

From the President

Greetings to the entire membership. My thanks to our officers and committee members as we embark on a new season of VCA programs. I start my term in office with a sincere feeling of gratitude for the opportunity to serve the organization, and certainly will do my best to honor the position through distinguished service.

The VCA is ready to begin another fine year. The first member meeting will be 17 September 2009 at the Alderman Library and conservation labs of the University Of Virginia, in the rolling hills of Charlottesville. Special thanks to VCA member and UVA conservator Eliza Gilligan for hosting the event. I hope that everyone will be able to attend.

Upon reading the minutes of the most recent VCA Board meeting this past August, it should be evident that the Board is committed to continuing the strong tradition of the association. Additionally, the group is energized towards evolving and advancing the organization through the implementation of new plans and initiatives, with the aid and involvement of the full membership. The new proposals will be discussed in detail at upcoming member meetings, beginning with the UVA program.

As we look forward to future plans and programs for the VCA, I ask that each of you consider a few basic, yet key questions. The VCA is thought of as a respected and worthwhile body, but how satisfied are you personally with the organization in all regards? What can the VCA do to better meet your needs as a member? In what ways can the association optimize its service and value to our professional colleagues, the various regional cultural institutions, and the general public? This kind of evaluation is a necessary step in the process of organizational improvement. The majority opinion of the membership on these issues ideally should direct the course of VCA activities for the next several years.

Please start thinking about this matter now in preparation for pointed discussions during subsequent member meetings.

Also, I encourage everyone to renew VCA membership as early as possible. If you desire inclusion in the new member directory, your renewal must be received by 15 November (renewal form enclosed). An added benefit of early renewal is a \$5 reduction in the membership fee, which technically increases by that much after the mid November deadline. Just another example of how the early bird catches the discount!

Thank you very much. See you soon in Charlottesville.

~ *Frederick Wallace, President*

VCA Members Meeting September 17, 2009, 5:30 p.m. University of Virginia Alderman Library

See Pages 6-7 for Details



*Lawn and Rotunda, University of Virginia, 1914, R.W. Holsinger.
Image: Public Domain*

May Members' Meeting at The Mariners' Museum

The VCA braved rainy spring weather to venture down to Newport News for the last meeting of the 2008-2009 season. To avoid conflict with the AIC meeting in Los Angeles, the date was changed from the usual third Thursday to May 28, the fourth Thursday of the month. This gave the VCA the opportunity to share in the opening of the new photography exhibit, "Message in a Bottle." The reception featured remarks from artist Andy Hughes, as well as curator Tom Moore. Creative images of litter in the oceans and on shorelines around the world placed the "other conservation" on display in the gallery.

Following the reception, the VCA members conducted a brief member meeting to announce the newly elected offices and to report on the success of the White House tour.

Mariners' Museum conservation staff generously offered behind the scenes tours throughout different sections of the department. The conservation department has a large wet lab, and a smaller dry or "clean" lab in addition to office spaces. The VCA members were split into two groups to avoid overcrowding and facilitate the flow of the tour.

The exterior of the wet lab features large windows, a raised platform, and interactive electronic display panels to exhibit conservation for the general public. For the VCA tour, we were allowed to go through the interior of the hangar-like space. The main attraction is the USS monitor, particularly the famous turret. Although the turret was featured in earlier VCA meetings, the conservation of the contents of the ship was highlighted at this meeting. David Krop explained the conservation of the Dahlgren guns from the monitor, while other staff pointed out the Dahlgren guns from the rival CSS Virginia, recently received in the lab for conservation. The lab features state-of-the-art digital x-radiography equipment. Also, the lab is equipped with a new walk-in cold storage unit, essential for stabilizing wet materials.

Paintings and small finds are conserved in the "dry" or "clean" lab at The Mariners' Museum. Conservator Erin Secord explained the conservation of the clock from the main engine room and a waterlogged wool naval uniform in the small finds area. One major conservation challenge is the composite nature of objects containing mixed metals or of metals mixed

with organics, such as wood or textiles, because they do not adhere to normal treatment protocols.

