



# WASHINGTON CONSERVATION GUILD NEWSLETTER

June 2007

Volume 31 No. 2  
ISSN #0886-1323

## From the Desk of the President

As I write this final letter to the WCG membership, I can't believe 2 years have gone by so quickly. We have accomplished so many things and yet there is so much left we want to do. I would like to again say thank you to all the board of directors, committee chairs, interns and volunteers who help to make WCG such a success. It takes a lot of people to organize and arrange the monthly meetings, to have successful public outreach events and to just run the administrative side of WCG. And this last month really brought this into perspective.

Our last meeting of the year was held at Hillwood Museum and Gardens on May 4, 2007. It was full of excitement, good cheer and purpose. Instead of simply coming together to say good-bye as we usually do each summer, we came together to reflect on the year, the week's events and to move forward with more enthusiasm than ever. The fire at the Georgetown branch of the DC Public Library on Monday, April 30th, really put our Guild to task, and it emphasizes how awesome our organization is and how well everyone can work together when such an emergency occurs. An organized raffle was already planned for the May meeting to raise awareness and funding for our public outreach booth and activities. Instead, we decided that the funds should go to the Georgetown Library to assist with the disaster recovery and the conservation needs of the library collections. A write-up of this entire event is found in this newsletter, but again thanks go to the following Guild members who helped with the disaster recovery: Larry Shutts (Page Conservation), Eliza Gilligan (Smithsonian Libraries), Andrew Robb (Library of Congress), Sarah Stauderman (Smithsonian Archives), Michelle Savant, Erin Blake (Folger Shakespeare Library), and Scott Brouard (Hillwood Museum and Gardens).

I would also like to acknowledge the American Institute for Conservation, Heritage Preservation, and the Library of Congress who offered their help, if needed, during the recovery. Follow up work is already being discussed and undertaken on the damaged collections. If anyone is still interested in volunteering for this effort, make sure to contact me so that your name is on my list when I start making the next round of calls. Or you can always email me at either of the email addresses below.

Nancy Pollak, WCG Outreach Booth Coordinator, has had a very busy schedule this spring. Nancy and her committee designed and purchased a new WCG booth which was unveiled at the annual American Institute for Conservation meeting in Richmond. The booth is more user friendly, professional and speaks to a wider audience. If you missed the booth at AIC and at our Annual Business Meeting in May, look for it at upcoming Guild meetings in the fall of 2007.

The WCG 2006-7 Annual report is now posted to our website for everyone to review. Highlights from this year include: three new venues for meetings; nine sponsors for meeting refreshments; five free intern memberships awarded under the Williston Fund; two meetings with 90 attendees and one meeting with over 100 attendees. The WCG booth was displayed at three WCG monthly meetings and six public outreach events and over 100 copies of the

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Conservation Resources directory were sold.

I have greatly enjoyed my term as President for the Washington Conservation Guild. I want to especially thank all of the WCG Board of Directors who are such a pleasure to work with. I would also like to welcome all our newly elected officers and board members. I could not have asked for a nicer group of people to work with and look forward to serving as Past-President of the Guild for two more years. I look forward to helping out with the many projects we have ahead of us, and being able to spend more time visiting with our members at the meetings next year. As usual, if there are any suggestions and comments please contact a member of the Guild so that the WCG Board may serve the membership to the best of its ability. Have a fun and relaxing summer and see you in October.

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

## March Meeting

### **“The Use of Digital Reconstruction in the Examination and Preservation of Folk Art: Revealing Lady Columbia” by Rachel Penniman, intern, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation at the Abbey Aldridge Rockefeller Folk Art Museum.**

Rachel began by discussing some of the ethical considerations that need to be taken into account when treating folk art, observing that folk art objects very often had a utilitarian past and that, like many ethnographic objects, if their past use resulted in loss or damage, it can be inappropriate to compensate for it. Because of the ambiguity inherent in treating folk objects, digital reconstructions can be particularly valuable when determining the treatment approach.

