

VCA News

Newsletter of the Virginia Conservation Association

P.O. Box 1314, Richmond, Virginia 23220

www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org

Volume 19 No. 1 – September, 2008

VCA SEPTEMBER MEETING (RSVP)

The V.C.A. will meet at 5:30 on Thursday, September 18, at 5103 Cary Street Road, Richmond. The home, owned by Bill Royall, was designed by noted architect Carl Lindner. Lindner is known for his Tudor style homes and mansions. Bill purchased the home in 2006 and has restored the interior and the Gillette designed gardens. Weather permitting, the reception will take place in the gardens.

V.C.A. members Nancy Beck (painted interior finishes), Scott Taylor (leaded glass), James Robertson (exterior masonry), and Andrew Baxter (interior and exterior metals) have all done work on the property. Andrew will give a brief talk about his work on Bill's extensive collection of metal designer Oscar Bach's work (Bach was active in

the 1920s and 1930s, and Bill's is a unique and interesting collection of varied objects in the style of art deco, art nouveau and arts and crafts).



We will require an R.S.V.P. by September 12 to Patricia Selinger, patricia.selinger@vcu.edu. This meeting will be limited to current V.C.A. members and their guests. Valet parking will be provided. □

Directions: From East or West, take 64 to I-195 (Downtown Expressway). Take the Cary Street Road exit, turn right onto Cary Street, heading west. Go roughly one mile to Hillcrest Ave. on the left side of street. The house sits on the west corner of Hillcrest, the driveway is the first one on the right. Once you reach the connection of I-64 and I-195 (NOT I-95), you are only about 5 minutes away, plus traffic time.



2008-2009 VCA MEETING SCHEDULE

✿ **September 18, 2008**
5103 Cary Street, Richmond (RSVP required)

Tour and reception at the Tudor style home of Bill Royall designed by architect Carl Lindner. Open to current members and their guests; RSVP to patricia.selinger@vcu.edu.

✿ **November 20, 2008**
Virginia Historical Society, Richmond

Studio Talks. Contact Carey Howlett (804-366-1233) or Valinda Carroll (757-727-5553) if you would like to be part of the program.

✿ **January 15, 2009**
(Topic and location to be announced)

✿ **March 19, 2009**
Location to be announced

Andrew Baxter on the conservation of metal sculpture and objects in the Oval Office, the Presidential Study, the Lincoln Bedroom, and most notably, the Monroe Plateau in the State Dining Room at the White House. A follow-up field trip to the White House will be scheduled for April.

✿ **May 21, 2009**
Mariner's Museum, Newport News

Tour and presentations on the ongoing conservation and exhibition of the USS Monitor. □

VCA FIELD TRIPS FOR 2008-2009

Saturday, October 25, 2008; Hampton University (Hampton) and the Chrysler Museum (Norfolk)



Enjoy a walking tour of the historic campus of Hampton University, a visit to the University Museum and Special Collections at the Library. In the afternoon, travel to the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk to learn about recent conservation projects at the museum and to see the museum's recently reinterpreted Moses Myers House.

April, 2009; The White House, Washington, DC
 Join Andrew Baxter for a tour of the White House to view some of the objects he has treated including the Monroe Plateau. Tentative date will be announced in early 2009, but date must be flexible because of scheduling issues at the White House. □



2008 – 2009 VCA OFFICERS

President: Andrew Baxter
 Vice President: Stacy Rusch
 Secretary : Kathy Garrett-Cox
 Treasurer : Dotty Robinson

2008 – 2009 Committee Chairs

Disaster Response: Beth Fulton
 Programs: Valinda Carroll
 Carey Howlett

Refreshments: Patricia Selinger
 Liegh Acosta
 Mary Studt
 Education: Dianne Roland
 Membership: Bienvenida Ochs
 Melba Myers
 Publications: Rick Vogt
 John Watson
 Bylaws: Traci Flores

REPORT FROM THE MEMBER MEETING AT TUCKAHOE PLANTATION, MAY, 2008

On May 15, 2008, Carey Thompson Viego, along with her aunt Sue Thompson, welcomed the VCA to their family home, Tuckahoe plantation. The house—begun in 1730 by a member of the Randolph family—was bought in 1935 by Carey’s grandmother, who modernized the kitchen and the plumbing but kept intact the historic features of the house.

The house has seen considerable drama throughout its long history—including boyhood visits by Thomas Jefferson (whose mother was a Randolph), and a fire in the 1800s started by an arsonist. The most recent event was the advent of Hurricane Isabelle in September of 2003. The storm brought down a 100-year old tulip tree that sheared



VCA members met in May at Tuckahoe Plantation. Architect Carey Thompson Viego spoke on her work managing Tuckahoe’s recovery from Hurricane Isabel. Among other things, she led the project to preserve and reassemble the front portico, which was crushed by a tree in the storm.

off much of the front of the house, causing severe structural damage as well as water damage, including extensive blanching of the fine wood paneling in the front hall.