Senior conservator Frederick Wallace works with the permanent collection, rather than the Monitor project. The Mariners' Museum was one of the first recipients of the True Vue grant program, and they are using supplies and funding from the grant to treat and rehouse a life-sized portrait of Lord Horatio Nelson. The portrait, painted in 1800 by Leonardo Guzzardi, was vulnerable to collisions and abrasions in a narrow gallery entryway, so a glazed framing package was required for that prominent, high-traffic location. Another initiative in paintings conservation involves treatment *in situ* in the public galleries. Like the Monitor Center, this initiative is designed to increase public awareness about conservation. Currently, conservation is being undertaken in the "Building Better Ships" gallery. This gallery features works by "Ashcan" painter Thomas Skinner, who was commissioned to document scenes at Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company in the early 20th century.

After these lab visits, the group was free to visit the galleries on their own. VCA members were given new ideas about how they could strengthen the public outreach aspects of their respective conservation programs. The VCA would like to thank The Mariners' Museum for being wonderful hosts.

~ Valinda Carroll, Programs



Theodor DeBry, Admiranda Narratio... Virginiae, 1590, Feminae Picto Icon, PL2 recto. The Mariners' Museum Library Rare Book Collection. Photograph: Courtesy of The Mariners' Museum, Newport News, VA.

VCA BOARD

Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2009

ATTENDEES:
FRED WALLACE,
PATRICIA SELINGER
KATHY GARRETT-COX
BIENVENIDA OCHS
DOTTY ROBINSON
DALE WHEARY
VALINDA CARROLL
TOM SNYDER
TRACY BERNABO

Fred welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the New Year. He thanked Patricia for hosting the meeting at VCU Cabell Library. Board members introduced themselves and gave their position on the board.

Report from the Secretary

Kathy gave a brief summary of the meeting minutes from the last meeting in May at the Mariners' Museum.

Fred asked if documents are transferred to each position from the previous person who held that position. If so are these electronic in order to make the transition have more continuity? Bienvenida then suggested that some positions on the board should have two people and one person is the leader that year and the next year the other person would take over. Fred stated that this would require a bylaws change but did think that at least for the President it would make sense for the Vice President to be the President elect and therefore be on the board and know what to expect when it is their turn to serve as President. This solution would help to make sure the board had a smooth transition each year.

Kathy then asked if the new board would like to approve the minutes before being sent to Tracy for the newsletter. This was agreed upon as a good idea thus after each board meeting the board meeting minutes will be emailed to each board member for approval and then forwarded to Tracy.

Fred then asked about our archive at the Virginia Historical Society. What is in the archive? Who adds to it? The vice president according to the bylaws is supposed to put things in the archive at the VHS. Dotty reported that she will be putting her reports in at the end of her term.

Publications Chair

Fred reported that the board meets alternate months from the members meetings excepting December when we have a holiday reception. He suggested that we keep our board meetings to the same schedule as the

members meetings and therefore we will meet the third Thursday of the month that has no members' meeting.

Tracy then reported that in an effort to get the newsletter out to the members in a timely manner she would like all submissions to the newsletter a month before each members meeting. She will send the date each time to Bienvenida for her to send out an email reminder to all members for submissions.

Bienvenida reported that she usually prints and sends mailing labels for members who prefer a hard copy of the newsletter. It was decided that instead she will email those names to Tracy to print. Bienvenida will update Tracy with any changes to the hard copy list.

Dotty told Tracy to send her any bills she has for postage or printing and she will reimburse her.

Dotty suggested that an email should be sent out as soon as possible to the membership for submissions to the September 2009 newsletter and a membership application.

It was agreed upon that the Program chairs will submit notes for the newsletter on the programs.

