

WASHINGTON CONSERVATION GUILD NEWSLETTER

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From the Desk of the President

It has been a pleasure to serve as President of the Washington Conservation Guild during the 2005/2006 season. We've had a great year and I can hardly believe that it has passed by so quickly. I want to thank all the board of directors and officers this year who really pulled out the extras to make the Guild meetings successful. As many of you know, almost half of our board and officers were new to their positions- including myself, so we all learned as we went and had a great time. The enthusiasm was overwhelming.

The business meeting in May was quite a big event. The annual raffle has turned into something spectacular and I want to thank Julia Brennan, Jane Norman and Jayne Holt for collecting all the wonderful raffle items that we gave out at the meeting. I also want to thank Scott Brouard for arranging for us to have our May meeting at the beautiful Hillwood Museum and Gardens and for agreeing to emcee the raffle once again. It was great weather and a wonderful way to end the year.

I would like congratulate Scott Brouard, who was elected to an additional one-year term following the end of his two-year term as a director with the Guild board. Scott is the Preservation Manager at Hillwood Museum and Gardens. I also want to welcome newly elected Patricia Favero to membership secretary. Patti is currently doing a fellowship at the Phillips Collection and we are looking forward to getting her on board to take on the many duties of this position. The only person leaving us is ED Tully Rambo who served as membership secretary for the past two years. We want to thank ED once again for all her hard work and wish her well with her newest venture at home—mommy!

As I reported at the annual business meeting, the Guild met at three new venues this year- the Arlington Arts Center, The Navy Museum and The Textile Museum. This gave our members more exposure to different museums and broadened our public outreach to organizations that may not have had contact with the Guild previously. We also had over 100 attendees at two of our meetings, and many of the others were filled to capacity.

Public Outreach committees within the Guild have been very busy this year. The first was coordination of public lectures by Rachel-Ray Cleveland at the Small Museum Association Conference in Ocean City, Maryland, and the John Wolfe International Law Library of Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Nancy Pollak has done an outstanding job with displaying the booth, both at Guild meetings (3 this past year) and at other venues such as NOAA and The Middle Atlantic Association of Museums Meeting. Howard Wellman displayed the booth at the St. Clement's Island- Potomac River

Inside This Issue

- 1 From the Desk of the President
- 3 March Meeting
- 5 April Meeting
- 6 May Annual Business Meeting
- 9 New Logo
- 10 Public Lectures
- 11 Intern Tours
- 11 WCG Booth
- 12 People
- 12 Jobs
- 13 Courses

Museum's annual Appraiser's Fair in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Angels Projects continue to be successful due to the diligence of Michele Pagan. For the second year in a row the Angels were present at the Historic Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Please look for information and photographs on the Angels projects that Michele has added to the WCG website. They are great!

Two big things that occurred during my term as President this year need mention. For the first time in a decade, the WCG decided to raise the annual membership dues from \$25 to \$30 per year but leave the intern dues at \$15. This was decided upon after much discussion. Many of the venues that support the Guild are no longer able to provide space for us to meet for free, so we are having to contribute some funding for meeting spaces. Additionally, revenue from the food donations, although on the rise, is still not enough to cover meeting refreshments each month. I hope that the membership will continue to support the Guild and realize that \$30 is still very low considering what the Guild provides to its members.

With that said, the Guild also decided to use some of our existing funds to have our logo redesigned by design consultant Carolyn Crowley. The final draft of the logo was unveiled at the May meeting and we are very excited about it. This is the first step in having our outdated letterhead, business cards, brochures and WCG booth updated. It will also set the tone for our new website, which is due to be redesigned in 2006/7 season. We are currently putting together a list of organizations to whom we can send out letters asking for support with this endeavor. We will also be sending this information out to members hoping that the membership will see the need for a newly updated website and support our efforts. The board is very excited about these two projects and we hope to move forward with the redesign of the website this September.