Lady Columbia provided an excellent opportunity to use digital reconstructions in order to approximate the work's original appearance without undertaking aggressive treatment. Rachel then provided some art historical background, treatment history, and condition of the piece. Lady Columbia has attributes similar to Lady Liberty and was modeled after decorative, architectural elements typical of zinc finials. She had had an extensive treatment in 1962 that included compensation for numerous losses. Many of the filled cracks and losses were also liberally overpainted. Samples were taken to ascertain the original surface appearance and the subsequent appearance of the numerous overpainting campaigns; they demonstrated that the surface paint layer deviated considerably from the original appearance of Lady Columbia. However, given that very little of the earliest paint remained and that Lady Columbia had a history of decorative use, it was decided to use a reconstruction to help curators visualize the object's original appearance.

Working from a digital image in Photoshop, Rachel masked out the background and converted the figure to grayscale and began overlaying transparent layers. Colors from the original paint layer in the samples were applied with the lasso tool and the original values were maintained by the transparent application over the gray scale. In that manner, Rachel was able to demonstrate the original brilliant coloration of the figure without undermining the integrity of the object or pursuing aggressive treatment.

### **“Non-Destructive Analysis of Northeastern American Copper Artifacts Using LA-ICP-MS” by Amy Creech, intern, Virginia Department of Historic Resources**

This project was initiated by Christopher Stevenson, regional archaeologist for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Amy began by providing some background on copper in Virginia, explaining how prior to the European introduction of smelted copper and copper alloys, technology of copper production in Northeastern America was limited to hammering and annealing. That distinction made it possible to study the exchanges between Native American and European populations by determining the provenance of copper artifacts.

Their chief premise was that native copper found at Virginian sites was distinguishable from imported copper-based material based upon the elemental composition of the artifacts, but they also hoped to show that trading sites within Virginia exchanged copper with uniform chemical signatures and that multiple chemical groups within trade copper items suggest multiple trading partnerships in different regions. They were interested in discovering if trade in Native American copper ended abruptly with the introduction of European smelted copper and brass as well. 118 copper based artifacts were analyzed from eight different Virginia sites, one dating from pre-European contact and the rest from the 17th and 18th centuries. Thirty copper ore samples from 3 mines were also analyzed. Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry was selected as the analytical tool.

Amy explained that one of the primary advantages of LA-ICP-MS was speed; it could test for up to 70 elements in only one scan and was therefore well suited to testing the large quantities of materials included in their study. During LA-ICP-MS a focused laser beam is applied to a very small area on the object, vaporizing the sample material to be analyzed. The ablated material is then transported with a gas into the inductively coupled plasma ion source. An argon torch ionizes the material, and the ions are accelerated and separated by their mass to charge ratio. The positively charged ions can then be extracted and detected through the quadrupole mass spectrometer.

Dr. Dussubieux at the Field Museum in Chicago performed the analyses. Ultimately, the tests were able to clearly differentiate between copper produced by Native Americans using North American copper ores, European smelted copper, and European copper-alloys. The analysis also indicated that trade in Native American copper ended shortly after the introduction of European smelted copper and copper-alloys.

Although a larger study would have been necessary to determine whether multiple elemental compositions of artifacts within a site indicated multiple trading partnerships from different regions, two of the research questions were answered clearly and they ultimately found that LA-ICP-MS was a fast and inexpensive tool for qualitative analysis of the elemental composition of Northeastern American copper artifacts.

“The Deinstallation, Repair and Storage of Vortices and Reveries; The Challenges Presented by Oversized Paper Objects” by Samantha Sheesley, paper conservation intern, Lunder Conservation Center in the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Vortices and Reveries was created in 1993 by the artist Karen Stahleckers and consists of nine tree-like forms and nine black cones made from handmade and dyed kozo paper and suspended from the ceiling. Previously, the work had been installed in the Renwick Gallery, with circular templates to mark the placement of the various components. Vortices and Reveries had good deinstallation instructions as well as documentary installation videos, showing one person working from an elevated lift and two additional people on the ground removing first the stalk of the tree-like form, followed by the paper cone. However, Samantha explained that documentation and organization were some of the principal challenges of the project and that moreover, the piece had many damages from handling and from its own weight as it hung.

