

Virginia

CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

November 2016 Issue Vol. 26, No. 2



The Virginia Conservation Association promotes the care and preservation of cultural materials. The VCA offers education and training for those involved in conservation and provides a forum for discussion of pertinent issues and new developments in the field.

November Meeting!

This month's program will be presented by Ainslie Harrison, Assistant Objects Conservator at the VMFA on Archaeological Conservation at the Pre-Columbian site of El Caño in Panama. Note that this is a change from our usual Thursday Meeting. The program will be held on Tuesday, November 15 at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. More info on page 3



Although the country appears to be divided over the upcoming presidential election next month, it is gratifying to know that we, the members of the VCA, are united in our intentions, those being to promote the on-going training of conservators and practitioners in the conservation field and to disseminate information on conservation and related concerns to interested colleagues, museum professionals in allied fields, and to the general public. Our next members' meeting on November 15th, at the Department of Historic Resources in Richmond on Archaeological Conservation will be spot on in helping us to achieve our mission. Ainslie Harrison, Assistant Objects Conservator at the VMFA, will be presenting her work at the pre-Columbian site of El Caño in Panama. I look forward to that program and seeing everyone there! Speaking of digging into antiquity, while hearing about what the Smithsonian's team unearthed will be fascinating, some things we may prefer to leave buried. When I say this, I am not referring again to political candidates, but the brave participants in the VCA Talent Show of 1994. Yes, gentle readers, there was such a production, held on the auditorium stage of the Virginia Historical Society, and since I regrettably could not attend (newborn daughter), I can only allude to a few of the deep, dark secrets of some of our members, most of which have prospered and reveled in continuing their VCA membership and gone on to live normal lives! Did A.B. really wear a skirt for his performance? Was there a female quartet (S.A., D.R., A.B.,?) that became a one-hit wonder? Does anyone know about the hidden musical talent of B.S. and his saw? What became of that important archaeological discovery of a black-light painting so convincingly described by D.V.? Hmm? I leave you with these tantalizing tidbits to stimulate conversation about the rich and illustrious history of the VCA and encourage you to join me and your fellow members at the November members' meeting to enjoy learning about the past, connecting with our present and looking ahead to our future.

-Nancy Beck, VCA President

Have you been looking for a way to get more involved with VCA?

Think about joining one of our committees! The chairs cannot do it all alone and would love a few additional members to help with their committee work. If you are interested in one of the committees you can now indicate that on your membership form or contact the committee chair.

Please share any articles, photos, upcoming conferences, workshops, internships, etc. that you think would be of interest. The next newsletter deadline is Monday, Dec. 19th. Email taylorihealy@gmail.com

NOVEMBER PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

**Ainslie Harrison
Tuesday, November 15th
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Virginia Department of
Historical Resources,
2801 Kensington Ave.
Richmond, Virginia**



Ainslie Harrison will be discussing her experience working on-site at El Caño, a 1000 year old cemetery in the Coclé province of Central Panama. The archaeological site is located approximately 10 km from the Pacific Ocean in a grassy field bisected by a line of carved stone monoliths. At one time, a vibrant stratified society thrived in this region, whose chiefs and high ranking members were buried with lavish grave goods, their bodies covered with adornments in shell, tooth, carved resin, stone, and gold. Sitio Conte, a nearby site excavated in the 1930's-1940's by Harvard and UPenn, is the only other scientific excavation in the Gran-Coclé archaeological zone. With such limited evidence about the people who inhabited this region, El Caño offers an exciting possibility of finally answering some of the many remaining questions archaeologists have. Under the auspices of the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute, Ainslie travelled to Panama seasonally from 2009-2015 with a small team of archaeological conservators to help safely lift and preserve the priceless artifacts being unearthed in these tombs and to study the technology used to make the gold ornaments. Conservation work involved the stabilization and cleaning of a wide variety of materials including objects made of worked stone, whale and jaguar teeth, ray spines, shell, resin, ceramic, and gold. The gold was one of the most abundant and well preserved of the materials present, and offered an excellent opportunity to study fabrication techniques through technical examination and analysis. The excavation at El Caño was featured in a 2012 article in National Geographic: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2012/01/nata-chiefs/williams-text>

Libbie Hill Library, October 4, 2016

Attendees:

Nancy Beck, Dotty Robinson, Carol Givens, Christi Barranger, Keri Ragland, Karri Richardson, Carey Howlett, Dianne Roland and Maeve Bristow'