The last thing I should mention is that Amber Smith, our wonderful intern coordinator, has agreed to stay on another year. She has been doing a great job providing the area interns with activities each month in order to make them feel welcome to the DC area as well as within the Guild. She sponsored nine tours / social hours this past year at no cost to the Guild. As the summer approaches, we will be sending out Sidney Williston fund applications to area lab supervisors, encouraging them to sponsor their interns in applying for a one-year free membership to the Guild. This year we were able to award 5 interns with a free membership and hope to do the same next year. Please look for the information in an email from Amber or on the website soon. Applications are due in mid-August.

Once again, I have really enjoyed my first year as President, and look forward to next year. We already have some great meeting ideas and look forward to seeing everyone there. I hope everyone has a great summer and if anyone has ideas for venues or presenters for the upcoming season, or you are working on a great project and would like to present your findings at the 3-ring circus in January 2007, please contact Claire Peachey, Vice President, at the Guild. She would love to hear from you.

All the best,
Lisa Young, WCG President
wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org

Upcoming WCG Meetings 2006/2007

Monthly meetings for the 2006/2007 season begin October 2006 and run through May 2007. 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.

March Meeting: Intern Talks

“The Gettysburg Cyclorama: Defining the Treatment for a Suspended Display” by Jessie Norris, Pre-program Intern, Olin Conservation Inc.

Jessie Norris described the large-scale, collaborative treatment of a cyclorama, a unique type of painting that demands an innovative treatment approach. The canvas of a cyclorama is stretched into a large, hyperbolic cylinder, with the image painted on the inner side. A cyclorama creates an all-encompassing, panoramic experience for the viewer, who is situated in the center of the painting. The Gettysburg Cyclorama, created by Paul Philippoteaux in 1883, originally consisted of 12 separate canvasses sewn together and suspended with tension to create a painting that was 42' high with a circumference of 377'.

The painting was first exhibited in Boston and was later removed from exhibition, stored rolled, and damaged by fire. When it was exhibited again in 1910 at a New Jersey department store, it was cut to fit the dimensions of the space. During a conservation treatment undertaken in the 1960's, a wax-resin lining was applied to the painting, which caused planar distortions. A major goal of the current conservation treatment is to return the painting to its original size and shape. The surface of the painting was cleaned and the old lining will be removed along with various patches and overpainting. In order to reestablish the proper tension and shape of the cyclorama, various techniques and materials were investigated. What is left of the 12 original canvases will be reestablished and stitched into a custom made “insert-canvas” of the same size and shape as the original. The full size canvas will then be suspended and weighted to obtain the proper hyperbolic shape and lined overall to an inert fiberglass canvas. When the treatment is complete, the cyclorama will be exhibited at a new gallery space at Gettysburg.

“C-3PO: Preservation of a Protocol Droid” by Mary Coughlin, Samuel H. Kress Fellow, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian

Mary Coughlin shared her enviable experience caring for one of the most recognizable characters in American popular culture, the Star Wars robot C-3PO. The costume at the National Museum of American History, used during the film Return of the Jedi, is a composite object consisting of rubber, aluminum, and fiberglass.

An inadequate polyurethane mannequin was being used to support the costume, so it was removed from the old mannequin and placed on a new support crafted from ethafoam, batting, and stockinette. During this rehousing process, a condition problem was observed. The surfaces of the head and arms were aging differently compared to the rest of the body. They had a dark orange mottled appearance that visually contrasted with the lighter golden color of the rest of the costume. An investigation into the history and fabrication of the costume, including a trip to Skywalker Ranch and Industrial Light and Magic (ILM) in California (George Lucas' production headquarters), was carried out in order to establish a proper approach to treatment. It was determined that the damage to the head and arms may have developed after its original use in the film, and therefore treatment measures to correct the problem were appropriate. In fact, a similar surface problem was observed on the Ark of the Covenant prop used in the film Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark.

The costume fabricators at Skywalker Ranch and ILM recommended that the costume be stripped and recoated using the vacuum metalizing process originally used to create the costume, in which vaporized aluminum is applied under vacuum. This process was not only too costly, but also inappropriate as a conservation measure. Therefore, after considerable experimentation, the surface damage was treated in the following way. Organic solvents were used to remove the discolored coating and two layers of 5% B-72 in toluene were then applied. Damaged areas on the arms were locally treated by applying aluminum leaf with Rhoplex AC-33 used as the gilding mordant. These areas were then coated with shellac in order to visually reintegrate them with the rest of the costume.

