



The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

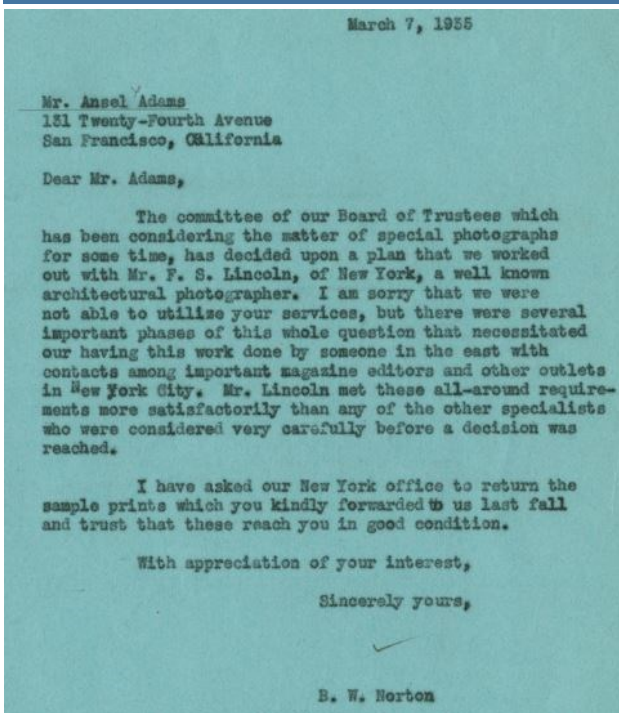
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR LIBRARY

WINTER 2023

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 5, NO. 3

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK AT THE ROCKEFELLER LIBRARY: THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY!



The letter Adams received, which noted that the organization was sorry it was “not able to utilize your services,” is part of the Corporate Archives Collection.

Libraries across the country are preparing to mark National Library Week, a great time to celebrate all things library related! This year’s celebration falls during the week of April 23-29 and is themed “There’s More to the Story.”

This year’s library week theme is certainly applicable to the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library. The Rockefeller Library is the research center of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. But beyond serving the research needs of Colonial Williamsburg staff, the library welcomes the broader research community through its mission of advancing knowledge of colonial British America, the American Revolution, the early United States, American decorative arts and folk art, and the Restoration and continuing story of Colonial Williamsburg. But “The Rock” has so much more to offer!

Researchers are familiar with our collection of specialized circulating books and better-known resources such as our vast collection of 18th-century Virginia Gazettes and the official and personal collections of Reverend W. A. R. Goodwin but may not be as familiar with some of our lesser-known treasures. At the Rockefeller Library there is always more to the story!

For instance, did you know that the library holds an Ansel Adams rejection letter? It’s true, during the 1930s, the Foundation wanted to memorialize the progress of the Restoration and decided to seek outside photographers. While Ansel Adams responded enthusiastically to the opportunity, he ultimately wasn’t hired. The letter Adams received noted that the organization was sorry it was “not able to utilize your services,” though it also noted the quality of his work.

And did you know that the library holds the photo archive of Williamsburg's first Black city-licensed photographer? The Albert Durant Photography Collection provides a rich and fascinating glimpse into the African American communities in Williamsburg

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NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK (continued)

and surrounding areas from the 1930s to the 1960s.

The library also maintains an extensive moving image and audio collection that includes a vast music archive, home movies, and the Harvard footage – a black and white video of Williamsburg shot in 1930 before the Historic Area was fully restored. It also holds the *Story of the Patriot*, produced as a CW orientation film in 1957 and “the longest-running motion picture in history.”

In addition to these incredible treasures, the library provides staff and visiting researchers a quiet study space, and for interpretive staff, space to rehearse a performance. Patrons can also check out the new book shelf, take in the latest library exhibition, or simply meet and collaborate on a project.

