



VCA
NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE
**VIRGINIA CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION**

P. O. Box 7023, Richmond, VA 23221

January, 2016 Volume 25, No. 3

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear VCA members,

As we close out 2015 and look ahead to 2016, I want to thank all of the Board and members who have committed so much of their time to make the VCA the best organization possible. Each chairperson works tirelessly to ensure that we have a great program, newsletter, website, directory, refreshments and overall organization. As always I hope everyone feels that they can bring suggestions to Board members at any time to continue to grow and shape the VCA.

In order to continue to grow the VCA, past president Fred Wallace will be setting up a Task Force to delve deeper into some of the issues that members have presented to the Board and find strategies to reengage members and reignite the VCA. If you would like to help with this task force please contact Fred at fwallacedjo@hotmail.com

This January our members' meeting will be open to the public. We hope to encourage new members and continue to educate the public about conservation. This exciting program will feature new member Samantha Sheesley. Sam is the new paper conservator at the VMFA and will present on her conservation of original drawings and stencils for the famous WWII tattoo artist Norman "Sailor Jerry" Collins. This program will also be held at the newly renovated VCU Cabell Library! (Please see the program information for details on parking.)

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Best,
Kathy Garrett-Cox
President

VCA Members' Meeting Thursday, January 21st 5:30 P.M.

(This Program is Free and Open to the Public)



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
Second Floor Multipurpose Room
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

See Page 2 for More About Sailor Jerry

*Minutes of the Members' Meeting
November 17, 2015
Virginia Historical Society*

*Preserving The Legacy of
Norman "Sailor Jerry" Collins*

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After the program on the Hoffbauer Murals presented by Cleo Mullins and a trip to view the restored murals, the meeting was called to order by President Kathy Garrett-Cox.

Kathy announced that the question of hiring a consultant had been narrowly defeated but that discussions about that idea had been productive. Past president Fred Wallace will be forming a group to look into ideas to expand our membership and help re-engage past and present members to become more active in our organization.

Nancy Beck gave the Treasurer's Report. As of November 17th, our balance is \$5,338.03. Total income to date is \$2,290 and expenses are \$450.75.

Keri Ragland, Education Chairman, announced plans to have a preventative conservation workshop at Virginia House. More information will be available at a later date. Also, she is continuing to pursue having a respirator fitting workshop and has been in contact with AIC about a contractor to use, and they are gathering more information about the contractor. We will probably need around 10 people to put on the workshop. The final cost will depend on the number who sign up as there will be a flat fee for the program and then a charge per person. Please contact Keri (keri.lily@gmail.com) if you think you may be interested.

It was announced that work is being done on finding a venue for the Christmas party. The Royalls have been contacted about having it at the Try-me Gallery. More information will be sent out later.

The January meeting will be held at VCU and presented by Samantha Sheesley on conserving the work of Sailor Jerry's tattoo art. This program is free and open to the public. Please consider inviting colleagues, friends, and family to help us in our efforts to increase our membership and also interest in conservation. The meeting was adjourned.

Current Treasury Balance: \$5,554.41

Directories have been printed and will be sent out after the January meeting. There is an electronic version available now. Contact dotrob327@verizon.net

IN 1991, A FROZEN BODY WAS DISCOVERED WITH 57 TATTOOS. IT WAS 5000 YEARS OLD. IN SOME ANCIENT CULTURES, IT WAS MATTER OF RELIGION. IN OTHERS, IT WAS A MARK OF WEALTH AND ARISTOCRACY. IN HAWAII, TATTOOS WERE USED TO SAFEGUARD HEALTH.



But it was on the backs, shoulders, and arms of enlisted servicemen during WWII where Sailor Jerry built his reputation and changed the world of tattoos. Jerry combined vivid color, bold iconography and sheer artistic ambition to create a new kind of tattooing. He was also the first Westerner to correspond with and learn directly from the great Japanese tattoo masters. He mastered their techniques and vowed to "beat them at their own game" - which he did by combining their techniques with his n gusty American sensibility to come up with a new style of tattooing. Refined, bold and iconic. Sometimes beautiful. Sometimes bawdy. Oftentimes both. Beyond this, he was also innovative on a more technical level, pioneering modern tattoo machine configurations, sterilization techniques and purple ink.



