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Carol Cadou's Plans for Winterthur

by Lita Solis-Cohen

Soon after Carol Cadou, the first Charles F. Montgomery Director and CEO at Winterthur, began her new job this summer she agreed to an interview. Her newly endowed title was named in honor of Charles Montgomery, first director of Winterthur.

To assume her role as Winterthur's director, Cadou left her previous job as senior vice president of historic preservation and collections at George Washington's Mount Vernon. She had worked at Mount Vernon since 1999 and rose through the ranks. Her latest book, *George and Martha Washington's Mount Vernon: At Home in Virginia, 1759-1799*, will be published in 2020. She served as editor of *Stewards of Memory: The Past, Present, and Future of Historic Preservation at George Washington's Mount Vernon*, to be published in 2019.

"My mission is to tell Winterthur's stories to engage people and help them understand the complexities of early American history through objects and architecture," said Cadou during an hourlong phone conversation. "All the rooms at Winterthur are filled with objects that are windows into the past. They allow us to bring history alive. A visit to Winterthur, actual and virtual, tells the story of a complex society since America's founding. I want to engage in its scholarly understanding."

To do this she will aim "for a high level of research." She wants Winterthur to be on the cutting edge of new ways to engage the average visitor, who will leave Winterthur with a deeper understanding of American history.

She wants to engage millennials. "Millennials are the largest group of experimental learners and use the latest technology for virtual experience. I want them to have the actual experience of Winterthur. I want to make that experience alive by telling the stories in new ways. I also want to reach out to the younger child and the handicapped, who may want to use a touchpad to further understand the object in front of them in the gallery. We can include conservation videos in the galleries that add to the understanding of an object."

Cadou is full of ideas and anxious to hear ideas from others. She comes to the job well prepared. She grew up on the campus of Ohio University, where her father, Donald M. Borchert, is professor emeritus of philosophy. Her mother taught writing at the college level and English in public schools.

After completing an A.B. at Wellesley College, Cadou went to Winterthur as a Fellow. Her thesis in 1996 was a look at the inventory of Lucretia Constance Radcliffe, a woman in elite circles in Charleston, South Carolina. Radcliffe had no children and died without a will, so her estate went to probate. The state intervened to sell her property and possessions at public auction, dividing the proceeds as it saw fit. It produced a complete inventory of her downtown house and her plantation in the Federal period (1790-1810).

"Radcliffe's husband predeceased her, and she took sick in the rice fields. She was running the plantation," Cadou recounted. Robert Benthams remained in Charleston to assess the value of the contents of her properties, and his letters to his wife detailed the sale of Radcliffe's possessions. "Inventories were sparse in Charleston, so the Radcliffe inventory and Benthams' descriptions were used by those restoring and furnishing Charleston houses," Cadou said.

Cadou said she was surprised to find herself working in the Federal period because her first love was earlier material, but her mother was from South Carolina and her grandmother had lived in Charleston. She found the Radcliffe inventory on a visit. Her first job after receiving her master's degree was director of education at Historic Charleston Foundation.

Her father is Canadian and met her mother at graduate school. Cadou's husband, Christopher Cadou, is also an academic, a professor of aerospace engineering at the University of Maryland with a specialty in combustion. He completed his Ph.D. at University of California, Los Angeles and did his postdoctoral work at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They will live on the Winterthur campus with their two children, a son, eight, and a daughter, ten. Chris will commute from Wilmington to College Park, Maryland, by train, probably no longer a commute than driving in Washington traffic from their house in Bethesda, Maryland. Carol plans to complete her M.B.A. at Ohio University College of Business in 2019.

It is not surprising that Cadou wants to beef up the graduate program in American Material Culture. The conservation program is at the top of its field. "We now have funding for travel to London and to the South and New England for eight Fellows a year," she revealed.

She also wants to reenergize publications. "In the intro-



Carol B. Cadou. Photo by Stephen Elliot.

duction to Charles Montgomery's book on Federal furniture, H.F. du Pont wrote that Mr. Edgar Richardson, Charles Montgomery's successor as director, felt as I do that an important part of a museum's role as an educational institution is the regular publication of books. I hope Winterthur publications will be strengthened," she said.

Delaware history is also an important part of the Winterthur experience. Hundreds of schoolchildren come to Winterthur on class trips. "I hope to strengthen partnerships with other Delaware institutions. Working with Hagley [Museum and Library], the story of the beginning of industry can be told, and it is an immigration story too. The Underground Railroad went right through parts of Winter-

thur's property. We can engage a variety of audiences. We can focus on more than the history of craftsmanship."

She said she does not want to lose sight of H.F. du Pont's core focus of 1690 to 1840, but Winterthur has collected beyond those dates in recent years, and the library has expanded beyond those dates as well, especially in the collection of design books.

Cadou acknowledged that the gardens at Winterthur are a big draw. The follies installed this summer have been well received and will remain on view through 2020. "We want to reflect on H.F. du Pont's vision and understanding of the natural world," she said. "H.F. du Pont saw the gardens as an extension of the interiors. Many who come to the gardens do not go into the house, and some who come to the gardens have no idea how progressive it is environmentally. There are mussels in the streams helping to purify the water. The weirs were constructed responsibly. There are vehicles to tell these stories such as the annual report. Chris Strand, the endowed Brown Harrington Director of Garden and Estate, can tell them."

