

# AIC NEWS

November 2010  
*Specialty Group Columns*

# AIC

AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE FOR  
CONSERVATION  
OF HISTORIC AND  
ARTISTIC WORKS

## THE ARCHITECTURE SPECIALTY GROUP (ASG) of AIC is hosting a STUDENT SESSION

at the AIC Annual Meeting  
in Philadelphia, PA  
May 31 through June 3, 2011

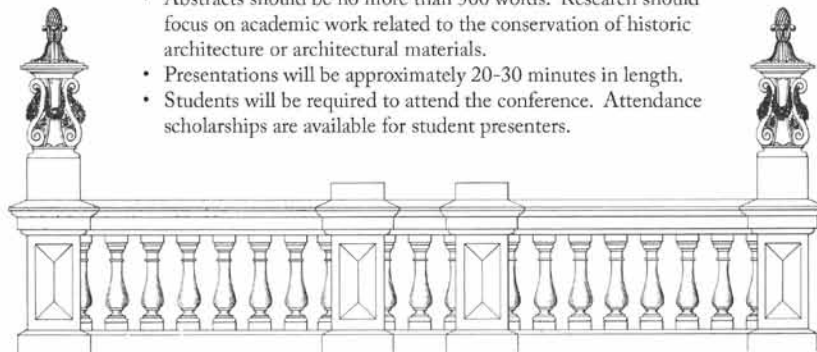


The ASG Student Session will highlight recent academic research by current students and recent graduates of programs in architectural conservation, historic preservation, conservation science and related fields.

### Submit your abstract today!

visit the ASG website for more information:  
<http://cool.conservation-us.org/coolaic/sg/asg/index.html>  
or  
<http://www.conservation-us.org/architecture>

- Students and recent graduates must be sponsored by a faculty member or advisor who is a member of AIC and ASG.
- Abstracts should be no more than 500 words. Research should focus on academic work related to the conservation of historic architecture or architectural materials.
- Presentations will be approximately 20-30 minutes in length.
- Students will be required to attend the conference. Attendance scholarships are available for student presenters.



## Architecture Specialty Group (ASG)

### AIC 2011 Annual Meeting

As you all probably know, the location for the 2011 annual conference has been changed to Philadelphia, PA, and the dates are now May 31—June 3, 2011. The theme this year is **Ethos, Logos, Pathos: Ethical Principles and Critical Thinking in Conservation**. In addition to our normal 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. The ASG board has selected the papers for the specialty group session and an announcement with the full program will be circulated soon, in addition to news about ASG conference tours, special events, and the annual business lunch. Please send any suggestions about restaurants or tours to Patty Miller at [patty.miller\[at\]conservationsolution.com](mailto:patty.miller[at]conservationsolution.com).

And the awesomeness doesn't stop there—we are continuing the success of the student session! There will be another student session at the 2011 Philadelphia conference. Please take a look at the expertly designed flyer (to the left of this column) for all of the information you might need:

**Registration for the conference has begun —please register now!**

Please send me an email with any news, information, or photographs you would like included in the next ASG column.

—Leslie Friedman, ASG Secretary/Treasurer  
[friedman.la\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:friedman.la[at]gmail.com)

## Books & Paper Specialty Group (BPG)

### 2011 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, May 31–June 3

The BPG session and the discussion groups are all shaping up nicely. Thank you so much to all of you who sent in abstracts; we received a wealth of interesting proposals! Many thanks also go to Jo Anne Martinez-Kilgore, BPG Program Chair, for her hard work coordinating all of this. The meeting in Philadelphia promises to be very good both in terms of papers and venue! Jamye Jamison, BPG Assistant Program Chair, is working diligently to find a great reception site for our reception in our new venue. Stay tuned for more information as this develops!

