



# ARTI-FACTS

Barbados  
Museum  
& Historical  
Society

BARBADOS MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

Welcome to the final issue of the Arti-Facts Newsletter for 2005.

The Museum has been buzzing with activity over the past few months. The Christmas season found us spreading cheer to Barbados by throwing our doors open to the public for "Christmas at the Museum". The festive spirit was also evident among Council, staff and volunteers at the Christmas Staff Luncheon & Farewell Function.

As you will see, staff members have been busy taking part in overseas conferences and benefiting from the knowledge of visiting experts. The HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme is in full swing with recent activities, such as the ongoing food drive, a workshop, a puppet show and the presentation of puzzles to the island's schoolchildren. Read on to find out more about these and other upcoming initiatives.

Later in the year, we received donations of a punishment collar and the deed to Balls Plantation into our collections. *Beyond the Bridge* and *The Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society* were also launched.

We look forward to all the opportunities that the new year may bring with it. As we are always open to suggestions, please feel free to send your comments and ideas about Arti-Facts by mail or to Email: musepr@barbmuse.org.bb.

*Christine Skeete*

Christine Skeete  
Marketing Officer (Ag)

## HIV/AIDS Puzzle Launch

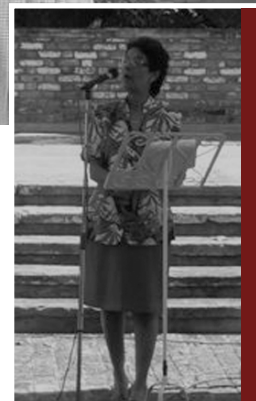


Children from Lawrence T. Gay primary school displaying the puzzles

For World Aids Day, 1st December, the staff at the Barbados Museum and Historical Society wore "red" and the museum launched its HIV/AIDS Awareness puzzle.

Designed by "Native Images", the 60-piece jigsaw puzzle is both educational and fun and suitable for children ages five to 10 years. Approximately 160 students and their teachers, from 26 primary schools across the island benefited from a feature address given by Dr. Vijaya Thani on the issues associated with HIV/AIDS and how children specifically can take steps and make wise choices at their age before having sexual relations. Dario Waldron, NIFCA Gold Award winner in drama, and

his drummer Kemar Batson gave a dramatic piece entitled "HIV Waiting" followed by Ishiaka McNeil and Troy Special who also did a dramatic piece entitled "Two Lil' Boys" and an excerpt from the song "Making a Difference". All of the schools were presented with five puzzles followed by refreshments donated by The West Indian Biscuit Company (WIBSCO). The event received extensive coverage in the print and broadcast media.



Dr. Vijaya Thani delivering the feature address

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## PROJECTS IN BRIEF

# HIV/AIDS Awareness Programmes



Puppeteer Samantha explaining the concepts behind the Rennie Puppet Show

The Barbados Museum and Historical Society participated in a number of activities for HIV/AIDS Awareness Week, 16th - 22nd October, co-coordinated by the Assistant Curator - Art. Apart from the ongoing Food Drive and ribbon distribution which concluded on December 1st 2005, a half-day session dedicated to educating the staff on issues associated with HIV/AIDS in the workplace occurred on 18th October.

This interactive and power point presentation was done by volunteer with the National HIV/AIDS Commission, Ms. Jennifer Walker.

One of the major highlights for that week was a puppet show organised for approximately 162 primary school students from St. Winifred's School, St. Paul's Primary, Bay Primary, Erdiston Primary, Garrison Secondary (first formers) and People's Cathedral School, on the morning of Thursday 20th October. The Rennie Puppet Project featured five puppets informing students on the dangers of HIV/AIDS and the challenges one character was experiencing as a result of being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

The HIV/AIDS Awareness initiative will continue to make an impact on our staff and the wider public through the following upcoming activities:

- Red HIV/AIDS Awareness Museum T-shirts for staff
- Publication of an educational workbook
- Workshop for people living with HIV/AIDS
- Exhibition proposed for April 2006

## MA Conference in London

The Museum Association's (MA) Conference was held from 24th to 26th October at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster and tackled four broad themes: collections for the future, valuing learning, cultural tourism and world cities, world cultures.

