

## NEWSLETTER

NO. 39

1ST QUARTER, 1992

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Barbados Museum is a non-profit institution. Its mandate is to collect, document and conserve evidence of Barbados' cultural, historical and environmental heritage; and to interpret and present this evidence for all sectors of society.

#### PATRON

Dame Nita Barrow,  
G.C.M.G., D.A.  
Governor-General of  
Barbados.

#### COUNCIL

##### President :

Dr. Trevor Carmichael

##### Senior Vice-President :

Mrs. Jean Goddard

##### Junior Vice-President :

Mr. Keith Melville

##### Ordinary Members :

Mr. Warren Alleyne

Mrs. Joyce Gale

Mrs. Joscelyn Gardner

Dr. Albert Graham

Prof. Woodville Marshall

Mr. Elton Mottley

##### Government Appointees :

Miss Camilita Archer

Dr. Hilary Beckles

Mr. Evans Jordan

Dr. Elliott Parris

Mr. Erskine Rose

##### Immediate Past President :

Mr. Jack Dear

##### Director (Ex-Officio):

Ms. Alissandra Cummins

### TREASURE TROVE

Our contemporary arts collection was enriched by the gift of four paintings by eminent artist Alison Chapman-Andrews. The donor is the London-based Peter Moores Foundation, which has for many years supported this Museum through the loan of 6 exquisite historical Caribbean paintings by 18th Century artist, Agostino Brunias.

The acquisition of these paintings, reflecting different periods in the artist's career, extends and develops the range and depth of the Museum's fine arts collection, providing us with further opportunities to illustrate art historical development in this region. Why not visit our office and orientation centre to view these pieces in April.

The Natural History Curator is a happy person this month with the purchase of a sketchbook of drawings and watercolours (c.1880) of Caribbean crabs, lobsters and other crustacea.

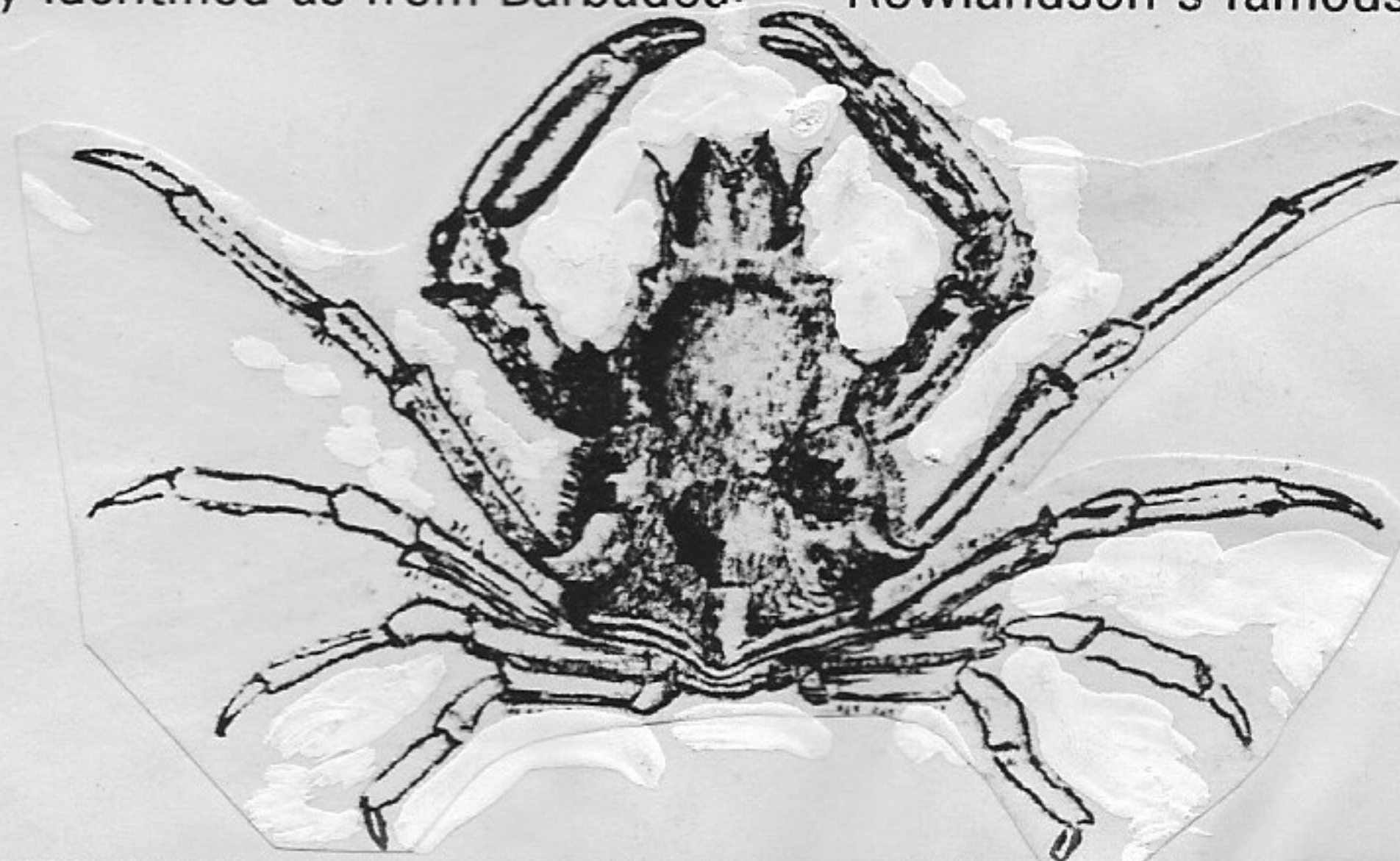
The majority of the illustrations are positively identified as from Barbados.