### 2011 Abstract Review Process

The Book and Paper Group have a written policy for reviewing all abstracts submitted for the Annual AIC Meeting, a policy that has been reviewed by AIC. Our review process is performed by a committee that consists of the BPG Officers (Chair, Program Chair, Assistant Program Chair and Secretary/Treasurer) and, on an ad hoc basis, the Education and Programs Committee Chair, the Publications Committee Chair, as well as the Discussion Group Chairs. We each rank the abstracts and make constructive comments for improvement where applicable. These rankings are tallied and the results are generally quite consistent. Practical talks about conservation treatment tend to score very well, in keeping with what the membership has indicated they want to hear about. We strive to be very fair with an emphasis on confidentiality. Our goal is to create a cohesive and well-rounded program, with a balance of treatment, artist's materials, and science papers. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact Jo Anne Martinez-Kilgore at [carinoconservation\[at\]comcast\\_net](mailto:carinoconservation[at]comcast_net) or Penley Knipe at [Penley\\_Knipe\[at\]harvard.edu](mailto:Penley_Knipe[at]harvard.edu).

### Publications

The 2007 *Book and Paper Group Annual* will be published around March of 2011. This issue has been quite an undertaking because it's twice as long as usual and is filled with images. Shannon Zachary has been editing this volume with help from Michelle Dauberman on a lot of the images. The 2010 BPGA will be out in January of 2011. Thank you to everyone involved for your hard work!

### Training and Workshops

The BPG Education and Programs Committee would like to thank everyone who responded to the request for specific ideas for future training/workshops. Several of you mentioned colleagues who have given excellent presentations in the past and made recommendations for workshop leaders.

#### A list of the suggested subjects follows:

##### Treatment

- Treatment strategies for iron gall ink including hands-on experience

- Treatment strategies for degraded verdigris
- Treatment strategies for water-soluble media
- Treatment of objects with mold (cleaning, separating leaves, etc) in the studio
- Treatment strategies using enzymes
- Parchment conservation basics for paper conservators
- Photo conservation basics for paper conservators
- UV examination for works on paper: coatings, foxing, mold damage, lake pigments

##### Treatment: book specific

- Paper splitting
- Toning
- Humidification strategies
- Whole text block washing
- New materials

##### Digitization

- Creating standards and definitions
- Establishing and managing expectations in the field and institution
- Procedures, how-to, recommendations

##### Webinars

- Webinars on mid to advanced level paper conservation treatment techniques (providing exposure to different approaches) such as bleaching, washing, tape removal, spot testing for adhesives, pulp fills, deacidification, stain reduction
- Webinars offered as on a set rotational schedule
- Webinars offered on demand
- Short, and inexpensive, e.g. \$25.00

Let us know what you think of these ideas or if you have other ideas. Please contact Lynn Kidder, 202-707-1092 or [lkid@loc.gov](mailto:lkid@loc.gov).

If there are questions or if I can be of service or assistance, please let me know.

—Penley Knipe, BPG Chair  
[Penley\\_Knipe\[at\]harvard.edu](mailto:Penley_Knipe[at]harvard.edu)

## Conservators in Private Practice (CIPP)

### News from the CIPP Board

Join us at the AIC Philadelphia Annual Meeting. We are planning a session regarding working with insurance claims, clients who have damaged pieces, and the Insurance companies themselves.

During our regular meeting in September, the Board approved posting our "Template for Conservators" on the AIC website. This amazing template details what is needed for an effective contract. It is free to all CIPP members. AIC members who are not members of CIPP will be able to purchase a copy of it on-line. The \$25 charge to AIC members is a real bargain, as compared to hiring an attorney to write up a contract.

The Board also approved a policy for posting services and products on the CIPPNews List. Below is the text of that policy.

#### *Policy for Advertising Messages in CIPPNews-I*

The Board also approved a policy for posting services and products on the CIPPNews List, as summarized here:

- The CIPP listserv is designed to help its members in their small businesses by sharing information.
- The availability of products and services that would be useful to our member conservators is important information.
- Members of the list with products to sell may post messages describing the product and its cost, and giving contact information.
- Members with one-time offers, such as equipment they may be selling used, may also post classified ads to notify the list that an item is for sale.
- Members who are offering services to colleagues may post messages describing the service, its schedule and cost, and giving contact information.

This policy has been approved by the CIPP Board and the list host.

