

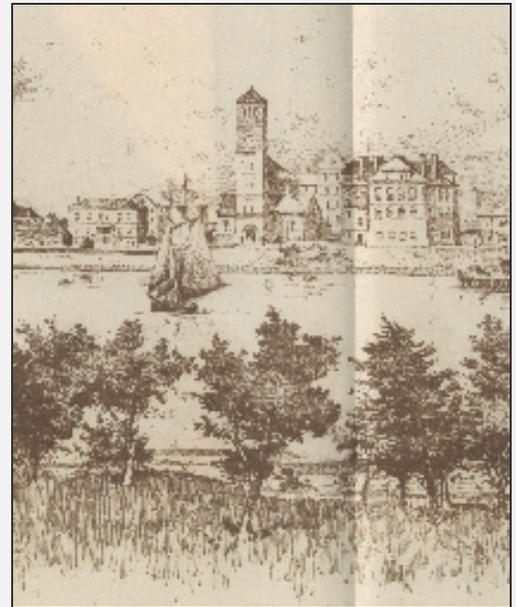
## From the President

As we approach the conclusion of this program year, I believe we can look back and feel quite good about the activities of the association since last September. Our member meetings ranged in location from as far west as Charlottesville, to as far north as Fredericksburg. A new informational brochure / rack card was created by VCA officers Tracy Bernabo and Dale Wheary, to help spread the word about the VCA, its programs and the shared interests of our membership. The VCA this year ramped up its presence on the World Wide Web, by creation of a Facebook site and initial work to thoroughly upgrade our Internet homepage. This is due to the efforts of two other VCA Officers, Patricia Selinger and Valinda Carroll. Renewed efforts at organizational outreach were highlighted by six of our members presenting the seminar "When to Call a Conservator", as part of the 2010 Virginia Association of Museums' Annual Conference. A final thank you must be given to Susan Adler, Lorraine Brevig, Amy Byrne, Valinda Carroll and F. Cary Howlett for joining me in the presentation, and to Dale Wheary and Katherine Garrett-Cox for facilitating our participation in the VAM meeting. The seminar was rated at 4.5 out of 5 by a survey of those in attendance, and VAM staff has made it known that our organizations should directly partner again in the future. So please consider the possibility of your involvement in the next such event.

I hope you each will be able to attend our next member meeting, the last of the 2009-2010 season, which will take place at the beautiful campus of Hampton University. Elections will be held to fill a number of Board / Committee positions, so it is important that the membership is represented in a high attendance. Please come and vote! On behalf of the entire membership I give heartfelt thanks to the outgoing VCA Officers for generously working so hard in benefit of the organization. See you all soon!

~ Frederick Wallace, President

Members Meeting  
Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 p.m.



Hampton University

100 Cemetery Road, Hampton, VA  
757.727.5000



*Reception & Business Meeting at the  
Harvey Library ~ Atrium Room*

*Followed by a Presentation by F. Cary Howlett on the  
Conservation of Pews and Doors at the University's*

**Memorial Chapel**

**For Directions See Page 6**

# March Members' Meeting

## Textile Treatments at the James Monroe Museum

For the March VCA meeting, Colleen Callahan conducted a tour of the exhibit, "Our Face to the World: the Clothing of James and Elizabeth Monroe," at the Monroe Museum, highlighting treatments that she and Newbold "Newbie" Richardson had done for the Save America's Treasures Program. The treatments followed a collection assessment funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project focused on clothing, rather than household furnishings, and the attire worn by James Monroe and Elizabeth Monroe was considered the highest curatorial priority. The Save America's Treasures grants were designed to fund conservation of objects of national importance, so the project emphasized pieces associated with James Monroe's role as a diplomat in France and as the President of the United States. For example, we were shown dramatic "before treatment" documentation for a bicorne hat in the exhibit that had been worn during a diplomatic mission to the court of Napoleon.

