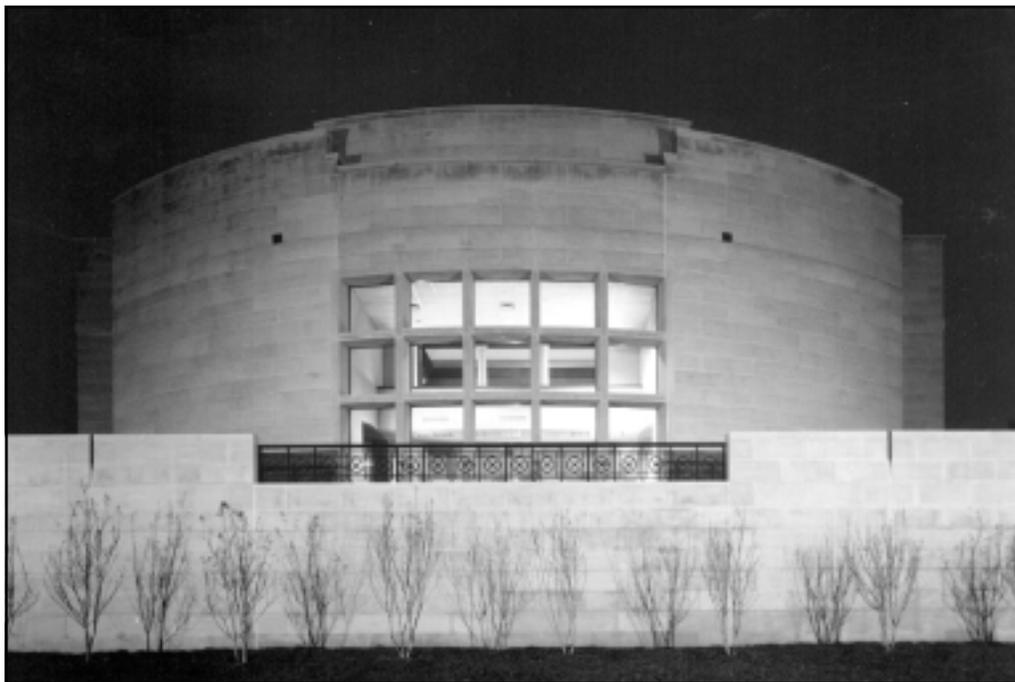


# Virginia Libraries

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***Virginia Is Rich with Special Libraries***

*Also: Copyright Law, New Directions for Virginia Library History, and Virginia Books*

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*On the cover: The Virginia  
Historical Society*

# Virginia Libraries

April/May/June, 1999, Vol. 45, No. 2

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*Virginia Libraries* is a quarterly journal published by the Virginia Library Association whose purpose is to develop, promote, and improve library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to advance literacy and learning and to ensure access to information in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The journal, distributed to the membership, is used as a vehicle for members to exchange information, ideas, and solutions to mutual problems in professional articles on current topics in the library and information field.

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Items for publication and editorial inquiries should be addressed to the editor. Inquiries regarding membership, subscriptions, advertising, or claims should be directed to VLA, P.O. Box 8277, Norfolk, VA 23503-0277. All personnel happenings and announcements should be sent to the *VLA Newsletter*, Mary Hansbrough, P.O. Box 90001, University Libraries, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24062, (540) 231-8832, fax (540) 231-3694, e-mail maryhans@vt.edu. *Virginia Libraries* is available by subscription at \$20 per year.

The guidelines for submissions to *Virginia Libraries* are found on page 11.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

# The Value of a State Library Association

by *Sandra Heinemann*

**M**ay marked the half-way mark in my tenure as VLA President. It has been a very busy time. I have attended meetings in many areas of the Commonwealth, written numerous letters, chaired meetings, responded to e-mails, spoken with legislators, and carried out a myriad of other duties. During this time, my commitment to the association that I have been involved in for over 20 years has increased, and, more than ever, I appreciate and value the ways in which the members promote and sustain its mission. The association is the sum of its various parts. Members work in a number of different types of libraries—special, academic, school, and public. They hold a variety of positions—reference, technical services, acquisitions, and administration, to name a few. Some of our members are trustees or friends. What we all have in common is a belief in the value of libraries, library services, and the library profession.

So, why are we members of our state professional association? First and foremost, our association gives us the opportunity to speak as one voice in support of our mission and our values. The Virginia Library Association provides leadership and a structure to effectively influence legislators in both the Virginia General Assembly and the U. S. Congress. Critical issues relative to funding and intellectual freedom are determined by these governing bodies. There is strength in numbers. A critical mass speaking as one

voice can move mountains. This year, through the efforts of VLA's legislative liaison and Legislative Committee, the association secured a budget amendment which increased state aid to public libraries by \$2.8 million for FY2000. Every public library and its users benefit from this. VLA also worked with members of the General Assembly to adopt Internet use policies that would allow libraries local control over patron use of the Internet. This occurred during a time when attempts were made to legislate use of the Internet in libraries and schools, thereby impeding access to electronic information sources in those institutions.

Secondly, the Virginia Library Association provides affordable and accessible continuing education opportunities for all library personnel in the state. At a time when the costs of training opportunities and attendance at national conferences is escalating, VLA offers workshops of current interest to all levels and types of library employees. The VLA Annual Conference has been held every year since 1923. It continues to attract first rate speakers on a variety of relevant topics. In addition, it provides an opportunity to showcase our local talent as more and more Virginia librarians support the association by presenting programs at the conference. The VLA-sponsored Paraprofessional Forum Conference attracts nearly 500 attendees annually because it fulfills a need to network and learn, and it is affordable.

Thirdly, professional develop-

ment and career advancement are furthered through networking at VLA conferences and workshops, and by serving the association on committees and in other leadership positions. Such opportunities are less costly to institutions in terms of personnel time and institutional resources than participation in regional or national organizations. VLA funds two major scholarships through corporate and individual donations with the awards contingent on the recipient's commitment to a career in a Virginia library. These people will staff the libraries of tomorrow.

Why should every library director and all other library personnel and supporters belong to VLA? VLA is the underpinning that connects all library services and library personnel in the state. Every one of us lives in a community that has a public library; every one of us is a library user. Many of our children use school libraries; some of us are graduate students who use university libraries. We should support an organization that allows our collective voices to be heard in a way that can bring results. Organizations such as ours do not exist on air alone; people provide the time, energy, commitment, and financial support to maintain worthwhile organizations. The more individuals and institutions contribute, the more they, and society, will receive in return. To those of you who are members, take "One Minute for Membership" and ask someone you know to join. **VL**

## OPENERS

# Special Libraries, Expanded Online Presence

by Cy Dillon

**G**inger Young, current president of the Virginia Special Libraries Association, recently asked me, "Where else can you network with librarians from NASA Langely, Colonial Williamsburg, the Roanoke Times, Mezzullo & McCandlish, the Federal Reserve Bank, the College of William and Mary, and Philip Morris?" She had me there.

Living in a state rich with special libraries, we often take their diversity and bounty for granted. While *Virginia Libraries* frequently features special libraries and their librarians, we are particularly fortunate that this issue contains five articles about special libraries and their work, along with a discussion of copyright law by a distinguished law librarian and a piece on a new prize for writing about the history of libraries in the Commonwealth.

Ginger went on to say that "Our libraries add a touch of the corporate and the museum world to the public, school and academic libraries, which are the backbone of VLA. We have varying work places and clientele, but networking gives us valuable support for serving our parent companies." Certainly our association is enriched by its scores of members from special libraries, and the level of interconnection and multi-type cooperation found among Virginia's libraries should be a model for other types of institutions. We have longstanding success in multi-type buying consortia, multi-type interlibrary loan agreements, and, through VLA's legislative efforts, multi-type advocacy programs. We can expect even more in the future

If you are thinking about work-

ing in a special library, Ginger advises that "The future looks promising for a career in special libraries; information is highly valued in the business world. Special Librarians tend to work with specialized types of information, and personal expertise is welcomed." Let me add that VLA appreciates the participation and support of all the professionals and paraprofessionals who make Virginia's special libraries work.

Speaking of work, all of us associated with *Virginia Libraries* want to thank Gail McMillian and the rest of the staff at the Virginia Tech Library's Scholarly Communication Project for the job they have done in making our journal part of their electronic publishing effort. Led by our own Associate Editor Nan Seamans, they have produced a handsome and remarkably useful version of the magazine. Issues since the title change are archived in the pdf format, providing exact images of the pages. Issues beginning with the first quarter of 1999 will be available in both the pdf and HTML versions. HTML allows for live links to internet sites and e-mail addresses, and it has the advantages of quick downloading and easy cutting and pasting for quotations. That means articles featuring web sites will support direct browsing, and that it will be quite simple to send a colleague—or an entire list—a book review or article.

The SCP staff has also allowed our webmaster Steve Helm to link directly to their attractive and authoritative site for the VLA site's version of *Virginia Libraries*. Take a

look for yourself by going to the VLA page, selecting "publications," and clicking on the *Virginia Libraries* link. Beyond the value of the archive itself, we are delighted with the additional status our authors will have by being part of the SCP. It is also pleasing to think of being able to post links to articles in listservs and on web sites, or even of being able to access and download images from past issues. Our copyright policy allows, even encourages just that sort of use.

We believe this web presence, along with the quality hard copy and the H. W. Wilson commercial version of our journal, help us fulfill our purpose. *Virginia Libraries* is intended to promote communication among members of the library community and to make it easy to share good ideas, pass along vital information, and address important issues we face in our work. The SCP version takes us to an entirely new level of ease of access and use.

Finally, I want to make a belated expression of appreciation for the efforts of Jane Schillie in helping put together the first quarter issue on library instruction. She not only wrote a fine article, but she also helped identify and recruit new authors. A space crunch in the column area and my own carelessness in writing caused an oversight that has to be corrected. The quality of the articles in *Virginia Libraries* is often the result of networking by recognized leaders such as Jane, and I would not want to be responsible for producing the journal without support of this caliber. ■

# Listening to the Past: The Collections of the Virginia Historical Society

*by Frances Pollard*

Shortly after he was named the Librarian of Congress in 1939, Archibald MacLeish commented that libraries were familiar to most people only as “imposing edifices on important streets.” The Virginia Historical Society fits that description, and until more recent times, it probably took a certain amount of courage for visitors to climb the front steps, pass by the Ionic columns, and peek inside the front doors.

Those doors stand open these days, and a glance at the registration guest book confirms that the library attracts a varied mix of researchers. There are historians sifting through manuscripts and doctoral students anxiously trying to wrap up their Virginia research before time and funds run out. Local history enthusiasts seek information on a particular field of interest, from railroads to the Algonquian vocabulary. A high school student writes his honors paper on the history of Richmond baseball leagues. Genealogists from all over the country arrive because their ancestors have led them back to Virginia. And the occasional tourist approaches the Reference Desk and asks innocently, “What kind of stuff do you have here?”

