Upcoming WCG Meetings 2005/2006

Monthly meetings for the 2005/2006 season begin October 2005 and run through May 2006. The meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month. Most meetings begin at 5 p.m. with a reception, followed by the guest speaker’s presentation. Please check individual meeting announcements for exact times and locations.

October 6
Dr. Cynthia Field, Chair, Architectural History and Historic Preservation, Smithsonian Institution, “Restoring Damaged Landmarks: A Nineteenth Century Approach”. Held at the Charles Sumner School Museum, 1201 17th Street NW, Washington, DC (17th and M Streets NW). This talk will be open to the public and is part of the celebration of 19th-century architect Adolf Cluss, who designed several buildings in Washington, DC, including Eastern Market, the Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building, the Franklin School, and the Sumner School. **NOTE:** The reception starts at 5:00 pm, the talk begins at 5:30 pm, a tour of the gallery will be given at 6:30 pm. RSVP is required. See WCG website for details.

November 3
Jennifer Riddell, Preservation of the Tiffany Windows at the Arlington Arts Center. Held at the Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA (Wilson Blvd. and North Monroe St.). This talk will be open to the public. **NOTE:** The reception begins at 6:00 pm, and the talk begins at 6:45 pm.

December 1
Holiday Party and speaker TBA. Held at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, DC.

January 5
Three-Ring Circus, held at Smithsonian’s Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Drive, SW, Washington, DC.

February 2
Flavia Perugini, George Washington’s Mount Vernon, “200 Completed, 300 to Go.” A talk about the work done in preparation for the opening of new facilities at Mount Vernon, ranging from meetings with designers to the treatment of many artifacts. Held at the Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 East Capitol Street, SE, Washington, DC.

March 2
Intern talks held at the U.S. Navy Museum, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC. Also included is a tour of the Underwater Archaeology Conservation Laboratory.

April 6
Julia Brennan speaking about recent textile conservation projects. Held at the Textile Museum, 2320 S Street NW, Washington, DC. **NOTE:** The talk will begin at 6:00 pm. RSVP is required.

May 4
Elections, Raffle and Tour of Hillwood. Held at Hillwood Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Ave., NW, Washington, DC.
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From the Desk of the President

I am pleased to welcome all the newly elected Board of Directors and Officers to the WCG and to welcome back the officers and directors from last year (see below). There was a lot of enthusiasm and input at the summer board meeting in July, and lots of new ideas to follow up on. We are looking forward to an exciting year, with several new venues for meetings such as the Charles Sumner School Museum in Washington DC, The Arlington Arts Center in Arlington, VA and the Textile Museum in Washington, DC. Of course, we will end the year with the May meeting at the beautiful Hillwood Museum and Gardens. Claire Peachey, our newly elected Vice-President, has been working hard to find these new venues to host our meetings, and to arrange speakers that reflect the time period or specialty of the hosting venue. She is hard at work still arranging some of the venues and speakers for the upcoming year. The most current list of meetings can be found on the website and on the front page of this newsletter. If members have suggestions for talks, presentations or 3-ring Circus speakers (January’s meeting), please email Claire at claire.peachey@navy.mil. She would love to hear from you.

At the summer board meeting there was discussion about raising the dues for the WCG. The dues have remained the same ($25/members and $15/students) for some time. The last two years, Past-President Emily Jacobson worked hard to keep the dues the same by increasing revenue to the Guild and succeeded in doing this in several ways. The board really came through by asking the membership to remember to make food donations at the meetings, by asking non-members and guests to make a voluntary donation of $5.00 to attend meetings and by recruiting organizations to sponsor refreshments at the Guild meetings. It was decided at the board meeting NOT to raise the membership dues for the 2006-2007 membership year, and to work hard at recruiting new members and continuing to work on the above. We would like to keep the dues the same, yet offer more benefits to the members such as special tours and organized workshops.

