

# Historical and Archaeological Society

## The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda

“Knowledge to be of any Value must be Communicated”



HAS Newsletter No. 124

January, February, March 2014

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## **New Year's Message 2014**

As we usher in the New Year 2014, now is the perfect time to reflect back on 2013. Despite the continued harsh economic environment, the Museum continued to make some advances.

During 2013, we hosted presentations three of which in particular were very successful based on the high attendances. These were the “Rum & Coca Cola” by Dr. Susan Lowes, “Nelson's Caribbean Hell-hole An Eighteenth Century Navy Graveyard Uncovered”, a BBC documentary partly filmed on Antigua which was hosted by Dr. Reginald Murphy, and “The History of the Locos in Antigua” which was hosted by Doug Leury and Lawrence Gameson.

We closed out the year with our annual Christmas Party on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013 which was an evening enjoyed by all with lots of good food, drink and singing from the Expressions Choir.

What can you expect from us in 2014? For starters, we pledge our continued commitment to our goals which are to preserve, educate and display the history of Antigua & Barbuda. We have had several requests to repeat some of the presentations which were held in 2013 and we will work on new presentations. We plan to move the gift shop area to the room outside the museum thereby increasing the space within the museum for additional exhibits. And of course, we look forward in 2014 to launching our Loco exhibit at the Betty's Hope Estate.

We wish to thank all of you who supported us in 2013 whether through your membership subscriptions, donations or your attendance at our special events. A healthy, happy and prosperous 2014 to you and your family. We look forward equally to your continued support.

## Dr. Reginald Murphy awarded GCM

November 1, 2013

Dr. Reginald Murphy was awarded Grand Cross of the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (GCH) – for distinguished contribution in Archaeology and preservation of heritage sites.

Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, Dame Louise Lake Tack, presented the award on the 32nd Anniversary of Antigua's Independence on November 1, 2013.

Dr. Murphy is the President of the Historical and Archaeological Society of Antigua and Barbuda.



Ann Marie Martin, Parks Commissioner of the National Parks, was also awarded Grand Order of the Most Illustrious Order of Merit (GOM) – for dedicated service to National Parks and community development

The Museum of Antigua and Barbuda congratulates both individuals for their achievements and well earned recognition.

- |   |
|---|
| <p><u>Board of Directors</u></p> <p>Walter Berridge<br/><i>Chairman</i></p> <p>Reg Murphy<br/><i>President</i></p> <p>Agnes Meeker<br/><i>Secretary</i></p> <p>Janice Augustin<br/>Len Moody-Stuart<br/>Teku Luke<br/>Susan Lowes<br/><i>Members</i></p> <p>Her Excellency Dame<br/>Louise Lake-Tack<br/><i>Honourable Member</i></p> <p><u>Museum Staff</u></p> <p>Michele Henry<br/><i>Curator</i></p> <p>Debbie Joseph<br/><i>Gift Shop Attendant</i></p> <p>Myra Dyer<br/><i>Library Researcher</i></p> <p>Lavon Lawrence<br/><i>Data Base Clerk</i><br/><i>Library Researcher</i></p> <p>Carissa Daniel<br/><i>Heritage Interpretation</i><br/><i>Museum Assistant</i></p> <p>Jason Dyer<br/><i>Museum Maintenance</i></p> <p>Moislyn Joseph<br/><i>Museum Attendant</i></p> |
|---|

## Son et Lumiere

By Agnes Meeker



The British have constantly borrowed and adapted ideas from the continent and it must be remembered that Son et Lumiere originated in France. It differs from all other dramatic forms in that the drama is re-enacted on the site of the original action; consequently the buildings themselves are the dominant factor from which spring script, lighting and sound, all of which must be planned in step with each other. As no actor is seen, the imagination of the audience is challenged and stimulated so that each spectator peoples the setting with his own conception of the characters in the story.

An original souvenir programme of Son et Lumiere – Antigua brings back memories of a special performance at Nelson’s Dockyard on the occasion of the visit of H.M. Queen Elizabeth and H.R.H Duke of Edinburgh on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1966. This high quality production continued to be produced as a form of entertainment and income for the Friends of English Harbour till shortly after 1976.