"Great Expectations: Conservation of the 15th Century French Painting, The Expectant Madonna and St. Joseph" by Kristen Loudermilk, Painting Conservation Intern, National Gallery of Art

Kristen Loudermilk spoke about the technical analysis and treatment of a 15th Century French panel painting "The Expectant Madonna and St. Joseph". The painting, oil paint on an oak support, depicts Mary, Joseph, an angel, and two female attendants. The panel had previously split and been rejoined, and is also cradled. Through careful examination, it was discovered that certain details, such as the crown at the top center of the piece, were created using a technique called press brocade, in which tin leaf is beaten into a mold, which is then filled with a mixture of calcium carbonate, glue, and wax. Examination with IR and UV radiation revealed other information, such as changes made by the artist and the use of ultramarine in Mary's robe.

Treatment of the painting included surface cleaning and removal of water-soluble restoration glazes with deionized water, varnish removal with organic solvents, and removal of old fills and retouching both mechanically and with organic solvents. Future technical analysis will include the use of XRF to identify pigments and to continue investigating the press brocade, as well as the analysis of cross sections. To continue treatment, possible methods for replacing the missing sections of press brocade will be explored.

Amy Crist, Graduate Intern, The Baltimore Museum of Art and The Walters Art Museum

“Breaking Ground for Bhutan’s Textile Heritage: Anoxic Storage and Monastic Training” by Julia Brennan, Textile Services, Washington DC

Julia Brennan is owner of Textile Conservation Services, which is based in Washington, DC. She worked at the Textile Museum for six years in the conservation department before establishing her own private practice.

In October 2005 Julia Brennan returned to Bhutan to start Phase 2 of conservation training at the Textile Museum of Bhutan Thimphu, funded by Friends of Bhutan and the Getty Foundation. The ten-week project was divided between her base in Thimphu at the museum and in 4 rural monasteries introducing preventive maintenance and practices. Julia gave a brief background history of the country, which is a Buddhist kingdom in the Himalayas nestled among China, Tibet, and India. It takes 5 days to travel the length of country, which is mountainous and 33 kilometers east to west and 300 kilometers north to south. The Textile Museum opened in 2002, supported by one of the Queens of Bhutan, has a collection of approximately 1,000 objects. During Phase 1 of the project in 2000, Julia taught museum staff condition assessment, preventative maintenance, and techniques of rolled storage. The focus of this recent visit was the storage of costumes, hats, crowns, men’s go dress, and ethnographic objects, which cannot be rolled and simply stored.

Prior to the trip Julia researched new storage materials and techniques, keeping in mind the constraints of working in a developing country. There is no climate control in the museum. Bhutan does not produce materials so most supplies and materials are imported from India. Acid free boxes are prone to getting wet and one would need a truck load of silica gel for the number of objects to be stored. Consulting with colleagues and Jerry Shiner of Micro Climate Technologies Inc. in Toronto, Canada, Julia implemented an innovative anoxic microclimate storage system. Objects were stored in barrier film bags, the oxygen removed and then purged with nitrogen to achieve a .05% atmosphere. Ageless®, an oxygen scavenger, was placed in the bags, which were then heat-sealed. Ageless® has been used for pest management but this was the first time the product was used for storage. Getty Foundation provided the funds for the supplies, which Julia shipped to Bhutan. She knew nitrogen tanks were available in Bhutan but upon arrival she found no mechanical way to inflate the bags with the gas. Luckily she met an Italian diver at a party who constructed a rig system for the gas. Objects were padded out and placed on polyethylene rods or mulberry paper to mitigate creasing and crushing. Nitrogen actually inflated the bags almost pillow-like to further reduce these conditions.