It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to Intern Coordinator Joanne Klaar. Joanne has accepted a position in Scotland and leaves for her new job in September. She arranged several intern happy hours and tours last year, and did a great job recruiting new intern members and coordinating with all the Washington DC laboratory heads. She has also been involved in managing the Sidney Williston Fund which offers a free one-year membership in the WCG to 5 Washington area interns. I would also like to welcome Amber Smith who has agreed to be our
new Intern Coordinator. Amber works at Page Conservation, Inc. The first intern event planned for this year is a tour of the labs at the National Gallery of Art on September 16th, arranged by Joanne before she resigned. Tours of the laboratory will be given at 3pm, followed by drinks and a welcome ceremony to new interns.

The first public outreach event has been scheduled for October 28-30th at the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums’s (MAAM) conference. Nancy Pollak has scheduled to display the booth at this year’s annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. The event is being held at the Tremont Plaza Hotel in collaboration with Preservation Maryland. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth and help to sell the CRfAA, 2nd edition. Information will be provided at the October meeting but anyone interested in volunteering at the booth should contact Nancy as soon as possible. This is a great opportunity for the Guild and will be a spectacular event at a large exhibition hall. For more information on the conference, directions and parking see the MAAM website: www.midatlanticmuseums.org.

This past year, the WCG Angels Project has been on-going at the National Congressional Cemetery on Capitol Hill. The angels are hard at work, volunteering their efforts toward the preservation and repair of tomb stone markers in the cemetery. Michele Pagan and Howard Wellman have been involved with these efforts, and continue to volunteer there each month. The project will be wrapping up with a final report in October of 2005, and we look forward to hearing about this exciting project at one of our upcoming meetings. We may even have a chance to hold one of our meetings at the cemetery next year, so look for updates on this event and tour in upcoming newsletters.

Time for a Change:
It was suggested at the summer board meeting that the WCG logo should be updated. The current logo, found on the WCG website opening page, is outdated and the original artwork is no longer available. We will be making an announcement at the October meeting about holding a contest for a new WCG logo. We would like the logo to represent the members of the WCG and reflect our Regional group. The board is open to suggestions for a new design. Please send any suggestions to the Guild regarding what you may like or dislike about the current logo. We will be putting out a notice for interested parties to submit drawings and artwork. If anyone knows of a local artist willing to take this on, especially students looking for resume work, please have them contact the Guild at wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org

As the year progresses we look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming meetings, and enjoying new venue spaces. If anyone has suggestions for speakers for upcoming meetings, please remember to contact Claire Peachey or the Guild. I hope everyone had a restful, cool summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the first meeting in October. Please see the website for information about the upcoming meetings, announcements, volunteer opportunities, archived newsletters and Angels projects. And look for changes to the website in the upcoming year.

Lisa Young, WCG President
conserveit@earthlink.net OR
wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org
NEW OFFICERS:
Lisa Young, President
Claire Peachey, Vice President
Michelle Savant, Recording Secretary

NEW DIRECTORS:
Julia Brennan from Textile Conservation Services
Mary Coughlin from National Museum of American History
Eliza Gilligan from Smithsonian Libraries
Jane Norman from Freer & Sackler Galleries
Larry Shutts from Page Conservation, Inc.
Outreach Booth

As fall approaches, the WCG Outreach Booth will begin making appearances at local events. The booth spreads the conservation message in three ways. When set up, the booth itself provides a professional looking backdrop, with eye-catching photos of conservation examples and text to draw the public in. On display are free conservation handouts, including AIC brochures and resources generated by WCG members. Of course, the CRfAA2 is available for sale as well. Finally, but most importantly, visitors can interact with real, live conservators: you! WCG members who volunteer at the booth have been asked a wide range of questions, from specific collection care questions to “What is conservation?” to “How do I learn to become a conservator?” Volunteering at a booth event for a few hours is a stimulating way to interact with the public and spread the conservation message.

The first two outreach events will be held in October, and this is our first call for volunteers. The first event is “Archaeology Day” on Saturday, October 8 at Shuter’s Hill, organized by the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. WCG will be hosting a hands-on activity for kids at the booth, so if you like working with children, this is the event for you. We need volunteers to cover a 10 am to noon shift, and a 1:30 to 3:30 shift.