Ms. Alissandra Cummins, BMHS Director and ICOM President, was one of the keynote speakers on the first day of the conference. Other keynote speakers included Mr. David Lammy, British Culture Minister, Ms. Jude Kelly, Artistic Director of the South Bank Centre, and Ms. Kate Brindley, Director of Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives. The event was opened by Ms. Nicky Gavron, Deputy Mayor of London, who replaced Mr. Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, as he was unable to attend.

In her speech, working with the community was one of the issues raised by Ms. Cummins in relation to cultural tourism. She noted, "Cultural tourism has an ethical basis to which all museums should subscribe. Museums should participate in the life and local wisdom of the host community." She went on to explain that the primary audience is the local community with visitors as a secondary target. "However, when it comes to the Caribbean as a whole," she said, "it's necessary to try and reach a global audience – since there are more Caribbeans living outside of the region than in it." Ms. Cummins spoke about how



BMHS Director, Ms. Alissandra Cummins, as she appeared in the MA journal

museums must establish a balance between the needs of its host community and external visitors.

The Director also took the opportunity to describe a number of projects currently underway in Barbados, some of which will appeal to both international and internal visitors.

In the December 2005 issue of the Museum Association's journal, the Director was also interviewed on the subject of her appointment as the first female president of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).



## PROJECTS IN BRIEF



## Concorde Exhibits and Museum Study Tour in Britain



Dr. Loftfield (left) and Dr. Finkel (right) at British Museum.

From 15th through 25th October 2005 a team of interested and involved individuals representing a variety of agencies in Barbados toured a number of museums and installations of the British Airways Concorde Aircraft. Organized by Barbados Tourism Investment, Inc. and supported in part by British Airways and the Government of Barbados the study tour was intended to provide the various agencies involved in development of the Concorde Experience in Barbados with insights into what had already been accomplished by sister organizations in the United Kingdom. Stops were also made at a number of non-Concorde museums for the purpose of establishing relationships for the development of mutual assistance with museum exhibits and touring exhibit exchanges. Further stops were made at a number of tourism development and urban renewal agencies, again for the purpose of establishing productive connections with individuals able to provide insights and assistance for similar projects in Barbados. The Barbados Museum was represented by Dr. Thomas Loftfield, Deputy Director.

Three complete Concorde installations were visited along with two exhibits of partial elements of the Concorde aircraft. Each installation and exhibit presented significantly different elements of Concorde within an obviously similar framework. Indeed, it was experiencing the different approaches to Concorde that was, perhaps, the most informative aspect of the study tour. The team visited Concorde exhibits at East Fortune in Scotland, and Filton and Manchester in England where observations were made on the technical and social aspects of the displays. Many significant data were obtained that will assist Barbados in mounting a world-class display of the Concorde aircraft that has been left in our care.

The team also visited the British Airways Museum and Archive. The staff there were extremely warm, friendly, and welcoming, and seemed genuinely interested in assisting Barbados in developing the Concorde Experience. Offers were made of access to film footage, documents, and other Concorde paraphernalia as available. A working revisit to this facility will definitely be necessary as the Barbados presentation of Concorde develops.

Other museum visits included the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum in Bristol. Contacts were made with staff there, primarily Mr. John McAleer, who has an interest in cooperatively designing exhibits to commemorate the bicentennial of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade for 2007. There is an extremely high potential in this contact for cooperative exhibits to travel back and forth between Bristol and Barbados.

A stop was made at the Albert Dock in Liverpool to see the permanent exhibition on the transatlantic slave trade. While no contacts were made it was informative to see how the topic was treated and presented at what is widely viewed as the best museum exhibit on this topic anywhere. Given the obvious applicability to Barbados this stop was entirely rewarding.

