

THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Issue 184 | November/December 2007

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

LIBRARY BOARD ENDORSES 2008 VLA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

At its November meeting the Library of Virginia Board unanimously endorsed the legislative agenda of the Virginia Library Association for the 2008 session of the General Assembly of Virginia, which convened on January 9, 2008. The session is scheduled to adjourn March 8, 2008. The VLA agenda calls for funding, in priority order, for:

FIND IT VIRGINIA

Find It Virginia provides 15 databases with collections of online full-text magazines, journals, newspapers, and reference books for all public libraries, K–12 schools, and community colleges. Find It Virginia is dependent on federal funds through the Library of Virginia. Thirty-two states provide funds to support service similar to Find It Virginia. The Virginia Library Association is requesting \$2 million from the Virginia General Assembly for each year of the biannual budget to cover the increased cost of databases for this important information resource. The cost to provide

these resources equals the cost of less than one school lunch per child.

BOOKS

Since the 1930s, the Commonwealth of Virginia has acknowledged its role in the support of public libraries through the provision of funds designated primarily for the purchase of materials for library collections. In the fiscal year 2007–2008 budget, this state assistance was funded at \$17.7 million or 74 percent of the full program funding level of \$24.2 million. The Virginia Library Association is requesting \$2 million from the Virginia General Assembly for each year of the biannual budget as part of a four-year effort to restore full funding for this essential program. State aid ensures that no matter where Virginia citizens live they have access to current materials.

TECHNOLOGY

The Library of Virginia provides vital assistance to libraries throughout the common-

wealth. It also serves as the official repository of Virginia's government, housing permanent government records of importance to all citizens. The Library's mandated role to preserve and provide access to public records is an increasingly challenging one in the electronic age, as the cost of the systems, applications, and personnel that store and manage the state's permanent electronic records are substantially higher than those of a paper-based environment. VLA supports the request of the Library of Virginia for \$750,000 for each year of the biennial budget to cover the cost of hardware, maintenance, upgrades, staff training, and the addition of two staff positions to manage the state's permanent electronic records.

For more information about the Virginia Library Association's legislative agenda see www.val.org.

RARE FRENCH COLLECTION OFFERS GLIMPSE OF TURBULENT TIMES

In October 1916 Assistant State Librarian Earl G. Swem published an article entitled, "French newspapers, 1848–50, in the Virginia State Library including also titles of placards, and of sheets for street distribution." The article comprised the entire issue of the *Bulletin of the Virginia State Library* and ran to approximately 60 pages.

Swem's article is, in fact, a detailed bibliography of one of the oddest and rarest collections in the Library of Virginia. The French materials languished in the dim and dusty

newspaper stacks of the old library building until they were re-discovered as employees prepared to move into the new building.

The items were dutifully labeled and moved to the new library. Once in the new building three oversized volumes of the French collection were taken apart and conserved in order to facilitate a new inventory and better storage of the collection. Those three large volumes contained over 500 unique items and marked the start of a fascinating project for modern-day Library staff members.

Swem's article notes that the French materials were given to the Library by Grace Arents in 1911. Arents inherited the French collection from the estate of her uncle, Major Lewis Ginter. The collection had been assembled by William Wilberforce Mann, a newspaper editor and journalist, in Paris between 1848 and 1855. Swem's "Historical Note" gives a sense of the ephemeral nature and historical significance of this collection:

The continuation, with no sign of change, of the conservative and reactionary measures of Louis Philippe, and of Guizot, his minister of foreign affairs, provoked the people of France to the revolution of February 24, 1848. The demands for electoral reform, for greater freedom of speech and of the press, for a more liberal recognition of the rights of workingmen, all were unheeded. The minds of the king and his minister were pervaded with the belief that social conditions had not changed in France, and that they were not likely to change much in the future. They ignored the consequences upon society of the revolution in industry which had been brought



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...see **Newspapers**, pg. 2

Newspapers...

about by the many improved applications of steam power and the new methods of rapid transportation. An almost entirely new web of social relations had been woven, and yet the king and his minister were not aware of it. It was evident that their political theories could not be changed through the ordinary means of protest from an opposition party. The revolution came as a consequence, the king was forced to abdicate, and a provisional government was organized with Lamartine, the poet and historian, at the head. One of the early decrees of this government was the repeal of all laws restraining the freedom of the press. Immediately there appeared a swarm of new journals, some advocating the opinions of a moderate republicanism, and others, the new and startling views of socialism. From the 24th of February, 1848, to the end of the year about 500 new journals appeared. A few of these papers lived for several months, but by far the greater number died after the publication of three or four numbers. Indeed, there were many of which only one number was issued.

