



Mary Washington College • Center for Historic Preservation

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NEWSLETTER

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AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This is the first issue of a publication designed primarily to serve the students in Historic Preservation at Mary Washington College. As such, its focus will be distinctly upon those matters of interest within the College community. It will serve as a vehicle for disseminating information on such concerns as opportunities for internships and employment, upcoming programs of the Center, acquisitions of new resource materials, and meetings (both at the College and elsewhere) which are of interest to preservationists. It will also provide a means of sharing news of the activities of preservation students, faculty, and staff. Students are invited to submit items of interest by notifying the Center for Historic Preservation (899-4037).

NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR THE CENTER

The Center is pleased to have secured a new Associate Director in the person of Dr. Paul B. Hensley. A native of Lynchburg, Virginia, Dr. Hensley received his B.A. degree from Lynchburg College, and both his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in History from the College of William and Mary.

Prior to coming to MWC, Dr. Hensley developed expertise in both the theoretical and practical aspects of his profession, having taught at the College of William and Mary and at the State University of New York at Potsdam, and having served as Assistant Archivist at Colonial Williamsburg; at the time of his appointment to his current position, he was Archivist and Publications Officer at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News.

Within the preservation program at MWC, Dr. Hensley holds the dual position of Associate Director of the Center and Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation. In those capacities he is largely responsible for the planning of Center programs and the career advising of Historic Preservation majors, as well as for the teaching of several courses, including Introduction to Historic Preservation, Museum Techniques, and Archival Techniques. Even in the short time that he has been at Mary Washington, he has already demonstrated the sort of enthusiasm and dedication which promise to make him an asset to the preservation program and to the College. Students are invited to meet with Dr. Hensley to discuss the academic program as well as internship and career possibilities. He maintains offices at Monroe 208-I and at the Center.

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

The Director of the Center, William B. Crawley, Jr., attended the Preservation and Urban Revitalization Conference in Roanoke, September 16-18. The meeting included sessions on "Preservation, Profit, and the Public Sector," "Neighborhood Conservation Techniques," and "Renovating an Old House," as well as several investigations of methods of preservation financing.

Associate Director Paul Hensley attended a symposium on funding for the humanities which was held at Mountain Lake Hotel, near Blacksburg, on October 3-5. The purpose of the meeting was to explore various strategies for securing funds during a period of stringent economic conditions. He also attended the 36th National Conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, held in Louisville, October 6-9. A particular emphasis at this annual meeting was preservation education. One session was held on the philosophy of preservation education at the college and university level, while another examined actual student programs currently in operation at various institutions.

Belle Pendleton, Assistant Professor of Art, and a member of the Board of Directors of Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc., was instrumental in arranging a Preservation Tax Incentives Workshop, co-sponsored by HFFI, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Virginia Landmarks Commission. The event, held on September 29 at Mary Washington Square in Fredericksburg, attracted a large audience which responded very favorably to the informative program.

Richard Palmieri, Associate Professor of Geography and Curator of College Furniture, was one of about twenty-five persons selected from throughout the United States to attend the 1982 Summer Institute of the Henry Francis duPont Winterthur Museum in Winterthur, Delaware. The program consisted of a three-week study of household furnishings used in the United States from the seventeenth century to the end of the nineteenth century. The format included lectures, discussions, and direct involvement with architecture, furniture, silver and other metal objects, glass, ceramics, textiles, paintings, and prints. The program embraced the principles of connoisseurship, craft practices and traditions, changes in craft and manufacturing technology, the derivation and evolution of styles, forms, and ornament, and the cultural framework of the objects. Dr. Palmieri, who is currently offering his perennially popular non-credit public service course on Antique American Furniture under the aegis of the Center, reports that he found the Institute to be exceedingly useful in broadening his knowledge of the decorative arts in general, and in deepening his understanding of the furniture aspect in particular.

The preservation program at MWC is currently benefiting from the addition of R. Peter Mooz, who, as an adjunct faculty member, is teaching HISP 401: The Decorative Arts, a new course which is being offered for the first time this fall. Dr. Mooz is an eminent, nationally-recognized authority in the field of decorative arts, having served as Museum Coordinator for the Winterthur Program and, more recently, as Director of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. In addition to his teaching duties at MWC, he is president of Fine Arts America, a regional gallery and consulting service based in Richmond.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION MAJORS AT WORK

Doug Harvey, a 1982 graduate in Historic Preservation, assumed the position of curator at Manassas Museum this summer. Established in 1973, the museum houses several collections including letters from the Civil War era, railroad artifacts, Indian and colonial artifacts, and an extensive collection of objects reflecting the history of Manassas. Doug is the first full-time administrator the museum has ever had, and he is working hard to upgrade the museum's collection and the administration of its resources. He has already written a collections policy, and he is currently formulating plans to strengthen the museum's exhibit program.