Carey, who holds a degree from the North Carolina School of Architecture and Design, was able to advise her family and to direct them to conservators in the area. Carey Howlett, Sandy Jensen, Harrison Higgs, Peter Roth, Scott Taylor, Helen Scott, and Scott Nolley were among those who offered guidance and assistance through the recovery process. Bricks were handmade in Williamsburg to restore a chimney destroyed in the storm. Carey Thompson pointed out that there was a bright side, even to this disaster; digging to prepare for new footings unearthed teacups and redware from the house’ early period.

The evening provided VCA members the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of this historic home that has been lovingly tended by the Thompson family, as well as to appreciate once again the vital role our members play in safeguarding our history.

The VCA extends its heartfelt thanks to the Thompson family for its warm welcome and hospitality. □



Kathy Gillis and Susan Adler admire the historic carved staircase at Tuckahoe. The VCA thanks Cary Viego for her excellent presentation and is grateful to Tad and Sue Thompson for generously opening their home to our members.

Photo Credits This Issue

Page 1: Andrew Baxter; page 2 upper: courtesy Valinda Carroll; page 4 and 5: Carol Givens; page 7: Carey Howlett.

THE VCA VISITS ASHLAWN-HIGHLAND, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Last June, the V.C.A. took its field trip to Ashlawn-Highland, the home of President James Monroe in Charlottesville, Virginia. The trip was timed for the 250th anniversary of Monroe's birth. A special loan exhibit of late 18th and early 19th century clothing was on view, prepared by collector and researcher Mary Doering, together with Colleen Callahan, a Richmond-based textile and clothing conservator. □



Mary Doering discusses a Women's English Pink Mohair Silk Afternoon Dress, ca. 1820.



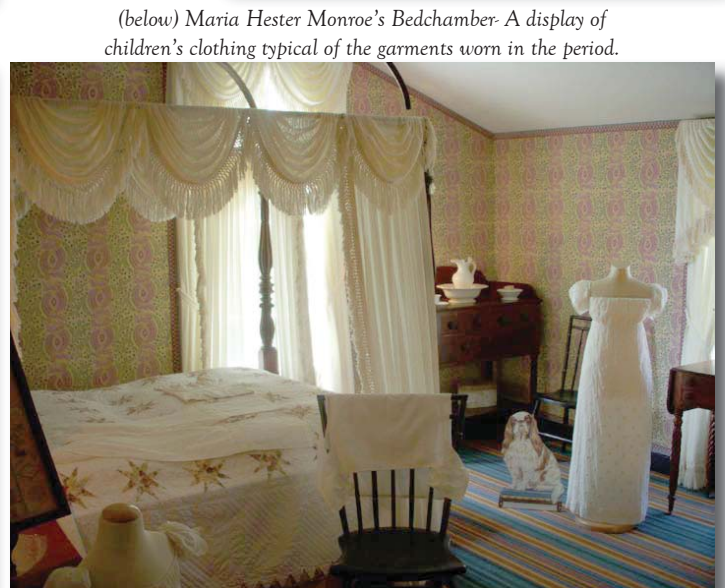
(above) French Purple Silk Brocade Evening Dress, ca. 1815 in the Monroe Drawing Room.



(above) VCA Members on the boxwood walk
(below) James Monroe by Attilio Piccirilli, ca. 1897.



(right) Mary Doering discusses a Women's English Printed Cotton Shortgown, ca. 1800 on display in the Monroe Dining Room.



(below) Maria Hester Monroe's Bedchamber- A display of children's clothing typical of the garments worn in the period.

VCA BOARD MINUTES - JULY 8, 2008

Attendees: Andrew Baxter, Carey Howlett, Dotty Robinson, Diane Frederick Roland, Kathy Garrett-Cox, Bienvenida Ochs, John Watson, Rick Vogt, Patricia Selinger, Melba Myers, Traci Horne Flores

Welcome new board members!

The first meeting of the year will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2008 at Bill Royall's house on Cary Street Road. Several conservators in the association have worked on this house and gardens. This meeting will be open to members only.

Programs

Carey Howlett has not yet met with Valinda to discuss programs for this year. Some ideas that were discussed at the board meeting were a trip to the Mariners Museum and/or Chrysler Museum. It was also suggested that the meeting take place on a Saturday to accommodate schedules for a tidewater area meeting. Carey also suggested that since we did not do any studio talks last year that we might do some this year.