It is a legitimate question and the short answer is “Virginia

stuff.” Since 1831, the Historical Society has collected materials that support the study and interpretation of Virginia’s history and culture. The first items given to the Society—an account of the 1706 witchcraft trial of Grace Sherwood of Princess Anne County and a memoir of Colonel John Stuart

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about the Indian wars in western Virginia—are still preserved in the collections and have been joined by 7 million manuscripts, 145,000 books, and an extensive collection of maps, newspapers, photographs, and museum objects.

After more than a century and a half of collecting, the Society holds the evidence of the life and times of Virginians whose shared stories constitute our past. The collections include such treasures as

the diary of George Washington kept during his first year as president, letters written by emancipated slaves who emigrated to Liberia, the first cookbook published in America, and gold buttons from a hat worn by Pocahontas. The collection and preservation of these unique and fragile items is complemented by the Historical Society’s commitment to their access and interpretation.

The manuscripts are the most important segment of the collections. As the largest repository of non-official manuscripts in Virginia, the Society is a magnet for researchers. The collection includes personal, family, and corporate papers from the 17th century to the present. One can read the private mail of the colonial elite—the Carters, the Byrds of Westover, the Tayloes of Mt. Airy, and the Fitzhughs. There are diaries, and letter books, and account books kept by governors and presidents and Revolutionary patriots. The leaders of the Confederacy are well-represented, including Jeb Stuart, Stonewall Jackson, and the largest collection of Robert E. Lee correspondence in existence.

In addition to these manuscripts pertaining to the “rich and famous,” patrons also can sit in the reading room and handle the



papers of “ordinary” Virginians: the businessman writing in the 1840s and wondering if he will be able to pay his bank loan; or the anxious farmer recording the weather daily, praying for rain. There is a mother’s antebellum diary where she records with heart-breaking regularity the births and deaths of her children. And homesick soldiers during World War II send V-mail back to their families in Virginia.

Reading such documents can be an intimate and moving experience. These are authentic voices from the past and historians listen closely. The traditional fields of historical study—biography, military, political, church, business, and economic research—continue to be researched through the collections.

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The field of social history, while not new, continues to attract a growing number of students and historians. Whether they are researching women’s history, African-American studies, or the ideology of Civil War soldiers, these collections of private family papers are a gold mine for researchers trying to

evoke a particular sense of place and time.

Complementing the Society’s manuscript holdings is its collection of rare books and other published materials. In addition to Virginia-related travels, histories, and biographical accounts, the library actively collects architectural plan books, Confederate imprints, and Virginia imprints, particularly those prior to 1870. The library also seeks first editions by Virginia authors and “association books,” or books once owned by Virginians and bearing signatures, bookplates, annotations, or other marks of ownership. Examples of these holdings include the library of Robert Carter of Nomini Hall, General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson’s personal library, and vol-

umes from the libraries of William Byrd of Westover, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and Ellen Glasgow, as well as many others who figure in the four centuries of Virginia's history.

The comprehensive Virginia collection ranges from the general—local history, genealogies, directories, regimental histories and published records—to the obscure—a booklet that lists the name of everyone issued a Virginia drivers license in 1912. More selective collections of American, Southern, and English history are also maintained. There is an extensive collection of sheet music pertaining to Virginia, and a broadside collection announcing everything from a 1615 lottery in England to raise money to settle Virginia to Douglas Wilder's campaign for governor.

The manuscript and book collections are thoroughly cataloged, and many items have additional indices prepared by the staff. This is a non-circulating library with closed stacks, but people who cannot visit the library can log onto the catalog via the Internet through the Society's Web site ([www.vahistorical.org](http://www.vahistorical.org)). Although it will be some time before retrospective conversion is complete, the on-line catalog will eventually provide integrated access to the manuscript, book, and museum collections in one searchable database. Future searchable components of the catalog will include records of maps, newspapers, photographs, and portraiture.

In addition to being a research library, the Virginia Historical Society is also a museum that oversees the special collections. These materials range chronologically from Jamestown colony relics to a uniform worn by a Virginia marine in

Desert Storm. The museum collections include photographs, portraits, the largest collection of Confederate militaria in the country, Virginia-made silver and furniture, and mourning jewelry. These collections are showcased in the permanent exhibit "The Story of Virginia: an American Experience."

A special effort has been made to preserve ephemeral items, such as tickets, bookplates, menus, programs, playbills, and invitations.

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The special collections also house items that range from the eccentric to the bizarre, such as a cigar butt discarded by Jefferson Davis, a likeness of Robert E. Lee carved from a tree fungus, hair from the tail of Lee's horse, Traveller, and an autographed photo of Elvis inscribed to Governor Lindsay Almond.

The Historical Society's staff provides access to these materials through exhibits, the research library, publications such as the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, and a variety of educational programs. All these activities are enhanced by a partnership with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the state agency charged with overseeing historic preservation. A three-story wing was added to the Society's

building in 1998, part of which is rented to the DHR under long-term lease. The DHR now has a permanent, public exhibition space, collection facilities, and an expanded library and archives for the public. These two institutions, one private and one public, share a similar mission of stewardship of Virginia's rich historical legacy.

All of these diverse collections take on an added significance by being housed under one roof. A researcher studying migration patterns from Virginia to the West can come to the library and read the secondary literature and then examine an original 1846 journal kept by a young woman who left Virginia for Missouri. The patron can later stroll through the gallery and stand before an authentic Conestoga wagon made in Sperryville in the 1830s.

A local high school student recently made a remark that reminded us of the value and richness of the collections. She attends an all-girls school that has formed a partnership with the Historical Society, and the class visits the library throughout the year. A reporter had come to the library to interview the students who were working on a class project about women's clubs in the 1920s. When the reporter asked one student what textbook the class was using, the student responded, "We don't have one. The Society's library is our textbook."

The Virginia Historical Society is located at 428 N. Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia 23221. The library, galleries, and offices are open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The galleries are also open on Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. ▀



*The Library of Virginia History, located in the new addition of the Virginia Historical Society, features ample seating and museum-like displays.*



# Partnering for Better Health Care: The Role of Academic Health Sciences Librarians

*by Karen Grandage and Linda Watson*

**A**sk a group of health sciences librarians why they are in this specialty, and you are likely to hear at least one of the following: "The information I provide could help save a patient's life." "I feel I am making a real contribution to the progress of medicine." "I like to be where the action is." "I'm proud of the leadership role medical libraries have taken in library automation and computer services for clients." "Medicine is an exciting and challenging environment." And indeed, when walking down the halls in an academic health sciences center, one notices that the pace is seldom slow. There is a palpable sense of urgency and energy—reflecting, perhaps, the pace of scientific discoveries and their application to medicine, as well as the increasing capabilities of computer technology in medical diagnosis, therapy, and information management. Academic health sciences libraries reflect the unique health care institutions they serve where users might arrive in scrubs or business suits and where research mingles with teaching and the delivery of health care by physicians, nurses, and the many different allied health professions.

## Information at the Bedside

The academic health sciences center is a setting where information is often put to immediate use with potential impact on life and death situations. The library serves as an

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important link in providing access to information that trains health care providers and supports daily health care decisions. The library's goal is to make information resources more readily available to clinicians at the point of need. The Internet and, more specifically, the World Wide Web, have enabled librarians to develop linkages and deliver information within the health professional schools, the hospitals and clinics, and to geo-

graphically remote community-based primary care sites around the state. At the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, an ever-expanding Web site (<http://www.med.virginia.edu/hs-library/>) serves as a single, convenient access point for databases, links to full-text books and journals, and even online forms for requesting information that the Library doesn't have in its collection. Customized "portals" or Web front doors to library resources and services are now being developed to allow clinicians and researchers to further individualize the essential information they access on a daily basis.

## Teaching Information-Seeking Skills

The explosion of the medical literature and the influx of new information technologies have increased the opportunities for health sciences librarians to get involved in education and curriculum-related activities in the health sciences center. Busy health care practitioners are shifting away from being memory repositories to becoming efficient information seekers and managers. Many of the facts learned in medical school

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*Karen Grandage is the Educational Services Coordinator and Linda Watson the Director of the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library - University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, Charlottesville Virginia.*

today will be irrelevant, or even wrong, five years from now. An evolving approach toward "evidence-based healthcare" emphasizes that not all information is good or relevant, and promotes the idea that the literature must be passed through a filter of critical evaluation to become evidence used in medical practice. Health sciences librarians are becoming instrumental in working with clinicians to identify and manage the "best" information for clinical care. Librarians are now involved in training students and practitioners to convert information needs into focused questions, to determine appropriate information sources and search strategies, and to critically appraise studies and results. This approach is also playing out in consumer health information, where librarians are creating and promoting guidelines for consumers on how to separate good information from bad on the Internet.

### Managing Information

Medical school libraries share the dilemma of other academic research libraries in trying to cope with the publication of unprecedented amounts of new knowledge. The volume of biomedical information is estimated to double every 10 years with millions of medical articles published annually in more than 70 languages. It has been claimed that if you managed to read two biomedical articles every single day, you would be 55 centuries behind each year! This glut of information (someone likened it to drinking from a fire hose) is coupled with the increasing expectations of users that "everything is online, for free." This, of course, is not true. Medical library budgets are strained to the breaking point trying to balance the purchase of both print and electronic materials. The shifting

### It Really Adds Up

In 1997/98 there were 159 medical school libraries (both allopathic and osteopathic) in the United States and Canada. Most of these libraries are part of an academic health center which often includes schools for other disciplines such as nursing, dentistry, public health or allied health, as well as one or more hospitals. Collectively, these libraries hold more than 32 million volumes, employ 5,000 total librarians and support staff, and have annual expenditures of nearly \$306 million. In Virginia, the three academic health sciences libraries (at Eastern Virginia Medical School, Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Virginia) together have 606,000 volumes, 127 staff and \$7.5 million in annual expenditures.

(Figures from *Annual Statistics of Medical School Libraries in the United States and Canada 1997/98*, Seattle: Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries, 1999.)

publication landscape now requires the careful negotiation of license agreements with online vendors to permit optimum access for library users. Librarians are also fighting hard to protect fair-use and preservation rights in the electronic environment. Long-established resource sharing networks such as the National Network of Libraries of Medicine could be at risk, or will need to change with the new models of publication.

### The Cycle of Discovery, Practice, and Learning

A researcher in molecular genetics has an idea. She seeks the assistance of a health sciences librarian to formulate a comprehensive literature review through resources such as MEDLINE, as well as the Internet, to include with her grant proposal. The researcher receives the grant, makes significant discoveries, and publishes several articles in prestigious journals to which her library subscribes. Other researchers build on her discover-

ies which eventually result in a new way to test for genetic disease. A genetic counselor at the academic health center attends a class at the library that teaches how to identify information that makes a difference in patient care. He puts that knowledge to work and finds an article based on the research of the molecular geneticist. The next day he suggests the test to a patient, and later teaches a group of second-year medical students about what he was able to do with the information he found.