Samantha began by making detailed condition diagrams with a key to the different structural damages present in each panel. Next, overall photographs were taken while the pieces were laid over a blueboard support that Samantha had created specifically for that purpose.

After the thorough documentation was completed, Samantha then described the treatment process used on the work's damaged areas. Interestingly, the artist was quite specific about her preferred materials and requested that kozo paper from Thailand that had been colored in a precise two-step process be used. One of the artist's other requests— that steel hoops continue to be used to define the form of the cones— created a situation of inherent vice with incompatible materials in contact. Moreover, the Velcro and the hot glue used to connect the paper to the steel ring were also causing damage to the piece. As the artist was indifferent to the system used to hold the paper to the steel ring, the Velcro and hot glue were removed and will be replaced with a magnetic system.

Finally, Samantha described the blueboard permanent support she created for the work of art and the crate in which the metal components will be stored when the piece is not on display. Samantha made clear the numerous challenges of preserving delicate oversized paper works, while still respecting the artist's preferred materials and intent.

Amanda Frisosky, paintings conservation intern, National Gallery of Art

## April Meeting

### **“The Recovery of Cultural Heritage in Mississippi Post Hurricane Katrina, Sept 2005–Dec 2006” by Catherine Williams, Silver Lining Art Conservation, Austin, TX**

The April meeting of the Washington Conservation Guild was held in Annapolis, MD at the Banneker-Douglass Museum. Catherine Williams of Silver Lining Art Conservation in Austin, Texas shared her experiences with the recovery and treatment of museum objects that had been lost during Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Williams was the on-site conservator for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Recovery Project, an effort through the University of Delaware and the Winterthur Museum funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Ms. Williams spent most of 2006 in Mississippi coordinating the recovery project.

In the first part of the talk, Ms. Williams discussed the immense amount of damage that Hurricane Katrina had inflicted on the Coastal Mississippi region. The first responders to access and help mitigate Katrina's impact on Mississippi's Cultural Heritage were a group set up by the American Association for State and Local History (ASSLH), the American Institute for Conservation (AIC), and American Association of Museums (AAM) known as HEART (Heritage Emergency Assistance Recovery Team). This team worked with over 200 cultural sites and performed workshops for their employees.

The next subject in the talk was Beauvoir, the home of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Beauvoir had been nearly destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The walls showed evidence that the house had been submerged in nearly 20 feet of water. Three porches had been completely ripped from the house, as well as much of the roof. Needless to say, much of Beauvoir's furnishings had been destroyed. Most of the efforts of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Recovery Project were directed at helping the recovery at Beauvoir. Of the \$403,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 70% of it went to Beauvoir. Despite the best efforts of the recovery team, 40% of Beauvoir's collections were lost.

Objects from Beauvoir that were in need of treatment were stored in six storage units, which also served as conservation workspace. A variety of different materials needed conservation including: paper documents, textiles, metal artifacts (swords and firearms), furniture, and ceramics. Much of the treatment was performed by nine summer interns from both graduate and undergraduate programs.

The interns were an invaluable part of the conservation and recovery effort. They were able to treat a large number of the damaged objects. Though they came from different conservation fields, they were able to work together and learn from each other to form a very efficient team. Without the effort of the interns, much of what was salvaged would probably still be awaiting treatment.

Other focuses of the recovery effort were the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum, the Walter Anderson Museum of Art, and the Biloxi Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum. The Ohr-O'Keefe Museum housed art by George Ohr as well as a large collection of African Art. Much of the museum's collection survived but was heavily damaged. The Walter Anderson Museum of Art housed a large mural that was the focus of a great deal of work. Not much remained at the Biloxi Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum as it was almost completely destroyed. Most of the recovered objects had to be stored in a semi trailer.