A visit was made to the British Museum to establish contact with staff there. An initial contact was made with Dr. Irving Finkel, Assistant Keeper, Ancient Near East. It was originally hoped to interest him in sending us a traveling exhibit on the Ancient Near East just to expand the offerings of the Barbados Museum, but Dr. Finkel suggested a much more interesting traveling exhibit dealing with mankala, draughts, and dominos. Given the close association of the first game with the African Diaspora, and the tight association of the latter two with Barbados, this exhibit sounded much more appealing. It will serve the Barbados Museum very well to have exhibits coming to Barbados from the British Museum.



## TRAINING/ACTIVITES AT THE MUSEUM

### Swedish Conservator's Trip

The Museum was privileged to have the services of Eirik Granqvist during the period November 2nd to November 14th. Eirik Granqvist is one of the few natural history conservators in the world and has worked in France, Finland, Sweden, Africa, and North America among other places.

Dr. Granqvist's specialties include taxidermy, reconstruction of extinct animals, conservation of natural history objects and the construction of dioramas. He is particularly proud of Prehistorama, a French museum (the first of its kind) which is devoted to the origins and evolution of life and Man.

During his stay the conservator accessed the storage and condition of the Museum's natural history collection. The Assistant Curator – Natural History was able under Dr. Granqvist's guidance to learn and acquire practical experience in conservation methods and techniques used with natural objects.

At the end of his visit Dr. Granqvist submitted a report which will greatly aid in the future conservation and development of the natural history collection.



Dr. Granqvist and Monique Ifill, Curator – Natural History



Monique applying techniques taught by Dr. Granqvist

### Natural History Curator gets basic training in Bryology

You may be wondering what Bryology is! It is the study of mosses, liverworts and hornworts. These are simple plants which are found in damp places and are dependent on water for their reproduction. To most of us, moss is just "green stuff" which grows on the damp areas in our yards. However, when the "green stuff" is examined under a microscope beautiful plants which have a

multiplicity of defining characteristics are revealed.

During the period 6th to 21st December, Monique Ifill, the Curator for Natural History was privileged to receive basic training at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus. Instruction was freely given by Dr. Inez Sastre De-Jesus, a tropical Bryologist.

During her stay in Puerto Rico Ms. Ifill was given private lectures which outlined the characteristics of each division, features used to identify important families, and definitive differences among the families.



The Biology Department at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus

She also gained practical experience in the identification of mosses and liverworts.

The visit was very useful and will contribute to the efficient curatorship of the natural history collection.



## ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

### MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS

#### Public Art: The Creation and Care of Murals and Monuments

A lecture/discussion entitled "Public Art: The Creation and Care of Murals and Monuments" was hosted by the National Art Gallery Committee (NAGC) at the Museum on 23rd November. It was led by Mr. Angel Santiago-Torres, Objects Conservator for Museo de Arte de Ponce in Puerto Rico.

#### Presentation of Punishment Collar and Balls Plantation Deed

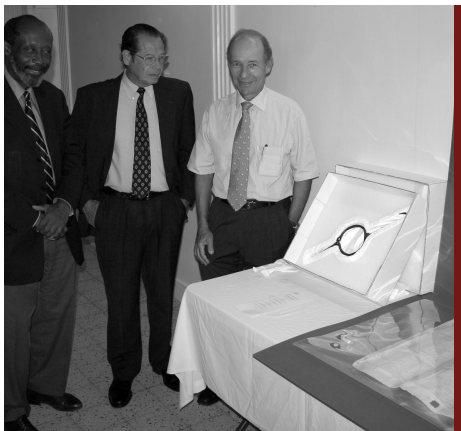
The Museum has been the recipient of two extremely important and informative gifts. On 24th November an official presentation of a punishment collar and the original deed for Balls Plantation was made to the Barbados Museum & Historical Society. These donations were accepted by BMHS Council President Dr. Trevor Carmichael.

