

Book and Paper Group (BPG)

2012 AIC IAG Meeting

As there is little BPG news at this time of year, I thought I would report on the Internal Advisory Group meeting, which takes place every November in Washington, D.C. The Internal Advisory Group is composed of the chairs of all specialty groups, task forces, and committees, such as Appeals, Bylaws, and Ethics and Standards.

Ruth Seyler provided an update on annual meeting planning. This part always provides fascinating insight into how meetings get planned and hotels make their money (food!). Ruth also talked about possible future venues and her negotiations on our behalf. Pam Hatchfield, AIC Board Vice-President, spoke about the general session of the upcoming annual meeting, the theme of which is *Connecting to Conservation: Outreach and Advocacy*. This year things will be a little different, in honor of AIC's 40th anniversary. There will be multiple outreach and keynote sessions—we will be hearing from some non-conservators, which should be energizing.

Eryl Wentworth presented information about FAIC, the foundation arm of AIC. FAIC has been doing some inspiring work for 30 years, supporting conservation education, research, and outreach. A large gift from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 2001 allowed FAIC to create a strong professional development program for conservators. FAIC continually works to increase funding for grants and scholarships to support a range of educational programs and to elevate conservation in the eyes of the public. FAIC is a 501(c)3 corporation whose only member is AIC. Its board of directors, comprised of up to 15 members, develops strategic direction for the organization, working in conjunction with the board of directors of AIC. Even a small donation to FAIC helps—take the opportunity to contribute when you renew your AIC membership or go online anytime to www.conservation-us.org/donate.

Following lunch, the IAG meeting focused on discussions about communications. The following people presented updates on their work—inspiring, since many are volunteers with demanding full-time jobs. Nancie Ravenel, AIC Board Director for Communications gave a general introduction and then Lisa Goldberg, AIC News Editor presented information about *AIC News* especially as it moves to an online format. Michele Derrick, JAIC Editor-in-Chief spoke about *JAIC*, the review process and the need for more volunteers for the review process. Morgan Gilpatrick, Communications Director of AIC, spoke about both *JAIC* and ScholarOne. Ruth Seyler talked about the transition to the new AIC website and about the challenges

of our member database on our current site. Finally, Rachael Arenstein, AIC E-editor, brought everyone up-to-date about our blog efforts at the annual meeting and progress on our various wikis. If any of these groups interest you, please be in touch with the above people.

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)

Electronic Media Group (EMG)

EMG WIKI Write-in Day in January

AIC will be promoting its wiki during the month of January. As part of this effort, EMG will host an **EMG Wiki Write-in Day**. During one afternoon in January, EMG members will work together to write and edit content. There will be lots of activity and collaboration in the wiki that afternoon, so it's a great way to get involved even if you're new to the process. Contact **Sarah Norris** at [ssnorris\[at\]gmail__com](mailto:ssnorris[at]gmail__com) for volunteering and scheduling information. If you don't have a wiki account yet, contact **Rachel Arenstein** at [rachael\[at\]amartconservation__com](mailto:rachael[at]amartconservation__com) to reserve your spot in an upcoming wiki training session. You can visit the EMG wiki at www.conservation-wiki.com/index.php?title=Electronic_Media.

Call for EMG Board Nominations 2012–2013

Are you interested—or do you know of someone who might want to be part of—the EMG board? Please consider joining current EMG Board members in one of the following open positions: Chair, Webmaster, or Assistant Program Chair.

A 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. If you would like to nominate somebody or interested yourself please contact **Jeffrey Warda** at [jwarda\[at\]guggenheim__org](mailto:jwarda[at]guggenheim__org).

TechFocus II: Caring for Film and Slide Art

TechFocus II is in the planning phase and will cover the topic of the conservation of film and slide art. The conference is already partially funded and planning is proceeding for a late April 2012 date in Washington, DC. Further information will be made available as soon as funding issues are resolved and the tentative date is confirmed.