Patricia then suggested that we move away from a newsletter and towards using the website more or a blog. This would help the publications chair not be tied to deadlines so much for each newsletter. Several members agreed that this would be a good idea and that the website could use updating anyway. It was decided that this idea will be discussed with the members at the next meeting and will be explored this year as a possible change for next year. Dotty added that we have money if new software is needed for this change. Patricia will bring a laptop to the next meeting to demonstrate some of the new technology that could be utilized for our publications and outreach in the future. It was later suggested that once our website is up-to-date that maybe we should have a link from AIC to our website. Patricia later added that maybe a Facebook page could also be developed. This would require someone to oversee the page and keep things up to date. It will be brought up at the September meeting to see if anyone is interested in helping with the website and development of a Facebook page.

Treasurer

Dotty reported that this year's budget was approved at the May meeting. We currently have \$6600 in the bank, a result of several popular programs and not mailing the newsletter. She reminded the board that our fiscal year runs August 1st – July 31st and that she encourages members to renew during this period.

Bienvenida added that membership is due by November 15th in order to be in the directory. Dotty mentioned that if a member pays after November 15th according the bylaws they are supposed to pay an additional \$5 but this has never been enforced. It was agreed that since we have a healthy bank account there is no need to enforce the late fee penalty. It was suggested that the wording for renewal requests be changed in the future to emphasize there is a discount if you pay early rather than a penalty for paying late (though in fact the actual fee amounts would remain as they are now).

Fred asked if financial statements were published in the newsletter. Dotty responded that an outline of the proposed budget for the following year usually is distributed at the May/pre-summer meeting for approval by vote and that the monthly balance was reported in the newsletter but not the entire statement. Fred questioned whether members would like to see the year-end summary statement on an annual basis. Dotty stated that if there was interest she could put the financial statement in the newsletter. It was decided that she will send Tracy the end of the year report for the next newsletter.

Membership

Bienvenida reported that we have 110 members as of August 6, 2009.

Programs

Valinda reported that the first members meeting of the year in September will be held at UVA.

The program committee is also looking at holding a meeting at TK Asian Antiques. They have an XRF which may be of interest to the group. Another meeting idea is possibly a meeting on disaster preparedness. Patricia was particularly interested in having someone speak about the AIC CERT program.

Tom Snyder reported that another meeting could be hosted by Natalie Larson who is a Furnishing Textile Specialist. She is involved with a textile symposium this fall at Colonial Williamsburg and may have a paper that she could present to us.

Fred proposed maybe in 2010 a joint meeting with the Washington Conservation Guild. Eliza Gilligan is a board member for the Washington Conservation Guild but recently joined the VCA so maybe she might be able to help facilitate a meeting of both groups.

Fred also reported that during the summer he met with staff conservators at the North Carolina Museum of

Art and also some Raleigh area private conservators. Those persons indicated they have an interest in participating in VCA programs. Fred suggested that we consider planning a field trip to the NCMA after the opening of its new wing in 2010.

If you have any program ideas please send them to Valinda and Tom.

Education

Diane was unable to attend the meeting but asked if you have any workshop ideas please send them to her.

Outreach

This is a new position to the board. Dale questioned what we want to accomplish from this position. She would like to have a small group meet and try and decide on a direction for this committee for the year. Dale reported that Virginia Association of Museums annual conference will be in Richmond next year. She asked if we wanted to have a booth in the exhibit hall. If so what would we hand out? It was suggested that a proposal be developed for a group to have a session at the conference. This would allow more members to be on the panel and does not cost anything. Dale will submit a proposal and report back if it is accepted.

Refreshments

Patricia asked if there was anything that people liked or disliked from past years. Fred mentioned that he is grateful that there is always a vegetarian option.