Mr. Paul Altman, on behalf of the Jewish Synagogue Restoration Committee, donated an iron punishment collar that was recovered from the grounds of the synagogue during renovation activities. Given the highly disturbed context from which the collar was recovered there can be demonstrated no direct association between the collar and the Jewish community. The collar was sent to the Centre de Conservation du Quebec for necessary conservation of the iron. This service was provided at a discounted rate through the good services of Mr. Nicholas St. Cyr who facilitated contact among the Museum, Mr. Altman, and the conservation centre.

The mortgage deed for Balls Plantation in Christ Church was donated on the same date by Mr. and Mrs. John Cole. While a number of similar enumerations exist for various plantations on the island, this one is of special interest because the effective date of the mortgage deed is 1 August 1834, Emancipation Day in the British colonies. The fact that the former slaves continued to be enumerated is not an error, but reflects the fact that an element of emancipation was the payment of compensation to the former owners for loss of property that was the financial effect of granting freedom to the enslaved. The mortgage deed for Balls Plantation thus illustrates nicely in a three-

dimensional manner some of the complexities through which Barbadian society was moving as a consequence of emancipation.

These two gifts have added substantially to the holdings of the Museum in the areas of enslavement, economics, and social interaction. We are extremely appreciative of the generosity of the donors.



Left to right: Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Mr. John Cole, Mr. Paul Altman viewing the punishment collar and Balls Plantation deed

#### Fine Craft Festival

The Museum's Annual Fine Craft Festival was held on 3rd December. Thirty-six craftspeople displayed and sold a variety of local arts and craft, including basketry, ceramics, mahogany carvings, bath and body products, leather craft, handpainted clothing, handbags, and unique Christmas decorations. One of the highlights of the day was a classically trained Cuban guitarist who treated the audience to a wide range of renditions that were all well received.

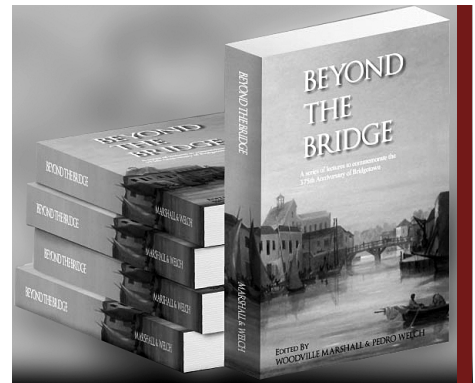
#### Launch of Beyond the Bridge

Beyond the Bridge – A Series of Lectures to Commemorate the 375th Anniversary of Bridgetown, edited by Professor Woodville Marshall and Dr. Pedro Welch, was officially launched at the Museum on 6th December by Senator The Honourable John Williams, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office. Mrs. Kathleen Drayton, Chair of the Museum's Publications Committee presided over the evening's proceedings. Several BMHS Council

members as well as contributors to the book were in attendance, including Dame The Honourable Billie Miller, Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. The event was covered by both newspapers and the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation. Copies of Beyond the Bridge are available in the Museum Shop at \$25.00 for members.

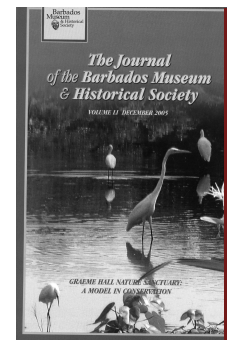
#### Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society

On 19th December, a press conference was held at the Museum to herald the publication of the December 2005 edition of the Journal of the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, edited by Dr. Karl Watson. Copies of the Museum Journal are available in the Museum Shop at \$25.00 for members.



New publication for the Museum.

#### Christmas at the Museum



BMHS Journal Cover

Father Christmas in the historic setting of the Museum.