In trying to trace what had become of the “Son et Lumiere” tape I was put in touch with Mr. Ernest B. Gibbons Jr. who was in charge of the project due to

his connection with the Jaycees. He replied, “It is true that I was in charge of the “Son et Lumiere” production from its inception until I left the island in 1976, a period of over 10 years. Mr. Anjo thought that as the Jaycees were involved in Antigua’s Carnival, that they would be the logical group to handle a big production of this magnitude. The impression was given that it was done with the express purpose of the Queen’s first ever Royal Caribbean Tour in 1966. It just so happened that it was coincidental. To increase attendance, I had a model made with lights timed to a short tape and took it to travel agents and hotels in several Caribbean islands in the vicinity. While it continued for a short while after my departure, I have no knowledge of the disposition of that model and the short tape.”

“The model was made of plywood and deteriorated over time. The work at the foot of Clarence House was done by various British warships visiting the island through the “community spirit” of their sailors. This included the establishment of a concrete viewing stand equipped with Adirondack chairs, cushions and even my schoolboy-outfitted attendants with the authentic replicas of Nelson’s sailor uniforms; this was arranged by Governor-General Jacobs (Antigua) through his former position as Attorney General in Barbados.” I tried contacting the Jaycees to no avail, as well as the National Maritime Museum and Library Service Provision and the British Library sound archive in England.

As you will see from the attached photographs, this was an amazing, high quality production by the Friends of English Harbour that provided an evenings entertainment which literally took your

### Son et Lumiere cont’d

breath away. Son et Lumiere is all about light and sound dramatically set out to tell and relive an historic event. What more perfect a backdrop than the Dockyard viewed from across the bay at Clarence House under a star lit sky.

Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowden, was Patron in Chief to the Friends of English Harbour.



Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowden.

As Patron-in-Chief I was delighted to learn of the decision of the Friends of English Harbour to present *Son et Lumière* at the Dockyard.

I send my sincere best wishes to all who are concerned with this exciting enterprise which I am sure will give enormous pleasure to all the many people who visit this most romantic and historical place.

A synopsis of the story, where the action is continuous, is shown in the sixteen scenes from the programme while the Script by Nesta Pain, music by Joseph Horovitz and Production devised and directed by Christopher Ede gives the Cast in order of speaking. The professionalism of the narrating cast takes your breath away.

| NELSON'S HARBOUR   |   |
|--|---|
| Script by NESTA PAIN   |   |
| Music composed and directed by JOSEPH HOROVITZ                                 |   |
| Production devised and directed by CHRISTOPHER EDE                             |   |
| Cast in order of speaking  |   |
| Narrator   | CY GRANT  |
| Mrs Murray   | ANNETTE GROSSE  |
| Admiral Sir Richard Hughes<br><i>Commodore-in-Chief West India Station</i>     | DONALD WOLFIT   |
| Captain Bantley<br><i>commanding His Majesty's ship Latona</i>                 | JOHN BADDRELEY  |
| Captain Murray<br><i>Rebel Commodore</i>                                       | GEOFFREY WEARING  |
| Lady Hughes  | HILARY LIDDELL  |
| Captain Nelson<br><i>commanding His Majesty's ship Boreas</i>                  | EDWARD WOODWARD   |
| Middlesex Statutory  | RAYMOND MASON   |
| Able Seaman Clark<br><i>of His Majesty's ship Boreas</i>                       | EDWARD KELSEY   |
| Peter Williams, Duke of Clarence<br><i>commanding His Majesty's ship Pagan</i> | JOHN EBDON  |
| Mrs Nelson<br><i>late Nelson's wife</i>  | JILL DOWNS  |
| Chaplain   | RAYMOND MASON   |
| Lord Carriland<br><i>commanding His Majesty's sloop Fenwick</i>                | HARVEY ASHBY  |
| Lieutenant Petross<br><i>commanding His Majesty's sloop Drake</i>              | MICHAEL GRUFFITHS   |
| Orchestra  | The English Chamber Orchestra                               |
| Singers  | Donald Dickson, Doreen Boleyn, Eric Stalling, Anthony Davey |
| Sound  | Stagwood (London) Ltd                                       |
| Lighting   | Atlas Lighting Ltd, London                                  |

