The RATS Mission

The Research and Technical Studies group promotes the advancement of scientific research in the field of conservation and the effective interaction of conservators and scientists in furthering the development of conservation practice. We support those involved in research efforts within the conservation field, promote and advance scientific efforts in conservation, and foster increased interaction and communication between conservators and scientists.

Learn more at www.culturalheritage.org/rats

Are We There Yet?

Observations About the Past, Present, and Future of the Research & Technical Studies Specialty Group

By Mary Striegel and Chandra Reedy for Research and Technical Studies (RATS)

While sitting around a table at the Getty Conservation Institute in late 1987, Eric Hansen, Chandra Reedy, and Mary Striegel were lamenting what appeared to be a less-than-optimal integration of conservation science into the day-to-day conservation activities taking place in studios around the country. This conversation later expanded to include conservators Phoebe Dent-Well, Paula Volent, and others. Discussions focused on trying to identify the root causes for this seeming-disconnect. Was science not central to most treatment decisions, or were other factors at play? One problem appeared to be miscommunication or lack of communication between conservators and scientists. Similar discussions were also taking place at this time in the United Kingdom; in 1988, a meeting was held in the UK to brainstorm future directions in conservation science. The resulting published report expressed some of the same concerns being raised here in the United States.

An idea began to take shape: What if there were a specialty group within the American Institute for Conservation (AIC) that was dedicated to increasing and improving these communications, at the annual meeting and beyond? Could such a group find a shared pool of knowledge that would advance the role of science across all conservation specialties? Thus, the idea of the Research and Technical Studies (RATS) specialty group was born.

Are We There Yes? Past, Present, and Future of RATS continues on page 5
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Spacesaver’s Nantucket Drawers and Trays are designed to accommodate museum growth and change of any form.

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**FLEXIBILITY AND VERSATILITY IN ANY INTERIOR ENVIRONMENT.**
Hello from Lissa: Will we meet in Los Angeles?

While my official role as executive director doesn’t begin for a few more weeks, I wanted to take this early opportunity to say hello and share my gratitude, joy, and enthusiasm over the opportunity to join you in support of the field of cultural heritage preservation.

In meeting with members of the Search Committee, it was evident that this membership holds a great degree of passion for the work you do! I am excited to join you at a significant and pivotal moment. With #AICat50, the field is at the intersection of innovative technologies, evolving cultural norms, and inclusive practices for cultural heritage preservation. This inflection point ranges from critical global issues that require new approaches and collaborations, to welcoming a new wave of talented professionals who are advancing and reshaping the field.

My early goals are to listen and learn from each of you, our committees, boards, and staff; to elevate the field by telling the incredible stories about our work to a wider audience; to prioritize and support efforts to improve diversity, equity, inclusion, and access in the field; and to build upon the financial sustainability of AIC and FAIC with our dedicated staff and boards.

I want to hear more about your goals and needs, both informally in conversation and through the targeted work of efforts like the Held in Trust project and the strategic planning process that is currently underway.

› Where do you want AIC to be?
› What lessons can we learn from the past that will help guide our community of practice now and into our next 50 years?

I look forward to meeting you at the annual meeting in Los Angeles, or after I begin full time in June.

With keen interest in getting to know you,

—Lissa Rosenthal-Yoffe, Incoming Executive Director, lissa@culturalheritage.org

From the Acting Director

As we welcome Lissa as AIC and FAIC’s next executive director, I want to share my gratitude for the volunteers and staff who have helped the organizations thrive during these transitional months.

As co-chairs of the Executive Director Search Committee, AIC President Suzanne Davis and FAIC President Peter Trippi led a robust strategic process to identify Lissa to lead our organizations. They have also been instrumental in supporting a strong onboarding process to ensure she is prepared to begin work on June 1. Other members of the search committee—Danielle Amato-Milligan, Ingrid Bogel, Elmer Eusman, Anisha Gupta, and Samantha Springer—contributed countless hours to developing equitable processes, reviewing candidate profiles, and interviewing remotely and in person.

Finally, every member of the staff of AIC and FAIC has absorbed additional responsibilities over the past five months, adding to an already busy half year. Their commitment to this field and to the success of the organizations cannot be overstated.

I am grateful for the hard work of everyone involved and cannot wait to begin working with Lissa in a few short weeks to continue to move these organizations forward.

—Tiffani Emig, Acting Executive Director, temig@culturalheritage.org
However, the initial proposal to the AIC Board in 1988 for establishing a new specialty group was denied. Instead, the Board suggested more research was needed to determine if a specialty group focused around conservation science would be useful, and they felt that a Task Force was the best vehicle to carry out this research.


In 1989, Hansen, Striegel, Reedy, and Dent-Weil were appointed by the AIC Board to a Conservation Science Task Force, initially for a one-year period (Striegel and Hansen 1990). The task force charges were to investigate methods to promote interaction between conservation scientists and conservators, study the need for a new conservation science specialty group, and research potential activities of such a group. An underlying goal was to find ways of improving collaboration between conservators and conservation scientists in the planning, performance, and analysis of technical studies or research. Initial information-gathering activities included informal polling of AIC members through the specialty group chairs and distribution of a formal questionnaire to the entire membership through the AIC newsletter. Mary Striegel (Figure 1) presented a report on behalf of the Conservation Science Task Force at the 1990 AIC Annual Meeting; Chandra Reedy (Figure 2) added an analysis of the questionnaire response, Eric Hansen shared some introductory remarks, and Phoebe Dent-Weil presented a conservator’s perspective (Hansen 1990). This meeting was very well attended, with a packed room and quite lively discussion. This initial information-gathering indicated that there was support for a new specialty group, but the exact function and scope of that group was still not clear. The AIC Board was therefore asked to continue the task force, expanding it to include additional conservators and scientists.

The Board agreed to extend the task force on conservation science for the period from 1990–1993. However, they stipulated that it could not grow beyond five members, although it was allowed to recruit others to assist in gathering and processing information. It was charged with continuing to investigate methods of promoting interactions between conservation scientists and conservators. The goals were to find ways to upgrade research in the field, both in the use of science by conservators and in enhanced conservation-relevance for work performed by scientists. The task force was limited to the activities approved by the Board, which included continued informal polling of conservators and conservation scientists and the addition of formal questionnaires distributed in collaboration with specialty groups (Burke, M. 1991). Some of the products included a survey of the entire AIC membership, published by AIC in 1994 as Research Priorities in Art & Architectural Conservation, edited by Eric F. Hansen and Chandra L. Reedy (1994), and creation of a Conservation Research Resource Directory by Mary Striegel (1994).

End of the Task Force and Beginning of the Research and Technical Studies Specialty Group

With the term of the Task Force on Conservation Science ending in 1993, the AIC Board approved establishment of a new specialty group, Research and Technical Studies (RATS) as of the 1993 Annual Meeting in Denver (Hansen 1993) (Figure 3).
As the purpose of RATS was to show that conservation science was integrated with and relevant to conservation practice, leadership was originally shared by a scientific co-chair and a conservator co-chair. The formation of RATS was not without community dissent; in particular, some conservation scientists felt that science should be integrated into all specialties and that the formation of RATS might result in increased separation. Because of this concern RATS programming during AIC’s annual meetings was initially quite limited. The new RATS specialty group was not intended to compete with or draw away from other specialty group activities; instead, RATS was to work with other specialty groups to create projects, training, programs, and events.

In 1996-1997, the AIC Board moved to standardize the structure, officers, and bylaws of each specialty group. Ultimately, the structure of the RATS leadership became uniform with other groups, so there was a single Chair, a Program Chair, a Secretary Treasurer, and a Chair Emeritus. However, RATS continued to alternate between a scientist and a conservator in leadership positions.

RATS programming started small. In the first few years after its inception, AIC Annual Meeting participation focused primarily on an evening business meeting and reception. The purpose was to facilitate conversations where conservators and conservation scientists could talk to each other, share ideas about their work, and discuss questions like:

› How could science influence conservation?
› In which ways could research be made more relevant to conservation practice?

Due to concerns that scientific papers presented at the annual meeting would cluster in a RATS session and do the opposite of integrating science and technology into conservation, the RATS leadership decided to work with other specialty group chairs to select “sponsored” science papers in each of the other specialty group sessions, with the intent of promoting the presentation of quality technical papers that addressed the needs of each specialty. In 1996, sponsored papers were awarded in each specialty group (Figure 4). Though labor intensive, RATS Sponsored Papers continued for the next three years.

