

2018 SCI CONVENTION Richmond, Virginia

SCI's 52rd annual convention will be held in Richmond, Virginia, July 10 through 14, 2018. Pre-convention activities are planned for July 10 and 11. The convention itself is Thursday through Saturday, July 12 through 14, with check-out from the hotel on Sunday, July 15.

Highlights of the convention include a catered buffet in the Virginia State Capitol, a reenactment of Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Death" speech where it was originally given, afternoon tea in an historic hotel, and an auction by Fox Auctions. We will have a strong program of speakers and round tables, stein sales, and the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

The convention hotel is the Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 S. 12th Street, Richmond, VA 23219. The hotel is only nine (9) miles from Richmond International Airport, but it is ideally located in downtown Richmond.



The Omni Hotel is literally across the street from Shockoe Slip, a section of Richmond that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Originally the city's warehouse and mercantile sec-



The vibe in Shockoe Bottom and Shockoe Slip is a fun one. Wander along the cobblestone streets and head inside a bar for happy hour or duck into the independent shops before they close up for the night.

tion, Shockoe Slip's buildings have been re-purposed as restaurants and shops.

The grounds of the Virginia State Capitol are two blocks from our hotel, in the opposite direction from Shockoe Slip. A few blocks to the east a canal bypasses a series of rapids. Now the rapids are the scene of white water rafting, and visitors enjoy boat tours on the canal.



Richmond's Canal Walk meanders 1.25 miles through downtown Richmond along the banks of the Haxall Canal and the James River & Kanawha Canal. Open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, the Canal Walk presents four centuries of Richmond's history interpreted through medallions, monuments and exhibits along the Canal Walk and Brown's Island.

Richmond is a beautiful city with many attractions within a rather compact area. The tours we have planned for Tuesday will introduce you to some of them, but there is so much to see and do – ranging from important museums to craft breweries to historic sites.



Carytown is an eclectic collection of shops and restaurants not to be missed. It occupies a mile long section of West Cary Street. For collectors the West End Antiques Mall contains over 250 booths.

The Omni Hotel offers a free shuttle within a five mile radius for its guests. In addition to its restaurant the Omni has options for lighter fare. The hotel has a 30,000 sq. foot fitness center and, of course, it contains a swimming pool.

The convention rates at the Omni Richmond Hotel are \$119 per night for a single or double room. Discounted valet parking is \$10 per day. These rates are also available three days before and three days after the convention dates. To secure these rates, reservations must be received by the hotel by 5 PM on June 18th. To make room reservations, phone 1-800-843-6664. Say you are with "Stein Collectors International". Use the words, not our initials. Or, make a reservation online at <https://tinyurl.com/y9cbfrsy>. Space is limited, so we urge you to register early. If you have a problem making room reservations, contact Carol Fox at carolfox0622@gmail.com.

There are two easy ways to register for the convention: 1) Using the registration form which is included with this issue of Prosit. Mailing instructions are on the form for payment by check or money order. 2) Online with PayPal via a link provided on SCI's website www.stein-collectors.org.

The registration fee for the convention is \$560 for a couple and \$295 for a single registration. The registration fee includes three buffet breakfasts, the Patrick Henry speech reenactment, the catered buffet in the Virginia State Capitol, the final dinner, the hospitality room and the convention stein. It also includes the program of speakers, round tables, stein sales and members auction.

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, July 10

Three tours are planned for Tuesday, the first pre-convention day. There will be a city tour of Richmond in the morning and your choice of two tours in the afternoon: Shirley Plantation or the Civil War Museums.

City Tour

The city tour will leave the hotel at 9:30

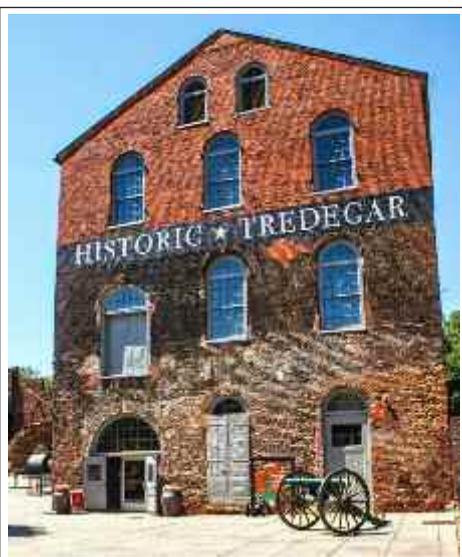
AM, and return about 11:30 AM. The city has a number of museums and one of them, the Valentine Museum, conducts a variety of tours of Richmond and its neighborhoods. We have arranged for one of the Valentine's guides to conduct our bus tour.



The Valentine Museum has nothing to do with valentines. Valentine is simply the donor's family name. The museum specializes in Richmond's history and all things related to the city.

Civil War Tour

The Civil War Tour departs from the hotel at 1:00 PM. We will first visit the new American Civil War Museum at Tredegar and then the Museum of the Confederacy. The emphasis of the two museums is different. The American Civil War Museum is interpretive, explaining the Civil War from three per-



spectives: Union, Confederate and African-American. It also considers the experience of combatants and civilians. The Museum of the Confederacy focuses on artifacts.

The Confederate White House is across the street from the Museum of the Confederacy. A guided tour takes 45 minutes and is well worth taking. However, we have made it an option because the museum cautions that the tour involves 75 steps (total up and down), so visitors must take that into consideration.