Sketches of bats also appear. It is quite rare to come across original work such as this that is clearly dated and identified. We only wish we could find out more about the artist.

The Museum's fine collection of 19th and early 20th century dolls will be a highlight of the new Children's Gallery. But it is not only the past we concentrate on, we collect a 'past for the future' by commissioning replicas of traditional toys, and by purchasing contemporary Caribbean toys.

One such acquisition visitors will enjoy is our new Rachel Pringle doll, by Barbadian dollmaker Coral Bernadine. Rachel is one of a planned series of Caribbean Legendary dolls, entirely handmade by herself, and in limited editions. (see Shop Talk).

Every detail of clothing, the miniature jewellery, beautifully modelled face glowering at the viewer above a voluminous cleavage, creates a personality that seems to have stepped right out of Rowlandson's famous print!





## NOW WE ARE 10

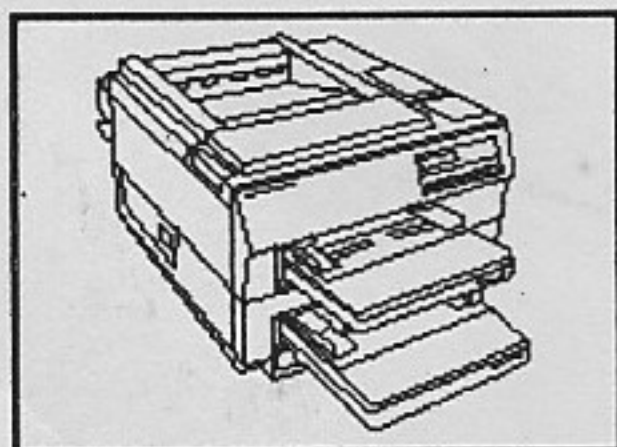
In 1992 the Barbados Museum and Historical Society's Newsletter is celebrating its 10th Anniversary by moving well and truly into the computer age! This issue will be the first to be produced on our new Hewlett Packard computer, donated last year by Computers and Controls Limited.

As we are experimenting with a new format, we also decided to take the bull by the horns and institute some changes we have been dreaming about, and others suggested by you. We will start including permanent information on the Museum's Council and Staff, membership benefits and shop stock. Our mission statement and the name of our patron will be other permanent fixtures.

Special interest columns will be regularized including : Shop Talk (Shop), Bookshelf (Library), Treasure Trove (New Acquisitions), Spotlight (Temporary Exhibitions), Dollars and Sense (BMHS Finances). Through these and other regular news items we aim to keep you better informed in future.

## PRINTER FOR SALE !

If you are desirous of upgrading your computer equipment, you may be interested to know that we are willing to sell you our Hewlett Packard DeskJet Plus Printer . It's excellent quality at a good price. We are only willing to part with it because we have invested in HP's LaserJet IIIp! Call us at 436-1956.



## DOLLARS AND SENSE

At last year's Annual General Meeting Council agreed to keep members better informed about the Museum's financial status.

Members must be aware that the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, like every other Barbadian organisation, is experiencing severe financial hardship and must review its budget and programme in the light of the island's economic climate. Council and staff have been working hard over the past 6 months to develop effective strategies to answer this situation.

