



# NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 4314, Richmond, VA 23220

November 2012 ~ Volume 22, No. 2

## From the President

Without ballyhoo, your VCA Board Officers and Committee Chairpersons continue their diligent work to create programs and events that the membership will find enjoyable, interesting and enlightening. The various opportunities and services offered by the VCA to better your knowledge, skills and efforts pertaining to collections care require a lot of thorough planning by the Board. The ultimate goal is to devise and present high caliber programs without exhausting the moderate resources of the organization. Unlike our honored public servants on Capitol Hill, the VCA Board is committed to maintaining a balanced budget! Meanwhile, we aim to prove in due time that the anticipated fruits of our labor will be found worth the wait by our fellow VCA members. So continue to keep your eyes open for word about more special programming that will be coming your way.

The next event on the VCA program schedule is the upcoming Members Meeting, at 5:30 pm on Thursday 15 November, at Wilton House in Richmond. That evening we will hear the story of the Bamiyan Buddhas of Afghanistan, which sadly and notoriously were destroyed by the Taliban in 2001. Doctor James Janowski, Professor of Philosophy at Hampden-Sydney College, will be our special guest for the meeting, to discuss the historical and ethical issues integral to this subject. Please make your friends and colleagues aware of this presentation and invite them to join us for what is expected to be another lively engagement.

As usual, a few weeks following the November meeting we can look forward to the return of the always fun VCA Holiday Season Party. This year the bash again will be held at Virginia House, from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. Virginia House is another favorite location for the VCA, and the festive event should not be missed. Invitations to the party will be sent to the membership by the middle of November. If you would be able to arrive a bit early to help set up for the party, please contact VCA

## VCA Members' Meeting Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM



Wilton House Museum  
215 South Wilton Road, Richmond

Speaker, James Janowski, Ph.D.



Details on page 2-3

Vice President Heather Logue-Emerson ([heather.logue@hotmail.com](mailto:heather.logue@hotmail.com)), who will be happy to accept your assistance.

Several ideas have been in discussion for future possible workshops. The following topics are under consideration and may be offered: techniques for gilding; mount making for collection conservation; and the Modular Cleaning Program (a systematic approach for the chemical cleaning of artwork developed by conservator Chris Stavroudis). Active planning for the

Stavroudis workshop already has progressed, and further information about this possibility will be provided in coming weeks. The Board needs to know what degree of interest there is among the membership for these workshops before deciding to continue with their development. Please contact Educational Programs Chairperson, Carol Givens ([cbgivens09@gmail.com](mailto:cbgivens09@gmail.com); 804-364-2903) as soon as possible if you have real desire to participate in any of these workshops.

Commencement of the VCA program season each September also is the start of the yearly membership renewal period for the organization. By the time this issue of the Newsletter has been delivered, the deadline for turning in the membership application and annual dues will be only a few weeks away. Renewing members who complete the process before the deadline of 15 November, which this year is the same day as the November Members Meeting, will not be assessed a late fee. Of course applications and dues will be accepted at the meeting. So be timely and save money! Additionally, anyone who renews membership or newly joins the VCA by this deadline will be included in the new 2013 VCA Directory. For various reasons, many members missed the deadline a year ago and were left out of the 2012 Directory, which was found to be a real inconvenience. Don't be left out this year! The 2013 membership application is part of this newsletter, at your fingertips whether you are reading an electronic or hard copy version. The application also is provided on the VCA website.

I look forward to a large gathering, with both familiar and new faces, at the November meeting. Please join us.

My name is Frederick Wallace, and I approve this message. Thank you for your support.

*~ Frederick Wallace, President*

## **CURRENT TREASURY BALANCE**

October 18, 2012: \$10,254.89

*~ Nancy Beck, VCA Treasurer*

## **November Members' Meeting Wilton House Museum**

**~ Dr. James Janowski ~**



Please join your fellow VCA members at Wilton House Museum, Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p. m. for our next meeting and program which features speaker, Dr. James Janowski.

A professor of philosophy at Hampden-Sydney College, Dr. Janowski's teaching interests include the Philosophy of Art, Cultural Heritage and the Theory of Conservation. Dr. Janowski has lectured on several of these subjects both in the United States and abroad. In 2011, he addressed the opening session of the AIC with a presentation on the possible restoration of Afghanistan's Bamiyan Buddhas which were destroyed by the Taliban in 2001 (the remains of the Buddhas were designated as one of the 100 Most Endangered Sites by the World Monuments Fund in 2008 – see following abstract). Dr. Janowski is currently at work on a book about the Bamiyan Buddhas. He will deliver an updated and lively discussion on the ethics and philosophical questions surrounding the restoration of the Buddhas. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Janowski to the VCA.

