



# INDEPENDENCE RESOURCE BOOKLET 2014

**CELEBRATING**  
**375**  
*Years of*  
**Parliamentary Democracy**  
**&**  
**48 years of Independence**  
**1966 - 2014**





*Celebrating 375 Years of Parliamentary Democracy and 48 Years of Independence 1966-2014*



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## **Introduction**



*Celebration of Parliamentary Democracy*

As Barbados prepares to celebrate its 48th anniversary of Independence on November 30, the island is also celebrating another milestone in the history of its parliament which is the third oldest in the Commonwealth. The founding of the Barbados parliament in 1639 is a very significant aspect of our history and many activities have been planned throughout the year to commemorate 375 years of parliamentary democracy.

The commemoration of this historic event began on February 28, 2014 with the hosting of a day of events in Bridgetown held by the Government in conjunction with the Royal Commonwealth Society. It included a parade of Cadets, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, the Royal Barbados Police Force Band and other uniformed groups. In addition, there was a ceremony of the raising of the fifty-

three (53) flags of the Commonwealth countries and a reception in the courtyard of Parliament. On June 15th, a National Memorial Service was held at St. Mary's Anglican Church Bridgetown and was preceded by a procession which started at the Parliament Buildings and included the Presiding Officers of Parliament, Members of the House of Assembly and the Senate, the Clergy and Youth Parliamentarians among others. Other activities were also planned to be held throughout the year.

With three hundred and seventy-five years (375 yrs) of parliamentary democracy and forty-eight years (48 yrs) of nationhood in 2014, we have much to be proud of in terms of our progress and national development. As citizens of this fair land we must each contribute in positive ways to its continued growth and development.



## Constitutional History



*The House of Assembly*

Barbados has one of the oldest Constitutions in the Commonwealth preceded by Britain and Bermuda. The office of Governor and a Legislative Council was introduced in 1627, and the House of Assembly was constituted or established in 1639. In 1881, an Executive Council carried out functions which were similar to those of ministerial government.

Universal adult suffrage came into effect in 1951 and the ministerial system introduced in 1954 followed by Cabinet government in 1958. Full internal self-government was formally recognized in 1961.

Appeals which previously went to the British Secretary of State were later dealt with by the

Executive Council which was renamed the Privy Council.

In 1964, the Executive Committee was abolished and its duties transferred to the Cabinet. The Legislative Assembly was replaced by the Senate.

In 1958 the Federation of the West Indies was established with Barbados and nine other Caribbean countries and Barbadian Grantley Adams was its first and only Prime Minister. The Federation was dissolved in 1962, and the Barbados government announced its intention to seek independence separately. Arrangements for Barbados' independence were agreed to at a constitutional conference in London. On November 30, 1966, Barbados became an independent sovereign state within the Commonwealth of Nations.



## **The Preamble to the Constitution of Barbados**

**W**hereas the love of free institutions and of independence has always strongly characterized the inhabitants of Barbados:

**And whereas the Governor and the said inhabitants settled a Parliament in the year 1639:**

**And Whereas as early as 18th February 1651 these inhabitants, in their determination to safeguard the freedom, safety and well being of the Island, declared, through their Governor, Lords of the Council and members of the Assembly, their independence of the Commonwealth of England:**

**And Whereas the rights and privileges of the said inhabitants were confirmed by articles of agreement, commonly known as the Charter of Barbados, had, made and concluded on 11th January 1652 by and between the Commissioners of the Right Honorable the Lord Willoughby of Parham, Governor, of the one part, and the Commissioners on the behalf of the Commonwealth of England, of the other part, in order to the rendition to the Commonwealth of England of the said Island of Barbados:**

**And Whereas with the broadening down of freedom the people of Barbados have ever since then not only successfully resisted any attempt to impugn or diminish those rights and privileges so confirmed, but have consistently enlarged and extended them:**