Developments so far include increased project development, reinstatement of the manual accounting system, weekly financial management meetings, new management procedures for purchase orders, etc and negotiations with our major debtors to pay off outstanding amounts in manageable installments. A determined effort has been made to reduce unnecessary or ad hoc expenditure. Sacrifices have also been made with the reallocation of funds normally spent on professional subscriptions, travel and training, exhibit development, conservation and acquisitions.

Clarification on the status of the Museum's subvention was sought through a meeting with Government and we have received Minister Thompson's written confirmation that the Museum's subvention of \$350,000 will remain unchanged, although our capital grant has been stopped.

In addition decisions have been taken to seek private sponsorship for certain heads including Education, The Museum's Journal and Newsletter, and Exhibition Development amongst others.

Accounts which were reported as outstanding for several months at the Annual General Meeting have now been brought up to date, and we are confident that these will be maintained and kept up to date in a satisfactory manner in future.

Finally the Barbados Museum and Historical Society is examining the

possibility of installing a computerized system which will allow us to monitor our various project accounts, the general fund and the Shop accounts. Another benefit would be that we will be able to produce our own accounts on our own schedule and to update them on a daily basis if necessary.

## SPRING CLEANING

The Museum has commissioned a review of its existing financial and accounting systems by the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce. CAIC will also make recommendations for improvement, install accounting software and train staff in the use of the new computer system.



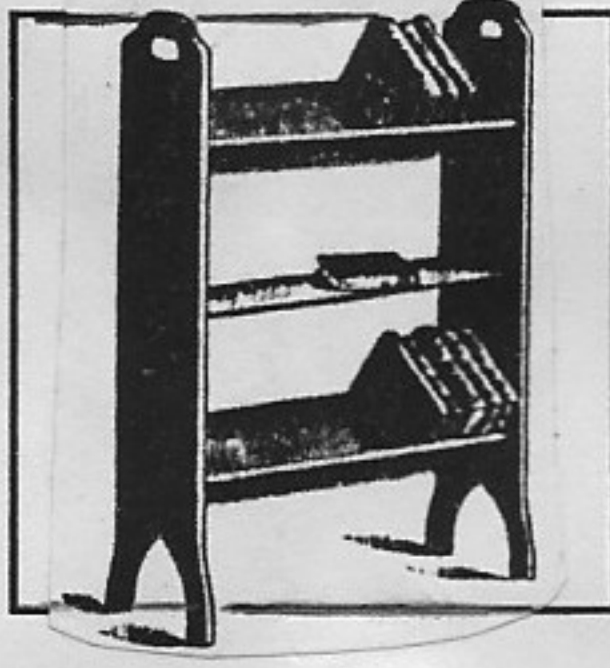
This is a collaborative effort between the Museum and CAIC and is estimated to last ten months. The total budget of the assignment is \$8,000.00 Bds.

The Barbados Museum is seeking corporate sponsorship to cover the cost of this venture. Strengthening these systems will be of enormous benefit to maintaining the independence and viability of the society.



## BOOK SHELF

The 'winter' months once again unleashed a storm of enquiry from



visiting researchers. 79 library users carried out research in the Shilstone Memorial Library. Areas of interest included numismatics, the railway (always a favourite), Shipwrecks, Sam Lord's Castle, (you can guess why), Cholera (another popular research topic), Monuments, Police Force, Sugar, Red Legs, Industry, Churches, Plantations, the Newton Journals, History of St. Lawrence Gap, Money and Banking, Bearded Fig Tree, Mass Communications, Chattel Houses and Arawaks.

Over thirty research requests were received from overseas, primarily from U.S.A, Canada and Australia.

The Library made \$104.25 from a sale of second hand books that were donated by Museum Members.

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## MEMBERSHIP

BMHS membership is nearing the 1,000 mark with some 948 members, both local and overseas recorded last year. In his recent President's Report, Dr. Trevor Carmichael asked that each member be encouraged to bring in 5 new members during 1992. His target of approximately 5,000 members by the end of 1992, would significantly improve the Museum's finances and future development.

So please make your special birthday, anniversary and Christmas present this year a Museum membership. We look forward to more Bajans and friends, joining in our goal of preserving our Cultural Heritage.

## HEAVENLY MUSIC

The generous offer of the Venezuelan Embassy to host a concert of Classical harp music as a museum benefit, was warmly welcomed. Last year members will recall that, through the good offices of Ambassador Touron, we were privileged to host a fine exhibit of contemporary Venezuelan art. This concert continues that thriving relationship. In fact the President has named Ambassador Touron an Honorary Member in recognition of his continued support.

