, came the Roman Empire. The Romans united the people of many races with different customs and beliefs. They governed defeated nations with a strong army and built magnificent roads, which linked the outlying provinces with the capital — Rome. Our laws to-day owe much to the Roman legal system. England was one of the outlying provinces of the Roman Empire, and most of the exhibits come from Britain. The Roman Empire came to an end in 475 A.D.

NO. 4. BARBADOS ABOUT 1700— EGGINGTON'S GREEN AND BROAD STREET, BRIDGETOWN

Presented by Bottlers (Barbados) Ltd.

Eggington's Green was situated on the site now occupied by the War Memorial and fountain to the east of Trafalgar Square. The Green was so named after a certain Captain Jeremiah Eggington who had a fine house at the edge of the Green which was rented as a home for Governor Sir Jonathan Atkins. On the Green stood the stocks to punish those who did not go to Church and other offences such as swearing. Passers-by often threw rotten fruit or eggs at those in the stocks. There was also a whipping post, which a carpenter in the diorama can be seen repairing. Through the hoops near the top of the post the victim had to put his hands which were then tied. The horse pond near by was used to duck common scolds.

The diorama shows a number of houses and warehouses where Trafalgar Square is to-day. Some of the warehouses were owned

by plantations and there were stored the supplies received from England for the plantations and sugar awaiting shipment by sailing ships. The narrow streets between the warehouses were sometimes named after the plantation owning the adjoining warehouse, for example Drax Lane. There were many taverns, inns and grog shops around the Green. These were popular meeting places for transacting business. The House of Assembly used to meet at John Jobson's tavern and dine there afterwards or occasionally at Mr. John Fuller's Tavern.

NO. 5. BARBADOS ABOUT 1740—CHARLES FORT, NEEDHAM'S POINT

Presented by J. M. G. Simpson Esq.

This historic Fort of which there are still remains to be seen at Needham's Point, was one of the early forts of the island. It was used as recently as during the Second World War for gun emplacements. The fort was later named in honour of King Charles II and it was one of the forts which guarded Carlisle Bay. This fort twice went into action during the 17th century. On the first occasion, it was the first fort to fire on Admiral Ayscue's fleet in 1651 when it blockaded Barbados. On the second occasion, in 1665, this and the other forts protecting Carlisle Bay fired on the Dutch Fleet commanded by Admiral de Ruyter, when the Admiral's own ship **The Mirror** was disabled and the attack failed.

In 1740, there were two swamps on either side of the fort as shown in the diorama and a long swamp at the rear — on the south side, which cannot be seen. There were also guns mounted at the rear which pointed out to sea and towards the Hastings coast line. The guns shown in the diorama were made by a member of the Society, Mr. W. H. Boxill. The soldiers represent the Redcoats of the day then stationed at Barbados.

WEST AFRICA

The specimens in this case were all used by West African people with which this island has some affinity. Many of the ships engaged in the slave trade brought cargoes of slaves from Bonny and the Guinea Coast.

The fine beadwork of Ashanti was a consequence of trade, for the beads used were not made in Africa but were worked into articles there. The gourd bottle from Ono, was made by tightly bandaging the gourd when it was young so that it could not expand like the remainder, thus forming the neck of the bottle.

The very attractive gold weights, made of brass, but used for weighing gold dust, are made in a large variety of designs and clearly show expert craftsmanship. The Juju mask from French West Africa was worn once by a Witch Doctor.

NO. 6. BARBADOS ABOUT 1800— PLANTATION 'CROPOVER'

Presented by V. Clark-Holman Esq., Edgecombe Ltd., Alan Godsal Esq., J. A. Haynes Esq., W. Haynes Esq., Hon. Gerald Lascelles, Julian Mahon Esq., Anthony Murray Esq., Lyall Sealy Esq., and W. Armel Yearwood Esq.,

Before the days of mechanical transport, carts drawn by oxen or mules were used

on plantations. These carts were built and maintained by carpenters, wheelwrights and blacksmiths, who then formed part of the plantation staff. The carts were built of bullet-tree wood, more commonly called "Bully-tree" whilst the wheels were made of fustic bound with iron bands. A leader boy ran alongside the first pair of cattle or mules with a whip shouting 'Gee' (right) and 'Hai' (left) and 'Woa' (Stop), thus steering the leaders. The driver or carter often stood on the end of the shaft with another whip shouting directions, or, sat on a box and held the reins in the case of a mule cart.