Visits to the four monasteries were limited to 7 days on site, and some visits were only 3 days. The objects examined and treated were religious artifacts used for ceremonies and festivals. Some dated to the 17th c. and others to the present. There are no written logs or archives dating and recording the origin of the artifacts. The majority of the objects examined were large silk fabric banners, thongdroels, which are composed of appliqué and embroidered textiles. Thongdroels are often displayed hanging from wooden dowels. The largest was 80 ft. x 40 ft. and was examined on the ground outside the temple. The most prevalent type of damage was tears from the dowels. Julia conducted an assessment, triage stabilization of tears with stitchery, and worked with the monks to improve the storage. Every site visit was a challenge

because she was a foreign woman in a monastery asking the monks to change their traditions. The thongdroels had to be blessed and consecrated before beginning the day. Julia found the reception by monks depended upon the support of the abbot. She could only enter the storage areas with the abbot's approval. Monks were eager to learn how to take better care of these textile relics. She taught preventive handling using gloves, proper rolling with clean muslin, padded rolls for storage, and buffer protection of wood storage crates with Marvel seal and Tyvec.

Assessing the project, Julia feels she has made a small but significant impact in the monasteries. The pilot project identified that 90% of the religious and cultural patrimony of Bhutan is in the monasteries and therefore the monks need to be trained in the care of their religious artifacts. The project will be followed up with phases 3 and 4 funded by the Friends of Bhutan with support from one of the Queens. The Bhutanese are interested in scientific methods as a developing country and the anoxic storage work was national news. The underlying principle of Bhutan's development is Gross National Happiness. Every development is weighed with the Gross National Happiness of the Bhutanese and preserving their enormous cultural patrimony is at the heart of this principle.

Julia Brennan, Textile Conservator, Textile Services

May Annual Business Meeting

The meeting was held in the conference room at the Hillwood Museum and Gardens. 58 people were in attendance.

The meeting began with Emily Jacobson explaining the slate. The ballots were filled out by the members and collected by the nominating committee. Lisa Young then introducing herself and explained that the annual report was on the website for everyone to read; thus making it easier and more fun than going through it at the meeting. She then thanked Hillwood Museum and Gardens for allowing us to have our last meeting of the year at their establishment and introduced Scott Brouard, Preservation Manager, to say a few words. A tour of the gardens, and the house for those who wanted, was possible after the meeting.

Lisa highlighted a few sections of the annual report. We had 243 members this year, which is down from the previous year. She then thanked ED Tulley Rambo for her work as membership secretary. Lisa also thanked Claire Peachey for her hard work as the new vice-president, finding new venues for us, and helping with high attendances (over 100 members) at two monthly meetings. She thanked the National Gallery of Art for sponsoring the intern meeting in September, as well as other organizations that sponsored refreshments for our meetings: Alexandria Conservation Services, Archivart, Museum Glazing Services, Test Fabrics, University Products, and William A. Lewin Conservator, LLC.

Lisa then went over the previous fiscal year, 2005-2006. We didn't see as much income from Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques as we had hoped. Five free intern memberships were again awarded due to the Sidney Williston fund. Amber Smith, who took over from Joanne

Klaar last year and will be continuing next year, arranged many tours including the National Museum of American History, the Department of the Interior, NOAA, the Freer/Sackler Gallery of Art, and the Walters Art Gallery. She will also schedule a social gathering this summer.

Rachel-Ray Cleveland, our Public Lecture Coordinator, connects conservators to outside organizations who request speakers for general museum and conservation talks to the public. This year we were represented by Eric Anderson at the Small Museum Association's conference in Ocean City, MD, and Sarah Stauderman, WCG archivist, who gave a talk on the preservation of magnetic media to the Georgetown Law Library. Rachel-Ray has two more talks planned for May. Two other public outreach coordinators are also hard at work. Nancy Pollak is in charge of the public outreach booth. We had three booth events this year- The Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums meeting in Baltimore, MD; NOAA event in February, and The St. Clement's Island Potomac River Museum in Maryland. The booth was also brought to a few of our meetings so that members could see it. We have plans to upgrade the booth this summer. The last public outreach activity is the Angels project, organized by Michele Pagan. For the second year in a row it was held in October at the Congressional Cemetery where Guild members trained volunteers to assist in the maintenance, cleaning, survey, and excavation of the tombstones. All members are welcome and encouraged to keep going back to volunteer. We will get a final report for our archives and highlights will be put on the website. We are hoping to have our first meeting there next year. Michele has also put up a new page on the website with more information about organizations we have worked with and pictures of the projects. We are looking for a new venue for an Angels project in Fall 2006. If anyone has any ideas please let Michele know.

