



NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 4314, Richmond, VA 23220 September 2012 ~ Volume 22, No. 1

From the President

With the passing of the summer months, occurring more swiftly each year it seems, comes the falling leaves of autumn, and most importantly, the exciting new season of VCA programs. The communal anticipation could not be more palpable! The 2012-2013 season will begin with a discussion lead by private conservator Scott Nolley, the featured speaker for the September Members Meeting. Scott will provide a frank, revealing and philosophical account of the dilemma that can arise when an object is not what is purported to be, and the impact this sometimes has on the prospects for its appropriate conservation. The meeting will be held at the stylish and romantic Virginia House, in Richmond. In November the Members Meeting podium is to be distinguished by Hampden-Sydney College professor Doctor James Janowski, who has an established interest in philosophical conservation issues. Doctor Janowski, will lecture on the subject of the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan, and the subsequent efforts towards their restoration. The schedule planned for other upcoming Member Meetings include talks about important and interesting conservation treatment projects completed by long-time VCA members Andrew Baxter and Kathy Gillis. In addition, the respective VCA committees for Education and Outreach are working diligently on the development of some exciting workshop possibilities. Thus we can expect this to be yet another great year of events for the VCA.

Outreach Committee Chairperson Will Hoffman also is in the process of trying to create a VCA Speakers Bureau program. The Speakers Bureau is to be a pool of presentations on various collections care and conservation related topics that would be shared with our membership and other interested parties, organizations, schools, etc. in the region. It is a means by which the expertise and knowledge that resides within the ranks

VCA Members' Meeting
Thursday, September 20, 2012, 5:30 pm.
Virginia House, Richmond

SCOTT NOLLEY

PERSPECTIVES

AND

POINTS OF VIEW

THE ROLE OF
CONSERVATION FORENSICS
IN THE SHIFTING CERTAINTY OF
CONNOISSEURSHIP IN THE ART WORLD

of the VCA can be made easily available to a greater proportion of the public. In order for this program to exist we must have your personal involvement. We ask all of you who have well honed conservation experience and a gracious willingness to share your know-how to please consider participation. If you have a ready-made lecture, demonstration, or other type of presentation about collections care / conservation, please contribute it for addition to the list of bureau topics. The VCA Speakers Bureau would provide a great service to the benefit of the treasured artistic and historic cultural materials that need our care and the community on the whole. If you are interested in being part of the program or have any questions, just contact Will Hoffmann by telephone (757-591-7768) or by email (whoffman@marinersmuseum.org) as you so desire.

The annual VCA elections held in May resulted in the addition of four new members to the Board of Directors. A sincere welcome is extended to these new committee chairpersons: Carol Givens, Educational Programs; Tom Snyder, Membership; Karri Richardson, Programs (co-chair); and Valinda Carroll, Web Management. All four previously have served on the Board in other capacities, so they are to be commended for their steadfast devotion to the Association. Our appreciation also is deserved by the outgoing Board members: Colleen Callahan, Mary Andrews, Sandy Jensen, Patricia Selinger, Sheila Payaqui, Alfred "Larry" Ochs and Elsa Sangouard. The enthusiasm and commitment of all VCA Board members, present and past, hopefully will help inspire each of us to a similar high level of dedication and service.

Now also is the time to renew your VCA membership. Returning members should do so as soon as possible, and prior to mid-November to insure inclusion in the 2013 VCA Directory. The membership application for 2012-2013 is included in this newsletter for your convenience and also can be found at the VCA homepage on the internet. Please encourage other persons that you know who are interested in conservation to join us as members of the VCA as well.

The VCA is a fine organization, full of interesting programs and people. Along with the Board, I am happy to do all that I am able to help maintain it as such. I urge you to speak up with your comments and ideas about the job we are doing and what you would like to see happen with the VCA in the future.

See you soon at the Members' Meeting on Thursday 20 September. Thank you very much.

Frederick Wallace – President



Officers

President: Frederick Wallace
Vice President: Heather Logue Emerson
Secretary: James Christopher Wilkins
Treasurer: Nancy Beck

Committee Chairs

Bylaws: Mark Lewis
Disaster Response: Kathy Garrett-Cox
Education: Carol Givens
Membership: Thomas Snyder
Outreach: Will Hoffman
Programs: Suzanne M. Collins, Karri Richardson
Publications: Tracy Bernabo, Charles Phillips
Web Management: Valinda Carroll

Scott Nolley Lecture at the Members Meeting
20 September at Virginia House, Richmond

PERSPECTIVES AND POINTS OF VIEW .

