



VCA
NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE
Virginia Conservation Association

Promoting the Care and Preservation of Cultural Materials
www.virginiaconservationassociation.org

P. O. Box 7023, Richmond, VA 23221

March, 2016 Volume 25, No. 4

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear VCA members,

We have an exciting spring planned for you! Unfortunately our January meeting was cancelled due to snow; but we will have another chance for Samantha Sheesley, paper conservator at the VMFA, to present "True Love Forever: Preserving the Legacy of Norman 'Sailor Jerry' Collins" at our March meeting! We will be trying a new format for our March meeting by opening this program up to the public to encourage people interested in conservation to learn more about the field and about the VCA. Therefore we will change the format of this meeting and have our business meeting first at 5:30 followed by our socializing time at 6:00 and then the program at 6:30. This will give us plenty of time for our business meeting and still have time to socialize and meet any new guests.

The Board has many items to present to the membership at the March business meeting so we hope you will plan to join us at 5:30. The Board has been actively listening to the membership regarding potential changes. One recommendation brought up last year regarding member apathy and getting members to serve on the Board was to look at the number of Board positions and determine if there were redundancies. The Board has unanimously voted to change the By-laws by eliminating two committee chair positions. Additionally the Board proposes that the Vice President serve as the chair of the Nominating Committee. These changes will go in effect in the 2016-2017 member year. Please read the proposed changes (page 2) and let me or another Board member know if you have questions or concerns. We will vote on these changes at the March meeting.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 21st.

Best,
Kathy Garrett-Cox, President

VCA Members' Meeting

This Program is Free and Open to the Public,
but please register by going to
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ca4ae2da7fd0-march>

Monday, March 21st
5:30 P.M.-Business Meeting
6:00 P.M.—Refreshments
6:30 P.M.—Program



**True Love Forever:
Preserving the Legacy of
Norman "Sailor Jerry" Collins**

**Conservation of the stencils,
rubbings and sketches of this
iconic WWII tattoo artist**

**Presented By
Samantha Sheesley
Paper Conservator, VMFA**

VCU Cabell Library Lecture Hall
Room 303
901 Park Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23284

Parking: West Main Parking Deck
Main and Laurel Streets-801 W. Main
\$1 for first 2 hours—\$2 ea. add. hour-\$10 max.

www.maps.vcu.edu/monroepark/wmainparking

Proposed Changes to the VCA By-Laws

The Board has been actively listening to the membership regarding potential changes to the Board. One recommendation was to look at the number of positions and determine if there were redundancies. Therefore the Board has voted to propose changing the By-laws by eliminating two positions. If approved, these changes will go into effect in the 2016-2017 member year.

I. The Board at its last meeting voted unanimously to eliminate the position of Disaster Response Chairman and give the President authority to convene an Ad Hoc Disaster Response Committee as needed during a state of emergency. **Article V. Section B** will read as follows:

1. President—two years for first term; two years for subsequent terms. The incumbent is responsible for overseeing and directing the business and program affairs of the V.C.A. This person will delegate responsibilities to the officers, standing committee chairpersons, and appoint new committees.

Proposed: Additionally the President will have the authority to convene an Ad Hoc Disaster Response Team as needed by a state of emergency. The President will be the contact for the disaster response team, and the team will act as liaison between V.C.A. members and museums, institutions, and collectors to provide information and/or assistance in case of emergency.

II. The Board voted unanimously to move the duties of the By-laws Chair to the duties of the Vice President.

Article V. Section B will be amended to read as follows:

2. Vice President—one year for the first term; two years subsequent terms. Responsible for assisting the President, presiding in his/her absence in the chairing of meetings and the conducting of the business of the V.C.A. This person will work closely with the Program Committee Chairperson on the organization of the programmatic content of the scheduled meetings. This person will also be responsible for collecting and delivering official V.C.A. materials once a year to the Virginia Historical Society.

Proposed: Additionally this person will be responsible for preparing the interim format of the by-laws and any final form as approved by the membership. This person will study legal and financial matters impacting the By-laws and provide reports for consideration.

By-Laws Changes Continued...

