Opening the Vault:
What Collections Can Say About Jamestown's Global Trade Network

Initiated by the Virginia Company of London as a profitable venture, Jamestown, established in 1607, became the first successful English settlement in North America. Since 1994, the Jamestown Rediscovery archaeological project has recovered millions of artifacts from the early 17th century. While a large proportion were produced in England or the local Chesapeake region, many originated in other parts of the world. Among these imports are objects from European countries including Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden, as well as more distant locales including China, Turkey, and Bermuda. This symposium is designed to highlight the Jamestown Rediscovery archaeological collection and situate Virginia within the global framework of the 17th century. Each paper will focus on a different aspect of the collection, connecting Jamestown to the wider world and emphasizing the importance of 17th century global trade networks to the early Virginia colony.

Jamestown, Virginia: The Curators' View

Janene W. Johnston and Leah A. Stricker
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Jamestown, England's first successful settlement in North America, was established in 1607 by the Virginia Company of London as an economic venture. Though the colony struggled to survive, let alone profit for the first several years, the site transformed from a precarious outpost into a vital commercial center until the capital of Virginia was relocated to Williamsburg in 1699. The Jamestown Rediscovery Archaeological project launched in 1994 and remains an active archaeological site today. Excavations have focused on fort-period features and archaeologists have recovered a variety of early 17th century trade goods from all over the globe. These have recently been the subject of several interesting collections-based research projects. This paper will serve as an introduction to the symposium; briefly covering Jamestown's history, the Jamestown Rediscovery Archaeological project and some of the archaeological highlights, and the current status of the collection.

1000 sherds: Portuguese Ceramics at Jamestown

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The Jamestown collection contains proportionally few Portuguese-made ceramics. However, their presence in seventeenth century Virginia highlights the political, economic, and social dynamics between an established world power and a developing one. Global trade networks, particularly the trading power and influence of the Dutch in the seventeenth century, inform our understanding of the material culture of James Fort. This influence likely played a role in the presence of Portuguese coarsewares and tin-glazed earthenwares in early Virginia. Preliminary evidence indicates that Portuguese ceramics were used onsite for the duration of the early fort period ca. 1607-1624. This paper will present the results of a ceramic vesselization and analysis in an attempt to better

understand the period in which Portuguese vessels were imported to Jamestown, the vessel forms present on site, and the types of contexts the broken ceramics were ultimately deposited in.

Ming Porcelain from the 1607 to ca. 1624 James Fort, Jamestown, Virginia

Merry Outlaw
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Founded by the English Company in 1607, James Fort was Virginia's first and, for over a decade, England's primary settlement in the New World. The fort was situated in an unfamiliar wilderness and separated from the homeland by an ocean. However, ceramics from all over the world supplied the colony's ceramic needs. Chinese porcelain is notably superior to all recovered ceramic types because of its thinness, durability, translucence, and beauty. It signified its owners' privilege and social rank in the often hostile and harsh New World environment. Moreover, its presence at James Fort is evidence of England's global connectedness in the early modern era. This paper will present the results of a recent analysis of at least 75 porcelain vessels that were used, broken, and discarded during the fort's short, 17-year existence.

Gentleman Soldiers and Richard Mutton: Two New Exhibits in Jamestown's Archaearium Museum

Michael Lavin and Jamie May
Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

Jamestown Rediscovery recently expanded "Gentleman Soldiers," an original installation in the Voorhees Archaearium archaeology museum. Since the museum's opening in 2006, the team has recovered scores of personal arms, armor, and accoutrements that belonged to Jamestown's upper class. These leaders, influenced by their previous military experience and worldly travels, brought with them advanced, high quality, custom made pieces that exceeded the standard issue Virginia Company supply. Additional, mementos and tokens that reflect their class and status augment the gallery to tell a more complete story of these important individuals in Jamestown's founding. Conversely, "The Short, Sad life of Richard Mutton" in the People of Jamestown gallery tells the dramatic story of a lower class boy killed a few weeks after arrival. This new exhibit uses science, history, and archaeology to relate the remains of JR1225B to a named young man among James Fort's original 104 men and boys.