THE ROLE OF CONSERVATION FORENSICS
IN THE SHIFTING CERTAINTY OF
CONNOISSEURSHIP IN THE ART WORLD

In its infancy during the last half of the 20th century, the field of art conservation initially began training its postulates in apprenticeship training posts at museum laboratories. This training approach has matured and



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Virginia-Conservation-Association

continues to be central to the curricula of the formal academic training programs in North America. This ever-increasing professionalism that continues to draw from collaborations of allied analytical sciences and craftsmanship fabrication disciplines, now is also a significant contributor to the conversations that were once singularly relegated to curators and connoisseurs. We will take a look at a number of case studies in which the forensic eye of the conservation professional has

played a significant role in bringing into focus our understanding of an objects provenance, and in one case, rewritten the history of an entire collection of artifacts.

Directions:

<https://maps.google.com/?q=Virginia+House+Museum&cid=4877793211878205411>



Conference Announcement

WHEN DID WE BECOME AMERICANS?

Norfolk State University

September 21-22, 2012

How should America prepare for the 400th anniversary of 1619? This was the year the first documented Africans arrived in Virginia and the year the Virginia colony held its first legislative assembly (later emerging as the House of Burgesses).

What kinds of programs, themes, and new understandings might we wish to highlight and promote?

How can we create historical accessibility to the meaning of 1619 when most of America has no understanding of its significance?

Beginning on September 21-22, 2012, Norfolk State University invites the community to join in a discussion of the significance of 1619 and its importance in

making American society and culture.

We hope that this conference will establish the groundwork for a national dialogues and reinterpretation of major events that began in 1619 that would shape the contours and character of America.

Pre-registration cost is \$35.00 per day, which includes continental breakfast, snack and lunch. Registration is \$40 at the door. Student registration is \$25.00 in advance, \$35.00 at the door.

<http://www.nsu.edu/1619/index.html>

This conference is supported by

- NSU International Programs
- NSU Title III-Honors College: Discipline-Specific Honors Programs
- Virginia Foundation for the Humanities
- Middle Passage Project
- Lemon Project, College of William and Mary
- Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia.

VCA

May Membership Business Meeting Summary

Maymont, Richmond, VA

May 24, 2012

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BUSINESS PORTION:

Fred Wallace (VCA President) thanked Sandy Jenson and Mary Andrews (Refreshments Committee Co-Chairs) for refreshments. Fred also thanked Dale Wheary for hosting the VCA meeting at Maymont, and Suzanne Collins and Colleen Callahan (Programs Committee Co-Chairs) for setting up the program for the evening.

Nancy Beck (VCA Treasurer) handed out copies of the budget proposal for the 2012-2013 year. Fred and Nancy pointed out that there is more money slated for Outreach and other programs to allow the membership to have access to more funds for various VCA activities. The membership voted in favor of ratifying the proposed budget.

Tom Snyder (Nominating Committee Member) introduced the candidates for the various open chairs. They are as follows: Nancy Beck – VCA Treasurer; Kathy Garret-Cox – Disaster Response Committee Chair; Valinda Carroll – Web Management Committee Chair; Carroll Givens – Education Committee Chair; Tom Snyder – Membership Committee Co-Chair; Karri Richardson – Program Committee Co-Chair. None of the positions are contested. Fred asked by a show of hands if the attending membership accepts the nominations as they are. The membership unanimously voted positive. A motion was made to officially accept the slate for the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2012-2013 VCA positions. The motion carried.

Fred addressed the lack of interest in the Refreshments Committee Co-Chair positions. He relayed to the attending members that the position is a lot of work including the storing of materials, traveling to all of the meetings, setting up before each meeting and taking down at the end of each meeting. Fred asked if there was anybody in attendance that would be interested in

taking the position of Refreshments Committee Chair. There was no response from the attending members. Due to a lack of interest in the position, Fred stated that the VCA may start asking members residing in the area of specific meetings if they would handle refreshments for that specific meeting at the VCA's expense. A Chair person in this scenario would be responsible for determining members in the area of the meeting and contacting them. Fred handed out a sheet for attending members to sign informing the VCA that they would be willing to help for specific meetings if asked to provide refreshments.

Fred announced that Cleo Mullins was awarded the Sheldon and Caroline Keck Award for 2012 by the American Institute for conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (AIC). According to the AIC website, "This award recognizes a sustained record of excellence in the education and training of conservation professionals."