Swem's bibliography lists 589 individual titles of French newspapers, broadsides, and pamphlets that Mann collected. The collection also includes bound volumes of *Le Moniteur Universel* from 1789 to 1865. *Le Moniteur* was the paper of record for the French government. In his 1916 article, Swem states, "it has been declared—by one who had better means of knowing than any man living—to be the only complete copy of the *Moniteur Universel* on this side of the Atlantic. It is believed that not a page is missing."

A Richmond newspaper article from 1911 reported Arents's gift to the Library and described *Le Moniteur* as, "the cream of Miss Arents's magnificent present." The article continues:

The historical value as the official organ of the government of France, under all regimes since May, 1789, as the authentic, recognized register of all its acts of interior or international import, as the sole continuous daily record that exists of current, contemporaneous events, political and diplomatic, social, religious and commercial, scientific, artistic and literary, not of France only, but of the entire world, can hardly be overestimated. *The Moniteur Universel* has long been out of the market, and it has been held upon competent French authority, that not more than 200 complete sets exist in the world.

This run of *Le Moniteur* is the longest and most complete run of original copy newspapers that the Library owns.

Le Moniteur makes up, in volume, the largest part of the collection, but the greatest rarity lies in the single issues of other newspaper titles and ephemeral pamphlets and broadsides. These materials were collected on the Parisian streets during the turbulent revolution of 1848 and the year or so after. Like *Le Moniteur*, they are primary historical documents. In 2005 Tom Ray, collections management coordinator at the Library of Virginia, contacted Dr. Robert Tombs at St. John's College, University of Cambridge, the leading expert on the literature from the French revolution of 1848. Dr. Tombs read Swem's article and concurred that the Library of Virginia's collection had a considerable number of unique items. As many as 40 percent of these titles are not cataloged in OCLC (the national bibliographic database for U.S. libraries) in original format, nor are they held by the British Library. Most of the Library's 500-plus titles are very rare indeed, possibly the only surviving copies.

The Arents/Mann collection is now getting attention for the first time since Swem produced his bibliography in 1916. The Library is fortunate to have three volunteers translating the materials page by page, Janet Sheridan and Chantal Marecal, both retired French professors from Virginia Commonwealth University, and April Scott, a Library staff member. Their painstaking translations are providing summaries of each publication as well as identifying political figures and events mentioned in the items. A new cataloging staff member, Amanda Allgood, is creating the OCLC records for the items. The Library of Virginia hopes that future projects will include digitization of the collection so it can be more readily accessible to scholars worldwide.



The October 12, 1850, issue of *L'Aurifere* ("The Goldfield") contains a report about life on board the ship *La Vista* en route to the California gold rush. It exemplifies a company newspaper for employees and investors in the gold mining industry.

"Des Millions pour un sou!" ("Millions for a penny") (1849), represents one of many broadsides, or placards, contained in the collection—and one of the many satirical items that require fluent French to translate.

"Entrée triomphale des cendres de Napoleon II" ("Triumphal entry of the ashes of Napoleon II") (March 1849) is a broadside depicting the funeral cortege of Napoleon II, whose ashes were returned from Vienna to Paris through Germany and France.

"La Nouvelle Soeur Anne" ("The New Sister Anne") (1849) is one of the few hand-colored broadsides in the collection. The song's lyrics were meant to stir people to action, much like "La Marseillaise."

Library's Treasures Include Extensive Collection of Virginia Ephemera

Why would anyone be interested in scraps of printed paper that were created to be thrown away?

Years ago, collectors began referring to printed paper material, which had a limited, short-term life, as “ephemera.” The term covers a wide variety of printed material including tickets, calendars, bookplates, stock certificates, invitations, trade cards, programs, posters, rewards of merit, transportation timetables, postcards, advertising inserts, and much more. Maurice Rickards, author of the *Encyclopedia of Ephemera*, best described this range of formats by defining ephemera as “the minor transient documents of everyday life.” Fortunately for scholars, an extensive collection of such material exists at the Library of Virginia in the prints and photographs collection.

As the influence of popular culture has increased over the centuries, these errant bits of paper have formed a valuable historical record. In fact, in addition to complementing manuscript and printed resources, in many cases these materials may be the only source of much-needed information regarding local history. For example, a mid-19th century Virginia restaurant menu can tell us what was available in a given restaurant in a certain location at a particular period in history, how merchants ran their businesses, the prices for individual goods, how printers reproduced

such lists, and so on. A collection of menus would allow a researcher to trace changes in taste, the introduction of new products, and the development of the hospitality industry. One such item in the collection is from The Powhatan House restaurant in Richmond, Virginia. Printed by a local printer, the menu was created with blank spaces to allow hand-written daily specials. On December 16, 1847, The Powhatan House offered diners a range of interesting options, including boiled rock fish, corned beef and turnips, roast turkey, mutton, boiled beef tongue, hominy, and sweet potato pudding.