On February 29th, the audience was privileged to enjoy the dulcet sounds of the Cecilia de Mayo Classical Harps Ensemble in the impressive surroundings of the Frank Collymore Hall. The programme ranged from that great favourite Greenselves to the Latin rhythms of a series of waltzes by Venezuelan composers.

The versatility of the performers and the range of the instruments were an eye opener for most of us. Sra de Mayo graciously spent a few minutes after the intermission giving a brief history of the harp and its evolution, with accompanying demonstrations. The evening ended on a convivial note with a special cocktail reception hosted by the Ambassador on the balcony of the Frank Collymore Hall. The evening raised over \$3,600 with additional support given by Heywoods Resort, and Aeropostal. Thank you all for supporting it.

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## CHILDREN'S GALLERY UPDATE

Finally! Barring hurricanes or plagues of locusts, the Children's Gallery will open May 23rd.

It has been a long trail of challenges, triumphs and disappointment of intractable funding, material shortages, and just plain overwork and burnout.

But it's going to be worth every bit of money and adrenalin.

Not only is the Children's Gallery the only resource of its kind in the English-speaking Caribbean, but its quality will match its equivalent anywhere. By "quality" we mean not money spent nor technical complexity (for the gallery has deliberately been kept low-tech and low maintenance) but rigour of research, craftsmanship of construction and creativity of presentation.

The 8-10 year old eye-level of the exhibits, the clear simple text and the variety of displays are designed to make the gallery comfortable and to make Barbados' past appealing and intriguing to children. Many old favourites, including the Haynes Doll's House and the dioramas, will be on display.

Young visitors can "read" an archaeological dig, use replicas of traditional carpenter's tools, or try on a 19th century Zouave uniform. Through the dioramas, they can imaginatively identify with children who lived at different times and in different socio-economic circumstances.

The toy collection has a documentation centre designed to show young (and not-so-young) visitors how museums collect knowledge and information as well as artifacts.

Meanwhile, the final construction tasks, the finishing touches with photography, graphics, documentation, are all-consuming as the opening date gallops towards us.

The opening itself will be a child-centred celebration, with goodies, fanfare and a child as key speaker. We are particularly pleased that, in these fearful times of cutbacks, the Museum can offer a new and creative resource to the children of Barbados.



## P&T POURRI

Readers looking forward to a lecture, but groaning inwardly at the thought of our "back-buster" metal chairs, will be relieved to hear part of the profits from the Fine Craft Festival went towards the purchase of 4 dozen stacking chairs, and much more comfortable they are. We're glad too!

## DONORS

Once again we have reason to be grateful to a number of our members who have offered support in these trying times. Mrs Ethel Manierre has made a small donation in memory of the many happy hours she spent in Barbados and the Museum. Mrs John J. Wilson has been equally generous with her cheque of \$600.00 and Mr & Mrs William Bertalan continue to offer staunch and sympathetic support with a gift of \$500.00 to help offset the shortfall in Government assistance to the Museum. Mr. Noel Frost has generously donated \$234.42 from the sale of stamps in the Museum's Shop.

Thank you all!

## CAFÉ CLOSURE

The Museum's Café was closed as of February 29, until further notice. The Museum is challenged once again to find a new partner for this popular component of the museum experience, and has already had a few feelers. Interested and experienced caterers should contact the Museum's Administrator, Douglas Martindale for details and a tour.

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

The Museum remains committed to the professional development of staff members and every opportunity is sought to achieve this.

Philippa Newton recently completed the course "Natural History Curatorship" conducted at the University of Victoria, B.C. (Canada). This course was a part of the University's Cultural Resource Management Programme.

The course was rigorously designed to ensure students consider the relationships between the disciplines of taxonomy, systematics and ecology, as well as the various research options available to the museum scientist. Participants paid particular attention to the changing rôle of the museum scientist, especially in contributing to knowledge about the earth's biological diversity. Museum biology is developing a growing emphasis on biological inventories and field surveys.

In considering the types of specimens most appropriate for documenting the flora and fauna of a particular region, students focussed on the need for new types of collections, methods of preservation and documentation, and on the ways in which museums are servicing other agencies conducting environmental surveys.

One of the newer activities involves the preservation of voucher specimens collected during Environmental Impact Assessments. Such specimens are preserved to document data in archival reports, and provide a permanent record of the species occupying the habitats at a development site. An additional benefit is their availability for subsequent analyses if the development adversely affects the natural communities in the area.