Also in 1996, the first “joint” session between RATS and another specialty group (Paintings) was held at the annual meeting.

Evolution of the RATS Specialty Group

The RATS group started as a venue to improve communication and to interact with other specialty groups. RATS offered a reception and one or two papers at an evening event, which was followed by a business meeting. These receptions were jovial and sometimes irreverent gatherings. Still, some scientists saw the group as a place for scientific papers. They wanted a home within the AIC organization. By 2004, the RATS group presented its own full program, which was reviewed by Jim Druzik in the May 2004 WAAC newsletter:

“One of the main messages from the recent AIC Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon is that conservation science is alive and strong, with new tools and procedures promising innovative solutions for old problems and questions … the Research and Technical Studies (RATS) session was certainly a place to revel in conservation science’s robust health. No doubt the credit belongs to the RATS officers/organizers, Alison Murray, Ellen Chase, and Joseph Swider who provided a focused theme on lighting and drew an impressive international contingent of participants. They also assembled an excellent CD-ROM containing seven of the presentations. Still, a clear vision needs clear content, and the impressive line-up of speakers clearly delivered it.” (Druzik 2004)
The RATS group continued thereafter to hold full sessions with papers within a structure identical to all other specialty groups. Though RATS still plans joint sessions with other specialty groups, and now with AIC networks, over the intervening years there has been more emphasis on conventional annual meeting programming than was originally intended. Some new initiatives that bring together scientists and conservators have been spearheaded by RATS, such as the Imaging Working Group (IWG, a RATS subgroup). But other initiatives that incorporate RATS members do not specifically involve the RATS specialty group, such as the Materials Selection and Specification Working Group (MWG) and FAIC/NEH Held in Trust. Does the RATS group still have an important role to play within the AIC, and what should that role be?

Future Directions for the RATS Specialty Group

Creating a place for scientists and conservators to interact and understand each other’s perspectives is no small feat. Scientists want rigorous questioning and review of their work. They expect critical thinking about the work they do. Conservators want meaningful results that improve the quality of their work.

Conservation scientists prefer to vet their research at scientific conferences. There are currently ample opportunities at a wide variety of scientific meetings outside of the AIC. Thus, many conservation scientists are not members of AIC and the RATS group.

In early March, we conducted a series of informal interviews with some of the current and past RATS officers to gather their perspectives and suggestions for the future of RATS. They agreed that RATS offers a valuable service to the AIC through joint sessions with other specialty groups. When RATS officers worked closely with the other groups to form a cohesive session on a specific topic, they could infuse science and technical studies into conservation in a natural and logical way. Joint sessions have also offered the ability to bring national and international experts to the AIC meetings that might not otherwise attend.
For example, at the 2012 AIC Annual Meeting, RATS sponsored joint sessions with two specialty groups. The joint session between RATS and the Book and Paper Specialty Group (BPG) focused on deacidification of books and included five papers from national and international experts including Anna Friedman (Conservator, National Archives and Records Administration, or NARA), who presented her work on “Evaluating Deacidification after 20 Years of Natural Aging.” The joint session between RATS and the Objects Specialty Group (OSG) covered more general topics including “Some Unusual, Hidden, Surprising, or Forgotten Sources of (Possible) Sulfur Contamination in Museums and Historic Structures” by Paul Benson (Nelson Atkins Museum) and “A Comparative Study of Protective Coatings for Marble Sculpture in the Museum Setting” by Laura Kubick (Smithsonian American Art Museum) (AIC 2012, 15-16).

Those past officers who were interviewed felt it was important to promote international speakers and well-recognized scientists who might not otherwise come to the AIC meeting. They lauded RATS for offering funding to sponsor speakers at a time when Kress funding for international speakers has diminished. Jason Church noted the standing room-only crowd for a presentation on laser cleaning by John Asmus. Lynn Brostoff and Karen Trentelman both mentioned the success of bringing Piero Baglioni and Adriana Bernardi from Italy to the 2012 RATS session. Baglioni spoke about the development of polymer coating removal nanosystems for finely controlled cleaning of cultural heritage. Bernardi presented new inorganic consolidants for the restoration market.

Past officers also suggested that the RATS group could continue to try to build a sense of community between conservation scientists and conservators through RATS receptions, perhaps held jointly with another specialty group, as a way to allow scientists and conservators to learn informally about each other’s work. While some like the idea of a separate RATS session, others felt that RATS does not need to be like all the other specialty groups with a dedicated session but could achieve its goals through evening receptions and joint sessions. Other activities suggested for this evolving group include continuing education with an online webinar component coupled with hands-on experiences at the annual meeting, and a periodic online lecture series. With the thirtieth anniversary of RATS approaching, this would be an opportune time to reconsider how today’s RATS can best serve the AIC membership by better integrating science and conservation practice for the future.

—Mary Striegel, (retired) Chief of Materials Conservation, National Park Service Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT), striegelm@gmail.com, and Chandra Reedy, Professor and Director, Center for Historic Architecture and Design, University of Delaware, clreedy@udel.edu

References


Volunteer Applications Still Accepted

While all applicants that met the April 1 deadline are currently being considered and selected, there were several positions with no applications. The application date is extended until after the annual meeting, which will give committee and group members time to reach out in person to potential volunteers. If you discover an interest in the work of one of our committees, groups, or networks, please review our open positions and apply! You only need to upload your resumé and write a brief note about why you are interested.

Learn more and apply online at www.culturalheritage.org/volunteer.

Join Our Virtual Member Business Meeting

We invite all members to participate in the online 2022 AIC Member Business Meeting, which is a key part of our organization. Please save the date to join us for presentations and conversation on **Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. PT / 1:00 p.m. ET**. You do not need to register for the annual meeting to attend!

You can expect to learn about election results, meeting planning, member designation recommendations, and financial status at the business meeting, among other topics. We look forward to sharing these vital organizational updates with all members.

If you plan to join us, please register (free!) on our website: https://learning.culturalheritage.org/products/2022-aic-member-business-meeting, so we can make sure our virtual meeting room is large enough for all to attend.

We will add the agenda and speakers to this page soon.

Business Meetings to be Held Online in May

All our regular business meetings will be held online after the in-person meeting during the week of May 23. Visit https://learning.culturalheritage.org/members to find your group’s business meetings and RSVP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virtual Business Meetings Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>AIC - AIC Member Business Meeting</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 25</td>
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<td>ASG - Architecture Specialty Group</td>
<td>Thursday, May 26</td>
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<td>CAN! – Contemporary Art Network</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 24</td>
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<td>BPG – Book &amp; Paper Group</td>
<td>Thursday, May 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIPP – Conservators in Private Practice</td>
<td>Monday, May 23</td>
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<td>EMG – Electronic Media Group</td>
<td>Thursday, May 26</td>
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<td>OSG – Objects Specialty Group</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSG – Paintings Specialty Group</td>
<td>Thursday, May 26</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMG – Photographic Materials Group</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 24</td>
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<td>RATS – Research &amp; Technical Studies</td>
<td>Monday, May 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>TSG – Textile Specialty Group</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>WAG – Wooden Artifacts Group</td>
<td>Friday, May 27</td>
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2022 Award Winners

We are proud to announce 2022 recipients of our awards for outstanding and distinguished contributions to the field of conservation. Please join us in celebrating their accomplishments at the Annual Awards Presentation on Saturday, May 14, 2022, during our 50th Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, California.