Next Lisa spoke about the publications WCG is involved with. She thanked Jayne Holt for her work as editor of the newsletter. Jayne has also started a Yahoo email group for area private conservators to discuss issues and ideas that affect them. See the boxed announcement on page 8. The information is also on our website. The other WCG publication is the 2nd edition of the Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques (CRfAA2). We have sold 118 copies this year. We have three new museums carrying the book this year: The Friends of St. Clement's Island, the Naval Historical Foundation at the Navy Yard, and the Decatur House. Other organizations are also carrying the book. Please talk to Emily Jacobson if you know of anyone who is interested in carrying our book.

The last topic Lisa discussed is the WCG website and email. The website is still hosted by Conservation Online even though we have a new web address. Lisa thanked Conservation Online for hosting us, and continuing to host us even though we will be redesigning our website this summer. She also thanked Erin Blake for updating our website so promptly. We are going to phase out the hotmail email address, so remember to use our new email address: wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org.

Lisa also thanked Linda Edquist, food chair, for all of her help at the meetings. The last item Lisa had was that we are still accepting funds for the Sidney Williston Fund and the Kendra Lovett fund. She then thanked the board for all of their hard work over the year and

How to reach WCG

Web site: www.washingtonconservationguild.org

Email: wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org

Address: PO Box 23364, Washington, DC 20026.

everyone else who has helped.

Lisa then asked for a motion to approve the May 2005 business meeting minutes. Emily Jacobson so moved, Howard Wellman seconded, and all present approved.

Howard Wellman announced the 2006-2007 budget. CRfAA2 will be steady income as it is sold. We had less income than expected, but we also had less expenditures than anticipated. Howard therefore changed the budget for next year to reflect this. He boosted two items; one to cover the logo redesign and other related expenses to that such as letterhead, etc. and the booth fund to cover the redesign. Howard also thanked everyone who has donated for the refreshments at the meetings. Howard then asked for a motion to approve the 2006-2007 budget and all present approved.

Emily Jacobson then let the members present know that the slate had been overwhelmingly approved. She also thanked her committee members, Anne Murray, Joanna Dunn, and May Naddaf and stated that they would be staying on next year as well.

Throughout the meeting raffle prizes were given out; Scott Brouard was our Emcee for the evening with Julia Brennan acting as Vanna. Everyone was given a \$15 gift certificate to Parkway Dry Cleaners in Chevy Chase, MD. Nancy Pollak, Ann Dorsey, and Jeff Kimball won WCG t-shirts and Larry Shutts and Mary Coughlin won the second edition of the WCG Conservation Resource Guide. Jane Humbert won 2 tickets for an IMAX film at the National Air & Space Museum that were donated by Ed McManus. Eliza Gilligan won a striped wild silk Bhutanese wallet donated by Julia Brennan. Paul Jett won a \$25 gift card to Starbucks and Howard Wellman won a \$25 gift card to Krispy Kreme, both donated by Cathy Valentour. Louise Shelly donated a red silk pillowcase with an embroidered center from Kazakstan which was won by Julia Brennan. Lisa Young and Alexandria Tice won annual memberships to The Textile Museum, donated by Mark Davis, and George Washington's Mount Vernon (donated by Judy Noren and Linda Ayres) respectively. Cathy Valentour, Beth Noonan, and Kristen Loudermilk each won a book on African Strip Weaving. A swim party at Alexandra Tice's house was won by Tom Heffelfinger and a \$250 gift certificate from Archival Arts for framing was won by Susan Peckham. Hillwood Museum and Gardens' shop donated a hand carved Russian Santa and a sterling silver and gold Faberge style egg pendant that were won by Leslie Webber and Martha Goodway. Michelle Savant won 2 tickets to the "Klee" summer show at the Phillips Collection, donated by Lily Steele. Emily Jacobson won "The Masterpieces of Ivory" from the Walters Art Gallery donated by Terry Weisser. Claire Peachey won a \$25 gift certificate to CakeLove Bakery that was donated by Jayne Holt. Martin Bernstein, shop manager for the Sackler Gallery, donated a \$25 gift certificate which Ingrid Rose won. Caroline Bedinger, the special events coordinator for the Folger, donated 2 tickets to the Folger Theater for the 2006-2007 season which Scott Brouard won. Cory Smith won NARA documents and an exhibition catalogue and two pencils donated by Susan Peckham. Patti Favero won a beautiful hand-thrown vase made by Beth Richwine. Five bottles of wine were won by Vicky Carace, Don Tice, Anna Hodson, La Casa, and Jane Norman. The biggest winner of all was Pam Winka when she won a 3 liter bottle of Luna di Luna wine donated by Mike Tilch of Silesia Liquor.