Colleen discussed the way that they prioritized the sometimes lengthy treatment process, eliminating some pieces from the treatment list to allow enough time for full conservation, rather than basic stabilization, for the more important items. Unnoticed moth holes could be left untreated on pieces with lower curatorial significance; whereas moth holes were repaired on garments that were a high priority for exhibition purposes. Many treatments required more time for linings than for the "exposed" part of the garment. During use, the fragile lining fabrics had to take a lot of mechanical stress, as well as exposure to the damaging effects of perspiration. For placement on exhibit, the linings of all of the garments required stabilization to permit placement on three-dimensional supports. Supports themselves had to be customized to fit the silhouettes of women's dresses in accordance with the styles of corsets and other undergarments that evolved throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The most remarkable object in the exhibit was a brocaded damask dress that had originally belonged to Elizabeth Monroe's mother. It had been disassembled and remade in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to fit the newer fashion trends. The modern bodice had apparently been cut from the petticoat, but the overskirt, underskirt, and fringe were mostly intact. Newbold Richardson's husband helped them to build a humidification chamber, so that they could relax the skirt panels for treatment. The bodice was a total loss, so the conservators decided to have a matching fabric made. An exact match proved impossible to find, so the pattern was photographed and digitally recreated on a fabric of the appropriate weight and texture. At normal viewing distance, under gallery lighting, the digital print blends perfectly with the original fabric.

Other highlights of the exhibit include a handmade reproduction of brilliant pink silk gown that was severely faded and whose fibers had shattered. Several men's waistcoats were stabilized for the exhibit. The Monroe Presidency period was primarily represented by loaned objects in the exhibit. The conservators had to research the Monroes' preferences and not just the fashion trends of the day. Colleen explained that James Monroe had continued to wear old-fashioned knee breeches well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, after long trousers had come into style, because long trousers had only been worn by the lower class workers in earlier times. She also showed how an 1815 empire gown would originally have had a sheer overlay, but that it had been removed in the past. A great deal of time and effort had been devoted to researching the appropriate styles and materials for the exhibit.

The Virginia Conservation Association would like to thank curator Meghan Budinger of the James Monroe Museum at the University of Mary Washington for permitting this special after-hours tour. The VCA is especially grateful to Myra Wiggins and Cathy Dean of Preservation Virginia for extending their gracious hospitality at the St. James House. The St. James House is a Preservation Virginia property that is not normally open to the public, but Preservation Virginia permitted the VCA to hold our business meeting there as preservation professionals working together for the benefit of the Commonwealth of Virginia. VCA members will recall that we had originally planned to have our December event at a Preservation Virginia property in Richmond, but it was cancelled due to snow. As outgoing Program chair, I cannot be more pleased that we have had such wonderful partners in the cultural heritage community.

~ Valinda Carroll, Programs



*Above: Textile Conservator, Colleen Callahan presenting at the James Monroe Museum and Library as Monroe's c. 1780 waistcoat and breeches look on.*

# VCA BOARD

Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2010

## ATTENDEES:

FRED WALLACE  
KATHY GARRETT-COX  
BIENVENIDA OCHS  
LARRY OCHS  
VALINDA CARROLL  
TRACY BERNABO  
BETH FULTON  
PATRICIA SELINGER  
DOTTY ROBINSON  
TOM SNYDER

Fred welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Patricia Selinger for hosting the meeting at VCU library.

He announced that at the March Members' meeting the members approved a Bylaws change regarding the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is now actively seeking members and officers for the positions that will be open next year. If you know of anyone who would like to serve, please contact F. Carey Howlett, Wendy Cowan or Mark Lewis. The Bylaws change needs to be reflected in the upcoming directory, the website and a copy should be sent to the archives.

### Report from the Secretary (Kathy Garrett-Cox)

Kathy Garrett-Cox had no report.

### Report from the Treasurer (Dotty Robinson)

Dotty presented the proposed budget for next year. She reported that this budget should be submitted for approval at the May Members' Meeting. It was decided that the proposed budget will be sent to the members via email prior to the May meeting.

Dotty then brought to the attention of the Board the need for new members to receive acknowledgment of their new membership. Bienvenida and Larry Ochs mentioned that they have begun sending out directories to new members. It was suggested that maybe they receive a welcome letter or email.

