Architecture Specialty Group (ASG)

2013 Annual Meeting

ASG Program Chair Donna Williams has been busy putting together a great lineup of speakers on a variety of topics for the 41st Annual Meeting, May 29 – June 1, 2013 at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis. We are also looking forward to the Miller House and Architecture of Columbus, Ind., tour, which includes an impressive collection of architecture by some of the 20th century’s most noted architects, including I.M. Pei, Cesar Pelli, Robert Venturi, Richard Meier and many more. Space for the tour is limited, so make sure to reserve your spot now.

Due to the early conference dates last year, we were unable to invite student speakers, but this year they are here and in unprecedented numbers. We have eight Emerging Professionals who will be presenting in Indianapolis. We look forward to meeting them and seeing all the returning members this spring.

—Stephanie Hoagland, ASG Chair, shoagland@jbconservation.com

Conservators in Private Practice (CIPP)

CIPP Elections

The CIPP Nominating Committee has organized its new slate of officers for the next Board election and would like to thank all who are nominated for offering their service. If you are interested in serving, please contact Susan Lunas (bookbinder@preserveyourtreasures.com).

2013 AIC Annual Meeting Workshop

The following highlighted post to the listserv generated some valuable questions for the workshop. If you have an inquiry to add, please send it to Maria Sheets (mvsheets@verizon.net) and they can still be addressed during the workshop.

“The Law Doc is In: Have you had a conservation-related issue in the past 3 years where you wished you could have consulted a lawyer? At this year’s CIPP program, 2013 AIC Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, you may have your chance. As part of the interactivity proposed by Alexandra Darraby, CIPP is offering CIPP members an opportunity to share your experiences in anticipation of the CIPP programming at the annual meeting. CIPP members will “perform” a scenario to strengthen negotiation and collaboration skills in dealing with clients, museums, insurance companies and others, based on “real-life” conservator experiences. Please send a SHORT 1-2 sentence statement of a legal issue or problem that you have encountered in your conservation practice, and we will try to include such an issue in the hypothetical. Please do NOT identify any persons or entities by name or by any description other than generic categories, such as: a collector, a client, an adjuster, a registrar, or others. Your responses will be forwarded (with your name withheld if you choose) to Alexandra Darraby. Replies after February 3rd will be added to Q&A periods.”
Electronic Media Group (EMG)

2013 AIC Annual Meeting
We are eagerly anticipating this year’s Annual Meeting in Indianapolis! The EMG program promises to be a very full and interesting day of professional presentations from our colleagues both here and abroad. We have drawn an international lineup of presenters with papers including topics such as:

• Issues of authenticity in digital artworks
• Conservation of computer source code
• Obsolete and artist-built video equipment
• Recovery of audiovisual materials in the wake of natural disasters

For further program details on the EMG session and a full list of speakers and titles, please check out our schedule online. Many thanks to the Kress Foundation for its continued support for presenters!

EMG will once again be holding a Lightning Round Luncheon with short presentations on a variety of topics. This special event will be held on Saturday, June 1, from noon – 2:00 p.m. In addition, EMG will be holding a full-day workshop, Digital Preservation for Video, on Wednesday, May 29. Workshop topics will include digital file creation, preservation and access file formats and codes, technical and preservation metadata, and more. The workshop is designed to be accessible to all AIC members, regardless of their level of experience in caring for video materials.

The EMG business meeting will take place on Friday morning, May 31, from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. This is a free event that will segue directly into the morning talks. Please plan to attend the EMG business meeting and help guide the future direction of EMG.