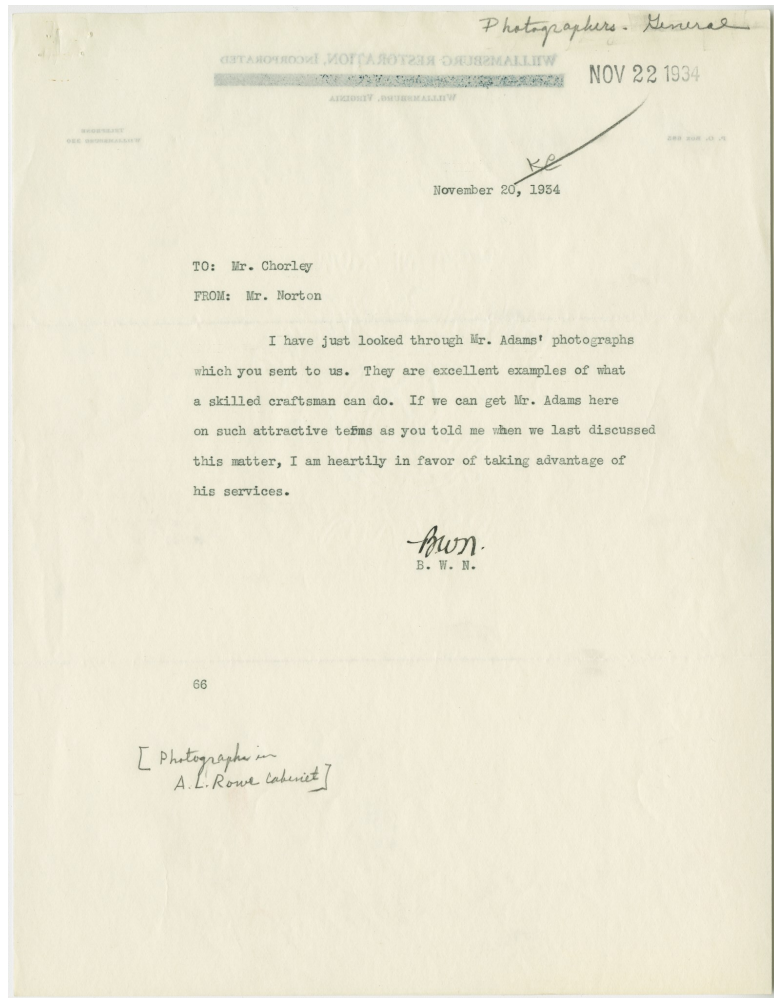
A recent *New York Times* article entitled “A Love Letter to Libraries, Long Overdue” by Elisabeth Egan and Erica Ackerberg caught my attention and reminded me of the power of libraries to be an engaging and transforming presence for both individuals and communities. In it, they discuss the fluid library that constantly reinvents itself to meet community needs.

We all know that books connect us, that language has quiet power. To see the concentration, curiosity and peace on faces lit by words is to know — beyond a shadow of a doubt, in a time rife

with shadows — that libraries are the beating hearts of our communities. What we borrow from them pales in comparison to what we keep. How often we pause to appreciate their bounty is up to us.

So, as we enter 2023’s National Library Week, please take a moment to “pause to appreciate” your local library and how you might help support these important community anchors. And, if you wish to support “The Rock,” please consider joining the Friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library. 100% of your Friends donation supports our efforts to acquire, digitize, and conserve library collections.

For information on joining the Friends, please visit the [Friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library](#) page.



Letter dated November 20, 1934 from Bela Norton, Director of Public Relations, to Kenneth Chorley, Vice President of Colonial Williamsburg Inc., expressing his support of engaging Ansel Adams' services as photographer.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK (continued)



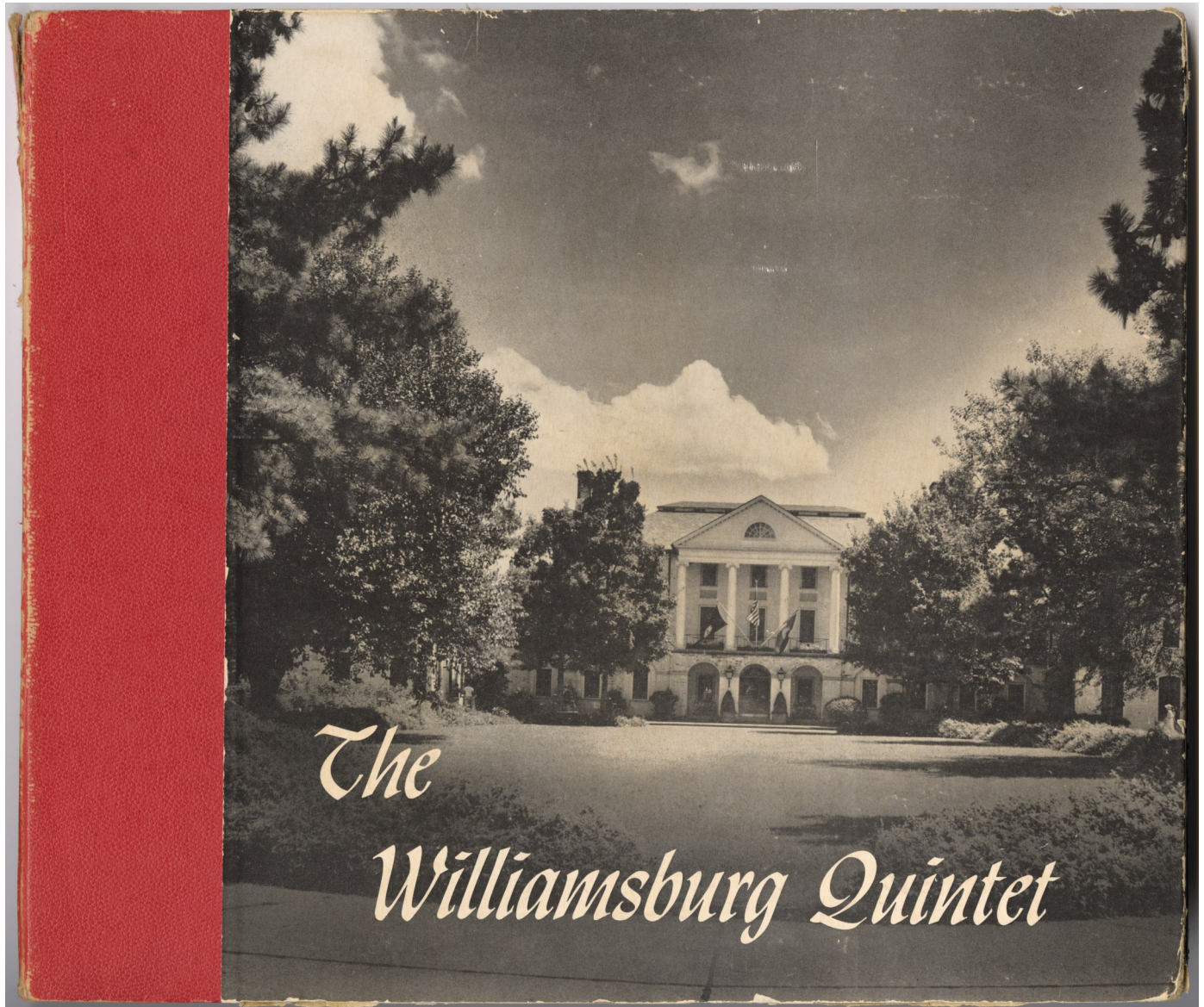
The photographer Albert Durant posing with a Century Studio Grand camera.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK (continued)