Summary Submitted by

Chris Wilkins – Secretary

VCA

August Board Meeting Summary

James City Library, Norge, VA

August 23, 2012

ATTENDEES:

Fred Wallace,
Tom Snyder,
Valinda Carroll,
Will Hoffman,
Carol Givens,
Heather Emerson,
Nancy Beck,
Suzanne Collins,
Charles Phillips,
Chris Wilkins

PROCEEDINGS:

Fred Wallace (VCA President) welcomed Tom Snyder (Membership Committee Co-Chair) and Carol Givens (Education Committee Chair) to the 2012-2013 board as a result of recent elections. Both have previously served on the board in various capacities. All board members present introduced themselves.

Fred started discussion on the Virginia Association

of Museums (VAM) conference that is to be held in March at the Homestead in Hot Springs. The VCA sends two representatives to the conference every year where they have traditionally led a session. Fred asked for volunteers. Carol Givens accepted the role as she will already be attending the conference. Charles Phillips also volunteered. They will commence discussion on preparing a session proposal for submission to VAM, the topic of which will be determined at a later date.

Nancy Beck (VCA Treasurer) informed the board that the VCA taxes have been filed. She also informed the board that the VCA post office box rental rate has increased by \$12. However, there is no new information regarding the closing of the post office. Nancy informed the board near the end of last year that the VCA tax exemption paperwork had been submitted. Nancy and Heather Emerson (VCA Vice-President) used the tax exemption status prior to the meeting and were excited to inform the board that it is in place and working well. Will Hoffman (Outreach Committee Chair) warned that this exemption does not work across state lines without filing additional forms for each state visited. Nancy handed out a Treasurer's Report for August (up to the 23rd) indicating that the

• **VCA treasury balance is at \$9,425.33** •

Valinda Carroll (Web Management Committee Chair) informed the board that the fees for the VCA website are due in September. She expressed concern as to how the VCA will pay without using a personal account not linked to the VCA. Valinda, Fred, Nancy and Carol discussed obtaining a VCA credit card and starting a VCA Paypal account. This will allow the VCA to pay for materials and services directly without using a member's personal account. In addition, the Paypal account will allow members to pay their dues directly through the website. Nancy will look into getting a credit card for the VCA.

Karri Richardson and Suzanne Collins (Programs Committee Co-Chairs) setup the programs for the 2012-2013 year over the summer. They submitted a report to the board through email detailing the programs. Suzanne (Karri was not present at the meeting) discussed some of the issues with the board. Until recently there was no set presentation for the September meeting. Scott Nolley has agreed to fill this

presentation spot. Currently there is no presenter for the May meeting but Suzanne and Karri have been in contact with Sarah Cowen who might present on her reproductions of period clothing. The Wilton House was suggested as a venue. The board has agreed to offer Dr. Janowsky an honorarium of \$100 and to pay for mileage (at government rate of 55.5¢/mile) for his VCA speaking engagement in November.

Heather Emerson (VCA Vice-President) has agreed to organize and assist ad-hoc volunteer teams to provide refreshments for each Members Meeting, since this year the VCA has no one in the position of Refreshments Committee Chair. Her responsibilities in this role will be to identify and contact members (who've agreed to this beforehand) in the vicinity of specific meetings. These members will be asked to provide food and support for the specific meetings. Heather will provide a menu or suggestions.

Carol Givens (Education Committee Chair) discussed the proposed Chris Stavroudis modular cleaning program workshop. The 5 day workshop normally is limited to 14 conservators that have some level of experience. The workshop will require materials that can be bought or borrowed from local organizations. The registration fee will be expensive (up to ~\$850/person*) but the workshop promises to be rewarding. The board is in the process of determining the potential registration cost. There will be a 15% cost differential between VCA or AIC members and nonmembers. The board discussed applying for a Foundation for the American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works (FAIC) grant to help fund the workshop. The board agreed that the VCA should also help by contributing ~\$2000* if there is an attempt to pass on some of the information to interested VCA members who did not attend the workshop. It was suggested that this could take the form of a small presentation (not a workshop) at a later meeting. The 2013 start dates for the modular cleaning workshop discussed by the board include July 15, July 22, July 29, August 5, August 12 or August 19. The VCA will apply for the FAIC grant by the February deadline. More information on the workshop will be available in the November newsletter.

(*Discussion of registration fees and contributions are still ongoing. These numbers may change considerably in either direction and should not be considered an indication of VCA accepted amounts.)

Other possible workshop topics for this year include gilding (Sandy Jenson), varnishes (Tom Snyder), graining and marbling (Suzanne Collins), and mount-making and storage (Will Hoffman). Fred suggested that a small description of each potential workshop be provided to the membership through email. The membership will be asked to indicate which workshop topics they find most interesting. The website could be used to record the results of the polling.

