

Council History

Part Five - The Fifth Decade

1995

The Council helped sponsor the Distinguished Lecture Series which featured talks by glass artist Dale Chihuly, and Phillipe de Montebello, Director of the Metropolitan Museum.

In celebration of its 40th anniversary, the Council gave the Museum a porcelain Dejeune Tea Service made in 1814 at the Sevres factory, in France.

Net income from the cookbook reached \$37,000, and 500 more copies were printed. The proceeds were used for the Center for Education and Outreach, and other Museum needs.

Staff liaison Debbie Frazier decided to retire from the Museum. Kathleen Schrader was chosen to fill the position.

Council's gift to the Museum from Shop sales and unspent funds was \$281,000. In addition, net proceeds for Fine Arts & Flowers amounted to almost \$79,000, which was used to produce a handbook on the Museum's permanent collection.

1996

The Council joined in celebrating the Museum's 60th birthday, and participated in the development of a 5-year strategic plan for Council and for the Museum.

Several special exhibitions went on view, most notably, "Fabergé in America." In conjunction with this exhibit, there were special events, including the Council's "Day of Style," in April and the Fabergé Ball in September (*figs. 1-2*).

Fred Brandt, upon his retirement from the Museum as a curator, was named an honorary member of the Council.

The Council Shop successfully operated kiosks in the galleries during the American

Impressionist, Roycrofters and Fabergé Exhibitions, and hired a full-time manager plus several part-time summer employees. The Docents were also kept very busy giving tours to thousands of visitors. In concert with the Foundation and the Board of Trustees, the Council was very involved both in funding the Fabergé exhibition and with the Fabergé Ball. The Ball netted \$1.7 million, which went into the Museum endowment.

1997

The Travel Committee continued to plan trips for both Council members and the Museum's general membership. This committee presented Director Katharine Lee with a check for \$10,000, representing the net proceeds from many trips over several years of Council and general membership travel.

Council's spring dinner featured artists Jack Beal and Sondra Frackelton as speakers.

Due to the unprecedented success of the Fabergé exhibition, the Shop and The Council were able to present the Museum with a gift of \$729,146. Of this amount, \$200,000 went into the Endowment, \$100,00 was used to buy stackable chairs for the auditorium and Marble Hall, and remaining funds were used for the Library, Education and Outreach, and many other Museum needs.

Fine Arts & Flowers netted over \$94,000 and was a huge success, with Kenneth Turner's master class and lecture, and all luncheons selling out. Shop sales reached \$29,000 over the two days of the event.

1998

The Shop embraced the computer age with new cash registers, eliminating hand-written sales tickets. The Shop gift to the Museum for the year was \$235,000.

Council History

Forty-three women were voted to full membership after a successful provisional year, and a new class of 30 provisional members received training.

The May lecture-luncheon featured Richard Martin, curator of the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum, who spoke on “Style and Substance in American Fashion.” This served as a great prelude to the special Council event, “Women of Style and Substance,” which took place in September (*fig.3*). Speakers for this sold-out event were Gloria Vanderbilt, Barbara Taylor Bradford, and Robert Becker, with Katherine Pearson of Southern Accents serving as moderator. During the program, Director Katharine Lee presented awards to 9 outstanding Virginia women. Proceeds from the event, totaling \$29,000, were earmarked for Museum programs for women and children.

1999

The Council joined the Museum in mourning the deaths of two of our most generous benefactors, Sidney Lewis and Paul Mellon.

Council Board members were among the first to tour the newly renovated Center for Education and Outreach after their March meeting.

The “Splendors of Ancient Egypt,” the largest exhibition ever undertaken by the Museum, was partially funded by The Council. It drew 250,000 visitors to the Museum; every available tour slot was booked, and the main Shop and its satellite (*fig.4*) enjoyed record sales. Council members planned and executed “Night on the Nile,” a gala ball (*fig.5*) attended by 805 people and three camels. This event netted \$268,000.

At the suggestion of Director Katharine Lee, the Council Board decided to “wean the Museum from dependence on the Shop gift” for operating expenses. Future gifts will be directed toward exhibitions, the Library and education, in that order.

2000

The new class of provisional members was voted into full membership. The class included 30 women and our first male member.

After more than 8 years as Director, Katharine Lee left to become Director of the Cleveland Museum. Richard Woodward, Associate Director and Curator of African Art, became our Interim Director.

The Museum’s new strategic plan was implemented, involving changes for The Council and for the Museum. A major Capital Campaign was begun in order to build a much-needed parking deck and a large addition to the Museum. Council’s millennium gift to the Museum was \$500,000 to create a named endowment for educational programs, establishing the Council as a leader in the Capital Campaign. Additional gifts totaling \$350,000 were also made.

The Travel Committee organized trips to Washington DC, Santa Fe, Annapolis and Philadelphia.

Dr. Michael Brand became the new Director of the Museum. He came to us from Brisbane, Australia, where he was assistant director of the Queensland Art Gallery.