EMG Board Nominations
We are now accepting nominations for two open positions on the EMG Board that will begin in June 2013. EMG—like all specialty groups—relies solely on member involvement to shape the direction of programming and other activities. Are you interested or do you know of someone who might want to be part of the EMG board? Please consider joining next year’s EMG Board members Helen Bailey (Chair), Rose Cull (Program Chair), and Sarah Norris (Website Director) in one of the following open positions:

Assistant Program Chair (one-year term followed by one year as Program Chair)
• Maintain the EMG membership database
• Interface with the AIC office
• Plan and coordinate logistics for the annual business meeting

Secretary-Treasurer
• Maintain electronic or written records for the EMG
• Prepare and manage the EMG budget
• Work with the Webmaster to provide up-to-date content on the EMG Website

A more detailed description of the positions is included in our Rules of Order, found here: http://cool.conservation-us.org/coolaic/sg/emg/about/rules.html.

Being on the board is a great way to meet new colleagues, share your experiences and contribute to a growing body of knowledge on electronic media preservation. Any EMG member is eligible for the board, provided you have not served in the last four consecutive years. Recent graduates or new members of EMG are always welcome, as are more experienced members.

Please contact one of the Nominating Committee members to nominate yourself or a colleague. The committee includes:

• Christine Frohner (c.frohner@me.com)
• Karen Pavelka (pavelka@ischool.utexas.edu)
• Andrew Robb (anro@loc.gov)

—Helen Bailey, EMG Chair, hakbailey@gmail.com

Objects Specialty Group (OSG)

OSG Postprints are online!
It is my great pleasure to announce that OSG Postprints Volumes 15 – 18 from the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 AIC Annual Meetings are available online and for free digital download to OSG members. Each paper can be downloaded individually or by year/volume. An announcement will be sent out with the link twice, via the OSG-List, to make sure all members receive it. Please contact Bonnie Naugle at the AIC office if you have any questions about downloading these documents.

These volumes have been a long time coming, but have arrived at last, thanks to the heroic efforts of editors Christine Del Re, Carolyn Riccardelli, Sanchita Balachandran, Patricia Griffin, Emily Hamilton and Kari Kipper, and program chairs Howard Wellman, Helen Alten, Carolyn Riccardelli and Sanchita Balachandran.

Special thanks are due to Christine Del Re for moving forward with the latent volumes and to Carolyn Riccardelli for painstakingly formatting every volume for both online and hard-copy publication, in accordance with AIC’s new digital publications guidelines.

In the coming year, print copies of these postprint volumes will also be available through the AIC website. We will keep you posted as to progress on this project.
Budget Reserves
The budget reserves membership survey is nearly complete and should be sent to OSG members through the listserv in March. The survey was delayed so that options, associated costs, and survey format could be fully explored and vetted. The survey will consist of ideas posted by OSG members on the listserv in response to the query sent out by OSG officers (June 25, 2012). Options that receive most interest will be evaluated by OSG officers and ultimately voted on at OSG Business Meeting at the AIC Annual Meeting in Indianapolis in 2013.

2013 AIC Annual Meeting
Program Chair Lara Kaplan has sent out a call for Tips, which will be presented at the OSG Luncheon on June 1. Please feel free to contact Lara at larakaplan@gmail.com should you have any questions or want to submit a tip.

—Mina Thompson, OSG Chair, mina.thompson@state.nm.us

Paintings Specialty Group (PSG)

2013 Annual Meeting
Program Chair Matt Cushman and Assistant Program Chair Kate Smith have been putting the finishing touches on a fantastic program for this year’s annual meeting. Below you will find some highlights of PSG events from this program:

Breakfast with Business: Please plan to attend the PSG Breakfast with Business meeting, which will be held on Friday, May 31, 2013, from 7:30am to 8:30am. If you have a concern or an idea that you would like us to address during the meeting, please contact me at kbartlett@menil.org to have it added to the meeting agenda. An agenda will be distributed on the PSG listerv a few weeks prior to the meeting.

Panel Session: “Current Challenges and Opportunities in Paintings Conservation,” Friday, May 31, 2013 from 6:00-7:30pm
Panelists will be Rustin Levenson (Rustin Levenson Art Conservation Associates), Alan Phenix (Getty Conservation Institute), Joyce Hill Stoner (Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation), and Rob Proctor (Whitten & Proctor Fine Art Conservation). Join us for this lively, introspective, and forward-thinking discussion of problems facing our field and untapped resources that are available now or on the horizon. This session aims to identify some of our greatest challenges and achievable goals with respect to treatment, research, documentation, preventive care, education & training, funding, and the sharing of information.