For more information, visit www.culturalheritage.org/awards.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Allied Professional Award</td>
<td>Scott Williams</td>
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<td>Robert L. Feller Lifetime Achievement Award</td>
<td>Stephen Koob and Jeanne Marie Teutonico</td>
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<td>Emerging Leader Award</td>
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<td>Forbes Medal</td>
<td>Alison Gilchrest</td>
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<td>Rutherford John Gettens Award</td>
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<td>Honorary Membership</td>
<td>Kate Singley and Eryl Wentworth</td>
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<td>Sheldon &amp; Caroline Keck Award</td>
<td>Ron Harvey and Glenn Wharton</td>
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<tr>
<td>President’s Award</td>
<td>Margaret “Peggy” Holben Ellis and Sarah Reidell</td>
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</table>
| Publication Award            | *Mooring a Field: Paul N. Banks and the Education of Library and Archives Conservators* by Ellen Cunningham-Kruppa  
|                              | *Museum Lighting: A Guide for Conservators and Curators* by David Saunders |
| Ross Merrill Award           | Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site |

AIC and AAM Partner on Museum Advocacy Day 2022

For more than ten years, AIC has been a sponsor of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Museum Advocacy Day. Events related to the 2022 Museum Advocacy Day were held on February 28 and March 1. It featured 550 registered participants overall, with most participating in virtual Congressional meetings covering 49 states plus Washington, DC. AIC is grateful to the many advocates who have participated in this event over the years.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Emergency Committee

NEW RESOURCE LIBRARY

The AIC Emergency Committee (EC) is proud to announce that a new library of resources is now available!

A team of cultural heritage and industrial hygiene professionals joined forces in 2020 to create a repository of the best and most helpful resources on emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The group, dubbed Resources for Emergencies Affecting Cultural Heritage (REACH), came together over a shared interest in creating a one-stop-shop for reliable, relevant, and applicable materials.

Members of the group were all actively involved in their own organization’s emergency management programs at the Library of Congress, New York Public Libraries, National Park Service, and Smithsonian Institution, to name a few. REACH members brought a diversity of expertise in cultural heritage practices and experience in different organizational types. Many also shared training materials and resources from their own institutions. Group members also conducted extensive research and review of other resources readily available on the internet. After a year of compiling information, and another nine months of review, the library has been finalized and made public.
You can access the library on the AIC Emergency Preparedness & Response Wiki pages or go to: https://www.zotero.org/groups/2739440/aic_emergency_committee_library/library.

The wiki page contents shows the Resource Library as item 2, in the image above.

WEBINARS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Did you know that Connecting to Collections Care has FREE webinars related to preparedness topics? These include working with recovery vendors, the incident command system, emergency kits, exercising your disaster response plan, and emergency kits. You’ll also find numerous presentations in the archives of AIC’s Learning Community, under the category “Heritage Responders.” New ones are being added all the time!

In addition, the Association for Registrars and Collections Specialists (ARCS) also has several free resources. These resources cover topics including integrated pest management, risk assessments, personal protective equipment, emergency operation centers, and continuity of operations planning.

If you are into random searches, just Google “MayDay collections ideas.” It is GREAT to see how many organizations are sharing creative ideas and practical tips. Get on this bandwagon!

What tips can you share with your colleagues or regional partners? We’d like to hear about them too. Send your ideas, project pictures, etc., to: emergency-comm@culturalheritage.org.

—Samantha Snell, Collections Management Specialist, National Collections Program, Smithsonian Institution, snells@si.edu, and Melissa Miller, PRICE Program Contractor, National Collections Program, Smithsonian Institution, millermq@si.edu
Equity and Inclusion Committee

TRANSLATIONS
› AIC’s website will host a hub page for content in languages other than English, including Connecting to Collections webinars, and it is expected to be up by the annual meeting. Please send any Spanish and/or Portuguese conservation resources that should be added to the hub to: eic@culturalheritage.org.

ACCESSIBILITY
› Results of the 2021 Accessibility Survey, conducted by EIC member Ronel Namde with Sally Kim, Jennifer Hain Teper, and Joshua Valentine, will be presented as a poster at the 2022 AIC Annual Meeting.
› Due to time constraints, EIC won’t host a formal “Meet and Greet” session at the 2022 AIC Annual Meeting. However, committee members wearing identifying buttons will be happy to speak to attendees about their interests and concerns. A virtual Meet and Greet session is planned during this coming summer.

PARTICIPATION IN STRATEGIC PLAN
› In recent months, the members of EIC were asked to review and comment on both the proposed AIC Strategic Plan and the Resource for First Time AIC Meeting Attendees.

EIC COMMITTEE MEMBER NEWS
› The Equity and Inclusion Committee (EIC) is pleased to announce that its Co-Chairs Anya Dani and Anisha Gupta will receive the Rutherford John Gettens Award for outstanding service to the AIC at the 2022 annual meeting.
› The Committee thanks its departing members Nora Frankel, Anisha Gupta, and Ronel Namde for their dedicated service and looks forward to welcoming new members in May. Current EIC member Josie (Josefina) Maldonado will take on the position of EIC co-chair. A second co-chair will be named shortly.

—Rebecca Rushfield, twittert@juno.com

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- Identify Counterfeits and Reveal Alterations

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Annual Meeting News

2022 Annual Meeting – 50 Years!

We are days away from welcoming everyone to the Westin Bonaventure in Los Angeles for our 50th annual meeting. After two years of isolation, we are about to gather for the first time. If you have registered for the in-person meeting, now is the time to review the Annual Meeting Resource pages before you land in LA so you have all the details.

Please also visit our Highlights page for more information on three special events:

**AIC Awards Presentation and Exhibit Hall Grand Opening**

› Saturday, May 14: Awards Presentation from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed by the Exhibit Hall Reception at 6:30 p.m.

Join us as we honor this year’s awardees! Come to the reception in the exhibit hall where you can enjoy light bites and conversations with exhibitors. Plan your exhibit hall visits now by reviewing the 2022 Exhibit Hall page. The awards presentation will be livestreamed as part of the virtual component.

**AIC Opening Reception**

› Sunday, May 15, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. (Getty Center buses will start departing for the Getty at 5:30 p.m.)

Enjoy a night of art under the stars! We will be holding our Opening Reception in the open-air courtyard of the Getty Center. The Getty Research Institute and West pavilion galleries will be open for your enjoyment. A light dinner buffet will be also served.

This event is included with your in-person meeting registration. If you’d like to bring a guest with you to this event, make sure to reserve their spot by purchasing their ticket ahead of time. Add a ticket at www.culturalheritage.org/tickets.

**AIC History Session – 50 Years in the Making: The Evolution of Our Profession and Thoughts About Its Future**

› Tuesday, May 17, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Discover hidden facts about AIC and help us shape its future while enjoying a light continental breakfast. This session will be livestreamed as part of the virtual component.

**Virtual Component**

We realize that not everyone can join us in Los Angeles this year. In order to make sure all members can participate in AIC’s 50th Annual Meeting we have created the virtual component. It is not too late to sign up!
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

MayDay 2022

MayDay 2022 is here! Each year, FAIC challenges collecting institutions to take one step toward improving emergency preparedness. Unsure of what you can do? FAIC’s Connecting to Collections Care and Emergency Programs are planning several events you can participate in:

› May 5 at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET): Tools for Disaster Planning webinar
› May 31 at 1:00 p.m. ET: Sustainability as Disaster Preparedness webinar

View detailed program descriptions and register at www.connectingtocollections.org.

For a chance to win an FAIC emergency resources prize pack, including the Emergency Response Salvage Wheel, Field Guide to Emergency Response, and a registration to one of FAIC’s Connecting to Collections Care courses of your choosing, let us know what your institution will do in May to increase your emergency preparedness. To enter the prize drawing, fill out this brief survey before May 31: www.surveymonkey.com/r/mayday22.

Follow #MayDayPrep on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for more ideas on how you can participate!

FAIC Trains 29 Georgia Heritage Responders

With the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), twenty-nine trainees and five instructors convened in Savannah, Georgia, on March 23-24, 2022, for the Georgia Heritage Responders (GHR) training. Originally planned for April 2020 and rescheduled twice, we were thrilled to bring members of the Heritage Emergency Response Alliance (HERA), an AFR network based in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Savannah Heritage Emergency Response (SHER), an AFR network based in Savannah, together for the two-day in-person training.

Trainees heard from local experts, including Director of Chatham County Emergency Management Dennis Jones and Belfor Restoration representative Vernon Duty. Trainees also participated in several mock-disaster scenarios at cultural institutions located in Savannah. Scenario locations including the Jepson Center for the Arts, the Telfair Academy, the Davenport House Museum, the Green-Meldrim House, and Cranmer Hall. The GHR training also served as a “train-the-trainer”; four trainee instructors (Ann Frellsen, Lauren Hall, Tina Seetoo, and Christine Wiseman) were trained by lead instructor Barbara Moore to facilitate future regional heritage response trainings.