—Christine Frohnert, EMG Chair
[c.frohnert\[at\]verizon__net](mailto:c.frohnert[at]verizon__net)

Objects Specialty Group (OSG)

Notes from the IAG Meeting

The November 5th IAG meeting in Washington, D.C., was a true eye opener. The meeting was attended by group chairs; committee chairs; the AIC board and staff; the AIC/FAIC executive director; and the editors of *JAIC*, *AIC News* and web editors, who contributed updates and information on the structure, goals and future plans for our organization. Some key insights from the meeting:

- 10% (297 people) of the overall AIC membership submitted an abstract for the 2012 Albuquerque meeting (reported by Pam Hatchfield)
- 50% of the AIC membership are in private practice
- By the May 2012 issue, a new web-primary *AIC News* will be available online. The print publication will still be produced but will be available only on request. (Lisa Goldberg)
- Upcoming special issues of the *JAIC* include volumes on mount making, electronic media, and paintings executed in house paint. Since adopting the online platform, ScholarOne, for reviewing and editing *JAIC* submissions, the process of preparing *JAIC* has become much more streamlined (Michelle Derrick and Morgan Gilpatrick).
- The new AIC website should launch shortly. Of particular interest are features such as simplified tools for searching for conservators and an online member directory. (Ruth Seyler)

The IAG meeting also highlighted key areas where AIC members are in a position to financially help AIC and FAIC in relatively simple ways:

- Simply staying in the host hotel for an AIC meeting could save AIC as much as \$20,000 to \$80,000. If the rooms that AIC books from a hotel during an annual meeting are left unfilled, AIC incurs financial penalties. This means that meeting attendees could help AIC significantly by planning in advance and booking rooms in the host hotel.
- FAIC, which was founded as a non-profit foundation to support those of us engaged in conservation by providing funding for AIC, events and workshops (over 200 in 2010–2011 alone), and paying for CoOL (which costs

between \$60–80,000 per year to run). Despite maintaining these essential services, FAIC gets little support from the AIC membership. Only approximately 10% of our membership donates to FAIC. Not only does this low percentage suggest that most AIC members are unaware of all that FAIC does, it also reflects poorly on FAIC when submitting funding proposals to major foundations. Philanthropic organizations will provide greater support to organizations that are actively supported by their membership. So please donate to FAIC. Isn't CoOL worth \$5 a year to you (or a lot more)?

- AIC periodically sends out emails asking its members to write to their congressional representatives about important legislation that might potentially jeopardize government funding for conservation and historic preservation. It is extremely important that AIC members take action and spend a few minutes writing to their representatives urging them to support funding for the protection and care of our heritage.

Post Prints

Christine del Re, AIC-OSG Post Prints Editor, has been working tirelessly on post prints from the 2010 and 2011 meetings. She is also working with the AIC Publications Committee to identify the best way of making post prints available to conservators and the broader public. More information about online procedures for publishing post prints will be given in future OSG columns as information becomes available.

Abstracts for the 2012 Annual Meeting

Mina Thompson, the OSG Program Chair, is preparing the final edits on the abstracts accepted for the AIC annual meeting in Albuquerque. These abstracts will be available in the book of abstracts given out at the meeting. Titles of the talks to be given at the 2012 meeting are listed [online](#).

Contribute to the Wiki in January

LeeAnn Gordon Barnes continues her effort as head of the OSG Wiki committee. She invites all OSG members who are interested in contributing to the wiki to get involved in the January Wiki Edit-a-Thon. For more information, please contact her directly at [lgordon\[at\]mfa__org](mailto:lgordon[at]mfa__org) or [leeannbarnes\[at\]gmail__com](mailto:leeannbarnes[at]gmail__com).

—Sanchita Balachandran, OSG Chair
[Sanchita\[at\]gmail__com](mailto:Sanchita[at]gmail__com)

Photographic Materials Group (PMG)

2012 AIC Annual Meeting

Registration is now open for the annual meeting that will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 8–11, 2012. Information on the sessions is available on the AIC website at www.conservation-us.org/meetings.

Thanks to **Monique Fischer**, PMG Program Chair, and to everyone who submitted abstracts, the PMG has a full and

engaging program of presentations. There also will be a PMG Business Meeting squeezed in. PMG and BPG will be co-hosting a joint reception on Thursday evening, May 10, at [Los Poblanos Historic Inn & Organic Farm](#). We are looking forward to this meeting and hope to see you there!

