William Rind began publishing his *Virginia Gazette* in 1767 and continued until his death in 1773. After Rind’s death, his wife Clementina continued publishing the paper until she died the following year. In 1996, Colonial Williamsburg acquired seventy-five issues of the *Virginia Gazette* printed by the Rinds from October 8, 1772, to December 30, 1773. Among these issues are the last printed by William and first by Clementina. Earlier this year, these issues were sent to a conservation lab for treatment. The previous owner of the issues had them bound and that binding was in disrepair at the time of acquisition. The issues within the binding were becoming brittle and difficult to handle, though they were not causing further damage. At
the lab, the conservator removed the old binding, cleaned, deacidified, and flattened each leaf. Following that process, each leaf was encapsulated in a plastic sleeve, and then bound in two post bindings. Upon their return to Special Collections, the issues were used in this summer’s Teacher Institute sessions.

During those sessions, visiting teachers learned about the business of printing and the role of newspapers in pre-Revolutionary America, knowledge they will share with their students back in their classrooms. At the conclusion of the teacher sessions, the issues were sent offsite for digitization. These images are now available online.

The conservation and digitization of these issues was made possible by a generous donation from Ms. Martha Rittenhouse. The John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library appreciates her generosity and the generosity of all our donors who make it possible for us to acquire, conserve, and digitize the important historic materials in our care so they can be shared with the world.
One of Clementina Rind’s first duties as printer was to inform the public of the passing of her husband, William. The announcement appears here within the thick black border.
Library volunteers Scott Spence and Nancy Marley assist with cleaning soot residue off architectural drawings using a lint-free microfiber cloth and wedges of a vulcanized rubber dry cleaning sponge.

Special Collections volunteers are hard at work assisting with the cleaning of a group of one hundred blueprints received in January as part of a donation from the architectural firm of Perry Dean Rogers Partners of Boston. The blueprints encompass floor plans, elevations, sections, and details of various buildings in Colonial Williamsburg’s Historic Area created by the Williamsburg office of Perry, Shaw & Hepburn, the architects in charge of Williamsburg’s initial restoration. For many years, the drawings remained in the firm’s Boston office in a basement storage area near a furnace. As a result, the drawings are coated with a film of soot that must be removed before the drawings can be sent over to the Paper Conservation Lab for flattening in a humidification chamber. Due to being rolled in tubes for many decades, quite a few of the drawings are not responding to basic flattening treatments and will require humidification to relax them enough to flatten for storage in drawers.

Colonial Williamsburg’s Senior Paper Conservator, Pam Young, showed staff and volunteers how to gently clean the soot off the drawings. First, a lint free microfiber cloth is carefully applied across the verso of each drawing to remove an initial layer of soot. Next, a small piece of vulcanized rubber sponge is gently dabbed on sections of the drawing exhibiting areas of greater soil, such as the edges of the drawing exposed within the storage tube. The sponges quickly become saturated with soot and often several are required to complete the cleaning of one drawing.

A more in-depth conservation project with architectural drawings is taking place in the Paper Conservation Lab under the supervision of Young and Assistant Paper Conservator, Perrine Lesaux. They are currently preparing fourteen items from the A. Lawrence Kocher Collection for an upcoming loan to the Palm Springs Art Museum for the exhibition Albert Frey: Innovative Modernist, to be held from January 13 to June 6, 2024. A. Lawrence Kocher served as an Advisory Architect for the Williamsburg Restoration. In this role, he joined a group of practitioners from around the country who met
Colonial Williamsburg Assistant Paper Conservator, Perrine Lesaux, examining photographs and architectural drawings from the A. Lawrence Kocher Collection that will be loaned to the Palm Springs Art Museum for the exhibit Albert Frey: Innovative Modernist.

periodically at Williamsburg to review the restoration work’s progress, develop guidelines, and share their expertise. Kocher combined his study of colonial architecture through this consultant role with experimentation in the emerging International Style by partnering with Albert Frey in the early 1930s to design buildings influenced by Le Corbusier’s atelier. Kocher returned to Colonial Williamsburg in 1944 to become Architectural Records Editor, a position he held until 1954.

