

Celebrating 40 Years!



WASHINGTON CONSERVATION GUILD NEWSLETTER

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From the Desk of the President

WCG has been in the news!

Two of our recent public outreach events have received news coverage. The WCG Angels project for this year took place on October 13 and was written up in the Washington Post's Metro section on that date. The Angels project assisted the DC Public Library's Georgetown branch, assessing and rehousing objects, textiles, and documents that were recovered from the library after the April 30 fire. Angels coordinator Joanna Dunn has an article about the project in this newsletter. Many thanks to Joanna, Eliza Gilligan, and Lisa Young for all their hard work organizing the project, and congratulations to all the Angels for such a successful day.

The WCG outreach booth also received some press. Outreach Booth Coordinator Nancy Pollak took the booth to the Historical Society of Frederick County's Treasured Heirlooms event on November 3, and the Frederick News-Post mentioned WCG in a pre-event article. This is the third year that WCG has participated in this event, thanks to the many members who volunteer to staff the booth and answer questions on the care and preservation of people's heirlooms. See Nancy's recap of the day in this newsletter.

Speaking of care and preservation... If you attended the October meeting and heard Debbie Hess Norris speak about advocating for collections care, you probably got fired up about raising awareness of conservation and preservation issues. We had a discussion at our last board meeting about expanding the reach of WCG and attracting more attendees to some of our meeting lectures that have a wide interest. The DC metro area has dozens of other art, cultural, and academic institutions and organizations that are involved in collections care, preservation, and related activities, but may not hear about WCG's activities. If you know of an allied organization that should receive announcements to some of our meetings and outreach activities, send the information (contact name, title, mailing address, and email address) to wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org. We will add them to our new non-member mailing list (and perhaps we will even attract some new members).

The website committee has chosen a local firm to help update and expand the WCG website, and we are getting excited about creating a new look and feel for the site. Meanwhile, take a look at the site now for new photos of Angels day, the outreach booth, and the Williston award winners. Check back often for meeting updates, job announcements, and other news.

I'll repeat my plea to the membership to submit photos to the WCG Archives, and to submit a few paragraphs to the newsletter to commemorate our 40th anniversary. The response has been limited so far and we hope to get more participation.

Finally, I always welcome your feedback, ideas, suggestions, compliments,... and ok, even complaints! I hope we are making decisions that represent the WCG membership – let us know.

Best regards,
Claire Peachey
President
wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org

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Upcoming WCG Meetings 2007/2008

Monthly meetings for the 2007/2008 season began 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.

January 3

Three-Ring Circus at the S. Dillon Ripley Center, Smithsonian Institution (Metro stop: Smithsonian, Orange and Blue lines).

February 7

Speaker and venue TBA .

March 6

Intern Talks held at the Charles Sumner School, 1201 17th St., NW, Washington, DC (Metro stop: Farragut North, Red line).

April 3

Lilli Steele of The Phillips Collection will speak on her treatment of a Degas painting. Held at the Phillips Collection, 1699 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC (Metro stop: Dupont Circle, Red line).

May 1

Business Meeting, Elections and Raffle. Held at the Hillwood Museum and Gardens, 4155 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC (Metro stop: Red line, Van Ness/UDC).

Kendra Lovette Fund

Please consider making a donation to the Kendra Lovette Fund. Donations will be used to sponsor continuing education activities for conservation professionals in all specialties in honor of Kendra Lovette. Later this season we will solicit proposals from WCG members so that we may award some or all of the funds for an appropriate event or activity.

Kendra Lovette 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 U.S. Capitol. 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. The Kendra Lovette Fund was set up in her honor by friends and colleagues.

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
P.O. Box 23364
Washington, DC 20026

New Refreshments Chair!

WCG welcomes Genevieve Bieniosek to the board as the new Refreshments Chair. Genevieve is currently studying chemistry in preparation for the conservation graduate program admissions process. She also volunteers at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center in Silver Spring, MD, and is learning about conservation practices and techniques in framing with Bill Adair at Gold Leaf Studios and Rebecca Pease at Frames by Rebecca. Genevieve received a B.A. from Northwestern University in 2005 with a major in Art and a minor in Geography. Welcome, Genevieve!

Michele Pagan, head of marketing efforts for the 2nd Edition of the CRfAA, is looking for suggestions from WCG members for retail outlets for the 600 copies still available for sale.

Michele can be reached via email:
michele_johnpagan@yahoo.com
or by phone: 202-546-5439.
Your help is greatly appreciated!