PSG Tips Luncheon: On Saturday, June 1, 2013 from Noon-2:00 p.m., PSG will host a Studio Tips Luncheon at the conference hotel, the JW Marriott. Thank you to Kremer Pigmente for their generous sponsorship of this event! Please join us for the wonderful opportunity to hear the latest and best studio tips from your colleagues. If you have a tip to share, please e-mail Kate Smith at kate_smith@harvard.edu.

Sponsor a Student: Once again I am excited to announce that PSG will be hosting its annual sponsor—a-student campaign. Last year’s campaign raised enough money to allow all PSG student members attending the conference to attend the PSG reception at no charge. We also received a great deal of positive feedback from students and sponsors alike for our efforts to connect students with their individual sponsors. If you would like to participate, or hear more about this wonderful opportunity, please e-mail PSG’s Program Chair Matt Cushman at mpcushman@gmail.com, with your questions or your intention to sponsor a student and the amount you wish to pledge (for bookkeeping only). Or, if you wish to remain anonymous, please let us know this as well.

Unfortunately, at this time, we will not be able to accept any sponsorships through the AIC website or with your conference registration as indicated previously. Instead you should mail your sponsorship to AIC. Checks should be made payable to: The American Institute for Conservation. Please include “PSG Luncheon, Student Sponsorship” in the memo of the check.

Mail checks to:
Attn: Ruth Seyler
American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC)
1156 15th Street, NW - Suite 320
Washington, DC 20005-1714

PSG Elections
The PSG Board elections will be held electronically before the annual meeting. As mentioned in my previous column, there will be three positions open on this year’s PSG ballot:

• Assistant Program Chair
• Publications Chair
• Nominating Committee

All positions have two-year terms. Details about the election will be disseminated by e-mail and on the PSG listerv. Once again, thank you to all those who have served!

—Katrina Bartlett, PSG Chair (2012-2014), Kbartlett@menil.org

Research and Technical Studies (RATS)

2013 Annual Meeting
The annual meeting in Indianapolis is fast approaching and we would like to remind our members to register for both the meeting and the RATS business luncheon. Our speaker this year, Sarah Everts, is a science journalist based in Berlin, Germany, as the European correspondent for the weekly magazine Chemical & Engineering News. Her talk is titled “Artful Science: Quirky trends and fascinating discoveries in cultural heritage research, from a journalist’s perspective.” Her lecture will survey some of the more curious (and fun) cultural heritage science trends, tools and developments from a journalist’s perspective. Her lecture will survey some of the more curious (and fun) cultural heritage science trends, tools and developments from a journalist’s perspective. Her lecture will survey some of the more curious (and fun) cultural heritage science trends, tools and developments from a journalist’s perspective. Her lecture will survey some of the more curious (and fun) cultural heritage science trends, tools and developments from a journalist’s perspective.

Sarah Everts will be presenting at the OSG Luncheon on June 1. Please feel free to contact Lara at larakaplan@gmail.com should you have any questions or want to submit a tip.
RATS Elections
The next round of elections for RATS officers will be coming up shortly; we will be choosing a new Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. The Vice Chair position, which will preferably go to a conservator this year, organizes and serves as chairperson for all aspects of the RATS sessions at the 2014 AIC Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Ainslie Harrison, a conservator specializing in archaeological and ethnographic materials and currently an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Objects Conservation at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, has been nominated for this post. The Secretary/Treasurer maintains records of all RATS meetings and activities, and prepares the annual budget. Angela Elliott, the Assistant Objects Curator at the Baltimore Museum of Art has been nominated for this post. Complete descriptions for the positions and their responsibilities can be found online on the RATS homepage, and any other nominations can be directed to the RATS nominating committee officers: Emily Kaplan (kaplane@si.edu); Dr. Catherine Stephens (chs2@andrew.cmu.edu) or Ralph Wiegandt (rwiegandt@geh.org).