W. Andrew Sheppard, Objects Conservation Intern with Alexandria Conservation Services, Ltd.

## May Business Meeting

The business meeting was held in the conference room at the Hillwood Museum and Gardens on May 3, 2007 with 60 people attending.

The meeting began with Lisa Young introducing Scott Brouard, Preservation Manager of Hillwood Museum and Gardens. He had arranged a tour of the house for those who wanted, and again the gardens would be open late. After Scott thanked everyone for attending, Lisa took the podium again. She let everyone know that the full annual report will be posted on the website for everyone to read. She then introduced Emily Jacobson, nominating committee chair, who went over the slate: Claire Peachey – President; Eliza Gilligan – Vice President; Steve Mellor – Treasurer; Julia Sybalsky – Recording Secretary; Julia Brennan, Jane Norman (both for 1 year terms), Sunae Park Evans, Susan Peckham, and Mary Coughlin (all three for 2 year terms) - Directors. Since the slate was uncontested, a show of hands was all that was necessary; that count and the absentee ballots were added together and Emily announced that the slate was approved. As outgoing President, Lisa will be the nominating committee chair next year, and she asked for nominations from the floor for nominating committee members. Erin Blake nominated Ed McManus, Claire Peachey nominated Michelle Savant, and Emily Jacobson nominated Constance Stromberg; all nominees accepted the position and a show of membership hands approved their election to the committee.

Lisa then began the 2006-2007 annual report with a PowerPoint presentation. We had three new venues this year; Historic Congressional Cemetery, The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, and the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis. We had 9 sponsors to help defray refreshment costs. We were again able to offer 5 interns free memberships through the Sidney Williston fund. The WCG booth was displayed at 3 WCG meetings, the committee purchased and designed a new booth, and traveled to 6 outreach events.

Our logo and identity package designer wanted to put something on the back of our WCG cards. The board looked at our mission statement and decided a new one was necessary to better define WCG. Therefore, the board adopted a new mission statement that was announced in the September newsletter. That mission statement was announced in the September newsletter.

Lisa thanked the board members and the committee chairs for all their hard work this year. She announced that we have one vacant position, that of Public Lecture Coordinator. The position is simple in that the chair is the coordinator and point of contact for venues that request speakers. If someone is interested in this position please contact Lisa. We may need a Refreshment Chair for next year as well; this position helps set up the table, displays the food, and keeps the refreshment supplies between meetings.

Lisa thanked Patti Favero and explained what Patti does as Membership Secretary. We had 228 members this year, 34 new members this year, 25 interns, which is double from last year, and 24 honorary and complimentary members. One thing we have started doing this year is sending new members emails welcoming them to our organization.

Howard Wellman gave the treasurer's report. This year we went \$2,400 into the red. The board decided to expense the money on upgrading our image, redesigning the logo, and purchasing the new booth. We still have about \$14,000 in the bank, which is a very good cushion for an organization of our size and income. Everyone present had received a copy of the 2007-2008 proposed budget. Next year

### How to reach WCG

Web site: [www.washingtonconservationguild.org](http://www.washingtonconservationguild.org)

Email: [wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org](mailto:wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org)

Address: PO Box 23364, Washington, DC 20026.



we expect to receive about \$7,260 in income, which is primarily membership dues and CRfAA2 sales (the sales of the book from this year's AIC will be reflected in next year's budget). Expenses will be about \$7,100. Howard then asked the membership to approve the proposed budget. Sarah Stauderman so moved, Emily Jacobson seconded and all present ayed.