At this point Lisa asked if anyone had new business for the Guild. No one spoke up. She then explained why the board decided to change the logo. One was that we needed to update the

website and we no longer owned the original artwork of our logo. The new logo was unveiled to the members who greeted it with a round of applause.

Michelle Savant, Recording Secretary

New Logo! Below is the new logo as presented to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting



New E-Mail List!

Did your source for developing treatment slides suddenly go out of business? Do you need just a few sheets of blueboard and wish you knew someone who could go in on a carton with you? Got a big contract coming up and want to find some reliable sub-contractors?

dcartconservation@yahoogroups.com is a new email discussion list for area conservators. The purpose is to enable us to communicate more easily and effectively with other conservators in this area on issues of interest to us or to just exchange views on local conservation news. This will be a moderated email only list.

To subscribe, send an email to girodj@gmail.com

Williston Fund now available

The Sidney Williston Fund is now available for the benefit of Washington area interns and fellows on behalf of the WCG. The Fund will provide five interns/fellows with a one-year membership to the Guild.

Mr. Williston worked as a private conservator in the DC area for over forty years, heading Mario's Conservation Services. He was a Fellow in AIC and honorary member of WCG. The Williston Fund was created to recognize his contributions to the Washington area conservation community.

A WCG member must recommend applicants in writing. The application form and further information can be downloaded at www.washingtonconservationguild.org Applications are due by August 15th, 2006.

Public Lectures

This year, Erik Anderson represented the Guild at the Small Museum Association Annual Meeting in Ocean City. As an Architectural Conservator, Eric was able to address one of the basic concerns of the membership when he spoke on "Exterior Cleaning and Maintenance of Historic House Museums". His talk was given to curators and volunteers and encompassed assessment of condition, cleaning approaches, documentation, and the ethical questions surrounding the addition of new material, reusing original material, etc. In addition, Erik presented a "Maintenance Checklist" to assist with timely upkeep for all kinds of concerns. This handout was comprehensive, convenient and well received by museum keepers. Eric spoke for one hour and was followed by a second speaker who addressed cleaning of the inside of the historic house museum, striking a nice balance.

Sarah Stauderman, of the Smithsonian Archives, presented to faculty and staff of the John Wolfe International Law Library of Georgetown University. Her PowerPoint lecture was titled "Preservation and Identification of Magnetic Media". The talk, requested by Margaret Fry, Head Librarian, and Stephen Stark, Collections Manager, offered a comprehensive overview of housing, handling and storage requirements unique to magnetic media.

Tatiana Ausema and Clark Bedford, conservators at the Hirshhorn Museum, spoke at the Arlington Arts Center in May of 2006. They addressed an audience of artists and presented a talk titled "Artist and Conservator: the materials and conservation of contemporary art". The presentation focused on choices an artist can make in the selection of materials and stressed the most common types of problems observed by paintings conservators. Carolyn Bernstein, Program Director, was most supportive in advertising and promoting the talk.

Jayne Girod Holt, an independent conservator in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area, will represent the Guild with a PowerPoint lecture in May 2006 at The Association of Government Communicators Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Conference goers, including Federal, State and Regional representatives, are interested in caring for their "Heritage Assets"--objects that document the history of their particular bureaus. These stewards, who are often also the Public Information Officers, wish to learn how to properly house and protect a wide variety of materials---such as electronic media, photographs, equipment, machinery and paper documents. In addition to her presentation, Jayne will join a panel discussion aimed at the practical aspects of exhibiting "Heritage Assets" owned by various agencies.