It was also brought to the attention of the Board that the membership form needs to be clarified in some places. Dotty suggested that it state that if a member joins in the summer months (June-August) their membership is for the following year. The VCA's fiscal year currently runs August 1 – July 31. Larry Ochs suggested that a small committee be formed to address some of the issues on the membership form. Fred agreed and it was decided that Fred Wallace, Larry Ochs and Dotty Robinson will review the membership form. They will have a draft ready for discussion in July, a month before the next Board meeting in August.

### Publications (Tracy Bernabo)

Tracy reminded the Board the deadline for submissions for the newsletter is April 22, 2010. The newsletter will be sent out April 29, 2010.

### Programs (Valinda Carroll/Tom Snyder)

Valinda reported that the program on May 20th will be at Hampton University's Memorial Chapel. F. Carey Howlett will be the speaker regarding the work he did restoring the doors and pews at the Chapel. Valinda will be in touch with the Refreshment Committee regarding logistics for the food that evening.

The September Members' Meeting will be at Maymont with a program focusing on environmental monitoring in the historic house. This is part of an IMLS grant that Maymont received to study their environment for the past year. Wendy Jessup and Michael Henry will discuss the findings and recommendations with the group.

### Outreach (Dale Wheary)

Dale was unable to attend. Fred Wallace reported that there are new ideas for the coming year but if any members have any ideas for outreach opportunities they should contact Dale Wheary.

### Disaster Response (Beth Fulton)

Beth presented the board with a chain of response in the event of an emergency. This will be put in the newsletter and in subsequent newsletters as a reminder to members.

### Website (Patricia Selinger & Valinda Carroll)

Patricia will be the new Website Manager next year. She will not serve on the Refreshments Committee. Patricia reported that she has met with VCU's Department of Homeland Security and a professor is working on modeling and visualizing a disaster. She is in discussions to see if we might assist with the practice exercises.

### Other business

Fred reported that the Hot Suction Table Workshop is confirmed for May 20<sup>th</sup> at The Mariners' Museum. Robin Hodgson will be arriving the night before and the VCA will be paying for two nights stay for him and a per diem. The total for Mr. Hodgson will be \$300. The price will be \$20 for members and \$30 for non members. A registration form soon will be emailed to members with the price and details about registering. Valinda suggested that it also be posted on conservation dist-list from Conservation Online hosted by AIC. Fred is not sure that it will be necessary as he feels that it will fill with the people he has already talked to.

~ Kathy Garrett-Cox, Secretary



## What to do in Case of an Emergency

Since many members have dedicated themselves to be called upon as volunteers in case of an emergency, we would like to remind our members of the chain of events for communication within the VCA should such an emergency occur.

**1. Contact Disaster Response Chair:** As soon as you are aware of a disaster or emergency that may require conservation assistance, please contact the Disaster Response Chair immediately and provide her with the necessary information to disseminate to membership. Beth Fulton currently holds this position and she can be reached most effectively by telephone.

**Beth Fulton, Disaster Response Chair**

Workdays: (w) 804-358-2006

All other times: (c) 540-333-1431

**2. Check Your Email:** Once the Disaster Response Chair is aware of the event, she will send out a mass email alerting all members.

**3. Check for Details Online:** Working with the VCA's webmaster, the Disaster Response Chair will ensure that the VCA website is updated with the disaster alert. An emergency message will also be posted on the VCA's Facebook page.

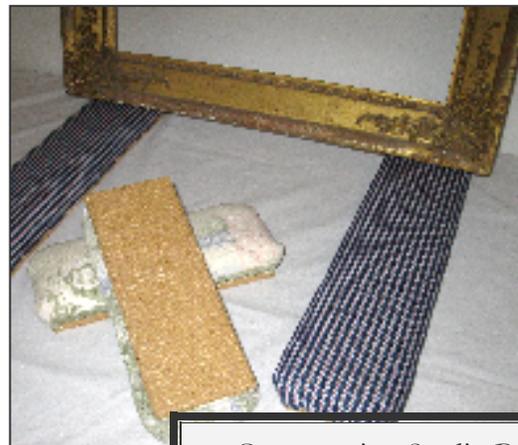
**4. Expect a call:** If you are among the many members who volunteered to help in the event of a disaster, you may receive a call from the Disaster Response Chair. Beth is currently working on creating a phone tree to make this last aspect of communication more efficient. If you have any questions, or suggestions, feel free to contact her at: [bethfulton@hotmail.com](mailto:bethfulton@hotmail.com) or at the numbers listed above.