Cadou said she felt fortunate to have the past director, Dr. David Roselle, turn over the museum with all the nuts and bolts and infrastructure in good shape. "My job now is to make Winterthur relevant," she said. She hopes to work with collectors and dealers and have them share experiences with a younger audience. She will make the collections available to those who need to see them and know them well, and make the collections come alive to a new generation who have not seen them before.

Two Charged in Connection with \$8 Million Theft from Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is the victim of a multimillion-dollar theft—approximately \$8 million—and according to authorities it was an inside job.

An affidavit filed in Allegheny County court in Pennsylvania by detectives Frances Laquatra and Perann Tansmore notes that the alleged thefts came to light during an appraisal of the secured William R. Oliver Special Collections Room, located on the third floor of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. The appraisal was conducted in April 2017 by Pall Mall Art Advisors of Philadelphia.

On July 20 criminal charges were filed against antiquarian bookseller John Schulman of the Caliban Book Shop of Pittsburgh and Gregory Priore, longtime archivist and manager of the William R. Oliver Special Collections Room of the Carnegie Library.

Schulman, 54, is charged with 20 criminal counts, including unlawful theft by taking, receiving criminal property, dealing in the proceeds of illegal activity, criminal conspiracy, retail theft, theft by deception, forgery, and deceptive or fraudulent business practices.

Priore, 61, is charged with ten criminal counts, including library theft, theft by unlawful taking, criminal conspiracy, criminal mischief, receiving stolen property, retail theft, and forgery.

The Oliver Room, accessible through only one door, holds the Carnegie's most valuable objects, the archives of the library, and manuscript collections—approximately 30,000 objects. A 1991 appraisal—the last time before 2017 that an appraisal was conducted—put the value of the collection at \$1,964,925.

Priore was appointed the sole archivist and manager of the Oliver Room in 1992. He was responsible for maintaining the room's contents and granting access and supervising visitors to the room, which was open by appointment only. Security protocols required anyone entering the room to place personal items in a locker. If the visitor requested objects, Priore would retrieve them, place them on a large table in the front of the room, and then return them to their original location. Keys were limited, and Priore required that he be notified when staff entered the room.

Although the Carnegie Library has deaccessioned objects in the past, library officials told authorities that no item has ever been deaccessioned from the Oliver Room.

On April 3, 2017, Pall Mall Art Advisors of Philadelphia began an appraisal of the Oliver Room. Four days later, the advisors informed the Carnegie Library that they could not find some of the objects that were appraised in 1991 and that oth-



John Schulman.

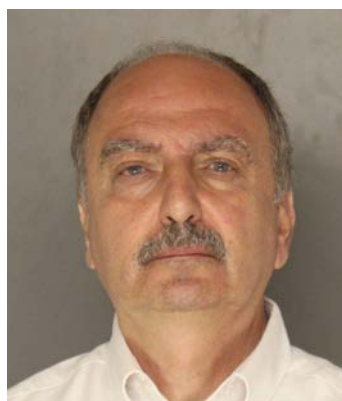
ers had been damaged because plates had been removed.

On April 11 the locks were changed, and Priore and the public lost access to the Oliver Room.

The appraisal continued, with Pall Mall Art Advisors determining that 320 objects from the 1991 appraisal were missing and that 16 had been damaged. The estimated retail replacement value was put at \$8,101,850.

The team from Pall Mall found that one of the items missing, *Genealogie deorum gentilium* by Giovanni Boccaccio, cataloged as having Carnegie stamps, had sold at Bloomsbury Auctions in 2012.

Another item, *L'Arte vetraria distinta in libri sette*, was listed for sale at Blackwell's in England. It also had Carnegie stamps and "was confirmed to have been sold by Caliban Book Shop," the affidavit states. Court



Gregory Priore.

documents also allege that Pall Mall appraisers found 14 other items missing from the Carnegie that had been sold or advertised by the Caliban Book Shop.

In the course of the investigation, Priore's Carnegie Library e-mail account was reviewed. Several of his e-mails addressed money problems, including tuition payments, college expenses, and his apartment.

Schulman, co-owner of the Caliban Book Shop with his wife, Emily Hetzel, since 1991, had done business with Carnegie Public Library before. The affidavit states that he had paid Carnegie Library \$1592 in 2008, \$8250 in 2009, \$6465 in 2010, \$2230 in 2011, and \$1360 in 2017.

In July 2017 detectives interviewed the appraisers from Pall Mall and asked them about the April 2017 appraisal/audit. Christiana Scavuzzo and Kerry-Lee Jeffery of Pall Mall told

police that they were provided a copy of the 1991 appraisal and were asked to compare what was in the room at the time with what should be in the room. They were also tasked with noting what had been added since 1991. On the second day they began to find books that had been "cannibalized," meaning that plates had been removed. They told the detectives that they asked Priore about the discrepancies, and his answers were "inconsistent." As an example, when questioned about a book missing a plate, Priore claimed that in 1993 he had notified "someone that a book was missing one plate." When asked whom he had informed, he said that the person had died. (It was discovered that the book was missing three plates, not one.) The appraisers noted that they often found the damaged books in boxes high on a shelf "as if intentionally hidden."

Scavuzzo found several of the missing books online, either for sale or sold, and associated with the Caliban Book Shop. These included *De la France et des États-Unis*, signed by Thomas Jefferson, which was found for sale for \$95,000 by Bauman Rare Books.

Bauman's owner, Natalie Bauman, told Scavuzzo that Bauman Rare Books had purchased a half share of the book from Between The Covers, which had purchased it at a book show from Bartleby's Books in 2015. Bartleby's had purchased it from Schulman in

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