The Impressionist Exhibition proved to be a blockbuster, for the Museum and for the Shop.

Another successful Fine Arts & Flowers was held in October, with an evening Gala, then 2 days with luncheons, a dinner and 5 speakers.

2001

The Council of VMFA ranked second in the nation in volunteer hours contributed. This was the inspiration for a resolution of recognition from the Board of Trustees.

It was decided that the Shop would adjust its

hours, to be open whenever the Museum is open.

Council produced a brochure, *The Council*, which explained our mission, activities, and volunteer opportunities. This became available at the Museum Membership desk.

\$100,000 of the Council's \$400,000 gift to the Museum was used to fund the Museum's Image and Identity Campaign. A marketing firm was hired to create a new identity and logo, which would give a uniform look to every Museum publication.

The Museum Shop participated in the Holiday Shoppers Fair, a co-operative three-day event involving sales shops from many area museums, which took place at the Virginia Historical Society. Our Shop took in about \$5000.

2002

Under the leadership of Carol Amato, Chief Operating Officer of the Museum, the Council began a year of work on a strategic business plan. The first task was to distribute, and then tabulate and examine, an extensive membership questionnaire. The Steering Committee was composed of Council members from many volunteer areas, age groups, and levels of experience. The committee was divided into two groups, one studying the shop, and one focusing on all other volunteer and fundraising areas.

Council trip destinations included Washington DC, Baltimore, and New Bern and Edenton, NC.

Upon the acquisition/gift of the Kreuzer collection of Art Nouveau buckles, the Museum presented an exhibition, *Celebrating Art Nouveau: The Kreuzer Collection*, partially supported by Council funds. The Council and the Friends of Art organized an elegant evening preview party, "Night Nouveau," which raised over \$20,000. We received local and national

publicity for this event.

2003

Due to increasingly large cutbacks in the state's funding of the Museum, it was decided to close to the public on Thursday evenings and on Tuesdays. This required considerable re-arranging of volunteers throughout the Council.

The special exhibition of Native-American art involved two special opening parties, one for the general membership of the Museum, and another for members at higher giving levels. The Shop installed a satellite location dedicated to Native-American items. Members of several Virginia tribes were included in planning the displays and in the openings.

The Council's Strategic Business Plan was completed and printed, then presented to the Board of Governors at the March meeting by Museum COO Carol Amato. It was unanimously approved. The Board thanked Carol for all her time and hard work on our behalf. The Plan then received approval from the Museum Board of Trustees and went into effect.

Some of the changes in Council procedure coming out of the Strategic Plan included: the new office of president-elect, a one-year term before assuming a two-year presidency, aimed at a smoother transition from one president to another; a new structure for the Board of Governors; new member self-proposal; year-round acceptance of new members; eliminating the requirement to work in the Shop the first year of membership; creation of a Shop Management Committee; and having Shop merchandise and displays relate more to the Museum's permanent collection.

For the first time, the Museum collaborated with the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, DC on an exhibition, "Mr. Whistler's Galleries."

Council History

David Curry was co-curator and the exhibition was at the Freer.

Fine Arts & Flowers was a big success, with exhibitors from the two state garden club organizations interpreting 62 masterworks (*fig. 6*). The event raised more than \$105,000. In addition, there was a Shop gift of \$100,000.

The Museum's New Identity Initiative was completed and the new logo, VMFA, was adopted.

2004

The Travel Committee organized trips to San Francisco, Philadelphia, Fredericksburg, Lexington, Washington, DC, and New York.

In order to comply with the Strategic Business Plan, several by-law changes were necessary. All of these were approved by the Council Board and later by the membership.

Exhibitions for the year included "Bonjour Monsieur Courbet!", "Van Gogh & Gauguin: An Artistic Dialogue in the South of France." The Council helped fund both exhibits.

Barbara Lenhardt, the "best thing that could have happened to the Shop," was hired as the new Shop Manager. She immediately began reducing the huge inventory by having sales, enabled online shopping, and revitalized everyone involved.

The Decorations Committee made floral arrangements for the dedication of the newly named Leslie Cheek Theatre.

The Council gift to the Museum for the year was \$50,000, to be used for the Library and educational programs.

The Council said a sad goodbye to Kathy Morris as she left to go to the Clark Art Institute in

Williamstown, MA. Kathy began her career at VMFA as a Council-funded intern, and had been the Council/Staff liaison since 1994. Sandy Rusak will replace her in that position.

2005

The Council and VMFA mourned the loss of two wonderful ladies, Sally Chase Todd, a charter member of Council, and Mary Tyler Cheek McClenahan, an honorary member and great friend.

The Membership Desk and Information Desk placements were combined, and became a 12-month placement.

According to the dollar amount assigned to volunteer hours, VMFA volunteers contributed almost \$1,000,000 over the past fiscal year.

For the 50th anniversary year, several events were planned, with a kick-off luncheon celebration on May 23. This was also the date for launching the new cookbook, *Masterpieces—A Celebration of Food and Art in Virginia*.

