



ANCIENT ART AT VMFA TOPIC OF MARCH 21 LECTURE

Peter J. Schertz, Jack and Mary Ann Frable Curator of Ancient Art at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, will speak on “Ancient Art Renewed: The Reinstallation of Ancient Art at VMFA” at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 21, in Jepson Hall 118 on the campus of the University of Richmond.

In his lecture, the last in the 2009-10 series of talks sponsored by the Society, Schertz will provide an overview of the history of the ancient-art collection at the Museum and discuss his plans for the reinstallation, including layout and the principles that guide reinstallation. He will also consider some of the issues he has wrestled with, *e.g.*, whether to display Theby, the Museum’s ancient Egyptian mummy.

VMFA is set to reopen on May 1 after the multi-year construction of an addition, during which time the galleries were closed.

Schertz arrived at VMFA in 2006 after a year at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston as Kress Curatorial Fellow, responsible for updating records and labels for objects in the Museum’s Roman Court. He also assisted in planning, developing, and writing a volume of highlights of the collection.

He received his doctorate from the University of California in Los Angeles, also in 2006, with Classical Art and Archaeology as his major field and Early Medieval Art as his minor. His dissertation was on “Seer or Victim? The Figure of Marsyas in Roman Art, Religion, and Politics.”

Schertz’s bachelor’s degree in Classical Languages and Literature is from the University of Chicago, and his master’s in Museum Studies is from UCLA. He received a number of fellowships during his studies, and also did research in Rome for his dissertation and was a participant



PHOTO BY TAVIS FULLERTON, VMFA

in the Summer Program of the American Academy in Rome.

He participated in an excavation of the Early Bronze Age site of Ramat Hanadiv and the Roman-Byzantine site of Ein Yael, both in Israel. He has presented lectures both before and after joining the staff at VMFA, including at the University of Richmond, Mary Washington University, and Randolph-Macon College. He has articles in two forthcoming volumes,

Proceedings of the Societas Colloquium: Roman Political Ideology, and *The Social Construction of the Afterlife in Greco-Roman Antiquity*. He also edited *Images: A Journal of Jewish Art and Visual Culture*, 3, to be published this year.

There will be a reception following the lecture. MSA members are encouraged to attend and enjoy this preview of the “new” VMFA, and to invite other interested people to join us.

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**UPCOMING AIA,
RICHMOND SOCIETY,
EVENTS**

April 8: "Reconstructing Lost
Wonders of the World:
Pheidias' Zeus Olympios and
Athena Parthenos"
Kenneth Lapatin, J. Paul Getty
Museum
VMFA Pauley Center Parlor
6:00 p.m.

May 13: Annual Banquet
"New Excavations at Hacimusalar
Höyük."
Elizabeth Baughan, University of
Richmond
Country Club of Virginia
Reservations: John Harris, 355-7149

SCENES FROM THE MID-WINTER RECEPTION AND DINNER

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN HARRIS



*Board Member Doug
Gottwald with Ann
Loxterman at the
reception before
the dinner.*



*Pat Archer with
Board Member
Dr. Donald King.*



*MSA President
Julia Scott and
Barry Scott.*

MARCH 6 EXCURSION TO WASHINGTON FOR TERRACOTTA WARRIORS ENLIGHTENING AND ENJOYABLE

March 6 proved to be a beautiful and sunny—if a bit nippy—day for the Society’s excursion to Washington for the Chinese Terracotta Warriors Exhibition at the National Geographic’s Explorers Hall.

The trip, starting from the Holiday Inn-Crossroads, was smooth and fast. Entering Washington, we were able to view the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, and many other landmarks in the bright sunlight. The streets were filled with tourists enjoying the beautiful—almost springlike—day.

At the National Geographic Explorers Hall, we were met by Susan E.S. Norton, director of the National Geographic Museum, and perhaps more important for our group, the sister-in-law of the Society’s president, Julia S. Scott. Susan is a very busy woman; in addition to her role as head of the Museum, she is also events coordinator for National Geographic and chair of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. We felt very fortunate that she was able to spend several hours with us.

Ms. Norton presented an introduction to the exhibition and accompanied us as we wandered through the various rooms displaying the astounding terracotta warriors, and a few horses and other objects that had been discovered. During our tour she remarked on each room and answered the many questions that we posed. At one stop a man showed Ms. Norton a photograph which he had taken a number of years ago with the first three warriors to be restored.

After we toured the Terracotta Warriors Exhibition, Ms. Norton afforded us the special treat of a tour of the National Geographic headquarters, including the Board dining room, the hall with the vari-

Susan Norton (center) with her sister-in-law Julia Scott and brother Barry Scott.



Above, Susan Norton explaining the various awards NG gives.

Right, Genie Borum with a replica of one of the Terracotta Warriors.



ous awards presented by NG—including the Hubbard Award given to Richard Byrd—and the Board meeting room, which houses a long table made from one elm tree.

During our tour, Ms. Norton provided much information on the work of National Geographic and the support given to many famous explorers and anthropologists.

All of us were impressed with Ms. Norton’s knowledge and the generosity with which she shared that knowledge.

After the private tour of the headquarters, we met our bus for the ride to the National Gallery of Art. There we enjoyed free time to have lunch in one of the Gallery’s cafés or at a local restaurant, and to

view various of the special shows, including ones on “From Impressionism to Modernism” and “Small French Painting.”

At both the National Geographic’s Explorers Hall and the National Gallery of Art we ran into friends and acquaintances who had also come to Washington, either on their own or on the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts trip.

We all agreed that the day had been enlightening and enjoyable, and that Ms. Norton had made our day especially memorable.



The Mediterranean Society of America
P.O. Box 14793
Richmond, Virginia 23221

“Friends Traveling Together”

Be sure to visit the Society’s Web Site:
www.mediterranean-society.org

MSA ROUNDUP

BOARD CONTINUES PLANNING 2010–11 PROGRAM

At its meeting on February 13, MSA Board members continued to discuss plans for the 2010-11 season. In addition to four lectures, members are investigating a fall excursion to the Charlottesville area for the Kulge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia, with lunch at Keswick Hall; and a spring excursion to Montpellier, the home of James Madison, which has been restored to its Madisonian form, with lunch at Pomme in Gordonsville. For the spring seminar abroad, consideration is being given to a trip to Romania and Bulgaria.

Any member with suggestions for programs is invited to present them to a member of the Board, which will meet next to solidify plans on June 19.

TRAVELERS TO MOROCCO EAGERLY ANTICIPATE TRIP

The Society’s “Morocco: History and Culture” Seminar is set for May 17-31. Highlights of the trip include several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, such as the medina in Fes, the fortress of Ait Benhaddou, and Essaouria. Lodging during the two-week seminar will be in Rabat, Fes, Erfoud, Ouarzazate, Marrakech, Essaouria, and Casablanca.

ARTHUR F. STOCKER

Arthur F. Stocker, professor emeritus of Classics at the University of Virginia and a long-time member of the Society, died on January 13, two weeks shy of his 96th birthday.

Although failing eyesight had led him in more recent years to give up some of his favorite activities, including regular attendance at the performances of the Virginia Opera in Richmond, since his retirement in 1984 he maintained a busy schedule of both professional and other activities.

Generations of students during his thirty-eight-year tenure at the University will remember his exacting teaching, his impeccable manners, and his unflinching good humor.