General

Should the disaster response chair coordinate with the outreach chair? Kathy reported that in the past Mary Scott Andrews who was the disaster chair attended the Museum Emergency Support Team (MEST) meetings and then reported to the board. MEST is under VAM and has been meeting infrequently for two years. VAM has an 1800 number (1-866-636-7505) now set up that museums can call that then activates a call list. The VCA disaster coordinator is on the call list.

The next board meeting will be on October 15th location TBD. Fred asked that the board consider what we want the VCA to be? What role does it play? How can our individual opinions serve our colleagues and our community? He asked that we think about these questions for discussion at subsequent meetings.

The next members' meeting is September 17th at the University of Virginia.

~ Kathy Garrett-Cox, Secretary

Announcements

The Costume Society of America's

Southeastern Region invites all VCA members to its 2009 symposium and annual meeting, *Past, Present, & Future: Costume Across the Centuries*, in Fredericksburg, VA from October 22nd through October 25th. An exhibition at the James Monroe Museum of recently conserved clothing worn by President Monroe and his family will be the centerpiece of the symposium, plus over 25 juried oral presentations and research exhibits, tours of local sites, a silent auction, sewing techniques mini-workshops, a keynote speech by CSA Fellow and author, Patricia Warner and much more. CSA is graciously offering all VCA members the Costume Society reduced member rates for registration of this event. Early bird registration deadline is September 15, 2009. For a symposium schedule and registration form, contact Colleen Callahan at jette_2@msn.com.



Stratford Hall requests conservation services in relation to two treatment projects.

- * Reduction of local discoloration on a carpet caused by a sprinkler leak.
- * Cleaning of various collection items to remove bird droppings.

Persons interested in responding to the call for assistance should contact Gretchen Goodell, Curator, Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Stratford, VA 22558 (804) 493-8038 x8910, www.stratfordhall.org, ggoodell@stratfordhall.org



Fake Food Workshop: Do you want to learn about fake food ... how to make it, how to care for it, where to find the best fake food resources? Sandy Jensen has graciously agreed to lead a workshop exclusively devoted to fake food. In order to provide you with a well-focused session, Sandy has asked that those interested please contact me, Dianne Roland, Education Chair, with what they would like to gain from the workshop. Email me at dartisian@comcast.net or droland@cwf.org with your fake food ideas and interests.

VCA
2008/2009

Treasurer's
Report

Income:

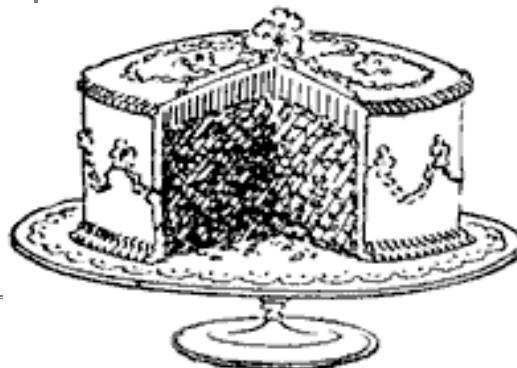
Source:	2008/2009 To Date	
		\$5,150.93
Dues – Regular	\$ 2,500.00	
Dues – Student	\$ 40.00	
Directory Sales		
Gifts		
Field Trips	\$ 1,231.25	
Misc. Late Fees	\$ 15.00	
Classes	\$ 960.00	
Reimbursements		
Total	\$ 4,746.25	\$4,746.25 \$9,897.18

Expenses:

Source:	2008/2009 To Date	
Newsletter	\$ 48.60	
Directory	\$ 320.65	
Refreshments (6)	\$ 857.75	
Website	\$ 79.90	
PO Box (1)		
Classes	\$ 620.00	
Speaker Expenses	\$ 126.00	
Misc. (2)(3)(4)(5)(7)	\$ 1,261.06	
Va. SCC	\$ 25.00	
Total	\$ 3,338.96	
Balance 7-31-2009		\$6,558.22

- (1) Due August 1 2009
- (2) Lunches for trip to Chrysler Museum 10-25
- (3) Refreshments/Lunches for Digital Workshop-Nov. 14
- (4) General Postage-Treasurer
- (5) Deposit to Winn Transportation for White House Trip
- (6) Includes Refreshments for White Houses Trip (paid for by members riding bus)
- (7) Gift for White House Curatorial Staff

~ Dotty Robinson, Treasurer





VCA Members Meeting

~ University of Virginia Library ~
Preservation Services Department
Thursday, September 17, 2009
5:30 p.m.

