

Augusta Military Academy

Museum Newsletter
-September 2017 -

Where treasures settle for life

World War I-era French compass makes appearance at museum

It was another little artifact from a big box. It was discovered in a big blue bin that had previously yielded up commemorative AMA mugs, glassware, Final Ball memorabilia, and a set of 1910 blueprints for the AMA Gymnasium. About the size of a man's fist, it was a dark brown leather case with a belt loop at the back and a broad closure flap with a hole at the end that fit over a brass knob on the bottom. Embossed on the case beneath the flap was the phrase "Modèle Déposé," French for "Trade Mark." That is what caught my attention.

Inside the case was a jewel. It is a fine brass folding prismatic way-finding compass. Made from brass, its case was topped by a moveable ring, both finely engraved with numbers and directions down to $\frac{1}{36}$ nd divisions of both. The moveable ring can be stopped by a small brass thumbscrew, so that accurate readings may be made. The interior compass card is also finely divided into 20 degree



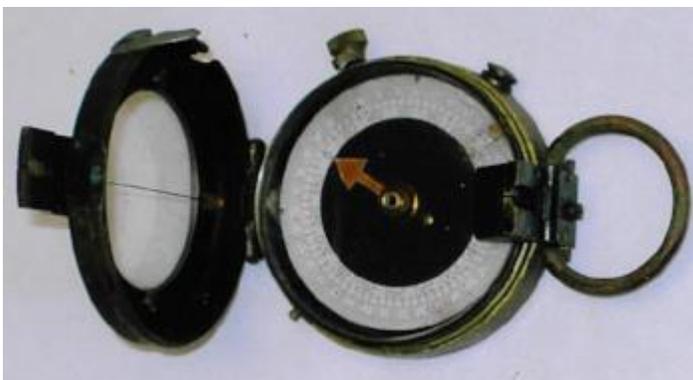
OLD FIXTURE



NEW FIXTURE

**\$5 Friday
night**

sections, with a large luminous arrow. Its rotation can be stopped by a small tension lever on the left side of the case. The folding lid has the usual large cutout circle with a transit wire and v-notch sight in the tongue; opposite is a combination flip-up slit sight and prism reticule through which the degree numbers on the compass card can be seen. When not in use, the sight fold into the compass' thumb loop.



Although beautifully-made and fully-functional, the really interesting thing about the compass was the words, "Engineer corps," engraved on top of the case opposite the hinge and the date "1918" stamped into the bottom. In combination with the French embossed into the leather case, these things suggest a compelling story: An American soldier, perhaps an AMA graduate, goes to World War One France and purchases a compass for his duties. Or perhaps it was just a case.

Was it Major Roller, to use with his cobbled-together roadmaps as he guided AEF ambulances around unfamiliar territory? Was it used by an AEF Engineer looking across the river at Remilly-Sur-Meuse or at the St. Quentin Canal, when the 30th Division broke the Hindenburg line? Alas, we don't know. Without documentation the compass

for lights!

Let there be light!!
The original track lighting installed for exhibits in 1999 is still in place here at The AMA Museum. We have already replaced several fixtures that have broken. However, there 28 old fixtures that need to be upgraded.

For a donation of \$5 or any amount ending in "5," we will continue on our program to replace the rest of the fixtures and install an LED bulb in each one. A LED bulb and fixture combination costs about \$85. Please use the "Make a Donation" button below!

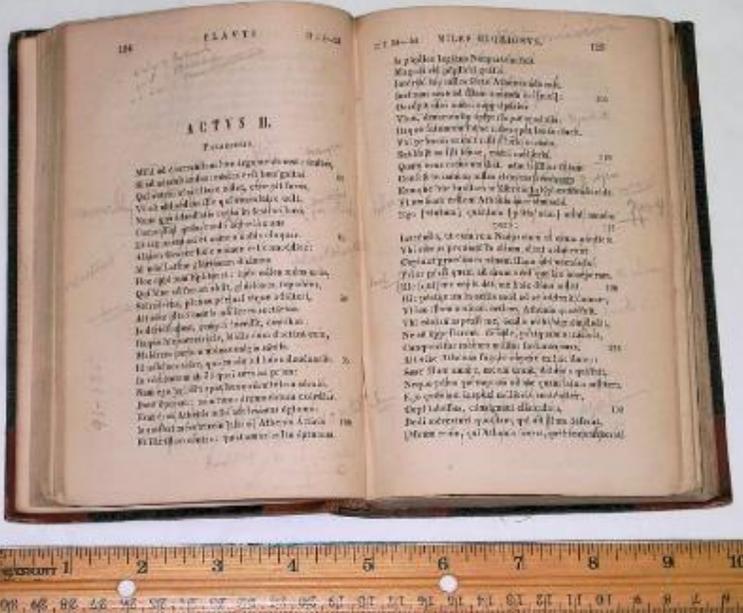
Support the Museum

[Make A Donation](#)

**AMA Museum
Hours of Operation**
Wednesday- Sunday
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

is a beautiful example of the height of direction-finding technology of its day, but the story it could tell is reduced to whisper and suggestion. That is a real loss to history.