III. The Board proposes that the Vice President serve as the chair of the Nominating Committee in order to facilitate the needs of the Board with the committee. **Article VI. Section A** will read as follows:

Proposed:

1. The Vice President will chair the Nominating Committee. He/she will facilitate the needs of the Board with the committee.
2. Two members shall be nominated and elected from the floor in January or two meetings before the annual meeting in May at which elections are to take place. While open nominations and election are the preferred means by which a Nominating Committee is to be formed, if this cannot be accomplished, the V.C.A. Board is permitted to appoint two members to the Nominating Committee



The Nominating Committee will be working very hard to fill the following vacancies, please consider giving of your time and talent to the VCA by serving in a leadership role

Offices To Be Filled For 2016-2017

Positions below are for one year for the first term with a possible two-year subsequent term

Vice President
Secretary

Positions below are for two years with a possible two-year subsequent term

Treasurer
Chairperson, Membership Committee
Chairperson—Program Committee
CO-Chairperson—Publications Committee
Chairperson—Webmaster Committee



Mark Your Calendar

Monticello Field Trip

Thursday, April 21, 2016
A Special Tour of the Newly
Restored Upstairs and Mulberry Row

Details to Follow

May Members' Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2016
5:30 p.m.
Location: Muscarelle Museum of Art,
College of William & Mary, Williamsburg

Speaker: Scott Nolley

Topic: Conservation of a painting by Benjamin West

Directories

...Have been mailed and contain a correction insert on Page 16. If you picked up your directory, please update your copy. Article III. Section D. Annual Dues should read as follows:

- 2. The assessed dues shall be payable **by the first meeting in September** of each fiscal year. A five-dollar late fee may be assessed after that date for renewing members.*
- 5. **New or returning members who join the VCA between April 1 and July 1 will be given membership that will expire at the first meeting in September of the following year.***

Join Us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/VaConservation

*The Next Newsletter Deadline is
Monday, April 18th*

*Email news of interest to
dotrob327@verizon.net*

Preserving The Legacy of Norman "Sailor Jerry" Collins

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For over 5000 years tattoos have been used as religious symbols, as protection for a wearer's health, or to denote wealth and status. After serving in the Navy, Sailor Jerry settled in Hawaii, and during and after WWII, he practiced and perfected his tattoo art to become an American icon in this profession. www.sailorjerry.com

Join the VMFA's new paper conservator, Samantha Sheesley, as she talks about the conservation and preservation of the flash art, drawings, and stencils of the collection of works by Norman Collins, Sailor Jerry, to prepare it to travel around the world.



Samantha is the VMFA's first paper conservator and will work with their curators on the collection's entire range of objects, mediums, and periods. Prior to coming to Richmond, she worked at the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia. She was an affiliated fellow at the American Academy in Rome and has worked in the paper conservation lab at the Vatican Museums. Work at other institutions includes the Smithsonian's American Art Museum, MoMA, Greece's Benaki Museum in Athens, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Belmont Hills Conservation Studio in Pennsylvania.

*Minutes of the Board Meeting
February 11, 2016
Maymont*

Board Members Present: Kathy Garrett-Cox, Marla Curtis (via Facetime), Nancy Beck, Heather Emerson, Kate Ridgway, Keri Ragland, Bill Ivey, Patricia Selinger, Karri Richardson, Dotty Robinson, and Valinda Carroll

Treasurer - Balance to date - \$5,443.75 with \$42 in unresolved bank fees which Nancy Beck is trying to resolve. Nancy is also unsure if we are being charged the proper nonprofit fees through Paypal. She will research this to find out what amount we need to budget for next year. All projected budget figures for the 2016-17 year are due to Nancy prior to the April Board meeting.

Web Management - General discussion as to what the Board and the membership need the website to do. Jonathan Cox has been working with Valinda on the back-end of the website and proposes that we develop a database to allow for spreadsheet management of membership information. If we are interested in doing this, then we need to decide if we will require members to create a profile with a password. The downside would be asking members to set up another online profile, but Kathy will ask Jonathan if it is possible to set up a guest login instead of a profile. The benefits of this include: 1) allow members-only pages (program videos/audios, meeting minutes, etc.); and 2) allow for eventual phase-out of some newsletter content (Board meeting minutes, etc.). Jonathan can train any Board member to manage this back-end expansion.

By-laws – The board discussed possible changes to the By-laws. (See Page 2).

Valinda Carroll made a motion to move 1) the duties of By-laws Chair to Vice President; and 2) the duties of Disaster Response Chair to an ad hoc committee to be established by the VCA President when necessary. This motion was seconded by Kate Ridgway, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

These motions will be published in the March Newsletter and will be discussed and voted on at the March Members' Meeting.

Programs – The next program meeting will be Monday, March 21, 2016 at the Cabell Library at VCU and Samantha Sheesley will be the speaker. Because this is a

public outreach program, the order of the program will be changed. The business meeting will take place from 5:30 to 6:00, social/networking period from 6:00 to 6:30, and the program from 6:30 to 7:30.

