

AIC NEWS

September 2010
Specialty Group Columns

Architecture Specialty Group (ASG)

AIC 2010 Annual Meeting

Congratulations on a successful ASG session at the May Annual Meeting in Milwaukee. Thanks to Joshua Freedland, ASG chair, for all of his hard work. At the ASG business lunch, the 2010 budget was approved. It was reported that our membership is slightly down from last year. As a result, funds have been allocated for attracting new members to ASG.

New this year was the creation of a Student Presentation Task Force to pursue and develop a student session, and to increase student involvement in the ASG. Frank Matero (University of Pennsylvania) was appointed chair of the task group. George Wheeler (Columbia University) was appointed as liaison with the AIC Education and Training Committee. Fran Gale (University of Texas Austin), Catherine Dewey (NPS), Patricia Miller, and Joshua Freedland also volunteered to serve on the committee. Funding was also allocated to support student presentations at AIC conferences.

AIC 2011 Annual Meeting

Preparations are already underway for the 2011 annual conference, to be held in Pittsburg, PA, from May 17–20, 2011. The theme this year is *Ethos, Logos, Pathos: Ethical Principles and Critical Thinking in Conservation*. The focus of the ASG session is on fountains. In addition to our ASG session, there will also be an Architecture/Research and Technical Studies Joint Session. The joint session will include research, applied specific methods, techniques or instruments for the investigation, documentation, conservation treatment and storage of any historic fountain or any structure, object or artifact in a wet or damp environment.

In anticipation of the student presentation session at next year's conference, please contact Joshua Freedland if you teach conservation at a Historic Preservation program so that information can be sent to your school about the student session.

Upcoming Conferences of Interest

- The International Symposium on Heritage Recording and Information Management in the Digital Age (SMARTDoc Heritage), will be held at the University of Pennsylvania in collaboration with the R. Lemaire International Centre for Conservation (University of Leuven) November 19–20, 2010. More information about the symposium can be found at: <http://www.smartdocheritage.org>. ASG members are encouraged to attend.

- Society of Gilders has announced a conference on Gilding in New Orleans October 25–31, 2010 and has encouraged ASG members to attend.

Please send me an email (friedman.la@gmail.com) with any news, information, or photographs you would like included in the next ASG column.

—Leslie Friedman, ASG Secretary/Treasurer
friedman.la@gmail.com

Books & Paper Specialty Group (BPG)

Business Meeting in Milwaukee

Some of the topics covered in our Business Meeting are as follows:

Education and Program Committee (EPC): Yasmeeen Khan, Chair of the Education and Program Committee for BPG, talked about the role of the committee and the issue of spending down restricted reserves (solely for publication related expenses), which amounts to approximately \$13,000 at this time. One of the suggestions is to increase the number of publications published by BPG. This could be done, in part, by providing financial help to BPG members who have manuscripts but need assistance getting them produced. Funds could be made available for copy editing, indexing, etc.

Professional Development: Lynn Kidder summarized some of the data collected in the 2009 AIC survey of our membership about professional development needs. The BPG responses have been evaluated and Lynn has sent out a follow-up mailing through the BPG listserv. Discussion at the meeting included whether workshops at annual meetings or freestanding workshops best serve our membership. The EPC will continue to investigate topics, timing, and formats, including webinars. We encourage your comments and suggestions. Please contact lkid@loc.gov.

Publications Committee: Karen Zukor, Publications Committee Chair, reported on committee activities. The publication of the 2007 Book and Paper Group Annual is delayed because it is twice as long as usual and filled with images. Since the meeting, the 2009 Book and Paper Group Annual has been mailed out to membership. The Publications Committee needs more volunteers to get all of our important

publications-related work done. If you want to help, please contact Karen Zukor at zukorart@sbcglobal.net .