- Morgan Liddick, Collections Assistant
(Editor's note: Morgan has been on staff at The AMA Museum for nearly two years. His primary function is to properly photograph, document and catalog all of the items in The AMA Museum's collection. During his tenure, a number of objects housed in our storage room have appeared with no documentation accompanying them. Nonetheless, we value those objects and plan to keep the relevant objects in the collection. If any of our readers have made a contribution to the museum's collection and have not received a proper "Deed of Gift" to sign, please contact the office. In order for the transfer of ownership to be made to the museum, we must have signed deeds on file. As part of Morgan's work, we have been able to gather donor signatures for items that were not properly documented in the past. -CS)



The 300 Club

45

donors
enlisted

The goal:

**Enlist 300 donors to
pledge \$500
per year for the
next 5 years**



The AMA Museum is on Social Media



Click below to follow us on Facebook!



Click below to follow us on Twitter!



Volunteer

The Livicks made donation of Prof. Roller's U.Va. textbook

In the July edition of the AMA Museum Newsletter, we reported that Professor Roller's textbook "Comoediae" by Plautus was "Found in the Collection."

The designation "Found in the Collection," is given to a collection item whose donor information has been separated from the object.

In this case, after publication of the the July article on the textbook, we discovered the book was donated by Mal and Linda Livick.

Of course, it was no surprise to those of us that work at the museum that the Livicks were the original donor. Mal and Linda have donated a large portion of the items in our collection and most of those items are Roller family heirlooms.

In our recent quest to properly, document and catalog all of the collection pieces, we are extremely happy to match this item to its donor.

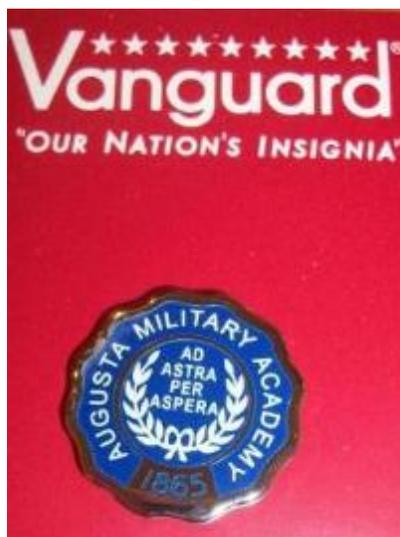
In addition, we are incredibly grateful to have such caring donors as Mal and Linda nearby to support the work of the museum.

In the PX ...

New item

We are now offering an AMA Pin using the design of the uniform shoulder patches of the cadet uniforms. Blue and white enamel made by Vanguard.

Cost: \$7.50 including shipping



On sale

We have seven sweatshirts left on the shelf with "Sad Sack" marching tours in the rain. The following sizes are available:

One in small.

Calendar

The following weekends are open:

- All the weekends on the September calendar have been taken!! A very special thanks to all who are volunteering this month.

Thank you

to the folks who have volunteered in August:

- Victor Gomez '69
- Charlie Pascale '69
- Brian and Sue Hart
- Ed Rogerville '76
- Ed Click '50



[Visit our website!](http://amaalumni.org)

[Go To
amaalumni.org](http://amaalumni.org)



Upcoming Events

Sept 30 @ 10 a.m.
Board of Trustees
Board of Directors
Meeting
AMA Museum
Fort Defiance, VA

One in large.
Five in Extra Large.
Cost: \$15 each including shipping.



Go to amaalumni.org

New online exhibit on letterheads

Can't make it to The AMA Museum but want to get in touch with the school's history? Take a look at the website!! The newest addition is a slideshow exhibit of stationary letterheads from the 1920s-1940s extracted from the volumes of letters to AMA from cadet's parents in the Cadet Archives.

In addition, there are many items there that you can take a look at including:

Past Reunions

Galleries of photos submitted by alumni

Archival photos of notable alumni

The Recalls

Catalogs

Go to amaalumni.org. Then, click on the Publications tab; go to Galleries and Browse.

Banner photo: 1968-69 Baseball

1969 Recall

Front Row: Gary Argenbright, Doug Bell, Burt Cummings, Jack Meyer, Willie Hall. Second Row: Jim Flack, Jack May, Jack

Prentice, Gary Jenkins, Bob Spolizino, Dave Zehler, Tallulah.
Third Row: Ty Leath, Larry Corbitt, Merle Graham, Steve Haile
and Coach Nicholas Wilk.

**Update your address books with
the AMA office email address:**

Museum@AMAalumni.org



AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY MUSEUM
- Fort Defiance, Virginia -

MISSION STATEMENT "To preserve the traditions of the Augusta Military Academy and to honor the memory of the life and times of its alumni, faculty, staff, and supporting families through permanent and temporary exhibits and diligent conservation the museum's collections of artifacts, archives and photographs."

The AMA MUSEUM is operated by the AMA Alumni Foundation, which is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization. The museum is manned by former cadets and faculty members, who volunteer their time and talent. Funding for the museum is totally dependent on tax-exempt financial gifts and donations made by the alumni, former faculty, and friends of Augusta Military Academy, as well as the community and visitors to the museum.

1,120 visitors in 2016
668 visitors in 2017 to date

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