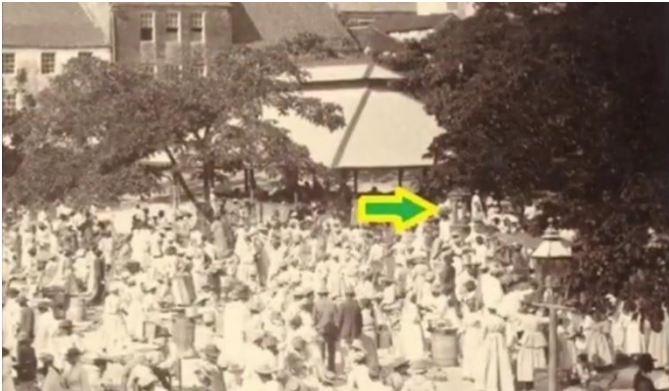# Fountain on Island of Grenada Has Remarkable Story

A Wallace Fountain is seen in this 1892 photograph of the St. George's Market Square.

Alister Hughes with the restored fountain in front of the Alliance Française, 2002.

St. George's, GRENADA

No one seems to know the story of how a Wallace Fountain arrived in the port city of St. Geroge's on the island of Grenada, West Indies, in the late 19th century. Nevertheless, it can be seen in an 1892 photo of the Market Square of St. George's, where it stood until 1968.

Some believe it was originally one of the six fountains given to the city of Bordeaux, France by the philanthropist Osiris in 1873. Bordeaux and St. George's are sister cities and the fountain might have been sent as a gift. Markings on this fountain indicate it was cast in the 19th century in France.

According to Alister Hughes, a journalist and local historian (1919-2005), the city council had the fountain demolished and removed from Market Square in the late 1960s. Though badly damaged during demolition, Hughes managed to salvage most of the pieces. As long as he can remember, this fountain was always missing one of the caryatids that hold up the dome. Even so, he and others managed to have the fountain rebuilt and restored locally. In 2002, the restored fountain was placed at a temporary site in front of the Alliance Française until a suitable public place could be found.

In 2004, Cyclone Ivan destroyed the fountain and most of the island. Grenada was in ruins. The three caryatids and other pieces of the fountains were salvaged and removed from the Alliance site. The pieces were stored at the home of a friend of Alister Hughes for safe keeping. Eventually, what was left of the fountain was returned to its location at Alliance Française. The dome was destroyed and one of the Caryatids was decapitated. Today, the remaining classic, Greco-Roman female figures seem to be reaching to the heavens in a pleading gesture of sorrow for their very sad fate.