Members of the Williamsburg Quintet L-R Leroy Stevens, Libson Gerst, Fred Epps, Archer Tucker, and Alfred Epps.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK (continued)



Record album "Spirituals by the Williamsburg Quintet." This was a two-record collection.

WILLIAMSBURG BRAY SCHOOL MOVE



Spectators watch the Bray School move past Merchants Square along Boundary Street.

Photo by Brendan Sostak.

The Williamsburg Bray School is the oldest extant building dedicated to the education of Black children in the United States. On February 10th, it moved from the campus of the College of William & Mary to Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area (HA). Media Collections (MC) staff and volunteers were on hand to watch and record this once in a lifetime event. Volunteer photographers Wayne Reynolds and Jerry McCoy, MC photographer Brendan Sostak, publications photographer Brian Newson, and spotters Jenna Simpson and Tracey Gulden all worked together to visually document the building's progress through town. The weather was warm for February with beautiful blue skies. An estimated 500+ spectators watched the 18th-century building wind its way carefully through the tree-lined streets of downtown Williamsburg. There were lots of starts and stops as the CW landscape department paused to trim back branches so the building would pass safely under overhanging tree canopies. A large group of school children from nearby Matthew Whaley Elementary School came bearing signs with the names of students, enslaved and free, who attended the school. Jerry, Brendan and Brian followed the building through town on foot while Wayne followed it in the air via his drone, capturing both still images and video footage. After the Bray School arrived at its new location, Brendan and Brian hustled back to the office to meet midday deadlines for photo delivery to local and national media outlets. They then returned to the HA to photograph the Williamsburg Bray School Preservation Launch Ceremony. Speakers included Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin, CW President Cliff Fleet, William & Mary President Katherine A. Rowe, and City of Williamsburg Mayor Douglas G. Pons. Maureen Elgersman Lee, Director of the William & Mary Bray School Lab, gave remarks and introduced the recognition of Bray School students through the reading of their names. Readers were Janice Canaday, Tonia Cansler Merideth,

WILLIAMSBURG BRAY SCHOOL MOVE (continued)

and Bobby Braxton, all descendant community members, and Nicole Brown of the Bray School Lab and CW. Reginald Fox, Director of Music and Educational Administrator at First Baptist Church of Williamsburg concluded the program with the singing of “Unity.” It was a momentous and emotional day at Colonial Williamsburg. But the move was not yet complete. The Bray School sat upon a trailer at its new home for several days as crews prepared to move it one last time. On February 14th, it did just that. Over the course of the day, the building slowly ‘rolled’ across the site to its final home atop new foundations. Volunteer Wayne Reynolds spent the day photographing the process both on the ground and in the sky with his drone. Dozens of visitors stopped by on foot and in cars to watch and ask questions. Coachman Adam Canaday, who is a member of the descendant community, drove a carriage of guests to see the progress. As the sun set, the move was largely complete, and the Bray School was finally home. The accompanying images show a small glimpse of what happened during both moves. All images and video have been accessioned and cataloged into “The Source”, the Foundation’s digital asset management system and official media archive. Images can currently be accessed on site by CW staff, volunteers, and interns. Plans are also underway to make Rockefeller Library photographic assets more discoverable by external users and partners (more information coming soon!). And work continues at the Bray School as teams from around CW work to restore the building and see it open for visitation and interpretation late in 2024.



***Colonial Williamsburg landscape department trims branches to accommodate the Bray School.
Photo by Jerry McCoy.***

WILLIAMSBURG BRAY SCHOOL MOVE

(continued)



Students from Matthew Whaley Elementary School hold signs bearing the names of students who attended the Bray School.



*Aerial view of the Bray School traveling along Francis Street.
Photo by Wayne Reynolds.*

WILLIAMSBURG BRAY SCHOOL MOVE (continued)



The Williamsburg Bray School Preservation Launch Ceremony: Recognition of the Williamsburg Bray School students through the reading of all names. Standing, L-R: Janice Canaday, Tonia Cansler Merideth, Maureen Elgersman Lee, Robert "Bobby" Braxton, and Nicole Brown; seated L-R: Williamsburg Mayor Douglas G. Pons and Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin.