The Palm Springs Art Museum (PSAM) is borrowing ten architectural drawings, three photographs, and one news clipping that illustrate the collaboration between A. Lawrence Kocher and Albert Frey on such projects as the Aluminaire House, Darien Guild Hall, the Ralph House, the Weekend House, a donut shop, and a miniature golf course. To prepare the drawings for safe transport and exhibition at the museum, Pam and Perrine are carrying out cleaning, flattening, and mending tasks. Some of the drawings require humidification in a chamber under a plastic dome. This relaxes the creases to give the drawings a smooth surface for matting and framing for display. After exposure to the humidity, the drawings are individually flattened using heavy weights. Perrine also uses thin Japanese tissue to fill in small losses on the drawings. By matching the tone and transparency of the tissue paper, she can make these small repairs almost unnoticeable. Pam is mounting the drawings, photographs, and newspaper clipping to acid-free matboard in preparation for framing at the PSAM. The Rockefeller Library is grateful for the expertise and support of our skilled paper conservation staff who have made these two important projects possible.
Associate Archivist, Sarah Nerney, pictured, and Marianne Martin, Visual Resources Librarian, gave their presentation, “‘We Shall Carry On’: Colonial Williamsburg’s Contribution to the War Effort, 1941-1945,” to an audience of forty-three people at the Williamsburg Regional Library on July 7, 2023. One of the main segments presented by Sarah focused upon the Soldier Sailor Training Program. She explained that in May 1942, President Chorley wrote a letter to Brigadier General Forrest Williford, then the commanding officer at Ft. Eustis, proposing an idea that he hoped would demonstrate Colonial Williamsburg’s commitment to making a real and valuable contribution to the war effort. Chorley proposed including in the Ft. Eustis basic training program a one-day educational trip to Colonial Williamsburg to demonstrate to the soldiers “why we are in this war and just what we are fighting to preserve.” This program would be a required part of basic training rather than a recreational visit. It would be constructed to show that the current fight was to preserve the general foundations of a free people which was the same fight for what Chorley referred to as the Four Freedoms of the American Revolution: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly. And where better to reinforce these concepts, said Chorley, than in the place where these foundations were no different in 1942 than they had been in 1776? It would be a real-world application of the vision of Rev. Goodwin and Mr. Rockefeller “that restored Williamsburg might become the nation’s inspirational and cultural center for those who believed that the principles for which our forefathers fought should be maintained as the central feature for real Americanism.”
By October 1943 a brochure had been produced for military visitors to take away with them as a Colonial Williamsburg souvenir. Known as the “Are You Filling Their Shoes” folder, the brochure included a map of Colonial Williamsburg with prominent Revolutionary sites from the program tour. Historical information about the Four Freedoms and the Founding Fathers in the brochure was intended to reinforce the information military visitors learned during their on-site visits. It emphasized the role that the current military was playing in upholding the Revolutionary ideals and was meant to be a continuing inspiration after departure from Colonial Williamsburg by literally asking: Are you filling our patriot forefathers’ shoes? Rockefeller loved the folder and told Mr. Chorley that it was “one of the finest pieces of literature the Restoration had ever put out” and that “He and Mrs. Rockefeller were so impressed by it they were mailing copies to all their sons in service.” An online exhibition of *We Shall Carry On*: Colonial Williamsburg’s Contribution to the War Effort, 1941-1945 is also available.

**COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG MATCHBOOKS**

In August 2023, Corporate Archives acquired a set of twelve Colonial Williamsburg matchbooks in a green cardboard sleeve made by the Maryland Match Company of Baltimore, Maryland. The matchbooks feature two colored illustrations of Colonial Williamsburg exhibition buildings (and the College of William and Mary Wren Building) on the front and reverse of each book, with a brief history of the buildings on the inside. The matches (now removed for the safety of the collections as it is a bad idea to have combustible materials in a library!) had green match heads. The matchbooks likely date from the late 1940s or early 1950s. The Travis House is included in the illustrations and described as functioning as a public house, which indicates that it was still at that time in position at the foot of Palace Green on Duke of Gloucester Street. Travis House restaurant closed in February 1951 when the Kings Arms Tavern opened to replace it. Correspondence in Corporate Archives from 1949-1952 between the Reproductions program and the Maryland Match Company indicates that Colonial Williamsburg had engaged the company to produce the matches which would then be sold in its shops. Thanks very much to Russ Cowell who had this treasure in his possession and was willing to add it to the Corporate Archives collections as we do not have many samples of products from the Restoration era. As we approach our centennial anniversary in 2026, it is nice to bring another piece of our history back home.