Lisa then spoke about our intern activities, led by our intern coordinator, Joanne Klaar. There were a few social events this past year as well as tours including Page Conservation, Inc., the National Postal Museum, the Gettysburg cannon restoration shop, and the Smithsonian Institution's American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery. She will also schedule a social gathering this summer. Sidney Williston applications are due September 1, 2007. This past year we had 10 applications, so we asked each applicant to write a letter about what it would mean to them to be a member of the Guild and to receive a Williston fellowship. Interns that received the free memberships were: Annie Wilker, Sophie Lewincamp, Amanda Frisosky, Corey Smith, and Crista Pack. We also asked the Williston recipients to participate more in the meetings by summarizing one meeting and helping Refreshments Chair Linda Edquist with the reception. She thanked all of the interns for their help this year and asked them all to come back next year!

Activity by the public outreach committees, the booth and the Angels project, are at an all time high. Michele Pagan is stepping down as Angel's coordinator and Joanna Dunn will take over in the fall. Michele organized last fall's event at the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. Twenty participants assisted the museum staff and they were able to clean, rehouse, and store over 271 farm objects. The Farm exhibition building is not environmentally stable so they worked to repackage artifacts there. AIC gave funds that went toward buying tools and supplies for the project. Nancy Pollak and committee members redesigned the WCG booth this year. The board determined we should purchase a new booth and unveil it at AIC in Richmond. The booth was brought to 3 meetings and 6 outreach events this year, including: Archaeology Day in Alexandria, VA; the Frederick County Historical Society Heirloom Event; the Society for Historical Archaeology Conference; St. Clement's Island Museum Appraiser's Fair; NOAA; and AIC. The new booth is very flexible; we have a few setups depending on the function. She also redesigned the booth to use key words, so that there was less reading and more interaction between the public and booth volunteers.

Next Lisa spoke about the second edition of the Conservation Resources for Art and Antiques. We sold 96 copies this year, not including the copies sold at the annual AIC meeting. We decided to sell the directory at 20% off at AIC since we have found that sales of the second directory are slower than the first. Anyone who purchases a copy of the book before May 31st will get it at the 20% discount. We are also looking for new museums and galleries to sell our publication, so if you know of anyone interested in carrying it please contact

### 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](http://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](mailto:wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org).

our new CRfAA2 chair, Michele Pagan; her contact information is on our website.

Lisa then thanked Jayne Girod Holt for all of her hard work with the newsletter. We have a color version of the newsletter on the website. If you sign up to receive the newsletter via email, we do not send the entire newsletter to your email but a link that the new edition is available online. She also thanked Linda Edquist for all of her work as the Refreshments Chair. Last, but not least, she thanked Erin Blake our website guru. She updates the website from wherever in the world she happens to be, and she does it in a timely manner! She also added our new logo to our flash page and to the Conservation On-Line website as a link to our site.

Throughout the meeting, raffle and door prizes were given out by Scott Brouard and Julia Brennan. A sampling of raffle prizes and their winners are: the Wilcoxes won 2 tickets to see the Tempest at the Folger Shakespeare Library and "Masterpieces of Ivory" a catalogue from the Walters Art Museum (at this point, they kindly turned down further prizes they won); Howard Wellman won passes to the Phillips Collection; Ed McManus won an amber necklace donated by the Hillwood Museum and Gardens and a gift certificate to Cakelove; and Ann Dorsey won handmade pottery by Sanhouse. A few door prizes were: Britney Gulf won a CRfAA2, Larry Shutts won a WCG t-shirt, and Scott Brouard won lunch for four at Gertrude's Restaurant in Baltimore.