During crop, the millyard was a busy scene. Cartloads of canes surrounded the windmill from which the mill was fed by the mill gang. The imperfectly crushed sugar cane, or megass, was spread out in the mill yard to dry before being stacked or used as fuel. It was fairly light and was carried in large bamboo baskets. It was important that the megass should be as dry as possible and if it appeared likely to rain the megass was raked up. The windmill was usually on a slight eminence to 'catch' the wind and the plantation house was usually not far away. The cane juice squeezed by the mill rollers ran by gravity to the boiling house where, after concentration and crystallization it became sugar.

On the last day of the crop, the heads of the oxen and mules were decorated with flowers and each carter and leader boy also wore flowers stuck into his headgear. When the last load reached the millyard the 'crop-over' began. A band, of which the chief pieces were a drum, a tambourine and 'de shot' — (a calabash filled with shot, or maracas), made music for the dancers who performed the 'Joe and Johnny'. Free rum salt beef and biscuits were provided by the plantation and the owner or manager was toasted 'Bless Master', 'Bless the Mistress', 'Bless the Children'.

In the diorama can be seen the arrival of a couple from a neighbouring plantation to watch the fun. The calash with its couple and attendant is based on a print. The house shown is typical of the plantation great house with its strong room or hurricane shelter under the front steps.

NO. 7. BARBADOS ABOUT 1830—PUBLIC MARKET, BRIDGETOWN

Presented by "The Bajan" Magazine

A visitor to Barbados has left the following impression of the Public Market as it was: "The Bridgetown market is worthy of notice. It is a spacious quadrangle, protected from the sun and rain by a corridor under which sit the dealers of fruits and finer vegetables. The open centre is appropriated to the coarser and more bulky edibles as red and white yams, sweet potatoes etc. In the central space are four rows of that splendid evergreen from which the island derives its name. The market place of Bridgetown is, perhaps, the coolest and most agreeable lounge in the city. Part of it is appropriated to meat and fish."

MAN IN THE NEW WORLD

Man did not originate in the New World. So far, no remains of early man have been

found here. The physical type of the American Indian is fundamentally a sub-Asiatic type and probably entered America by way of the Behring Strait.

Towards the end of the last glacial age, about 7,000 B.C., when so much water was frozen in the ice cap that the level of the sea was lowered about 300 feet there was a broad isthmus where the Behring Sea now is. Across this isthmus, at a favourable time, came these Asiatic people travelling through Alaska, following the routes taken by animals between the Rocky Mountains and the great ice fields. Slowly these migrants spread south—hunters, fishermen, food gatherers in a primitive stage of culture, a stone age people with a poorly developed technology making their way eventually to the tip of South America. The Lesser Antilles were first inhabited by Amerindians, who made their way into the West Indies by way of the Pearl Islands off the coast of Venezuela, through Trinidad and up the small islands, being partly carried by the South Atlantic current which flows upwards from South America. This was the way the Arawak Indians reached the Lesser Antilles, followed much later by the Caribs.

The specimens in this case cover a wide range from British Columbia onwards and a close similarity will be noted between the stone tools used in British Columbia to those of St. Lucia and St. Vincent.

NO. 8. BARBADOS 1861—H.R.H. PRINCE ALFRED'S VISIT TO SPEIGHTSTOWN

Presented by representatives of old Speightstown families, — Accra Beach Club. Miss S. Agard, Miss M. Armstrong, Rev. and Mrs. C. Frederick, Mrs. L. Kellman, Miss E. Laurie, Mrs. Chas. Packer, Mrs. E. Parris, A. T. Skeete Esq., et al. Mrs. Bruce Skeete, Mrs. E. B. Skeete, Mrs. G. Skinner, Mrs. Morris Skinner, Miss B. Sinckler and Jack Warmington Esq.

On 27th February 1861, H.R.H. Prince Alfred visited Speightstown **en route** to luncheon at Farley Hill with Mr. (afterwards Sir) Graham Briggs. Prince Alfred was the second son of Queen Victoria and became the Duke of Edinburgh and late Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. Accompanied by the Governor Mr. (afterwards Sir) Francis Hincks, the General, Sir Josias Cloete, Admiral Milne and others of note, the Prince travelled to Speightstown in H.M.S. **Styx**, a paddleship with sails, which can be seen anchored off the pier.

Speightstown presented a gala appearance that day: the landing place and streets were decorated and there were triumphal arches of evergreens, palms and flowers. The galleries and windows overlooking the scene were crowded as were the streets. The Prince was received by Hon. Francis Goding, Nathaniel Foderingham and N. J. Pile attended by officials and gentry of the parish. Then the prince passed through a long line of spectators to his carriage amid much cheering. The visit of Prince Alfred was the second royal visit to Barbados, the first being that of Prince William Henry, afterwards King William IV, in 1786.