The in-person training in Savannah was the culminating event in a two-year process that included online learning modules, webinars, and virtual tabletop exercises. As one participant summarized, in addition to teaching participants about assessing collections spaces post-disaster, the training allowed them “to bounce ideas off of colleagues in the field and ask pertinent questions to better prepare us all for a real disaster.”

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

FAIC Grant and Scholarship Applications Due May 15

Guidelines and application information are located at www.culturalheritage.org/resources/funding. All materials must be submitted online by the published deadlines for consideration.

FAIC/Tru Vue Conservation and Exhibition Grants of up to $3,000 and a donation of Optium Museum Acrylic or UltraVue Laminated Glass to support projects in glazing applications for preservation and exhibition of museum and library collections.
FAIC/NEH Individual Professional Development Scholarships of up to $1,500 are available to AIC members who are U.S. citizens or residents to support registration and/or attendance at upcoming FAIC workshops that are supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Visit https://learning.culturalheritage.org/conservation for more information on these programs.

FAIC/Mellon Photograph Workshop Professional Development Scholarships are available to international attendees of the upcoming FAIC Collaborative Workshops in Photograph Conservation. The awards up to $1,000 help defray expenses related to attendance, plus waive registration fees. Visit https://learning.culturalheritage.org/conservation for more information on these programs.

Please note that the review process takes up to eight weeks following the application deadline. For more information, contact Sarah Saetren, Education Manager, at funding@culturalheritage.org or 202.661.8071.

Recent FAIC Scholarship Awards

FAIC/Kress Foundation Conservation Fellowship Awards

Congratulations to the following cultural institutions and conservation facilities for receiving a 2022-2023 FAIC/Kress Foundation Conservation Fellowship to support a supervised post-graduate fellowship opportunity.

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<th>Awardee</th>
<th>Fellowship Focus</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Balboa Art Conservation Center</td>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>San Diego, CA, US</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clemson University, Warren Lasch Conservation Center</td>
<td>Archaeological objects</td>
<td>North Charleston, SC, US</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum</td>
<td>Textiles</td>
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<td>Harpers Ferry Center / Gettysburg Foundation</td>
<td>Objects</td>
<td>Harpers Ferry, VA, US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri Historical Society</td>
<td>Objects</td>
<td>St. Louis, MO, US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen's University Library</td>
<td>Book and paper</td>
<td>Kingston, ON, Canada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAIC Professional Development Scholarship Awards

FAIC is pleased to support the following individuals in attending upcoming professional development workshops.

Individual Professional Development Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awardee</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denise Krieger Migdail</td>
<td>Metal and Composite Threads in Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Luca Ackerman</td>
<td>The Big Picture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teresa Mesquit</td>
<td>The Big Picture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAIC/Mellon Photograph Workshop Professional Development Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awardee</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isabella Soligo Gama</td>
<td>Gels for Photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clara von Waldthausen</td>
<td>The Big Picture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Élia Roldão</td>
<td>The Big Picture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAIC/NEH Individual Professional Development Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awardee</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holly Witchey</td>
<td>Metal and Composite Threads in Textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Reiley</td>
<td>Rigging Basics for Conservation Professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Brown</td>
<td>Rigging Basics for Conservation Professionals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Carolyn Horton Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awardee</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Bunting</td>
<td>Recreating the Colours of the Medieval Palette: Western, Hebrew and Islamic Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchel Gundrum</td>
<td>Knowledge Before Oratory: A Preliminary Survey of Scaleboard Bindings at the Boston Athenaeum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Christa Gaehde Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awardee</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Ferrando</td>
<td>Salvage &amp; Disaster Recovery Course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Take a Chance Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awardee</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Bowersox</td>
<td>The Pest Eradication Materials Database (P.E.M. Database)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jo Anne Martinez-Kilgore</td>
<td>Looking back at the CSU Morgan Library Disaster after 25 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FAIC Outreach Grant Awards

Holly Maxson Conservation Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awardee</th>
<th>Project Focus</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lubbock Lake National Historic Landmark</td>
<td>Natural History/middle school summer program creation</td>
<td>Lubbock, TX, US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of California, Los Angeles, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology</td>
<td>Collection care/undergraduate course creation</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA, US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Campaign for Historic Trades</td>
<td>Historic trades/online course creation</td>
<td>Baltimore, MD, US</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lecture Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awardee</th>
<th>Lecture Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina Preservation Consortium</td>
<td>NC Niche Collections: The Tattoo Archive</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FAIC Professional Development Courses

FAIC professional development programs are a crucial source for continuing education for conservation professionals. FAIC established an endowment fund for these programs with the support of the Mellon Foundation and contributions from individuals. Additional sources support some workshops, as noted below. Full course descriptions and registration information are available at https://learning.culturalheritage.org/conservation.

Photographic Chemistry for Preservation
Ongoing, self-study course
Supported by the Mellon Foundation fund for Collaborative Workshops in Photograph Conservation

Making the Ask: Developing Negotiation Tactics in the Field of Conservation
Ongoing, self-study course

Annual Meeting Workshops
May 13 – 14, 2022, various locations in Los Angeles, CA
› Packing and Crating Basics: Traveling with Your Art and Objects
› Gels for Photographs
› Textile Cleaning: Stain Reduction
› Re-usable and Modular Book Cradle System
› Getting the Most Out of XRF, Raman, and Infrared Imaging
› Repairing Transparency: Filling Scratches & Chips on PMMA objects and face mounted photographs
› Introduction to Costume Mounting

Rigging Basics
May 18 – 20, 2022, LACMA, Inglewood, CA
Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Videography and Conservation
March 31, April 7, and 14, online
Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Metal and Composite Threads in Textiles
June 8 – 10, 2022, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

The Big Picture
June 13 – 16, 2022, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY
Supported by the Mellon Foundation fund for Collaborative Workshops in Photograph Conservation and a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Continued on next page
Airbrushing in Conservation
September 19 – 21, 2022, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA
Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Rigging Basics
October 12 – 14, 2022, Penn Museum, Philadelphia, PA
Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Photograph Conservation Basics
October 2022, New York Archives, New York, NY
Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Remedial Treatment of Asian Paintings Collections for Paper Conservators
November 2022, Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, OH
Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Block-lifting Archaeological Artifacts
Dates TBD, Arizona State Museum, Tucson, AZ
Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Virtual Couriers
Dates TBD, online
Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Collaboratively Assessing Community Needs
Dates TBD, online
Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Exploring Ethics: Practice to philosophy
Dates TBD, online
Supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

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Meet our New JAIC Board Members

The JAIC Editorial Board is happy to welcome Clara Granzotto and E. Keats Webb as our new associate editors for conservation science and imaging science, respectively.

Clara Granzotto is the Andrew W. Mellon Assistant Conservation Scientist in the Department of Conservation and Science of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work focuses on the characterization of traditional binding media in works of art by mass spectrometry, with a focus on polysaccharides and proteins, as a way to understand techniques employed by artists and appearance when evaluating condition of artworks.

E. Keats Webb is the imaging specialist at the Smithsonian’s Museum Conservation Institute. She works with a range of scientific and computational imaging techniques to answer research and conservation questions about objects and collections that come from conservators, curators, and researchers.

Their broad experience in conservation science, commitment to the field, and publication record make them excellent candidates for this position. As associate editors, Clara and Keats will provide their thoughts on the directions the Journal should take, look for appropriate content, and help us maintain our publication standards. In addition, they will actively pursue manuscript submissions from colleagues with potentially significant contributions and will provide guidance to authors interested in submitting their work to JAIC. JAIC is always in search of people who are dedicated to the dissemination of new knowledge in the cultural heritage research field.

Scholarly Writing Session

We’ll continue to offer our traditional JAIC Scholarly Writing session. This event usually takes place during AIC’s Annual Meeting; due to logistics this year, the workshop will take place virtually in the fall.

The session is free of charge; its aim is to help potential authors in the development of skills needed to write and submit journal manuscripts, with the ultimate goal of improving the dissemination of research, treatments, and enhanced knowledge sharing. In previous years, we have engaged in very productive discussions during the presentations and are always looking forward to hearing new ideas and ways of improving the publishing process. More details about the program will be offered soon.

—Julio del Hoyo-Meléndez, Editor in Chief, JAIC, jdelhoyo@mnk.pl

Presenting at the 2022 AIC Annual Meeting?