WCG Angels Project Suggestions Needed!
We are always looking for new ideas for our future Angels Projects. If you know of a museum, historic house, or any organization that needs a little help caring for its collection, please send us an email at:
wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org

October Meeting

“Emergencies, Public Advocacy and Fund Raising for Collections Care: Responding to the Heritage Health Index Eight Days a Week” presented by Debbie Hess Norris, Chair of the Department of Art Conservation, University of Delaware

This past summer marked a turning point for small to mid-sized museums and libraries nationwide. The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) together with Heritage Preservation launched a national conservation summit, allowing 350 museum and library professionals from each state to convene and discuss future improvements relating to care of our collections. Debbie spoke highly of several presentations that were delivered during the two-day summit, and praised Dr. Anne-Imelda Radice, Director of IMLS, for her inspirational words. IMLS presented its *Connecting to Collections* initiative at the summit, part of which addresses the need to respond to the recommendations that have been set forth by the Heritage Health Index (HHI). Approximately 25,000 copies of the HHI (published under the title *A Public Trust at Risk*) have been successfully distributed since December 2005 to all members of congress as well as various funding agencies.

Debbie pointed out that by fulfilling the HHI recommendations, institutions could help to promote a more successful plan for sustaining our cultural heritage. There is a dire need for museums and libraries to provide safe conditions for collections, develop emergency plans, assign the care of collections to institutional staff, and to secure financial support from public/private sectors. In regards to emergency planning, Debbie reminded the audience of the devastating effects caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. Damage to collections throughout the South immediately prompted the IMLS and Heritage Preservation to further promote the development of emergency plans for museums and libraries. The HHI was formed out of this collaboration in order to provide concrete results that would reveal the urgent need for action. One of the main objectives associated with *Connecting to Collections* involves raising awareness of the needs uncovered by the HHI report.

Other key aspects of IMLS's new initiative include statewide planning grants and the *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf* (in conjunction with AASLH) project. The latter, supported by the Getty and Luce Foundations, is meant to supply heritage preservation literature to those museums and libraries that need it. In addition to these two objectives, the IMLS and other federal agencies and foundations are directing attention towards underrepresented groups in heritage conservation, such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities. As an example of this effort, Debbie described the 30-month Photograph Preservation Summit and Initiative, a comprehensive Andrew W. Mellon Foundation-funded project aimed at preserving photographic collections at ten HBCU sites and involving multiple partners including the HBCU Library Alliance, University of Delaware, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, Southeastern Library Network, and the Image Permanence Institute. The last objective aims to establish key networks and relationships amongst various institutions. Debbie described the collaboration between University of Delaware/Winterthur Museum and two museums that had been ravaged by the hurricanes, specifically the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum and the Jefferson Davis Presidential Home in Beauvoir, Mississippi. She used these examples to show how this form of collaboration can be successfully carried out. Finally, Debbie spoke about funding for the initiative. Since 2005, approximately \$413,000 has been generously donated by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support this partnership in an effort to revive the collections, promote emergency preparedness, and create educational opportunities for students and professionals alike (visit www.heritagepreservation.org/lessons for more info).

It was encouraging to hear Debbie praise the WCG for serving as a model concerning public awareness. The Lunder Conservation Center at the Smithsonian American Art Museum has taken public outreach to a new level, fostering a greater awareness of collection needs and therefore a stronger foundation for future fundraising. Additional information relating to this topic can be found at www.ims.gov and www.heritagepreservation.org. Many WCG members came away from the presentation with a clearer picture of what our nation's museums and libraries are truly capable of achieving.

Kristin deGhetaldi
Painting Conservation Intern, National Gallery of Art

November Meeting

“Professional Certification for Conservators: Just the Facts” by Terry Drayman-Weisser, Director of Conservation and Technical Research, The Walters Art Museum

The November 2007 meeting, hosted by the National Postal Museum, welcomed Terry Drayman-Weisser to speak about professional certification for conservators. Certification is voluntary, and it differs from licensing or professional memberships. According to the AIC, “Certification is a measure of one’s competence as a conservator, whereas the membership categories of Professional Associate and Fellow are a measure and recognition of one’s commitment to the profession of conservation.” The topic of professional certification has been discussed for over a decade, as governmental agencies began to institute job qualifications for conservators where there were none. Since then, AIC has been working to develop a model for a certification program. In 2003, members were asked to vote on this topic, and it was found that 62% were in favor of proceeding with developing a program for review.

There are many benefits of certification, as explained by Ms. Weisser. First, it would allow the conservation profession to define the qualifications and standards of practitioners. It also raises the standards of our profession by providing an incentive to keep abreast of new developments, a requirement to remain certified. While non-certified persons cannot be prevented from practicing conservation, certified conservators may have an advantage if this process were recognized by the public. Furthermore, as previously mentioned, many government contracts require some type of standard. Certification would give conservators the credentials and standing when working on projects with other credentialed professionals. It can also eliminate the perceived barriers between program and apprentice-trained persons: once certified, all conservators would be on equal footing.