(Corporate Archives Accession 2023-051)
Colonial Williamsburg matchbooks depicting some of the most important public buildings in the old capital.
Robert Carter III (1728-1804) was a member of the Virginia Council and perhaps the wealthiest Virginian of his day. He attended the grammar school at the College of William and Mary before going to London to study law. Upon his return to Virginia, he moved into Nomony (sometimes Nominii) Hall in Westmoreland County. Carter married Frances Tasker of Annapolis, Maryland in 1754. In 1761, they moved their young family to a house near the Governor’s Palace in Williamsburg. Carter recorded details of his life in Williamsburg in the three letter books he kept during his years in the colonial capital. The letter books commence with Carter’s move to his Williamsburg home on Palace Green in 1761. Early letters provide dimensions of the home’s interior and document how Carter decorated and furnished his residence. Further letters reveal Carter’s love of music and musical instruments. In one such letter, Carter relates how impressed local musician Peter Pelham was with Benjamin Franklin’s performance upon the glass armonica in New York. Pelham’s description intrigued Carter so that he ordered an armonica from London for his Williamsburg home. Other letters document the wide range of goods Carter consumed, the management of his plantations and personal and family matters.
Colonial Williamsburg acquired Carter’s letter books in 1957. Earlier this year a vendor imaged the volumes and Special Collections staff and volunteers transcribed them. The images and transcriptions are now freely accessible online. Special Collections would like to thank Catherine Freemon for her assistance in transcribing these volumes.

To protect the pages from handling, conservators laminated the pages of the volumes and rebound them in a modern binding. Current conservation staff have determined that the laminate poses a serious risk of loss to the pages of the letter books and needs to be reversed. Reversing the lamination process is expensive and time consuming. The estimates for delamination, treating and rebinding of the three volumes is approximately $30,000. If you would like to aid us in our efforts to preserve Robert Carter’s letter books, please contact Carl Childs Abby and George O’Neill Executive Director of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library.

Colonial Williamsburg has opened Robert Carter’s home for tours. If you would like to see Robert Carter’s Williamsburg home, you may make a reservation to do so.

NEW DATABASES FOR FALL 2023

Rockefeller Library is delighted to announce the acquisition of three new primary source databases that are highly relevant to the Colonial Williamsburg’s research priorities. These resources will expand our scholarly horizons and help our historians, researchers, and interpreters uncover and tell new stories, that “the future may learn from the past.”

**Indigenous Peoples of North America**

Presenting content sourced from both American and Canadian institutions, this collection will enhance research and increase understanding of the historical experiences, cultural traditions and innovations, and political status of Indigenous peoples in the United States and Canada. The material included in this archive has received direct-from-source permission to digitize newspapers from various tribes and organizations and features Indigenous language materials, including dictionaries, religious texts, and primers. This resource will support the work of Colonial Williamsburg’s American Indian Initiative and allow all our researchers to explore the impact of invasion and colonization, and the intersection of Indigenous and European histories and systems of knowledge.
NEW DATABASES FOR FALL 2023
(continued)

Slavery And Anti-Slavery: A Transnational Archive

Part II, Slave Trade in the Atlantic World

The documents in this collection chart the inception of slavery in Africa and its rise as perpetuated on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, placing particular emphasis on the Caribbean, Latin America, and United States. This resource was developed by an international editorial board with scholars specializing in North American, European, African, and Latin American/Caribbean aspects of the slave trade.

Part III, The Institution of Slavery

This collection explores, in vivid detail, the inner workings of slavery from 1492 to 1888. Through legal documents, plantation records, first-person accounts, newspapers, government records, and other primary sources, it reveals how enslaved people struggled against the institution. These rare works explore slavery as a legal and labor system, the relationship between slavery and religion, freed slaves, the Shong Massacre, the Demerara insurrection, and many other aspects and events.

Together these modules will enable Colonial Williamsburg’s historians to conduct comparative research on slavery on a broader scale, both temporally and geographically.

Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Nichols Newspapers Collection

This resource provides access to the newspapers, periodicals, pamphlets, and broadsheets that form the Nichols newspaper collection held at the Bodleian library in Oxford, UK. All 296 volumes of bound material, covering the period 1672-1737, are included. The collection charts the history of the development of the press in England and provides invaluable insight into seventeenth and eighteenth century England. It also contains many references to Virginia!