—Susan Lunas, CIPP Chair  
[bookbinder\[at\]preserveyourtreasures\\_com](mailto:bookbinder[at]preserveyourtreasures_com)

## **Electronic Media Group (EMG)**

### **TechFocus**

After the successful inaugural workshop ‘TechFocus I: Caring for Video Art’ held at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, TechFocus II is already in the planning phases; The second workshop will cover the topic of the conservation of film and slide art. FAIC/EMG will apply for a grant to organize this workshop in fall 2011 at a Washington D.C. location. Further information will be made available as soon as the tentative date and location is confirmed.

### **EMG Publication**

The EMG publication committee, including Jeffrey Warda, Gwynne Ryan and Fletcher Durant, is working hard on the upcoming periodical EMG publication. The first issue will be based on EMG’s 2009 and 2010 Annual Meeting program. This will be the first periodical publication with a focus on electronic media that reaches a world-wide audience.

### **Call for Wiki Participation**

As you may know, AIC has developed wiki pages for each of the specialty groups. A wiki is simply a website, or a collection of documents, that has many authors and editors. Several of the specialty groups have used their wikis as places to post their conservation catalogues online. Since EMG does not have an equivalent document, we have the chance to co-author new content that is unique to our wiki.

We’d like to take the first steps in launching our EMG wiki.

To get things started, we ask for your response to the following two questions:

1. Do you want to be an active author or editor in our wiki? You don’t need to know anything about wikis to get involved; you just need to be interested in the process and in EMG issues. Prospective wiki contributors must take an AIC training course via web and phone conference. At the end of the course, you will receive “creator” status on the wiki, meaning you can write and edit content.
2. What topics would you initially like to see addressed in this format? We would like to create and expand a basic, initial topic outline for the wiki based on your responses. These first topics will suggest subjects to write about. Contributors can add new topics whenever they identify a need. Any EMG-related topic that might be helpful to you or your colleagues is probably a good wiki candidate. Possible topics might include:
  - Technical details about media and their deterioration
  - Histories of equipment, media formats, or practices
  - Availability of supplies and playback equipment
  - Philosophical issues concerning the preservation of time-based media
  - Specific procedures for preservation techniques, work flow, treatment

In order to avoid crowding everyone’s inboxes, please direct your responses and questions to our EMG webmaster Sarah Norris at [ssnorris@gmail.com](mailto:ssnorris@gmail.com). We look forward to your replies and to getting our EMG wiki started.

—Christine Frohnert, EMG Chair,  
[christine@verizon.net](mailto:christine@verizon.net)

## **Objects Specialty Group (OSG)**

### **2011 Annual Meeting Update**

OSG 2011 Program Chair, Sanchita Balachandran, has been working hard on setting up the upcoming OSG program. There were overwhelming numbers of abstract submissions, so an extra half-day session was added to accommodate the chosen abstracts. This year the OSG sessions will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 1 (including an ADG/OSG Special Issues Luncheon), the morning of Thursday June 2, and the morning of Friday June 3. Thanks to Sanchita for all the hard work she’s putting into planning an exciting session with a wide range of topics.

### **New Website For Archaeological Discussion Group (ADG)**

The co-chairs of the ADG are at work developing a new website that will help disseminate information and resources to archaeologists and archaeological conservators. The new website for the ADG can be expected in the summer of 2011.

## Nominations For 2012 OSG Program Chair

This year the only opening we have is for Program Chair. The OSG Program Chair is a three-year commitment (May 2011–May 2014). The elected Program Chair automatically becomes the Group Chair for the 2012–2013 term and the Emeritus Chair for the 2013–2014 term. The Program Chair is responsible for selecting the format and topic of the 2012 OSG session and for organizing all aspects of that program at the 2012 AIC Annual meeting. In the following year as Group Chair, this person coordinates directly with the AIC Board Specialty Group Liaison and the AIC office, writes the OSG column for the AIC Newsletter, coordinates activities for various action committees, runs the annual business meeting, and acts as general spokesperson for the OSG. In the final year as Emeritus Chair, s/he advises the incoming Chair and Program Chair, and provides organizational memory for the OSG. The Emeritus Chair may continue to manage special projects begun during her/his tenure or undertake new initiatives at the request of the Group Chair.