Currently, the certification process proposed by AIC consists of a one-time, proctored, written exam given to conservators with seven years full-time experience (including pre-program training and conservation education), with at least four years of the seven spent in specialty experience. There will be three tracks offered to certification. First, a fast-track certification will be offered only in the first year of the program. This will require a higher standard with a minimum of ten years training and experience, as these conservators will be involved directly with test development and testing the questions. Regular track certification is as described. Finally, renewal certification or re-certification is available to those who have already passed the initial exam, and will need to be completed every three to five years. Recertification can be completed with points accumulated through professional development activities, such as workshops and meetings, or by taking the written exam over again.

Fees for professional certification have not been determined; however the process of developing and administering these exams may lead to an increase in AIC membership costs. If membership in AIC is not required to take the exam, non-members will be charged a higher fee, since they will not have helped fund the development of the program.

A current topic of discussion presented by Ms. Weisser concerns the format of the written exam. The proposed model recommends an objective exam with two parts: a general multiple choice section and a more in-depth concept section based on case studies. Passing grades on both sections would be required. Submission of treatment reports with the application might also be required to demonstrate understanding of concepts and that the “AIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice” were understood and being followed. Another exam format, a review-based essay exam, has recently been suggested and may lower the cost of exam development.

As Ms. Weisser drew her presentation to a close, she requested a straw poll to determine the reaction of those present concerning the exam format. This sparked many questions and a lively debate, including such issues as how certification would affect conservators, who would be selected to grade the exams, and how those with disabilities would be taken into account. The result of the straw poll of 55 attendees was that 87% preferred a multiple choice plus short answer exam, 9% preferred an essay exam, and 4% were undecided.

For more information on professional certification for conservators, including survey results, articles on certification, and frequently asked questions, please visit <http://aic.stanford.edu/certification>.

Colleen Snyder
Objects Conservation Intern,
The Walters Art Museum

As part of the 40th anniversary of WCG, we will commemorate one decade of WCG's history in each of the four newsletters over the 2007-2008 season. This September newsletter focuses on the founding of WCG. We have included interviews with and tributes to a few WCG officers from this period, items from the WCG Archives and other contributions from WCG members. Continue to check the WCG website for additional photos and information relating to this special event.

The WCG Archives finding aid is online at:
<http://siarchives.si.edu/findingaids/FARU7477.htm>

The Second Decade: Professionalism

This article was researched using the archives of the WCG, located in the Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7477 Washington Conservation Guild Records, c. 1968-2006. The author is an intern at the Smithsonian Institution Archives.

The years spanning 1977 to 1987 proved to be the definitive decade for the Washington Conservation Guild in elevating it to the status of a regional conservation group with international recognition.

At that time, the Guild was setting an example for regional conservation organizations worldwide. Other groups such as the Chicago Area Conservation Group and the Midwest Regional Conservation Guild turned to the WCG in this period as the standard for a regional conservation association. Looking to the bylaws of this period, we see the Guild, "providing a forum for the discussion and interchange of information on problems and other matters of concern to conservators" in 1980, and carrying "out activities related to these interests such as sponsoring conservation lectures, programs, and research; organizing educational courses; and promoting conservation research and experimentation" in 1986. These changes in priority imply a progression of the Guild from a regional network to an organization with larger scale aspirations in concert with the motives and challenges of future generations of conservators.

Among the numerous activities fostered by the Guild in the decade from 1977 to 1987, there appear four key developments that stand out as vehicles which moved it towards a greater sense of professionalism. The first such event was the unrealized conference on the Cleaning of Paintings set for November 1979. The conference was conceived by Guild President Stewart Treviranus, who proposed it as a way to address current issues and problems in the conservation field. He envisioned the Washington Conservation Guild as taking "a leading role in the pursuit of the [science of conservation]" which he conveyed in his conference proposal to Andrew Mellon in 1977. Unfortunately, the conference never came to fruition due to the controversial nature of its genesis. It was believed that if the conference was held in Washington DC, it could be misinterpreted and possibly seen as passing judgment on other contemporary conservators in the D.C area. Moreover, Guild members concluded that they could not successfully implement such an enormous international conference at that juncture in time. Despite its cancellation, however, the conference challenged the Guild to assess its position in the conservation community. Conservators from the world over wrote to the Guild inquiring about registration for the Cleaning of Paintings Conference, which suggests the Guild's international reach as a regional organization.

The second major development during this period was the Guild's cooperation in the International Institute for Conservation (IIC) conference which took place in Washington D.C. in 1982 to a crowd of nearly 1000 participants. The conference, entitled "Science and Technology in the Service of Conservation" was by far one of the most significant activities in which the Guild participated during this period. The conference was created as part of the 9th Annual International Congress of the IIC which as Paul Perrot wrote in letters to the Guild, was "the world's leading organization for the conservation profession." Paul Perrot and Guild President Eleanor McMillan acted as chairpersons for the organization of the conference and played crucial roles in its success. The IIC relied heavily on the services of the Washington Conservation Guild to execute this gathering, such as providing opportunities for visits to laboratories, round table discussions and receptions. The Smithsonian Institution, for example, volunteered to host several lectures for this event. By sponsoring such a landmark conference, which required the commitment of an immense amount of volunteer hours, the Guild was able to expand its horizons to become an organization capable of hosting international events.