Consider turning your presentation into an article for JAIC. You can submit your article to both postprints and the journal, so if your presentation is in a track that is being captured in a postprint, you can publish your first version there. When you submit to JAIC, feedback from peer reviewers and editors, plus the extra time you invest in polishing the text, will result in a version that is different and can merit journal publication.

There are many guides on writing, authorship, and style on the JAIC section of the AIC website: www.culturalheritage.org/jaic. You can also join our Writing Support Forum to get (and share) encouragement and motivation.
Allied Organizations

American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Museum and Cultural Heritage Industry Working Group

CULTURAL HERITAGE HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVOCATE AWARD

The 2021 inaugural Cultural Heritage Health and Safety Advocate Award was presented to Eryl P. Wentworth, former Executive Director of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC), in honor of her significant work transforming the occupational health and safety landscape for the cultural heritage industry. Her emphasis on allied professional collaborations, including her 2016 proposal to establish a partnership between the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) and AIC, led to the creation of the Museum and Cultural Heritage Industry Working Group within the AIHA.

Eryl’s organizational support for the 30+-year-old Health & Safety Committee, now the AIC Health and Safety Network, resulted in AIC evolving into a major resource for health and safety training, guidelines, and workshops for its members, many of whom are in private practice or small businesses. She ensured that AIHA Senior Leadership were included on the Advisory Council and Steering Committee of the 2020 Held in Trust Initiative, thus guaranteeing the inclusion of safety and health into all aspects of the conservation and cultural heritage professions.

This award, presented by the AIHA Museum and Cultural Heritage Industry Working Group, recognizes an individual, a group of individuals or an organization (represented by its Senior Leadership) who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and commitment toward the improvement of occupational health and safety for cultural heritage professionals. Suggestions for future Advocate Awards should be sent to Kathy Makos at kamakos@verizon.net.

—Kathy Makos, MPH CIH, Chair of the AIHA Museum & Cultural Heritage Industry Working Group, a professional partnership with the AIC, kamakos@verizon.net

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DAVID FISCHETTI AWARD: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Each year, the Association of Preservation Technology (APT) presents the David Fischetti Award for an outstanding article that advances the field of preservation/con-servation engineering.

Articles submitted for award consideration may be project related or based on research, must have been previously published in a peer-reviewed journal or similar publication, and should cover any of the following topics:

› History of engineering design, methods, or systems (structural, building enclosure, mechanical, electrical, fire protection, vertical transportation, etc.).
› Application of analytic methods with proper judgement in analyzing archaic systems
› Re-evaluation and comparative analyses of historic analytic methods.
› Assessment of historic materials and systems
› Integration of modern systems with historic and archaic systems.
› Innovative methods of repair of historic systems.
› Incorporation of engineering judgment and simplified methods.

The award is sponsored by APT’s Preservation Engineering Technical Committee (PETC). Please visit the PETC website for details at www.apti.org/david-fischetti-award.

Submissions should be sent to petc@apti.org, and the deadline is Friday, May 27, 2022.

—Amy Woods, Rachel Will, Sarah Gray, PETC Co-Chairs, petc@apti.org

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What to Expect When You Request an On-Site OSHA Consultation Visit

Workers employed by museums and cultural heritage sites may be exposed to occupational hazards, and most museums that have one or more employees are required to follow OSHA’s regulations. For small and medium-sized employers without a safety manager on staff, these regulations may seem difficult to understand.

OSHA’s On-Site Consultation program offers free, confidential occupational safety and health services to help you meet the regulations so that you can reduce risks of illness and injuries to your workers. All fifty states, the District of Columbia, and several US Territories have an on-site consultation program.

On-site consultants are NOT enforcement inspectors. Consultants work with employers to identify workplace hazards, develop effective safety and health programs, and provide advice for compliance with OSHA standards. In return for your commitment to implement the recommendations, these individuals will continue to work with you at no cost on training your staff, conducting exposure monitoring, helping write job hazard analyses, and suggesting cost-effective controls.

For example, Connecticut’s on-site consultation program conducts consultation visits for museums. During a recent consultation visit, museum administrators were provided with resources to help assess potential hazards associated with maintaining and displaying their collections. In addition, sample programs which could be used in developing site-specific plans were shared. The following is a summary of some of the health and safety topics and OSHA standards on-site consultants can help museums address.

Hazard Communication (1910.1200)

The Hazard Communication standard, sometimes referred to as the “Employee Right-To-Know” standard, requires information on chemical substances be passed down to employees so that they can take steps to protect themselves. Employees may be exposed to chemical substances (i.e., paints, epoxies, and solvents) while fabricating displays or restoring artwork/artifacts. In addition, there may be hazards inherent in the collections themselves, such as toxic metals in paint pigments or residual pesticides used to preserve an artifact. The basic requirements of the program include:

› A written hazard communication program.
› A list of hazardous chemicals (i.e., solvents, paints, preservatives, etc.) used or stored in the facility.
› A copy of a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for each chemical substance used or stored in the facility.
› Employee training.

Hazard Assessment for Personal Protective Equipment (1910.132)

The OSHA standard for personal protective equipment (PPE) requires employers to assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present which necessitate the use of PPE. Individual job tasks should be carefully evaluated and PPE selected based on the tasks performed. Employers must communicate selection decisions for PPE to each affected employee and ensure that each employee is trained to know what PPE is necessary and how to wear, care for, and dispose of the PPE.
SUBSTANCE SPECIFIC OSHA STANDARDS

If there is a potential for exposure to hazardous materials such as formaldehyde (1910.1048), inorganic arsenic (1910.1018) or lead (1910.1025), the employer may be required to conduct an initial exposure assessment and, in some cases, develop a respiratory protection program (1910.134).

OSHA LOGS OF RECORDABLE OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND ILLNESSES (1904.29)

OSHA 300, 300A, and 301 Forms, or equivalent forms, for recordable injuries and illnesses must be maintained if a museum has more than ten employees at any time during the calendar year.

PHYSICAL HAZARDS

When maintaining and displaying collection items, employees may lift and carry heavy objects and work on scaffolds and ladders. In addition, museums’ wood shops, paint booths, printing presses, and vehicle maintenance garages present additional occupational hazards. OSHA’s Small Business Safety and Health Handbook provides checklists to address standards that address these hazards.

OSHA’s on-site consultation programs can help cultural heritage institutions, museums, and industry professionals understand and better manage their health and safety risks with free and confidential services. To find the contact information for your region’s program, visit: www.osha.gov/consultation/directory-text.


AIC Respirator Fit Test Program

Whether you are using hazardous chemicals in your laboratory or working with mold-infested artifacts after a flood, you need to be protected with a properly fitting respirator. This workshop will provide the participant with access to an online lecture on respirator selection, care, and use, as well as a 20-minute, individual appointment for a personal respirator fit test, ensuring an acceptable, face-to-facepiece seal/fit of their respirator. The individual appointment provides an opportunity for participants to ask any specific questions of industrial hygienists, and to examine or try on various half-mask, air-purifying respirators from the Committee’s selection of samples. You MUST bring your personal respirator for the fit test.

This AIC Respirator Fit Test Program is targeted towards conservators who may not have access to a Safety Professional to conduct the test or do not have respirator fit testing available through their employer, but is open to all interested parties. This workshop is in accordance with the U.S. OSHA Standard (29CFR1910.134 - Respiratory Protection). The online lecture and fit test appointments will be conducted by a Certified Industrial Hygienist.

Individuals wishing to get a fit test using their respirator MUST:

› Register for the Respirator Fit Test at the AIC Annual Meeting by using the “Add Session” option as you register or on your current registration.
› Watch the REQUIRED online lecture and take the corresponding quiz.
› Schedule a fit test appointment. The appointments will be scheduled to take place in 20-minute intervals from 10:00am - 5:00pm on Monday, May 16, 2022.
› Complete a REQUIRED medical evaluation within twelve months PRIOR to your fit test. The medical evaluation must be performed by a healthcare professional. The Questionnaire to be filled out by your provider is included in the OSHA Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire Infosheet. https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/CFPC/files/ko/2020/Fit-Testing/OSHA-Medical-Info-Sheet.pdf
New Publications


Lake, Susan F., and Barbara A. Ramsay. *Clyfford Still: The artist’s materials*. Los Angeles: Getty Conservation Institute, 2022. ISBN: 9781606066959. This volume provides the first detailed account of Clyfford Still’s materials, working methods, and techniques. The authors draw upon unprecedented access to Still’s artworks, paints, correspondence, studio records, and personal library.