—Cory Rogge, RATS Communications Officer, croggece@buffalostate.edu

Textile Specialty Group (TSG)

AIC 2013 Annual Meeting
I look forward to seeing many of you at the AIC Annual Meeting in Indianapolis (May 29–June 1). Program Chair Virginia Whelan has planned an exciting program, so I hope you all will be able to attend. TSG is hosting three sessions, one on Thursday afternoon, one on Friday morning, and a joint session with WAG on Saturday morning. The TSG dinner on Friday night also will be held in conjunction with WAG. We’re again planning the TSG business meeting to be held over breakfast on Friday morning, May 31. If anyone has issues they’d like addressed at the business meeting, please let me know.

TSG Elections
By the time this column appears, the nominating committee (Christine Giuntini and Maria Fusco) will likely have a slate of candidates for the board position of Program Chair for the 2013-2014 year. If you have any suggestions, or would like to serve on the nominating committee, please get in touch with Christine (christine.giuntini@metmuseum.org) or Maria (mfusco@textilemuseum.org). I also would like to take this opportunity to encourage participation on TSG’s board by any and all TSG members. The group needs you, so please step up to the plate and run for office or serve on a committee.

AIC News
Thanks to Allison McCloskey for writing the lead article for the March 2013 issue of AIC News. This is the last issue of AIC News to be issued in print version. From now on, only an electronic version will be produced and the end user can print a hard copy. The title of Allison’s article is Choreography and Team Treatments: Three (Very) Oversized Textiles.

TSG Contributions
In 2012, TSG donated $500 to the George Stout Fund and $500 to the Professional Development Endowment Fund. The group received a very nice note from AIC Executive Director Eryl Wentworth thanking the group for these contributions and outlining what AIC accomplished with Stout and Professional Development funds.

Wiki Edit-a-thon Update
For January’s wiki edit-a-thon, Rachael Arenstein trained eight TSG members. They were able to complete components of the Textile Conservation Catalogue that had been posted on the wiki as part of a 2008 NCPTT grant. Rachael reported that these are among the most-viewed pages of the wiki.

As a result of the training, the following was determined:
• The Catalogue will move forward via the AIC wiki. A TSG member who prefers to draft off-line and then find a partner to post it for editing is welcome to do so.
• An expanded version of the Catalogue “Framework” (table of contents) will be posted on the wiki; Rachael will assist with that.
• Catalogue sections that are nearly finished will be uploaded onto the wiki.
• A “sandbox” for drafting and editing was set up after the call. The link is as follows: www.conservation-wiki.com/wiki/Contribute_to_the_Textile_Wiki. There is no content in the sandbox at present.

To address concerns about providing too much information to non-trained conservators, only trained AIC members can draft or edit. Some specialty groups do their editing/drafting on the wiki; others draft/edit off-line and post finished work to the wiki. Rachael introduced the concept of a “sandbox,” an open but not as easily found page on a wiki that could be used for drafting and editing.

Some members who had completed wiki training found formatting difficult. ECPN members are willing to work with more senior conservators to get wiki content posted. Rachael and ECPN envision this as mini-mentoring with the more senior conservator providing content and the ECPN member doing formatting.

Rachael also introduced other wiki projects including the Lexicon. Content can be drafted on the Lexicon; people may be more comfortable starting here as it can be done in very small pieces (such as defining a term). Another advantage to the wiki is that a member can draft one sub-section of a larger chapter.

As someone who truly believes in the Catalogue (and who has been pulled into the wiki world ever so slowly), I hope this tool will help us organize and share information. Take advantage of the opportunity to contribute your special knowledge to our communal knowledge pool. Get trained as a wiki creator and contribute!