Conservation of a Roman Lock Pistol from Jamestown, Virginia

Chris Wilkins
Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

A flintlock pistol was excavated from an early well at Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America. The pistol was intact and consisted of waterlogged wood, iron lock plates and machinery, and a copper alloy barrel and trigger. Initial investigations revealed the firearm to be a Roman lock pistol deposited into the well fully charged and double loaded with two lead shot. Conservation of the pistol involved extraction of the lead shot and black powder, the removal of iron salts from the wood stock, cleaning the lock plates, and removing post excavation corrosion from the copper alloy barrel. Lastly, the wood had to be dried and the pistol prepared for exhibit. This paper will discuss the process and results of the conservation treatment.

Commodities and Curiosities: Colonial Botany at Jamestown
Sierra S. Roark
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Plants played an integral role in the colonization of North America. When colonists and investors realized that gold and other precious metals would not be viable for export, they turned their attention to other natural resources. It was in plants that the colonists found the answers to survival and economic success. Historical documents and archaeobotanical findings today offer scholars a glimpse at the vast array of human-plant entanglements of the seventeenth century, a time when advancements in publishing and an emphasis on classification propelled an interest in botany. As Native, European, and African peoples encountered one another, they shared, observed, modified, and rejected plants and ecological knowledge. These exchanges strengthened and created new alliances between individuals and groups and caused divisions and justified displacement. This paper contextualizes Jamestown's role in colonial botany and presents preliminary data from macrobotanical analysis.

Towards Food Independence: Faunal Remains from a Post-Starving Time Well at Jamestown
Susan T. Andrews and Emma K. Derry
IdBones and Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

Previous faunal analysis at Jamestown focused on the first years of settlement, the Starving Time, and the post 1620s. A gap existed during the period immediately following the Starving Time when martial law, conflicts with Virginia Indians, and the reintroduction of livestock affected the struggling colony and their foodways. With over 170,000 fragments of faunal material, Jamestown's Second Well (ca. 1610-1617) shows how the colony regrouped during this time and worked toward building a successful plantation system. Element distribution patterns, kill-off data, and biomass results for livestock reveal the importance of swine over cattle, how herds were protected to promote growth, and the significance of imported provisions. Large quantities of wild mammals, fowl, and fish show how the colonists utilized their environment to supplement their diet. Faunal analysis of the Second Well elucidates Jamestown's development from dependence on the Virginia Company and Virginia Indians for subsistence into a stabilized colony.

Jamestown And Early Domestic Horse Use In Eastern North America
William T. T. Taylor and Fernando Villanea
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The introduction of domestic horses into North America had tremendous social and ecological consequences – these animals underpinned the colonial projects of European powers, while also giving rise to powerful Indigenous horse cultures. Though much attention has been paid to the spread of horses mediated by Spanish settlement, other introductions via the eastern seaboard also had a lasting impact on the human-horse relationship across early America. At Jamestown, historic records indicate that the first British horses served a multitude of roles in colonial life, including an emergency food source. By applying new osteological and biomolecular techniques this project seeks to further explore the role of the first domestic horses at Jamestown (including ancestry,

management, and use) and investigate their relationship to other early colonial and Indigenous-managed horse populations in historic North America.

Mare Necessities? Jamestown's Equestrian Artifacts as a Study in Optimistic Over-Packing
Sara J. Rivers Cofield
Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory

Perhaps following the example of the Spanish who imported horses in the 16th century, the Virginia Company included horses as essential to pack for their colonization venture. However, the primary benefit of carrying horses across the Atlantic before 1609 turned out to be the meat they offered during the "Starving Time." This paper discusses how the initial exportation of horse tack, saddles, and spurs to Virginia points to optimistic expectations. After the horses were eaten, replacements were not a priority, but the exportation of spurs continued. Spurs were accessories of significant signaling power in England. Their abundance at James Fort might reflect an empty enticement to potential settlers or willful misrepresentation of what they should expect— namely, that they might be needed for riding, military use, or fashionability. When one's travel agency offers a free swimsuit for booking a resort, one might not question whether the destination has a pool.