## Announcements & Classifieds

**SITUATION WANTED:** Dedicated chemistry major seeks paid or unpaid conservation apprenticeship. I am a May 2008 graduate of the University of Mary Washington with a BS in chemistry, and I almost completed a second degree in studio art. Only recently have I decided that art conservation suited me better than a position as research chemist, so since graduating I've been taking art history courses. I am open to working in any facet of conservation, and would find value in an unpaid internship just as well as a paid apprenticeship. I appreciate Asian art in particular and would be most interested in working in this area. Thanks for your consideration. Please contact Nicole Young (804) 475-3035, [nyoung786@gmail.com](mailto:nyoung786@gmail.com).

**STUDIO OPENING:** Jan Hessling is happy to announce the opening of Hessling Conservation LLC conservation studio in Durham, NC, providing treatment of paintings, conservation consultation, and collection surveys. Jan has an MA and Certificate of Advanced Study in Art Conservation from Buffalo State College and was the Regional Services Conservator in the Conservation Department at the North Carolina Museum of Art from 1984-1998. The new studio marks a return to treating easel paintings after working freelance for 11 years treating murals on site. Contact Hessling Conservation LLC at [info@hesslingconservation.com](mailto:info@hesslingconservation.com) or call 919-210-5465, or visit [www.hesslingconservation.com](http://www.hesslingconservation.com).

**CONSERVATION STUDIO BOLSTERS:** Durable fabric cover, non-skid bottom. Two standard lengths 10" pair (\$35) and 22" pair (\$50). Custom sizes and heights available by order. Contact Susan Brucker 757-784-3277.



▪ Conservation Studio Bolsters ▪

# • 2010 VCA •

## Board of Directors Elections

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**Election of VCA Officers and Committee Members will be held at the Members' Meeting  
20 May 2010, 5:30 p.m. at Hampton University's  
Harvey Library, Atrium Room**

A three person Nominating Committee for 2010 consisting of F. Carey Howlett, Wendy Cowan and Mark Lewis, has been formed to solicit and accept candidates for open positions.

VCA Members in good standing who are interested in candidacy for a particular open position should contact a member of the Nominating Committee or VCA President Frederick Wallace.

For a description of the Board positions, duties and responsibilities refer to Article 5 of the VCA Bylaws (included in the VCA Directory).

Note: as stated in the Bylaws (Article 5; Section D; line 3), no member shall hold more than one office at a time.

### **Board Positions Open for Re-election**

**Vice President** – one year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Stacy Rusch, outgoing)

**Treasurer** - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Dotty Robinson, outgoing)

**Secretary** - one year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Kathy Garrett-Cox, outgoing)

**Program Chair** - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Valinda Carroll, outgoing)  
Note: this position is shared with another officer, on a staggered term schedule.

**Webmaster** - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Lorraine Brevig stepped down in late 2009; Patricia Selinger then assumed the position by appointment, with assistance by Valinda Carroll). Note: Patricia Selinger will be

offered for formal election to the position, with Valinda Carroll as co-member and assistant to the Webmaster Committee.

**Refreshments Committee (2)** - two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Mary Studt, outgoing by end of term; Patricia Selinger outgoing by impending election to another office). Note: this committee has been comprised of two persons, on a staggered term schedule.

\* **Bylaws Chair** – two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (position currently open, after Traci Flores resignation)

\* **Disaster Response Chair** – two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Beth Fulton, outgoing)

\* **Education Chair** – two year initial term; two year subsequent term. (Dianne Roland, outgoing)

*\* Positions marked by an asterisk are of committees that presently have a single member (the chairperson). It is recommended that an additional member be solicited for each of these committees (permissible according to Bylaw), to provide assistance and represent the committee at meetings when the Chair is unable to attend.*

**The Membership Committee** currently is comprised of Bienvenida Ochs and Larry Ochs, who are serving on the same term schedule. It is recommended that an additional member be solicited for this committee (permissible according to Bylaw), to reinstitute a member rotation of at least two persons on a staggered term schedule.