If you know anyone you would like to nominate for the position of Program Chair, please inform the OSG Nominating Committee, Ellen Pearlstein or Julia Day, of your choice by January 15, 2011.

## Nominating Committee

Members of the OSG Nominating Committee, Ellen Pearlstein and Julia Day will finish their terms this year. This means we'll be looking for a new nominating committee. According to the OSG rules of order: A Nominating Committee consisting of two to three volunteers from the OSG membership shall be elected yearly at the annual business meeting. The Nominating Committee shall solicit candidates for Program Chairperson from the membership and will be responsible for creating, mailing, and tabulating the results of an electronic ballot before the Annual Meeting. If there are individuals who are interested in participating in the OSG Nominating Committee, please e-mail me so I can put your name on a ballot for the 2011 OSG Business Meeting.

—Carolyn Riccardelli, OSG Chair,  
carolyn.riccardelli[at]metmuseum.org

## Photographic Materials Group (PMG)

### 2011 PMG Winter Meeting

The 2011 PMG Winter Meeting will be held in Ottawa, Canada February 2–5, 2011. For more information about the meeting, including registration, general schedule, lodging details, please check the “[Photographic Materials](#)” page on the AIC website.

A very full and exciting program is lined up, and we look forward to seeing everyone there!

### 2011 Annual Meeting Update

2011 AIC Annual Meeting will be held in Philadelphia, PA, May 31 through June 3, 2011. The theme is “Ethos, Logos, Pathos: Ethical Principles and Critical Thinking in Conservation.” This Annual Meeting has great sessions and presentations lined up. PMG will have a luncheon with a guest speaker, details to follow

very soon. This will be another great conference, and we look forward to being in Philadelphia.

## Collaborative Workshops in Photograph Conservation

On Sept. 30 through Oct. 1, 2010, the FAIC in partnership with The New York Public Library presented a “Collaborative Workshop in Photographic Conservation: Characterization of Silver Gelatin Developed-out Photographs”.

The workshop, organized by Erin Murphy, was held at the New York Public Library, New York City, New York. It featured an excellent combination of speakers, national and international, including photograph conservators, curators, conservation scientists, photographers, representatives from the photograph paper industry, and photograph auction houses. The seminar was well attended with over 100 people present for the sessions. The presentations and panels were very informative, stimulating great discussions and recognition of the need to document these materials and techniques before more information is overlooked or lost, in the ongoing, rapid changes in the field of photography and photographic technology.

## Business

The electronic ballot for the election of PMG officers will be sent out shortly, if you have not received it already. This is your specialty group, so please vote!

As always, if there are questions or if I can be of assistance or service, let me know.

—Barbara Brown, PMG Chair,  
bnbrown[at]mail.utexas.edu

## Paintings Specialty Group (PSG)

### 2011 Paintings Specialty Group Award

Who among your colleagues do you feel has made an exceptional contribution to the field? There is still plenty of time to 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 “[Recognize Your Colleagues](#)” page in the “Member Center” section of the AIC website for more details.

### 2011 Annual Meeting

As many of you know, the 2011 annual meeting location has been moved from Pittsburgh, PA, to Philadelphia, PA., will be held two weeks later than initially planned, from May 31 to June 3, 2011. Program Chair Patti Favero has selected a wonderful group of talks with the help of her committee (Isabelle Duvernois, Dawn Rogala, and me), including a joint session with the Research and Technical Studies specialty group. There will be a number of papers focused on treatment and technical



study this year and it promises to be a superb program. For more details, please see the “[Annual Meeting](#)” page on the AIC website.

### Call for Tips

Please consider sharing one of your favorite studio tips with your colleagues during the 2011 Annual Meeting. If you would like to give a short presentation (1–5 minutes, 0–5 images), please contact Program Chair Patricia Favero at [pfavero\[at\]phillipscollection\\_org](mailto:pfavero[at]phillipscollection_org).