Coachman Adam Canaday, and member of the Bray School descendant community, drives a carriage of guests to the site to view progress. Photo by Wayne Reynolds.

WILLIAMSBURG BRAY SCHOOL MOVE (continued)



*Aerial view of the Bray School atop its new foundation at Colonial Williamsburg.
Photo by Wayne Reynolds.*

THE ROCK RECYCLES



THE ROCK RECYCLES (continued)

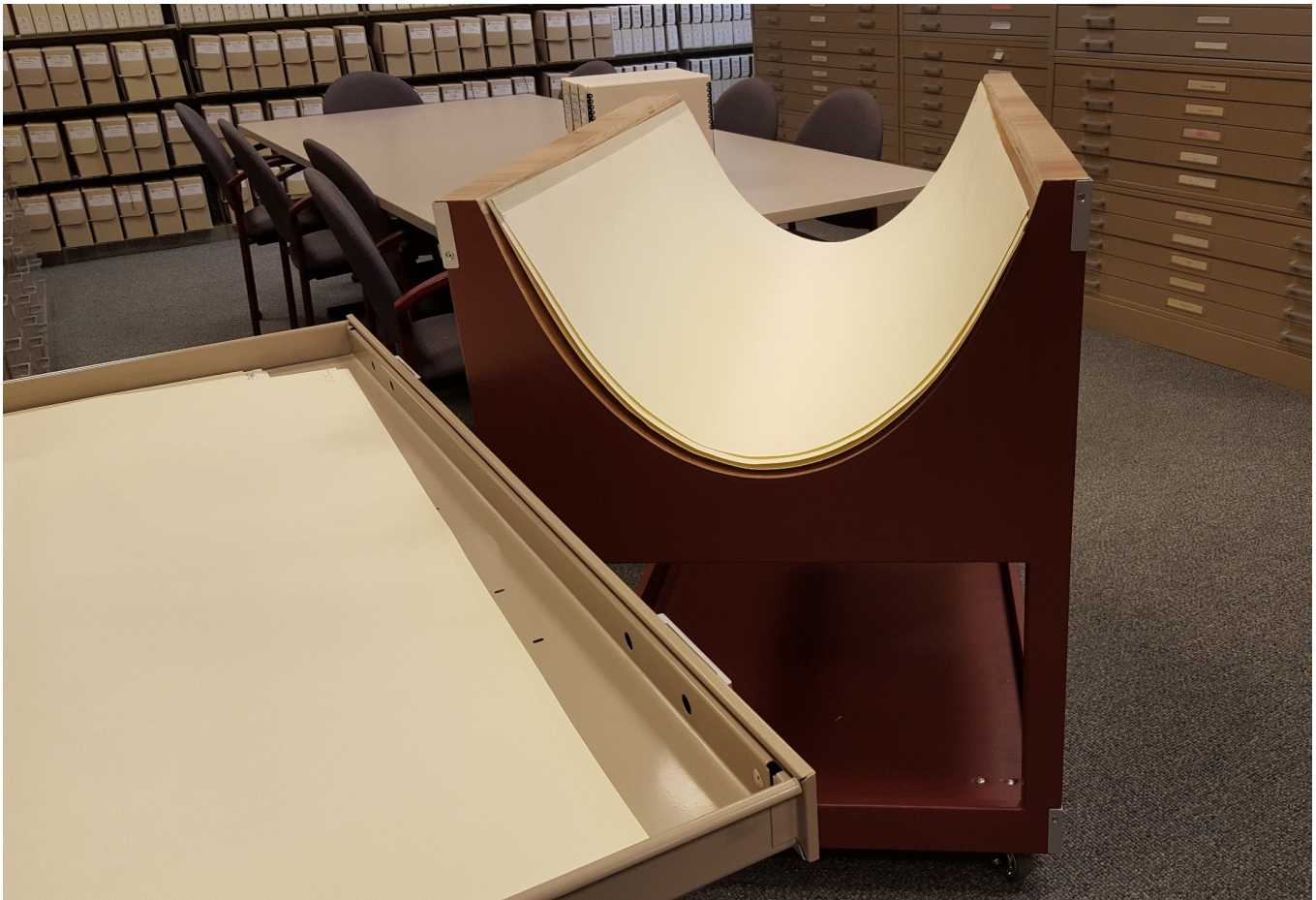
Plastic bags, plastic packaging, plastic mailers – plastic is everywhere these days. So when Rockefeller Library volunteer Dennis Branden shared details of a community plastic recycling project with Library Administrative Specialist Mary Ann Goode, she quickly got library staff on board to participate. Dennis is a member of the James City Lions Club, which collects soft plastic twice a month at the JCC Recreation Center and Colonial Town Plaza. Through an agreement with Trex, a Virginia company that uses melted soft plastics to manufacture environmentally friendly decking and outdoor furniture, every 500 pounds of collected plastic becomes a bench that the James City Lions donate to WJCC Public Schools.