*~ Karri Richardson, Programs*

# BRINGING BACK BAMIYAN'S BUDDHAS

~ JAMES JANOWSKI~

Journal of Applied Philosophy  
(Abstract) Article first published online:  
6 JAN 2011



Bamiyan's Buddhas, long the treasured centerpiece of Afghanistan's material culture, were blown up by the Taliban in 2001. Since then controversy has arisen regarding whether — and, if so, how — the sculptures might be resurrected. One option — possible in principle because of careful 20<sup>th</sup> century survey work — would be to reconstruct exact replicas. I argue this would be a mistake. Reconstructing the sculptures, though it might serve useful ends, is inappropriate on aesthetic, moral, and metaphysical grounds. I then consider restoration, arguing that it is appropriate on these same grounds. Unlike reconstruction, restoration stands to (partly) resuscitate the artistic, cultural, and historical value that now lies, inaccessible, in piles of rubble. And while restoration stands to achieve this worthy end, it would contribute as well to the economic and political well-being of Afghani citizens. In short, I argue that restoring — and thereby resurrecting — Bamiyan's Buddhas, both metaphysically possible and morally appropriate, is a win-win proposition. Afghanistan deserves our support to make this happen.

## Directions to the Wilton House Museum



**From the North**, take I-95 to 195. Take the Cary Street Exit. Turn right (West) onto Cary Street Road. South Wilton Road is on the left at the 5400 block of Cary Street Road. Wilton House is at the end of South Wilton Road.

**From the South**, take I-95 to 195 North. Follow 195 and take the Cary Street/Floyd Avenue Exit. Turn right onto Thompson Street. Remain on Thompson Street until reaching Cary Street; turn right onto Cary Street. South Wilton Road is on the left at the 5400 block of Cary Street Road. Wilton House is at the end of South Wilton Road.

**From the West**, take I-64 East. Merge onto 195 and follow to Cary Street Exit. Turn right (West) onto Cary Street Road. South Wilton Road is on the left at the 5400 block of Cary Street Road. Wilton House is at the end of South Wilton Road.

**From the East**, take I-64 West towards Richmond, merge onto 64 West/I-95 North. Continue to 195 South and follow to Cary Street Exit. Turn right (West) onto Cary Street Road. South Wilton Road is on the left at the 5400 block of Cary Street Road. Wilton House is at the end of South Wilton Road.



# VCA Board

October 18, 2012  
Meeting

## Attendees:

Fred Wallace  
Nancy Beck  
Valinda Carroll  
Suzanne Collins  
Kathy Garrett-Cox  
Will Hoffman  
Charles Phillips  
Karri Richardson  
Tom Snyder  
Chris Wilkins

Fred Wallace (VCA President) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Fred spoke on behalf of Heather Logue (VCA Vice President) and stated that Heather has arranged for the VCA Holiday Season Party to take place on December 15 at the Virginia House. Heather also reported that she has had some success in recruiting help with the refreshments for the November meeting.

Fred stated that VAM inquired if the VCA might be able to offer advice to 2012 Virginia Top Ten Endangered Artifacts List honorees about conservation of their respective artifacts. One of the honored sites did in fact contact the VCA requesting the services of a conservator, and the message was forwarded to the membership. During the VCA/VAM discussion about this it was agreed that the honorees should be informed about the VCA and be encouraged to visit the VCA website if the services of a conservator are desired. Also, the idea arose that VCA conservators could be asked to consider some degree of discount for service to the Top Ten honorees, in acknowledgement of being named to the list. This would be particularly worthwhile since there is no monetary award associated with the Top Ten designation. The Board decided to ask the membership if they would be willing to volunteer at least a one-hour consultation for the Top Ten honorees if contacted.

Nancy Beck (VCA Treasurer) stated that the VCA balance to date is \$10,254.89. Nancy also stated that the VCA now has a debit card to use for VCA related expenses. Nancy researched getting a PayPal account so that members could pay their renewals through the website and found that use of PayPal will incur a small fee for each transaction. The Board agreed that if we decide to use PayPal in the future, it may be necessary to pass on the transaction fee to persons using the service. Valinda Carroll (Web Management Committee Chair) will continue an investigation into renewal form format for the website to be used in conjunction with the PayPal service.