The last agenda item was the fire at the Georgetown branch of the DC Public Library. Lisa thanked WCG members, Larry Shutts, Andrew Robb, Sarah Stauderman, Eliza Gilligan, Michelle Savant, Erin Blake, Scott Brouard, and Claire Peachey, for their response to the emergency. She sent emails to the head librarian and a DC council member about the Guild, what we do, and how we can help them. Larry was a first responder on Monday, taking all of the artifacts brought out by firefighters while they were putting out the fire. Lisa sent six people down at 5 p.m. Tuesday to help assess and repack books. AIC donated the free admission to the 2008 annual meeting for our raffle, won by Nancy Pollak, to support our response to the emergency. The raffle for the booth was changed to a raffle for the library; we rose over \$2,000 tonight for the library.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Savant, WCG recording secretary

Thank you to all the people who donated so many wonderful items to the raffle held at the May business meeting. Thank you for your support of  
WCG

Looking for an exciting summer read? Look no further than the WCG Annual Report, now available on our website. You've seen the PowerPoint presentation! Now read the report!  
Available at  
[www.washingtonconservationguild.org](http://www.washingtonconservationguild.org)

## Upcoming WCG Meetings 2007/2008

Monthly meetings for the 2007/2008 season begin in October 2007 and run through May 2008. 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. Check this space in the September issue of the newsletter for a list of the meetings for the coming year.

# Washington Conservation Guild Georgetown Fire Recovery

## President's Report. . .

On Monday, April 30th the Georgetown branch of the DC public library caught fire at noon. The library roof was in flames when the firemen came to put out the fire. Due to complications in the area with unreliable water pressure and fire hydrants not working, the fire quickly spread and the roof collapsed down into the building onto the second floor. The library's holdings were stored in this area, in particular the Peabody Room which is the DC archive for original maps, documents, books, etc. for Georgetown.

Members of the Washington Conservation Guild responded to the scene on Monday, quickly set up a chain of command, and coordinated with the DC library officials to perform disaster recovery within the next 24 hours. The firemen began removing paintings and books at the scene on Monday, and initially 27 items were removed and taken to conservation labs close by. The fire lasted until at least 6 p.m. The Washington Conservation Guild worked with area conservation organizations, museums, and the Smithsonian to establish a plan of action and to mobilize volunteers if necessary. We were given indication that it would be a few days before the building was safe enough to enter and remove the collections.

We received word that the DC library officials had contracted Belfor USA to arrive on site with freezer trucks to deal with the enormous amount of materials that would be removed from the library when the building was deemed safe. At around noon on Tuesday, May 1st we were told that items were being removed from the building by fire officials and other people at the site. We mobilized a group of people from the Library of Congress and the WCG to be on site to find out any information about the recovery effort, to meet with library officials and to help in any way possible. For the most part, Belfor and the DC library officials were handling the situation quite well. WCG members left the site as most of the items removed were being repackaged, inventoried and put into the freezer trucks.

However, at 5 p.m. we received word that the Belfor folks could use extra help into the evening. Six members of the WCG arrived on site to assist with further removal of items from the building, reboxing dry collections and assisting wherever needed. The Washington Conservation Guild would like to thank the following members for their efforts over the past two days. Larry Shutts (Page Conservation), Andrew Robb (Library of Congress), Eliza Gilligan (Smithsonian Libraries), Sarah Stauderman (Smithsonian Archives), Michelle Savant (NMAH), Erin Blake (Folger Shakespeare Library), Scott Brouard (Hillwood Museum and Gardens), and volunteers from the National Postal Museum.

This effort would not have been so successful without the coordination, advice and support of the American Institute for Conservation staff, Jane Long at Heritage Preservation, The Library of Congress staff and Debbie Hess Norris who assisted us with contacting agencies who were available to help as needed. Mostly, the DC Public Library staff and officials and the staff of the Georgetown library should be commended for their recovery efforts and their on-going communication with the Washington Conservation Guild.

The Washington Conservation Guild held its last meeting of the 2006/7 season at Hillwood Museum and Gardens on Thursday, May 3rd at 5 p.m. A benefit raffle for the library was held, and over \$2000.00 was raised that evening. A special thank you goes to Ernie Robertson of Preservation Glazing who donated \$500.00. Thank you to everyone in the WCG who offered their assistance and was standing by to volunteer if needed. There will be follow-up meetings and additional work to be done, and we may call upon your services in the next few months to assist the library once the collections are stabilized. If you are still wishing to make a contribution toward this effort, please forward a check to the WCG earmarked for the Georgetown Library Fund, to WCG at the address on page 10.