Be sure to join us in Philadelphia

—*Laura Rivers, PSG Chair*  
[lrivers\[at\]getty\\_ed](mailto:lrivers[at]getty_ed)

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## Research & Technical Studies Group (RATS)

### Annual Meeting Program

Due to the wealth of interesting abstracts submitted for next year’s annual meeting, the RATS program has expanded to two full days of talks, including a joint session with the Architecture Specialty Group (a first!) and another with the Paintings Specialty Group. RATS is especially pleased that our collaboration with both ASG and PSG will allow a number of excellent talks to be enjoyed by a wider audience. The rest of the RATS program will feature a session devoted to new techniques in non-invasive analysis and a session on research in preventive conservation, including a look at the role of microclimates in the museum environment.

We will hear presentations given by speakers, many of whom are from outside of our borders: research hailing from Denmark, Poland, Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada will be discussed. Our annual meeting program will provide a unique opportunity to hear about investigations in conservation science occurring both nationally and internationally.

This year’s guest speaker at our annual Business Meeting and Luncheon, Professor Brunetto Brunetti, joins us from Perugia, Italy. He will provide updates on the ongoing multi-faceted and multi-national conservation science research endeavor which began with the EU-funded ARTECH project, and which continues under the new moniker, CHARISMA. As obtaining financial funding from outside sources becomes a larger and larger issue in museums and research labs in the US, Prof. Brunetti’s discussion may offer up some interesting insight into the future of conservation science in the US. Professor Brunetti will also discuss advancements in research made with the project’s mobile lab component (MOLAB) which is available for onsite analysis in museums across Europe.

### Annual Meeting Postprints

The Executive Committee is looking for a RATS member in good standing to help with the compilation and distribution of our Annual Meeting Postprints. Members interested in helping

RATS disseminate important art conservation research presented at the annual meeting should contact RATS Chair, Stephanie Porto.

### Online Resources

A helpful discussion forum for those who use a handheld X-ray fluorescence analyzer to study cultural heritage was set up last year by Dennis Piechota and Vanessa Muros. The Google Group distribution list is called “pXRF for Cultural Heritage” and its purpose is stated in its webpage:

“The thoughtful use of this analytical tool can give rise to many questions, some of which go unasked because they may seem too basic or repetitive. This is the place to ask those questions. To help with the answers we’ve also invited conservation scientists and technical representatives of several pXRF vendors to take part in the discussions.”

The group now has 117 members and can be found at <http://groups.google.com/group/pxrf>.

Please note that due to Google’s recent decision to discontinue the ‘files’ and ‘pages’ features of its Groups come February 2011, content on the pXRF site is slowly being migrated to Google Docs, and eventually to a new website. For now you can still visit the existing site or find increasing content at Google Documents. To access shared documents just log in to your Google account and click on “Documents” in the upper left corner. Then click on “Folders shared with me” to view the content. Should you have any trouble accessing the stored files, please email Dennis Piechota at [dennis\\_piechota\[at\]umb.edu](mailto:dennis_piechota[at]umb.edu).

—*Stephanie Porto, [sporto\[at\]cogeco\\_ca](mailto:sporto[at]cogeco_ca) & Catherine Stephens, [chs2\[at\]andrew\\_cmu.edu](mailto:chs2[at]andrew_cmu.edu)*

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## Textiles Specialty Group (TSG)

### 2011 AIC Annual Meeting

Now that a venue has been formalized, Susan Mathisen is busy putting together a strong, multidisciplinary group of talks for Philadelphia. In addition to the individual presentations, TSG will be hosting two panels “Why We Do What We Do: Ethics and Decision-Making,” and “Another Perspective – Voices from Outside Textile Conservation.” We thank our moderators, Patricia Ewer, Kathy Francis, and Frances Lennard, for their aid in organizing these thought provoking panels. If you have questions about the program, or haven’t heard from her regarding a submission, you can reach Susan at [samathisen\[at\]hotmail\\_com](mailto:samathisen[at]hotmail_com).

Please contact our program chair, [Susan Mathisen](#) should you have ideas, or companies or individuals to contact, regarding sponsorship for events at the annual meeting.