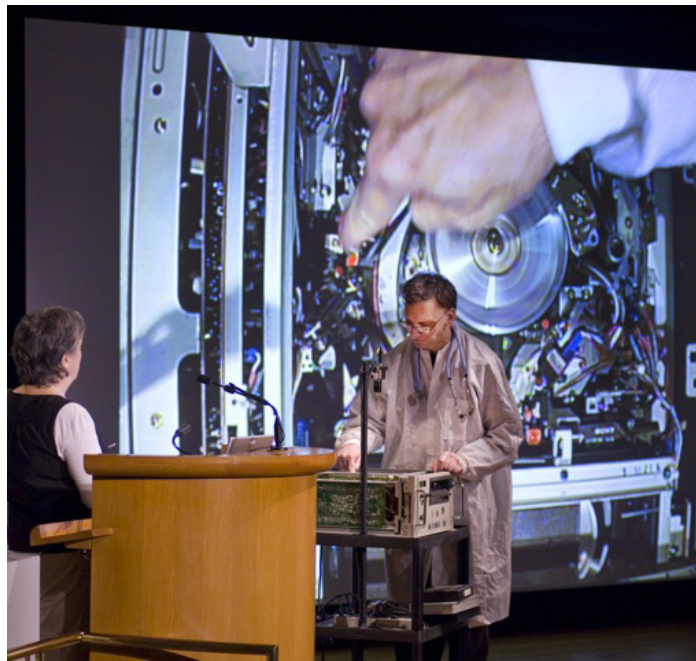
Stout Award Contribution: In 2009, BPG voted to increase the donation to the Stout Award to \$2,000 a year. After discussion at this year—meeting about whether this amount should continue to be donated in perpetuity, the membership voted to revisit the amount contributed on an annual basis, especially in light of our tight budgets of late.

Nominating Committee for 2011: The Nominating Committee members this year will be Sue Murphy, Chair, as well as Werner Haun, and Laura O'Brien Miller. The next slate of candidates will be announced in the spring. Thanks very much to Sue, Werner, and Laura for serving.

Pittsburgh

Plans are shaping up for the annual meeting in Pittsburgh to be held May 17–20, 2011. We are receiving excellent abstracts, and there is still time to submit a paper. The reception is also going to be really special, so make plans to come to the 2011 Annual Meeting!

—Penley Knipe, BPG Chair, Penley_Knipe@harvard.edu



Maurice Schechter at Tech Focus

Electronic Media Group (EMG)



TechFocus I: Caring for Video Art: In acknowledgement of the ground-breaking symposium TechArchaeology held at SFMOMA 10 years ago, the workshop *TechFocus I: Caring for Video Art* was held at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York in early September and was very well received by roughly 140 participants. This was the first in a series of workshops that will focus specifically on the particular preservation of artworks including electric and electronic media.

The *TechFocus* workshops are organized in response to requests from the EMG membership, as a result of struggles to define the role and responsibilities of conservators for electronic

art. The technological nature of these artworks contributes to an overlap of departmental responsibilities between conservators, curators, archivists, technicians, registrars, art-handlers, and other professionals. TechFocus is meant to contribute and strengthen education in our field, to provide basic technological insight, work towards facilitating a common protocol to preserve electronic art, develop a body of literature, and reach out to a larger group of the professional public. Other than previously held general symposiums on electronic art, this is the first time a systematically structured comprehensive workshop approach has been offered. Future workshops are planned for different locations within the US and over the course of the next years. Content will be provided by experts in their respective fields. The EMG board and TechFocus I Planning Committee are currently working on an outline for a special issue of JAIC which will be based on this workshop, as it did previously with the results from the TechArchaeology conference (JAIC Winter 2001 issue, volume 40). TechFocus II is already in the planning phases and will cover the topics of film and slide Art. Further information will be made available as soon as the tentative date and location is confirmed.

EMG Publications Committee: Members, Jeffrey Warda, Gwynne Ryan and Fletcher Durant are working hard on the upcoming EMG publication. The first issue will be based on the papers presented at EMG's 2009 and 2010 Annual Meeting program. This new EMG publication will be the first international periodical dedicated to electronic media art conservation.

—Christine Frohnert, EMG Chair, christine@verizon.net

Objects Specialty Group (OSG)

Annual Meeting Update: This year's Objects Session will be divided into two sessions. One session will feature papers focusing on the conference theme of Ethos, Logos, Pathos: Ethical Principles and Critical Thinking in Conservation. The other session will focus on aspects of archaeological conservation, either on archaeological objects in museum contexts or work in the field. Other papers, which do not specifically address these themes, but still provide insight into conservation ethics and practice, will also be considered. In addition, OSG will co-organize a luncheon session with four invited speakers who have worked extensively on archaeological sites. During this panel discussion, speakers will comment on relevant ethical questions and philosophical approaches to working in the field. Attendees to this session will be given a list of key conservation materials, tools, and references that could be useful on any site.