The September VCA member meeting will be hosted by the University of Virginia (UVA) Library Preservation Department and feature a tour of their new book conservation lab which is in the final stages of construction.

The reception will begin at 5:30 in the Library Staff Lounge which is on the 1st (ground) floor of Alderman Library. From the main entrance of Alderman (4th floor), walk straight back, passing the circulation desk on your right, take the elevator down to the 1st floor. Exit the elevator and turn right, walk down the hall and turn left, the staff lounge will be on your right.

The lab tour will begin at 6:30 with a 5 minute stroll over to the Dell building where the Library's new book conservation lab is in the final stages of construction.

Background

In 2008, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded the University of Virginia a \$1.5 million grant to enhance their current operations and to build a book conservation lab for the treatment of rare materials.

While the Library's main Preservation operations (shelf prep, re-housing, book repair, and commercial binding) are located in Alderman Library the Library's book conservation lab is being constructed off-site. The lab is not yet operational, but the renovation of the space and installation of the casework and equipment is nearly complete so this is a great time to see the new book conservation lab get off the ground!

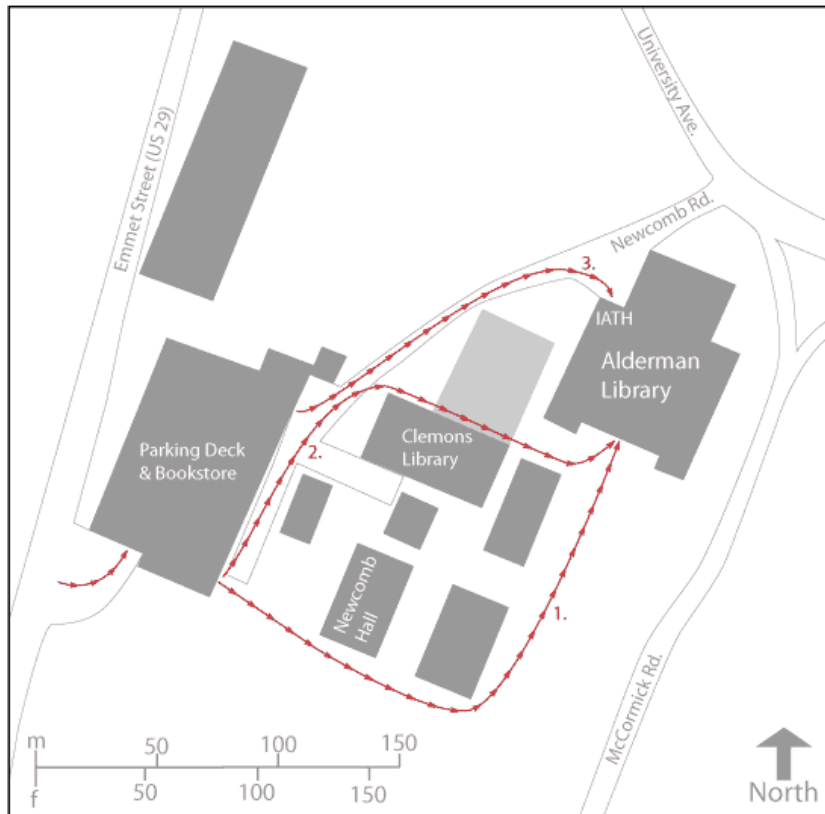
The hosts for the evening will be Kara McClurken, the recently appointed Head of Preservation Services, and Eliza Gilligan, the new Conservator for University Library Collections.