Shortland, Andrew, and Patrick Degryse. *When Art Isn’t Real: The world’s most controversial objects under investigation*. Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2022. ISBN: 9789462703124. The authors present the cases of seven high-profile objects whose attribution has been contested and discuss the role of analytical science in resolving them.


—Sheila Cummins, Collections Development Librarian, Getty Conservation Institute, scummins@getty.edu
People

Charlotte Seifen Ameringer joined the Portland Art Museum in April 2022 as their new Conservator. Prior to moving to Portland, Oregon, she spent fifteen years as Conservator, Paintings at the Fine Arts Museums, Boston. Before that Charlotte was at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the High Museum in Atlanta. She is looking forward to reconnecting with West Coast colleagues and friends. She can be reached at charlotte.ameringer@pam.org.

Kenneth Bé will be joining the staff at the New-York Historical Society in April 2022 as the new Paintings Conservator, returning home to New York after 36 years (2 years in Williamstown, Massachusetts; 21 years in Cleveland, Ohio; and 13 years in Omaha, Nebraska). He will be caring for their collection of nearly 2,500 mostly American eighteenth- and nineteenth-century paintings. He can be reached at kbe.iute@gmail.com.

Samantha Couture is pleased to be the Nora Saltonstall Conservator and Preservation Librarian at the Massachusetts Historical Society. Founded in Boston in 1791, the society has many manuscript and print collections related to American and Massachusetts history, including the Adams family papers and the Thomas Jefferson papers. Samantha has an MS in Library Science and extensive conservation experience at Cornell University, the New York State Library, and in private practice. She is excited to be a part of the collections services team and working with the MHS collections. She can be reached at scouture@masshist.org.

Gillian Marcus is excited to begin a new position as Assistant Paper Conservator at the Art Institute of Chicago. She previously held preventive conservation positions at Princeton University Library and the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts. Gillian is looking forward to getting back to her paper conservation roots and meeting new friends and colleagues in the Chicago area. She can be reached at gillianmmarcus@gmail.com.

Tara Puyat joined NEDCC | Northeast Document Conservation Center in January of 2022 as an Oregon-based Preservation Specialist. She is looking forward to providing consultations, training programs, assessments, and disaster assistance to a variety of cultural heritage organizations nationwide, with a focus on the western United States. Prior to joining NEDCC, Tara was Collections Manager at the Lane County History Museum in Eugene, Oregon. She may be reached at tpuyat@nedcc.org.

Fiona Rutka recently joined the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI) as a Paintings Conservator. She was previously an independent contractor based in Philadelphia and Toronto, where she worked with museums, private clients, and private conservation studios. Prior to this, she completed two Andrew W. Mellon fellowships, first at the Balboa Art Conservation Center in San Diego, and then at the Philadelphia Museum of Art where she specialized in the conservation of modern and contemporary paintings. She is looking forward to getting reacquainted with the Canadian conservation community and participating in modern and contemporary research initiatives at CCI. She can be reached at fiona.rutka@pch.gc.ca.

Beth Szuhay is excited to announce she has accepted the position of Head of Textile Conservation at the Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco. She is grateful for the relationships built with clients and colleagues while managing her private business, Chrysalis Art Conservation, but is looking forward to this new opportunity. Beth can be reached at bszuhay@famsf.org.

Lindsey Karen Williams is now a Conservation Technician for the Northwestern Library system. Her work as a Bookbinding and Preservation Specialist for the University of Arkansas Libraries gave her a great leap forward in reaching her goals for book and paper conservation. Through that role, she was able to become an AIC member and join the AIC Sustainability Committee. At Northwestern, she will continue her work with the Sustainability Committee and is excited to be participating in the National Heritage Responders training this year. She can be reached at lindsey.williams@northwestern.edu.

Making Changes?
Send us news of your life changes and accomplishments to share with fellow members!
Email membership@culturalheritage.org
In Memoriam

Edith Dietze (1924 – 2022)

Beloved mother, granny, aunt, and friend, Editha “Edith” Sophia Maria Piesch Dietze passed away March 3, 2022, at age 97. Born on July 6, 1924, in Bielsko-Biała, Poland (formerly Bielitz), Edith was the epitome of the “Greatest Generation.” A life-long lover of learning, she began her education at the Catholic school of the Cathedral of St. Nicholas in her small Polish town. Her tendency towards mischief resulted in her dismissal from French class after an incident involving a spitball and a nun.

The onset of World War II changed the trajectory of her life forever. At 17, she became a nurse for the International Red Cross and worked in field hospitals throughout Poland. The oldest of four siblings, at the end of the war she had no idea of her family’s fate. She was able to escape the Russian invasion of Poland, but later found out that her father perished in a Russian gulag in Siberia. She traveled alone to Munich where she enrolled in nursing school through the Bavarian Red Cross. There she met and fell in love with Dr. Claus Jochen Dietze at the hospital where they both worked. They were married in Munich in 1949. In 1952, they emigrated to Norfolk, Virginia, and then moved to Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Soon after, they moved to Winchester, Massachusetts, where she combined her love of people and entertaining to start a cooking class at the International Student Center in Cambridge. They finally settled in Vienna, Virginia, where they raised three children.

Edith was passionate about ancient history and art, and in 1966 she began taking classes at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, DC. She graduated from George Washington University (GWU) with a master’s in Museum Studies in 1978 at age 54. Inspired by the Smithsonian’s Carolyn Rose who modernized the Anthropology Conservation Laboratory at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), Smithsonian Institution, she began an illustrious 30-year career as a conservator. Edith worked on many NMNH exhibit hall projects and SITES traveling exhibits over the years and helped to bring conservation into the consciousness of NMNH staff, which she did with intelligence and unbounded wit—you did not leave a conversation with Edith without a smile on your face! She worked on important exhibitions and loans including Magnificent Voyagers: The US Exploring Expedition (1985), Crossroads of Continents: Cultures of Siberia and Alaska (1996), Ainu: Spirit of a Northern Peoples (1999), Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga (2000), and Hawaiian Treasures: Celebrating the Indigenous Peoples of Hawaii (2004). She also conserved many Egyptian objects including a full-sized bull mummy that resulted in a 1978 publication. As part of the NMNH Special Exhibits team, Edith spent two weeks in the Netherlands installing the exhibition, Beyond the Java Sea: Art of Indonesia’s Outer Islands (1991), overseeing the objects and keeping the team on schedule while telling stories of her life. Often faced with tight schedules and rooms full of objects that all needed condition reports, she never varied from her standards nor her diligence. When asked about her progress, with a wink and a smile she would sometimes say, “I must speak for my objects because they cannot speak for themselves,” and then she would go back to work.

Edith was a teaching assistant in Carolyn Rose’s GWU program, and she influenced countless conservation interns. She was also active in archaeological conservation; in 1976 she and other staff and volunteers conserved a large polychrome floor mosaic from a first century Carthaginian temple that was severely damaged.

Edith Dietze at work, courtesy of Monika Dietze
In Memoriam

Edith Dietze during moving. At NMNH, she supported the conservation of ceramics from Tell Jemmah, Syria. Edith also did field work conserving mosaics in Carthage with Margaret Alexander.

Edith was resilient, poised, and one-of-a-kind. She had an insatiable enthusiasm for knowledge, learning, and most importantly, for teaching; she was an inspiration to all. Her surviving family will miss her and her unwavering sense of humor. Her extraordinary life will forever be cherished by her family: Daughter Dr. Monika Dietze; son Holger Dietze and his wife Barbara, grandson Clayton Dietze and his wife Jennifer, grandsons Sam and Carter Dietze; son Ralph Dietze and his wife Sharon, granddaughters Courtney, Caitlin, Brynne, and Alison Dietze, great grandchildren Ada and Otto Malatino; son-in-law Greg Hoag, granddaughter Kim Borick and her husband Adam, great grandchildren Carter and Nolan Borick. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years Dr. Claus Jochen Dietze, her parents Andreas and Maria Piesch, her siblings Frederick, Josef, and Ingebord, and her stepdaughter Verena Hoag.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the International Committee of the Red Cross in honor of Edith Dietze.