Lion Dennis graciously agreed to ferry any plastic collected by library staff to the Lions and we have risen to the challenge – so far we have collected over 50 pounds of plastic! We are delighted that our shopping bags, bubble wrap, newspaper sleeves (and more!) are not only staying out of landfills but helping to beautify our community. Readers local to Williamsburg can find out more about the program, including detailed information about acceptable plastic and the collection schedule at their website: https://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/james_city.

In a fun and collaborative twist, Dennis alerted the Williamsburg Host Lions Club that we were collecting plastic since they sponsor the same project and the library is located within the city limits. The Williamsburg Lions happened to have a Trex bench that needed a good home and they generously proposed placing this bench at Rockefeller Library! On March 16, representatives from the Williamsburg Lions Club, including Lion Leo Morrisette (President), Lion Paul Kerr (Immediate Past President and Plastic Collection Chair), Lion Pat Kerr (Secretary), Lion Lynda Kleiwerda (Vice President), and Lion Leslie Stockman, visited the library to present the bench and place it in our picnic area. Lion Dennis Branden was also present to help mark the occasion. We are thrilled with our new bench and with our partnership with both local Lions Clubs!



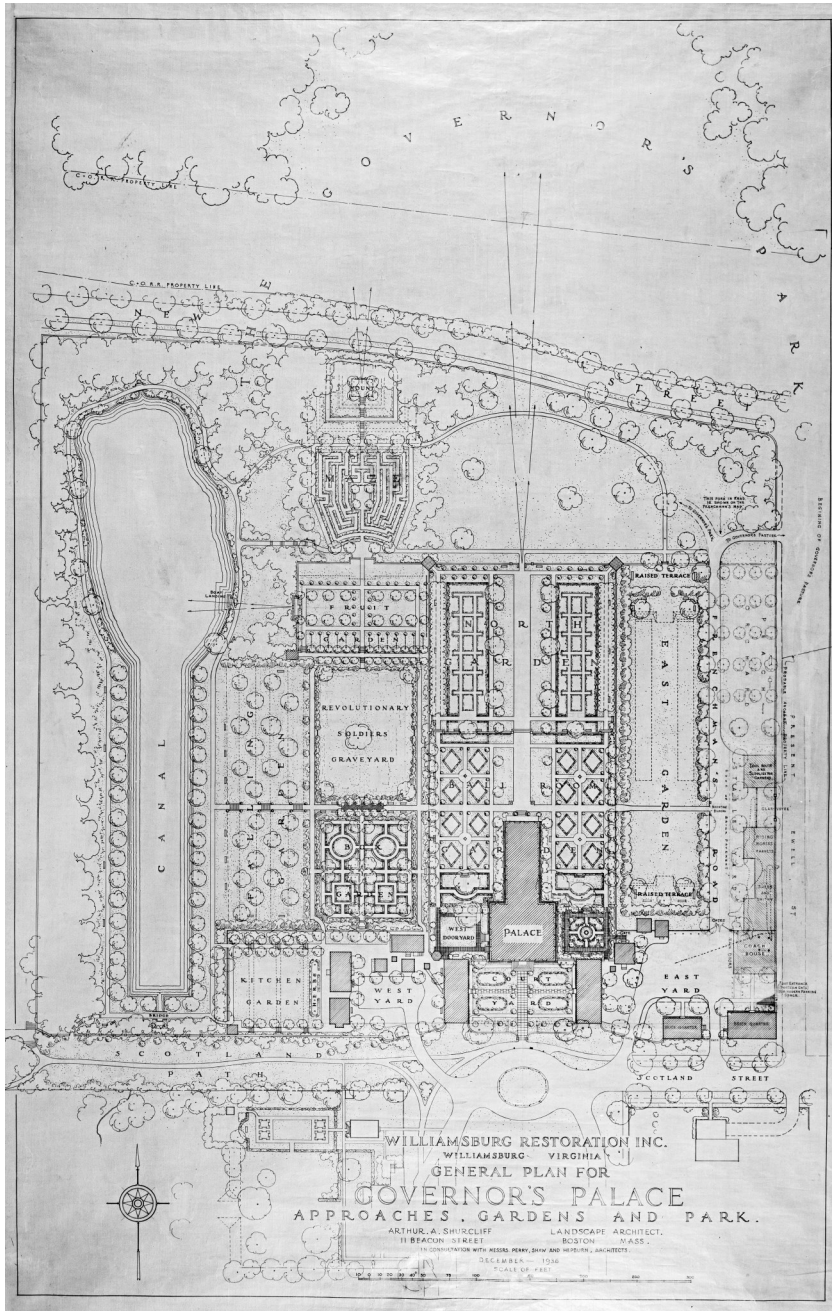
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS NEWS



*The new architectural drawings cart.
Photo by Brendan Shostak.*

New Architectural Drawings Mobile

The Rockefeller Library is pleased to add a new vehicle to its fleet of carts used to safely transport library materials. It is a specially designed cradle cart for transporting oversized architectural drawings. The cart features a concave upper deck that gently cradles folders of drawers just enough to allow them to be moved through standard doorways throughout the library and will assist with transporting drawings to the lower level of the library for pick-up by our digitization vendor, Backstage Library Works. In addition, it will be utilized to safely transfer the oversized drawings from storage drawers to the oversized consultation table utilized for research appointments, class visits, and processing projects. A special thank you is due to Colonial Williamsburg carpenter William Selk, who designed and fabricated the cart and Paint Foreman, Steve Daniels, who painted it.



