

# SVMAG NEWS JANUARY 2005

Southwestern Virginia Metal Arts Guild

The only Heavy Metal Arts Organization in the Region!

## Next Meeting and Program

**Date: March 13, 2005**

**Time: 4:00pm**

**Snow Date: March 20, 2005**

**Place: Southwinds Gallery**

**Program: Etching**

**Presented by: Ulysses Adkins**

## Founder's Report

**What an amazing first SVMAG meeting and program!** A Big Thanks to Alison Pack and Radford University for allowing us to have our first meeting/ program in such a fine facility! If you have never visited the Fine Metals Studio at Radford, you should, to see the ventilation system alone, is worth the trip.

**The meeting** was quick and to the point, keeping it to 30 minutes. Seventeen members attended on this cold January evening (it even snowed), what dedication! Thanks to all who were present! We reviewed the website design and layout and approved the design. We then recruited members to become a part of a committee so we can achieve the goals of SVMAG with ease. If you are interested in helping SVMAG with any committee (see below), please contact the chair of the committee.

**The program** hosted by Alison Pack was an amazing experience. She provided the SVMAG members with an inside look at the Radford studio and giving us the best condensed version of casting I have ever seen.

Alison's enthusiasm is contagious her knowledge is abundant and her skills are comprehensive. She has a knack for teaching on a human level, speaking clearly, saturating the students with as much information as she can, continually reiterating safety practices, and always keeping it lighthearted and fun.

How much can a person pack into 2 ¼ hours? Well, we were amazed and delighted that Alison provided us with a comprehensive from start-to-finish casting program that will always be remembered.

**Website Update!** The website has been registered... [www.svmagmetalartsguild.com](http://www.svmagmetalartsguild.com). The goal is to have the site up and running either by the end of February or mid-March.

**\*\*\* For the member's gallery page, please send Debra the following asap:**

***10 word description*** of yourself and/or your work for the member's list

***Bio/ statement*** and

***Images of your work*** for your personal gallery page, and

**Personal website address** if it is available for a link to your site.

Send images preferably electronically to [degan@radford.edu](mailto:degan@radford.edu).

Slides can also be mailed to Debra if that's easier (address is 1126A East Main Street, Radford, VA 24141).

**Remember** to pay your Membership Dues for 2005! If you have already, Thank you! If you have not, please send fees to: Sarah Muse, 617 Sixth Street SW, Roanoke, VA 24016.

We are off to a great start and with your help we will have one of the most recognizable, collaborative and educational organizations in the region.

Sarah EK Muse

## Committees

### Newsletter/ Website Committee

Chair- Sarah Muse- [LewisReserve@yahoo.com](mailto:LewisReserve@yahoo.com); Committee- Debra Egan, Avni Patel

Committee Description: Send monthly E-newsletter, Maintain Website.

Research technical tips, calls for entries, calendar of events (workshops, lectures, exhibitions), educational activities, want ads, links to other websites, artist gallery, etc.

SVMAG welcomes gallery updates, technical tips, educational information, want ads, upcoming exhibitions, calls for entries, workshops, lectures, especially member's exhibitions, awards, etc., for the monthly SVMAG E-Newsletters, please submit your information to Sarah Muse.

We want to know what you are doing, please keep us informed.

We are always looking for submissions!

Deadline for submissions: March E-Newsletter: March 1, 2005.

If you have any suggestions or new ideas for this newsletter, please send them to the email address above.

### Publicity/ Marketing Committee

Chair- Tamea Franco Woodward- [tamea@eastwestdye.com](mailto:tamea@eastwestdye.com); Committee- Debbie Aliff, Sarah Muse

Committee Description: Organize all PR for SVMAG including but not limited to:

brochures, posters, ads, exhibits at conferences/ shows, free PR (in magazines, newspapers, TV, etc.), joining other organizations/ guilds, introducing SVMAG to galleries, schools, etc., recruiting members, etc.

### Annual SVMAG Exhibition Committee

Chair- Alison Pack- [apack@lycos.com](mailto:apack@lycos.com); Committee- Laura Burk, Ali Weiboldt

Committee Description: Organize the Annual Exhibition

Find location(s) for exhibit, find sponsors, collect artist information, set-up delivery, hanging/ placing and take down, work w/ PR/ Marketing Committee on postcards, ads, posters, feature articles in Newspapers, etc., organize all logistics.

## Workshops & Lectures Committee

Chair- Debbie Aliff- daliff@studiosonthesquare.com; Committee- Sarah Muse, need a member

Committee Description: Organize weekend workshops/lectures

Find artisans, set-up housing, find location for event, work with the PR/ marketing committee on postcards, ads, posters, feature articles in Newspapers, etc., finding sponsors, organize all logistics.

If any member is interested in holding a day or weekend metal related workshop, please contact Debbie Aliff.

## Meetings/ Programs

SVMAG Meetings are held every other month.