The second event will be the MAAM Meeting, held in Baltimore at the Tremont Hotel. The booth will be part of the Museum Resource Center exhibit hall on Saturday, October 29. We will need volunteers to be at the booth from 10 am until 6 pm. Generally, volunteers work in two-hour shifts, but any help is welcome.

Please consider being part of WCG’s outreach efforts. Look for volunteer calls for specific events on the website and at meetings. If you have handouts or other information that you find particularly useful for public education, please pass them along. We will also be gathering children’s activities for future use, so if you are interested in “reaching them while they are young” speak up. New booth venues are also welcome- if you know of an event where the booth would fit in, please contact Nancy Pollak, Booth Coordinator, at nrpollak@aol.com or 301-845-1010. Look for the Outreach Booth coming soon to an event near you!

Nancy Pollak, Booth Coordinator
Sidney S. Williston Memorial Fund

The WCG is still accepting donations to the Sidney S. Williston Memorial Fund.

WCG is pleased to present the following interns with the Sidney Williston Fund Award. These interns were nominated by their supervisors and will receive free membership in WCG for the 2005-2006 season.

Meredith Shuba
Meredith Shuba is a pre-program intern at the Corcoran Gallery of Art under Dare Myers Hartwell. Before this internship, she spent a year in Florence studying painting conservation. While continuing her internship at the Corcoran, she will be helping to prepare the collection for traveling exhibitions, along with condition reporting, photo documentation and light cleaning.

Mary Coughlin
Mary Coughlin completed her third year internship for the Winterthur/University of Delaware art conservation program at the National Museum of American History (NMAH) under the supervision of Beth Richwine. She was awarded a Kress Fellowship for an additional year of study at the NMAH investigating plastics in the collection.

Kristen Loudermilk
Kristen Loudermilk is beginning a one-year paintings internship at the National Gallery of Art. Kristen will be graduating from the MAC program at Queen’s University this fall. This past summer, she interned at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, under Dare Hartwell, where she assisted in the preparation of two upcoming traveling exhibitions. Responsibilities included condition reporting, and minor treatments of paintings and frames.

Elizabeth Rydzewski
Elizabeth Rydzewski is continuing working at the National Archives and Records Administration under Susan Peckham as a Micrographic Technician in the Special Media Preservation Laboratory. She also works part-time in the Preservation Office in the cross-training program. Elizabeth is balancing working full-time, volunteering and taking classes to prepare her for graduate study in conservation.

Chantal Bernicky
Chantal Bernicky is beginning her second year of a three-year fellowship as the William R. Leisher Fellow in modern and contemporary painting at the National Gallery of Art under Sarah Fisher. Chantal graduated from the MAC program in conservation at Queen’s University in 2000. She has interned at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum in New York, and as an advance intern at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center. Upon completion of her internships, Chantal was employed as a paintings conservator at the Centre de Conservation du Quebec for three years.
Arts Funding Increases

Funding increases have been included for both the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in the FY 2006 Interior Appropriations bill. Both agencies received an increase of $5 million before Congress applied an across-the-board rescission of 0.476% to all programs within the bill. This means that the NEA received a net increase of $4.4 million and the NEH received a net increase of $4.3 million.

The conference report specifies that approximately $3 million of the NEA increase will restore funding to the popular Challenge America program, providing arts grants to under-served communities, which the President’s budget had originally cut by $6.5 million. The remaining $2 million of the NEA increase will fund the new American Masterpieces program, which sponsors presentations of great American works across all art forms.

The House of Representatives passed the conference report in July and Senate passage was expected soon after. The President has indicated that he will sign the bill into law.

This announcement comes courtesy of Americans for the Arts, a nonprofit arts advocacy group. For more information about the status of the Congressional bill contact Justin Beland, Government Affairs and Grassroots Manager, at jbeland@artsusa.org, or 202.371.2830.