General Plan For Governor's Palace : Approaches, Gardens and Park.

Williamsburg Restoration Inc.

Group Visits to Special Collections & Visual Resources

Special Collections and Visual Resources welcomed a diverse array of special interest groups to examine and discuss archival collections during the first quarter of 2023. William & Mary students in Professor Abigail Buffington's "People, Plants, and the Built Environment" course made a class visit in February to examine landscape design related materials. The students undertook class projects to examine primary source material connected with specific gardens in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area. They viewed landscape drawings, photo albums, plant lists, and boxwood research compiled by Landscape Architect Arthur Shurcliff during the initial restoration of Williamsburg's eighteenth century landscape features. In addition, they learned about eighteenth and nineteenth century maps, town plans, and manuscripts offering evidence of Williamsburg's historic landscape elements.

A pair of librarians from the Antique Automobile Club of America Library in Hershey, Pennsylvania requested a special visit while in Williamsburg for the Antique Automobile Club of America's annual conference. They viewed a display of architectural drawings and photographs featuring antique automobiles and relating to the introduction of automobile transportation in Williamsburg, early automotive service stations, and planning for traffic patterns and roadways. Among

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS NEWS (continued)



*Officials for 1949 Glidden Tour posing in their automobiles in front of the Williamsburg Inn, Williamsburg, Virginia.
Photo by Albert Durant, 1949.*

the items they examined were a group of photos taken by Albert Durant of the 1949 Glidden Tour participants in Williamsburg. Following a route from Gettysburg to Wilmington, the Glidden Tour of ninety-three antique automobiles stopped for the nights of September 27 and 28, 1949 to visit Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Yorktown. Upon return to their library, the AACA librarians located news clippings and a tour itinerary relating to the Glidden Tour that provide further details for the description and cataloging of the Rockefeller Library's photos.

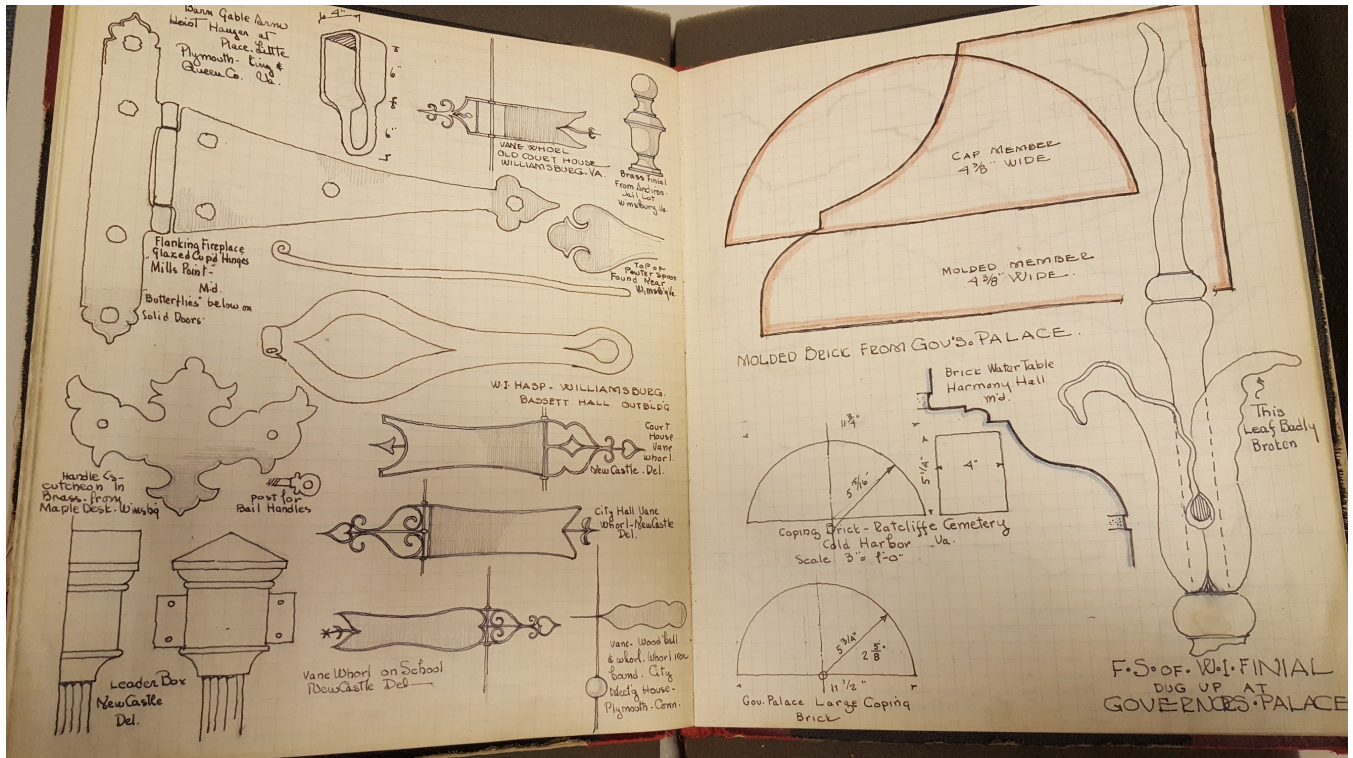
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS NEWS (continued)



Full-scale drawings of ironwork details for a balcony on the Governor's Palace by Perry, Shaw & Hepburn, 1932.