**Meetings** will cover all aspects of the guild, approximately half hour sessions.

Programs will cover a range of subject matter and will be held in various locations throughout the region.

Approximate time for programs will vary as well, 1-2 hours.

### 2005 Programs

**January-** Alison Pack - Casting - Radford University

**March-** Ulysses Adkins - Acid Etching - Southwinds Gallery, Salem

**May-** Ed Dolinger - Demo TBA - location in Lynchburg TBA

**July-** Ali Weiboldt - PMC - location TBA

**September-** Critique/ Discussion/ Member's Slide Show - location TBA

**November-** Sarah Muse - Hand Formed Copper - location in Roanoke TBA

## Member's News

**Marvelous Metalworks by Steve Owens-** North Cross School, Logan Gallery- January 9 – March 3, 2005. **Opening reception:** Sunday January 9, 2:00- 4:00pm. For more information, call 540-989-6641 and visit [www.northcross.org](http://www.northcross.org). Let's go and show our support!

**Congratulations to Alison Pack!** Starting in August she will be the Assistant Professor, tenure track- of Metalsmithing/Jewelry Design in the Art Department at Radford!

If you are a member and have news, please send it to Sarah Muse, E-newsletter. We would like to recognize the accomplishments of our members!

## Events Calendar

Through February 13 Cradle to Cradle Design Competition Exhibit, Art Museum of Western VA.

February 2-7 AGTA Tucson Gem Fair

February 18-21 Philadelphia Buyers Market

February 22-27 ACC Craft Show, Baltimore  
February 25- June 19 Dorothy Gillespie: Recent Works, Shaftman Gallery, Art Museum of Western VA.  
March 6-8 MJSA Expo NY  
March 18-20 ACC Craft Show, Atlanta  
April 14-17 Smithsonian Craft Show

## Calls for Entries

Virginia Highlands Festival- Juried Arts & Crafts Show, July 30-August 14, 2005, Abingdon, VA.  
Deadline February 1, 2005.  
For more information or application call 276.623.5266 or visit: [http://www.vahighlandsfestival.org/a\\_c.html](http://www.vahighlandsfestival.org/a_c.html)  
Check out your favorite Magazines and online for entries as well.

## Workshops

All of these listings are available Now!

Spring at Arrowmont- One Week Workshops- March 6-April 9.  
<http://www.arrowmont.org/>  
Spring Weekend Workshops or Summer 5 day Workshops- Appalachian Center for Crafts-  
<http://www.tntech.edu/craftcenter/>  
Summer 2 week Workshops- Haystack Mountain School of Crafts- <http://www.haystack-mtn.org/>  
Summer 1 week Workshops- John C. Campbell Folks School- <http://www.folkschool.com/>  
Summer 2 week Workshops- Penland School of Craft- <http://www.penland.org/>

## Lectures

The Art Museum of Western VA now has a lecture series featuring regional artists.  
Check it out. Call 540.342.5760 for further information.

## Opportunities

### Radford University-

**Maymester** runs from May 16-June 3 2005

Monday-Friday 9-1

Non degree seeking students need to begin the paper work through Admissions Now. Any person that already has a degree can enroll with graduate admissions, however it will be more expensive. In terms of cost I would apply as an undergraduate student.

I will be teaching beginning level jewelry/metals as well as working with advanced students.

The course name is **Art 303**.

Admission can be accessed at [www.radford.edu/Admissions.html](http://www.radford.edu/Admissions.html)

The physical address is:

E. Main St.

Radford, VA 24142

phone 540-831-5173

I would love to have some of the SVMAG members in class! –Alison Pack

### Artist-Blacksmith Position Available

Established artistic metalworking business specializing in high-end custom and production ironwork is seeking apprentice and journeyman blacksmiths. Only serious, self-motivated, high-energy people need apply. Send resume and letter of interest to:

Jeff Fetty Designs, Inc.

1041 Lion Fork

Spencer, WV 25276

email [jfetty@depottld.com](mailto:jfetty@depottld.com)

No phone calls please!

Visit us on the web at [www.jeffettyironwork.com](http://www.jeffettyironwork.com)

## Technical Tip

### Silver- from silversmithing.com

#### I. Introduction

Silver, symbol Ag, white, lustrous metallic element that conducts heat and electricity better than any other metal. Silver is one of the transition elements of the periodic table. The atomic number of silver is 47.

Silver has been known and valued as an ornamental and coinage metal since ancient times. Silver mines in Asia Minor were probably worked before 2500BC. The alchemists called the metal Luna or Diana after the goddess of the moon and ascribed to it the symbol of a crescent moon.

#### II. Properties

With the exception of gold, silver is the most malleable and ductile of all metals. Its hardness ranges between 2.5 and 2.7; it is harder than gold but softer than copper. Silver melts at about 962° C (about 1764° F), boils at about 2212° C (about 4014° F), and has a specific gravity of 10.5. The atomic weight of silver is 107.868.