Outreach – Patricia announced that the “Careers in Conservation” outreach program will not be held this year because there is no support system within the VCA membership for undergraduates who are interested in learning about conservation careers. Kathy pointed out that she has successfully matched conservation techs/fellows with practicing conservator mentors. Karri suggested that perhaps future programming and/or educational workshops should include lab tours or portfolio reviews.

Outreach will focus on potentially partnering with WCVE’s Science Pub next year. Patricia will contact Science Pub and see if they would be interested in a partnership with the VCA proposing a suitable speaker and Science Pub handling location and publicity.

The Board voted to not participate in the annual VAM conference this year due to the cost of the booth (\$500). This expense in addition to the cost of pens, tape measures or other giveaways would exceed our budget of \$250.

Publications – The next newsletter deadline is February 29.

Education – VCA will be presenting a workshop on preventative conservation on Wednesday, February 24 at Virginia House. The workshop will review fundamental strategies for monitoring a house museum environment and discuss proper care and maintenance of a variety of common museum materials.

In closing, the Board discussed having a reception this spring for departing member Andrew Baxter; information will be sent to the membership when it becomes available. The Board also discussed possible candidates for the Nominating Committee; Board members will get in touch with these people and ask them to serve. Upcoming Board vacancies include: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, possibly Membership, Programs Co-Chair, Publications Co-Chair and Web Management.

Current Treasury Balance:

February 21, 2016—\$5397.84

~Nancy Beck, VCA Treasurer

2016 NCPTT Summer Internship

Get hands-on experience and build your resume while preserving history by working in

1. Archeology & Collections
2. Architecture & Engineering
3. Historic Landscapes or
4. Materials Conservation

10-week paid internships through Northwestern State University

Applications accepted through March 18, 2016

For Complete Information Visit:

www.conservators-converse.org/2016/02/2016-ncptt-summer-internships

San Gemini Preservation Studies Excavation of the Baths at Roman Carsulae (Italy)

Open to Students and Volunteers

No Experience Necessary

Program Cost: \$950/week

Includes shared room

and 3 meals daily, five days a week

Minimum stay: 3 weeks of the 6 week total program

Application Deadline April 15, 2016

Jane Whitehead-Valdosta State University

For Complete Information Visit:

www.conservators-converse.org/2016/02/study-abroad-san-gemini-preservation-studies-summer-2016-progam/



News You May Have Missed

(two articles reprinted from the Western Association for Art Conservation Newsletter)

The first article follows up on an interesting VCA Program in November 2012 presented by Dr. James Janowski concerning the ethical and philosophical question surrounding the restoration of the Buddhas.

The Demolished Buddhas of Bamiyan are Reborn as 3D Projections

Hyperallergic, 06/16/2015.

“This month the two sixth-century Buddhas of Bamiyan demolished in Afghanistan were temporarily returned to their towering places in the Bamiyan cliffs through 3D projection.

The project by Chinese couple Janson Yu and Liyan Huboth was reported on June 7 by the Khaama Press of the Afghan News Agency Network. With the clearance of both the country’s government and UNESCO, the temporary revival was the most recent consideration of how to honor the memory of the statues destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, while respecting the gaping void left by their demolition.

The project follows last year’s controversy when brick stabilization work was halted at one of the empty sites out of a suspicion the construction was aimed at ‘secretly trying to rebuild one of the statue’s feet.’ Whether or not the Buddhas should be rebuilt has been of debate for over a decade since their loss.”

Workers Restore Majesty of Jefferson’s Rotunda in Virginia

Columbus Dispatch, 07/04/2015

“Thomas Jefferson’s Rotunda at the University of Virginia is the focus of a \$58.3 million renovation of the World Heritage Site. The Rotunda face-lift is part construction zone, part art restoration.

To ensure all this work doesn’t stress the nearly 200-year old structure, a \$500,000 laser-monitoring system targets 130 points to detect any movement in the brick walls. If the lasers sense a shift of a quarter inch, ‘the project shuts down and we figure out what’s going wrong,’ said Jody Lahendro, a historic-preservation architect who is overseeing the work for the university.

The centerpiece of U.Va.’s historic grounds, the Rotunda was the largest construction project of its day. Jefferson modeled the Rotunda on the Pantheon in Rome. The Rotunda’s connection to Italy doesn’t end there. The capitals were mined and carved in Italy. The original capitals also were from Carrara, Italy, but they were replaced with domestic marble after a fire in 1895. They failed to withstand the weather and are being replaced.

The work also has revealed secrets: A hearth used in chemical experiments and dating to Jefferson’s era was found behind a brick wall. A cistern, 16 feet deep, was discovered in the east courtyard. The signatures of workers who built it in 1853 also were found, and they were preserved for future display.”