**Now, therefore, the people of Barbados-**

- a. proclaim that they are a sovereign nation founded upon principles that acknowledge the supremacy of God, the dignity of the human person, their unshakable faith in fundamental human rights and freedoms, the position of the family in a society of free men and free institutions;**
- b. affirm their belief that men and institutions remain free only when freedom is founded upon respect for moral and spiritual values and the rule of law;**
- c. declare their intention to establish and maintain a society in which all persons may, to the full extent of their capacity, play a due part in the institutions of the national life;**
- d. resolve that the operation of the economic system shall promote the general welfare by the equitable distribution of the material resources of the community, by the human conditions under which all men shall labour and by the undeviating recognition of ability, integrity and merit;**



## Constitutional Structure

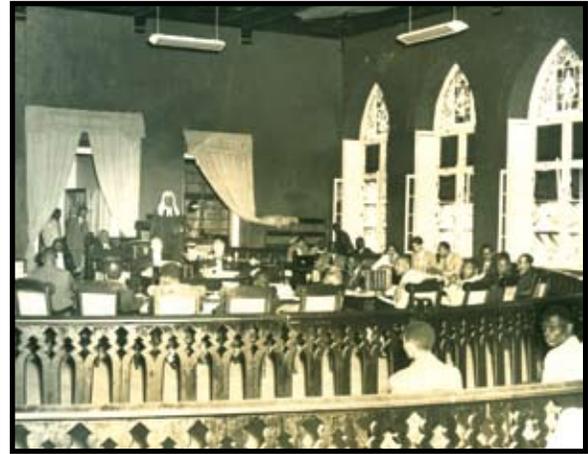
**B**arbados is a parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy that recognizes Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State. She is represented by the Governor General, Sir Elliot Fitzroy Belgrave, GCMG, CHB, QC. The parliamentary system practiced in Barbados is described as a bicameral legislature and party system which is based on adult suffrage.

The supreme law under which Barbados is governed is set out in the **Constitution** of Barbados which came into being on 30 November, 1966 under the Barbados Independence Act 1966. It also includes the Barbados Independence order which established the Judiciary, Judicial Procedures, composition of Parliament and its sessions, prorogation and dissolution, general elections and senatorial appointments. It clearly states how the Governor General, the Prime Minister and his Cabinet, Parliament and the Law Courts must function.

The Constitution may be amended by an Act of Parliament but can only be changed if a two-thirds majority of the members of the House of Assembly and the Senate vote for the change.

**The Senate** or Upper House has twenty-one (21) members. Twelve (12) are appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister, two (2) on recommendation of the leader of the Opposition and seven (7) at the discretion of the Governor General.

**The House of Assembly** also referred to as parliament, is made up of thirty (30) elected members chosen from single member constituencies across the island. The leader



*Parliament in Session in the early 1900's.*

of the majority in the House of Assembly is appointed Prime Minister by the Governor General and forms the Government. The minority leader becomes Leader of the opposition. The normal life of Parliament is five years.

The leader of the Senate (President and Deputy President) and House of Assembly (Speaker and Deputy Speaker) are elected by the members of each respective House.

**The Cabinet** is headed by the Prime Minister who is an elected member of Parliament and other ministers appointed from either house by the Governor General on the advice of the Prime Minister.

Every person elected a member of the House of Assembly shall, before sitting or voting therein, make and sign the declaration of qualification, and shall take the Oath of Allegiance in accordance with the **Representation of People Act, 1971-15, Section 62.**



## The Judicial and Legal System

The legal system in Barbados is based on the British common law. The Judiciary is subject to the Barbados constitution and is headed by the Chief Justice of Barbados, it comprises:

- The Supreme Court which is made up of the High Court and the Court of Appeal. The High Court deals with serious civil and criminal matters and matters coming

from the magistrates' court.

- The Magistrates' Courts (lower court) deals with civil, family and criminal matters.

The courts safeguard and enforce respect for civil rights and guarantee that due processes in civil and criminal proceedings are adhered to. Barbados recognizes the Caribbean Court of Justice as its final court of appeal.



## Political Developments

Since the attainment of Independence in 1966, the political landscape of Barbados has been dominated by two political parties, the Democratic Labor Party and the Barbados Labor Party. Both parties have been very supportive of regional integration.