—Michele Austin Dennehy, maustin-conservation@comcast.net, and
Monika Dietze, mvddvm22@gmail.com

Looking for professional development opportunities?

Calls for Papers, Conferences, Seminars, and Courses are continually updated on our website at www.culturalheritage.org/allied-organizations-events.
2022 AIC Annual Meeting

BPG Members,

Are you looking forward to the annual meeting as much as I am? I hope you will be after reading about some of the exciting events that have been coordinated by BPG Program Chair Katie Mullen, Assistant Program Chair Morgan Browning, and our Discussion Group Co-Chairs, Lauren Telepak and Chela Metzger (LACDG), and Linda Owen and Grace Walters (APDG). If you can’t join us in person in Los Angeles, there will be some fascinating and informative BPG content live-streamed for virtual attendees.

**DISCUSSION GROUPS**

› **Library & Archives Conservation Discussion Group (LACDG)** – Monday, May 16, 8:30–10:00 a.m. Join us for a panel discussion on repatriation and post-custodial relationships with Native American and European Jewish stakeholders and community members.

› **Art on Paper Discussion Group (APDG)** – Sunday, May 15, 4:00–5:30 p.m. Join paper conservators representing a diversity of professional roles and perspectives to discuss collaborative conservation treatment challenges.

**LUNCHES**

› **The Varnished Map Lunch ($29)**, Sunday, May 15, 12:00–2:00 p.m. Join us as seven expert panelists from private practices, regional centers, and institutional labs examine this relatively unexplored aspect of conservation treatment. This session will also be livestreamed.

› **Wiki and Lunch**, Tuesday, May 17, 12:00–1:30 p.m. Following last year’s joint PMG/BPG specialty group presentations, join our wiki editors as they update us on the progress of the BPG wiki and welcome your involvement. Lunch will be provided for free, first come-first served, for 50 attendees and students.

**BPG SPECIALTY GROUP SESSIONS**

Enjoy an informative and balanced program of treatment case studies and philosophical discussions covering career development, scientific topics, fine art, books, and archival materials from a variety of cultural origins. Most Tuesday BPG sessions will be livestreamed.

**BPG/PMG JOINT RECEPTION**

› **Monday, May 16, 6:30–9:00 p.m. (ticket price $49 BPG members, $25 BPG student members)**

The BPG/PMG Joint reception at the offers us a chance to relax and catch up with colleagues over drinks and snacks in an inspiring setting. Our specialty groups will have access to the full museum, with the opportunity to explore special exhibits such as *Sutra and Bible: Faith and the Japanese American World War II Incarceration*, and the ongoing exhibit *Common Ground: The Heart of Community*.

**BUSINESS MEETING – ONLINE!**

The BPG business meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, May 26, at 10:00 a.m. PT / 1:00 p.m. ET. BPG members can RSVP at https://learning.culturalheritage.org/members; more details will be available soon.

I hope to see you in Los Angeles, whether in person or virtually. Warm wishes,

*Melissa Tedone, BPG Chair, mtedon@winterthur.org*
Collections Care Network (CCN)

From the Field: Mother’s Day Edition

Our “From the Field” section is a new addition this month—it helps you discover what some of your collections care colleagues around the world are up to, always based around different themes. Let us know if there are specific themes you want us to cover in the future!

All Things Motherhood at North Dakota’s State Museum

In 2012, Assistant Registrar (now Head of Curatorial Services) Melissa Thompson and her newborn, Hannah, worked as a team in caring for North Dakota’s cultural heritage at the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND). I recently interviewed Melissa about her experience with the SHSND’s Infant-at-Work program, a state policy that allows new parents to bring their babies to work with them for the first six months of life. We will also discuss the various objects Melissa donated to the museum related to parenting and hear from Curator of Collections Jenny Yearous about how she cares for them.

Wet Specimen Storage at the Mutter Museum

This object has nothing to do with mothers, but the name of the museum (which translates to “mother” in German) gives us a good excuse to think about wet specimens this month! In this video, hear collections staff at the Mutter Museum discuss their preparation and storage of a recently donated human heart.

Rematriating Heirloom Seeds, Honoring Indigenous Stewardship

Repatriation is familiar to many of us who work with museum collections, and the repatriation movement as helped our field to understand that providing the best possible care for objects can sometimes mean returning them to their communities of origin. At the University of Michigan, collections staff at the Matthaei-Nichols Botanical Gardens are working with various Native American tribes to “rematriate” (a word that honors Mother Earth) seeds or plants grown from their ethnobotanical collections to their ancestral communities for Indigenous stewardship.

Archiving Motherhood in Civil War-era Letters from North Carolina

The stress of motherhood is not unique to our time, and proof of that can be found in the unlikeliest of places—featured here in an 1864 letter from Martha Poteet to her husband, Francis, who was conscripted to fight in the Civil War. In the letter she expresses her anxiety about being able to care for the couple’s family while he is away and includes a paper cutout of their 4-week-old newborn daughter’s hand, saying, “write to me what to name her” (this object is far more fragile than these parents’ resolve, who went on to have 11 children!). When the letter and handprint were slated to be part of the traveling exhibit, Treasures of Carolina: Stories from the State Archives, Conservator Emily Rainwater had to figure out the best way to mount the delicate and irregular cutout. When not on display, the letter and tiny cutout are encapsulated together in polyester to prevent accidental separation. Preserving letters like this one plays an important role in connecting us to families who endured the horrors and hardships of wartime.
Announcements and Events

CCN recently hosted “Thinking Outside the Box,” a panel discussion with collections care innovators Nora Frankel and Hannah Muchnick, as well as curator Peter Giere, on April 1. The discussion built upon presentations they made at the 2021 AIC/SPNHC Joint Virtual Annual Meeting and provided an opportunity for the AIC community to connect with one another about their respective storage challenges and creative solutions. A new kind of event for CCN, the discussion included the storage of everything from archaeological textiles to insect genitalia, and advice about how to prioritize your storage needs on a budget. The recorded event can be found here (FREE with registration), and stay tuned for similar events in the future!

July’s theme will be based around HVAC and Facilities Management. If you have a story that you think might fit this theme, please contact wmurray01@wesleyan.edu.

—Wendi Field Murray, CCN Editor, wmurray01@wesleyan.edu

Emerging Conservation Professionals Network (ECPN)

ECPN Compensation Resource

The Professional Education and Training officers have continued to update the Compensation Resource in an effort to promote salary transparency. They are in the final stage of edits for a “Careers that Work with Cultural Heritage” document that will be shared on ECPN’s platforms next month.

ECPN at the AIC Annual Meeting

This year’s ECPN Happy Hour will take place in the conference hotel on Saturday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m. (local time). Some current graduate students and recent graduates will be showing portfolio examples, including a virtual presentation of materials and physical portfolios, during the event, and we are looking forward to this encouraging conversation and excitement about the work they’ve been doing. There will also be areas set up for folks to participate in collecting anecdotes about the specialty groups in preparation for the next day’s programming.

We’re also soliciting responses to this poll about your experience with and knowledge of your own specialty and others: www.surveymonkey.com/r/LL6H5VF.

On Sunday, May 15, at 12:00 p.m. (local time), ECPN will hold an Information Session. ECPN officers will give brief overviews of what ECPN and its leadership have been up to this term. ECPN officers will encourage questions and participation during a short discussion session to assess the needs of our audience for the coming term.

Immediately following the information session, we will hold an informal lunch panel featuring representatives of some of the specialties to address myths surrounding their groups. We are still looking for volunteers for our panel, so please don’t hesitate to reach out! Just send us an email at: ecpn.aic.vicechair@gmail.com.

—Héctor J. Berdecía-Hernández, Co-Communications Officer, ecpn.aic.communications@gmail.com
Health & Safety Network (H&SN)

Respirator Fit Testing AVAILABLE at the Annual Meeting!

It’s probably been a while since you’ve had to wear a respirator. We certainly have all gotten a lot of practice wearing a variety of masks, but with a respirator, you should be fit tested to make sure it protects you from a variety of hazards such as chemicals in your laboratory or mold-infested artifacts. If you’re attending the AIC Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, you’ll have an opportunity to sign up for a fit test, which will be available Monday, May 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This workshop will provide each participant with access to an online lecture on respirator selection, care, and use, as well as a 20-minute, individual appointment for a personal respirator fit test, ensuring an acceptable, face-to-facepiece seal/fit of their respirator. The individual appointment provides an opportunity for participants to ask any specific questions of the industrial hygienists, and to examine and/or try on various half-mask, air-purifying respirators from the network’s selection of samples. Please note that you MUST bring your personal respirator for the fit test.