Treasurer

Dotty Robinson reported that we have \$5300 in the bank. This is due to the fact that we have had two successful classes in the last two years and we have decreased our spending by emailing the newsletter. We therefore have money for a speaker if that is something that we would like to do. Possible speakers are the Chief Objects Conservator at the National Gallery and the Conservator at the Hirshhorn.

Andrew also has agreed to reimburse Ashlawn-Highland for the honorarium they paid Mary Doering for the field trip we took in June. He also gave them a complementary membership.

Education

It was discussed that maybe an in-painting workshop would be successful and Lorraine Brevig may be willing to run the workshop. Rick Vogt brought up that in the AIC newsletter there was a conservation class on "Chemistry for Conservators" and that this may be popular with the group. John Watson suggested a class on digital imaging for conservators with the aid of the new guide by AIC. This was decided as a great idea and John will work on a description. The tentative date for the class is Friday, November 14th.

Congratulations Melba! Melba will be retiring next month; she will continue to help install exhibits and care for the objects at Jamestown Settlement. She proposed that maybe she could arrange for a meeting at Jamestown. Andrew also mentioned that he is also working on a bronze piece on Jamestown Island and that maybe they could tie the trip together.

Rick Vogt updated the group on his idea to have a VCA member give a presentation at the Virginia Association of Museums annual conference. He discussed this proposal with VAM and they responded that they like the idea but that the conference is all panels and that there is not a format for a general presentation. They then suggested that maybe it could be a workshop.

It was also discussed that the VCA could have a booth at the VAM conference. It was discussed that we would need to negotiate how many people are allowed per booth and also see if we could get a discount on the booth rental. Patricia Selinger has offered that she has display boards that we can borrow. Melba has the images for the boards that were used during the AIC conference. Also Rick plans to have a booth at the conference again this year and is willing to put out VCA literature.

Rick also mentioned that he receives a grant each year through VAM for him to do a limited survey (up to \$2500) for a museum. Carey suggested that some conservators could offer a walk through assessment for museums. This would entail several conservators going to a small museum and assessing the different objects. This would be a practical way for conservators to help small museums without the written report that is so costly due to the preparation time. This could also be offered through VAM, and be made competitive. □

It's time to renew your membership!

See form on page 7.

A PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF AN OUTREACH POSITION ON THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Respectfully submitted for review by Traci Horne Flores,
Bylaws Co-chair

Summary: In order to successfully develop and implement VCA outreach programs, an Outreach Chair should be added to the current roster of VCA board of directors positions.

Justification/Statement of Need: The Virginia Conservation Association currently has no dedicated Board Member charged with developing and implementing outreach programs. It informally falls to the chairpersons of Education and Programs, as well as interested general members, to engage in outreach activities. In order to successfully implement outreach activities (including several suggested activities that have been brought before the acting VCA board), an Outreach Chair position should be created. The Outreach chairperson would have the delegated authority to research potential outreach programs and develop formal relationships with current and potential organizational partners, as well as the ability to use VCA funds to implement outreach programs and activities, with the approval of the VCA board.

Description of Proposed Outreach Chair Responsibilities:

- » Act as liaison to current partner organizations
- » Identify and develop relationships with potential partner organizations and institutions
- » Identify institutions and individuals that need the assistance and/or guidance of VCA members
- » Develop programs and solutions to address the needs of these institutions and individuals
- » Assemble a directory of practicing conservators for public/institutional distribution
- » Work with the Publications chair/Webmaster/Education chair to create and distribute appropriate conservation information and resources to interested institutions
- » Work with the Education chair to develop, implement and publicize lectures and workshops that have outreach potential
- » Work with the Programs Chair to develop, implement and publicize programs

» Research and implement potential outreach opportunities (for example, organizing booth rental and set-up at organizational conferences and meetings)

Procedure for Creating VCA Board Positions: To create a new board position, the VCA must amend the bylaws. Article VII, Section A of the bylaws states, "These bylaws may be amended or repealed by a majority vote of the members (including absentee postal ballots) at a designated meeting. Providing the notice of such changes has been furnished in writing three weeks in advance to the VCA members." A vote by the membership is likely at the November meeting. □

THE AIC POSTER SESSION

The AIC poster session committee welcomes abstracts for the annual meeting of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Los Angeles, May 19–22, 2009. The poster session provides an open forum for sharing information among colleagues. We encourage presentations from students, new members, and professionals from allied fields. This is an ideal opportunity to present preliminary findings, tips, and any projects that could not be included in the specialty group sessions. The conference theme is "Conservation 2.0—New Directions,"

but presenters may submit posters on other topics.