The country was under the leadership of Errol Walton Barrow of the Democratic Labor Party from 1966 to 1976 and again in 1986 until his death in 1987 when his deputy, Lloyd Erskine Sandiford, became the fourth Prime Minister of Barbados. In the 1991 general elections, Mr. Sandiford, led the party to victory and remained as Prime Minister until 1994 when the party lost the general elections to the Barbados Labor Party.

In 2008, the Democratic Labor Party regained the government and was led by Mr. David Thompson who became the sixth Prime Minister until his death in October, 2011.

At this time the reins of government and the Democratic Labor Party was taken over by Mr. Freundel J. Stuart the seventh and current Prime Minister of Barbados who led the party to victory in the 2013 general elections.

The second Prime Minister of Barbados Mr. J.M.G.M. Adams, son of Sir Grantley Adams a former Premier of Barbados and Prime Minister of the West Indies Federation, led the Barbados Labor Party to victory in the general elections of 1976 and the party remained in power until 1986 when they lost the general elections. However, during Mr. Adams' leadership of the country as Prime Minister, he died suddenly on March 11, 1985. After his death, Mr. Harold Bernard St. John who was the Deputy Prime Minister took up the leadership of the country and became the third Prime Minister of Barbados.

The general elections of 1994 returned the Barbados Labor Party to power under the leadership of Mr. Owen Seymour Arthur who



became the country's fifth Prime Minister. He led the country for fifteen years until the Party's defeat at the polls in 2008 when the Democratic labor Party was returned to power.

Over the years there were other Political Parties in Barbados such as:

- People's Empowerment Party (PEP)
- National Democratic Party (NDP)
- People's Democratic Congress (PDC)



## **The Mace**



*The Mace of the Barbados House of Assembly with the Speaker's Chair in the background.*

**T**he Mace is the symbol of authority of the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly. It symbolizes a tradition by parliamentary institutions, and is made of silver gilt, embossed with an orb and a cross and the handgrip bears the Royal Arms. At the opening and conclusion of each sitting of the House of Assembly, the Mace is carried by the Marshall of the House who precedes the Speaker in and out of the Chamber. When the House is in session and a sitting is suspended, the Mace is placed in a cradle on the Clerk's table with the orb and cross towards the government who always sit to the right of the Speaker's chair. When the House is in Committee of the whole House and also before the election of a Speaker, the Mace is placed on brackets below the Clerk's table.

The Mace must be in its correct position for any business transacted in the House of Assembly to be legal.



## Activity Pages

1. Name the first Prime Minister of Barbados who is also a National Hero.
2. The parliament buildings consist of the East wing and the West wing;
  - (a) What important state offices are in the East wing?
  - (b) The West wing?
3. Who is the current President of the Senate?
4. Name the current Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly.
5. List three duties of the Governor General.
6. Complete the following:  
 There are \_\_\_ Senators in the Barbados Senate. \_\_\_ Senators are appointed by the Governor General, \_\_\_ by the Prime Minister and \_\_\_ by the Opposition Leader.

### Parliament

7. Complete the word search puzzle below. All the words listed appear in the puzzle horizontally, vertically, diagonally and backward. Find them and circle the letter for each word. Find the hidden message from the remaining words after you have completed the word search.

P P A R L I A M E N T B A A N  
 A T N E L L E C X E M R N S O  
 R A R E S O L U T I O N O S I  
 L C B C A D C E R O D S I E T  
 I H A N O P O C A A E E T M I  
 A I Y W R N N A O L E S A B S  
 M E C O A H S M R I R T L L O  
 E V A T R I T T D A F I S Y P  
 N E R E T S I N I M E M I R P  
 T M C G I T T M N T E A G A O  
 A E O D S O U N A T U T E L A  
 R N M I T R T R R Y D E L O E  
 Y T E R I Y I M Y O C S N H R  
 A S D B C S O D A B R A B C C  
 I N D E P E N D E N C E Y S Y

ACHIEVEMENTS  
 ARTISTIC  
 ASSEMBLY  
 BARBADOS  
 BRIDGETOWN  
 CONSTITUENCY  
 CONSTITUTION  
 DEMOCRACY  
 ESTIMATES  
 EXCELLENT  
 EXTRAORDINARY  
 FREEDOM  
 HISTORY  
 INDEPENDENCE  
 LEGISLATION  
 MACE  
 OPPOSITION  
 PARLIAMENT  
 PARLIAMENTARY  
 PRIMEMINISTER  
 RESOLUTION  
 SCHOLAR