" ...to have some good book alwayes in store, being in solitude the best and choicest company." The Recovery Of Book Hardware From the Site Of James Fort.
Dan Gamble
Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

Many unique and one of a kind artifacts have been recovered over 20 years of excavation at the site of James Fort. Each artifact tells a story about the people and the lives that were led at the site. One artifact that stands out both for its function and the questions it raises is book hardware. When examining an artifact and doing the research, many questions are raised. Knowing that the colonists brought books with them, what were the reasons? Comfort from religious text, enlightenment from renaissance or ancient writers, or information in the areas of agriculture and animal husbandry? Would site distribution indicate the areas where those who were more likely to be literate had lived? Lastly, if the purpose of the hardware is to protect the book, why has so much hardware been recovered? Was the hardware repurposed or had the books been destroyed?

Clothing a Colony: Lead Seals from Early Jamestown (1607-1630)
Cathrine Davis
William and Mary

Archaeological deposits from Early James Fort have yielded an impressive collection of over three hundred lead seals of varied origin. These occasionally enigmatic artifacts provide an exceptional opportunity to expand our understanding of textile use at the site, filling an important lacuna in documentary coverage of the early colony. They may also enable the reconstruction of pathways by which members of the Virginia Company of London endeavored to supply a struggling colony in a time of political and economic turbulence. This communication will serve to introduce the lead seal reference collection, highlight some of the information provided by selected seals, and showcase the unique ability of these artifacts to recall long forgotten global connections.

Native Textiles Of The Chesapeake
Buck Woodard and Elizabeth Bollwerk
American University and Thomas Jefferson Foundation

The preservation of textiles and basketry is exceedingly rare in the archaeological record of the Indigenous Chesapeake. However, Historic Jamestowne's collection offers an unusual window into Native textiles of the region, with multiple examples of weaving technologies and preserved forms. While these materials have extraordinary contexts and chronologies, they cannot be affiliated unilaterally with neighboring Algonquian speakers, owing to the extensive English exploration and culture contacts across a wide Mid Atlantic geography. Combined with Late Woodland ceramic impressions, the ethnohistorical record, and comparative ethnographic data, we examine collections-based evidence for Native textiles in the Chesapeake region. Our lens on Chesapeake textiles and basketry technologies crosscuts the prehistoric/historical divide, revealing new details about Native communities of practice and illustrating specific aspects of Mid Atlantic material culture heretofore underrepresented in the archaeological and ethnological record.

The Acquisition of Copper Alloy by Native Americans in late 16th- and early 17th-Century Virginia
Christopher Stevenson, Madeline Gunter-Bassett, and Laure Dussubieux
Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Museum of Natural History, and Field Museum of Natural History

When English colonists settled at Jamestowne in 1607, Virginia Indians of the lower Chesapeake Bay considered copper objects to be valuable trade goods. The leaders of the Powhatan Chiefdom initially saw the English settlers at Jamestowne as a valuable source of trade copper. Scholars have hypothesized that James Fort was a primary distribution point for the European copper artifacts that are found at Virginia Indian sites further inland. LA-ICP-MS analysis of copper artifacts from domestic sites in central and western Virginia determined that some of these artifacts were compositionally similar to the European smelted copper found at James Fort. However, the analysis also revealed that a number of copper artifacts were compositionally similar to European copper alloy found at the Berry Site, a 16th-century Spanish frontier fort in North Carolina. This suggests that interior Virginia Indian communities participated in multiple interaction spheres during the late 16th and early 17th centuries.

If You Didn't Know Better...: The Enigma of Jamestown's "Spanish" Beads
Dennis Blanton and Elliot Blair
James Madison University and University of Alabama

Since the beginning, excavations of the Jamestown Rediscovery Project have yielded large numbers of glass beads that traditionally are anticipated in early sixteenth century contexts, and very often with Spanish affiliations. New elemental and qualitative analyses bring understanding to this anomalous assemblage in a seventeenth-century English setting, including its actual chronological position and its ultimate origin.