This is part of the satisfaction of being a health sciences librarian—playing an integral role in the cycle of scientific communication as knowledge navigators and teachers. The discovery of new information, the dissemination of that information and its synthesis into knowledge, the application of that knowledge to benefit a patient, and finally, the transfer of knowledge to the next generation of health professionals: this is the environment in which health sciences librarians thrive and make their contribution to society. ■

# A New Home for the National Sporting Library

by *Laura Rose*

**I**n a 1995 article in this journal, I wrote that the National Sporting Library, which has a world-class collection of books on horse and field sports, was the best-kept secret in the quiet, historic town of Middleburg, Virginia. Secret? With all the blasting, bulldozing, and building that has accompanied the construction of its new 15,000-square foot facility on the west end of town, the library is now anything but, and it promises to remain a hot topic on the streets of Middleburg and beyond as it opens the doors this fall to its new home and ushers in a colorful and exciting new era in its history.

For nearly 30 years the library has been housed in the basement of Vine Hill, an 1804 brick mansion in Middleburg. Many of the visitors making their way down to the library space, which has a leaky vault and one two-by-three-foot window, have commented on the less-than-perfect conditions for both books and the people who work with and enjoy them. As the library grew, it began bursting at the seams, and in the early 1990s the library's board began to research possibilities for expansion. In the end the decision was made to construct a state-of-the-art facility—one designed with optimum conditions in mind—on the same seven-acre site as Vine Hill. The result is a library whose

biggest challenges in the near future will be not its limitations but a lack of them as it expands both as a research center and a member of its community.

The new facility will offer the library's 15,000-volume room to breathe and grow. A secure and

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environmentally-controlled rare book room will house the rare book collection, which includes items dating back to 1528. An audiovisual center will allow storage and viewing opportunities for films, videos and other materials. And, numerous attractive study areas will be available for researchers.

But researchers aren't the only ones who will benefit from the new facility, which includes an exhibit hall and a meeting room that will provide unlimited oppor-

tunities for the library to reach out to a diverse community. An inaugural exhibit featuring treasures from the library's collection will kick off an extensive program of exhibitions, events, lectures and other educational offerings eagerly anticipated by library users and supporters near and far, and by the 600 inhabitants of Middleburg and many residents in the surrounding areas.

Forty-five years after its founding, the library will finally have the home it deserves. The collection, which was perhaps appropriately first housed in a barn, was founded by Alexander Mackay-Smith and George L. Ohrstrom Sr., who envisioned a place where precious sporting book collections could be assembled for the use of researchers. A special "Founders' Room" will honor the men whose vision has been taken to the limit as the National Sporting Library has evolved into a bona fide research center with an international reputation in its fields of study.

Mr. Mackay-Smith, himself known around the world as a renowned scholar on sporting subjects, was the library's guiding influence until his death last year at the age of 95. He served not only as curator and a member of the library's board of directors until that time, but from its inception was also the greatest fan and

user of its collections. Not two weeks before his death he called the library to inquire about a title he needed to complete his tenth book, *Speed and the Thoroughbred Racehorse*, which is forthcoming.

Though Vine Hill will no longer house the National Sporting Library, it will still be the keeper of many of my fondest memories. It's where I unpacked box after box after box of incredible rare books from the remarkable 5,000-volume collection donated by collector John H. Daniels. It's where I had the opportunity to meet Paul Mellon, who in his will generously remembered the library with \$1 million and numerous artworks, including a bronze of a Civil War mount that will stand in front of the new library building. It's where I watched the late Ellen B. Wells, the brilliant former chief of Special Collections at the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, after the arrival of the NSL's von Hunersdorf Collection as she handled rare titles she had included in her unequalled 1985 bibliography on horsemanship—but had never actually seen.

Books figure prominently in many of my underground memories, but as any librarian knows, the parade of people who come to use them are also unforgettable. Have you had a huntsman stop in during a break in a field trial and blow you a tune on his hunting horn? Have you assisted a Pulitzer winner wearing a baseball cap? Have you been invited to a family reunion at which an historical marker you helped bring to life would be dedicated? Have you reunited childhood friends through your newsletter? Have you seen a romance blossom at one of your research tables?

Since joining the NSL in 1991, Peter Winants, now director emeritus, and I have watched the library grow in more ways than just its collections. Membership in The

Friends of the National Sporting Library has tripled, and its members have become increasingly interested in the library's progress and activities. The annual duplicate book sale has increased in popularity and offerings, netting up to \$20,000 in one year and placing thousands of books in book-loving homes. The library's newsletter has doubled in size and frequency and won a national award for excellence.

This year the library has grown in a new direction by adding invaluable assets to its staff. Four members have joined the ranks: Kenneth Y. Tomlinson, director; Elizabeth Manierre, exhibitions coordinator; Antoinette Arsic, assistant librarian; and Kelly Jor-

dan, assistant director. Their energy and enthusiasm—along with that of the library's dedicated board of directors—can only lead to a new generation of unforgettable memories in the new library building.

More than one person has mentioned the NSL's transformation in terms of a Cinderella story. From barn to basement to beauty, it has been blessed thanks to the generosity of individuals who appreciate the library's distinguished past and support its goals for the future. As the National Sporting Library moves from best-kept secret into a star in the limelight, I will join the supporting cast proud to see it achieve the recognition and admiration it deserves. ■

## Guidelines for Submissions to *Virginia Libraries*

1. *Virginia Libraries* seeks to publish articles and reviews of interest to the library community in Virginia. Articles reporting research, library programs and events, and opinion pieces are all considered for publication. Queries are encouraged. Brief announcements and press releases should be directed to the *VLA Newsletter*.
2. While e-mail submissions are preferred, manuscripts may be submitted as text files on 3.5-inch computer disks. Both manuscripts and disks become the property of *Virginia Libraries* upon publication. Unpublished articles will be returned within one year.
3. Illustrations, particularly monochrome images and drawings, are encouraged and should be submitted whenever appropriate to accompany a manuscript. Illustrations will be returned if requested in advance.
4. Bibliographic notes should appear at the end of the manuscript and should conform to the latest edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*.
5. Articles should be 750-1250 words.
6. Submit manuscripts to:  
Cy Dillon  
Ferrum College  
P.O. Box 1000  
Ferrum, Virginia 24088  
cdillon@ferrum.edu
7. Deadlines for submissions are: December 15 for January/February/March; March 15 for April/May/June; June 15 for July/August/September; September 1 for October/November/December. ■

# Refdesk: UVa Law Library's Approach to E-mail Reference

by Barbara Selby

*The remoter and more general aspects of the law are those which give it universal interest. It is through them that you not only become a great master in your calling, but connect your subject with the universe and catch an echo of the infinite, a glimpse of its unfathomable process, a hint of the universal law.*

—Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. in *The Path of the Law*, 1897.

**A**s Holmes implies, the Law is universal and touches all aspects of our life. We wake up on sheets which are labeled for their fiber content; our breakfast cereal states its nutritional value; we drive to work in cars which must pass crash tests, burning gasoline which is graded according to government guidelines; our computer monitors must meet mandated standards; etc., etc., etc.

These trivial examples only scratch the surface of the ways in which Law impacts on our everyday life. Law professors, in their academic writings, intend to do much more than scratch the surface. They delve to great depths in the many areas where life and Law intersect. A few titles from articles in recent law reviews from Virginia law schools should suffice:

“Bargaining in the Shadow of Love: The enforcement of premarital

agreements and how we think about marriage”

“Is Emissions Trading an Economic Incentive Program?: Replacing the command and control/economic incentive dichotomy”

“Hard Bargains: The politics of heterosexuality”

“God and Man in the Yale Dormitories”

“Sex and Guilt”

“The Constitutionality of Censure”

“A Literalist Proposes Four Modest Revisions to U.C.C. Article 3”

“Don’t Ask, Just Tell: Insider trading after *United States v. O’Hagan*”

“At War with the Environment”<sup>1</sup>

Because law school libraries are smaller and serve a more concentrated clientele than an undergraduate or graduate university or college library, they tend to cater to professors and do more actual research for professors. In fact one law school library invites legal reference questions from around the world: [http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/ref\\_desk.htm#Reference](http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/ref_desk.htm#Reference). Recent questions to this site included:

Were there small claims courts in Italy in the year 1498?

How can I find information regarding any penalties imposed on those who violate the statute of limitations in regards to child support for the states of Oklahoma and Virginia?

If the President is impeached, are the laws he signed and/or the Executive Orders he issued also impeached?

Who said (and where), something like: “Judges should not be blind to what the whole world can see.”

The University of Virginia Law School Library serves its faculty research needs primarily via an E-mail reference affectionately known as “refdesk.” Faculty are invited to submit any and all questions to refdesk. It is their point of contact with the library. Whether their question is an involved research query or simply a request for photocopies, they send it to refdesk. Reference librarians monitor refdesk in two-hour shifts. They forward the photocopy and other simple requests to library assistants, while keeping the interesting questions for themselves.

Reference librarians may spend a few minutes on a question or they may search for days. Professors are never turned away with the “Here, let me show you some sources you might want to look in” line. (Students, of course, are.) Refdesk is designed to give the professor the answer to the question, not to teach her how to approach research. Of course, some professors do want to learn more about how to find answers. Librarians get to know the preferences of law

professors and answer questions accordingly. A web address may be provided to a particularly computer savvy professor, while another professor with a similar question may be sent the information in an e-mail message or as a printout.

Refdesk has proven extremely popular. In March there were 215 e-mailed requests from 47 professors. The questions broke down as follows: 92 copying or retrieval of Law Library material, 71 miscellaneous reference inquiries, 43 copying or retrieval from other UVA libraries or via ILL, 7 acquisition requests, 2 reserve/circulation inquiries.

Many of the 135 copying and retrieval requests are straightforward. On the other hand, law professors aren't immune from the "the title is... when the title really is something quite different" syndrome. So even these "simple" copying requests can turn into hunting expeditions. Additionally, a "simple" copy request may be for dozens of articles.

The 71 "miscellaneous reference inquiries" are, of course, our meat and potatoes (or pasta and tofu, if you prefer). Again, these run the gamut from finding a judge's mailing address to researching a mid-century Virginia congressman's views on taxation to exploring Internet chat rooms with a professor. Reference librarians will search databases, read articles and books, surf the Web, make numerous phone calls, etc., in order to answer a professor's question.

Once the answer is found, it is e-mailed back to the professor and to all other reference librarians. This enables everyone to see the answer and learn from each question. Of course, some reference librarians have specialties. If a particularly difficult international law question comes in, the librarian on duty may consult with the International Law librarian before responding to the question. Usually, the librarian on duty does

some preliminary groundwork and then consults the specialist in that area. Currently there is no central file of previous refdesk questions. The creation of such a file is under consideration.

Here's a sample of questions that have come through on refdesk. Some have been changed slightly for privacy reasons.