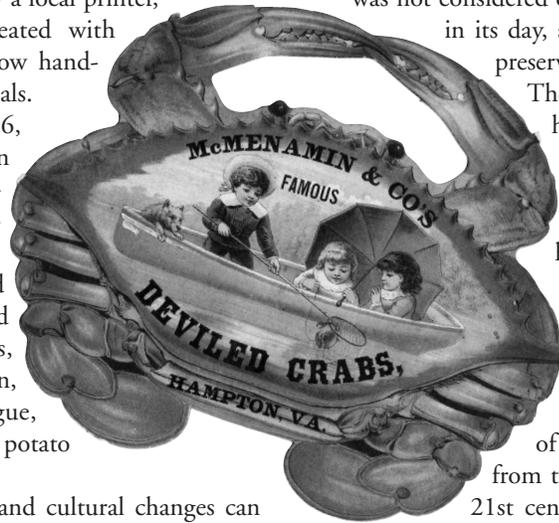
Technological and cultural changes can create new categories of advertising ephemera—as well as destroying existing ones. Blotters, for example, became virtually extinct once the ballpoint pen replaced the fountain pen with its dripping ink. Bumper stickers were born only when automobiles were fitted with bumpers. Streetcar transfers, schedules, and related advertising were no

longer needed after the streetcars themselves vanished. Restaurants that once offered imprinted matchbooks to diners now display “no smoking” signs on the walls and tables.

The Library of Virginia ephemera collections are rare largely because such material was not considered of any lasting value in its day, and so was neither preserved nor collected.

These items illustrate how Virginians perceived themselves (or wished to be perceived) and how they saw others, as well as their work patterns, their recreation habits, and many other aspects of American culture from the late 18th to the 21st centuries. As a result, these resources provide us with much useful detail of daily life, forging an intimate link with the past.

—submitted by Dale Neighbors,
Collection Management Services



GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM BENEFITS LIBRARY AND STUDENTS

Two Library of Virginia archivists served as hosts to Maggie L. Walker Governor's School student Mark Guerci during the summer of 2006 while he was participating in the school's highly-acclaimed mentorship program. Guerci, a Chesterfield County resident and then a rising senior at the Governor's School for Government and International Studies in Richmond, was fulfilling the school's requirement that all students complete a 115-hour mentorship program prior to graduation.

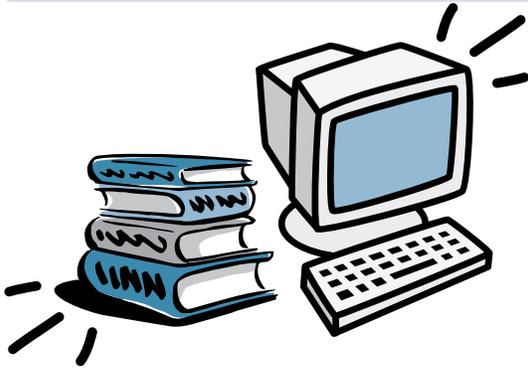
Under the guidelines of the program, students are paired with professionals working in occupations that are of significant interest to the students. They participate with their mentors in all phases of their professional activity, attending staff meetings, researching and contributing to policy discussions, and performing many of the job responsibilities of their mentor.

Mentored by Ginny Dunn in Archives Research Services and Carl Childs in Local

Records Services, Guerci experienced firsthand many aspects of professional archival work at the Library of Virginia, assisting patrons in public service, processing archival collections, working with digital collections, and producing collection guides for researchers.