Jamestown's "Blew Beads": More than Meets the Eye
Elliot Blair and Dennis Blanton
University of Alabama and James Madison University

Simple, drawn, turquoise blue beads (Kidd and Kidd IIa40), often referred to by a number of different regional names (e.g., Ichtucknee Plain, Early Blue), are one of the most common varieties recovered on colonial sites in North America. Beads of this variety dominate the 17th century James Fort (Jamestown, VA) assemblage and are likely the "blew beads" referenced by John Smith. Because of their ubiquity, this is one of the bead types whose elemental composition has been widely studied and many researchers have evaluated the elemental signature of these beads for evidence of manufacturing origin and dates of manufacture. In this paper we examine the IIa40 beads excavated at James Fort and report on the LA-ICP-MS and XRF data collected on a sample of these beads—evaluating how their temporality, origins, and circulations contribute to Jamestown's global trade network.

Faceted Finds: Lapidary Beads at Jamestown, Virginia
Emma K. Derry
Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

The Jamestown Rediscovery collection contains 150 lapidary beads, including crystal quartz, chalcedony, carnelian, agate, amethyst, amber, and jet. Historically produced in regions where raw materials, craftsmen, and infrastructure came together, lapidary beads were transported across vast trade networks. India was a major source of semiprecious stone beads, exporting crystal quartz, carnelian, and agate beads to Europe and elsewhere for millennia. European cities including Venice, Paris, and Milan had their own lapidary industries throughout the medieval and early modern periods as well. Due to their significance to both Europeans and Indigenous peoples, lapidary beads continued to follow complex paths of exchange after their arrival in the Americas as both personal possessions and valuable trade items through further trade and heirlooming. Differences in material and craftsmanship hold clues to the origins of these valuable artifacts and the connections they represent between Jamestown and the global networks of the 17th century.

Jesuit Crucifixes Or Whitby Jet Witch Charms: A New Interpretation Of Jamestowne's Jet Objects
Sarah Steele and Richard Hark
Durham University and Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, Yale University

The Jamestowne jet crosses, currently interpreted as Spanish Catholic crucifixes, seemingly represent evidence that the early English settlers embraced a hybrid Protestant faith. However, these crosses stylistically resemble British Whitby jet witch charms, a group of artefacts that oral tradition suggests, were employed in the magical protection of dwellings, particularly in relation to counter-witchcraft. If a Whitby origin can be established for the Jamestowne crosses, they would potentially represent material evidence that British folkloric practices and beliefs crossed the Atlantic to early US settlements in the early modern era, a period in Britain when the practice of magic was in decline. To identify the origin of the jet used to make these objects, some Jamestowne jet artefacts and a suite of modern jet samples with known provenance were

analysed using a multi-technique approach. This presentation will describe the results of this investigation and offer a possible attribution for the Jamestown crosses.

Sourcing the Black "Marble" Knight's Tombstone at Jamestown, Virginia, USA

Marcus M. Key. Jr.
Dickinson College

The goal of this project was to determine the source of Jamestown's Knight's tombstone. From 1627, it is the oldest such tombstone in the Chesapeake Bay, USA region. We chose a geoarchaeological approach using the fossils contained in the stone to determine its source. We sampled two archived fragments from the stone to make thin sections to identify its microfossils. Three species of foraminiferans (i.e., single celled amoeboid protists) *Endothyra* sp., *Paraarchaediscus angulatus*, and *P. concavus* were found in these samples. These fossils co-occurred in what is now Europe (including Belgium, England, and Ireland) about 340 million years ago during the Viséan Age of the Middle Mississippian Epoch of the Carboniferous Period. These species did not co-occur anywhere in North America. Therefore, the Knight's tombstone had to be imported from Europe. Historical evidence of similar colonial tombstones around Chesapeake Bay suggests the source was Belgium.