

## From the President

The upcoming Members Meeting will take place on 24 May at Maymont in Richmond. The Maymont staff again is demonstrating sustained support and generosity to the VCA by hosting us at that site yet once more. I ask that you please take the opportunity to thank our Maymont colleagues for being such faithful friends to the VCA over many years. The meeting program will feature Conservators Pam Young and Shelley Sass, who will recount some of their recent conservation experiences in Cuba. This will be another interesting presentation with an international flavor, the third such colloquy this VCA program season. That evening we also will conduct the annual business of electing new officers to the VCA Board.

*Conservation As A Public Draw*, the VCA produced session at the 2012 Virginia Association of Museums Conference in March, was a grand success. The presentation was given an overall average rating of 3.875 out of a maximum of 4 by attendees who completed an evaluation of the program. Will Hoffman, Emily Williams and Colleen Callahan deserve much appreciation for delivering a session that was so well received.

The Virginia Collections Initiative, an IMLS grant funded program to promote collaboration and provide assistance for the stewardship of cultural material within state museums, libraries and archives, has been discussed at several VCA Members Meetings since 2011. The VCI program is being administered by the Virginia Association Of Museums, and the VCA is one of five institutional entities to partner with VAM in the project. VCA members already have participated in various VCI activities. As the VCI program continues and expands, there is a need for even greater involvement by VCA members. At this point, a particular request is being made for our membership to consider helping with the development of online training courses and webinars. The online training would deal with topics relating to conservation, collections care and collections management. The training presentations need not be produced from

## VCA Members' Meeting & Annual Elections Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m.



*Above: Museo Romantico, Trinidad. Photograph: Russell Bernabo*

**MAYMONT ~ GARDEN HALL**  
1700 HAMPTON STREET, RICHMOND, VA

**PROGRAM FEATURES PAM YOUNG & SHELLEY  
SASS ON AIC-MEMBER TRIP TO CUBA**



FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE PAGE 2 – 3

the ground up. They can be based on previously made lectures, papers, etc., which then will be adapted to the format selected for VCI use. Have you made a past presentation about some aspect of conservation / collections care that might be suitable for development into an online training course? Have you already created an online training course that could be made available again to a new or greater audience as a part of VCI programming? If this is the case please contact the VCA Board to discuss your possible participation in the VCI. Any member who has collections care expertise and is interested in being involved with the VCI also is encouraged to express this desire. The full Board readily can be contacted using email via the VCA website. As the specifics of this project are refined to a greater degree, further information will be provided in the future regarding this and other VCI endeavors that would benefit from VCA member inclusion.

With mixed feelings, I must report that Elsa Sangouard, Co-Chairperson of the Membership Committee, has stepped down from that position in the midst of her term. Elsa has left The Mariners' Museum and the *USS Monitor* Conservation Project to accept employment with the Swiss National Museum, returning to her European roots. Though she will be missed, Elsa is congratulated for her new conservator position and is wished great success. Co-Chairperson Alfred "Larry" Ochs will continue managing the affairs of the Committee, until being succeeded by the new Membership officer elected this month at the Members Meeting.

I hope all members will have the good fortune to attend the May meeting, to vote in the election, applaud the new Board officers, and enjoy hearing about Pam and Shelley's Cuban adventures. See you there!

Thank you very much.

~ *Frederick Wallace, President*

## CURRENT TREASURY BALANCE

As of April 25, 2012: \$9,539.73

~ *Nancy Beck, VCA Treasurer*

## VCA MEMBER'S MEETING THURSDAY, MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2012, 5:30 P.M. MAYMONT ~ GARDEN HALL (DIRECTIONS NEXT PAGE)

Presentation: AIC-Member Trip to Cuba  
Pam Young and Shelley Sass



*Above: Capitol Building, Havana. Photograph: Pam Young*

¡Come to the May VCA meeting ready to be transported to Cuba! Shelley Sass and Pam Young will share the sights and sounds they experienced during the AIC-member trip in December 2011.

Led by Rosa Lowinger, architectural materials conservator, the tour included an introduction to the conservation, preservation, cultural, and humanitarian activities in Cuba, focusing on the UNESCO World Heritage cities of Havana, Cienfuegos, Trinidad de Cuba, and the countryside between those cultural centers.