Directions to Alderman Library (Next Page)



Eliza Gilligan demonstrates the new fume trunk at Preservation Services, University of Virginia. Image: Kara McClurken, 2009

Preservation Services Department
P. O. Box 400150
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4150
(434) 924-1055
lib-pre@virginia.edu



Directions to University of Virginia - Alderman Library

From Points East or West on Interstate 64:

- ❖ UVA is about 1 hour west of Richmond and about ½ hour east of Route 81.
- ❖ From I-64 either East or West take exit 118B onto Route 29/Route 250 Bypass.
- ❖ Take the second exit onto Route 250 East Business (Ivy Road), turning right onto Ivy Road.
- ❖ Turn right at the fourth traffic light onto Route 29/Emmet Street. You'll see tennis courts and Memorial Gym on your left.
- ❖ The parking garage is on the left immediately after the gym: turn in here and park. See the map above for directions from the parking garage to the main entrance of the Alderman Library

From Points North on Route 29:

- ❖ UVA is about 2 ½ hours from DC, depending on the traffic.
- ❖ Take Route 66 West to Route 29 South in Gainesville. Stay on 29 all the way down to Charlottesville
- ❖ Once in Charlottesville, Route 29 becomes Emmet Street. Drive under the Rt. 250 bypass, past the University Hall basketball arena, and under a railroad overpass. Look for a four-way stoplight at the corner of Emmet and Ivy (the Cavalier Inn will be on your right). Stay in the right-hand lane and go straight through the intersection.
- ❖ You'll see tennis courts and Memorial Gym on your left. The parking garage is on the left immediately after the gym: turn in here and park. See the map for directions from the Parking Garage to the main entrance of the Alderman Library.

VCA
 BOARD of DIRECTORS
 2009/2010

President	Frederick Wallace
Vice President	Stacy Rusch
Treasurer	Dotty Robinson
Secretary	Kathy Garrett-Cox

Committee Chairs

Bylaws	Traci Flores
Disaster Response	Beth Fulton
Education	Dianne Roland
Membership	Bienvenida Ochs Larry Ochs
Outreach	Dale Wheary

Programs	Valinda Carroll Thomas Snyder
Publications	Russell Bernabo Tracy Bernabo
Refreshments	Patricia Selinger Mary Studt
Website	Lorraine Brevig

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

www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org

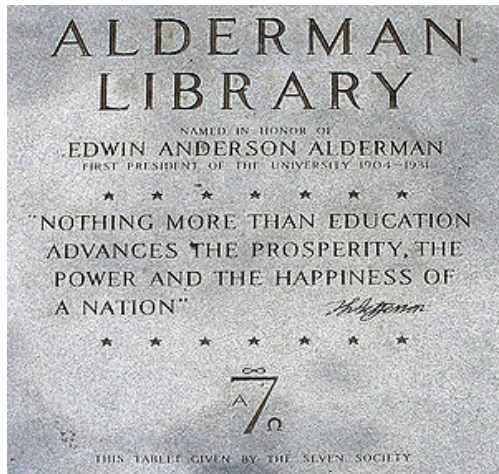


Image: Public Domain

Next VCA Members Meeting
September 17, 2009, 5:30 p.m.
University of Virginia ~ Alderman Library

The Virginia Conservation Association 2009/10 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:

____ Archaeological Objects

____ Furniture

____ Sculpture

____ Architecture

____ Objects

____ Textiles

____ Books & Paper

____ Paintings

____ Other (Specify below)

____ Ethnographic Objects

____ Photographic Materials

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

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, 2009 for inclusion in the 2009/10 VCA Directory. If you require an invoice or receipt for your records, photocopy this form before sending.

Mail your completed application and check made payable to the Virginia Conservation Association to the address below before November 15, 2009:

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