1. Call to Order
2. President's Message: There will be a board meeting in December. Let Nancy know which Thursday is the best, and she will secure the meeting room.
3. Reading of the Minutes: Minutes from the board meeting on August 4, 2016 were read aloud by the Secretary, Dianne Roland. They were voted on and accepted.
4. Treasurer's Report: Balance to date: \$5, 238.16
5. Vice President's Report: No report at this time.
6. Committee Reports:
 - a. Education: No report at this time. Suggestions for education programs to appeal to the conservators among our membership such as in painting. Discussed looking into a workshop by Artex on mount making, and researching courses sponsored by the AIC.
 - b. Membership: Handed out a list of members from last year that have not renewed this year, yet. Names will be split up among the board for contacting to encourage to re-new their membership. The Directory is being worked on. Discussed sending out as a pdf to the members who would like to receive it electronically.
 - c. Programs: November meeting is still being worked on. Seeking venue, will ask about DHR. Discussed changing date from the 17th to the 15th. March and May meetings are set. Discussed the April field trip, we have a venue need to confirm dates. Discussed having a Pechakucha formatted event for next year. It is popular worldwide where 6 or so people present a talk with 20 slides every 20 seconds. Discussed a meeting dedicated to interns and fellows to present a talk.
 - d. Publications: Deadline to submit material for the newsletter is October 17th.
 - e. Web Management: PayPal is up and running, doesn't seem to work with Google Chrome, but does work with Internet Explorer. Still learning the website, and is working on making adjustments. Requested feedback, suggestions and photos.
7. Unfinished Business: Discussed updating website, should we bring in someone from outside to set that up? Discussed which chairperson is responsible for the VCA Facebook account. Discussed getting the terms for officers back on track, will look into a need to re-write officer descriptions in the Bylaws. Discussed Sign-up Genius, if we like it, or should we try something else?
8. New Business: Discussed opening a Dropbox account to share large files and photos.

<p style="text-align: center;">Next VCA Board Members' Meeting: December 1st, 2016, 6:00PM Libbie Hill Library</p>



SEPTEMBER MEMBERS' MEETING

The first meeting of the season kicked off with an informal evening of networking, socializing and member recruitment that took place at Agecroft Hall.



2016 HOLIDAY PARTY UPDATE

Given the trouble we have had finding a venue for VCA's Holiday Party over the past three years, the Board has decided not to pursue planning for a celebration this year. A substitute celebration in the spring is being considered and discussed. If any members have any suggestions or concerns, please contact VCA president, Nancy Beck or Refreshments Chair, David Shakibnia.



VMFA DIGITIZATION PROJECT

After a year's worth of conservation, stabilization, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts has finally completed its digitization projects of 60 works on paper. The collection includes leading German expressionists that will also be on view thanks to conservation efforts. Digitization allows for shared access into the museum's encyclopedic collection and create connections between the artists and their respective movements, according to the museum's director. This project was made possible by Bank of America grant. (photo richmond.com)



ENDANGERED ARTIFACTS

Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts program focuses on promoting awareness of collections cares through public voting; nearly 70,000 votes were cast and the results are in! The People's Choice Honoree is the "Dinwiddie County," Pullman Sleeper/Lounge Railroad Car (1926) at the Richmond Railroad Museum with over 20,000 votes. The following top ranking artifact was the Collection of Documents Related to Virginia Slave Codes, 1798-1890s at the Wilderness Road Regional Museum with 16,416 votes.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our esteemed member, Andrew Baxter, will be receiving the AIA Virginia Honors Award to be given at Visions for Architecture presented by The Board of Directors of AIA Virginia and the Board of Trustees of The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design. The event will take place on Friday, the 4th of November at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. This award honors individuals or organizations that have inspired, influenced, or complemented the architecture profession in Virginia. Contributions may be made through allied professions, research, education, planning, legislation, architectural writing(s), the arts, and crafts.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

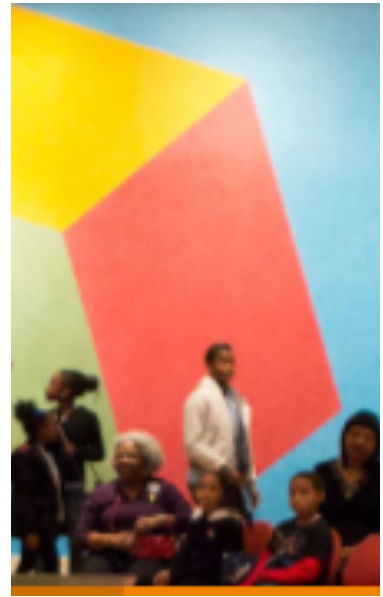
The VCA Board has voted to offer two \$250 scholarships each year encouraging students to further their professional development. Applicants will need to submit a brief written proposal to the Board describing the activity, workshop, symposium or conference. The chosen applicant would also be required to write an article for the VCA newsletter following the event that would inform the membership about that workshop, symposium, etc. The Board is currently receiving applications, so get those proposals in!