Fred spoke on behalf of Carol Givens (Education Committee Chair) who reported that the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts has agreed to host the Stavroudis Modular Cleaning Workshop currently in the planning stages for July 2013. There is a chance that some of the travel costs for Chris will be covered by the sponsor of another workshop

Chris will be involved in next summer. This would be a great boon to the Board as it works to resolve a budget for the possible VCA workshop. More information about this is forthcoming.

Charles Phillips (Publications Committee Co-Chair) stated that he believes that recent problems with providing hard copies of the Newsletter to members who have chosen not to receive it by email have been solved.

Tom Snyder (Membership Committee Chair) will send a current copy of the membership list to the publications committee, and will send an updated list again after November 15 (membership renewal deadline) to ensure that publications has a current list. Tom will also increase the number of renewal reminders the membership receives and will invite past members to renew as well. The board discussed the difference between an institutional membership and the individual membership with the possibility of changing the institutional membership benefits. Fred suggested that the board table the discussion until after this membership renewal season.

Karri Richardson (Programs Committee Co-Chair) informed the board that the November member's meeting will be held at Wilton House instead of Maymont due to scheduling conflicts. The programs committee is looking to fill a presentation void for the January members meeting and is currently following up on suggestions and leads.

Will Hoffman (Outreach Committee Chair) discussed the Speaker's Bureau program. This program allows interested groups to bring in a conservator to present on a specific subject. Part of the goal of this program is to inform the public of the importance of conservation and to spread the word about the VCA. The VCA is asking the membership for volunteers who may already have a presentation prepared to be a part of the program. Potential presentations for volunteers will be restricted to their geographical region to limit distance travelled. The number of presentations for each volunteer will be restricted. Will suggested presenting a list of prepared presentations to interested groups. The board suggested that the length of the presentation be included on the list and that the interested groups guarantee a minimum number of people in attendance. This number will be specific to the group and venue. Ways for providing compensation for fuel costs is ongoing.

Valinda Carroll (Web Management Committee Chair) informed the board that the website and domain renewals have been paid. Work on the VCA Services Directory will be put on hold until after the renewal season is over to ensure that there is an up-to-date membership list to work from.

Kathy Garrett-Cox (Disaster Response Committee Chair) stated that she and Valinda Carroll attended a meeting of the Virginia Collections Initiative Technical Assistance Committee meeting, part of the Virginia Association of

Museums (VAM) IMLS-funded Statewide Connecting to Collections program, where they were asked to propose that the VCA help with an 'ask the conservator' project.

Questions would be solicited through VAM magazines and e-news for a finite period of time to be decided by VAM and the VCA. The VCA would be asked to produce a FAQ web page based on the questions submitted. The FAQ page could be presented or linked-to on the VCA and VAM websites. After discussing various ways to present good answers to potential questions, the VCA confirmed their interest in this collaboration.

~ *Chris Wilkins, Secretary*

## MINUTES OF THE VCA MEMBERS' MEETING

~ September 20, 2012: Virginia House ~  
Proceedings from the Business Portion



Fred Wallace (VCA President) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Fred thanked Tracy Bryan, Virginia House Site Manager for hosting the meeting, and Karri Richardson and Suzanne Collins, Programs Co-Chairs, for organizing the meeting. Scott Nolley was thanked in advance for presenting at the meeting. Fred also thanked Heather Logue (VCA Vice-President) for handling preparation of the refreshments for the meeting.

Fred stated that the VCA is asking for volunteers to help out with individual member's meetings in provisioning the refreshments. They can contact the VCA through the website if they are willing to help in advance of specific meetings. All expenses will be reimbursed by the VCA. Heather Logue will coordinate the process and will put out a call for assistance as the dates of the meetings are approached.

Nancy Beck (VCA Treasurer) stated that the VCA account balance as of September 20, 2012 is \$9733.93. Nancy and Tom Snyder (Membership Committee Chair) stated that they have membership application

and renewal forms on hand and that the deadline for membership renewals is November 15. Applications and renewals received after this date will result in a late fee and possible omission from 2012-2013 directory.

Valinda Carroll (Web Management Committee Chair) announced that due to a minor problem with the old "Home" page, persons using search engines to find the VCA homepage sometimes were linked instead to the "About" page. Valinda has corrected the problem, but bookmarks or favorite links saved prior to the correction should be replaced, because they could link to an outdated, previous version of the "Home" page. She recommends updating previously saved VCA bookmarks / favorite links simply by using them to open the VCA website, clicking on the "Home" link on the webpage (which will link with the new "Home" page), and resaving the bookmark.

Karri Richardson (Programs Committee Co-Chair) informed the membership about the November 15 meeting featuring Dr. James Janowski of Hampton-Sydney College who will be presenting on the Bamiyan Buddhas of Afghanistan that were destroyed by the Taliban in 2001.