The Civil War Tour returns to the hotel around 4:00 PM for those who do not take the optional tour of the mansion, and around 4:45 PM for those who do.

Shirley Plantation Tour

English presence in the Richmond area goes back more than 400 years, to before the Mayflower. The second afternoon tour will visit Shirley Plantation, which was established in 1613, and is still a functioning plantation. We will tour the mansion, which has been occupied by eleven generations of the same family – 12 if you count a young child. The plantation is unusual in having a number of original out buildings.



The Shirley Plantation tour will depart from the hotel at 1:15 PM and return around 4:30 PM.

The Executive Committee will meet at 7:00 PM.

Wednesday, July 11

The Board of Trustees will meet at 7:00 AM. The meeting is expected to conclude by 10:00 AM.

The major event of the day will be an auction by Fox Auctions. The preview will be from 9:00 AM to noon. The auction will begin at noon.

A First Timers' Reception will be held from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Each day of the convention will begin with a buffet breakfast. The hospitality room will be open Thursday afternoon, Friday evening after dinner, and Saturday afternoon.

We will have three speakers at general sessions:

Eric Salzano will speak on drinking vessels other than steins. Eric's collection includes some important and rarely seen examples spanning a period of centuries.

Phil Masenheimer will speak on occupational steins. His book "Long Live the Occupational Stein Collector" was reviewed in the June 2017 Prosit, page 17.

Beatrix Adler will speak on the role of Mettlach in Villeroy and Boch's history and ceramics.

We will have eight round tables, each of which will be given twice. The round table leaders are

W.R. Barney on "Rare and Unusual Character Steins".

Allan Fogel on "Pewter Marks." He will have reference books and asks that members bring pieces they would like identified.

Nick Griffin on "Modern Mettlach Steins: fairy tales, ships and more."

John Harrell on "Regimental Steins."

Dennis Hunsicker on "Copper, Brass and Bronze Steins."

Ralph Joyce on "Mettlach Cameos."

Jim Sauer on "Overlaid and Stained Glass Steins."

Judith Stuart on "Drinking as Art and Entertainment – Elegant and Fun Drinking Vessels from the 1700's to Today."

Thursday, July 12

The convention will begin with the annual general meeting. We will then have the first two speakers: Master Steinologist Phil Masenheimer and SCI Executive Director Eric Salzano.

The Stein Sales Room will be open in the afternoon.

We will see a reenactment of Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech in St. John's Church, the very location where he gave it in 1775. A company of costumed actors recreates the debate between patriots and loyalists in which he gave his famous speech, and we have arranged a private performance.



History comes alive...

"As I sat in the Church, where the speech was made, in the pews where the participants of that meeting would have heard the speech, and next to an actor in complete garb, I started to get into it. Henry starts with wanting to form a militia. Pendleton who scared the bajezus out of me when he started interrupting Henry rather loudly, retorted his requests, and was joined by others. The Kings ministers are evil, not the King. This will be ok if we just wait. We do not want conflict with our King. We are not prepared. Finally, Patrick kind of loses it, 18th Century style, and goes through everything they have done to solve the issue peaceably. He then goes into while his detractors want to avoid a war, there are troop laden ships in American harbors. America faces no outward threat - those troops are here for us. The war had already started. I am not even close to giving this play justice because by the end of it I am ready to go to war too."

Following the reenactment we will go to the Virginia State Capitol for a catered buffet in the original part of the Capitol designed by Thomas Jefferson.

We will be in the Rotunda, the Old Senate Chamber and the Jefferson Room. Docents will explain the various rooms to us.



The Rotunda of the Virginia State Capital
By Antony-22 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=61799932>

Friday, July 13

The second day will open with a presentation by Beatrix Adler, our third general session speaker. Dr. Adler is also a Master Steinologist.

Four round tables will complete the morning. The Stein Sales Room will be open again in the afternoon.

Afternoon tea will be served in the Jefferson Hotel. When it was built in the 1890's, its owner wanted to create the finest hotel in the United States. Today it has a strong claim to that status. The Jefferson has been fully restored to its original luxury. It is one of the few hotels in North America to be rated both five stars and five diamonds, and Forbes Magazine has called it "the best hotel in America." Afternoon tea at the Jefferson is a memorable Richmond experience.

Dinner will be on your own, but the hospitality room will be open later for dessert and conversation.

Saturday, July 14

The last day of the convention will



A fun historical fact about The Jefferson includes alligators swimming in a pool about 6 feet from the registration desk. Scary but true, the last alligator to enjoy the marble pools was Old Pompey who lived there until 1948 when he passed. Bronze, commemorative alligator statues can be found around the hotel and the Five Star Lemaire Restaurant is adorned in an alligator motif.

begin with four round tables. We will then have workshops in which SCI officers explain their programs and answer questions from members.

The members' auction will be in the afternoon.

The convention will conclude Saturday evening with a reception and German Night dinner at the Omni Hotel. This will be your opportunity to show off your Lederhosen and Dirndls in the best costume contests. Dinner will be regional favorites.



Your host chapter, the Gambinus Stein Club, looks forward to welcoming you to SCI's 2018 Convention in Richmond. For any questions, contact Carol Fox, carolfox0622@gmail.com or Richard Strom, stromrwk@gmail.com or 301-530-2403.