*Why the state-local dominance on matters relating to environmental regulation of land use versus the federal dominance in matters relating to pollution control?*

*Can "Va [expletive deleted]" be put on a vanity license plate in Virginia?*

*What was the break-down of Federalists and Anti-Federalists/Republicans in Pennsylvania's first few congressional delegations?*

*Request for information on integrated pest management for a cultivated environment.*

*Is there a word for a river that keeps being the same river when it joins up with other rivers that lose their name?*

*I'm interested in differences in meaning, if there are any, among rapine, pillage, plunder, sacking, and looting.*

*I am looking for pictures of two architectural models of Marcel Breuer's proposed building above the Grand Central Station.*

*Can we get any data on the number of cases (a) pending (b) decided in Delaware's (I) Court of Chancery and (ii) Supreme Court in (x) 1975 and (y) the most recent year available?*

*Were the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq authorized by a UN Security Council Resolution and, if so, which Resolution?*

*Need articles discussing the pork barrel aspects of the Lawrence Welk museum on which some congressional worthies proposed to lavish federal money in 1991-92.*

*Copy of a photo published in Hustler,*

*December 1978, at page 18. (Cited as example of porn)*

*What was Thomas Jefferson doing at the age of 40?*

*Copy of a state constitution (try CA or MA) containing very detailed rules about subjects that are covered in the U.S. Constitution in abstract, terse language—e.g., detailed rules about freedom of speech or police procedures.*

Two possible endings:

1) Now, if we could only find the (male) reference librarian who's searching for the picture from *Hustler*...

2) Perhaps some of the answers provided by refdesk will help UVA law professors "catch an echo of the infinite" in their articles and lectures.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Here are the *Blue Book* citations for the articles I mention. (Don't get me started on *Blue Book* format...) Brian Bix, *Bargaining in the Shadow of Love: The enforcement of premarital agreements and how we think about marriage*, 40 Wm. & Mary L. Rev. 145 (1998).

David M. Driesen, *Is Emissions Trading an Economic Incentive Program?: Replacing the command and control/economic incentive dichotomy*, 55 Wash. & Lee L. Rev. 289 (1998).

Linda Hirshman, *Hard Bargains: The politics of heterosexuality*, 55 Wash. & Lee L. Rev. 185 (1998).

Michael C. Dorf, *God and Man in the Yale Dormitories*, 84 Va. L. Rev. 843 (1998).

Anne M. Coughlin, *Sex and Guilt*, 84 Va. L. Rev. (1998).

Michael J. Gerhardt, *The Constitutionality of Censure*, 33 U. Rich. L. Rev. 33 (1999).

Timothy R. Zinnecker, *A Literalist Proposes Four Modest Revisions to U.C.C. Article 3*, U. Rich. L. Rev. 63 (1998).

Richard W. Painter et al., *Don't Ask, Just Tell: Insider trading after United States v. O'Hagan*, Va. L. Rev. 153 (1998).

David A. Wirth, *At War with the Environment*, 84 Va. L. Rev. 153 (1998). ■

# Creating Library Newsletters on the World Wide Web

by Amy W. Boykin and Andrea Kross

**T**he Captain John Smith Library has produced a library newsletter for many years. As the Library's web presence expanded, it was logical to add the full text of our newsletter. This brought up some interesting challenges as we were forced to think about the differences between print and electronic media: loading an exact duplicate of the print version was not feasible. Through trial and error, and by consulting the literature and other web versions of newsletters, we have found some answers to the question, "How do you go about creating an effective web version of your library's newsletter?"

Some elements may remain the same in both the print and electronic versions, such as the content. Ideas for library newsletter content include reviews of new acquisitions, introductions of new services and technologies, having a reader's advisory, answering frequently asked questions, spotlighting various departments of the library (e.g. technical services, media, interlibrary loan) or communicating changed hours, changed telephone numbers or contact information.

For any newsletter, the content is determined by identifying your audience. Information that will interest faculty and staff may not appeal to students, for example.

While a print format newsletter has a limited and controlled distribution, the web version is accessible to anyone and everyone. This means that the audience has suddenly broadened. Our print newsletter was distributed to faculty and staff, with a few left over for students or community patrons to pick up if they were interested. With the move to the web, it is

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**While a print format newsletter has a limited distribution, the web version is accessible to anyone and everyone.**

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accessible to more student and community patrons and also to people who have never been to our Library. Instead of the Library staff deciding who will receive it, readers self select. They may not be using Netscape or Microsoft Internet Explorer to access the Internet, and even if they are, they may not be able to view frames or access java-encoded information. An important consideration is how text browsers such as Lynx will display text and links to other sites.

While this may seem like a limi-

tation, there are many options that will work for most browsers. A variety of list formats (such as ordered or numbered lists) can be used to present information. Use a series of heading levels to indicate relative font size, such as <h1>, <h2>, etc. (Maxymuk, 168). Non-dithering or web-safe colors are the best; these 216 colors are not browser-dependent. Use text markup tags that are logical, giving the full meaning instead of an ambiguous letter in the html coding, such as <strong> instead of <b> (Maxymuk, 161). Several web sites show what the non-dithering colors are and how to use logical tags.<sup>1</sup> While it is okay to use backgrounds, color, and special effects, they should not take away from the text. Remember that the main thrust of your newsletter is to present information. Instead of trying to be fancy, use basic web tools and aim for simple elegance (Maxymuk, 169).

John Maxymuk (p. 168) has five basic recommendations to keep in mind when creating a newsletter on the Internet; the last may be the hardest to accomplish.

1. Keep the text clear and legible.
2. Give prominence to the most important features/information.
3. White space should be ample; the page shouldn't look cluttered.

4. Graphics should be large enough to be seen but not so large that they overwhelm the screen/text.
5. The mix of text, white space and graphics should be balanced, consistent and pleasing.

The first basic element, text, is crucial in transmitting the desired information. Be sure to check grammar, spelling and punctuation. Organize the text in a logical fashion; it should flow smoothly. Software such as Microsoft Word or Microsoft FrontPage is helpful in converting the text into html. Of course, the html coding can be done manually, which allows more control over how the web page/newsletter will look.

Unlike the print edition of the newsletter where the placement of text and graphics is important, placement in the web edition is not as critical. Generally, the best place to put prominent information is at the top of the web page. However, a clickable table of contents listing all the sections and headlines at the top of the newsletter will let the reader go directly to the section of interest. This also helps people know what to expect from this edition of the newsletter: all the options are listed in one place. Remember to include a link at the end of each section to take the reader back to the top of the newsletter. Keep in mind that there will be people who will want to read the newsletter from beginning to end. For this reason, it is better to put the newsletter on one long web page than to make separate web pages for each section.

One of the areas where we encountered difficulty was in transferring graphics. Clip art for print versions of newsletters can be bought, found in word processing or desktop publishing programs, or found on the Internet (look for copyright-free clip art, of course). Graphic files come in a

variety of formats. For print newsletters, it is worthwhile to convert bitmap files to vector graphic files. Software like Lview, WinJPEG or Adobe Photoshop facilitate conversion. Vector graphic file formats (.cgm, .eps and .wmf) are important because graphics have true curves and will resize neatly. On the other hand, web pages load better if the graphics are in either .gif or .jpg formats; graphic files

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**Keep in mind the  
intent of the graphic,  
which is to say in  
pictures what you  
are saying in the text.**

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can often be converted into the necessary formats using the software mentioned above. Some formatting, such as nameplates, mastheads, tables, and even some graphics, will not transform smoothly. In these cases you may want to search for an alternate graphic. The Internet is the best source for .gif and .jpg graphics; many web sites offer free and copyright-free graphics for use on web pages.<sup>2</sup> Keep in mind the intent of the graphic, which is to say in pictures what you are saying in the text. Avoid trite, meaningless, or tasteless graphics: if it is not related to the message, leave it out. It is best to keep the size of the graphic file small (under 20k) so that the page will load quickly and the graphic will not detract from the text (Maxymuk, 1969).

In both print and web versions, keep the newsletter presentation simple (Maxymuk, 1969). Use graphics sparingly, leaving plenty of white (or background color) space. Maintain a single style throughout the newsletter; consistency im-

proves readability.

For ideas on formatting web pages and to see how the web elements work together, look at other web sites. There are many other libraries with newsletters on the Internet—Bluefield College, Bridgewater College, College of William & Mary—to mention a few.<sup>3</sup> By using the browser's "View Codes" or "View Page Source" commands it is possible to see how the text or graphic is manipulated to look a certain way.

Remember that the library's newsletter, whether in print or electronic format, is a reflection of the library and its staff. It is a public relations tool: make it a positive one.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> For a chart of non-dithering colors: <http://www.xnet.com/~efflandt/pub/ccblack.html>; Information about html tags—<http://cgi1.geocities.com/SiliconValley/6763/reference.html> "HTML Reference page."

<sup>2</sup> Supplemental information, such as links to free clipart and a bibliography of sources used for our VLA presentation in October 1998, is available at <http://www.cnu.edu/library/newsltrs.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Internet addresses for the web newsletters include Bluefield College (<http://www.bluefield.edu/library/libnews.html>), Bridgewater College (<http://www.bridgewater.edu/departments/library/anotes.htm>), and the College of William and Mary (<http://www.swem.wm.edu/Newsletters/newsletters.html>). Christopher Newport University newsletters, called Bookends, are available on the Library Information page (<http://www.cnu.edu/library/libinfo.html>).

#### Source

Maxymuk, John. *Using Desktop Publishing to Create Newsletters, Handouts and Web Pages*. New York: Neal-Schuman, 1997. ■

# Of Books, Readers, and Reading: New Directions for Virginia Library History

by John T. Kneebone

**T**he Library of Virginia Foundation and the Virginia Center for the Book have announced an annual award to be given for at least the next five years to recognize and encourage outstanding research and writing on the history of libraries in Virginia. The announcement may have barely registered with many of Virginia's librarians, busy with the tasks of the day. Why the history of Virginia libraries? To what purpose? This essay attempts to answer those questions and to invite the involvement of Virginia librarians in making their heritage better known.

A few years ago I received a call from a gentleman with a great interest in books. He wanted to read a history of libraries and librarianship in Virginia. I searched the Library of Virginia's online catalog and found numerous materials for such a history—annual reports of libraries and planning documents from state and local governments—but only a few histories of individual libraries. Not only was there no comprehensive history of libraries in Virginia, but hardly any of the necessary scholarly foundations for such a work had been laid.

I told my caller the bad news, and he responded that Virginia

needed a library history. He was prepared to help, too. He would fund a generous annual prize to recognize outstanding contributions toward a fuller, more complete understanding and appreciation of the history of libraries in Virginia. Each year's winning work in Virginia library history would be announced at the annual con-

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ferences of the Virginia Library Association.

To ensure that quality works repaid such generosity, I sought the advice of a dozen or so scholars associated with the American Library Association's Library History Round Table and the journal *Libraries and Culture*. The responses were enthusiastic but also realistic.

There are some fundamental tasks to be done, the scholars agreed. What records do Virginia's libraries hold that document their histories? A records survey would be invaluable and therefore

demand consideration in the awards competition. Researchers also need to know what has already been done. Bibliographies of relevant works, both published and unpublished, would be worthy projects, too. The scholars suggested *American Library History: A Comprehensive Guide to the Literature* (1989) as a good starting place. *Libraries and Culture*, formerly the *Journal of Library History*, has published a biennial annotated bibliography of scholarship in library history since 1968, and a similar bibliography featured in the newsletter of the Library History Round Table is available at the LHRT's Website (<http://www.spertus.edu/library-history/>).