All the best,  
Lisa Young, WCG President



## The on-site report. . .

Eliza Gilligan is a book conservator and the Department Head of Preservation Services at the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. On the morning of Tuesday, May 1st, she received a phone call from Lisa Young, President of WCG, saying that recovery efforts for the Georgetown branch of the DC Public Library had begun and that help was needed. Firemen had rescued several artifacts while fighting the fire, including paintings; photographs; books and papers. The items were in the care of Page Conservation and while Page could provide treatment for most of the items, the books were outside the scope of their expertise. Five plat books were transferred to the Book Conservation Lab of the Smithsonian Libraries where the slightly wet items were placed in a freezer.

A second call came just after lunch, again from Lisa Young, saying that Georgetown PL needed help on site. Belfor USA was recovering books from the Peabody room and the librarians wanted a little extra help if any was available. Eliza arrived at the Georgetown library wearing her safety shoes and with her hard hat in hand and waited with the librarians while the building was being stabilized. As soon as people were allowed in, she joined the staff for their first look at the Peabody room. It was quite a mess! There was two inches of water on the floor, furniture pushed into piles in the middle of the room and the plaster ceiling was completely soaked and dripping water. Belfor was already removing books from the glass bookshelves that lined the perimeter of the room and taking them down to the freezer truck parked in front of the library.

As Eliza walked around the room, she found two shelves of books and document boxes that had somehow escaped the blasts of the fire hose, and the drips from the soggy plaster ceiling. The books were dry and the boxes a little damp, but their contents were dry. Good news indeed!

Belfor had set up folding work tables in the driveway next to the library, so Eliza set up a triage area where dry items could be wrapped and packed in clean dry boxes before being placed on a secure “dry” truck for delivery to the main branch of the DC Public Library the next day. For the items where the storage boxes only were wet, the boxes were tossed in the trash and the contents were wrapped in clean paper, labeled and then packed in clean cardboard boxes, and placed on the “dry” truck. Belfor staff and the librarians worked on bringing everything out of the Peabody room and if they thought an item might be dry, they brought it to the table where Eliza was performing the assessments and repacking the dry items.

The librarians were thrilled that so many items had survived unscathed. Given the appearance of the building and the Peabody room it had seemed unlikely, but one of their most valued items, the Maryland Gazette, a newspaper from 1776 that had reported the Declaration of Independence as a news item, was found sitting on a shelf without a scratch, drip or soot to show what it had been through.

Submitted by Eliza Gilligan, Dept. Head, Preservation Services, Smithsonian Institution Libraries

## Outreach Booth Update

The all-new WCG Outreach Booth has been out and about, debuting at the AIC Annual Meeting in Richmond, VA, April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The booth was set up in the Exhibit Hall, courtesy of AIC. Our prime location received lots of visitors, and WCG received many compliments on the new look for the booth and our active organization. One of the features of the new booth is a greatly expanded selection of images. We now have three sets of photos depicting conservators in action and treatment examples for a large variety of objects. With these, we can more closely tailor the booth's appearance to the interests of the specific audience. During the two days the booth was exhibited at AIC, the photos were rotated so that all three sets of images were displayed. Thanks to the following WCG members who staffed the booth: Scott Brouard, Lizou Fenyvesi, Eliza Gilligan, Jayne Holt, Helen Ingalls, Howard Wellman, Anne Marigza, Connie Stromberg, Nancy Pollak, Ed McManus, Julia Brennan, Lacasa Michelena, Rosemary Fallon, Linda Edquist and Patti Favero.