Heritage Hotline: Response to Katrina

Heritage Preservation’s Heritage Emergency National Task Force, a coalition co-sponsored with FEMA, organized a conference call on Thursday, September 1 to discuss cultural heritage issues resulting from Hurricane Katrina. Participants in the call included 35 representatives of 21 different federal agencies and national organizations.

Participants made it clear that help will be on the way to save the rich history and culture of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. But first, the situation must be stabilized and more information must be gathered.

John Ketchum, FEMA’s historic preservation officer, said that the challenges in New Orleans will require an unprecedented effort in community preservation and restoration. Since no one can enter the affected areas at present, Ketchum urged cultural organizations to use this time to coordinate the delivery of expertise and resources.

Various organizations are posting reports on their Web sites from their members in Louisiana and Mississippi. Since many means of communication are down, gathering accurate information is a challenge. The effort will continue through the weeks ahead. Anyone with confirmed information about the status of cultural institutions and historic sites in the damaged areas should contact taskforce@heritagepreservation.org.

Highly skilled conservators and collections professionals are eager to go to affected areas to help rescue precious collections in flooded and damaged museums, libraries, archives, and historical societies. Pam West, director of the National Park Service’s Museum Resource Center, will likely be one of the first to arrive. Her team’s first priority for National Park Service sites will be damage assessment. She will keep the Heritage Emergency National Task Force apprised of her work and observations.
A brand new guide to disaster assistance, Before and After Disasters: Federal Funding for Cultural Institutions, is available on-line as a PDF at www.heritagepreservation.org/PDFs/Disaster.pdf. A print version will be available later in September. It was developed by Heritage Preservation in partnership with FEMA and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Reports about broad-based efforts to help preserve cultural and historic resources damaged by Hurricane Katrina and practical information on emergency response will be maintained at www.heritageemergency.org, along with links to related Web sites. Task Force members will continue to confer throughout the crisis via weekly conference calls.

Lucy Kurtz  
Heritage Preservation  
1012 14th Street, NW  Ste. 1200  
Washington, DC  20005  
202-233-0800  (fax) 202-233-0807

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**Kendra Lovette Fund**

Please consider making a donation to the Kendra Lovette Fund. Donations will be used to sponsor continuing education activities in her honor. For those of you who are not familiar with her, Kendra was a long time Washington area conservator. In 1977, she began working at the Library of Congress where she was the conservator in charge of treatment for the architectural drawings for the US Capital. Four years later she accepted the position of paper conservator at the Baltimore Museum of Art where she worked for five years. After that Kendra was in private practice until the mid 1990s when ill health forced her into early retirement. Kendra died March 6, 2003 after a prolonged struggle with multiple sclerosis. Donations can be made by check to WCG with a note in the memo line that it is for the Kendra Lovette Fund. Send your donation to:

WCG  
Kendra Lovette Fund  
PO Box 23364  
Washington, DC  20026

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**Intern Tour**

The first intern/fellows event of the year will be on **Friday, September 16th at 3:00.** The group will tour the paper, paintings, and objects conservation labs at the National Gallery of Art, with reception to follow. All interns and fellows, both WCG members and non-members, are invited. **Please RSVP to Amber Smith, the Intern Coordinator, at amberpahl@yahoo.com by Monday, September 12th if you are interested**. The tour will meet promptly at 3:00 at the Constitution Avenue entrance, by the Information desk.
2006 Conservation Assessment Program Changes

Heritage Preservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are pleased to announce upcoming changes to the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) starting in FY2006. The changes will allow more museums to participate and will streamline the application process.

CAP will be administered through a cooperative agreement between IMLS and Heritage Preservation with two modifications to the eligibility criteria. The number of days per year a museum must be open to the public will change from 120 days to 90 days, and a second assessment (a re-CAP) will be available to organizations who participated in CAP prior to 1999.