As always, the Public Lecture Committee welcomes ideas from the membership regarding host organizations that would value hearing a member of the Washington Conservation Guild speak to the membership. Please contact Rachel-Ray Cleveland if you would like to volunteer as a speaker or would like to suggest a host organization for a public lecture.

Rachel-Ray Cleveland, Public Lecture Coordinator
conservationofpaper@erols.com
301-210-3731

Intern Tours

The WCG intern group has gone on two exciting tours over the past two months. In March, interns toured the Freer/Sackler galleries with Paul Jett. We were shown all the conservation facilities and also the conservation science lab. Interns got to see conservation through the eyes of the Eastern paintings conservators and witnessed the different approaches to handling Eastern art. In April, the intern group was led by Anne James on a special tour of the Department of Interior murals. We learned the history of the building, along with the art and special concerns for its care. A special bonus was a side tour of the museum's dioramas, which are currently being treated by Larry Shutts.

One last tour is planned for May 30th at the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore. Happy hours will continue over the summer months to keep interns in touch with each other. Any suggestions for tours next season would be greatly appreciated!

Amber Smith, Intern Coordinator

Outreach Booth

The Outreach Booth started out the New Year with an appearance at the January 3 Ring Circus meeting. New literature at this meeting included the Heritage Preservation Heritage Health Index Report and "Before and After Disasters: Federal Funding for Cultural Institutions".

On January 28, Howard Wellman took the booth to the St Clement's Island - Potomac River Museum annual Appraiser's Fair in St. Mary's County, MD. While the WCG booth provided free conservation information, approximately 200 people also paid a small fee per item for a professional appraisal in the mold of "The Antiques Road Show", with specialties including jewelry, fine arts, coins, dolls, and miscellaneous objects. All money raised went to support the Museum Friends' group. Howard spoke to people about caring for their objects, handed out literature, and sold copies of CRfAA2. The Museum staff were very welcoming, and hope that we will return next year.

For the week of February 6-11, the booth made its second annual appearance at the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Heritage Week. "Treasures of NOAA's Ark" showcases some of the huge variety of artifacts in NOAA's collection, ranging from scientific instruments to map engraving plates to artwork commemorating historic NOAA events and people. The booth was prominently set up at the entrance to the exhibit. Conservation literature was available throughout the week. Additionally,

conservators were present from 11am till 1pm each week day and 10am till 2pm on Saturday to answer visitors' questions. NOAA asked WCG to participate in order to familiarize their employees with artifact care and conservation. This certainly seems to be working; while last year conservators mostly answered general "What is conservation?" questions, this year, visitors were asking more specific questions. Some people even brought in their own objects for care and handling advice. Several visitors were interested in getting more conservation information; either through collection care classes, or by inviting conservators to speak to their groups. Next year, NOAA is preparing a bigger event in celebration of their 200th anniversary, and they are looking forward to WCG's continued participation.

In thanks for our outreach work, NOAA presented WCG with a specially marked geodetic disk, proclaiming WCG a "NOAA Heritage Week Preservation Partner". Stop by the booth to see the disk, or look for a photo on the WCG Website. Thanks to all who staffed the booth during the week: ED Rambo, Nancy Pollak, Terry Williams, Emily Jacobson, Claire Peachey, Ed McManus, Michelle Savant, Mary Coughlin, Julia Brennan, Lacasa Michelena, and Tom Heffelfinger.

Finally, belated thanks to those who volunteered at the outreach booth when it was part of the Mid Atlantic Association of Museums conference in October: Hanna Szczepanowska, Amy Crist, Lisa Young, Emily Jacobson, Melissa Heaver, Anne Marigza, Angie Elliott, Nancy Pollak and Davida Kovner.

As we go into the summer months, and start planning for fall, if you know of an organization or event which would be a good venue for the outreach booth, please contact me.