Finally, a group of thirty-three blacksmiths who specialize in traditional and restoration ironwork hosted by Master Blacksmith Ken Schwarz and his staff spent a morning at the library examining architectural drawings, photographs, and research collections relating to decorative ironwork fabricated for the restoration of Historic Area buildings and gardens. Full scale detail drawings of the Governor's Palace weathervane, front balcony, entrance gate, and garden gates allowed the blacksmiths to study the features of ironwork fabricated to replicate eighteenth century techniques. Several of Singleton P. Moorehead's architectural field notebooks from the 1930s gave the blacksmiths an opportunity to see sketches of hardware, such as hinges, latches, finials, and shutter dogs, on historic structures throughout the mid-Atlantic region. They also viewed the Donald Streeter Collection consisting of photographs, articles, and a book manuscript relating to research conducted by blacksmith Donald Streeter on eighteenth-century blacksmithing for various historic ironwork restoration projects. The unique focuses of each of these groups underscores the expansive subject matter documented in the Rockefeller Library's collections and its appeal for a broad range of researchers beyond the museum's borders.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS NEWS (continued)



Sketches of hinges, escutcheons, and weathervanes from various sites, as well as a molded brick and finial from the Governor's Palace, Sketchbook of Details, Singleton Peabody Moorehead, n.d. (pages 52-53).

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND DEMOCRACY INTERNS

The Rockefeller Library is pleased to be working with four interns from William & Mary this academic year, and would like to introduce them to the readers of the Newsletter!

Rebekah Toussaint is a PhD student in the history department with a special interest in late 19th-century women's activism and post-Reconstruction-era black women's issues. After she receives her degree, she plans to pursue an academic career as a professor. In her free time, Toussaint particularly enjoys photography, and currently has a side business as a photographer. She has been with Media Collections since the beginning of the fall semester and is working on several projects, including gathering information on the analog audio collection and digitizing original materials relating to Colonial Williamsburg's historic trades. She has also contributed to our photographic collection with her own documentary work in the Historic Area!

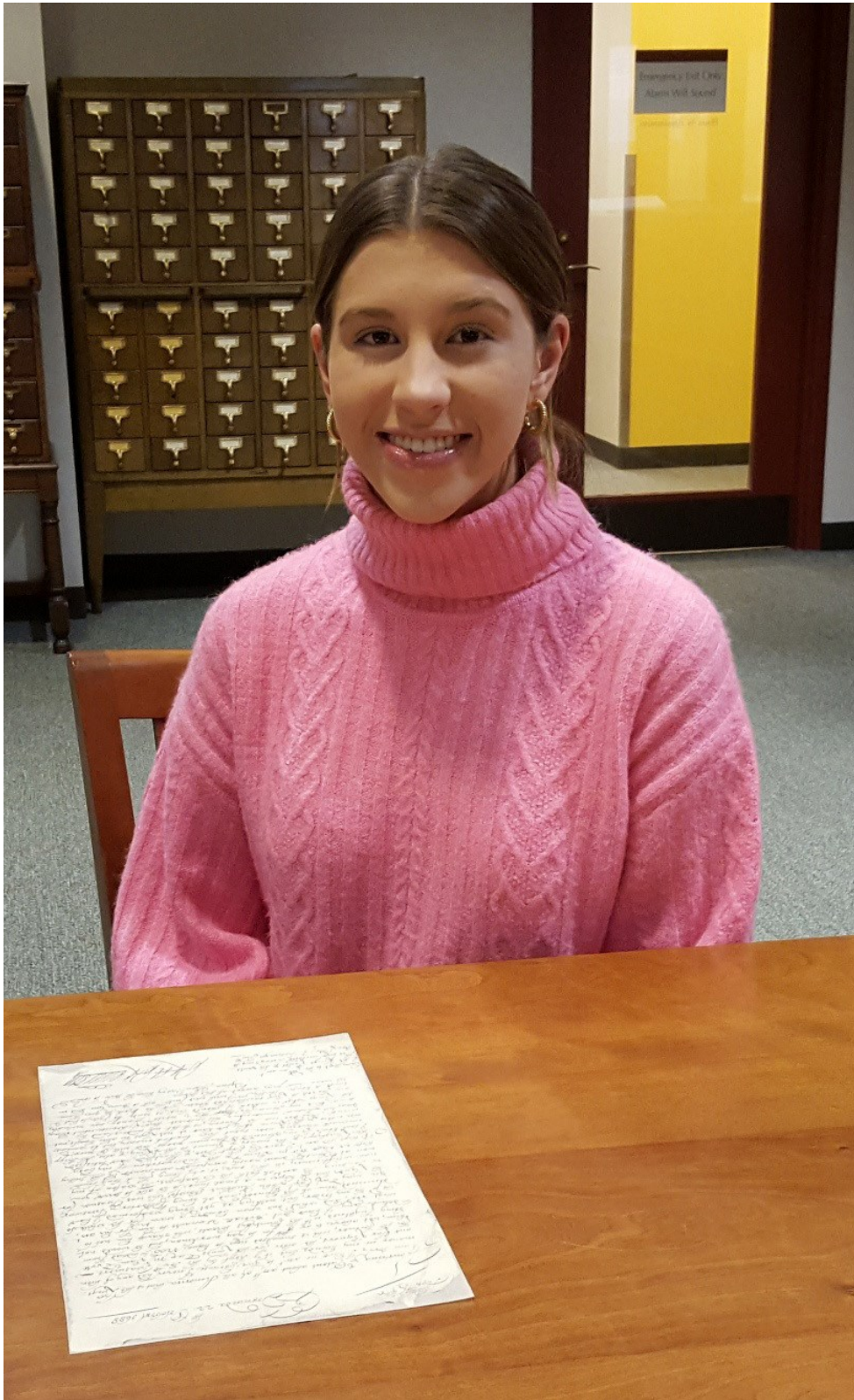
NIAHD INTERNS (continued)



***Rebekah Toussaint (left) and Cenia Higgs (right) at work in the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library's Media Collections office.
Photo by Brendan Sostak.***

Cenia Higgs is a senior in the history department, and is joining Media Collections for the spring semester. She is particularly interested in colonial history, especially the missing stories of African Americans and of societal change. She hopes to go on to a career in public history, making the past accessible to a wide variety of audiences, whether through work at a nonprofit or at a museum. When not studying, Higgs also enjoys walking in nature and spending time with her dogs, Catalyst and Creed. For her internship with the Library Higgs is currently assisting in Media Collections' digitization efforts, working with original materials related to the blacksmiths' shop.

NIAHD INTERNS (continued)



Garrett Goltermann is a junior majoring in history and minoring in studio art at the College of William & Mary. She is particularly interested in colonial American history, especially the American Revolution and the early republic. After her time at William & Mary, Goltermann hopes to attend graduate school to pursue a master's degree in museum curation and nonprofit business management, to pursue a career in public history. In her free time, Garrett enjoys reading, travelling, and engaging in her side business as a photographer. For her internship with the Rockefeller Library, Goltermann is currently assisting in the Special Collections department to transcribe and upload various historical documents, such as 18th-century *Virginia Gazettes* and correspondence including a George Washington letter.

Garrett Goltermann is the current NIAHD intern in Special Collections working with 17th- and 18th-century manuscripts.

NIAHD INTERNS (continued)



Ava Lorusso works in Special Collections cataloging architectural drawings before they are photographed by our vendor.

Ava Lorusso is a sophomore in the history department, with a particular interest in viewing historical continuities through an intersectional lens. With plans on pursuing a legal career, she hopes to work for museums, tying her passion for public history to law. Outside of academia, Ava enjoys visual arts, and especially loves drawing. As a part of her internship, she has worked with both Special Collections and Visual Resources collections. Last semester Ava employed archival databases to transcribe and catalog original 17th-century manuscripts. Currently, she is working to analyze, watermark, and catalog the Albert Durant and Finlay Forbes Ferguson Photograph Collections for public view.

Our interns come to us through the National Institute for American History and Democracy (NIAHD) program, a partnership between William & Mary and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for students interested in pursuing American History, Material Culture, and Public History. NIAHD offers programs for students from high school (through a pre-college summer program) up through graduate school (offering a seven-course certificate program).

The Library team is pleased and grateful to be working with these developing scholars as they explore their futures in the realm of museum studies and public history!

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

2022 @ THE ROCK

458,290

TOTAL ASSETS

in "The Source," Colonial Williamsburg's digital asset management system and official media archive. Media Collections added **19,984** new digital assets to The Source and processed **840** photography orders in 2022.

CHECKOUTS

from the Library's circulating collection.

Including **742** items lent to faculty and students through our partnership with William & Mary Libraries and **70** items lent through Interlibrary Loan.

5,958

3,300

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ITEMS

cataloged in the library's Omeka pages.

Special Collections & Manuscripts:
<https://cwjfdrlsc.omeka.net>
Visual Resources:
<https://rocklib.omeka.net/>

REFERENCE QUESTIONS

answered by Special Collections staff.

Visual Resources processed **189** image licensing agreements.

1,250

396

NEW BOOKS

about archaeology, conservation, decorative arts, historic trades, 18th century history, folk art, museum studies, and more added to the library's collection. See the latest additions here: bit.ly/3z4v091

The *John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library Newsletter* is a publication of Colonial Williamsburg's John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library.

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Please visit [Friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library](#) for information on how you can help support the Library and don't forget to like and follow us on Facebook: [Rockefeller Library at CW](#).

To contact the library directly, please call 757-220-7249 or 757-565-8510; or email us at rocklibrary@cwf.org.