Tom Snyder (Membership Committee Co-Chair) and Fred discussed membership renewals. The application forms have to be updated to reflect the 2012-2013 year. The renewal deadline is in November. Two reminders for renewal will be sent out in early October and early November. The VCA will also send out a rejoin notice to past members in September.

Valinda Carroll (Web Management Committee Chair) discussed the online service directory. She informed the board that the categories were being condensed and streamlined. Consensus from previous board meetings is to open inclusion in the Directory to all members (not just conservators). This required a name change and the board decided to change it from "Conservation Directory" to a more inclusive "Services Directory". The board agreed that a strong disclaimer has to be included with the directory to show that the VCA does not endorse nor share in the responsibility of those listed in the directory. Valinda informed the board that the website now shows the scheduled 2013 meetings. She also informed the board that the Jobs page is up. Those wishing to post job announcements can email them to the website or directly to Valinda.

Will Hoffman (Outreach Committee Chair) is asking VCA members to submit general conservation programs (presentations or workshops) that they would be willing to present to interested groups or organizations. These presentations will be free or at a minimal cost to those who attend. The minimal cost would include travel and/or material expenses for the conservator involved. The presentations may be advertised on the VCA and VAM websites. This will enable interested groups to pick a topic. The VCA may also directly contact groups it thinks may be interested in some of the presentations. The VCA does not wish to incur more work on the part of the conservator, so it is asking for programs that may already have been prepared. These presentations can be limited to a specific number per year at the discretion of the conservator.

Board Meeting Minutes summary submitted

Chris Wilkins – Secretary

VCA Budget Summary

VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Approved Budget
2012-2013

Income:

Dues - Regular Membership - \$2,375 (95 @ \$25 each)
Student Membership - \$ 60 (4 @ \$15 each)

Total : \$2,435

Expenses:

Publications - \$ 560
Refreshments - \$ 600
Web Management - \$ 100
Post Office - \$ 65
Programs - \$ 305
Outreach - \$ 150
Miscellaneous - \$ 100
VAM Membership - \$ 125
VAM Meeting Registration - \$ 400
VA SCC \$ 30

Total: \$2,435

Nancy Beck – Treasurer

VCA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to bring a dish to share to the next VCA member's meeting on September 20th at the Virginia House.

Please contact Heather Logue

(heather.logue@hotmail.com)

if you would like to help.

The Virginia Conservation Association

2013 Membership Application & Dues Payment

Name (as you would like it to appear in the Directory): _____

Address: _____

Title/Institutional Affiliation: _____

Work Telephone: () _____ Home Telephone: () _____

Fax: () _____ Email: _____

Are you a Conservator? _____ Conservation Technician? _____ Conservation Student? _____

Museum Professional? _____ Other (Specify)? _____

Areas of Conservation Expertise:

<input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Objects	<input type="checkbox"/> Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Objects	<input type="checkbox"/> Textiles
<input type="checkbox"/> Books & Paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Paintings	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify below)
<input type="checkbox"/> Ethnographic Objects	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Materials	_____

Are you willing to be a Disaster Response Volunteer in the event of an emergency? _____

Practicing Conservators / Consultant Conservators Only:

Would you like your contact information included in our website VCA Services Directory? _____

The Virginia Conservation Association is open to all interested individuals. To become a member, complete this form and return it with your dues payment of \$25.00 (Regular) or \$15.00 (Student; enclose copy of valid I.D.) Application and dues payment must be received by November 15, 2012 for inclusion in the 2013 VCA Directory. A \$5.00 late fee may apply to applications from renewing members received after this deadline. If you require an invoice or receipt for your records, please photocopy this form before sending.

Note: If you are a renewing member mailing this form after the November 15th, 2012 deadline please apply the \$5.00 late fee to your payment. Thank you.

Mail your completed application and check made payable to the Virginia Conservation Association to the following address below.

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

VCA Program Schedule for 2012–2013

Date	Speaker	Topic	Location
Sept. 20	Scott Nolley	Perspectives and Points of View: The role of Conservation Forensics in the Shifting Certainty of Connoisseurship in the Art World	Richmond Virginia House
Nov. 15	James Janowski, PhD	Bamiyan's Buddhas (see attached sheet)	Richmond Maymont
Jan. 17	TBA		
March 21	Kathy Gillis	Belter Sofa, VMFA	Richmond VMFA
May 23	Andrew Baxter	Restoration of Anderson Johnson House Murals	Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center, Newport News

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



Virginia House, Richmond for the next meeting

Next VCA Members Meeting
September 20th, 2012, 5:30 p.m.
Scott Nolley
Virginia House, Richmond