The third development that proved instrumental in establishing the Guild's professionalism was the creation of a newsletter necessitated by its expanding membership. The Guild had reached 262 members in 1977, which was already close to 150 more members than were in the Guild during the previous decade. By 1986, Guild Membership Secretary Murray Lebwohl reported that the Guild had reached approximately 300 members. In order to accommodate the growing organization, a newsletter was created to communicate with and

provide information to the conservation professionals who made up the Washington Conservation Guild. The newsletters included a calendar of events, committee nominations, list of national and international workshops and lectures, conservation book reviews, job postings, internships, news relating to members, and topics in the conservation field. The first volume was published in February 1976 with Nikki Horton and Linda Scheifler as editors. Although the newsletters went through many formats and updates, in 1980 the newsletters were beginning to be printed on “new elegant letterhead and a brochure was created for new and prospective members” as president Eleanor McMillan wrote in her papers. These newsletters were sent through first class mail with a mailing firm so that members could receive announcements a week prior to the meetings.

Lastly, the Washington Conservation Guild established its annual “Three Ring Circus” in 1983. The architects behind this program were members of the Guild under Merrily Smith’s Presidency. The Three Ring Circus consisted of three concurrent sessions centered on the conservation of objects, paintings and paper and was taught by members and local professionals with an educational objective. The fact that the Three Ring Circus continues today, speaks volumes about its popularity and success. These are just a handful of activities and programs that the Guild supported between 1977 and 1987. During these formative years, the Guild’s presidents, board members, and sub-committee members provided structure and a professional energy to further WCG’s growth into the next decade.

Kirsten Hefty
Intern, Smithsonian Institution Archives

Three Dedicated Conservators: Eleanor McMillan, Nikki Horton Goodman and Merrily Smith

The second decade of the WCG was notable for growing professionalism in the field of conservation and, consequently, within the Guild organization itself. Three people whose contributions to the Guild have remained part of its legacy are Eleanor McMillan, Nikki Horton Goodman and Merrily Smith.

Eleanor McMillan, who had worked with Marilyn Kemp Weidner in Philadelphia and Elizabeth Packard at The Walters Museum in Baltimore, was hired by Charles Olin to help set up a new conservation lab at the Smithsonian’s Museum of History and Technology (now the National Museum of American History). The lab opened in January, 1964, with Eleanor as the paper conservator. In 1967, Eleanor helped inaugurate the Washington Regional Conservation Guild. As a founding member, Eleanor had been actively involved with the WCG throughout its early history and become president for a two-year term in 1979. Characteristic of the second decade, Eleanor’s tenure focused on building a stronger organization, with relevant subjects for its monthly meetings and a growing range of continuing education courses. Eleanor was instrumental in defining job descriptions for WCG’s Officers and Board; implementing revisions to the logo, brochure and letterhead; using absentee ballots for the annual elections, and even initiating name tags for meetings! The wide range of talks for meetings during those years were given by conservators and non-conservators whose areas of expertise were of particular interest to the conservation community at the time. They included:

Marilyn Kemp Weidner: Suction tables
Terry Drayman Weisser and Sian Jones: Field work in Cyprus
Hugh Miller (historical architect): Historical conservation
Hilton Brown (painter)
Tim Padfield: Atmospheric Moisture
Jon Eklund (curator)
Steve Tatti: Rodin’s Burghers of Calais
Scott Odell and James Weaver: Playing historical musical instruments

WCG Presidents: 2nd Decade

Hamish Stewart-Treviranus
(1977-1979)

Eleanor McMillan (1979-1981)

Marian Dirda (1981-1983)

Merrily Smith (1983-1985)

Carolyn Rose (1985-1987)

Remembering and Reconnecting

In response to our request to share some early WCG memories as part of our 40th anniversary, Joyce Hill Stoner of the University of Delaware/Winterthur wrote in with this story.

“I remember my first WCG meeting: it must have been late 1967 or early 1968. I was a senior at the College of William and Mary and was preparing my application for the NYU Conservation Center (then the only graduate program in North America). Marilyn Weidner spoke on the conservation of a collage. I was completely fascinated. She told how she carefully disassembled it and treated each piece and meticulously placed it back together.”