One respondent pointed out that library historians often define and organize projects by chronology (such as a study of Virginia libraries during the Great Depression) or by type of library (for example, the development of school libraries in Virginia). Bibliographies and existing information about archival materials can be used to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the historical literature on Virginia libraries and thereby identify topics that have been neglected and periods of the past about which we know very little. For this work, the annual

indexes to scholarship in *American History and Life* and the Library of Virginia's compilation, *Theses and Dissertations in Virginia History* (1986), would also be useful. Any serious bibliographer would be expected to make a systematic search of online bibliographic databases, electronic library catalogs, and the Web, too.

The respondents were also emphatic that library history should be defined broadly enough to include the exciting research and writing being done today under the rubric of book history. The international Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP) identifies its interests as broadly as its name, but libraries are a central concern, and not only as subjects. For example, the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture at the American Antiquarian Society builds on that institution's vast collection of American imprints issued before 1876. Similarly, the new Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America at the University of Wisconsin-Madison draws on the combined resources of the libraries of the university and of the Wisconsin State Historical Society. For links to more information about those programs and other aspects of book history, see SHARP's Website at <http://www.indiana.edu/~sharp/intro.html>. SHARP's annual conference in 2001 will be in Virginia, co-hosted by the Library of Virginia and the American Studies Department and the Earl Gregg Swem Library at the College of William and Mary, by which time the Virginia Library History Awards will have begun to bear fruit.

To be sure, useful works on Virginia library history exist already. A century ago defensive Virginia antiquarians collected data, usually from wills and estate settlements, to prove that book ownership in colonial Virginia had been

more widespread than smug historians from New England had claimed. More recently, Joseph F. Kett and Patricia A. McClung used similar records to analyze "Book Culture in Post-Revolutionary Virginia" in the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* (1984). Most notable among several studies of the private libraries of early Virginians are Kevin J. Hayes's detailed description of the nearly

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**Virginia researchers  
might profitably  
investigate literacy  
and the roles of  
readers in the  
slave community...**

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2,500 volumes in the *Library of William Byrd of Westover* (1997) and E. Millicent Sowerby's five-volume *Catalogue of the Library of Thomas Jefferson* (1983).

Much work remains to be done. One promising area is the study of reading and readers. Librarians know that books have power, that reading helps to forge personal identity and that common reading can create communities. Books express and enforce social and cultural conventions, yet reading can also help loosen those bonds and subvert the power of the status quo. Virginia researchers might profitably investigate literacy and the roles of readers in the slave community, print culture's part in the antebellum sectional conflict, differences between the groups that created social or subscription libraries, the contents of middle-class family libraries during an era that prescribed "separate spheres" for the sexes, or any number of other reading-related topics. Inven-

tories of imprints, the printed works produced in a particular place, have been compiled for Abingdon, Fredericksburg, Norfolk, Petersburg, Richmond, and Winchester, usually through 1876, and also for early German-language imprints in Virginia. The seeds of information in these volumes might flower into studies of the book trade and patterns of reading in Virginia before and after the Civil War, research projects that could also chart the emergence of a national market for printed books and magazines.

Students of library history in the U.S. regard 1876, the year when the American Library Association was founded, as the beginning of the modern era of professionalization of librarianship and of the public library as an institution. Virginia lagged behind. As late as 1922, public funds supported a mere six libraries in the state. In her unpublished dissertation, *Richmond Rejects a Library: The Carnegie Public Library Movement in Richmond, Virginia* (Virginia Commonwealth University, 1992), Carolyn H. Leatherman examined the various social, cultural, and political forces that conspired to delay the creation of a public library in Richmond for nearly a quarter century. Her work situates Richmond's library history within the full social and cultural contexts of the times, avoiding the tunnel vision that afflicts some library histories narrowly focused on successive library administrations.

All history is local, to paraphrase Tip O'Neill's famous remark about politics. Certainly there is ample opportunity for researchers in local library history in Virginia. The Library History Round Table's Web site offers practical "Guidelines for Writing Local Library History." Through its ambitious "Florida Library History Project" the University of South Florida's

School of Library and Information Science is compiling and electronically publishing histories of every public and academic library in that state (<http://www.lib.usf.edu/spccoll/guide/flibhist/guide.html>). Several Virginia libraries already include concise institutional histories on their Web sites, too.

First-rate local library histories will need to investigate complex issues. For example, the Roanoke City Public Library's Web site credits Mrs. W. W. S. Butler Jr. with leading a group of prominent citizens in raising the funds for the city's first public library, which opened on 21 May 1921. Sarah Poage Caldwell Butler (1892-1983) had grown up in Roanoke and attended Mary Baldwin College before being trained in library science at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. She worked for the New York Public Library for a few years before returning to Roanoke to marry physician William W. S. Butler. As an experienced library professional when she began her campaign for a public library, Butler soon found that the standards of professional librarianship interacted with the realities of local conditions, just as they do today.

Sarah Butler's mother, Willie Walker Caldwell (1860-1946), had been one of the Roanoke women who organized the Women's Civic Betterment Club in 1906 because the city government and men's groups had done nothing to improve public sanitation. Caldwell's group commissioned studies by experts and lobbied, with lim-

ited success, for action to clean up the city. The Civic Betterment Club later became the Roanoke Women's Club, and Caldwell served from 1912 to 1915 as president of the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs. The Roanoke City Public Library came about in large part because Sarah Butler was able to draw upon an existing local network of women activists and civic leaders.

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**...libraries are fully  
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Virginia's history.**

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Telling the full story of the founding of the Roanoke City Public Library would involve research into such intriguing questions as the political agency of women in the era before they had won the right to vote. Because the Gainsboro Branch, which served African American readers, opened just seven months later, the public-library campaign in Roanoke's black community would have to be studied, too. What were the exact connections between the campaign for the library and the women's earlier campaigns for civic betterment? How did Butler's

professional training as a librarian figure into the success of the campaign for the library? Further research might lead to the fascinating conclusion that, at the local level, connections between female library professionals and other women leaders were essential to the successes of the public library movement in America.

Thanks to the generosity of the creator of the Virginia Library History Awards, we can look forward to answers to these and other questions. To provide a fuller field for nominations, the first award will recognize the outstanding work in Virginia library history completed between 1 January 1997 and 31 August 1999. The competition will be annual in the future. Nominations might include bibliographies, unpublished dissertations or theses, journal articles, local histories, or scholarly monographs, and the judges have agreed to define Virginia library history broadly to include relevant histories of authorship, reading, publishing and similar topics. Please direct nominations to Virginia Library History Award, The Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219-8000, and please encourage librarians and others to take up future projects in library history. Professional heritage is worth preserving in any event, but libraries are fully part of their times and places, and library history is important to understanding all of Virginia's history. ■

# 'License' or 'Sale'? New Regulations May Affect Libraries

by Sarah K. Wiant

A proposed revision to the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) which addresses licensing could drastically change the manner in which libraries operate in today's information age. The controversy surrounding licensing has centered on computer software, both content with valuable information and utility, including word processing and spreadsheets. However, as the methods of information delivery multiply, the overlap between books and digital media expands.

Currently, it is unclear whether shrinkwrap licenses associated with software which limit users' rights granted under copyright law are legally enforceable. The disparity in judicial treatment of shrinkwrap licenses and questions of federal preemption of state software license terms have resulted in the recent efforts to revise the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC).

Generally, shrinkwrap licenses permit the user to access software programs or information provided on discs. Similar to the shrinkwrap license are the "click-on" license and the "active click wrap" license which accompany vast amounts of information online. Unlike shrinkwrap<sup>1</sup> licenses, which physically accompany a disc or package, click-on and active click wrap licenses are usually transmitted electronically and usually do not require any explicit agreement to adhere to the terms of a license. They are typ-

ically activated the instant the user installs software. Many users may agree to the terms sight unseen in order to continue with the software installation.

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**The focus is not on the  
physical disc but on  
the information or  
application on the disc.**

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## UCC Revisions

The UCC is drafted by two groups, the American Law Institute (ALI) and the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL), and generally reflects the state of contract law. Once provisions of the UCC are approved by both the ALI and NCCUSL, they are submitted to the state governments. A state's legislature must adopt the UCC before it becomes law in that state.

Currently, the ALI and NCCUSL are working to amend Article 2 of the UCC to reflect today's changing economy. Article 2 addresses transactions in goods, primarily sales. Article 2A concerns personal property (goods) leasing transactions. The new section would be Article 2B, which would cover licensing of information. According to the draft, a license is a contract which

grants permission to access or use information subject to conditions set forth in the license.<sup>2</sup> A license is neither a sale nor a lease, because those terms refer to goods. The focus is not on the physical disc but on the information or application on the disc. The passage of article 2B and its potential adoption into state law would authorize most types of shrinkwrap licenses.

## Software Licenses and Intellectual Property Law

The legitimacy of shrinkwrap licenses has produced continuing debate in the intellectual property field. In the Copyright Act, Congress struck a careful balance for the use of writing, reserving exclusive rights to the work's author, while preserving some uses for the public. Shrinkwrap licenses are contracts separate from the provisions of the Copyright Act. Frequently, these contracts are more restrictive than copyright law. For example, shrinkwrap licenses that prevent the resale of the user's copy of the software expressly conflict with the first sale provision of the Copyright Act.<sup>3</sup> Under the first sale provision, an owner of an object is allowed to treat it as his own. An owner, for example, can use, resell or lend the object as she pleases. By terming the transaction a "license" rather than a "sale," vendors make clear that they are permitting the user to use a copy of the software while the

vendor retains ownership of the underlying program. The most important shrinkwrap provisions in terms of intellectual property are those limiting users' rights—rights which users would otherwise enjoy under federal copyright law. The potential for copyright law preemption of a new UCC section has been discussed throughout the drafting process.

### Enforceability of Shrinkwrap Licenses

There have been many questions about whether shrinkwrap agreements can be enforced under contract law or whether they may be preempted by copyright law. In *Vault Corp. v. Quaid Software Ltd.*,<sup>4</sup> a federal court invalidated a shrinkwrap license term which was permitted under state law. Courts have been reluctant to enforce shrinkwrap licenses where the consumer was not aware of the terms when the contract was formed (e.g., at the time of purchase) or where the consumer occupies a significantly weaker bargaining position than the vendor. Some courts have enforced shrinkwrap licenses under existing laws. In *Pro-CD Inc. v. Zeidenberg*,<sup>5</sup> the Seventh Circuit held that generally, a shrinkwrap license is enforceable unless its terms violate ordinary contract law.

### Shrinkwrap Implications for Libraries

Currently, a book is personal property, and in exchange for the purchase price the reader obtains title, or ownership, of a copy of the book. Title to software, on the other hand, does not change hands when the consumer purchases a disc containing a copy of the software program. The user is merely "licensed" to use the software and the vendor retains the title.

While a free reign on the Internet facilitates the research process and encourages independent study, users who inadvertently enter into license agreements when they take

advantage of on-line systems available on the Internet could open libraries to potential liability and responsibility. Information on the web upon which the general public increasingly depends upon might be restricted and/or closely monitored if the current draft of article 2B is codified into state law.