If you have any questions concerning the PMG program, please contact Monique, PMG Program Chair at [mfischer\[at\]nedcc.org](mailto:mfischer@nedcc.org). More details will be in upcoming news columns, on the AIC website, and via the AIC-PMG listserv at [aic-photographic\[at\]cool.conservation-us.org](mailto:aic-photographic@cool.conservation-us.org).

Collaborative Workshops in Photograph Conservation

The most recent FAIC Collaborative Workshop in Photograph Conservation, Removal of Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive Tapes and Tape Stains from Photographs, was held in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, November 28–December 1, 2011. Preliminary word-of-mouth comments indicate that the workshop was a success, and we look forward to hearing more reports, as this is a topic of considerable interest to many.

2013 PMG Winter Meeting

The next biannual PMG Winter Meeting will be a joint ICOM-CC Photographic Materials Working Group (PMWG) and AIC-PMG Photographs Conservation Meeting, to be held in Wellington, New Zealand, February 11–15, 2013. The preliminary announcement is available on the [ICOM-CC website](#). The announcement and further information will be posted on the [PMG webpage](#), after AIC has completed migrating its website and database to the new platform, and will be sent out on the AIC-PMG listserv at aic-photographic@cool.conservation-us.org.

As always, if there are questions or if I can be of assistance, please contact me. Wishing everyone all the best in 2012!

—Barbara Brown, PMG Chair
[bnbrown\[at\]mail.utexas.edu](mailto:bnbrown@mail.utexas.edu)

Paintings Specialty Group (PSG)

2011 AIC IAG Meeting

On November 5, 2011, I attended the Internal Advisory Group Meeting (IAG) in Washington, D.C., along with all of the other specialty group chairs, AIC and FAIC board members, and committee chairs. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with others involved in our organization and learn more about AIC from our hardworking staff. We discussed a number of topics ranging from the 2012 Albuquerque meeting to themes and locations for future AIC meetings, proposed bylaws revisions, and the new website that will be coming online soon. The new member database will dramatically improve member interactions with the website in the future.

The JAIC peer review system has moved online with the implementation of a new workflow system called ScholarOne. Interested in participating in the intellectual life of our field?

JAIC is looking for book reviewers and peer reviewers.

Contact **Michelle Derrick** at [mderrick\[at\]mfa.org](mailto:mderrick@mfa.org) or **Morgan Gilpatrick** [mgilpatrick\[at\]conservation-us.org](mailto:mgilpatrick@conservation-us.org) for more information.

One topic that received particular emphasis was the importance of AIC membership support of FAIC. Please consider giving to FAIC, even if you can only give a little. FAIC's ability to successfully pursue grants is directly affected by the level of support they receive from AIC members. More support from our membership enhances FAIC's appeal to granting agencies. **Eryl Wentworth** pointed out that FAIC supports CoOL. Isn't FAIC and/or CoOL worth \$10 to you individually, at least? Please consider a gift to FAIC. <http://www.conservation-us.org/donate>.

2012 Elections

I want to remind you all that 2012 is a big election year for PSG. We will be seeking a new PSG Chair, who will serve for two years; a Secretary/Treasurer, who will serve for two years; and an Assistant Program Chair, who will serve for two years, will work with 2013 Program Chair **Matt Cushman** on the Indianapolis meeting and will then become the Program Chair for the 2014 meeting. Finally, we will seek a new member of the Nominating Committee, who will serve for two years, and become the Chair of the committee after **Mary McGinn's** term ends in 2013. Please consider nominating a colleague or running yourself for one of these positions. The call for nominations will come out in the next few months.

2012 AIC Annual Meeting

The 40th Annual Meeting will take place May 8–11, 2012 in Albuquerque, New Mexico at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Program Chair **Katrina Bartlett** and Assistant Program Chair **Matt Cushman** have been hard at work planning the PSG events that will take place in addition to our regular sessions. PSG will once again host a breakfast with the business meeting. Thanks to the generous support of Kremer Pigmente, we are thrilled to announce that this year's PSG Reception will be held at the [Albuquerque Biopark Aquarium](#) in Historic Old Town Albuquerque. You should be receiving an invitation shortly. We will be soliciting donations for student tickets to the reception in the coming months. Stay tuned for details on how to treat a student to an evening of PSG entertainment.