CAP is a program for small to mid-sized museums of all types, from art museums to zoos, that provides a broad assessment of the museum's collections, environmental conditions, and historic buildings by a conservation professional. Following the assessment, the conservation professional provides a written report recommending priorities to improve collections care. This report assists museums in developing strategies, long-range planning, and fund-raising activities to improve the care of their collections.

In addition to receiving a conservation collections assessment, museums with buildings older than 50 years are also offered an architectural assessment to identify priorities for the care of the building(s). Museums with small to mid-sized collections are most appropriate for the CAP program, which is limited to a two-day site visit. Larger museums are encouraged to contact IMLS for information on the Conservation Project Support (CPS) grant. CPS grants fund a variety of conservation projects, including general conservation surveys that can accommodate a lengthier visit by a conservation professional.

The FY2006 CAP applications will be mailed on Friday, October 7, 2005, to museums on the CAP mailing list and will also be available on Heritage Preservation's Web site at www.heritagepreservation.org. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until the postmark deadline of December 1, 2005.

To be added to Heritage Preservation's CAP mailing list, institutions may contact Heritage Preservation by mail, telephone, fax, or e-mail. It is recommended that potential applicants request a sample application to review eligibility requirements and prepare for the application process. More information and the sample application are also available on the Heritage Preservation Web site at www.heritagepreservation.org/programs/capover.htm.

To receive further information, contact:

Kate Marks, Conservation Assessment Program
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kmarks@heritagepreservation.org
People

Stephen E. Weil, 77, Deputy Director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden from 1974 to 1995 and former administrator at the Whitney, died on August 9, 2005. Mr. Weil was an expert in art law and wrote extensively on the philosophy and ethics of museums and museum management. He is credited with inspiring some of the most innovative professionals in museums today.

Julia Brennan has been awarded a grant from the Friends of Bhutan's Culture to lead training workshops in textile conservation in the Kingdom of Bhutan. The Getty Foundation is providing the funds for the project. This grant will fund Phase II of textile conservation training, building on Julia’s work in 2003-2004. She will be based at The National Textile Museum, in the capitol city Thimphu. Julia will focus on augmenting the education of the staff in preventative conservation guidelines, upgrading the non-rolled storage facilities, building micro-climates and conducting treatments on national textile treasures. This grant also includes the pilot project of training monk-caretakers from monasteries throughout Bhutan. These monks, charged with caring for enormous numbers of monastic and religious textiles, will receive training in basic care and preventative conservation. This is the first workshop addressing the conservation training of monks in Bhutan, and will produce an illustrated manual for sustained care. The grant is for 8 weeks during November and December 2005. It includes funding for work materials and books to build the conservation library established in 2003. Julia’s project builds on the sustainable methods of preservation taught in Phase I, which have continued with great success over the past year and a half. Julia Brennan is the owner of Washington, DC based Textile Conservation Services.

JOBS

Book and Paper Conservator
Johns Hopkins University
The Sheridan Libraries

This position serves as a book and paper conservator with primary focus on paper conservation. The person is responsible for carrying out examination and treatment of both bound and unbound rare collections. Treatment includes working on flat material, as well as a variety of bound materials, such as incunabula, period bindings, modern firsts, etc. Other areas of responsibility include cross training with other conservation staff; assisting with the development of policies and procedures, compiling statistical data; assisting in exhibits preparation and installation, condition surveys.

Qualifications: Completion of recognized conservation training program with a terminal degree/certificate with 3 years minimum conservation work experience in a library, museum, or other cultural institution. Position requires service orientation, strong analytical, organizational, and communication skills, ability to work independently as well as collaboratively, ability to take initiative and to meet deadlines. Working knowledge of MS Word, Excel, and Adobe Photoshop required. Professional Development: Applicant should have understanding of new developments in the field of book and paper conservation, be professionally active in conservation organizations such as AIC (American Institute for Conservation) and ACR MIPC (Accredited Member of the Institute of Paper Conservation), and to grow professionally. A portfolio (slide, CD, paper) of conservation work will be required at the time of application. Portfolios will be returned after review is completed.