Nancy Pollak, Book Coordinator
nrpollak@aol.com
301-845-1010

People

Lisa Young and Historic St. Mary's City, Maryland were awarded a grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to treat over 1500 archaeological artifacts in their collections. Most of the materials consist of metals and glass. The Grant will last for two years starting in Fall 2006, and is based on data collected during a detailed conservation survey of the collections over the past 4 years. The collections were excavated in the 1960s and are among the first collected at HSMC. The artifacts themselves are from 3 of the earliest sites on the property and the State of Maryland and date to the early 1600s.

Jobs

Book Conservator

The Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL) announces the posting of a permanent, federal, book conservator position at the GS-09 level (\$44,856- \$58,318). As the position is U.S. government-funded, only U.S. citizens may apply.

The book conservator will join a conservation staff of one other book conservator and two conservation technicians. As part of the Preservation Services Department, the conservator will provide expertise in the areas of conservation treatment of special and general collections for SIL's 22 libraries located in the

Washington DC metro area, New York, and Panama. The conservator will also provide support for SIL's extensive exhibit program.

Please see <<http://www.sihr.si.edu>> for the complete posting, (click on "job opportunities" in the menu on the left and look for announcement number 06MP-6129) and for information on the federal hiring process. Equal Opportunity Employer. The posting will close on June 30, 2006.

Questions regarding the position may be directed to Eliza Gilligan,
gilligane@si.edu

Courses

Conservation of Built Heritage 2007 I February - 30 March 2007, Rome, Italy

ICCROM is pleased to announce the commencement of a regular training course on Conservation of Built Heritage in Rome. The course aims at serving a wide range of conservation practitioners and decision makers by placing technical issues within the broader conservation context in order to link them to planning and management concerns. The first part of the course will consist of an overview of the different approaches and of key concepts in built heritage conservation. The second part, focusing on an integrated approach to conservation and management of heritage, will provide an opportunity for the participants to view conservation concerns within a broader strategic and planning framework capturing not only technical but also the cultural, environmental and sustainability issues. Finally, a portion of the course will be allocated to looking at technical aspects of conservation interventions.

The course is open to a maximum of 20 participants with at least four years of experience actively involved in the conservation of built heritage. Mid-career professionals and other decision makers in conservation from different disciplines (architects, archaeologists, engineers, planners, site managers, etc.), either in a position to influence practice or having the potential to do so in the short or medium term, are eligible. Those in a position to carry the messages of the course to a broad audience (for example, trainers who are able to reach a large audience over time) are encouraged to apply.

English is the working language of the course. Candidates must have strong communication and writing skills in English. A certificate of language may be required.

Course fee: € 900

Please fill the ICCROM application form (obtainable from ICCROM web site) and send it together with the following by mail to the contact address below:

- A full professional curriculum vitae (in English)
- A brief report (3-5 pages) on project(s) concerning conservation of built heritage with which you have been or are currently involved. Your analysis should identify the project(s), provide appropriate contextual background (objectives, partners, support, etc.) describe difficulties encountered and strategic responses developed.

The report should conclude by suggesting how this training would contribute to enhance your professional

skills. You may also be asked to present your experience as a case study/ies during the training programme.

ICCROM - Sites Unit
Via di San Michele 13
I-00153, Rome, ITALY
Tel: +39 06 58553 1
Fax: +39 06 58553349
Email: builtheritage07@iccrom.org
Web Site: www.iccrom.org

Application deadline: Applications should reach ICCROM by 31 July 2006 to ensure inclusion in our selection process.

MEMBERSHIP

WCG dues are \$30 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.

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Attention:

To WCG members who have opted not to receive e-mail meeting announcements:

WCG occasionally sends additional e-mails about special WCG events, upcoming conferences, job openings and other conservation news of interest. If you have opted not to receive meeting announcements by e-mail, you will not receive these additional e-mails. We recommend that you to check our website
(www.washingtonconservationguild.org) frequently to remain abreast of all WCG news.

If you would like to change your e-mail status please contact Membership Chair Patricia Favero at wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org.

News from the Editor

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

Jayne Girod Holt
21 Grant Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
Tel: (301) 891-2957
E-mail: girodj@gmail.com

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: September 2006
Deadline for submissions: August 15, 2006

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