Melissa Irby, another recent preservation graduate, began work in May at the Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University in the Archives and Special Collections section of the Tompkins-McCaw Library. Working with a large collection of artifacts dealing with the history of medicine, Melissa's responsibilities include accessioning and cataloging artifacts and preparing exhibits. She is presently working on a gallery featuring artifacts associated with otolaryngology, the specialization regarding the eyes, nose, and throat.

Following graduation, Barbara Ecker accepted a position with the Eastern National Park and Monument Association, a non-profit organization which cooperates closely with the National Park Service. Stationed at the Visitor Center in Fredericksburg, Barbara is involved with sales of Park Service books and interpretive literature, as well as inventory work.

Three preservation majors held summer jobs at historic sites. Kathy Gould was employed as an interpretive guide at Arlington House, an historic house-museum in Arlington, Virginia. Cynthia Obaugh served in a similar capacity at Mount Vernon, where she conducted tours of the mansion, museum, and surrounding grounds. Beverly Helsel, in her capacity as an assistant curator of education at the Valentine Museum in Richmond, was involved mainly with researching and writing interpretive materials for the museum's 19th-Century school room.

JOB HUNTING?

Students who are interested in summer employment for 1983 should begin now to look for job openings. Good sources of information are the newsletters and bulletins published by various preservation-related organizations. These include Preservation News (National Trust for Historic Preservation), History News, (American Association for State and Local History), SAA Newsletter (Society of American Archivists), AVISO (American Association of Museums), AHA Perspectives (American Historical Association), and the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians. Current and recent issues of these publications are available at the Center for Historic Preservation. Students are invited to browse at their convenience, and to discuss employment prospects and strategies with the Career Adviser, Dr. Hensley.

INTERNSHIP UPDATE

The internship option is one of the most important features of the MWC Historic Preservation program, as will be attested by preservation majors who spent a productive summer working in internships stretching (literally) from Fredericksburg to the Golden Gate! Connie Brown assumed her intern duties at the National Maritime Museum in San Francisco, where she gained "hands-on" experience in registration and cataloging of museum artifacts, as well as in proper techniques in museum storage and care of artifacts. Diane Poole's responsibilities at the Valentine Museum included meeting the public at the front desk, assisting in preparation of Victorian flower arrangements, and updating study guides to accompany materials which the museum loans to the city's public schools.

Melissa Spivey worked as a program assistant in the Special Programs division of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C. In an effort to publicize a Trust-sponsored tour of Southern California, Melissa assisted in contacting various newspapers, journals, historical societies, preservation organizations, and museums and libraries in six Western states. She also researched and helped plan a tour of New Mexico scheduled for October, 1983, and learned a great deal about Spanish Colonial architecture in the process. Staying in Fredericksburg, Malinda Wilkerson undertook internship duties at the Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop, where she accessioned some 200 objects in the museum's collection and served as a hostess and tour guide.

There are currently six students who hold preservation internships for the fall semester: Carolyn Sydnor at the James Monroe Law Office-Museum and Memorial Library, Cynthia Obaugh at Kenmore, Kathy Tindall and Beverly Helsel at the Valentine Museum, Elizabeth Anthony at Decatur House, and Elaine White with the City of Fredericksburg.

In considering internship possibilities, students may wish to visit the Center to consult the extensive list of agencies which have accepted MWC preservation interns previously. In addition to those agencies, the following organizations have recently expressed interest in receiving interns:

- Association of Science-Technology Centers (Washington, D.C.)
- Citizen Labor Energy Coalition (Washington, D.C.)
- Historic Fredericksburg Foundation, Inc. (Fredericksburg)
- Historic House Association of America (Washington, D.C.)
- Manassas Museum (Manassas)
- MCV/VCU Tompkins-McCaw Library (Richmond)
- National Association of Towns and Townships (Washington, D.C.)
- Potomac Hospital (Woodbridge)
- VCU Cabell Library (Richmond)

