



# NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 4314, Richmond, VA 23220 January 2013 ~ Volume 22, No. 3

## From the President

Ten days before Christmas we had the pleasure of attending the 2012 VCA Holiday Season Party, held at Virginia House. Good food, good drinks and good company was enjoyed within one of the finest historic homes in the state. Our appreciation is much deserved by the staff of Virginia House for providing their hospitality once again.

To lead off the Members programs for 2013, our January meeting will offer a presentation by Architectural Conservator (and current member of the VCA Board of Directors) Charles Phillips. Charles will speak to the membership about his involvement in a special project for Menokin, the historic site located in Virginia's Northern Neck. Menokin was the home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, one of the patriots that signed the Declaration of Independence. The meeting will be held at Maymont on the evening of Thursday 24 January. This anticipated program should prove to be distinct and interesting, so plan your schedule accordingly and don't miss joining your fellow VCA members at another of Richmond's grand house museums.

The 2013 VCA Directory has been completed and now is available. VCA members who came to the recent Holiday Season Party were able to pick up their copy that evening. Members who did not obtain a copy of the Directory at the party should have received one by mail from the Publications Committee shortly soon after that event. If you still are not in possession of the 2013 Directory, please contact the Publications Committee by emailing the VCA Website at [info@virginiaconservationassociation.org](mailto:info@virginiaconservationassociation.org), or by telephoning Tracy Bernabo (804-798-6599) or Charles Phillips (336-918-3668), Publications Committee Co-Chairpersons.

The VCA is committed to developing and providing various events that satisfy the interests and needs of

VCA Members' Meeting  
Thursday, January 24, 2013, 5:30 pm.  
Maymont, Richmond

CHARLES A. PHILLIPS

ANASTYLOSIS

WITH

GLASS INFILL.

THE ROLE OF  
GLASS AS A STRUCTURAL  
COSMETIC AND INTERPRETIVE FILL

the diverse membership; working professionals, students and interns, cultural institutions and collectors and the like. There also are plans to create and offer programs for non-members (the general public and groups/organizations) who have a concern about the care and preservation of art and historic artifacts. Among the new programs that are being proposed or are under development is a Speakers Bureau and training workshops for both professionals and lay persons. The Board definitely could use your aid in working to accomplish this mission. If you would like to help in the creation and implementation of future VCA programs you are welcome to contact the VCA Board via the website to offer your participation. Another great way to be directly involved in the activities of the VCA is by becoming a Board member. The annual elections for the Board of Directors are only

months away, and your name could be part of the election slate. Feel free to contact the Board about this as well should you be thus inclined.

The opinion of each member of the VCA about the organization and how it is being managed is very important and valuable. Every one of you is encouraged to express your feelings. This information is crucial to the Board as it works on your behalf. Please speak up and help the VCA attain even greater heights.

Best wishes to you for a fantastic 2013. Thank you very much.

*Frederick Wallace* -- President

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**Charles A Phillips Lecture** at the Members Meeting 24 January at Maymont, Richmond

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**ANASTYLOSIS WITH GLASS INFILL.**

THE ROLE OF GLASS

AS A STRUCTURAL,  
COSMETIC AND INTERPRETIVE INFILL

Since the beginning, man has attempted to make restoration invisible, and then more subtly, less distracting from the artifacts as reassembled. Glass used as fill, both structurally and as interpretive surface, allows us to come tantalizingly close to the theoretical goal. As a membrane defining historic enclosure (where missing) it can protect as a vitrine while providing the armature to suspend the artifacts in their earlier positions. If carefully managed it can mediate the environment within to provide passive conservation. Glass can be stronger than wood and many masonry materials and thus can become a prosthesis to complete a structural member within its original dimensions allowing it to be placed back into service using carbon fiber where tension connections are necessary. Laminated glass not only provides redundancy for structural considerations but multiplies the myriad



**Officers**

**President:** Frederick Wallace  
**Vice President:** Heather Logue Emerson  
**Secretary:** James Christopher Wilkins  
**Treasurer:** Nancy Beck

**Committee Chairs**

**Bylaws:** Mark Lewis  
**Disaster Response:** Kathy Garrett-Cox  
**Education:** Carol Givens  
**Membership:** Thomas Snyder  
**Outreach:** Will Hoffman  
**Programs:** Suzanne M. Collins, Karri Richardson  
**Publications:** Tracy Bernabo, Charles Phillips  
**Web Management:** Valinda Carroll

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of coating options as well as the ability to imbed OLED arrays allowing computer imaging support of interactive interpretation. When faced with necessity and no other good solution, the authors undertook the appropriate design, structural analysis and physical failure testing to verify the prior statements for an actual project, gaining the support of Rob Cassetti at Corning Museum of Glass. Full scale installations in Plexiglas and plywood to protect some weather sensitive areas were installed demonstrating constructability and visual effect. We feel that this research should not die with our project.