While shrinkwrap licenses seem unduly restrictive when applied to software, they seem downright outrageous when applied to books. Presently, article 2B does not address the commercial distribution of books because it applies to licensing, and books currently are sold, not licensed. If publishers could replace the sale of a book with a shrinkwrap-type license, however, article 2B might have restricted the lending of books. However, as supplements to books are issued on CD-Rom, a library may own the book which may be lent and may not lend the supplement because of licensing restrictions. Similarly, if publishers could include the terms of a shrinkwrap license which contract away the fair use allowances contained in the Copyright Act, then libraries and their users might lose the rights to make copies of limited sections of copyrighted materials.

In response to opposition from the Digital Future Coalition, a collaboration of non-profit educational, scholarly and library groups, and criticism from the Federal Trade Commission among others, in December 1998 the American Law Institute decided that the draft is not ready to submit to its membership for approval at its May 1999 meeting.

In spite of the fact that the scope of the provision has been restricted to cover only software and information that is electronically disseminated, the draft is still not as clear as it needs to be.<sup>6</sup> Although the two sponsoring groups are in disagreement, the drafting committee met February 26-28, 1999 to further revise the draft.

When this article was originally written, it was to be hoped that the

drafters of Article 2B would recognize the potential problems the current draft of article 2B will cause for in libraries, and should amend the revision accordingly. Unfortunately, the issue is even more confusing now. The joint drafting organization, the American Law Institute (ALI), found the draft to be fatally flawed and did not send it forward to its membership for a vote this May. The National Commissioners on Uniform State Laws does intend to go forward with its vote. The draft now is represented as a model statute instead of a uniform law and no longer will need the support of the ALI. If adopted by the commissioners it would then be offered to states to enact as state legislation. According to Mark Lemey, a professor at the University of Texas Law School, the draft as it is going forward under only NCCUSL is called the Uniform Communications Information Transactions Act and will be separate from the UCC. NCCUSL announced that it will promulgate the same draft law as a separate uniform act (the Uniform Communications Information Transactions Act), and that it will finalize it this summer and send it to the states this fall.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> The term shrinkwrap will be used to cover shrinkwrap, click-on, and active click wrap licenses.

<sup>2</sup> U.C.C. § 2B-102(27) (April 15, 1998 Draft). The most recent draft of Article 2B is available at the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws' World Wide Web site, <http://www.law.upenn.edu/library/ulc/ulc.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> The first sale provision permits "the owner of a particular copy... without the authority of the copyright owner, to sell or otherwise dispose of the possession of that copy...." 17 U.S.C. § 109(a) (1994).

<sup>4</sup> 847 F.2d 255 (5th Cir. 1988).

<sup>5</sup> 86 F.3d 1447 (7th Cir. 1996).

<sup>6</sup> Article 2B Proponents Respond to Critics, While Sponsor Rejects Latest Draft of Law, 67 U.S.L.W. 2360, 2361 (1998). ■

# Virginia Books

Reviews prepared by the staff of the Division of Publications  
and Educational Services of the Library of Virginia

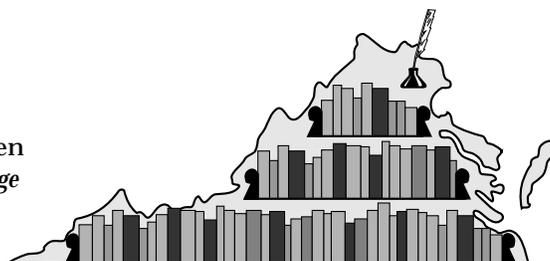
Julie A. Campbell, Editor



William M. S. Rasmussen and Robert S. Tilton, *George Washington: The Man Behind the Myths*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1999. xv + 328 pp. \$24.95 (soft cover).

Rasmussen, the curator of art at the Virginia Historical Society, and Tilton, a professor of American literature and American studies, have done it again. Their 1994 catalog for the VHS exhibit, *Pocahontas: Her Life & Legend*, set a high standard with its combination of history, art, and prose. With this new and quite substantial catalog, they meet their own standard with a fresh look at George Washington.

Washington's story is well known, of course, but in the two hundred years since his death, distortions, falsehoods, and myths have entwined with the truth to produce a popular yet sometimes unreliable picture. Artists over the centuries have only added to that image, depicting Washington's youth, family life, wartime duty, presidential service, and old age with varying degrees of accuracy. Artists have also worked under the influence of their times, and popular culture has treated Washington in a variety of ways, often elevating him into a moral and patriotic paragon and forgetting that he was



a flesh-and-blood human, a product of colonial Virginia. Rasmussen and Tilton examine it all.

The book is big and handsome, packed with 261 color and black-and-white images: paintings, docu-

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...the Head upbraids the  
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folly, and the Heart  
basically tells the Head to  
mind its own business.

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ments, rooms at Mount Vernon, architectural plans in Washington's own hand, and so on. Extensive endnotes and a useful index make it useful for scholarly types. The authors' accessible writing style and a knack for blending several themes make the book a good read for anyone interested in understanding the real George Washington.

—reviewed by Julie A. Campbell,  
Editor, Virginia Cavalcade



John P. Kaminski, ed., *Jefferson in Love: The Love Letters Between Thomas Jefferson & Maria Cosway*. Madison, Wis.: Madison House Publishers, Inc., 1999. xiii + 138 pp. \$16.95 (hardcover).

In August 1786, Thomas Jefferson began the best-documented romantic encounter of his life. The widower from Virginia, then in Paris as American minister to France, met and evidently fell deeply in love with Maria Hadfield Cosway, a twenty-seven-year-old Italian woman of English parentage. Despite the inconvenient presence of her husband, English artist Richard Cosway, Jefferson was immediately smitten by her beauty, charm, and gifts as an artist and musician, and they spent much of the next several weeks in each other's company.

In his first letter to her after her return to London, Jefferson included his extraordinary and justly renowned "Dialogue between my Head and my Heart," in which the Head upbraids the Heart for its passionate folly, and the Heart basically tells the Head to mind its own business. The lengthy and emotionally charged essay was rendered more astonishing because Jefferson wrote it with his left hand, having broken his right

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**Julie A. Campbell** is editor of Virginia Cavalcade magazine. She works in the Publications and Educational Services Division at the Library of Virginia. Staff members from other divisions of the Library occasionally contribute to "Virginia Books" and are so noted in their bylines.

wrist during a coltish effort to impress Cosway by jumping over a fence.

The apparent passion of the relationship was unsustainable. A year later Cosway came to Paris for several months, alone this time, but she and Jefferson each seemed to have waited for the other to make the first move, and they wound up seeing little of each other. They never met again, but corresponded regularly for the rest of Jefferson's stay in Europe and much less frequently thereafter.

Historians ever since have pondered the Head and Heart dialogue, a maddeningly enigmatic but still uniquely revealing glimpse into Jefferson's emotional world, and the exact nature of the Jefferson-Cosway relationship. Many have argued that the Head triumphs in the letter, which this reviewer denies, or that it quickly reasserted its habitual rule thereafter, which seems much more defensible. Others have wondered whether Jefferson and Cosway shared only a conventional if extravagantly worded friendship, a passionate but platonic love, or a brief sexual liaison.

The developing consensus that Jefferson was not perpetually celibate after his wife's death needs to be considered on the latter point, but the only direct evidence on his involvement with Cosway remains their correspondence. In *Jefferson in Love*, John P. Kaminski collects the fifty-eight letters Jefferson and Cosway exchanged through 1790. Concluding that there is a clear drop-off in their emotional intensity thereafter, he omits the thirteen letters that concluded the epistolary conversation, a decision that some readers will regret, but one which is remedied to some extent by a summary in the introduction.

All of the letters in the slim volume that results have in fact already been printed in the Princeton edition of *The Papers of*

*Thomas Jefferson*. But Kaminski's book, complete with a few essential annotations, an elegant introduction, and a useful bibliography, provides a much handier way for general readers to draw their own conclusions about this fascinating interlude and the complex personalities of the two key players therein.

—reviewed by J. Jefferson Looney,  
Senior Editor, Dictionary of Virginia  
Biography



Anya Jabour, *Marriage in the Early Republic: Elizabeth and William Wirt and the Companionate Ideal*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998. ix + 217 pp. \$42.00.

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**Betsey...assented  
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In 1803, newlyweds William Wirt and Elizabeth Gamble of Virginia described a marriage based on companionship and reciprocity as their "beau ideal." Yet, as Anya Jabour argues, their thirty-year marriage reveals the "fault lines" between the nineteenth-century egalitarian ideal of marriage and the traditional hierarchical relationship between a patriarch and his wife. Intended as a contribution to the fields of family and gender history, *Marriage in the Early Republic* tests historians' interpretations of the development of companionate marriage through a case study of an elite couple residing in the Upper South. Ulti-

mately, Jabour concludes, "a fundamental inequity between men and women" undermined the Wirts' efforts to achieve their beau ideal.

The Wirts envisioned themselves as partners in finance, parenthood, and romance, but William's professional ambitions and the domestic constraints that their ten children placed upon Elizabeth stymied their plans. In their beau ideal, Elizabeth's domestic production complemented William's law practice, and the parents cooperated to home-school their children and live together in domestic bliss.

As the couple's extensive correspondence reveals, however, Elizabeth and William spent much of their married life apart. William traveled to courts throughout Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, while Elizabeth struggled to maintain a household and to coax her husband to live a quiet life at home. Although William sighed often that his "happiness, dearest Betsey, is always at home," he also expressed great satisfaction with a career that culminated with his appointment as United States Attorney General in 1817. Betsey, isolated at home by William's absence and frustrated by his discounting of her contributions to the household economy, assented "reluctantly" to a marriage in which husband and wife played different roles and held unequal shares of power.

Ironically, William's role as the family's provider shut him off from its domestic life. While William's income provided the home, Elizabeth was the central parental figure to whom their children turned most often for guidance and love. And, at William's death, Betsey also proved the better economist, transforming his vast debts into a sizeable legacy for the Wirt children. To their frustration, the Wirts never achieved their ideal companionate marriage. As Jabour

demonstrates, however, they did ease away from the patriarchal family structure and move haltingly toward the nineteenth-century family that placed the mother at the center of the household.

—reviewed by *Mary Carroll Johansen*, *Research Associate*, Dictionary of Virginia Biography



Cynthia A. Kierner, *Beyond the Household: Women's Place in the Early South, 1700-1835*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1998. xii + 295 pp. \$55.00 (hardcover), \$18.95 (softcover).

This subtle and sophisticated analysis of the evolution of the stereotype of the southern lady, and of the differences between the stereotype and actual reality, bridges a gap between some of the best new scholarship on women in the colonial period and on women in the nineteenth century. It focuses on white women in Virginia and the Carolinas, but it considers the implications for women's history in other portions of the South and points out similarities and differences between Northern and Southern women.

Kierner makes excellent use of letters, diaries, biographies, works of art, and other resources to document the changing roles of white women of different classes and places. After the American Revolution, women tended to recede from prominent public participation in activities that had overtly partisan political overtones, but the increased emphasis that they and their society placed on the religious, moral, and educational responsibilities of women enabled them, in spite of a growing expectation that women would confine their influences to their homes and families, to engage in cooperative and public projects on behalf of education, religious instruction,

care of the poor and orphans, and reform movements, such as the temperance movement.