Recent OSG-L Discussions: Many of you read and participated in a recent (and still ongoing) conversation about a recent Wall Street Journal article. The article describes the alteration of a holocaust memorial sculpture located in Harrisburg, PA. The discussion has raised many interesting points about how our field is perceived (or not perceived at all) by the public. Rachael Arenstein, AIC's E-editor, sent out a post suggesting the discussion would be well-suited to the AIC Blog as it is pertinent to the entire AIC membership. It's simple to post to the blog, and subscribing to the RSS feed keeps you updated on the latest posts.

Outreach Committee: Recent OSG-L discussions have often mentioned how we need to educate the public about what conservators do. AIC's newest working group is specifically addressing this need by collecting resources both for educators wishing to incorporate conservation in the classroom and for conservators who are interested in working with educators. The OSG outreach committee will be reaching out to see who is interested in

being represented in a database that will connect interested educators with local conservators. Sara Barack (s_barack@yahoo.com) will manage this database. For now, please visit the Outreach Page on the OSG Website.

OSG Postprints Update: Chris del Re is editing the most recent set of Postprints from talks presented at the 2010 AIC Annual Meeting in Milwaukee. She expects the 2009–2010 OSG Postprints CD will be sent out before the 2011 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh. The 2008 Postprints and a special publication entitled *Occasional Papers #1* is still under review, but in progress. Future OSG columns will contain more updates about these publications.

—Carolyn Riccardelli, OSG Chair,
carolyn.riccardelli@metmuseum.org

Photographic Materials Group (PMG)

Topics in Photographic Preservation, Volume 13 has been published and sent to PMG members. Thanks and our appreciation to everyone who contributed, and to Brenda Bernier and Camille Moore for their time and work compiling this volume and bringing it to us! Submissions are being considered now for Topics in Photographic Preservation, Volume 14. Please direct them to either Brenda Bernier at bernier3@hotmail.com or to Camille Moore at camille@mooreartconservation.com .

To purchase issues of *Topics in Photographic Preservation*, or the book *Coatings on Photographs: Materials, Techniques, and Conservation*, or the *Photographic Print Sample Set* (produced by PMG and includes Salted Paper Print, Albumen Print, Glossy Gelatin Silver Printed-out Print, Matte Gelatin Silver Developed-out Print) go to the PMG page on the AIC website for information and link to order through AIC .

The AIC-PMG page also includes information on the 2007 Digital Sample

Set—some copies still remain—and the link through which to order them.

Collaborative Workshops in Photograph Conservation: On Sept. 30–Oct. 1, 2010, the FAIC in partnership with The New York Public Library presents a “Collaborative Workshop in Photographic Conservation”, on *Characterization of Silver Gelatin Developed-out Photographs*. The workshop, organized by Erin Murphy, will be held at the New York Public Library, New York City, New York. Go to these links for description and registration. Hope to see you there!

2011 PMG Winter Meeting Call for Papers: The 2011 PMG Winter Meeting will be held in Ottawa, Canada February 2–5, 2011. Please send abstracts to Program Chair Monique Fischer at mfischer@nedcc.org . The deadline for abstract submissions has been extended to Sept. 30, 2010. For more information about the meeting, including registration, general schedule, lodging details, please check the PMG page on the AIC website. Be sure to check back for updates. We will also send updates and information out on the [aic-photographic] listserv.

2011 AIC Annual Meeting will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, May 17–20, 2011. The theme is *Ethos, Logos, Pathos: Ethical Principles and Critical Thinking in Conservation*. The deadline for abstract submissions is Sept. 20, 2010. Send submissions to Ruth Seyler at abstracts@conservation-us.org . (Abstracts received shortly after the deadline will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.) Planning for this meeting is underway, and more information on this will appear elsewhere in the AIC News, print and online versions, and in emails from Ruth Seyler to the AIC membership.

PMG Website: Following up on discussions at the PMG Business Meeting in Milwaukee, we have begun the process to determine how to best enhance the PMG web presence. This process will include providing a format for all previously scanned *Topics* articles to be available online.

In the meantime, we are updating the content of the existing PMG website so

that it can remain useful to the membership during this time of transition. Be sure to check the PMG page on the AIC website for current information.