The first ever "Christmas at the Museum" was held the Barbados Museum from 19th to 23rd December, 6:00 to 8:00 each evening. Members of the general public were invited to see, free of cost, "the largest living Christmas tree in the island" and Victorian



## ACTIVITIES AT THE MUSEUM

The path at the entrance featured candelaria and the Upper Courtyard was transformed with lights and decorations. The Warmington Gallery's planter house installations also featured period-accurate decorations and were open for viewing.

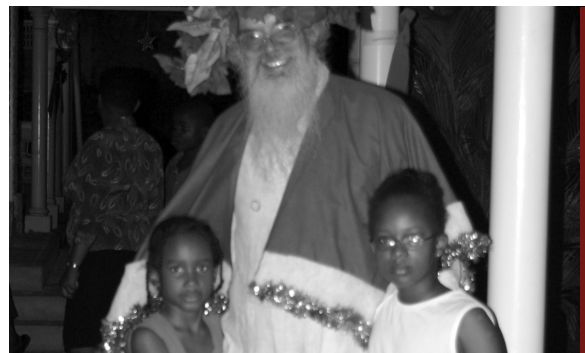
Children from two of the island's children's homes also attended the event to make Christmas craft to take with them, while partaking in refreshments. These sessions were led by local artists, Julianna Inniss and Annette Griffiths who gave willingly of their time and talents.

Some members contributed refreshments. In addition, A & M Company Limited, Barbados Packaging Industries Limited, Caribbean Confection Company Limited, Hadyn Workman Electrical Inc., Exclusive Lighting and Electrical Supplies, Parsons Pest Control Limited, Purity Bakeries, Rose and LaFlamme (Barbados) Limited, Williams

Industries Inc. gave contributions of lighting, equipment, refreshments and a range of other materials in order to make the event a success. With continued support from sponsors and other interested parties, we look forward to making **Christmas at the Museum** a grand annual event.

### Christmas Staff Luncheon & Farewell Function

This year's Christmas Staff Luncheon & Farewell Function was held on 21st December at Crystal Cove Hotel in St. James. A good time was had by all staff and Council members and volunteers who attended. Special tributes and gifts were presented to retiring Museum security personnel, Mr. Beresford Nurse and Mr. Rudolph Beckles.



Victorian Father Christmas (Dr. Tom Loftfield) with Tarah and Myka Payne, the children of Librarian Mrs. Greta Payne



Guests of honour: Mr. Beresford Nurse (left) and Mr. Rudolph Beckles (right)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Museum Librarian

Welcome to Mrs. Greta Payne, our new Librarian! Of her experience with the Museum to date Mrs. Payne says, "I enjoy working in the Shilstone Memorial Library immensely, as I get to meet a variety of interesting people and learn fascinating family histories. Blending the old with the new as I use new technology to index ageing documents is particularly satisfying." In November, Mrs. Payne and Curatorial Assistant James Marshall attended a Digitization Resources workshop, which was sponsored by the Barbados National Commission for UNESCO, Memory of the World Committee and the National Library Service of Barbados and held at the Computer Resources and Training Centre in Bridgetown. It was directed by Ms. Lucia Phillip, Director of Information Technology at the National Library and Information Systems Authority (NALIS) of



Mrs. Greta Payne in the Museum's Library

Trinidad and Tobago. Several topics were covered including Selection of Materials, Basic Digital Imaging Techniques, Imaging Best Practices, Metadata Standards, Copyright Management, Quality Control and Storage of Image Files.

### Re-Designed Website

It's here – the newly re-designed website of the Barbados Museum & Historical

Society! New members can join the Society using online forms and back copies of some past issues of the newsletter can be downloaded. Read all about our services and resources with a simple click of the mouse. Look out for new and exciting features to be added in the near future. Website address: [www.barbmuse.org.bb](http://www.barbmuse.org.bb).

### Memorabilia

On November 30, 2006 Barbados will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary of Independence. In order to prepare a special exhibition, we are inviting members to donate photographs, memorabilia and other relevant items. Please contact Mrs. Angela Boyce, Registrar, at Email: [registrar@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:registrar@barbmuse.org.bb) or Mr. Kevin Farmer, Curator – Archaeology and History, at Email: [arch@barbmuse.org.bb](mailto:arch@barbmuse.org.bb); or alternatively either can be reached at Tel: 427-0201/436-1956.





## UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES/STAFF UPDATE

### Holetown Exhibition

An exhibition of full-colour art and text posters will be hosted by the Museum in conjunction with the National Library Service from the 13th to 24th February 2006, at the Holetown Library. Come learn more about the story of how the town got its name, the first settlers, the early population in the island, and the changes that have taken place in this location over the years, including churches in the area and the development of Holetown Festival.

### New Publication in Museum Shop

Geraldine Lane's book *Tracing Ancestors in Barbados – A Practical Guide* will be on the shelves of the Museum Shop early in the new year. Get your copy for only \$34.20.

### Ole Time Excursion Bus Tours

The Ole Time Excursion Bus Tours will resume in 2006. Upcoming tour dates are:

February: Saturday 11th; Sunday 26th

March: Saturday 11th; Saturday 25th

April: Saturday 15th (Easter);  
Saturday 29th (Heroes Day)

### 2006 Lecture Series

Members are specially invited to attend the 2006 Lecture Series entitled '1+7 Does Not Always make 8 : Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean.'

## STAFF UPDATE

### MUSEUM COUNCIL

#### Patron

His Excellency Sir Clifford Husbands  
G.C.M.G. K.A.  
Governor General of Barbados

#### COUNCIL

##### President

Dr. Trevor Carmichael, Q.C.

##### Senior Vice President

Prof. Woodville Marshall

##### Junior Vice President

Mrs. Kathleen Drayton

##### Ordinary Members

Mr. Adrian Deane

Mrs. Joyce Gayle

Mr. Richard Goddard

Mr. Humphrey Metzgen

Mr. Peter Simpson

Stella Lady St. John

#### Government Appointees

Mrs. Andrea Wells

Professor Hilary Beckles

Mr. Steven Devonish

Ms. Faye Burke

Mrs. Celia Toppin

### MUSEUM STAFF

#### Director

Alissandra Cummins

#### Deputy Director

Dr. Thomas Loftfield

#### Executive Officer

Melva Yarde

#### Marketing Officer

Denise Jones

#### Administrative Assistant – Accounts

Wendy Husbands

#### Assistant Administrative Officer

Susan Boyce

#### Administration Assistant – Merchandising

Marcia Griffith

#### Receptionist & Shop Assistant

Cindy Corbin

#### Curatorial

Archaeology and History

Kevin Farmer

#### Art and Art History

Allison Callender

#### Registrar

Angela Boyce

#### Curatorial Assistant

James Marshall

#### Librarian

Greta Payne

#### Technical and Maintenance

Stephen Layne

Reginald Riley

Pauline Stuart

Merna Bryan

### SECURITY

Royston Sargeant

Grantley Yarde

Roslyn Straker



# MEMBERSHIP

## ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS OR COLLEAGUES TO JOIN THE BARBADOS MUSEUM – WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT!

Member privileges when they join:

- A year's subscription to the Arti-facts Newsletter
- Free admission to the Museum
- Free use of Museum Library services
- Members discount in the Museum shop and more!

Title & Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Occupation

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- \* Life \$690.00 \* Firm / Company \$230.00 \* Annual \$51.75
- \* Joint Annual (husband & wife) \$69.00 \* Student \$5.75
- \* Junior (18 years & under) \$5.75

### PAYMENT DETAILS

To join friends or colleagues need to complete details above, and payment detail below.

- A cheque or money order made payable to: Barbados Museum & Historical Society
- Payment by credit card: VISA/AMEX /MASTERCARD

Credit card number:

Expiry date:

Month                  Year

- Send your cheque or money order to: Barbados Museum & Historical Society, St. Ann's Garrison, St. Michael, Barbados.
- Credit card payment can be faxed to the Museum on 429 5946.