Cuba is considered to be a developing country and Western-style tourism is a relatively new and burgeoning industry. One of the main attractions that this country presents to the world is its extra-ordinary artistic heritage, made obvious by the richness of the historic architecture. The range of styles includes earthen plantation houses, Baroque churches, Art Deco skyscrapers and some of the best mid-century modernist houses, hotels and nightclubs in the world. Buildings are decorated with mosaics, sculpture, murals and decorative features brought in from the US and Europe. Havana was the wealthiest city in Latin America until 1959 and the surviving collections of art and historic artifacts reflect that.

## DIRECTIONS TO MAYMONT'S HAMPTON STREET ENTRANCE

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### FROM INTERSTATES 64 (East and West) & 95 (North and South):

- Take the Boulevard exit #78
- Go south approximately one and a half miles on Boulevard (Route 161) to Cary St and turn left
- Go one-half mile to Meadow St and turn right
- Go one mile to Pennsylvania Ave and turn right
- Go one block to Maymont's Hampton St parking lot

### FROM THE POWHITE PARKWAY (Southside, Midlothian):

- After the Chippenham Toll Plaza, get in the right lane
- Bear right onto 195 East (the Downtown Expressway)
- Take the Maplewood exit from 195 and bear left onto Maplewood Ave
- Go one block to Sheppard St and turn left
- Go approx. one-half mile to Cary St and turn right
- Go one mile to Meadow St and turn right
- Go one mile to Pennsylvania Ave and turn right
- Go one block to Maymont's Hampton St parking lot

### FROM THE DOWNTOWN EXPRESSWAY – 195 (Coming From Downtown):

- Take the Meadow St exit immediately after toll plaza
- Take the first left onto Meadow St
- Go one mile to Pennsylvania Ave and turn right
- Go one block to Maymont's Hampton St parking lot



*Above: Palacio Cantero, Trinidad. Photographs: Russell Bernabo*

The intention of the trip was a professional outreach endeavor. We went to learn about preservation efforts that have taken place in Cuba, particularly in the last 20 years since the withdrawal of Soviet support, leaving Cuba to bolster itself with its own resources. We visited the conservation studios of the Office of the Historian of Havana and the Escuela Taller, a craftsmanship school under the aegis of the Historian's office that teaches preservation skills (masonry, carpentry, ironwork, plastering, and painted finishes) to young people. In Trinidad de Cuba, a city founded in 1514 by Diego Velázquez, we toured the studios of the Office of the Conservator and met colleagues who are spearheading preservation efforts throughout the region. There is a critical lack of supplies and much of their equipment is seriously outdated. In spite of this, they are dedicated professionals who care deeply about their culture and its achievements, and are embarked on an enormous task with incredibly few resources. They expressed a desire for better access to current trends in conservation research, materials, and technique. We donated whatever supplies we could fit in our travel bags, and spent hours discussing preservation and treatment solutions for artifacts in need.

Our trip was enlightening and stimulating beyond anything we could have imagined, and we left with incredible respect for the spirit of our colleagues and new friends on this stunning Caribbean island.

~ Pam Young



*Above: First well constructed in Havana. Photograph: Russell Bernabo*

# VCA BOARD

Meeting Minutes  
April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## ATTENDEES:

FRED WALLACE  
MARY ANDREWS  
NANCY BECK  
TRACY BERNABO  
COLLEEN CALLAHAN  
SUZANNE COLLINS  
HEATHER LOGUE  
LARRY OCHS  
CHARLES PHILLIPS  
CHRIS WILKINS

Fred Wallace (VCA President) thanked Nancy Beck for hosting the business meeting in her home and thanked Mary Andrews for providing the refreshments.

Fred stated that the nominating committee, consisting of Kathy Gillis, Tom Snyder, and Stacy Rusch, is having trouble securing nominees for the various open Board positions. He suggested that if the VCA continues to have problems securing nominees for 2013, the Board may have to consider scaling back to one elected chair for each committee. This is in accordance with the VCA bylaws. Larry Ochs (Membership Co-Chair) suggested that an elected committee chair who was serving solo could choose to recruit someone else for help with the duties of the committee. This is also in accordance with VCA bylaws.