Fred spoke on behalf of Carol Givens (Education Committee Chair) about the Chris Stavroudis modular cleaning workshop. He stated that the VCA will be submitting a grant proposal to AIC for funds to help finance the workshop. The proposal will be submitted to AIC in February, 2013. More information on the workshop and grant proposal will be following over the next several months. There has also been discussion of other possible workshops include a gilding workshop presented by Sandy Jensen, a varnish workshop presented by Tom Snyder, and a painted finishes workshop presented by Suzanne Collins. The membership will be asked through email of their interest level in the possible workshops, and will work toward this goal.

Will Hoffman (Outreach Committee Chair) discussed the development of the Speaker's Bureau program. This program allows interested groups to bring in a conservator to present on a specific subject. Part of the goal of this program is to inform the public of the importance of conservation and to spread the word about the VCA. The VCA is asking the membership for volunteers who may already have a presentation prepared to be a part of the program. Plans are for volunteers to be reimbursed for incurred expenses if travel is made beyond a moderate distance.

~ *Chris Wilkins, Secretary*

## SEPTEMBER 20, 2012 MEMBERS' MEETING

Perspectives and Points of View:

The Role of Conservation Forensics in the Shifting  
Certainty of connoisseurship in the Art World

~ Scott Nolley ~

---

The September program featured Conservator, Scott Nolley, who gave a brief history of the evolution of curatorial and conservation professions. In the late 19th century when museums were in their developmental stages, curators were often responsible for the overall care of collections, including basic conservation efforts. Edward Waldo Forbes (1873-1969) Director of Harvard University's Fogg Art Museum in Cambridge, MA, was responsible for the separation of conservation from the curatorial field, and therefore the establishment of conservation as its own profession. In addition to caring for objects, conservators act as guardians, advocates, authenticators and educators.

Scott cited three cases where his own conservation forensics enhanced or completely changed previously-held curatorial opinions:

- 1) While working at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Scott was part of a team of conservators who proved that a collection of double-shell silver Sasanian Vessels found in Iran in the 1930's were actually forgeries. Specialized x-rays and metallurgical studies of the pieces revealed modern soldering joints that were not visible to the naked eye.
- 2) Scott was able to x-ray a 19<sup>th</sup> century portrait of a slave woman revealing the woman's name and connection to the family that still owns the portrait.
- 3) Metallurgical and alloy testing of an alleged 17<sup>th</sup> century East Indian chased and repoussé box (now in the VMFA collection) revealed that it was in fact an electroform, dating from 1850 or later. Scott determined that metallurgical tests were necessary after noticing that the box lacked characteristic tool marks. Additionally the interior of the box had a porous, almost bead-like appearance.

After the conclusion of the program Scott answered questions from attending membership and guests. The VCA wishes to thank Scott Nolley and Programs Co-chairs Karri Richardson and Suzanne Collins for arranging the September Members' Meeting program.

~ Karri Richardson, Programs

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

**FOR SALE: *PIGMENT HANDBOOK (3 VOLUMES)*** 1973 by John Wiley & Sons, edited by Temple C. Patton. Ex-library.

- v 1. Properties and Economics
- v 2. Applications and Markets
- v 3. Characterization and Physical Properties

\$140.00 set or \$50.00 each. Respond to Suzanne at [marion7@me.com](mailto:marion7@me.com)



**DON'T FORGET !**  
**Renew your VCA Membership**  
**by November 15<sup>th</sup>**

A Membership Form is included in this newsletter and also available online at:

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



**DHR EXHIBIT:** VCA members are cordially invited to visit the Department of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Ave., Richmond, to view the two hallway exhibits installed in 2012. Archaeological specimens and other artifacts from the Pamplin Pipe Factory site in Appomattox County illustrate pipe production during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The other exhibit features Virginia Indian ceramics from the 20th century, chiefly from two recent donations to DHR Collections. The hallway is accessible to the public Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

*C. Diane DeRoche, Ph.D., Chief Curator*  
*Department of Historic Resources*



# 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?

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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 address below to be received before November 15, 2012:

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



## *VCA Holiday Season Party*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2012**  
4:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

**VIRGINIA HOUSE**  
4301 SULGRAVE ROAD  
RICHMOND, VA 23221

*(INVITATIONS FORTHCOMING)*



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

---

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



*Wilton House Museum*

**Next VCA Members' Meeting:**

Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 5:30 p.m.

Wilton House Museum  
215 South Wilton Road  
Richmond, VA 23226