Call for Tips

This year we will be hosting a tips session during the regular PSG sessions at the AIC annual meeting. Please consider sharing a tip with your colleagues. Your tip can be a tool or material you particularly love, a source that always comes through, or a quantity. As usual, it will be five slides and five minutes. This is our chance to learn about the studio techniques and challenges of our colleagues. However simple your tip may seem to you, it can have the power to transform the working life of your colleagues. Contact **Katrina Bartlett** at [kbartlett\[at\]menil.org](mailto:kbartlett@menil.org) or **Matt Cushman** at [mpcushman\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:mpcushman@gmail.com) to sign up to present a tip.

—Laura Rivers, PSG Chair
[lrivers\[at\]getty.edu](mailto:lrivers@getty.edu)

Research and Technical Studies (RATS)

Call for Nominations

The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the office of Vice-Chair/Program Chair in 2012. The next Vice-Chair/Program Chair will work as part of a RATS committee to organize the RATS sessions for AIC's 41st annual meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition, the Vice-Chair is responsible for planning the RATS annual business meeting. Next year's annual meeting program should be especially fun to put together because RATS will be celebrating its 20th anniversary!

For detailed descriptions of the duties of Vice-Chair/Program Chair and the requirements for candidacy, please consult the Rules of Order available from the RATS section of [AIC's website](#). While all RATS members in good standing are eligible for any office, an effort is made to alternate the position of Vice-Chair between a conservator and a conservation scientist. This year RATS is seeking a scientist to fill the office.

We hope that you will encourage your colleagues to run for office, and request that you submit the contact information of willing nominees to any member of the Nominating Committee by March 1, 2012: **Kathleen Kiefer** ([kkiefer \[at\] imamuseum __ org](mailto:kkiefer@imamuseum.org)), **Stephanie Porto** ([spporto \[at\] cogeco __ ca](mailto:spporto@cogeco.ca)), or **Renee Stein** ([rastein \[at\] emory __ edu](mailto:rastein@emory.edu)). Self-nominations are also welcome!

RATS Survey on Scientific Research Needs

RATS will be issuing an AIC membership-wide survey in late March 2012 to explore the research needs of our membership and to help determine how RATS and AIC can help members locate the resources they need to conduct the research required to properly care for the heritage objects in their custody. Even if you believe that you have no need for scientific research in your practice, we ask that you please participate in this important survey.

RATS Post Prints

Work proceeds apace to determine how RATS will format and distribute its post prints from the 2012 annual meeting. A survey has been sent out asking other specialty groups how they distribute their post prints and which format they use. The survey results will help elucidate the best method for getting the RATS post prints to its members. Early specialty group response to the survey is in: it turns out that the only thing that is the same for each specialty group's post print publication is that each one is different!

—Catherine Stephens, RATS Chair
[chs2 \[at\] andrew __ cmu __ edu](mailto:chs2@andrew.cmu.edu)

Textile Specialty Group (TSG)

2011 IAG Meeting

Since the last column, I attended the IAG meeting in Washington, D.C. at the beginning of November. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the workings of AIC and to insure that TSG's voice was heard within the organization.

One of the issues discussed was Professional Associate and Fellow membership. I know many of you qualify, but finding the time for the application (or someone to sponsor you!) is sometimes daunting. The TSG Board has decided to make it easier by establishing a three-member committee to encourage applications and help TSG members through the application process by suggesting sponsors, reviewing applications, or just sending a reminder to let members know the deadline is approaching. Please let me know if you are interested in helping your colleagues in this way.

Outreach and Advocacy within TSG

In light of the topic of the upcoming annual meeting, we've been thinking about what the TSG could do about advocacy—both within the group and within AIC. In the coming months we will be asking the membership for input and thoughts on the following questions: What are our goals for advocacy and outreach? Who is our audience? Why them? How do we reach our audience and what do we want them to know? And once we clarify—who, what, and why—what are the next steps?