A one-page (500 word maximum) preliminary abstract should be received by October 20, 2008 via e-mail, fax, or post (e-mail is preferred). The format should be plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or MS Word (.doc). The font should be Arial, Helvetica, or Courier. Do not use headers, footers, bold type, html, etc. Please do not include any images. Do not send your resume or CV.

Poster presenters are expected to attend the meeting in person, but a coworker or co-author may present the poster. Presenters who wish to present a poster in addition to a general or specialty group presentation should consult with us in advance regarding the nature of the two presentations.

The conference language is English, but assistance is available for presenters for whom English is a second language. If you require assistance with translation, please contact the poster session chair prior to October 17.

Email abstracts to aicposter@gmail.com Fax: (410) 837-1274 (to the attention of Angie Elliott) or mail to Valinda Carroll, Harvey Library, Hampton University, Hampton, VA 23668

The poster session committee consists of Valinda Carroll (chair), legacy.conservation@gmail.com, (757) 727-5553; Angie Elliott, aelliott@thewalters.org, (410) 547-9000 x630; and Rachel Penniman, rpennim@hotmail.com. □

MELBA MYERS RETIRES FROM DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

We congratulate Melba Myers, a long-time member and officer in the VCA, for her retirement from the Department of Historic Resources. A big send off was planned by DHR Director Kathleen Kilpatrick with many VCA conservators in attendance. Melba worked as DHR's Conservator since 1991. □



Clockwise from top right: Melba with Conservator Carol Boyers Givens and husband Tom Givens; Melba with Conservator Bob Self from Monticello; a jolly gathering of well-wishers; Director of DHR, Kathleen Kilpatrick awarding gifts.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR CONSERVATORS - A VCA WORKSHOP



This workshop is for conservators who want to gain better control of their digital camera and improve the quality of their photo-documentation. How is digital photography different from film-based

photography? What is the right use for each of the digital image formats JPEG, TIFF, RAW, and DNG? How can we achieve great consistency from “before treatment” to “after treatment” photographs? What is digital image processing, and how can it give conservators full control over color and exposure? How can we streamline the digital documentation workflow so we don’t spend all our time at the computer? What are some practical strategies for integrating photographs into our reports? And how can we do it all on a tight budget?

The workshop will cover each phase of the digital photo-documentation workflow including photo setup; camera settings; image capture; post-capture correction of color and exposure; metadata (embedded textual information in the digital file); archiving digital files, and final output.

When: Friday, November 14, 2008, 9:30am-4pm

Where: The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Fee: \$120 (includes lunch)

Suggested reading: Consider ordering a copy of the new *AIC Guide to Digital Photography and Conservation Documentation*. Go to <http://aic.stanford.edu/library/publist.pdf> to order (see below).

The workshop leader will be John R. Watson, Conservator of Instruments and Mechanical Arts, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

To Register, complete the registration form below.



DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR CONSERVATORS

Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Conservation Specialty: _____

CIPP or Institution: _____

Camera Type or Model: _____

Digital imaging experience: Novice____; Intermediate____; Advanced____

Please complete form and mail with tuition check (\$120 made out to the Virginia Conservation Association) to

VCA Treasurer
P.O. Box 4314
Richmond, VA 23220

Class size limited to 10,
so register soon

THE AIC GUIDE TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND CONSERVATION DOCUMENTATION

A comprehensive new guide to photographic equipment, software, and processing tailored to the needs of conservation professionals. The book is the result of a special AIC task force charged with developing recommendations for conservators in the use of digital photographic equipment for conservation documentation, while also addressing concerns about longterm accessibility and preservation of electronic records. It is an essential reference for the conservator’s library in this digital age.



To order, go to <http://aic.stanford.edu/library/publist.pdf>

THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
2008/9 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & DUES PAYMENT

Name (as it is to appear in the Directory): _____

Address: _____

City & Zip Code: _____

Title: _____

Institutional Affiliation: _____

Work Phone: (____) _____

Home Phone: (____) _____

Fax: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

I am a ...

Conservator Curator

Technician Student

Administrator Other

Area(s) of Specialization:

Archaeological Objects Furniture Preventive Conservation

Architecture General Sculpture

Books & Paper Objects Textiles

Collector Paintings Other (Specify)

Ethnographic Objects Photographic Materials

Are you willing to be a Disaster Response Volunteer in the event of an emergency? Yes No

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 \$20.00 (Student – Enclose a copy of valid student I.D.). Application and dues payment must be received by November 15, 2008 for inclusion in the 2009 VCA Directory. A \$5 late fee will apply to registrations submitted after November 15, 2008.

Mail your completed application and check made payable to The Virginia Conservation Association to the address below before November 15, 2008:

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