In mid-June, we emailed the PMG membership via the AIC-photographic materials group listserv seeking your input in how to envision the scope and functions of a new website. This is a fresh opportunity for new thinking about the website, and suggestions from the membership are essential for the success of the project. To facilitate this process, a task force was formulated to coordinate suggestions from the membership and develop ideas that can be presented to a vendor to develop the site.

The PMG Website Task Force is comprised of: Paul Messier, current webmaster; Lisa Duncan, incoming webmaster; Luisa Casella, Alejandra Mendoza, and Brenda Bernier, task force coordinator.

The task force is working closely with the PMG board, as well as with the coordinators of the PMG listserv, wiki, and publications, and with AIC staff, in developing the plan to enhance our webpage on the AIC website and our content on CoOL. Feedback from the membership has been limited at present, but we hope to be hearing more from you as people return from vacations and the summer winds down. This is a reminder that we need your input as members!

This is a fresh opportunity for new thinking about the PMG's web presence and suggestions from the membership are essential for the success of the project. Please send your thoughts, ideas, and comments to the attention of Brenda Bernier at bernier3@hotmail.com. This listserv is also a venue for the discussion. We look forward to hearing from you! With thanks in advance, the PMG Website Task Force and PMG Officers.

As always, if I can be of assistance or service, please don't hesitate to contact me.

—Barbara Brown, PMG Chair, bnbrown@mail.utexas.edu

Paintings Specialty Group (PSG)

2009 PSG Business Meeting: The minutes from the 2009 PSG business meeting have been posted on the listserv. Thanks to former Secretary/Treasurer Erica James for preparing them.

2009 Annual Meeting Postprints: The postprints are well underway. Special thanks go to Barbara Buckley for her efforts in putting them together and to Meg Newberger for undertaking the layout work.

2010 Annual Meeting Postprint Submissions: By this time, all presenters from the 2010 annual meeting in Milwaukee should have submitted their papers to our Publications Chair, Barbara Buckley. The deadline was September 3. If you have not yet submitted your paper, please do so as soon as possible or it will not be included. Guidelines for authors can be found the PSG page of the AIC website. Those who submitted their

papers on time will soon receive their honorarium.

2011 Paintings Specialty Group Award: Who among your colleagues do you feel has made an exceptional contribution to the field? Consider nominating that person for the 2011 Paintings Specialty Group Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Paintings Conservation. The award recipient will be recognized at the Annual Meeting and will receive one year of membership to AIC and PSG. Candidates must be members of PSG. Nominations are due by Monday, January 17, 2011. Please see the AIC Member Center for more details.

2011 Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will be held May 17–20, 2011 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The theme for the general session will be *Ethos, Logos, Pathos: Ethical Principles and Critical Thinking in Conservation*, although PSG session papers need not conform to the theme. The call for papers has been extended to September 20. This year, all submissions should go through AIC. For more details, please see the Annual Meeting page.

Watch this space in the coming months for information on the PSG events at the Annual Meeting. Program Chair Patti Favero is hard at work organizing the sessions and planning events. It promises to be a wonderful program. Be sure to join us in Pittsburgh!

—Laura Rivers, PSG Chair
After October 4: lrivers@getty.edu

Research & Technical Studies Group (RATS)

Wiki News: The Research and Technical Studies Specialty Group is pleased to announce that we have begun working on our contribution to the AIC Wiki through a collaborative effort with the Objects Specialty Group (and eventually all Specialty Groups) to build an Oddy/Materials Testing Database. As some of you may know, a wiki-style resource for sharing Oddy test and other materials test results was an idea first presented in the RATS business meeting at the AIC annual meeting in Milwaukee in 2010. However, it wasn't until a heated OSG Listserv discussion about consolidating Oddy testing methodologies and compiling test results was brought to our attention (thanks to OSG Chair, Carolyn Riccardelli) that we actually began to round up volunteers who were interested in making the idea a reality.

While discussions continue regarding the format in which information will be presented, the site will initially contain a database of previously tested materials and results, to which updates will be made and new entries will be added. RATS wiki Chair, Jim Druzik, has volunteered to lead the project and has offered the Getty Conservation Institute's own database of materials tested during the construction of the Getty Center as a starting point for wiki content. In addition, Jim has confirmed that Ron

Schmidting, a scientist who originally carried out rigorous materials testing for the Getty Center building project under the supervision of David Scott (and who continues to handle testing for the Getty on a contract basis), is happy to offer his services in the compilation of an AIC online materials testing resource.