Joyce could not quite remember all the details of the meeting, so Marilyn joined in too: “My talk at the WCG meeting was about a rather large collage by Juan Gris owned by David Rockefeller. I saw it a few years later and it looked good. What fun it would be to see it again and check its condition! All my records, reports, photos and, I think, a copy of the actual talk are in your Winterthur Archives.”

Everything circled together so nicely! And thanks to our WCG Archives, we found that the talk was on April 4, 1968, at the Museum of History and Technology.

Robert Brill: Glassmakers of Herat
Robert Feller: Recent research at the Mellon Institute Center

There was also a movie night, with films shown about jewelry making and soldering. A conference on cleaning for painting conservators was planned for November, 1979. After her tenure as president, Eleanor remained active coordinating WCG's interests with other conservation organizations. In 1981, she was the WCG representative to the NCAC (National Conservation Advisory Council); the WCG representative to the IIC planning committee for its Washington, DC meeting in 1982; and co-chair, with Merrily Smith, of the local arrangements committee for the 1985 AIC meeting (see below). Now retired, Eleanor keeps up with WCG programs and maintains an active social calendar.

Nikki Horton Goodman, one of the early hires to Robert Organ's Conservation Analytical Lab, was asked by WCG President Martha Goodway to set up a newsletter in 1976. Nikki had experience working on newsletters for other organizations, such as the Sailing Club of Washington, and modeled the WCG newsletter on those templates. Concentrating mostly on the mid-Atlantic region since the AIC newsletter was covering the national scene, the newsletter focused on local news, conferences, and job opportunities. The early newsletters were assembled by cut and paste methods and photocopying, and Nikki admits that by today's standards, it "didn't look that good." Nonetheless, the newsletters were a lot of work to produce, and required labeling, folding and mailing by Nikki and other willing volunteers. Nikki handed the editor job over to Linda Schieffler, another CAL conservator, and eventually to Ginger Deucher and Cheryl Elliott. Nikki recalled the work on the newsletter as a lot of fun, giving her the opportunity to meet many people in the conservation community. Today she is semi-retired, lives near the water, and travels and sails with her husband Jack.

Merrily Smith, then a paper conservator at the Library of Congress, served as president of WCG from 1983 to 1985. The Guild continued to improve its organizational operations, looking for ways to increase membership by widening the audience base, and providing talks and courses of interest to the conservation community. During Merrily's term, the Board examined new ideas such as incorporation (which would enable WCG to sponsor private conservators seeking grants), switching printing companies for meeting notices, and even such breakthrough processes as downloading the mailing labels to a computer program (thanks to Tom Chase, a Board member at the time, who offered the services of the Freer's mini-Osborne computer). The Board also voted to give a raise to Bonnie Yancey, who typed the newsletters, from \$25 to \$40 for each job. Randy Ash, treasurer during this time, researched investment options for the WCG's meager savings (most of it derived from the Guild's involvement with the 1983 IIC meeting in Washington, D.C.). The funds were diversified, invested in newly accessible mutual funds and other cost effective vehicles. Carolyn Rose, as vice president, took on the often challenging responsibility of finding venues for the monthly meetings. This tradition continues to this day, with the vice president charged with arranging and scheduling meetings.

Merrily was committed to the idea that WCG talks should reflect the issues of the day and therefore provide professional as well as social benefit to its members. The subjects addressed during Merrily's terms included new materials, scientific and environmental issues, and developing fields of interest, such as frame conservation or the incorporation of Japanese methods in American paper conservation treatments. Talks during her tenure included the following:

Frame conservation by Stanley Robertson
Russian icons by Vera Espinosa
Methods of Analysis by Richard Newman
Ethnographic conservation in the field by Bettina Raphael
Microclimate control panel discussion with Nathan Stolow, Steven Weintraub, Tim Padfield and Carol Grissom
Painting lining techniques in Europe by James Coddington

There were by then the Three Ring Circus and a meeting devoted to Student Papers. And, in order to extend the camaraderie of Guild members during the summer, three informal meetings were organized in July of 1984, one each devoted to paintings, objects and paper. Guild members brought food and drink, and in the case of the paintings group at Bettina Jessell's house, swim clothes for the pool. The objects group was held at Shelley Sturman's; the paper group at Marian Dirda's.

As president during the 1984-1985 year, Merrily, along with Eleanor McMillan, became the co-chair of the local arrangements committee for the AIC meeting to be held in Baltimore in 1985. When recently asked about the committee, Merrily could not specifically recall what they did aside from arranging laboratory tours, but she did remember that it was "a lot of work!" Merrily still works for the Library of Congress, but now in the Integrated Support Services Division as a project management coordinator. She works on strategic long range plans, performance management plans and assessments.

All three - Eleanor, Nikki and Merrily - devoted considerable amounts of time and energy to the success of the WCG through the second decade, and it is fitting to acknowledge their contributions in this issue. Thanks!