To commemorate our 50th anniversary, Sandy Rusak curated an exhibition of a sampling of Council gifts to the Museum, which went on view in the North Wing (*fig. 7*).

At the 50th anniversary Lecture-Luncheon, all Council Charter Members and past-Presidents were specially invited guests (*figs. 8-9*). There was a slide show of the highlights of all Council events over the past half-century.

The accomplishments of our first 50 years are many. We expect the next 50 to be even better.



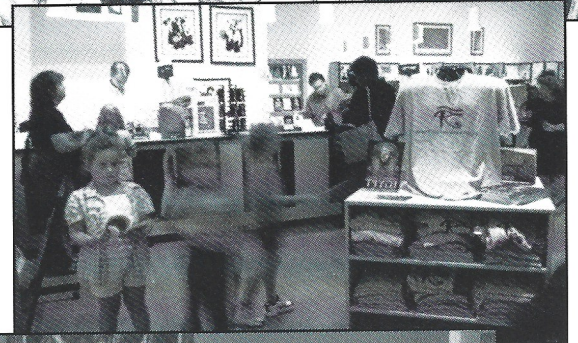
1



2



3



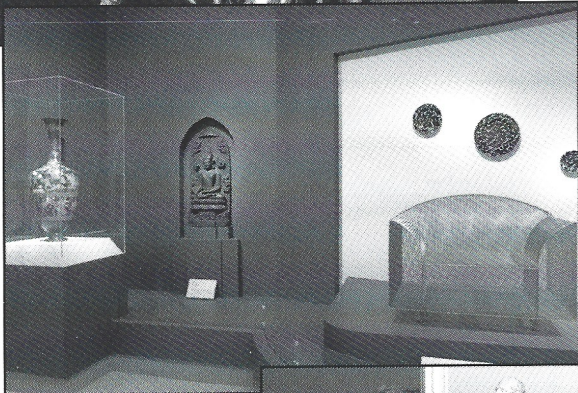
4



5



6



7



8



9

COUNCIL GIFTS TO VMFA

The following is only a partial listing of Gifts to VMFA made possible, in whole or in part, by
The Council

Gifts for Departments, Events and Programs:

Countless Books for the Library	Docent Training
Countless VMFA Exhibitions	Delegates to Virginia Docent Exchange
Three Days in March High School Residency Program	Delegates to National Docent Symposia
Two Days in April High School Residency Program	Council Graphics Art Fund
The Summer Institute for Educators	Council Good Design Fund
Artmobile Program	The Decorative Arts Fund
Statewide Traveling Exhibitions	Re-installation of the Asian Galleries
Statewide Media Resources	Youth Guild/High School Programs
Educational posters and gallery guides	Friends of Art (seed money)
Heirloom Discovery Days	Landscaping of VMFA grounds
Distinguished Lecture Series	Moveable Stage for the West Wing
Children's Saturday Workshops	Holiday Open House
VMFA Speakers Bureau	Renovation of Members' Suite
Children's Art Resource Center	Volunteer Recognition Days
VMFA Internship Program	Conservation Endowment
Statewide Artist Workshop Program	Education Endowment
Hispanic and African American History Month Programs	Horticulture Fund
Performing Arts events	Byzantine Gallery Installation
VMFA Family Days	TEAMS Programs
Delegates to VCAM Meetings	Council Curator Fund
	Council Trustee Contribution Fund
	Fellowship Program

Gifts of Art:

<i>Oracle</i> , by Seymour Lipton	<i>Aesthetic Tea Pot</i> , by James Hadley
<i>The Jolly Corner</i> , by Peter Milton	<i>Analysis of Beauty</i> , by William Hogarth
<i>Moonstrips Empire News</i> , by Eduardo Paolozzi	<i>Group of Two Bacchantes Adorning a Herm of Pan</i> , by William Duesbury and Company
<i>General Dynamics F.U.N.</i> , by Eduardo Paolozzi	<i>Carpet from the Dialogue Series</i> , designed by Roy Lichtenstein
<i>Couple se Tenant les Bras</i> , by Hans Erni	<i>Carpet from the Dialogue Series</i> , designed by David Hockney
<i>Passage II</i> , by Peter Milton	<i>Royal Tea Service, "Dejeuner Mosaique Florentine,"</i> by Sevres
<i>Ewer (Silver)</i> , by John Curry	<i>How High the Moon Chair</i> , by Shiro Kuramata
<i>Red-figure Lekythos</i> , South Italian	<i>Art Deco Chair</i> , by Robert Venturi
<i>Tureen and Cover and Stand from the Saint Andreas Service</i> , by Meissen	<i>"White Little Beaver" Chair and Ottoman</i> , by Frank Gehry
(4 pairs) <i>Candelabra</i> , by Mathew Boulton	
(2 pairs) <i>Candelabra</i>	
<i>Candelabrum</i>	
<i>Lokanatha</i> , Indian	
(13) 19th century frames for American Art	