Hidden Message

-----  
 -----



*Barbados National Flag*



*Barbados Coat of Arms*

## **THE NATIONAL PLEDGE**

*I pledge allegiance to my country Barbados  
and to my flag,  
to uphold and defend their honour,  
and by my living to do credit  
to my nation wherever I go.*



*National Flag designed by  
Grantley Prescod*



*National Pledge  
written by  
Lester Vaughan*



*Coat of Arms designed by  
Neville Connell*



## Barbados National Anthem

In plenty and in time of need  
When this fair land was young  
Our brave forefathers sowed the seed  
From which our pride is sprung  
A pride that makes no wanton boast  
Of what it has withstood  
That binds our hearts from coast to coast  
The pride of nationhood

### *Chorus:*

*We loyal sons and daughters all  
Do hereby make it known  
These fields and hills beyond recall  
Are now our very own  
We write our names on history's page  
With expectations great,  
Strict guardians of our heritage  
Firm craftsmen of our fate*

The Lord has been the people's guide  
For past three hundred years  
With him still on the people's side  
We have no doubts or fears  
Upward and onward we shall go  
Inspired, exulting, free  
And greater will our nation grow  
In strength and unity



*Lyrics By:*  
*Irving Burgie*



*Music by:*  
*Roland Edwards*



## Activity Pages

8. He represented St. Joseph in the Barbados House of Assembly. He was the Solicitor General of Barbados in and Attorney-General from 1882 to 1886. He was also the first black Chief Justice of Barbados. In 1889 he was Knighted by Queen Victoria. The bust above is located in the hallway of the main entrance to the House of Assembly in honor of this outstanding Barbadian.

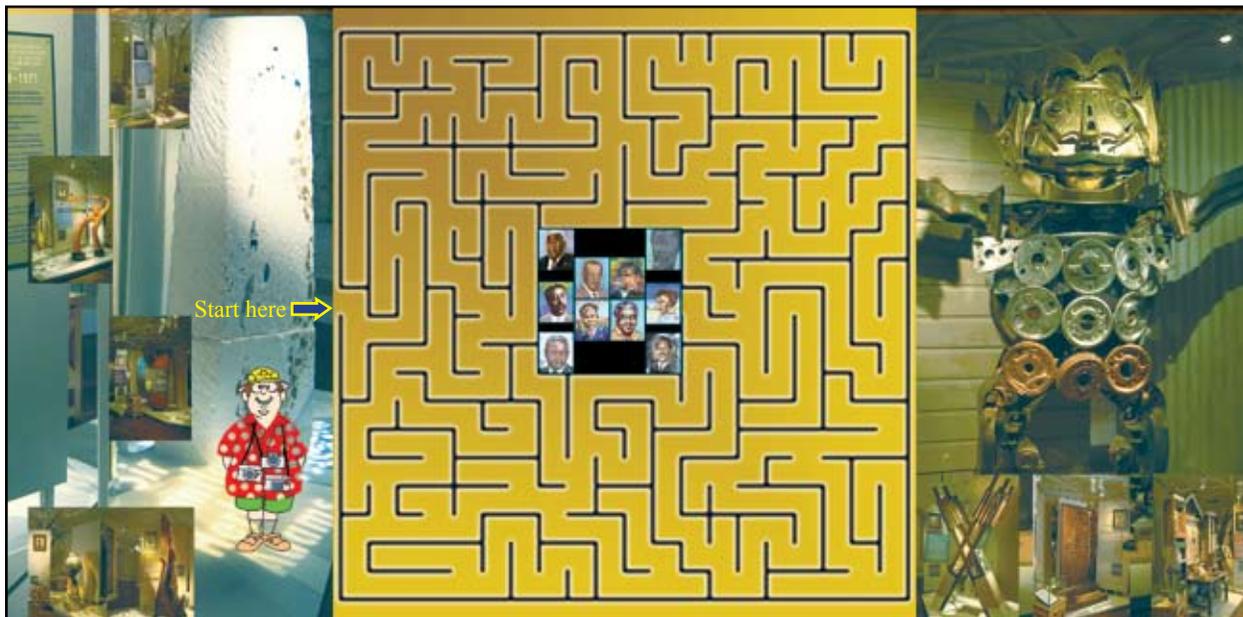
Write the name of this Barbadian Statesman under the picture.