| SYNOPSIS                 |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| The action is continuous |   |
| SCENE 1                  | In the beginning.   |
| SCENE 2                  | 1784 Captain Nelson in the sloop Boreas arrives in English Harbour. |
| SCENE 3                  | Nelson meets Mrs Murray and her husband, the Commodore.             |
| SCENE 4                  | Nelson and his friend Captain Bantley discuss the Navigation Act.   |
| SCENE 5                  | Nelson calls on Admiral Hughes and they disagree.                   |
| SCENE 6                  | The sloop launches a boat and one of three starts.                  |
| SCENE 7                  | 1785 Mrs Murray and Nelson see Laswell during a concert.            |
| SCENE 8                  | The local merchants plan legal action.                              |
| SCENE 9                  | Nelson is 'presented' in his own ship.                              |
| SCENE 10                 | 1787 Peter Williams gives a ball at Clarence House.                 |
| SCENE 11                 | The trial of the deserter William Clark.                            |
| SCENE 12                 | Nelson leaves English Harbour.                                      |
| SCENE 13                 | 1790 Lord Carriland and Lieutenant Petross have an argument.        |
| SCENE 14                 | 1815 Fire at the Dockyard.  |
| SCENE 15                 | 1830 The deserted Dockyard falls into ruin.                         |
| SCENE 16                 | Tidals - The renewed Dockyard.                                      |

Son et Lumiere cont'd

**Sir Donald Wolfit** who played Admiral Sir Richard Hughes, started his theatrical career in 1920, who after playing at the Old Vic and Stratford Memorial Theatre formed his own company in 1937. He has played all the great classical roles from 'Lear' to 'Hamlet, the comedy roles of 'Flagstaff' to 'Sir Peter Teazle' and films to include 'Lawrence of Arabia' and 'Life at the Top'.



**Cy Grant, the Narrator**, was born in British Guiana, his mother coming from Antigua. He first made his name as the singer of tropical calypsos for the first three years of the BBC Television programme 'To-night'. He has played 'Othello' in Britain and made several recordings. He studied law in Britain and was called to the Bar in 1950 and went on the stage the same year.



**Edward Woodward**, who played Nelson has played Shakespeare in India and Russia with poetry recitals in Johannesburg and Dublin. In New York he starred with Beatrice Lillie in Noel Coward's production of 'High Spirit', a musical version of his famous comedy 'Blithe Spirit'.



**Producer Christopher Ede's** professional career has been historical in content and has almost been entirely engaged on productions since 1958 in the medium of Son et Lumiere in Britain, including the castles of Kenilworth, Carrick Fergus and Pembroke; the cathedrals of Canterbury, Winchester, Worcester and Durham, the Royal Pavilion, Brighton and Hampton Court Palace.



*Son et Lumiere cont'd*

**Script writer, NESTA PAIN** has written television plays and several short plays for the theatre. She has also worked in the drama department of BBC Television where she has directed a number of plays

including John Mortimer's 'Duck Brief' and Simon Raven's 'The Move Up Country'.

**Composer Joseph Horowitz** was born in Vienna and came to England in 1938. He has written ballet scores for Festival Ballet, Ballet Russes, Edinburgh Festival 1958 and London Dance Theatre. He has composed two operas. In 1959 he was awarded the Commonwealth medal for Composition and later won the Leverhulme award for Musical Research. 'Nelson's Harbour' was his second Son et Lumiere score – he wrote the music for Christopher Ede's production at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton in 1965.



It is a shame to have completely lost such a wonderful historic production of high quality that could do so much for the tourist product today. All of the people to our shores during Sailing Week and Carnival, just to name a couple of high volume events attracting visitors, would literally go crazy over something like this.

If anyone has any information or can follow up on other leads in order to track down our very own Son et Lumiere, please advise the Museum.

## LOCO update

*By Agnes Meeker*

Lawrence Gameson recently returned to England after spending two more weeks in Antigua working on the loco "Marion". As you can see from the

attached photograph she is a beauty and just about ready to be displayed at Betty's Hope. Lawrence will be back on March 11th 2014 to attach the lights, contrast paint etc.... by which time we hope to have the site prepared at Betty's Hope ready to receive her.



*Marion after refurbishment*

Public Works have cleared the proposed area which is below the water catchment area around a beautiful old tamarind tree approximately 100' x 100' which still needs to be graded, and a crushed stone bed for loco line and pathways added. An open shed will be built to house and display all four locomotives while an old worker's cart and cane cart with seats from 'Sunshine Choo-choo' days will provide covered seating and an area from which historical talks can be given to small groups.