Chemically silver is not very active. It is insoluble in dilute acids and in alkalis but dissolves in concentrated nitric or sulfuric acid, and it does not react with oxygen or water at ordinary temperatures. Sulfur and sulfides attack silver, and tarnishing is caused by the formation of silver sulfide on the surface of the metal. Eggs, which contain a considerable quantity of sulfur as a constituent of protein, tarnish silver extremely quickly. Small amounts of sulfide, which occurs naturally in the atmosphere and which, as hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), is added to natural gas used domestically, tarnish silver. The black silver sulfide (Ag<sub>2</sub>S) is among the most insoluble salts in aqueous solution, a property that is exploited for separating silver ions from other positive ions.

#### III. Occurrence

Silver ranks about 66th among elements in natural abundance in crustal rocks. It occurs in the pure state to a small extent; the most notable deposits of native silver are in Peru and Norway, where the mines have been worked for centuries. Pure silver is also found associated with pure gold in the form of an alloy known as electrum, and considerable amounts are recovered in the processing of gold. Silver is usually found combined with other elements (of which sulfur is the most predominant) in minerals and ores. Some of the important silver minerals are cerargyrite (or horn silver), pyrargyrite, sylvanite, and argentite. Silver also occurs as a constituent of lead, copper, and zinc ores, and half the world production of silver is obtained as a by-product in the processing of such ores.

Practically all the silver produced in Europe is obtained from the lead sulfide ore, galena. In the United States relatively few mines are worked for their silver alone—the silver is mined in conjunction with lead, copper, and zinc. In 1988, U.S. mines produced an estimated 53 million troy oz. of silver, about 12 percent of the estimated 444 million troy oz. produced worldwide. Most of the silver mined in the world comes from Mexico, Peru, Canada, the United States, and Australia. The leading silver-producing states in the United States are Nevada, Idaho, Montana, and Arizona; they accounted for about 71 percent of the silver mined in the United States in 1989.

#### IV. Metallurgy

Silver is usually recovered from silver ores by roasting the ore in a furnace to convert the sulfides to sulfates and then chemically precipitating metallic silver. Several metallurgical processes are used to extract silver from ores of other metals. In the amalgamation process, liquid mercury, which forms an amalgam with the silver, is added to the crushed ore. After the amalgam is washed out of the ore the mercury is removed by distillation, leaving metallic silver. In lixiviation methods the silver is dissolved in a solution of a salt, usually sodium cyanide, after which metallic silver is precipitated by bringing the solution in contact with metallic zinc or aluminum. For the Parkes process, which is used extensively in separating silver from copper and lead ores, see Lead. The impure silver obtained in the metallurgical processes is usually refined by electrolytic methods or by cupellation, a process that involves removing impurities by vaporization or absorption.

#### V. Uses

The use of silver in jewelry, tableware, and as coinage is well known. The metal is usually alloyed with small amounts of other metals to make it harder and more durable. In the United States, coin silver was an alloy of 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper until 1965, when the silver content was reduced to 40 percent for half dollars; silver was eliminated from dimes and quarters after 1964. In 1970 the U.S. government sold the last of its marketable silver, which in earlier periods of U.S. economic history had been used to support a monetary system of bimetallism. Sterling silver for tableware and other solid-silver objects is 92.5 percent silver and 7.5 percent copper. Silver is used to coat smooth glass surfaces for mirrors by vaporization of the metal or by precipitation from a solution; however, aluminum has largely replaced silver in this application. Silver is also widely used in the circuitry of electrical and electronic components. Colloidal silver, dilute solutions of silver nitrate ( $\text{AgNO}_3$ ), and some insoluble compounds, such as potassium, are used in medicine as antiseptics and bactericides. Argyrol, a silver-protein compound, is a local antiseptic for the eyes, ears, nose, and throat.

The silver-halide salts—silver bromide, silver chloride, and silver iodide—which darken on exposure to light, are used in emulsions for photographic plates, film, and paper. The salts are soluble in sodium thiosulfate, which is the compound used in the photographic fixing process.

Contributed By: Seymour Z. Lewin, M.S., Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry, New York University.  
"Silver," Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2000  
<http://encarta.msn.com> © 1997-2000 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

## **SVMAG Membership**

Membership is open to anyone interested in the metal arts: students, professional metalsmiths, crafts persons, artists, gallery owners, retailers, collectors, novices, manufacturers, or any individual who wishes to be a contributing member of the guild.

Annual Rates:

- Full-time Student \$15.00
- Individual \$25.00
- Dual \$40.00
- Corporate/ Retail \$50.00

If you have not sent in your membership dues, please do so ASAP.

Please make checks payable to SVMAG and mail to:

Sarah EK Muse 617 Sixth Street, SW Roanoke, VA 24016

Please forward this to anyone whom you think would like to join SVMAG.  
If you would like to be removed from this email list, please reply with "please remove" to the address above.