



The Archivists' Bulldog



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Art as Ambassador: Some Recent Loans from the Peabody Collection



Since acquiring the Peabody Collection in 1996, the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property has overseen loans of several works of art from this prestigious collection to cultural institutions throughout the country and abroad. Due to the wide range of artists represented in the Peabody Collection, and its scope encompassing the 16th through the 20th centuries, the Commission staff receives many requests throughout any given year for reproduction images, as well as for loan to special exhibitions. Perhaps the most high-profile painting owned by the state, and the one most frequently inquired after by the public is *Portrait of Madame J* by Mary Cassatt [MSA SC 4680-10-10]. In 2001, this portrait, probably of Mary Cassatt's sister-in-law Jennie Cassatt, painted in 1883, was loaned to the Museum of Fine Arts in Bilbao, Spain, for the exhibition, *An Intimate Vision: Women Impressionists*. In 2006, *Portrait of*

Madame J will be exhibited at two foreign venues: The National Gallery in London, for the exhibition, *Americans in Paris*, and at the National Museum of Denmark, The Glyptotek, Copenhagen, for the exhibition, *Women and Impressionism*.

When not on loan out of state, *Portrait of Madame J* is on extended loan to the Baltimore Museum of Art where it is displayed in the permanent galleries.

Other recent loans from the collection have been for exhibitions at The J. Paul Getty Museum, The Portland Museum of Art, The Williams College Museum of Art, and the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, among others.

Loan requests are considered by the sub-committee for exhibitions of the Commission on Artistic Property, and approved on a case-by-case basis. As is standard procedure in the museum field, the borrowing institution is responsible for paying the costs of any necessary conservation or preparation in order that the work of art can safely travel and be displayed. In this way, the Commission has been able to conserve several paintings over the past few years that would not otherwise have been treated.

So don't be surprised if you happen upon a painting from the collection of the Maryland State Archives upon your travels around the country or elsewhere. The Commission on Artistic Property, on behalf of the State of Maryland, is proud to share these treasures from the Peabody Collection with members of the public around the world.

Archives Staff Host Academic Program in the State House



On Saturday, October 15, Archives' staff hosted a tour and educational program in the State House for the Fellows of the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture. Curator of Artistic Property, Elaine Rice Bachmann (a graduate of the Winterthur Program), along with Assistant Curator Sasha Lourie, and Research Archivist Ryan Polk, conducted a "curator's" tour that included an exploration of the dome, as well as public and private spaces throughout the building. Special emphasis was placed on demonstrating the role of Maryland State government as a patron of artists and artisans from the 18th century to the present through the commissioning of art and furnishings on display in public buildings. The first public commission by the Maryland Legislature is the portrait of *Washington, Lafayette, and Tilghman at Yorktown*, painted by Charles Willson Peale in 1784, on display in the Old Senate Chamber. To demonstrate the most recent commission, the students were given the

opportunity to examine the Wye Oak Desk, made from the wood of Maryland's Wye Oak, and used by Governor Robert L. Erhlich, Jr., in his State House office.

The tour was followed by an in-depth study of the furnishings in the Old Senate Chamber, particularly the Senate President's desk, and a member's desk, made by the shop of John Shaw in 1797 as part of an overall furnishing of the room. Sasha Lourie led a hands-on study of these pieces comparing and contrasting original construction techniques with later restoration work. Sasha's presentation included his original research into the Tuck brothers, William and Washington, who both worked in Shaw's shop and may have had a large role in fulfilling the State House commission.

Following the State House program, the Fellows were hosted to lunch at the William Paca House followed by a curator's tour of the house with Alexandra Deutsch, Historic Annapolis Foundation and a graduate of the Winterthur Program. Additional programs were held at the Hammond-Harwood House and the Brice House. The visit to Annapolis was part of two-day field trip to explore the material culture of Maryland, and was preceded by a day-long visit to St. Mary's City, led by Dr. Henry Miller.

The Winterthur Program is a two-year program of study held at the Winterthur Museum in Wilmington, Delaware, in conjunction with the University of Delaware. Alumni of the program often go on to work as curators, educators, and administrators in the field of American history, art, and decorative arts. The Fellows were accompanied by Dr. J. Ritchie Garrison, Director of the Winterthur Program and Professor of History at the University of Delaware.

Questers Grant to Preserve Kent County Records

On October 18, 2005, the Archives hosted several members of the Kitty Knight Questers Chapter 1031, from Kent County, Maryland. The Questers, a service organization with 900 chapters based in the United States and Canada, promotes education and seeks to encourage the preservation, restoration and conservation of historic buildings, sites and antiquities.

In 2004, the Archives received a grant from the Questers for the restoration of two volumes of Kent County Court records covering 1694 to 1739, which were in danger of complete deterioration. Conservators Vicki Lee and Jenn Foltz Cruickshank repaired tears, cleaned debris, reinforced unstable bindings, and removed corrosive materials that were accelerating the deterioration of the paper and loss of information. Additionally, the staff of the Archives of

Maryland scanned and transcribed the restored volumes, and placed fully searchable text and images of the original volumes online. The paper volumes were then retired from circulation with all access to the records now through the digital versions, *Archives of Maryland Online* (<http://aomol.net>) volumes [668](#) and [669](#).

During their visit, the Questers's members toured the Conservation Lab and listened to a presentation given by Vicki and Jenn about conservation techniques and 17th and 18th century paper, ink, and record keeping, while reviewing the restored volumes and others still awaiting repair. Jean Russo provided insight into the records, discussing interesting cases found in them and their value to researchers. The Archives greatly appreciates the support of the Questers and looks forward to working with them again in the future.

<p style="text-align:center">THE ARCHIVISTS' BULLDOG Founded 1987</p>
<p>Edward C. Papenfuse, <i>State Archivist</i> Kathy Beard, <i>Production Editor</i> Patricia V. Melville, <i>Editor</i> Mimi Calver, <i>Assistant Editor</i> Lynne MacAdam, <i>Web Editor</i></p> <hr style="width:20%; margin:auto;"/>
<p>The Maryland State Archives is an independent agency in the Office of the Governor and is advised by the Hall of Records Commission. The Chairman of the Hall of Records Commission is the Honorable Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals.</p>
<p>The Archivists' <i>Bulldog</i> is issued monthly to publicize records collections, finding aids, and other activities of the Archives and its staff.</p>
<p>The Editor welcomes editorial comments and contributions from the public.</p>
<p>The Archives maintains a web site on the Internet at http://mdsa.net</p>

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