There will be plenty of signage depicting the history of the locos and the part they played during the sugar era. We are appealing to the public for help in refurbishing these two carts that are being stored at the Government Machine Shop on Factory Road that are not part of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) made between the Government, Museum and Lawrence Gameson. Please contact the Museum if interested in getting involved.



*Marion before refurbishment*

A power point evening was held at the Museum recently with Doug Luery, Lawrence Gameson and Agnes Meeker, and if you missed this we plan on holding a repeat evening next March when Lawrence returns. It was standing room only and the comments afterwards were extremely positive, both from those who 'remembered the days' when the locomotives traversed our island and from those too young to even realize the extent of loco rail that existed. An amazing amount of history was presented in photos, charts and documentation.

## Obituararies

### Xuan Nugent

Xuan Nugent passed away November 2013 in Wimbledon, London UK. She was the beloved wife of Nicholas Nugent. She had accompanied her husband to trace his Nugent ancestry in Antigua, and had met with Mr. Edward Henry. The family donated generously to the Museum Window Project, the St. George's Church and the Methodist District. Condolences to her bereaved husband, children and other family members

### John "Bushy" Goncalves

John "Bushy" Goncalves, born in Madeira, came out to Antigua in 1956. He was 68 when he died

here in Antigua recently, and will be sorely missed. "Bushy" was famous in Bolands for his shop and 'Bolanda' rum which was the last of the individual Portuguese rums blended by the different estates or rum shops. He is actually the last of the proprietors of such an institution, where the shop was downstairs, divided into grocery one side, and rum the other, and a residence on the second story. "Bushy" also ran a post office and a gas station across the road. This was a regular stop for the Museum Bus Tours where everyone had a wee 'nip' and then purchased a bottle or two of 'Bolanda' to take home.

### Jack Patterson

The board and staff at The Museum were saddened by the recent passing of Jack Patterson at the age of 92 in December 2013. Jack was a member of the Historical Society of Antigua and Barbuda and attended many of the museum functions up until recent times. He is well remembered for his happy spirit and humour.

On behalf of Board of the Historical Society of Antigua and Barbuda and the management and staff, we wish to convey our deepest sympathies to Cicely, Joel, Laura, Tommy and all the family.



**Eric Smith**

Eric Smith, born in Edinburgh, Scotland, came out to Antigua in 1957 as a young architect. In 1971 he was part of the Architectural Firm of Deans, Fraser & Smith, where he remained until 1996 after the demise of both partners. Eric Smith was 85 when he died here in Antigua in January 2014.

The Museum of Antigua & Barbuda remember Eric very fondly, his sense of humour and artistic talent. Latterly he undertook to completely renovate a very old Estate diorama which he did meticulously, adding his own personal touch such as flowering bushes and ducks in the pond. Eric also fabricated several figures for the Museum displays, notably the Judge (in the Court House) and 'Elvie', a potter in Seaview Farm. He will be missed.

Volunteer work done at the Museum by Eric Smith



Seaview Farm Pottery diorama



Restored working steam engine



Restored 1900 plantation

# Historical and Archaeology Society

January, February, March 2014 HAS NEWSLETTER, No. 124



We salute Bud and Connie Rabinowitz members of the Museum for over 25 years. The lights on the Courthouse building, and stairwells were donated by Bud and Connie. Many thanks for your support.

Best Always,

Board and staff of the  
Historical  
Society/Museum of  
Antigua and Barbuda

Join HAS! Discover & Preserve Antigua & Barbuda's Heritage

TO BECOME OR REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY, FILL IN & SNIP OFF. Mail to P.O. Box 2103, St. John's Antigua.

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

TELEPHONE: (H)..... (W).....

E-MAIL:.....

SIGNATURE:.....

DATE:.....

| CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP<br>CATEGORY |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Individual                    | \$ 50 EC/\$ 25US<br>(Mailing included)  |
| Student                       | \$ 15 EC                                |
| Family                        | \$ 100 EC/\$ 45US<br>(mailing included) |
| Life                          | \$ 500 EC/\$ 200US                      |
| Business Patron               | \$ 500 EC                               |