This left them room to maneuver within what was supposed to have been a confined sphere of influence, and after the period under consideration in this volume, many women emerged again in more overtly political roles when educational and moral issues again took prominent place in political discourse.

Rather like the women described in Anne Firor Scott's *The Southern Lady*, the subjects of Cyn-

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inhabitants of the Valley.**

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thia Kierner's *Beyond the Household* conformed in many respects to their culture's expectation that they would be genteel influences for good within their allotted place in the home, but they also took part in public activities that were logical extensions of that domestic role.

—reviewed by *Brent Tarter*, *Editor*, Dictionary of Virginia Biography



Richard R. Duncan, *Lee's Endangered Left: The Civil War in Western Virginia, Spring of 1864*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. xvi + 346 pp. \$29.95.

The Civil War in western Virginia is a fertile field for modern scholarly research. The Valley Campaign of 1864 in particular has been long neglected, lacking a narrative treating the campaigns in the region as a whole. No prior work has combined the conflict in

southwestern Virginia, the battle at New Market, Gen. David Hunter's movements, and Gen. Jubal Early's Valley campaign into one comprehensive study. To remedy this void, Richard R. Duncan, a professor of history at Georgetown University, has blended recent research with the older standard works to produce an insightful, readable, and enjoyable narrative.

From the outset, Duncan intends to demonstrate that the campaigning in western Virginia was part of a larger, overall strategy for both Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant; both generals considered the Valley their western flank. Lee depended upon the agriculturally rich Shenandoah Valley for subsistence, and the salt works and lead mines in southwestern Virginia were vital to the survival of the Confederacy. Lee's western transportation systems, especially the railroads, were important links to the West. When the Federal army began its coordinated offensive in the spring of 1864, Grant understood the need to apply constant pressure in this region. Both Lee and Grant attempted to play on the other's fears for the safety of the area.

When Hunter took charge after the Union thrust in the Valley stalled at the Battle of New Market, the entire complexion of the war changed, with the focus of the fighting moving down the Shenandoah and away from the southwest. After the Federal occupation of Staunton, however, the Union faltered. Momentum again swung to the Confederacy as the Southern forces swept down the Valley, but then Gen. Philip Sheridan whipped Jubal Early at Winchester and Cedar Creek, thus effectively ending the Southern presence in the Valley.

A great strength of the book is its emphasis on the plight of the inhabitants of the Valley. Al-

though a common theme in modern scholarship, surprising little has been done on the effects of the fighting on the civilian population in this war-torn region. (A recent exception is John L. Heatwole's *The Burning: Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley*, reviewed in the January/February/March 1999 issue of *Virginia Libraries*.) Although at times both sides displayed compassion and humanity, Hunter's policy of living off the country ensured many atrocities, which Duncan chronicles.

Duncan is more concerned with the overall strategies of the armies, and he advises readers to look elsewhere for more thorough treatments of the individual battles. He does, however, render remarkably good and engaging summaries of skirmishes and battles. Anyone desiring a comprehensive overview of the 1864 Valley Campaign, or with an interest in Lee's overall military strategy in 1864, would be well served by reading this book.

—reviewed by Eddie Woodward,  
Local Records Archivist



J. Boone Bartholomees, Jr., *Buff Facings and Gilt Buttons: Staff and Headquarters Operations in the Army of Northern Virginia, 1861-1865*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1998. xv + 352 pp. \$29.95.

This volume grew out of the author's preparations for guiding fellow army officers on junkets to Civil War battlefields. Bartholomees, a professor of military history at the United States Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, learned quickly that the superficial information that usually assuaged curious visitors to Gettysburg or Antietam would not begin to satisfy the demanding questions that a busload of knowledgeable army officers put to him. Moreover, a surprising number of these questions concerned staff

procedures and operations. As Bartholomees cast about for information on the topic, he discovered that few published sources existed, and those treated only certain aspects of staff work rather than the entire subject in a general, comprehensive fashion. His efforts to fill that void became a project that became this book.

Readers who enjoy military history, especially the American Civil War, are familiar with the activi-

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officers put to him.**

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ties of general staff personnel; they come and go during the action with their odd-sounding, inscrutable titles and seem to have important functions, but few readers know about the variety of duties and responsibilities involved. To clarify the importance of staff work and believing, from personal experience, that army staffs develop individual styles that come to resemble a unique personality, Bartholomees limited his field of study to a single working model: the staff operations of the Army of Northern Virginia. He focuses on the activities of the chief of staff, the adjutant general, and inspector general, including the logistical staff personnel, among them the quartermasters and commissary officers, as well as other officers. Complicating his study is the knowledge that this

army was a semi-modern organization attempting to deal in traditional ways with problems that were essentially modern.

*Buff Facings and Gilt Buttons* is aimed at readers who are already familiar with both the war and the operations of the Army of Northern Virginia. Working in original documents as well as published primary and secondary sources, the author has taken what he believes is a major step toward furnishing an understanding of this subject, but he acknowledges that a vast amount of unpublished primary documents remains unexamined and invites further analysis. A long-needed work on a neglected topic, Bartholomees's examination—of those soldiers whose activities have stayed in the background but whose work made the efficient operations of the army possible and counted no little toward its victories—is a necessary addition to any library collection.

—reviewed by Don Gunter, Assistant Editor, Dictionary of Virginia Biography



Jeffrey R. Kerr-Ritchie, *Freed-people in the Tobacco South: Virginia, 1860-1900*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999. xv + 295 pp. \$55.00 (hardcover), \$18.95 (softcover).

Scholarly studies of the experiences of former slaves during the years and decades after emancipation are currently a popular form of historical literature. There are already several books that treat individual Virginia localities, but there is as yet no general study for the entire state. This volume falls in between. It focuses on the portions of Virginia where tobacco remained the main agricultural commodity at the time of the Civil War.

The bulk of the volume treats the changing economic conditions

in which the freed people lived and worked in the thirty-five years after the end of the Civil War. There are chapters on politics and on Hampton Institute, but there is little about education in general, and there is very little about religion and churches, non-agricultural labor, urban life, or family life. There is almost nothing specifically about women and children, and there is comparatively little about the lives of individual people. Because of the nature of the sources, the volume's descriptions and voices are for the most part the words of white commentators. It is therefore still an incomplete portrait of life for the freed people in the tobacco belt of Virginia.

The overall account of how the changing tobacco economy altered the economic climate in which the freed people (and many of the white farmers and operatives, too) lived is thorough and interesting. It invites more detailed analysis of how those changing circumstances changed the lives of the people who planted tobacco, worked in the tobacco factories, or had to change their means of making a living as the tobacco processing and marketing industries changed.

—reviewed by Brent Tarter, Editor, Dictionary of Virginia Biography



Bruce Adelson, *Brushing Back Jim Crow: The Integration of Minor League Baseball in the American South*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1999. 275 pp. \$27.95.

Jackie Robinson's breaking of the color barrier in major-league baseball and his artistry as a player have made him an American icon. Most baseball aficionados will also recognize the name of Larry Doby, the first African American to play in the American League. This book shifts our attention from the big league's northern cities such as Brooklyn, Detroit, and Cleveland

to the minor-league parks scattered across Dixie. In places as different as Danville, Virginia, and Birmingham, Alabama, young black men integrated white teams in the heartland of segregation in the 1950s and 1960s. Never removed from southern Jim Crowism and the civil-rights struggle that raged in those same years, these black pioneers faced a very different experience than those who quickly made it to the majors. Adelson's chronological treatment weaves

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together the personal stories of the ballplayers and the battle against Jim Crow.

Adelson tells the men's stories largely through their own words and other contemporary sources. Long excerpts from numerous interviews with ballplayers, teammates, managers, sportswriters, and newspapers carry the narrative. Some of the ballplayers are well known: Henry Aaron, Willie McCovey, and Willie Mays all played in the southern minor leagues on their way to stardom, McCovey and Mays for the Danville Giants.

The most poignant memories are from men who never reached those heights, for they endured many years of life on the road in the southern leagues and faced a segregated society roiling with change. The ballplayers' straight-

forward recollections of brushing back Jim Crow are tinged with wit, irony, and sometimes bitterness. They also reveal an abiding love for a game that placed them on the front lines of integration.

—reviewed by Gregg D. Kimball, Assistant Director, Publications and Educational Services Division



William L. Whitesides, Sr., ed., *Reinvention of the Public Library for the 21st Century*. Englewood, Colorado: Libraries Unlimited Inc., 1998. xxvi + 302 pp. \$40.00.

Bill Whitesides is known to many readers of *Virginia Libraries* from his long career in the state, including service in the Library Development and Networking Division of the Library of Virginia. In 1996 he taught a graduate-level course on "The Public Library," offered by the Catholic University School of Library and Information Science through the University of Richmond. He searched unsuccessfully for a suitable textbook and then had an idea. Why not have the class write a book about public libraries on the edge of a new millennium? This publication is the result.

The approach that the class followed for analyzing the "reinvention" of public libraries occupies a middle ground: public libraries that can effectively combine the old and the new are most likely to flourish through a time of swift changes. Rather than prescribing a single path for librarians to follow, the book actually is most valuable as a sourcebook. Twelve chapters cover such topics as technology, support groups, and services, and each provides a survey of the professional literature on all the topics. The authors also developed a set of discussion questions for each chapter, which help to frame the issues for readers.

The students then identified

recent recipients of the Gale Research/Library Journal "Public Library of the Year" awards (none of them Virginia libraries, it must be admitted). A member of the class contacted people in charge at each of these exemplary institutions to learn how they were preparing for the future. The book closes with reports on practices at thirteen of the nation's best public libraries. Students of library science will be grateful for this book, and anyone involved in administration of public libraries will find it an informative resource. Bill Whitesides's inspiration even benefited himself. Now he has the textbook that he needed for his course.

—reviewed by John T. Kneebone,  
Director, Publications and Educational Services Division



Michele Gillespie and Catherine Clinton, eds., *Taking Off the White Gloves: Southern Women and Women Historians*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1998. x + 186 pp. \$27.50.

Many southern women, myself included, have donned white gloves for special occasions. Gloves of various lengths, from wrist to elbow, are still trotted out for weddings, proms, and beauty pageants. Michele Gillespie and Catherine Clinton, editors of this collection of ten essays, explain in their introduction that by taking the gloves off, scholars free themselves for the demanding work of writing women back into history. Many shed their gloves in 1970, when the Southern Association of Women Historians (SAWH) was formed, and slip into them now only to handle fragile archival materials.

The book contains a selection of the addresses given annually to the SAWH by a who's who of historians: Mary Frederickson, Suzanne Lebsock, Catherine Clinton,

Virginia Van Der Veer Hamilton, Theda Perdue, Jean B. Lee, Anne Firor Scott, Glenda Elizabeth Gilmore, Carol Bleser, and Darlene Clark Hine. Their essays cover a broad spectrum of topics, including women workers in the twentieth-century South, the southern experience in the American Revolution, and female leadership of the Southern Historical Association. Two authors deal with topics related to Virginia. Theda Perdue thoughtfully examines the relationship between native women and European men (mentioning Pocahontas and John Smith), and

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### Many shed their gloves in 1970...and slip into them now only to handle fragile archival materials.