Fred reminded the Board that Christina Newton, Virginia Collections Initiative (VCI) Project Manager, spoke to the membership at the March 22 meeting about having the VCA more involved with VCI. The VCA was a partner with the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) to successfully obtain a grant for the VCI project from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). While to this date the VCA has contributed significantly towards implementation of VCI programs, an increase in participation would be very beneficial. Christina is hoping that the VCA will provide presenters for online classes and webinars. Mary Andrews (Refreshment Committee Co-Chair) will be providing an online class on first aide in disaster response for the VCI in July. Mary suggested that she could give a short presentation to the membership to outline the logistics and procedures involved in online classes and webinars. Mary told the Board that the online classes have started already. She said that Jennifer Thomas (Deputy Director of VAM) is responsible for the actual logistics and that the speaker is responsible for content only. Fred stated that the classes and webinars are related to collections care but not strictly conservation. He said the classes provide tips for museums that consist of low cost tweaks to collection management. Fred stated that there are three ways to select potential presenters; 1) those approached by VCI, 2) those approached by VCA Board, 3) those who volunteer. Fred asked the Board to consider if we

should use all of these options or just approach those individuals the Board believes have appropriate experience.

Nancy Beck (VCA Treasurer) presented the proposed 2012-2013 VCA Budget to the Board. The Board looked at each entry. There was little to no discussion about some of the entries. Other proposed entries received discussion. These are presented here. The proposed expense for publications is \$360. Fred suggested adding \$25 for postage. Proposed programs expense is slated for \$355 and is composed of \$200 for speakers, \$100 for facilities and \$55 for licenses/permits. The discussion on this topic revolved around providing more money for speaker expenses/honorarium. Fred reiterated that according to the VCA bylaws treasury funds can be spent on honoraria for guest speakers in exceptional circumstances. For this purpose, the proposed expense of \$200 (2x\$100) should be sufficient. Proposed outreach expenses are penciled in at \$150. This money is used to cover two Speakers Bureau honorariums. Fred stated that the budget numbers still need to be reviewed again and confirmed with the Board before presentation to the membership for acceptance by vote in May. Nancy applied for sales tax exemption for the VCA and has been informed that the VCA received it.

Fred spoke about the Chris Stavroudis workshop on modular cleaning. Chris requires \$8000 to provide the workshop. The minimal paid at other workshops was ~\$500/person with AIC grant money help. It is expected that the cost will be similar for the upcoming workshop. The workshop will be restricted to ~14 people. Several museums have given positive, initial response to the possibility of serving as host venue for the workshop. The membership will be informed fairly soon with more concrete details including expected dates for the workshop.

Suzanne Collins (Programs Co-Chair) informed the Board that the next membership meeting will occur on May 24 in the Garden Hall at Maymont in Richmond. The meeting time is 5:30 and will consist of elections and a presentation by Pam Young and Shelley Sass about an AIC sponsored trip to Cuba they participated in a few years ago.

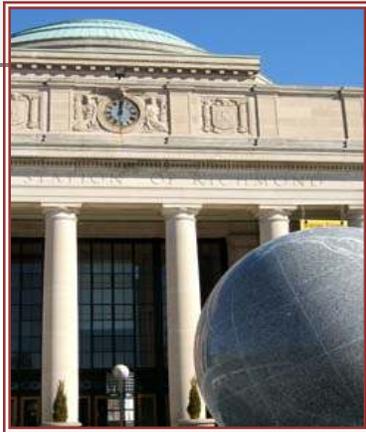
Fred informed the Board that Elsa Sangouard is moving back to Europe where she has recently found a new job with the National Museum of Switzerland in Zurich. Thus her term as Membership Committee Co-Chair abruptly has abruptly ended. All correspondence concerning membership issues can be directed to the Membership Committee (Larry Ochs, Co-Chair) using the email contact tab of the VCA website.