Bust of \_\_\_\_\_

## Heroes Gallery

9. A visitor has lost his way to the Parliament Museum. Trace the path which the visitor must take to get there.

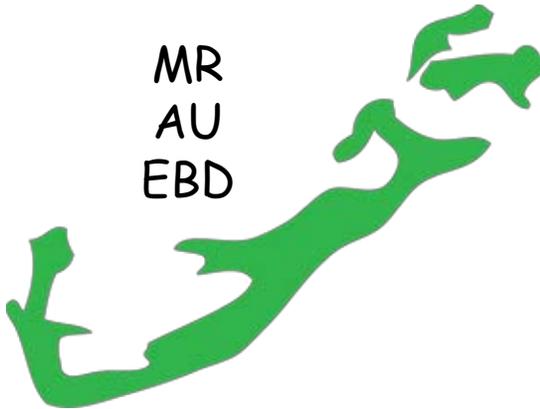




# Activity Pages

10. Barbados has the third oldest parliamentary constitution in the Commonwealth. Unscramble the letters below to identify the two that are older.

a.



b.



11. Rearrange the letters below to spell out seven words associated with parliament.

a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.



g.



12. Can you work out which number comes next?

(a) 1, 5, 8, 10 .....

(b) 2, 4, 5, 7 .....

13. (a) Who is your Parliamentary Representative?

(b) What is the name of your Constituency?

## Just the opposite

14. Unscramble the words to form a pair of opposites on each line.

1. S A T F                      L W S O

2. D B A                        G D O O

3. N I                            U O T

4. R B E A K                    X I F

5. W L O                        G I H H

6. S A T R T                    P T S O

7. I R N E W N                S O L E R

8. L A L                         N N E O



# Activity Pages

15. Rearrange the letters in each of the TV sets to spell out the names of the seven Prime Ministers of Barbados.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

## Link Up

16. Can you link up each of the words on the right with a word on the left to make eight longer words?

- |         |       |
|---------|-------|
| LAND    | HOOD  |
| NEWS    | JURY  |
| THOU    | MARK  |
| GIG     | PAPER |
| BROTHER | SAND  |
| COCK    | OUR   |
| ARM     | ANTIC |
| IN      | TAIL  |

17. The letters below spell out the name of the law that governs the island what is it?

T N I U O T N C O S T I

18. Solve the mathematics problem on the left and then find the answer to the problem hidden in the number on the right. Circle the answer.

- |    |               |   |        |
|----|---------------|---|--------|
| a. | $39 + 20$     | = | 592060 |
| b. | $42 + 21$     | = | 124630 |
| c. | $601 - 11$    | = | 605901 |
| d. | $2014 - 1639$ | = | 637540 |
| e. | $701 + 12$    | = | 977131 |
| f. | $80 - 21$     | = | 85923  |
| g. | $620 - 20$    | = | 726002 |
| h. | $65 + 55$     | = | 120506 |
| i. | $72 + 32$     | = | 410474 |