Visit us online at  
[www.virginiaconservationassociation.org](http://www.virginiaconservationassociation.org)  
Or on Facebook!  
Virginia-Conservation-Association



Directions: Maymont Carriage House Through the Hampton St. Entrance  
<http://www.maymont.org/page.aspx?pid=309>



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*“The head and legs of the Buddha statues in Bamiyan were destroyed yesterday. Our soldiers are working hard to demolish the remaining parts. They will come down soon. It is not a big issue. The statues are objects made of mud and stone.”*

Qudratullah Jamal, Taliban’s Minister of Information and Culture:

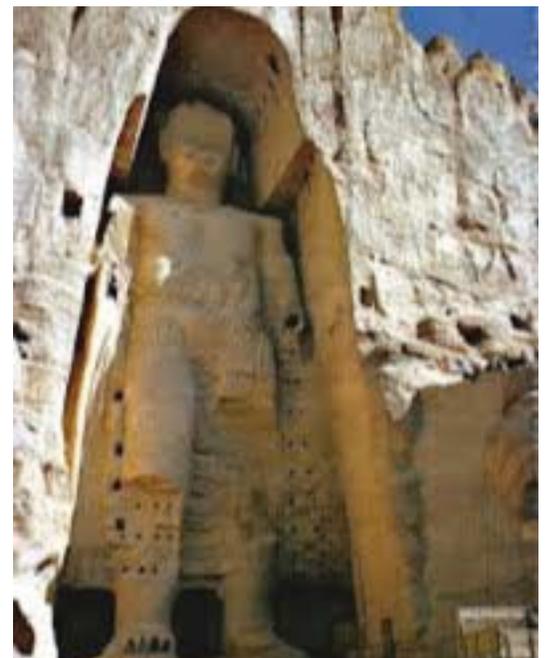
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James Janowski, Ph.D, professor at Hampton Sydney College made a thought provoking presentation on the moral and metaphysical effects of restoration and reconstruction of World Heritage sites. Dr. Janowski spoke of the destruction of Dresden’s Frauenkirche cathedral in 1945 and it’s reconstruction comparing it to the Bamiyan Buddhas destroyed in 2001. After 48 years the Frauenkirche cathedral was reconstructed using the original plans and 80 percent original materials salvaged from the rubble. The project unified the community creating a psychological and economic boost. As the reconstruction ages and fuses with the old a spiritual forgiveness and reconciliation may occur. The restoration of the Bamiyan Buddhas poses different questions. The Buddhas witnessed 1,400 years of civilization in the Bamiyan Valley but were seen as idolatrous figures by the Taliban and destroyed.

Unesco declared in 2011 that a total reconstruction cannot be done today. Does the question of when should things go out of existence be asked regarding the Buddhas?

Using photographs taken in the 1970’s and current image technology the frontal surface, pulverized during the destruction, could be recreated within 1.6 centimeters. When it is feasible to reconstruct and minimize the meaning loss of these ancient Buddhas, what temporal snapshot would define authenticity?

*Suzanne Collins -- VCA Program Chair*





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# VCA

## November Membership Business Meeting Summary

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Wilton House, Richmond, VA

November 15, 2012

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE BUSINESS PORTION:

Fred Wallace (VCA President) welcomed everyone to the meeting. He gave a special thanks to Wilton House for hosting the meeting. Fred gave recognition to attending members of the Archaeological Society of Virginia. Fred also thanked Heather Logue-Emerson (VCA Vice President) and volunteers for organizing and providing refreshments for the meeting.

Nancy Beck (VCA Treasurer) reported that the VCA income total for the year is \$1,515. Expenses for the year is \$499.79 resulting in a balance of \$10,400.54 in the VCA account.

#### • VCA treasury balance is at \$10,400.54 •

Heather thanked all refreshment volunteers, again, for providing refreshments. She asked that members who might be interested in helping with refreshments for future meetings place their name on a sheet that she sent around. Heather informed the membership that the VCA Christmas party will be potluck and will be held on December 15 at Virginia House.

Carol Givens (Educational Programs Committee Chair) stated that Kathy Gillis and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts will be hosting the AIC Modular Cleaning Program Workshop presented by Chris Stavroudis on July 15-19, 2013. The program is lecture and lab-based, and involves the making and use of emulsions, aqueous solutions and solvent gels in the cleaning of works of art. The VCA is trying to get a grant from AIC to help keep the cost low for those interested in attending the workshop. The workshop will be limited to 10 - 15 people and is open to all AIC members. Due to limited space, interested VCA members should contact Carol sooner rather than later. Carol stated that other workshops will be presented based on membership interest. Potential workshops include gilding presented by Sandy Jensen, varnishes presented by Tom Snyder

and painted finishes presented by Suzanne Collins. If members have additional ideas for workshops they can contact Carol through the VCA webpage contact link.