Thanks to Deborah Trupin for contributing this update.

—Robin Hanson, Chair, Rhanson@clevelandart.org
Wooden Artifacts Group (WAG)

News about Asian Lacquer
From a relatively vague understanding of origins, think China and Japan, to the highly sought after and valued copies made in Europe and the Americas, the trade in lacquer furniture and accessories has, until very recently, been only partially understood. No longer. Thanks to pioneering research and analytical work by Arlen Heginbotham at the J. Paul Getty Museum and Michael Shilling at the Getty Conservation Institute the trade routes, sources, and production of Asian lacquer are now being revealed. This is truly important stuff and the value of this work in deciphering the sources of what museums hold in their collections is only just beginning.

Aiding and abetting these important developments are a series of analytical workshops initiated by the Getty and designed to aid museum professionals in the identification of Asian lacquers. The second workshop will be held July 15–19, 2013, with Arlen, Michael Shilling, and Nanke Shellman at the Yale Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage at Yale West Campus, Orange, CT. Please see the website at www.getty.edu/conservation/our_projects/education/radical/radical_2013.html

Network Columns

Collection Care Network (CCN)

AIC’s 41st Annual Meeting
We hope to see you at any or all of these:

• Integrated Pest Management for Collections, May 29, workshop presented in coordination with the IPM Working Group (museumpests.net).
• Preservation Planning Discussion Session, Thursday, May 30 from 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. Come hear Katry Lithgow (UK National Trust) and Lisa Elkin (American Museum of Natural History) present competing views on preservation planning, and then listen to Kristen Laise (Heritage Preservation) and Jim Reilly (Image Permanence Institute) debate the use of standards in preventive conservation. Participants will engage in small group discussions to share their thoughts and insights on these topics. www.conservation-us.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=1670
• Our informal reception, Friday May 31 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for anyone interested in the CCN. Food and drink provided by TruVue, Inc.

In addition, the results of the more than 700 responses to our collection care professionals survey have been analyzed and a report is in production. The first 10 minutes of the Preservation Planning Discussion Session, Thursday, May 30 from 2:00 - 5:30 p.m. will be devoted to sharing some of these results. If you would like to receive the complete report on the survey results please contact Rebecca Fifield, CCN Vice-Chair at rebecca.fifield@metmuseum.org.

for additional information and to register.

Adding to the sense that we have entered the year—or perhaps the decade—of lacquer is an upcoming symposium hosted by the Art Conservation Department at Buffalo State. Themes of the conference will include history, aesthetics, cultural approaches, contemporary work, as well as conservation and restoration of, you guessed it, lacquer. The symposium is scheduled for May 2013, just before the annual AIC meeting in Indianapolis, so be sure to put this on your calendar. See artconservation.buffalostate.edu/asianlacquer2013 for more information.

As if that weren’t enough, well known Canadian conservator and pioneer of the conservation of lacquer, Marianne Webb, has announced a blog by current intern Jonas Veenhoven on recreating western lacquer—or Japanning—based on historic formulas and recipes. http://mariannewebb.com/news

—Alexander M. Carlisle, WAG Chair, macarlisle@gmail.com

Presentations
Rebecca Fifield, CCN Vice-Chair, presented a lecture “The Gang’s All Here, Now What? Current Challenges for Collection Care” to the Washington Conservation Guild on February 7, 2013. Approximately 80 conservators, registrars, and other museum professionals attended the session. Ms. Fifield pointed to the need for us to keep selling the big picture of collection care. Successful collection care is not a la carte; we cannot just do some dusting here and IPM there and then say we have a collection care program. The conservation community must continue emphasizing the benefits of comprehensive and integrated collection care planning. Planning supports preventive conservation, preventing damage that extremely costly conservation treatment can never hope to restore, and hence supports all collections-based museum programming. She also voiced a call for more mid-career training and mentorship for collection professionals, development of resources that stress collaboration between all museum professionals involved in preservation, and educating the public about collection care.