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Suzanne Lebsock outlines Virginia's woman suffrage movement and traces its ties to white supremacy.

While increasing our understanding of women in the past, these essays also help us understand women in the present. What is the status of women in the historical profession? What is the research process really like? What is the connection between women's history and women's activism? How can race and gender be written into political history? What was it like to be a female graduate student in the 1960s? How is history written, and why is it important? Sifting through research notes and crafting words into sentences, paragraphs, and pages is hard work, Glenda Gilmore explains, but when historians "get really lucky, magic happens; we find a voice, stories spill out, arguments leap up into topic sen-

tences, conclusions cohere." Women historians of the South raise their voices in *Taking Off the White Gloves*, creating a book that is interesting and informative.

—reviewed by Jennifer Davis  
McDaid, Assistant Editor, Virginia Cavalcade



Mary Kemp Davis, *Nat Turner Before the Bar of Judgment: Fictional Treatments of the Southampton Slave Insurrection*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1999. xiv + 298 pp. \$30.00.

Mary Kemp Davis, an associate professor of English at Florida A&M University, examines six fictional accounts of Nat Turner's 1831 insurrection in Southampton, Virginia. She begins by exploring the historical events and responses surrounding the insurrection and the publication in 1831 of Thomas Gray's *The Confessions of Nat Turner*, which William Styron used in his 1967 book of the same name. The six novels are *The Old Dominion; or, The Southampton Massacre* by George Payne Rainsford James (1856); *Dred: A Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp* by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1856); *Homoselle* by Mary Spear Tiernan (1881); *Their Shadows Before: A Story of the Southampton Insurrection* by Pauline Carrington Rust Bouvé (1899); *Ol' Prophet Nat* by Daniel Panger (1967); and Styron's *The Confessions of Nat Turner*. Davis concludes her discussion with *Dessa Rose* (1986), written by Sherry Anne Williams in response to Styron.

Davis traces the origins of the book to her college introduction to Styron's novel and her continuing fascination with Nat Turner. The work is an outgrowth of her Ph.D. dissertation, *The Historical Slave Revolt and the Literary Imagination* (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1984). Her intent is

"to show how each novel contrives to extract a 'verdict' from its plot." Davis begins her discussion by deconstructing the earlier texts relating to the trials: Governor John Floyd's official address to the General Assembly on 6 December 1831, the trial transcripts, articles in the Richmond *Enquirer* and Richmond *Constitutional Whig*, and Gray's *The Confessions of Nat Turner*.

These texts, especially *Confessions*, which resulted from Gray's deposition of Turner over three days, serve as the basic documents from which the later novels drew material. Davis concludes that these texts all purport to represent the "true" Nat Turner but ultimately fail to achieve the truth about the revolt because the writers cannot decide on Turner's essential nature. Is his religious fanaticism a legitimate explanation for the events or is Turner simply a madman?

Her fundamental argument is that the novelists use the Nat Turner Revolt as a dramatic device without achieving a true image of Turner himself. Davis points out that the novelists were (and are) white and that no African Americans have written fictional accounts of Turner. She finds this curious, but does not explore the reasons why this might be. In her final chapter, Davis compares Styron's *Confessions* to *Dessa Rose*. For Davis, Williams is the only novelist to come close to the oral tradition of African American culture and to break free of the previous novelists' reliance on the published record, which suppresses the voices of Nat Turner and his followers.

The book is geared toward an academic audience, not the general public. For readers unfamiliar with the language of deconstruction, it makes for tough reading. Davis cautions readers to remember that, although novels are

works of fiction, they are produced within an historical context and that their encoded language must not be taken at face value. In this, she is preaching to the choir.

—reviewed by *Barbara Batson*,  
*Exhibits Coordinator*



Steve Nash, *Blue Ridge 2020: An Owner's Manual*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999. xviii + 211 pp. \$19.95 (soft cover).

The Blue Ridge Mountains are home to three national parks, seven national forests, twenty-nine wilderness areas, parts of the Appalachian Trail, and numerous state parks, forests, and natural areas. The Blue Ridge is also home to almost as many species of mammals, snakes, birds, fish, flowering plants, and trees as Europe, and it encompasses the largest concentration of public land east of the Mississippi. Steve Nash, associate professor of journalism at the University of Richmond and a reporter on environmental issues for *BioScience*, *National Parks*, and the *Washington Post*, summarizes the work of scientists and other professionals in government and academia to explore the present environmental status of the Blue Ridge and to suggest ways we can save the mountains for future generations.

In a conversational tone that forsakes scientific jargon, Nash discusses a number of issues. He examines endangered species and the deleterious effects of non-native species on the natives. He postulates, for example, that Major James Dooley, creator of what is now Richmond's Maymont Park, may have inadvertently introduced to Virginia an Asian insect, the hemlock woolly adelgid, when he acquired a Japanese hemlock for Maymont in the early years of the twentieth century. The insect now infests hemlocks of the Blue Ridge. Taking over a new ten-to-

fifteen-mile area each year, the woolly adelgids endanger the trees, and perhaps may make extinct the Carolina hemlock.

Nash also discusses acid rain (mostly caused by coal-burning power plants), ozone pollution, and other forms of pollution in the Blue Ridge environment. In addition, he explores the encroachment of humans with housing developments and deforestation and the resulting endangerment of the natural environment. And he looks at the effects of uncertain federal and state government funding of research and the lack of legislative, governmental, and public support to preserve the Blue Ridge. Nash concludes with a review of the various initiatives that have recently been undertaken, especially on the local level, to undo the damage and discusses Americans' need to become more aware of and sensitive to our responsibilities for preserving this important area. Maps, tables, and several informative sidebars titled "Solutions" round out his picture of an imperiled ecosystem.

—reviewed by *Emily J. Salmon*,  
*Senior Copy Editor*

## Virginia Bookends

 The next time you pitch camp at Black Horse Gap on the Appalachian Trail, "be sure to keep an eye on the Sundrops while you prepare breakfast," advises Leonard M. Adkins, a resident of Catawba, Virginia. "The tightly wound, reddish orange, tapering buds will begin to spread outward, eventually opening up to become deep-golden blossoms whose pigment mimics that of the solar orb rising higher into the sky." For more such enjoyable and poetic descriptions, not to mention attractive illustrations by Georgia photographers Joe and Monica Cook, add to your backpack *Wildflowers of the*

*Appalachian Trail* (Birmingham, Alabama: Menasha Ridge Press, 1999. x + 214 pp. \$15.95 soft cover).

Of special interest to local historians and genealogists: Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis has prepared *Tidewater Virginia Families: Generations Beyond* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1998. 221 pp. \$45.00), a supplement to her 1990 book, *Tidewater Virginia Families*. Davis has added eleven families to the original forty, all connected to the Hutcheson, Peatross, Butler, and Lee clans, and has included information on homes, graveyards, sibling lines, and personal anecdotes.

Quentin P. Taylor, a scholar of politics and humanities, has edited *The Essential Federalist: A New Reading of the Federalist Papers* (Madison, Wisconsin: Madison House Publishers, Inc., 1998. xi + 183 pp. \$28.95 hardcover, \$16.95 soft cover). Taylor has distributed among nine topical chapters the core of the complete Papers, about one-fourth the length of the original. According to John P. Kaminski (editor of Madison House's *Jefferson in Love*, reviewed elsewhere in this column), of the Center for the Study of the American Constitution (under whose banner this book is published), "the best of the writing and all of the key ideas have been preserved" and "Taylor has made The Federalist Papers truly accessible." Taylor adds a biographical essay on each of the three authors of the papers, including Virginian James Madison, and an essay on the historical context of the writings.

Three recent titles touch on religious and spiritual themes. Virginia librarian K. Paul Johnson says of his book *Edgar Cayce in Context: The Readings: Truth and Fiction* (Albany: State University of

New York Press, 1998. xi + 178 pp. \$18.95 soft cover) that its goal "is to initiate consideration of Cayce in historical context as a major figure in twentieth-century American spirituality." Cayce (1877-1945) became known as the "Sleeping Prophet" for his advice on health, Christianity, psychology, reincarnation, Atlantis, and other matters, which he gave while in a trance. Cayce's Association for Research and Enlightenment (A.R.E.), located in Virginia Beach, outlived him and is today a center of New Age study. Johnson briefly examines Cayce's readings and discusses his peers but invites other scholars to conduct in-depth research.

Nancy B. Detweiler, of Richmond, has written a kind of spiritual scrapbook of her life, *A New Age Christian: My Spiritual Journey* (Richmond: Bridging the Gap Ministries, 1998. 236 pp. \$24.95 soft cover). Some of her concerns, such as reincarnation and Christ consciousness, echo those of Edgar Cayce; others, such as karma, astrology, and numerology, derive from spiritual and metaphysical practices all over the world. Underpinning the entire narrative is her struggle to reconcile her Christianity with her New Age beliefs.

The late Robert R. Brown, an Episcopal bishop with a divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary, wrote an extended meditation titled "*And One Was a Soldier*": *The Spiritual Pilgrimage of Robert E. Lee* (Shippensburg, Pennsylvania: White Mane Publishing Co., 1998. xvii + 125 pp. \$19.95). Brown based his thoughtful book on his own extensive knowledge of the Civil War and of Lee, although he acknowledged that "there is no way of measuring precisely the depth of his [Lee's] faith, particularly as he was such an uncommunicative man." However, wrote Brown, "I think the subject important enough to try."

## Civil War Bookends

Louisiana State University Press has reissued a book by Confederate spy Belle Boyd, *Belle Boyd in Camp and Prison* (Baton Rouge: 1865, reprint 1999. 268 pp. \$16.95 soft cover). Scholars Drew Gilpin Faust and Sharon Kennedy-Nolle add a foreword and introduction that discuss Boyd in the light of recent scholarship on women and the Civil War.

The Bison Books imprint of the University of Nebraska Press continues its steady stream of Civil War reissues in soft cover, beginning with a book by Virginian Clifford Dowdey, *Lee & His Men at Gettysburg: The Death of a Nation* (393 pp. \$16.95). The work focuses on the Army of Northern Virginia; it is the first of a trilogy, the other titles of which are also Bison Books. George Dallas Mosgrove published *Kentucky Cavaliers in Dixie: Reminiscences of a Confederate Cavalryman* (xiii + 282 pp. \$15.00 soft cover) in 1895. He approvingly compared the Shenandoah Valley to his home's bluegrass country, enjoyed a visit to the Natural Bridge, and paid his respects at Stonewall Jackson's grave. One of Mosgrove's opponents, Rufus R. Dawes, wrote *A Full Blown Yankee of the Iron Brigade: Service with the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers* (xv + 330 pp. \$16.95) in 1890, basing his account on a wartime journal and on letters to his family back in Ohio. Dawes fought all over Virginia, including the great battles at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Cold Harbor.

—reviewed by Julie A. Campbell