Jane Norman
Objects Conservator

The Carolyn Rose Legacy

Carolyn Rose was elected Guild President for 1985-87 following the term of Merrily Smith. During her tenure, summer get-togethers and special meetings supplemented the regular season of monthly programs. One such meeting held in September 1985 included a lecture on the Danish Gundestrup Cauldron by Benner Larsen who reported on the novel use of tool mark impressions to help identify dates of manufacture and origin of artifacts.

Another special program was held in June 1986. The two-day Health Hazards Seminar was held at the Hirshhorn Museum, the speaker was Monono Rossol from the Center for Occupational Hazards in NY, and the course was underwritten by WCG using accrued interest from WCG investments.

Planned in 1986-87, letters found in the WCG Archives show that Carolyn corresponded with James Barbour, research scientist, Wood Science Div, Forintek Canada Corp, which led to WCG co-sponsoring an Archaeological Wood Symposium with the American Chemical Society. The Symposium on the condition and conservation of waterlogged and dry wooden objects was held in Los Angeles at the 1988 ACS Fall meeting with programming including lectures by experts in the fields of wood and polymer chemistry, wood science, museum conservation and curation.

In 1985, the WCG bylaws were revised to meet legal requirements, stressing WCG's educational function, in anticipation that WCG would soon become incorporated and acquire tax exempt status. The Articles of Incorporation were signed by the Board of Directors, submitted, and approved by late 1986. Tax-exempt status was acquired in 1987-88.

Incorporation enabled the Guild to begin serving as a grant sponsor to the membership without incurring personal liability for WCG and its officers. The availability of and conditions under which WCG members could apply for WCG-sponsored grants were announced in summer 1986. The new Grants Officer position, as appointed by the President, was introduced in August 1986. Karen Garlick, who, together with Toby Raphael, helped design the Grants program, was the first Grants Officer.

A special WCG business meeting was held in January 1986 when the proposed bylaw changes were discussed and approved and later printed in the 1986-87 directory. During this time, the term Washington Conservation Guild Council was changed to Board of Directors.

Extremely organized, meeting minutes from early in Carolyn's tenure indicate a business meeting structure and detailed officer position descriptions that are still in use today.

Immediately as past president, she remained on the WCG board and represented the Guild as an NIC Council Member, as she was also chair of the National Institute for Conservation of Cultural Property (now Heritage Preservation) from 1985 to 1989, where she was involved in the development of the Conservation Assessment Program and the NIC Collections Care Information Service. In the board minutes dating 11 May 1989, Recording Secretary Dianne van der Reyden recorded "...Carolyn noted WCG contributes through its membership to NIC, and helped raise over \$800,000 for basic operations, projects and programs, some of which will continue for several years" (D. van der Reyden, Recording Secretary, 1989)

In gathering information for the second decade of this past president's article, I read many references to Carolyn Rose's incredible legacy, unfortunately so much of it in memoriam form. I met Carolyn for the first time in 1997 when she visited my graduate program in Buffalo as a guest seminar presenter. To me, her reputation was legendary, and I could not wait to meet the woman who coined the phrase "seeing the big picture" as it related to museum environment. I had heard this visionary woman's ideas through one of my pre-program supervisors who had been her intern: Carolyn Leckie. I read in one of the many memoriams that Carolyn Rose had over 1,000 students and nearly 60 interns during her career. Even though she is not physically here, all of us are part of her legacy.

Susan Peckham
Paper Conservator

Do you have
photographs for the
WCG archives?

The WCG archives, held in the Smithsonian Institution Archives, does not have many photographs, so we are appealing to members to provide photographs of people and events from all periods of WCG's history. The archives can accept color and black-and-white prints or digital images. Every photo must have a caption, and ideally every person in the photo will be identified. Please send an email (not the photos!) to wcg@washingtonconservationguild.org if you have photographs to submit.

Williston Awards Recipients

Kristin deGhetaldi is a third year student in painting conservation at the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation. Previous internship experiences include the Getty Museum, Rijksmuseum, and a private studio in Florence. Kristin is currently an intern in Painting Conservation in the National Gallery of Art under the supervision of Catherine Metzger.

Amber Kerr-Allison is a third year student in painting conservation from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation. Prior experience has included the Richmond Conservation Studio, North Carolina Museum of Art's Regional Conservation Center, and the private studio of Ruth Barach Cox in Raleigh. Amber is interning this year at the Lunder Conservation Center, Painting Conservation Lab, Smithsonian American Art Museum under Ann Creager.

Steven Pickman is a third year student at the UCLA/Getty Conservation Program specializing in Archaeological and Ethnographic Conservation. He has worked in Objects Conservation at LACMA, Cultural Preservation and Restoration in Newton, NJ, and the South Street Seaport Museum in New York. Steven is currently the Neukom Family Foundation intern at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum under the supervision of Jane E. Klinger.