The ability of the Barbados Museum to offer such services will eventually become a reality with the development of our human resources, and investment in projects to improve our conservation,

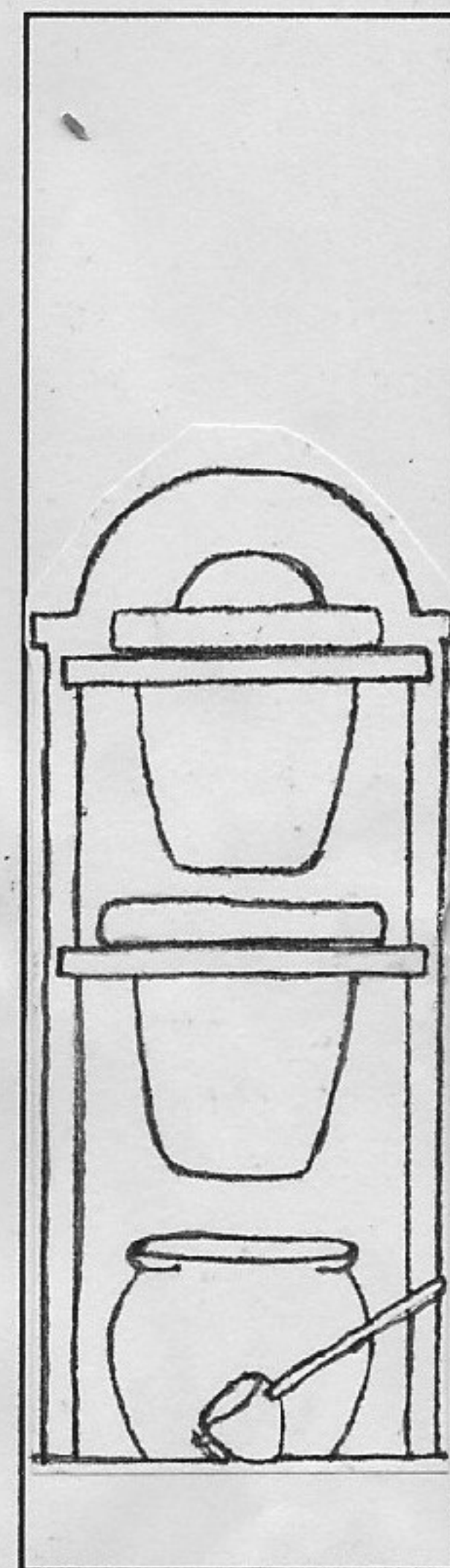
laboratory and information facilities. These projects are already on stream. We have completed the preliminary design for buildings to support these activities, and are now in the process of conducting a computer systems analysis specifically to address the computerisation of our collections records.

## HELP WANTED !

In our work we are constantly reminded of the fragility of things. The artifacts we collect are constantly under threat from the natural elements and simply age. Two weeks ago the popular display of our ingenious water filter system, the coral dripstones, was partially destroyed when one venerable stone gave up the ghost and collapsed on the one below!

We need help in identifying another source for these dripstones, either already existing or someone experienced in cutting them. Anyone who can locate either of these treasures please contact Curator, Lesley Whatley as soon as possible.