Fred informed the membership that the January 2013 meeting will be held on January 24 at Maymont House and will feature Charles Phillips speaking on the design and creation of glass enclosures for architectural elements at Menokin House.

Fred informed the membership that the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) has asked the VCA to offer help in some form to those who've made the Virginia Collections Initiative's (VCI) Virginia Top 10 Endangered Artifacts list. The board suggested that the VCA offer an hour of pro bono consultation to each site that has been recognized. Fred asked the membership if there is any objection to providing the consultation. There was no response from the membership. Following this was a discussion on the possibility of having to address an object of which no one in the VCA is qualified to address. Fred stressed that the board has not made a decision on the matter to date and if any one has additional ideas, please contact the VCA.

Valinda Carrol (Web Management Committee Chair) stated that a second initiative of the VCI is an Ask the Conservator Program. Kathy Garret-Cox, Rusty Bernabo and Valinda consulted with representatives from VAM about the program that can currently take one of two forms; a 'Dear Abby' form where a few conservation-related questions are answered in VAMs monthly newsletter or the creation of a Frequently Asked Questions webpage. VCA volunteers will be asked to provide written answers to the questions as provided by VAM.

Summary Submitted by

*Chris Wilkins* – VCA Secretary

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## VCA Speakers Bureau

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Dear VCA Member,

As briefly mentioned at the September members meeting, the VCA is looking to develop outreach to non-member groups and the general public to spread awareness about the field of conservation and the role that conservators play within it. Conservation outreach and promotion has become a growing discussion within the conservation field as a whole and it is a major component of the VCA's mission mentioned both in its Statement of Purpose and By-laws. Therefore, the association would like to develop conservation related programming such as presentations and workshops that non-member groups can gain access to (primarily through the website). These programs will describe the importance of conservation and its practice, providing assorted information about the field that would be interesting and useful to professionals and lay persons alike. To champion this goal, we would like to start with a program called "The Speaker's Bureau".

Please read the following Q&A below for details about the program and how you can help:

What is the Speaker's Bureau?

The Bureau will consist of a list of prewritten presentations on various conservation related topics. The topic list will be available on the VCA website, where interested parties (such as church groups, collector groups etc.) can select a talk to be given at a future meeting of their organization.

Who prepares the presentations and gives them?

As conservators, we have all given presentations on treatments and research that we have undertaken. The VCA is looking for conservators within its membership who agree to be listed under the Speaker's Bureau, with the expectation that at some point in the future they may be asked to give a talk that they already had prepared for previous presentation. We are asking for presentation that are approximately 45 minutes in length with an additional 15 minutes given for questions.

If I volunteer a presentation, how many times will I expect to present it?

Each talk will have a limit of being given twice a year unless noted otherwise by the author. Please bear in mind that you may not be asked at all in a given year to present your topic.

How far am I going to travel and will I get compensation for fuel?

As a Speaker's Bureau volunteer, you will not be asked to travel great distances to present your material. Once we have compiled a list of presentations, we will divide up the speakers by geographic location, so you will only be presenting your topic to groups within your region. As for fuel costs, the VCA Board is discussing ways to provide compensation.

How do I get involved?

If this program sounds interesting to you, please email me the title and brief description of your talk along with the area/city where you live.

Please consider becoming a Speaker's Bureau volunteer. As the only association of conservation professionals centered within Virginia, we would like the VCA to become the "go-to" forum for all questions and advice on the conservation and preservation of art and artifacts within the state. Your participation in this program is a great way to help us reach that goal.

*William Hoffman* -- VCA Outreach Chair

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## VCA NEEDS YOUR HELP!

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We are looking for volunteers who are willing to bring a dish to share to the next VCA member's meeting on January 24th at Maymont.

Please contact Heather Logue  
([heather.logue@hotmail.com](mailto:heather.logue@hotmail.com))  
if you would like to help.

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## VCA Program Schedule for 2012–2013

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Date	Speaker	Topic	Location
January 24	Charles Phillips	Anastylosis with Glass Fill	Maymont Richmond
March 21	Kathy Gillis	Belter Sofa, VMFA	VMFA Richmond
May 23	Andrew Baxter	Restoration of Anderson Johnson House Murals	Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center Newport News

Virginia Conservation Association  
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Richmond, VA 23220  
[www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org](http://www.VirginiaConservationAssociation.org)



Maymont Richmond for the next meeting

Next VCA Members Meeting  
January 24th, 2013, 5:30 p.m.  
Charles Phillips  
Maymont, Richmond