Colleen Snyder is a third year student in objects conservation from the Buffalo State College conservation program. Among her conservation experiences are an archaeological dig in Sardis and a conservation and re-housing project in Colonial Williamsburg. Colleen is currently working in the Objects Lab at the Walters under the supervision of Terry Weisser.

Catalina Vasquez is a third year student in painting conservation from the Buffalo State College conservation program. Prior to her arrival in the D.C. area, Catalina worked at the National Museum in Warsaw, the Hispanic Society in New York, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and on murals in a monastery in Peru. She is currently interning in the Painting Lab at the Walters under the supervision of Eric Gordon.

Chris Watters is a third year student in objects conservation from the Buffalo State College conservation program. His prior internship locations include Kaman-Kalehoyuk, Turkey and the Brooklyn Museum of Art. Chris is interning at the National Gallery of Art in the Objects Lab under the supervision of Shelley Sturman.



Williston Fund winners at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum reception (left to right): Colleen Snyder, Steven Pickman, WCG Intern Coordinator Joanne Klaar, Kristin deGhetaldi, Chris Watters, and Catalina Vasquez. Not shown: Amber Kerr-Allison.

The Second Symposium on Corrosion & Preservation of Historic Artifacts Goes Over Big

The theme for the second annual symposium on corrosion and preservation of historic artifacts was "big". The symposium was held on October 23, 2007 at the Smithsonian Institution Museum Support Center. The Baltimore/Washington section of the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) organized the symposium in cooperation with the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute (MCI) and the Washington Conservation Guild in an effort to increase dialogue between conservators and corrosion engineers. Harvey Hack, a scientist at Northrup Grumman and NACE member, served as master of ceremonies for conservators who presented treatments of some very big projects.

Conservator Gina Crevello discussed the conservation of the iron framework of the Cutty Sark, the fastest of the 19th century tea clippers, and addressed serious corrosion issues in the large structure that could not be disassembled. Engineers from Electro Tech CP, Ltd. collaborated to construct in situ electrolyte tanks around the iron framework, which were used in treatment and for the simultaneous removal of previous paint layers.

Eric Nordgren (The Mariners' Museum) presented the use of corrosion inhibitors and impressed current cathodic protection for the care of hundreds of tons of material from the USS Monitor, a civil war-era ironclad ship sunk off the coast of North Carolina. Working with engineers from CC Technologies, they are mapping the differing corrosion potential of the artifacts to identify potential problem areas and also study the effectiveness of possible alternative corrosion inhibitors such as nitrites, which are pH neutral, and an aqueous soy derivative.

Surprisingly, the biggest ship discussed was not nautical, but the Saturn V and the Little Joe II Rocket that are part of The National Air and Space Museum (NASM) of the Smithsonian Institution's collection and are currently exhibited at the Johnson Space Flight Center in Houston. Ed McManus (NASM) spoke about the safety risk created by corrosion of the Little Joe II Rocket and the subsequent collaboration between engineers, conservators, and administrators to treat the artifact. Joseph Sembrat (Conservation Solutions, Inc.) then described the specific treatment of the two command modules from the Saturn V.

Mary Coughlin (Smithsonian's National Museum of American History) treated C-3PO's costume from the movie Star Wars-- the artifact with the biggest name though comparatively small in scale. Research involving Lucas Films and Industrial Light and Magic led to the documentation of the original vacuum metalizing coating process and the subsequent treatment dealing largely with the unusual corrosion product associated with this coating.

Corrosion of metal has broad reaching implications for the conservation field as well as industry. This was reflected in the mix of engineers, conservators, and students in the audience. The symposium showed an encouraging glimpse into the potential that interdisciplinary collaboration between engineers and conservators could have on the future of conservation. The success of the symposium was evident when Mr. Hack asked the audience whether the topic deserved another symposium next year and the response was a big resounding YES.

Chris Watters

Seeking contact information for former interns of the Library of Congress:

The Preservation Directorate of the Library of Congress is updating its list of former interns. We are doing this to mark the occasion of 40th anniversary of the centralization of preservation activities within the Library. A partial list of former interns can be found at <http://www.loc.gov/preserv/intern-past.html>.

For our records, we would like to complete this list with the name and current affiliation of all our former interns in conservation or preservation. We intend to complete the update by the end of this calendar year.

If you were a conservation or preservation intern at LC, please contact us at preserve@loc.gov. If you can complete or correct the contact information for anyone on our list, please let us know.

We hope to re-establish contact with any and all former interns, so please get in touch - we look forward to updating our records and reconnecting with you!"

People

On November 20, 2007, **Howard Wellman** left his position as Lead Conservator of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory to focus full-time on private practice. In addition to archaeological and historical objects, Howard will be specializing in the assessment and conservation of cemetery monuments and related materials. Congratulations, Howard!