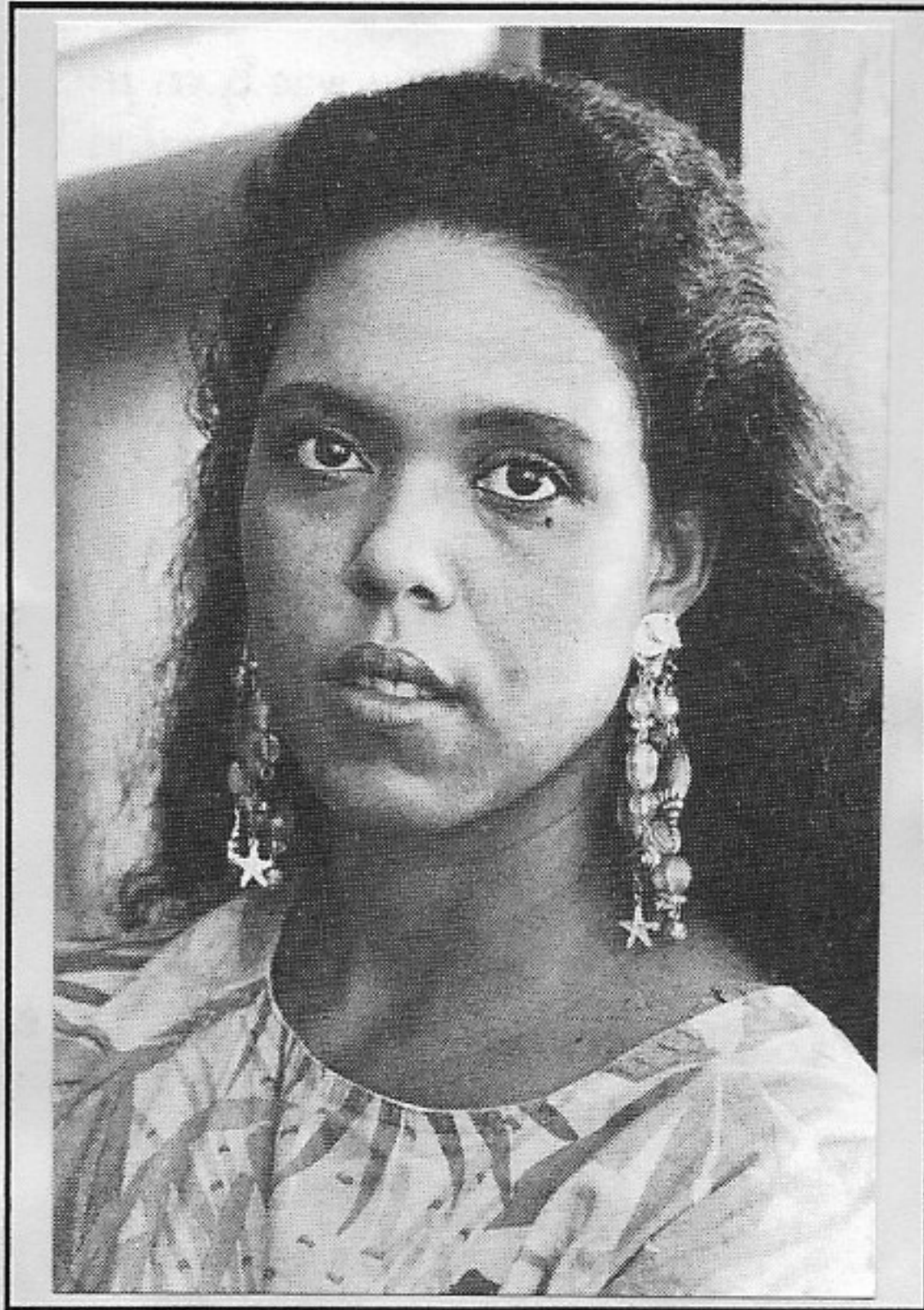
Our dripstones have been on display since the 1950's! The children already miss them.





## SPOTLIGHT

### "Things Perceived and Conceived"



Throughout the month of April an exhibition of paintings by Trinidadian artist **Irénée Shaw** will be on show in the temporary exhibition gallery. This well qualified young artist has already participated in a number of group exhibitions held in Jamaica, Trinidad and the U.S.A.

Like many of her generation, she has moved beyond depictions of typical tropical scenery by using art to express the complexities of contemporary Caribbean experiences. Her imagery is often autobiographical, derived from her personal experience as a Caribbean woman.

### "Spirited"

**Kay Fedel**, has lived in the Caribbean for over a decade. Exhibiting in the United States, Africa and St. Lucia, this is her first exhibition in Barbados.

This show will feature Ms. Fedel's mature work which evolved through realism, Romanticism, and abstract to her own unique vision.

Paintings, wall plaques, soft sculptures, collages and assemblages are from her "Spirited Series". The "Friendly spirits" or "Wholey people" in Fedel's work are symbols of the spirit in life, often felt, but unseen. She is completing two books that encompass her work from the past twelve years.

The exhibition opening will be introduced by the U.S. Ambassador and there will be music. The artist likes to think the world is encouraged by the raising of our spirits, symbolically and collectively!

### Lillian Nicholson's Exhibition

Lilian Nicholson's exhibition announced in our previous issue has been cancelled until further notice.

### "Bridgetown 2000"

A group of young local architects look to the future of the island's development when they present an exhibition of visionary architectural projects for Bridgetown of the 21st century. The exhibition will run from the 6th June until the 3rd July, 1992.

Their objective is to provoke thought and stimulate discussion on the nature and role of architecture in our society. This will be achieved through a multi-media presentation which will include models, photomontages, objects, slides and plans.

Approximately eight architects will produce modules whose themes range from possibilities for a new bridge, Broad Street Housing, Alleyway Restoration and possibly a Chattel house skyscraper!