(Information and Photo Courtesy of www.sailorjerry.com)

Because of the limited seating in the Multipurpose Room in the Cabell Library, please confirm your attendance by using the Signup Genius link. Members are encouraged to bring refreshments to share, but you do not need to indicate this when signing up.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ca4ae2da7fd0-january>



Pre-Meeting Sessions: Friday and Saturday, May 13th and 14th
Opening Session: Sunday, May 15th
Concurrent General Sessions: Monday, May 16th
Closing Session: Tuesday, May 17th

Fifty years after the Arno River breached its banks, the theme for the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC) and the [Canadian Association for Conservation \(Association Canadienne pour la Conservation et la Restauration\)](#) (CAC-ACCR)'s Joint 44th Annual Meeting and 42nd Annual Conference is *Emergency! Preparing for Disasters and Confronting the Unexpected in Conservation*. We discuss the impact of past, present, and future disasters on the protection of cultural property and confronting the unexpected in conservation whether it occurs during the treatment of an artifact or during a natural disaster. The scope of the theme includes immediate reactions as well as longer term developments stemming from disasters, and the repercussions of instantaneous visibility of destruction. This invites discussion of situations caused by natural disasters, accidents, terrorist activities, and climate change – even well-intended, but misguided interventions that elicit global amusement and/or outrage. The Unexpected includes surprises encountered along the way in any treatment and can include diverse stakeholders, even future ones, who are affected by a disaster.

VAM 2016 Annual Conference *A Revolution in Traditions*

Online registration will begin in January.

Download a paper registration form -vamuseums.org

March 12 - 15, 2016 at The Williamsburg Lodge

In a location steeped in history - featuring the "Historic Triangle" of Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown - the concepts of the traditional museum and the museum of the future merge. How are museums and cultural institutions breaking out of traditional models and reaching beyond their walls to engage and inspire? By reaching new audiences, creating new exhibition design, pursuing new approaches, using new technologies, and researching new ideas, museums across Virginia and around the globe are embracing **A Revolution in Traditions**. Explore this changing mindset with us during VAM's 2016 Annual Conference.

University of Richmond School of Professional & Continuing Studies

Daniel M. Roberts, Jr., Ph.D. announces that they have recently launched a new graduate program in public history.

The program is designed to serve as a professional credential for those considering a career in the public history sector, including broadcast and online media, digital scholarship and humanities, historical interpretation, and more. Coursework focuses on the practice of public history and the management of museums, parks, historical societies, galleries, etc.

More information is available online at spcs.richmond.edu/returntoschool. Or (804) 289-8133.

Internship

The Boston Furniture Archive, a project of the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, seeks interns for its third annual summer field cataloging project scheduled for June 1-August 23, 2016. Up to four interns will receive training and work as a team to document furniture at a number of museums and heritage sites in the Boston area.

www.winterthur.org/pdfs/boston_furniture_internship.pdf for more information and application instructions. Applications are due February 1, 2016.

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UNION LEAGUE CLUB OF CHICAGO

Position Title: Paintings Conservator
Contact information:

Kathy Mirek, HR Generalist
kmirek@ulcc.org
(312) 435-4816

(posted on conservation-us.org-12/23/2015)

The next newsletter deadline is Monday, Feb. 15th
dotrob327@verizon.net
lizzibeck@gmail.com

Virginia Historical Society
November 17, 2015

Conserving the Hoffbauer Murals
Presented by Cleo Mullins, Richmond Conservation Studio



By far the largest conservation project Cleo has undertaken, she estimates the size is equivalent to about 700 portraits, the artwork she more commonly conserves. The project has spanned several years.

Along with the cycloramas at Gettysburg and Grant Park in Atlanta, it's among the biggest pieces of Civil War art anywhere and funding was made possible, in part, by a grant from "[Save America's Treasures](#)".

The archival photographs of the murals and Hoffbauer's studies and sketches for the murals from the Virginia Historical Society archives were invaluable in assessing the condition and changes to the murals as treatment progressed. In addition, a series of letters and news clippings related to Hoffbauer and the murals was found

among previously unaccessioned materials from the Confederate Memorial Association and in the files of the Virginia Historical Society. by E. Lee Shepard, Sallie and William B. Thalheimer III Senior Archivist for the Society. Among these materials, there is a fascinating auto-biography written by Hoffbauer in which he confirms that after World War I and his return to Richmond not being satisfied with the work already done in the Confederate mural, he scraped over the whole thing and started all over again on a new design.

News of the conservation efforts generated a great deal of interest in the community and visitors shared information passed down in their families about the murals, adding to the history of the murals.

There was evidence of prior repairs and cleanings done to the murals and evidence that moisture damage was a problem for some time. Hoffbauer himself made repairs at one point. Moisture had damaged some of the paint, and the canvases were already darkening because of soot from coal-fired furnaces. He scraped some damaged areas down to the canvas and repainted them. In 1949 Hans Erick Gassman was paid \$400 for cleaning and retouching the murals and may have been responsible to much of the damage to the murals. Between December 1961 and May 1962, local artist Helen (Schuyler) Hull Bailey worked repairing/retouching on the murals.



After the presentation, members had a chance to view the restored murals before the business meeting.



Mark Your Calendar—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