Booth Update

The WCG Outreach Booth began the 07-08 season at the Historical Society of Frederick County's ninth annual Treasured Heirlooms event in Frederick, Maryland. On Saturday, November 3, a panel of experts was on hand to offer information and a verbal estimate of value for the great variety of objects brought in by the public. WCG volunteers staffed the outreach booth, advising attendees on how to care for everything from prints and quilts to metalwork and horsehair bridles. In addition, the Historical Society, which stocks WCG's Conservation Resources publication, sold several copies to collectors eager to learn more. Thanks to the following WCG members for volunteering their time: Anne Murray, Ed McManus, Lisa Young, Patti Favero, Maggie Gleason, and Nancy Pollak.

The Outreach Booth will be at the December and January WCG meetings, and welcomes other outreach opportunities. If you know of a good venue for spreading the conservation message, such as a historical, antique or art event, please let us know.

Nancy Pollak, WCG Booth Coordinator
nrpollak@aol.com or 301-845-1010



Anne Murray offers her opinions on a painting



Patti Favero and Ed McManus take a shift at the WCG Booth

Angels Project

On October 13, 2007, the objects from the Peabody Room of the Georgetown branch of the DC Public Library were the recipients of the WCG 2007 Angels Project. The Peabody room, named for philanthropist George Peabody, housed a special collection of materials that relate to the history and culture of Georgetown.

Sadly, the Georgetown branch library caught fire last April. The fire was stopped before it could consume the Peabody room, but the artifacts still suffered water and smoke damage. Most of the paper-based materials were heavily water-damaged so they were frozen and shipped to Texas to be freeze-dried. The paintings, watercolors, etchings, and lithographs were taken to Page Conservation. The rest of the miscellaneous objects are being housed temporarily at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library.

Lisa Young, WCG Director and Past-President, and Eliza Gilligan, WCG Vice President, worked with Library archivists Jerry McCoy and Mark Greek to assess the objects and determine their conservation needs. They determined that the objects had not suffered too badly and the most important need was to rehouse the objects so that they can be safely handled, stored, and transported back to the Georgetown branch library after the building is renovated. They also felt that some of the objects would benefit from light dust removal with a vacuum and soft brushes and from more in-depth conservation assessments.

The project took place in the Washingtoniana room of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. A group of 15 WCG members volunteered to spend a Saturday performing this work. Lisa Young (Objects Conservator) assembled a team to perform condition assessments and write examination reports. Julia Brennan (Textile Conservator), Michelle Savant (Objects Conservator), Howard Wellman (Objects Conservator), and Jayne Girod Holt (Paper Conservator) examined and recorded 41 objects. Meanwhile, Eliza Gilligan (Paper Conservator) and Joanna Dunn (Painting Conservator and WCG Angels Project Coordinator) worked with the rest of the volunteers to perform light cleaning with a vacuum and soft brushes and to rehouse nearly 30 of the objects. Nina Owczarek (Conservation Fellow), Chris Watters (Conservation Intern), Kat Habib (Conservation Technician), Ashley Jehle (Conservation Technician), Tonja Grafakos (Conservation Intern), and Manda Kowalczyk (Conservation Technician) outfitted custom boxes with Ethafoam to rehouse items such as a hand-carved street sign and a leather covered box, both from the 19th century. Meanwhile, Bart Devolder (Conservation Fellow) and Nina Freed (Paper Conservator) rehoused four 19th century fans by customizing supports that had been made in advance by Hugh Phibbs (Coordinator of Preservation Services).

The custom boxes were purchased with some of the money raised in the raffle that WCG held during the annual business meeting in May. The remainder of the money raised by WCG will be donated to the library to aid the conservation efforts of the objects in need of treatment. The rest of the supplies were donated by University Products, Lisa Young, and the National Air and Space Museum, which also lent many of the tools used during the day. We are extremely grateful to these organizations for their generosity. The library provided many delicious snacks to sustain the volunteers as they worked and lunch at Ella's Pizza was provided by WCG.

Thanks to everyone's efforts the day was a big success and a good time was had by all.

Joanna Dunn
Angels Project Coordinator
j-dunn@nga.gov
202-236-3103



Pictured from Left to right are: Back row: Howard Wellman, Joanna Dunn, Bart Devolder, Nina Owczarek, Tonja Grafakos, Michelle Savant, Lisa Young, Manda Kowalczyk
Front row: Julia Brennan, Eliza Gilligan, Kat Habib, Ashley Jehle, Chris Watters, Nina Freed
Not pictured are: Jayne Girod Holt, Mark Greek, and Jerry McCoy

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

The membership schedule is as follows:

- Early March: membership renewal notice mailed
- Mid-April: 2nd and last renewal notice mailed
- 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 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.

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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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