Fred discussed the Conservation Services Directory with the Board. He indicated that there had been some confusion and that some members mistakenly assumed it was for an online membership directory. The Conservation Services Directory is intended to provide contact information for

people seeking conservation or other services regarding objects and art. The Conservation Services Directory listees should consist of professionals that have the ability to provide treatment and/or information. The directory is organized by categories, and there was discussion of adding a framing category and an historic reproductions category. The Board also discussed the future possibility of having an online membership directory, accessible at the VCA website via a member-only password.

~ Chris Wilkins, VCA Secretary

**VCA MEMBERS' MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2012**  
**SCIENCE MUSEUM OF VA – BUSINESS PROCEEDINGS**



Fred Wallace (VCA President) thanked Beth Voelkel and the staff of the Science Museum of Virginia for hosting the March member's meeting, Colleen Callahan and Suzanne Collins for putting the meeting together, and Mary Studt and Carol Givens for presenting at the meeting. Fred also thanked Christina Newton (Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) Representative) in advance for presenting on the Virginia Conservation Initiative (VCI) later in the meeting. Sandy Jenson and Mary Andrews were thanked for providing refreshments for the meeting.

Nancy Beck (VCA Treasurer) provided a statement indicating that the VCA budget balance is \$9834.47.

Fred introduced the VCA elections nominating committee consisting of Kathy Gillis, Stacy Rusch and Tom Snyder. Kathy invited the membership to submit names to the nominating committee for several open positions including membership co-chair, programs co-chair, education chair and refreshments committee.

Colleen Callahan (Programs Co-Chair) stated that the next members meeting will be held May 24 at Maymont

in Richmond. Presenting will be Pam Young and Shelley Sass about their AIC sponsored trip to Cuba.

Fred introduced Christina Newton (VAM Project Manager for the VCI). Christina thanked the VCA for its partnership in the VCI. The VCI is supported by a Connecting to Collections Statewide Implementation Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (ILMS). The Connecting to Collections initiative spawned from a 2005 national survey conducted by ILMS and Heritage Preservation that indicated there were 190 million endangered objects due to lack of time or money for treatment within US controlled territories. VAM received a Connecting to Collections Planning Grant in 2009/2010 that helped lay the groundwork for development of the VCI project. The grants are provided for public awareness of collections, safety of collections and emergency preparedness. Information is disseminated through workshops, site visitations (e.g. the Circuit Riders program), webinars and online resources such as the Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts website ([www.vatop10artifacts.org](http://www.vatop10artifacts.org)). Heritage Preservation has created a website for the online cultural heritage collections care community where they can find help in the form of forums, listserves, online classes, etc. ([www.heritagepreservation.org/c2c/](http://www.heritagepreservation.org/c2c/))

Christina informed the membership that VCI is looking for conservation volunteers for online training and/or for the production of webinars on specific concerns of conservation or collections care (e.g. use of equipment, cleaning of workspace, etc.). The webinars can consist of prepared material already on-hand. The webinars will be available on the VAM website.

~ Chris Wilkins, VCA Secretary



Visit us online at  
[www.virginiaconservationassociation.org](http://www.virginiaconservationassociation.org)

Or on Facebook!  
[Virginia-Conservation-Association](https://www.facebook.com/Virginia-Conservation-Association)

# VCA MEMBERS' MEETING MARCH 2012

SCIENCE MUSEUM OF VIRGINIA

*By Colleen Callahan, Programs Co-Chair*

The March 2012 meeting took place on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Science Museum of Virginia. Long time VCA members, objects conservator Carol Boyers Givens and paper conservator Mary Studt, were the presenters. At the beginning of the meeting, Christina Newton, Virginia Associations of Museums Project Manager for the Virginia Collection Initiative (VCI) discussed the VCI and how VCA members can participate in the various VCI programs.

The VCA was welcomed by Beth Voelkel of the Science Museum who cooperated with the VCA board to make the program possible. Though the Science Museum has only a small number of original artifacts in its collection, those that the museum does have are very important to its mission and Beth expressed her appreciation to the conservators who have worked with museum to help preserve these unique pieces.