The AIC Fit Test Program is specifically designed for conservators, particularly those who are self-employed or who do not have a respiratory protection program provided through their employer. However, it is open to all interested parties. This workshop is in accordance with the US OSHA Standard (29CFR1910.134 - Respiratory Protection).

Individuals wishing to get a fit test must register for the Respirator Fit Test “workshop” at the AIC Annual Meeting by using the “Add Session” option while you register or as an add-on to your current registration: www.culturalheritage.org/register.

Cost for the fit test is $39. If you are a member of the Conservators in Private Practice (CIPP) Specialty Group, then your fit test is FREE. Many thanks to the generosity of CIPP for covering the cost of these fit tests. Note the discount code is in the CIPP member community, or you can write to Erika or Ryan in the AIC office for assistance.

Once you register for the Respirator Fit Test, you will receive an email with instructions and links to the required lecture, quiz, and forms. Please note that an examination by a medical professional is required within the 12 months before the fit test. To see the required forms needed for the examination in advance, please see the Health and Safety Network Wiki.

Appointments are limited, so register now!

—Tara Kenney, tara.d.kennedy@yale.edu, and Katherine Ridgeway, katherine.ridgway@dhr.virginia.gov

Photographic Materials Group (PMG)

2022 AIC Annual Meeting: PMG Program Updates

We are pleased to be presenting six in-person and livestreamed talks the afternoon of Sunday, May 15, and five in-person live talks on Tuesday, May 17. In addition, we will be holding a joint reception with the Book and Paper Group (BPG) at the Japanese American National Museum on the evening of Monday, May 16, and a joint BPG/PMG lunch on Tuesday, May 17, to launch a new AIC Wiki page on photo albums. There are a limited number of free lunches available for the BPG/PMG lunch, so be sure to arrive on time!

The PMG business meeting will be held virtually the week after the annual meeting. Join us on Tuesday, May 24, at 12:00 p.m. ET / 9:00 a.m. PT. PMG members can RSVP at https://learning.culturalheritage.org/members.
PMG Winter Meeting: Save the Date

The PMG winter meeting is back in person! Please save the date for February 23-25, 2023. The meeting will be held at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin. More details will be shared during AIC’s Annual Meeting in Los Angeles this May. The call for abstracts will follow soon after.

—Amanda Maloney, Program Chair, amanda_maloney@harvard.edu, and Jiuan Jiuan Chen, Assistant Program Chair, chenj@buffalostate.edu

Research and Technical Studies (RATS)

2022 AIC Annual Meeting

Come celebrate the 30th anniversary of RATS! Our program at AIC’s annual meeting includes a look back, an assessment of where are, and a view towards the future. Mary Streigel will begin with a brief history of the why and how our three founders – Eric Hansen, Chandra Reedy, and Mary – diligently worked to establish RATS as a specialty group (hint: it has to do with collaboration). Two presentations will follow, one on current trends in instrumental analysis and the other on the role of technical art history. And then, there just might be cake! We also take a deep dive into Oddy testing, multi-light reflectance (MLR) for the study of manuscripts, and in-situ hyperspectral imaging. Two talks will delve into questions regarding plastics: The side-effects of using PET for encapsulation, and effective preservation strategies for objects made of cellulose ester. We will also hear about the aging of red pigments, a cross disciplinary approach to the analysis of a 14th-century manuscript, and the original palette used by Alexander Calder. A panel of speakers from several institutions will address advances in the investigation and use of laser induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS), a minimally destructive elemental analysis tool. We hope there will be a lively discussion after the panel presentations through audience questions to clarify the applicability of LIBS and the interpretation of results.

In addition, RATS has partnered with the Wooden Artifacts Group (WAG) for a joint session focusing on a new methodology for the identification of wood, investigating the hygromechanical behavior of a wood panel, the separate lives and treatment of a pair of side tables, and the analysis and treatment of lacquered surfaces and of lacquerware. We look forward to seeing you in person and virtually, and to celebrate RATS 30th anniversary!

Virtual Business Meeting

Our RATS business meeting will be held virtually the week after the annual meeting. Join us on Monday, May 23, at 8:00 a.m. PT / 11:00 a.m. ET. RATS members can RSVP at https://learning.culturalheritage.org/members; more details will be available soon.

RATS-ECPN Liaison

We welcome Marissa Bartz to the team as the new RATS-ECPN Liaison. Marissa is currently a Mellon Fellow in Photograph Conservation at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Along with Leah Humenuck, Marissa will be involved in several projects, including an effort to build relationships between RATS, ECPN, and IWG! You can connect with Marissa at the following email address: rats.ecpn.liaison@gmail.com.

—Federica Pozzi, RATS Chair, federica.pozzi@centrorestaurovenaria.it
**Textile Specialty Group (TSG)**

2022 Annual Meeting – In Person!

This year, join TSG at the annual meeting for two days of presentations and two textile-focused workshops at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in Los Angeles, California. The reception will include an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandizing (FIDM) Museum and Library, followed by drinks and nibbles on the Westin Bonaventure Pool Deck.

After two years of not being able to gather, we are excited to meet for networking and inspiration. But for those unable to attend, there will be a virtual component as well. Visit the Annual Meeting page for details.

Business Meeting – Virtual!

In order to allow more of our members to attend, we will be holding our business meeting virtually a week following the conference on Tuesday, May 24 at 12:00 p.m. ET/9:00 a.m. PT. TSG members can RSVP at https://learning.culturalheritage.org/members. More details will be shared via the TSG Online Community.

—Beth Szuhay, Chair, bethszuhay@gmail.com

**Wooden Artifacts Group (WAG)**

New ECPN Liaison

We are happy to announce that Sarah Towers will take over ECPN liaison duties from Caitlin Sofield. Sarah is Assistant Conservator of Wooden Artifacts and Upholstery at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Sarah graduated from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation with an MS in 2021, and previously received a BA in art history and anthropology from Emory University in 2013. She has completed graduate internships and post-graduate fellowships at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and Colonial Williamsburg. Her research interests focus on composite wooden objects including musical instruments, upholstered furniture, and gilded surfaces. Sarah will use the same email address as past liaisons: wag.ecpn.liaison@gmail.com.

We look forward to good things from Sarah and know her passion and enthusiasm for furniture conservation will make her a great resource for bringing aspiring conservators into the fold.

2022 WAG Business Meeting

While the annual meeting goes back to in-person this year, the WAG business meeting will remain virtual. We hope that this will mean more can participate in a lively discussion. The online meeting will be Friday, May 27, at 1:00pm ET/10:00am PT. An announcement will be sent to the discussion group soon and there will be reminders during the week of the annual meeting. WAG members can RSVP at https://learning.culturalheritage.org/members.

Why Sweden?

As discussed in the previous newsletter, momentum is mounting for a WAG study trip to Sweden! In the coming months we will be asking WAG members for feedback regarding the need and interest for a Sweden trip as well as what would be most appealing to visit or study while there. Look out for more information and let your voice be heard when we send out a member survey.

—Trevor Boyd, WAG Chair, tboyd@mfah.org

The following groups/network did not submit a column for this issue: ASG, CAN!, EMG, OSG, PSG.
Leadership of AIC, FAIC, and JAIC

As we celebrate both AIC’s 50th anniversary and incoming executive director, we can look back with pride and appreciation at those who fulfilled leadership roles since AIC was founded. Elizabeth West FitzHugh was the only member to serve in three roles: executive director, president, and editor-in-chief.

**AIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
1. Louise B. Andrews: 1974 (Exec. Secretary)

**FAIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
1. Elisabeth West FitzHugh*: 1974–1975

8. Lissa Rosenthal-Yoffe: Begins June 2022

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**PRESIDENTS OF IIC-AG AND AIC**
17. Paul Himmelstein: 1990–1993
26. Margaret “Peggy” Holben Ellis: 2017–2021
27. Suzanne Davis: 2021–present

**JAIC EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**
1. Peter G. Sparks*: 1975–1977

*Deceased