## Quick Facts

- The first Speaker of the House of Assembly was Colonel Thomas Modyford.
- The first colored man to be elected as speaker of the House of Assembly was Sir Kenmore Nathaniel Husbands parliamentary Representative for the parish of St. Peter
- In 1938, the House of Assembly was elected for two (2) years. Ten years later in 1948 it was elected for three (3) years. From 1956 to present, the life of Parliament was set at five (5) years.
- Dame Ermytrude Bourne, D.A. was the first woman elected as a member of the House of Assembly to represent the parish of St. Andrew after the general election in 1951.
- Ministerial government began on February 01, 1954 and Sir Grantley Adams became the first Premier of Barbados.
- When parliament is adjourned it is said to be prorogued.
- When the life of a particular parliament comes to an end it is said to be dissolved.
- Parliamentary sittings are controlled by Standing Orders or Rules.
- The Throne Speech is an outline of plans the government hopes to implement during the course of the parliamentary session. It is delivered/ read by the Governor General.
- In Parliament, the members of government sit on the right side of the Speaker and members of the Opposition sit on the left. Ministers of government sit in the front row since they are the chief speakers and defenders of government policies in Parliament. Other elected members of the ruling party are referred to as 'back benchers'.
- The Senate is also called the Upper House and is presided over by the President. A person must be twenty-one (21) years or older and a resident of Barbados for the preceding twelve (12) months to qualify for eligibility for appointment to the Senate. The Business of the Senate is to re-examine legislation passed in the House of Assembly (Lower House) and make amendments to bills.
- The Speaker's chair is a gift to the people of Barbados from the Government of India on the attainment of Independence on November 30, 1966.



*Original Independence Arch*



**THIS MONUMENT WAS ERECTED TO COMMEMORATE  
THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARLIAMENT**



The first House of Assembly was conducted in a building called the “Sessions House” located in the area now known as Spry Street. It was later called the House of Assembly and was made up of a nominated Council of sixteen land-owners which was a requirement for persons to sit in the House of Parliament/Burgesses.

Around 1653, the Assembly was conducted in a building called the ‘State House’ which was located somewhere in the vicinity of Upper Broad Street and High Street. It was however destroyed by fire in April 1668. Thereafter, and for many years following, the Council met at various locations including the Sessions House, the Governor’s residence at Holborn, the Roebuck Tavern owned by Governor

**ON OR NEAR THIS SITE  
STOOD THE SESSIONS HOUSE  
WHERE THE PARLIAMENT OF BARBADOS  
FIRST MET IN JUNE 1639**

**IT WAS UNVEILED BY  
THE RT. HON. L. ERSKINE SANDIFORD, M.P  
PRIME MINISTER  
JUNE 26, 1989**

Henry Hawley, other taverns and residences in and around Bridgetown, such as Bay Street, Hall’s Road, Fontabelle and Great pilgrim House which is now known as Government House, the Official residence of the Governor General of Barbados.

In 1989, a monument was unveiled noting the location of the Sessions House. A plaque on the monument is inscribed with the following:

“On or near this site stood the Sessions House where the Parliament of Barbados first met in June 1639. This monument was erected to commemorate the 350th anniversary of Parliament and was unveiled by The Rt. Hon. L. Erskine Sandiford, M.P. Prime Minister June 26, 1989



### Answers

1. The Right Excellent Errol Walton Barow.
2. (a) The House of Assembly and the Senate  
(b) Parliament Museum
3. Senator KerryAnn Ifill
4. His Honour Michael A. Carrington
5. (1) Represents the Queen on ceremonial occasions  
(2) Appoints members of the Senate  
(3) Appoints the Chief Justice and High Court Judges
6. There are 21 Senators in the Barbados Senate. 7 Senators are appointed by the Governor General, 12 by the prime Minister and 2 by the Leader of the opposition.
7. BARBADOS A PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY
8. The bust of Sir Conrad Reeves
- 10 (a) BERMUDA (b) BRITAIN
11. (a) SPEAKER (b) BUDGET  
(c) COMMITTEES (d) MACE  
(e) ESTIMATES (f) DEBATES  
(g) CONSTITUTION
12. (a) 11 (b) 8

14. 1. FAST SLOW 2. BAD GOOD  
3. IN OUT 4. BREAK FIX  
5. LOW HIGH 6. START STOP  
7. WINNER LOSER  
8. ALL NONE
16. LANDMARK NEWSPAPER  
THOUSAND GIGANTIC  
BROTHERHOOD COCKTAIL  
ARMOUR INJURY
17. CONSTITUTION
18. (a) 592060 (b) 124630  
(c) 605901 (d) 637540  
(e) 977131 (f) 85923  
(g) 726002 (h) 120506  
(i) 410474

**WEB LINKS AND REFERENCES**

- [www.barbadosparliament.com](http://www.barbadosparliament.com)
- [www.barbadosparliament.com / museum.php](http://www.barbadosparliament.com/museum.php)
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Resource Booklet available on our website:[mrd.gov.bb](http://mrd.gov.bb)