Jim Druzik adamantly emphasized that this is an AIC project that will be facilitated by the GCI and not a Getty or GCI project. While one might initially see a lot of GCInbsp results in models and templates, this will be temporary. We hope that the planned Oddy/Materials Testing Database will become a truly collaborative enterprise.

In addition to the materials testing resource, RATS is considering other wiki projects, including an update of the 1994 AIC publication, *Research Priorities in Art and Architectural Conservation*, by Eric Hansen and Chandra Reedy, as well as the compilation of a compendium of the most important technical articles in the conservation field.

Please contribute your ideas for content and/or volunteer to be an editor on our Wiki Committee! Interested members can contact our Wiki Chair, Jim Druzik, or the RATS Chair, Stephanie Porto.

Rules of Order: It was decided at the Milwaukee business meeting that RATS should update their existing Rules of Order to reflect AICnbsps current practices and the current needs of our specialty group. A committee of three has been appointed to review the current Rules of Order and to come up with a revised draft. This document will be presented to the entire RATS membership for a vote, and then to the AIC Board for approval. The RATS Rules of Order Revision Committee consists of Gregory Smith (Chair), Terry Drayman-Weisser, and Dan Kushel.

Workshop: At the business meeting, members also discussed ways in which our specialty group can reach out more to conservators. The organization of a RATS workshop geared towards conservators was one suggestion. The Executive Committee has since acted on that suggestion by submitting a proposal for a new workshop "Creating Effective Microclimates" for the 2011 AIC Annual meeting in Pittsburg.

Annual Meeting Postprints: After discussing our desire to offer RATS members a valuable record of the presentations given during our sessions at the Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee of RATS has decided that we would like to begin compiling our session papers into an electronic publication. We are still working out the details and will be in discussion with the AIC Publications Committee, but our hope is that by distributing our Postprints in this manner, RATS will be able to offer an important benefit to its members without increasing membership dues. (An increase in dues would otherwise be required to cover the costs of traditional printing and mailing).

Currently, the Executive Committee is looking for a RATS member in good standing to help with the compilation and distribution of our Postprints. Members interested in filling this important new position of Postprints Editor should contact RATS Chair, Stephanie Porto.

Our Former Chair : Lastly, we wanted to share a recent article, *Profile: Conservation Scientist*, from *Chemical & Engineering News* (with accompanying videos!) about our colleague, Gregory Smith, the new Senior Conservation Scientist at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Congrats again, Greg!

—Stephanie Porto, sporto@cogeco.ca
& Jennifer Wade, wad@loc.gov

Textiles Specialty Group (TSG)

September is nearly gone and I am beginning to fret over another year passed; but what a busy year.

Electronic Votes: I'd like to thank our TSG members for taking the time to vote in our recent ballot and to also extend our sincere thanks to Ruth Seyler and Ryan Winfield for their help throughout the process. Based upon an overwhelmingly majority vote (90 %), dues will rise for the 2011 year. While the votes with regards to the Stout and Professional Development funds were more varied, roughly 68% voted to reduce the contributions to \$500 each. Please keep in mind that these measures can be reconsidered when our financial situation improves, and that contributions to either fund can always be made individually.

AIC Annual Meeting 2011: Susan Mathisen, our program chair, is deep in the planning stages for our upcoming annual meeting. Please contact her at smathisen@hotmail.com, should you be interested in presenting. We are still accepting abstracts. She is particularly looking for a few non-textile specialists or generalists to submit talks, with an eye towards different approaches to treating textiles. We are also hoping to host a student session. Should you be a student with an interesting research project or treatment, please consider submitting an abstract. All abstracts should be sent as soon as possible to abstracts@conservation-us.org

Publications: Deborah Bede has pointed out that textile papers can be woefully under-represented in the JAIC and welcomes submissions. The due process for submittals is described in the back of every journal and online.

Joel Thompson has been working hard on our Postprints and reports that everything is on track. The Committee is still looking to grow and welcomes new editors. What better way to meet your peers and earn their appreciation and thanks? Please contact jthompson@mfa.org with your interest.