Mary Studt presented an interesting power point illustrated lecture giving the background of the RF & P railroad manifest that recorded the busiest day of rail travel at the Historic Broad Street Station, which is now the home of the Science Museum. This travel day, April 22, 1943, took place during World War II, when the Richmond station was an important transportation hub for military travel. The manifest had suffered from late 20<sup>th</sup> century non-archival mounting and display practices and Mary discussed modifying and reversing these as she stabilized the piece so that it could be archivally framed. The railroad manifest is on display as part of a small exhibit about Historic Broad Street Station in the RF & P Forum room where the VCA meeting took place.

Carol Givens described her research and procedures for conserving a Good Will Moon Rock Plaque, in preparation for its display at the museum. This wooden plaque, which in addition to the moon rock encased in Lucite globe, also displays a small Virginia State Flag. The plaque was given to the state of Virginia by President Nixon in 1973. The Science Museum's moon rock is a fragment of a rock from the moon's Taurus Littrow Valley, which was collected in December 1972 by Apollo 17 as one of the mission's objectives to assemble the oldest material samples from the moon's surface. Upon return to earth, the moon rock was named the Good Will Moon Rock. This rock was divided with its fragments mounted on plaques, which then were given to the 50 US states and 135 countries as a symbol of

hope during the Cold War. In addition to the conservation of the moon rock plaque, Carol advised the Science Museum about the special domed exhibit space where the moon rock plaque is on display. After Carol's talk, VCA members went to the display and viewed the moon rock plaque. Other exhibits at the museum were also open for VCA members to view at the end of the program.

Thanks again to Mary and Carol for presenting about their work and to Science Museum of Virginia for hosting this program about the conservation of two very unusual artifacts.

## 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY CLOTHING SYMPOSIUM ♦ POHICK CHURCH ♦

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2012  
9:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.



**Speakers:** Mary D. Doering, Colleen Callahan, Newbie Richardson.

**With Lunch and Tours of Pohick Church**

**Registration Fee:** \$75.00; \$65.00 for Students and Pohick Church Members

**For more information** or to register contact [c.knipling@gmail.com](mailto:c.knipling@gmail.com); 703-946-1031

**Pohick Church**, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton VA 22079, (703) 339-6571

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**• 2012 VCA •**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS**  
**MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**  
**VCA OFFICER AND COMMITTEE CHAIR**  
**POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION**

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A three person Nominating Committee was appointed by election of the membership at the January 2012 Members Meeting. The Nominating Committee is charged with developing a slate of candidates for Board positions that will be filled during the 2012 VCA election. The members of the 2012 Nominating Committee are Kathy Gillis, Stacy Rusch and Tom Snyder.

VCA members desiring to serve in one of the open positions are listed below. Also shown are incumbent Board members who have offered to stand for re-election to a second term.

The slate of candidates will be presented for election at the Members Meeting on Thursday 24 May 2012 at Maymont in Richmond. Ballots also will be provided by email or post in advance of the meeting, for member review and proxy voting as necessary. Those who will be unable to attend the meeting should return a completed ballot to the VCA by no later than Tuesday 22 May.

Virginia Conservation Association  
P.O. Box 4314  
Richmond, VA 23220  
[www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org](http://www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org)

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**Treasurer** - Nancy Beck (current VCA Treasurer, standing for re-election)

**Chairperson, Disaster Response Committee** - Kathy Garrett-Cox (current Disaster Response Chair, standing for re-election)

**Chairperson, Web Management Committee (Webmaster)** - Valinda Carroll (current sitting member of the Web Management Committee)

**Chairperson, Membership Committee** – Thomas Snyder

**Co-Chairperson, Program Committee** – Karri Richardson

**Chairperson, Educational Programs Committee** – Carol Givens

**Co-Chairpersons (2), Refreshments Committee** – TBD and TBD

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

Email to: [info@virginiaconservationassociation.org](mailto:info@virginiaconservationassociation.org)



**Next VCA Members Meeting & Annual Elections**  
*May 24th, 2012, 5:30 p.m.,*  
*Maymont ~ Garden Hall*  
*1700 Hampton Street, Richmond, VA*  
[www.maymont.org](http://www.maymont.org)

*Above: Man in window, Cuba Photograph: Pam Young*