**The Publications Committee** currently is comprised of Tracy Bernabo and Russell Bernabo, who are serving on the same term schedule. It is recommended that an additional member be solicited for this committee (permissible according to Bylaw), to reinstitute a member rotation of at least two persons on a staggered term schedule.

## Directions to the Hampton University's Harvey Library and Memorial Chapel

The main campus of Hampton University is located in Hampton, Virginia at exit 267 of Interstate 64. We will begin our meeting at the Harvey Library which is in a newer section of the campus, visible from the Interstate exit. Our meeting will conclude at Memorial Chapel which is in the historic waterfront portion of the main Hampton University campus.

### Eastbound I-64(From Williamsburg, Richmond)

Take I-64E to the Settlers Landing Road Exit 267 and go straight through the light onto Tyler Street.

### Westbound I-64 (From Norfolk, Virginia Beach)

Take I-64W to the Woodland Road/Downtown Hampton Exit 267.

Turn left at the light at the end of the exit ramp onto Settlers Landing Road.

Then take a left at the next light onto Tyler Street.

Harvey Library is a 5-story brick building on the left (south) side of Tyler Street.

<http://www.hamptonu.edu/universityservices/library/libraryinformation/LocationAndParking.html>

### PARKING

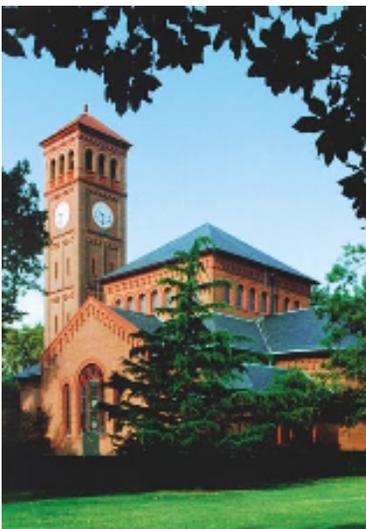
*To park on campus, obtain a pass from the University Police at the main entrance on Cemetery road (a left turn at the final traffic light on Tyler Street). For the business meeting which begins at 5:30 p.m., park only in Lot 41, located on the north side of Tyler Street, beyond the library and adjacent to the Student Health Center. Do not park directly opposite the library, as this is restricted parking and violators are regularly towed.*

*University Police may direct you to a parking lot closer to the Chapel, if you are unable to walk between the two buildings. Parking in the older part of campus is extremely limited.*

Virginia Conservation Association  
P.O. Box 4314  
Richmond, VA 23220

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[www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org](http://www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org)



*Memorial Chapel, Hampton University*

**Next VCA Members Meeting**  
**May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Hampton University**  
**Harvey Library/Memorial Chapel**

VCA  
Workshop

Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
The Mariners' Museum

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION  
RH LOW MASS SUCTION TABLE WORKSHOP

**Description:** The purpose of the workshop is to discuss and demonstrate the design and practical application of the RH Low Mass Suction table. Part One will be a brief comparison of the functional theories for traditional vacuum hot tables, suction tables and the RH Table. Part Two will give participants a first-hand view of the RH Table in operation.

**Date:** Thursday, May 20, 2010  
**Time:** 10:00 AM to 3 PM  
**Location:** The Mariners' Museum  
100 Museum Drive  
Newport News, Virginia 23606

Instructor: Robin Hodgson / RH Conservation Engineering

Workshop Fee: \$20.00 for VCA members  
\$30.00 for non-members

Further information about the workshop can be obtained by contacting:  
Dianne Roland (email) [droland@cwf.org](mailto:droland@cwf.org) or [dartisian@comcast.net](mailto:dartisian@comcast.net) (tel) 804-908-2021 or  
Frederick Wallace (email) [fwallacedjo@hotmail.com](mailto:fwallacedjo@hotmail.com) (tel) 757-591-7752

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Conservation Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed registration forms and fee payment to:

*Dianne Roland*  
*Education Chair / Virginia Conservation Association*  
*5303 Fitzhugh Avenue*  
*Richmond, VA 23226*

Payment by check should be made out to the *Virginia Conservation Association*.

**Registration Deadline:** 14 May 2010