



Alexandria Times

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Marking Time

Jamestown Exhibit at the Lyceum

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Image: Westerwald pottery fragment, dated 1609. Photo, Office of Historic Alexandria.

In recognition of the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement, the Lyceum continues to host an exhibition of rare manuscripts and artifacts. In Jamestown, Establishing Early America, guest curator Gary Eyer has shared his private collection of books, documents, maps, coins, weapons and household items.

Among the artifacts is this important ceramic sherd, excavated on Jamestown Island around 1930 by B.E. Steel. The Westerwald pottery fragment (pictured), dated 1609, shows a large portion of an embossed crest shield, encircled by wreath roping and lettering which partially reads "R:SMISSEN." The body of the ware is deep blue with interesting floral ornaments and incised line pattern. It is one of the earliest dated European pottery fragments found on the island.



Another Westerwald piece, an intact mug, is also on display. The 17th-century vessel features similar embossed design and heavy use of cobalt over the gray body.

Other excavated items on exhibit are buckles, Dutch and English pipe bowls, and embossed bottle seals. After the exhibition closes at the end of this month, Eyer will donate the excavated artifacts to Jamestown Settlement.

Jamestown, Establishing English America is free and open through Sept. 30, at the Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street and is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.alexandriahistory.org and www.historyisfun.org.

"Out of the Attic" is published each week in the Alexandria Times newspaper. The column began in September 2007 as "Marking Time" and explored Alexandria's history through collection items, historical images and architectural representations. Within the first year, it evolved into "Out of the Attic" and featured historical photographs of Alexandria.

These articles appear with the permission of the Alexandria Times and were authored by Amy Bertsch, former Public Information Officer, and Lance Mallamo, Director, on behalf of the Office of Historic Alexandria.