### To Our Voting Membership

In case you missed it in the September online AIC News, I would like to thank all those who voted. A majority vote passed the proposal to raise dues for this upcoming 2011 year, in addition to accepting a measure to reduce the group’s contribution to

the Stout and Professional Development Funds. With regards to our budget, another idea currently under discussion is to reconsider how we receive the Postprints: does the membership feel strongly about CD production, or could we consider downloadable PDFs? The latter could possibly save the group further costs.

## Deadlines

The deadline to apply for professional development funding is **February 15**. This can be a tremendously helpful way to defray conference costs. Similarly, students should be aware of the **December 15** deadline for Stout Funding.

## Seeking Nominations

Finally, it is time for the TSG group to seek nominations for the **AIC Textile Specialty Group Achievement Award**. This award will be presented to an individual who has promoted, defended, and worked in support of the importance of textiles, and their need for preservation. Nominations for this award must be postmarked by January 15th. Guidelines and application forms are available on the AIC-TSG website. The selection committee, Claudia Iannuccilli, chair, [Clannuccilli\[at\]mfa\\_org](mailto:Clannuccilli[at]mfa_org), Ann Frisina, Sara Reiter, and Valerie Soll (alternate) encourage you to submit an application for those who should be recognized for their life's work. The committee members will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the process.

As always, if there are any questions, or if you have any news or information you would like to be included in the next column, please let me know.

—Denise Migdail, TSG Chair  
[dmigdail\[at\]asianart\\_org](mailto:dmigdail[at]asianart_org)

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## Wooden Artifacts Group (WAG)

Greetings: I apologize for not having a column for you in the last couple of issues of AIC News.

### 2010 AIC Annual Meeting

Our Program Chair for next year's annual meeting, Alex Carlisle, has been hard at work assembling a great program for the meeting, and has been gracious and adaptable in dealing with the unfortunate need to relocate the meeting site from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia. Unfortunately, we won't get to see the great collections that are in Pittsburgh, but it is very satisfying that Ruth Seyler has been able to arrange a meeting in a place where there are so many accessible and, incredible collections, especially for us "wood heads"! I hope that the relocation will only make you all **more** likely to attend.

### Registration Fees for Speakers

The possibility of WAG providing registration fees for overseas speakers was raised at the last year's meeting in Milwaukee, and should be formally discussed. Currently overseas speakers can apply for travel grants from the Kress Foundation, but their registration fees are not covered. I would like to propose a mechanism by which WAG could provide registration fees for speakers, and I will be communicating the specific possibilities

for such a proposal with each of you via email in the next couple of months. So far we have been able to provide registration fees for our speakers from overseas via private donations, but I do not think this is a viable solution over the long term. In discussing this proposal, some questions to consider are:

- Should we provide registration fees for only speakers from overseas, or should all speakers be eligible?
- What should the selection process be for awarding registration fee grants?
- Should the award of a registration fee grant make one ineligible for a grant the following year/two years/etc.?

Once I've distributed a proposal and collected comments, we can consider a formal vote at the business meeting in Philadelphia.

### Postprints

The post prints for 2007 and 2008 are going in the mail as I write! The mailing was delayed due to a faulty print run, but everyone should receive their post prints **very** soon.

### Historic Screws Website

Arlen Heginbotham has finally been able to move forward with a new designer and version of the website after the untimely death of the originally website designer. A new design has been completed, but is still in its experimental stages. Therefore, Arlen is asking for volunteers to become beta testers. Anyone interested should email him at [aheginbotham@getty.edu](mailto:aheginbotham@getty.edu).

### Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI)

I have been hard at work using RTI to take cool pictures of tool marks. I recently consulted with some experts from the field of forensics at a conference on surface metrology at Worcester Polytechnical Institute, who pointed out that scanning laser techniques such as a confocal microscope don't work well for wood because of the extremely high incident angles that are caused by pores in the wood. My next avenue of inquiry is contact with an expert in saw-marks at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, even though he mostly looks at saw marks on bone (!).

That's all for now, and I hope you all have a joyful and peaceful holiday season!

John Childs, WAG Chair,  
[jchilds@historicnewengland.org](mailto:jchilds@historicnewengland.org)