### "Art in Bloom"

For 1992 this exciting cultural event moves into the Museum. A Shell table, African masks and Brunias' "Mulatto Girl" will be among the exhibits interpreted in flowers by talented arrangers. Originality, understanding of colour and composition allow one to look at art afresh. In the Temporary Gallery selected pictures from the **Art Collection Foundation** will be accompanied by unique flower arrangements. On July 10th, the gala evening will include music and refreshments. Tickets are \$20.00 and will be available at the Museum closer to the date.

On Saturday 11th, an art fair will be held in the courtyard, with no work over \$300. A wonderful opportunity to collect paintings, prints, drawings and sculpture. 'Art in Bloom' continues in the galleries. Special entrance fees : adults \$5.00, children \$2.00. So take your pick of these two events, or maybe experience both.

This show is being produced by the Art Collection Foundation with the Barbados Museum.



## SHOP TALK

A number of smart new items are now available at the Museum Shop. Now in stock- Coral Bernadine's finely crafted replica dolls of Rachel Pringle. The prototype doll won a gold award in last year's National Independence Festival of Creative Arts, and has now joined the Museum's Doll collection.

Cholocate lovers should have a try at brewing their own cocoa with beans now marketed as "Cocoa Caribe".

Jeannie Taylor continues to inspire us with her unusual jewellery. These pieces make excellent gifts and are available in a wide range of prices.

New book titles available include :  
"Caribbean Slave Society and Economy" - H. Beckles and V. Shepherd (Eds.) : \$51.60.

In addition to your visits to our shop for gifts, crafts and souvenirs, do remember to make quick stops for odd bits like stamps, batteries and film.

**Don't forget members are entitled to 10% off most stock prices!!**

### NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased and proud to welcome these new members to the fold.

#### Annual Members :

Miss Beverley A. Alleyne  
Mr. Jeremy P. Day  
Mr. Charles A.M. Conliffe  
Ms. Jennifer Field  
Mr. Glenn Field  
Miss Debra M. McCarthy  
Mr. Patrick Newton  
Mrs. Portia A.E. Regis  
Mrs. Claudia Schnurmann  
Miss Carolyn J. Walkes

#### Joint Annual Members :

Mr. & Mrs Harlon Daniel  
Prof. Michael & Dr. Jose Day  
Dr. & Mrs Delisle Worrell

#### Junior Members :

Miss Laura A.S. Ishmael  
Miss Rhiannon E. Johnson  
Mr. Mark Kent  
Mr. Christopher Kent  
Mr. Oliver J.M. Thomas  
Miss Jameelah J.C. Thomas

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society membership now stands at :

Firm & Company	25
Life	125
Honorary	5
Annual	410
Joint Annual	324
Associate	27
Junior	78
Total	989

**Please help us to build up our membership by inviting your friends and family to join.**

### MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

- Free entrance to Museum and all Special Exhibitions.
- Annual Journal.
- Quarterly Newsletter.
- 10 % off Shop items.
- Free use of Shilstone Memorial Library.

## RAFFLE

We are writing to all purchasers of the Museum's fund-raising raffle tickets for the Suzuki Swift. The drawing for this raffle was originally planned to take place on May 18th, 1992.

Unfortunately, since the raffle's optimistic beginnings, events have overtaken us. The economic climate has taken its toll on the ticket-buying public. In addition, a 20% purchase tax has been imposed on cars. This unexpected additional expense has put the purchase of the raffle car far beyond our means.

It is with shattered hopes and deep regret we have been forced to cancel the raffle. We are truly disappointed, both for our fundraising aspirations and for our friends, who show faith in us by supporting the raffle.

**For the return of your raffle ticket money :** Please phone the Museum 10:00-6:00 Mon-Fri. Ask for Marcell who will take your name, number and address, and mail your cheque within the week.

**For Friends and Supporters :** Please do not phone if you feel inclined to let your ticket purchase act as a donation to the Museum. If you are able to do so, your generosity will be deeply appreciated by our hard-pressed institution. Your ticket will gain you free entry to the Museum on presentation at the door.

In either case, please accept our heartfelt apologies for any inconvenience this cancellation may have caused.



## CARIBBEAN ART ON THE MOVE

Barbados will have the opportunity to host an exhibition depicting some of the region's most exciting works of contemporary art during 1993.

Planning for the UNESCO-sponsored project 'Carib Art' got underway in Curaçao (Netherlands Antilles) last November. At the behest of the Minister of Culture, Art Curator, Lesley Barrow-Whatley, joined participants from 35 Caribbean territories to discuss the objectives and scope of this regional exercise to promote Caribbean art.