2014 AIC Annual Meeting (in the works)
The theme for AIC’s 42nd Annual Meeting in 2014 will be Preventive Conservation and Sustainability! We are working with the Committee for Sustainable Conservation Practice to define the program. Please share your ideas for topics for this meeting with us.

New Collaboration between Mountmakers, AIC
In collaboration with the Mountmakers Forum, the AIC wiki now hosts a Mountmaking section with information from the mountmakers’ biennial meetings. We are very excited about the
opportunity to promote the exchange of knowledge and practices between the collections care fields. www.conservation-wiki.com/wiki/Mountmaking

Work with us!
We are seeking volunteers for a number of positions and tasks including:

- **AIC Social Media Working Group liaison** – to work with the CCN board and the AIC office to develop CCN’s social media presence beginning with a LinkedIn page. The liaison will also be a member of the Social Media Working Group and will help to guide the development of a strategy for all of AIC’s social media sites.

- **Volunteer Coordinator** – to focus on learning the interests of the CCN membership and recruiting appropriate people for CCN projects.

- **AIC Wiki Creators** – contribute to providing quality collection care information on the AIC Wiki.

- **Scribes for CCN’s AIC 2013 Annual Meeting Session** – to take notes during the small group discussion sessions that will take place during the CCN’s Preservation Planning Discussion Session, Thursday, May 30 from 2:00 – 5:30 p.m. These notes will contribute to the development of project priorities for the CCN.

To explore or express interest in any of these possibilities contact **Joelle Wickens** at jwicke@winterthur.org or any CCN Board member.

—Robert Waller, CCN e-editor, rw@protectheritage.com

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**Emerging Conservation Professionals Network (ECPN)**

**AIC 2013 Annual Meeting**

*Portfolio Seminar at AIC’s 41st Annual Meeting in 2013*

Are you a conservation graduate student or recent graduate of a conservation program? Are you planning to attend the 41st AIC Annual Meeting in Indianapolis? Do you have a portfolio? Then ECPN would like to invite you to participate in our Annual Meeting Portfolio Seminar on Wednesday, May 29, at 4 p.m.

Following a series of portfolio-themed talks and a Q&A session, participants will have a chance to sit and share their portfolios. This is a great opportunity not only to gain feedback on your portfolio, but also to network with conservators at all levels. If you are interested, please contact **Carrie Roberts** at carrizabel@gmail.com.

**Other 41st Annual Meeting Events**

After the ECPN Portfolio session on Wednesday, May 29, join us for an extended happy hour from 6:30-10 p.m., at High Velocity in the JW Marriott, sponsored by Tru Vue. Our happy hour is a great opportunity to mingle with other emerging conservators, as well as mentors and colleagues.

On Friday, May 31, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., we will be holding our annual ECPN informational session, where you can learn about ECPN, our current initiatives, and meet others in the network. All are welcome!

**Officer Vacancies**

ECPN is seeking applications for several committee positions: **Vice Chair, Professional Education and Training Co-Officer, Communications Officer,** and **Outreach Officer.** All positions will serve for a one-year term, beginning just after the AIC annual meeting in June 2013. All new officers will have the option of renewal for a second year, except for the Vice Chair, who will be expected to move into the Chair position after the first year, for a one-year term.

Position descriptions can be requested and questions about committee activities can be directed to **Molly Gleeson** at the email address listed below. To apply, please submit a brief statement of interest and your resume to Molly Gleeson, Chair, ECPN, by Friday, April 5.

**Webinar series**

ECPN is planning for another webinar on the topic of “Paid vs. Unpaid Pre-program internships: Pros and Cons.” We are hoping to hold this webinar in late March/early April—stay tuned for more details! We also welcome suggestions for future webinar topics. To suggest a topic, please contact **Eliza Spaulding** at: elizaspaulding@gmail.com.

—Molly Gleeson, ECPN Chair, mollygleeson@gmail.com