Your input will be drafted into a policy to guide the membership in outreach and advocacy efforts. This document will articulate our goals and the strategies to meet them, as well as what TSG, as a group, wants the outside world and our colleagues to know about textile conservation. It would provide advice on how to approach and target different audiences (schools versus quilt groups, for example), all with the goal of making it easier to advocate for our field. More details will follow shortly via the TSG-Discuss list. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments.

TSG's Dinner at the 2012 AIC Annual Meeting

I'd like to close with one quick reminder—don't forget to purchase your tickets for the TSG dinner, if you hadn't done so when you registered for the meeting. **Robin Hanson** has planned a lovely evening for us all!

—Susan Mathisen, TSG Chair
[samathisen \[at\] hotmail __ com](mailto:samathisen@hotmail.com)

Wooden Artifacts Group (WAG)

Wiki Update

This month **Rachael Arenstein**, AIC's E-editor, and all around tech-savvy activist, has organized a January Edit-a-Thon to increase submissions to all specialty group sections of our conservation wiki. WAG members are particularly encouraged to participate, as we have been somewhat lagging in our own contributions.

As we all know, the Wooden Artifacts Group has extensive areas of specialized conservation knowledge and experience and we should be taking advantage of this opportunity to build our own dynamic encyclopedia. The tremendous advantage of a wiki is that it can be continually updated to reflect new information or advances in preservation and treatment.

Contributing to the wiki is easy. I recently took the training course with Rachael Arenstein online and the process is really quite straightforward. If you can write an email, you can contribute to the wiki. Please contact me directly if you are interested in contributing or have suggestions for sections that you would like to see in the WAG section of our wiki.

Furniture in Italy

Plans for the "Furniture in Italy" study trip are moving along. We have regrouped the committee, now consisting of **David Bayne, Tad Fallon, Kathy Gillis, Joe Godla, Steve Pine**, and myself, and found that the existing plans just needed a bit of dusting off to set them back in motion. Thanks to seed money approved by the WAG Special Projects Fund Committee, we will meet over February 13 and 14 in Boston to fill in any missing pieces and to fine-tune tasks and expectations. A highlight of that meeting will be a tour of the new addition to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum designed by Renzo Piano, and a personal tour of the Italian furniture collection by conservator **Valentine Talland**. The Gardner Museum has recently completed a catalog of their Italian furniture collection as well as substantial new research on the collection, and this should prove particularly valuable to planning our study trip.

WAG Officers

Over the past few years, a number of specialty groups have modified their committee structure to improve continuity between incoming and outgoing officers. Our own WAG system was recently altered, by vote at the annual business meeting, to extend the term of the Chair from one year to two, while keeping the position of Assistant (Program) Chair at one year. The advantage of this system is that the Chair has the experience of two years in the same position. On the other hand, this system results in having alternating years in which the Program Chair will either continue on to Chair, or not, due to the two-year term of the Chair position.

Other specialty groups have incorporated a slightly different system in which the elected Assistant (Program) Chair automatically moves on to the Chair position the following year and then to a Chair Emeritus position for a third year. The Emeritus position is largely advisory but may be used to continue or direct projects begun during earlier positions as Assistant Chair or Chair.

Some specialty groups also have elected Directors. The Director positions are also largely advisory by nature and help to maintain institutional memory. Directors may initiate or oversee long-term projects beyond those under the specific duties of the Chair. The Directors (usually three) are generally elected to three-year positions, with one individual elected each year.

Among all of the specialty groups, WAG has the least number of officers and positions. Many groups have Nominating Officers, Communication Officers, Postprint committees, Web Editors, outreach positions, and catalog positions, for example. In reviewing these alternative organizational structures, I am not suggesting or advocating a sudden and severe expansion of WAG elected or appointed positions. What I am interested in are improvements to our structure that will enhance our continuity and long-term interests, provide better support for ongoing projects, enhance institutional memory, and encourage broader participation among our members.

With this in mind I will be proposing changes to the WAG structure, which will be presented before and during the 2012 annual business meeting, and put to vote at that time. In the meantime, I would appreciate input and recommendations from all WAG members and especially from former officers.

—*Alexander M. Carlisle, WAG Chair*
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PLEASE NOTE:

No columns submitted by **Architectural Specialty Group (ASG)** or **Conservators in Private Practice (CIPP)** for this issue of *AIC News*.