Send proposals to:

VCA Student Scholarship
PO Box 7023,
Richmond, VA 23221

OUTREACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Outreach Committee is working with UVA to present "Careers in Art & Historic Conservation" in the spring. Outreach Chair, Patricia Selinger is working with speakers to nail down a date.



VMFA INTERNSHIP

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts has offered students the opportunity to intern with the staff since 1940. Interns work under the guidance of museum staff and participate in the ongoing work of a department. The museum currently offers academic year and summer internships to qualified undergraduate and graduate students interested in gaining practical museum experience and who have a strong interest in a museum career. Deadline Nov. 15 for Spring semester internships starting in February and ending in May. Send applications to kim.frola@vmfamuseum.org

For more info visit vmfa.museum/programs



WORKSHOP

As part of Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) 2016-2017 Annual Workshop series, the Robert Russa Moton Museum will host the program: *Creating a Protective Environment for Today's Museums*. As public institutions, museums need to be prepared more than ever for emergencies and the unimaginable. Learn from staff of the Virginia Holocaust Museum about how to start a security program from scratch as well as about the different aspects of security, from doing a threat assessment to creating policies and procedures. The workshop will take place at the museum's Farmville location on December 5, 2016 from 10:00am to 3:00pm with check-in starting at 9:30am.

To register, visit vamuseums.org/events



EVENT

Join Preservation Virginia and the Center for Urban and Regional Analysis at Virginia Commonwealth University (CURA@VCU) November 10, 2016, at the Library of Virginia for a morning program about our Economic Impact Studies and their public policy implications: PHASE I: Economic Impact of Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Programs in Virginia PHASE II: 30 Years of Impact: How the Main Street Program Has Revitalized Virginia Communities. PHASE III: The Economic Impact of Heritage Tourism in Virginia. This event will be held at the Library of Virginia in Richmond on November 10, from 9am-12pm.

For more information and registration go to preservationvirginia.org



WORKSHOP

VAM is hosting a workshop called Commemorative Collections. Learn how to leverage participation in Virginia's upcoming 2017 and 2019 Commemorations plus how to ignite local anniversaries and celebrations in your hometowns. Speakers will review what was learned during the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the benefits of being involved in the upcoming observances, how to develop traditional and non-traditional partnerships and offer advice on how to keep the energy going after the festivities are over. Workshop will take place at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond on November 1.

For more info visit vamuseums.org/events

Join / Renew Today!

The Virginia Conservation Association 2016-17 Membership Application & Dues Payment

Name (as you would like it to appear in the Directory): *Required Fields

First* _____ Last* _____

Address:* _____

City* _____ State* _____ Zip* _____

Title/Institutional Affiliation: _____

Telephone: *() _____

Email: * _____ Website: _____

I am willing to serve on the _____ Committee

<input type="checkbox"/> Conservator	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/> Curator
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Technician	<input type="checkbox"/> Collection Manager/Registrar	<input type="checkbox"/> Appraiser
<input type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate (Intern/Fellow)	<input type="checkbox"/> Framer/Preparator	<input type="checkbox"/> Collector
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Librarian	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter
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? _____
Are you willing to serve as a Mentor? Yes _____ Would you like to have a mentor? _____

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 \$30.00 (Regular) or \$15.00 (Student: enclose copy of valid ID). Application and dues payment must be received by the first meeting in September for inclusion in the VCA Directory.

NOTE: If you are renewing after the first meeting in September, please apply a \$5.00 late fee to your payment.

To join online, visit www.virginiaconservationassociation.org. Dues are \$31.00 if using PayPal.

If you wish to pay by check (\$30), please mail your completed application and check made payable to the VCA to:

**The Virginia Conservation Association
P. O. Box 7023
Richmond, VA 23221**