Guerci has long had a strong interest in Virginia history, so working at the Library was a natural fit. During the program, Guerci worked directly with some of the most important archival issues currently facing the profession, such as digital preservation and replevin of public records. He processed a small group of Lancaster County chancery records and assisted in the resulting quality-control process of the images when returned from the digital vendor, thus experiencing all aspects of an archival processing and reformatting project. Guerci also researched and produced a Library of Virginia Web page that addressed the sale and non-authorized possession of public government records ([\[whatwehave/replevin.htm\]\(http://www.lva.virginia.gov/whatwehave/replevin.htm\)\) as well as authoring a research note for the WRVA radio collection \(\[www.lva.virginia.gov/whatwehave/notes/WRVA.pdf\]\(http://www.lva.virginia.gov/whatwehave/notes/WRVA.pdf\)\).](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Now a history major at the College of William and Mary, Guerci is enthusiastic about his participation in the program. “I greatly enjoyed learning about the Library and its collections. I think doing my mentorship at the Library enriched my history classes at Maggie Walker by forcing me to appreciate how much effort goes into preserving historical sources and into constructing history out of those sources,” said Guerci. He was so taken with his experience that he returned to the Library to research his senior history thesis on the Richmond Negro Exposition of 1915. Guerci also sees the long-term value of the time he spent here. “My experience at the Library exposed me to some outstanding resources that I will undoubtedly use in the future,” he said. ...see **Mentor**, pg. 6



Did you know...?

There are many useful consumer information Web sites that provide sound advice and valuable information. Everybody knows to call the Better Business Bureau, but did you know, for example, that **Access America For Seniors** (www.usa.gov/Topics/Seniors.shtml) is a one-stop shop for government information for seniors, with links to topics such as benefits, health, consumer protection services, employment and volunteer activities, and taxes. **Access America for Students** (www.students.gov/STUGOVWebApp/index.jsp) provides government information for students, including links for financial aid, careers, passports, selective

service, taxes, travel, and more. **Kids.gov** (www.kids.gov) is the official kids' portal for the U.S. government. It links to more than 1,200 Web pages from government agencies, schools, and educational organizations, all geared to the learning level and interest of children.

The Web site **Consumer.org** (www.consumer.org) is a portal of consumer information from the federal government. The **Consumer Information Center** (www.pueblo.gsa.gov/) provides a source for answers to questions about consumer problems and government services. The **U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission** (www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prerel.html) is an independent federal regulatory agency whose goal is to keep American families safe by informing them about the risk of injury or death from consumer products.

For more information on consumer information Web sites, ask the librarians in the East Reading Room.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

In *Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607–1635: A Biographical Dictionary* (Genealogical Publishing Co., 2007) historian Martha McCartney sheds light on the lives of the ordinary men, women, and children who contributed to the early settlement of America's first permanent English colony. McCartney employs both primary and secondary sources to create more 5,500 biographical entries that encompass a wide range of Virginia's earliest settlers, as well as individuals who were involved in sending these settlers to their new home.

Entries include Virginia Company of London investors, mariners, merchants, skilled workers, tenants, indentured servants, Native Americans, and many others. The entries vary in length, with some, such as that of George Sandys (youngest son of Archbishop Sandys and treasurer of the Virginia colony) running more than a page, while others are just a single sentence. The "Ralph Cannon" entry states only that "on February 5, 1628, Ralph Cannon was identified as a servant of Edward Sharples of Jamestown." Although brief, this information places Cannon at a specific location on a specific date, and thus could be crucial data for a researcher attempting to piece together a family tree. For each name, the most common spelling is listed first, followed by lesser-known variations in parentheses. Information sources are listed at

the end of each entry, and a glossary of common 17th-century terms such as "freedom dues" and "Lady Day" is provided, as is an extensive index.

Most of the individuals in the text can be linked through a numbering system to the geographical places with which they are associated. In total, 78 locations in the James River and Eastern Shore regions of Virginia are depicted on a two-page map, which includes local and regional settlements, as well as plantations. Historical descriptions for all of the locations can be found in an introductory chapter entitled "Where They Were."

In a section called "Findings," the author recounts some interesting discoveries made during her research, such as the fact that the names of 227 people were left out of the census of February 16, 1624 census. These individuals had arrived in Virginia prior to that date and were still living early in 1625. This text represents more than 20 years of research, and will no doubt become a favorite resource of historians, as well as of those with a passing curiosity about life early in the Virginia colony.

TWO NEW DICTIONARIES IN THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA COLLECTION

With the presidential election coming up, you may find yourself watching Chris Matthews, Bill O'Reilly, or one of the many

political commentators on television. If they use a word or phrase you've never heard of—something like "big mo," "Farley's Law," or "WAM"—you can turn to a new dictionary in the East Reading Room entitled *Hatchet Jobs and Hardball: The Oxford Dictionary of American Slang* (Oxford University Press, 2004). You might want to peruse the introduction by political consultants and commentators James Carville and Mary Matalin, as well as the essays on such key concepts as "Inside Baseball" and "-Gate." Then turn to the definitions, which include year of origin as well as citations explaining usage for each term. When available, the word's etymology appears in brackets. Some slang examples include "anxious seat," "bloviator" (which dates back to 1878), "kangaroo ticket" (1848), and "ugly season" (we're in the ugly season right now). If you want to broaden your vocabulary or your perspective—or if you just want a fun read, have a look at *Hatchet Jobs and Hardball*.