Visit http://jobs.jhu.edu/ to complete an online application and use the Search Jobs/Career Cart feature to apply for position # 21336. Approximate starting salary is $38,323 - $43,115. We offer generous benefits, including tuition remission, multiple options for retirement plans, same-sex domestic partner benefits, in a smoke free/drug free environment. AA/EOE. Position will stay open until filled.

NOTE: The successful candidate(s) for this position will be subject to a pre-employment background check.
GBW PROJECT
Interested in working on the Guild of Bookworkers (GBW) History of Bookbinding/Book Conservation project for the DC Metro area? Are you a book person in DC? We would like to interview you. Please contact Jana Dambrogio, Rare Book Conservator at Jana.Dambrogio@nara.gov or by phone at 301.837.1509.

The GBW will have their 100th year anniversary meeting in 2006 in New York City.

RESOURCE FOR DIGITAL IMAGES
Asman Photo, at 924 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, has started offering a special deal for art conservators to scan treatment slides to 5 megabyte file size. They will save your images on CD at three resolutions: high resolution, preview and thumbnail. They are also offering an extra CD duplicate on an alternate brand for added security at no extra cost. There is a minimum order of 100 slides at 97 cents each. According to Barry Asman, the owner, the offer will be held open for the foreseeable future. For more info call 202.547.7713 or go to www.asmanphoto.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
When: September 17, October 15 and October 22nd.
Where: Historic Congressional Cemetery, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC
What: volunteer work days, to follow up on work begun last October 2004, with surveys, excavation, cleaning and re-setting historic monuments at Congressional Cemetery.

The September event will be hosted by The Associates for Preservation Technologies, and is the 3rd such event. WCG hosted this event last October, and AIC-Architectural Group coordinated the event this past Spring.

Why: volunteer conservators are needed to both continue the work, and to supervise local citizens on October 22nd, which is the national "Make a Difference Day". This is our professional pro-bono opportunity in the Metro DC area, and is also a great opportunity to learn from our colleagues of different specialties.

How: All participants are asked to bring their own bag lunch. Drinks will be provided.

Transportation details: close to Potomac Avenue Metro stop, and parking is available both on the street and on the grounds.

RSVP: Catherine Dewey, at catherine_dewey@nps.gov, and for more details concerning the September 15th event.

WEB SITE: www.washingtonconservationguild.org
Email: wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org
Address: PO Box 23364, Washington, DC 20026.
News from the Editor

WCG Newsletter is printed quarterly (September, December, March, June). Items for inclusion in the WCG Newsletter should be directed to:

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Email submissions are preferred. Please note that articles should be sent at least two weeks before publication. The editor reserves the right to edit copy to fit available space. Special thanks to proofreaders Brett Holt and Emily Jacobson.

Next issue: December 2005
Deadline for submissions: November 15, 2005

Membership

WCG dues are $25 per year, $15 for students and interns, payable to the Washington Conservation Guild or WCG.

The membership year runs from May 1st through April 30th. Membership forms can be requested by mail from the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 23364, Washington D.C. 20026 or can be downloaded from our web site. Changes of address or telephone numbers, corrections to the directory, and dues payments should be sent to the Membership Secretary at the address listed above or to wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org

The membership schedule is as follows:
- Early March: membership renewal notice mailed
- Mid-April: 2nd and last renewal notice mailed
- May 1st: New membership year begins (verify your status)
- July 1st: Deadline for membership renewals**
- Aug/Sept: Publication of membership directory

*Members who join after July 1st will not be included in the membership directory, but in an addendum to be mailed out in December.

Disclaimer: The Washington Conservation Guild (WCG) does not recommend particular individuals, businesses, products, services or conservation treatments. WCG's Newsletter and Web site are simply vehicles for presenting information from various sources. The publication of such information in either medium should not be construed as an endorsement of it by WCG. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of WCG, its Board of Directors or membership.

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“I never saw an ugly thing in my life: for let the form of an object be what it may, -- light, shade, and perspective will always make it beautiful.”

- John Constable, painter (1776-1837)