National Heroes Gallery, Museum of Parliament

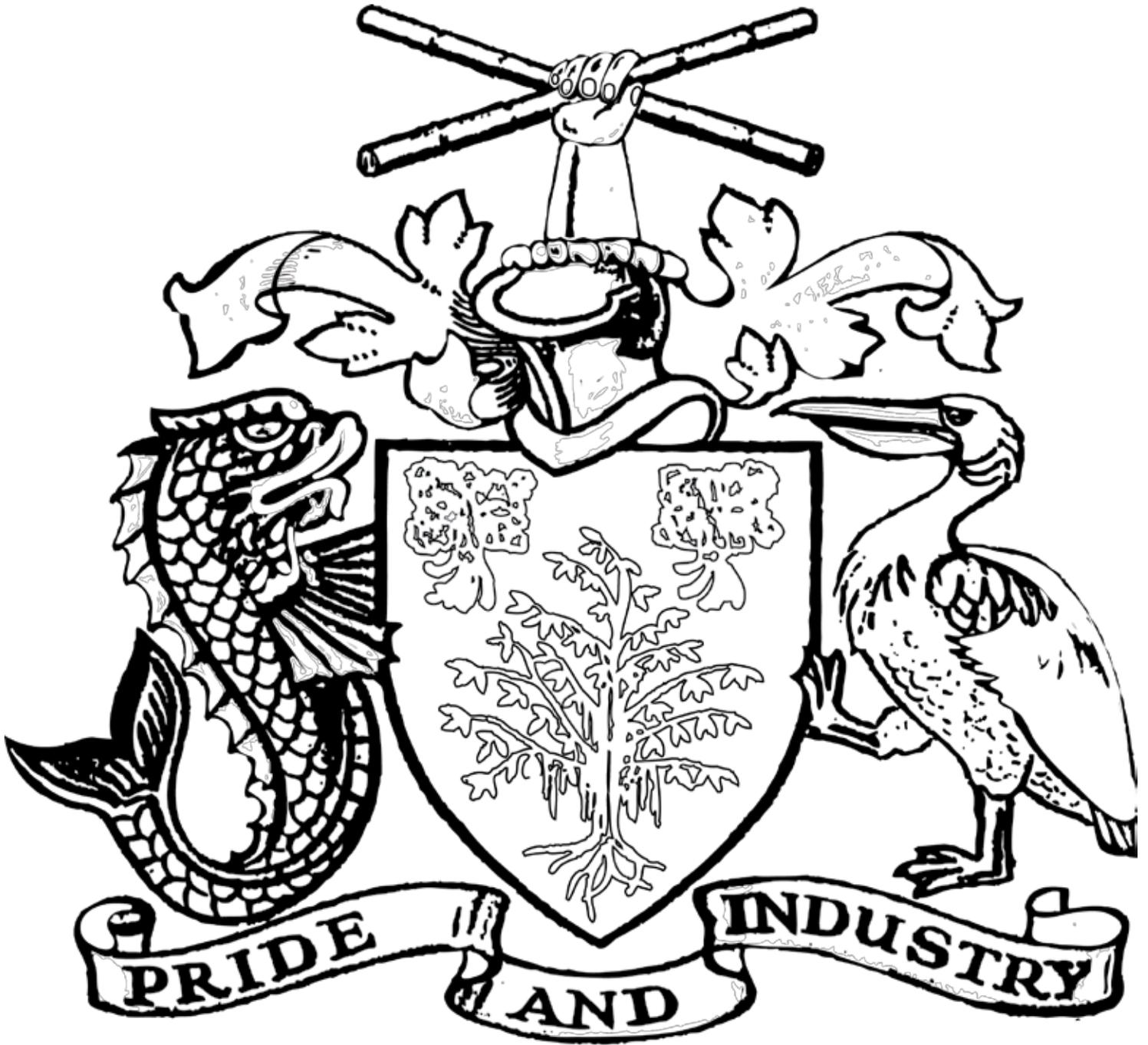


Colour Me





Colour Me



*Celebrating  
375 years  
of  
Parliament*





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