On a more serious note, there have been many books published recently to mark the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The *Lewis and Clark Lexicon of Discovery* by Alan H. Hartley (Washington State University Press, 2004) is a guide to the often obscure and strange words used in the Lewis and Clarke journals. The *Lexicon* does not include every term in the journals, but the preface describes the types of words selected for the lexicon, such as those that are

RETIRING THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL SERIAL SET

It happened slowly, then very quickly. The Library of Virginia's treasured *United States Congressional Serial Set*, or at least 12,000 volumes of it, had to go. Repairs to the windows on the third floor stack of the Library of Virginia were finally scheduled, and the terribly fragile *Serial Set* could not tolerate much more handling. Shelved on either side of the windows on the 9th Street wall, the *Serial Set* would have to be moved, reshelved elsewhere, then returned following the repairs. At a minimum, these imperiled volumes would need to be handled three times. Library staff agreed this would cause irreparable damage to these historic books. However, if the materials were packed and moved permanently to another location, they would only have to be touched once. A permanent storage place had to be arranged.

Part of the Library's federal documents collection, the 14,000-volume *Serial Set*, which began with the 15th Congress (1817–1819) and is still published today, consists primarily of House and Senate reports concerning pending legislation. But it also includes documents on a variety of topics as far reaching as a narrative of the trial of Henry Wirz, commandant of the prison at Andersonville, to reports of explorations such as John Charles Fremont's report of his expedition to the Rocky Mountains, to a study for

archaic, Native American in origin, technical, or just plain misspelled. There is also discussion of the "speech communities" of the Corps of Discovery such as the Upper South, North American French, and American Indian, as well as a roster listing the participants, with some biographical information on each. In addition to the definitions, word usage is illustrated by references from the journals. Obsolete medical terms, such as "ague," are included as well as words for items such as "air-gun," "circumferentor," "packsaddle," and "socket." The appendices include a subject index and lists of spelling variants, abbreviations, and symbols. In addition to the words, entries on the personages involved include Seaman, the Newfoundland dog that accompanied Lewis and Clark on their journey.

—Staff members Sarah Huggins and Lisa Wehrmann contributed to this article.

a route for a Pacific railroad. The annual reports of the Daughters of the American Revolution are published in the *Serial Set*, as well as the published reports of the early national censuses. It is an absolute treasure trove of American history.

Because of the set's age, fragility, and constant use, a microfiche copy of the *Serial Set* was purchased in the 1980s that covered the 15th through 92nd Congress, 1st Session (1969). More recently, the *Serial Set* became available by subscription as a full-text, fully searchable database, and the Library became one of the first subscribers.

Once the digital version of the *Serial Set* was available, the Library ceased routine use of the original edition. The first 10,000 leather-bound volumes were showing the affects of age and use. In addition, these volumes took up all the bookshelves running the entire length of the building along the 9th Street wall on the third floor stack. The next 2,000 volumes or so were in better condition, but took up considerable space in the center of the government publications collection, and all could be accessed online or by using the microfiche copy.

The pending repairs to the windows on the third floor stack forced a decision. It was time to retire this enormous and vulnerable series. The Library quickly began a plan to move the set to the State Records Center on Charles City Road in Henrico County. Planning for the move involved staff from many areas of the Library, including Ann Harris, Jim Davis, Mary Clark, Ben Smith, Darlene Woodfin, Kip Campbell, and Suzy Palmer. The group attempted to determine the amount of space the stored collection might occupy, the most economical packing method, the number of boxes required, and what information would be needed to access the materials after the move, if necessary. Recycled and new boxes were procured, and when

Jim Davis, the Library's facilities director, received word that the movers had been scheduled, our staff went to work. Darlene Woodfin, stacks supervisor, and Pete White, stacks attendant, coordinated a volume-by-volume inventory of the collection, completing it in a single day. That inventory became the manifest for each box packed. When the movers arrived, four teams of packers were dispatched, each consisting of a profession-

al mover to pack the boxes and a stacks attendant to document the placement of each volume in each box and record the information on the original manifest. Woodfin and Mary Clark, manager of the state and federal documents program, served as runners, keeping boxes supplied to each team, and preparing filled boxes for the pallets. White oversaw the distribution of manifests to each packing team and kept track of the completed manifests. When the recycled boxes ran out, the entire stacks department staff spent hours assembling hundreds of new boxes.

At the end of two and a half days, more than 12,000 volumes had been packed in 1,160 boxes, filling 30 pallets. The pallets and copies of the manifests were safely delivered to the State Records Center. Staff members there will enter the data into the tracking database to allow future retrieval of individual volumes if needed.

Moving the *Serial Set* was a challenging and exhilarating project that demonstrated industry and teamwork by Library staff members, especially by the stacks staff. The *Serial Set* is safely stored at the Records Center. Staff members will miss seeing this tangible reminder of the history of the United States and of the enduring legacy of the Library of Virginia's collections, but access to the set remains online and through microfiche.



Archives Benefits from FEMA Funding through National Initiative

State and local government agencies in Virginia will be better prepared for emergencies thanks to \$2.6 million recently awarded to the Council of State Archivists by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The funding will enable the Archives at the Library of Virginia to provide critical training and services to state and local government agencies throughout Virginia. When state and local governments are faced with natural or manmade disasters, having access to certain records helps them respond to and recover from the emergency.

The Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records project will develop workshops for delivery nationwide that teach state and local governments how to identify and protect their most essential records and recover those damaged by disasters. According to Vicki Walch, executive director of CoSA, the need for such a program became apparent in 2005 during the organization's response to Hurricane Katrina. "Archivists realized that records were not identified as an asset of government in the National Response Plan," said Walch. "At the same time, we realized that, whether a disaster is a localized fire or a widespread terrorist attack, the governments that have prepared their records are best prepared to respond to the emergency."

"The benefit to Virginia will be immense," said Conley L. Edwards III, state archivist of Virginia and president of the Council of State Archivists, the organization that will lead the project. "Virginia is prone to hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods and any one of these can threaten lives or destroy the history of a community. I look forward to working with my colleagues within the region and around the country to ensure that the records of government so essential to our lives are protected."

The \$2.6 million grant will cover the development of curriculum and the creation of Web-based seminars to meet specific needs and concerns at state and local levels. Teams from each state will contribute guidance and resources specific to their own state and local government agencies.

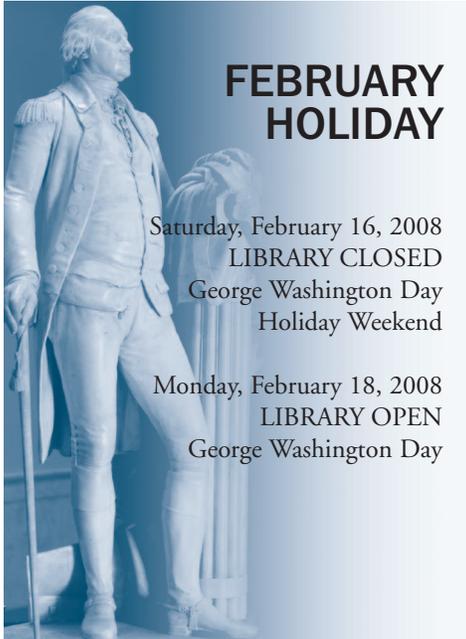
According to Rex Wamsley, director of FEMA's Continuity of Operations Division, the development of common training for use in each of the states will enhance the potential for intergovernmental cooperation throughout the nation. "The IPER project will allow us to reach into every county, city, and village nationwide, giving officials the information they need to protect essential records in times of crisis," said Wamsley.

"We are thrilled by the support received from FEMA for this project," said Edwards. "The Council of State Archivists would like to thank the National Archives and Records Administration and FEMA's Continuity of Operations Division. Their partnership and commitment contributed significantly to the success of this proposal. In tragedies that have occurred throughout the nation, vital records have been lost or compromised. This training and support will maximize the potential for governments to safeguard our nation's documentary heritage and, as importantly, to ensure that our nation's identity and that of its citizens will be safeguarded."

For more information about this project, contact Conley Edwards at 804.692.3592 or Conley.Edwards@lva.virginia.gov.

Mentor... Guerci's mentorship culminated in a formal presentation at Maggie L. Walker School's Senior Showcase on June 6, 2007. Students are required to present their mentorship research to students, faculty, and industry professionals, relating their experiences and sharing what they learned from their mentors. Guerci adeptly discussed his work as well as addressing the challenges facing the archival community.

Dunn and Childs acknowledged Guerci's outstanding contributions to the Library and the value of the mentorship program in general. They both indicated their willingness to sponsor additional students in the future. "Not only were we able to contribute to Mark's understanding of the profession and its challenges, but we also completed several projects that were of great benefit to the agency," Childs noted.



FEBRUARY HOLIDAY

Saturday, February 16, 2008
LIBRARY CLOSED
George Washington Day
Holiday Weekend

Monday, February 18, 2008
LIBRARY OPEN
George Washington Day

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY ON DISPLAY IN LOBBY

The Library of Virginia constantly adds to its collections of books, maps, newspapers, and manuscripts. *New & Noteworthy*, a small exhibition in the rear of the Library's lobby, offers just a few tantalizing examples of the diverse materials acquired by Special Collections during the past year.

Featured now through March is a display of posters and materials on Tantilla Gardens, billed as "The South's Most Beautiful Ballroom." Tantilla Gardens opened on June 15, 1933, at 3817 West Broad Street in Richmond. With a capacity of 1,800 people, the Tantilla featured ballroom dancing at its

best. The unusually large maple dance floor accommodated a huge group of dancers at one time. In the days before air conditioning, with its roof rolled back, the Tantilla offered "dancing under the stars." Tantilla Gardens was also a popular Richmond meeting place for socializing and romancing. When a couple became engaged at the Tantilla, they would be announced over the public address system as the band played "Stranger in Paradise." Although a local band usually headlined, the Tantilla attracted nationally known bands, including Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey, Paul Specht, Paul Whiteman, Sammy

Kaye, Duke Ellington, Harry James, Guy Lombardo, and Ozzie Nelson. Swing, jazz, soul, pop, rock, and country bands entertained over the years. Tantilla Gardens closed on March 23, 1969. On the final night, nearly 1,300 people came to say good-bye. For many Richmonders, the Tantilla evokes fond memories of very good times.

Approximately every three months, *New & Noteworthy* will change as new items are added to the collection. So check back every few months! What's on view will surely delight your eye and stimulate your imagination.

FEBRUARY TALKS AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

Talks are free and take place at noon in the Conference Rooms, unless otherwise noted.

Thurs., Feb. 7 | **An African Republic: Black and White Virginians in the Making of Liberia**—Marie Tyler-McGraw will discuss and sign *An African Republic*, which traces the parallel but divergent tracks of black and white Virginians' interest in African colonization.

Mon., Feb. 11 | **Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution**—Woody Holton will discuss and sign his new book. Holton upends what we think we know about the Constitution's origins.

Tues., Feb. 19 | **Remembering Richmond's Tommy Edwards and "It's All in the Game"**—Donald W. Gunter will give a multimedia presentation on singer and songwriter Tommy Edwards.

Wed., Feb. 20 | **A More Perfect Constitution: 23 Proposals to Revitalize Our Constitution and Make America a Fairer Country**

Time: 5:30PM–7:30PM

Larry Sabato will discuss and sign his new book, which outlines proposals that he believes would bring the Constitution of the United States in line with America's politicians, principles, and population in the 21st century.

Sat., Feb. 23 | **Symposium: Jefferson Davis: A Man in Full**

Time: 9:30AM–4:30PM

Fee: \$35 for Museum of the Confederacy members and Library of Virginia members, \$45 for others. Please call 804-649-1861, ext. 32, to register or visit <http://www.moc.org/>. The Museum of the Confederacy and the Library of Virginia co-sponsor an annual symposium on a Civil War topic, this year featuring four lectures and a panel discussion examining the life, career, and legacy of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

ROANOKE PUBLIC LIBRARY E-BRANCH OPENS AT VALLEY VIEW MALL

A comprehensive library study completed by the Roanoke Public Library in 2005 recommended the use of a kiosk to expand information to a high retail or unserved area of the city. The Roanoke Public Library system's new Valley View Mall e-branch, which opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 12, 2007, expands on that original recommendation.

The library chose Valley View Mall, a large, regional shopping center located in the heart of Roanoke, as its retail area target and convinced mall management of the economic benefits and unique services that a library presence would bring to Valley View.

The e-branch concept combines traditional library services such as convenient book return, scheduled story times, and a puppet theater with new ideas such as a multilingual information kiosk, wireless access, and lockers for remote pick up of reserve books and other library materials. Roanoke Public Libraries worked with SFCS, Inc., and PSA Dewberry in the design of the e-branch structure. A local millwork firm, Architectural Wood, worked closely with library staff and the city's building maintenance staff to implement the design.

The public information kiosk is manufactured by Public Information Kiosk, Inc., of Germantown, Maryland, and distributed by 3M Library Systems of St. Paul, Minnesota. The kiosk delivers voice and data from a high-resolution 17-inch touch-screen monitor and direct phone line connection to library reference and city help desks. A customer can pick up an attached phone to talk immediately to a reference librarian and receive documents from the reference desk directly to the kiosk via e-fax. Books can be reserved from the kiosk through an interface with the library's Sirsi system. Custom kiosk menus designed by staff members to meet the needs of the Roanoke community include information on local shopping, movie times, and government resources, as well as specially designed sites in Vietnamese and Spanish.

The library can communicate remotely with the e-branch's 50 lockers from the main circulation desk computers to assign locker numbers for reserve items. The item is placed in the locker by the library's courier and the customer is then contacted by e-mail or phone. With a library card and the locker number, the customer can then retrieve the item from the locker.

A traditional book drop allows for convenient return of items from any of the four library systems cooperating in the Roanoke Valley Library consortium. Additional e-branch features include story times and other programs, a puppet theater (with supply storage area), the only wireless hot spot area in the mall, and space for flyers and brochure holders for promoting library events and services.

The project cost approximately \$80,000 (kiosk – \$38,000, book return – \$ 2,000, millwork to encase the lockers and kiosk – \$20,000, and lockers – \$20,000).

The Valley View e-branch allows the library to reach out through non-traditional methods and to expand its services, helping the Roanoke Public Library system provide convenience to its customers in a new and innovative way.

—submitted by Sheila S. Umberger, Roanoke Public Libraries

NEVER BUILT VIRGINIA

January 11–May 31, 2008 | In the exhibition gallery

Monday–Saturday | 9:00 AM–5:00 PM

From Thomas Jefferson's efforts to set the national tone with his design of the Virginia State Capitol to Northern Virginia's soaring postmodern structures of glass and steel, the commonwealth's architectural triumphs are well documented. But what of those that never made it beyond the drafting table? We can appreciate existing buildings and comment on their merits, and we can wistfully reminisce about buildings now gone. With a building that never was, however, we have only the architect's concept—a daydream. *Never Built Virginia* offers examples of structures that never were and poses the question, "What if?"



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LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

CIRCUIT COURT PROGRAM AWARDS GRANTS FOR RECORDS-PRESERVATION PROJECTS

The Grant Review Board for the Circuit Court Records Preservation Program met on November 14, 2007, at the Library of Virginia. Following the evaluation of 38 grant applications, the Grant Review Board decided to fund all 38 applications. Awards were made to 31 clerks' offices for a total of \$440,588. The project awards range from \$1,195 to \$101,396, with five offices awarded two projects and one office awarded three. Through these grants 23 offices will conserve historical volumes and papers, ten will reformat records, two will install camera security systems, two will procure records storage equipment, and one will undertake a records-processing project. A complete list of awards can be found in the November 14 Grant Review Board meeting minutes at www.lva.virginia.gov/whoware/boards/ccrpminutes/index.htm. The next deadline for grant applications is April 15, 2008. Circuit court clerks are encouraged to begin preparing now for similar projects.

For those unfamiliar with this program, the General Assembly enacted legislation in 1990 that increased the cost of recording land transactions. One dollar of this increase was earmarked for the preservation of circuit court records. With an increase in the allotment in 2001, the legislation, as amended, now reads: *One dollar and fifty cents of the fee collected for recording and indexing shall be designated for use in preserving the permanent records of the circuit courts. The sum collected for this purpose shall be administered by the Library of Virginia in cooperation with the circuit court clerks.*

That cooperation comes in part from the circuit court clerks who sit on the Grant Review Board, providing their expertise on court records. The clerks serving during the 2007–2008 term are Larry Palmer, City of Lynchburg; Rex Davis, City of Newport News; and Linda Timmons, Orange County. The Board is completed by State Archivist Conley Edwards and Local Records Services director Carl Childs.

—submitted by Glenn Smith, Archival and Records Management Services

SHENANDOAH CHANCERY CAUSES AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Library of Virginia is pleased to announce that digital imaging of the Shenandoah County chancery causes is now complete. The images have been added to the Library's online Chancery Records Index at www.lva.virginia.gov/whatwehave/local/chancery/index.htm.

The Shenandoah County chancery collection covers the years 1772 through 1927. The county joins the growing list of localities whose chancery causes have been preserved and made available through the Library's Circuit Court Records Preservation Program. Please see the Chancery Records Index for a listing of additional locality chancery collections now available.

Chancery causes are cases that are decided on the basis of equity and fairness as opposed to the strictly formulated rules of common law cases. They are useful when researching local history, genealogical information, and land or estate divisions. Some of the more common types of chancery causes involve divisions of the estate of a person who died intestate (without a will), divorces, settlements of dissolved business partnerships, and resolutions of land disputes.



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