



Published by the Carriacou Historical Society, Carriacou, Grenada – 1(473)443-8288 – carriacoumuseum@gmail.com

Welcome to the second edition of "The Carriacou Museum" Newsletter! Our mission is to bring you closer to the past, present and future of life in Carriacou. Don't miss a single issue!

The Museum provides a fascinating glimpse into Carriacou's past. Numerous exhibits highlight the diversity, talent and energy of the communities of yesteryear and provides inspiration for today and tomorrow. You are invited to invest a little interest in the past and come in for a friendly tour!

Featured Exhibit: by Eileen Measey

The featured museum exhibits in this issue are clay seals or stamps. They were used by some of Carriacou's earliest settlers, the Amerindians, to make ritual patterns on cloth or skin. Stamps could be made from wood or stone as well as clay and the same linear, geometric motifs occur on pottery all over the Caribbean. The dye pigments were obtained from plants and clay.

Pictured is one of our newest acquisitions, a stamp found here in Carriacou in two halves by the archaeologists, last summer. There are many other stamp patterns so come on in and see how many you can find. You can also find the new motif featured on a Museum T-shirt. Come in to the Museum and buy your own piece of history.

A Bit of History: by Edward Kent

Carriacou is so close to Grenada - just 12 miles point to point and 35 miles harbour to harbour - that inevitably the history of Carriacou follows very nearly the history of Grenada. Since the history of Grenada has been more closely documented than the history of Carriacou, you will forgive me if I dwell for a bit on the early history of Grenada and Carriacou. The historians tell us that the first known inhabitants of these more southerly islands of the West Indies were the Ciboney tribe who migrated up the chain from South America some 2000 years ago. Not very much is known about them but it is believed that they lived mostly off the sea and by hunting the

few indigenous animals found here. They were cave dwellers. You can see migration charts and artifacts in our Museum that will give you an idea of how they lived. In due course, the Ciboney were displaced by the more familiar Arawaks who also migrated up the chain from the Amazon Basin of South America.



Incised ceramic stamp
The pattern on this stamp echos that found on elaborately carved wood and stone artefacts found in the Greater Antilles. (ca. AD 1000-1500).

Old Words: "Ciboney" (Say Sib-o-**nay**) is another old Amerindian (Taino or Arawakan) word which means "cave dweller." Their language was Achagua and is a member of the Arawak linguistic family of South America.

Archeology: Every year for the last number of years, a team of both professional and aspiring

archaeologists have come to dig at Arawak sites on Carriacou. They have uncovered many interesting artifacts that now need to be recorded and cataloged. The Museum needs help with this fascinating job. These historical items belong to us all and it is the responsibility of the whole community to care for them. Are you interested in archeology? Can you spare a couple of hours a week or fortnight? If so call 443-6784 or email delphis@spiceisle.com to volunteer.

News: The Museum is currently working on an expansion and renovation project, thanks to the help of our new sponsor, Grenada Co-operative Bank, Ltd. The first phase of this project involves upgrading the restroom facilities. The second phase will add storage space for the many artifacts that have been excavated in recent years. Future renovations will involve renovating

the showroom and replacing the roof. Your help would be greatly appreciated! Make your donation payable to the *Carriacou Museum* and either drop it off at the Museum or mail it in. All gifts will be acknowledged with a receipt.

Subscriptions: "The Carriacou Museum" is published bi-annually. This second issue is being brought to you in the hope that your curiosity will be peaked, your mind stimulated and your life enriched! If not already a member, please consider becoming a member of the Museum or renewing your membership to continue receiving the newsletter. The membership fee is only \$25ec or \$10us per year. In return, you will receive the newsletter, the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), eligibility to hold an office and the satisfaction of knowing that Carriacou's history is being preserved!

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The Carriacou Museum

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