Students who wish to be considered for an internship in either the spring, 1983 semester or during the 1983-84 academic year should fill out a Historic Preservation internship application as soon as possible. The forms are available at the Center and in the Department of History and American Studies. This procedure is essential since several available internships are on a competitive basis, and certain information is needed concerning all applicants for such positions.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The College each year offers several scholarships which are especially attractive to students in Historic Preservation. Both the Annie Fleming Smith Scholarship and the Albert J. Bowley Scholarship carry a stipend of \$500 per semester. The Smith Scholarship involves an internship at Kenmore, where the student gains valuable experience working with historical records and documents. The recipient of the Bowley Scholarship serves as an intern at the James Monroe Law Office-Museum and Memorial Library. For more information on either of these two grants, students should contact the Director or Associate Director of the Center.

Of particular interest to preservation students who plan a career in architecture or architectural history are the J. Binford Walford Scholarships. These prestigious grants, which are normally awarded to several students each year, pay the full cost of in-state tuition and fees. Preservation majors who currently hold Walford Scholarships include Elizabeth Anthony, Kathy Gould, Beverly Helsel, Elaine White and Vicky Via. Students interested in applying for a Walford grant should contact Dr. Barbara Meyer, Chairperson, Department of Art.

PRESERVATION CLUB ESTABLISHED

At the instigation of a group of interested students, a meeting was called on September 20 to form an organization known as the Preservation Club of Mary Washington College. The purposes of the Club are to promote the study of historic preservation and to acquaint students with, and to involve them in, the growing movement in the field of preservation.

Charter officers of the Club, elected at the inaugural meeting, are: Richard Hutting, President; Randall Snyder, Vice-President; Kathy Gibbons, Secretary; and Anne Rivello, Treasurer. Dr. Paul Hensley agreed to serve as faculty adviser for the group. It should be emphasized that membership is not confined to declared majors in Historic Preservation, but is open to all students who are interested in the subject. Freshmen and sophomores who are prospective majors are especially invited to participate in the Club.

Shortly after its formation, the Club -- in cooperation with the Center for Historic Preservation -- sponsored a picnic on the back lawn of the Center at Sunken Road and Monroe Street. The event provided an opportunity for prospective, as well as declared, majors to meet and talk in an informal setting with the preservation faculty and staff. Special recognition goes to students Richard Hutting, Anne Rivello, and Vicky Via, and to Center Secretary Louise Holz, for their efforts in planning the event.

Future activities planned by the Club include a trip to Monticello in early November, and the sponsorship of guest speakers who will discuss various aspects of the preservation field, including prospects for post-graduation employment.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The following list comprises meetings which may be of special interest to preservationists. It should be emphasized that the list does not purport to be comprehensive, but includes instead only those meetings whose topics are particularly germane to preservation studies at MWC and which, by virtue of their relative proximity, are reasonably accessible. Additional information on these and other upcoming events is available at the Center.

- Nov. 7-28 "Piedmont Virginia Furniture: Product of Provincial Cabinet-makers." Fine Arts Center, Lynchburg, Virginia. Sponsored by Lynchburg Museum System, the Lynchburg Fine Arts Center, and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.
- Nov. 8- 9 Workshop on the conservation and care of three-dimensional objects. Nashville, Tennessee. Sponsored by the Southern Arts Federation in cooperation with the Tennessee State Museum.
- Nov. 10 "College Day." Annapolis, Maryland. Sponsored by the Maryland Historical Trust. (The Trust has issued a special invitation to MWC students to attend this annual event. Those who wish to attend should notify the Center as soon as possible.)
- Nov. 15-16 "Management for Archivists." Raleigh, North Carolina. Sponsored by the Society of American Archivists in cooperation with the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.
- Nov. 16-17 "Museum Outreach: Community and School Relations." Stonewall Jackson House, Lexington, Virginia. Sponsored by George Washington University, Division of Continuing Education.
- Nov. 16-19 "Going to the Source: An Introduction to Research in Archives." Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the National Archives.

HISTORIC CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

The popularity of last December's workshop on historic holiday decorations, food, and drink -- "Christmas With All the Trimmings" -- has prompted the Center to make the program an annual event. This year's program, scheduled for Saturday, December 4, will focus on the Christmas traditions of the Victorian period. Special rates will be available for MWC students. Details will be provided in the next issue of the Newsletter.

A REMINDER TO MAJORS

Registration for second semester classes begins for upper-classmen on November 8. All majors should be sure to make appointments with their advisers prior to that date to discuss courses for the spring.