The Museum is expected to participate, and will soon be seeking sponsorship and support for this endeavour.

## THE BRUNIAS WATERCOLOURS

The loan of two 18th century watercolours (attributed to Brunias) of Sandy Point Estate, St. Kitts will come to an end mid-June.

Art historical enthusiasts should take this opportunity to view these magnificent scenes one last time before they leave our shores!

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The Museum's Courtyard continues to grow in popularity as a venue for special events. The annual Wine and Cheese party was hosted by the Alliance Française of Barbados on Friday, February 28th. Ernst & Young played host to a very prestigious cocktail party held on Wednesday, 9th March 1992. Sunlinc Barbados hosted an incentive group of 140 sales representatives and their spouses

from the international pharmaceutical firm Smithline Beecham.

The courtyard seems to inspire romance. So far we have booked seven wedding receptions between May and June!

The rental of the Museum's premises serves two very important roles. Firstly, it provides much needed funds to the museum's kitty. Between "1627 and All That" and various other functions, the use of the Museum grounds as an entertainment facility generates at least \$100,000.00 per year.

Additionally, the Museum benefits by exposing new audiences to our exhibits. Many patrons to these special events may never have visited the museum before. In fact it is through this activity that we see the greatest percentage of nationals visiting the Museum!

The Museum's grounds are available for rental any day of the week except Thursday and Sundays. If you are interested in hosting a function at the Museum or know of someone who is looking for a venue, just call **Chris Chandler, our Special Events Manager**, at 427-0201, 426-2421 or 429-2705. He will gladly assist you. Those familiar with the Museum know of its ambiance during the day ... it is particularly magical at night!

As part of its general outreach programme the Barbados Museum participated in the **Holetown Festival**. We mounted a stall and information booth on Saturday, February 22. In addition to the exposure, the stall was able to gross \$1,200 for that one day.

The Museum also participated in the very successful **Multinational Women's Fair** held at Government House on Saturday, 1st February.

## MUSEUM STAFF

### ADMINISTRATION

#### DIRECTOR

Alissandra Cummins

#### ADMINISTRATOR

Douglas Martindale

#### SPECIAL EVENTS MANAGER

Chris Chandler

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Marcia Griffith

#### SECRETARY

Angela Boyce

### CURATORIAL

#### CURATOR : ART & HISTORY

Lesley Whatley

#### CURATOR : NATURAL

#### HISTORY

Philippa Newton

#### CURATOR : EDUCATION

Wendy Donawa

### LIBRARY

#### LIBRARIAN

Betty Shannon

### TECHNICAL & MAINTENANCE

Dennis McCollin

Shawn Rowe

Emmerson Williams

Pauline Stuart

Gail Lashley

### RECEPTION & SALES

Anita King

Marcel Broome

Sylvia Barker

### SECURITY

Harold Burrowes

Ianthe Evelyn

Christopher Carter

Beresford Nurse



## UPCOMING EVENTS

4 - 30 Apr; 10am - 6pm	'Things Perceived & Conceived' : Irénée Shaw Exhibition	Temporary Exhibition Gallery
8 Apr; 7:30pm	Philatelic Society Meeting	
17 - 20 Apr	MUSEUM CLOSED	Good Friday/Easter/Bank Holiday
1 May	MUSEUM CLOSED	May Day Holiday
7 - 30 May; 10am - 6pm	'Spirited': Kay Fedel Exhibition	Temporary Exhibition Gallery
6 May; 7:30pm	Philatelic Society Meeting	Jack Dear Wing
18 May	MUSEUM OPEN DAY	International Museums Day
23 May	Opening of the Children's Gallery	
6 Jun - 3 Jul; 10am - 6pm	'Bridgetown 2000' : Architects' Exhibition	Temporary Exhibition Gallery
8 June	MUSEUM CLOSED	Whit Monday
10 June; 7:30pm	Philatelic Society Meeting	
10 - 11 July	'Art in Bloom': Art Collection Foundation in association with the Barbados Museum	Temporary Exhibition Gallery Courtyard and Other Galleries

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society  
St. Ann's Garrison, St. Michael, Barbados, W.I.  
Tel : (809) 427-0201 or 436-1956  
Fax : (809) 429-5946

Gallery and Shop Hours : 10 am to 6 pm, Mon to Sat  
Office Hours : 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Mon to Fri  
Library Hours : 10 am to 1 pm, Mon to Fri  
Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays.