

THE GADROON

Newsletter of the South Carolina Silver Society, Inc.

WINTER 2018

ANNUAL DINNER PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY 9th

Mark your calendars now for the South Carolina Silver Society's Annual Dinner scheduled for Friday evening, February 9, 2018. As customary, the dinner will be held in Columbia at the Palmetto Club.

The program committee is pleased to announce that the SCSS is fortunate to feature Catherine BATTERY Hollan as the evening's speaker. Ms. Hollan has been researching, writing, and lecturing on American silver for many years. Since the late 1980s she has been working with the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in Old Salem, North Carolina, on the illustrated *Virginia Silversmiths, the Branching of the Trade* forthcoming. In 1994 she wrote the catalog and curated the exhibition *In the Neatest Most Fashionable Manner: Three Centuries of Alexandria Silver* at The Lyceum in Alexandria, Virginia. She published *Virginia Silversmiths~Lives and Marks* in 2010 and *Philadelphia Silversmiths to 1861* in 2013. She was moderator and presenter of the *Silver Seminar Saturday Series* at the Museum of Early American Decorative Arts in 2012 and 2014.

Catherine graduated from Goucher College in Baltimore with a B.A. in English and with a minor in math and from Georgetown University with an M.S. in computational linguistics. She developed computerized search tools at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and retired as the manager of their Public Search Rooms in 2003. Since then she has enjoyed more time to research southern silversmiths. Catherine is president of the American Silver Guild, a special interest group of collectors and curators based in the Washington, D.C. area. She lives in McLean, Virginia.

Additional details and registration forms will be sent to members in mid January.

ALEXANDER YOUNG EXHIBIT CONTIUES THROUGH JANUARY

The Camden Archives and Museum's exhibit the *Story of Camden Silversmith Alexander Young* continues through January 28, 2018. The museum is located at 1314 Broad Street.

On Thursday, October 12, 2017, six members - Judy Anderson, Henry Brown, Susan DePass, Rusty DePass, Kay Durham, and Jim Howie, our newest member, traveled to Camden to view the Young Exhibit. As Judy Anderson reported, "The director, Katherine Richardson, met us and briefed us on the exhibit. As anticipated, we saw wonderful things and we, of course, drooled over the cases. Ms. Richardson, who was very gracious, showed us other items of interest to various attendees. Some of us may remember Ms. Richardson from the silver exhibit we visited in Sumter several years ago."

After spending several hours at the Museum, the group had lunch in Camden and had a good time talking about the exhibit, silver in general, and the world in general. Of course, they popped into several stores. According to Kay Durham, "Our day in Camden was a treat!"

The Camden Archives and Museum is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Admission is free. For more information, call (803) 425-6050.

LECTURE ON CHARLESTON SILVER SCHEDULED FOR APRIL

As part of Historic Charleston Foundation's 71st Annual Festival of Houses and Gardens, the Foundation has announced a luncheon lecture series. The lectures will be held at the Captain James Misroon House, the Foundation's headquarters, at 40 East Bay Street. Participants will enjoy an educational talk along with a casual light lunch of salad and sandwiches and will allow

for lively interaction between the audience and speaker.

One particular session, "*Nothing of Artistic Merit*": *Charleston Silver and its Legacy*, will be presented on Wednesday, April 18, 2017, beginning at 11:30 AM, and should be of interest to members of the South Carolina Silver Society. The lecture is described in the Foundation's brochure as follows:

"Both loved and looted over the centuries, Charleston's historic silver remains a cornerstone of Southern decorative arts. Lowcountry silversmiths forged fortunes for the local elite and established their own reputations as master artisans. Only recently, however, have Charleston silver and its silversmiths received their due recognition outside of the South. Grahame Long, Chief Curator of The Charleston Museum, answers the question... what took so long?" For more information check out the website:

<https://www.historiccharleston.org/assets/pdf/HCF%20Festival%20Brochure.pdf>

INSECTS ON MY SILVER!

The SMP Silver Forums has posted several articles by Paul Limeux from his Collector's Eye series that can be read on-line. For a most interesting article on insects and spider motifs, go to <https://www.smpub.com/cv/3/bugs-1.html>

Limeux notes, "The insect is not the most common motif on old silver, but it is certainly one of the most fascinating. There is a great range of designs and something new always seems to surface. Depending on maker, form, and design, prices can range from reasonable to astronomical."

SCSS MEMBERS CONTINUE TO INVENTORY SILVER AT WHITE HOMESTEAD

On Monday morning, August 14, 2017, six members of the South Carolina Silver Society made a third trip to Fort Mill to continue the service project documenting the silver collection at the White Homestead. Ann Evans, White Homestead archivist and curator, greeted Judy Anderson, Henry Brown, Kay Durham, Jane Barnhill, James Brannock, and Frank White and again expressed genuine appreciation for the work being done by the society. Ms. Evans noted

that based on advice from the SCSS, some important pieces of silver from The White Homestead had been sent to Charleston for restoration.

In addition to being useful to the Springs family, this project provides an opportunity to learn more about the silver collection of a prominent South Carolina family – a collection that grew and changed over time and was used daily. It also offers SCSS members a time of fellowship and getting to know each other better plus getting to see and handle some unique silver pieces.

Those who have participated in the activity all agree it offers a good opportunity to get close up and personal with a lot of silver while learning from each other not only about silver but also how to organize and conduct an inventory all while sharing different ways to examine and research silver.

The next workday has been scheduled for Monday, January 29, 2018. We hope you will be able to join the group.

RARE SOUTH CAROLINA SILVER SOLD AT AUCTION

Three rare Charleston coin silver spoon by Enos Reeves sold at Charlton Hall Auctions on October 26, 2017. Reeves worked in South Carolina from 1784-1807. The spoons, in the Reverse Tipt pattern, engraved "PLAYER," and marked "REEVES" in a rectangle were 9 inches in length. The spoons brought \$2,400 against a pre-auction estimate of \$300-\$500.

At the same sale were a rare Winnsboro coin silver ladle and spoon by James Elliott who worked c.1807-1865. Each was in a plain pattern engraved with initials "WSA" and marked in script "J.E." in rectangle, The ladle was 13 ¾ inches long, and the spoon and 9 inches for a total weight of 9.1 troy ounces. The silver brought \$4,200 against an estimate of \$300-\$500.

SOUTH CAROLINA SILVER SOCIETY, INC.

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