The versatility of the new booth was clearly evident at our next event, the Congressional Cemetery Bicentennial Heritage Festival, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The booth was set up outside in the cemetery, and visitors were able to see Howard Wellman working nearby resetting stones and undertaking related conservation activities. The weather was beautiful but blustery, and we soon realized that putting up the booth in its usual 8' x 10' wall configuration was not going to work in the prevailing winds. The modular units of the booth were quickly reconfigured into a long, 3' high wall displaying images of conservators working (including one taken at the Cemetery) and treatment examples of historical objects. Set up nearby was our usual table of free conservation literature. Also on the table was the second new part of the booth, a binder which contains prints of all the display photos and brief paragraphs giving the visitor some in-depth information about each photo. With the binder, visitors have access to more information about a greater variety of images which they can read more comfortably on a table rather than on the booth wall. This was particularly useful in this situation, since the standard booth format had to be modified, limiting the number of images which could be displayed. Thanks to the following WCG members who helped out at Congressional Cemetery: Eliza Gilligan, Emily Jacobson, Mike Nugent, Ed McManus, Howard Wellman, and Claire Peachey.

If you are interested in helping out with future Outreach Booth activities, or know of a good event for setting up the booth, please contact Nancy Pollak at 301-845-101 or [nrpollak@aol.com](mailto:nrpollak@aol.com).

Nancy Pollak, WCG Booth Coordinator



Eliza Gilligan shows off the new booth at its first appearance at Historic Congressional Cemetery Bicentennial Heritage Festival in May.

The new booth has three sets of pictures that can be used. In addition, the panels that make up the backdrop can be configured to just about any size and shape from tabletop to full size, as seen here in Richmond, at the recent AIC meeting.



Eliza Gilligan, above, manned the booth in the morning. Here she is joined by Emily Jacobson, Howard Wellman and Lisa Young who've dropped by to see the new booth. On the booth behind them is the first set of pictures which illustrate the role of science in conservation.



Scott Brouard and Howard Wellman take a later shift in front of the second picture set which focuses on family heirlooms.

At right is the third set of photos. These are themed around modern and archaeological materials.





## Upcoming Deadlines

The following deadlines are listed in order in relation to the current date. For more details about the individual grant or scholarship funding organizations, please consult their websites. This list is intended only as a reminder and is not a complete list of available grants, scholarships or events. If you know of an upcoming deadline for grants, papers or other events that should be added to this list, please contact the Newsletter Editor.

### **FAIC Individual Professional Development Scholarship**

The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC) offers scholarships up to \$1000 to help defray professional development costs for members of AIC. Proposed projects may include seminars, courses, research, or other continuing education endeavors that support the professional development of AIC members. This award is not available to support expenses for attending the AIC Annual Meeting, with the exception of workshop fees. Deadlines for receipt of applications are February 15 and September 15.

### **FAIC Lecture Grants**

The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC) provides funds toward the presentation of public lectures to help advance public awareness of conservation. Up to \$500 may be used to help defray lecturer travel costs, honoraria, site fees, and publicity costs. These awards are not intended to be used for lectures associated with the AIC annual meeting. Deadlines for receipt of applications are February 15 and September 15.

### **FAIC Regional Angels Grants**

The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (FAIC) offers grants of up to \$1000 toward the development and implementation of Angels Projects not associated with AIC annual meetings. Funds are to help defray organizational costs, necessary materials and supplies and other expenses such as marketing and publicity. Materials and supplies should also be augmented through donations outside of FAIC. Deadlines for receipt of applications are February 15 and September 15.

### **WCG Membership Renewal Deadline**

The renewal deadline for WCG is July 1. Dues must be paid by this date to be included in the WCG Directory for the following year

## People

Our own **Erin Blake** taught a 5-day course, "Introduction to the History of Illustration", at the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, June 4- 8, 2007.

# MEMBERSHIP

WCG dues are \$30 per year, \$20 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](mailto: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: Verify Membership 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](http://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](mailto: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:

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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: September 2007  
Deadline for submissions: August 15, 2007

## WCG Board of Directors 2007/2008

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